

NATION 5
MODI, WICKREMESINGHE HOLD TALKS,
INDIA AIDED PROJECTS DISCUSSED

WORLD 7
170 KILLED AS VIOLENCE
ROCKS AFGHAN POLLS

SPORT 8
ENG WRAP ODI
SERIES AGAINST SL

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Guild can't tell Akbar not to move court

The #MeToo campaign arrived in India with a bang and left a trail of devastation. A Minister at the Centre has been compelled to resign, many editors and journalists have been asked to leave their posts, some important figures in Bollywood are under a cloud and there is pressure on companies to terminate the contracts of important figures in media, advertising and public relations. This may only be the beginning. There are some indications that others, including politicians, could be in the line of fire.

That the campaign to name and shame those who have acted indecorously with women colleagues and, worse, misused their power to demand sexual favours from women constitutes an important step forward is undeniable. There is a seamy side to the outward social conservatism of Indian society that needed to be cleansed. #MeToo may not have done so entirely but at least it has injected fear in the minds of men who somehow believed that power and status entitled them to misbehave and prey on vulnerable women. If, at the end of the day, #MeToo succeeds in making the environment of the workplace more wholesome for women, its contribution to nation building would have been immeasurable. If nothing else, the conspiracy of silence that accompanied the worst offences has been broken.

Yet, like most movements that are accompanied by a combination of zeal, euphoria and anger, there are bound to be negative consequences. Pointing these out does not either devalue the courage shown by those women who have truthfully narrated their own horrible experiences or imply any defence of those who ran riot with impunity and man who believed demanding sexual favours was part of their entitlement.

The most frightening of the adverse consequences is the 'politically correct' view that all testimonies of 'survivors' must be implicitly believed and acted on, particularly if the finger is pointed at powerful men. In an article in *The Telegraph*,

The Editor's Guild has a right to back the defence, especially if it thinks that a larger question — the dignity of women in the profession — is involved. It has no right to suggest that a citizen should avoid the law courts and leave the matter to be judged in the court of public opinion alone. There can't be one norm for journalists and a different one for lapsed journalists and politicians

expressed his satisfaction that his organisation didn't take "a purely technical view of the matter."

Confronted with the reality of trauma, it is understandable that an exceptional show of empathy overrides a clinical approach. However, it is unlikely that most of the #MeToo charges will ever go to court, unless they involve charges of rape. Social and professional disgrace, the inevitable consequence of being called out for unbecoming conduct, is in any case a very severe punishment. The more tricky question centres on those cases where the charges are contested, and where the man is convinced that the allegations are simply not true or vastly embroidered? Does he not have any legal recourse? If he believes that he is a victim of a lynch mob or a social media kangaroo court, can he not ask for justice from the courts?

The Editor's Guild has deemed that MJ Akbar should withdraw the criminal defamation case he has filed in Delhi against a journalist who described him as a 'predator.' In case he chooses to not do so, the body has stated it will provide material help to the defence.

Politically speaking, Akbar's search for a legal remedy turned out to be very counter-productive. It was made out that a man in a high post was trying to intimidate a gutsy lady. It was interpreted as arrogance of power. It generated a countervailing reaction and provoked a class action that more or less forced his resignation.

Without going into the specifics of a case about which I know very little, it is clear that Akbar believes he has been defamed and has had his reputation destroyed. As a citizen it is Constitutional right to approach the courts to seek justice. That right belongs to every citizen and isn't compromised by caste, religion and status. Just because a person enjoys an elevated position in society or happens to be a politician, the right to seek justice is not affected. A few months ago, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley filed a criminal defamation suit against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The case was settled out of court with Kejriwal offering an apology. In short, Kejriwal admitted that the charges of corruption were baseless. Yet it is undeniable that people believe the worst of politicians and his reputation was grievously damaged by Kejriwal. In the knee-jerk test of public opinion that finds favour with the #MeToo cheerleaders, Kejriwal scored. If Jaitley hadn't gone to court, falsehoods would probably have become conventional wisdom.

The right of Akbar to go to court can't be denied since he feels he has been wronged, but neither can the right of the defence to present its version robustly, including by making it a de-facto class action. The Editor's Guild has a right to back the defence, especially if it thinks that a larger question — the dignity of women in the profession — is involved. It has no right to suggest that a citizen should avoid the law courts and leave the matter to be judged in the court of public opinion alone. There can't be one norm for journalists and a different one for lapsed journalists and politicians.

Amritsar tragedy not Rlys' fault: Govt

MoS rules out 'mandatory' probe by Commissioner of Railway Safety held after each accident

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Railways on Saturday asserted that it was not responsible for the tragedy involving Dusshera revelers in Amritsar and ruled out the mandatory probe by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS). It also refused to take any punitive action against the driver of the train.

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Railways Manoj Sinha and Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani both went on record maintaining that the tragedy was not due to the Railways' fault. Sinha said there was no negligence on the part of the national transporter even as he advised people not to organise such events near tracks.

For his part, Lohani said, "The Commission conducts statutory investigation into railway accidents. This was an incident where people were trespassing on the tracks and not an accident."

The CRS enquiry is man-

dated for any rail accidents to enquire into the reasons related to the accidents on rail tracks and thereby, prepare a dossier so that such a case is prevented in future. In this case, though the accident took place on the rail tracks, the railways has made it clear it was not at fault for once.

Responding to a query, Sinha said that as per his information, no permission had been sought or intimation given for the Dusshera event at Amritsar. "I have been informed that the event was organised near the railway tracks and the people did not hear the train coming. It is extremely sad," Sinha told reporters while leaving for Amritsar.

When asked whether the railways were aware of the celebrations taking place near the railway tracks, he said, "Railways did not have information about the celebration. I spoke to the railway officials, they did not know. It is the responsibility of the local



Mass funeral of victims of rail accident in Amritsar on Saturday

PTI

administration, which should be careful about such events." The Minister said the venue was nearly 70 metres from the accident spot which was not of the Railways.

Giving clean chit to train driver, the Minister said drivers are given specific instructions on where to slow down the train. "There was a curve. The driver couldn't have seen it.

What should we order an enquiry for? Trains travel in speed only," said Sinha when he was asked if an enquiry would be ordered against the driver. Lohani had explained that

the accident site falls under the "mid-section of the two stations" where the trains run at their "assigned speed" as per the condition of the track. "Trains run at their assigned speed and people are not expected to go on tracks," he said.

Northern Railways spokesperson Deepak Kumar said neither the area administration nor the organisers informed it about any Dusshera ceremony at the spot. "Therefore granting permission from the Railways does not arise," he added. No information about the event was given to the Railway authorities by the civil administration."

So far, all accidents, besides Railways doing its own enquiry, are done by the CRS.

In recent past, two major accidents, one involving Malda Train near Rae Bareilly and the Utkal Express, are being probed by the CRS and in its preliminary reports submitted last week it has implicated concerned rail staff.

BJP bets on youth, women for 4th term

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP which is power in Chhattisgarh for past 15 years, on Saturday announced its first list of candidates for 77 out of State's total 90 seats.

