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**RAFALE DEAL: SMOOTHEN RUFFLED FEATHERS**

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**SAUDI REJECTS THREATS AS STOCKS PLUNGE AFTER TRUMP REMARKS**

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**GOVT MAKES MASSIVE POLICE ARRANGEMENT**

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# Akbar fights back MeToo

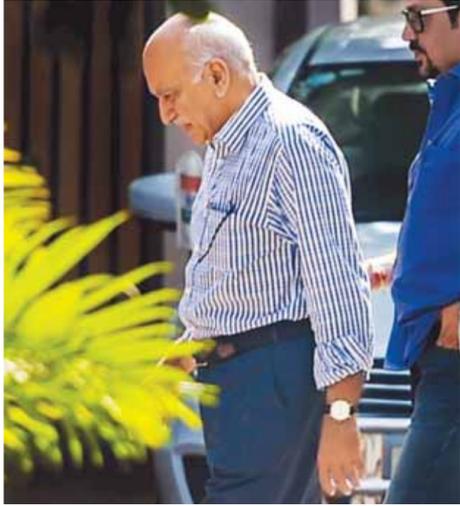
Trashes charges, threatens legal action, gives no indication of stepping down

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The tone and tenure of the statement and the threat of legal action he held out against the alleged "victims" showed that as of now Akbar enjoyed backing of the Government and the party on this sensitive matter. However, with more and more women coming out against him and the Government facing flaks for shielding him, Akbar has reasons to face sleepless nights.



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

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

"I wonder how over a dozen women sharing their experiences can be claimed as political conspiracy? Bigger wonder is which constituency does his stepping down impact

in elections? The only clear answer is that this government is actively protecting & promoting the sexual perverts," Chaturvedi posted on Twitter.

The Congress has also asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak his mind on the issue. "The PM's silence is conspicuous. A PM who speaks on everything is silent on #MeToo. The silence raises questions on the digni-

**DEFENSIVE**

- Soon after returning from a trip to Africa, the Minister of State for External Affairs issued a statement
- Accusations without evidence have become a "viral fever" among some sections.
- Give as political twist to the whole controversy by suggesting that this was part of an "agenda" as the charges came a few months before a general election.
- Lies do not have legs, but they do contain poison, which can be whipped into a frenzy. This is deeply distressing, he says

ty of the PM's office. The country has been waiting for days for Modi to clear his stand on this," Congress leader Anand Sharma said at a Press conference.

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

"Accusation without evidence has become a viral fever among some sections. Whatever be the case, now that I have returned, my lawyers will look into these wild and baseless allegations in order to decide our future course of legal action," he said in the statement.

Akbar said even journalist

Priya Ramani who started this campaign with a magazine article a year ago did not accused him of doing anything. "She did not however name me as she knew it was an incorrect story. When asked recently why she had not named me, she replied, in a Tweet, "Never named him because he didn't 'do' anything." "If I didn't do anything, where and what is the story? There is no story. This was admitted at the very inception. But a sea of innuendo, speculation and abusive diatribe has been built around something that never happened. Some are total, unsubstantiated hearsay; others confirm, on the record, that I didn't do anything. Let me note examples. Shrutapa Paul states, "The man never laid a hand on me," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 youths were gunned down in 1994 by Army

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI



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

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

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

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

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

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

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**CAPSULE**

**PARRIKAR DISCHARGED FROM AIIMS, BACK IN GOA**

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

**PM HAS MUCH TO HIDE ABOUT RAFALE: CONG**

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

**MALAYSIA KEEN ON ADOPTING AADHAAR**

**New Delhi:** Taking a cue from India's Aadhaar initiative, Malaysia wants to bring changes in its national identity card system for target delivery of welfare schemes and Government subsidies to avoid duplication and fraud.

**6 NEW ZIKA VIRUS CASES, TOTAL 61 IN RAJASTHAN**

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

# Eye to State elections, Cong pursues youth

Party mulls doles for jobless in its manifesto

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

A team member of the manifesto committee said as per Government data while Madhya Pradesh has an employment rate of 43 per cent (40 per cent in rural and 44 in urban areas); Rajasthan has an extreme rate of 71 per cent unemployment with 43 per cent urban and 77 per cent rural.

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

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

employed educated persons in the State. Indian Youth Congress (IYC) launched an 'Employment Form' under the Yuva Shakti programme and a campaign is already underway.

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

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

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

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# Graded plan to clean Delhi-NCR toxic air

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will implement a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR beginning Monday as the air pollution is becoming "very poor," an official said on Sunday.

If the air quality falls in "moderate to poor" category, measures like stopping garbage burning in landfills and other places and enforcing all pollution control regulations in brick kilns and industries are implemented. If the air quality falls in the "very poor" category, additional measures of stopping use of diesel generator sets, enhancing parking fees 3-4 times and increasing frequency of metro and buses would be implemented.

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

If the air quality falls to "severe plus" emergency category, then measures like stopping entry of trucks into Delhi (except those carrying essential commodities), stopping construction activities and



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

appointment of task force to take decision on any additional steps, including shutting of schools, are implemented, said the official.

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

Till October 11, inspections were conducted by the teams across Delhi-NCR and the inspections would intensify in the coming days, a CPCB official said. Meanwhile, satel-

lite images from the NASA showed rampant stubble burning activity in Punjab and Haryana. The NASA, on its official website, stated that burning of crop residue in Punjab and Haryana has increased significantly over the past 10 days in and near Amritsar, Ambala, Karnal, Sirsa and Hissar.

The air quality in Delhi remained poor on Sunday with drop in wind speed even as authorities predicted further fall in air quality index in the coming days. The overall air quality index (AQI) recorded at 10 am on Sunday stood at 208 which falls in the "poor" category, according to the Centre-run System of Air Quality and

Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). On Saturday, the AQI of the national Capital stood at 300. Burning of paddy straw every year during October-November and wheat straw during April in Punjab and Haryana are the major contributors of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, as the smoke travels towards the national capital. In Delhi, it mixes with fog and creates a toxic smoggy winter every year. Intensifying its drive against the alarming air pollution level in the national capital, the South Delhi Municipal Corporation deployed 62 water tankers for water sprinkling on roads to combat the dust pollution.

# BJP in 'secret pact' with Cong leaders for 65-plus mission

SUJEET KUMAR ■ RAIPUR

Three frontline leaders of Congress in Chhattisgarh are in 'constant touch' with BJP central leadership to execute a meticulously planned strategy of the saffron party to either field weak candidates in at least nine to twelve seats or create a mutiny within the party to allow the BJP a free run in assembly polls next month.

The BJP has also strongly advised the 'Congress friends' to work out an idea similar to 2014 Antagarh assembly bypoll in which Congress candidate pulled out from contest hours before voting, allowing the BJP a complete walkover.

Two out of the three Congress leaders who have developed 'excellent rapport' with the BJP in recent weeks, have also found names in the

powerful Core Committee constituted on October 11 by Congress president Rahul Gandhi for Chhattisgarh. Congress has already lost its working president Ramdayal Uike to the BJP on Oct 13.

The three leaders, each one belongs to SC, ST and OBC categories, have been offering all kind of possible help to the BJP to achieve its 65-plus seats target in a 90-member assembly polls scheduled in two phases next month. The BJP is using recorded detailed telephonic conversation of the three Congress leaders as 'bargaining chip' to facilitate its wish to push through weak candidates in nearly a dozen seats mainly in Bastar and Surguja regions.

Two of the three Congress leaders are also ready to walk into BJP fold if needed but they have been strictly advised to

**The BJP is using recorded detailed telephonic conversation of the three Congress leaders as 'bargaining chip' to facilitate its wish to push through weak candidates in nearly a dozen seats mainly in Bastar and Surguja regions**

stay put in Congress but follow the BJP's command. Interestingly, none of the three is aware about each other's 'secret pact' with the BJP. Chhattisgarh has a rich culture of 'below the belt politics' ahead of assembly polls which first began from state's maiden assembly polls in 2003 when country was rocked by 'cash-on-camera' scam involving BJP veteran and then union minis-

ter of state for environment and forests late Dilip Singh Judeo when Ajit Jogi-led Congress was in power in Chhattisgarh.

Chhattisgarh is known for innovations in politics and in the most recent case, the CBI charge-sheeted Chhattisgarh Congress President Bhupesh Baghel late last month for his alleged role in a sleaze CD in which Chhattisgarh government's PWD Minister Rajesh Munat has been filmed in a compromising position. Baghel spent a few days in Raipur central jail in the case and presently on bail to lead Congress poll campaign.

India's grand old party Congress is credited to be the inventor of 'politics of inducement and intimidation' for decades to win elections in state but now it is getting a taste of its own medicine in Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh was

shamed in September 2014 during by-poll for Scheduled Tribe reserved Antagarh assembly seat in Kanker district when Congress official candidate Manturam Pawar pulled out from election in support of the rival BJP candidate Bhojraj Naag hours before voting.

The move of the Congress candidate had shocked entire state and intellectuals had described the case 'a slur on democracy'. Later an audio tape surfaced on public domain that presented a classic case how a faction of the Congress worked hand in glove with the ruling BJP to ensure a thumping win for the BJP candidate.

The embarrassed Congress had then suspended its high profile MLA Amit Jogi for allegedly fixing Antagarh bypoll through a financial deal with the BJP.

# Road accident wipes out 10 family members

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAJNANDGAON

In a heart-rending incident on Sunday early hours, 10 members of a family were killed in a road accident in Rajnandgaon district when a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) in which they were travelling in collided head-on with a truck on a national highway, police said.

The deceased persons belonged to industrial town Bhilai and they were returning back after offering Navratri prayers at Maa Bamleshwari temple at Dongargarh in Rajnandgaon district. The truck driver was reported to be absconding.



The deadly incident has sent shock waves across the state. Police said that the accident happened when the driver of the SUV tried to overtake another

vehicle and collided head-on with a truck coming from the opposite direction near Sonni village, 75 km from Raipur. Continued on Page 4

DEGRADATION BY RISING FOOTFALLS IN HIMALAYAS

# Niti Ayog favours green cess

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



tourism industry.

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

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

resources and biodiversity and harness opportunities that change brings.

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

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

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

sites.

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

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

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

# PM Modi has much to hide about Rafale deal: Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

—Anand Sharma

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

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

# Railway proposes RPF to safeguard Metros

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

# Rajnath Singh to celebrate Dussehra along Indo-pak border

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Union Home Ministry sources said Home Minister Rajnath Singh is seized of the threats emanating from Chinese penetration in Indian educational institutions and has sought a strategy to be put in place to deal with the challenge.

The Intelligence agencies have advised the States to keep a watch on the Chinese activities and inform the Central agencies for collation of data and remedial action.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It said in the present case, Shankar's rights were settled by the earlier high court judgment of December 23, 2011, which was upheld when the appeal of the state government was dismissed as withdrawn by the apex court.

The apex court said it was not permissible for the principal secretary, home department, to rely upon the subsequent contrary decision and dismiss the appellant (Shankar) from service again.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

# 6 new Zika virus cases detected in Rajasthan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# NATIONAL PROJECT TO CONVERT DCs INTO E-UDIDs

## Development moving at a snail's pace in all States

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### APATHY GETTING IN THE WAY OF PWDS RIGHTS

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

\*DCs: disability cards



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

Ranjani Dimri | Pioneer

# Was a mask for Cong as working president: Uike

**NEVER INCLUDED IN ANY DECISION MAKING OF PARTY**

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

As working president, the Congress has converted me as a mask. There has been no role left in which one can play a key role. Before the media, it was being reflected that all due respect is being accorded," said BJP leader and former Chhattisgarh

Pradesh Congress Committee working president Ramdayal Uike while addressing the media on Sunday.

Uike said, "I was never included in any decision making of party. Even in distribution of the party ticket to the candidates, no information was being provided as they did not show any confidence nor had any faith in me."

"I was always being asked and even forced to give statements which were against my character. Bhupesh Baghel, Charandas Mahant, Jai Singh Agrawal among others led the pack which was causing mental agony," he adds.



On Arvind Netam, former union minister, Uike said even though he has been taken in Core Committee of party, just to showcase it. But Netam should also remember it is the same Congress which threw him out. Bhanwar Singh Porte was also expelled. "Fed up after continuous harassment, I was forced to quit the Congress," he adds. "Now my target is to work with dedication under leadership of Chief Minister Raman Singh to help him to form BJP government. The four seats of Korba district would be taken by BJP, the work would be done on that

basis," he pointed out over a query. He said that it is like home coming and is feeling too emotional.

