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I WORK WITH
MY HEART:
JACKIE SHROFF
14 VIVACITY

15 die on bloody Sunday in J&K

7 civilians killed in blast, 3 terrorists, 2 Pak intruders neutralised, 3 jawans martyred

MOHIT KANDHARI
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

The State of Jammu & Kashmir witnessed a 'bloody' Sunday with 15 deaths reported from different parts of the State in incidents of firing, explosion, and attack by the Border Action Team (BAT) of Pakistan Army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri.

Seven civilians lost their lives in accidental blast in Laroo area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district soon after the security forces neutralised three local terrorists in a fierce gunfight early on Sunday morning.

Meanwhile, three Indian soldiers attained martyrdom after the BAT, comprising heavily armed terrorists and elite commandos, ambushed patrol party of the Indian Army in the forward area of Sunderbani sector on Sunday afternoon. Two Pakistani intruders were later neutralised by the Indian soldiers in the fierce gunfight.

The surprise attack was 'purposefully' carried out by the Pakistan BAT team close to the LoC with an aim to provoke strong Indian retaliation. The latest incident is set to further escalate the tension in the area.

In Jammu, Ministry of Defence Spokesperson Lt-Col Devendra Anand said, "At about 1.45 pm on Sunday, the Indian Army in Sunderbani Sector on the LoC had a fierce encounter with heavily armed Pakistani intruders. The patrol



Army soldiers move towards the damaged house where terrorists were hiding during an encounter in Kulgam district of South Kashmir on Sunday

party killed two intruders and recovered warlike stores including two AK-47 rifles."

"Immediate reaction from other posts effectively cordoned the area and the search and destroy operation is in progress," he added.

Lt-Col Devendra Anand said, "In the ongoing operation three Indian soldiers attained martyrdom while fighting the intruders and one soldier suffered grievous injuries and has been air evacuated to Army Command hospital,

Udhampur. His condition is reported to be stable."

Ground reports suggested massive cordon and search operations were launched in the forward area to track down presence of another group of intruders in the vicinity.

The three soldiers martyred along the LoC in Sunderbani hailed from Jammu region have been identified as Havildar Kaushal Kumar, resident of Nowshera; Lance Naik Ranjeet Singh, resident of Doda and Rifleman Rajat Kumar

Basan, resident of Pallanwala.

Another injured soldier has been identified as Rifleman Rakesh Kumar resident of Samba. Since January 1, 2018 this year more than 1,050 incidents of ceasefire violations have been reported along the 740 km long LoC between India and Pakistan. As many as 145 infiltration attempts have been made this year. Of them, 70 have been successful.

Tensions had escalated between the two neighbouring countries ahead of the United

Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in September 2018 following abduction of BSF jawan in Ramgarh sector of Samba along the International border across Jammu frontier.

The dead body of the Indian soldier was later recovered in badly mutilated state with slit throat and marks of bullet injuries and torture close to the barbed wire fence along the International border in the forward area. In Srinagar, at least seven civil-

ians were killed in a blast triggered soon after joint team of security forces eliminated three local terrorists in Laroo area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district early Sunday morning. Due to impact of the blast, these civilians received grievous injuries and were rushed to the nearby hospital where they succumbed to their fatal injuries.

Chaos prevailed in the area soon after the security forces called off the operation. According to local reports, "Large number of locals in the area converged inside the house to clear the debris and retrieve valuables from inside the house when powerful blast took place injuring large number of civilians." Police spokesman in Srinagar said, "Immediately after the gunfight ended and the forces withdrew from the spot, civilians rushed to the encounter site where an explosive substance went off resulting in death of six civilians." Another civilian succumbed to his fatal injuries late in the evening, police spokesman said.

"Despite requests to not visit the spot till thorough search is done for explosives, several civilians visited the encounter site immediately after the operation. While they were there, some explosive substance went off, resulting in spot death of a civilian and injuries to several others," the police official said.

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No. 2 in CBI says FIR against him at behest of boss

Knocks on Govt, CVC doors; Asthana files 2nd complaint against Alok Verma

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI



The ugly war within the CBI has intensified as Special Director Rakesh Asthana has approached the Government and the Central Vigilance Commission complaining that a false FIR was registered by the agency against him for the allegations of bribery levelled by CBI Director Alok Verma.

Asthana's complaint, dated October 18 to the CVC, also marked to the Cabinet Secretary, comes soon after the CBI booked him in a bribery case on October 15 for allegedly receiving a bribe of ₹2 crore from controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi. This is Asthana's second official complaint against his boss.

In a complaint to the Cabinet Secretary on August 24, Asthana alleged that Verma had received a bribe from Satish Sana, the complainant against Asthana. Satish is also an accused in the Qureshi case. The CBI has registered a criminal case against Asthana on October 15 bearing no RC 13 (A) of 2018 under IPC Sections relating to criminal

conspiracy and under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act on the basis of complaint filed by Satish alleging that Manoj Prasad and his brother Somesh Prasad demanded and obtained illegal gratification in lieu of stopping his further interrogation for clean chit in a CBI case.

Manoj, a resident of Dubai, was taken into custody on October 16 upon his arrival from Dubai. He was formally arrested on October 17 and is currently under police custody till October 25.

Satish, a Hyderabad-based businessman, is an accused in criminal case registered vide RC 01 of February 16, 2017 against Qureshi and others.

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Locals protesting Dussehra tragedy clash with security personnel



PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police faced a tough time on Sunday to steer clear the railway tracks from the protesters. A police commando and a photojournalist were injured when local protesters pelted stones and clashed with security personnel who removed them from the rail track where 59 Dussehra revellers were mowed down by a train on Friday, officials said, adding traffic was restored on the route.

About 500 protesters had blocked the rail tracks at the accident site and were raising slogans against the State Government, administration and the railways, and demanding resignation of Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu.

The agitated protesters had warned that they would not let any train pass on the route unless their demands were met. Among other things, they were demanding action against the authorities for allowing Dussehra celebrations near the rail tracks, tracing the missing persons and giving adequate compensation to the families of those killed in the tragic accident. The situation had been more or less peaceful but turned tense after some of the protesters began throwing stones on police personnel.

Seeing the police coming under attack from the protesters, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP-City) Amrik Singh Pawar led the operations and managed to clear the tracks blocked for over 40 hours after the accident. The Rapid Action Force was also present in the area. The rail services were resumed in the afternoon, informed a railway spokesperson, adding that the railways got the clearance from local authorities at 12:30 pm.

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6 women stopped from entering Sabarimala

Not a single woman in banned age group has so far reached temple which is to close today

PTI ■ PAMBA (KERALA)

Six women were prevented from entering the Sabarimala temple on Sunday by a large number of devotees of Lord Ayyappa as the stand-off over entry of women of menstrual age into the famous hill shrine continued for the fifth day.

Amid high drama, the devotees, up in arms against implementation of the Supreme Court order lifting ban on entry of women in 10-50 age group, chanting Ayyappa mantras blocked the six, all Telugu-speaking women, from reaching the famed shrine.

Sunday is the fifth day since the temple gates were opened for the monthly puja after the apex court last month lifted the centuries-old ban.

A heavy flow of pilgrims was witnessed at the temple despite intermittent downpour lashing the hills and Pamba.

Though attempts had been



Devotees protest as several women arrive to offer prayers at Sabarimala temple in the light of the recent verdict by the Supreme Court allowing entry to women of all ages in the temple on Sunday

made by some young women, including an activist, to enter the temple of the 'Naishtik Brahmachari', the eternally celibate deity, since Wednesday, the devotees backed by priests have stood their ground, saying they would not allow the tradition to be breached.

By all available indications, not a single woman in the age group of 10 and 50 has so far

reached the temple which will close on Monday at the end of the monthly puja.

According to police sources here, 12 women in the 10-50 age group have so far been prevented from offering worship at the temple, since it opened for the monthly puja.

The BJP demanded a special Assembly session to seek the Centre's intervention, while

the Congress sought an ordinance by the NDA Government. The Pandalam royal family, the traditional custodian of the Sabarimala temple, alleged the CPI(M)-led LDF Government was trying to destroy sanctity of the shrine of the "Naishtik Brahmachari" by taking women in the menstrual age group there.

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Shatabdi Express to be replaced by 'Make in India' 160 kmph Train 18

Indian Railways all set to roll out this train by October-end

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Three decades after the then elite class Shatabdi Express made it on Indian tracks in 1988 much to the delight of railway passengers, the train will gradually be replaced by an ultra modern train equipped with sophisticated interiors, digital platforms and onboard Wi-Fi services. Named Train 18, the first of the lot will be launched by this month end.

When India's first Shatabdi Express was introduced it made a revolution in inter-city travel in terms of speed and comfort. Now a new set of self-propelled train (like metro coaches) made indigenously at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, will be hitting the tracks on October 29.

Sources said the route for the introduction of the first pair



of trains will be selected by the PMO and the choice could likely be between Patna-Lucknow and Varanasi-Patna, as this would cover both the politically sensitive States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

"Train 18 will be able to attain speeds of 160 kmph which means travel time will come down by at least 15 per cent compared to Shatabdi. The new technology will also save around 20 per cent in terms of life cycle cost and will require less maintenance as compared to Shatabdi. The weight of Train 18 is also considerably less since

no locomotives or power cars are required. The net energy required is less," said S Mani, General Manager Integral Coach Factory.

The first stainless steel-made train set will have 16 chair-car type air-conditioned coaches — 2 executive and 14 non-executive — with a maximum seat capacity of executive chair cars at 56 passengers. The capacity of the non-executive class will be 78. The most interesting feature of Train 18 would be its automatic doors and footstep.

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Council chairman's son strangulated to death

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Son of the UP Legislative Council chairman was allegedly strangulated to death under mysterious circumstances at a flat in Darulshafa colony (a colony for ministers, MLAs and MLCs) under Hazratganj police station on Sunday morning putting the Lucknow police on their toes all through the day. As the issued involved the member of a high-profile political family, senior police officials, including the SSP and a team of scientists from Forensic Science Lab (FSL), reached the place after they came to know about the incident.

The deceased, identified as Abhijeet Yadav (22) of Etah district, along with his mother Meera Yadav, was staying at

flat number 137 of New B Block of Darulshafa. His mother Meera found him lying unconscious and unresponsive around 8.30 am on Sunday when she went to wake him up. "I found his body cold and became apprehensive. I then called my elder son Abhishek Yadav who reached the flat later," said Meera.

Abhishek told police that he got the information from his mother and reached the flat around 10 am. "Abhishek was lying dead in one of the rooms at the flat," he told the police.

The police spokesman said Abhijeet was Intermediate pass and was living at the flat allotted in his father's name. He said the body had been sent for autopsy to ascertain the cause of death.

SSP Kalanidhi Naithani

confirmed that the victim had marks of strangulation around his throat when the body was prima facie examined. "The autopsy report stated that the victim died of asphyxia as a result of ante-mortem strangulation," he said. He added that the police were investigating the case on the basis of scientific evidence. "If any complaint is received, a legal action will be initiated," he said.

The SSP said the autopsy was conducted by a panel of doctors and three police officers of CO rank were deployed at the mortuary to oversee the ongoing autopsy process. The SSP said he asked the FSL to examine the crime scene thoroughly and collect the evidence to reach to a conclusion.

Preliminary investigation
Continued on Page 4

Yogi forms panel for police modernisation

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Lauding policemen who sacrificed their lives while on duty, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said the state government was with martyred police jawan families and would provide them all help needed. He was speaking on the occasion of UP Police Commemoration Day (Police Smriti Diwas) at Reserve Police Lines on Sunday.

Yogi announced constitution of a three-member commission to recommend steps for strengthening and modernising the state police force. "A three member commission will be constituted to give recommendations for strengthening and modernisation of police," he said, adding by next year end, 1.25 lakh constables will join the force after training.

"By the end of 2019, 1.25



CM Yogi Adityanath honours the families of police martyrs on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day Parade at Police Line in Lucknow on Sunday

lakh constables will join the force, ending their shortage. It will help people and will wit-

ness better policing. "It will also address problem of their leave and they will be able to perform

their duties without any tension and will also be able to spend quality time with their families," Yogi said addressing Police 'Smriti Diwas' here.

The Chief Minister said the state government was taking necessary initiatives for the family of policemen who laid their lives while performing their duties. "To enhance morale of the force and ensure good work culture, the state government made special emphasis on their time bound promotion. In 2017, as many as 9,892 police men and in 2018, 37,575 policemen were promoted which is a record," he said. The Chief Minister said at present there was infrastructure for training only 5,793 constables and the government was planning to double the capacity by providing various facilities. "Help of Central Paramilitary forces and other

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Carpet exports to reach ₹25,000 cr by 2022: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that by 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th anniversary of Independence Day, India's carpet exports would reach ₹25,000 crore and the government was making all efforts to achieve this target.

Inaugurating the 36th edition of India Carpet Expo (ICE) in Varanasi through video-conferencing from New Delhi, the Prime Minister said it was due to the sincere efforts of the Central government during the last four-and-a-half years that today the country carpet exports had reached ₹9,000 crore and in handmade carpets, India was at number one position in the world.

The India Carpet Expo, an exclusive trade fair for handmade carpets and other floor coverings, is being organised by Carpet Export Promotion Council at the amphitheater near museum at Trade Facilitation Centre (TFC) and Craft Museum, in Bada Lalpur here. It is the 14th edition of the carpet expo in Varanasi. Weavers, manufacturers and exporters of carpet are participating in the expo.

Modi said that today, India accounted for 35 per cent export of carpets and in the coming years the country's share would be 50 per cent.

Linking the carpet weaving tradition to ancient times and quoting Sant Kar Das who himself was a weaver, the Prime Minister inspired weavers to stay in the profession, saying it had a bright future.

"I always felt whenever I met the weavers in Varanasi as many of them wanted to leave this professions due to hardships they were facing," he



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the inaugural function of India Carpet Expo through video-conferencing on Sunday evening

said, adding that it was the reason why the government had taken steps in all fields to encourage weavers, increase marketing of their products and train them to meet the modern age requirements.

Modi said to give a boost to the carpet industry, modern laboratories had been set up at the Indian Institutes of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi and Srinagar, which were producing the best engineering graduates in the field today. Besides, he said, in IIC-T-Bhadohi, regular training programmes were being organised for weavers to improve their skills to make a place in the world market.

The Prime Minister pointed out that today, environmental-friendly carpets were being produced in India and this was the reason that even the domestic markets had increased three times.

"For the weavers, as many as nine common facility centres have been set up apart from launching of many schemes at Bhadohi and Srinagar mega clusters," he added.

Modi said that weavers were being given loans and other facilities. He also said that the government was also helping weavers to send their wards

to educational institutions as the government was bearing 75 per cent expenses of their education.

The inauguration function was presided over by Union Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, who lighted the lamp. Others present included Secretary (Textiles) Raghendra Singh, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Shantmanu, Member of Parliament from Bhadohi, Virendra Singh, CEPC's chairman Mahavir Pratap Sharma, 1st vice-chairman Siddh Nath



Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani lighting the lamp at India Carpet Expo at Varanasi on Sunday evening

Singh, 2nd vice-chairman Umer Hameed, senior officials of state government, overseas buyers and weavers.

The 4 day expo will remain open for business till October 24.

The expo is being organised under the aegis of Government of India to promote the cultural heritage and weaving skills of Indian handmade carpets and other floor coverings amongst the visiting overseas carpet buyers.

The CEPC chairman said that India carpet expo was an ideal platform for international carpet buyers, buying houses, buying agents, architects and Indian carpet manufacturers and exporters to meet and establish long-term business relationship.

He said there were tremendous business opportunities for participating manufacturers and exporters as various prominent buyers of handmade carpets from all over the world would be attending the expo and orders worth over thousand crore rupee were expected to be executed in the near future.

BJP true saviour of Dalits: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Bharatiya Janata Party was the saviour of Dalits in true sense because it never treated people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as vote bank and always worked for their betterment.

"In his four-and-a-half-year rule, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved that he is the true friend of Dalits. He is doing whatever is possible for the uplift of Dalits also because the BJP is the only party in India which does not believe in caste and works for the betterment of each and every individual," Yogi said while inaugurating the state working committee meeting of the Anusuchit Morcha of the party in Agra on Sunday.

Yogi said the BJP had given respect to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar while other parties have used him for votes. "He got Bharat Ratna during the BJP regime. It was the BJP government which transformed five places associated with Dr Ambedkar as places of pilgrimage. Has any government ever thought in this direction?" Yogi said.

"I am a true friend of Dalits. As Member of Parliament, I have fought many a battle for the self-respect of Dalits and as Chief Minister I have taken many decisions which will help in restoring pride of Dalits," he said.

In his over an hour-long speech, Yogi talked about the achievements of his government, including improvement in infrastructure which includes roads and law and order.

"My government has taken forward the recruitment process in police department. Announcement has been made to recruit 51,000 new constables. This government is alive to the problems that policemen are facing. We know that they are not getting leaves. My government is working to redress this problem," he said.

In the working committee meeting, nine decisions were taken that include improving party's reach among the under-privileged section of society.

The party leaders were asked to go to the Dalit-dominated regions to ensure that they were getting benefits of government schemes. The party leaders were asked to ensure that those not getting the benefits were enrolled in the schemes.

State employees going on strike to lose salary

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government has warned that the state employees going on strike will lose their salary as action will be taken against them on the principle of 'no work no pay'.

The government also reiterated that strict action will be taken against those causing damage to the public property during the work boycott period.

The government has asked all divisional commissioners and district magistrates to set up control room in each district and keep a close watch on the agitation by the state employees and teachers.

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of state employees and teachers has given notice for going on indefinite strike from October 25 in support of their demands, including rollback of the new contributory pension scheme (NPS) and restoration of old pension scheme.

Responding to the indefinite strike notice served by the state employees and teachers, the UP government has directed all divisional commissioners and district magistrates to establish direct communication with the employees and their leaders to clear the misconception about the new pension scheme.

The state government has directed the commissioners to set up special camps for enrolment of employees in new pension

scheme and registration of the retired employees under the scheme and allotment of permanent retirement account number to them.

UP's Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey issued directives to the field officers through video conferencing on Sunday, asking them to establish dialogue with the employees and their leaders and apprise them of the benefits of the new pension scheme. He said the employees should be apprised of the fact that their interests are fully protected under the new pension scheme. Pandey said the confusion over the new pension scheme could be cleared only by dialogue with the state employees and their leaders.

The Chief Secretary said that immediate measures be taken for enrolment of the state employees who had not yet been enrolled in the new pension scheme. He said besides organising special camp for NPS, on-line facility for enrolment in the scheme was also provided.

He said the state employees reporting on duty during the strike period would be provided security by the police. He asked the officials to ensure that the government office functioned in normal manner during the working hours.

He also asked the officers to prevent disruption and ensure normal functioning of the essential services in urban areas and also public transport.

Min: Modi has changed country's work culture

Ghazipur/Chandauli (PTI): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not only "changed" the country's politics, but also its "work culture" leading to improved rail facilities, Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha said on Sunday.

Sinha was in Ghazipur (Gahwar) and Chandauli (Sakaldaha) to lay the foundation stones of projects and inaugurate various developmental schemes.

It is because of the special interest taken by the Prime Minister that investment in

railways has tripled and touched around ₹1.48 lakh crore, Sinha said.

"Owing to heavy investment, there has been a special improvement in passenger facilities. The basic facilities at the railway stations have increased, and a number of new trains have been started," the minister said.

"In the last four-and-a-half years, there has been a transformation not only in the country's politics, but also in the work culture. And the entire country is benefiting from it," the Minister of State for Railways added.

AIPEF concern over move to amend Electricity Act

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

All-India Power Engineers' Federation (AIPEF) has expressed concern over the move to amend the Indian Electricity Act, 2003, saying it will concentrate all powers in the power sector in the hands of Central government and will eventually lead to complete privatisation of power distribution in India.

The AIPEF has warned against rushing through the proposed amendment bill in Parliament, saying it will force 15 lakh power employees and engineers to go on lightning strike in protest. It has submitted its 22-page comments on the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 to Union Power Minister RK Singh and has demanded that the revised draft be again sent to the Standing Committee of Parliament and the AIPEF be given a chance to present its view point.

The AIPEF has also urged the Centre to allow state governments to present their views before the Standing Committee as electricity is a concurrent

subject. AIPEF chairman Shailendra Dubey said in a statement released here on Sunday that as per the proposed amendment, there would be separate supply licences, incumbent supply licence and intermediate company to handle all power purchase agreements (PPAs).

He said in the present scenario, every state pooled the availability of power and implemented merit order dispatch at state level so that energy requirement was met at least cost.

He said that presently the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) were guided by tariff policy whereas in the draft amendment, tariff policy would become mandatory. "This will make the CERC as well as all SERCs subservient to policy dictates of Central government issued through Section 3 of the Act. The regulators will no longer be independent and distanced from government," he added.

Dubey said that the

changes in the draft bill had been proposed to pave the way for privatisation of power sector wherein supply licences would be mostly from private sector and get assured profit by way of guaranteed return on capital by stipulating that licencees would get their expenses covered without revenue gap.

He said the draft amendment proposed that the cross subsidy payable to different set of consumers within the distribution area was reduced progressively and eliminated in a period of three years. "This is a policy matter for each state to decide," he pointed out.

Further, Dubey said, any subsidy payable to a consumer would be through the provision of direct benefit transfer and this proposal was practically unworkable and sure to fail.

The AIPEF chairman said that when most of state discoms of the country were in financial distress, this was not the time or occasion to introduce changes by way of separating supply and distribution functions. "It will make financial crisis even worse," he said.

Govt plans uninterrupted power supply to dists with below 15 pc line losses

Mathura (PTI): To curb power pilferage in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a plan to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to districts with less than 15 per cent line losses, state the Power Minister has said. "As an incentive, the state government would ensure uninterrupted power supply in the district where line loss is less than 15 per cent," Power Minister Shrikant Sharma told reporters here. The incentive is meant for promoting and encouraging the honest consumers, he said.

The minister said the state government had prepared a comprehensive plan to provide round-the-clock power supply in every district of the state by the year 2024. The process of revamping, production, transmission and distribution has been geared up and efforts are underway to reduce line losses and bring it down to single digit. Now account of power of every sub station, would be maintained and feeders registering more line loss, would be identified, the minister said adding that officers responsible for more line loss would also face punitive action.

Rape victim attacked by accused, his family

Lucknow (PNS): A 22-year-old rape victim was allegedly beaten up by her tormentor and his family at her house in Hasanpur Luhari village of Muzaffarnagar for refusing to withdraw a case against them. According to the victim, Gulbahar and his four family members barged into her house on Saturday and threatened her to withdraw the rape case. An FIR has been registered against the main accused Gulbahar and four others in connection with the incident, SHO Dharmendra Pawar said. The victim was reportedly raped by Gulbahar when she was going to her house on August 9.

Amritsar tragedy: 11 natives of UP among dead

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Among the 60 people mowed down by a speeding train in Amritsar when they were watching Ravan Dahan during Dussehra, 11 are natives of Uttar Pradesh.

While three are members of a family from Sultanpur, two each are from Azamgarh, Hardoi and Ghazipur and one each from Unnao and Amethi districts.

A report released by the state government said that Dinesh Kumar (35), his wife Priti (33) and their son Abhishek (11), natives of Sonbarsa village under Baldirai

police station of Sultanpur district, were killed in the incident. However, the couple's two-year-old son Arush escaped unhurt.

Dinesh and his brother Rakesh worked as plumber and were staying in a rented house in Joraphatak area. Dinesh and his family visited the village last time in May.

Similarly, Girendra Kumar (40) and his brother Pawan Kumar (37), who used to sell fruits in Amritsar for the last 20 years, were also killed in the tragedy. They were natives of Behtagokul area of Hardoi district.

A report from Azamgarh

said that Ram Milan (24), a native of Rahainghpur village under Tahbarpur police station, was also killed in the accident. He is survived by his pregnant wife and a 2-year-old son. He used to work as a painter and went to Amritsar on October 7.

Brajbhan Ram (20), a native of Savarupur village in Azamgarh, was also killed in the tragic accident. He also worked as a painter and stayed with his brothers in Amritsar.

Pradeep (22), a native of Bangad village under Karimuddinpur police station in Ghazipur district, and his nephew were also mowed down by the train. He worked

with a private company in Amritsar. He went to watch the Dussehra festival along with his nephew Sarthak (4) and niece Kajal (7). Pradeep and Sarthak died in the mishap while Kajal was critically injured.

Ram Shanker (45) of Manikpur under Bihar police station of Unnao district was also killed in the mishap. He used to work in a bag repairing shop and was staying alone in Amritsar while his family members, including wife and two children, lived in Unnao.

Besides, 18-year-old Deepak, a native of Shivgarh in Amethi district, was also killed in the tragic accident. A stu-

dent, Deepak was staying with his father in Amritsar, who works with a private company there.

Nine members of a family of Belwa village under Lotan police station in Siddharthnagar district were injured in the mishap. Among the injured, the condition of four was stated to be critical.

The injured include Sudesar (70), Shyam Bahadur (38), Ram Bahadur (34), Santosh (15), Laxmi (11), Vishal (10), Sandhya (10), Amit (9) and Kajal (7).

The condition of Santosh, Sudesar, Ram Bahadur and Vishal is said to be critical.

Gangrape: Woman lodges FIR against lover, 2 others

PNS ■ ALLAHABAD/LUCKNOW

A 30-year-old Mumbai-based woman has lodged a first information report against three youths, including her lover, accusing them of gangraping her in an area under Cantonment police station of Allahabad on Sunday.

According to the Cantonment police, action would be initiated against the trio on the basis of the statement made by the victim and her medical examination report.

According to the inspector of Cantonment police station, a resident of Mahalaxmi Apartment under the Cantonment police station had befriended a woman on social networking site, Facebook, a few months ago. The two started chatting with each other and gradually developed intimacy.

In the meantime, he left for Mumbai to meet the girl there and after staying with her for a few days, he brought her to Allahabad and started living in an apartment located in the Cantonment area.

The woman alleged that the man had brought her to

Allahabad on the promise of marrying her. But they had a tiff over some issue and he thrashed her.

She further alleged that she had first lodged a complaint with the police concerned in this regard but her efforts went in vain. In the meantime, she met an advocate living at Allapur who helped her in getting an FIR lodged at the police station concerned.

Thereafter the matter of gangrape also came to the fore. On a complaint made by the victim, an FIR against her lover and his friends was lodged for assault, intimidation and gangrape, at the Cantonment police station.

Investigations are on. Meanwhile, sensation prevailed in the Chandra Shekhar Azad Park area in Allahabad when morning walkers spotted a newly-born baby abandoned in the park's toilet on Sunday morning. Soon, hundreds of people gathered there and informed the police about the infant.

The Company Bagh police outpost incharge reached the spot with police force and got the baby extricated from the toilet and sent it to the chil-

dren's hospital and intimated the Childline about it.

However, the police are yet to ascertain who abandoned the baby there.

As per reports, some people were strolling on a track near Gate No. 6 on Sunday morning when they heard the cries of a baby coming from a nearby toilet.

Some of them entered the toilet and were aghast to find a baby girl there.

The Company Bagh police outpost incharge said the baby girl was covered with a white cloth and was in a conscious state and looking healthy. She appeared to be 5-6 days old. She would be handed over to the Childline by the hospital.

Meanwhile, a teacher of a private school in Banda district was booked after an eight-year-old boy died allegedly after being beaten by him.

Arbaj was allegedly beaten by his teacher Jairaj in Sadimadanput village on Tuesday. The student was admitted to a hospital where he died on Friday. The FIR was registered on Saturday on a complaint filed by the victim's family member.

QUICK TAKES

SHANKARACHARYA URGES PREZ TO ABOLISH PRACTICE OF BURNING OF RAVANA'S EFFIGY

Mathura: Shankaracharya Adhokshjhanand Dev Tirth Maharaj has requested President Ram Nath Kovind to abolish the "orthodox practice" of burning of demon king Ravana's effigy as part of the Dussehra festival. Talking to reporters here on Sunday, the Hindu religious leader requested the President to issue orders to "abolish the custom... as it is not only against the basic Hindu culture but it also opens the gate for Joda Phatak-type tragedy". The Shankaracharya was referring to the tragedy near Amritsar in Punjab, in which 60 people were mowed down by a train after a crowd of Dussehra revelers had spilled onto railway tracks while watching burning of Ravana effigy. He said that according to Hindu mythology, last rites of a deceased were performed only once, and Ravana's last rites were performed by Vibhishana in the presence Lord Ram. He said burning of effigies in large-scale also causes pollution.