BJP has rewarded its young leaders and announced 25 candidates in the first list who have age below 40 years.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda released the list of can-

didates in New Delhi soon after the BJP's Central Election Committee approved the names.

BJP dropped Women and Child development minister Ramshila Sahu. Party has fielded a former young IAS officer OP Choudhury from Congress bastion Kharasia seat in Raigarh district.



Overall, 14 women candidates found their names in the first list of 77 candidates. Party has announced candidates for 17 seats out of the total 18 seats that go to polls in the first phase on November 12.

Chief Minister Raman Singh will contest from his safe seat Rajnandgaon while BJP state president Dharamlal Kaushik will fight from Bilha seat from Bilaspur district.



BJP candidates for Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly Election 2018

AC No.	Name of the Assembly Constituency	Name of Candidate
01.	Bharatpur-Sonhat (ST)	Champa Devi Pawle
02.	Manendragarh	Shyam Bihari Jaiswal
03.	Baikuntpur	Bhaiyalal Rajwade
05.	Bhatgaon	Rajni Tripathi
06.	Pratap (ST)	Ram Sevak Paikra
08.	Samri (ST)	Siddhnath Paikra
09.	Lundra (ST)	Vijaynath Singh (Baba)
10.	Ambikapur	Anurag Singh Dco
11.	Sitapur (ST)	Prof. Gopalram Bhagat
12.	Jashpur (ST)	Govindram Bhagat
13.	Kunkuri (ST)	Bharat Sai
14.	Pathalgaon (ST)	Shivshankar Paikra
15.	Lailunga(ST)	Satyanand Rathia
16.	Raigarh	Roshan Lal Agrawal
17.	Sarangarh (SC)	Kerabai Manhar
18.	Kharsia	O P Choudhary
19.	Dharamjaigarh (ST)	Mrs Linav Rathia
20.	Rampur (ST)	Nankiram Kanwar
21.	Korba	Vikas Mahto
22.	Kaighora	Lakhanlal Dewangan
23.	Pali- Tanakhar (ST)	Ramdayal Uike
24.	Marwahi (ST)	Mrs Archana Porte
26.	Lormi	Tokhan Sahu
27.	Mungeli (SC)	Punnulal Mohle
28.	Takhatpur	Harshita Pandey
29.	Bilha	Dharamlal Kaushik
30.	Bilaspur	Amar Agrawal
31.	Beltara	Rajneesh Singh
32.	Masturi (SC)	Dr Krishnamurty Bandhi
33.	Akaltara	Saurabh Singh
34.	Janjgir-Champa	Narayan Chandel
35.	Sakti	Megharam Sahu
36.	Chandrapur	Mrs Sanayogita Singh
38.	Pamgarh (SC)	Ambesh Jangde
41.	Khallari	Monika Sahu
43.	Bilagarh (SC)	Dr Sanam Jangde
44.	Kasdol	Gaurishankar Agrawal
46.	Bhatapara	Shivratna Sharma
47.	Dharsiwa	Devjibhai Patel
48.	Raipur Rural	Nand Kumar (Nandc) Sahu
49.	Raipur city West	Rajesh Munat
51.	Raipur city South	Brijmohan Agrawal
52.	Arang (SC)	Sanjay Dhidhi
53.	Abhanpur	Chandra Shekhar Sahu
54.	Rajim	Santosh Upadhayay
55.	Bindranawagarh (ST)	Damrudhar Pujari
56.	Sihawa (ST)	Mrs Pinki Shivraj Shah
57.	Kurud	Ajay Chandrakar
58.	Dhamtari	Mrs Ranjana Sahu
60.	Daundi Lohara (ST)	Lal Mahendra Tekam
62.	Patan	Motilal Sahu
63.	Durg Rural	Jageshwar Sahu
64.	Durg City	Mrs Chandrika Chandrakar
65.	Bhilai Nagar	Prem Prakash Pandey
67.	Ahiwara (SC)	Sanwala Ram Dahre
68.	Saja	Labhchand Bafna
69.	Bemctara	Awdhesh Chandel

CAPSULE

NIA ARRESTS ABSCONDER IN NAGROTA CAMP ATTACK
New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has arrested a man wanted in the 2016 attack on an Army camp in Jammu's Nagrota when he was allegedly trying to flee the country through Sri Lanka, officials said on Saturday.

KHASHOGGI DEATH: TURKEY VOWS TO REVEAL 'TRUTH'
Istanbul: Turkey on Saturday vowed to reveal all details of the death of journalist Khashoggi after Saudi Arabia admitted that he was killed at its Istanbul consulate, state media reported.

3 NAXALS GUNNED DOWN BY FORCES IN C'GARH
Raipur: Three Naxals were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday. The skirmish took place around 9.30 am in the forest near Madpal village under Mirtur police station.

Haze engulfs Delhi, pollution shoots to severe

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi on Saturday was engulfed in a thin haze as air quality deteriorated further with values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) approaching "severe" on the National Air Quality Index (NAQI) in some parts.

Incidentally, average values of SPMs in Dwarka and CRRU Mathura Road were 414 and 402 micro cubic per gram (µgm-3) respectively as recorded by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF &CC).

Notably, if the concentrations of pollutants in air crossed 400 (µgm-3), it falls under the category of 'severe', hence as per CPCB data, Delhi's air quality can be termed "highly toxic".

Further, the CPCB placed 31 places in Delhi under the category of "very poor" on pollution index.



Rajouri Garden, Anand Vihar, DTU, Mundka, Narela, Nehru Nagar and Rohini bore the brunt

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and

deteriorated to the 'very poor' category, alarming authorities who were planning to roll out more stringent measures to combat pollution.

The air quality temporarily improved on Friday afternoon after rainfall, but it worsened again in the evening. An official warned that the PM2.5 was reaching a dangerous level.

The Supreme Court appointed Environment Protection Control Authority (EPCA) had on Friday held a meeting with Government officials of Delhi and neighbouring States to discuss the pollution situation.

An EPCA member said after taking stock of the situation, it was decided that special attention would be given to vulnerable hotspots where 'poor' or 'very poor' air quality is observed.

On Saturday, the PM2.5 (presence of particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) touched a new high at 158.