On CPCC president Bhupesh Baghel, he said that he had brought shame to women of state by involving in the sleaze CD case. Lack of sensitivity and leadership has been his weaknesses.

He said the issue of termination of membership of Bhupesh was also raised with national leadership but nothing happened.

He points out that CPCC president do not know how to respect others and is against caste and tribal community.

He should seek apology for terming me as 'Unlucky'.

Commenting on Chhattisgarh incharge P L Punia's statement, he said that he feels insulted including the tribal community of state that with respect BJP could have given 'something' other.

Raising question o Punia, he said Punia should clear what was his indication of 'something'. What does he understand about the tribal in state. Punia is controlling the things as if he is still collector of a district and the tribal are considered as naive public.

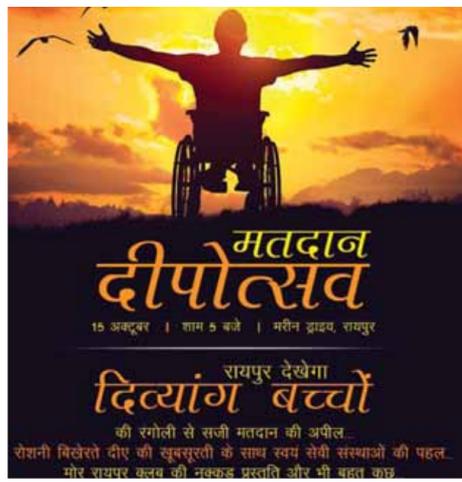
## 'Matdaan Deepotsav' at Marine Drive today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

'Matdaan Deepotsav' would be organised on October 15 at Marine Drive, capital city Raipur in which Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) would be making 'rangoli' and light lamps to spread awareness on importance and need to cast each vote. The initiative has been taken by 'Mor Raipur-Mor Vote'. It would be held from 6.00 pm.

As per information received, under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVVEEP) campaign, the school and college Persons with Disabilities children along with Mor Raipur Club with other civil organizations would organize the 'Matdaan Deepotsav'.

The students from Gurukul, Durga college, Government Nursing College along with other 25 schools and college students would partic-



Students will also organize display of EVM machine and would explain on how to use it.

## BJP observers rush for respective Assembly constituencies

TO SEEK FEEDBACK OF CANDIDATES IN EACH ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party appointed observers rushed to their assigned Assembly constituencies on Sunday morning. National co-organisation general secretary Saudhan Singh after finalisation of list had held a meeting at BJP state headquarters of Ekatma Parisar on Saturday.

The observers were given tips for collecting the feedback of the candidates from the assigned state assembly constituencies. The observers would be submitting their report to the state office on October 15. The first phase of filing of nomination would commence from October 16

after the notification for 18 Assembly Constituencies.

As per the list released, Kedar Kashyap, Ranjivjay Singh Judeo and Bhupendra Sharma have been made the observers for Raipur district.

They would be visiting all the Assembly constituencies of Raipur and hold meetings. They would then send the report of candidates to the national body.

Raipur Rural observers are Bhaiyyalal Rajwade, Kamalchand Bhanjdeo, Baloda Bazar is Khoobchand Parakh, Chagan Munda, Gariaband is Mahesh Garga, Sanjay Shrivastava, and Bhupendra Savvani, Mahasamund is Amar Agrawal and Shoba Soni, Dayaldas Baghel, Banshil Mahato and Santosh Pandey for Dhamtari, Rampratap Singh, Vikram Usendi and Lata Usendi for Bhalai while Girdhar Gupta and Kiran Deo for Durg.

## Kejriwal, Sisodia among star campaigners for AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has released its 20-member star campaigners' list for electioneering in the state for its General Assembly Election 2018 for which the schedule has been announced by the Election Commission of India.

AAP has claimed to fight in the 90 seats. In the letter submitted to Election Commission of India, the list of 20 star campaigners has been named.

As per the list Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, minister Gopal Rai, the Chief Minister candidate for Chhattisgarh Komal Hupendi and State coordinator Dr Sanket Thakur find the name for star-campaigners.

The others are Sanjay Singh, Dr Sushil Gupta, Narain Dass Gupta, Rajender Pal Gautam, Somnath Bharti, Sanjeev Jha, Vandana Kumari, Manoj Kumar, Ajay Dutt, Rituraj Jha, Akhilesh



Tripathi, Soni Sour, Suraj Upadhyaya, Ravi Manav and Narendra Duggad.

and where and when the meetings are to be held will be decided. The AAP has planned for a public meeting of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in each revenue division for which the preparations are underway.

## 'Was feeling suffocated while remaining unbiased in journalism'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

"My decision to join politics was not taken on the spur of the moment. Nor it was overfilled with an instant surge of emotion. It was given good thought and had mulled over the decision of mine. It came after going through suggestions of intellectuals," said former scribe Ruchir Garg, after his return to Raipur from New Delhi on Sunday. He the other day joined the Congress before the All India Congress Committee president Rahul Gandhi at New Delhi.

Addressing a press conference here at the State



Congress office, Rajiv Bhawan, Ruchir said he was feeling suffocated in the field of journalism after remaining nonaligned.

He said he was close to the ideology of Congress which instead of divisive politics, stood for maintaining unity, harmony and integra-

tion, he said.

Ruchir further expressed his apprehension on state of affairs in country. Democracy, constitution, national integrity and religious harmony are under threat nowadays. "I found that Congress has stood firm to oppose the same," he told. Talking about his possible role in the party, he further said he will work in the organization as a field worker. He will perform duties as assigned by the party. Regarding fielding him as a candidate in the upcoming assembly polls he said, "I am bound to follow all the instructions as directed by the High Command".

## Uproar after distorted map of India put in Twitter handle

BJP SEEKS STERN ACTION, LODGES COMPLAINT WITH CIVIL LINES POLICE STATION, RAIPUR

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

After an uproar over using a distorted map of India in the official Twitter handle of the Chhattisgarh Congress party, BJP leaders filed a complaint with the Civil Lines police station here. Meanwhile, the Congress has regretted the mistake and withdrawn it.

Condemning the incident of using distorted map of India in the Twitter handle of Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee, Bharatiya Janata Party state president Dharamlal Kaushik sought stern action.

Kaushik said that Congress party which has divided the country is still keeping its ideology alive and the live example is the distorted Map of India used in the official Twitter handle. One part of Kashmir has been removed. He termed it is a criminal act and purely falls under sedition. He alleged that the fire of

division is spreading from Kashmir to JNU and other areas of country due to which anti-national slogans are being raised. It is due to policy of appeasement being followed by the oldest party of country. The AICC president has also been backing such elements, he said.

He said BJP has lodged a complaint with police station and party demand that those responsible for it should be booked under the relevant sections, so that it is not repeated again.

Station House Incharge, Civil Lines Yadu Mani Sidar when contacted confirmed that BJP party leaders have registered a complaint regarding the distorted map of India in which some part of the Kashmir has been left out. It has been in official Twitter handle of state Congress party.

He further said that the complaint has been forwarded to cyber cell and further investigating. Congress in a statement in a tweet has said that we regret that incorrect map was uploaded in the twitter handle. We strongly believe in integrity and unity of the country. The said objectionable tweet has been removed from the handle.

## CPI joins BSP, JCC (J) alliance



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The existing pre-poll alliance of the Bahujan Samaj Party-Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) on Sunday was further strengthened with the Communist Party of India joining it.

After declaration of the alliance, in a joint press conference of JCC (J) and CPI held at Sagaun Bungalow on Sunday morning, the JCC (J) Supremo Ajit Jogi announced that they have given two of the assembly seats of Bastar region, Konta and Dantewada to CPI. The CPI is stronghold in these two seats and hope they would perform there well, Jogi said.

The alliance of these three parties took place because of having similar political ideology, said Jogi. "The joining of CPI the alliance will increase our power as it has strong base among laborers all over the state," he added.

Highlight reason of the CPI deciding to join the alliance, Jogi said it was attracted after BSP-JCC (J) alliance gained popularity in the state. He further claimed with joining of CPI, the alliance would be strengthened especially in regions of Bastar, Surguja and Bhalai.

It was also announced in the joint press conference that Jogi would be the Chief Ministerial candidate from the alliance in the upcoming elections.

### Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council

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

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

**For queries, please contact:**  
Head - Investment, BIRAC. Email: [investment.birac@gov.in](mailto:investment.birac@gov.in)

**Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE)**

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

**Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI)**

Supports industry for development of proof-of-concept and early stage validation of products/ technologies

**Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP)**

Supports industry for high risk, transformational technology/ process development from proof-of-concept to late stage validation leading to product commercialization

**Last date for submission of proposals**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018**

# Total ₹3 lakh cash seized from two vehicles

STAFF REPORTER ■ BAIKUNTHPUR

During checking of vehicles as part of the election Model Code of Conduct enforced in state, a team led by Tehsildhar seized total of Rs 3 lakh cash from two different vehicles at Janakpur of Baikunthpur in Koriya district. The persons keeping the cash were unable to show any documents related to source of cash.

As per information received, at Bharatpur-Chanti barrier of Janakpur area in Koriya district, a team led by Tehsildhar were holding vehicle check during evening hours. They had stopped a Innova car passing through the barrier at around 5.30 pm.

In the normal car, Rs 1 lakh cash was found. The car owner Vishwaraj Singh during interrogation said that he is a businessman. He is going to Kotadol to Shahdol. But he could not give satisfactory reply on the cash in hand and could not produce any documents related to it. After which, Tehsildhar initiated seizure action.



Similarly, at 6.30 pm, near Manendragarh tri-square, one innova car was stopped for inspection. The driver Santosh Kashyap had kept around Rs 2 lakh. He also could not produce any documents related to cash. He said that he was going to Janakpur to Chirmiri. Tehsildhar made the seizure of cash.

In both cases, after seizure for necessary action, the cases have been forwarded to district level committee for further action.

Manmohan Singh, Tehsildhar, Bharatpur-Janakpur

of Koriya district said that the election team and police has made three points for checking. The first point is Chanti, second is Kotadol Neur and third is Manendragarh Tri-square.

On seizure of cash, he said that the two caught, one owner and the other driver did not have any cash related documents to prove the source of cash. They also could not give satisfactory reply also. As per the directive of Election Commission of India, it has been forwarded to district electoral officer office for further action.

# Ajit, Amit and Richa to be star campaigners of JCC(J)

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) on Sunday declared the list of their star campaigners for the upcoming assembly polls. The list includes 30 names including party Supremo Ajit Jogi, Marwahi legislator and his son, Amit Jogi and daughter in law Richa Jogi.

Chairman, Election Campaign Committee of the organization, Vidhan Mishra on Sunday announced names of star campaigners for the upcoming assembly polls in the state. The list was approved by party Supremo Ajit Jogi.

In the list the star campaigners include, Ajit Jogi, Vidhan Mishra, Dharamjeet Singh, Devvrat Singh, Siyaram Kaushik, R.K. Rai, Hariadas Bhardwaj, Gajraj Pagaria, Prakash Deshlahra, Amit Jogi and Richa Jogi.

Apart from declaring star campaigners the Core Committee of the party on Sunday also declared two of its candidates. In place of Vidhan Mishra now Panna Lal Sahu will contest from the Dharsinwa assembly constituency while Janraj Singh Bhatia would be fielded from Khujji assembly segment.



# Raise tribal CM demand in BJP too, Amarjeet to Uikey

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Asserting that the former Working President of Congress Ramdayal Uikey has returned to the place where he belonged, State President Tribal Wing of Congress Amarjeet Bhagat had sent a message to Uikey. He asked him to raise the demand of tribal Chief Minister in Bharatiya Janata Party too, as he has been doing in Congress.

Amarjeet in the message had expressed good wishes to Uikey and had advised him to stay in whichever political party he wants too but to maintain credibility and dedication towards it. Frequently, changing the political allegiance will always raise a question on his credibility, he said.

Amarjeet further said if Uikey was a true well wisher of tribal he should raise the demand of tribal Chief Minister in BJP too as he has done in the Congress. Notable, it was his allegation that he was cornered in Congress because he raised the issues of tribal welfare and for the tribal CM in state.

In a statement he further



Amarjeet Bhagat



Ramdayal Uikey

denied any possibility of his leaving the Congress. "I know how to work with determination and honestly develop cred-

ibility in politics. I am very well aware of disgrace to be faced otherwise," he said.

