

OPINION 8
MAKING GERMANY GREAT AGAIN?

AVENUES 10
IT ROLES TRANSFORMING CAREER | IN HEALTHCARE SECTOR

WORLD 13
SAUDIS PRE-PLANNED KHASHOGGI MURDER: ERDOGAN

Established 1864
Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR
CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN

Late City Vol. 154 Issue 286
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer

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SEAL SERIES
16 SPORT

War in CBI sucks top names from AP, T

Satish Babu Sana is at heart of ongoing tussle, apart from CM Ramesh, Mohammed Ali Shabbir

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

The vortex of internal war in the premier investigation agency, Central Bureau of Investigation, is threatening to suck in many prominent political figures of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

While a controversial businessman from Andhra Pradesh, Satish Babu Sana, is at the heart of the ongoing war between the two top officials of CBI — Director Alok Verma and Special Director Rakesh Asthana — over an alleged bribery case within the agency, many more names from the two Telugu States have cropped up. They include CM Ramesh, Telugu Desam Party MP and a close associate of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N

Chandrababu Naidu, and Mohammed Ali Shabbir, senior Congress leader in Telangana.

Another interesting name coming up in the context of raging controversy is that of former Joint Director of CBI VV Lakshminarayana, who recently took voluntary retirement from service to enter active politics.

Different stories are doing the rounds about each of these key players whose profile make interesting reading:

Satish Babu Sana: He has emerged as a pivotal figure in the entire sordid drama as it was based on his complaint that the CBI registered FIR against its number 2 officer Special Director Rakesh Asthana. Sana reportedly told the CBI he paid a bribe of ₹2 crore to Alok

Verma to be "spared" in a case under CBI investigation. Asthana complained to the Cabinet Secretariat that Sana had reached a settlement with the CBI Director Alok Verma to avoid his arrest through TDP member of Rajya Sabha and industrialist CM Ramesh.

Sana has now become a complainant against Asthana and accused that at his behest Sana's statement was "falsified" by Deputy SP Devender Kumar to "frame" the CBI boss in meat exporter Moin Qureshi case.

The Hyderabad-based industrialist, Sana, is quite an influential and well-connected figure. From his humble start as an employee of Government electricity department at Kakinada — a job he got on compassionate ground after the death of his father — Sana went places and today he is a director of half a dozen companies and was closely associated with several top politicians and people from Telugu film industries. List of his friends in



high places include late Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy, his son YS Jaganmohan Reddy, present Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, KVP Ramachandra Rao, MP, CM Ramesh, noted film producer D Suresh and prominent industrialist Nimmagadda Prasad and controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi, who is now facing charges of tax evasion and illegal transfer of money.

It was in a money laundering case related to Moin Qureshi that Sana was facing a CBI investigation. The CBI FIR booked against Asthana says that a Dubai-based middle man had paid ₹3 crore as a bribe to a conduit named Somesh Prasad for settling the case in his favour.

Controversies are not new for Satish Babu Sana. Earlier, he was under CBI scrutiny in one of the cases of disproportion-

ate assets of YS Jaganmohan Reddy. It was alleged that the YSR Government had allocated 22,000 acre land to industrialist Nimmagadda Prasad in Guntur-Prakasham belt and in quid pro quo the industrialist made an investment of ₹854 crores in Jagan's companies. In its chargesheet in this case, the CBI had said that Sana had paid ₹50 lakh to Moin Qureshi to settle the case and appoint the VV Lakshminarayana as the CBI Joint Director in Hyderabad.

Later Lakshminarayana had led the investigations into cases against Jagan.

But Sana denied the allegation and said that he had made a legal investment in Moin Qureshi's meat export company.

CM Ramesh: Industrialist-turned-politician CM Ramesh was recently in the news when the Income Tax department and Enforcement Directorate carried out raids against his companies and claimed finan-

cial irregularities in his record. Now his name has again cropped up in the context of infighting in the CBI. While Asthana alleged that he mediated on behalf of Sana, Ramesh has alleged that there was a high-level conspiracy hatched by BJP president Amit Shah to frame him.

Ramesh, who is in Vienna along with his family, said in a statement that he was being targeted systematically by Amit Shah and the BJP Government ever since he contested and was elected to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament. "I won despite opposition of Amit Shah and I was warned of consequences," he said.

Ramesh also said the BJP Government was going after him because he took up the case of steel plant in Kadapa and sat on a hunger strike to press the issue.

adding that the BJP is trying to suffocate the TDP leaders.

Mohammed Ali Shabbir: Shabbir is presently the Leader of Opposition in Telangana Legislative Council and is likely to contest Assembly elections. His name was mentioned in the purported statement Sana gave to the CBI alleging that Shabbir had accompanied him to the CBI office in Delhi to lodge a complaint against Asthana and Deputy SP Devender Kumar.

Shabbir strongly denied allegation that he visited the CBI office with Sana. Interestingly Shabbir's name already figures in the Enforcement Directorate chargesheet in which it was claimed that Shabbir and Moin Qureshi had visited the CBI office to help Hyderabad-based jeweller Sakesh Gupta of MBS Jewellers.

Shabbir said he did not receive any notice from the CBI but confirmed that he knew both Sakesh Gupta and Sana.

6-day HC breather for Asthana from arrest

Court orders status quo in probe against CBI Special Director, remands Dy SP in 7-day agency custody

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI will be interrogating its own Dy SP Devender Kumar for one week in the custody in the murky bribery scandal that reached the Delhi High Court on Tuesday. The court sent Kumar, a member of CBI Special Director RK Asthana probe team, to seven-day custody and directed the CBI to maintain status quo on the criminal proceedings initiated against Asthana. Both Kumar and Asthana have challenged the FIR lodged against him on bribery allegations.

Justice Najmi Waziri also sought response of the probe agency and its Director Alok Kumar Verma as also Joint Director AK Sharma on the separate pleas of Asthana and Devender Kumar for quashing of the FIRs against them.

The notice has also been issued to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), which has jurisdiction over the CBI and its permission is required for registering an FIR against bureaucrats.

Following the HC order, the CBI cannot arrest Asthana till October 29, the next date of hearing. The court, however, clarified that there is no stay on the probe considering the nature and gravity of the case. The CBI has suspended Kumar.

The order asking the CBI to maintain the status quo till October 29 has been issued on



Suspended Dy SP of CBI Devender Kumar being produced at Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

Asthana's plea only. Meanwhile, sources said the CBI Director has divested Asthana of all functional power and took away all cases being probed by him. Sources also said that the CBI boss has made adverse remarks against Asthana in his annual assessment report that could seal Asthana's chances of being promoted to the CBI chief post.

The HC, which heard the matter for 20 minutes, asked both Asthana and Kumar to preserve the records which are in their custody, including mobile phones.

The court listed the matter for October 29 after CBI's counsel K Raghavacharyulu sought time to bring on record various Sections under which

the FIR was lodged. During the hearing, the CBI said charges against Asthana are serious and the agency is investigating the matter and is likely to add more offences in the FIR.

Senior advocate Amrendra Sharan and advocate Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing for Asthana, said it is a case of malafide and illegal registration of FIR against the Special CBI Director which is based on the statement of an accused.

The advocate said there was "utmost urgency" and great amount of "sorrow" in the matter.

To this, the judge said this was not the stage to examine the allegation of malafide.

Continued on Page 6

SC constricts Diwali revelling to 2 hours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

People in the country can burst firecrackers from 8 PM to 10 PM only on Diwali and other festivals, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday, allowing manufacture and sale of just the "green crackers" which have low emission of light, sound and harmful chemicals.

The top court carved out an exception for the Christmas and the New Year eve saying that crackers for these occasions would be burst between 11.55 pm and 12.30 am, since these celebrations start at midnight.

It also banned the manufacture, sale and use of joined firecrackers (series crackers or laris) saying that they cause "huge air, noise and solid waste problems".

The apex court said the noise and smoke emission limits of the crackers will have to be approved by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO), under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

To curb pollution in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), it directed the Centre, the Delhi Government and State Governments of NCR to permit community fire-cracking, wherever it could be done.

A Bench of Justices AK Sikri and Ashok Bhushan said though burning of crackers during Diwali was not the only reason for worsening air quality, it contributed to air pollution in a significant way.

The Bench accepted the



People purchase firecrackers in a market ahead of the festival of Diwali in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

suggestions given by the Centre saying the measures strive a nice balance between competing interests of right to liveli-

hood and health and concerned authorities to implement the same with immediate effect.

"The crackers with reduced emission (improved crackers) and green crackers...Only would be permitted to be manufactured and sold," it said while banning the production and sale of crackers other than green crackers.

According to the suggestions of Union of India, "improved crackers" are those which avoid use of ash as desiccant or filler materials in crackers for reduction in particulate matters by 15-20 per cent.

It said that the green crackers are those which have low emission sound and light emitting functional crackers with PM reduction by 30-35 per cent and significant reduction in nitrogen oxide and sulphur dioxide.

Continued on Page 6

ED files chargesheet against Sterling for ₹8k cr loan fraud

SBL Group promoters splurged bank loans on personal purpose

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday filed a prosecution complaint (chargesheet) in a ₹8,100 crore money laundering case against Sterling Biotech Ltd (SBL) Group, which has been accused of defrauding Indian banks in the country and their branches abroad.

The ED investigation revealed that main promoters of Sterling Group Nitin Sandesara and Chetan Sandesara, Dipti Sandesara and

others hatched a criminal conspiracy to cheat banks. "They manipulated figures in the balance sheets of their flagship companies and induced banks to sanction higher loans. After obtaining loans, they diverted the loans funds to non-mandated purposes through a web of shell companies," the ED said in a statement.

The ₹8,100 crore loans were diverted, layered and laundered by the promoters for their personal purposes. The case against SBL Group was registered in August 2017.

The prosecution complaint has been filed against 191 accused entities/persons, including seven individuals and 184 companies. The accused entities, include flag-

ship companies of the group like Sterling Biotech Limited, PMT Machines Limited, Sterling SEZ and Infra Limited, Sterling Port Limited, Sterling Oil Resources Limited and 179 Shell Companies.

The charge-sheeted individuals include Nitin Sandesara and Chetan Sandesara, Dipti Sandesara, Rajbhushan Dixit, Hitesh Patel, their Chartered Accountant Hemant Hathi and middlemen Gagan Dhawan.

"To fulfil their criminal motive of defrauding banks, the promoters devised a multi-layered strategy of cheating whereby they not only cheated banks but also cheated revenue department as well as the shareholders.

Continued on Page 6

Markets plunge to 6-month low on rupee woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty fell for the fourth session in a row to hit their over six-month low levels, dragged by IT and pharmaceutical stocks as concerns over rupee fall, global trade war and geo-political tensions resurfaced.

The BSE index ended 287.15 points lower at 33,847.23 — the weakest closing since April 10, when the 30-share gauge had settled at 33,880.25. Similarly, the NSE Nifty dropped 98.45 points to end at 10,146.80 — its lowest closing since April 4.

Meanwhile, the rupee depreciated to 73.82 against the US dollar, which too had a negative influence.

CAPSULE

UNITED OPP PACT FOR '19 POLLS UNLIKELY: PAWAR

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday indicated that a national level pre-poll Opposition alliance for the 2019 general elections was unlikely but said he was trying to bring the non-BJP parties together on a common platform in a bid to defeat the ruling NDA.

SABARIMALA: SC TO HEAR REVIEW PLEAS ON NOV 13

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it would hear on November 13 the petitions challenging its Sabarimala verdict allowing women of all age groups entry into the temple.

FIVE PAK NATIONALS APPREHENDED

Gandhidham: Five Pakistani nationals were caught by the BSF from Indian territorial waters in the Arabian Sea.

Former CSC jumps off HC bldg, dies

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Chief Standing Counsel (CSC) Ramesh Pandey died after he fell down from the fourth floor of the new High Court building in Gomti Nagar on Tuesday afternoon. The police said Pandey was suffering from depression and committed suicide. The body had been sent for autopsy and a sub-inspector was assigned the task to conduct an investigation in the case.

The post-mortem report that came in late night confirmed shock and haemorrhage due to ante-mortem injuries as the cause of death.

As per reports, Pandey left for his chamber on the 14th floor of the building after having tea with his colleagues. Around 1.30 pm, some of the advocates and their clients spotted him falling down on the ground and raised an alarm. Pandey was rushed to

Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where the doctors declared him "brought dead upon arrival". "His head was ripped off after it banged against the ground when he fell down. Besides, he suffered multiple fractures and the same would be ascertained after the autopsy was conducted," the doctors at RML told newsmen.

The police spokesman said the doctors sent a memo to this effect to Vibhuti Khand police station around 2 pm and a team, led by sub-inspector Bharat Kumar, reached the High Court to conduct investigation. The spokesman said Pandey jumped off the window in the gallery on the third floor of his chamber. He said ACM IV conducted the inquest on the body.

It surfaced that Pandey had quit the post of CSC on July 18 citing personal reasons. He, along with his wife and two children, was living in Vibhuti



Khand locality. "The police had requested the High Court administration to provide them the footages of CCTVs installed on the court premises to get exact sequence of the incident," he said.

His colleagues told newsmen that Pandey was of a very helpful nature. "As a person, he had no match. He was always ready to help out his juniors and even was equally supportive to his peer group and those

senior to him," advocate Manoj Gupta said.

A huge number of advocates assembled at the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital soon after the news of the death of Ramesh Pandey reached them on Tuesday afternoon and demanded that a case of murder be registered in that connection.

The advocates refused to believe police claim that Pandey had committed suicide and said Pandey was not so ill-lived that he would end his life. They demanded a thread bare probe into the incident making the cops feel twitchy.

Pandey's nephew Priyank Pandey apprehended foul play and demanded registration of a case of murder. He said Pandey was very audacious. "I doubt he would take such a step. There is something amiss. The police should probe the case," he demanded.

Continued on Page 6

PSP(Lohia) is Shivpal party

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) will be the name of the new party headed by Shivpal Yadav. On Tuesday, at an event in Lucknow to enrol new members, Shivpal announced that the new party had been registered with Election Commission of India.

Shivpal parted company with the Samajwadi Party in August and floated Samajwadi Secular Morcha on August 29 before announcing that his party would contest all 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh in 2019 elections.

Close Shivpal aide and former minister Sharda Pratap Shukla said that the new party would be a force to reckon with in the state.

Shivpal Yadav said that he had always wanted 'unity' in

Brazen Pakistan Army hits Brigade HQ after 21 years

No casualty after shell from across LoC lands in Poonch

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

In one of the gravest provocations from Pakistan, Brigade headquarters of the Indian Army in Poonch was targeted by the Pakistan Army on Tuesday morning. After 1997, this is for the first time a shell from across the Line of Control (LoC) has landed in Poonch city located more than 5 km from the LoC.

According to preliminary reports, the local police and Army authorities are investigating the nature of the shell used in targeting Brigade headquarters.



An Army official looks inside an 'unmanned' store hit by a shell fired from across the LoC inside Poonch Brigade headquarters on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

of Defence Spokesman in Jammu Lt-Col Devendra Anand said, "Around 10.35 am during ceasefire violation, Pakistan troops fired Rocket propelled grenades (RPG). One

round landed on a barrel type store shelter in Poonch causing it to catch fire. Initial analysis indicates calibre of 105/106 mm RCL was used."

Continued on Page 6

Togadia to float new party

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Giving the clarion call of 'Abki baar Hindu sarkar', Antarrashtriya Vishwa Parishad (International Hindu Council) chairman Praveen Bhai Togadia declared that he would float a new party and contest the next Lok Sabha election but stopped short of naming the proposed outfit.

Hitting out at the BJP but without naming Prime Minister Narendra Modi or others, Togadia, former Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) international general secretary, alleged that the present regime had ditched the Hindus by backing away from constructing the Ram temple at Ayodhya.



Antarrashtriya Hindu Parishad president Pravin Togadia addresses during a rally near the 'samadhi' of Ram Chandra Paramhans, in Ayodhya on Tuesday

Addressing a mammoth Sankalp Sabha on the banks of Saryu river in Ayodhya on Tuesday, Togadia said that it was unfortunate that Lord Rama failed to get justice in the last four-and-a-half years.

"Those people who promised to construct Ram temple at Ayodhya and came to power, forgot the promise they made to the people. Instead, they constructed a lavish party office by spending Rs 500 crore while Lord Rama still has to do with a tent in Ayodhya," he lamented.

Togadia announced his entry into active politics and to contest the Lok Sabha elections and said that the name of his

party would soon be announced in New Delhi. "If we come to power, our main focus will be on Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura. We will also bring a law to control population of minorities and end minority status of Muslims," Togadia said underlining his party's priorities and appealing to all Hindu organisations to join his party.

Raising the slogan of 'Abki Baar Hindu Sarkar', the International Hindu Council chairman said that if his party came to power in 2019, then

construction work in Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura would commence in three months. He said that his outfit would continue raising the issue of 'Ram Mandir nahi to vote nahi'. He also gave the slogan of 'Ek booth, 25 youth'. "We have to give a new alternative before the majority Hindu voters as the present government has failed to honour its promise," he said.

Prior to the rally, the police had a hard time controlling supporters of Togadia as they suddenly changed their route and decided to go for a darshan

of Ram Lalla at the dispute site. The exuberant supporters scuffled with the police as the latter used mild force to disperse them. The situation was, however, brought under control after Togadia intervened and decided not to go for Ramkot Parikarma for darshan of Ram Lalla.

Security personnel also took several stringent measures to prevent any untoward incident near the disputed site and, for some time, they only allowed the locals to enter Ayodhya.

Babbar's exit as UPCC chief now a certainty

PREETAM SRIVASTAVA ■ LUCKNOW

With Congress chief Rahul Gandhi deciding to remove Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee chief and form a new team to revive the outfit in the state ahead of 2019 Lok Sabha poll, the change of guard could be very prompt.

The conjecture gains credence as grapevine has it that UPCC chief Raj Babbar has conveyed his willingness to focus on fighting poll than carry the gargantuan yoke of party responsibility.

Congress sources confirmed that UPCC could have a new head anytime soon as the party chief was decided on the issue and that was why he did not clear the Congress state committee or even district and city committees.

"Babbar met Rahul Gandhi and expressed willingness to step down as state party chief as he intended to focus on fighting the 2019 Parliament elections and hence nurse his constituency," said a Congress leader.

Rahul had already decided on the issue and hence Babbar could be relieved but his 'star appeal' could be used during campaigning ahead of the Parliament poll.

Sources also confirmed that Babbar was likely to contest the 2019 Parliament poll from Lucknow and has started preparing his ground for the same. Earlier in the mid 90s, Babbar had contested from Lucknow against then Prime



WAITING TO PLAY NEW ROLE

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee but lost.

Just a few days back during 'Ram Dhun' campaign to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, Babbar walked several miles with local leaders to strike a rapport with the people of Lucknow. He also spent some time at a tea stall in Lalbagh in the evening and had a cuppa and shared his views with some eminent personalities of the city.

To prepare a team specifically for poll purpose in Lucknow, Babbar started handing over responsibilities to local leaders besides nominating a large number of social activists from Lucknow in the UPCC media team. For this, Babbar even ignored the AICC criteria of a written test for selecting the media team members.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates No (s) P0000596 for 50 shares bearing distinctive No (s) 2172142-2172191 standing in the name (s) of PRADEEP-KAPOOR in the books of M/s Maharashtra Scooters Ltd. Limited, has/have been lost/misplaced/destroyed and the advertiser has/have applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificate (s) in lieu thereof. Any person (s) who has/have claim (s) on the said shares should lodge such claim (s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer Agents Viz Karvy Computershare Pvt. Limited, 46, Avenue 4, Street No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-500 034 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate (s) in respect of the said shares. Name (s) of the shareholder (s) PRADEEP KAPOOR MIG-13 Napier Road Part II Thakurganj, Lucknow Date : 23.10.2018 Place : Lucknow

4 inmates hurt in jail clash

Lucknow (PNS): Four undertrials were injured when two groups came to a head inside Mathura district jail in the early hours of Tuesday. Ironically, Mathura jail authorities did not inform the local administration about the development aiming to conceal it and shifted the injured to the jail hospital from where one of them was shifted to the district hospital. No case was registered in the matter so far.

The incident was also hushed up by the jail brass as one

of the accused used knives to attack each other, but how the sharp-edged weapons found their way inside the barracks would be difficult for the officials to explain.

Ashok Kumar of Chatrapur (Bihar) was lodged in Mathura district jail after being arrested in a murder case. On Tuesday morning, Ashok had a tiff with two inmates, identified as Veerpal and Bhola of the same barrack. The matter snowballed with both parties brandishing knives and attacking each other.

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)

(Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhand)
IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT-07, IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun - 248001
Ph: 0135-305503, email: ditda-uk@nic.in

Ref: 90/ITDA-489(A)/2018 Date: 23/10/2018
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Supply Installation and Maintenance of Video Conferencing Equipments for Govt. of Uttarakhand
Tender No: 04/ITDA-489(A)/SPA-VC/2018 dated 25/09/2018
Corrigendum-3

Please refer to the Tender No:04/ITDA-489(A)/SPA-VC/2018 dated 25/09/2018, following amendments are being made in the bid submission end date and bid opening date:-
1) The end date for submission of bids is extended to 05th November 2018 till 1.00 PM
2) The date of opening of Technical bid is extended to 05th November 2018 at 3.00 PM at ITDA.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.
RO_903 DIRECTOR

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No. 83/2018

Important Notice for Rail Passengers

It is notified for information of general public that due to NI work at Dehri On Sone Station of EC Railway following trains will be cancelled/Diverted-

- 1-Cancellation -**
(1)Train no 11045 Chatrapati Shahuji Mahraj Terminal-Dhanbad Exp JCO 25.10.2018 will be cancelled
(2)Train no 11046 Dhanbad-Chatrapati Shahuji Mahraj Terminal Exp JCO 29.10.2018 will be cancelled
(3)Train no 15022 Gorakhpur-Shalimar Exp JCO 29.10.2018 will be cancelled
(4)Train no 23232 Kolkata-Ghaziपुर City Exp JCO 25.10.2018 will be cancelled
(5)Train no 23234 Ghaziपुर City-Kolkata Exp JCO 26.10.2018 will be cancelled
(6)Train no 13167 Kolkata-Agra cantt. Exp JCO 25.10.2018 will be cancelled
(7)Train no 13168 Agra cantt.-Kolkata Exp JCO 27.10.2018 will be cancelled
- 2-Diversion :-**
Train no 15021 Shalimar - Gorakhpur Express leaving shalimar on 23.10.2018 will be diverted via Asansol-Jhanjha-Barauni-Shahpur Patori-Hazipur-Chhpara-Gorakhpur instead of its normal route Kharagpur-Gomo-Gaya-P.Deendayal Upadhyay-Varanasi-Gorakhpur
- CPRO-T/54** Chief Pass Trans Manager, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955
"Never travel on roof and roof boards"

Shah to hold crucial meet today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

To take stock of the preparations for 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP president Amit Shah will visit Lucknow on Wednesday and have a day-long brainstorming session with senior leaders to evaluate the party's prospects and also review the performance of Yogi government and sitting BJP MPs at Anandi Water Park on the fringes of the state capital.

A senior BJP leader told this reporter that the meeting assumed importance as it would be held to evaluate the party's reach up to the village level.

"Recently booth-level meetings were held where senior leaders were asked to stay for a night in villages. The response of these leaders will be evaluated in this meeting," he said.

Shah has set a target of winning 75 out of the 80 Lok Sabha seats of UP. In 2014, the BJP and its ally bagged 73 seats but in recent by-polls its candidates lost three seats.

The meeting is slated to begin around 9 am and is expected to continue till Wednesday evening. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, senior RSS functionary Krishna Gopal, state BJP chief

Mahendra Nath Pandey, general secretary (organisation) Sunil Bansal and other party leaders would attend the meet.

Interestingly, the meeting is likely to discuss the party's stand on Ram temple as this will be held at the backdrop of Pravin Togadia's announcement of the launch of a new political outfit. On Tuesday, Togadia also announced in Ayodhya that he would contest the next Parliamentary election. Sources said that the meeting is also likely to evaluate the performance of Yogi government and its ministers. It may be decided at the meet to axe some non-performing ministers and those facing

corruption charges. There are at least four legislators who are in the line to join the ministry and a green signal from Shah in this meeting could be crucial.

कानपुर नगर निगम
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(E-Tendering Mode)

निर्गत आदेश सं./118/जलउपकरण तिथि : 23.10.18
Request for Qualification (RFQ) cum request for proposal (RFP) for Development and Construction of Kanha Gausihala at Village Jana Jajmau Kanpur On TURN KEY BASIS

Bids are invited from the eligible bidders for Development & Construction of Kanha Gausihala for Stray Cattle. Including Defect Liability Period for one year at Village Jana Jajmau, Kanpur. U.P. on behalf of Municipal Commissioner, Kanpur, Municipal Corporation Kanpur, U.P.

1 Ref. No.	
2 Completion Period for Construction	06 Months
3 Period and Places of sale of Bidding Documents online	From 24.10.2018 from 1:00 pm to 31.10.2018 till 12:00 Noon The documents are to be downloaded from the website of http://etender.up.nic.in
4 Last Date and Time for online bid submission	31.10.2018 Time 3:00 pm
5 Total Project Cost (INR)	Rs. 717.68 lakhs (With Tax)
6 Cost of Tender document non refundable	Rs. 10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousands)
7 EMD/Bid Security (refundable)	Rs. 14.36 lacks
8 Technical bid opening date and time	From 31.10.2018 Time 04:00 pm
9 Financial bid opening date and time	After the complication of technical bid evaluation on the same day or will be communicated latter.
10 Place of Bid opening	Kanpur Nagar Nigam
11 Address	Motijheel, Harsh nagar, Kanpur U.P. 208002
12 Eligibility Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bid is open for all the developer / contractors, should be expert & experienced of at least 5 years in the field of contractions of similar projects. Joint Venture approach for bidding is acceptable. Bidder should have an experience at least for one project of Bio Gass. The firm/company should have adequate financial capability to undertake such project and should have minimum to cumulative turnover of Rs. 7 crores for the last three years. Last three years balance sheet are to be furnished (documentary evidence to be provided) The firm / company should declare by way of an affidavit stating the followings: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That there has never been default in paying Statutory Taxes and Duties. That it has never been black listed / debarred by any Govt. / Undertaking Private Organization. That there are no civil suits are pending as on date.

Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-tendering website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 24.10.2018 from 13:00 Hrs. to 31.10.2018 till 12:00 Noon

Bidders are requested to submit the Tender fee receipt in the office of Veterinary Medical Officer, Nagar Nigam, Kanpur in the form of DD/ Bankers Cheque issued in favor of "Chief Account Officers, Nagar Nigam Kanpur" payable at Kanpur.

Bidders are requested to submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) receipt in the office of Veterinary Medical Officer, Nagar Nigam, Kanpur in the form of FDR/NSC or Bank Guarantee (BG) issued in favor of "Chief Account Officers, Nagar Nigam, Kanpur" payable at Kanpur.

The deadline of online bid-submission is 15.00 Hrs. on 31.10.2018
Bid documents shall be submitted / received through online mode only.

CHIEF ENGINEER
NAGAR NIGAM
KANPUR

ADD. MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER
NAGAR NIGAM
KANPUR

Sonia, Rahul Amethi visit on November 2

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after some former Congressmen targeted Priyanka Gandhi Vadra by putting up posters and referring her as an 'emotional black-mailer' at Rae Bareilly, party vanguard Sonia Gandhi and party chief Rahul Gandhi decided to visit Rae Bareilly and Amethi on November 2.

Some Congress leaders claimed that the posters were put up by former party leaders. They knew about Sonia's programme of November 2, but to add a slice of controversy, they put up posters against the family," they said.

Sources said that Sonia and Rahul would reach Rae Bareilly separately on November 2 but would fly back together

the same evening. Priyanka is tipped to accompany her mother.

Party sources confirmed in Lucknow on Tuesday that UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi would reach Rae Bareilly on November 2 morning and attend a meeting of district vigilance and monitoring committee to review development works in her constituency.

They added that during her brief stay, Sonia Gandhi would meet party leaders and workers to assess preparations for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. "Sonia is also expected to visit families of fatal road accident victims in the constituency. There are also speculations that Sonia could keep herself away from polls and, instead, field daughter

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Rae Bareilly," a Congress leader said.

Party sources said that Rahul Gandhi would reach Lucknow the same morning and go to his parliamentary constituency of Amethi by road. Later in the afternoon, he would join Sonia Gandhi in Rae Bareilly where the two would hold discussions with party leaders before flying back to New Delhi.

A few days back, several posters surfaced in Rae Bareilly, which termed Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as 'missing'. It was also alleged in the posters that despite several tragedies since her last visit, Priyanka did not bother to reach out to the locals who considered her as her mother's heir.