SHOW TIME

Congrats! It's engaging



BADHAI HO
*ing: Neena Gupta, Ayushmann Khurrana, Sanya Malhotra, Gajraj Rao, Surekha Sikri
Rated: 7/10

Ayushmann Khurrana is on a roll, giving two back to back hits, first in *Andha Dhun* and now with *Badhai Ho*. You could say *Badhai Ho* is a great film in a small mould — cute, happening and dealing with an issue that has long been lost between the sheets when it comes to parents being assessed by their grown and growing up children, in this case computer engineer Ayushmann and his teenaged brother. Of course, there is no question of a parental couple engaging in sex, it's taken for granted that they never did it and the children came from celestial intervention! It's embarrassing for the kids even if a stray thought of a romantic relationship between their parents comes to light. And if that romance culminates into a baby coming, there

is no end to it! *Badhai Ho!* deals with this societal embarrassment and a woman's travails after she refuses to abort the child despite having young adults as her children. Neena Gupta is stunning in her bloated, aged self as Priyamvada who has a mind of her own despite being a middle class dutiful *bahu*, mother and wife. She is, in fact, the central character of the film and a perfect fit in that space. Her husband, played by Gajraj Rao, is equally so and the two together complement each other completely — he, as a doting husband, and she as a dutiful mother, *bahu* and wife. Everything here is real, interesting and arresting. The humour in the situation is never lost though it is more subtle than the raging embarrassment on all faces that visit the screen. The beauty of this film is that every character seems to be the lead, playing his or her part with minimum fuss but maximum impact. The film ambles along this one idea and despite not

taking a break from it, draws you into the middle-class family living in Lodi Colony's Governmental underbelly. Sanya Malhotra as Aysuhmann's love interest squares up the sides of this engaging story with amazing screen presence and beauty, not even once complaining of being put on the periphery of the movie. Surekha Sikri as the cantankerous *sas* plays up the angst of children not being with their elderly parents in a passionate manner and laughter evoking lines. Gajraj Rao is a delight as Gupta's loving husband trying to balance all zones of life with mother on one side, children on the other and of course his wife becoming pregnant almost in old age as the centre of his existence. The film has everything for everyone — humour, situation and family drama. The subject, can parents have sex — and a baby — is *hatke* and interesting. This movie will make your week so do go for it!

TELLYTALE

NEW SHOW — ACE OF SPACE



A lavish house away from the monotony of the world, with all the luxury surrounding you is a sight we all dream of. But, no story ends without a dramatic twist! With just a blink of the eye and one wrong move, the rooms suddenly squeeze down to an unimaginably small size and the fight for the survival begins! That's the house of *Ace of Space* for you! Termed as the Mastermind's House, it has all the essentials you can ask for, except one thing — space! The rooms are the themed made with the creative expertise of the famous Bollywood director and design expert, Omung Kumar and production designer Vanita Omung Kumar. And not just this, it is the first time that Omung has designed the set for a niche show like *Ace of Space*. Commenting on the set design of the show, Omung Kumar said: "Ace of Space is a one-of-a-kind show and it has been an absolute delight to create a design for the set of the house. Working on the design of the house was demanding because we had to be at par with the theme of the show which rotates around having an out of the box and a never seen before house. The house has turned out to be beautiful with elements that add a very eccentric and a fresh essence to the overall vibe. The viewers are in for a big treat as they will witness the craziest house with the most extraordinary themed rooms that most definitely falls in place with this eye catching show."

What makes the show distinct and more grand from other captive reality shows is the uniqueness of the rooms. For the first time on Indian television, you will see the contestants locked in the house either sleeping in a bathtub or gym benches or even sitting in kid-size chairs. It just gets crazier with a plethora of drama and fights to mark one's territory! With 18 contestants walking in and writing their fate in the 18x18feet room, who will emerge victorious in this fight for space? Find

out on *Ace of Space*, every Saturday 6 Pm on MTV.

THE CALLING

A blogger, ex-techie and a banker will vie for India's best job — a one-year travel scholarship from India's leading lifestyle channel TLC. The three courageous contestants — lifestyle blogger Atmaj Vyas; ex-techie Gaurav Sajjanhar and banker Preethi Parthasarathy — have been selected from thousands of entries received for TLC's one-year travel scholarship. The trio displayed strong desire to quit their routine job and live life they have aspired to and are also the face



of TLC's new show *The Calling* which will air every Friday on TLC at 8 pm and on the YouTube channel Rise by TLC.

KOFFEE WITH KARAN 6 IS BACK

Karan Johar is back with Season 6 of the show on Star World at 8 pm every Sunday. That the sixth season will be aired today October 21, 2018 was declared by KJo back in April this year.

So far, in five seasons, 113 episodes have been aired. Last season, KJo invited Ranveer Singh and Ranbir Kapoor on the show. This season, he plans to do something similar. Instead of promoting their bromance, the first episode will be about girl power with Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone. The other episodes will have actors Varun Dhawan and Katrina Kaif, Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar, Arjun Kapoor and Janhvi Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan and Sara Ali Khan and Aamir Khan who will bring in some fun with their appearance.



Plan Your Week

Coloured Gourmet Burgers

What: Gourmet Burgers at @Barcelos
When: 11 am - 11 pm
Where: Barcelos, DLF Place Saket

Barcelos is always known for experimenting with the food and being able to achieve the love from all over the world. The specialty of the South African restaurant is its different coloured burgers and Mexican delicacies. The Black Burger Bun, The Red Burger Bun, and the Classic with natural ingredients play a great role in how the food tastes. Head out to the restaurant where you can enjoy their signature handcrafted burgers.



Theatre - Performance Art: The Legend of Ila

Date: October 23, 2018
Venue: India Habitat Centre
Timings: 7pm

Anant Dayal brings to life *The Legend of Ila*, a story in Song. The play tells the story of Ila who at different points of time lives either as a man or a woman. Being almost entirely performed in a song format revolves around the process of exploration of gender fluidity and queerness. It's a revelation as well as a celebration of doubt, wonder and inclusiveness set against the larger cultural framework of Hindu traditions and norms.

World Street Food Fest

Date: October 21, 2018
Time: 11 am-11 pm
Venue: DLF Place, Saket

With the fasting of Navratri coming to end, DLF Place is all excited to bring the wholeness of a Lebanese shawarma, the zing of an American hotdog along with some yummy French crepes. The well known street food brands like Firangi House, Shawarma House, Sleepy Owl, Baking Bad, Dilli 19, Zabardast Zaffran, Nayab, Emoi and Shawarma House will be offering their specialties.



'Real challenges are the ones that are practical'

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with actor ANANNYA KHARE, who is known for her performance in *Devdas*. She talks about her journey & her latest show *Beechvale*

What is your role in *Beechvale*?

I play Chanchal Beechvale Bhatia. She is from a middle-class family and a homemaker. She is concerned about her family. She is a devoted person but not in a boring and a filmy way. She is straightforward and outspoken in a way that doesn't hurt the other person.

What made you say yes?

This role was something different from what I have played in the last six-seven years of my career. I have mostly played negative and powerful roles and this was something that I haven't tried my hands on. It is also because of the producer Ashwini's vision who saw me play Sarla in *Mere Angne Mein*. He thought I fit the bill for this role.

How hard is it to get into the skin of the character?

It is very difficult to play different roles because it is another person that you are playing. You have to get convinced of what you are doing and how you want to play the character. It is difficult to do comedy; it is tough to make others laugh.

How did acting happen with you?

It happened by chance; it started as a hobby when I was in Class VIII. I used to take theatre workshops during summer holidays. My father, Vishnu Khare, is a well-known journalist and I had a very cultural background. My family wanted me to do something different other than just taking more tuitions and enrolling myself in more academic classes. They are creative people so they encouraged me to do acting. My first show *Nirmala* happened with me when I was in Class XI. The show was based on Munshi Premchand's novel and I played the role of a 15-year-old girl. At that time, I was doing theatre and someone from the serial's team saw my performance and they approached me for it. That is how I got my first role.

What challenges did you face in your journey?