**AMARJEET FURTHER SAID IF UIKEY WAS A TRUE WELL WISHER OF TRIBAL HE SHOULD RAISE THE DEMAND OF TRIBAL CHIEF MINISTER IN BJP TOO AS HE HAS DONE IN THE CONGRESS. NOTABLE, IT WAS HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE WAS CORNERED IN CONGRESS BECAUSE HE RAISED THE ISSUES OF TRIBAL WELFARE AND FOR THE TRIBAL CM IN STATE**



As part of State Assembly General Election 2018, in Raipur city the preparation for the polling booths are underway. As part of it the specifications of the polling booth including centre being written to facilitate electors Santosh Sahu

# Bharti Kashyap bags National IMA honours for third time

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jharkhand's own crusader against cervical cancer, Dr. Bharti Kashyap was today conferred the "Women Empowerment Award" by the Indian Medical Association, at I.M.A. House, New Delhi, for her dedicated and pioneering work in organising health awareness campaigns - Cervical Cancer Screening Camps, throughout the far flung and rural areas of Jharkhand, to combat the high incidence of cervical cancer, educating women to take better care of themselves and making them strong enough to gain greater control over all decisions affecting them.

This is the third award, bestowed by the Indian Medical Association on Jharkhand's very own crusader against cervical cancer in women.

Earlier, Dr. Bharti Kashyap had been conferred with the Doctor of the Year, 2017, Award and the Med Achiever's Award, 2014, by the Indian

Medical Association for her notable contribution to her field and to the society at large.

Statistics reveal that in India, every hour, an average of 6.8 women die due to cervical cancer.

The statistics further said that around 44.2 percent of deaths of women are due to breast and cervical cancer. A specialist in Femto Laser Assisted cataract surgery and Femto Laser Bladeless Lasik surgery and currently, Chairperson of the women Doctors' Wing, IMA, Jharkhand Chapter, Dr. Bharti Kashyap has been conferred with Nari Shakti Puraskar, 2017, by the H'ble President of India, at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi in March 2018, for exemplary work in the field of women empowerment.

On 24th September 2018, Dr. Kashyap was bestowed with the coveted British Excellence Award at the European Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery's annual conference at Vienna, Austria, by Honorable

ambassador of India to Austria H.E. MsRenu Pall for her exemplary work in organising series of free Cervical Detection Campaigns throughout the state of Jharkhand, that has facilitated early detection and cure of cervical cancer - the most common cause of deaths amongst women, in India for organising series of free Cervical Detection Campaigns throughout the state of Jharkhand, that has facilitated early detection and cure of cervical cancer - the most common cause of deaths amongst women, in India and for providing free and quality eye care, including free eye surgery, to children, primitive tribals and underprivileged women in the far flung and rural areas of Jharkhand.

"This is a proud moment for me. I have received accolades from various international bodies. However a recognition of my humble and dedicated service to society at my home

country strengthens my resolve to re-dedicate my life for the service of mankind." Dr. Bharti Kashyap, speaking on the occasion, stressed.

At all Cervical Cancer Detection camps organised by me as chairperson of Women Doctors' Wing, IMA, Jharkhand, hundreds of women who were detected with genital infections and pre cancer of the cervix were treated with Colscope guided Cryo Treatment and cured free of any cost. In addition Kit 2 and Kit 6 tablets, iron folic acid and calcium tablets were distributed amongst women suffering from genital infections.

In addition women doctors working at the various state run hospitals of the state were provided with training on use of Colcoscope and Cryo machines for early detection and cure of cervical cancer with help from experts of Chittaranjan Cancer Institute, Kolkata, Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi and Service Beyond Borders, USA, she revealed.

# Road accident wipes out 10 family members

From page 1  
Nine people travelling in the SUV died on the spot while another person succumbed to injuries while being taken to a local hospital.

A police team rushed to the spot and admitted an injured child to a hospital in Rajnandgaon while three other people were shifted to a hospital in Bhillai town.

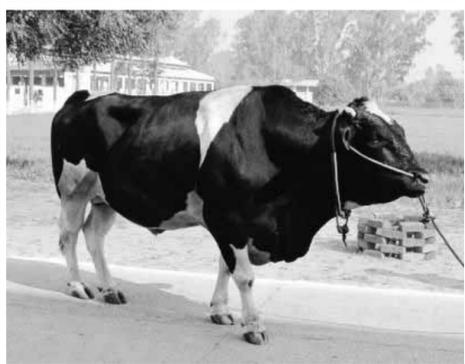
The Rajanandgaon-Durg

four-lane road is part of the National Highway connecting Mumbai-Kolkata via Raipur and Nagpur.

One way of the road has been closed for vehicular traffic between Anjora village bypass in Durg and Rajnandgaon town for nine days of the Navratri festival to ensure smooth movement of pilgrims who go on foot to the Maa Bamleshwari Temple.

# Army sells 16K imported cows at throwaway prices

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



RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

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

The cows were sold to various States at a price of ₹1,000 each and the Army plans to sell the remaining 9,000 high-yield milk cattle shortly.

Moreover, the remaining 24 military farms, a colonial legacy, will also be shortly closed down and land handed

over the local military authorities.

The decision to close down the Rajera military farms set up by the British to rear milch cattle for providing dairy products to the Armed forces was taken by the Government last year to improve teeth to tail ratio of the Army.

It means more soldiers deployed for operational role than static duties like maintenance of vehicles and farms amongst others.

Following the official directive, the Army has so far closed down 15 farms out of total 39 located all over the country.

As regards 25,000 Frieswal cows, a cross breed between Holstein-Friesian cows of Netherlands and native Indian Sahiwal breed, the Army first decided to auction the milch cattle.

Each cow can yield at an average more than 3,500 litres of milk per lactation and costs ₹1 lakh each.

However, there were no takers for the cows in the auction and the authorities then decided to sell each cow at a



nominal price of ₹1,000 each to various States provided they were ready to foot the transportation bill.

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

The closure of military

establishments to include Radio Monitoring Companies, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.

The other proposals were restructuring of repair echelons in the Army to include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Static/Station Workshops in the field Army besides redeployment of Ordnance echelons to include Vehicle Depots, Ordnance Depots and Central Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.

Better utilisation of supply and transportation echelons and animal transport units, closure of Military Farms and Army Postal Establishments in peace locations, enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army and improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) were the other recommendations.

SCHEDULE II FORM B PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Regulation 12 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF VISA POWER LIMITED	
1. Name of Corporate Debtor	VISA POWER LIMITED
2. Date of Incorporation of Corporate Debtor	5 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2005
3. Authority under which Corporate Debtor is Incorporated/Registered	REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, WEST BENGAL
4. Corporate Identity Number of Corporate Debtor	U40101WB2005PLC105797
5. Address of the Registered Office and Principal Office (if any) of Corporate Debtor	8/10, ALIPORE ROAD, KOLKATA 700027, WEST BENGAL, INDIA
6. Date of closure of Insolvency Resolution Process	10 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018
7. Liquidation commencement date of Corporate Debtor	11 <sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 (By Order of the Hon'ble NCLT, Kolkata Bench in C.P. (I.B.) No. 574/KB/2017)
8. Name of the Liquidator Address of the Liquidator	ANIL GOEL AAA Insolvency Professionals LLP E-10A, Kailash Colony, Greater Kailash, New Delhi 110048
Email Address of the Liquidator	Email Address registered with IIBBI: anilgoel@aaainsolvency.com Email Address for Communication: visa.power@aaainsolvency.com (011) 4666 4600 IIBBI/PA-001/PP-P00118/2017-2018/10253
Telephone Number of the Liquidator Registration Number of the Liquidator	
9. Last date for submission of Claims	10 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Kolkata Bench has ordered the commencement of liquidation of VISA POWER LIMITED on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2018, under Section 33 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016.  
The Stakeholders of VISA POWER LIMITED are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018, to the Liquidator at the address mentioned against Item 8.  
The Financial Creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other Stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.  
The prescribed forms may be downloaded from the following link: <http://ibbi.gov.in/downloadform.html>  
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
Place: New Delhi  
ANIL GOEL  
Liquidator

# Eyes... Maj Gen, 6 jawans...

From page 1  
"Our priority is to provide quality education and employment based on education to youth," he added.

The BJP in last Assembly elections had promised 15 lakh jobs in the State.

According to National Career Service under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, job-seeker registration in Rajasthan was 8,80,144 till June 30, 2018. The Congress' promise of Rs 3,500 as unemployment allowance would cost around Rs 308 crore.

From page 1  
Following this, the Gauhati High Court asked the Army to go for a court martial, which was challenged by the Army in the Supreme Court.

Later, on the apex court's instruction, the Army started the process of holding the Summary General Court Martial (SGCM) of the encounter on July 16 and concluded the process on July 27.

The Summary General Court Martial on Saturday awarded life imprisonment to Major General AK Lal. Col. Thomas Mathew, Col. RS

Sibren, Capt. Dilip Singh, Capt Jagdeo Singh, Naik Albinder Singh and Naik Shivendar Singh for the fake encounter killings.

"We have waited for justice for the last 24 years. We thank the witnesses who deposed before the Army court during the court martial braving threat to their lives.

We also thank the then AASU leader Jagadish Bhuyan who had been pursuing the case alone all these years," said Debashis Biswas, brother of late Debajit Biswas, one of the five victims of the fake encounter.

# Capt asks Kejriwal to refrain from politicising 2015 sacrilege incidents

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Sunday lashed out at his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to refrain from "doing politics" on the issue of sacrilege and police firing incidents in Faridkot in 2015.

Singh chided Kejriwal after the latter accused the Congress-led Punjab government of failing to punish those responsible for the sacrilege of the Sikh holy

book and deaths of two persons in the alleged police firing at Kotkapura and Behbal Kalan.

"Stop politicking @ArvindKejriwal. It's shocking a man in your position talks of subverting law instead of waiting for SIT's findings," Capt Amarinder Singh tweeted. The Punjab government had set up a five-member Special Investigation Team to probe the police firing incidents.

Two persons -- Krishan Bhagwan Singh and Gurjit

Singh -- were killed in the alleged police firing at protesters at Behbal Kalan following sacrilege incidents in 2015.

Earlier in the day, Kejriwal had alleged that the State Government had badly failed in punishing the culprits of sacrilege incidents and police firing at Faridkot three years ago.

"On 3rd death anniversary of Behbal Kalan victims Krishan Bhagwan Singh & Gurjit Singh, I offer condolences 2 their families.

# Saudi rejects threats as stocks plunge after Trump remarks

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

In an interview to be aired

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

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

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

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

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

Trump also said "we would

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Trump wants people to come to US on basis of merit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

"The one thing that really has changed over the last couple of years since I've been President — our country is doing so well, even with real interest — not with false interest rates. Zero interest. Anybody can do well with zero interest. We're the hottest country in the world, economically, by far. You take a look at us compared to China, compared to everybody else, we're the hottest country in the world. A lot of people are trying to come in. Our border security, our ICE, our law enforcement is doing an incredible job," he said.

## Ready to share debt details of CPEC with IMF: Pak

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Trump said he had lunch with Mattis two days earlier and Mattis, a retired Marine four-star general, had not told him that he was leaving. The exchange on Mattis came after Trump alluded to upcoming changes in his cabinet, which last week saw the surprise resignation of Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the United Nations.

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

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

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

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

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

## HUNTER KILLS BRITISH CYCLIST IN FRENCH ALPS

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

**CHINA'S 1ST SATELLITE FOR WAVE DETECTION**  
**Beijing:** China plans to launch its first satellite to test the technologies of the space-based gravitational wave detection programme "Tianqin" by the end of 2019. The programme Tianqin, meaning "harp in sky," was initiated by Sun Yat-sen University in south China's Guangdong province in 2015.

## US is loser by abandoning Iran N deal: Rouhani

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

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

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

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

# As sea ice melts, some say walrus need better protection

AP ■ ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tat would not be jeopardized. Inaccessibility protected walrus for decades, but a rapid decline in summer sea ice has made them vulnerable.