State staff gets backing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Central government employees' organisations have extended their support to UP government employees' demand for a rollback of the new pension scheme (NPS) and restoration of the old scheme.

Secretary of National Council of Joint Consultative Machinery for Central government employees Shiv Gopal Mishra wrote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and demanded the restoration of the old pension scheme. Reminding the CM of his strident campaign against the NPS as MP of Lok Sabha, Mishra wrote: "You as MP had written several let-

ters to Prime Minister and Union Finance Minister advocating for the old pension scheme and roll back of NPS. With the blessing of millions of teachers and state employees, you have become CM of UP. The state government employees are spearheading an agitation against the NPS and I am sure you will effectively intervene and take positive action in the interest of the state employees as they deserve 'guaranteed pension' which cannot be left to the mercy of market forces."

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey directed officials to ensure appropriate action for the redressal of grievances of employees.

the pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARY

OBITUARY

SEP ROHIT KUMAR
02 JUL 1990-13 SEP 2018

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEGRIEVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF SEP ROHIT KUMAR WHO DIED WHILE SERVING WITH 4010 FD HOSP.

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

Lone robber plunders bizman's house

Decamps with jewellery worth lakhs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a daring incident of robbery at a house in a densely populated locality, an unidentified miscreant barged into the house of a businessman, held him and his wife hostage at the knife-point and looted Rs 1.5 lakh, jewellery worth several lakhs and other documents in Saadatganj police area on Monday night.

Police claimed that the crime was executed by a single person and ransacked appre-

hensions that more than one miscreant was involved in the crime. The incident exposed night time police vigil.

As per reports, Satya Prakash Jain of Naveen Nagar (close to Bawli police outpost) and his wife Anita were in a room when the miscreant barged into the house. He trained a knife on the couple forcing them to hand over almirah keys. "The miscreant struck at around 11:50 pm when we were about to go to sleep. The miscreant stayed in the room for

over an hour, searched every nook and corner, collected cash, Anita's bag in which she had kept her jewellery and some documents before decamping with the booty," Jain told the police. He said the miscreant also looted their mobile phones.

Recalling the experience that the couple had, Jain said the criminal was stoutly built. "He threatened to slit our throats if we raised an alarm. He had his face covered to keep his identity under wraps," he added. After the news spread in the

locality, a huge number of residents reached the scene. Fearing backlash from people for poor law and order, the police asked the residents to disperse as they were going to start the investigation. "The police did not allow us to have a talk with Jain. Even Jain's relatives were allowed entry after a lot of interrogation," some residents commented. "If the police were conducting a probe in a transparent way, why didn't they allow the residents to enter the house," they exclaimed. The incident exposed the police's claim on night patrolling. "There is a standing order for

the police to carry out night patrolling as this is the time when robbery and dacoity incidents take place. The house is not far away from the Hasanganj Bawli police outpost. However, the police got to know about the incident when locals dialled the control room. SHO, Saadatganj, Neeraj Ojha said the robbery seemed to be a handiwork of some insider. "We have put some suspects on radar and their activities are under scanner. We will lay our hands on them as soon as we get any lead," he said, adding that a case of loot had been registered in this connection.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMMITTEE

Lucknow (PNS): The sexual harassment committee, formed after suicide by junior resident Dr Manisha at King George's Medical University, met on Tuesday. However, the com-

mittee could not reach any decision as Dr Udhham Singh, the prime accused for abetment to suicide, was not present as he said he was suffering from dengue. The committee has asked him to appear before it at the earliest.

BHATKHANDE CONVOCATION

Always wanted to storm male bastion: Priya

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

She endeavoured to storm the male bastion and that is why she chose tabla as an instrument for performing arts. Priya Rathore won five gold medals in Masters of Performing Arts at the Bhatkhande Convocation held on Tuesday. Talking to *The Pioneer*, she said she was supported all along by her family, especially her maternal uncle.

Priya received the Rai Umanath Bali, Leela Vamanrao Sadolikar, Samar Bahadur Singh, Mridangacharya and Pandit Sakharan gold medals for obtaining the highest marks.

The young achiever (a resident of Etawah), who did BSc in Biology took to performing art due to her inclination towards music. "I chose tabla because there are no females in this area while we can see a lot of women in terms of vocals," she reasoned. Asked why she chose an instrument primarily used as an accompaniment, she said it could also be used as an independent instrument and solo instrument.

She said she had to work really hard to achieve the medals. "I had to first enrol at



Priya Rathore receiving her degree from Governor Ram Naik at the convocation of Bhatkhande Deemed University on Tuesday

Allahabad Prayag Samiti to get a diploma in music before joining Bhatkhande. I learnt all the skills from the my teacher Manoj Mishra and there were times when I did not want to work but he made me practise hard," she pointed out.

She said she was planning to do PhD and then become a professor. "I want to have a base in academics and then I will

also perform," she added. Regarding her role model, she said it was none other than the maestro, Zakir Husain.

Others who received medals included Aditi Thapliyal, Monali Bhattacharya, Stuti Sinha, Mansi Mishra, Priya Sharma, Priti Verma, Ayush Sharma, Alka Yadav and Ragini Sharma to name a few.

Will make efforts for Bhatkhande's Central status: Guv

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Governor Ram Naik said on Tuesday that he would make efforts in the direction of procuring the status of a Central university for Bhatkhande Deemed University or secure funds from the Central government. He said he would hold discussions in this regard with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The Governor expressed hope that at the next programme of the university, support from the Central Government would be announced. Pointing out that Vice-Chancellor Shruti Sadolikar had spoken about the progress and vision for the future, the Governor said the fact remained that there was only one institute of music in the country. He said 29 students received degrees which made it the smallest university in the state while in the largest university, 2,65,000 students were awarded degrees. He said amongst the

medals given away, only nine male students received them while 28 female students received medals.

Reminiscing about former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Governor said he had started 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan' in 2001 and the small sapling which he had sown had grown into a huge tree.

Giving the statistics for the state in terms of women empowerment, Naik said that in the convocations held at 26 universities last year, 15,60,000 degrees were given away and 7.98 lakh were received by women. "This is a great achievement with women moving ahead. From among the 19 universities where convocations were held this year, 8.99 lakh degrees have been given away and 4.85 lakh have been received by women," he pointed out.

V-Cs suggest measures to deal with hooliganism



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A meeting of the vice-chancellors of state universities was held in the committee room of the administrative building of Lucknow University on Tuesday. The meeting discussed the incidence of violence and hooliganism in Lucknow University on July 4 last. The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court had taken suo motu cognisance of the incident. In the course of hearings, the High Court had sought advice in writing from the state government and LU authorities to improve security in the academic campuses. LU media spokesperson NK Pandey said all the V-Cs expressed concern on the law and order situation and said they were eager to ensure better security arrangements.

"The security of V-Cs, officials and students, especially girls, is the duty of the district administration as teachers are not supposed to fight the hooligans," the vice-chancellors said. Pandey said after due deliberations, the consensus emerged on the some points. "Student care should be strengthened in the universities so that students do not have to face problems or hurdles. It was dwelt upon to improve students care at various levels in the universities. As the universities are places of academic activities, they should be treated as peace zones and no dharna of any kind should be allowed on the campuses. All the protests must be held at a place decided by the district administration outside the campuses. To deal with the problems of law and order on the campuses, proctors should be accorded the powers and responsibilities of executive magistrates. If a non-student or an expelled student enters the university campus, it should be treated as trespassing and action be taken accordingly," the meeting resolved. Besides LU V-C SP Singh, other V-Cs who attended the meeting included NK Taneja (CCS Meerut University), Neelima Gupta (CSSMU, Kanpur), SK Bhatnagar (RMN Law University), Arvind Dixit (Dr BR Ambedkar University, Agra), Dr MLB Bhatt (KGMU), and Rajendra Prasad (Allahabad State University).

ANDHRA BANK
Branch Mahanagar
C-23, Opp. K Park, Near Kalyan Mandap, Mahanagar Extn., Lucknow-226006 (Ph. -0522-2326000)

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

Whereas, the under signed being the Authorized Officer of Andhra Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002(Act.54/02) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest Act (Enforcement Rules)2002, ANDHRA BANK issued a demand notice dated 04.08.2018 calling upon the borrower M/S NEXT GENERATION GYM through its Proprietor Mr. Vashisth Verma S/o Mr. Shankar Prasad Verma, Registered Address at M/196, Sector-F, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 4,79,474.00 (Rupees Four Lakh seventy nine thousand four hundred seventy four only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Act (Enforcement Rules)2002 on this **Twenty Second Day of October of the year two thousand eighteen (22.10.2018)**. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Andhra Bank, (Mahanagar Branch), Lucknow for the amounts due from the borrower and interest thereon.

MORTGAGOR AND DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Details of property (All that part and parcel of the property consisting of-Urban Land admeasuring approximately 1030 Sq.ft situated at Plot No. 38, at Land Khasra No. 674(M) Mishripur, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab, District Lucknow 226026 in name of Mr. Vashisth Verma S/o Mr. Shankar Prasad Verma Boundaries-East: Land of Seller, West: Kharanja Road about 20 ft Wide, North- Others Plot, South- Plot No. 37.

Place - Lucknow, Date 22.10.2018 AUTHORIZED OFFICER, ANDHRA BANK

Indian Bank Branch: Rajni Khand, DEMAND NOTICE
F-3, Ward No.-1, Sharda Nagar, Lucknow-226002

Notice issued under Sec. 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Asssts & Enforcement of Security interest Act 2002

Demand Notice Dt. Amt. Outstanding	Name of the Borrower/Mortgagor Guarantor/ Proprietor/Director	Property Charged to the Bank (All the part and parcel of the)
Date: 26.09.2018 O/s Rs. 26,31,735/- as on 31.08.2018 Intt.w.e.f. 01.09.2018	Borrower/Mortgagor- Mrs. Darshna Devi W/o Mr. Arun Gupta, House No-Sector-H-E/1639 Kanpur Road Vojna, LDA Colony Ward-Vidyawati Devi Nagar, Lucknow-226017. Guarantor: Mr. Arun Gupta S/o Mr. Ram Lal House No-Sector-H-E/1639 Kanpur Road Vojna, LDA Colony Ward-Vidyawati Devi Nagar Lucknow-226017. Loan A/c No. 6437115694	EW/S House E-1639, of area 36.75 Sq.m situated in Sector-H, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road Vojna, Ward-Vidyawati Devi, Pargana, Tehsil and District-Lucknow. Bounded by: North : H. No.1/640H South : H.No. 1/638H, East : H.No.1/605H, West : 4.5 Mt. Wide Road. The subject property is registered vide sale deed Sl. No.10835 dated 07.06.2016 At Sub Registrar First, Lucknow
Date: 16.07.2018 O/s Rs. 48,45,161/- as on 30.06.2018 Intt.w.e.f. 01.07.2018	Borrower/Mortgagor-1-Mr. Rahul Verma S/o Late Virendra Kumar Verma, House No-1130, Sector-M, Ashiana Colony, Lucknow-226012 2-M/S R.V. Automobiles Prop: Mr. Rahul Verma Shop No. GN-03 & FN-01, ABC Market-6, Quinton Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow-226001. Guarantor: Mrs. Rita Verma W/o Late Virendra Kumar Verma House No-Sector-M-1130, Ashiana Colony, Lucknow-226012 Loan A/c No. 6412730254	1.Shop No.-G.N.-03, on Ground floor of area 141.10 Sq. It situated in the Commercial Complex known as Agarwal Business Centre, opposite Subham Cinema Hall, at Ward-Jagdish Chandra Bose, 6-Quinton Road, Pargana, Tehsil and District-Lucknow. Bounded by: North : Back wall of Shop No.-F.N.-01 South : Gallery East : Shop No.-F.N.-02 West : Side wall of Shop No.-F.N-01. The subject property is registered vide sale deed Sl. No.21311 dated 28.12.2012 At Sub Registrar Second, Lucknow 2.Shop No.-F.N.-01, on First floor of area 130.00 Sq. It situated in the Commercial Complex known as Agarwal Business Centre, opposite Subham Cinema Hall, at Ward-Jagdish Chandra Bose, 6-Quinton Road, Pargana, Tehsil and District-Lucknow. Bounded by: North : Back wall of Shop No.-F.N.-01 South : Gallery East : Shop No.-F.N.-02 West : Side wall of Shop No.-F.N-01. The subject property is registered vide sale deed Sl. No.21311 dated 28.12.2012 At Sub Registrar Second, Lucknow
Date: 26.09.2018 O/s Rs. 14,87,944/- as on 31.08.2018 Intt.w.e.f. 01.09.2018	Borrower/Mortgagor-Mr. Sunil Yadav S/o Ram Sagar Yadav House No-55, Frangi Khara Jail Road, Sharda Nagar Saleh Nagar Lucknow-226002 Guarantor: Mr. Ram Sagar Yadav S/o Mr. Vishram House No-55, Frangi Khara Jail Road, Sharda Nagar Saleh Nagar Lucknow-226002 Loan A/c No. 6451836403	Part of Khasra No.437/2, area 92.936 Sq.m, Saleh Nagar, Ward Sharda Nagar, Tehsil and District-Lucknow. Bounded by: North : Property of Seller South : Land Sri Kishan East : Plot Satish Yadav West : 20 Ft. Wide Road The subject property is registered vide sale deed Sl. No.14041 dated 23.07.2016 At Sub Registrar First, Lucknow

All of you committed default in repayment of loans to the tune of above mentioned Amount with further interest at the agreed rate, till date of repayment.
The Bank issued notice under the Act on the above mentioned date calling upon all of you to repay the above mentioned outstanding amount. The notice was sent to each of you by Regd. post has been returned unreserved. You are called upon to pay above mentioned Amount in your respective loan account together with interest/cost mentioned above, till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest against the secured assets as given above.
This Notice is without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.

Place: Lucknow, 23.10.2018 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

प्रधानमंत्री कृषि सिंचाई योजना पर ड्रॉप मोर क्रॉप - माइक्रो इरीगेशन

बागवानी, कृषि एवं गन्ना फसलों में ड्रिप एवं स्पिंकलर सिंचाई अपनायें

अधिक एवं गुणवत्तायुक्त फसल उपजायें।

किसान बन्धुओं के लिए प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा 35% अतिरिक्त सहायता के साथ

लघु एवं सीमान्त कृषक

इकाई लागत का 90% अनुदान

अन्य श्रेणी के कृषक

इकाई लागत का 80% अनुदान

वर्ष 2018-19 में रु. 198.74 करोड़ की योजना में अनुसूचित जाति/जनजाति कृषकों के लिए रु. 42.74 करोड़ का विशेष प्राविधान

शीघ्र पंजीकरण करायें, योजना का लाभ उठायें।

प्रथम आवक - प्रथम पावक के आधार पर लाभ प्राप्त करने हेतु पारदर्शी किसान सेवा योजना के पोर्टल www.upagriculture.com पर पंजीकरण करायें।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए जनपद के मण्डलीय उप निदेशक अथवा जनपदीय उद्यान अधिकारी से सम्पर्क करें।

उद्यान एवं खाद्य प्रसंस्करण विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

India raises protest over soldiers' killing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a two-pronged diplomatic and Army offensive, India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over killing of three Indian soldiers in Sunderbani in Rajouri on Sunday during a suspected Border Action Team (BAT) raid by Pakistani infiltrators. While the External Affairs Ministry summoned a senior official of Pakistan High Commission here to issue a demarche on the matter, the weekly talks between offices of Directors General of Military Operations (DGMO) saw the Army lodging protest over the killings despite the two countries deciding to maintain peace on the Line of Control (LoC) in May this year.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said it also condemned in the strongest terms such a provocative action by Pakistan, which revealed the neighbouring country's complicity in aiding and abetting terrorism and exposed the hollowness of its deceitful claims of promoting a constructive engagement with



India and desire for peace.

The Pakistan High Commission official was summoned to the MEA and a demarche was made, lodging a strong protest over the loss of lives of Indian soldiers during the cross-border infiltration bid by Pakistani terrorists in the Sunderbani sector on October 21, the statement said. "It was informed that two Pakistani armed intruders have been killed by the Indian security forces during the ensuing firefight and the government of Pakistan should take custody of the dead bodies of its nationals," the MEA said. Two heavily-armed

Pakistani intruders and three Indian soldiers were killed in a gunfight on Sunday after the Army foiled the infiltration bid along the LoC in the Sunderbani sector. The Army on the same day had also warned Pakistan to restrain the terrorists operating from its soil besides asking Pakistan to take back the bodies of two intruders. Pakistan, however, is yet to respond.

India also conveyed to the Pakistani side on Tuesday its grave concern over the continuing incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Pakistani forces along the LoC and the International

Border (IB).

"Despite repeated calls for restraint and adherence to the ceasefire understanding of 2003 for maintaining peace and tranquillity, Pakistan forces have carried out 1,591 incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations along the LoC and IB in 2018 so far," the MEA said.

Pakistan was also asked to abide by its bilateral commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used for supporting terrorism against India in any manner, it added.

Meanwhile, during the DGMO office level talks on the hotline between the two sides, an Indian Brigadier conveyed similar sentiments to his Pakistan counterpart. The talks lasted for about 10-15 minutes and Pakistan is expected to come back on the issue next week, sources said.

Explaining the rationale for protest, they said the two DGMOs during their talks on May 29 at the behest of Pakistan decided to maintain peace and the Line of Control (LoC). India at that time also urged the Pakistan

Army to restrain terrorists operating from its soil. Since then, the Indian Army has shown utmost restraint in maintaining ceasefire at the LoC despite provocations by the other side and Pakistan continuing to aid and abet terrorists, they said.

As regards the Pakistan Army actions despite talks on May 29, they said the Pakistan Army is persistently attempting to push terrorists from its territory into India across the LoC. Backing this with figures, officials said seven infiltration bids were foiled by the Army since May 30, in which 23 terrorists have been killed.

Moreover, reports indicated concentration of large number of terrorists in the launch pads desperate to infiltrate before the onset of snow. At least 250 to 300 trained and armed militants are poised to sneak into Kashmir from the launch pads close to the LoC in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK). The Army troops are alert and maintaining round-the-clock vigil to scuttle any attempt of infiltration by the terrorists.

Proposed Khurja coal plant catalyst for bad air, financial burden: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when renewable energy is considered better option than the conventional one and Delhi is grappling with poor quality air, the State-run THDCIL's proposed ₹12,676 crore Khurja coal power plant in Uttar Pradesh would not only be a financial burden but also add to the pollution in the region, a report by the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) said on Tuesday.

The researchers of the report "The Khurja Thermal Power Project: A Recipe for an Indian Stranded Asset" which was released here have called for re-evaluation of the 1,320 MW proposed project in the wake of changing technologies.

THDCIL, formerly known as Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd, is a joint venture of the Central and Uttar Pradesh Governments with a 75:25 equity sharing ratio. While the first unit is scheduled to be commissioned in November 2022, the second unit would go

on steam in April 2023. The electricity users — the State and Central Governments — and project's lenders should not be burdened with yet another expensive stranded asset at a time when local residents need cleaner energy options, IEEFA Director of Energy Finance Studies Tim Buckley told reporters here.

"Delhi already has the dubious reputation of having the worst air pollution of any city in the world. If the Khurja coal plant is built as planned near Delhi, this will increase the impact on local residents, emergency workers and the local Government."

"The Khurja power plant was feasible when first proposed eight years ago in response to power supply shortages and outages across northern India, but technology has moved on," he said.

According to Buckley, renewable energy generation in India is now cheaper than Khurja's non-minemouth coal, with ongoing price declines prompting States, including

Uttar Pradesh, to seek solar and wind options to meet incremental demand growth. "The Khurja proposal relies on a prohibitively expensive 900-km-long rail haul to bring coal to the plant. Additionally, the market price of coal continues to increase globally," he said.

"Our analysis shows any power generated at the Khurja plant would likely be sold for ₹5.67 per kilowatt hours, while renewable energy prices today are only plus or minus ₹3 per kilowatt hours. The economics of the project look dim. The Khurja proposal must be re-evaluated," Buckley said. Kashish Shah, IEEFA Energy Research Associate and co-author of the report, said "India is aiming to achieve 40 per cent of its electricity generation needs by 2030 from non-fossil fuel sources including wind and solar. As a coal-fired power station takes significant time to ramp up power generation, the Khurja power station cannot help with grid stabilisation and peak demands, one of the new requirements of the Paris commitments."

SC shocked over 'vanished' 31 hills in Aravalli

Directs Rajasthan Govt to stop illegal mining within 48-hours



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed shock over "vanished" 31 hills in the Aravalli area of Rajasthan and asked the State Government to stop illegal mining in the 115.34-hectare area there within 48 hours.

The top court said though Rajasthan was earning a royalty of around ₹5,000 crore from mining activities in Aravalli, it cannot endanger the lives of lakhs of people in Delhi as the disappearance of hills there could be one of reasons for rise

in pollution level in the national Capital region (NCR).

A bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta referred to the status report filed by Rajasthan Government and said it indicated that illegal mining activity was going on in 115.34 hectare area in Aravalli range in the State.

It also referred to a report of the central empowered committee (CEC) which had said that out of 128 samples taken by the Forest Survey of India

(FSI), as many as 31 hills or hillocks have vanished.

"31 hills or hillocks have disappeared. If hills will disappear in the country, what will happen? Have people become 'Hanuman' that they are running away with hills?," Justice Lokur asked the counsel appearing for Rajasthan.

"15-20 per cent hills have vanished in the state of Rajasthan. This is your ground truth. Whom you want to take for a ride?," the bench asked, adding that the State has failed to protect the Aravalli range from illegal mining.

The top court said that it was compelled to pass an order to stop illegal mining activities

in 115.34-hectare area there within 48 hours as it appeared that the state has taken the issue "very lightly".

It directed the chief secretary of Rajasthan to file an affidavit regarding compliance of its order within this week and posted the matter for hearing on October 29.

The bench said that it was "not at all satisfied" with the contents of status report filed by the state as it mostly deals with the "so called incompetence" of the FSI.

It said that State of Rajasthan must appreciate that FSI was a body of Government of India and it would not be proper to make "wild allegations" against them. **PTI**

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL

JPC set to table report in Winter Session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the Bill seeking to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955. The main purpose of the amendment bill seeks to grant citizenship to people from minority communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians — from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of residence in India instead of 12 even if they don't possess any proper document.

Many organisations in the Northeast have opposed the bill saying it will nullify the provisions of the Assam Accord of 1985, which fixed March 24, 1971 as the cut-off date for deportation of all illegal immigrants irrespective of religion. The Meghalaya and Mizoram Governments have strongly opposed the Citizenship Amendment Bill and adopted resolutions against it.

"We understand there are concerns among some people. Many of the organisations have met us. We are open for further discussions in the coming days," Agrawal said, when asked whether the committee members will again visit Assam, where the bill is receiving maximum opposition. The JPC has already taken six extensions from the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It has sought time for the presentation of the report on the "first day of the last week of the Winter Session, 2018".

The bill is receiving vehement opposition in Assam and other northeastern states. In Assam, 46 organisations called a 12-hour bandh on Tuesday to protest against the Centre's bid to pass the proposed legislation in the forthcoming session of Parliament.

During the course of its examination and study visits, the committee met a cross section of people in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam and Meghalaya and heard views of organisations, individuals, experts and others. Political parties, including the Congress and the AIUDF, have extended their support to Tuesday's bandh in the "interest of Assam and its indigenous people".

INSHORT

SABARIMALA: SC TO HEAR PETITIONS ON NOV 13

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that it would hear on November 13 petitions challenging its Sabarimala verdict allowing women of all age groups entry into the temple. A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice S K Kaul told lawyer Mathews J Nedumpara that it has already passed an order with regard to listing of petitions on November 13.

NGO TAKES PART IN 'SINDOOR KHELA' AT DELHI EVENT

New Delhi: Under the banner of WILGA, an NGO working for the welfare of women, transgenders, sex workers and HIV/AIDS survivor communities from India HIV/AIDS Alliance came together recently to celebrate the oneness of womanhood at 'Sindoor Khela' event organised by Matri Mandir Pooja Committee at Safdarjung Enclave here on the occasion of Dusshera.

GO BACK TO DOON JAIL ON NOV 16: SC TO DP YADAV

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed controversial Uttar Pradesh politician DP Yadav, convicted in a murder case and now on interim bail on medical grounds, to go back to Dehradun jail on November 16 to serve the remainder of his life sentence.

CEC, EC SELECTION: SC REFERS PIL TO 5-JUDGE BENCH

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday referred to a five-judge Constitution Bench the PIL seeking collegium-like system for selection of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the ECs to ensure institutional integrity of the poll panel and fair elections in the country.

Modi urges people to contribute to BJP through app for transparency

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday donated ₹1000 to the BJP through his app and also urged people to contribute to the party, saying it will spread the message of transparency and strengthen the resolve of party workers to "serve the nation".

"Contributed to the BJP, via the 'Narendra Modi Mobile App'. I urge you all to contribute to the party through the app and spread the message of transparency in public life," he tweeted.

"You can contribute any amount from ₹5 to ₹1000 via the 'Narendra Modi Mobile App'. Your support and contribution will strengthen the resolve of our karyakartas to serve the nation," he added. Modi also posted a link to his website, donations.Narendramodi.in, for offering donation. Various party leaders, including its president Amit Shah and Union minister Sushma Swaraj, also made similar donations as part of an initiative to boost transparency and probity in public life. **PTI**

Railways' UTS app to book unreserved tickets online to go live from November 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Waiting in long queues to buy tickets at railway stations will now be a thing of the past as the railways' UTS mobile app for buying unreserved tickets online will be available nationwide from November 1. While the scheme was started four years ago, it failed to catch on among passengers except in Mumbai, where it was first launched because a large number of people travel in locals.

The scheme is also open for those who want to buy tickets for travelling long distance. In the last four years, there were around 45 lakh registered users of this app with around 87,000 tickets being bought per day on it on average. A passengers needs to be around 25-30 metres away from the station to avail the application and is allowed to book only four tickets at a time through it.

As of now railway has already implemented the scheme in 15 of its zones with the North-east Frontier Railway and West Central Railway being the remaining two zones. The scheme is also open for those who want to buy tickets for travelling long distance.

"We have been trying to engage people to encourage them to use the UTS mobile application more and more. The numbers are growing and we are hopeful that once passengers understand the benefits of this app, they will buy their tickets online. With certain zones not being a part of the app, a lot of passengers were unable to use it. Any station intersecting these zones was left out of the app. From November 1, it will be available across India," a senior railways official said.

On the app, a registered user can not only buy tickets, but also platform tickets and monthly passes. The railways earns around Rs 45 lakh per day through the online sale of such unreserved tickets, said a senior railway official.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Chinese State Councillor & Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi in New Delhi on Tuesday **PTI**

Court directs police to hand over documents to Tharoor in Sunanda death case

New Delhi: A court here on Tuesday directed the Delhi Police to hand over certain documents to Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, an accused in a case related to the death of his wife Sunanda Pushkar.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal passed the directions after he was told by senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, appearing for Tharoor, that there were deficiencies in the documents in the electronic evidence provided to him by the prosecution.

The folder containing the videos of the post-mortem conducted has only the videos and not the photographs, the counsel said.

The police, represented by public prosecutor Atul Srivastava, told the court that fresh copies will be given to Tharoor, after which the court fixed the matter for further hearing on November 3.

Pushkar was found dead in a suite of a luxury hotel in the city on the night of January 17, 2014. The couple was staying in the hotel as the official bungalow of Tharoor was being renovated at that time.

The court had directed the Delhi Police to hand over various documents filed along with the charge sheet, including statements of witnesses, to Tharoor on a plea moved by him.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP was granted regular bail by court on July 7 after he appeared before court in pursuance to the summons issued against him.

The court had on June 5 summoned Tharoor, observing there was sufficient ground to proceed against him.

Tharoor has been charged under sections 498A (husband or his relative subjecting a woman to cruelty) and 306 (abetment of suicide) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), but has not been arrested in the case. **PTI**

STUDY ON BIG CAT'S HEALTH

Russian wildlife experts to help Indian counterparts

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian wildlife experts will be assisted by their counterparts from Russia in a study to check the health of big cats in the tiger reserves across the country.

A team of researchers from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) will kick-start the study soon with an aim to protect the beleaguered tiger population in the country from zoonotic diseases like Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), which has wiped out over 30 lions in the Gir Forest in Gujarat.

Following the Lions' death, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), meanwhile, also issued an alert to all reserves to

keep a close watch for symptoms of the CDV.

"Wildlife experts from Russia are being roped in for our study as the country is facing similar challenges as India on conservation front. Today, fewer than 500 Siberian tigers — the largest of the tiger subspecies — survive. The Russians have experience in protecting and researching the Amur tiger, as well as outline a long-term, comprehensive system of conservation measures," said a senior official from the NTCA, the top tiger conservation body of the government in the country.