DRY WEATHER IN UP

Lucknow: The weather remained dry across Uttar Pradesh on Sunday, the Meteorological office said. According to the Meteorological department, day temperatures were above normal on Saturday in Allahabad, Varanasi, Kanpur, Lucknow and Jhansi divisions. Banda was the hottest place in the state, with the mercury touching 38.4 degree Celsius. The weather is set to remain dry over the state on October 23 and October 24, the Met department said.

WOMAN BEATEN TO DEATH

Pratapgarh: A 55-year-old woman was beaten to death by her neighbours in Hinahu village in the Nawabganj area here due to old enmity, police said on Sunday. Madhuri Devi and her son Pankaj were attacked by Sanjay Tiwari and his associates with sticks on Saturday night, senior police officer Shivji Shukla said. Both were rushed to a hospital where Madhuri Devi died during treatment. An FIR was registered against Sanjay Tiwari, the husband of a village head, and his three associates. Police are probing the matter. No arrests have so far been made in this connection, senior police officer Shivji Shukla

LMRC expedites 'Blue Corridor' work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With the North-South Corridor already nearing completion, Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) has also begun working in the direction of accelerating the construction of the East-West Corridor, also called the Blue Corridor. A senior LMRC official, while talking to *The Pioneer*, said that a meeting had been held with the Principal Secretary, Awas Vikas, by senior officials.

"The detailed project report (DPR) which has been submitted to the state government will shortly be submitted to the Central government for its approval. In the meeting, the LMRC officials requested the Awas Vikas Parishad officials to expedite the process," he said.

He said that the East-West Corridor would be 12 kilometres long and would have seven underground stations and five elevated ones. The stations of the East-West Corridor have been made smaller and the trains will have only three cars in order to reduce the cost of



the project. The Blue Corridor extends from Charbagh to Vasantkunj.

LMRC had updated the DPR of the corridor in keeping with the changes which had occurred at the ground level which were surveyed by the LMRC officials. LMRC then sent the report to the Delhi

Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for incorporating these changes. The official said that they had worked out the corridor in such a manner that its construction cost, if completed within the next five years, would be less than the construction cost which was estimated when the DPR was

prepared in the year 2013. "The construction cost as estimated now for the East-West Corridor is started in 2018 and completed by 2023 will come to Rs 6,594 crore which is less than the previous DPR estimations," he said. The official said that this reduction to make the project cost effective

was managed by decreasing the size of the stations and decreasing the number of cars per train for this corridor.

"The East-West Corridor has 12 stations seven of which will be underground and five elevated. We saw that the construction of large underground construction as proposed by the former DPR of the project will not be feasible in this congested area. We cannot construct an underground station in this section as compared to the one that we have constructed in the North-South Corridor," he added.

He further pointed out that they had reduced the length of the station for the same purpose. "We reduced the size of the stations as well as the number of cars to three as compared to the six which had been proposed in the Detailed Project Report," he added. On being asked if they had begun any groundwork now for the East-West Corridor, the official said that they could not begin any work until they were given necessary permission for it.

Slain cop's kin protest, demand murder case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Relatives of slain class IV employee of UP police refused to cremate the body and put the corpse outside his residence at Reserve Police Lines (RPL) on Sunday after they came to know that the Mahanagar police had registered a case under section 304 IPC. Buckling under the pressure, the Mahanagar police accepted their complaint and included it in the investigation to pave the way for registration of a murder case.

On Sunday morning, the kin put the corpse of Ram Naresh outside the quarters he lived and refused to move for cremation. As the news reached senior police officials, they directed the Mahanagar SHO to settle the issue. The protesters alleged that the Mahanagar police were trying to weaken the case to give an

advantage to accused Deepak aka Deepu, who is also a class IV employee of UP police and happened to be a nephew of the deceased. They demanded a job to one dependent of the deceased and compensation to the family.

SHO Vikas Pandey said a case under NCR (non-cognizable report) was registered after Ram Naresh was attacked on Thursday night. "We assigned a sub-inspector to probe the case and later section 308 IPC for grievously injuring the victim was initiated. After Ram Naresh died during treatment, the police slapped section 304 IPC for culpable homicide on Deepak in the case," the SHO explained.

Explaining the law side in the case, the SHO said the provision of punishment under section 304 and 302 IPC did not have much difference. "In section 304 IPC, there is a pro-

vision of life imprisonment while in section 302 IPC, there is also a provision of capital sentence," Pandey added.

He said the police had accepted the application given by the family members for registering a case of murder. "They had alleged that Deepak killed Ram Naresh out of enmity. We are investigating the case and will slap section 302 IPC on accused if allegation levelled by the family were found true," he assured. Ram Naresh and his nephew Deepak aka Deepu lived in staff quarters at Reserve Police Lines (RPL). On Thursday night, both reached a shop where they purchased *jalebi*. After the shop owner told them to pay Rs 40 as bill, both started quarrelling as each of them was willing to pay a small amount of the bill. Later, Deepak attacked Ram Naresh with a spade and fled the scene.



Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad (AHP) leader Pravin Togadia waves to his supporters during his 'Ayodhya Chalo' programme in Lucknow on Sunday

Togadia to pitch for a 'govt of Hindus'

Lucknow: Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad president Pravin Togadia on Sunday said he would launch an "Abki baar, Hinduon ki sarkar" (Hindus' government this time) campaign from Ayodhya on October 23. "Our demand (from the BJP government in the Centre) to fulfil promises. Build a Lord Ram Temple in Ayodhya after bringing an ordinance or enacting a law in Parliament. Make education cheaper, reduce the petrol price and make farmers karguzar (debt free)," Togadia told reporters here, enlisting his demands.

"We want a Ram mandir and also a Ram Rajya-like prosperity in our homes," he added. He said he would also spell out the details of his "Abki baar, Hinduon ki sarkar" campaign

in Ayodhya on October 23. "In Ayodhya, there will be two programmes. These programmes will be focussed on 'Ram mandir nahin, to Hinduon kaa vote nahin (no Hindus' votes without a Ram temple). On October 23, the plans pertaining to Hindus' government this time will also be worked out," he said. Asked why he has adopted an aggressive posture now on building Lord Ram temple, Togadia said, "Earlier we were hopeful that they (the Modi government) will fulfil their promises. We constantly reminded them for four years. But they remembered neither Ram, nor farmers nor youths during the last four years." He also recalled that in June, the AHP had given a call for "Ayodhya kooch" (march to Ayodhya).

Criminal's arrest a spur for police



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The arrest of a hardcore criminal carrying a cash reward of Rs 1.5 lakh on his head brought some respite to the embattled Lucknow police who are passing through a difficult phase these days following the murder of Apple executive Vivek Tiwari, murder of a follower of UP police and spate of other crime incidents these days.

The miscreant arrested was identified as Sameer Khan aka Raka of Gonda district. He was wanted by Gonda and Faizabad police for a long time. Besides, he and his aides had killed a hardware businessman and his brother in Pratapgarh. Raka was also involved in a crime in Lucknow. Giving details, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said the police were tipped off about Raka's location near Metro rail station in Transport Nagar. "We were tipped off that Raka was to execute a big crime and

so a police team was pressed into the job," he said. The SSP added that a .32 bore pistol, five live cartridges and Rs 1,100 were recovered from Raka.

However, the team which worked out of the case looked defensive to face to media query. As some of the cops in the team, which cracked the case, had courted controversy in the past for their 'working style', mediemen took the good work with a pinch of salt.

Raka told newsmen that he, along with his aides Praveen Dwivedi, Ravi Singh and Saurabh Soni, had looted gold and silver ornaments from a jeweller near Saryu bridge in Karnailganj of Gonda in 2017. He confessed that he and his aides had attacked contractor Anant Bahadur Singh in Faizabad. In the case, Raka and his aides were jailed but they later fled the jail. As per his confession, he and his aides had committed loot in Abrar Nagar of Indira Nagar in 2017.

UPPCS-2018 prelims to be held on October 28

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Provincial Services preliminary examination (UPPCS-2018) will be held on October 28. Joint secretary, UPPCS, DS Pandey said there would be 140 exam centres in Lucknow. This is the first time that the PCS examination will be held on the pattern of IAS examination and there will be negative marking for wrong answers.

Asked about the measures being taken to prevent paper leak, Pandey said they were very vigilant and an array of meetings would be held in the coming days with the district administration for proper conduct of the exam.

The results of the PCS-2016 Mains and PCS-2017 Mains have still not been declared

In the UPPCS (Mains) 2017 exam this year, the essay paper which had to be conducted in the second shift was given in the first shift because of which it had to be cancelled and re-conducted. Incidentally, even as the preliminary exam is being conducted, the results of the PCS-2016 Mains and PCS-2017 Mains have not been declared as yet. Pandey said the results of the Mains 2016 would be declared by the last week of November. He said 600 candidates would be selected in the 2016 PCS examination, 900 in 2017 and 900 in 2018 exams.

Sr bureaucrat's novel to be released in Nov

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Joint Secretary (Fertilisers) Government of India, Parth Sarthi Sen Sharma has penned a novel on Lucknow titled 'Lucknow Diaries: Of love and Longing' which will be released at a literary event in the state capital in November. Talking to *The Pioneer*, Sharma said the book was a tribute to the beautiful city of Lucknow where he lived for 15 years. He said he was happy that he had come up with the book because there had been no fictional work on contemporary Lucknow for the past several years.

He said it was the story of three friends, including a bureaucrat, a politician and a journalist. "Dinesh, Feroze and Rahul grow up from their common cricket grounds and travel on parallel courses of their lives in Lucknow. They occasionally travel to other places in India where they meet their loves and come face to face with their lives. It's a tale of love and longings, of politics and corruption, of ambitions and dreams, and about human relations and revelations, set in an ever-changing and contemporary India," he said.

Sharma, who has held important posts in Lucknow, including Secretary to former

CM Akhilesh Yadav, and Director General (Tourism), said he was aware that there would be speculations on the characters in his novel and people from bureaucracy, journalism and politics would find something to identify with in terms of conflicts. It took the author nearly two-and-a-half years to pen the book.

"In my profession and the postings which I had at that time, it was difficult to find time and come back to the book. It was difficult to find that mind space for keeping all the things linked," he said.

Lucknow, he said, would be recognisable for the several



locations and the eateries that he had mentioned. While Sharma started writing articles,

travel pieces and opinions, his first full-scale travelogue as a book was published in 2011 as 'A Passage Across Europe'. In 2015, the author's first novel titled 'Love Side By Side' hit the stands and since then, thousands of readers have read and enjoyed it. His third book, another travelogue covering Britain, Europe, Turkey, Morocco and India called 'Every Mile a Memory' was published in 2016. All the three books have been translated and published in Hindi too. He said his latest novel was his best work so far, but he would like to know what his readers thought.

Half-an-hour walk daily essential for diabetics, says doc

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Academic Research Committee of All-India Ophthalmological Society organised a continuing medical education (CME) on 'Crusade against diabetes blindness' at the Ophthalmology department of SGPGI on Sunday.

Head of the department Dr Kumindini Sharma said the CME was held to update the eye specialists from across the country on the management of blindness caused by diabetes. She said the programme was for ophthalmologists and residents with basics of diabetic retinopathy and its management. Dr Sharma said cases of diabetic had been on the rise and it was important to spread the message into the interiors that the disease could be controlled with

the help of proper diet and regular exercise. "Diabetes can also lead to hypertension and hence it is important for the patients to walk for half-an-hour everyday. This does not mean that one walks for 10 minutes alone. It is necessary to walk continuously for half-an-hour to make your heart work," she explained.

About the information available on the internet, she said there was a big difference between practical training and information. "Besides, people living in the interiors need to be made aware of relevant information through doctors," she added. Dr Sharma said the CME was attended by doctors from five states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.





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Make Kalam, not Kasab the role model: MRM to youths

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to keep Muslim youths away from fundamentalism, the RSS-backed Muslim Rashtriya Manch has started a drive to encourage them to adopt former President APJ Abdul Kalam as their "role model" and not Ajmal Kasab of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack notoriety. "We have initiated a campaign to make former President Kalam, who was also known as the missile man and made the country proud, as the role model of Muslim students. We are organising national level seminars for this," MRM convener Muhammad Afzal said. He said the campaign's objective is to "strengthen patriotism among the Muslim students and encourage them to take the path of Kalam". When asked about the need for such a campaign, Afzal

said, "We want to convince Muslim students that their role model should be former President Kalam and not terrorist Kasab. We will tell the difference between the two." "Many a times, Muslim youths divert towards Kasab. We want them to bring close to Kalam's ideologies. It will help the country grow and progress. With his deeds, Kalam had proved that he was a true patriot," he said. He said "in our campaign, we discuss in detail the life and achievements of Kalam to encourage people. Kalam had rejected even a NASA's offer for a job and gave his prime to the country, working on his dream project Prithvi missile and developing India's space centre. He remained bachelor to serve the country." "Students of madarsas and inter colleges are invited in these programmes and experts,

scientists and officers are called to talk to them," he said, adding the next such programme will be held in Lucknow next month. One such programme was held in Delhi on October 19 and similar events will be soon be organised in 10 states including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal, he said. He said though students of all religion participate in the events but Muslim students are given priority. The MRM was set up in 2002 by former RSS chief KS Sudarshan to enable the Sangh to reach out to Muslims. It had held 'Eid milan' programmes and 'Iftar parties earlier in a bid to remove, what, it believes, are misconceptions among a section of the people about the Sangh and the BJP. MRM has been reaching

out to Muslims to apprise them of the RSS works and change their views about the organisation, Afzal said. All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), however, termed the MRM's move as "humiliating", saying the Muslims do not have to prove their patriotism. "What else can you expect from an organisation affiliated to the RSS? They are putting forward the name of Kalam to show what they feel about Muslims. How can one insinuate as Muslim youths even thinking of having Kasab as their role model, when the community did not even allowed him to be buried in India?," asked AIMPLB member Yasin Usmani. "Such campaigns which demean Muslims' contribution to the nation building is shameful and humiliating to us," he added.

Woman ends life in house

Lucknow (PNS): A 28-year-old woman, a resident of Ramzan Bazaar locality of Cantonment, ended her life at her house in Cantonment police station on Sunday. Identified as Garima Shukla, she hanged herself with a dupatta tied around her neck. The police sent the body for autopsy and an investigation was underway. Police said victim's husband was working with a news channel.

THREATENED

Social worker Ravi Shukla lodged a case against Salman and his aide with the Hasanganj police on Sunday accusing them of threatening him. Shukla alleged that he was running a campaign against wrong practices like betting and gambling in the locality. "On Saturday, he got a call from Salman who threatened him with dire consequences if I kept running the campaign," he alleged. Police registered a case under section 506 IPC.

CISH working to grow all-season mangoes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

There are many countries in the world where mangoes are available in the markets throughout the year. In a bid to understand if mangoes can be grown in all seasons, Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) conducted a research in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Agriculture University at Kanyakumari and found around 20 natural off-season bearing types.

CISH director Shailendra Rajan said those varieties were known to consumers and got better prices as compared to other off-season bearing varieties. "Flowering can be successfully induced through chemical treatment. Experimenting for off-season mango production with research collaborators in five research institutions revealed that successful off-season mango production was influenced by climatic conditions. Areas with minimum temperature less than 15 degree Celsius during the coldest months are not suitable for off-season flower induction and natural multiple flowering. Therefore, in subtropical places like Lucknow, chemical treatment could not set fruits due to low temperature hampering pollination and fertilisation. During the study potential, off-season mango flowering and fruiting pockets were identified along the West coast orchards," Rajan elaborated.

He said that in North, many off-season varieties are available and commonly known as Baramasi types. "Few off-season varieties have been introduced from South-East Asian countries like Thailand which can fruit in off season also. Gradually, these are becoming popular with home



garden lovers. In Lucknow, CISH collected off-season varieties like Baramasi Agai Bahar, Baramasi Mallik, Baramasi Malihabad, Royal Special, Niranjan, and several other from different parts of the country. Off-season flowering studies in subtropical region indicated that off-season flowering in Baramasi Ahara was regular as compared to other types at Lucknow," he said. He pointed out that off-season flowering at Lucknow indicated that flowering may occur during May-June leading to fruit set during May-June however, the fruits were exposed to extreme high heat and heavy rains leading to development of blemishes on fruit surface which make fruits unappealing as a table purpose off-season variety.

He said various technologies for induction of off-season flowering and fruiting either by natural means or through chemicals had been developed leading to early harvest.

In an effort to consolidate off-season mango growers and bring them under a single umbrella, National Off-season Mango Producers Association

(NOMA) was established in Kanyakumari to serve as a platform for off-season mango growers, traders and scientists from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

"Workshops were conducted in Kanyakumari for improving the quality of fruits as these fruits are often exposed to winter rains common in South. The association has provided a platform for joining of off-season producers not only from Tamil Nadu but some parts of Karnataka and other states as well. South Indian off-season mangoes are mostly available in January and producers search for an attractive market for premium price. Many a times, they have to sell their fruits before maturity for instant pickle purpose as winter rains may spoil the fruit appearance. Since there is no mango available during winters, farmer get attractive prices for their produce. Now they have established contacts with the wholesale market in Delhi but most of the time they could not get premium price for the off season produces also," he explained.

Vaastu Shastra: A space therapy

AKSHAY PAL SHARMA

Vaastu Shastra, loosely talked about as a traditional Hindu system of architecture is, in fact, a science and not a mere construction code. Not an ordinary science as we know it but a unique and supreme science concerning energy, time, space and spatial form. Vaastu has an independent origin; it is technical and not literary in nature. It is as old as human culture and civilisation, going beyond the Vedic period. It is a science of vibrational matching, a process of mitigating fate and has universal acceptability. The science of Vaastu, unlike other sciences that are based on material substances and lab tests, has its roots in the vast space surrounding and filling the entire universe. It is based on the process of manifestation which can be numerically expressed and applied in the form of design, structure and space. The process of manifestation is basic and is taking place in the universe. Time being induced into the vast space around us (known as vaastu) starts vibrating at various frequencies. This vibration at varied frequencies creates different kinds of matter in its material forms (known as vaastu). This scientifically understood, is conversion of energy into matter. Hence, absolute time is the ultimate creator. Creation starts with time as time creates vibration leading to creation. This creation takes place by enclosing the space or dealing with the space in different mathematical proportions, forming an energy pattern.

Depending on the time units, the resulting spatial form will exhibit varying attributes.

All objects are unified entities of energy and matter vibrating at different frequency which make them different from one another physically. It is interesting to note that everything contains space or energy - be it a human being, animal, or inanimate objects such as a table or chair, a house, a building. Therefore, vaastu is the energy in its original form or subtle state whereas vaastu is the energy within a material substance or in its gross state or embodied energy. The most common mistake made by those seeking changes in their life is to look at a structure in isolation.

On the other hand, it is the combination or the synchronisation of all the energies (of the animate and inanimate, including the energy of the dweller) that determines the state of harmony and success of mankind, not only materially but also spiritually. Vaastu foretells the bad and good effect of the environment on the dweller of the space keeping in view the subtle qualities. It is only logical then, that to live in harmony with the gross or material world, one must numerically manage the subtle world.

To manage the subtle qualities of gross nature, to design a structure which will spiritually resonate with the inner vibration of its inhabitants so as to their physical and spiritual welfare, is the primary aim of Vaastu Shastra.

(The writer is an entrepreneur from Mathura)



UP Assembly Speaker Hriday Narayan Dikshit speaking at a programme dedicated to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow on Sunday

CITY BRIEFS



SHOOTING WINDS UP

The shooting for the film "Today's Coverage" wound up in the city on Sunday. Director Sameer, Rizvi who is a Lucknowite, said the film was his directorial debut. Sameer studied in Shia PG College before he went to Kanpur to complete engineering from Polytechnic. "I have been in the industry for over 25 years working mainly as an assistant director, and this is my first film as a director. I took up the cudgel when I gained confi-

dence that I could manage to take the risk," he said. The director said he had primarily roped in artistes for the film from Lucknow and Mumbai. "We had already complete a 40-day schedule earlier in the city. The film has Ravi Kishan as one of the prominent actors in the film. We completed the five-day work which was remaining after a schedule in Jaunpur," he said. He added that the film was about how the lure of lucre landed youngsters in the crime world.

FARMERS' MARKET

A farmers' market was organised in the city on Monday. Organiser of the market Jyotsna Habibullah, who is also an orchard owner, said that chemicals and synthetic additives in the food were poisoning human bodies and caused so many diseases and hence the need for such ventures. The atmosphere of a carnival was created at the market which witnessed the presence of the Tarot card reader and a theatre workshop on farmers' first by Annu Gupta from Delhi. "The market is a delight and offers something of interest for every visitor. Now consumers can get a regular supply of organic and farm fresh natural produce, including vegetables, honey, flour, cereals, spices, turmeric, mustard oil,

jaggery and other foodgrains directly from the farmers and producers. People from all walks of life have come together to revive and present local specialities from a simpler time, which are seasonal and locally produced and grown reducing our carbon footprint and with no processing or harmful additives," she said. "Organic and farm fresh products such as mustard oil and dals (pulses) are being presented by an engineer whose passion is farming, turmeric powder, mustard oil, hand-crafted soaps, honey medicated jaggery, honey, hand-made rugs, organic chicken and eggs, grocery, vegetables, fish, poultry, pickles without oil and preservatives, home-made chocolates and terracotta items are all available at the market," she said.

SCHOOLSCAN



COFAS-2018

City Montessori School (Rajendra Nagar Campus III) is organising a four-day international computer olympiad, 'COFAS-2018' from October 31 to November 3. Over 700 students from Jordan, Bangladesh, Nepal and various states of India will be arriving here to participate in the event. COFAS-2018 convener and principal Jayashree Krishnan told mediapersons on Sunday that the event was aimed at sensitising students about the need

for computer knowledge, upgrading their technical skills and giving a boost to information technology.

CONVERGENCE-2018

Students of Delhi Public School (Indira Nagar) are organising the 5th edition of their 2-day mega annual event of inter-school competitions, Convergence-2018 on October 22 and 23. The theme is 'Science and humanity'. It is a platform where children get an opportunity to showcase their knowledge and talent in various fields. Model United Nations (MUN) will be a part of the programme wherein children will be trained to understand the global issues and solve problems through arguments and deliberations. Scientist DK Upreti from NBRI will be the chief guest.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LOCALS PROTESTING...

In a precautionary move, the police has cordoned off the Dhoobi Ghat area and Jaura Fatak, besides making public announcements that no one should come out of homes near the railway tracks. The blockade, since Saturday, had forced the railways to cancel 27 trains, divert many others to Tarn Taran and Beas while some were short-terminated at Jalandhar. The first goods train started from Manawala for Amritsar at 2:16 pm, said the Northern Railways spokesperson Deepak Kumar, adding that this is being followed by Mail and Express trains. On Friday, 59 people lost their lives and 60 others were injured when a train ran through a crowd that had gathered on a railway track to watch 'Ravana' effigies go up in flames on the occasion of Dussehra. Even as several people are still searching for their missing kith and kin after the tragic incident, the political mudslinging continued unabated. Meanwhile, Punjab Director-General of Police (DGP) Suresh Arora on Sunday announced that for fixing criminal responsibility for the Amritsar railway mishap, Additional Director-General of Police (Railways) Iqbal Preet Singh Sahota would conduct an inquiry. "There has been negligence on the part of someone and that liability has to be fixed for which this probe has been ordered," said Arora while interacting with media persons on the sidelines of the 59th

Police Commemoration Day parade. The State DGP said that this was a very tragic and unfortunate incident into which Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh has already ordered a managerial probe by Jalandhar Divisional Commissioner B Purusartha, who would submit the report within four weeks. Sahota would also personally conduct inquiry to ensure that the persons responsible for this mishap could be nailed, he said.

NO 2 IN CBI...

"On receipt of information that Satish Babu paid illegal gratification to Sh Alok Verma, Director, CBI, the same was brought to the notice of the Cabinet Secretary by Asthana through his letter dated August 24 this year. The CVC has initiated an enquiry and sought the relevant files from the CBI," Asthana alleged in his plaint to the CVC. Asthana has alleged in his letter to the CVC that Satish Babu Sana, one of the accused proposed to be arrested, attempted to flee but could not leave the country, owing to the LOC opened by SIT headed by him (Asthana). The file was submitted back on October 3 to the CBI Director answering all his queries and providing all the documents sought by DoP, the file has never returned. "Meanwhile, Satish Babu Sana appeared before the IO on October 1, 2018. He stated that he approached Shri CM Ramesh, MP, (Rajya Sabha), TDP who in turn personally

met the CBI Director. Later, CM Ramesh assured that Satish Sana would not be called again by the CBI. On October 4, ED also examined Sana," Asthana alleged.

Meanwhile, the CBI transferred the Moin Qureshi case to JD (policy) AK Sharma "with mala fide intention to shield the bribe payer and bribe receiver. It is clear that active efforts are underway to falsely implicate the undersigned (Asthana)," Asthana alleged in his second complaint to CVC on October 19. Sharma is said to have verbally ordered the flight of controversial businessman Vijay Malyya against whom a Look Out Circular (LOC) was pending. Asthana also sought transfer of eight cases including the Moin Qureshi case to the SIT.

In his earlier complaint to the CVC on October 18, Asthana said, "On the basis of reasonable grounds and apprehension, LOC was got opened against them (Moin Qureshi and others) on May 16, 2018 as they are facing serious charges and can flee from justice, and may not return to India. During September 2018, as soon as the CVC called for relevant files including the files related to RC 2242017 A0001-AC-VI/SIT, Delhi (against Moin Qureshi and others), CBI Director Alok Kumar Verma came to know about possible allegations in the instant case. "A proposal to arrest and (subject) custodial interrogation of Satish Babu Sana and others was submitted

by the Investigating Officer (IO) on 12.09.2018, which was duly endorsed by the SP/SIT on 12.09.2018 and by JD/SIT on 20.09.2018. It also endorsed the arrest proposal on 20.09.2018 and, put up to the CBI Director for approval. However, Alok Kumar Verma, after four days, in a deviation from the procedure generally adopted by the CBI and violation of Para 12.3 of CBI (Crime) Manual, 2005, marked the arrest proposal to OP Verma, Director of Prosecution (DoP) on 24.09.2018." Verma marked on the file that all the statements in the case recorded by the CBI and ED be put up before the DoP who will give an opinion on the arrest of the accused Satish Sana and others, Asthana said.

15 DIE ON...

Adviser to the Governor, K Vijay Kumar, and DGP Dilbag Singh have expressed regret over the loss of civilian lives at the encounter site and conveyed their profound condolences to the bereaved families. He said such sites should be avoided by civilians till they are properly sanitised. Reacting to the news of loss of civilian lives, former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed it as "terrible news". "Terrible news coming out from Kulgam. May the deceased find place in Jannat. Alienating the people in the fight against militancy is a sure fire recipe for losing the fight. How long can we go on ignoring the ground realities & liv-

ing in denial about how bad things are in Kashmir?" Omar wrote on Twitter. The slain civilians were identified as Ubaid Laway, son of Mohammad Maqbool Laway; Uzair Ahmad, Mansoor Ahmad, Talib Maqbool of Laroo, Tajamul Ahmad of Denew Bogund and Irshad Ahmad of Shurat. All three terrorists were locals and affiliated with Jaish-e-Muhammad. They have been identified as Shahid ul Islam Tantray of Wangam Shopian, Yazil Makroo of Arwani Bijbehara and Zubair Lone of Ahwato Kulgam. Meanwhile, Joint Resistance Leadership has called for shutdown on Monday against the killings.

SHATABDI EXPRESS...

The modular toilets will have aesthetic touch-free bathroom fittings. They have zero discharge bio vacuum toilets. The luggage rack of Train 18 will be more spacious so that passengers can carry more luggage. Just like the metro trains or the EMUs, Train 18 will have driver's cabin at both ends of the train. The coaches of the self-propelled train set will be interconnected and they will also have space for wheel-chairs for disabled passengers.