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

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

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



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

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

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



## CYCLONE LESLIE SLAMS INTO PORTUGAL, 27 HURT

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

## 19 KILLED IN MIGRANT VEHICLE CRASH IN TURKEY

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

## TALIBAN ATTACK AF ARMY BASE, 17 SOLDIERS KILLED

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

Flying unsafe

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

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

Aviation traffic has grown dramatically in India over the past few years. India's civil fleet has grown from just over 200 planes to over 500 now. New aircraft are arriving every few weeks and new airports are bringing connectivity to the farthest corners of the country. However, like with any growing industry there will be growth pangs. The problem is that these growth pangs are playing with the lives of fare-paying passengers. Airport perimeter security and careful flying are important to ensure that incidents are kept to a minimum. Of course, that is not to say that incidents will not happen and when incidents happen with large commercial aircraft there tends to be a media frenzy, quite unlike a bus or a train accident, because like it or not, the passengers on a plane are what we would consider 'people like us', and while one can argue whether that is fair, that is what will happen. Incidents also tend to be blown out of proportion by a sensationalist television media in particular. Having said that, it must be pointed out that there is genuine concern among passengers on airport safety in particular and the scary bit is not that the Air India Express aircraft hit the wall but that it took off and flew for four hours with a seriously damaged underbelly before anyone on the ground noticed it and alerted the captain. It was providential that a major air disaster did not take place. Many of the recent incidents have been avoidable and that could spark a fear of flying among the general public. And with high fuel prices and declining yields, this is not something that India's airlines or the government itself wants right now. For one, India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) needs urgent reform to improve their incident reporting and investigation teams, the DGCA has been rife with allegations of nepotism for years and the kith and kin of several officers are employed by the airlines in a perverse quid pro quo. Similarly, Indian airport security that obsessively focuses on passengers, should improve their security to become more holistic. One hopes that the incidents remain ones where nobody gets hurt, but that is just a hope.

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

50 WORD EDIT Poor air quality, warm winter

If it wasn't enough that the beginning of crop sowing cycle in the adjoining States of Haryana and Punjab combined with rising construction, road-side and vehicular pollution has left residents of the Capital wheezing and coughing, now comes the El Nino weather phenomenon will make the coming winter in Delhi warmer. From the frying pan into the fire about sums it up.

River of pain

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

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

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

Agrawal died as he lived, uncompromising on his demands for which his last fast ended with his immortal soul having been freed from its mortal coil on October 11. His charter was clear: Cancel all hydel power projects under construction on the Alakananda, Dhauinganga, Nandakini, Pindar and Mandakini; nix all new proposals for power plants; ensure a complete stoppage of illegal sand mining in Haridwar and its surrounds.

Rafale deal: Smooth then ruffled feathers

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

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

Cacophony on the Rafale deal has cast a cloud on the country's defence preparedness and our enemies are having a hearty laugh over our bickering. The country has already suffered during the past 15 years in defence preparedness. The Congress was in power for 10 years and itself has much explaining to do about its inaction. It is, however, of utmost interest to review the parameters available in the public domain with a focus on India's defence needs. The Air Force is awfully short of multi-purpose aircraft to meet external threats from two fronts. As against the requirement of 48 squadrons, it has only 32 squadrons (half of these squadrons of vintage Mig 21, Jaguar and Mig 27, which



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

are more than 40 to 55 years old) to guard the Indian skies. Never ending controversies in defence purchases meant that our forces could never get the weapons to its full strength. First, criticism from the Congress. The very next day after the deal was signed in April 2015, the Congress spokesperson raised the question of its cost and asked for making public the details of the agreement. He also questioned the escalation of cost of a single aircraft from ₹715 crore to ₹1,600 crore. The party blamed the Modi Government for bypassing the procurement procedure and smelled a rat over the signing of an agreement between Dassault, the manufacturer of Rafale, and the Anil Ambani-led Reliance defence firm for implementing the 50 per cent offset clause. The interview of former

French President François Hollande to a French TV, about the Indian Government dragging on over disagreements on warranty for aircraft to be produced by the Opposition another handle to beat the Government with.

The Government has stoutly rejected the allegations and questioned the rationale of comparing the two different base year prices even as it insisted that it got significantly better terms than those quoted in the original bid under the UPA, with a total saving of more than 1,600 million Euros (550 million Euros on the cost of aircraft with a further reported saving on weapons, allied maintenance and training package amounting to a round 1,300 million Euros or ₹12,600 crore).

However, a cost breakdown of Rafale in the original bid under UPA and in the 36 aircraft in the Government-to-Government deal will never be available in the public domain due to the secrecy clause between the two Governments. The Government's stand has been strongly supported by the serving Air Chief as well as his predecessor as they said that Rafale combat jet is designed as a multi-role fighter for air-to-air and air-to-ground attack and is nuclear-capable. It is on-board electronic warfare systems can also perform reconnaissance and radar jamming roles.

If our leaders continue to be at each other's throat then no Government can finalise the deal even in the next 50 years. There is also a catch

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

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

If our leaders continue to be at each other's throat then no Government can finalise the deal even in the next 50 years. There is also a catch

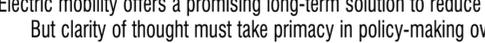
in Hollande's remarks. When asked by the French media about the conflict of interest involving former President's partner Julie Gaye (whose film was funded by Anil Ambani) he took a diversionary tactics to escape. In international arms deals, firms do lobbying and Reliance must have been in touch with Dassault which should be none of our business. The air on this has been cleared by Dassault and the French Government. It is a fact that the country's enemies will try to derail this deal through clandestine planting of false reports directed at the doors of opposition leaders and in dinner gossip. Hence, the Government should seriously plan to develop a robust defence industry with private sector participation and encourage foreign investment with private players. As for HAL, it has taken almost 33 years to develop 'Tejas'. They will now face competition from private sector in the long-term which in effect is an opportunity for them. Now Reliance, Tata and Adani, all new in the defence sector, have forged alliances with foreign arms manufacturers and people should welcome this trend. The 50 percent offset clause in this deal should be used to develop the defence infrastructure in the country. Let us end the saga of mathematics of incompetence in defence procurement where incompetence plus incompetence equals incompetence. (The writer is a retired civil servant)

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

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



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



Auto sector: Hype over reality

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

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

Even the much awaited FAME-II declaration was missing. Instead, debate was dominated by the only concern about subsidies for electric vehicles which presumably can result in import substitution of crude oil; albeit with import of expensive electric vehicle (EV) parts like lithium ion batteries, motors and electronics for the singular objective of reducing pollution. This is really surprising as these imported parts constitute more than 65-70 per cent of the value of an electric vehicle and in 2017, this import of electronic parts alone was around \$47 billion, third highest after oil and gems. The Indian auto industry is competitive in traditional engine and transmission parts that constitute approximately 40 per cent of its turnover. In 2017-18, India exported auto components worth ₹90,571 crore while imports that included 27 per cent from China stood at ₹106,672 crore. Hence, there is a justified worry that policy push for electric vehicles without addressing the issue of existing auto component industry and the local manufacturing of EV parts may only end up increasing the net import bill, worsening the current account deficit situation in the short to medium term.

However, shift to electric vehicles is a promising long-term solution to reduce dependence of the transport sector in India on fossil fuel. And without initial Government support, there will not be enough demand to justify any investments for manufacturing of EV parts in India. Hence, this seems to be a classic chicken and egg story. It is essential for our policy makers to find a viable approach to overcome this dilemma.

INDIGENOUS EDIFICE FOR NEW EDUCATION

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

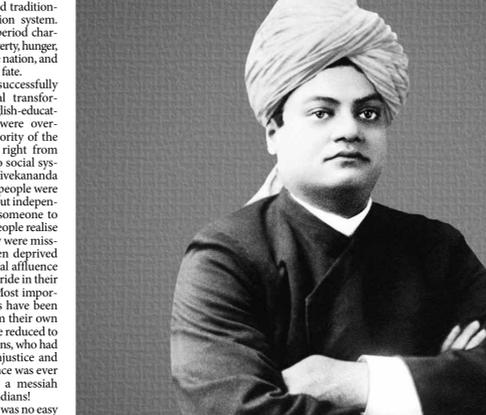
jugation of its history, culture and heritage as a result of planned efforts to destabilise its time-tested traditional yet dynamic education system. Swami was active in a period characterised by rampant poverty, hunger, demoralisation of a slave nation, and people resigned to their fate.

The British had successfully achieved an attitudinal transformation amongst the English-educated Indian elite who were overwhelmed by the superiority of the West in every aspect, right from knowledge to culture to social systems! When Swami Vivekananda appeared on the scene, people were hesitant to even talk about independence. India needed someone to give a wakeup call; let people realise who they are; what they were missing; how they have been deprived not only of their material affluence but also of the sense of pride in their culture and heritage. Most importantly, how their minds have been made to drift away from their own people, people who they were reduced to live in inhuman conditions, who had lost the will to resist injustice and humiliation. If resurgence was ever conceivable, it needed a messiah who knew India and Indians!

And knowing India was no easy task in view of the country's diversity of every conceivable variety in men and material, spiritual and religious pursuits and systems of governance and delivering justice. Swami travelled across the nook and corner of the country, and what he saw, convinced him about the inherent unity of the Indian nation and its people. He also realised how India could play a leading role on the global stage to efforts to create a world of social cohesion and human dignity.

A well-known instance of comprehending and then connecting India is that of Adi Sankaracharya. He realised the need to travel around, and in his short sojourn on the planet Earth, he established shrines that strengthened the unity of minds of the people and also of the regions and places. One can also recall another example - how Gopal Krishna Gokhale had advised Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to 'know India' before beginning work in India after all the name and fame he had already earned in South Africa. He dutifully travelled every nook and corner of the country and developed an understanding that could not be matched by any of his political associates in freedom struggle.

Swami Vivekananda was quick to realise the cause of the decline of a great number of people who claimed to be the children of immortality; Amritasya Putrah! They had already understood that "all this that is changeable in this ephemeral world must be enveloped by the lord!" The query, in spite of all this and much more about national degradation, was answered by Swami. Attitude to false superiority played the most prominent role in the downfall of the children of god. While on the one hand, India boasted of Vedic, attracting learners from 60 nations, its social structure gradually declined, even a journey on seas was declared sinful and invited heavy penalties. How can any system, social structure or a civilisation, maintain its dynamism if it isolates itself from the world outside? In 1894, Vivekananda said in his book, The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda, "To my mind, the one great cause of the downfall and the degeneration coming was the building of a wall of custom — whose foundation was hatred of others — round the nation, and the real aim of which in ancient times was to prevent the Hindu from coming in con-



IF INDIA IS TO STAND WITH ITS HEAD HIGH IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, IT HAS TO PREPARE A YOUNG GENERATION WHICH IS CONFIDENT, PROUD OF ITS HERITAGE, HISTORY AND MOTHERLAND. THEY ARE KEEN TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE NOT INFERIOR TO ANYONE

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

Finally, in this very piece he exhorted: "We must mix with all the races of the Earth." The lamp that was lit by Swami has spread its light across the nation, across the communities and the entire world now realises and relishes India's global presence. But mere travel around and outside, opening up the sea shores and airports alone is only their initial step. It alone is not sufficient to give Indians their due on the global stage.

If India is to stand up with its head high in the global community, it has to prepare its young generations, who are self-assured, confident, proud of their heritage, history and motherland, and are keen to prove that they are not inferior to anyone. It must make them believe that they all have the capability and potential to lead a global renaissance. For a committed researcher and explorer, knowledge pursuit is a pious task. Indian culture and tradition linked with individuals urge to gain better understanding of the forces of nature, and utilise that knowledge for the welfare of the people, humanity and that, too, without any distinction or selfish motive. He prays for one and all men and women of all religions and faiths, of all colours and creeds. No distinction, every soul being divine. The *Rishis* and *munis*, saints and sages — they all created knowledge and disseminated it for the 'human welfare.' Things have changed in the modern world and India and Indians are no longer exceptions. Now, knowledge quest is often pursued with the sole commercial considerations getting a patent earlier than others and takeover the market! Historical interventions impeded Indian knowledge traditions, and today, we are just copying the trends of much-glamorised globalisation. However, as we are passing through an era of weakening of sincere, committed and selfless pursuits of new knowledge, a course correction is urgently needed. Essentially, it amounts to broadening of the vision of knowledge quest that India must articulate in the current-day ideology. It is a course correction. How to proceed to comprehend this change was so lucidly elaborated by Swami Vivekananda: "Everyone born in this world has a bent, a direction towards which he must go through which he must live, and what is true of the individual equally true of the race. Each race, similarly, has a peculiar bent, each race has a peculiar *raison d'être*, each race has a peculiar mission to fill in the life of the world. Each race has to make its own result, to fulfil its own mission. Political greatness or military power is never the mission of our race; it never was and, mark my word, it never will be. But there has been the other mission given to us, which is to conserve, to preserve, to accumulate, as it were, into a dynamo, all the spiritual energy of the race, and that concentrated energy is to pour forth in a deluge on the world whenever circumstances are propitious." Can India not build the edifice of its new education for resurgent India on this outstanding postulate? (The writer is the Indian Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GETTING SERIOUS Sir — This refers to the 50-word edit, "Martyr to Ganga" (October 13). The passing away of eminent environmentalist-professor GD Agrawal is saddening. He will be remembered for his significant contribution towards rejuvenating the Ganga river, which remained the hallmark of his career. Agrawal, was fasting unto death for the last 111 days to save the holy river. His demands included the closure of all hydel projects that cause irreversible damage to the river, thereby obstructing its flow. While Agrawal was not the lone

crusader for the Ganga's cause his contribution will remain unparalleled. He has left behind a large number of grass-root environmentalist whom he mentored during his life time. They will, perhaps, carry forward his legacy. —Ramesh G Jethwani Bangalore