He said that an agreement will soon be signed between Dehradun-based WII and AN Severtsov Institute of Ecology

in Evolution Academy of Sciences, one of the leading biological Institutes of Russia. The Institute is a scientific research centre on ecology, biological diversity, ethology, evolutionary morphology and nature conservation.

One of the study's objectives will be to formulate a strategy for the protection of the tigers from the fatal diseases, if any, the official said, noting that emerging infectious diseases are a concern not only to humans but also to the conservation and welfare of wildlife species.

As per the proposed study, the researchers will test every tiger carcass they finds for the virus or any other threatening disease. Efforts will also be

taken to vaccinate dogs around the periphery of the reserves against canine distemper.

According to a 2014 study from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), CDV has the potential to be a significant driver in pushing the tigers towards extinction. The authors evaluated these impacts on the Amur tiger population in Russia's Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Zapovednik (SABZ), where tiger numbers declined from 38 individuals to 9 in the years 2007 to 2012. In 2009 and 2010, six adult tigers died or disappeared from the reserve, and CDV was confirmed in two dead tigers leading scientists to believe that CDV likely played a role in the overall decline of the population.

No equipment to measure decibel levels of firecrackers: Police

New Delhi: Police officers said they do not have any equipment to measure the decibel levels of the firecrackers or the smoke they emit following the Supreme Court's order allowing conditional sale and manufacture of low emission firecrackers.

The apex court on Tuesday permitted the sale and manufacture of low emission "green" firecrackers countrywide and fixed a two-hour time period from 8 pm to 10 pm for bursting them on Diwali and other festivals, and made the station house officers liable if banned firecrackers were sold in their area.

Some shopkeepers also informed police officers they do not have any fresh stock of firecrackers and the stocks are two years old and in such a short period of time they would not be able to get fresh stocks.

The Supreme Court said the noise and smoke emission limits of the crackers will

have to be approved by the Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organization (PESO), under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

It also said that station house officers of police stations concerned will be held liable if banned firecrackers are sold in their area.

Delhi Police public relation officer and Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Madhur Verma said it will be ensured that the Supreme Court order is fully enforced.

"The Delhi Police's Licensing Branch will be holding a meeting with the PESO officials to understand the certification criteria and the station house officers will be made aware about the guidelines. Meetings will be held with resident welfare associations to sensitise them to encourage bursting of crackers only between 8 to 10 pm and at designated places,"

Verma said.

The officer added they will also be issuing advertisements to create awareness about the issue.

In 2016, the Delhi Police had issued 968 licenses for temporary sale of firecrackers and this year the limit has been fixed at 50 per cent of this number, the officer said.

An inspector posted in the central district said, "There are no instruments to measure the decibel levels of the firecrackers, but the senior officers might direct the licensing branch of the Delhi Police to frame some guidelines for issuing licenses."

According to another officer from the central district, shopkeepers have said that they would not be able to procure 'green firecrackers' within 15 days.

"We held a meeting with the shopkeepers selling firecrackers and they said they have stocks which are two years old. They said in such a short span of time they would

not be able to get fresh stocks and even asked us for suggestions to dispose off their old stock whose sale won't be possible."

Another SHO posted in north district said they are waiting for direction from senior officers, but neither do they have any apparatus to measure the intensity of a firecracker and nor they are aware of any criterion to ascertain if the firecrackers being sold fall under the green category.

Police officers said they would have to rely on human intelligence and their source son ground whether norms are being violated in the absence of any proper equipments or guidelines.

"It will be a difficult task to monitor whether shopkeepers are following guidelines since it will be Diwali time when crackers are sold in bulk quantities. Beat officers will have to be sensitised to ensure norms are not flouted," another officer added. **PTI**

Gurugram ASJ's son succumbs

Family donates his organs

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM



Ten days after the gunman of Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Krishan Kant Sharma, shot at his wife and son on October 13, the judge's son — Dhruv (17) — died on Tuesday. He was declared brain dead on October 15 and was on life support. His heart, liver and kidney were donated by his father.

- ❑ His heart, liver and kidney were donated by his father
- ❑ The teenager had sustained three bullet injuries — two in his head and one in his neck
- ❑ Ritu and Dhruv were shot and injured by the gunman Mahipal Singh (32) at the busy Arcadia market in Sector 49 on October 13 afternoon. The accused was arrested soon after the incident and later sent to judicial custody

Judge Krishan Kant's wife Ritu (38) had died during her treatment due to excessive bleeding. The teenager had sustained three bullet injuries — two in his head and one in his neck.

"The teen was on life support since he was admitted to hospital. He died around 4 am on Tuesday. The family of the deceased donated his organs," the Medical Officer said.

Ritu and Dhruv were shot and injured by the gunman Mahipal Singh (32) at the busy Arcadia market in Sector 49 on October 13 afternoon. The accused was arrested soon after the incident and later sent to judicial custody.

He had worked as a personal security officer (PSO) to various officials for the last four years. He had been working for the judge for the last two years.

Mahipal was remanded to four-day police custody on October 15. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was set up to probe the case. Police had sought four days custody to interrogate Mahipal.

Deputy Commissioners of

Bhalswa rubs salt to Delhi's wounds

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when the national Capital is gasping for breath due to rising concentration of noxious pollutants and gases from the smouldering fire at Bhalswa landfill site in North Delhi, Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain on Tuesday directed the authorities to remain on "standby". A day after conducting a meeting with corporation top brass, Hussain said the Delhi Government has kept Delhi Fire Service (DFS) on its toes.

The air quality in the national Capital had shown some signs of improvement on

Monday as it moved from "very poor" to "poor" category, but experts said it could deteriorate in the coming days due to toxic fume coming out of Bhalswa landfill site.

It may be noted that due to fire at Bhalswa landfill site in past two days, the harmful noxious gases — Sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxides, CO₂ — are being recorded high on the National Air Quality Index (NAQI).

To tackle the ground situation at the landfill site, Hussain said corporations have been directed to be prepared for water sprinkling. "Garbage and its management is the subject of corporation. Our Government

has directed the commissioners of all three corporations to deal with garbage issue in order to avoid such circumstances in near future," Hussain told the media at Delhi Secretariat. "They (commissioners) can have high-level meetings to tackle garbage issue," said the Minister, adding, "City is not facing such circumstances in which we need to implement odd-even rationing scheme." According to Delhi Government's environment division, from Public Work Department (PWD) to corporations, all have been informed to submit plans to mitigate road dust problem.

Considering all aspects of

air pollution contributors, the Delhi Government will soon issue guidelines for the installation of generator sets. "As per the Graded Response Action Plan, we will issue guidelines further," said Hussain. It is pertinent to mention here that levels of harmful pollutants and other noxious gases have escalated many times.

At one side, non-supportive climate conditions (wind speed and directions) and fire at the landfill site has been considered reason behind rising pollutants, Gurfan Beige, Director, SAFAR, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) said, "Due to low temperature combustion, fire at

ACTION PLAN

- ❖ Two joint teams from Revenue Department and Civil Defence Volunteers have been deputed in each district
- ❖ The volunteers will monitor construction activities and take preventive /punitive actions against violators
- ❖ Industries Department has been directed to put into action the plan for proper disposal of waste generated by industrial units, especially in Narela and Bawana Industrial areas
- ❖ Night marshals have been deputed to keep a vigil on the incidence of fire burning in industrial areas at night
- ❖ Ready mixed concrete plants will be inspected regularly

landfill sites is bound to happen. "Combustion process emits harmful pollutants but it is also necessary to understand the

level of fire, with this one can analyse whether emission has local effect or affecting entire Delhi," Beige added.

1st annual online refresher course in chemistry across India to begin on Nov 1

New Delhi: The first annual online refresher course in chemistry for all chemistry teachers of universities and colleges across India will begin on November 1.

This course has been developed by the National Resource Centre of Chemistry (NRCC) located at Guru Angad Dev Teaching-Learning Centre of Ministry of Human Resource Development at SGTB Khalsa College.

"The mandate of this course is to focus on latest developments in chemistry, new and emerging areas in the field of chemistry, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting the Chemistry curriculum more effectively," Prof AK Bakshi, Chairman, NRCC.

The course has already been uploaded on the SWAYAM portal of the MHRD

(www.swayam.gov.in) in the form of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and will be available free to the teachers of chemistry till 28 February 2019. The enrolment to the course will last upto 11 November.

Speaking about the highlights of course, Prof Bakshi said this course has been developed with help of the expertise from all over the country and has been divided into various modules such as "Chem News", "Chem Talks", "Chem Nobel Laureates", "Chem Pedagogy", "Chem Simplified", "Chem Misconceptions", "Chem ICT Tools", "Chem Safe Labs" etc.

Dr Vimal Rarh, Coordinator of NRCC said "Chem Safe Labs" modules will help educational institutes develop safer and environmental friendly practices for reducing the harmful chemical wastage. **SR**

Paytm extortion accused tracked, phones under observation

SP SINGH ■ NOIDA

The Noida Police has tracked down the movements and established the identity of the all accused persons involved in the alleged Paytm extortion. Sleuths has put the phone numbers of all the concerned persons under observation and the breakthrough came after police identified the brain behind this extortion plot, the Noida Police said.

"Three persons have already been arrested in connection with the case and now police is closely monitoring the activities on the Kolkata-based IP address through which the extortion call was made. The call was falsely manipulated to show that as if it was made from the Thailand," the Public Relation Officer (PRO) to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Gautam Budhha Nagar police said.



Earlier, on the complaint of Ajay Shekhar Sharma, vice-president and brother of founder CEO of Paytm, the police registered the complaint under sections 381, 384, 386, 420 of IPC and 66 of IT Act against Sonia Dhawan, personal Secretary to the CEO, her husband Rupak Jain.

Both are residents of Prateek Loral, Sector-120 Noida. Devendra Kumar, Senior Manager (Administration) is a resident of Surajpur Greater Noida and the caller from Kolkata Rohit Chomal is a resident of Radha Govind Nath Sarni Rajendra Prasad

21-year-old arrested, four juveniles apprehended for killing man

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday arrested a 21-year-old man and apprehended four juveniles for allegedly killing a man and robbing his phone in outer Delhi's Aman Vihar area. The accused has been identified as Imran, a resident of Delhi's Begumpura area.

The murder was reported on Saturday. "We have a Police Control Room (PCR) call that four unknown persons stabbed a man multiple times with a knife in Aman Vihar area following which the team rushed to the spot," said Seju P Kuruvilla, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Outer district. "The victim, identified as Naushad, was admitted to the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Mangolpuri, where he was declared brought dead," said the DCP.

BRAZEN PAKISTAN...

In another incident one round of 82 mm landed in Jhallas around 5.35 pm, he added. In the last 48 hours, this is the second major strike by the Pakistan Army along the LoC. On Sunday afternoon, the Border Action Team (BAT) of Pakistan Army had targeted an Indian patrol party in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri. Three Indian soldiers were martyred in the 'tactical' attack inside the Indian territory. According to ground reports from Poonch, one of the two shells fired by the Pakistan Army landed on an 'unmanned' store inside the Brigade headquarters around 10.50 am, while another shell exploded some distance away from the Brigade headquarters. Immediately after the blast was reported, local villagers were asked to run for safety and educational institutions were closed down in the forward area. Local villagers were put in a state of high alert by the Army authorities apprehending fresh escalation in the region. However, no loss of life or property was reported inside the highly guarded Army installation. Offices of Deputy Commissioner Poonch and SSP, Poonch are also located in the close vicinity. Initially, Army authorities tried to cover up the nature of blast inside the brigade headquarters but later defence spokesman in Jammu clarified that, "the blast occurred in an unmanned shelter in Army camp. No casualties were reported. Internal investigation is going on". On the other hand, Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch district Rajiv Pandey told battery of reporters in Poonch that "initially we had received inputs that some kind of blast has been reported inside the Brigade headquarters. We immediately rushed to the spot along with other teams. Prima facie, a shell from across has landed inside the Brigade headquarters." He said a store was hit but no loss of life and property was reported in the blast. He said, "The store caught fire and police parties were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. We are carrying out detailed investigations to ascertain the kind of blast," he added.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi the External Affairs Ministry summoned a senior official of the Pakistan High Commission and lodged a strong protest over the cross-border infiltration attempt in Jammu & Kashmir on Sunday in which two terrorists and three Indian soldiers were killed. "A senior official in the High Commission for Pakistan in New Delhi was summoned to the Ministry of External Affairs and a demarche was made lodging

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

strong protest at the fatal casualties of Indian soldiers during an attempted cross border infiltration on October 21 by Pakistani terrorists in Sunderbani sector in Jammu & Kashmir," the Ministry said in a statement. "It was informed that two Pakistani armed intruders had been killed by the Indian security forces during the ensuing firefight and the Government of Pakistan (should) take custody of the dead bodies of its nationals. "The Ministry termed this provocative action by Pakistan, which reveals their complicity in aiding and abetting terrorism and exposes the hollowness of Pakistan's deceitful claims to promote constructive engagement and desire for peace," the statement said. The Ministry statement also said that India shared its grave concern at the continuing incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Pakistan forces along the LoC and the International Border (IB). "Despite repeated calls for restraint and adherence to the ceasefire understanding of 2003 for maintaining peace and tranquility, Pakistan forces have carried out 1,591 incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations along the LoC and IB in 2018 so far. "Pakistan was called on to abide by its bilateral commitment not to allow any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism against India in any manner," the statement said.

6-DAY HC...

Asthana's counsel said DoPT's sanction is required to proceed against the officers and no permission was sought from the department. When the court asked whether there was any bar on registration of FIR, Sharan said any investigation done without permission is illegal and barred. Senior advocate Dayan Krishnan, who appeared for Kumar, also sought quashing of the FIR against the officer. CBI's counsel said the FIR was registered under the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act and the IPC, including criminal conspiracy, and they have added more sections against the accused relating to extortion and forgery. When CBI counsel dished out an outlandish remark that if there is pest in wood, the wood becomes useless, the judge interjected and asked the advocate not to make such statements in court.

The counsel said it was a bribery case and the probe was at a primitive stage. "In a case of this nature, give us some time, we will put everything on record in a sealed cover," he said, adding that the matter con-

cerned an institution and "we all are concerned with the institution". The court turned down the plea of Asthana's counsel seeking to stay further proceedings in the matter.

"Nothing will happen. Tomorrow is Maharshi Valmiki's birthday, kuch nahi hoga (nothing will happen)," the judge said and asked the CBI not to "disturb the equilibrium today". Asthana has also sought direction to call records of the case and other documents and that no coercive action be taken against him by the CBI. Asthana moved the petition on Tuesday, hours after Kumar approached the High Court which agreed to give an urgent hearing.

Both the petitions were mentioned before Chief Justice Rajendra Menon, who allocated the matter for hearing before Justice Waziri. The CBI had on Monday arrested its DSP, Kumar, in connection with bribery allegations against Asthana. Kumar, earlier the investigating officer in a case involving meat exporter Moin Qureshi, was arrested on the allegations of falsification of records of accused Sathish Sana who had alleged to have paid bribe to CBI Director Alok Verma to get relief in the case. Sana has now been made a complainant by the CBI and the agency registered the case on the day the complaint against Asthana was lodged.

Asthana claimed that CBI chief Verma in collusion with the joint director and other officers registered the case against him to achieve the ulterior design without verifying the complaint made by Sana or conducting any enquiry. "In the background of the above facts, the present proceedings are not only a shocking portrayal of misuse of the authority which not only undermine the credibility of institution and morale of the force, but also illustrate that the Respondent No. 2 (Verma) is misusing his position to achieve all illegal goals," he alleged in his petition.

SC CONSTRICTS...

"On Diwali days or on any other festivals like Gaurparab, etc, when such fireworks generally take place, it would strictly be from 8 pm till 10 pm only. On Christmas even and New Year eve, when such fireworks start around midnight, i.e. 12 am, it would be from 11:55 pm till 12:30 am only," the court said. With regard to community fire-cracking in Delhi-NCR, the court said the Centre and state governments of NCR should pre-identify particular area/fields and the exercise should be completed within a week so that public at large is informed about the

designated places one week before Diwali. "The areas designated now for the purpose of Diwali shall be valid for community firecracking on other occasions/festivals as well, as mentioned. Even for marriages and other occasions, sale of improved crackers and green crackers is only permitted," it said, while asking other states to explore the feasibility for community firecracking.

It directed PESO to ensure that only those crackers which have decibel (sound) level within the limits are allowed in the market and to take action by suspending licenses of manufacturers on such violations and disposal of such lots. The court said as directed earlier, the fire-crackers generating noise level exceeding 125 dB(A1) of 145dB(C) at 4 metres distance from the point of bursting shall be banned. "PESO will ensure that only those crackers whose decibel (sound) level are within the limits are allowed in the market and will ensure to take action by suspending the licenses of the manufacturers on such violations and disposal of such lots," it said while stressing on creating mass awareness across the country about the harmful effects of firecrackers.

The court also directed PESO to ensure fireworks with permitted chemicals only to be purchased or used during Diwali and all other religious festivals, of any religion and other occasions like marriages. Restricting e-commerce websites like Flipkart, Amazon and others from accepting any online orders and selling crackers, the bench said that "any such e-commerce companies found selling crackers online will be hauled up for contempt of court and the Court may also pass, in that eventuality, orders of monetary penalties as well". The apex court directed that the sale of firecrackers shall only be through licensed traders and it shall be ensured that these licensed traders are selling those firecrackers which are permitted by court's order. It said that those crackers which have already been produced and they do not fulfill the permissible conditions "will not be allowed to be sold in Delhi and NCR".

ED FILES...

Their strategy included incorporation of shell companies, conducting circular transactions to artificially inflate turnover of flagship companies, claiming higher depreciations on non-existing machinery, artificial share trading, layering and laundering of proceeds of crime within India and abroad through the web of shell companies," the ED said. Investigation has

revealed that the promoters used their employees' names and got incorporated 249 shell companies. The original PAN cards, original stamps, original seals, original memorandum of association and original blank signed cheque books of the shell companies have been seized by the ED from the possession of the promoters. All these shell companies were controlled, managed and beneficially owned by the promoters and were actually used in the process of money laundering, the agency added. The Sandesaras have since fled to foreign shores and are suspected to be located in Nigeria and Dubai.

FORMER CSC...

"Pandey was to contest for the post of the president for Oudh Bar Association and he had started campaigning for the same. But he quit the idea a few months back. He was enrolled as advocate two decade back and was excellent in service matters. Pandey also held the post of the secretary of Oudh Bar Association. "He was very popular and was a favourite to all advocates at the bar. "He was very modest in nature and we never saw him feeling low at any moment. What led him to end his life is beyond our comprehension," Manoj Gupta said. Investigating officer of the case Bharat Kumar said: "The staff at the police station assigned me the task to investigate the case. I have little idea how Pandey fell down from the fourth floor of the building. In fact, the inquest was conducted by ACM IV and he would be in the know of the preliminary findings in the case". While the police were in dark about the details of the incident, some advocates, on condition of anonymity, said Pandey was seen entering a washroom on the fourth floor and then coming out. "Pandey later was found lying on the ground and dead," they said.

PSP(LOHIA)...

the Samajwadi Party but neither he nor Mulayam Singh Yadav got the due respect under Akhilesh Yadav. "I was pushed out. I ask you all not to get involved in sycophancy. You will be free to point out if there is something wrong going on. I will allow freedom in my party," he said. Claiming extensive support for his political front, Shivpal asserted: "There is an anti-people government both at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh. Due to wrong policies and decisions of these two regimes, people are distraught. Decisions like demonetisation and GST (Goods and Services Tax) have broken the backbone of traders and the economy. Besides, promises made by the BJP were not met."

Meerut — The new illegal arms hub!



SHEKHAR SINGH/ GAREN WARJRI PANOR ■ NEW DELHI

Thousands of migrants from the "Bimaru" region working in the fields of western Uttar Pradesh as farm labourers are no exception, but there exist a class of workers hailing from Munger in Bihar, who stand-out as odd among them as they have dexterity in manufacturing illegal fire-arms.

Many of them are manufacturing it since generations and are working in illegally run fire-arms factories spread in the area. These arms manufactured in the western UP (like Meerut), cater to the demand of these weapons in Delhi-NCR, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, UP and as far as Nepal.

The Government owned British-era gun factory in Munger was shut down four decades ago and left hundreds of workers unemployed. Faced with the challenge to eke out a living, they took to arms manufacturing in illegal units as they knew no other work.

Further, the art of arm manufacturing has been not only "preserved" by this class of workers but have been transferred to their next generations. Apart from the long history, Munger gun manufacturers also helped armed forces during the First World War. The Indian Government after Independence in 1947 granted licences to 36 small-scale industries to produce firearms. When the India-China war broke out in 1962, the Munger Gun Factory supplied samples of 410 bore Muscat to the Defence Ministry.

Recently, in August, Delhi Police Special Cell had busted an inter-state gang running a gun factory in Meerut. In simultaneous raids carried

The Government owned British-era gun factory in Munger was shut down four decades ago and left hundreds of workers unemployed. Faced with the challenge to eke out a living, they took to arms manufacturing in illegal units as they knew no other work

- ❑ As per investigation by *The Pioneer*, the country-made weapons include single shot firearms, sixers, pistols, single barrel gun, double barrel gun, semiautomatic rifles resembling INSAS and AK-47
- ❑ The price of these weapons vary according to their make, outer look and raw material used. The country made single-shot pistol can be procured in between ₹3,000 to ₹7,000 depending upon the make and material (rod/barrel) used
- ❑ While a pistol or a revolver costs in between Rs 15-25 thousand. Similarly, other weapons like semi-automatic rifles, including the AK series can cost anything in between Rs 30-50 thousand

out in Delhi and Meerut by the Special Cell sleuths, five people were arrested and an illegal factory of sophisticated country-made guns was busted. It led to the recovery of 85 semi-automatic pistols, three persons who used to manufacture illegal weapon in this factory were brought especially from Munger.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell said after several illegal factories were cracked down in Munger, the illegal arms manufacturer have shifted their base from Munger to Western UP especially in cities like Meerut and adjoining areas. "There is demand of these illegal weapons Delhi and adjoining areas. So these illegal arms manufacturer for ease in supply have set up their factories in UP and even they have hired skilled labourers from Munger to make illegal weapons," said the DCP. "After authorities clamped down in Munger, it had become hard for the dealers to deal in illegal weapons and then supply it to the buyers in Delhi. Now the raw material is brought from Munger and weapons are built here in UP," said the DCP. According to senior police

official, till September 30 they have arrested 1,444 people carrying illegal weapons. "Police have seized 1,243 illegal weapons with 5,577 live cartridges from the possession of criminals arrested," the senior police official added. According to sources in the Delhi Police, earlier Munger and Madhya Pradesh's Khargone were two top centres from where these guns came in bulk to Delhi-NCR.

"In the British era these two districts had ordnance factories which shut down later. The residents in these districts to earn for their livelihood started illegal business with making country made pistols and became popular for 'Desi Katta' or 'Tamanchas'. Now they can even make duplicate copies of modern rifles such as AK-47 and other branded weapons," said the source.

"These illegal arms manufacturers have built their factories either in forest area or residential complexes where it is difficult to locate such activity. Most of the people arrested with illegal farms during interrogation have revealed about the illegal arms suppliers buying weapons from Uttar Pradesh," said the senior police official.

Assam bandh draws total response

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

The 12-hour Assam bandh called by over 60 organisations against the Citizenship Amendment Bill 2016 on Tuesday drew total response in the State except in four districts of Barak Valley despite the BJP-led Government's all-out efforts to foil the bandh.

While most of the Government offices in Assam's Capital town Guwahati recorded a thin attendance, most of the commercial establishments across the State remained closed.

Vehicular traffic remained off the road in most of the districts barring a few buses run by the State-owned Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC).

In most of the places bandh supporters blocked roads by burning tyres and also attacked buses and other vehicles plying on the road for violating the bandh.

The Assam Government on Monday sent strict instructions to the Government employees to attend the offices and threatened that punitive action will be taken against those who fail to attend the offices on Tuesday.

The Government had also threatened to cancel trade license if the commercial establishments shut their shutters

CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT BILL



A view of a deserted Sixmile flyover during the 12-hour Assam bandh, in Guwahati on Tuesday PTI

during the bandh hours.

Assam BJP president Ranjit Kumar Dass said that the bandh drew response only in some minority dominated areas.

Farmers' leader Akhil Gogoi thanked the people of Assam for making it a success and hoped that the BJP led Government in Assam takes a lesson from the people's support to the bandh.

Assam's regional political party Asom Gana Parishad also took out a massive rally in Guwahati against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016 and appealed the BJP led NDA government to throw the Bill to dustbin.

The Assam Accord is Gita, Bible and Quran for us and I want to ask the BJP leadership from here today to make clear whether they respect the Assam Accord or not?

"I want to ask the BJP leadership to make clear if they respect the blood of martyrs of the Assam movement who has laid down their lives for the sake of Assam and indigenous people?" said Bora while addressing the rally that covered from Latais play-ground in Guwahati to Chandmari area.

The AGP is a partner of the BJP-led alliance Government and the party has three Ministers in the Cabinet.

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Blaming Pakistan for sponsoring terrorism in India, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that India is not averse to talks but terror and dialogue cannot go together.

Talking to reporters at the high-security Nehru Guest House at the culmination of his day-long visit to Kashmir to review the security and developmental scenario, Singh exuded confidence that the environment of terror would be eliminated from Jammu & Kashmir and it would figure in the list of developed States of India.

Singh arrived on Tuesday morning and flew to the Guest House in a chopper unlike his previous visit in July when he expressed pleasure in driving through Srinagar roads. The authorities had sealed off Lal Chowk area to thwart separatists' plan to hold protests in the city centre against the recent killing of seven civilians at an encounter site in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. A complete shutdown was observed in the Valley on Monday against these killings. The Home Minister regretted the loss of life in Kulgam incident and announced ex-gratia relief of ₹5 lakh each to the families of victims.

Singh said that he reviewed security situation and pace of work on developmental projects. Apart from holding a meeting with Governor Satya



Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh arrives to address a press conference in Srinagar on Tuesday PTI

Pal Malik, he met five delegations, four of them belonging to prominent mainstream political parties. He expressed satisfaction over the conclusion of elections in 'fair and transparent' way.

He said he reviewed the arrangements for upcoming panchayat polls and claimed that the conduct of village polls would be a "historical step" in J&K's history.

"I congratulate those who took part in urban local body elections. I appeal people to participate in the panchayat polls," he said adding that several complexities confronting the state could be resolved through democratic process. He said the people who do not believe in democracy were not the well-wishers of J&K.

The Home Minister said

that during the past four months (after sacking of Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP Government), the situation has improved as incidents of stonelling and recruitment of fresh militants has reduced.

He said the Central Government was keen to give fillip to developmental activities in the region and Home Ministry alone has embarked on a plan to provide employment to 11000 youth. "Around 2.5 lakh youth would be engaged in Central Government sponsored schemes," he added.

He said several powers in the world were not comfortable with India's growing economic power and they wanted to offset it through terrorism. When asked that Pakistan Premier Imran Khan has blamed India for refusing to

engage in talks, he said India walked extra mile when Prime Minister Narendra Modi side-stepped protocol to reach out to the neighboring country. "We are not averse to talks but they can't be held when terrorism is promoted on the Indian soil."

"India is among 6 fastest growing economies of the world. Soon it will be among top five economies," he said.

Singh regretted the killing of seven civilians in Kulgam on

Sunday and appealed to the people to refrain from marching towards encounter sites during anti-militancy operations. He said while the security forces have been asked to exercise restraint during these operations, the public must also take care. When asked that thronging of thousands of people to encounter sites reflected that the common people were against the rule, he refused to draw any conclusions.

Notification issued for first phase of nine-phase panchayat elections

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Chief Electoral Officer Shaleen Kabra on Tuesday issued notification for the conduct of the first phase of panchayat polls in Jammu & Kashmir.

The polls would be held in nine phases.

The notification has been issued for Keran, Ramhal, Tarathpora, Teetwal, Tangdar in District Kupwara, Gurez, Baktoor, Tulail in District Bandipora, Kunzer, Uri, Porenipillan, Noorkhah, Kandi-Belt Rafiaband in Baramulla District, Gund in Ganderbal District, Khanmoh in Srinagar District, Khansahib in Budgam

District, Drass, Lungnak, Barsoo, Tai-Suru in Kargil District, Durbuk, Singay Lalok, Kharu, Nyoma, Rong, Rupsho in Leh District in Kashmir Division.

In Jammu Division, the Panchayati elections will be held in 1st Phase in Dachhan, Bunjwah, Marwah, Padder, Warwan in Kishtwar District, Bhallessa, Changa, Jakyas, Chilli Pingal in Doda District, Ramsoo, Khari in Ramban District, Dudu Basantgarh, Lath Marothi, Panchari, Moungrin in Udhampur District, Bani, Duggan in Kathua District, Manjakote, Panjgrain in Rajouri and Bufflaz, Surankote in Poonch District.