I went through the normal ups and downs — normal struggle that every actor goes through. The real challenges are the practical ones. When you come to a new city, you don't know about the city, the people who live there, so it is very hard to adapt. There is a language barrier, the food is different, you come



directly from a protected environment of your home and start living in a PG accommodation, so you have to adjust to all of those things. These are practical and emotional difficulties. You feel alone, you go through a mental breakdown, you start feeling what you are doing and then people may try to stereotype you because every individual is different and you may not feel comfortable around them or the way they think about you. When you are young, these things do matter a lot in your life. But as you grow older you realise that differences make life interesting.

Which role came close to you?

It is difficult to name one because all the roles that you play are different aspects of your personality. While playing them you bring them closer to yourself. You connect them with your experiences and your life. So every role you play has something of you, different emotions are explored through different roles. There is no role that is close to you because you are not that character, you are yourself, you just experience different emotions through that role.

What are some of the best moments of your journey?

For me each and every moment that I have lived was good but when I was nominated for IIFA for the Best Supporting Role in *Devdas* and when I won the National Award for Best Supporting Role in *Chandni Bar* were the two moments that my family and I cherish a lot.

How do you define acting and what is your approach towards it?

Acting is a representation of real life through one's expression and movements. My acting is instinctive, there is no school of acting that I follow. In practical life, you can't follow any school for acting because different mediums require different acting approach. You can't follow a set pattern, you have to keep adjusting, modulating and changing according to the role and the medium.

What will make you quit a show?

Not being able to express myself and my role because of any reason, be it because of the other actor or whether the script is not working out for me or because of too much politics off-cameras. Also, if there is unpleasantness or if I feel restricted in my roles I will quit a show.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

There are two types of inspirations one is practical and the other one is creative. Practical inspiration comes from the thought that you have to pay the bills (laughs) and the creative one is when you enjoy your work.

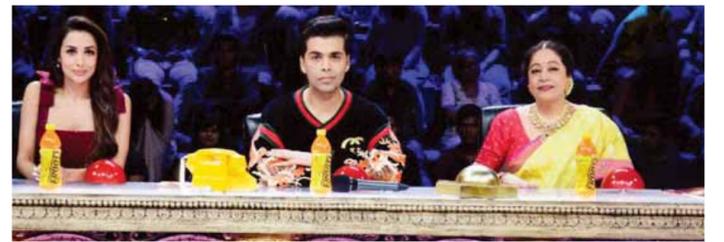
What are your upcoming projects?

Currently, I am very busy doing *Beechvale* and it is not possible to do two shows consistently that too playing lead roles.

From the tricks of the great magician to the flexibility and stamina of the gymnasts and dancers to the melodious voice of singers and great artistry of performing arts. The immense talents on *India's Got Talent (IGT)* Season 8 will amaze you and give you jaw dropping moment. The show is all about people coming on the stage — of all ages and diverse background — solely on the basis of their talent.

"The show is a beautiful amalgamation of so much of variety of performances by the artists from different walks of life. Watching all that will be is very entertaining and listening to their story about how they made it to the show will be inspiring as well. We already have a bunch mark of talent that we have with us. We are going a step forward with more energy and mindblowing talent in the most promising reality show," Rithvik Dhanjani says.

Hosting for the first time with Bharti Singh, Dhanjani will leave no stone unturned to showcasing his talent and keep the entertainment quotient high.



IGT 8: Bigger and better

India's Got Talent is back with Season 9 with fresh talent that will leave you in awe. SANGEETA YADAV brings you some amazing acts that will be showcased tonight on Colors

"I have to add certain flavour of my own as a host and we are trying different ways to bring a change on the platter. Beyond acting and dancing, you will be able to see a lot more of me. There are quite a few things that I indulge myself in," Dhanjani says.

The three judges of the show — Malaika Arora, Karan

Johar and Kirron Kher, who have been there since Season 1, are going to have a tough time to choose. "Judging from a great magician to a great dancer is definitely going to be tough for the judge. They have been associated with IGT with the responsibility from past eight seasons," Dhanjani opines.

The journey of the

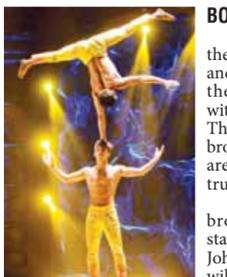
contestants to the show will not only inspire you but connect you on the emotional level as well. "As a host, we need to connect with the contestant to their emotions and story on a very human level. To feel the moment and help them bring out the best. To do good in that moment and the contestant that there is," Dhanjani shares.

TOP ACTS TO WATCH OUT FOR

OUTDOOR SWAY POLE ACT

Talent knows no boundary, no limitations, no fears and hesitations. All it takes is passion, strong faith and determination to cross miles and touch the sky. One such person is Gunjan, who is literally crossing miles on the height of 65 feet through his sway pole act and free fall at *IGT*. His stage is his rope on which he walks and does the balancing in the middle of the air.

A gymnast by profession, Gunjan will give you a nail biting moment and leave you in awe through his daredevil act. After being the contestant in *IGT5* and Gunjan is back this season with bigger and better acts.



BOND OF TRUST

They lift each other on their arms to 90 degrees and even do hand stand on the other person's head without taking any support. The partner in crime and brothers Rahul and Mukesh are a perfect example of trust.

The act by the gymnastic brothers, which got the standing ovation by Karan Johar and Malaika Arora, will definitely surprise you.

SOULFUL SINGING

Meet 13-year-old Shreyas from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, who despite suffering from Progeria - a rare syndrome in children that leads to premature old age, he never stopped doing what he loves the most - Singing. It was his singing that brought him to the stage of *IGT* where he sang Kishore Kumar's popular song *Chaltechalte mere Geetyaadrakhma* and touched the hearts of the three judges and live audience.



WHAT'S NEW THIS SEASON?

- **The Hunar Ka Darwaza:** Every season, the stage is open for all talent but the *hunar ka darwaza* is one such rare opportunity which changes the life of the contestant.
- **Hashtag:** Following the trend of Hashtag, Malaika Arora is giving special names to outstanding contestants in the form of Hashtags(#).

RANGEELA RAJASTHAN



performance got standing ovation from Kirron Kher and once more from the audience. Ravindra Upadhyay, one of the band's singer, has sung songs in various films, like *Talaash* and *Happy New Year*.

IT'S MAGIC

He will leave you in awe with his tricks. Magician and illusionist from Vishakhapatnam, BS Reddy will perform some never seen before magic acts what will be beyond reasoning and explanation.

CHHATTISGARH ASSEMBLY POLLS 2018

Richa Jogi declared BSP candidate from Akaltara

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Putting all the speculations to rest, daughter-in-law of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC) (J) Supremo Ajit Jogi, Richa Jogi has been declared as candidate of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) for the Assembly polls in the State slated next month.

She will be in fray from Akaltara Assembly constituency.

BSP's sitting MLA Keshav Prasad Chandra has been retained from Jajapur seat.

In the second list released by BSP for the second phase of poll, around 12 candidates have been announced. As per the list, State BSP President

Omprakash Bachpayi would be in fray from Navagarh, Shyam Tandon from Bhilaiagarh, Rameshwar Kaiwarth (Nishad) from Kasdol, Arvind Khatkar will be in fray from Sarangarh, Geetanjali Patel from Chandrapur, Kanhaiya Lal Sahu from Kurud, Bhojran Gaurkhede from Raipur (West), Chaitram Raj from Pandariya, Chabilal Ratre from Saraipali and Deenanath Prasad from Bhilai Nagar assembly constituency.