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER Sir — This refers to the article, "Chronicle of a death foretold" (October 13) Hiranmay Karaklekar. The UN's special report on climate change precisely extols the impending catastrophe in the disguise of global

warning. It is high time for countries all over the world to introspect and join hands together to save our saviour -ie mother earth. Otherwise, the day may not be too far when humanity may have to beg for its own existence. —Sudeepa Gandhi Kurukshetra

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

Repeating lies not going to change a reality: Goyal to Rahul" (October 10), Congress president Rahul Gandhi has been misleading the people of the country by branding the Rafale deal as the biggest scandal ever. His allegations must be seen in light of the forthcoming election to the central States as well as the 2019 General Election. Gandhi has, in fact repeatedly been targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi day in and day out on the issue of purchase of fighter planes, accusing him of forcing the French aviation company, Dassault, to pick up Reliance Defence as its off-shoot partner. However, Dassault has made it clear that it freely chose to get into a partnership with Reliance Group in the joint-venture, Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL). Besides, other partnerships have also been signed with companies such as BTL, DEFVS, Kinetic, Mahindra, Maini and SAMTEL, while negotiations are ongoing with a hundred-odd other potential partners. While using impropriate language against Prime Minister Modi, Gandhi called him *bhrast* and *chor* (corrupt and thief). Interestingly, Gandhi himself is out on bail in the multi-crore *National Herald* scam. —MC Joshi Lucknow

STRENGTHEN JUDICIAL SYSTEM Sir — This refers to the article, "#MeToo movement: A spark or fire?" (October 12) by Ajoy Kumar. The #MeToo movement has been empowering women to step forward and take a stand against their oppressors. Shaming the men and making them a subject of public scrutiny might be a very effective tool against powerful people at a time when the judicial system has not been effective. However, to ensure that this doesn't lead to a situation where, once you are accused on social media, you are guilty unless proven innocent, a comprehensive system for booking the culprits and delivering brisk justice to the affected is needed. —MA Siddiqui Lucknow

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

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

Any thinking person knows that change is the law of life. There are classes and categories of change. Next to the topic of leadership (perhaps the largest block of time), researching topics of universal interest to human kind is the topic of change. Like leadership, attempts to understand it have taken place from the vantage point of philosophy, sociology, literature, management and more. Clearly, the list can be added to. Yet, the predictive validity of directions, content and speed of change are always a challenge to discern. In the context of present times, it is obvious that technology is the biggest variable in the processes of change. Illustratively, who can not keep pace with digitalisation are likely to be enveloped by the expanding frontiers of the Jurassic Park. The second most significant aspect of change of present times is its speed. People in the generation of this writer have in the four decades, beginning mid-80s of the 20th century, lived through at least seven generations of changes in desktop computing. Similarly, felicity with numerals and numbers has become exceedingly important. In the late 50s and early 60s, the permission to take a 'log table' into the examination hall of school leaving 'O' level certificate examination of Cambridge University, was considered a revolutionary move. There was heated exchange of opinion amongst those who claimed to know, whether this move strengthened accurate and ethical assessment or weakened it. Six decades down the line, young boys taking the school leaving examination may even find it difficult to understand the content and purpose of a 'log table'. Put simply, generational change is now a passe. People undergo three to five significant changes in a life span of say 80 years. Longevity increases, pace of change increases and aid to learning becomes critical. There is as yet no programmed formula to facilitate this. This then becomes one of the core challenges of the present times. What has to change is the selection, content and execution of research themes. Higher education system in most parts of the world seem to have hardly developed a method of reorienting themselves to respond to this challenge. The conflict between the outcomes of learning and the requirements of livelihood, as they stand today, need to be understood if they are to be tackled. The almost endemic spread of digitisation has encumbered learning to a point where video medium of transference of learning seems to become incrementally more important. Obviously, whether in a face-to-face situation with a person or through intermediary of videos, learning content would in many ways remain the same. Variable elements touch delivery of knowledge, the assessment of precision and volume of transfer of knowledge. It is there that the challenge lies. There is one more area which needs to be flagged. If elements of change are as noted above, the sources of livelihood would also get affected. There was a time where the mason was literally the building block of a physical structure. Today, that profession is not eliminated but has been substantially taken over by prefabricated walls and structures. A skilled person, who can put them together, is now in demand. A clear case of a profession which is receding, and a skill which is expanding in replacing it. When this is the global scene, for a like the World Economic Forum cannot be left far behind. They survive on riding the crest of the current interests. They are credited with a report, 'Future of Jobs Report 2018'. It is their estimate that global change will throw up emerging roles. By 2022, there will be 133 million emerging roles. By the same token, by 2022, declining roles would be about 75 million. Hence, the approximate rise in the emerging roles will be about 58 million. Like many reports, the derivation of this figure and its methodology is not clearly stated. It may be closer to truth to observe that there may be a likelihood of expanding the number of emerging roles. However, this does not necessarily convert itself into the actual number of available jobs. And this is the catch. Globally, there is talk of recession and the prophets of gloom are talking of the possible repeat experiences of a decade ago. Irrespective, one thing is clear. That one thing is that skills of employability would have completely transformed. This would have rendered escalation of the ability of self-learning and sourcing of information to the top of the list. One needs to wake up to this reality. In the future, the skills of postal service assistants, material recording and stock-keeping assistants would have been rendered obsolete and the requirement of operations and coordinating managers, artificial intelligence and machine learning intermediaries would have gone galloping. The question is simple: Is this, above phenomena, widely recognised enough to give confidence to everyone for the future? (The writer is a well-known management consultant)

BENGAL DURGA PUJAS

# Govt makes massive police arrangement

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

The first shift will work from 8 am to 4 pm. The second

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

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

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

spread across 5-6 days.

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

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

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

# BJP to use occasion to improve outreach

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

"Earlier, our party organisation was not so strong that

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After the Left Front was voted out of power in 2011, the TMC has been promoting party mouthpiece "Jago Bangla" outside puja pandals in the State. "For us, Durga Puja is integral part of Bengali culture, heritage and history. We look up to it as a festival, unlike the BJP which tries to use religion to create rift among the masses," TMC Secretary General Partha Chatterjee said.

# Ex-BJP Min Bimal Shah may join Cong

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Man injured in blast dies in Kolkata hospital

IAN S ■ KOLKATA

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

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

With this, the toll has risen to two.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Director of Literacy

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

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

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

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

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

# Teenager killed in snowstorm

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

After getting information

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

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

# Scientific solution to beach erosion makes a coastline breathe easy

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

## Formation of Beach

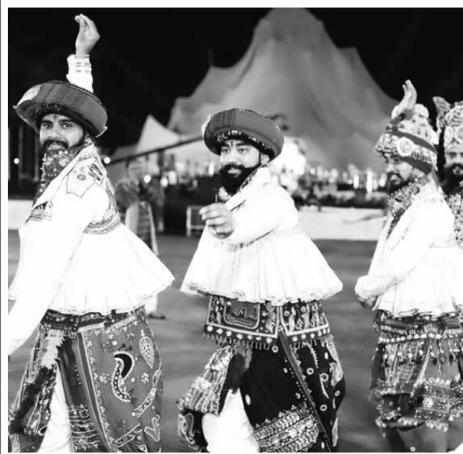
Significant extent of beach has formed to the south of the reef and people have been thronging in large numbers.




## Present Status




revealed the intensity of the erosion. The engineering minds of the institute felt that a "new" beach could be built with the introduction of sub-



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

merged dyke using steel caisson (a giant structure made of 900 tonnes of steel which is submerged into the sea) and allowing the beach to grow by itself.

"This submerged structure, which is at a distance of about 100 metres from the shore, reduced the wave activity by working as a breakwater and allowed free movement of the sand towards the shore," explained Dr Murthy.

The pilot project saw the beach gaining an extent of 60 meters and this led to the major venture. The sand dredged from the port was used for "nourishment" For the complete restoration, another dyke at the south side is being worked.

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

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

# Free ₹5 L insurance for Vaishno Devi pilgrims

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

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

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

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

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Shri

Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital.

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

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

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

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

# Discharged from AIIMS, Parrikar returns to Goa

PTI ■ PANAJI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parrikar was admitted to the AIIMS on September 15. On Friday, Parrikar met Goa BJP's core committee members and ministers from coalition partners at AIIMS to discuss ways to ensure his Government functions normally during his absence from office due to ill health.

Leaders of the ruling BJP



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ PANAJI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Rupani arrives in city, to invite Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue, named as the Statue of Unity, will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31. During the meeting, both the Chief PM to unveil Patel statue on Oct 31

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

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

The Chief Minister is also likely to reiterate his request for land for construction of Uttar Pradesh Bhawan at Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat complex which

will come up near the Statue of Unity.

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

"If Gujarat government gives land, the UP government will build a bhawan for the benefit of the people of Uttar Pradesh who visit Gujarat," he said. Yogi further wrote: "This is a great proposal of the Gujarat government to allow various State Governments to build their own bhavans at Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat complex. This initiative is commendable."

The Statue of Unity when unveiled will be the tallest statue of the world.

# BJP launches 'Booth Chalo Abhiyaan' in UP

**Lucknow:** Apparently in a bid to identify its prospective voters rather early in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has embarked on 'Booth Chalo Abhiyaan' (let's go to the polling booth) in the State. UP BJP leaders are also of the view that the campaign may help the party to identify the "unauthorised voters" including Rohingyas and those from Bangladesh. The Booth Chalo Abhiyaan started on October 5 and continued till October 10, UP BJP spokesperson Manish Shukla said. Elaborating about the campaign, Shukla said.

"The Booth Chalo Abhiyaan revolves primarily on three issues - youngsters turning 18 on January 1, 2019 should be made voters, names of all the unauthorised persons (including Rohingyas and others who have illegally entered India) be deleted from the voters list and correction of names of voters in the voter list be carried out." PTI

# Krishi Kumbh to boost all sectors

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

Chief Secretary Anup Chandra Pandey said that Uttar Pradesh had already organised UP Investors' Summit 2018 and MSME conclave — One District One Product

Summit — and the Krishi Kumbh would be the third important summit that will give a boost to all the three sectors, particularly ODOF.

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

Manish Sharma, a senior official looking after the preparations for Krishi Kumbh, said that this event would include all aspects of rural economy, such as agriculture, horticulture, dairy, pisciculture, bee-keeping,

food processing, animal husbandry and farm implements to provide a holistic picture to farmers for increasing their income.

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

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

profits to farmers.

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

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

# Fire breaks out in Obra power plant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

Official sources said here that the fire started from the switch gear in the cable yard around 5 in the morning and the fire spread to nearby areas within an hour.

About 12 fire-tenders were rushed to the spot to douse the flames. Due to the fire, unit numbers 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the power plant generating around 200 megawatt (MW) electricity were shut down.

OFFICIAL SOURCES SAID HERE THAT THE FIRE STARTED FROM THE SWITCH GEAR IN THE CABLE YARD AROUND 5 IN THE MORNING AND IT SPREAD TO NEARBY AREAS WITHIN AN HOUR

Senior officials of the UP Thermal Power Generation Corporation Limited along with district authorities rushed to the spot. Sonebhadra's District Magistrate Amit Kumar Singh said the units had been shut down and the employees had been evacuated. He said no one was injured in the fire.

Official sources said the loss due to the fire could be in several crore of rupees. They also said that the losses would have been much higher had the fire not been brought under control immediately and the entire Obra thermal power plant, which generates 800 MW of power, would have to be shut down leading to major power crisis in the State.

# Goa Forward MLA quits party over fish mafia row

IANS ■ PANAJI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Cong 'divided house', BJP sure to win State polls: Vasundhara

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

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

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

Raje made the remarks Sunday during a meeting of the party workers at Ranakpur in Pali district.

The meeting was attended

by the BJP workers from 31 assembly constituencies, including those from Bikaner, Churu, Hanumangarh, Jodhpur and Sriganganagar. The workers submitted to the Chief Minister their written suggestions in sealed envelopes.

Raje said the workers have the right to claim tickets from the party, but their targets should be to ensure that "lotus" blooms in the State again.