Giriraj parroting what PMO taught: Owaisi

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister Giriraj Singh's veiled "threat" to Muslims over Ayodhya has evoked a sharp reaction from the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimin president and MP Asaduddin Owaisi.

After Singh described the Indian Muslims descendants of Ram and warned that if Muslims don't support Ram temple in Ayodhya at the place where Babri Masjid was demolished, Owaisi said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's thinking was at work behind Singh's talk.

In a statement issued in Hyderabad, Owaisi said, "Giriraj is merely parroting what was taught. He is reading the script which was given to

him from the Prime Minister's office."

Condemning the inflammatory remarks of the Minister, Owaisi in a strong attack said that Modi was trying to cause a big fire across India before 2019 elections. "When he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat he did not stop the blood shedding. Now he wants India to burn", he said asking whom he was trying to frighten with such statements.

Owaisi also alleged that Narendra Modi was challenging India's constitution and rule of law and wanted to spread anarchy in India. He referred to the report of the United Nations that the hatred and violence against minorities was increasing in India.

Prime Minister Modi is



responsible for tarnishing the name of India.

Referring to the infighting in the CBI, Owaisi said that it was civil war like situation with in the central government agency and the central government was helpless and weak. When the No. 1 man in CBI has lodged FIR against the No. 2, the question will arise

"WHEN HE WAS THE CHIEF MINISTER OF GUJARAT HE DID NOT STOP THE BLOOD-SHEDDING. NOW HE WANTS INDIA TO BURN"

who was fighting against corruption. He said situation was so bad that one half of Enforcement Directorate was with one half of the CBI and the other half of ED was with the Research and Analysis Wing, the counter intelligence agency. He said that infighting was also on within the office of the Prime Minister.

Foreigners attend Didi's Puja carnival

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The yearly Durga Puja carnival conceived by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to showcase before the world the grandest festivities of Bengal tended to gain in popularity with thousands of cheering spectators including foreign dignitaries and hundreds of international tourists on Tuesday turning out to witness the grand extravaganza.

Seventy-five Puja-organising clubs of Kolkata took part in the grand carnival parading down the historic Red Road a la the Republic Day Parade of Delhi putting a brief display before the world of their abstract Durga Puja themes that drew more than 20-25 million people over the preceding one week of festivities.

Maoist chief tops most wanted list; NIA puts bounty of ₹15L on him

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Muppala Lakshman alias Ganapathy, the shadowy head of the outlawed CPI Maoist tops the list of the most wanted persons in the country. The National Investigation Agency in its latest list of the "most wanted" has put a reward of ₹15 lakh on his head.

Born in Karimnagar in Telangana, Ganapathy is at the helm of the dreaded ultra left organisation for almost a quarter of a century. After leading a coup d'état against the founder chief of the People's War in early 1990s and taking over the leadership Ganapathy ushered all the armed Maoist groups towards merger to form pan India Communist Party of India Maoist in 2005.

Though the police and intelligence organisations of several States as well as the agencies of Government of India have been chasing him, Ganapathy has always managed to dodge them and believed to be ensconced somewhere in Dandakaranya forest.

However, is catching up with him and the 69-year-old guerrilla fighter is facing several health issues. Amid the increasing pressure he was likely to make way for his lieutenant Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basawaraj who is No. 2 in the ranks of the Maoist leaders. In the NIA list of 258 most wanted Maoists he carries a reward of ₹10 lakh.

Keshav Rao is a key figure as he is the top most expert in making improvised explosive devices and also an expert in military strategy.

Pawar's prediction: No party will get majority in '19 polls

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar predicted here on Tuesday that no party would get a majority in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls and that there would be a change in the Government at the Centre.

Speaking at India Today's Mumbai Manthan event here, Pawar said: "Today's political situation is much more like the one in 2004. It does not seem possible for a single party to remain in power in 2019. No party would have that mandate...I don't think that the power equations will remain same in Maharashtra and at the Centre in 2019. There would be changes in both Maharashtra and New Delhi."

Alluding to the fact that the AB Vajpayee-led BJP had gone into the Lok Sabha polls with an impressive "India Shining" campaign but failed to return to power, Pawar said: "The 2019 polls would be like 2004 election when no party got the majority but a coalition Government under Manmohan Singh came to power and it continued for 10 years."

Queried if the Opposition would have an alternative to Modi to lead a coalition of



Opposition parties, Pawar said: "In 2004, the BJP was led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. They said that there was no alternative to Vajpayee...Compare Vajpayee's stature and leadership with the current Prime Minister's stature and leadership. I think Vajpayee was one of the tallest leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I don't think that is the situation even in that party today," Pawar said.

Anticipating that the 2019 polls would throw up an alternative to Modi, Pawar said: "Who had thought in 2004 that Manmohan Singh would be the Prime Minister? There is never a vacuum in politics. Every situation throws up a leader."

Referring to senior Congress leader P Chidambaram's statement that the Congress had not projected party president Rahul Gandhi as its prime ministerial candidate, Pawar said: "Chidambaram has stated the

fact. He has placed on record the position of the Congress party. In my discussions with the Congress leadership, it has never occurred that they want to present someone as the candidate and insist on the candidature by thrusting their choice on other parties. But the party wants change."

Pawar said that he agreed with Chidambaram's view that no leader should be projected as a Prime Ministerial candidate from the Opposition for the 2019 polls and that the Prime Minister should be decided by the coalition partners in post-election scenario.

Rejecting the possibility of "Modi versus Rahul" battle during the 2019 polls, the NCP chief said: "I have had talks with Rahul Gandhi also. His thoughts are not much different from what Chidambaram has said....The existing political situation in the country does not suit for a personality-based electoral contest for Lok Sabha."

Ruling out the emergence of "mahagathbandhan (grand alliance of Opposition)" ahead of the 2019 polls, Pawar said: "Such a political environment is not there in the country (where we can expect Mahagathbandhan).

Centre-State relations messed up: Naidu

NAYAN DAVE ■ VISHAKHAPATANAM

On the side-lines of the Vizag Fintech 2018, the Telugu Desham Party chief Chandrababu Naidu criticized the Modi Government saying that Centre-State relations are messed up.

The Government of India has messed up everything, he said, adding that it's a very bad situation. The Andhra Pradesh CM went on to say that secularism is in danger and economy has collapsed.

He further said that unless digital currency transactions would not be made attractive, people would prefer for physical currency transactions. According to him, the Central Government should abolish ₹500 and ₹2000 denomination notes gradually to eradicate corruption in the system.



People from the tribal community play musical instruments as they gather at Azad Maidan during a protest to demand loan waivers and transfer of land titles in Mumbai on Tuesday PTI

Chandrababu Naidu vows to make Vizag India's Fintech hub

NAYAN DAVE ■ VISHAKHAPATANAM

Inaugurating the second edition of Vizag Fintech Festival 2018, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu claimed that in the next couple of years the newly-formed State would generate 50,000 jobs in the financial sector.

Already investment worth Rs 500 crore have been committed by various fintech firms in the State, said the Chief Minister, adding that his Government want to promote Vizag as the fintech hub of India and aiming to make the country's cleanest city as one of

the top 3-4 fintech destinations in the world in the next two years.

"We want to use technology to make the state corruption free with the target of giving 'visible governance and invisible government'. Proper leadership can bring everything. The state has seen 10.5 per cent growth rate in the past four years but we are not satisfied, we are targeting 15 per cent growth rate and it is possible," said Naidu.

Stressing the need of providing leadership for transform took note of the post-promotion of robot Sophia's interaction at the second edition of Vizag Fintech festival

2018 here on Tuesday, he said that when the robot is ready but the one who operates it failed, tells us that technology how advanced it can't succeed if the human behind it fails to operate it.

He further said that Andhra Pradesh government is mulling to bring in a series policies on threshold technologies to promote activities around fintech area. During the function around ten organizations entered into MoUs with the state government including Cardlytics, Federal bank, Deloitte and Fintech Association to promote financial technologies in the state. The event, aimed at creating

conducive environment for fintech companies to set up their centres at the proposed fintech valley here.

"Nearly 30 per cent of the total cell-phones manufactured in India were being produced in Tirupati, Nellur and Chennai. We want to promote these areas as Silicon Valley of India where hardware and electronic item would be manufactured to cater the need of the globe," he said adding that his government would develop 175 MSME parks across Andhra Pradesh with a vision that at least one person in every family should be digitally literate and one with entrepreneurial skill.

2 die in Howrah Rly station FOB stampede

PNS ■ KOLKATA

At least two persons died and 14 others were injured in a stampede on a foot overbridge at Santragachi railway station in Howrah, South Eastern Railway sources said.

The incident occurred at

about 6.30 pm between platform numbers two and three when the waiting passengers rushed to catch their respective trains while others disembarked from the ones that arrived in.

"The incident occurred as two crowded EMU locals and

the Nagercoil-Shalimar Express arrived at the same time," SR sources said, the passengers waiting for Shalimar-Vishakhapatnam Express and Santragachi Chennai Express only added to the problem as all passengers tried to use the same over bridge.

'Women have right to pray but not to desecrate temple'

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister Smriti Irani on Tuesday drew an analogy of taking blood seeping sanitary napkins into a friend's home to voice her stand on the Sabarimala temple entry issue. She said women had the right to pray but had no right to desecrate the place of worship.

Participating at a Young Thinkers' Conference organised by the British Deputy High Commission and think-tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) here, Irani said: "I believe I have the right to pray but I don't have the right to desecrate... And that is the difference we need to recognise and respect... I am nobody to speak on the Supreme Court verdict because I am a current serving Cabinet

Minister. But just plain common sense. Would you take menstrual blood seeping sanitary napkins and walk into a friend's home? You would not.

"And would you think that it is respectful to do the same when you walk into the house of god? So that is the difference. I have a right to pray but I don't have the right to desecrate. That is my personal opinion," the Minister said.

Following the Supreme Court's verdict, the Sabarimala temple opened its doors to women of all age groups. The temple was closed on Monday after the monthly pujas. Widespread protests by devotees succeeded in preventing women in the banned age group of 10 to 50 years from entering the temple premises. Prior to the apex court's verdict,

women in the menstruating age were only permitted till the base camp near the Pamba river, while men were allowed to continue the five-km long uphill trek to the temple.

Irani, who is married to a Parsi, recalled as to how she was made to wait outside a fire temple in Mumbai with her son inside.

"What does that mean irrespective of whether I am a politician or a minister, because I have two Zoroastrian children and a Zoroastrian husband. I am made to stand outside. I will stand either on the road or sit in my car... "When I took my newborn son (to a fire temple in Andheri), I had to give him to my husband at the temple, because I was shooed away and told don't stand here," she said.



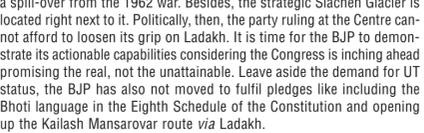
Ladakh warning

The BJP, whose poll machinery keenly combs the ground for trigger issues, failed to nurture its most favourable constituency

Uncontested as the local body elections in Kashmir were by the People's Democratic Party and National Conference, the BJP was expected to romp home in an unprecedented manner which it did on an embarrassingly low voter turnout ranging from five to nine per cent of those eligible to vote. In the bargain, it scored what is likely to turn out to be a pyrrhic victory in 20 civic bodies including in the militancy-hit districts of Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian of the Valley. But the real story of these polls lies in the fact that the disappointed Kargil and Ladakh voter hit back savagely at the BJP which failed to open its account in the region, considered simpatico to the saffron outfit. Of the total 26 wards in this region, the Congress bagged all the 13 seats in the Leh municipal committee and won five wards in neighbouring Kargil.

That this result came about despite the dangling of promises and having the local MP Thupstan Chhewang in its ranks, the message is that the BJP cannot take Ladakh for granted anymore and has to think about acceding to the region's autonomy aspirations. Ladakhis have upped their demands for Union Territory status in recent months, something the BJP had promised while campaigning for the last General Election. The demand for UT status which many observers thought would subside after the approval to the draft Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (Amendment) Bill, 2018, which enables councils to collect and levy taxes and control various government departments in districts, shows no signs of doing so. At least partly because there has been no move to actualise it. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not mention it when he laid the foundation stone for a tunnel at Zoji La which connects the Kashmir Valley to Ladakh and is expected to make the landlocked region more accessible during the five-month-long, snowy winter and is one of the necessary infrastructural moves to mainstream the region. The BJP perilously ignored warning bells of popular discontent when it was unexpectedly defeated by the Congress in bye-elections for the Shey-Thiksay seat in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), which runs the key district of Leh. The defeat was humiliating for more reasons than one. It happened despite the personal watch kept on the electoral battle by Chhewang and the Congress scored a win in a seat that had been held by the National Congress for long. Clearly, the BJP, whose poll machinery keenly combs the ground for trigger issues and has the number-game on its finger tips, has failed to nurture what could be its most favourable constituency, what with Buddhists and Hindus having a combined population of nearly 1,41,968 in Leh and Kargil districts; Muslims are 1,27,295.

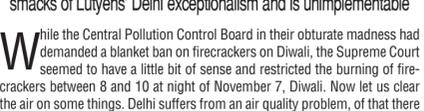
Ladakh is a bulwark region against China's expansionist intentions, a spill-over from the 1962 war. Besides, the strategic Siachen Glacier is located right next to it. Politically, then, the party ruling at the Centre cannot afford to loosen its grip on Ladakh. It is time for the BJP to demonstrate its actionable capabilities considering the Congress is inching ahead promising the real, not the unattainable. Leave aside the demand for UT status, the BJP has also not moved to fulfil pledges like including the Bhoti language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and opening up the Kailash Mansarovar route via Ladakh.



ASHOK K MEHTA

Twenty eight years after the German reunification — east Germany (formerly German Democratic Republic) became a part of the Federal Republic of Germany on October 3 — Germans are better off, economically, and more prosperous. But politically, Germany, the engine of growth in Europe, is still haunted by its past and unable to feel its influence and clout. Reason: Flux in domestic politics, where mainstream parties are being eclipsed by single issue parties like the new Alternative for Germany (AfD) and the Greens. That's what one discovered last week in Berlin while interacting with politicians, security analysts and bureaucrats.

Is Germany abdicating its leadership of Europe and responsibility in shaping contours of world order and Western values to France



ASHOK K MEHTA

which is politically and militarily more compact with an independent nuclear deterrent? James Bindenagel and Philip Ackerman of the University of Bonn write that Germany is coping with its past, Cold War et al, still devoid of strategic culture, passive, timid and with a guilt conscience. But morally uncompromising. It needs a national strategy... How is India seen in Germany? Its red Rajasthan sandstone embassy in central Berlin, a novelty a decade ago, has lost its aura and charm. Considered a middle power in the class of Japan, South Korea and Australia, India is also seen as a rising power; though all eyes are trained on China. Germany is India's biggest economic partner in Europe and sixth largest at the global level. India-German development cooperation operates at different levels — cleaning the Ganga, cleaning India, wildlife protection, metro projects in Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, Kochi, Bengaluru and much more.

Two issues dominate the German discourse: Re-emerging Germany and keeping Europe together. Berlin seeks to establish an alliance of multilateralists to prevent unilateral behaviour. We were told that Indians do not realise that European Union (EU) countries have edged over to the Congress, to Brussels. This shared sovereignty is under stress due to US President Donald Trump's

cards well. After all, difference in value share is just about two per cent. That is why a minor swing can upset their poll calculations. Fourth, caste factor will play a crucial role. While negotiating caste equations, Rajee is in a more difficult position. Traditionally, the BJP has the backing of Rajputs, Gujjars and Brahmins. The Congress has the backing of Jats, Muslims, SC, ST and Meenas. This is changing. Rajee faces a formidable challenge in retaining votes of Rajputs and Gujjars, two of the BJP's core supporters. This can upset Rajee's plans. Gujjars are disenchanted with the BJP for not providing five per cent reservation in Government jobs and universities. The BJP has now turned to Meenas, their archrivals. The Jats, the most influential community, both in terms of numbers and presence in the Assembly, have long been Congress supporters.

The BJP has now turned to Meenas, their archrivals. The Jats, the most influential community, both in terms of numbers and presence in the Assembly, have long been Congress supporters. 'Fifth, Rajee's woes have increased on account of the farmer's agitation, the High Court stay on Gujjar reservation Bill, and an Ordinance prohibiting probe against public servants without sanction, cow vigilantism and the recent Padma controversy. She has suspended some welfare schemes like free medicine, started by her predecessor. Doctors, teachers and trading community are unhappy with her rule. However, it is not all bad news, as some of her schemes like Bhamashah Yojana and Jal swalamban are successful. Sixth, farmers are at the centre-stage of this election. Both parties are trying to woo this community, which forms 70 per cent of the electorate. To pacify them, Rajee has recently announced complete loan waiver for 12,000 farmers. Finally, a prop-erticket distribution might contain the internal sabotage.

It is clear that a win in Rajasthan will set the tone for the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. Losing a State in the Hindi heartland will be a loss of face for the BJP. But still, it is ready to face it if it can win the other two States and also Mizoram in the North-East. For the Congress, any improvement is good news. Will Rajee somehow manage to win the State in spite of all these? It is a question mark and it depends on Dame Luck. (The writer is a senior political commentator and syndicated columnist)

Making Germany great again is not kosher as it is still haunted by its past. But making Europe great again is fine. For its own good and for Europe, however, Germany has to pull itself together



ASHOK K MEHTA

Brussels has come out with a connectivity document as riposte to BRI, like Trump greenlighted last month a new \$60 billion United States International Development Finance Corporation to bankroll projects in Asia and Africa. But there is no money on the table, though the European Investment Bank is worth Euro 90 billion. Meanwhile, China is buying up companies in Europe. German elections in Bavaria and Hessen later this year will reveal chinks in the vision of the mainstream parties — the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the ruling grand coalition in sharp decline. Last Friday, October 19, visiting the Willy Brandt Haus, the citadel of the SPD in Berlin, we heard changed debates on the future of the party and the grand coalition.

Questions of leadership, internal restructuring and possible alternative to the present coalition are likely to be resolved by next year if the AfD is to be contained and red back on immigration and hyper-nationalism. One million Syrian refugees are in Germany along with millions of Turks, Russians and Italians as guest workers. Germans are being encouraged and incentivised to produce more. Making Germany great again is not kosher as it conflicts with the past. But mak-

ing Europe great again is fine. As the writers from University of Bonn have noted, German public aversion to militarism has not changed. Sixty seven per cent support the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) but only 40 per cent would want to defend a Nato ally if attacked by Russia. Inward-looking Germans have forgotten how during the 1971 India-Pakistan war, which led to the creation of Bangladesh, Chancellor Brandt — Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) not being a member of the UN, an ally of the US and embroiled in the Cold War, still punched above its weight in its mediation between the three countries. A secret agreement between the FRG and India for the latter not recognising the GDR before it had first, contained the *quid pro quo* of the FRG becoming the first Western country to recognise Bangladesh on February 4, 1972. Further, Brandt was able to persuade Dacca not to insist on war trials of 195 Pakistani prisoners of war (PoWs), paving the way for the release of 300,000 Bangladeshis in Pakistan.

Germany proved it could rise to the occasion if its domestic politics was stable. For its own good and for Europe, Germany has to pull together to become great again.

(The writer is a retired Major General of the Indian Army and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the revamped Integrated Defence Staff)

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

It's time India realises that it must resolve the Kashmir dispute through dialogue, in accordance with the UNSC resolutions. —Pakistani Prime Minister IMRAN KHAN

Instead of making comments on India's internal affairs, the Pakistan leadership should look inward and address its own issues. —MEA spokesperson RAVEESH KUMAR



IMRAN KHAN, RAVEESH KUMAR

Royal battle in Rajasthan

Strong anti-incumbency, caste calculations, internal bickering and her own failure to deliver on governance have compounded problems for Vasundhara Rajee



KALYANI SHANKAR

Among the three BJP-ruled States going to polls in November-December, all eyes are on Rajasthan as it seems to be the most vulnerable than the other two — Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh — for the BJP. The Congress is upbeat with pre-poll surveys predicting a win for the party in this State where it has not returned to power for two decades and more. In the last eight bye-elections, the Congress, which was reduced to 21 seats in 2013, was able to win six bye-polls, including two Assemblies and one Parliamentary election this year. While the grand old party's morale is up after its recent wins, it has to guard against any internal sabotage and get more funds.

The ABP News-CVoter has given the Congress almost 50 per cent of the vote share and 142 and 124-138 seats respectively to the two parties in the 200-member Assembly. However, a minor swing can turn the tide in favour of either.

There are two main chief ministerial aspirants for the Congress. PCC president Sachin Pilot has the blessings of Congress president Rahul Gandhi. Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is the other serious contender. The five-time Lok Sabha member and two times Chief Minister is looking for a third chance though the party high command has not projected any chief ministerial candidate, fearing sabotage.

The BJP has no such problem, as Vasundhara Rajee is the chief ministerial candidate despite a decline in her popularity. She has been working hard in the past few months to recover lost position. While the BJP might still win the State, there are problems. First, there is an anti-incumbency wave. Rajee is facing more anti-incumbency compared to the other two



Make America Great Again, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recall of the Ottoman Empire, uncertain Brexit, China's blistering rise and worldwide surge of nationalism. "We are a trading nation. Now China is setting the rules of trade," said one official interlocutor, adding "two-thirds of our cargo containers pass through the Indian Ocean."

Germany's revived interest in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) mirrors EU's new maritime security strategy and action plan. This renewed interest in the IOR is marked by plans to strengthen a decaying German Navy with new frigates. Berlin has also put some money in the Indian-Ocean Rim Association, headquartered in Mauritius. It also supported the recent statement by Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) must become the foundational pillar of IOR to prevent a repeat of *fait accompli* in the South China Sea.

Afghanistan, with which India's security is inextricably woven, has become a peripheral issue in Germany. With 1,300 troops located at Mazar-i-Sharif, the recurring phrase one heard is: "Time is running out. Germans are not interested but politicians are, to demonstrate solidarity with Nato and the fragile Transatlantic Partnership." Germany does not want Afghanistan to become another

Like India, Germany and EU have questioned issues of transparency, debt entrapment, sovereignty and implementation while not endorsing the BRI. Smaller countries have signed Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreements with China, and Czech Republic has called itself the unsinkable aircraft carrier for China. This has aroused the fault lines in Europe and absence of consensus in foreign policy in Brussels. China has succeeded in extending its string of pearls from South Asia to parts of Europe.

of activist investors in the last few years — as they push company management to unlock more value for shareholders — it can also throw light on those managers struggling to unlock growth. Take General Electric for example, an American stalwart whose yield at 4.2 per cent seems attractive, the company has been struggling with an ongoing restructuring, weakness in operations and management upheaval. Paying out big dividends can also be a sign that the company believes that there isn't much to invest within the business and there are fewer opportunities to grow by acquiring other companies or using that cash in any other way.

On the other hand, a company that is still growing rapidly usually won't pay dividends because it wants to invest as much as possible into further growth. Even a mature firm that believes it will do a better job of increasing its value by reinvesting its earnings will choose not to pay dividends. Companies that don't pay dividends might use the money to start a new project, acquire new assets, repurchase some of their shares or even buy out another company.

Firms that choose to reinvest all of their earnings instead of issuing dividends, may also be thinking about the high potential expense of issuing new stock. To avoid the risk of need-

ing to raise money this way, they choose to keep all of their earnings. A company may also choose not to pay dividends because the decision to start paying dividends or to increase an existing dividend payment is a serious one. A company that chooses to reduce its existing dividend payment may be viewed unfavourably and its stock price may decrease.

The choice to not pay dividends may be more beneficial to investors from a tax perspective. Usually dividends are taxable to investors as ordinary income. Some well-known companies that historically have not paid dividends to shareholders include Facebook, Alphabet, Amazon, Biogen, and Tesla. The senior management of these firms believe that instead of paying dividends to shareholders, who may not have enough investment opportunities to reinvest their cash dividends, any firm can reinvest on their behalf instead of paying out dividends as they would have better options to reinvest. This can ultimately be visible in an increased share price and contribute to capital appreciation.

The opportunities available to firms are reinvesting in their own operations and pursuing organic growth and acquisitions of other companies or repurchase shares. The proponents also feel that paying out dividends can have two disadvantages: Different investors may desire different levels of payouts; and a dividend received is taxed as income, which long-term investors may not want. Furthermore, introducing a dividend may turn off investors who do not want dividends.

Dividend payment is a great disciplinary and brings about regulation to the management's investment decision-making. Holding onto profits and not distributing them to the shareholders may lead to unhealthy practices like excessive executive compensation and unproductive use of assets like over-paying for acquisitions

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Dividends: Boosting investors' morale

Dividend payment brings about a regulation to the management's investment decision-making. The evidence of financial well-being of a company in the form of a dividend check can go a long way in boosting growth



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Pitfalls of unchecked migration to the fore

Poor infrastructure and service delivery have already wreaked havoc in India. Good governance is the only key to unlock economic and social gains

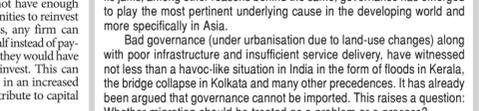
The movement of people from rural to urban areas (within/or outside a country) is often depicted by two interchangeable words: Urbanisation or migration. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas. As per the United Nations Population Division (2014), while the most developed regions (MDR) have higher urbanisation than the less developed regions (LDR) of the world, urbanisation for both groups is anticipated to continue to rise with urbanisation in LDRs towering the speediest. Evidence remains mixed for the success or failure of such an activity, depending upon the stage of development of different nations. Unfortunately, the same is proven to be stigmatised for Asian nations, like India. Other urbanisation is linked to worsening environmental conditions. While migration to urban centers can mainly be associated with increasing slums, greater population density, resultant pollution and traffic jams, among other reasons behind the same, governance has emerged to play the most pertinent underlying cause in the developing world and more specifically in Asia.

Bad governance (under urbanisation due to land-use changes) along with poor infrastructure and insufficient service delivery, have witnessed not less than a havoc-like situation in India in the form of floods in Kerala, the bridge collapse in Kolkata and many other precedences. It has already argued that governance cannot be imported. This raises a question: Whether migration should be treated as a problem or a process?

It is often said that governance is expected to begin from rural-urban linkages. To resolve such shift concerns, India has adopted schemes like MGNREGA (to ensure the livelihood security in rural areas to contain migration) in the recent past. But none of them have given much success to realise the economic gains of deterring incentive to intra-country migration, mainly due to lack of sustainability of such schemes. There seems to be an imbalance between the generation of work and prospective demand along with unequal distribution. Poor public services in terms of basic necessities, like water, sanitation and health in rural areas, actually trigger unchecked migration to urban areas. Moreover, villages face the worst form of retention of such services and schemes. In recent times, poor urban governance has given rise to yet another problem in the form of solid waste management and disposal, which is mostly prevalent in urban regions of the nation. Further, this also raises questions about corruption and political lobbies behind mega cities, especially MCDs to clean the respective regions under their jurisdiction.

Moreover, the ecological footprint due to expanding urbanisation (shift to metro centers) exerts real and imminent challenge for energy use to be addressed immediately by our policy-makers. Ignoring or deferring action on issues, such as environmental degradation, is not an option because it risks outcomes in the short-term and greater expenses in the medium to long run. To tackle the ever-growing migration rift, the peculiar set-up of the Indian economy will require thematic changes in areas like governance (history), socio-demographic dimensions (population density, social composition and labour force pattern), economic and financial dimensions (credit disbursement), city finances (budgetary revenues and expenditures), urban poverty (urban-slums), solid waste management, public security and safety, availability of basic physical infrastructure (transportation) and quality of life (pollution-free). Physical infrastructure: Governance needs to capture the holistic approach, which is not just limited to the deliverance of proper infrastructure and public services. The need is to also redefine the criteria of getting employment so that those in need of income can get employment on a priority basis. Push factors, especially for public services, like transport, water supply et al, should be focused more in rural than urban areas. Stricter deployment of regulatory norms could further pave the way.

Prevailing concept of semi-urban villages should be promoted in order to strengthen economic linkages to agriculture, advanced social and living conditions. Moreover, State-run schemes, like the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Town and the Chief Minister's Small and Medium Towns Development Programme, could be closely linked to the central national legislative policies. Very few are aware of the success and effectiveness of schemes like these. Prospective collaborations through public-private partnerships could also prove to be beneficial in funding of villages via risk-responsibility sharing. For effective implementation, it is crucial to define the roles and duties of all stakeholders so as to hold them accountable in the future. The concept of "smart cities" should be adopted from best practices of the West. Last but not the least, grievance redressal mechanism should be strengthened. The key to unlock prospective economic and social gains can come only through better governance. (The writer is a Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi)



MEGHA JAIN

SO WORDED

Welcome move It is indeed welcome that the Supreme Court of India, as well as the Union Government, are on the same page in relation to the appointment of 6,000 judges for the lower judiciary. It is now a widely accepted fact that Indian courts are worryingly overburdened and the failure to fill up vacancies is impacting justice delivery as pendency has reached an all-time high. Justice delayed is, as the adage goes, justice denied.