Reacting on his wife being declared as BSP candidate, Marwahi MLA Amit Jogi remarked, "BSP-JCC (J) are 'two parties' but having 'one heart'."

"Richa represents symbol



of unity of both parties. Both parties showcase relationship of sister-brother, having similar ideology and will use its massive base for forming government in the state after the polls," Amit Jogi said.

He further added, "Polls are fought to win. In some places, the foothold of elephant (BSP symbol) is strong while impact of plough (JCC) (J) symbol is strong in few others."

"Based on the strategy devised, the need of hour is that mass voter base should not get split. The decision has been welcomed by Akaltara residents," he said.

Notably, Richa Jogi after marriage with Marwahi MLA Amit Jogi has not been in

active politics; but after formation of JCC (J) she became an active member and participant of contact programmes and public meetings of the party.

She was also nominated as In-charge of Rajnandgaon assembly constituency after Ajit Jogi had earlier declared to contest against Chief Minister Raman Singh.

But after alliance with BSP and JCC (J) came into existence, Communist Party of India (CPI) also joined the alliance at a later stage.

Ajit Jogi was being declared as the Chief Minister candidate for the alliance but with political developments taking place in the alliance, a different political scenario is

emerging. As per developments, Richa Jogi and Geetanjali Patel joined the BSP on late on Friday night. Geetanjali Patel was earlier declared as JCC (J) candidate from Chandrapur.

The Chandrapur assembly constituency after alliance was to go to BSP candidate for contesting but now as per announcement, Geetanjali has been retained in fray from Chandrapur itself but on BSP ticket.

Meanwhile, JCC (J) Supremo Ajit Jogi has also withdrawn himself from the poll fray while announcing that he would now fully concentrate on election campaign in the 90 seats for the alliance.



Huge number of people takes out The 'Jawar Shobha Yatra' (traditional procession) during Dussehra in Raipur. It takes place every year. Santosh Sahu | Pioneer

CPI announces candidates for 5 seats

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

After entering into pre-poll Alliance, Communist Party of India (CPI) with Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) (JCC) (J)-Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has announced its first list of candidates comprising five names for the Assembly polls.

The CPI having entered the alliance was given two seats of Konta and Dantewada but as per agreement, it was also given further seats where a joint candidate was to be put up.

Manish Kunjam, former MLA having extensive influence in Bastar division and raising tribal issues has been made the candidate against Deputy Leader of Opposition and Congress sitting MLA from

Konta, Kawasi Lakhma.

The other candidates announced are-- Mangal Ram Kashyap from Jagdalpur general seat, Kondagaon candidate is Ramchandra Nag, Keshkal candidate is Radhika Sodhi, and Nandram Sodhi from Dantewada, said CPI's Chhattisgarh State Secretary R. D. C. P. Rao. When contacted, C R Bakshi, CPI's Central Control Commission Secretary and Central Programme Commission Member said that CPI would be fielding more candidates apart from others in Bastar. The alliance would support the party candidates in election fray.

Party would also field candidates in one or two seats in Janjgir-Champa district, if alliance further works out, he said.

Three Maoists gunned down in Bijapur district

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Three Maoists were gunned down in an encounter with security forces in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, police said.

The skirmish took place around 9.30 am in the forest near Madpal village under Mirtur police station limits when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation, according to Bijapur Superintendent of Police (SP), Mohit Garg.

"After getting the information that a group of Naxals was holding a meeting to chalk out strategies to disrupt the next month's assembly elections, a squad of DRG was dispatched to the area," he said. After spotting the security

forces near Madpal, the ultras opened fire on them that led to the gun-battle, Garg said. After the face-off, bodies of three Naxals along with one .303 rifle and two muzzle loading guns were found from the spot, he said.

Besides that, some explosive material, Naxal literature and pamphlets which spoke against the upcoming assembly polls were also seized from the spot, the police officer said.

Meanwhile, multiple exchanges of fire took place on

Friday between security forces and Naxals near Nilamadgu village in Indravati national park area of Bijapur, during which two Maoist camps were destroyed, he said.

"As per the ground report, over five rebels were spotted getting injured during the encounters, but their colleagues managed to drag them into the forest area," Garg said.

Huge tents, bags filled with explosives, gelatin rods, IEDs, gunpowder, bundles of more than 200 metre electric wire and weapon-repairing machines were also found from the camps.

The ultras had recently put up posters and banners in Bijapur wherein they asked people to boycott the state polls.

NMDC in joint plan to set up steel plant in AP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A review was done by the Union Steel Ministry for preparation of feasibility report for establishing steel plant in YSR Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh, as envisaged under Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, a NMDC press release informed here on Saturday.

A High-powered Task Force comprising representatives from Central and State Governments, SAIL, RINL, NMDC, MECON and MSTC is working to evolve a plan and prepare a technical report.

MECON has already submitted a draft report. Further it has finalised all that is required for the preparation of technical report and is

waiting for data relating to availability of iron ore, which is essential for the preparation of the feasibility report. This data is to be provided by the State Government which is still awaited.

Union Steel Minister, Chaudhary Birender Singh, while reviewing the implementation of major projects related to steel sector on October 12, 2018, instructed MECON to give its technical report to the Task Force immediately without waiting for any other details that is yet to be provided by the State government.

He further instructed that MECON may continuously follow up with the State government to furnish the details of mining leases and availability of iron ore at the ear-



liest so as to enable the Task Force to evaluate the technical report of the project and its feasibility. It was also decided that the Task Force will study the mode of investment for the proposed steel plant as a Public Sector, Private Sector, a Joint Venture or a combination of any or all these.

In the discussion it was stressed that steel plant in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh is a very important project for the overall development of that region and all efforts should be made to take the project to its logical end. Further, as per the Reorganization Act, the need for coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders in a time-bound manner was also underscored.

Notice to WhatsApp Group Admin for MCC violation

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Complaint Cell at the Office of Raipur District Electoral Officer has issued notice to a WhatsApp Group Administrator for violation of election Model Code of Conduct (MCC) on Saturday.

The notice has directed the respondent to provide the reply within three days. If satisfactory reply is not received within the time-limit, then legal action would be initiated under IT Act 2000, it stated.

Complaint cell In-charge and Deputy Collector Rajiv Pandey has issued the notice to

Sandeep Shriwas. The notice states that through the mobile number on October 19 at 8.15 pm, one WhatsApp group was formed in which administrative officers without their permission was added in the group.

The WhatsApp Display Picture (DP) was of a particular political party which has been represented as election symbol.

As the administrative officers were added in the group without seeking their consent and permission, it has violated the election Model Code of Conduct and IT Act 2000 provisions.

Why party ticket denied is beyond my understanding, says Dhruva

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Sitting MLA Shankar Dhruva representing Sanker has been denied ticket this time by Congress party and in his place former bureaucrat Sishupal Sori has been given the party ticket.