The Chief Minister also sought to ridicule the Congress' "optimism" over the tradition of the state having the BJP and the Congress Governments alternatively since 1990 and said had it been so, the Congress would not have ruled the State for 50 years.

Raje exuded confidence that her party will form Governments both in the State and the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah.

PTI

# J&K youth important stakeholders in peace process: Guv Malik

**Srinagar:** Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik Sunday said the State's youth were the most important stakeholders in the peace process and it was essential to engage them regularly and effectively.

The Governor said this during an interactive session — 'Kashmir Youth Dialogue' — organised by the Jammu Kashmir Youth Alliance at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) here.

Malik said it was important that the youth were given momentum in right direction to channelise their creative, intellectual and innovative energies and talents in a productive manner.

Conveying the commitment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure free and fair elections in the state, he said the students are torchbearers for emerging societies and urged them to partake in the democratic process as leaders and participants to shape the new future for the state.

Malik assured full support of the State and Central administration for the overall development of the youth.

The Governor also participated in one-on-one interaction with the youth during the session, in which the youth put forth their grievances and concerns on a variety of subjects.

"To provide youth with proper launch platforms, there have been talks to host IPL matches in Kashmir, besides holding matches where local players are provided opportunities to compete with players of national and international repute," he said.

On the concerns with regard to the education sector, Malik said he will ensure that universities and other higher educational institutions will prepare and adhere to an academic calendar, clear backlogs, besides ensuring timely conduct of examination and declaration of results.

PTI

# TDB invites stakeholders to discuss Sabarimala issue

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Amid continuing protests on the Sabarimala issue, a temple body which manages the Lord Ayyappa shrine on Sunday invited stakeholders for a meeting to discuss 'various aspects', including preparations for the annual pilgrimage season, beginning next month.

As Various Hindu outfits and Lord Ayyappa devotees have been staging protests over the last few days all over Kerala against implementation of the Supreme Court order, permitting women of all age groups into the shrine, the call for talks is considered an attempt for a consensus.

The Travancore Devaswom Board has invited tantes (temple priests), Pandalam royals and devotee groups to the meeting.

TDB president A Padmakumar said the meeting is scheduled to be held on October 16 at its headquarters here.

Besides the Tazhamon tantri family and the Pandalam royals, various stakeholders of the Sabarimala shrine, including Ayyappa Seva Sangam, Ayyappa Seva Samajam, tantri mahamandalam and Yoga

Kshema Sabah would be invited for the talks, he said.

"TDB has no prejudice over any matter related to Sabarimala...Let them come and share their views. We will take a suitable decision on all aspects regarding the temple after that," Padmakumar told reporters.

The members of the Padalam royal family and tazhamon tantes later said a collective decision would be taken soon on whether to attend the TDB meet or not. The three-month-long annual 'Mandalam-Makaravilakku' pilgrimage season of the Sabarimala Temple will begin on November 17.

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

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

Gopi flagged off the rally here at Alamkode. "Each BJP worker will fight till his final drop of blood is shed to protect the sanctity of the centuries old tradition of Sabarimala" party state president P S Sreedharan Pillai said addressing the rally.

The march, which criss crossed the southern districts of the State, would conclude before the State Secretariat, the administrative hub here, Monday. Hundreds of activists of Antarashtriy Hindu Parishad (AHP) also took out a rally here, urging the State and Union Governments to address the concerns of devotees of Lord Ayyappa.

AHP president Pravin Togadia called for a hartal in the State on October 18 if the Left Government implements the apex court order.

"We demand that the state Government file a review petition in the Supreme Court. Till that petition is pending, they should not implement the court order," he said addressing the rally.

If the State fails to do so, the AHP would announce a hartal in Kerala on October 17, 10 pm to October 18, he said. PTI



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

# School principal hacked to death in front of students

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A school principal was hacked to death Sunday by a six-member gang in front of 20 students, for whom he was holding a special class, police said.

Ranganath (60), principal of the Havanur Public School in suburban Agraahara

Dasarahalli, was holding classes for 10th standard students when the gang barged into the classroom and hacked him to death, they said. They later fled in the car in which they came to the school, police said.

One of the gang members was nabbed later from Mahalaxmi Layout area here,

based on a tip off.

The man suffered a leg injury when police fired at him after he attacked them. He was later taken to a hospital and treated.

Police suspect a land dispute relating to the school building to be the reason behind the killing.

# Chopper ride for Puja revellers in Tripura: TRTC

**Agartala:** A chopper ride for Durga Puja revellers for an aerial view of the festival here and its adjoining areas has been arranged by the Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC). "We are offering the ride for three days on Saptami, Navami and Dashami and the duration of the ride will be for 25 minutes," TRTC Chairman Deepak Majumder told reporters here Sunday.

An eight-seater chopper has been allotted for the ride and 16 tickets will be issued every day from the Krishnanagar bus depot from tomorrow, Majumder said adding the price of the tickets would be ₹1700 per head.

PTI

# Maharashtra to allow online sale, home delivery of liquor

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra government has decided to allow online sale and home delivery of liquor in the state, saying it could curb the cases of drunken driving.

"We want to curb the instances of drunken driving. Allowing home delivery of liquor will help in this," Excise

Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule told PTI on Sunday.

He did not elaborate as to when the decision would come into effect. Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a senior official in the excise department said increasing the revenue was also a prime objective behind the decision. PTI



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

**Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, Advisor to J&K Governor**

## BUZZ FROM GOVT

**Under the current scenario, I see at least another three plus quarters of losses. Why? Because personally, I do not think the present tariffs are sustainable for long term health of the industry. Already we have been through two quarters of losses (this fiscal). So something dramatic has to happen in the next two quarters and we know that is not going to happen**

**Rajan Mathews, Director General, COAI**



# Govt invites bids for int'l Udan flights

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Bank credit rises by 12.51%, deposits by 8.07%



PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Results, rupee movement to guide mkts this week: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

The company, while releas-

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

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

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

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

# Govt to give priority to State power producers for coal supply

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 'Continued investment in infra will help industry'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

can affect our business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# India International Silk Fair to begin this week

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Novak seals Shanghai title

Djokovic defeats Coric in straight sets, reaches second in ATP rankings

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

The "new" Novak Djokovic warned that he was gunning for Rafael Nadal's world number one ranking after winning the Shanghai Masters with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Borna Coric on Sunday.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion has been imperious all week and barely offered a sniff to the 19th-ranked Croatian, a good friend and sometime-training partner.

The end when it inevitably arrived was anti-climactic, with the Serb winning the championship point after a video review.

Djokovic buried his head in his hand at the absurdity of it.

The 31-year-old will leapfrog Roger Federer into second in the world when the rankings are released on Monday but will not stop there as the season reaches its climax.

Spanish great Nadal, who was not in Shanghai or Beijing last week because of a knee injury, will be just 215 points ahead of Djokovic in the race to finish as year-end number one.

"I could not ask for a better scenario," Djokovic, who last sat atop the rankings two years ago, said of his late surge to the summit of men's tennis.

"I am very close now to Nadal in the rankings and put myself in a good position for the last period of the year."

Red-hot Djokovic has now been victorious in 18 ATP matches in a row and in recent months won Wimbledon, the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and now Shanghai for a fourth time.

It is all a far cry from just five months ago, when Djokovic fell to 22nd in the world as he struggled following elbow surgery in February.

He missed the second half of 2017 with elbow and off-court issues, but said he had adapted his game since the operation.

Djokovic, who has been particularly dominant on his serve, not dropping one service game in Shanghai, said: "I think you're seeing the new Novak."

"I don't need to describe him, that's all I can say."



Winner's Novak Djokovic, left, holding the winner's trophy shakes hands with Borna Coric after the award ceremony for the Shanghai Masters

"I had to reinvent myself and find, you know, (a) proper formula for success."

"I found it and I'm just trying to hold on to it as long as I can."

Asked by AFP if he had a message for the under-pressure Nadal, the Serb smiled: "I will leave that up to your creative spirit of journalism."

The 32-year-old Nadal could return from his latest injury for the Paris Masters, which starts at the end of this month.

Djokovic said he could play Vienna or Basel, the week before

Paris, in an effort to further rein in his rankings rival.

## RUTHLESS DJOKOVIC

The 21-year-old Coric said that he had no complaints about losing to "one of the best in the history of tennis".

In what was the biggest match of his life, he wore heavy strapping on one thigh and has been troubled by a stiff neck that saw him ponder pulling out before the tournament.

But he refused to blame those for defeat to the man he considers something of an idol.

"He was the much better player on the court. I was playing good, really, I was really happy how I played," he said.

"I felt even if I was serving a little bit better, he'd still return my serves, so there is nothing I can do."

Coric, the 13th seed, was chasing only the third title of his career and defeated top seed Federer in the semi-finals to underline his rich promise.

He also dispensed of three-time Grand Slam winner and Federer's fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in his opening match.

## Paes wins Santo Domingo trophy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Old warhorse Leander Paes is still going great guns as the veteran tennis star won his second Challenger level title of the season, lifting the Santo Domingo Open trophy with partner Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela.



The second seeded Indo-Mexican pair, playing its second consecutive final, came from behind to beat Ariel Behar and Roberto Quiroz 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 in the summit clash, which lasted one hour and 26 minutes.

Paes, who is ranked 69, added 110 ranking points to his kitty and shared a prize purse of \$7750 with his partner.

Last week, the 45-year-old Paes and Angel ended runners-up at Montrey Challenger to Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Marcelo Arevalo.

Paes also ended runner-up at Chicago, Dallas on the ATP Challenger circuit and won the Newport Beach event in January.

Apart from these, Paes also reached the final of Winston-Salem Open and Dubai Free Tennis Championships on the ATP World Tour, ending runner-up with Jamie Cerretani in both the tournaments.



## GARCIA STUNS PLISKOVA, WINS TIANJIN OPEN

AP ■ TIANJIN

Second-seeded Caroline Garcia won her first tournament of the year with a 7-6 (7), 6-3 win over top-seeded Karolina Pliskova in the Tianjin Open on Sunday.

It was the 16th-ranked Garcia's first title since she won back-to-back trophies at the Wuhan and Beijing tournaments in Asia just over a year ago.

The Frenchwoman's two titles at the end of last season earned her a spot into the year-end WTA Finals in Singapore. This year, the victory in Tianjin is not enough to put Garcia into a second consecutive year-end final appearance.

Pliskova's failure to take the title also kept her from confirming a berth in the WTA Finals.

Currently in eighth place in the race to Singapore, the Czech will have to wait out the results from next week's tournaments in Luxembourg and Moscow to see if she qualifies for one of the three remaining spots. Pliskova is scheduled to play in Moscow.

American Sloane Stephens, Ukrainian Elena Svitolina and Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens are the other remaining contenders for Singapore.

Garcia was down 1-5 in the first set tiebreaker before she rebounded. She saved a set point for Pliskova at 5-6 to go on to win the hour-long first set.

In the second set, Garcia raced to a 5-0 lead, and first served for the match at 5-1, but had to wait for her victory to come

three games later. She secured the title with her sixth ace of the match.

## DANYA WINS WTA TITLE

HONG KONG: Ukrainian teen Dayana Yastremska won her maiden WTA title by upsetting sixth-seeded Wang Qiang of China 6-2, 6-1 in 65 minutes at the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

The 18-year-old was playing in her first career WTA final in only her 11th career appearance in the WTA tournament main draw.

Yastremska is the sixth teenager to advance to a WTA final in 2018 and the second to win a title. Serbian teen Olga Danilovic won the Moscow River Cup earlier in the year.

Prior to arriving in Hong Kong, Yastremska held a 3-10 record in WTA-level matches this season. Her best previous result was reaching the 2017 Istanbul quarterfinals.

The victory, in which she posted 33 winners to 21 unforced errors, will move the 102nd-ranked Yastremska to a new career high ranking in the top 80 when the next rankings are released on Monday.

Yastremska's win prevented the 24th-ranked Wang from winning her third career title. Earlier this fall she won the Nanchang and Guangzhou trophies.

Wang, who was playing in her fifth consecutive tour semifinal, will move up to a career-high No 23 ranking despite failing to lift the title.

# Dutch embarrass Germany 3-0

AFP ■ AMSTERDAM

Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk led the Netherlands to a crushing 3-0 win over Germany in the Nations League to ramp up the pressure on German coach Joachim Loew.

A first-half header by Dutch skipper Van Dijk gave the hosts the lead in Amsterdam. With the German defence in disarray, late goals from Memphis Depay and Liverpool's Georginio Wijnaldum sealed the win on a golden night for the Oranje at Amsterdam's Johan Cruyff Arena on Saturday.