Train 18 will have the latest generation coaches for greater comfort with several new features, including reduced aerodynamic drag for improved energy efficiency, improved air ducting for better distribution and underslung propulsion. It

will have quick acceleration and deceleration, thus reducing the travel duration. While there will be on-board Wi-Fi and infotainment, GPS-based information system will enable passengers to know the real-time movement of the train. The initial idea to replace Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Bhopal by Train 18 has been dropped due to the model code of conduct coming into effect for the Assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh. The new train set is also likely to be cost-effective for the national transporter as it would cost around Rs 5-6 crore per coach.

6 WOMEN STOPPED...

On Sunday, a 47-year-old woman reached up to the 'Nadappandhal' close to the sanctum sanctorum, but was prevented by the devotees chanting "Swamiye Saranam Ayyapa" while five others were stopped enroute to the hills. The woman, who complained of uneasiness, was brought to a hospital here by the police. An elderly woman devotee who was present at the spot said as the identity card of the woman showed she was born in 1971 and had not attained the 'permissible age', the other devotees started chanting Sarana mantra. Earlier, the protesters prevented two women, in their 40s, at the foothills itself. The women were accompanied by their relatives. Police, who took the women to the safety, said the two informed them that they came to Sabarimala without

knowing the customs of the temple. After the women were brought Nilackal, the base camp, they gave in writing to the police that they did not want to break the centuries-old custom of the temple, sources said. In another development, activist Rehana Fathima, who had made an attempt to enter the temple on Friday, has been expelled from the Muslim community for "hurting the sentiments of lakhs of Hindu devotees", the Kerala Muslim Jamaath Council said. The state has been witnessing massive protests by Lord Ayyappa devotees opposing the entry of girls and women of menstrual age into the Sabarimala temple since the government decided to implement the apex court order.

YOGI FORMS...

stages will also be sought for training capacity enhancement. In Jalaun and Sultanpur where training centres are ready, they will be started soon," he said. He said to meet housing demands, more barracks will be put up in police lines and police stations. Yogi said cycle and uniform allowances of policemen will be increased soon and medical reimbursement related issues will also be sorted out. Elaborating on the initiatives of the state government for the police, the Chief Minister said the Uttar Pradesh government has already increased compensation to the family of a martyr from ₹20 lakh to ₹40 lakh, besides hiking the amount

given to their parents to ₹10 lakh. Giving details, DGP O P Singh said 67 policemen lost their lives while performing their duties between September 1, 2017 and August 31 2018.

COUNCIL CHAIRMAN...

revealed that Abhijeet had some health-related problem on Saturday night and on Sunday morning, he was found dead. "The family members were planning to cremate the body. But a female relative insisted that an autopsy be conducted. Later, a police team reached the place on information and the body was sent for autopsy," the sources said. They said strangulation mark around the throat of the victim hinted some foul play though a corroborative evidence in the case was yet to be obtained. They said the family had not informed the matter to the police and was making preparations for the cremation.

It surfaced that Abhijeet was staying in the flat for a long time and was exploring his career in construction and real estate these days. Abhijeet's one brother Ashish Yadav is a former MLA from Samajwadi Party from an Assembly seat in Etah. A huge number of shop owners and residents in the locality flocked to the scene soon after the news reached them. Believing that it was an insider's job, the police were grilling family members to obtain concrete clue to nail the culprit.

PAK TERRORISTS SHIFT FOCUS IN J&K

Army on toes to nip spike in infiltrations ahead of winter

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army is bracing itself to face a determined bid by Pakistan-backed terrorists to infiltrate into Jammu & Kashmir from across the Line Of Control (LOC) before all the ingress routes are blocked by snow in the next few weeks. The latest infiltration bid in Jammu sector is an indication that, having failed to enter from North Kashmir due to snowfall, the terrorists shifted focus to more favourable terrain south of Pir Panjal. Three soldiers and two heavily armed terrorists were killed when an infiltration bid was foiled in Sunderbani region of Rajouri on Sunday.



does not receive snowfall. In fact, Sunday's attempt is one such indication that Poonch and Rajouri may see more such bids by terrorists.

Apart from tightening its anti-infiltration grid all along the LOC to prevent large scale infiltrations, the security forces are also focusing on more than 70 foreign terrorists now hiding in North Kashmir. The main objective of this operation is to deny the terrorists space and time to move freely and intrude into South Kashmir to carry out terrorist strikes and then escape to their hideouts in rugged terrain of North Kashmir, officials in security establishment said here on Sunday.

Elaborating upon the dynamics of infiltration attempts, they said upper reaches of North Kashmir are already receiving heavy snowfall and some favoured mountain passes used for ingress are blocked. Coming days will see the terrorists shifting base towards Jammu region including Poonch and Rajouri which

An estimated 250-300 well trained and armed terrorists are waiting in launch pads across the LOC to sneak into Jammu & Kashmir to raise the levels of violence in the State. Moreover, at least 250 terrorists are active in the Kashmir valley with majority of them based in restive South Kashmir and others in North Kashmir. This region is also close to LOC and terrorists try to sneak into the state through mountain passes there, they said.

The fight against terrorism and infiltration has already cost the lives of at least 75 security men this year as compared to 84 for the entire last year. Moreover, 35 terrorists were killed on the LOC this year including the latest incident while trying to come in, officials said and not ruling the

possibility of more or less the same number of terrorists successfully infiltration into the Kashmir valley during these encounters.

The overall figure of terrorists neutralised is 195 so far while this toll stood at 214 for the entire last year. In fact, last year's figures were highest since 2010 when more than 270 terrorists were neutralised, sources said.

They, however, admitted that neutralisation of 200 plus terrorists last year did not prove to be a deterrent as more than 127 local youths including highly educated students joined militancy. The figure this year is alarming as the figure has already crossed the 150 plus mark with two months before the year ends, officials said.

On weather pattern determining the flow of infiltration in North Kashmir, they said the region is expected to experience more than heavy snowfall this year. Last year, snowfall was not that dense as happens every two to three years, officials said.

Given the situation, the Army will thin out its presence in the higher reaches of North and South Kashmir due to expected heavy snow thereby proving a natural deterrence to the infiltrators. However, the troops relieved from their posts in higher reaches will be redeployed in other parts of the State to shore up anti-insurgency grid, sources said adding the tempo of terrorism operations will not slacken even during the winter months in the hinterland.

PM inaugurates police memorial

Slams Congress for delaying construction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday questioned the delay and "indifference" shown by past Governments in erecting a national memorial for police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty since Independence.

Inaugurating a refurbished national police memorial and a museum here on the National Police Commemoration Day, Modi said previous Governments at the Centre let dust gather on the files of this subject.

"I am proud of the new police memorial that is being dedicated to the nation today but I have few questions to ask. Why could this memorial not come into being despite over 70 years of Independence?", Modi said in his speech to police jawans, officers, their families and retired personnel.

The National Police Commemoration Day is observed every year this day to pay homage to the 10 policemen who were killed in an ambush by Chinese troops in 1959 in Ladakh's Hot Spring area.

The supreme sacrifice by



Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays a wreath at a refurbished national police memorial on the occasion of the Police Commemoration Day at Chanakyapuri in New Delhi on Sunday

police personnel at the Hot Springs in Ladakh also took place about 60 years back, he said.

"Why wait for so many years? (to erect a memorial)" the PM asked.

He said the plan to have a national memorial for slain police personnel was first conceptualised during the Government of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and in 2002, the then Home Minister L K Advani laid its foundation stone.

"I agree that work was stopped at this facility due to some legal issues but had the earlier Governments put in a honest and whole-hearted effort, this memorial could have been built much earlier," he said.

Instead, the previous

in my mind that why there is such an indifference by the past Governments for those who sacrificed their lives for the country," he said.

"This is not our tradition and we are known to hold the unity and integrity of the country even on an empty stomach," he said.

"I am happy that these memorials are now inspiring the world," he said.

The Prime Minister choked with emotions during his speech as he said the country will "never forget" the courage and ultimate sacrifice made by the police and paramilitary personnel at the altar of their duties.

He made a special mention of those personnel who render difficult duties in saving people hit due to natural or man-made disasters.

He announced a new decoration in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for police and paramilitary personnel involved in disaster relief.

The PM urged police forces to use technology in their day-to-day works so that the common man does not have to go to a police station for getting their ordinary complaints registered and basic verification of documents.

He urged police personnel to have empathy for the people as they were the "defence and protectors" to the poor, the abused and the marginalised.

BJP Govt will be dislodged in Raj: Pilot



Jaipur: Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot on Sunday said the people of the State would celebrate Diwali twice this year, first on November 7 and again on December 7 when the Congress will come to power here.

Speaking at a 'Booth Jitao, Bhrashtachar Mitao' event here, Pilot said the BJP will be removed from the State and a new Government will be formed on December 7.

He said the BJP and Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje were conspiring to remove tickets of 100 to 150 sitting MLAs to win the upcoming election, whereas the Congress workers were seeking the public's blessings to do the same. He said Congress leaders and workers were establishing contact with the people at 50,000 booths in the State today.

PTI

POLITICS OVER GREAT LEADERS

BJP desperate to rewrite history, appropriate Netaji's legacy: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP-led Centre of making a "conspiratorial attempt" to appropriate the legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Congress on Sunday said the saffron party was "desperate to rewrite history". Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the Congress had always endeavoured to protect, preserve and propagate the ideals of Bose, the brave patriot and secularist. "Those who do not have their own ideas and idol and had zero contribution in the national movement of freedom struggle are trying to appropriate the legacy of our freedom fighters, in an attempt to be perceived as nationalists. Today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi desperately tried to do the same," Singhvi said at a Press conference.

"A desperate BJP is trying to rewrite history and create an imagined rivalry between Sardar Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru and between Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Nehru. It has used auspicious occasions for these cheap political tricks," he said.

Singhvi pointed out that Bose and Patel were completely against the "philosophy of sectarianism and bigotry that is espoused by Prime Minister Modi's ideological patriarch — the RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha".



He said Patel, in a letter to Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, had stated that the "activities of the Hindu Mahasabha were a clear threat to the existence of the government and the activities had not died down, despite the ban". Singhvi also pointed out that Nehru was one of the lawyers for Bose during his Indian National Army (INA) trials.

"Was there any person from the RSS to support Netaji?", he asked, adding, "The prime minister and the BJP are desperately trying to appropriate every national legacy." The Congress leader alleged that while the RSS and BJP were praising Bose for his military endeavours to liberate India, their "ideological ancestors had done totally the opposite".

"When Netaji was revamping the Azad Hind Fauj (or INA) in Japan and Gandhiji had given the Quit India call, the RSS was hand-in-glove with the British," he said.

Singhvi also said to get political mileage, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was portraying Bose as Mahatma Gandhi's victim and Jawaharlal Nehru's rival, but in reality, Bose always had the highest regard for both of them.

He pointed out that Bose had, in fact, named two INA regiments after Gandhi and Nehru. It was Bose who first gave Gandhi the epithet of "Rashtrapita" or the father of the nation in a radio address from Singapore in 1944, Singhvi said, adding that the same year, Hindu Mahasabha member Nathu Ram Godse had made his first attempt to kill Gandhi.

Quoting from public documents, correspondences and books, Singhvi claimed that the Congress was never at odds with Bose. He said the Congress had always welcomed the earlier decisions of the Modi Government and the West Bengal Government to declassify the files pertaining to Bose.

"But the BJP has just played politics with it. In the last 53 months, the Modi government has only indulged in new plants and nothing adverse has come against the Congress party as perpetrated by them. We still want all the Netaji files be declassified," he said.



Navi Mumbai Police conduct search operation with railway police and Dog Squad inside 22476 Coimbatore-Bikaner Superfast Train after a bomb threat call at Panvel Railway Station in Navi Mumbai on Sunday

6 new zika cases in Raj, total 123

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The deadly disease caused by zika virus continued to spread in Rajasthan with half a dozen more persons testing positive in Jaipur district on Sunday. Altogether 123 peoples have tested positive for the virus in Rajasthan, making it the worst affected State in the country.

Much to relief of the officials, the recovery rate has been encouraging. Of the 123 patients, 105 have recovered after treatment.

The State health department also formed a five-member committee on Saturday to investigate, examine and track Zika virus disease in pregnant patients of first trimester. The committee will submit the report to the director public health from time to time, an order said.

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

The virus, transmitted through the aedes aegypti mosquito, causes fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain. It is harmful to pregnant women, as it can lead to microcephaly, a condition in which a baby's head is significantly smaller in newborns.

In India, the first outbreak was reported in Ahmedabad in January 2017 and the second in

Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district in July that year. Both these outbreaks were successfully contained through intensive surveillance and vector management.

The disease is under surveillance of the Union Health Ministry although it is no longer a Public Health Emergency of International Concern under WHO notification since November 18, 2016.

61,000 posts lying vacant in paramilitary forces

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 61,000 posts of central paramilitary personnel are lying vacant in six paramilitary forces in the country, Home Ministry statistics said.

Altogether, 18,460 posts are lying vacant in the country's largest paramilitary force, CRPF, as on March 1, 2018, while 10,738 posts are remaining vacant in the border guarding force BSF.

A Home Ministry official said the vacancies in the paramilitary forces arise due to retirement, resignation, death, creation of new posts or raising of new battalions.

"The vacancies are filled through various modes, including direct recruitment,

promotion and by deputation as per the extant provisions of recruitment rules. Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process," he said.

As many as 18,942 posts are lying vacant with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) as on March 1, 2018, while 5,786 posts are vacant in the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

There are 3,840 vacancies in the Assam Rifles and 3,812 vacancies in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) as on the said date.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is primarily deployed for the assistance of state police forces in internal security, fighting militants in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast, and in

anti-Naxal operations in Maoist-hit areas.

The Border Security Force (BSF) guards the Indo-Pak and Indo-Bangladesh borders, while the SSB protects the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders, and the ITBP is deployed along the Sino-Indian border.

The CISF guards the airports, nuclear and industrial installations, sensitive government buildings, Delhi Metro besides others.

The Assam Rifles is deployed for guarding the Indo-Myanmar border and fighting insurgency in the Northeast.

The combined strength of the paramilitary forces is around 10 lakh.

Others' contribution deliberately ignored to glorify one family, says PM Modi

several other great leaders was deliberately forgotten. It is high time more Indians knew about the historic role of stalwarts Sardar Patel, Babasaheb Ambedkar and Netaji Subhas Bose," he said.

The PM said while Bose focused on the East and Northeast India, the two regions did not get due recognition. Now, he said, his Government is working to make the Northeast the "engine of growth". Hailing Bose's spirit of nationalism, Modi said as a 16-year old, he was pained at the plight of India under the British rule. "His ideology was nationalism... He lived by it. All over the world, people took inspiration from Netaji Subhas Bose in their fights against colonialism and inequality. We remain committed to fulfilling Netaji's ideals and building an India he would be proud of," he said.

J&J FAULTY HIP IMPLANTS

Affected patients seek clarity on compensation amount

New Delhi: Amid reports that the victims of Johnson & Johnson's faulty hip implants are likely to get as much as ₹1.2 crore each in compensation, some patients have sought official clarification about the proposed compensation and the basis of deciding on a formula in the absence of any consultation with them.

In a letter to Union Health Minister J P Nadda, more than 30 patients have reiterated their concerns regarding the lack of transparency and patient consultation in the process to decide compensation, including lack of information being made available regarding deliberations of

the Arya Committee and the formulation of compensation norms.

"We are unclear about the basis of deciding on a formula in the absence of any consultation with patients to understand the range of our suffering because of the hip implants, the aggravation of pain and misery caused by unjustifiably delayed medical attention and other negative impacts on our lives."

"We question why we have to rely on media reports — which quote unnamed sources — for information about an issue that is directly related to our pain and suffering," they said in the letter.

They said that transparency in the workings of the Committee and compensation mechanism is also needed to prevent immense confusion from arising in the future.

"We, therefore, request (for) an official clarification about the proposed compensation mentioned in the...Media report and the details of the formula being considered, if such a proposal exists." Given the statements of Johnson & Johnson to the media, we would also like clarity in respect of the company's engagement with the Committee and its role in determining the compensation," they said in the letter.

PTI

Health Ministry asks States to set up mental health authority, review boards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has asked all the states to set up State Mental Health Authority and District Mental Health Review Board to ensure effective implementation of the Mental Health Care Act, 2017.

The Act got the assent of the president on April 7 last year.

The State Mental Health Authority which will comprise officials of the State Government and other members working in the mental health sector is supposed to oversee the effective implementation of the provisions of the Act, an official statement said.

TO FIGHT BJP

Gowda, Siddaramaiah join hands after 12 years

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major political development in Karnataka, former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo HD Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister and Congress leader Siddaramaiah have come together to fight the BJP in the ensuing byelections.

The guru-shishya duo who fought and divided Karnataka politics have come together now in a show of strength to, what they call, defeat the Modi-Shah combine in the State.

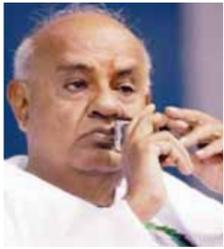
Politically it has also given a message to the confused grass root level workers of both the JD(S) and the Congress to vote for the victory of joint candidates in the Lok Sabha and Assembly by-polls.

After fighting each other in the recent Assembly polls, they joined hands to keep the BJP away and formed a fragile coalition Government four months ago headed by HD Kumaraswamy of the JD(S) who has just 34 seats in the 224 House in the state.

In a joint press conference in Bengaluru to send a message of unity to fight the BJP, Deve Gowda and Siddaramaiah insisted that they have to fight the common enemy the BJP led by Prime Minister Modi and Amit Shah. Deve Gowda said, "For the first time in 12 years Siddaramaiah and I are on the same stage. For the first time, we'll be contesting together in the upcoming bypolls.

Gowda said "I will be visiting all constituencies and if the necessity arises we will campaign together. I will go wherever a joint rally is held. Our common enemy is BJP politically and ideologically. Defeating them is our responsibility. We are working together and there are no differences among us. This will be the beginning for the Lok Sabha polls."

The by polls to three Lok Sabha and two assembly con-



IN A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE IN BENGALURU TO SEND A MESSAGE OF UNITY TO FIGHT THE BJP, DEVE GOWDA AND SIDDARAMAIAH INSISTED THAT THEY HAVE TO FIGHT THE COMMON ENEMY, THE BJP-LED BY PM MODI AND AMIT SHAH



stituencies will be held on November 3, JDS will contest from Ramanagara assembly constituency, Shivamogga and Mandya Lok Sabha constituencies, the Congress will contest from Jamakhandi assembly and Ballari Lok Sabha constituencies.

Chief Minister Kumaraswamy son of Devegowda who is playing a compromising politics said "There might have been some differences at some point, but that's all in the past. And even though they are two bodies, they are one soul. We are working together not just to win all five seats but all 28 Lok Sabha seats in 2019."

Meanwhile HD Deve Gowda said the country's secular parties will come together under the leadership of the Congress to defeat the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, denying reports that the grand alliance was losing its sheen. The Janata Dal-Secular supremo accused the BJP of indulging in politics of polarisation and exploiting public sentiments, be it the Ram temple issue or the ongoing Sabarimala row.

"Some development will take place before Parliament election (and) some will take place after the election is over." "Whatever may be the differences, they (secular parties) will come together under the leadership of the national party Congress to see to it that the BJP is not in power," he added.

For now it's advantage Rajinikanth as Kamal Haasan double-faults

CHENNAI: Politics in Tamil Nadu took a new turn as the Navarathri festivities concluded on Sunday. The Congress which was the cynosure of all eyes set the record straight by an outright rejection of the invitation extended by film actor-turned-politician Kamal Haasan who had announced last week that he was ready for an electoral alliance with the Grand Old Party if the latter dissociates itself from the DMK.

While speaking to a Tamil TV news channel, Haasan had said he was game for a tie-up with the Congress provided it comes out of the alliance with the DMK. Speaking to reporters at Chennai on Saturday, S Thiruvananthapuram, president Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, thanked the actor for his overture to his party. "It is well and good that he is in favour of an alliance with the Congress. But a condition for any new political party that we should leave the DMK first is unacceptable as we are part of the DMK alliance," said the TNCC boss.

Thiruvananthapuram put an end to all speculation of the Congress dumping the DMK in favour of the new outfit Makkal Neethi Maaim (People's Centre for Justice) launched by Haasan. The pre-condition put forward by Haasan to the Congress for a tie-up had surprised many as the DMK-Congress alliance is a time tested partnership though there were some temporary misunderstandings between the two during 2013-2014 which were resolved at the intervention of the Congress High Command and late M Karunanidhi, the DMK patriarch by 2015.

T Ramakrishnan, leading political commentator in the State said he had enough reasons to believe that Haasan could be a "decoy" set up by the BJP to weaken the DMK-Congress alliance. "It is certain that the DMK would never have any pre-

poll alliance with the BJP though the latter is probing all possibilities for making an entry to Tamil Nadu. The BJP leadership know that it is difficult to beat the DMK-Congress combination. Hence they may be trying to wean the Congress away from the Dravidian major and make it weak," said Ramakrishnan.

What stands out is that Haasan, in spite of launching his party in February 2018, has not announced any policies and programmes of the party. Though he announced the names of office bearers, details about them are kept as secret. By Saturday, Rajinikanth, who had declared his political dreams on the New Year eve, declared that 90 per cent works connected with the launching of his political party were over and he would soon announce the names and details of the organisation.

Sources close to Rajinikanth said that he has even set up full-fledged booth committees in 200 assembly constituencies out of the total 234. The BJP is yet to have such committees in even 100 constituencies in the State, according to a senior BJP leader.

The CPI(M) and the VCK, potential allies of the DMK, too rejected Kamal Haasan's move to wean away the Congress from the DMK. While Thirumavalavan, leader of the VCK declared that he would always remain with the DMK, the CPI(M) secretary K Balakrishnan said his party would soon launch a joint campaign with the DMK against the BJP.

As Kamal Haasan's political dreams suffered a set back, he is likely to get more involved in his pet movie projects, like sequels for Indian and Thevar Magan. But the possibilities of Rajinikanth emerging as an alternative to the DMK and the AIADMK got brightened as Haasan was cold shouldered by the Congress and the DMK.

Kumar Chellappan

Chandy: Saritha's sexual abuse FIR politically motivated

FIANS ■ KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

Reacting to the Kerala Government registering a new case of sexual abuse alleged by solar scam accused Saritha Nair, former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy on Sunday said the move was politically motivated.

"This has happened before also and now this fresh development has surfaced because of the issues in Sabarimala. I will deal with this case legally and tomorrow (Monday) in the State Capital, I will reveal more details," Chandy said here.

In the State Capital, Kerala police chief Loknath Behra on Sunday told the media that a new FIR has been registered and a special team had been constituted to probe Nair's complaint.

"Now, let the law take its course," said Behra.

In the complaint, Nair said



that in 2012 at Thiruvananthapuram, she was sexually abused by Chandy and Alappuzha Lok Sabha member KC Venugopal.

This fresh move comes after the Kerala High Court while hearing Chandy's petition over the Solar Judicial Inquiry Commission report, said in May that findings of the commission based on Nair's letter need not be considered.

The multi-crore solar energy investment fraud that rocked the Chandy government in 2013 was led by Nair and her live-in partner Biju Radhakrishnan, as it came to light that a section of the Chief Minister's office had links with the couple.

Nair's letter named Chandy and numerous other top Congress leaders for sexually exploiting her.



Muslims shower flower petals on women volunteers of the Hindu group, Rashtra Sevika Samiti, as they march past the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer on Sunday

Surat rape accused arrested in Bihar's Buxar

Patna: A 20-year-old man was arrested from Buxar district in Bihar in connection with the rape and murder of a three-year-old girl in Gujarat's Surat, officials said Sunday.

The accused Anil Yadav was arrested on Friday. He was produced before a magistrate in Buxar and taken to Gujarat on Saturday after a transit remand was obtained, Buxar Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Satish Kumar said.

"Yadav was arrested under Dhansoi Police Station limits where a raid was conducted by the Gujarat police team, assisted by the local police. Although the accused was a resident of Itarhi Police Station area, he had been staying away from home," Kumar told PTI over phone.

The Gujarat police team had camped in Buxar for a couple of days before Yadav was finally nabbed, he added. The three-year-old girl went missing from her house in Godadara locality of Surat and her body was recovered from a locked building in the area on October 16.

J&K Gujjars demand rights like other tribal communities in country

PTI ■ JAMMU

Gujjars in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday demanded "equality" and "justice", and pressed for rights that are granted to other tribal communities in the country.

The demand was put forth by the community at a meeting organised here by the Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation (TRCF) - an organisation founded by noted Gujjar scholar Javid Rahi.

The programme was held to discuss identity formation viz-a-viz Gujjars and Bakerwals. The event also discussed the issues of equality, justice, preservation and documentation of centuries-old socio-cultural, behavioural, linguistic, ritualistic and primordial traits of J&K tribes, the TRCF said in a release.

Maintaining that the scheduled tribe status granted to Gujjars and Bakerwals in April 1991 played a key role in their identity formation, the TRCF said it, however, was not enough to lead the tribal communities

on the path of development. "Though reservation has significantly changed the Gujjars and Bakerwal society but a large chunk of tribal population is still reeling under the grip of poverty and backwardness which requires immediate attention," it said.

The TRCF said culture was a powerful tool to highlight the vibrant ethnicity of tribal communities, especially Gujjars and Bakerwals, and there was a need to document their heritage. It said Gujjars and Bakerwals were still waiting for the grant of rights of political reservation to Scheduled Tribes and extension of Forest Right Act, 2006 and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to Jammu & Kashmir.

The TRCF demanded inclusion of Gojri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, education for nomadic Gujjar-Bakerwal children, adequate representation in civil administration and police, enhancement of reservation for Gujjars and Bakerwals in professional colleges.

Mamata pays tribute to INA soldiers

FIANS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday paid tribute to the brave soldiers of the Indian National Army (INA) on the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind Government.

"Today is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Azad Hind Government. My heartfelt tribute to all the brave soldiers of INA who fought for India's freedom under the leadership of Netaji. Jai Hind," she tweeted. On Police Commemoration Day, Banerjee also conveyed her best wishes to the police forces of West Bengal and other states. "On Police Commemoration Day, my best wishes to @wbpolice, @kolkatapolice and all the police forces of all other States for their service to the nation. From festivals to disasters, they always work hard to keep us safe."

Uddhav attacks BJP, says Centre needs no alliances

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In the first of his statewide rallies, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday made a veiled attack on the BJP by claiming that the ruling dispensation at the Centre "did not need political alliances".

Thackeray addressed public meetings at Shirdi and Ahmednagar.

"When Atal ji's (Atal Bihari Vajpayee) Government was there (at the Centre), it had the support of many political friends. (However), the current Government does not need any political alliances," he said. In another swipe at the Union Government, of which his party is a constituent, Thackeray asked people to find out the veracity of claims made in the speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I am asking party workers to find out how many people really benefited from the schemes of the BJP-led Central government. You should put up a poster of your findings next to that of PM Modi and let people decide," Thackeray told the



gathering. He targeted the BJP for "spreading lies" and raising the issue of construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya for electoral gains.

Speaking at a rally in Shirdi, Thackeray also addressed the frequent criticism of the Sena for hanging on to power (at the Centre and in Maharashtra) despite differences with the BJP.

"I am in power to get those things done that would benefit people. I am not one who will wag his tail in front of power. I am not hankering for power," Thackeray said.

In an apparent reference to the BJP, Thackeray said that "attaining power by spreading lies is sedition".

Training his guns on the Devendra Fadnis government in the state, Thackeray said that its farm loan waiver scheme was a fraud and fiasco.

"If farmers have not benefited from the loan waiver, then we should speak about it," he said.

Thackeray confirmed that sitting Lok Sabha MP from Shirdi constituency, Sadashiv Lokhande, would be renominated for the 2019 general elections.

BSF pays homage to martyrs on police commemoration day

PTI ■ JAMMU

The BSF on Sunday observed police commemoration day here to pay homage to over 400 martyrs including 12 personnel of the force who fell to Pakistani firing along the International border (IB) this year.

The deaths in the ceasefire violations by Pakistan marked a manifold increase this year compared to last four years when a total of eight Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were killed and 36 others were injured.

Every year, the commemoration day is observed on October 21 to remember the 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men who died fighting Chinese aggression on October 21, 1959, at Hotspring, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir.