"Why my ticket was denied is beyond my understanding", Dhruva said.

When the party observers arrived here and whatever reports were prepared, my name was on top. Sishupal Sori's name figured last in observers list, he said.

I was totally fit for the candidature as per the parameters fixed by Congress President Rahul Gandhi

"I was totally fit for the candidature as per the parameters fixed by Congress President Rahul Gandhi", Dhruva said. Nor do I have any report of allegations or cases against me," he said.

"I am holding meetings with my workers and would plan a new strategy based on their inputs," Dhruva said.

The future course will also be decided after holding discussions with them. Whatever the workers will say, will do accordingly as they want me to be in poll fray," he said.

On the question of switching alliance to another party, he said that anything can happen but before taking any steps, I would naturally consider the sentiments of workers, Dhruva said.

Arang Cong leaders against 'parachute candidate'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Congress party workers have come out openly against what they call as 'Parachute' candidate field by the party for the Arang Assembly seat which goes to polls in second phase of polling in the State.

On Saturday, when AICC In-charge for Chhattisgarh, P L Punia arrived from New Delhi in Raipur, the party workers from Arang staged protest and raised slogans against the party for giving poll ticket to State Congress Working President Shiv Dehriya from Arang seat.

The protesting workers said that those serving the party for years with dedication are being denied party ticket in the name of introducing candidates from outside. They should be given chance to be in election fray.

Shiv Dehriya has been active in Arang assembly constituency for past few days, which has led to the anger among the party workers who feared that the local party leaders would be denied ticket once again.

The Arang party workers proposed three candidates mainly Narayan Kurrey, Piyush

Kosare and Vedram Manhar and warned that if party brings 'parachute candidates', then it may face backlash. As per party insiders, the Arang Congress workers are all supporters of named candidates and they are not in favour of fielding any candidate from outside their area.

Meanwhile, a similar situation also arose at the Rajiv Bhawan, the State Congress headquarters, after the leaders reached the office, where the Arang region Congress workers and leaders again staged demonstration after which the senior leaders held talks and pacified them.

AICC In-charge for Chhattisgarh, P L Punia having reached Raipur for the preparation of Rahul Gandhi visit to state, said that everyone has the right to free expression and can use it at anytime.

At present, no discussion has taken place for selection of candidate for Arang constituency. Soon, the list of candidates of Congress party would be released for first phase of polling.

On Ajit Jogi's U-turn not to contest polls, he said that people understand whatever is happening.

RO inspects polling centre; reviews preparation

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Returning Officer (RO) Deepak Soni inspected the Assembly constituency number 47 at Dharsiwa based polling centres of village panchayats as part of poll preparations.

Notably, Dharsiwa would witness polling in the second phase. Meanwhile, ROs have been allocated rooms as nomination process is to commence from October 26 after notification.

The Returning Officer (RO) inspected villages of Maath, Kesla, Kharora, Navagaon, Beldar Sivni, Budeni, Barounda and Adnsa Panchayat based polling centre and inspected the basic facilities and amenities being provided there.

He checked for the toilet facilities, power supply, drinking water, ramp arrangement for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and elderly persons.

Meanwhile, Raipur district having seven assembly constituencies, seven Returning Officers has been allocated separate rooms in Collectorate premises for accepting the nomination papers and for conducting all other process involved in nomination process.

As per allocation made by District Electoral Officer and Collector Dr Basavraj S, for Dharsiwa (47) Returning Officer Deepak Soni has been allocated room number 4, Raipur Rural (48) Returning Officer Rajat Bansal room number 12, Raipur West (49) RO Sandeep Agrawal room

number 11, Raipur North (50) RO Dr Basavraj S in room number 2, Raipur South (51) RO Dr Renuka Shrivastava room number 17, Arang (52) RO Heena Animesh Netam has been given room number 7 and Abhanpur (53) RO Abhijeet Singh has been given room number 21.

As per EC schedule, in seven state assembly constituencies the notification for polling would be

issued on October 26 and the process for filing of nomination would commence.

All the ROs would be receiving the nomination papers of respective seats from candidates in these allocated rooms for them. Assistant Returning Officers and other staff would be assisting them in same rooms.

All the candidates and political parties have been asked to

submit their application for meetings, rallies, procession, loud-speaker, temporary opening of party office, vehicle permit, street corner meeting, helicopter and helipad, stage, barricade installation among others through online to the respective Returning Officers, instead of arriving to the office.

They can also see the status of application submitted online.



AMRITSAR TRAIN TRAGEDY

Magisterial inquiry ordered; CM reviews situation



PNS ■ AMRITSAR

After the death of 61 people in the Dussehra tragedy, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Saturday set a four-week deadline for completion of inquiry by Divisional Commissioner Jalandhar into the tragic train accident in Amritsar.

Talking to reporters after reviewing the situation on the ground and meeting the injured in three hospitals, besides visiting the spot where the tragedy had occurred last evening during Dussehra celebrations, Capt Amarinder said action will be taken against those responsible for the tragedy once the inquiry report comes. The probe will cover all aspects of the tragedy, he added.

At the same time, the chief minister urged all political parties to rise above petty politicking to join hands to mitigate the sufferings of the victims and their families.

Asked if there were any lapses on the part of the railways, the Chief Minister said the probe will look into the matter, and will ascertain whether approvals for holding the function were given or not.

However, this was not the time to play political games on the issue, said the Chief Minister, calling upon all to join hands with the government to provide relief to the victims.

The 3-member Crisis Management Group, headed by Health Minister Brahm Mohindra, will camp in Amritsar as long as they are



PNS ■ AMRITSAR

needed to monitor and assist in the relief operations, said the Chief Minister.

The Group, constituted by the Chief Minister last night, has Revenue Minister Sukbinder Singh Sarkaria and Forest Minister, Sadhu Singh Dharamot, as its members, and is closely monitoring the situation and supervising the relief efforts. Top police officials have also been asked to stay in Amritsar till they are required to ensure that the situation stabilises.

The Chief Minister said he was at the airport, ready to leave for Tel Aviv, when he heard of the terrible tragedy and had to rush back after postponing his Israel visit. He said though he had wanted to visit Amritsar last night itself, he was advised against it by the



PNS ■ AMRITSAR

district authorities which did not want a VIP movement to divert attention from the urgent rescue and relief efforts needed at that hour.

Capt Amarinder announced that mourning will continue in Amritsar district till Monday and the national flag will fly at half mast and all educational institutions will remain closed in this period.

The Chief Minister expressed grief at the tragic incident, extending his government's full support to the victims and their families. He observed that two little girls he met in the hospital had lost their entire families in the mishap, which the whole nation was mourning.

Earlier, on his arrival at the Amritsar airport this morning, the Chief Minister was briefed

by the district officials and the Crisis Management Group on the situation following the accident. The Chief Minister, who was accompanied by Local Government Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu and Punjab Congress President Sunil Jakkhar, along with his Media Advisor Raveen Thukral and Chief Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar, took detailed inputs from the team and other officials to assess the cause and damage of the incident.