This is the first time the Dutch have beaten Germany for 16 years and the comprehensive defeat leaves Loew under increasing pressure to resign after 12 years in charge.

These are dark days for the Germans, still reeling from their woeful World Cup display when they crashed out early after finishing bottom of their group.

Defeat in Loew's 168th international means Germany are once again last — this time bottom of Group One in the Nations League.

Van Dijk opened the scoring with a well-taken header after Ryan Babel had headed against the crossbar on 30 minutes.

Depay then compounded Germany's misery by stroking home a pass from Quincy Promes three minutes from time after the pair got in behind the defence.

Depay then hit the Germany crossbar moments before Wijnaldum netted Holland's third goal just before the final whistle.

Germany now face world champions France in Paris on Tuesday and Loew can ill



Georginio Wijnaldum, left, celebrates with Memphis Depay after scoring third goal against Germany

afford another heavy defeat.

Earlier Saturday, Munich-based newspaper, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, revealed there is a release clause in Loew's contract, which runs until 2022, allowing either party to end the agreement prematurely.

Loew had promised an improved performance from the Germans.

Yet again, his senior players let him down as the Bayern Munich axis of Manuel Neuer, Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels and Thomas Mueller struggled.

Loew pulled a surprise before kick-off by starting Manchester City starlet Leroy Sane on the bench.

Schalke striker Mark Uth made his debut up front with RB Leipzig winger Timo Werner and Mueller on the flanks.

Loew opted for a 4-3-3 formation, just

like his opposite number Ronald Koeman who started with Besiktas' Babel, Lyon's Depay and Eintracht striker Steven Bergwijn up front.

Uth and Werner both forced chances early on to keep Jasper Cillessen, Holland's Barcelona goalkeeper, busy.

The Dutch went ahead after 30 minutes when Babel out-jumped Germany midfielder Joshua Kimmich to the ball, headed onto the post and Van Dijk pounced on the rebound.

Germany had their chances as Mueller and then his replacement Sane, who came on for the last half an hour, both fired wide with the goal at their mercy.

Having broken the German defence in the final 10 minutes, Depay hit the net, then the crossbar before Wijnaldum swept in their third goal just before the final whistle.

# Messi is not a leader for Argentina: Maradona

AFP ■ BUENOS AIRES

Lionel Messi "is not a leader," said Diego Maradona of the current Argentina talisman in an interview in Mexico.

"It's useless to try and make a leader out of someone who goes to the bathroom 20 times before a game," Maradona said on Fox Sports.

"Before speaking to the coach and players he will be on the PlayStation. Then, on the field, he wants to be the leader," Maradona said as he answered questions in a stumbling voice, sometimes seeming to contradict himself.

"He is the best in the world along with Cristiano (Ronaldo)," Maradona said. "But he's not a leader."

Maradona, who led Argentina to victory in the 1986, said Messi, who was again unable to emulate that feat in Russia this summer was expected to be "the saviour of the fatherland."

"Let's stop making a god out of Messi. Messi is Messi for Barcelona, but playing in an Argentina shirt he is another Messi."

Maradona, who is in Mexico coaching second-division Sinaloa, said that if he was Argentina coach he would "not call on Messi" before adding "never say never."

"You have to take the leadership away for him to be the Messi we want him to be," Maradona said.



Lionel Messi disappointed after loss in WCup

Messi, who is 31, has not played for Argentina in three low-key friendlies since a 4-3 loss to eventual champions France in the first knock-out round at the World Cup, but has not officially retired from the national team.



# Deschamps backs Henry for success in Monaco

AFP ■ PARIS

Thierry Henry has "everything" needed to become a good manager, France coach and former international teammate Didier Deschamps said of the newly-named Monaco coach.

"Thierry's ready," Deschamps told TF1. "He has everything" to be a good coach.

"He's throwing himself into an exciting, exhilarating project where he'll have to take responsibility. It'll be up to him to take the reins."

Former Arsenal star Henry was named Monaco coach on Saturday, his first job in club management after leaving his position with the Belgian national team.

The 41-year-old French World Cup winner, who had been working as an assistant to Belgium coach Roberto Martinez since 2016, returns to the club where he began his professional career.

Henry, who has signed a contract with Monaco until June 2021, said it was "fate" that he had returned to the Principality.

Henry replaces Leonardo Jardim, who in 2017 guided Monaco to their first Ligue 1 title since 2000. He was sacked on Thursday after a string of poor results left Monaco in the relegation places.

The former striker will be joined by Joao Carlos Valado Tralhao, under-23 coach at Benfica, and Patrick Kwame Ampadu, coach at Arsenal's academy and father of Chelsea player Ethan Ampadu.

Henry graduated from Monaco's youth system and made his debut for the club in 1994.

He notably scored seven goals in the 1997-98 Champions League as the Monaco team of the time, then coached by Arsene Wenger, reached the semi-finals, where they lost to Juventus.

"It is with great pride that I am delighted to announce that I have accepted the position to become the manager of AS Monaco FC," he said on Twitter.

"I'm incredibly excited to be given this opportunity but now the hard work must begin. Can't wait."

Deschamps, who captained the France team featuring Henry that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, also started his coaching career at Monaco, back in 2001.

"The first season was very complicated," he said, wishing Henry "lots of courage and big success".

# INDIA ENTER HOCKEY 5s FINAL

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

The Indian men's and women's teams advanced to the final of hockey 5s competition in the Youth Olympics after registering emphatic wins over their respective opponents here.

India defeated hosts Argentina 3-1 in the men's semifinal match on Saturday while the women's team beat China 3-0 in their last-four match.

The Indian men face Malaysia in the summit clash while their women counterparts take on hosts Argentina in the final.

This is the first time India is taking part in a hockey competition in the Youth Olympics.

The country did not feature in the earlier two editions.

Hockey 5s, the five-a-side version, is played on a pitch smaller than the normal 11-player game and it was introduced in



the 2014 Singapore Youth Olympics.

In the men's semifinal match, Sudeep Chirmako (12th and 18th minute) and Rahul Kumar Rajbhar (3th) scored for India while captain Facundo Zarate found the target for Argentina.

India took the lead through Rahul Kumar but Argentina were

quick to equalise as they scored through Facundo Zarate in the 4th minute.

In the second period, India maintained pressure and benefited from it as they took the lead in the 12th minute through Sudeep Chirmako who produced a fine finish to swing the match in India's favour.

Indian attackers also created

chances and were successful again in the 18th minute as Sudeep Chirmako scored his second goal of the match to give a two-goal advantage for his side.

In the women's semifinal, India outplayed their Chinese opponents with goals coming from Mumtaz Khan (1st minute), Reet (5th) and Lalremsiami (13th).

# Wrestler Simran wins Silver

PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

Indian wrestler Simran settled for a Silver in women's freestyle 43 kg category competition after she lost to Emily Shilson of United States in the final bout here.

Simran, who had won a 40kg class Bronze in the 2017 Cadet World Championships, lost 6-11 as the American registered a 'victory by points' to clinch the Gold on Saturday night.

Simran conceded a 2-9 lead to Shilson in the first period and that virtually sealed her fate.

The Indian produced a better show in the second period by scoring four points as against two by his American opponent but that proved to be too little, too late to have any impact on the result of the bout.

Shilson is the Gold medalist in 43kg in the 2018 Cadet World Championships.

This is India's fifth Silver along with three Gold in the ongoing Youth Olympics. The medals won by shuttler Lakshya Sen (Gold), shooter Manu Bhaker (Silver) and judoka Tababi Devi (Silver) in mixed team events are not counted in the country's total medal tally as they had paired with athletes of other countries.

The other Indian in the wrestling competition, Mansi finished eighth after losing her classification match to Imbabi Ahmed of Egypt who received a 'victory by fall' decision.



Simran poses with Silver medal

# DOUBLE DONE & DUSTED

India crush West Indies in three days by 10 wickets to win second Test, wrap series 2-0

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A clinical India completed one of the most ruthless clean sweeps in recent times, demolishing a listless West Indies by 10 wickets in the second Test, inside three days, to clinch the series 2-0 on Sunday.

Umesh Yadav's maiden 10-wicket haul (6/88 and 4/45) on a decent track was the highlight as India reached the meagre victory target of 72 in 16.1 overs, courtesy unbeaten partnership between openers Prithvi Shaw (33) and KL Rahul (33).

While any Test series victory is welcome, it hardly was an ideal preparation for the big away-series against Australia, starting December 4 in Adelaide.

West Indies were back to their worst despite showing signs of fight in the first innings as they couldn't last two full sessions and were bowled out for 127 in only 46.1 in their second innings.

Out of the four innings in this series, West Indies couldn't cross the 200-run mark thrice which was a testimony to their plight during the series.

For India, it was their 10th series win at home since their last defeat against England way back in 2012.

Virat Kohli's side did an encore of 2013 series which India won by an identical margin in that year's most lopsided contest with Sachin Tendulkar's farewell taking limelight.

The second innings started with Yadav on split hat-trick but Kraigg Brathwaite (0) survived one delivery before gliding one into Rishabh Pant's gloves.

Kieran Powell (6) edged one off Ravichandran Ashwin to Ajinkya Rahane in the slips.

Shai Hope (28) hit three delightful boundaries off Umesh while Shimron Hetmeyer (17) was trying to be more assertive against spinners in their 39-run stand.

However, a rush of blood saw Hetmeyer give Kuldeep Yadav the charge only to be caught by Cheteshwar Pujara at point.

From 45 for 3, there was not much resistance as Hope was snapped when he played a Ravindra Jadeja delivery for the turn to give Rahane his second catch.

West Indies' biggest hope Roston Chase (6) got a sharp inswinger while Shane Dowrich (0) played on with Umesh getting his ninth wicket of the match.

The wicket had its share of wear and tear but it wasn't a difficult track where



surviving would be an arduous task. Yet, it was another instance of lack of application from the West Indies batsmen with opener Brathwaite and young Hetmeyer playing atrocious shots.

Jason Holder (19) and Sunil Ambris (38) added 38 runs for the seventh wicket but once Holder edged one to Pant off Jadeja, any chances of match going to fourth day slowly disappeared.

However, West Indies had started off well by dismissing India for 367, keeping the first innings lead down to a mere 56 runs.

In the process, they denied Rishabh Pant (92) and Ajinkya Rahane (80) from reaching their hundreds.

In a space of 16.1 overs, India lost five wickets for 25 runs to move from a comfortable 314 for 4 to 339 for 9 before Ravichandran Ashwin (35, 83 balls) made a useful contribution.

West Indies captain Jason Holder

### MOST CONSECUTIVE TESTS VS AN OPPOSITION WITHOUT A LOSS

Matches	Team	Opposition	Time Period
47	England	New Zealand	(1930-75)
30	England	Pakistan	(1961-82)
29	West Indies	England	(1976-88)
24	Australia	South Africa	(1911-52)
24	West Indies	India	(1948-71)
22	Pakistan	India	(1980-99)
22	Australia	New Zealand	(1993-11)
21	India	West Indies	(2002-18)*

Faisal Features

### WINNING MOST HOME SERIES IN SUCCESSION

Matches	Team	Time Period
10	Australia	(1994/95-2000/01)
10	Australia	(2004-2008/09)
10	India	(2012/13-present)

Faisal Features

(5/56 in 23 overs) used the second new ball to good effect as he completed his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket. Shannon Gabriel after erratic perfor-

mance on Saturday came back well to take 3/107 in 20.4 overs.

Holder first got one to rear up from back of length to shatter Rahane's dreams of a 10th Test hundred. The Indian vice-captain was caught at gully for 80 off 183 balls to give the opposition captain his third wicket. His innings had seven boundaries.

Rahane-Pant duo added 152 runs for the fifth wicket and once the visitors got the breakthrough, the floodgates open.

Pant (92), who added seven more runs to his overnight score, got a short ball from Shannon Gabriel, which he pushed at only to be caught by Shimron Hetmeyer at cover point.

In two consecutive Tests, Pant has been dismissed for identical scores of 92. This time he played 134 balls hitting 11 boundaries and two sixes.



Umesh Yadav celebrates after dismissing West Indies batsman during the third day of 2nd Test PTI

For the record, during the West Indies second innings, the new SG Test ball had to be changed twice inside 12 overs.

On Saturday, Mohammed Siraj and Hanuma Vihari were released to play Vijay Hazare quarter-finals for their respective teams Hyderabad and Andhra.