BSF Inspector General of Jammu, Ram Awatar, led his officers to pay tribute to the slain police and paramilitary personnel at martyrs memorial at its headquarters at Paloura on the outskirts of Jammu, a spokesman of the force said.

He said the IG BSF laid wreath and paid homage to the police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

Addressing the gathering, the IG BSF read out the names of martyrs and said during last one year a total of 414 police and paramilitary personnel laid their lives in the service to the nation, out of which 42 belong to BSF, which is highest among the paramilitary forces.

BSF apart from manning Pakistan and Bangladesh border is also deployed in anti-naxal operation in Chhattisgarh and Odisha and for counter insurgency operations in north east states, the spokesperson said. Majority of the police personnel died in firing from Pakistan, fighting militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, Naxals and other law and order duties, the official added. Over 330 ceasefire violations occurred this year, also resulting in injuries to 37 personnel - which is also the highest in the last four years.



Vietnamese devotees offer special prayers at Mahabodhi temple in Bodhi Gaya on Sunday

Bengal Congress suspicious of Didi's future 'BJP plans'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee making it clear that the TMC will go it alone in the coming polls giving the Congress a creased forehead ahead of the 2019 general elections, a section of Bengal Congress leaders have vented their ire asking Banerjee to clear her position vis-a-vis the NDA, post polls next year.

This group is led by former PCC president Adhir Chowdhury who has raised the issue of her possible post-poll tilt.

In Bengal the Congress currently has 4 MPs, the Left and the BJP have two MPs each and the remaining 34 seats are held by the Trinamool Congress.

"Why doesn't Mamata Banerjee make an open statement that she will not join the NDA or support it after the

general elections?" he earlier wondered while another senior leader Manoj Chakrabarty said the Chief Minister was trying to make a difference between a 'good BJP' and a 'bad BJP' which "only hints at TMC's opportunistic mindset".

The Congress leaders quoted Banerjee as saying that she always adored tall and impartial leaders like Atal Behari Vajpayee. "She has said in her party mouthpiece about her respect for Vajpayee and other similar leaders which was why she supported the NDA since 1998," said a PCC leader wondering why Banerjee did not make her stance clear this time round about whether she would back a Modi-less NDA in case of a hung-parliament.

"Her consistent fight against the anti-people BJP Government has drawn public appreciation. But will she continue to do so if there is a hung

parliament and if they (the BJP) decide to bring in Sushma Swaraj or Rajnath Singh or anyone else to lead their party in Parliament?" this leader requesting anonymity said.

"We will raise such issues subsequently, when we go to the people before the elections. For now we have been asked by the high command to watch the situation and strengthen the organization," said this PCC leader from Murshidabad an otherwise strong Congress bastion currently "usurped by the TMC with money, muscle and State power." With the Congress nearly decimated and the Left lingering with 15-17 per cent vote share the Bengal politics seems clearly divided between the Trinamool Congress and a surging BJP which has claimed that the party will definitely win 22 or more out of the 42 seats in the

general elections.

The TMC which enjoys a total control over the State's 30 per cent minority votes however has said that the BJP will not get even the 2 seats (Asansol and Darjeeling) that they won last time. Incidentally, TMC leader Chandan Mitra recently said, despite the ambitious targets set by the BJP "I don't think that there is any serious possibility of Mamata Banerjee's popularity being dented, and her (TMC) seats coming down."

Meanwhile, in an unrelated development, the Chief Minister has claimed that her Government has ensured food security to about 8.5 crore people of the State.

The Chief Minister has said that the Khadya Sathi scheme launched by her Government has ensured food security to more than 8.5 crore people of the State.

Nitish likely to go for Cabinet expansion

PNS ■ PATNA

Two high profile speculations are gaining momentum in political and administrative circles in Bihar. Both are related to governance. While one speculation is about reshuffle and expansion of the Nitish Kumar Cabinet, other is about high level administrative changes.

The important aspect of the raging speculation is that the main hand behind this reshuffle, expansion and changes will be of Prashant Kishor, the 41-year old poll strategist who recently has been appointed as national vice-president of JD(U) and in the corridors of power being



seen as only next to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The CM is quoted saying sometimes back that he might expand his cabinet, which has 28 members 14 each from JD(U) and BJP as against permissible limit of 36.

Many names are making round in the NDA circles. Most of the new Minister's might be

inducted from Nitish's party which is a major ally. Most of the ministers are currently holding more than two portfolios. Kishor is said to have his major say in selection of the new Ministers and the reshuffle.

Another speculation making round n the administrative circles is regarding new responsibilities to the top bureaucrats who are quite close to Nitish. They included CM's principal secretary Chanchal Kumar and principal home secretary Amir Subhani who is holding this post for many years. It is speculated that the two favourite babus might swap their current office.

'Rakshas Raj' in Bihar, says Tejashwi at Opp function

PTI ■ PATNA

Leaders of the Grand Alliance in Bihar chose the State's first Chief Minister Sri Krishna Singh's birth anniversary function in Patna on Sunday to band together against the NDA, where RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav slammed the BJP-JD(U) Government by likening it to "Rakshas Raj" (reign of the devil).

The Grand Alliance leaders — from the Congress, the RJD and the HAM(S) — vowed to uproot the NDA Governments at the Centre and in the State. They came down heavily on the two Governments, alleging that both the dispensations failed on all fronts, especially in taming price rise, corruption and crime.

The Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee organised the function at SK Memorial hall.

RJD leader and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav slammed JD(U) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, likening the State Government to "Rakshas Raj" (reign of the devil).

"These people (NDA leaders) used to talk about 'Jungle Raj' (during the 15 years of Lalu-Rabri rule in Bihar). But there is 'Rakshas Raj' in Bihar today. State-sponsored crime is on the rise. This is the double-engine government of crime and corruption," Yadav said.

Taking a swipe at Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi, who had termed Lalu

Prasad's younger son as "rumour-monger", Tejashwi asked what has Bihar got from the Modi Government in its four and a half years.

"When will the special category status be accorded to Bihar? BJP has cheated the people of the state as it has no concern for them," Tejashwi said, adding sarcastically that the BJP has more concern for Lalu Prasad's family.

People should be wary of "back-stabbers", he said without naming anyone.

Former Bihar CM and HAM(S) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi demanded the Bharat Ratna for Sri Krishna Singh, the first Chief Minister of Bihar and powerful leader from the Bhumihar caste who occupied the post till his death in 1961. Manjhi also sought 15 per cent reservation for upper castes by amending the Constitution.

The party's national general secretary and Bihar in-charge Shakti Singh Gohil said, "We will fight together to uproot the NDA Government and install Congress Government at the Centre... We will come out with a blueprint for Bihar's overall development and will fulfil our commitment".

Former Union Minister and Bihar Congress Campaign Committee chairman Akhilesh Prasad Singh announced that the party would soon hold a mega rally at the historic Gandhi Maidan in Patna to "send out a message".

Delhi gets selfie with Chief Minister on drive

Kejriwal starts door-to-door campaign to garner support

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launches AAP's 'door-to-door' campaign to seek votes and donations from residents of New Delhi Assembly constituency for the 2019 Lok Sabha election, at Gole Market in New Delhi on Sunday PTI

The rank and file of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) including the party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched and actively participated in the "door-to-door" campaign in order to reach out to the common people in its bid to garner their support and collect donations for filling the dry coffers of the party ahead of Lok-Sabha elections due next year.

Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday, visited households in the New Delhi area to collect donations and ask for votes for his party in parliamentary polls 2019. It gave many families a "selfie" opportunity as they captured their moments with their CM as he visited their houses. AAP leaders are resting their hope on common people of Delhi who they think would vote for them in return for the good work done by the AAP dispensation.

"People were very happy with the work done by the Delhi Government and they will give donations and votes to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)", said Kejriwal. His cabinet colleagues, including Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, MPs and MLAs, along with AAP workers, also took to the

streets, visiting people in various parts of the city seeking donations and votes for the party.

"Delhi Government is working with honesty. AAP is run by your donation and we need money to fight the election. Whatever possible, you donate so that we can work with honesty," said Kejriwal. Interacting with the residents of his New Delhi Assembly constituency, Kejriwal said the BJP MPs in Delhi did nothing except "creating hurdles" in the work of the AAP Government.

The donation campaign "Aap Ka Daan, Rashtra Ka Nirman" was launched by Kejriwal last Monday. The campaign will go on for four months, with around 3,000 AAP workers going door to

door in all the seven Parliamentary constituencies in Delhi.

Arvind Kejriwal said that it has been more than 3 three years since AAP Government is in Delhi and has spend worth lakhs and crore of Rupees for public welfare but the party doesn't have money for itself because it has never earned. He said that the AAP will continue to work for the "Janta" or common man as it takes donations worth ₹100 from them and not for any "Adani-Ambani". Kejriwal said it was immaterial for Delhi as to who became the next Prime Minister, adding that if the AAP won any Lok Sabha seat in the national Capital, it would get work done with whosoever was in power at the Centre.



Sadhus pay their respects to Lingayat seer Siddalinga Swami who passed away at the age of 69, in Gadag on Sunday PTI

Gujarat ATS nabs man from Kashmir in heroin smuggling case

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested a man from Budgam in Jammu & Kashmir in connection with a heroin smuggling case, a senior official said Sunday.

In August, ATS had arrested two men in Gujarat and seized 5 kilogrammes of heroin worth ₹14.84 crore in the international market.

ATS officials said that one of those arrested in August, Rafiq Adam Sumra, had handed over a large part of the contraband to Kashmir residents Nazir Ahmed Thakar and Manzoor Ahmad Mir at Unjha town in Mehstana district. "Manzoor Ahmad Mir has

been arrested from Budgam in Jammu & Kashmir in connection with heroin smuggling case," Gujarat ATS Senior Superintendent of Police Himanshu Shukla said Sunday. Thakar was arrested from Srinagar last month, ATS officials said, adding that Mir's is the fourth arrest in the heroin smuggling case.

ATS said that Sumra had received the heroin from another accused, Aziz Abdul Bhagat, also arrested in August.

Sumra delivered the drug to Thakar and Mir on the instructions of a Pakistan-based dealer identified as Simranjeet, who is yet to be caught, officials said.

Cong blames State Govt's 'sycophancy' for CJI visit fiasco at Kamakhya temple

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Senior Congress leader SDebabrata Saikia on Sunday blamed the State Government's "sycophancy" for the "unfortunate" incident during CJI Ranjan Gogoi's visit to the Kamakhya temple.

The leader of the Opposition in the Assam Assembly said the incident had exposed the "desperate attempt" by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime to "please" their "political masters".

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) and his wife had visited the temple on Wednesday when devotees, including VVIPs such as BJP president Amit Shah, were also there to offer prayers.

The CJI had expressed his

displeasure to Kamrup (Metro) district Deputy Commissioner Virender Mittal over the "crowd management" at the temple.

Following this, the BJP led Assam Government Saturday suspended Guwahati (west) Deputy Commissioner of Police Bhanwar Lal Meena for not ensuring adequate security to the Supreme Court judge.

It has "once again exposed the desperate attempt by the State Government to please political personalities belonging to the ruling dispensation by using Government machinery," Saikia said in a statement here.

These "misplaced priorities" have resulted in a police officer being made the scapegoat, he added.

Taking a cue from the

State Government, the officers were busy "bending over backwards to please their political masters at the Centre" and did not defer to a commissioner-level officer to look after the CJI's visit as per norms, Saikia claimed.

"The CJI was kept waiting outside the temple while political personalities were being entertained inside," the Opposition leader asserted.

In terms of protocol, the CJI has precedence over any political personality, he said, adding the security and protocol lapse highlighted the breakdown of Assam's administrative machinery. He demanded that an enquiry by a sitting or retired high court judge be conducted to "fix responsibility for the arbitrary way of assigning protocol duties".

Karuna couldn't harm AIADMK, what can Stalin do: Palaniswami

PTI ■ SALEM

Hitting out at the DMK, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Sunday claimed it was levelling graft charges against the ruling AIADMK only out of fear of anticipated adverse verdicts against its leaders in pending corruption cases.

Taking on DMK chief M K Stalin, who has been highly critical of the Government over the issue of corruption, Palaniswami said nothing could be done to the AIADMK even when late DMK patriarch M Karunahidhi was alive and sought to know what his son can do now.

Seeking to turn the tables, Palaniswami alleged that DMK was synonymous with corruption and referred to the Sarkaria commission's report against the M Karunanidhi Government in the 1970s over the Veeranam project to cater to the drinking water needs of Chennai.

It was only after late Chief Minister J Jayalithaa introduced a new Veeranam drinking water scheme later, Chennai was getting "uninterrupted" supply.

Addressing a function at nearby Veerapanandi after distributing welfare assistance, the Chief Minister said the DMK was repeatedly making wrong calculations regarding the survival of the AIADMK ever since it was found by M G Ramachandran (MGR).

Huge improvement in ground situation in Kashmir Valley: Guv

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

There is a huge improvement in the ground situation in Kashmir Valley and people coming out to vote in the recent civic polls in a peaceful atmosphere is a positive sign, Governor Satya Pal Malik said here Sunday.

"We are trying a lot to improve the situation at the ground level and as you can see, there is a huge improvement," the Jammu & Kashmir Governor told reporters after addressing a Police Commemoration Day function at Zewan on the outskirts of the city.

The governor said the local body polls were conducted in a peaceful manner and congratulated the police and civil administrations and the people of the State.

"The turnout has been such (low) many times before and I do not want to take such a controversial question this time and I only want to say that the polls were peaceful and for that police, administration and other forces as well as people (deserve credit).

"Without people, it was not possible. If they had come out on roads and indulged in violence, then it would not have been possible. I am thankful that this election was conducted without any loss of life or damage to property," he said, when asked about the low turnout in the elections.

Asserting that the situation

in the valley was extraordinary and polls in the past have seen high as well as low turnouts, the Governor said there were, however, no reports of rigging in these polls.

"I want to congratulate you (police) and I also have been congratulated by Delhi for the peaceful conduct of the polls. The situation here is extraordinary. Sometimes there has been a good turnout and sometimes not, but I have received congratulations from everyone in Delhi and have been told to congratulate the forces as well as the people for the peaceful polls. There have been no reports of any complaints about rigging in these polls," he said.

Malik said people coming out to vote was a positive sign.

"In the last phase, around 10,000 people came out to vote in Srinagar. There was stone pelting on them and in turn those who voted also pelted stones, so police had to save the stone pelters. Some developments are taking place slowly and people are understanding those, but this is not an occasion to talk about them," he said, without elaborating.

He refused to say anything on the independent candidates winning the polls at most places.

The Governor said the Government would provide maximum monetary assistance to the new civic bodies and panchayats.

Suspected infidelity claims lives of man, woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Two murders were reported in Delhi on Sunday, with a 22-year-old woman allegedly strangled to death by her husband, suspecting her of cheating on him at Kamla Market in central Delhi and a 35-year-old man allegedly murdered by his neighbour at Mahendra Park of North west Delhi suspecting him of having an affair with his wife.

According to police, on Sunday, a 23-year-old man Kamil walked into Kamla Market police station at around 1:40 am in the morn-

ing and confessed that he murdered his wife Reshma (22), in front of their two-year-old daughter. He told police the body was lying inside their second floor flat in Kamla Market area.

Police rushed to the scene and found Reshma's body which had already turned blue, a senior police officer said, adding that the murder might have taken place on Friday. The body was immediately sent to LNJP hospital for post-mortem. During questioning, the accused told the police that he suspected his wife of cheating on him. "It was learnt he

had killed her on Friday and kept sitting with the body on Saturday as he was in a state of confusion on whether to dump it somewhere or confess to his crime," a senior official said. Kamil told police he had a quarrel with Reshma on Friday over her friendship with two men, the officer said. He admitted that he beat her up and strangled her later, he added. The couple was married for three years and Kamil worked as a peon at the Ambedkar University, police said. In another case, a 35-year-old man was found dead in the residence of a married

woman in Ravi Das colony, Sarai Pipal Thala. The deceased one Sajjan Paswan (35) was allegedly hit on the head with a brick and an iron rod, police said. Police revealed that they received information early morning on Sunday about the murder. On reaching the scene police found Sajjan's body and the deceased was taken to a hospital nearby.

According to a senior police official they suspect that Sajjan was murdered by his neighbour one Vinod Sah who suspected his wife Kajal of having an affair with him.

"We found some pictures of Paswan with Sah's wife from the spot. Paswan's wife also told us that he was in a relationship with Sah's wife for the last three months," Sajjan, originally from Bihar lived alone and sold tomatoes in a market in Azadpur.

Meanwhile, police revealed that Vinod along with his wife Kajal and four children have fled the residence. "Police teams are on the lookout for the accused Vinod. We suspect he murdered Sajjan as he suspected his wife of having an affair with him," police said.

Gangster with ₹50K bounty arrested

New Delhi (PNS): The Delhi police has arrested a member of notorious Neeraj Bawana and Naveen Bhanja gang, who was carrying a reward of ₹50,000 on Saturday near Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. Absconding since March this year, Abhishek (24) was wanted in an attempt to murder case. He along with his associates had fired at a Jeweler's son and his friend in southeast Delhi, when they denied giving the accused persons money.

"On March this year, an incident of firing took place at Pisorri Chicken Dhaba, Lajpat Nagar. Two persons including a jeweler's son and his friend, sustained bullet injuries and were shifted to AIIMS Hospital. During investigation, accused Shibu, Praveen Singhal and Honey Chaudhary were arrested

in April by the Special Staff of South-East District. However, co-accused Abhishek was absconding and was carrying reward of ₹50,000 on his arrest," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Chinmoy Biswal revealed.

"Information was received about Abhishek on Saturday, stating that he would be arriving behind Humayun Tomb near Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station. At about 12:20 PM, Abhishek was seen coming from Railway Station side. Police team signaled him to stop, but on seeing the police he whipped out a country made pistol and tried to fire on the police party, however he was overpowered by Head Constable Vikas Solanki. Abhishek was arrested and one pistol and five cartridges were seized," Said the DCP.

6-year-old kidnapped from Delhi found

New Delhi (PNS): A six-year-old girl child kidnapped from Delhi's Kirti Nagar on September 6 this year, was traced and found from Kurukshetra on October 17. The child's chilling ordeal was captured in CCTVs after police analysed the route the accused took across the city. According to police, the accused was seen picking her up on September 6, while she was playing and took her to Kotha number 41 in GB road and then to New Delhi railway station.

The entire movement was captured in CCTVs along the city but ended when heavy rain crashed a camera at the railway station. "Police then began searching for her in other States and footages of the person and the child was flashed in All India Railway Network System and Child Welfare Committees were

informed accordingly. The child was traced in Kurukshetra and found on October 17," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj stated.

"Under the "NIGEBHAN" Scheme, of Delhi Police numerous CCTVs have been installed in the vicinity in collaboration with the RWAs and Market Associations. CCTVs of the area were analysed and the girl child, who was wearing a white colour frock and playing. Further on repeated analysis of CCTVs revealed a very faint image of a person wearing blue colour shirt and slue colour jeans carrying the child. Taking this image as the first clue, anticipating the necessary path taken by the culprit and going through all the CCTV cameras falling on the route the path of the accused was confirmed," the DCP revealed.

Pak agency detains 16 Indian fishermen: Fish Workers' Forum

Ahmedabad: Sixteen fishermen from Okha in Gujarat's Devbhoomi Dwarka district have reportedly been detained in the Arabian Sea by Pakistan maritime authorities, a Fish Workers' Forum functionary said Sunday.

Manish Lodhari, secretary of the Porbandar-based National Fishworkers' Forum, said that the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) had seized two Indian boats with 16 fishermen near the International Maritime Boundary Line.

"We have been told by fishermen sailing in the Arabian Sea that at least two fishing boats with 16 fishermen were apprehended by the PMSA from near the IMBL. Both the boats were registered at Okha," he said, adding that the number of those held might vary. PTI



Sabarimala head priest Kandaranu Rajeevarau giving 'prasad' to a devotee, at Sabarimala temple in Kerala on Sunday PTI



Avoidable tragedy

The mishap on the railway tracks in Amritsar is another stark reminder of how cheap life is in India

Videos circulating on social media of a train mowing down over 60 people near Amritsar in Punjab while they were celebrating Dussehra is tragic but unfortunately not shocking any more given how cheaply human life is valued in India. Apparently revellers had gathered to view an elaborate Raavan dahan event in an open area close to the railway tracks at Joda Phatak and hundreds of them trespassed on to the railway tracks nearby, unaware and/or unconcerned that a speeding train was approaching which ended up mowing down scores. The railway driver, who was given the go-ahead on the assumption that there was no technical error or breakdown on that line, had no idea that the tracks had turned into a spectator gallery of sorts. Played in a loop on social media, these videos at a slower speed show the horror and the panic of this tragedy. Like with any human tragedy, politicians have engaged themselves in a blame-game of sorts, considering the Congress rules Punjab and the Railways belongs to the Centre. However, it is unfair to blame the Railways for the accident, which was largely man-made. It exposes the challenges of man management around a religious event that attracts a sea of wonder-eyed spectators. Be it Kumbh or Jallikattu, instances of poor crowd management are many, some of them often leading to brutal stampedes. It points to the lacuna in security drills at public events, the scale of which can have a cascading catastrophic effect should all hell break loose. In this case, the district administration and organisers of the function were lax about clearing a venue site that is dangerously close to regular railway tracks. One needs to investigate if proper clearances had been taken or even applied for. Were Railway officials informed about the proposed event so close to a corridor of fast-moving trains? Either permission from local administration was taken and the organisers failed to make appropriate safety arrangements or permission was not sought at all. In any of the two cases, trouble awaits the local administration. The fact that a swollen crowd was allowed to drift into a heavily frequented rail track is downright insane. And if squatting on tracks for multiple reasons is the done thing, then local police administration must coordinate with the RPF to prevent it rather than just abdicate responsibility.

A European health and safety officer would have an aneurysm within seconds of landing in India. It is not as if safety structures and rules are not in place but because there is a complete lack of willful enforcement by the authorities, the public tends to ignore and bend rules. And till there is a tragedy, we think we have contained the situation. At the same time, we allow exceptions for the wildest of reasons, for example, allowing Sikh women to not wear helmets because of 'religious' reasons, placing sanctity above the value of life. If the public is encouraged to ignore safety, so will companies and event organisers like those in Amritsar. Ideally, the railway tracks should have been cordoned off and the authorities should have informed about the event in advance. But in our 'anything goes' line of thought, nobody bothered. India not only has a wealth disparity but also a disparity between the value of life. A labourer from north India is not valued at all, whereas a child from a south Mumbai family is worth much more. Our media coverage reflects this. During the 26/11 attacks, hundreds who died at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus were for a large part ignored because the poor are expendable by hundreds. Besides, enforcement and safety have an associated cost and we as a society choose not to pay it simply because human life is so devalued. Till the latter continues to be negotiable, we cannot enforce laws. And while this passes on to a routine board of inquiry, fact is there is another tragedy waiting to happen with no lessons learnt.

50 WORD EDIT Wrong number
A 15-year-old boy in Assam fell for the voice of a 60-year-old widow who spoke to him when he dialled a wrong number. They had frequent conversations without disclosing their respective ages but when the minor went to meet the lady they both discovered the facts. The woman's family and villagers, however, overriding objections from both parties, forcibly 'married' them off. The misunderstanding seems to since have been resolved, thankfully!

Netaji next

The BJP has spotted an opportunity; and it's making a concerted effort to appropriate the legacy of Subhas Chandra Bose

For long-time BJP watchers it comes as no surprise that the party has upped its game in the appropriation of great leaders of India who have been largely ignored or placed on a pedestal lower than that of Jawahar Lal Nehru. This is not to say that Nehru was not among the tallest of our national leaders in the battle for Independence but the Congress Party must take a majority of the blame for fetishizing its first family and thereby opening up an opportunity for an ascendant political party that seeks to create a more holistic sense of India's modern political history and, by extension and association, the BJP's role in it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, therefore, cannot be faulted in his plans to join freedom fighters and veterans to unfurl the Tricolour from the ramparts of the Red Fort, 21 October, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose or Netaji's declaration of Azad Hind (Independent India). It was on this date in 1943 that Netaji announced the formation of India's first independent Government in opposition to the British colonial state which still ruled over the country.