Up in smoke

Supreme Court's firecracker ban may be well-intentioned but smacks of Lutynens' Delhi exceptionalism and is unimplementable

While the Central Pollution Control Board in their obturate madhness had demanded a blanket ban on firecrackers on Diwali, the Supreme Court seemed to have a little bit of sense and restricted the burning of firecrackers between 8 and 10 at night of November 7, Diwali. Now let us clear the air on some things. Delhi suffers from an air quality problem, of that there is no doubt. Poorly made firecrackers in India, often with banned chemicals, will burn and load the air with noxious nitrogen oxides and sulphurous gases. Given that the weather is changing in Delhi and temperatures are getting lower, thermal inversion will occur and the polluted, dirty air will not leave the Capital for days and find its way into the lungs of every man, woman and child. But banning firecrackers or even restricting their use will make little or no difference to those wanting to celebrate. One thing that this newspaper can say with a degree of confidence is that there will be mass contempt of the Supreme Court's orders on Diwali, particularly with a police force that will be extremely reluctant to implement this order. And given the overworked police, can you really blame them? This fact is: Diwali is a celebration, it is important for many people and not just Hindus. People have always enjoyed *atisshazaan* on Diwali. A Supreme Court order or a plea by a Government law officer seemingly against his own Government will not change that. This order is at face value even more ridiculous than the unimplementable Sabarimala order.

But excessive bursting of firecrackers is a problem, so how do you deal with it? Well, first make the manufacture of firecrackers a far more organised industry that follows international standards in the processes used, handmade firecrackers might be traditional but they need to go. Second, like cigarettes, once the firecracker industry is formalised, tax the hell out of firecrackers, and while this might make inaccessible to the public at large, the money raised from these taxes can be spent on cleaning up the air. And third, like cities the world over, large cities in India can have communal fireworks displays, in Delhi this can be at several places. Professional pyrotechnics teams can set up incredible and mesmerising displays instead of the haphazard, chaotic display in our skies. Of course, all these suggestions need political will and spine, but there is none on display.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESTORING GLORY Sir — This refers to the editorial, "For what" (October 23). It is for the first time in the history of independent India that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's premier investigation agency, has begun to probe its own leadership. The enquiry against Rakesh Asthana, the agency's second-in-command, and his team of officers for corruption is shocking.

Allegedly, there were corruption charges against Rakesh Asthana, Gujarat cadre IPS officer, when he was proposed as the Special Director of the CBI. The incumbent Director had vehemently objected to his appointment on this count. However, with the clearance of the Central Vigilance Commission, Asthana became the Special Director and second-in-command of the CBI. Now he is said to be allegedly involved in a bribery case worth three crore rupees. Asthana has been accused of taking bribes to settle a money laundering case against exporter Moin Qureshi.

The Prime Minister has rightly stepped in to find ways to contain the stink of the CBI. The Congress president Rahul Gandhi has accused Asthana as being the blue-eyed boy of Modi, one

hopes that the Prime Minister will not give room for any complaint to be lodged against him, will punish the guilty and act in such a manner that can restore the CBI to its former glory.

Tharicus S Fernando Chennai

POLITICAL CIRCUIT Sir — This refers to the report, "Jaitley's daughter was on payroll of fugitive diamondaire Mehul" (October 23). It is unfortunate that the Congress, that gave us visionary leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Subhas Chandra

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Exciting new technologies are touching our lives every day and promise to transform the way patients are treated and new cures developed in the near future. Artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, blockchain and connected devices are continuing to ensure that clinical diagnosis and even surgeries can be performed from remote locations.

Mobile technology and convergence have enabled consumers to track personal health indicators on the go while Big data analytics, cloud technology and proliferating data capture devices have shown the potential to streamline the management of massive patient records and statistics. Cheaper storage, smaller processing chipsets and longer battery lives are behind much of this explosion of disruptive scenarios. Indeed, the IT worker is the person best placed to take advantage and benefit her career.

Given below are some of the commonest roles IT professionals can play in healthcare system operations and delivery.

HEALTHCARE INFORMATICS

The role of the clinical informatics specialist is to analyse data and information and gather sense of collective records — trends, outcomes of particular therapies and drugs, financial accounting for managerial inputs and so on. Information must be mined to put it into actionable deliverables for service at the frontline of clinical engagement.

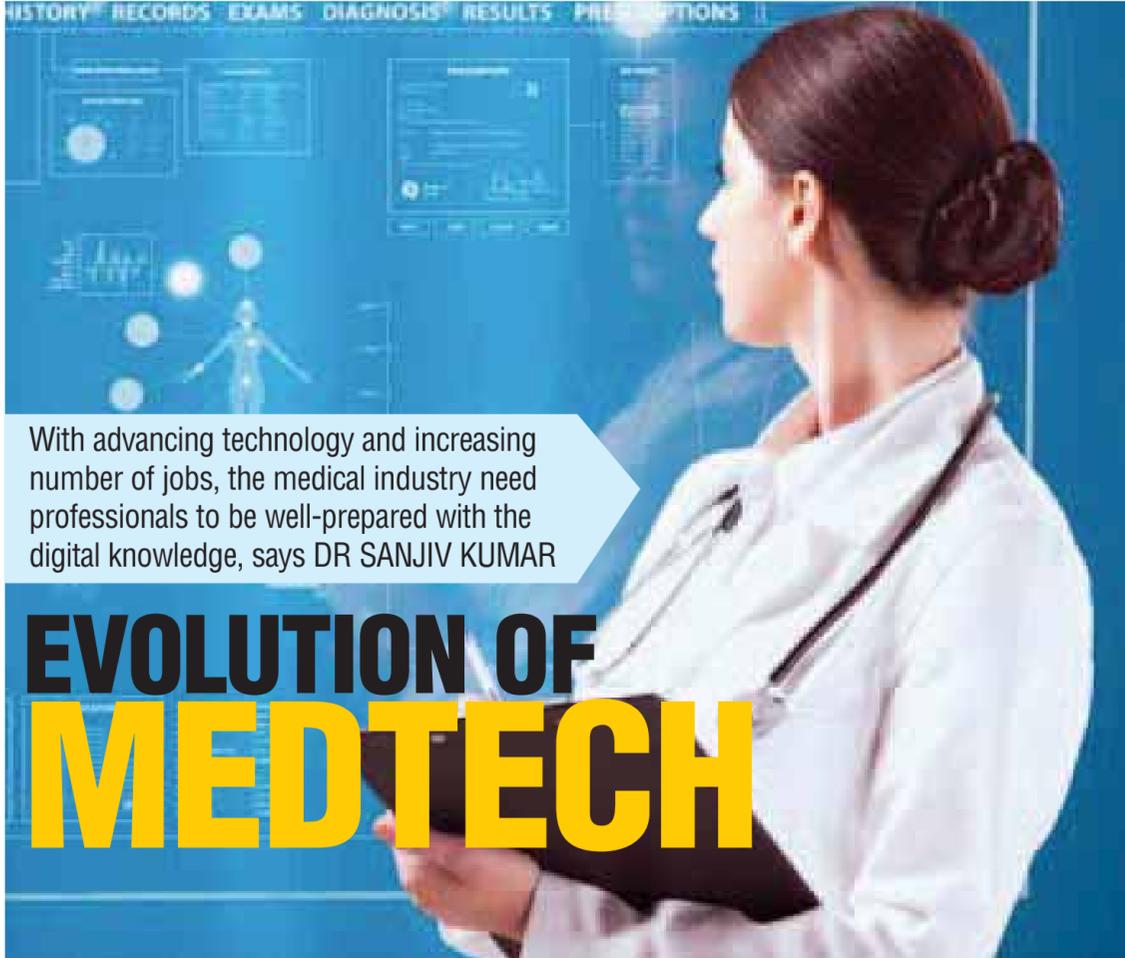
A course in Big Data Analytics and basic statistics is a must for this professional. Although, there are practical obstacles to the implementation and interoperability of Electronic Health Records in India due to deficient internet penetration and availability of 24 x 7 power in semi-urban and rural townships and expenses involved, the Government has been working towards uniform adoption of ICT (Health Informatics using the Aadhaar as the universal identifier) in public hospitals and private hospitals are likely to follow suit, especially when faced with the prospect of increased efficiency and reduced overhead.

INTERFACE ANALYST / DEVELOPER

Different healthcare organisations need to be able to interpret each other's health records and for this, interoperable systems need a standard protocol to converse with each other. The Health Level-7 (HL7), Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine — Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT) and Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) are the standard used in healthcare. With the rise in digitalisation and e-health records, the role of the analyst will be to troubleshoot, monitor and maintain of all organisation interface, while developers will be required to resolve different data algorithms to interact with each other.

CLINICAL APPLICATION ANALYST

This professional oversees all levels of operation and workflow in a



With advancing technology and increasing number of jobs, the medical industry need professionals to be well-prepared with the digital knowledge, says DR SANJIV KUMAR

EVOLUTION OF MEDTECH

TO COPE WITH THE CHANGING TRENDS AND FILL THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY GAP, MANY INSTITUTES HAVE BEEN PROVIDING HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION WITH A TOUCH OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL KNOWLEDGE FOR STUDENTS TO EFFICIENTLY MANAGE & SUCCEED

healthcare organisation — from the patient to doctors, clinicians and supporting specialists such as physiotherapists and outpatient care providers. The analyst will usually oversee the transformation of work processes from one entity to another and form the translation bridge between clinical workflow and application functionality.

HEALTHCARE APP TRAINERS

Analysts and developers need to be constantly on their toes to match changes in technology that affect their business. They will typically need to be walked through medical processes and workflows while conducting their daily operations. Hence, application trainers are in great demand to maintain efficient healthcare IT systems.

HEALTH DATA SCIENTIST

The role of data scientist is to analyse and interpret the trends or pattern in complex data using statistical, machine learning, deep learn-

ing techniques.

According to a World Bank report, there will be a shortage of 80.2 million workers in healthcare by 2030 and a study by CII and the Boston Consulting Group concludes that 40 million new jobs in this sector, in India, would be up for grabs by 2020. IT systems are indispensable to healthcare even now. Big names such as Oracle Corporation, Allscripts, Cognizant, Dell, GE Healthcare, IBM and Syntel have invested heavily in Enterprise Resource Planning systems customised for healthcare. Randstad Insights reports that the average annual CTC of pharma and healthcare professionals across all levels and functions in India is ₹9.6 lakh a year.

To cope with the changing trends and to bridge the gap between the demand and availability of skilled healthcare professionals in the industry, many institutes have been providing healthcare management education with a touch of information technology and digital knowledge for stu-

dents to efficiently manage and succeed in the changing trends in healthcare.

With the healthcare sector witnessing great growth and expansion at the moment, graduates are open to pursuing a variety of career paths in the segment and management institutes are at the responsibility of offering programmes that address the growing need and demand for well-trained efficient personnel.

Overall, a career in the healthcare sector today looks very promising for students as the modern advancements have increased the employment possibilities to an entirely new level. But what is required is that the healthcare professionals should be well-prepared with the digital knowledge to increase the efficiency of the healthcare solutions, which can be done by means of attaining high-quality health management education with a cutting-edge curriculum that meets the current trends. The writer is director, International Institute of Health Management Research, New Delhi

QUOTE OF THE DAY
Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going
— Jim Ryan

BED PROGRAMME

The Indira Gandhi National Open University has announced the BED programme for the January, 2019 session. The applicants can submit the forms through online mode only at <https://onlineadmission.ignou.ac.in/admission/>.



The BED Programme, recognised by the NCTE (National Council for Teacher Education), is essentially a judicious mix of theoretical and practical courses to develop in a practicing teacher appropriate knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes. **Duration:** Two years

Medium of instruction: English & Hindi

Selection process: The admission to this programme is on the basis of an entrance test to be conducted in December, 2018. The date for the same will be announced shortly.

Eligibility criterion:
■ At least 50 per cent marks either in the Bachelor's degree and/or in the Master's degree in Sciences/ Social Sciences/ Commerce/ Humanity. Bachelors in Engineering or Technology with specialisation in Science and Mathematics with 55 per cent marks or any other qualifications equivalent thereto.
■ The following categories are eligible to be students of BED (ODL):

Trained in-service teachers in elementary education

Candidates who have completed a NCTE recognised teacher education programme through face-to-face mode.

■ The reservation and relaxation of 5 per cent marks in minimum eligibility will be provided to SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer)/PWD candidates as per the rules of

the Central Government.

■ The reservation to Kashmiri migrants and war window candidates will be provided as per University rules. **Important dates:** November 15, 2018.

DIPLOMACY & INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

A new course in Diplomacy and International Security has been launched at the University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom, for which the admissions are open. It will be led by academics from three schools in Strathclyde's Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences — Humanities, Government & Public Policy and Law.

It will offer valuable grounding for careers in areas including fields including government, non-governmental organisations, international agencies, journalism, think tanks and law. Distinguished diplomatic and foreign policy practitioners will contribute to the programme and students will have the opportunity to visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Duration: Full-time over 12 months or part-time over 24 months.

The course begins in September 2019. For further information, email to: hass-pg-enquiries@strath.ac.uk; <https://www.strath.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/taught/diplomacyinternationalsecurity/>

Women in Tech

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Booking.com, one of the world's largest travel e-commerce companies and a digital technology leader, has revealed the first set of findings from its 'Women in Tech' research. The research aims to provide perceptions, experiences and ambitions of women in India with respect to career opportunities in tech.

The research was conducted among women who work in tech and female students interested in pursuing a career in the industry. It revealed that 90 per cent of Indian women believe their gender positively impacts their ability to pursue a career in technology, the highest across all markets surveyed. Around 25 per cent citing that job requirements in tech are a fit for women's natural skillsets.

Another 25 per cent felt that career opportunities in tech are advertised as much to women as to men. The presence of female decision makers in the industry is especially acknowledged by girls in high school, with 29 per cent of those surveyed citing this as a reason they had a positive outlook on careers in the industry. Reasons why women feel their gender would positively impact a career in tech:

■ **The Tech Appeal:** Women in India are drawn to the tech industry for a myriad of reasons. They consider it to be innovative (45 per cent), creative (45 per cent), exciting (32 per cent) and inspiring (32 per cent). The latter two attributes are the top factors that draw high school girls and undergraduates to build a career in tech.

Early exposure to certain skills and subjects have influenced the career choices of 88 per cent of the women surveyed.

They believe this early exposure plays a significant role in driving their professional choices. The research highlights that Indian women are much more likely to follow in the career footsteps of their parents (64 per cent versus 40 per cent global average).

■ **Factors defining a dream job:** Around 93 per cent of women in India believe that a role will qualify as their 'dream job' when it offers work that inspires them. This is followed by a job that poses challenges (91 per cent) and a job that provides them with a chance to carve their own path (90 per cent).

Other factors include a high pay scale (90 per cent) and work that aligns with their natural skillset (89 per cent). However, for 95 per cent of high school girls and undergraduates, work that inspires them is the prime motivator & consideration for a role to qualify as their dream job.

Despite the positive outlook, women also have some reservations about the technology industry and at certain touch points in their pursuit of a career in tech, have seen being female as more detrimental. More than four in five women say they face more challenges to enter (82 per cent), grow and succeed (83 per cent) in certain careers than men.

"To empower women to truly succeed in tech, we, as an industry, have an opportunity to do more. This includes putting forth more female role models, eliminating gender bias that starts right from the recruitment process before a woman is even hired, and investing in initiatives that spotlight the industry as attractive and welcoming at all stages, from new entrants up to the most senior leadership," Gillian Tans, CEO at Booking.com, said.

Medical entrance exam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Board of Examination (NBE) has announced the date of Foreign Medical Graduate Exam (FMGE) for students. This computer-based exam is scheduled to be held on December 14, 2018 at various test centres across the country.

FMGE exam is conducted twice a year in June and December. Foreign medical graduates, who are unable to clear the exam in the first attempt, in June, can reappear for it in December. However, with the dissolving of Medical Council of India (MCI), uncertainties were looming over the schedule of this exam. But the notification from NBE has cleared the air for many foreign medical graduates wanting to practice as doctors in India.

Each year, more than 10,000 appear for FMGE exam and June 2018 has seen a spike in the percentage of students clearing it. "FMGE exam can be taken any number of times until it is cleared. It is not too difficult to crack but you need a lot of revision and at least three to four months' time of focussed preparation. If these two are combined, it can be cracked in one go. Clinical part is easy to crack as there is a lot of learning during clinical rotations while the other part of FMGE exam is difficult because it required thorough study to score well," Vijay, a student who cleared FMGE exam in June 2018, says.

"Post MCI dissolution, there was a lot of confusion over the scheduling of this exam, and if there's any change in the process. Now the announcement of this exam date means that the status quo remains as far as FMGs like me are concerned, which is good news," Srivatsan, a student of caribbean-based Texila America University who is appearing for this exam in December, tells you.

Cambridge English certification

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Cambridge Assessment English has signed a Letter of Intent with Shri Ramasamy Memorial University, (SRM University), Sikkim, to develop the English language skills by offering Business English qualifications (BEC) to the students to enhance their employability.

The LOI was signed by Prof Satish Kumar, registrar, SRM University Sikkim, and Liam Vint, deputy director global network, and TK Arunachalam, regional director, South Asia, Cambridge

Assessment English. Talking about the collaboration, Prof Kumar said: "We are working on the possibility of integrating BEC into our regular curriculum and set up a center of excellence that will benefit the student community in Sikkim."

These exams open doors to higher education, improve employment opportunities, and increase choice of study or work for the students.

With a Cambridge English Certificate, the student will be able to prove his/her English language skills to universities, employers and governments around the world.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP) Pen to Publish Contest which celebrates the work of self-published authors, across all genres, will launch its second edition this year. The contest is now open to writers in Hindi and Tamil languages in addition to English.

KDP is a fast, free and easy service for authors to self-publish their books in digital format to a global audience and receive up to 70 per cent royalties on the sale of their eBooks. At present, nearly 20 per cent of the top 100 books on the India Kindle Store are self-published through KDP. **Winning prize:** Winning

Pen-to-publish contest

authors in each language for long-form content (more than 10,000 words) will awarded ₹5 lakh and a merchandising deal for the winning work, as well as one-on-one mentoring by popular author.

The contest will also accept entries for short-form content (between 2000 to 10,000 words) in Hindi, Tamil and English languages. Winners in the short-form segment, one for each language, will win ₹50,000 each. All shortlisted finalists across both forms of contents win a Kindle E-reader.

Selection: In addition to customer feedback, contest entries will be judged on creativity, originality and quality of writing. Up to five finalists will be short-listed for each language and content form combination, and one winner will be selected from each segment. The judging panel for the contest includes best-selling authors Ashwin Sanghi, Rashmi Bansal, Divya Prakash Dubej, Sundari Venkatraman and Pa Raghavan.

How to apply: To participate, authors need to publish their original and new work

through Kindle Direct Publishing on Amazon.in from November 10, 2018 to February 9, 2019.

The contest is open for submissions of original and previously unpublished content across all genres in English, Hindi and Tamil languages. Participants need to visit kdp.amazon.com to self-publish their book on amazon.in while enrolling it in KDP Select programme. All eBooks entering the contest will be available on Kindle as well as the free Kindle app for iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets, PC and Mac as well as Kindle E-readers. For more information, authors can visit www.amazon.in/pentopublish.

NEW COURSES

PNS ■ VELLORE

The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) and Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have signed an MoU recently to offer skill development courses in local Indian languages.

The MoU was signed and exchanged by Dr Sathiyarayanan, registrar, VIT, and Natarajan, authorised regional coordinator, C-DAC GIST PACE, in the presence of Dr Anand A Samuel, VC, VIT; Dr Aswani Kumar Cherukuri, dean, School of Information Technology & Engineering (SITE) and faculty members.

As part of this MoU, C-DAC Pune will provide necessary software and course materials in Indian languages to VIT. These courses include Office Automation, Tally ERP9 with GST, Computer Programming, Computer Applications, Mobile Application Development, Desk Top Publishing, Multi Media and Animation, Hardware & Networking, Digital



Dignitaries from VIT & C-DAC GIST PACE signing MoU at VIT Vellore

Marketing and many others.

Students, who have passed Class X and above, can apply for certificate Programmes and those who have passed Class XII (10+2) and above, can apply for diploma programmes.

The programme is targeted towards skilling the youth in and around Vellore as a livelihood mission who will benefit by undergoing these Courses. "This programme will benefit het-

erogeneous section of society to get hands-on experience in computing for career development or self-employment opportunity. This programme is likely to cover candidates with no academic education and few programmes are open to all. Candidates who know their Mother tongue can confidently learn and earn through the various courses offered by this Undertaking," Natarajan said.

CULTURAL FEST



To mark Onam festival, Vellore Institute of Technology recently conducted their annual cultural event Thanima 2018 at their campus in Vellore. The festival was inaugurated by Malayalam actor Amit Chakkalakkal and Dr G Viswanathan, founder and chancellor of VIT handed over prizes to those who had extended help in all forms to the Kerala floods. Organised by students and faculty hailing from Kerala,

Thanima express gratitude to the people who had contributed to the flood relief. Students, parents, staff and the management had mobilised ₹1 crore and this relief amount was personally handed over to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by Dr Viswanathan. In addition, with help from philanthropists in Vellore, students mobilised ₹20 lakh worth of clothes, medicines and stationery and this was sent in a truck to Kerala. Speaking at the

function held at Anna Auditorium, Dr Viswanathan said that VIT students should work towards the development of their home State. Malayalam writer Pushpa Kurup was the guest of honour on the occasion. Director of Students Welfare Amit Mahendrakar and professors Najii, Jagadeesh Kumar were present on the occasion. Students entertained everyone by presenting group dance, drama and other cultural programmes.



Experts share key pointers to keep in mind while applying for a visa programme

The ideal choice

The US is the first choice for almost every student. There are numerous ways of getting a student visa for the US, yet all are not apt to serve the purpose completely. The EB-5 (Employment Based 5th Preference) Investor Visa introduced by the US Congress in 1990 brings the golden opportunity of higher education and taking up an appropriate job in the US, without many of the typical hassles and complexities. The benefits related to EB5 Visa surpass F-1, H1-B and L-1 Visas. A few points to consider regarding the EB-5 Visa (Green card) —



Higher college acceptance rates at lower cost: The competition is growing each day for getting admitted to the college of your choice, especially for the globally recognized institutions. At times, even if the student makes it through the admission procedure, Visa issues can thwart the process abruptly. EB-5 is extremely important for international students who opt for a secure Visa method as you are evaluated on the same basis as a U.S. citizen. Upon making the investment in a USCIS approved project, investors obtain the freedom to apply for higher education for their children anywhere in the US. The colleges also prioritize the students with EB-5 Visa for enrollment. In addition, tuition costs are substantially lower for US applicants than foreigners. Financial aid is far more available as well.

Better job opportunities: Upon graduation an international student with a green card (EB-5

visa) is legally eligible to work in the US on an unlimited basis. Therefore, employers are far more eager to hire such candidates for their companies. In contrast to limited deadlines for finding a job in the US with other types of Visas, EB-5 Visa affords the student the opportunity to search and settle with the right job without any time restrictions. The freedom of working anywhere in the US as a permanent resident/green card holder helps students get better job opportunities.

a job in the US. While this period can be extended to several more months if the student's studies are in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) stream. Possession of an EB-5 Visa removes these time constraints.

Easy Green card status: The forward thinking EB-5 Visa program doesn't just enhance the opportunity to study and get a job in the US but also makes the further clearances from USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Service) more efficient and timely. EB-5 is the most beneficial option for students who aspire to study and settle down in the US. For the investors and their families, the provision of early green card status gives added benefits to students during their studies and obtaining a job as well.

Freedom from time limits: The EB-5 Visa investors' children below the age of 21 are eligible to live, work and study anywhere in the country for both graduate and post-graduate studies. In addition, there is no legal status of to maintain. Green card holders are free to move anywhere in the country for work or educational purpose. F-1 Visa only allows three months post-graduation for a student to get

The writer is Pankaj Joshi is the Managing Director, Nysa Global

Prevent fraud

The key to finding those low risk projects and avoiding projects involving fraud or unnecessary risk is hiring experienced professionals and conducting proper due diligence. An experienced EB-5 lawyer representing real estate investors will be able to assist you.

Do not limit yourself to looking at the projects presented by a commissioned consultant. Search for options yourself, your lawyer can assist you look at the legal risk to both your investment and your Green Card.

Make sure the investment structure is sound and secure. Check the background of the regional centre and any developer in terms of prior similar projects and their ability to complete on-time and on-budget.

Make sure that the business model makes sense. Be aware that most consultants have no financial analysis training and will do nothing to make sure your investment is safe. A consultant may receive \$70,000 or more if you invest in their project. Most consultants are neither competent nor independent to provide you with project selection advice.

The record of a developer to deliver on-time and on-budget is the key. Your lawyer should advise you as to whether any equity investment from the developer can be withdrawn before your money is returned to you.

Ask every professional you are working with to disclose the

total payments made to them by any regional center you are considering. If the answer is not zero, there is a conflict of interest.

Choosing the professional

Questions to ask a lawyer:

What legal experience and training do you have do you have in detecting flawed and fraudulent real estate-backed projects?

What is your experience in identifying legal risks and anomalies in the structure of real estate projects on behalf of investors?

Will you monitor my project for legal defaults by the regional centre or any other party?

Will you be examining the capital structure to ensure that EB-5 investors are legally secured and that as an individual investor I can enforce my rights for repayment?

What is your experience? Have you filed at least 100 Indian EB-5 petitions?

How many EB-5 cases have you handled and how many I526 and I829 approvals has your firm received for Indian investors?

Questions for consultants

Please disclose the exact fee you will be paid if I invest in any project you have introduced me to.

Are you a CFA or an RFA? Please describe the formal real-estate investment analysis training you have received.

How many I-829 approvals have your clients received?

The writer is Mark Davies, global chairman, Davies & Associates, LLC

How to turn art into business

You don't need a degree to become an artist. What you need is knowledge about what you paint and sell, says ANJALI JAIN

Some people prefer to stay stuck in their cubicles for nine hours staring at a screen and at the end of the month receive a modest paycheck. Then there are those people who prefer paintings patrons and the joy of a career that is more than any paychecks. In India, the culture of art has been going on for centuries with ancient arts carved in the caves and on the walls of the temples. Later, during the Mughal Empire, one observes emperors with a patronage for the fine arts.

Today, people are showing interest in art and have made their hobby a profession and fruitful business. A successful artist does not have a career, they run a business. There are two categories of people involved to run this business. First, the artist who creates an art and second — the promoter, who exhibits and sell the art.

To become an artist, you don't need an art degree. Knowledge comes in varied forms, and even though a classroom is a valid one, a degree is completely unnecessary if you want to start your own venture and sell your art. No one will ever ask you about your degree, but they do care that you have a knowledge and an opinion about what you paint and sell. If you have a burning desire to learn, you will find the insights you need.

One thing that ambitious artists continually destroy their businesses with, is their lack of confidence. It is not important that one has to create the world's greatest masterpieces in order to become a professional artist. There is a market for every type of art and you just have to be the best artist according to your customer's point of view. That means being the best thing available to them in their own domain of influence.

People like pieces of art that looks amazing, but they buy it because it makes them feel good. Today, even the common man started buying an art piece to decorate a corner of his house. Hospitals, an educational institution, organisations and in many other places, people have started putting up art,



Anjali Jain
Founder, Kala Drishti

considering it not an expense, but an investment.

To start your business of art, you need to analyse and team up with an existing platform to sell your art. This will help you reach out to an existing audience as well as with the benefit of an existing sales tool. Each platform like an art gallery or an online art commission website is completely unique. If you are concentrating on fine art, maybe selling prints is not a good idea or if you are a pop artist, maybe creating a merchandising line is a good move.

If you decide to be a part on several platforms at the same time, it's important that your pricing is the same on every platform. If someone buys an artwork and then finds out that the same art piece is available at a lower rate at some other gallery or website, then they will feel cheated and are likely to not buy from you again.

The business of art is a wide network, comprising of the artist at the bottom level, followed by art galleries at the medium level and the topmost level is about the big organisation where art auctions take place. In India, the art business is in its elementary stage and it needs to grow further to cope up with the market in the US and other countries.

Being in business can help you achieve things that you never thought possible. The opportunities are endless. I'm going to share my life changing lessons that I learned from being in business. The important thing is I am just a normal guy. I've had points in my life where I had no direction or confidence that I would be able to achieve anything worthwhile.