Virat Kohli celebrates with Rishabh Pant after scoring hundred PTI

## Kohli expects batsmen to replicate form in Australia

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India captain Virat Kohli has no issues with the team's bowlers but wants his batsmen to replicate their home form when they travel to Australia next month.

While the bowlers have done the job for India, both home and away of late, batsmen have let the team down time and again.

After hammering Windies, Kohli said the batsmen must keep delivering to compliment the good work of the bowlers.

"I'm really happy to see these guys fit and hungry. It's up to the batsmen to do the rest of the job. I think this game was tougher for the batsmen. This first innings was more challenging than the last one (in Rajkot)," said Kohli at the post-match presentation.

Compared to Rajkot, the batsmen had it tougher against the West Indies pace attack comprising Jason Holder and Shanon Gabriel. India were put under a little bit of pressure in their first innings before Rishabh Pant and Ajinkya Rahane steadied the ship with a 152-run partnership.

"Jinx has been batting really well, he got runs in Nottingham and we won the Test. He wanted runs under the belt. His partnership with Pant is something we want to see more of," said Kohli.

He was also all praise for Umesh Yadav, who became only the third Indian pacer to take 10 wickets in a Test at home. Ahead of the Australia series, he has given a selection headache to the team.

"If you look at the three new guys (Vihari in England, Shaw and Pant) who've come in, they've grabbed their opportunities. I think all these things are a big positive. But from this Test I want to single out Umesh.

West Indies captain Jason Holder conceded that the embarrassing back-to-back three-day defeats against India is "difficult to digest", considering pitches were batsman-friendly.

"Honestly, it's hard to take it. I am trying to understand the reasons why it is happening. It's a case where we all need to put our heads together — the management, the selectors and the players. The onus must be on the players and we must be responsible for our actions," said Holder.

Asked about the positives, the skipper termed Roston Chase and Sherman Lewis' performance.

"It's a tough series and we didn't play our best cricket. We look back in the last two years and we have some good results. India is No 1 team in the world and we expected to be pushed by them. They're quality cricket side, especially in their own backyard. We all saw some positive performances from Roston Chase. I thought Sherman was awesome."

He admitted that batting has been an issue for them for quite some time now.

"You can look and honestly say we didn't put enough runs on the board. Quite for some time now, we've been relatively inconsistent and that has really let us down in the recent past. We haven't been getting the runs we've been looking for. We have heavily relied on middle and lower half which is not ideal. So we need to rectify at the top. The guys in the top five have to put hands up and come to the party," he said.

## SINGLES

### INDIA A TO TAKE ON AUSTRALIA A IN WOMEN'S CLASH

**MUMBAI:** India A will take on their Australian counterparts in the first of three women's limited overs games here at the Mumbai Cricket Association's Bandra-Kurla complex facility on Monday. The latter two matches are also to be played at the same venue on October 17 and 19. The games are expected to test the bench strength of hosts and all eyes will be on skipper Poonam Raut. Poonam, who played a key role in the Indian team reaching the World Cup final last year, will like to lead from the front. Along with her there are likes of Mona Meshram, Rajeshwari Gayakwad and Shikha Pandey in the squad. They will all be eyeing to put up an impressive show in front of the selectors and force their way into the senior team. The 50-overs series will be followed by a T20 series and the BCCI will announce the squad for it later. The visitors will be also looking to begin the series on a winning note, but will have a tough task at hand in adapting to the wicket and weather conditions.

### SHUBHANKAR FINISHES T-10 IN CMB CLASSIC

**PARIS:** Overnight joint leader Shubhankar Sharma could not play his best golf on the final day, managing only an even par round to finish Tied-10th at the \$ 7 million CIMB Classic on Sunday. Coming on the heels of a period during which he has had six missed cuts in nine starts, a joint lead by round three augured well for the 22-year-old from India. However, it did not turn out to be his day and he was understandably disappointed at not being able to convert his second career 54-hole lead into a maiden PGA Tour title. The genial Australian Marc Leishman, who came close to quitting the game in 2015 when his wife was discovered with a rare life-threatening condition, continued his fine run to win his fourth title on the PGA Tour. Leishman, playing a very high level of golf since his second round 62, carded a 7-under 65, that took his total to 26-under 262, equalling the tournament record set in 2015 by Justin Thomas. Leishman ended five shots ahead of second placed trio — first round leader, Bronson Burgoon (68), Emiliano Grillo (66) and Chesson Hadley (66) — who finished T-2 with 21-under 267.

### FINAL SOUTH AFRICA-ZIMBABWE T20 ABANDONED

**BENONI:** Rain and a wet outfield caused the abandonment of the third and final Twenty20 between South Africa and Zimbabwe on Sunday. South Africa won the series 2-0 after winning an earlier one-day series 3-0. The matches were largely one-sided and South Africa used them to test the depth of their resources, using 22 players across the five matches. South Africa travel to Australia later this month to play three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international, while Zimbabwe depart later this week for Bangladesh where they will play three one-day internationals and two Tests. The first ODI is in Dhaka next Sunday. JP Duminy, who was due to captain South Africa on Sunday, said the objective of giving opportunities to several players had been achieved. "The selectors got a look at quite a few guys," he said. "We will be going into Australia with some confidence, although it is a work in progress."

### SURYA VARATHAN WINS JK NOVICE CUP

**COIMBATORE:** Chennai's Ashwin Datta moved a step closer to his maiden Euro JK title in the 21st JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship as a dramatic Round 3 — replete with ups, downs and upsets — came to an end here on Sunday. Ashwin (74 points after Round 3), who was just two points ahead of Nayan Chatterjee (66 after R3) as the action began on Saturday, made the most of Nayan's DNF to widen his lead. But Chennai's Karthik Tharani (68 after R3) won the next two races to come back into the equation. The final race of the weekend, however, saw a totally new set of winners, with Nirmal Uma Shankar, Braynan Perera and Yash Aradhya claiming the podium places. Ashwin finished fourth, though, ahead of his key competitors to be 6 points ahead of the field. **Agencies**

## 'Shaw has bit of Sachin, Sehwag and Lara'

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India coach Ravi Shastri saw in Prithvi Shaw's batting, glimpses of two of the greatest batsmen of modern era and a non-conformist who redefined batsmanship.

An overwhelmed Shastri on Sunday, in one breath, mentioned the names of three legends — Sachin Tendulkar, Brian Lara and Virender Sehwag — while trying to describe the 18-year-old Shaw who accumulated big runs in his first brush with top-flight international cricket.

"He (Shaw) is born to play cricket. He's been playing since the age of eight in the maidans of Mumbai. You can see all that hard-work showing. He's a spectator's delight. There's a bit of Sachin there, a bit of Lara in him and when he walks - there's a bit of Lara as well," Shastri said.

"If he can keep his head on his shoulders and keep the work ethic, he has a bright future."

Shastri was speaking after India completed a 2-0 series sweep over the West Indies with a 10-wicket victory here.

## Gambhir takes Delhi into semis

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Captain Gautam Gambhir smashed 104 off 72 balls after left-arm pacer Kulwant Khejroliya ran through the Haryana batting with a hat-trick to set-up a five-wicket win, sending Delhi into the semifinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Sunday.

Batting first, Haryana were all out for 229 with Khejroliya collecting six wickets for 31 runs in 10 overs, his career-best performance in List A cricket. Navdeep Saini, with figures of three for 39, was a good foil for Khejroliya.

Birthday boy Gambhir then ensured his team centred with a whirlwind knock comprising 16 fours. In the end, Delhi got home with 64 balls to spare and five wickets in hand. The other major contribution from the bat came from Dhruv Shorey (50 off 85).

Chasing 230, Umukt Chand (15) and Gambhir gave a good start, putting on 54 runs for first wicket before the former was caught by C N Saini off Arun Chrapana.

The skipper was at his furious best against Yuzuvendra Chahal, smashing him for three consecutive boundaries in the 16th over.

Gambhir and Shorey then put together a 118-run partnership as Delhi cruised towards the target.

After Gambhir was caught by Nitin Saini off Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana (37 off 28) nearly ferried the team to victory post, before getting out. Earlier, Chaitanya Bishnoi top-scored for Haryana with 85 off 117 balls with six boundaries and two sixes, while Pramod Chandila struck 59 off 88 balls with three boundaries and a six.

In the other quarterfinal, Mumbai sailed into the semifinals after comprehensively beating Bihar by nine wickets.

### MAN OF THE SERIES ON DEBUT SERIES

Player	Country	Against	Year
S Ganguly	India	England	1996
J Rudolph	South Africa	Bangladesh	2003
S Clark	Australia	South Africa	2006
A Mendis	Sri Lanka	India	2008
R Ashwin	India	West Indies	2011
V Philander	South Africa	Australia	2011
J Pattinson	Australia	New Zealand	2011
R Sharma	India	West Indies	2013
M Hasan	Bangladesh	England	2016
P Shaw	India	West Indies	2018

Faisal Features

Opener Shaw flayed the Caribbean attack during his 52-ball-70 on the second day of the second Test to give India a flying start, days after hitting a century on debut.

Even skipper Virat Kohli gushed about the 18-year-old.

"The guy (has) grabbed his chance beautifully. He looks like someone who can get you off to a kind of start you require. Making a mark in the



Prithvi Shaw bats during the second day of the second Test AP

first series that you play, from that point of view, it is great to have a guy who is so fearless. And he is not reckless, he is very confident about his game," he said.

"You might feel that he will nick one now and then but he hardly nicks the ball. That we saw in England as well. He was batting in the nets, really attacking but was in control. But that kind of rare control against new ball is a great thing to have. Any of us weren't even 10 percent of what when he is at 18 or 19," added the captain.



Gautam Gambhir and Dhruv Shorey bat during Vijay Hazare

Bihar were skittled out for 69 runs in 28.2 overs with Mumbai riding high on the back of Tushar Deshpande's five-wicket haul.

He finished with figures of five for 23 in nine overs. Deshpande was ably supported by Shams Mulani who bagged three wickets after conceding 18 runs in 8.2 overs.

Opting to bat, Deshpande wreaked havoc by removing the top three batsmen — Vikram Ranjan, Vijay Bharati and Babul Kumar — leaving Bihar struggling at 29 for three.

No Bihar batsmen reached double figures, except M D Rahmatullah (18) and Babul Kumar (16). Mumbai chased down a paltry 70-run target in 12.3 overs as openers Akhil Herwadkar (24) and star India player Rohit Sharma (33 not out) shared a 53-run stand.

## Pakistan under pressure to beat Australia: Azhar

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

Senior batsman Azhar Ali admitted Pakistan will be under pressure of expectations in the second Test against Australia starting in Abu Dhabi from Tuesday.

Pakistan dominated much of the first Test in Dubai but failed to get the last two wickets as Australia finished at 362-8.

Set a daunting 462 runs Australia's fightback was led by opener Usman Khawaja's 141, ably assisted by Travis Head (72) and skipper Tim Paine (61 not out).

"I can't say if the pressure will be more on Pakistan or Australia but we are the home side and obviously people expect us to win and so there is pressure," said Azhar on Sunday.

"However, having said that these are favourable conditions for us and we have to make the most of it."

"Pressure is always different in every match and obviously this is a decider. Being the home team we have to win it and we will enter the field thinking that. We will look to play positive cricket and hopefully the result will go our way."



Usman Khawaja returns to pavilion after playing match saving innings against Pakistan in 1st Test at Dubai CA

Pakistan will be forced to make a change after regular opener Imam-ul-Haq fractured his finger in the first Test and was ruled out, opening an option to bring Azhar as opener.

The 33-year-old held the opening spot since the Oval Test in England in August 2016 and struck a triple century against the West Indies in Dubai and a double hundred against Australia in Melbourne — both in 2016.

He went to his customary number three position for the two Tests against Sri Lanka last year and in last week's first Test against Australia.

Pakistan can also bring in limited over specialist Fakhar Zaman to play his first Test, despite a poor form in the Asia Cup scoring only 56 runs in five matches with two ducks.

Azhar said he will do it against for his team.

"When playing for Pakistan one has to be ready for everything," said Azhar. "I have always believed in that and whatever the team management decides or the captain decides, I will be ready to do that." Azhar admitted Pakistan players were disappointed at not winning the first Test.

"We are not disheartened but, yes, disappointed, obviously after dominating the Test match throughout and then not winning it," said Azhar, a veteran of 66 Tests.

"Unfortunately we couldn't win but I think we also have to give credit to the Australians as well as they showed resilience and kept fighting till the end." Azhar said he remains focused despite not in the best of form, managing only 95 runs in the last four Tests.