Its political opponents may cavil, but the fact remains that Netaji's legacy that of yet another Congress leader of the freedom struggle after Sardar Patel's the BJP has assiduously and many would argue successfully appropriated. JP and Ram Manohar Lohia, not to mention BR Ambedkar, have already been inducted into the BJP's pantheon of icons which is a remarkable achievement given leaders such as BS Hegdegar, MS Golwalkar, VD Savarkar and SP Mookerji are also well-entrenched there. Indeed, it is a mark of a political organisation which recognises the ideological-political truisms that when its social base expands so must its iconology. Bose's profile has rightly been raised in West Bengal too by the Trinamool Congress after decades of neglect by the Marxists; at the national level, though, it was the Congress which missed a trick, as it were, and the BJP has been astute enough to fill the breach. This is not only to be hoped that the ruling party will not limit its welcome effort to highlight Netaji's legacy merely to further its political ambitions but will initiate a movement based on Bose's ideals of a truly equal India and his vision for a modern India albeit rooted in its civilizational heritage.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER
Sir — This refers to the editorial, "He had to go" (October 19). MJ Akbar's belated resignation from his post under the duress of growing public clamour seems as a damage limitation exercise. Had the Minister continued to dig in his heels, the political situation would have turned more embarrassing for both the Minister as well as the BJP. Now, he must face the charges of alleged sexual harassment levelled against him by his former female journalist colleagues.
Azhar Ali
Via web

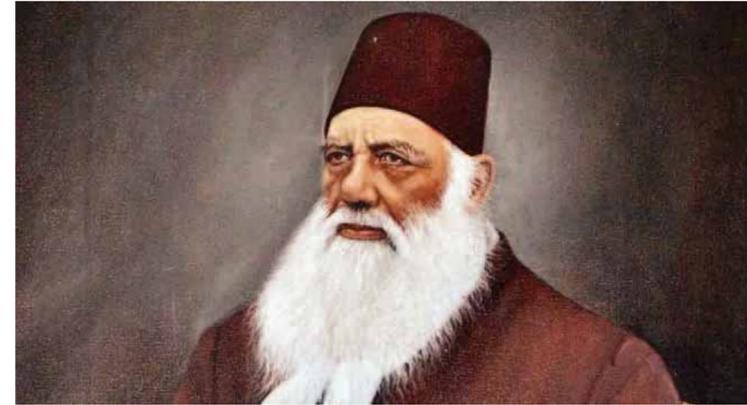
The real Sir Syed: A British agent

Contrary to views expressed by those who glorify Sir Syed as a messiah for the Muslim community, he worked ceaselessly for the creation of a separate Muslim nation which proved to be expensive for the community



BALBIR PUNJ
Creator of Pakistan, a hero in India? was the heading of an Article this writer wrote for The Pioneer dated October 23, 2017. This made me recall in detail the pivotal role Sir Syed Ahmed Khan played in furthering the divide between Hindus and Muslims in the sub-continent and propagating a paradigm leading to the creation of an Islamic Pakistan. However, efforts to glorify and enliven him continue unabated, falsifying history and creating a spurious narrative in the process.
A case in point is an article, Sir Syed Khan: The renaissance man, by Mr MJ Warsi, published in these columns on October 17, 2018. The writer uses all possible adjectives to praise Sir Syed. He has described him as a 'dynamic person, a versatile genius, a scholar, social reformer, educationist, historian, archaeologist and linguist, gifted with rare vision and intellect'. He further adds, "Eventually, Sir Syed

became the man whom destiny had chosen to play the role of a messiah for the community". Mark the word "a messiah for the community", for a man who unabashedly worked to strengthen the British empire, called upon his fellow Muslims to support the foreign masters in the name of Islam, quoted (or misquoted) *Quran* to buttress his thesis that Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations and can never live as equals. The 'messiah' worked ceaselessly for the creation of a separate Muslim nation. His misadventure proved to be expensive for the community. It divided the Muslims of the sub-continent into three separate countries.
Sir Syed's biggest contribution is claimed to be the setting up of Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College (MAO) in 1877, which eventually blossomed into the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in 1920. In 1941, Mohammad Ali Jinnah had paid a "handsome tribute" to the AMU students when he described the university as "the arsenal of Pakistan". Addressing the AMU students on August 31, 1941, Liaquat Ali Khan declared: "We look to you for every kind of ammunition to win the battle of independence of the Muslim nation".
In 1943, Jinnah had called the Khan "my right hand". For a decade before independence he was at the centre of all the League's activities. He was the first Prime Minister of Pakistan. In January, 1941, the AMU students union



SPEAKING IN MEERUT IN MARCH 1888, SIR SYED LAID THE OUTLINE OF A DISASTROUS ROADMAP LEADING TO THE BLOODY PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY IN 1947, AND IN FURTHERING HOSTILITIES BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS IN THE SUB-CONTINENT

passed a resolution that "The best way to achieve Indian freedom and to bring about lasting peace in the country is to strive for the establishment of independent states in the regions of Hindu and Muslim majorities". This divisive AMU mindset has its origins in the "rare vision and intellect" of Sir Syed, described by Warsi as "a versatile genius".
Speaking in Meerut in March 1888, Sir Syed laid the outline of a disastrous roadmap leading to the bloody Partition of the country in 1947, and in furthering hostilities between Hindus and Muslims in the sub-continent. Here are excerpts from his speech in which he contemptuously refers to Congressmen as "Bengalis".
"The first of all is this — in whose hands shall the Administration and the Empire of India rest? Now, suppose that all the English and the whole English army were to leave India, taking with them all their cannons and their splendid weapons and everything, then who would be rulers of India? "Is it possible that under these circumstances two nations — the Mohammedans and the Hindus — could sit on the same throne and remain equal in power? Most certainly not. It is necessary that one of them should conquer the other and thrust it down. To hope that both could remain equal is to desire the impossible and the inconceivable."
"At the same time, you must remember that although the number of Mohammedans is less

than that of the Hindus, and although they contain far fewer people who have received a high English education, yet they must not be considered insignificant or weak."
"Probably they would be by themselves enough to maintain their own position. But suppose they were not. Then our Musalman brothers, the Pathans, would come out as a swarm of locusts from their mountain valleys, and make rivers of blood to flow their frontier on the north to the extreme end of Bengal."
"This thing — who after the departure of English would be conquerors — would rest on the will of God. But until one nation had conquered the other and made it obedient, peace cannot reign in the land. This conclusion is based on proofs so absolute that no one can deny it."
"I believe that the Bengalis (read congressmen/Hindus) have never at any period held sway over a particle of land. They are altogether ignorant of the method by which a foreign race can maintain its rule over other races. Therefore, reflect on the doings of your ancestors, and be not unjust to the British Government to whom God has given the rule of India; and look honestly and see what is necessary for it to do to maintain its Empire and its hold on the country."
"You can appreciate these matters, but they cannot who have never held a country in their hands nor won a victory. Oh, my brother Musalmans! I again remained you that you have

ruled nations, and have for centuries held different countries in your grasp. For seven hundred years in India you have had imperial sway. You know what it is to rule. Be not unjust to that national which is ruling over you, and think also on this how upright is her rule."
"I do not think the Bengali (read Congress) politics is useful for my brother Musalmans. Our Hindu brothers of these provinces are leaving us and are joining the Bengalis. Then we ought to unite with that nation with whom we can unite."
"No Mohammedan can say that the English are not 'people of the Book' No Mohammedan can deny this: That God has said that no people of other religions can be friends of Mohammedans except the Christians. He who had read the *Quran* and believes it can know that our nation cannot expect friendship and affection from my other people. (Thou shalt surely find the most violent of all men in enmity against the true believers to be the Jews and the idolaters. And thou shalt surely find those among them to be the most inclinable to entertain friendship for the true believers, who say we are Christians, *Quran*, Chap V)."
This is Sir Syed, spelling out his divisive agenda in his own words. Invoking the holy *Quran* to ensure loyalty of Indian Muslims to a colonial power. If he is hailed as an icon, is there hope for the country?
(The writer is a political commentator and a former BJP Rajya Sabha MP)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

The Government must pass a law to authorise the building of a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya rather than test the patience of society.
RSS chief
MOHAN BHAGWAT

Why did he (Bhagwat) bring up Ram Temple (issue) only before the elections? Why was he silent for the past two years?
Senior Samajwadi Party leader
RAM GOVIND CHAUDHARY

Modi diplomacy redefining India

Rarely in the recent past has there been any country like India which has been able to extract so many concessions from the US even while successfully meandering through American sanctions against purchase of state-of-the-art defence systems from Russia



PATHKRIT PAYNE
The signing of the deal for S-400 air defence systems worth \$5.43 billion earlier this month between India and Russia is significant in many ways. It is not just another deal but an exemplification of the coming of age of a regional powerhouse which is now confident of its moves and does its homework well before taking calculated risks.
More than its efficacy being a technological marvel, which has been thought out by the Modi Administration to the end before throwing the dice.
The acquisition of S-400, coupled with the Indo-Israeli project on the development of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM), in addition to the progress on development of indigenous anti-ballistic missile systems, namely Advanced Air Defence and Prithvi Air Defence, would invariably make India much better equipped in air defence capability than it was a few years back.
It is generally not easy to buy weapon systems or to even do businesses with a country on which sanctions have been imposed by the US Administration. Among others, the Countering American Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) is aimed at imposing punitive sanctions against any country which would actively engage in 'significant transactions' with Russia's defence and intelligence sectors. These sanctions are in addition to the sanctions imposed previously on

Russia by the US Administration in the aftermath of the Ukraine-Russia face-off.
Incidentally, under the aegis of the Modi Administration, the S-400 deal is not the first but the second major business deal involving Russia despite American sanctions. The first was the acquisition of Essar Oil by Russia's energy behemoth, Rosneft and its partners in a \$12.9 billion deal in 2017 that stamped Russia's first major investment in India's downstream energy business. Though a private deal, it undoubtedly had blessings from both Governments since it involved similar meandering through American sanctions.
Defence deals involving billions of dollars do not happen at the blink of an eye. Signing of contracts is generally preceded by years of hard negotiations. Interestingly, since 2015, even as the Modi Government continued with its price negotiations with Russia for the purchase of S-400 air defence systems, India also simultaneously continued to deepen its relation with the US, which was validated by America declaring India as a 'major defence partner' in 2016. This was followed by India's eventual entry into the coveted Missile Technology Control Regime or MTCR club, Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group, albeit with strong support from the US, without which these entries would have been an uphill task. The Modi Administration deserves credit for it for successfully pursuing the US in supporting India's candidature.
Recently, India was also accorded the STR-1 or Strategic Trade Authorisation Level-1 status by the US, thereby paving way for exports of high-tech equipment to India. Additionally, India is also eligible to avail critical high-end communication and imagery technologies from the US after New Delhi signed the Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement with the US.
In between, the Trump Administration renamed the Asia Pacific Command into the US Indo Pacific Command, a reflection of the increasing importance that Washington was giving to the regional powerhouses. All this while, the US was well aware of India's negotiations with Russia on S-400, even as India made it clear about its reluctance to toe the US line on issues of sanctions on Iran



and Russia.
For the US, even though its defence and energy companies would want CAATSA to be imposed vigorously in order to wean away many countries from Russian client list, the path for the same was not that easy. Apparently the Modi Government seems to have been successful in convincing the US that if it wants India to be a net provider of security in the Indo Pacific region, then it has to take care of India's considerations.
The issue at stake is not just about S-400, but a legacy of issues related to a huge chunk of Indian weapons platforms being of Russian origin which needs spares and support from Russian manufacturers. Thus, while India would deepen its defence ties with the US, it is for sure that it would not ditch Russia either.
Further, it would not be prudent to presume that India also read well the divergence of views that exists between US President Trump and the US Congress on the issue of Russia. During his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Trump tested the following, "Our relationship with Russia has never been worse, thanks

REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MODI ADMINISTRATION MIGHT NOT JUST STOP AT PURCHASE OF THE S-400 SYSTEM, ALSO ON THE CARDS IS A DEEPER ENGAGEMENT WITH RUSSIA

to many years of US foolishness and stupidity and now, the Rigged Witch Hunt!"
Eventually, it was his reluctance to go ahead with the implementation of CAATSA and India's hardball negotiations that were perhaps the reasons for the US Congress to allow provisions for presidential waiver to sanctions on CAATSA under the NDA-2019, specifically for countries like India, in the greater interest of protecting Indo-US alliance. If the US had apprehensions about the confidentiality of radar signatures of some of its critical aerial platforms sold to India, that concern has already been addressed by India through assurances of not sharing any such signature with Russia platforms like S-400.
After having declared India a 'major defence partner' it would have been difficult for the US to declare sanctions on India. Besides, the American experience of imposing sanctions on India post nuclear test in 1998 was proof enough that sanctions simply do not work.
India did not collapse and on the contrary emerged stronger while the US lost considerable business opportunities because of self-imposed

sanctions. Eventually, the US was forced to lift the sanctions. Today's India is far bigger economically and more resilient than what it was in 1998. The ball, as is being said, is in American court. It would be interesting to see what Trump eventually does.
Reports indicate that the Modi Administration might not just stop at purchase of S-400 system. Also on cards are deeper engagements with Russia with purchase of four additional upgraded Krivak Class frigates, 48 Mi-17V5 helicopters, collaboration on joint production of Ka-226 Helicopters and AK-103 assault rifles in India.
Rarely in the recent past has there been any country like India which has been able to extract so much concession from the US even while successfully meandering through US sanctions to buy state-of-the-art defence systems from Russia. If elections could have been won on geopolitical stakes, then the Modi Administration's diplomatic brinkmanship would have been good enough for him to win the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
(The writer is a New Delhi-based strategic affairs analyst)

Justice, but at what cost?

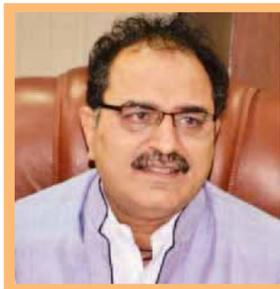
The apex court's call to bring a law to regulate the legal profession may remain dormant as lawmakers themselves are decorated lawyers who charged exorbitant fees for their services



PRANAV WAHI
A lawyer, like an engineer, constantly upgrades and builds the society. A lawyer, like a medical practitioner, chronically rehabilitates and heals the impairment caused to the society. They are the pavement of justice to the citizens and are trusted with fate to uphold their rights and claims. In recent times it's their paychecks which demand the respect attached to their profession and not their integrity and valour. Should they as justice laborer be paid an exorbitant fee of seven figures? The ongoing struggle of this country has been to make justice accessible to all its citizens. For six decades, the state has been following the fundamental duty to ensure justice for all. The biggest barrier between a claim and its settlement is the fee of the lawyer in this country. And the biggest attraction for admission in this industry is also the same fee.
AK Goel and UU Lalit in *B Sanita V/S State of Telangana* proposed the legislature to opt for flooring and ceiling of fee of advocates. The respondent alleged that the fee charged by her attorney was exorbitant and in violation of the ethics propounded by the Bar. Any claim upon the damages awarded by the court is also in violation of the Advocates Fee Rules. The judgment further throws light on the 131st report dated August 31, 1988, by the Law Commission, which suggested for regulation and standardisation of fees by the member of the legal profession towards the monopolistic character of the profession. It was further interpreted by the court that there is a dire need to strengthen the mechanism to deal with professional misconduct by members of this profession. It was concluded that the success of the administration of justice to a great extent depends on the successful regulation of legal profession confined to the mandate under Article 39A, which promises equal operation of justice to all. As a result to such interpretation, the court urged the Parliament to form legislative framework for flooring and ceiling the fee charged by lawyers.
Many countries, such as Germany, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland etc, have adopted a model of remuneration fee for the advocates. This implies that the parties engaging the services of a lawyer have an already



printed fee structure as per the demands of their legal dispute. Such framework allows a person to stipulate what is the cost of litigation for their dispute, which is an effective determinant of to-sue-or-not-to-sue. Given the competitive attitude prevailing in Indian markets which exploits the competition, such framework can drastically help cultivate basic sanity and merit of this profession. It is provided that an advocate is not to charge below certain fee for a certain work by the clients. Although the Indian market can also welcome price ceiling in such framework, the professionals practicing law charge an exorbitant cost for their services. A legislation capping their fees will not make justice justiciable. The profession of law provides a mechanism to shape the norms of society. It ought to be outrageously rewarding. With legal aid programs and pro bono schemes, there should be no need to restrict the remunerances. 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We were off-loading 75-100 tonnes of onions from the buffer stock in the last ten days. Now, we have decided to release more quantity, at least 200 tonnes, on a daily basis in the wholesale markets. We are going to release buffer stock of onion in the open market till first week of December, by then arrival of new kharif crop will be in full swing

Sanjeev K Chadha, Managing Director, NAFED

BUZZ FROM GOVT

One of the problems faced by start-ups is finance. We have called all global players who are into financing. This event (Goa global investors), to be held on December 7, will bring in global players for investment in the sector for the first time

Suresh Prabhu, Union Commerce Minister



FPIs pull out over \$4 bn from markets in 3 weeks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors have pulled out close to ₹32,000 crore from the Indian capital markets in the first three weeks of this month due to the ongoing global trade tiff, rising crude prices and higher US treasury yields.

This is much higher than the over ₹21,000 crore net outflow seen in entire September. Prior to that, overseas investors had put in a net amount of ₹7,400 crore in the capital markets (both equity and debt) in July-August.

According to the latest depositary data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold equities to the tune of ₹19,810 crore during October 1-19 and bonds worth ₹12,167 crore, taking the total to ₹31,977 crore (\$4.3 billion).

FPIs have been net sellers almost throughout this year except a couple of months. However, experts said the swiftness of the exit in October thus far has shaken the market.

Negative sentiments from the global market on concerns over a slowing world economy led by lingering trade war between the US and China triggered the FPI pullout, said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

The sentiment was also



dampened by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) downgrading the outlook for world economy to 3.7 per cent growth earlier this month.

Alok Agarwala, Senior Vice President and Head Investment Analytics at Bajaj Capital, attributed the FPI selling to rise in oil prices and US treasury yields and a tightening of global dollar liquidity.

He further said this is a global phenomena across emerging markets and not limited to India alone. However, the impact of rise in oil prices is higher for India as it imports most of its oil requirement and the matter was further exacerbated by the IL&FS default and the rout in NBFC debt papers, he added.

Vidya Bala, Head of Mutual Fund Research at FundsIndia, said rising rates in

the US, strengthening dollar and higher US earnings have been triggers for money moving out of India and other emerging markets to the US.

Locally, rising oil price, the recent spate of management-related issues in banks and tightening liquidity in NBFCs have been immediate triggers.

Going ahead, Bala said volatility can be expected to continue for other reasons too, like US sanctions on Iran which take effect in November as Iran is a major source of crude oil for India. Besides, India has some key state elections coming up, which could provide cues to FPIs for next year's central elections.

So far this year, FPIs have pulled out over ₹33,000 crore from equities and more than ₹60,000 crore from the debt markets.

High-level panel to suggest UN model for cross-border insolvency cases: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A high-level panel is likely to recommend a United Nations model for cross-border insolvency cases under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, according to a senior official.

The Insolvency Law Committee (ILC) is looking into the discussion paper related to having the UN model for cross-border insolvency matters as well as the comments received on the paper.

Under the Code, there are provisions to deal with cross-border insolvency matters.

The panel, headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, is likely to recommend adoption of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) model to deal with such matter. The report is expected to be submitted soon, the official said.

The model would be on the basis of Centre of Main Interests (COMI), which would be defined. In accordance with COMI, the place of main proceedings for cross-border cases would be decided.

Further, the official said it would be essentially a co-operation agreement and the pro-

ceedings would be at one place.

Established in 1966, UNCITRAL is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly of the UN with the general mandate to further the progressive harmonisation and unification of the law of international trade, as per its website.

As per UNCITRAL, 'harmonisation' and 'unification' of the law of international trade refers to the process through which the law facilitating international commerce is created and adopted.

"Harmonisation may conceptually be thought of as the process through which domestic laws may be modified to enhance predictability in cross-border commercial transactions.

"Unification may be seen as the adoption by States of a common legal standard governing particular aspects of international business transactions," the website said.

In June, the Corporate Affairs Ministry, while coming out with the draft norms, said it was keen to introduce a globally accepted and well-recognised cross-border insolvency framework, fine-tuned to suit the needs of the aspirational Indian economy.

FinMin extends deadline for filing Sept GST returns to Oct 25

GSTR-3B of a particular month has to be filed by the 20th day of the subsequent month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Sunday extended the deadline for filing summary sales return GSTR-3B for the month of September by five days to October 25.

With this extension, businesses which wish to claim Input Tax Credit (ITC) benefit for July 2017-March 2018 period can do so till October 25.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under the Finance Ministry, said trade and industry had expressed apprehension relating to October 20 due date for claiming ITC under GST for July 2017-March 2018.

"With a view to give some more time for the same, the last date for furnishing GSTR-3B for the month of September,

2018 is being extended up to 25th October, 2018," the CBIC tweeted.

The GSTR-3B of a particular month has to be filed by the 20th day of the subsequent month. The deadline for September return filing was October 20.

"The extension of the said due date also implies that the last date for availing of ITC for the period July, 2017 to March, 2018 also gets extended up to October 25, 2018," the Finance Ministry later said in a statement.

Businesses had expressed concern about the October 20 deadline, saying there would be trouble in reconciling their sales returns with the purchase returns filed by their suppliers.

Since the ITC is availed on the basis of summary sales return or GSTR-3B filed, hence the deadline for ITC claims and GSTR-3B have been kept same.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) was rolled out on July 1, 2017.

"The ministry further said that for those taxpayers who have been recently migrated from erstwhile tax regime to GST regime, the last date for availing ITC for the period July, 2017 to March, 2018, is December 31, 2018 or the date

of filing of annual return whichever is earlier," the statement added.

PwC India Partner and Leader (Indirect Tax) Pratik Jain said while the businesses which could not file the return by October 20 can avail of the extension, this does not really help most large companies which would have already filed their returns by working overtime.

"Since there is no facility for amendment of the return, these companies can not claim the credit which they might have missed," he said.

AMRG & Associates Partner Rajat Mohan said the date extension comes as a shock for compliant payers, whereas it would be a tax bonanza for late filers, non-filers and tax evaders.

"It seems that Government has given a date extension (after expiry) only for lifting public perception rather than creating conducive environment for businesses to nurture," he said.

Jain said the Government should at least extend the due date till November 20 so that credit can be claimed in October return. "This is extremely critical as amount of credit at stake is huge in many cases," he added.

JNPT mulls acquisition of 3 ports in Maha; aims at doubling profits

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Country's largest container port JNPT is mulling to acquire three ports in Maharashtra, as it targets to more than double its profits.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is also going ahead with its efforts to develop an offshore port at Wadhawan, north of the financial capital.

Union Shipping and Ports Minister Nitin Gadkari told the media persons that the JNPT, which handles more than half of the overall container traffic, is looking to acquire Vijaydurg, Revas and Dighi ports.

It can be noted that of the three, only Dighi is an operational port while the other two are concessions held by corporations with little or no development on the ground. Gadkari said the Revas

port, where the concession is held by Reliance Industries, is "in problem" and a solution will have to be found in co-ordination with the Maharashtra Government.

The minister also said that the port is in talks to acquire Vijay Kalantri-promoted Dighi Port in Raigad district, which is facing financial trouble and has been undergoing resolution in insolvency courts.

According to reports, the Dighi Port owes over ₹1,600 crore to a consortium of banks led by the Bank of India.

While Gadkari did not elaborate on the Vijaydurg port buy, it can be noted that the port for which concession is held by BJP MP Rajeev Chandrashekhar promoted Jupiter Capital will act as the home port for the proposed mega refinery at Nanar, to be built by state-run oil marketing companies.

Mumbai to host auctions on modern art, automobiles on October 26

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Artworks of masters like M F Husain, S H Raza and F N Souza and memorabilia related to India's finest vintage and classic automobiles will go under the hammer at two auctions here later this week.

Osiyan's auctions - Indian Modern & Contemporary Fine Arts; and Automobilia: the Art of the Historical Vehicle - will take place on October 26.

Among the 67 lots to be auctioned at the Indian Modern & Contemporary Fine Arts Sale are Ganesh Pynes "The Night Watch"; Nicholas Roerich's "Maitreya Series"; Husain's "Elephant in Town", "Kashmir" and "Ahmedabad Series"; Raza's "Paysage Corse Series"; Jamini Roy's "Cat and Lobster"; "Landscape" and



"King on a Tiger"; Jehangir Sabavala's "Still Life with Fruit" and Souza's "Townscape". The automobilia auction will see the sale of select paintings of vintage and classic automobiles and carriages; Hollywood and Indian cinema publicity material related to cars; posters, postcards and letters with an automobile connection.

The opening preview for

both the auctions was held on Saturday.

Osiyan's is back to full strength, ready to serve and help rebuild India's cultural infrastructure and the various art and artifacts markets. With the launch of our Historical Vehicles Auction House Division, we are adding a new dimension to our business," says Osiyan's Group chairman Neville Tuli.

5 of top-10 firms add ₹31K cr in market capitalisation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five of the 10 most valued companies in the country together added ₹31,381.39 crore in market valuation last week, with ITC topping the chart.

While HUL, ITC, Infosys, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ONGC saw addition in their market capitalisation (m-cap) for the week ended Friday, TCS, RIL, HDFC Bank, HDFC and SBI finished with losses.

The m-cap of ITC soared ₹16,856.05 crore to ₹3,53,141.45 crore.

Kotak Bank's m-cap zoomed ₹5,749.62 crore to ₹2,28,754.68 crore and that of ONGC surged ₹4,941.25 crore to ₹2,06,679.25 crore.

HUL's valuation jumped ₹2,283.7 crore to ₹3,41,841.36 crore and that

of Infosys rose by ₹1,550.77 crore to ₹2,98,185.82 crore.

On the other hand, RIL suffered an erosion of ₹15,687.72 crore to stand at ₹6,98,278.03 crore.

The m-cap of HDFC slumped ₹8,928.55 crore to ₹2,85,319.16 crore and that of HDFC Bank fell by ₹3,586.68 crore to ₹5,34,142.49 crore.

SBI's valuation went down by ₹2,231.14 crore to ₹2,32,797.87 crore and that of TCS declined by ₹506.57 crore to ₹7,19,350.91 crore.

In the ranking of top-10 firms, TCS stood at number one position, followed by RIL, HDFC Bank, ITC, HUL, Infosys, HDFC, SBI, Kotak Bank and ONGC.

Over the last week, the BSE key index Sensex fell by 418 points to close at 34,315.63 points on Friday.

200 Chinese investors attend seminar on investment in India

PTI ■ BEIJING

A seminar highlighting investment opportunities in India has been organised in the Chinese city of Wuhan to harness the potential for greater trade and investment ties.

The event held on October 19 was part of the Forum on Global Production Capacity and Economic Cooperation, organised by the embassy in coordination with the Hubei Provincial Government.

The seminar was attended by around 200 delegates from more than 120 Chinese companies, mostly from automobile, auto-parts, equipment manufacturing, textiles based in Hubei province as well as media personnel and Government officials, a statement from the Indian Embassy in Beijing said.

'People applying for EB-5 visa to circumvent H1-B'



Abhinav Lohia, Director, South Asia and Middle East of CanAm Enterprises, in his tête-à-tête with The Pioneer shares his thoughts on range of issues related to business investment opportunity in the United States, and how CanAm has been on a roll in immigration through EB-5 visa. Here are the excerpts of his conversation with Vikas Kumar.

What is EB-5 Visa? What is the process of getting an EB-5 visa? What role does CanAm play in getting the EB-5 visa?

EB-5 visa is employment based fifth category visa that is why it is called EB-5. What it essentially states that if you invest a million dollars in United States and create 10 American jobs, you will get a green card. But if you invest in a under developed area or an area with where there is high unemployment then you are allowed to invest just half a million dollars. This money has to be well documented, the investor needs to show a proper trail, it should comply with

all the laws and then you invest it in US and then that money is used for construction projects like real estate construction and all of that. We have been in this space for the past 16 years our role is to do proper due diligence on the projects because it is not only about investing, but we have to make sure that the developer of the project will not run away.

How is it different from all other visas?

EB-5 visa gets you a green card directly, you are not dependent on employer, you are not dependent on admission to a college or anything. This is direct, you are a green card holder, you are like any other US worker. You can start your own business, you can choose not to work. Unless you commit a crime, no one can just throw you out of the country.

What are the areas where we can invest?

The last 55 projects we have done were very diverse, we have done it in different areas like New York, Florida, Texas, California and these are a mix of commercial real estate projects, in public-private partnership, we have done naval shipyards. We have built the first private rail road in the state of Florida, we have done hotels, so it has been a mix.

What is the requirement

of money to invest in the United States?

It is 500,000 dollars or right now 3.5 crore to 3.75 crore.

Nothing in the agricultural sector?

No, as agricultural is seasonal, it poses problems because the requirements for EB-5 is that you invest money and then you create 10 American jobs per investor. And if it is a seasonal industry it will be very difficult to create those jobs.

Does EB-5 visa allow an investor to hire people from his/her own country?

The jobs are for American; people with green card and they need to be citizens of America.

What are the trends that you have seen in the EB-5 industry, what are the investor trends that you have seen?

I have been a part of the industry for the last five years, and as a partner at a law firm previously I used to represent a lot of Indian nationals. So initially back in the day when I used to come to India there were not many investors interested in doing EB-5, there was not much knowledge. And the investors we used to get would be families, where entire family wants to move to US. Now the trend is changing because it has become so difficult to get H1-

B visa etc., what is happening is individuals who are already in US on H1-B visa are also filing for EB-5 visa. Students who are studying there facing difficulty in getting H1-B visa, so they are filing for EB-5 visa instead. So now parents are gifting money to the children and only children are filing because you can only get a family based EB-5 green card if you are under 21, you cannot get it with your parents if you are over 21.

How do you see the Indian Market? Where particularly you see a lot of aggression when it comes to the EB-5?

There is a lot of rush from India market because there is a deadline to file these applications, that is December 7th. The last deadline was September 30th which temporarily extended to Dec 7. So, a lot of people are pushing to file before December 7. Additionally, there is an uptake in the number of applications because of the currency devaluation going on. So, if someone was considering applying for EB-5 just 3 months ago to whom who are considering now, their investment amount has increased to 30-45% because of currency devaluation. So, it is becoming more expensive for Indian nationals to file it. Additionally, because of the increase in demand, there is a quota for every country of 700 green cards every

year and if a country exceeds that quota then they will have to wait for next year for the number of visas to open. So, that is also about to happen in India.

What are the industries that people are actually more interested in?

Most popular is real estate because primarily EB-5 projects are construction projects because you need to show creation of jobs. And in the real estate project you are building a hotel or something like that, it is easier to see construction workers and the spending.

If you would like to off beat something every off beat like the shipyard that has been set up out there, apart from there if you would like to mention some other off beat projects that has created some jobs out there?

Off beat yes, the project we did with Philadelphia electric company, they did not use the money to build a power station they used it to overhaul their existing infrastructure. We built the first private rail road in the US and it was a big project. We raised 350 million dollars from 700 investors. So that was a different project. Usually you will find that everyone is building a hotel, but I am scared of hotel projects and the reason is that the valuation fluctuates like anything based on occupancy rate.

Goa global investors' meet with focus on start-ups in Dec: Prabhu

PTI ■ PANAJI

Global investors will meet in Goa in December to help finance the start-up community in the State, Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu said on Sunday.

He said the Centre was thinking of making Goa as the start-up and logistics hub to create more jobs and that it will also promote agricultural export from the coastal state.

"One of the problems faced by start-ups is finance. We have called all global players who are into financing. This event, to be held on December 7, will bring in global players for investment in the sector for the first time," Prabhu said.

He was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the 'green' building centre at Kudaim Industrial Estate by ACC Cement company in partnership with Goa's ALCON group.

It is a concept introduced by ACC to provide green solutions for building constructions.

Prabhu said the event (to facilitate financing for start-ups) will be held in Goa annually during which the financiers, venture capitalists, investors and growth capital providers will assemble.

"We are thinking of creating a national hub of start-ups

in Goa," he said, adding that he is also looking forward to see the state become a new hub of "green ideas".

"We are working on many things. At the same time we have to create employment for people. If you only talk about green then what happens to people?" he said.