For achieving anything come out of the comfort zone. We can't achieve anything until working in comfort zone. Because when you stay in your little bubble you'll never achieve anything great. You won't stand out, connect with anyone,

command enough attention, and you'll never be able to make an impact, which all adds up to a lack of success.

The day you start to force yourself to do all the things that were necessary but didn't want to do. This will open up a whole new world of opportunities. Initially you will be constantly in a state of anxiety and fear. Later on you will no longer feel uncomfortable getting outside of the comfort zone.

Fears are irrational. This was the toughest life changing lesson for me to learn. All your fears are irrational. They're fake and made up. Your fears are just inside your head. You're missing out on so many

MINDIT

chances for success, making money, and more opportunities by letting your fears hold you back. If you're dedicated to your cause and success people will see that and even respect it. Always remember that fear will kill you, your dreams, and all of your success, by putting you in a constant state of stress.

Your mindset controls everything. If you can believe it, the mind can achieve it. The mind is so powerful that it can fully dictate whether you achieve success or not.

The best part about your mindset is that you control it. Therefore, you're in control of your success.

In all seriousness, your mindset is the only thing that gives you the power to go all in 100%. If you're only 99% committed to your success you're going to fail. The reason most people fail is because they don't fully commit. It's too easy to quit when you have an escape plan or plan B. Start having a burn the boat mentality or follow these steps to give you the mindset of a champion.

You're capable of achieving more. How much more? That's for you to determine. If you know what you're capable of or worth then you need to stop at nothing till you get that.

You are capable of so much more. All you have to do is believe it and stop at nothing until you achieve it. You'll even be shocked at how attainable certain things are. You may have to leave your dead end job, go to school, work two jobs, stay up all night reading, sacrifice things and others, but success is worth it.

Positive thinking turns problems into opportunities. When we start perceiving

problems as windows of learning, our problems turns into future opportunities. Students must train their minds to do this. If they are ready with a solution, the degree of failure reduces drastically. A positive mind helps them overcome fear, dejection, failure, depression, frustration and delinquency in career. It acts like a 'shock absorber' and bounces them back with new energy.

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. Sometimes you just need someone along side you rooting you on. You don't have to do it alone! In fact, you'll get further by utilising teamwork.

The writer is Ajay Sharma, Future of Work Expert, Founder, Get Me Experts & Flexiorg



Fully funded PhD Research Scholarships are available for overseas students at Lancaster University in UK, 2018-19.

Eligibility: Candidates will be assessed based on the following criteria: Potential for an original contribution. Evidence of scholarly ability: Clear and concise description of the study; Awareness of current literature in the field; Understanding of research methodology appropriate for an early stage postgraduate student; A research project that can be completed within the timeframe allowed for a PhD. All students are welcome to apply, whether you are from the UK, EU or overseas. English language requirements: If English is not your first language then you will need to show that your English language skills are at a high enough level to succeed in your studies.

How to apply: Simply create an account on the My Applications website and then select — Create a new application from your homepage once you are logged-in. In addition, complete and return the Faculty Scholarship Application Form 2019 to the appropriate departmental contact below.

The Cold War in Global Perspectives: Dr Marco Wyss (m.wyss@lancaster.ac.uk); Family Justice: Professor Karen Broadhurst (k.broadhurst@lancaster.ac.uk); Phonetics: Dr Sam Kirkham (s.kirkham@lancaster.ac.uk)

Application deadline: March 1, 2019

Applications are invited for fully-funded (Home/EU Rate) PhD studentship (Fixed Term) at University of Cambridge in the UK. This studentship is available for overseas students.

Eligibility: Applicants should have (or expect to be awarded) an upper second or first class UK honours degree at the level of MSci, MEng (or overseas equivalents) and should be eligible for 'home rate' fees. English language requirements: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

STUDY CENTRES

People today, are looking for jobs that will give them the freedom to be creative and explore their passion. Photography is one such field — a medium of self-expression; a hobby that can be made into a paying profession — to begin with one can earn ₹25,000 a month. More so today given the boom in the communication network, advertising, media, fashion industry and digital photography. Here are a few more colleges where one can study:

- Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Communication, New Delhi.** Course: Diploma in Professional Photography
- National Institute of Photography, Dadar (W), Mumbai.** Course: Certificate Course in Advanced Photography
- Master's Digital Photography School, Mumbai.** Course: Certificate Course in Advanced Photography
- Delhi School of Photography, Kalkaji.** Course: Certificate Course in Advanced Photography
- Maya Academy Of Advanced Cinematics, Kolkata.** Course: Certificate Course in Digital Photography
- National Academy of Photography, Kolkata.** Course: Certificate Course in Digital Photography



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT WHIZJUNIORS

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹3,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15381
Application deadline: October 30, 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY AT ADMYBRAND

Location: Delhi, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹2,000-₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15382
Application deadline: October 30, 2018

CONTENT WRITING AT MOBISHAALA

Location: Delhi, Patna, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹3,000-₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15383
Application deadline: October 28, 2018

MARKETING AT FIRST STEP DIGITAL

Location: Delhi, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15384
Application deadline: October 27, 2018

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT CBS INNOVATIONS

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹2,000-₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15385
Application deadline: October 31, 2018

OPERATIONS AT INSTINCT INNOVATIONS

Location: Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹14,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15386
Application deadline: October 27, 2018

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER AT INDIAN ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹3,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/15387
Application deadline: November 1, 2018

FORTUNER/VINAYAK BHATT

QUERY: My name is Deepu Mehta. My date of birth is October 11, 1998. My subjects were Public Administration and Sociology in 10+2. Please suggest the best suited career options?

BHATT: You are a Libran and your ruling planet is Venus. You are born in a period that you are destined to get success in life.

You can make a good wealth in a business or a job of service sector. You have Moon in career house, hence you may excel in the education field.

In the beginning you may have to face some issues on job front. However, you will see a different level of confidence and determination later on. You over think, this is the negative trait of your nature.

Therefore, the best suited career options for you are following:

Social worker: Libran have the potential to make people happy and make a living out of it. They thrive in social groups, bringing enemies together to make them friends.

Human Resources: You are good at interpersonal relationships. A suitable field for you would be HR. As Libran have all necessary skills required for this profession that include helping others.

Architect: You have an excellent analytical as well as aesthetic skills. Your ability to understand the proportion and scale and be able to translate creative ideas into reality makes you an

IN BRIEF

MOU FOR E-LEARNING

In an endeavour to empower teachers and enhance learning outcomes of students, Government of Kerala announced its partnership with Khan Academy India (KAI) recently. The highlights of the MoU: 5 year partnership covering 4,775 schools, 1 lakh teachers and 20 lakh students.

In the first year, the State will link the academy's content to Samagra — its education portal, provide training to all teachers in the state, and begin a 20 school personalised learning pilot. Learnings from the first year will be applied to a Statewide rollout over the next 4 years.

The academy's content, via website and apps helps students attain grade level mastery. Teachers can track progress, identify gaps and use data to help students.

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education to empower teachers and students.

GUHA AS CHAIR PROF

Renowned historian and biographer, Dr Ramachandra Guha, will join Ahmedabad University as the Shrenik Lalbhai chair Professor of Humanities and Director of the Gandhi Winter School at the University's School of Arts and Sciences. Dr Guha will help design a curriculum that lies at the intersection of history and other streams in the Humanities and explore how history can enrich diverse disciplines.

Dr Guha said, 'I am delighted to join the faculty. Ahmedabad has a great tradition of public-spirited philanthropy in higher education; and the university is a notable renewal and extension of that tradition.'

Santro makes a comeback

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

South Korean auto major Hyundai Tuesday relaunched its once popular hatchback, Santro, in a new avatar in India, with introductory prices ranging between ₹3.89 lakh and ₹5.64 lakh (ex-showroom). The company, which operates in the country through its wholly-owned subsidiary Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL), had discontinued the previous Santro model in December 2014.

The new car, which is powered by a four-cylinder 1.1 litre petrol engine, comes with automated manual transmission (AMT) and factory-fitted CNG fuel options. The manual variants of the car are priced between ₹3.89 lakh and ₹5.45 lakh. The two CNG trims are tagged at ₹5.23 lakh and ₹5.64 lakh while the two variants with automated gear shift are priced at ₹5.18 lakh and ₹5.46 lakh (all prices ex-showroom). The previous Santro was priced in the range of ₹3.09 lakh to ₹4.15 lakh when it was discontinued in 2014.

The new introductory prices would be for the first 50,000 customers. HMIL has already received online bookings for over 23,500 units in the last 13 days. "We have invested over ₹700 crore (USD 100 million) on the development of this model over the last three years. The new Santro has been



designed in our R&D centre in Namyang (South Korea) and it will help us consolidate position in the mid-compact segment," HMIL managing director and CEO YK Koo told reporters here. The new model would cater to first time buyers as well as entry level customers, he added. "It is a very important model for Hyundai. We are looking at sales of around 8,000-9,000 units per month to start with," Koo said. He added that the all-new Santro is a true example of Hyundai's Made in India philosophy and a shining result of numerous product clinics and rigorous durability test on various terrains in India.

"Our R&D centre in Nanyang (South Korea), Chennai and Hyderabad have put strong efforts for product supremacy and utmost customer delight," Koo said. The all-new Santro will be competing with the likes of Maruti Suzuki's WagonR,

Celerio and Tata Motors' Tiago in the mid-compact segment which is about 30,000 units a month. When asked about export plans for the model, Koo said the company would start overseas shipments from next year and is aiming to begin with 15,000-20,000 units per annum. The company is eyeing markets like South Africa, Vietnam and Latin America to start exports of new Santro, he added. The new Santro comes with a localisation level of 90 per cent. It comes with various features including rear parking camera, voice recognition, rear AC vents and eco coating technology, among others.

Safety features include ABS with EBD and impact sensing auto door unlock. As per the company, the petrol manual and AMT versions of the hatchback would return a fuel efficiency of 20.3 km per litre while the CNG trims would

Govt looks to relax norms for setting up petrol pumps

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is mulling relaxing norms for setting up petrol pumps as it is keen on getting more private players into fuel retailing so as to increase competition.

The Oil Ministry has set up an expert committee to recommend easing of fuel retailing licensing rules, the ministry order said.

At present, to obtain a fuel retailing licence in India, a company needs to invest ₹2,000 crore in either hydrocarbon exploration and production, refining, pipelines or liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals.

The expert committee will "look at various issues related to the implementation of existing guidelines for grant of marketing authorisation of market fuels - petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF)", it said.

The panel would include renowned economist Kirit Parikh, former oil secretary G C Chaturvedi, former Indian Oil Corp (IOC) chairman and IIM Ahmedabad director M A Pathan.

It has been asked to furnish its report within 60 days after due consultations with stakeholders.

The panel will "review the existing architecture and extent of private sector participation in retail marketing of major transportation fuels in the country", the order said.

It will "identify entry barriers, if any, for expansion of retail outlets for private marketing companies".

State-owned oil marketing companies - Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL),

currently own most of 63,498 petrol pumps in the country.

Reliance Industries, Nayara Energy - formerly Essar Oil and Royal Dutch Shell are the private players in the market but with limited presence. Reliance, which operates the world's largest oil refining complex, has less than 1,400 outlets.

Nayara has 4,833 while Shell has just 114 pumps.

BP plc of UK had a couple of years back secured a licence to set up 3,500 pumps but hasn't yet started doing so. Last week, French energy giant Total in a joint venture with Adani Group announced plans to set up 1,500 petrol pumps in the next 10 years.

IOC is the market leader with 27,325 petrol pumps in the country, followed by HPCL with 15,255 outlets and BPCL at 14,565 fuel stations.

The expert committee will "assess the need, if any, to further liberalise the existing guidelines for authorisation of private sector marketing companies", the order said.

A senior oil ministry official said the government is keen on getting more private players in the arena and is willing to relax investment norms as well as the number of permissions needed for setting up a petrol pump.

The expert group would make specific recommendations on the nature of amendments required to the existing guidelines for grant of a license to private retailers.

The official said more competition would improve services as well as give customer choice. It may also lead to retailers vying with each other to offer the best price.

BUSINESS CORNER

ONLINE JEWELLERY BRAND MELORRA AIMS RS 40 CR REVENUE

New Delhi: Online jewellery startup Melorra aims nearly five times jump in its revenue at ₹40 crore in the current fiscal on bullish demand from non-metro cities, founder and chief executive Saroja Yeramilli said on Tuesday. The company, which sells contemporary lightweight jewellery in gold, diamond and coloured stones, had clocked a revenue of ₹8.5 crore in the first year (2017-18) of its business, she added. "Much of the demand is coming from non-metro cities. We are getting orders from smaller cities and adding 100 new cities for delivery every month. We expect our revenue to touch ₹40 crore this fiscal," Yeramilli told PTI. With rise in internet and smart phones users, the company expects revenue to touch ₹100 crore mark in the next fiscal and start making profits from 2021 onwards, she said. The company's unique selling point is affordable rates, modern designs and quality of gold and diamonds from recognised agencies, she added. That apart, the Bengaluru-based company does not carry any inventory as it makes gold jewellery on order and delivers to customers with a return policy in 30 days and lifetime exchange of jewellery at prevailing rates of gold. On investment plans, Yeramilli, who had once headed sales division at Tata group jewellery brand Tanishq, said the jewellery start-up has already raised USD 12 million from a venture capitalist, out of which USD 8 million has been spent on the business. "We still have funds. We will invest that and later look for more funds. Funding has not been a problem. Investors are keen to invest in our company," she said. Asked if the company would go offline, Yeramilli said: "There are no plans to set up retail outlets. Melorra is an internet brand and it will remain like that."

LG ELECTRONICS EYES HIGHER SALES FROM PREMIUM PRODUCTS

Seoul: LG Electronics said on Tuesday it plans to beef up its presence in premium products in India as it looks to increase the share of the segment in overall sales and boost profit margins. The South Korean electronics giant also emphasised that the recent hike in customs duties by India on LED panels imposed customs duty hike on LED panels in India would not have a significant impact on its profit margins from the country. Premium products presently account for 30 per cent of LG's global sales, including in India, but it plans to enhance this to 50 per cent with a renewed focus on the segment and a series of fresh launches. Addressing a delegation of visiting journalists from India, LG Group senior vice-president, head of Appliance Overseas Sales & Marketing, Chris Jung said the revenue growth of LG Electronics in India "will be great". He noted that the company will have to compete with Chinese firms on their price competitiveness, and therefore it is investing heavily in research and development. Asked about LG Electronics' threat perception from the presence of Chinese firms in a price sensitive market like India, Jung said: "The Chinese won't catch up so soon. In the future they may get to where we are now but we are not sitting idle, we will also be moving forward."

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
HINDPETRO	209	220.25	201.5	219.65	9.05
IBULHSGFIN	694.5	770.9	683.9	739	25.85
HDFC	1,645.00	1,710.00	1,644.50	1,692.05	33.75
INDUSINDBK	1,435.00	1,498.00	1,425.00	1,476.75	27.3
YESBANK	209	216.7	205.5	215.1	3.6
POWERGRID	188	192.65	185.8	192	2.85
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,540.00	2,598.70	2,526.00	2,588.00	31.1
IOC	128	131.3	125	131	1.25
TATASTEEL	540	550	535.15	550	5.25
BAJFINANCE	2,095.00	2,155.35	1,997.55	2,135.00	19.65
KOTAKBANK	1,150.00	1,179.80	1,143.55	1,173.90	9.7
COALINDIA	274.5	280.85	274.3	277.7	2.2
AXISBANK	557	571.4	553.5	566.3	4.25
ADANIPOWER	317.35	320.7	311	317.6	2.2
BPCL	268	273.7	260.5	273.185	1.85
TITAN	771.9	787	766.15	780	5.2
NTPC	164.15	166	162.55	165.7	0.85
TATAMOTORS	170	175.7	169.55	171.3	0.55
HERMOTOCO	2,717.00	2,744.90	2,694.00	2,738.20	6.4
LT	1,195.90	1,209.05	1,182.50	1,207.00	0.4
ONGC	155.35	157.4	150.9	156	0.05
BHARTIARTL	283.05	290.6	283	286	0.05
RELIANCE	1,052.75	1,064.70	1,043.65	1,061.70	-0.95
INFRATEL	264.6	270.4	258.6	265	-0.25
M&M	730.5	734.4	716.2	732.95	-0.8
GAIL	340.9	344.7	334.5	343.5	-1
MARUTI	6,779.00	6,857.00	6,666.00	6,785.00	-22.1
EICHERMOT	22,040.00	22,475.00	21,901.00	22,300.00	-175.2
ITC	286	291.2	283.55	286.7	-1.8
ICICIBANK	323	328.6	318.35	324.9	-2.2
HDFCBANK	1,973.00	1,998.90	1,973.00	1,985.00	-13.9
CIPLA	628.8	632	616	624.85	-4.8
TECHM	676	683.9	666	668.55	-8
HINDUNILVR	1,575.55	1,582.00	1,547.50	1,562.50	-22.4
VEDL	211.8	216.25	207.6	210.4	-3.15
DREDDY	2,524.95	2,546.25	2,425.10	2,481.00	-38.4
HINDALCO	221.9	226.9	216.4	220.5	-3.5
BAJAJFINSV	5,250.00	5,285.00	5,055.00	5,166.35	-83.85
SBIN	258	259	255	259.5	-4.45
JSWSTEEL	353.8	355.85	343.25	348	-7.1
INFY	675.95	682	653.3	663.05	-16.9
ZCEL	444	450.75	430.55	437.25	-11.95
TCS	1,888.00	1,898.00	1,837.00	1,847.75	-51.25
HCLTECH	970	983.6	947.6	951.65	-28.4
UPL	631	635	608.75	614.65	-19
GRASIM	847	863.9	819.1	829.7	-27.65
ULTRACEMCO	3,453.80	3,460.90	3,260.45	3,345.30	-117.95
WIPRO	318.9	320.25	305.1	308.35	-10.85
ASIANPAINT	1,135.20	1,190.00	1,118.00	1,142.45	-57.95
SUNPHARMA	605	605.6	572.75	576.85	-30.05

BSE 500

Script	Last Price	Change	%	CGPOWER	37.15	0.2	0.54
CHAMBLFERT	143.8	2.25	1.59	CHAMBLFERT	143.8	2.25	1.59
CHENNPETRO	265.4	8.45	3.29	CHENNPETRO	265.4	8.45	3.29
CHOLAFIN	1113.6	-30.25	-2.64	CHOLAFIN	1113.6	-30.25	-2.64
COPIA	622.95	-6.25	-0.99	COPIA	622.95	-6.25	-0.99
COALINDIA	277.1	1.1	0.4	COALINDIA	277.1	1.1	0.4
COCHINSHIP	379.7	-5.9	-1.53	COCHINSHIP	379.7	-5.9	-1.53
COFFEEDAY	267.15	0.65	0.24	COFFEEDAY	267.15	0.65	0.24
COLPAL	1132.35	11.05	0.99	COLPAL	1132.35	11.05	0.99
CONCOR	576.5	0.15	0.03	CONCOR	576.5	0.15	0.03
COROMANDEL	376.05	2.6	0.7	COROMANDEL	376.05	2.6	0.7
CORPBANK	22.75	-0.25	-1.09	CORPBANK	22.75	-0.25	-1.09
CORSAKINGS	190.1	-9.7	-4.82	CORSAKINGS	190.1	-9.7	-4.82
CRISIL	1359.5	-56.3	-3.98	CRISIL	1359.5	-56.3	-3.98
CROMPTON	197.65	0	0	CROMPTON	197.65	0	0
CUB	172.2	4.55	2.71	CUB	172.2	4.55	2.71
CUMMINSIND	654.6	-38.3	-5.53	CUMMINSIND	654.6	-38.3	-5.53
CYIENT	611.65	-10.6	-1.7	CYIENT	611.65	-10.6	-1.7
DABUR	400.5	-4.25	-1.05	DABUR	400.5	-4.25	-1.05
DALMABHA	2027.3	33.3	1.67	DALMABHA	2027.3	33.3	1.67
DBCORP	164.25	-1.1	-0.67	DBCORP	164.25	-1.1	-0.67
DBL	404.15	-26.25	-6.51	DBL	404.15	-26.25	-6.51
DCBANK	156.4	0.6	0.39	DCBANK	156.4	0.6	0.39
DHCSRIRAM*	394.4	-17.8	-4.32	DHCSRIRAM*	394.4	-17.8	-4.32
DEEPAKNI	203.75	-6.35	-3.02	DEEPAKNI	203.75	-6.35	-3.02
DEEPFACRY	237.9	3.1	1.32	DEEPFACRY	237.9	3.1	1.32
DELTAACORP	21.90	-9.85	-44.8	DELTAACORP	21.90	-9.85	-44.8
DELTAOIL	14.05	0.2	1.36	DELTAOIL	14.05	0.2	1.36
DHANUKA	382.75	-1.8	-0.47	DHANUKA	382.75	-1.8	-0.47
DHFL	193.45	3.35	1.76	DHFL	193.45	3.35	1.76
DHSHV	42.8	-0.4	-0.93	DHSHV	42.8	-0.4	-0.93
DISVLAB	1250.2	-41.75	-3.23	DISVLAB	1250.2	-41.75	-3.23
DLF	153.05	0.2	0.13	DLF	153.05	0.2	0.13
DMRT	1136.15	-57.45	-4.81	DMRT	1136.15	-57.45	-4.81
DREDDY	2473.65	-47.7	-1.89	DREDDY	2473.65	-47.7	-1.89
ECLERX	1045.1	-11.6	-1.1	ECLERX	1045.1	-11.6	-1.1
EDELWEISS	143.6	-6.45	-4.3	EDELWEISS	143.6	-6.45	-4.3
EICHERMOT	22287.5	-59.8	-0.27	EICHERMOT	22287.5	-59.8	-0.27
EIPARRY	210.65	5.65	2.76	EIPARRY	210.65	5.65	2.76
EIHOTEL	155.8	-0.9	-0.57	EIHOTEL	155.8	-0.9	-0.57
EMAMILTD	420.4	0.25	0.06	EMAMILTD	420.4	0.25	0.06

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
SBILIFE	547.2	586.05	545.1	585	27.15
ICICIPRULI	313	328.3	313	325.6	9.1
PEL	84.35	87.5	84.1	87.05	2.35
BEL	1,870.00	1,959.90	1,861.40	1,930.00	47
HAVELLS	580	602.9	579.2	595.5	10.15
DLF	150.3	155	149.75	154.9	2.1
L&FTH	120.4	124.7	120.1	123.6	1.5
IDEA	35.15	35.75	34.55	35.5	0.4
NHPC	23.8	24.3	23.8	24.25	0.25
NMDC	108.5	111.5	107.15	110.6	1.1
CADILAC	369.5	380.8	367.4	376.7	3.7
COLPAL	1,126.00	1,139.00	1,120.00	1,135.25	10.5
MCDOWELL-N	507.5	519.8	499.05	513.3	4
BHEL	75	76.5	72.85	74.35	0.4
CONCOR	570	583.7	560	578.35	2.55
PGHH	9,140.00	9,174.00	9,060.00	9,169.95	29.65
SAIL	63.5	64.75	62.45	64.05	0.1
INDIGO	781.35	814.95	781.35	807	0.5
LICHSGFIN	414	421.45	409.4	417.95	-0.85
MARICO	308	318.2	307	310	-0.9
PETRONET	212.75	215.2	209.3	212.15	-0.65
NIACL	203	206.95	203	205.05	-0.65
SUNTV	635.75	639.9	623.1	639	-2.3
ABB	1,250.00	1,262.40	1,226.10	1,244.50	-5
DABUR	399.5	409.65	397	402	-2.7
ASHOKLEY	112.4	113.35	109.8	112	-0.8
MRF	61,600.00	62,177.00	61,301.00	61,662.10	-544.85
BANKBARODA	101.4	103.65	100.95	101.7	-0.9
GOPIECIP	746.1	748.45	730.2	740	-8.05
HINDZINC	282	283.45	272.6	279	-3.15
GICRE	313	318.4	311	311	-3.55
BRITANNIA	5,569.00	5,601.10	5,452.25	5,498.00	-82.15
SRTRANSFIN	1,017.40	1,034.50	992.6	1,002.00	-15.4
ICICI	786	794	783.1	793	-12.25

'Saudis plotted writer's killing'

AP ■ ANKARA

Saudi officials murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi in their Istanbul consulate after plotting his death for days, Turkey's president said Tuesday, contradicting Saudi Arabia's explanation that the writer was accidentally killed. He demanded that the kingdom reveal the identities of all involved, regardless of rank. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also said he wants Saudi Arabia to allow 18 suspects that it detained for the Saudi's killing to be tried in Turkish courts, setting up further complications with the Saudi government, which has said it is conducting its own investigation and will punish those involved.



the victim of a savage murder. To cover up such a savagery would hurt the human conscience," he said.

"To blame such an incident on a handful of security and intelligence members would not satisfy us or the international community," Erdogan said in a speech to ruling party lawmakers in parliament.

"Saudi Arabia has taken an important step by admitting the murder. As of now we expect of them to openly bring to light those responsible — from the highest ranked to the lowest — and to bring them to justice," the Turkish president said.

Erdogan's speech was previously pitched as revealing the "naked truth" about Khashoggi's slaying. Instead it served merely to put a named source to information already circulated by anonymous officials and the Turkish press in the days since the columnist for The Washington Post walked into the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

However, he kept pressure on the kingdom with his demands for Turkish prosecution of the suspects as well as punishment for the plot's masterminds. "All evidence gathered shows that Jamal Khashoggi was

murdered in a "fistfight." Turkish media and officials say a 15-member Saudi team was flown in to kill Khashoggi and accosted the writer in the consulate, cutting off his fingers before killing and dismembering the 59-year-old Washington Post columnist who wrote critically about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. As the Riyadh conference opened, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih described the killing as "abhorrent" in his speech. The forum kicked off without some of its keynote speakers after numerous Western executives and officials cancelled plans to attend over Khashoggi's October 2 slaying. "As we all know, these are difficult days for us in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia," Al-Falih said to attendees seated in the forum's ornate hall. "Nobody in the kingdom can

justify it or explain it. From the leadership on down, we're very upset at what has happened," he added, referring to Khashoggi's slaying. The forum is the brainchild of Prince Mohammed and is aimed at drawing more foreign investment into the kingdom to help create desperately needed jobs for millions of young Saudis entering the workforce in the coming years. International pressure is mounting against the prince, who did not attend the start of forum. Critics suspect the powerful crown prince ordered Khashoggi's killing or at the least had knowledge of it. Despite the absence of key executives and speakers from the

United States and other Western partners, some USD 50 billion in deals were signed Tuesday at the forum with Russian and Asian businesses and officials eager to do business with the kingdom. "Those partners who are here with us today to continue that journey with us are certainly going to look back and find out... how committed the kingdom is to its partners that stay the course," Al-Falih said, just moments before several deals were inked on stage. The forum last year grabbed headlines when Prince Mohammed wowed the crowd of global business titans with pledges to lead the ultraconservative kingdom toward "moderate Islam."

SAUDI ARABIA INVESTMENT FORUM OPENS UNDER HAZE OF KHASHOGGI'S DEATH

RIYADH (AP): A high-profile economic forum in Saudi Arabia began on Tuesday in Riyadh, the kingdom's first major event on the world stage since the killing of writer Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul earlier this month. Khashoggi's death loomed large over the Future Investment Initiative forum and coincided with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's claim Tuesday that Saudi officials murdered Khashoggi in their consulate after plotting his death for days. The Turkish leader demanded the kingdom reveal the identities of all involved in the killing, regardless of rank. Saudi Arabia, which for weeks maintained Khashoggi had left the consulate, on Saturday acknowledged he was killed there in a "fistfight." Turkish media and officials say a 15-member Saudi team was flown in to kill Khashoggi and accosted the writer in the consulate, cutting off his fingers before killing and dismembering the 59-year-old Washington Post columnist who wrote critically about Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. As the Riyadh conference opened, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih described the killing as "abhorrent" in his speech. The forum kicked off without some of its keynote speakers after numerous Western executives and officials cancelled plans to attend over Khashoggi's October 2 slaying. "As we all know, these are difficult days for us in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia," Al-Falih said to attendees seated in the forum's ornate hall. "Nobody in the kingdom can



Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, center, and Jordan's King Abdullah II second left, attend the Future Investment Initiative conference, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

arrested suspects and that several top intelligence officials were fired over the killing, but critics alleged that the punishment was designed to absolve Prince Mohammed of any responsibility. On Monday, leaked surveillance video showed a man strolling out of the diplomatic post hours after Khashoggi disappeared into the consulate, apparently wearing the columnist's clothes as part of a macabre deception to sow confusion over his fate.