He later visited the injured in Amandeep Hospital, Civil Hospital Amritsar and Guru Nanak Dev Hospital, where he met the injured and directed the doctors to provide the best possible medical treatment. The state government has already announced free treatment for the injured at all gov-

ernment and private hospitals in the district, besides Rs. 5 lakh as compensation to the families of those killed in the accident that took place during Dussehra celebrations.

Several ministers, MPs and MLAs, along with senior bureaucrats and police officials, were present during the Chief Minister's visit and apprised him of the work being done to provide relief and assistance to the victims and their kin.

Amritsar survivors, families recall night of horror

PTI ■ AMRITSAR

A WhatsApp photograph of a head flashed on Vijay Kumar's phone screen at 3 am Saturday, confirming his worst fears -- his 18-year-old son Manish was one of the revellers mowed down by a train while they were watching Ravan's effigy burnt the evening before.

His younger son, Ashish, returned safely from the festivities, said Kumar, but the frantic search for Manish ended with that 'ping' on his phone. He has since been roaming from hospital to hospital looking for the remains of his elder son.

flung on the stones and the mother was probably trampled to death by the crowds trying to flee.

Jagunandan, a 40-year-old wage labourer from Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh who has suffered injuries in the head and leg, said he was not standing near the tracks but was pushed as people started running away from the main stage after the Ravan effigy was set afire.

The father of four was brought to hospital by a relative, who accompanied him to the event.

girl Khushi, who accompanied her mother Paramjit Kaur for the festivities, remains in a state of shock on her hospital bed.

Khushi, who also fell close to the tracks, was brought to the hospital in an unconscious state. She lies wordless in her hospital bed. She, too, fell close to the tracks.

Recounting the minutes before the disaster, most of the injured said they could not hear the horn of the approaching train. They said another train had passed moments earlier. The sound of the firecrackers as the effigy came down, the train heading at a high speed led to commotion, triggering a stampede like situation, they said.

It was a night of unspeakable horrors, said the father, aware that his son was decapitated when the train hurtled through the tracks, killing 61 people and injuring more than 70. A leg was found and one hand, but they are not Manish's.

"My son was wearing blue jeans. This one is not wearing blue jeans. I have lost my world," an inconsolable Kumar said outside the Guru Nanak Hospital, attached to the Government Medical College, where most of the 70 who were injured Friday evening have been taken.

As people milled around the hospital compound, some stunned into silence by the enormity of the tragedy that felled their loved one and others holding back tears, the injured were inside, grappling with their wounds and trying to piece together what had happened.

Among them was Sapna, who was on a WhatsApp call with her husband Satender to relay the 'Ravan Dahan' event live to him, when the accident took place.

The 30-year-old, who suffered head injuries, said she saw body parts scattered around the tracks and a severed head.

"When the effigy was set afire, people started moving away from the stage and towards the tracks," she said, recalling the minutes before tragedy struck.

As a train approached the area, people tried to clear the tracks and move towards another line, leading to a stampede-like situation. Moments later, another train came from the opposite direction at a high speed and ran over the crowds. She said they could not hear sound of the horn due to the sound of the bursting crackers.

"The train driver should have noticed the crowd as there was light and people were holding their mobile phones up to record the event," Sapna said.

Sapna lost her cousin and her one-year-old niece, who she said were not killed crushed by the train but in the stampede that ensued. The baby was

Motilal, a 35-year-old daily wager from Bihar's Gopalganj district who is undergoing treatment for chest injuries at the civil hospital, said, "I was standing on one side of the tracks. Suddenly, people started running and I fell down. Everything happened in a fraction of a second, giving very little time to people to react."

Sandeep, a 23-year-old resident of Amritsar, suffered serious head injuries and was admitted to the civil hospital.

Her husband, Jitendra, a daily wager, said his wife, their two children and father-in-law had gone to watch 'Ravaan dahan'.

"The train came at the speed of light and it led to a stampede-like situation as there was a large crowd present on the spot," he said, adding his six-year-old daughter, three-year-old son and father-in-law died in the rush.

Dr. Rakesh Sharma, professor-in-charge at the Gurumanak Hospital's surgery unit, said 20 people were brought dead there. Most of the injured people suffered injuries in the head and legs.

Dr. Mayank said, "Most of the injured belong to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. 80-90 doctors have been put on emergency duty and they are working round-the-clock."

"Some of the injured have been admitted to private hospitals and PGI, Chandigarh," he said. Mayank said the Gurumanak Hospital is facing a shortage of ventilators in the ICU.

Capt asks Home Secy to prepare guidelines for permissions

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

In the backdrop of the Amritsar train tragedy, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday directed Home Secretary NS Kalsi to prepare detailed guidelines for permission to hold religious and social congregations to prevent such tragedies.

The guidelines should clearly define the rules and regulations for holding such events or gatherings in any part of the state on any occasion, as per the directives issued by the Chief Minister.

The chief minister also asked the Home Secretary to issue an immediate advisory for sale and storage of crackers for the upcoming Diwali festival, to ensure strict adherence to the safety rules and guidelines for the same.

Taking serious note of the train tragedy that killed and injured dozens, when a train mowed them down on railway tracks in Amritsar, the Chief Minister made it clear that no laxity would be tolerated in these matters.

"While the culpability in the tragic incident would be fixed, it was imperative to ensure that such an incident is not repeated," he said.

Kin of injured, killed search for loved ones at hosp

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

Many panic-stricken family members of those killed or wounded in the Amritsar train accident searched frantically from one hospital to another to know about the fate of their loved ones as the festive spirit drowned in sorrow and shock following the tragic incident.

At least 59 people were killed Friday evening after a crowd of Dussehra revellers that had spilled onto railway tracks while watching the burning of the Ravana effigy was run over by a train near Joda Phatak in Amritsar.

"My son, Jugu, is missing since the train accident. I went to Civil Hospital and Guru Govind Hospital, but I am unable to find him," Sushila, who lives in a nearby area.

Lakhmeet, another person who was looking for his brother-in-law and found him in a hospital, said: "I was shocked when I heard about the train accident. I got a call from home that my brother-in-law Sujeet, who went out to watch Dussehra celebrations last evening, had not come back home.

"All family members rushed to Guru Govind Hospital, where I was told Sujeet is admitted at Civil Hospital," he said.

Several other distraught family members of those injured or killed in the accident also had to search from one hospital to another to locate their loved ones.

Most people who were mowed down by the speeding train were migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

A senior official in the district administration said most migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar work in an industrial area at a stone's throw away from the accident site and live nearby.

40 of those killed in Amritsar mishap identified 36 bodies cremated.

Forty of the 59 people killed in the train accident near here have been identified so far and the bodies of 36 of were cremated, officials said on Saturday.

The bodies of four other persons, who belonged to Uttar Pradesh, have been sent to their home towns by the district administration, an official said. The 36 bodies were cre-

mated in batches at a ground near Shitla Mata Temple here in the presence of officials of the state government and family members of the deceased.

According to officials, the post-mortem examination on 29 bodies has been done.

The Amritsar Municipal Corporation on Saturday said no permission was granted to hold Dussehra celebrations at 'Dhobi ghat' ground in Amritsar. At least 61 people were killed and 72 injured Friday evening after a crowd of Dussehra revellers that had spilled onto railway tracks while watching burning of Ravana effigy was run over by a train near Joda Phatak here.