The minister said to create employment and to keep it clean "we need to think about cleaner ideas".

Prabhu also said a logistics hub will also be set up in Goa as the state has all the infrastructure required for the facility.

He said when he became the commerce minister, he had logistics as part of the responsibility as for the first time, the prime minister has created a new department for it.

"All logistics-related issues are under my ministry. We are preparing for the first time an integrated logistics plan for India and in that plan, I had said that we will keep a logistics hub in Goa," he said.

Goa has a port, railway infrastructure and an airport is also being constructed by the Centre (apart from the already existing airport at Dabolim).

"Goa is ideal for creating the logistics hub which will result in huge job creation," Prabhu said.

OPEN-ENDED (GROWTH)

SCHEME NAV
HDFC MUTUAL FUND

Index Fund Sensex Plus Plan-Direct Plan	469.996
Index Fund-Sensex Plus(FV-Rs32.161)	462.5623
Index Fund Sensex Plan-Direct Plan	306.1999
Index FundSensex Plan(FV Rs 32.161)	302.8598

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

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

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Bluechip Fund - Dividend	31.174
Bluechip Fund - Dividend - Direct	33.929
Bluechip Fund - Growth	207.53
Bluechip Fund - Growth - Direct	220.497
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend	21.118
Emerging Equity Scheme - Dividend - Direct	24.451
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth	34.416
Emerging Equity Scheme - Growth - Direct	36.731
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly	20.0732
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Bimonthly Direct	20.2709
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend	10.7524
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Dividend - Direct	11.0562
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Regular	23.0939
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth	25.7284
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Growth - Direct	26.4717
Equity Arbitrage Fund - Fortnightly - Direct	23.569
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend	22.581
Equity Opportunities Fund - Dividend - Direct	24.284
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth	104.197
Equity Opportunities Fund - Growth - Direct	110.77
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Growth	13.8558
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Monthly Dividend	11.3139
Equity Savings Fund - Direct - Quarterly Dividend	10.9772
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Growth	13.4852
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Monthly Dividend	11.0548
Equity Savings Fund - Regular - Quarterly Dividend	10.8778
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend	15.02
Global Emerging Market Fund - Dividend - Direct	15.79
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth	15.02
Global Emerging Market Fund - Growth - Direct	15.72
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend	19.233
India EQ Contra Fund - Dividend - Direct	21.318
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth	47.183
India EQ Contra Fund - Growth - Direct	50.762
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Div	16.124
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Standard Plan-Growth	17.698
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund - Direct Plan- Div Option	18.872
Infrastructure & Economic Reform Fund- Direct Plan - Gr Option	19.089
Small Cap Fund - Dividend	34.098
Small Cap Fund - Dividend - Direct	36.84
Small Cap Fund - Growth	66.041
Small Cap Fund - Growth - Direct	70.877
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend	20.701
Standard Multicap Fund - Dividend - Direct	22.151
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth	30.993
Standard Multicap Fund - Growth - Direct	32.791

SAHARA MUTUAL FUND

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH - Direct	63.7494
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND- GROWTH OPTION	60.1032
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND - Direct	21.6442
BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES FUND-DIVIDEND OPTION	21.2476
Growth Fund-Dividend	37.3617
Growth Fund-Dividend- Direct	38.0503
Growth Fund-Growth	128.6655
Growth Fund-Growth- Direct	143.7062
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING -Direct-Dividend	20.328
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	25.2011
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Dividend Option	17.0743
Infrastructure Fund FIXED PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	23.3817
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Div	22.3093
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Direct-Growth	27.7442
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Div Option	19.942
Infrastructure Fund VARIABLE PRICING OPTION-Growth Option	27.1087
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout	71.3946
Midcap Fund-Auto Payout- Direct	76.2871
Midcap Fund-Bonus	71.3946
Midcap Fund-Bonus- Direct	76.2871
Midcap Fund-Dividend -Direct	31.9594
Midcap Fund-Dividend Plan	31.4874
Midcap Fund-Growth Option - Direct	76.2871
Midcap Fund-Growth Plan	71.3946
Power & Natural Resources Fund - Dividend Option	16.4678
Power & Natural resources Fund- Growth - Direct	20.8016
Power & Natural resources Fund- Growth Option	19.3076
Power & Natural Resources Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.0357
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option	19.261
R.E.A.L Fund - Dividend Option- Direct	19.6478
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund	19.2579
R.E.A.L Fund - Growth Fund- Direct	21.2276

Star Value Fund-Dividend - Direct	16.8895
Star Value Fund-Dividend Option	16.6151
Star Value Fund-Growth - Direct	23.0859
Star Value Fund-Growth Option	21.485
Super 20 Fund - Dividend - Direct	16.3573
Super 20 Fund - Dividend Option	18.6546
Super 20 Fund - Growth - Direct	20.2998
Super 20 Fund - Growth Option	18.6727
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend Option	29.1592
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	41.1365
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Dividend Option	28.6881
Wealth Plus Fund-Fixed Pricing Option-Growth Option	40.2811
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Dividend	34.4842
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Direct-Growth	48.0798
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Dividend Option	33.9997
Wealth Plus Fund-Variable Pricing Option-Growth Option	46.8964

SBI MUTUAL FUND

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

OPEN-ENDED (INCOME)

DHFL PRAMERICA MUTUAL FUND

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

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

Blended Plan B - Dividend Option - I	15.0425
Blended Plan B - Growth Option - I	23.9631
Blended Plan B - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.266
Blended Plan B - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.4926
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Dividend Option - I	17.7362
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth Option - I	24.0808
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend Option - I	10.3063
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Div Option - I	10.0227
Blended Plan B - Direct Plan - Quarterly Div Option - I	10.7
Blended Plan B - Half Yearly Dividend Option - I	10.3661
Blended Plan B - option I-Bonus	11.9703
Blended Plan B-Direct Plan - Daily Dividend Option - I	12.032
Child Care Plan Study - Cumulative	69.6122
Child Care Plan Study - Direct Plan- Cumulative	72.4243
Dynamic Bond Fund - Annual Dividend	10.6484
Dynamic Bond Fund - Bonus	19.6984
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend	10.0171
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Daily Dividend	10.5669
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Growth	20.425
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2129
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Monthly Dividend	10.4618
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Annual Dividend	10.6164
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Bonus Option	20.23
Dynamic Bond Fund - Direct Plan - Quarterly Dividend	10.4779
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth	19.6985
Dynamic Bond Fund - Half Yearly Dividend	10.2388
Dynamic Bond Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.9656
Dynamic Bond Fund - Premium Plus Growth	20.7632
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.408
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.7894
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	22.5035
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan Bonus	12.628
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Growth	17.983
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Dividend	N.A.
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	18.0131
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.8172
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	11.9883
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.6497
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Direct Plan - Growth	23.4449
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Dividend	11.8549
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan II - Growth	23.3622
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	11.7874
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	21.8977
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Direct Plan - Growth	17.7978
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Dividend	10.8352
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan III - Growth	17.7495
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Dividend	11.6845
Interval Fund - Annual Interval Plan IV - Retail Growth	21.7637
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Dividend	11.7708
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Direct Plan - Growth	20.4818
Interval Fund Annual Interval Plan IV - Growth	20.4088
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund - Monthly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.1844
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Div	10.0692
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Direct Plan - Growth	13.4735
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Dividend	10.0015
Interval Fund Monthly Interval Plan I - Growth	13.4637
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Dividend	10.0025
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan I - Retail Growth	21.9999
Interval Fund Qtrly Interval Plan - 1 Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.0022
Interval Fund Qtrly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Growth	17.6211
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Direct Plan - Div	10.0017
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Growth	17.5944
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan 1 - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund Qtrly Interval Plan 1 Plan - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0023

Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Dividend	10.0271
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan II - Retail Growth	22.0296
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	20.0513
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0013
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval - Growth	19.9985
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Direct Qtrly Div Payout	10.0085
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Dividend	10.0083
Interval Fund - Quarterly Interval Plan III - Retail Growth	20.7912
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Dividend	10.1854
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Direct Plan - Growth	17.5014
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Dividend	10.0061
Interval Fund III Quarterly Interval - Growth	17.4312
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Cumulative	13.9619
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Cumulative	13.9796
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - A - Direct - Div	10.9291
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	14.9423
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	14.9835
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Cumulative	14.9023
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Cumulative	14.9454
Interval Fund - Series VI - Annual Interval Plan - D - Direct - Dividend	10.441
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Cumulative	13.774
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Direct - Cumulative	13.7979
Interval Fund - Series VII - Annual Interval Plan - C - Dividend	10.8654
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2479
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	21.1917
Interval Fund II Qtrly Interval Plan A - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0015
Interval Fund II Qtrly Interval Plan A - Direct - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Qtrly Interval Plan A - Direct Plan - Growth	13.6172
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0017
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.6425
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan A - Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.224
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Dividend	10.0124
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	20.9682
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Div	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct Plan - Growth	14.1819
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Dividend	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	14.2363
Interval Fund II Qtrly Interval Plan B - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0016
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Div	10.0038
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan C - Retail Growth	22.1759
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Div	10.0016
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Growth	14.0323
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2204
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Dividend	10.0039
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Growth	13.9772
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan C - Instl Qtrly Div Payout	10.2061
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Div	10.0799
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan D - Retail Growth	22.795
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct Plan - Div	10.0051
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.1535
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Direct - Growth	17.7073
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Dividend	10.005
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Growth	13.469
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan D - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2309
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Dividend	10.0742
Interval Fund II - Quarterly Interval Plan F - Retail Growth	20.25
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Div	10.0168
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Direct - Growth	17.7138
Interval Fund II Qtrly Interval Plan F - Direct Plan - Qtrly Div Payout	10.0095
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Dividend	10.1825
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F - Growth	17.716
Interval Fund II Quarterly Interval Plan F Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.0046
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Div	10.0009
Interval Fund IV - Quarterly Interval Plan B - Retail Growth	19.7164
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct - Div	10.001
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Direct - Growth	18.1794
Interval Fund IV Qtrly Interval Plan B - Direct - Qtrly Div Payout	10.2084
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B - Growth	18.1012
Interval Fund IV Quarterly Interval Plan B -Dividend	10.1688
Interval Fund Quarterly Interval Plan - II Retail Qtrly Div Payout	10.234
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V - Monthly Interval Plan A - Retail Growth	20.0008
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Direct - Growth	13.9183
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Dividend	10.0033
Interval Fund V Monthly Interval Plan A - Growth	13.8735
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Half Yearly	13.6318
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Monthly	12.7914
MIP - Direct Plan - Dividend Quarterly	13.8562
MIP - Direct Plan - Growth	49.7829
MIP - Direct Plan Bonus	13.7171
MIP - Dividend Half Yearly	12.8248
MIP - Dividend Monthly	12.3602
MIP - Dividend Quarterly	13.5226
MIP - Growth	48.1366

JM FINANCIAL MUTUAL FUND

Income Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	19.6104
MIP Fund (Direct) - Bonus Option - Principal Units	25.9834
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Annual Dividend	20.9404
MIP Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option - Quarterly Dividend	19.5151
MIP Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.7788
MIP Fund (Direct)- Dividend Option - Monthly Dividend	12.6302
MIP Fund - Bonus Option - Principal Units	24.5085
MIP FUND-Annual Dividend	19.4034
MIP FUND-Growth	24.1503
MIP FUND-Monthly Dividend	11.4362

MIP FUND-Quarterly Dividend	18.1976
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Daily Dividend Option	13.7886
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Dividend Option	10.5717
Short Term Fund (Direct) - Growth Option	25.4682

KOTAK MAHINDRA MUTUAL FUND

Banking and PSU Debt - Annual Dividend	16.1842
Banking and PSU Debt - Daily Dividend Reinvestment	10.188
Banking and PSU Debt - Direct Daily Div Reinvestment	10.2604
Banking and PSU Debt - Growth	40.1006
Banking and PSU Debt - Monthly Dividend	10.4758
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Annual Dividend	17.1427
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Growth	40.7158
Banking and PSU Debt Direct - Monthly Dividend	10.5771
Bond - Annual Dividend - Direct	22.1441
Bond - Growth - Direct	50.2953
Bond - Quaterly Dividend - Direct	13.6116
Bond Regular Plan Annual Dividend	29.4636
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan	30.696
Bond Regular Plan Bonus Plan - Direct	22.7736
Bond Regular Plan Direct HF dividend	40.4758
Bond Regular Plan Growth	48.0908
Bond Regular Plan Quaterly Dividend	10.7542
Bond-Deposit-Dividend	13.6554
Bond-Deposit-Growth	42.9354
Bond Short Term Plan - Direct Plan - Normal Dividend	10.2928
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend)	10.0972
Bond Short Term Plan-(Dividend) - Direct	10.9745
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth)	33.2291
Bond Short Term Plan-(Growth) - Direct	34.6631
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend)	12.1131
Bond Short Term Plan-(Half Yearly Dividend) - Direct	12.2962
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Growth Option	2034.9063
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	2415.7805
Corporate Bond Fund- Direct Plan- Monthly Div Option	1102.3818
Corporate Bond Fund- Institutional Plan-Growth Option	2090.4924
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2364.5799
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Div Option	1048.7799
Corporate Bond Fund- Regular Plan-Quarterly Div Option	1066.6837
Corporate Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Monthly Div Option	1040.0538
Bond Fund- Retail Plan- Weekly Dividend Option	1052.3061
Bond Fund- Retail Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.6393
Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Daily Dividend Option	1052.7994
Bond Fund- Standard Plan-Weekly Dividend Option	1202.9939
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend	10.5464
Credit Risk Fund - Annual Dividend - Direct	15.5018
Credit Risk Fund - Growth	19.576
Credit Risk Fund - Growth - Direct	20.6387
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend	10.3161
Credit Risk Fund - Monthly Dividend - Direct	10.5415
Credit Risk Fund - Quarterly Dividend	10.7936
Credit Risk Fund - Quaterly Direct Dividend - Direct	10.18
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend	10.0127
Credit Risk Fund - Weekly Dividend - Direct	10.438
Debt Hybrid - Growth	28.8747
Debt Hybrid - Growth - Direct	30.6472
Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend	11.5546
Debt Hybrid - Monthly Dividend - Direct	11.9893
Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend	12.8778
Debt Hybrid - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	13.4754
Dynamic Bond Fund - Daily Dividend - Direct	10.1362
Dynamic Bond Fund - Growth - Direct	23.6115
Dynamic Bond Fund - Quarterly Dividend - Direct	10.7898
Dynamic Bond Fund - Weekly Dividend Direct	12.8673
Dynamic Bond Fund - Regular Plan- Monthly Div Option	21.8039
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Daily Dividend	10.0364
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Growth	22.8
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Quarterly Dividend	10.9958
Dynamic Bond Fund Regular Plan Weekly Dividend	10.5335
Dynamic Bond Fund-Retail Plan-Monthly Dividend Option	22.4591
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Dividend	10.7268
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan - Growth	25.1289
Flexi-Debt- Regular Plan - Daily Dividend	14.3817
Flexi-Debt - Regular Plan-Weekly Dividend	10.035
Low Duration - Regular Plan-Weekly Dividend	1015.0933
Low Duration Fund - Direct Plan- Monthly Div Option	1067.9492
Low Duration Fund - Regular Plan - Normal Dividend	1070.089
Low Duration Fund Direct Plan - Bonus Option	1321.4208
Low Duration Fund- Direct Plan- Growth Option	2276.8847
Low Duration Fund- Direct Plan- Weekly Div Option	1199.7233
Low Duration Fund- Regular Plan-Growth Option	2197.4428
Low Duration Fund- Regular Plan-Monthly Div Option	1019.434
Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan-Growth Option	1971.7193
Low Duration Fund-Retail Plan	

US TO EXIT RUSSIA NUCLEAR TREATY

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has announced that the US will pull out of a landmark Cold War-era nuclear arms control treaty with Russia that limited the number of ground-launched medium-range missiles in their arsenals, accusing Moscow of "violating" the deal for many years.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty was one of those agreements and is set to expire in the next two years. The 1987 pact helps protect the security of the US and its allies in Europe and the Far East.

It prohibits the US and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of 300 to 3,400 miles. It also covers all land-based missiles, including those carrying nuclear warheads.

"We're going to terminate the agreement and we're going to pull out," Trump told reporters in Nevada when asked about the reports that his National Security Adviser John Bolton wants the US to pull out of the three-decade-old treaty.

The INF treaty was signed between the then US President Ronald Reagan and his USSR counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987 on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles.

The Pentagon has been supportive of the INF treaty but Defence Secretary James Mattis warned other NATO Ministers earlier this month it would no longer be tenable if Russia did not withdraw its Novator ground-based missile, which the US has argued for nearly four years violates the INF range restrictions.

"We are going to terminate the agreement and then we are going to develop the weapons," unless Russia and China agree to a new deal, the US President said. "Russia has violated the agreement. They have been

US pull out will be 'very dangerous step', says Moscow

AP ■ ELKO, NEVADA

President Donald Trump says his intention to scrap a landmark arms control agreement Russia follows years of violations by Moscow in developing prohibited weapons, and "we're not going to be the only one to adhere to it." The Kremlin said the pullout "would be a very dangerous step."

Britain said it stood "absolutely resolute" with the US, while Germany called Trump's move "regrettable."

Heiko Maas said in a statement Sunday that the three-decade-old Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty is "an important pillar of our European security architecture" and Trump's announcement "raises difficult questions for us and Europe."

The 1987 pact prohibits the United States and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched

violating it for many years," Trump said.

He asserted that the US is "not going to let them violate a nuclear agreement and go out and do weapons and we're not allowed to."

"We'll have to develop those weapons...They (Russia and China) all come to us and say let's really get smart and let's none of us develop those weapons, but if Russia is doing it and if China is doing it, and we are adhering to the agreement, that is unacceptable," Trump asserted. He said the US will not adhere to the agreement, unless others were violating it. Trump alleged that his pre-

cruise missile with a range of 300 miles to 3,400 miles.

Maas says Germany has repeatedly urged Moscow to "clear up the serious allegations of breaching the INF treaty, which Russia has so far not done."

He says Germany is urging Washington to "consider the possible consequences" of its decision, including for a US-Russian nuclear disarmament treaty beyond 2021.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty helps protect the security of the U.S. and its allies in Europe and the Far East. It bars the United States and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of 300 miles to 3,400 miles.

"Russia has violated the agreement. They have been violating it for many years," Trump on Saturday said after a rally in Elko, Nevada.

decessor Barack Obama had kept quiet on this. "I don't know why President Obama didn't negotiate or pull out. And we're not going to let them violate a nuclear agreement and go out and do weapons and we're not allowed to," he said.

"We are the ones that have stayed in the agreement and we have honoured the agreement. If they get smart and if others get smart and they say let's not develop those horrible nuclear weapons, I would be extremely happy with that, but as long as somebody is violating the agreement, we are not going to be the only ones to adhere to it," Trump said.

JAMAL KHASHOGGI KILLING

'Not satisfied' with Saudi account: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said he is "not satisfied" with Saudi Arabia's account of the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, but asserted that he would not like to scrap an \$110 billion arms deal with Riyadh despite a global outrage over the dissident scribe's brutal killing.

Saudi Arabia in a statement on Saturday said Khashoggi (60) died following a "first-kill" at its consulate in Istanbul on October 2, without disclosing any details on the whereabouts of his body.

Turkish officials believe Khashoggi — a critic of the Saudi Government — was murdered and his body dismembered. "I'm not satisfied until we find the answer," Trump said, adding sanctions were a possibility, but that halting an arms deal would "hurt us more than it would hurt them."

"It is something that we don't like. It's very serious stuff. And we're going to get to the bottom of it and will make that determination," Trump told reporters in Nevada.

Trump said it was "possible" that the powerful Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman did not know about the killing. His comment came when asked about his previous statement that he would be considering severe consequences for Saudi Arabia following the journalist's death.



...US, Saudi tensions rise

Istanbul, Oct 21 (AP) Saudi Arabia's crown prince "crossed a line" in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and must pay a price, a leading US Senate Republican said on Sunday, in a sign of growing tensions between the United States and its Gulf ally.

Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he believed Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi royal known as MBS, was behind the killing of Khashoggi, who vanished after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. Pro-government media in Turkey have reported that a hit squad travelled from Saudi Arabia to kill the Saudi critic.

We don't know where body is: Saudi FM

Washington: Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Sunday the kingdom did not know where the body of slain journalist Jamal Khashoggi was, despite admitting to the killing and calling it a "tremendous mistake."

Speaking in an interview on Fox News, Jubeir said the Saudi leadership initially believed Khashoggi had left its consulate in Istanbul, where he was last seen on October 2.

But following "reports we were getting from Turkey," Saudi authorities began an investigation, which discovered he was killed in the diplomatic mission. "We don't know, in terms of details, how. We don't know where the body is," Jubeir said, adding the Saudi public prosecutor had put out orders to detain 18 individuals, "the first step in a long journey." AFP

TURKEY VOWS TO REVEAL 'TRUTH'

Istanbul: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed on Sunday to reveal within days the "naked truth" over the death of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

US President Donald Trump has refused to take a harsh stance against Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom the US leader has defended as an invaluable trade partner even as world powers demand answers over the October 2 killing of Khashoggi, a vocal critic and Washington Post columnist who fell out of favour with Riyadh.

But the Saudi foreign minister, Adel al-Jubeir, insisted on Sunday that Prince Mohammed was "not aware" of the killing and that the kingdom does not know where the body is. AFP

Turkey to quiz more witnesses

Istanbul: Turkish prosecutors have summoned more witnesses to testify as part of the investigation into the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, local television reported on Sunday.

Twenty-five more people will be quizzed as witnesses, the private NTV broadcaster said, without providing any further details.

On Friday, prosecutors questioned staff members of the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul inside Istanbul's main courthouse, including the consulate driver, technicians and accountants. AFP

Saudi explanation not credible: UK

London: Britain said Saudi Arabia's account of the death of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside its Istanbul consulate is not credible and the culprits must be "held to account".

After a fortnight of denials, Saudi authorities admitted the Washington Post columnist, a prominent critic of powerful Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was killed after entering the consulate in Turkey. But it has faced growing chorus of incredulity over its belated explanation that he died in a "brawl", as world powers demand answers and whereabouts of his body. AFP

Khashoggi's fiancée writes him parting message

IANS ■ ANKARA

The fiancée of journalist Jamal Khashoggi has published a final message to him, after Saudi authorities admitted he was killed at the country's consulate in Istanbul, the media reported on Sunday.

"They took your bodily presence from my world. But your beautiful laugh will remain in my soul forever. My darling #jkhshoggi," she wrote on Twitter Saturday evening.

Attached to the tweet is a video of Khashoggi giving a TV documentary

interview, reports CNN.

He is shown being interrupted by a cat which hops on his lap, making him laugh heartily.

"You should leave this in the film," a smiling Khashoggi tells the journalist. Cengiz, who was waiting outside the consulate when Khashoggi entered the building, had not previously accepted that he had died.

Khashoggi had gone to the consulate on October 2 to conduct paperwork that would allow for the two of them to be married.

In the event that he did not emerge,

Khashoggi had told Cengiz to call his friend Turan Kislakci, the head of the Turkish Arab Media Association.

"I do not know if Jamal is inside. I want to know where Jamal is. Did they detain him? Did they kidnap him? Is he imprisoned?" Cengiz told CNN outside the consulate, a day after his disappearance.

At the time, she asked media outlets not to name her. "What is he eating? What is he drinking? Does he deserve this? He is not a terrorist. He is an analyst and a journalist,"

she added.

A journalist and former royal court insider, Khashoggi has been a prominent critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, since he went into self-exile in June 2017.

A day after Saudi Arabia's public admission of his death, Turkish media released CCTV footage apparently showing Khashoggi and Cengiz hand-in-hand, entering an apartment building where the journalist had just bought a property for the couple.

Trump: Obama did nothing despite FBI's advise on Russian meddling

Washington: US President Donald Trump has alleged that his predecessor Barack Obama had done nothing despite being advised by the FBI on likely Russian meddling in the 2016 Presidential elections.

He was responding to a question on the Russian meddling in the US elections after a rally in Nevada on Saturday, ahead of next month's midterm polls. Russia, however, has denied the allegations.

"I've already said that. I always say this an you've heard me say this many times... President Obama was contacted by the FBI in September, long before the election in November, and they told him there may be meddling by the Russians, and he did nothing about it, because he thought Hillary Clinton would win," Trump said.

He said the present Government has taken adequate steps to "protect" the upcoming elections. "He (Obama) did nothing... He didn't lift a finger — he didn't spend a dime. We've done a lot to protect the elections coming up very shortly," Trump said. PTI



View at the site of a train derailed in Lian in northern Taiwan on Sunday. AP

22 dead after train flips in Taiwan

Yilan: At least 22 people have died after an express train derailed and flipped over on a popular coastal tourist route in Taiwan on Sunday, the island's worst rail accident for more than 20 years.

Taiwan's railways administration confirmed 22 people had been killed and said 171 people had been injured, 10 seriously, in the accident in northeastern Yilan county. Authorities have not con-

firmed if any passengers remain trapped alive inside the train. An AFP reporter at the scene said that more bodies were being brought out of the wrecked carriages.

Images from the site showed the Puyuma Express train completely derailed and lying zig-zagged across the track. All of the train's eight carriages had derailed and five had flipped onto their side near Xinma station, the railways

administration said.

"There are four carriages that were overturned at 90 degrees and the worst casualties were in those carriages," Jason Lu, head of the Taiwan Railways Administration told reporters. "The exact cause of the accident is pending investigation," he added.

Chang Yi-long, 62, said he had "heard a loud bang" as he was working at a construction site nearby. AFP

Yameen's defeat in Maldives election upheld by SC

AFF ■ COLOMBO

The Maldives' top court Sunday ended weeks of uncertainty by rejecting President Abdulla Yameen's controversial bid to annul last month's election results, upholding his landslide defeat to an Opposition candidate.

The five-judge Supreme Court Bench unanimously ruled that Yameen had failed to prove his claim that the election was rigged and a fresh poll was necessary in the Indian Ocean archipelago. Under international pressure, Yameen initially conceded defeat after Ibrahim Mohamed Solih emerged the winner in September 23 poll. But strongman ruler then filed an appeal, throwing the island nation into turmoil and attracting warnings from the US and regional superpower India to respect outcome.

Opposition activists celebrated outside the Supreme Court in the Capital Male after the decision was read out, effectively drawing a line under Yameen's five years of iron-fisted rule.

Opposition legislator Mariya Didi said Yameen — who lobbied the Supreme Court in 2013 to nullify election results in his favour — should now allow a smooth transition of power.

"We are pleased that the court ruled unanimously to uphold the will of the people," Didi said on Twitter.

"The case was based on conjecture and conspiracy theories," Yameen claimed magic ink had been used to rig the election and that votes marked for him disappeared inside ballot boxes.

The country's independent Elections Commission, through its lawyers, had argued his petition was based on false allegations and should be dismissed. The Supreme Court last week refused to accept testimony of three unnamed witnesses that Yameen's lawyers said will the election was fixed.

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Girl gamers more likely to pursue science, math degrees

London: Girls who play video games are three times more likely to choose physical science, technology, engineering or maths (PSTEM) degrees compared to their non-gaming peers, a study has found.

Researchers from University of Surrey in the UK found that 13-14 year old girls classed as 'heavy gamers' — those playing over nine hours a week — were three times more likely to pursue a PSTEM degree. Study, published in journal Computers in Human Behaviour, also found that all of girls who were already in PSTEM degrees were also gamers.

However, the same could not be said for boys where a similar amount of gamers existed regardless of degree type, leading to thoughts that boys experience far less pressure to conform to the video gamer stereotype if they were studying a PSTEM degree. Anesa Hoseini, who led the study, believes that identifying and targeting certain female groups early may be a way to encourage more to study it at degree level and beyond. PTI

Air quality gets better in nearly 350 Chinese cities

Beijing: More than half of China's cities saw air quality improve year-on-year in September, the Chinese Environment Ministry has said. The average density of PM 2.5 stood at 25 micrograms per cubic metre in September in 338 cities, down 16.7 per cent from the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

These cities enjoyed good air quality on 90.8 per cent of the days last month, up 2.6 per cent, Xinhua news agency said. The world's most populous nation has over 600 cities and is grappling with chronic pollution which kills about one million people annually.