China elusive on backing India's request on listing Azhar as global terrorist

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday made it clear that there is no change in its position on India's request to list Pakistan-based JeM chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN and said it will decide on the issue on the "merits of the matter".

India on Monday asked China to support the pending application in the UN to designate Azhar as a global terrorist during the first India-China high-level meeting on bilateral security cooperation which was co-chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Zhao Kezhi, State Councilor and Minister of Public Security, China, in New Delhi.

A veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has repeatedly blocked India's bid at the United Nations to list Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Azhar as a global terrorist. When asked to comment on India's request, Chinese Foreign



Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said she has to check the specific details of the talks between the two ministers.

"As per to India's request for the listing of Masood (Azhar) we already stated our position for many times," she said. "On the counter terrorism issue, China has always actively participated in international anti-terrorist operations. We

have always made our decisions and judgements on the merits of the matter itself," she said.

"We will continue to step up the security cooperation to uphold the regional peace and stability with parties," she said. Azhar is accused of several deadly terrorist attacks in India, including one on the Uri military base in Kashmir in 2016 in which 17 security personnel were killed.

China has blocked India's efforts to designate Azhar under the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council citing lack of consensus among the members of the Council.

On reports that India has requested China to not to give shelter to hard-line United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) leader Paresh Baruah, Hua said, "I shall stress that the Chinese government has always adhered to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This remains unchanged."

'Khashoggi's death was a plot gone awry'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he believes the death of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi was the result of a "plot gone awry," and that he opposes ending the USD 110 billion mega arms deal with Riyadh over the issue. Khashoggi, a columnist for The Washington Post, was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

The Saudi government initially said he left the consulate through the back door. Following a global outrage, the Saudi government on Friday in a statement acknowledged that Khashoggi was killed in a fistfight inside the consulate and noted that an interrogation went wrong. Turkish officials have said they have evidence Khashoggi was tortured, dismembered and murdered inside the consulate.

US President Donald Trump has said he was "not satisfied" with the response of Riyadh over Khashoggi's death. The president also said a group of US officials are in Saudi Arabia and another group of investigators in Turkey are trying to gather information on this issue.

"I am not satisfied with what I've heard," Trump told reporters at the White House before leaving for an election rally in Texas Monday. "We will know very soon. We have tremendously talented people very well. They're coming back tonight or tomorrow and I will know very soon," he said responding to a question. He also said that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has told him that neither he nor the king were involved in this.

"He (Crown Prince) says he is not involved nor is the king," Trump told USA Today, a popular American daily, in an interview. If their involvement was proven, "I would be very upset about it. We'll have to see," the president said. Trump, who has said he wants to get to the bottom of the case, told the daily that he still believed it was "a plot gone awry". He reiterated that he



China slams Donald Trump nuclear treaty 'blackmail'

AFP ■ BEIJING

China warned on Tuesday it would "never accept any form of blackmail" after US President Donald Trump said his decision to withdraw from a nuclear pact with Russia was also linked to Beijing's arsenal.

China is not a signatory to the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), which the United States signed with the then-Soviet Union in the 1980s, but Trump said Monday that Beijing should be included in the accord.

"Now that the United States want to unilaterally withdraw from the treaty, they start to inappropriately speak about other countries," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing.

"This approach of shifting the blame on others is utterly unjustifiable and unreasonable," Hua said.

She said China had always pursued a defensive national defence policy. "We will never accept any form of blackmail," Hua said. The landmark treaty was signed by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev and led to nearly 2,700 short- and medium-range missiles being eliminated.

It put an end to a mini-arms race in the 1980s triggered by the Soviet Union's deployment of SS-20 nuclear missiles targeting Western European capitals.

"Until people come to their senses, we will build it up," Trump told reporters Monday at the White House, referring to the US nuclear arsenal. "It's a threat to whoever you want. And it includes China. And it includes Russia. And it includes anybody else that wants to play that game," he said, adding that China "should be included in the agreement".

South Korea approves North deals amid conservative opp

Seoul (AP): South Korea's liberal president on Tuesday formally approved his recent reconciliation deals with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, triggering immediate backlash from conservatives who called him "self-righteous" and "subservient" to the North. President Moon Jae-in's move is largely seen as an effort to show he's determined to carry out the deals despite growing skepticism about whether his engagement policy could eventually lead to North Korea's nuclear disarmament.

Moon "ratified" the deals on Tuesday afternoon, hours after his Cabinet approved them during a regular meeting, his office said in a statement. The back-to-back endorsements came with no prior parliamentary endorsement. In South Korea, a president is allowed by law to ratify some agreements with North Korea without consents from lawmakers.

At the start of the Cabinet meeting, Moon said in televised remarks that the ratification would help further improve ties with North Korea and accelerate global efforts to achieve the "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

The main conservative opposition Liberty Korea Party criticized Moon's action, saying the deals would only undermine national security and waste taxpayers' money. "We deplore the fact that the Moon Jae-in government is weighted toward its subservient North Korea policy and is consistently being self-righteous and lacking communication" with parliament, said party spokesman Yoon Young-seok.

Moon, who took office last year, has said that greater reconciliation with North Korea would help resolve the international standoff over the North's nuclear ambitions. Moon has met with Kim three times this year, and he shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to help arrange a series of high-level talks between the countries, including a June summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Singapore. Since entering nuclear talks earlier this year, Kim has taken some steps like dismantling his nuclear testing site and releasing American detainees. The United States responded by suspending some of its annual military drills with South Korea but is reluctant to provide the North with major political or economic rewards unless the country takes significant disarmament steps.

India's TCS among top ten firms to get foreign labour certification for H-1B visas

Washington (PTI): Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the only Indian company among the top 10 firms to get foreign labour certification for the H-1B visas for the fiscal year 2018 by receiving over 20,000 such certifications, according to official data in which Ernst & Young was ranked No 1.

The H-1B visas are the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals. The visa programme allows employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in the US on a non-immigrant basis in specialty occupations or as fashion models of distinguished merit and ability.

London-headquartered Ernst & Young, a multinational professional services firm, has emerged as the top employer to have received the certification, the date from the US labour department said.

In fact, Ernst & Young with 151,164 H-1B specialist occupation labour certifications accounted for the 12.4 per cent of all foreign labour certification for the H-1B work visas for the fiscal year 2018 ending on September 30, according to the latest annual report released by the Department of Labour early



this month. Ernst & Young is followed by Deloitte Consulting which received 69,869 H-1B specialty occupations labour conditions programme.

Indian-American owned Cognizant Technology Corp comes at number three with 47,732 specialty occupations labour conditions programme, the Department of Labour said in its latest annual report. Cognizant is followed by HCL America (42,820), K Force Inc (32,996), and Apple (26,833).

India's Tata Consultancy Services or TCS is the only Indian company in top 10 for the year 2018. According to the Department of Labour in the fiscal year 2018, ending on September 30, TCS had

received 20,755 H-1B specialty occupation labour certifications.

Qualcomm Technologies (20,723), Mphasis Corporation (16,671) and Cargemini America (13,517) are the other companies in top 10. In the 2018 fiscal year the Department of Labour's Office of Foreign Labour Certification processed 654,360 applications for the H-1B specialty occupations labour conditions programme, of which 599,782 were certified, 8,627 were denied and 45,951 were withdrawn. It received requests for 1,266,614 position of which 1,223,053 were certified. Among the positions certified, software developers and appli-

cations accounted for nearly one-fourth with 285,963 positions being certified. This was followed by computer systems analyst (176,025), Computer Occupations (120,736), Software developers, system software (67,262), accountants and auditors (54,241) and computer programmers (53,727).

California with 309,205 certifications topped the list of States for getting maximum H-1B labour certification, followed by Texas (115,484), New York (95,722), New Jersey (65,232), Illinois (56,196), Washington (52,522) and Pennsylvania (51,471).

According to Department of labour, a specialty occupation requires the theoretical and practical application of a body of specialised knowledge and a bachelor's degree or the equivalent in the specific specialty (e.g. sciences, medicine, health care, education, biotechnology, and business specialties, etc.).

Congress has limited the annual number of qualifying foreign workers who may be issued a visa or otherwise provided the H-1B status to 65,000 with an additional 20,000 under the H-1B advanced degree exemption.

Japan probe finds more universities discriminated against women

AFP ■ TOKYO

A Japanese government probe has uncovered more cases of universities discriminating against female applicants in an investigation prompted by a scandal at a Tokyo medical school. The education ministry launched the investigation into 81 public and private medical schools after the Tokyo Medical University in August admitted it had systematically altered the test scores of women to keep out female students.

After initial investigation, the ministry carried out field visits to 30 institutions to learn more about how they conducted entry exams. "Inappropriate practices were discovered at several universities," the ministry said in the interim report, without specifying a number or naming the schools.

The report found evidence of schools using various methods to keep out female applicants and candidates taking the



entrance test for the second or third time.

Some female applicants were rejected despite achieving scores that should have been sufficient for admission. In other cases, preference was given to children of alumni over those with higher test scores.

The ministry said there were no plans at present to punish universities involved, or even to make public those involved. "We have chosen not to name the establishments but we are asking them to provide explanations for their practices,"

Education Minister Masahiko Shibayama said at a press conference.

The report urged universities to end discrimination "so candidates can take their exams without worry".

The final results of the investigation are to be published in December, with the ministry planning additional field visits. A ministry official said the current probe only covers medical schools, but "the investigation would be expanded if inappropriate practices were uncovered at other establishments."

China opens world's longest sea bridge

Beijing (PTI): China on Tuesday officially opened the 55-km-long sea bridge, said to be the world's longest, connecting Hong Kong to Macau and the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai. President Xi Jinping inaugurated the USD 20 billion bridge at a special ceremony held in Zhuhai, in southern China's Guangdong Province, attended by about 700 guests, including the leaders of Hong Kong and Macau.

It was opened with a one sentence speech by Xi, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. The construction of the bridge started in December 2009 and was to be completed in 2016. Situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River estuary, it will be the world's longest sea bridge, the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

China claims credit for building the world's longest bridge, the 164.8-km-long Danyang-Kunshan Grand viaduct on the Beijing-Shanghai high speed railway.



The 55-kilometre crossing, which includes a road bridge and underwater tunnel, links Hong Kong's Lantau island to Zhuhai and the gambling enclave of Macau, across the waters of the Pearl River Estuary.

The bridge, which will be opened for regular traffic from Wednesday, will slash the travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai from three hours to just 30 minutes, it said, adding it will further integrate the cities in the Pearl River Delta.

Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng said the bridge would bring Hong Kong and mainland China closer in terms of economic and trade activities.

Describing the bridge as a sign of successful cooperation between the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau he said, it is a demonstration of China's engineering capabilities. Han, Beijing's man-in-charge of regional economic integration, said that the 55-km-long bridge could facilitate the development of "one country, two systems", a framework that allows Hong Kong and Macau a certain degree of autonomy. He said it was the first time the three sides had worked together on a major infrastructure project.

"It opens up all three places for greater exchange in trade and economics. It also enhances the competitiveness of the Pearl River Delta," the Post quoted him as saying. The bridge would help Hong Kong and Macau be integrated to mainland China, he added.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor highlighted the three cross-border infrastructure projects — the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong express rail link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge and the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai boundary control point which will open early next year. But, the critics have called the bridge a "white elephant" and a "blood and sweat project", noting 10 workers have died and more than 600 were injured during its construction, the Post reported.

Additional concerns surfaced earlier this year when officials revealed that estimates for the amount of traffic expected for the bridge had been cut. A 2008 consultancy study had predicted that 33,100 vehicles and 1,71,800 passengers would cross the bridge daily by 2030. But the estimate was lowered to 29,100 vehicles and 1,26,000 passenger trips in a 2016 study, down 12 per cent and 26 per cent respectively, the report said.

'I'll extend hand of friendship to India after 2019 elections'

PTI ■ RIYADH ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that he would once again extend a hand of friendship to India after the 2019 Lok Sabha elections as he believed New Delhi rebuffed his offer of talks because Pakistan is an issue in the elections in the neighbouring country.

Speaking at the high-profile Future Investment Initiative forum in Riyadh, Khan said Pakistan wants "peace with all our neighbours particularly India and Afghanistan for regional peace and stability." "Peace with India would help the two countries to divert their resources towards human development instead of indulging in arms race," Khan was quoted as saying by state-run Radio Pakistan. Similarly, peace in Afghanistan would help Pakistan to have an easy access to the Central Asian states for bilateral economic and trade activities, he said.

Khan said he had extended a hand of friendship to India, which rebuffed the move. After assuming power in August, Khan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggesting a meeting between the



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, right and United Arab Emirates Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, attend the opening of the Future Investment Initiative conference, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. AP

two countries' foreign ministers on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September. India accepted the proposal but, within hours of its acceptance, terrorists killed three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir, prompting New Delhi to cancel the foreign ministers' meeting on the sidelines of the UNGA.

"He (Khan) attributed this (cancellation) to anti-Pakistan rhetoric raking in votes in India," the Express Tribune newspaper reported, citing the

prime minister. Prime Minister Khan said he would try once again following the conclusion of the general elections in India. The general elections are due to be held in India next year.

The ties between the two countries had strained after the terror attacks by Pakistan-based groups in 2016 and India's surgical strikes inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In his victory speech after the July elections, Khan expressed his willingness to

improve Pakistan's ties with India and said that his government would like the leaders of the two sides to resolve all disputes, including the "core issue" of Kashmir, through talks.

Speaking at the summit, which is the brainchild of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to attract foreign investment into the kingdom, Khan said that his government is approaching the IMF and the friendly countries to seek loans to plug the financial gap. The three-day summit, nicknamed "Davos in the desert", has been overshadowed by raging global outrage over the murder of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2. Several investors and international figureheads have cancelled their plans to attend the summit in an apparent protest against the killing of Khashoggi.

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde and US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have also pulled out. Khan, who attended the summit, is visiting close ally Saudi Arabia for the second time since assuming power in August.

Gang members, middle easterners part of migrant caravan: US Prez

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has claimed that people from the Middle East and members of the MS-13 criminal gang were part of the caravan of mostly Honduran migrants moving towards the United States. He said Monday that the "Middle Easterns" and the gang's members were trying to sneak into the US by being among people in the caravan.

"Take the camera, go into the middle and search. You're going to find MS-13, you're going to find Middle Easterns — you're going to find everything. "And guess what? We're not allowing them in our country. We want safety," Trump told reporters at the White House.

When asked what he meant by middle easterners, Trump asked the reporter to go to the caravan to see that. "I had reports and they have a lot of everybody in the group. It's a horrible thing and it's a lot bigger than 5,000 people and we got to stop them at the border and unfortunately, you look at the countries, they have not done their job," he said.

MS-13 or the Mara Salvatrucha, is among the



Mexicans from religious organizations hand out small bags containing water, toilet paper, diapers and medicine to Central American migrants who got a free ride from a motorist, in Xochiltepec, Mexico, Monday. Motorists in pickups and other vehicles have been offering the Central American migrants rides, often in overloaded truck beds, as the group of about 7,000 people heads to the U.S. border.

criminal outfits behind a wave of violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The US, Trump said gives a lot of money as aid to Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. The three countries from where thousands of people are now marching towards America.

"Every year we give them foreign aid. They did nothing for us. Nothing. They did nothing for us. So, we give them tremendous amounts of

money — you know what it is, you cover it all the time — hundreds of millions of dollars. They, like a lot of others, do nothing for our country," he said. Trump had earlier in the day threatened to cut off aid to these three Latin American countries which was opposed by lawmakers.

"Migrant families are fleeing extreme violence and political oppression, and are trying to seek asylum in the United States. "The

president's threat to cut off foreign aid in response to this growing humanitarian crisis is not only cruel and inhumane, it ignores that Congress, not the president, is entrusted by the Constitution with the power of the purse," said Congresswoman Nita Lowey, a ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee.

Cutting funding would make the problem worse, not better, she said. "Congress must reject the administration's dangerous agenda and policies and immediately work to pass comprehensive reform of our nation's broken immigration laws to keep families together and protect our economy," Lowey said. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez alleged that the Trump administration was trying to paint some members of Congress as the culprits of this 'migrant caravan' and past mass migration.

"However, I can personally attest to the falsity of this argument. I have travelled to these countries on bipartisan delegations, met with foreign leaders, and invited the executive branch to join the conversation on how to improve years of failed foreign policy in Central America," he said.

Pak to launch aggressive campaign against India over IWT: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan will launch an aggressive campaign against India to highlight its concerns over the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) after New Delhi failed to let Pakistani officials visit two hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir, a media report said Tuesday.

Pakistan's Commissioner on Permanent Indus Water Commission Syed Mehr Ali Shah said the Indian water commissioner had promised on the conclusion of the August 29-30 annual meeting to arrange a visit to the 1,000MW Pakal Dul and 48MW Lower Kalnai in Jammu and Kashmir in the last week of September.

But the visit was delayed to October 7-12 due to local government elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Shah alleged that the Indian side did not honour its

revised schedule as well, saying Panchayat elections were being held in the state after 20 years.

Shah said he wrote a letter of disappointment and then talked to his counterpart a few days ago on phone and based on that discussion he did not expect a visit soon, Dawn newspaper reported.

"We do not foresee an inspection visit of (the two projects being executed by India over) the Chenab River in the near future based on my telephonic discussions with my Indian counterpart," Shah said.

Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda said he did not want to go into a threatening mode, but would launch an aggressive campaign at home and abroad as India had seriously violated the 1960 treaty to Pakistan's disadvantage.

Without explaining, the

minister said he would trap India to its own bluff card because the matter also pertained to Pakistan's security and he was in the process of consultations with stakeholders to resolve the challenges with India on a war footing.

India and Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960 after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory.

The water commissioners of Pakistan and India are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river headworks.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers. However, there have been disagreements and differences between India and Pakistan over the treaty.

Trump's adviser meets Russian defence min in Moscow

AP ■ MOSCOW

US President Donald Trump's national security adviser struck a conciliatory note Tuesday in talks in Moscow, just days after Trump vowed to pull out of a key arms control treaty with Russia. John Bolton landed in Moscow on Monday less than 48 hours after Trump said that Russia violated the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and warned that the US would begin developing such weapons unless Russia and China agree not to possess or develop them.

China wasn't a party to the pact that was signed in 1987 by US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that prohibits the US and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying ground-launched nuclear cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometres (300 to 3,400 miles).

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu on Tuesday lauded Bolton for his two-day visit and said "even small steps will



U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton, left, and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu shake hands during their meeting in Moscow, Russia on Tuesday. AP

benefit our relations and help restore trust" between the two countries.

He also said Russia and the US should build up on their cooperation in Syria which helped to prevent major incidents in the sky or on the ground. But Dmitry Peskov,

chairman Nikolai Patrushev on Monday, is expected to meet Putin later on Tuesday.

He told Shoigu that he was in Moscow to work on Trump's commitment to improve security cooperation with Russia.

"We certainly share your view that the US-Russian discussions with respect to Syria have been useful, productive and professional, and we hope we can extend those conversations through a number of other ways that you mentioned, and even more," he said.

In televised comments, neither Bolton nor Shoigu mentioned Trump's announcement on the INF treaty.

In an interview with the Ekho Moskvy Russian radio station on Monday, Bolton made it clear that Washington has made up its mind about leaving the treaty.

"If Russia says it's not violating the INF treaty, what are they going to do to change their behaviour to comply?" he said. When signed in 1987, the

treaty was lauded as a major safeguard for global security since with no shorter-range missiles in use, the nuclear superpowers would in theory have more time for decision-making if faced with a nuclear attack. The European Union warned Trump of a potential impact on European security if he decided to go ahead and leave the INF treaty.

An EU statement on Monday described the pact as an essential cornerstone of Europe's security structure, adding, "the world doesn't need a new arms race that would benefit no one and on the contrary, would bring even more instability."

Separately, Bolton told Ekho Moskvy that he raised the issue of Russian meddling in the US elections in talks with Patrushev on Monday.

He said that he did not believe the meddling had any effect in the US 2016 election, though the accusations created "enormous distrust of Russia".

Vietnam Parl elects Communist Party chief as President

AP ■ HANOI

Vietnam's rubber stamp National Assembly elected Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong as the country's president on Tuesday, consolidating his influence as the most powerful man in the Southeast Asian nation. The 74-year-old Trong is the first Vietnamese leader to hold the two positions since founding President Ho Chi Minh in the 1960s. He succeeds President Tran Dai Quang, who died last month after battling a viral illness for more than a year.

Raising one hand and placing the other on the constitution, Trong vowed during the swearing-in ceremony to be "absolutely loyal to the nation, people and the constitution."

He acknowledged in his acceptance speech that despite impressive achievements in recent years, Vietnam faces many challenges. "Many heavy tasks and duties are waiting ahead of us," he said.

Earlier this month, the party's Central Committee endorsed Trong as the sole candidate for the presidency. Nguyen Khac Giang, a



Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong is sworn in as the country's president in Hanoi, Vietnam on Tuesday. AP

researcher at the Vietnam Institute for Economic and Policy Research in Hanoi, said Trong's serving as general secretary and president could weaken the collective leadership, which was seen as being more democratic than China's single-party rule. "When

power is concentrated in an individual, there's a tendency which could be negative in a way that could lessen the collective leadership inside the party," Giang said.

Vietnam does not have a single paramount leader, with the country run through the

collective leadership of the general secretary, president, prime minister and National Assembly chair.

Giang said it's unclear whether the merger of general secretary and president will continue after Trong likely steps down at the next five-year party congress, scheduled for 2021. Trong, the party's former chief ideologue, was elected to the all-powerful Politburo in 1997, serving as the Communist Party chief of Hanoi and chairman of the National Assembly before being promoted to general secretary in 2011. He was re-elected to another five-year term in January 2016.

Vietnam has seen an increased crackdown on dissidents and corruption, with scores of high-ranking officials and executives jailed since 2016 under Trong's watch.

The anti-corruption drive is likely to continue, according to Le Hong Hiep, a research fellow at the Singapore-based ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

"With his consolidated power, it's likely that he will continue his signature anti-corruption campaign, a key factor

that has helped him strengthen his power and won him the presidency," Hiep said.

Trong became the first general secretary to visit former foe the United States when he met with President Barack Obama at the White House in July 2015. The US Embassy in Hanoi congratulated Trong on his election. "President Trong's selection comes at a time when our bilateral ties with Vietnam have never been stronger," Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink said in a statement.

"Over the past two decades, the United States and Vietnam have come together to find common purpose based on shared interests.

We have expanded our security ties, forged new economic and commercial linkages, and deepened our people-to-people engagement. We share a common desire to promote peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region."

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with President Trong on further strengthening and expanding the US-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership," Kritenbrink said.



Netherlands' King Willem-Alexander bends down to kiss Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as she greets him upon his arrival to inspect an honour guard during a Ceremonial Welcome on Horse Guards Parade in London on Tuesday. Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima are on a State Visit to Britain. AP

Breathing through nose boosts memory consolidation: Study

London (PTI): Breathing through the nose may improve the transfer of experience to long-term memory, according to a study. The finding, published in the journal JNeurosci, adds to the growing evidence for the influence of respiration on human perception and cognition. Building on previous research in animals and humans, Artin Arshamian from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden

and colleagues compared the effects of nose breathing and mouth breathing during a one-hour consolidation period after participants were exposed to various odours.

Nose breathers, whose mouths were taped over during the consolidation period, showed increased odour recognition compared to mouth breathers, whose noses were clipped during consolidation.

Although the study did not measure brain activity, the researchers suggest that nose breathing may facilitate communication between sensory and memory networks as memories are replayed and strengthened during consolidation. The study provides evidence that, in addition to its effects on memory encoding and retrieval, nasal respiration also supports memory consolidation.

Why people stay in unhappy relationships?

Washington (PTI): People continue to stay in unsatisfying romantic relationships because they believe that leaving would be bad for their partners, a study suggests.

Published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the study explored the possibility that people deciding whether to end a relationship consider not only their own desires but also how much they think their partner wants and needs the relation-



ship to continue. "The more dependent people believed their partner was on the rela-

tionship, the less likely they were to initiate a breakup," said Samantha Joel, who was an

assistant professor at the University of Utah in the US at the time of the research. Previous research shows the amount of time, resources and emotion invested in a relationship can be factors in deciding to end a romantic relationship. Studies also show that a person may opt to remain in an unfulfilling relationship if the alternative — being alone, the available pool of partners, etc — seems less appealing. In those cases,

deciding to stay or go was based on self-interest, Joel said. However, the new study shows the first evidence that decisions about an unsatisfying romantic relationship may involve an altruistic component.

"When people perceived that the partner was highly committed to the relationship they were less likely to initiate a breakup," said Joel, now an assistant professor at Western University in Canada.

Atletico out to stop Dortmund, Barca miss Messi

Spanish giant travel Dortmund to face Bundesliga table toppers; Camp Nou hosts Inter in absence of injured Leo

AP ■ BERLIN

Although Borussia Dortmund is scoring at a remarkable rate, Atletico Madrid has the defenders to stop that flow of goals.

The teams, one with the best attack in Germany and the other with the tightest defense in Spain, will meet Wednesday in the Champions League with both sides coming off opening wins in Group A.

Dortmund is unbeaten so far this season and is scoring an average of 3.4 goals per game in the Bundesliga - even with sparing use of record-breaking signing Paco Alcacer. The Spain striker has only played one full game for Dortmund since arriving from on loan from Barcelona - scoring one goal in a 3-0 win over Monaco - but he has scored every 18 minutes in the Bundesliga, where he has a record seven goals in four appearances.

"It's not in question that we're satisfied beyond measure with Paco," Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke told the local Ruhr Nachrichten newspaper.

Alcacer also scored in both his recent appearances for Spain, meaning the 25-year-old forward has yet to play a game this season in which he hasn't found the net.

There's little doubt that Dortmund will make use of its option to sign the former Valencia striker to a permanent deal after his one-year loan expires. No other player has made such a good start in the Bundesliga since the league was formed in 1963.

Atletico will provide a stern test, how-



Antoine Griezmann poses after scoring against Monaco



English club Liverpool players train during the practice session in Anfield

Liverpool FC



Luis Suarez in the practice session ahead of UCL clash

in the final.

Club Brugge will host struggling Monaco in the other group game. Monaco is hoping for a resurgence under coach Thierry Henry, who lost at Strasbourg 2-1 on Saturday in his debut.

Monaco finished with 10 men, lost top scorer Radamel Falcao to injury, and slipped to 19th place in the French league.

GROUP B

After perfect starts, Barcelona hosts Inter Milan without Lionel Messi, who broke his right forearm in Saturday's win over Sevilla.

Brazil midfielder Philippe Coutinho and France forward Ousmane Dembele, the club's most expensive signings, will be asked to make up for the Argentine's absence, teaming up with Luis Suarez in attack.

With Messi absent, another Argentine will be looking to shine for Inter. Mauro Icardi hopes to make it three out of three in the Champions League after scoring in his debut in the competition, a 2-1 win over Tottenham, and netting the winner against PSV Eindhoven.

The 25-year-old Icardi has six goals in his past seven matches, including a stoppage-time winner in Sunday's city derby against AC Milan.

PSV hosts Tottenham in the other group game.

Christian Eriksen could return to Tottenham's starting lineup. The Denmark playmaker was a late substitute over the weekend in the Premier League after being out for a month with an abdominal injury.

GROUP C

Carlo Ancelotti returns to Paris Saint-Germain, where he will hope for better luck

with Napoli than on his previous visit to the team he coached from 2011-13.

Just over a year ago, Ancelotti was fired as Bayern Munich coach after a 3-0 loss at Parc des Princes.

Among the scorers that night was Edinson Cavani, who was Ancelotti's most expensive signing when he joined PSG from Napoli.

Though Cavani is PSG's all-time leading scorer with 176 goals, he has fallen out of favor since the arrival of coach Thomas Tuchel, who favors Neymar in tandem with Kylian Mbappe.

Tuchel has given Cavani assurances he still counts on him, and he is expected to start on Wednesday. Cavani has a point to prove, which may not be good news for Ancelotti.

PSG, which started with a 3-2 loss at Liverpool, is looking for its second win.

Liverpool hosts Red Star Belgrade in the other group match.

The teams last met 45 years ago when Liverpool lost both legs in the second round of the European Cup. The defeats to a technically gifted Red Star team proved to be a wake-up call for Liverpool, which altered its approach in Europe and went on to become European champions four times in the following decade.

GROUP D

Porto will visit Lokomotiv Moscow level on points with Schalke and one ahead of Galatasaray, who meet in the other group game in Istanbul.

Lokomotiv lost 1-0 to a late Schalke goal in its previous game, after losing 3-0 at Galatasaray in its first. Another loss for the Russian champions would all but end their hopes of making the knockout stages.



B Dortmund vs A Madrid
Live from 12:30am IST
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ever. The visitor's wizened defenders have only conceded five goals in nine Spanish league games so far.