China is the world's biggest coal producer and alone burns

half of it, leading to severe pollution. The country is also the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. However, the Government has cracked down heavily on the polluting industries, shutting many of them. In July, the Government released a three-year action plan to tackle the problem.

It also punishes top officials for not doing enough to rein in pollution. Beijing is no longer the world's most polluted city.

In the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the share of days with good air quality in September stood at 79.2 per cent, while the PM 2.5 density of the region dropped by 33.3 per cent on year to 36 micrograms per cubic metre, the Ministry was quoted by Xinhua as saying. PTI

Eating spinach, beetroot could help prevent vision loss

Sydney: Eating vegetable nitrates, found mainly in green leafy vegetables and beetroot, could prevent macular degeneration, a common cause of vision loss in people over age 50, new research has found.

People who ate between 100 to 142 mgs of vegetable nitrates each day had a 35 per cent lower risk of developing early age-related macular degeneration (AMD) than people who ate less than 69 mgs of vegetable nitrates each day, showed the findings published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Spinach has approximately 20mg of nitrate per 100g, while beetroot has nearly 15mg



of nitrate per 100g.

"This is the first time the effects of dietary nitrates on macular degeneration risk has been measured," said lead researcher Bimini Gopinath from Westmed Institute for Medical Research in Australia. For the study, the

researchers interviewed more than 2,000 Australian adults aged over 49 and followed them over a 15-year period.

"If our findings are confirmed, incorporating a range of foods rich in dietary nitrates — like green leafy vegetables and beetroot — could be a simple strategy to reduce the risk of early macular degeneration," Gopinath said.

The research did not show any additional benefits for people who exceeded 142mgs of dietary nitrate each day. Age is the strongest known risk factor for AMD and the disease is more likely to occur after the age of 50. There is currently no cure for the disease. IANS

Heart patients should take walk breaks every 20 mins: Study

Toronto: Heart patients should engage in light physical activities such as standing up or walking at casual pace for about seven minutes after every 20 minutes of sitting at a computer or watching television, suggests new research.

Previous research has shown that being sedentary for long periods could shorten life but taking breaks to move around may counteract the risk, particularly if it means burning more than 770 kcal a day.

This study, presented at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress (CCC) 2018 in Toronto, investigated how many breaks, and for what

duration, are needed to expend 770 kilocalorie.

"Our study shows that heart patients should interrupt sedentary time every 20 minutes with a 7 minute bout of light physical activity," said study author Ailar Ramadi from University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

"Simple activities such as standing up and walking at a casual pace will expend more than 770 kcal in a day if done with this frequency and duration," Ramadi added. The study enrolled 132 patients with coronary artery disease. The average age was 63 years and 77 per cent were male. IANS

GLOBE TROTTER

AFGHANS VOTE FOR 2ND DAY AFTER ATTACKS

Kabul: Afghanistan's parliamentary elections entered a second day after delays caused by violence and technical issues, as a roadside bomb killed nearly a dozen civilians on Sunday, including several children.

EBOLA DEATH TOLL RISES TO 200 IN CONGO

Kinshasa: The death toll in the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has risen to 200, the Health Ministry has said. According to statistics released by the Ministry on Saturday, of the 200 cases confirmed in Beni and surrounding areas, 117 have died of the virus while 61 others recovered after treatment. Xinhua news agency reported.

NIKKI HALEY MOCKS PRESIDENT TRUMP

New York: Indian-American Nikki Haley, the outgoing US Ambassador to the UN, has poked fun at President Donald Trump's inflated ego and his cultural ignorance, days after announcing that she would be leaving her position representing America at the world body.

11 MISSING AFTER SHIP SANK OFF CHINESE COAST

Beijing: At least 11 people went missing after a ship carrying sand sank in China's Liaoning province on Sunday, according to official Chinese media. The incident occurred around 3 am, the state-run Xinhua reported.

FORMER DUTCH PM KOK DIES AT 80

The Hague: Former Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, a trade unionist-turned-politician who inspired a new breed of pragmatic Social Democratic leaders who swept to power in Europe in the 1990s, has died at 80.

OZ PM RULES OUT EARLY POLL AFTER BY-POLL BLOW

Sydney: Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison pledged on Sunday his embattled Government would serve out a full term despite the conservative coalition looking set to lose its majority after a voter backlash in a crucial Sydney by-election.

RISE LIKE A PHOENIX

Abandoned by her husband, ASMA BIBI raised five children single-handedly, provided them with an education, while running her business all on her own. By SADAF ZAREEN



Sometimes it is important to dream big to be successful in life, it can be more exciting than just possessing bookish knowledge. 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, especially in rural areas. In fact, this mentality is due to the social environment where because of lack of education women are only 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 unable to provide it.

In fact, education is an important factor for the advancement of any society. It explains the difference between right and wrong and arouses curiosity in the mind. Annals of history have tales of many educated

women playing important roles in preparing social structures with enthusiasm. Despite their achievements, the present stratum of society makes fun of them. But in our society, there are many women like Asma Bibi who, despite being uneducated, have been able to make their own distinct identity. She lives in a small village in Rohtas district of Bihar, cannot read or write a single alphabet in any language but through her own initiative has become an example of women's empowerment.

Parents of 50-year-old Asma Bibi, living in Akbarpur village, located at Dehri in Rohtas district, were illiterate and kept their daughter away from acquiring any form of education. She was married off at an early age and had six children one after another. Her husband started spending all the household earning on liquor and used to beat

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION AND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY IS NOT UNDERSTOOD, WHICH IS WHY THEY CONSIDER IT THEIR FATE TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF INHUMAN LAWS MADE BY MEN

her up when she would refused to give him any money. Her life continued to go on despite the problems until she got a shock one day when her eldest son went missing. Her husband had then moved away to a city in search of a job and never returned. But she did not give up hope. She kept trying to find her son. After losing both husband and son, she took up the responsibility of improving the condition of her household 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 accessories from the city to sell in the village. Even though she could not read the name of the station, Asma Bibi used to go to Ferozabad to buy items at cheap rates. At the same time she started traveling further and further in the hope of finding her son.

Asma was keen to learn to read, whether it was in Hindi, English or Urdu. She faced ridicule for saying the words wrong but that did not discourage her. She realised the need for education and was determined to educate her children. 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. She got the admission forms and new updates about schools and colleges. She would even ensure she found out about scholarship schemes and other government schemes to be able to provide her children with the best education.

Asma Bibi, without any support from anyone, has changed the living conditions of not only her own life but also her children's lives for the better because of 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 homes because they were well educated. Eight years later, her missing son returned home and to help him to earn a living Asma has taken a loan to send him to Saudi Arabia for work. The younger son is a Hafeez (one who recites the Holy Quran by heart). Her desire to read is still very much alive even today and she is learning to read the Quran and has also learnt Urdu from her son.

In fact, Asma Bibi today has become an example for those women who give up their dreams and lose heart by throwing away their desire of becoming someone great or of achieving knowledge. When they think of themselves as weak they allow people to exploit them both physically as well as mentally. The importance of education and the rights of women in society is not understood, which is why they consider it their fate to walk in the footsteps of inhuman laws made by men. However, with changing times this mentality of society is gradually changing. But a lot needs to be done in rural areas.

—Charkha Features



CLEANSE THE MIND

Mental pollution is causing the environmental one as well, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

Today, every country is facing the consequences of pollution, contamination or abuse of air, water, food and even space on a very large scale but they are not able to find a foolproof solution to this dangerous threat for humanity. Since environmental pollution has been the focus of public attention the last couple of years it is now being increasingly realised that man has wantonly and cruelly been treating the planet and ravaging and ruining the atmosphere. The denudation of forests, the poisoning of lakes and rivers with pesticides and industrial wastes, the pollution of atmosphere with smoke from automobiles and factory chimneys and the overuse of chloro-fluorocarbons, resulting in the depletion of ozone, have brought the world to the brink of an environmental ruin. Environmental scientists now warn that the accumulation of Co2 in the atmosphere would not only result in the green-house effect but would also result in increase in the planet's average temperature from 3° F to 9° F and this would cause the oceans to rise by several feet, flooding coastal areas and ruining huge areas of farmlands and triggering other calamities. It is, therefore, being suggested now that the industries must re-examine their production processes so that the industrial wastes and the smoke from their chimneys can be reduced and that waste products must be recycled and that means of mass transport be encouraged in place of automobiles for individuals or families.



has become such that there is a great demand for energy and consumer goods. So, more and more trees are cut and forests and farmlands vanish to give place to expanding cities and there is more industrial waste and emission of Co2, So2, etc. So without reducing population and changing lifestyle and attitudes, the problem of environmental pollution cannot be solved and it is in this respect that the help of spiritualists is called for. Because the ultimate solution to this problem lies in realising the self and also our relationship with other human beings. Remember, great men are those who see that the spiritual force is much stronger than the material force. Hence, without a spiritual orientation of the relationship

It won't be an exaggeration to say that the problem of environmental pollution is actually due to foulness of man's mind, which is full of selfishness, jealousy, anger and greed

If we look up for the dictionary meaning of word pollution, we may find something like 'to destroy purity of; to contaminate'. However, we humans are only aware of the material pollution in the branches of the polluted tree and we have totally disregarded the seed or root of thought pollution, which gave growth to that tree. So without destroying the root basis of pollution, the source can never be purified. Infact it won't be an exaggeration to say that the problem of environmental pollution is actually due to pollution of man's mind which is full of selfishness, jealousy, greed, anger, etc. The problem of ecological imbalance is due to our mental imbalance, and the disequilibrium in nature is due to disequilibrium in our mind.

Secondly, we must understand that the problem of pollution is linked with the problem of population increase. To meet the demands of the growing population, more and more electricity, fuel, energy, automobiles, wood, water, paper and industries are needed and all these act badly on the environment. Also, man's lifestyle

between humans moral and spiritual values cannot be brought into play or be sustained, and, in the absence of these core values, no problem can really be solved for considerable length of time. It is, therefore essential, for all of us to understand our real and intrinsic nature behind the mask or the garment of the body to set the direction right. If this is not done, then possibly science without spirituality may dangerously lead mankind to a nuclear catastrophe or population explosion or environmental upheaval. So, let us use the powerful weapon of spiritual wisdom to cleanse our soul from thought pollution and live in harmony with nature and its elements without any kind of disturbance whatsoever.

Body shaming — these two words say a lot about their intent. In fact, it has become a serious issue in our society today. Technically, body shaming is defined as inappropriate, negative statements and attitudes toward another person's weight or size but it is so much more than that. It is one of the most serious form of bullying, harassment and humiliation and usually experienced by women more than men.

In an age where mainstream media and social media are easily accessible, there is a strong emphasis on idealised beauty on platforms such as Instagram, magazines and television. When we look at celebrities and models who are believed to have 'perfect bodies', individuals start becoming critical of their own bodies and succumb to the pressure of living up to unrealistic standards. Studies show that more than 90 per cent women are not happy with the way they look. Where do you think this self-rejection comes from? Why do you think these women and girls are becoming more and more conscious about how they look, what they wear and what skin color they have.

With global celebrities coming out and breaking their silence on their experiences of body shaming in the industry,

Different bodies, one message

Irrespective of whether you're fat or thin, body shaming has plagued many people. The only way to overcome it is by talking about it. By AISHWARYA SHARMA



it has become one of the most talked about things recently. Despite their status, some celebrities have had to deal with body shaming, from comments left on their social media pages, to having Photoshop applied to their pictures for magazine covers. Mad Men actress

Christina Hendricks recently spoke out about being rejected for a role for being too curvy. Priyanka Chopra spoke about being rejected for her skin color in a lot of Bollywood and Hollywood films. This is a point where we realise that no matter who you are, body

shaming is something which follows you everywhere and engulfs everyone.

Statements like "You are so fat", "You should probably try to gain weight", "Your parents don't feed you?", "Your top is too short for your belly" which can come from complete

strangers or your family member can create a feeling of helplessness and humiliation for the one at the receiving end. You, I and others, we all have gone through it. We all have had people who told us how inappropriate we look in a certain dress because we have chubby thighs, belly fat, short legs or because we are simply stick thin. Eventually, we start feeling that we aren't enough.

Experts say "Psychological invalidation is one of the most lethal forms of emotional abuse and body shaming is the worse thing you can do to a person. It kills creativity and confidence of the individual."

Body shaming is universal. When we say that, we mean that shaming can come from anywhere and from anyone. It could be out of concern or to demean the other person. Sometimes, it can be internal too. Studies show that a lot of women have resigned to self-shaming. They keep shaming themselves because they think they aren't like the girls in the magazines. Magazines con-

stantly offer tips about 'how to lose weight in days', 'appear slimmer instantly', and 'hide our imperfections'...without actually knowing anything about us, much less our appearance. This is only one example of body shaming in media. There are sitcoms that frequently use overweight actors' bodies as the basis of jokes.

However, people today are more outspoken about their struggles and stories and when we are made aware of them we realise how important it is to actually let it out instead of let it kill you from inside. Nobody wants to go to bed crying and wake up with a feeling of not being enough and it's unimaginable as to how many people experience that each day. Important questions are who are these people?, why do we care about what they say? and why are we detesting ourselves because someone else is not comfortable? It has become essential to represent different bodies, races and skin colours.

(The writer is a fashion activist.)

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.” —Winston S Churchill

BOWEL DISEASE UPS DEATH RISK

Children who develop Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) — ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease — are at an increased risk of death, both in childhood and later in life, as per a new study.



IBD is the ongoing inflammation of all or part of the digestive tract. The research suggests that it is important to carefully monitor patients who are diagnosed with IBD. "Individuals who are diagnosed in childhood need to be monitored carefully," said Ola Olén, lead researcher at Karolinska Institute, Sweden. The results of the study, published in the journal Gastroenterology, showed that children who developed IBD before 18 have a three to five-fold higher mortality rate than people without IBD, both during childhood and into adulthood.

SMOKING MARIJUANA INCREASES STROKE RISK

If you are smoking marijuana, you're at an increased risk of developing cerebrovascular effects of cannabinoids or stroke, as per a new study. The research, presented at the World Stroke Congress in Montreal, showed a rise in stroke incidence among marijuana users from 2010-14 while overall stroke prevalence remained stable. As per the researchers from the University of Toronto, there are over 80 million people currently living with the effects of stroke globally. For the study, the team evaluated the use of the drug rivaroxaban versus acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) to prevent strokes in patients with an enlarged left atrium of the heart. The results showed that the rate of stroke of all types of marijuana users increased from 1.3 to 1.5 per cent. During the five-year span, the prevalence of stroke among all patients was stable, the team said.



AEROBIC EXERCISES HELP REDUCE DEPRESSION

Supervised aerobic exercises have large anti-depressant treatment effects for patients with major depression, a study, in the journal Depression and Anxiety, suggests. It showed a significantly large overall anti-depressant effect compared with anti-depressant medication and/or psychological therapies. "Collectively, this study has found that supervised aerobic exercise can significantly support major depression treatment in mental health services," said author Ioannis D. Morres from the University of Thessaly, Greece. For the study, the research team involved 455 adults across 11 eligible trials patients between 18 to 65 years with depression as a primary disorder. The exercises were performed for 45 minutes at moderate intensity, thrice per week and for 9.2 weeks. Analyses revealed comparable effects for exercise across various settings in both outpatients and in patients regardless of symptom severity.



NEW METHOD TO DELIVER DRUGS TO BRAIN

Researchers have found a potentially new approach to deliver therapeutics more effectively to the brain. The findings, done on mice, showed that the research could have implications for treatment of a range of diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and brain cancer. "Improving the delivery of drugs to the central nervous system is a considerable clinical challenge," said author Maiken Nedergaard from the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC), US. "The findings of this study demonstrate that the brain's waste removal system could be harnessed to transport drugs quickly and efficiently into the brain," Nedergaard added. The study shows the power of glymphatic system, the brain's process of removing waste, discovered by Nedergaard in 2012. The team believe that this method could be used to not only deliver into the brain proteins like antibodies, but small molecule drugs and viruses.



CYCLING, WALKING IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

A study shows, people who commute — walking or cycling — through natural environments are more likely to develop better mental health than those who commute less. Natural spaces included all outdoors having 'green' and/or 'blue' natural elements like trees, forests, city parks, reserves and water bodies. "Mental health and physical inactivity are the main health problems associated with life in urban areas. Urban design could be a powerful tool to confront challenges and create healthier cities. A way of doing so is investing in natural commuting routes for cycling and walking," said Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, University of Barcelona. The research team examined 3,600 participants through a questionnaire about their commuting habits and mental health. The results showed that respondents commuting through natural environments everyday had a 2.74 point higher mental health score than those who commuted less frequently.



Trend Slazer

Lara refuses work offer from Mukesh

Actress LARA DUTTA BHUPATHI has turned down a work offer from the casting company of Mukesh Chhabra, one of the accused of sexual harassment amid the #MeToo wave. Lara's husband Mahesh Bhupathi made the revelation in an open letter on Twitter, urging people to "stop engaging" with those who are sexual offenders. He wrote: "Two days ago my wife got an offer through Mukesh Chhabra's company. She wanted my feedback. I asked if she wanted to empower his company even after hearing the news. Her reaction was that the digital platform hadn't really pulled back business from him either. Later, she told them that she wouldn't accept work through this company specifically. I think she did the right thing."



'Nothing has changed over the years. I still work with my heart. Some people take me in the films thinking it will change their life or film. Sometimes I look at the banner, or the script or at the director. But emotions is something I am associated with.'



—Jackie Shroff

Actress PRIYANKA CHOPRA is excited about her friend Meghan Markle's pregnancy, and hopes that the Duchess of Sussex's new phase is "amazing." "I would, as a friend, just say that I'm really excited for her," said Chopra. "I think this is a new phase in every woman's life, and I hope hers is as amazing as she wants it to be," added the *Quantico* actress who had also attended Markle and Prince Harry's royal wedding in May. She and Markle have been close for several years now.

Avril doesn't regret marriages

Singer Avril Lavigne said she does not regret marrying musicians Chad Kroeger and Deryck Whibley, who are now her former husbands. Lavigne said, "I love love. The way I looked at it is I married my long-terms." Recalling her initial reaction to the collaboration suggestion with Kroeger, she said, "He's had a ton of hit songs. He plays guitar. This could be great. A month later, I had a 14-carat ring on my finger." The 43-year-old rocker quickly caught her attention when he arrived for their first studio session with a \$3,000 bottle of Screaming Eagle wine. She said: "(I thought) I'm in love." She said around 75 per cent of her inkings were done in tandem with other people, including two she has with Whibley, a musical note and a number 30 to mark the Sum-41 rocker's 30th birthday, which fell after they had split.



Fragrances are no longer limited to floral and fruity accents. Notes like coffee, chocolate and more are making their way in. By TEAM VIVA

The source of fragrances has moved from the gardens and woods to the kitchen with gourmand elements like candy, chocolate, vanilla or honey making it into our perfume bottles. While floral and fruity notes have been dominating our olfactory sense for a long time, a wider palette including ingredients like saffron, coffee, edamame or rock salt have seeped in.

"We've blended spices, white flowers, oudhs with coffee, gourmet notes and fruity tones to project the right mood and bring out the true Indian essence with a contemporary mix," said Philippine Coutiere, perfumer at Firmenich, which is now retailing here.

More and more companies are seeking to go beyond the floral and fruity for summer and warm and spicy for winter. The fragrance notes today sound like shopping lists. Brands like Witness YSL has on its list a Black Opium with a coffee note, while L'Occitane En Provence's Arlésienne is saffron-spiked. There are those who are peddling mineral scents for the summer. Companies want to sell luxury in beautiful bottles but the product on offer is as diverse as the market. However, florals are here to

stay and most perfumes have floral scents. Experimentation has also led to perfumes with leather and smoky scents. Subtle use of saffron is being attempted in India and it already has a strong presence in the Middle East. While its use is on the rise, it is still a very niche ingredient, perhaps because of how little of it grows in India. Adding rock salt, say experts, increases the nuance but to mention it in the fragrance note is a marketing tactic. Fragrances like green tea are being added in a higher dose in the formulations, no doubt for the same reason. Ingredients like chocolate and candy floss have been used for a long time but in perfumery parlance there is an overdose of it in the fragrances, said Rajiv Sheth, CEO of All Good Scents.

It is believed that gourmet perfumes became famous in 1992 with the creation of Angel, which had chocolate caramel accents and since then tonka beans and vanilla licorice have also made their space in luxury brands like Jean Paul Gaultier. One of the best effects that gourmet perfumes have are in decreasing anxiety rate.

There are other sales pitches too. Seasons have a profound



'IN AUTUMN, WE TEND TO FAVOUR SCENTS THAT ARE COCOONING AND ENVELOPING. THIS GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY THE WARMTH OF SPICES COMBINED WITH A WOODY SMELL'

effect on us so it's good to change your fragrance as they change, feels Manoj Arora, managing director, Sacherome. "We often seek different sensations from the fragrances we wear depending on the time of year. In autumn, we tend to favour scents that are cocooning and enveloping, and this gives us an opportunity to enjoy the warmth of spices combined with a woody smell or we seek the more sensual pleasures. These ingredients convey the luxuries we favour when the temperature gets colder and the nights darker."

Another trend that has taken

over the West and slowly coming to the East is customisation of the perfume. "Bespoke perfumery is expensive and limited to occasions in India. For individuals, it has not become popular yet," said Sheth. Perfumes are genderless, he believes and segregating them for men and women is only a marketing strategy. In his perfumes, he seeks simplicity and quality than complex notes and creates for the modern contemporary Indian. With not enough awareness about perfumery in India, there are those like Sheth who provide master classes and workshops too.

Fragrances are also healing for the body and the mind. Their influence is not limited to the cosmetic use. For instance, sandalwood and lavender helps to calm down while jasmine helps make a person feel good.

With the global luxury perfume market expected to grow at a Compound annual growth rate of 8.33 per cent during the period 2017-2021 brands are trying to innovate themselves to create experiences, cater to the young crowd that finds appeal in the visual marketing. Since, it is an aspirational product marketing plays a very important part in sales too.



TV actor makes wild card entry

Saath Nibhaana Saathiya fame, ROHIT SUCHANTI, enters the Bigg Boss House

Bigg Boss is a reality show with intrigue, mystery and real emotions, all rolled in one. To win one season, contestants have to go through a dramatic roller coaster with each episode. Actor Rohit Suchanti has received the opportunity of a lifetime to enter the house almost a month after season 12 began. Rohit says that he's very

ROHIT SAYS THAT HE'S VERY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT'S GOING TO COME HIS WAY

excited to see what's going to come his way. He sees this platform as a big opportunity and says, "It's very important as it's a great chance for me to make a place for myself as an individual." The wild card contestant says, "I am so thrilled that I can't wait to enter the house. I'll completely be myself there and will have fun."

Rohit doesn't seem to have any expectations before entering the house. He says, "As I see them all playing, my expectation level has come to zero. I don't really have anything to expect from the contestants already present in the house."

The TV actor adds, "I am pretty much prepared for all the drama. It truly depends on the way you play the game. Let's see how it goes. I have been following the show since it started to prepare."

WEBBED

HOUSE OF CARDS

Golden Globe winner and Emmy Award nominee Robin Wright returns as President of the United States in the award-winning, landmark series *House of Cards*. Wright is joined by Academy Award nominees Diane Lane and Greg Kinnear as well as Cody Fern this season alongside Emmy Award nominee Michael Kelly, Jayne Atkinson, Academy Award nominee Patricia Clarkson, Emmy Award Nominee Constance Zimmer, Derek Cecil, Campbell Scott and Boris McGiver.

Melissa James Gibson and Frank Pugliese continue as showrunners for season six, and they serve as executive producers along with Robin Wright, David Fincher, Joshua Donen, Dana Brunetti, Eric Roth, Michael Dobbs and Andrew Davies. Created for television by Beau Willimon. *House of Cards* is produced by Donen/Fincher/Roth and Trigger Street Productions, Inc. in association with Media Rights Capital for Netflix.

The final chapter of the *House of Cards* will launch on November 2.



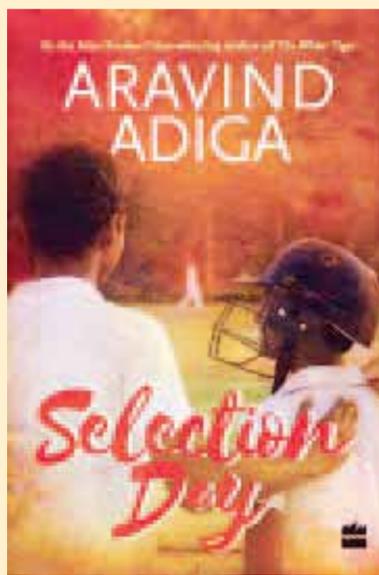
SELECTION DAY

Selection Day, based on Aravind Adiga's novel of the same name is a coming-of-age drama about two brothers who are raised by their strict, obsessive father to be star cricket players in India. It's a moving story about ambition, love, acceptance and finding your own path.

Fourteen-year-old Manju is destined for cricket greatness. There's only one problem, he hates cricket. Controlled from a young age by his overbearing and cricket-obsessed father, Manju's main role in life is to support his older brother and fellow cricket star, Radha. When the family moves to Mumbai and the brothers start at a new school, Manju discovers his interests outside of cricket and starts slipping away from Radha and his father's grasp. More importantly, Manju becomes friends with Radha's greatest cricket rival, a boy who is the very definition of freedom and confidence — concepts Manju has never experienced himself.

The show stars Mahesh Manjrekar, Ratna Pathak Shah, Rajesh Tailang, and introduces newcomers Yash Dholye and Mohammad Samad as brothers Radha and Manju Kumar.

The series launches globally on December 28.



TECH TALK

Tracking fake news accounts

As the elections are round the corner, Facebook has launched its new 'War Room' to reduce the spread of misleading content

In line with its efforts to prevent misuse of its platform during elections, Facebook has set up a 'War Room' to reduce the spread of potentially harmful content.

Facebook faced flak for not doing enough to prevent spread of misinformation by Russia-linked accounts during the 2016 US presidential election. The social networking giant has rolled out several initiatives to fight fake news and bring more transparency and accountability in its advertising since then.

The launch of the first war room at its headquarters in Menlo Park, California, is part of the social network's new initiatives to fight election interference on its platform.

Although Facebook opened the doors of the war room ahead of the general elections in Brazil and mid-term elections in the US, it revealed the details only this week.

The goal behind setting up the room was to get the right subject-matter experts from across the company in one place so they can address potential problems identified by its technology in real time and respond quickly.

"The room has over two dozen experts from across the company — including from our threat intelligence, data science, software engineering, research, community operations and legal teams," said Samidh Chakrabarti, Facebook's director of product management, civic engagement.

"These employees represent and are supported by more than 20,000 people working on safety and security across Facebook," Chakrabarti added.

Facebook said its dashboards offer real-time monitoring on key elections issues, such as efforts to prevent people from voting, increases in spam, potential for-



The goal behind setting up the room was to get the right subject-matter experts from across the company in one place so they can address potential problems identified by its technology in real time

eign interference or reports of content that violates our policies.

The War Room team also monitors news coverage and election-related activity across other social networks and traditional media in order to identify what type of content may go viral. These preparations helped a lot during the first round of Brazil's presidential elections, claimed Facebook.

The social networking giant said its technology detected a false post claiming that Brazil's Election Day had been moved from October 7 to 8 due to national protests.

While untrue, that message began to go viral. But the team quickly detected the problem, determined that the post violated Facebook's policies, and removed it in under an hour.

"And within two hours, we'd removed other versions of the same fake news post," Chakrabarti said.

The team in the War Room, Facebook said, also helped quickly remove hate speech posts that were designed to whip up violence against people from Northeast Brazil after the first round of election results were called. "The work we are doing in the room builds on almost two years of hard work and significant investments, in both people and technology, to improve security on Facebook, including during elections," Chakrabarti said.

Facebook said that it was planning to set up a task force comprising "hundreds of people" ahead of the 2019 general elections in India.

"With the 2019 elections coming, we are pulling together a group of specialists to work together with political parties," said Richard Allan, Facebook's Vice President for Global Policy Solutions.

Facebook has also set a goal of bringing a transparency feature for political ads — now available in the US and Brazil — to India by March next year, Allan informed. With the new ad architecture in place, people would be able to see who paid for a particular political ad.

Ethiopians rule the roost in Delhi

Debutant Gemechu smashes women's course record, Belihu runs supreme in men's elite



Ethiopia's Tsehay Gemechu reacts after winning the Women's elite category

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

Debutant Tsehay Gemechu of Ethiopia set the new course record in the women's elite while countrymen Andamlak Belihu overcame neck to neck battle in the men's elite field as the Ethiopian duo raced to finish best at the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon here on Sunday.

It was maiden victory for both the winners at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, which saw over 34,681 participants turn up for race events in six different categories.

The 20-year-old Gemechu, running her maiden half marathon, clocked 1:06:50sec, four seconds better than the earlier women's course record of 1:06:54sec, which was set by Kenya's Mary Keitany in the 2009 edition.

"I wasn't expecting to win. It was a trial for me as this is the first time I ran a half marathon. I am delighted that I won against such famous athlete," a delighted Gemechu said after the race.

While the favourite and current world record holder, Joyciline Jepkosgei, finished with a Silver medal after completing the race at 1:06:56sec.

"I am happy for the second spot as I was unsure if I would finish on the podium at all. I didn't prepare for this race well," Joyciline said.

Zeineba Yimer of Ethiopia grabbed the last spot on the

TOP 3 MEN FINISHERS

RANK	NAME	COUNTRY	FINISH TIME
1	Andamlak Belihu	Ethiopia	59:18
2	Amdework Walegn	Ethiopia	59:22
3	Daniel Kipchumba	Kenya	59:48

TOP 3 WOMEN FINISHERS

RANK	NAME	COUNTRY	FINISH TIME
1	Tsehay Gemechu	Ethiopia	01:06:49
2	Joyciline Jepkosgei	Kenya	01:06:56
3	Zeineba Yimer	Ethiopia	01:06:59

podium with a time of 1:06:59sec.

Both Gemechu and Belihu pocketed the identical winners' cheque of \$ 27,000. Gemechu will take home an additional \$ 10,000 for setting a new course record.

However there was a disappointment for Tirunesh Dibaba, the greatest ever distance runner woman in the world with three Olympic, five World Championship Gold medals in 5000m and 10,000m, who finished sixth.

In the men's elite category, last year's runner up Belihu, improved on his personal best, clocking 59:18 seconds. However, he was unable to break the course record which still stands in the name of Ethiopia's Guye Adola, set in 2014.

Walegn clinched the Silver ending the race with a time of 59:22 seconds. While

Kenya's Daniel Kipchumba grabbed the third spot clocking 59:48 seconds.

The trio of Belihu, Walegn and Kipchumba led the pack from the start of the race with the Ethiopian duo soon racing ahead. It was a neck-to-neck battle between the two with the 19-year-old claiming victory at the finish line.

"I tried to push for the course record but it was difficult. I was second the last time so this time I prepared more. I tried to push the pace setter as well but it is difficult to run alone, away from everyone," Belihu said.

The Ethiopian ran away with four of the top positions, while Kenyans grabbed the remaining two positions.

Among the Indians, Abhishek Pal won the men's race clocking 1:04:13 seconds after a tough fight with 22-year-old Maharashtra run-



Winners of the Men's elite category Ethiopia's Andamlak Belihu (1st position, C), Ethiopia's Amdework Walegn (2nd position, R) and Kenya's Daniel Kipchumba (3rd position, L) pose for photo

The 20-year-old Gemechu, running her maiden half marathon, clocked 1:06:50sec, four seconds better than the earlier women's course record of 1:06:54sec, which was set by Kenya's Mary Keitany in the 2009 edition

ner Avinash Sable, who came second with the timing of 1:04:14sec. While Asian marathon champion Gopi Thonakal sealed the third spot on the podium finishing at 1:04:15sec.

Defending champion Nitendra Singh, who had created the course record in 2017, time finished 12th among the Indians at 1:06:37sec.

Sanjivani Jadhav was the best Indian in the women's elite field finishing with a time of 1:13:58sec.

"I was second here two years ago, I am glad that I have bettered my performance and won the Gold this time," Sanjivani said.

Parul Chaudhary, who finished third in the last edition did one better, secured the second spot on the podium clocking 1:14:01sec.

"I am a bit disheartened as I didn't perform as well as my preparation. I wanted to better my timing from last time but I wasn't able to do so," Parul said.

Monika Athare, who had taken the top honours in the 2016 edition, was unable to replicate the same performance this year and had to settle with the Bronze clocking 1:16:55sec.

The men's and women's winners among the Indians pocketed an identical ₹ four lakh each while the second and third place finishers were richer by ₹ three lakh and ₹ two lakh each.

Saina fails to break Tai's code

PTI ■ ODENSE

Saina Nehwal gave her all before losing steam as the ace Indian shuttler yet again succumbed to nemesis and world No 1 Tai Tzu Ying to settle for a runner-up finish at the Denmark Open here on Sunday.

In an exciting but energy-sapping 52-minute final, Saina lost 13-21, 21-13, 6-21 to the superior Chinese Taipei rival.

Tzu Ying claimed the Denmark Open title after a gap of two years. She had last won the tournament in 2016. The win also bettered Tzu Ying head-to-head record against Saina to 13-5.

In fact, this was Saina's fifth straight defeat against Tzu Ying this year. The Indian had come out second

best three times earlier this year -- Indonesia Masters, All England Championships and Badminton Asia Championships.

The top seed Taipei player meant business from the start as she dictated the pace in the first game to race to a 6-1 lead.

Saina looked indecisive but debatable poor line calls also cost her dearly. Tzu Ying on the other hand, was at her clinical best as she engaged Saina in long rallies to tire her out.

The Chinese Taipei shuttler never let the Indian opponent take the lead even once in the opening game as she led 11-6 and continued to maintain the upper hand. She pocketed the first game in mere 15 minutes.

But the world No 10 Indian, who



Saina Nehwal in action against Tai Tzu Ying

was unseeded here, was in no mood to give up without a fight and came out all guns blazing in the second game. Saina's play to adopt an attacking approach worked wonders as she completely dominated the second game.

Inspiration and tips from her fiancé Parupalli Kashyap at the end of the first game also motivated Saina who was at her fiery best in the second game.

Riding on her booming cross court smashes and some incisive from Tzu Ying, Saina led 11-5 at the break and then went on to win the game 21-13 to draw parity.

But the Indian failed to continue

with the momentum in the decider as her legs gave up in the wake of an intense match.

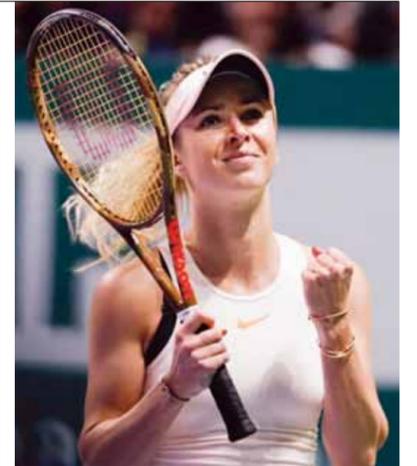
Tzu Ying curtailed her mistakes and once again engaged Saina in long rallies which drained out the Indian.

Unforced errors returned to haunt Saina in the third game as she was guilty of finding the net and hitting wide on numerous occasions.

Once Tzu Ying took a seven point lead at 9-2 it was always going to be difficult for Saina to comeback.

In the men's final, Japanese K Momota beats Chinese TC Chou in three sets to win the men's title.

World Championship Gold winner Momota, who beat Srikanth in semi-final got better of his opponent by 22-20, 16-21, 21-15.



Elina Svitolina celebrates after beating Petra Kvitova in WTA finals

Svitolina ends Kvitova curse in Singapore

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Karolina Pliskova and Elina Svitolina secured opening round-robin match wins at the WTA Finals on Sunday.

Pliskova, who now leads the tour with 48 wins this season, defeated defending champion Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark 6-2, 6-4 in the second match.

Pliskova saved all 10 break points she faced in the match, including two when serving for the match in the final game. The Czech closed out the match on a third match point with an ace.

Earlier, Elina Svitolina of Ukraine ended a seven-match losing streak against Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic for a 6-3, 6-3 win.

The seventh-ranked Svitolina, making her second consecutive appearance in Singapore, only earned qualification to this year's tournament last week when Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens failed to reach the

Moscow semifinals. Later, Bertens made the final eight when No 1 ranked Simona Halep withdrew with a herniated disk in her back.

"It's very nice to be back in Singapore and I'm very, very happy with the match tonight, with the performance tonight," Svitolina told the crowd. "I had to stay focused and be strong mentally. I had to play quickly and keep moving my feet so I need a massage now."

"You have to play your best level because everybody is very strong playing here."

Svitolina, who now holds a 1-0 record in the White Group, had only beaten Kvitova once before in their first match at the 2014 Cincinnati tournament. Sunday's victory was Svitolina's first against a top-10 opponent since May.

The fifth-ranked Kvitova, who won the year-end title in 2011, never looked settled and struggled with her serve throughout the 1 hour, 29 minutes match.

While, Kvitova came into Singapore with a tour-leading five titles this season.

Wozniacki came into the late match with a 6-3 career record over Pliskova, including their last meeting in the round-robin portion of last year's WTA Finals.

Wozniacki's best effort in the match was saving two match points on her serve in the ninth game of the second set.

'Let athletes fly business class'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian athletes should be allowed to fly business class for international tournaments and have their dietary allowances doubled, Indian Olympic Association Secretary General Rajeev Mehta requested Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on Sunday.

The IOA felicitated the Youth Olympic Games medal winners with cash prize of Rs 3 lakh, Rs 1.5 lakh and Rs 1 lakh respectively. "Often when we see officials travel business class for international events and I find athletes travelling economy, I feel embarrassed. I would request ministry to

consider business class journey for any destination that takes more than three hours," Mehta said in presence Rathore and sports secretary Rahul Bhatnagar.

"I can assure if we take care of these facilities and increase dietary supplement allowance from Rs 450 to Rs 1000, you will see results coming. Hope during the next event at SAI, the sports minister will give us some assurance," Mehta said.

IOA president Narinder Batra cautioned the athletes from complacency after success at the junior level.

Batra cited example of junior World Cup winning hockey players, who went astray after losing focus.

LOCAL EVENTS

KK KHARE EMERGES WINNER



Kapil Kumar Khare scored full points to emerge winner in the 11th Shivani Cup Sunday Open Chess Tournament at Shivani Public School on Sunday. Ravi Shankar and Kuldeep Shankar finished second and third respectively. Manav Bhattacharjee and Mayank Pandey settled for the fourth and fifth place respectively.

RESULTS: (U-10) 1-Sanyam Srivastava, 2-Ridham Nigam, 3-Ridhima; **(U-14)** 1-Sarthak Pandey, 2-Akshat Bhatnagar, 3-Simran Sadhwani; **(U-16)** 1-Aman Tripathi, 2-Aman Vishwakarma.

RAGHAV SCORES BRACE

Raghav scored a brace to help Lucknow Region beat Allahabad Region 4-1 in the Under-19 State Football Championship at Varanasi on Sunday. Raghav scored in the 10th and 55th minute while Shekhar and Shikhar netted one each in the 20th and the 45th minute respectively.

SHIA COLLEGE LIFT TROPHY

Shia PG College beat BSNV PG College by four wickets to win the 1st Lucknow University Inter-Collegiate Cricket Championship at Canning College ground on Sunday.

BRIEF SCORES:

BSNV: 40 (Ankur Shukla 21, Arpit Yadav 9; Hasan Akhtar 19/5, S Murtaza Ali 19/3) **Shia:** 41 (Hasan Akhtar 8, Mohd Adil 7; Ankur Shukla 7/3, Arpit Yadav 9/2).

MESSI SUFFERS INJURY AS BRACA MOVE TO TOP



Lionel Messi reacts after getting injured during the Spanish La Liga match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla at Camp Nou

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi is expected to be out for three weeks with a fractured right arm but his last contribution was to help send Barcelona back to the top of La Liga on Saturday.

Messi scored and then went off injured as Barca beat Sevilla 4-2 at Camp Nou, in a six-goal thriller that never looked like ending in anything other than a home win.

Any joy at jumping above in-form Sevilla, however, was tarnished by Messi's injury, which will now rule him out of next weekend's Clasico against Real Madrid.

A Barcelona club statement read: "Tests carried out on Leo Messi have confirmed that he has a fracture of the radial bone in his right arm. He will be out for approximately three weeks."

It means Messi will also miss the Champions League

HENRY SUFFERS DEFEAT ON DEBUT

PARIS: Thierry Henry suffered defeat in his first match as a head coach when his 10-man Monaco side slumped to a 2-1 loss at Strasbourg on Saturday to drop into the Ligue 1 relegation zone.

The principality club have failed to win in 11 games in all competitions since the opening weekend of the French top-flight season, and are only above bottom team Guingamp on goal difference.

Monaco, who were

runners-up to PSG last season, are now 24 points adrift of the reigning champions.

Seydou gifted Strasbourg midfielder Adrien Thomasson an early opener, and substitute Samuel Grandsir was sent off midway through the second half.

Lebo Mothiba doubled the advantage, and a late Yuri Tielemans penalty was a mere consolation for the 2017 Ligue 1 title-winners.

AFP

know what he does to the opposition. "We have to prepare ourselves, it is clear we are going to notice the loss of Messi but we have players that can cover."

Messi fell to the ground following a tussle with Sevilla's Franco Vazquez and, as his right hand tried to cushion the landing, his



La Liga

KOHLI, ROHIT SMASH WINDIES

Virat's 140, Hitman's 152* help India beat Caribbeans by 8 wickets in 1st ODI

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Skipper Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma conjured up breathtaking centuries as India's ruthless domination over the West Indies continued with a facile eight-wicket win in the first One-Day International, here on Sunday. Making mockery of what looked like a stiff 323-run target, the home team cantered to the win with 7.5 overs to spare, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Kohli pounded the Caribbean bowlers with 21 fours and two sixes to raise his 36th ODI century and now needs just 81 runs to join the elite club of cricketers who have amassed 10,000 runs in the One-day format.

After early departure of Shikhar Dhawan (4), Kohli raised a massive 246-run stand for the second wicket with Rohit, who remained unbeaten on 152. It was Rohit's 20th ODI hundred which came off 117 balls with 15 fours and eight sixes.

While Kohli and Rohit plundered boundaries to entertain the packed stadium, it painted a sorry picture of the West Indies attack, which once was intimidating for any batting line up in the world.

The only high point for the West Indies while defending their total was 21-year-old newcomer Oshane Thomas' raw pace up front.

Playing his first ODI in more than three months, Kohli was unstoppable. It seemed another routine affair for Kohli as he also got past the milestone of 2000 International runs in the calendar year.

He emulated iconic Sachin Tendulkar in scoring 2000-plus runs in three successive years. After Kohli was stumped off leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo, India's vice captain took the side home in company of Ambati Rayudu (22).

After their rout in the Test series, West Indies did a good job by putting on board a challenging 322 for eight, capitalising on the absence of India's front line pacers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah.

The duo has been rested for the first two



HIGHEST STANDS FOR INDIA AGAINST WI

RUNS	WKT	PARTNERS	VENUE	DATE
246	2nd	Virat Kohli/Rohit Sharma	Guwahati	21-10-2018
196	First	Sourav Ganguly/Virender Sehwag	Rajkot 1	2-11-2002
176	First	Ajay Jadeja/Sachin Tendulkar	Cuttack	09-11-1994
176	First	Gautam Gambhir/Virender Sehwag	Indore	08-12-2011
165	4th	Mohammed Kaif/Yuvraj Singh	Colombo	07-08-2005

Faisal Features

ODIs and the 21-year-old Shimron Hetmyer (106) put to sword an under-strength Indian attack to raise his third ODI hundred.

Hetmyer punished the Indian bowlers with six fours and as many sixes in his entertaining 78-ball knock.

However, any hopes of a close contest evaporated when Kohli and Rohit started striking the ball clean and hard.

The Indian bowling looked lacklustre while the fielding was shoddy as India, on a high after their Test series win, seemed to have underestimated their opponents.

The Guyanese lad brought up his half-century in 41 balls and brought up two 50-run plus partnerships with Rovman Powell (22) and skipper Jason Holder (38).

Hetmyer notched up his century by lofting Mohammed Shami for a six over extra cover. While he used brute force against the pace, Hetmyer also looked fluent against the spin duo of Yuzvendra Jadeja and Ravindra Jadeja before being dismissed by the latter after immediately betting the milestone mark.

Looking to redeem themselves after the 2-0 Test series thumping under six days, the touring side put up a strong challenge after being put in by home captain Virat Kohli.

Visiting skipper Jason Holder on the eve of the match had said 300-plus is the benchmark of ODI cricket and his young batters responded well with Devendra Bishoo taking the team past the milestone in the penul-

time over.

Opener Kieran Powell set up the foundation with a 39-ball 51 (6x4, 2x6) in a 67-run stand for the second wicket with Shai Hope (32).

Powell and his debutant opening partner Chandrapaul Hemraj dealt in boundaries against Shami and Yadav.

West Indies lost three wickets in quick succession but the Guyana youngster came to take charge after Marlon Samuels departed for a duck in his landmark 200th ODI.

FIGURATIVELY

152 Rohit becomes the second Indian to score 150+ runs against West Indies in an innings in limited over cricket.

4 Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma have scored hundreds in the same innings for the fourth time in One Day matches.

10 Rohit Sharma becomes the 10th batsman to score a century against all 10 oldest full members of International cricket.

246 Runs stand between Rohit and Kohli was the second highest second wicket stand in successful ODI chases. This was also the highest partnership for India batting ODI in 20-over game.

6 Rohit Sharma becomes the first batsman in International cricket to have six 150+ scores in ODI cricket.

83 Runs conceded by O Thomas is the worst performance for a Windies debutant in limited over game.

190 Rohit Sharma jumps to third position in terms of hitting most number of sixes for India in One day matches. Faisal Features

SINGLES

IND A FACE AUS A IN WOMEN'S T20

MUMBAI: India A women's team will clash with Australia A in a three-match T20 series beginning here on Monday as a tune-up for next month's T20 World Cup in the West Indies. The India A team announced for the series is the same that will represent the senior team at the women's T20 World Cup and as such the series will offer the hosts a good platform to test their strengths and shortcomings. With experienced campaigners like Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Mithali Raj in the home team's ranks, the Aussies will have a tougher time. The home team bowlers would also get a good chance to work on their weaknesses before heading to the West Indies.

ABBAS SHOOT TO THIRD IN TEST RANKINGS

DUBAI: Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Abbas rose to number three in the Test bowling rankings on Sunday following his 17 wickets in the series against Australia in the United Arab Emirates. The 28-year-old took 10 to 95 to help Pakistan to their biggest Test win — a 373-run hammering of Australia — in the second Test in Abu Dhabi. The new International Cricket Council (ICC) rankings see Abbas shoot to third from 14th and he is now behind only England's James Anderson and South Africa's Kagiso Rabada. Abbas has taken 59 wickets in his 10 matches and became the joint second-fastest Pakistani to take 50 wickets with legendary paceman Waqar Younis and Shabir Ahmed. Pakistan's leg-spinner Yasir Shah was the fastest to reach 50 wickets, taking just nine Tests.

BECKY ENDS WAIT FOR MAIDEN PRO WIN

GURUGRAM: India's rising stars Gaurika Bishnoi and Tvesha Malik were the top home players at tied 13th place even as Becky Morgan of Wales ended a 18-year-old barren run to secure her first ever professional title at the Hero Women's Indian Open, here Sunday. The two youngsters, who are only in their second year of professional golf, shot 73 and 72 respectively to finish at one-over 289, eight shots behind Becky Morgan (68, and 7-under 281). Vani Kapoor (70), who played with tendinitis this week, and Astha Madan (70) were Tied-37th. In her 18th year on tour, and after rounds of 72, 72, 68 and 69, for a total of 281, Becky could finally enjoy her moment in the sun. "It's taken me 18 years and it's a mixture of excitement and relief that finally I have done it. I knew I was doing fairly well, because I was playing well, but I kept to myself and let it happen," she said.

SHARMA ENDS 55TH, KOEPKA BECOMES NO 1

JEJU ISLAND: After a sublime third round, Shubhankar Sharma shot a modest 74 to finish a distant Tied-55th at the CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES here on Sunday. Sharma had four birdies and four bogeys and an eagle in his round of 74 as he totaled 1-under 287. His third round of 64 had seen him rise to T-26 and raised hopes of coming inside Top-20 after a T-10 finish at CIMB Classic a week earlier. The star of the day was three-time major champion and 2018 PGA Tour Player of the Year Brooks Koepka, who produced a commanding 8-under 64 with a closing eagle to beat back the opposition by four shots. Koepka totaled 21-under total of 267. With the victory, Brooks Koepka moves to No 1 in the official rankings for the first time in his career, passing Dustin Johnson for the top spot. Koepka has now won three of his last 11 starts on the PGA TOUR.

PRAJNESH ENDS 2ND AT NINGBO CHALLENGER

NEW DELHI: Prajnesh Gunneswaran will have to wait for his second title of the season on the ATP Challenger circuit as he finished runner-up at the Ningbo Challenger in China after playing his heart out in the final against Thomas Fabbiano. After losing a close first set, Prajnesh won the second but eventually lost a marathon summit clash 6-7(4), 6-4, 3-6 after battling hard for almost three hours against the Italian, who is ranked 131 but reached a career-high 70 last year. The 28-year-old Indian, ranked 170, was playing his second final of the season on the Challenger circuit having won the Kunming Challenger in April this year. The Indian left-hander earned 65 ranking points and pocketed \$ 12,720 as prize money for his effort.

Agencies

West Indies series will be crucial for Dhoni: Ganguly



PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Sunday backed struggling Mahendra Singh Dhoni to do well in the World Cup and said the ongoing series against West Indies would be crucial for the veteran stumper looking forward to next year's showpiece event.

A colossus in ODI cricket, of late Dhoni is struggling with his batting and his scores have dwindled in the last few years.

Starting with the five-match ODI series against West Indies here, India have 18-odd matches left for the World Cup and the think-tank has brought in dashing Delhi wicketkeeper batsman Rishabh Pant in the mix to spice up the scenario.

"I don't know what combination they are thinking at. But I'm sure he (Dhoni)

will do well in the World Cup. It's (against West Indies) big series for him," Ganguly said at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium while watching the ODI.

In the Asia Cup, Dhoni batted four times, scoring 77 runs with an average of 19.25 and a strike rate of 62.09.

Overall in 2018, he has batted 10 times in 15 matches, for an average of 28.12 and a strike rate of 67.36.

Dhoni has an unimpressive record in the seaming conditions of England where he is yet to score a century from 20 ODIs, and averages 38.06, a sharp drop from his career average of 50.61.

"His overall record is very good," Ganguly pointed out.

"It all depends how the players perform going ahead to the World Cup. It's about scoring runs. That's why Pant has been given a chance," he added.

'Rohit makes chasing look easy'

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday hailed his deputy Rohit Sharma for his superlative batting display, saying it is easy to chase down any target when the Mumbai batsman is at the other end.

Kohli (140) and Rohit (152 not out) shared a massive 246-run partnership for the second wicket as India mowed down a challenging 323-run target with 7.5 overs to spare.

"It feels pretty good. It was very convincing for us. West Indies put up a really good total. 320 targets are very tricky, but we knew we could do it with a big partnership. It's never too difficult when you have Rohit at the other end," said Kohli.

"Among the top three, I mostly take the anchor role because both Rohit and Shikhar (Dhawan) are good stroke-makers," he said.

Kohli was adjudged man-of-the-match for his 107-ball knock and the India skipper said he enjoyed his batting on Sunday.

"It was one of those days where I felt good and I told Rohit I will continue to bat this way positively and maybe you can play the



Rovman Powell, right, greets Rohit Sharma after India won the 1st ODI AP

anchor role," he said.

Kohli said building partnerships is the key to success in One Day International cricket.

"When (Ambati) Rayudu came he took that role and Rohit took over from me. I think that's what ODI batting is all about. It's about communication and batting in partnerships," he said.

"It's our 5th or 6th double-century partnership, it's a pleasure to bat with him (Rohit). When we are batting like that, it's good fun out there and we know the team will benefit from it as well."

The India captain refused to be too harsh on his bowlers for leaking runs but said they could have bowled much better at the

death. "You got to be honest to the sport and that is when the sport gives you back. It's difficult to contain when a side like West Indies bats like that. I don't want to be too harsh on the bowlers, but yes, we could have applied a bit better and bowled better in the last few overs. That is something to learn for us," Kohli said.

West Indies captain Jason Holder too felt the pair of Kohli and Rohit took the game away from the visitors with their scintillating batting display.

He also praised young Shimron Hetmyer, who scored 106 off 78 balls to propel West Indies to the total.

It was Hetmyer third century in 13 innings of International cricket.

"Pleased with the guys for the batting effort. Hetmyer batted exceptionally well. We needed to be a lot more decent with the ball. Probably we got a par score," he said.

"(But) credit to Kohli and Rohit for taking the game away from us. Oshane (Thomas) is one of the exciting talents we have got. Hopefully we can play better in the second game."

No medals but Asiad was the best I ever shot: Manu Bhaker

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

She returned empty-handed from the Asian Games but Manu Bhaker on Sunday said she delivered a career-best performance in Palembang with the record-shattering qualifying score of 593 in 25m pistol event.

Considered the most promising among India's Gen-Next shooter, Bhaker won Gold and Silver in 10m air pistol individual and mixed event at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires recently, overcoming the Asiad disappointment.

Asked how difficult it was to shrug off the Asiad show before Youth Olympics, Bhaker said: "On the contrary, I would say Asian Games served as a huge morale-booster. I shot 593 in 25m pistol event (qualifying) which I believe is my best performance till date. A score like 593 doesn't happen everyday."

"I don't think I ever shot better than that qualifying round. Yes, I missed out on a medal but that 593 is like a benchmark for me. When I need inspiration, that performance serves as a morale-booster," 16-year-old said at the sidelines of the IOA felicitation function for



Commonwealth and Youth Olympics Gold medalist Indian shooter Manu Bhaker poses for photo PTI

the Youth Olympics medalists. Bhaker rates her Youth Olympic medal as one of the major highs of her career considering the level of competition.

"It feels fantastic to win Gold for India. To see the tri-colour flying itself is a matter of pride. Each and every competition has helped me evolve as a shooter," said the reigning Commonwealth Games champion in 10m air pistol event.

"This is my debut year in international events and I am only

Bajrang moves closer to gold

PTI ■ BUDAPEST

Living up to the expectations, Lstar Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia put himself in contention for a historic World Championship Gold medal after quelling a spirited challenge from Alejandro Enrique Valdes Tobier in a tense 65kg semifinal here on Sunday.

The Commonwealth Games and Asian Games Gold medalist ensured himself a second medal at the Worlds, having won a Bronze at the 2013 edition. The in-form 24-year-old had come into the event as one of the strong medal contenders and has continued with his red-hot form this season.

If Bajrang manages to win Gold, it will be a rare achievement to win titles at all major championships in a single season.

While he had dominated the competitions at CWG and Jakarta Asian Games this year, Bajrang's road to the final in Budapest was not easy as he had to use all his mental and physical prowess to down his Cuban opponent (4-3) in the semifinal after overcoming Mongolia's Tulga Tumur Ochir (5-3) win in



Bajrang Punia reacts after defeating her opponent PTI

the quarter-finals.

There were not many attacking moves in the semifinal with both Bajrang and Tobier mostly using the upper body power. Bajrang opened the scoring with a takedown but the Cuban reduced the margin by pushing the Indian out.

Seconds before the first break, Bajrang took a 4-1 lead with a throw move.

The second period was again very intense and no grapple could score a point until the Cuban found a two-point move at the edge of the circle. Pressure

was mounting with Bajrang's coach shouting 'attack' 'attack' from outside. Tobier tried everything but the Indian maintained his lead to emerge victorious.

Earlier, Bajrang defeated Roman Asharin 9-4 in the first round and beat Korean Lee Seungchul 4-0 but faced stiff competition from Tumor Ochir.

In other bouts of the day, Sandeep Tomar began in stupendous fashion but could not sustain the momentum. He out-classed Jose Mox Arias by technical superiority but lost the second round to G Edisherashvili.