Diego Costa, out with a hamstring injury picked up in the win over Club Brugge, could return for Atletico.

GROUP A

Dortmund and Atletico last met in the Champions League in the 1996-97 group stage with both sides recording away victories. Dortmund went on to beat Juventus

SINGLES

INDIA TO HOST MEN'S SERIES FINALS

LAUSANNE: India will host one of the men's FIH Hockey Series Finals from June 6 to 16, a tournament from where two teams will make the cut for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics qualifiers. The top two teams from each FIH Series Finals will secure a place in the Tokyo Olympics qualification events. Besides hosts India, other teams include Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, South Africa, USA. One more team is yet to be confirmed. The venue for the India-leg of Hockey Series Final is also finalised later. The Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur and Le Touquet (France) will host the other two legs of the men's competition. The women's competition will be hosted by Ireland (June 8 to 16), Japan (June 15 to 23) and Valencia (June 19 to 27). The Indian women will feature in the Japan leg of the Hockey Series Finals which will also have Chile, Fiji, hosts Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia and Uruguay.

LAHIRI, KAPUR TO LEAD IN PANASONIC OPEN

NEW DELHI: Leading Indian golfers Anirban Lahiri, Shiv Kapur and SSP Chawrasia will vie for top honours at the eighth Panasonic Open India, which will tee-off at the Delhi Golf Club here from Thursday. The highly-rated event will also see a strong international field comprising players from 17 other countries. Sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), the Panasonic Open India will once again offer a prize purse of \$400,000 when it returns to its regular venue. Kapur, who is the defending champion, topped the inaugural Panasonic Swing ranking with total points of 2922.90 last year, thanks largely to his victory at the Panasonic Open India, which was his first Asian Tour victory on home soil and second win in 2017. Kapur will spearhead the elite field alongside compatriots Chiragh Kumar and Viraj Madappa as well as two-time Asian Tour winners Jazz Janewattananond and Panuphol Pittayarat of Thailand.

SHUBHANKAR EYES WGC-HSBC TITLE

SHANGHAI: Shubhankar Sharma is determined to become only the second Asian player ever to claim the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions in just his debut appearance as he feels he has got the game to be counted among the best. The \$ 10 million event starts at the Sheshan International Golf Club on Thursday. "I'm playing this event for the first time...it's obviously going to be a very exciting week as only the best players in the world will be here and I'm part of them," Sharma said. Sharma's best finish at a WGC event was in Mexico early in the year where he led for two rounds before settling for an eventual tied-ninth place. Compatriot Gaganjeet Bhullar, who has also enjoyed a standout season so far, is ready to stamp his mark at the Shanghai showpiece. Bhullar is the only Indian to have won nine times on the Asian Tour.

ZAHEER, RP SINGH TO PLAY IN T10 LEAGUE

MUMBAI: Retired pacers Zaheer Khan and R P Singh are among the Indian cricketers, who have signed up to compete in the second T10 League starting November 21. Joining Zaheer and Singh are Praveen Kumar, S Badrinath, and Reetinder Singh Sodhi, the organisers of the event said in a statement. One of India's most successful fast bowlers, Zaheer spearheaded the country's pace attack for many years including at the 2011 World Cup and has over 600 international wickets across all formats. Singh was a part of the Indian team that won the inaugural Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa where he emerged as second-highest wicket-taker in the competition. Badrinath is regarded as one of the most successful first-class cricketers. Earlier, Virender Sehwag was named the T10 Cricket League icon along with Shahid Afridi.

YUKI, RAMKUMAR TO MISS BENGALURU OPEN

BENGALURU: India's top two singles players, Yuki Bhambri and Ramkumar Ramanathan, will not be seen in action at the \$ 150,000 Bengaluru Open - one of the biggest Challenger tournaments in the country due to different reasons. Surprisingly, Yuki has preferred a smaller (\$ 50,000) Challenger tournament in Kobe, Japan in the same week while Ramkumar has to attend a mandatory ATP educative programme in London, which talks about several issues including anti-doping. With both of them missing, in-form Pranjesh will be India's biggest hope and the only one to make it to the singles main draw of the tournament, scheduled to be held at KSLTA from November 12 to 17.

Agencies

Arsenal make it perfect 10

AFP ■ LONDON

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mesut Ozil stole the show as Arsenal swept to their 10th successive win with a dominant 3-1 victory against Leicester on Monday.

Unai Emery's side trailed to Hector Bellerin's first-half own goal at the Emirates Stadium.

But Ozil, captaining Arsenal on his return to the side after back spasms, produced a majestic display to lead the Gunners' impressive fight-back.

Ozil, shrugging off his poor start to the season, equalised just before half-time and played a key role in Aubameyang's second-half double. Gabon striker Aubameyang scored twice in quick succession after coming off the bench, ensuring Arsenal won 10 consecutive matches in all competitions for the first time since 2007.

They have scored 30 goals in that blistering streak and climb to fourth place in the Premier League, just two points behind leaders Manchester City.



On the 69th birthday of Emery's predecessor Arsene Wenger, this was the kind of swashbuckling show that recalled Arsenal's glory days under the Frenchman.

Ozil summed up Arsenal mood, tweeting after the match: "I think we played some sexy football tonight. Proud captain of this team."

It was the perfect start to a hectic week that sees Arsenal travel to Portugal for a Europa League tie against Sporting Lisbon on Thursday before returning to domestic action at Crystal Palace on Sunday.

"We are happy because we are progressing. We need to play with organisation but also we are beginning to play with heart," Emery said. "Today the performance of the team, and also of Mesut, was very good."

Emery has made a remarkable impact since replacing Wenger in the close-season.

The Spanish manager's two-game losing streak at the start of his Arsenal reign is now a distant memory as Gunners fans start to dream of a title challenge after their seventh successive league win.

Emery isn't getting carried away just yet, saying: "It's important to keep calm and progress with every player. To continue winning is difficult."

"When you improve your demands are very high. We need to control matches more than we are doing now."

WOZNIACKI GETS 1ST WIN AT WTA FINALS

AP ■ SINGAPORE

Defending champion Caroline Wozniacki earned her first victory at this year's WTA Finals, beating Petra Kvitova 7-5, 3-6, 6-2 on Tuesday.

Wozniacki, who became the first Danish woman to win a Grand Slam title at this year's Australian Open, is now 1-1 in her group. Kvitova is 0-2.

"I played much better today," Wozniacki said on court after the match. "I returned well. I served well. Against Petra, she's so powerful, you have to stay on your game. I just tried to stay focused and get a lot of balls back."

"I always believe in myself and when I'm out on the court I believe I'm going to win."

Wozniacki lost to Karolina Pliskova in her opening match, while Kvitova lost to Elina Svitolina. Pliskova and



Svitolina will meet later Tuesday.

Kvitova, who won the WTA Finals title in her debut appearance at the year-end tournament in 2011, was the one taking chances on Tuesday. But Wozniacki played steadier defense and

waited for the Czech to make mistakes. Kvitova finished the match with 40 winners and 40 unforced errors. Wozniacki had 19 winners and 14 unforced errors.

Wozniacki, who broke her opponent in the first and fifth games of the deciding set, took a medical timeout to have her left knee bandaged when Kvitova was leading 3-1 in the second.

Meanwhile, Rising Japanese superstar Naomi Osaka has vowed to push through fatigue and atone for her error-strewn loss to Sloane Stephens in her WTA Finals debut in Singapore on Monday.

An error-prone Osaka struggled with her rhythm and faded badly against Stephens, who won 7-5, 4-6, 6-1 in two hours and 25 minutes.

The 21-year-old came into the season finale as the in-form player, hav-

ing won 14 of her previous 16 matches and capturing the US Open.

It has been a whirlwind for Osaka since her stunning victory over Serena Williams at Flushing Meadows in September.

"I haven't gone home (to Florida) since the US Open. So of course I'd love to go home, but I'm here right now and I want to do well," she told reporters.

"I want to give them (fans) a good match to watch. So for me that's my main priority, and I'm not really tired of that yet. So I just want to keep seeing how far I can go."

Osaka, who had 46 unforced errors in first match, said she hoped to keep her emotions in check moving forward.

"I am a little bit apologetic for doing the stuff that I did," she said. "I feel like for me I play better when no one knows what I'm thinking. I think I learned a lot from today."

Wawrinka withdraws from Basel

AFP ■ BASEL

A back injury suffered during a Sunday practice session with compatriot Roger Federer forced Stan Wawrinka to pull out of the Swiss Indoors tournament on Monday, while Marin Cilic eased into the second round in Basel.

"I turned my back, and retiring was the only decision I could make," said the three-time Grand Slam champion, adding that he will end his season early and not play at the Paris Masters next week.

The withdrawal of Wawrinka, ranked 68th in the world as he continues to fight to fully recover more than a year after two knee surgeries, comes after Federer made an injury revelation of his own.

Federer revealed in the run-up to the start at the St Jakobshalle that he had been suffering since the summer with a hand injury, which the 20-time Grand Slam winner insisted was fine now.

Federer, the holder, is seeking a ninth title at the event where he got his

start in the sport as a teenage ballboy.

Wawrinka has been playing in fits and starts this season, losing in the Shanghai first round this month after reaching the semi-finals in September in St Petersburg.

Wawrinka, twice a semi-finalist in Basel, was to have faced Adrian Panarino in the first round on Wednesday.

Later on Monday, 2016 winner Cilic saw off rising Canadian star Denis Shapovalov in straight sets to reach the second round.

Australian Open runner-up Cilic is one of two former champions in the draw alongside Federer, and he brushed aside teenager Shapovalov 6-4, 6-2.

The world number six will next face Romania's Marius Copil, who defeated American Ryan Harrison 6-2, 7-6 (10/8).

Finnish-born home player Henri Laaksonen won his first match in Basel after five previous first-round losses, beating Roland Garros semi-finalist and sixth seed Marco Cecchinato 6-4, 6-2.

PRANJESH WINS

NEW DELHI: Carrying forward his good form, Pranjesh Gunneswaran made a winning start at the Liuzhou Challenger tournament in China but it was curtains for Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal, who yet again fell at the first hurdle. Pranjesh, who ended runners-up at the Ningbo Challenger last week, downed Frenchman Johan Tatlot 6-4, 7-5 in his opening round of the \$ 50,000 hard court event.

The seventh seed Indian will now clash with Egypt's Mohammed Safwat for a place in the quarterfinals. Pranjesh has beaten Swafwat thrice this season.

However, bad results continue to chase Ramkumar and Nagal.

Ramkumar, who has been struggling after his breakthrough performance at the Hall of Fame Open, where he reached the final for the first time in an ATP250 event, lost his opening round to Spanish qualifier Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-7(3), 3-6.

LOCAL EVENTS

LUCKNOW ENTER QFS

Lucknow region defeated Vindhyachal region 2-0 to enter the quarter-finals of the Under-19 State Football Championship at Varanasi on Tuesday. Shikhar scored in the 20th and 55th minute.

CAMP CONCLUDES

The three-day long chess coaching camp by renowned coach GB Joshi, organised by Shivani Chess Academy concluded at Shivani Public School here on Tuesday. During the camp, Joshi stressed upon end-game strategies and briefed the players how to tackle the tougher opponent. The camp was inaugurated by Grand Master Sriram Jha on Saturday.

SPECIAL GAMES

State-Level Special Games will begin at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Wednesday. Around 300 players are expected to take part in the event. Minister Omprakash Rajbhar will be the chief guest.



HANDBALL

An Under-20 handball match, under scheme Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, will be played at KD Singh 'Babu' Stadium on Wednesday.

A combined team of Jammu & Kashmir and Tamil Nadu will play with the combined team of Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Eves to face Pakistan in AFC Under-19 Qualifiers

PTI ■ CHONBURI

The Indian under-19 women's football team will be up against Pakistan in its opening match of the AFC Championship Qualifier here on Wednesday.

India coach Alex Ambrose said his team would look to keep emotions at bay in the clash against the arch-rivals.

"It may only make us lose focus on what our real objective is. All we want from our first game is three points. There is no special treatment as such for Pakistan. I want the girls to play to our plan and execute the ideas properly on the pitch, regardless of who we are playing," he said ahead of the match.

Although both the teams played in the SAFF U-18 championships, they did not face each other in Bhutan earlier this month.

While India topped their group and went on to clinch the Bronze medal, Pakistan finished bottom of their pool, losing all their matches.

On the eve of the fixture between the two rivals, Pakistan head coach Mohammed Siddique Sheikh lauded India and said the qualifiers will give his players good exposure.

"These qualifiers are going to give our girls good exposure. I've seen the Indian team, and they play really good football," said Sheikh.

"Thailand and Nepal are also quite good, so we have to bring our best cards to the table. We are playing here for the first time, so things are going to be new for us. Let's hope for the best."

Ambrose also said qualifying for the main event is definitely an aim for his side.

"I am aware that we have a good chance of making it to the next round. But we have to build on all the hard work that we have put in so far to achieve the desired results," he said.

"It all depends on how things go on the matchday. Depending on that, we can take things forward," he added.

Group B of the first round of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship qualifiers are set to kick-off with the India-Pakistan clash at 2.30pm IST.

The other match of the day will be Thailand-Nepal in the evening.

India look to extend winning streak

After tearing apart Windies attack in 1st ODI, Men in Blue aim to continue dominance as visitors eye comeback in series

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Equipped with a top-order that is riding an unprecedented run of rich form, India are favoured to extend their dominance while West Indies face insurmountable odds to draw parity, in the second One-day International here on Wednesday.

It has been a mismatch of gigantic proportions so far and it looks highly unlikely that West Indies would have much of a chance against the well-oiled machine that India seem to be at home.

If captain Virat Kohli adds another 81 runs to his awe-inspiring tally, he will become the fastest man to 10,000 runs in this format, surpassing the iconic Sachin Tendulkar.

The possibility of this record being broken has added to the excitement of the port city's frenzied fans.

Tendulkar took 259 innings to get there and Kohli has so far batted 204 times.

However, despite the convincing margin of victory in 1st ODI, India will be better off with a bit of frugality than their bowlers at the Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy Stadium.

Besides, India are unlikely to get enough opportunities to test their middle-order against this West Indies attack, what with the home team's top three batsmen in the mood to plunder runs.

But the lack of enough game-time for their middle-order may not hold India in good stead in the run-up to the World Cup.

As far as the upcoming match is concerned, Kohli knows his team is thin in the bowling department, and West Indies made full use of the weakness, though the visiting team's attack too, was taken to the task under lights.

In the absence of 'death overs specialist' Jasprit Bumrah and the reliable Bhuvneshwar Kumar, the Indian seamers were not up to the mark at the Barsapara Stadium.

Also, Ravindra Jadeja did not look threatening in the middle overs and this allowed West Indies batsmen to keep going for their strokes.

Mohammad Shami was wayward and was taken for plenty of runs -- 81 to be precise -- in his quota of 10 overs. Given the lack of options at his disposal at the moment though, Kohli could continue with the seamer.

Fresh from a 10-wicket outing in the second Test, Umesh Yadav could not



Mahendra Singh Dhoni kits up for the practice session ahead of second ODI against West Indies PTI

replicate his red ball form, conceding too many runs.

More than his bowling figures, what was disturbing was the fact that the speedster lacked direction, something that has troubled him in the past as well.

India could still ring in a change or two, though.

Chinaman Kuldeep Yadav, who was not played in the opening game and which had a bearing on the middle overs, is likely to replace Khaleel Ahmed,



West Indies players celebrate after dismissing Shikhar Dhawan in the first ODI of five-match series PTI

PERFORMANCE IN ODIs at VIZAG

Team	P	W	L	Success%
India	7	6	1	85.71
Windies	2	1	1	50.00

Faisal Features

India vs West Indies
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

who looked out of sorts against the marauding Shimron Hetmyer, who struck a blazing 78-ball 106.

Hetmyer's knock was one of the few positives for the beleaguered visitors, apart from the brisk start provided by Kieran Powell. While the two showed up, West Indies would hope others too, would make substantial contributions in the remainder of the series.

The seasoned Marlon Samuels is part of the squad but he perished quickly in the first match. He would look to make up for his failure, just like India's Shikhar Dhawan.

Dhawan was in prolific form in India's triumphant Asia Cup campaign and he is expected to fire anytime soon. The last time he batted here, against Sri Lanka in December 2017, Dhawan compiled a match-winning century.

Rishabh Pant, who has already made his presence felt in his brief international career, and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, only add to the West Indians' worry. For West Indies, pace spearhead Kemar Roach is back after missing the

ISHANT BOWLS AT INDIA NETS, RECOVERY ON TRACK

VISAKHAPATNAM: Senior pacer Ishant Sharma bowled at the India nets here Tuesday in an indication that his recovery is on track after an ankle injury forced him out of the fifth and final Test in England last month.

The 30-year-old bowled for about half an hour at the nets organised for the Indian team on the eve of the second One-day International against West Indies.

Before bowling at his India teammates, Ishant warmed up at the stadium. The BCCI also posted a video of Ishant, saying that his recovery is "on track and he is progressing well".

Ishant's return will lend strength to the pace attack as the Indian team braces up to tour Australia for a four-Test series starting later this year.

He has travelled with the Indian team Down Under a few times and is also remembered for the torrid time he gave to Ricky Ponting in Perth. Ishant was India's standout bowler in the series in England and finished with 18 wickets at an average of 24.27. PTI

Test series due to bereavement in the family, but he could not inspire the team first up.

Roach will get another opportunity on Wednesday, and so will the likes of Devendra Bishoo, and skipper Jason Holder himself.

Batting in middle-order is not new for me: Rayudu

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Appointed as India's number four in the ODI format with the World Cup in mind, Ambati Rayudu said the responsibility does not "pressurise" him at all, as he preferred to stay in the present.

"Not really," Rayudu said when asked if he is feeling any pressure three days after skipper Virat Kohli backed him for a position for which the team management has tried as many as seven batsmen since the tour of Sri Lanka in 2017.

The 33-year-old began his first-class career way back in 2001-02 but had to wait till 2013 to make his international debut, against Zimbabwe, aged 28.

The Hyderabad batsman added, "To be very honest, I am just focused on this series at the moment and not really thinking too far ahead."

"I don't think it is new for me as I have been batting in the middle order for long. There is nothing new that they have asked me to do."

Rayudu was dropped from the Indian ODI squad headed for England earlier this year for failing the mandatory yo-yo test, but has since made it clear that he has nothing against strict fitness benchmark.

"I have been working on my fitness right from my injury. I don't think yo-yo test had any bearing on how I was preparing or how I was going about my fitness. Even now I am going to the NCA, there is a small pocket of free time for a week and I am happy that I cleared the test."

"I think even before the IPL, it's not that I was not in contention. It's just that I had few injuries. IPL was good platform to come back strong, especially on my fitness."

In the two Tests as well as the only ODI played so far, the West Indies bowling attack was not able to challenge the Indian batting enough, something that has so far deprived the home team of a chance to test its middle-order ahead of the 2019 show-piece event. Asked about it, Rayudu did not read much into it.

"Obviously it's great that top three are doing so well for India. It's a challenge for the middle order to always be ready to get in and bat. I am sure everybody is up for it, everybody knows the situation." "It's just one game (the first ODI in Guwahati). I think they bowled really well. They will pose a good challenge in the coming games."



Ambati Rayudu bats during 1st ODI PTI

KOHLI DOESN'T SEEM HUMAN SOMETIMES: TAMIM

PTI ■ DUBAI

In awe of Virat Kohli's batting prowess, Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal on Tuesday said the prolific Indian captain does not seem human sometimes.

"I sometimes feel he is not human because of the way he performs, my goodness, the moment he comes out to bat, it looks like he is going to score a hundred every game," Iqbal was quoted as saying by 'Khaleej Times' here.

"The way he looks after himself, the way he works on his game, it's unbelievable. He is probably the number one in all three formats. He is someone to watch and admire and also learn from. I think he has been fantastic," he added.



Virat Kohli celebrates after scoring 100 in 1st ODI

Kohli is the world's No 1 batsman in both the Test and one-day formats and is just 81 runs short of becoming the fastest to reach 10,000 ODI runs.

The record currently stands in the name of the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, who took 259 innings to get there, while Kohli has so far played 204 innings.

"...I have seen all the great players that have played the game in the past 12 years. They have their own strong points. But I haven't seen anyone that has dominated as much as Virat has," Iqbal said.

Iqbal garnered much appreciation during the Asia Cup last month when he came out to bat against Sri Lanka with a fractured wrist. He said it was a matter of pride for him.

"I thought facing one delivery could have helped Bangladesh get 5-10 extra runs in that game. And we ended up getting 32 runs because of Mushfiqur's brilliance," he said.

Looked up to Lara, says Hetmyer



Shimron Hetmyer bats during nets session AP

PTI ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

West Indian swashbuckler Shimron Hetmyer on Tuesday said he looked up to the great Brian Lara and thanked his country's legends for backing youngsters like him to "keep trying" despite the fact that the islands' plummeting graph in cricket has refused to head north.

The 21-year-old Hetmyer bludgeoned his way to a 78-ball 106 in the first ODI against India in Guwahati, redeeming himself after a disastrous Test series, in which he managed just 50 runs across four innings at 12.50.

"I did look up to Brian Lara when I used to watch cricket, but most of

HOLDER WANTS DISCIPLINE FROM HIS BOWLERS

VISAKHAPATNAM: West Indies skipper Jason Holder demanded discipline from his bowlers in the remaining four ODIs of the five-match series against India, saying picking up wickets upfront would be crucial.

"In limited overs cricket, in these conditions you need to utilise the new ball. This is an area every team targets. We want to take few more wickets with the new ball," Holder said at the pre-match press conference. "We got one wicket in the last game and if we can get two or three wickets upfront, it will help us put pressure on

it (shots) comes naturally to me. I am a natural stroke-player and try to play each ball on merit," Hetmyer said after a training session.

"I have spoken to a few legends in the past, they are quite fun actually, easy going — Lance Gibbs, Sir Viv Richards and Brian Lara. Some of the other stars, too. Knowing that they are backing you makes me feel good," he said.

"They tell me to be 'just be yourself', they give suggestions like play each ball on merit and all. They try to help in every way possible, make it as easy as possible for us and encouraging us to keep pushing," he added.

their (India's) middle order." Holder felt the 320-odd runs his team scored at the Barsapara Stadium was below par, and given the way Kohli and Sharma made mince meat of the bowlers on a featherbed, he is not way off the mark.

"Getting 320 is positive for us and we can build on that. We have all seen how the conditions can be in India. Here the par score can be anything from 320, 340 to 350 and you need to bowl ridiculously well to defend it," he said. "Hopefully, we will be able to repeat it (batting effort)." PTI

At the Barsapara Stadium, the Guyanese looked a far cry from his struggles in the Tests, nonchalantly hitting six sixes and as many fours, his knock also adding a dash of the Caribbean flavour of the good old days.

"I had a bad Test series, it was not one of the best ways to start a series in India but from there on I tried to forget about that as much as possible and the senior guys helped. They said don't worry and look forward to the next game," he said.

"I have quite a few experienced guys to lean on, to know how it was before, even the coach (Stuart Law) who has played for Australia. How

much of the big change has happened from then to now. How they played their game," he added.

India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh is sure he will be a big draw in the next Indian Premier League (IPL) players' auction, thanks to his big-hitting capabilities.

Unlike a few renowned players from the Caribbean islands who have turned to T20 leagues across the world, Hetmyer said his first priority now is to represent the West Indies.

"It's a good feeling to know that one of the great spinners from India has rated me that high. It is a dream of mine but right now I am taking one step at a time, so I would see what awaits. But right now, I am focused on representing West Indies," he said.

"I think everyone aspires to play in the IPL but first you want to represent West Indies. That is possibly the biggest thing you could possibly do as a cricketer and then you would take it from there," he added.

West Indies skipper Jason Holder called Hetmyer a positive.

"He is positive for West Indies cricket. It's good to see a youngster coming and scoring crucial runs and I can only urge him, and hope that he continues to do well and repeat that kind of performance that is best for his team in the coming matches," Holder said.

SL REGISTER RECORD WIN IN FINAL ODI, LOSE SERIES 1-3

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Niroshan Dickwella top-scored with 95 and spin bowler Akila Dananjaya took four wickets to lead Sri Lanka to a confidence-boosting 219-run win on the Duckworth/Lewis method in the fifth and final one-day international against England on Tuesday.

England won the five-match series 3-1, with the first match ending without a result due to rain.

Sri Lanka captain Dinesh Chandimal won the toss and elected to bat first and his batsmen justified his decision by scoring 366-6 in 50 overs. In reply, England was 132-9 in 26.1 overs when heavy rain interrupted play.

Sri Lanka had kept England well below the Duckworth/Lewis par score at the stoppage.

Earlier, Opener Niroshan Dickwella blasted 95 and skipper Dinesh Chandimal 80 as Sri Lanka posted 366



for six in their fifth one day international against England on Tuesday.

Dickwella put on 137 runs with opening partner Sadeera Samarawickrama, who made 54.

The left-handed Dickwella hit 12 fours during his 97-ball stay before falling to off-spinner Moeen Ali, who took two wickets in the innings.

Chandimal then build partnerships including a 101-run third wicket stand with Kusal Mendis, who smashed 56.

Vihari, Nadeem fashion India B's win

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hanuma Vihari and left-arm spinner Shahbaz Nadeem produced match-winning efforts to guide India B to a 43-run win in their Deodhar Trophy opener, spoiling a fighting 99 from India A captain Dinesh Karthik here on Tuesday.

Vihari made an unbeaten 87 off 95 balls and shared a 99-run stand for the fourth wicket with Manoj Tiwary (52 off 58) to guide India B to 261 for eight after opting to bat.

Later, Nadeem, who opened the bowling, picked up three crucial wickets including that of Karthik (99 off 114) to tilt the game in his team's favour, following a 123-run sixth wicket stand between the wicketkeeper batsman and R Ashwin (54 off 76) and kept India A in the game at least till the 44th over.

Nadeem ended with figures of



Shahbaz Nadeem celebrates after dismissing opposition batsman PTI/File Photo

three for 32 in 10 overs and got good support from leg-spinner Mayank Markande (4/48) and lead pacer Varun Aaron (2/45).

Chasing 262 in the good batting conditions, India A were

India A Eves aim to seal T20 series

PTI ■ MUMBAI

On a roll, the upbeat India A women will look to seal the three-match T20 series when they take on their Australian counterparts in the second game here on Wednesday.

India A began the rubber in style with a four-wicket win against the visitors at the Mumbai Cricket Association's Bandra Kurla Complex facility on Monday.

A victory in the second game would help the home team capture a winning lead ahead of Friday's last match.

The India A team is basically the national team that will represent the country at the World T20 to be hosted by the West Indies next month.

The hosts would thus be keen to win the remaining two games to boost their morale ahead of the World Cup.

All eyes would again be on youngster Smriti Mandhana, whose form will be crucial for the hosts.

She made a match winning 72 in the first game and would surely like to build upon that



Harman Kaur and Smriti in a file photo

going into the all-important ICC event.

Same will be the case with experienced Harmanpreet Kaur, who also chipped in with a useful 45 in the lung-opener.

The game will serve as another opportunity for the likes of young Jemimah Rodrigues, wicket keeper Tania Bhatia, Veda Krishnamurthy and others to prove their mettle.

The bowlers will look for an improvised show and work on their weaknesses.

On the other hand, the visitors, who clinched the preceding 50-over series 3-0, would strive hard to stay alive in the rubber.

A keen contest is thus on the cards.

dealt a double blow with Nadeem trapping Prithvi Shaw and Karun Nair off consecutive balls in the third over.

While Nair's LBW was a straightforward call, Shaw was unfortunate as it appeared that the teenage sensation had edged the ball before it struck his pads.

Aaron, who was occasionally wayward, removed Bawne and Krunal, leaving India A at a precarious 87 for five in the 20th over.

That left a mountain to climb for skipper Karthik, who was running out of partners. But he finally found an able ally in Ashwin and they both used their years of experience to take the team close to the finishing line.

Needing 53 off the last 48 balls and two set batsmen in the middle, India A were favourites. However, Tamil Nadu teammates Karthik and Ashwin fell in the space of 10 balls to turn the match in India B's favour.

Ashwin was stumped off Markande while Karthik, struggling with cramps, was dejected after offering a return catch to Nadeem.

It was a fighting effort from Karthik and he deserved to score a hundred but fell short by just one run.

Earlier, India B's Mayank Agarwal (46 off 47) and captain Shreyas Iyer (41 off 47) played a flurry of delightful strokes before loose shot selection led to their downfall.

After their departure in quick succession and the onus to take the innings forward was on Vihari and Tiwary.

From 95 for three, they batted sensibly to share a 99-run stand which ended after a terrible mix up, leading to Tiwary's run out following a well made half-century. From there on, India B never got a move on and ended up well shot of the 300-run mark.