"Nobody was given the permission for organising the Dussehra event. Moreover, nobody had applied for the permission with the Amritsar Municipal Corporation," Amritsar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sonali Giri said here.

She said the celebrations

were held at the 'Dhobi ghat' ground here. The commissioner said unlike last year, the event was held on a large scale on Friday evening. "Last year, the scale of the function was not as big as it was witnessed on Friday evening," she said, adding there was also a small temple at the ground.

Navjot Kaur Sidhu, former MLA and wife of Punjab minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, was the chief guest of the event. The event was reportedly organised by Saurabh Madan, husband of Congress Councillor Vijay Madan. Posters of Navjot Singh Sidhu, his wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu, councillor Saurabh Madan and his wife Vijay Madan were displayed at the event.

Opposition parties, including the Akali Dal, BJP

Municipality says no permission was granted for Dussehra event

PNS ■ AMRITSAR

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"Nobody was given the permission for organising the Dussehra event. Moreover, nobody had applied for the permission with the Amritsar Municipal Corporation," Amritsar Municipal Corporation Commissioner Sonali Giri said here.

She said the celebrations

and AAP have demanded strict action against those who gave permission for holding the event. They have also held the Congress-led Punjab government responsible for allowing the Dussehra celebrations near the railway track. At the time of the tragic incident, at least 300 people were watching 'Ravana dahan' at the ground adjacent to the elevated rail tracks.

As the effigy was lit and the fireworks went off, a section of the crowd started retreating towards the tracks where a large number of people were already standing to watch the event, officials had said. Two trains arrived from the opposite direction at the same time giving little time to people to escape, they said.

Haryana CM to address rally on 4 years of Govt

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal would dedicate elevated track built in Rohtak city, to the people of the State on October 27 and would also address a public meeting on that day at old ITI Ground on the completion of four years of the tenure of the present Haryana Government.

In his meeting with the officers regarding the ongoing preparations for this occasion at Rohtak on Saturday, Minister of State for Cooperation, Manish Kumar Grover said that the length of this elevated track is 2 Km long and is built at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 crore.

He said that after the opening of this elevated track, the traffic congestion in the area would ease beside providing commercial benefits.

Apart from this, a Passport Seva Kendra would be inaugurated at the premises of Post Office Rohtak on October 27. Grover also attended Poet

In his meeting with the officers regarding the ongoing preparations for this occasion at Rohtak on Saturday, Minister of State for Cooperation, Manish Kumar Grover said the length of this elevated track is 2 Km long and is built at an estimated cost of ₹150 crore

Dayachand Mayna Jayanti Samaroh at village Mayna today. He assured that the public demands of Village Mayna would be fulfilled on priority. He said that Poet Dayachand Mayna was an eminent poet and folklore artists of Haryana who gave the proper direction to the society through his poetry and writings.

Village-level committees for delivery of public services in Hry

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal has approved the draft of Haryana Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2018 under which village level committee will be constituted to review the efficient delivery of public services and to ensure transparency in the development works upto the village level.

A spokesman of Development and Panchayats Department on Saturday said that for the first time in the history of Haryana, social audit of developmental works upto the village level would ensure the involvement of villagers in developmental activities for bringing complete transparency.

The village level committee would comprise of total ten non-official members representing Civil Society Organisation, village institutions and organizations of workers and disadvantaged groups.

The spokesman said these included ex-servicemen, retired teacher, retired engineer, highly educated person of the village, social worker, two members to be nominated by Deputy Commissioner (one woman and one Scheduled Castes), one head volunteer of Gramin Vikas Ke Liye Tarun (GRAVIT) scheme and two beneficiaries of the concerned scheme. Overall at least three women members would be nominated, he added.

HP CM launches new health schemes

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur on Saturday launched four new health schemes for the state including Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Raahat Kosh, Mukhya Mantri Rajya Swasthya Dekhbhal Yojana, Himachal Pradesh Health Protection Scheme and Telemedicine scheme for Pangi in Chamba district.

He also inaugurated OPD/IPD, Trauma Centre of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri government medical college, Ner Chowk, and Nursing College at Ner Chowk in Mandi district.

Himachal Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced to open Atal Medical and Research University in Ner Chowk medical college and enhancing the monthly pay of medical officers appointed on contract basis by Rs. 10,000 and that of specialist medical officers on contract basis by Rs. 15,000 per month.

Addressing a public meeting on this occasion, the Chief Minister said that with the starting of this medical college, the people of the area would get specialised medical and emergency services round the clock.

He said that financial assistance would be provided to the



patients from Mukhya Mantri Chikitsa Raahat Kosh who were not covered under social security pension scheme.

He said the people would also be facilitated by enhancing the assistance under Mukhya Mantri Awasthya Dekhbhal Yojana through 175 registered government and private health institutes by enhancing the financial assistance from existing provision of Rs. 30000 to Rs. five lakh.

Under Himachal Pradesh Universal Health Protection Scheme the facility for free treatment upto Rs. five lakh would be made available.

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E-TENDER NOTICE

NIFT, Jodhpur invites tenders for under mentioned purchase machinery/material & Services at its campus at Karwar, Jodhpur:-

1. Supply of various type of Fabric	2. Unit Production System (UPS)
3. Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment for out bound/Educational trip	4. Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of Event Management Agency for Fashion Show

Detailed information such as Tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids & Financial Bids etc will be available in NIFT Jodhpur website www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur & <https://nifttenders.eproc.in>

In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc of above tenders would be uploaded in above mentioned website only.

The date of issue /receipt of tenders etc will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website.

Purchase Officer

FLOOD ALERT AFTER LANDSLIDE IN TIBET

32 NDRF teams reach Assam, Arunachal

PNS/ANUP SHARMA ■ NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

As many as 32 teams of NDRF have been deployed in various parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh after China informed India about a possible flood situation because of a landslide that blocked the mainstream of Brahmaputra River in the Tibet Autonomous Region. Both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have been put on high alert following the threat of sudden flood.

However, the Central Water Commission (CWC) said that although there is slight increase in the water levels of Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh, the water level of Brahmaputra had not increased so far.

Earlier, Beijing, under the 'Emergency Information Sharing Mechanism' with India, informed New Delhi that a landslide has blocked one of the major rivers in Tibet leading to the formation of an artificial lake.

"In view of emerging situation and as a precautionary measure, 32 well prepared NDRF teams have been deployed in various parts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Out of which 13 teams have been deployed in Arunachal Pradesh, two at Upper Siang and 13 at east Siang district," the NDRF said in a statement. All NDRF teams are fully equipped with various flood rescues and life saving equipment. Some additional teams have also been kept in ready in case of emergency situation arise.

According to Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju, the government of China is sharing information with India and the information is being passed on to the district administration in Siang belt of Arunachal Pradesh, after China told about a landslide blocking a river in Tibet leading to the formation of an artificial lake. He added that all precautionary measures are being taken and it's not a conspiracy. Rijiju informed that the Siang is a very big river and when there are some natural calamities like earthquakes or landslides, it possesses a danger to people who live downstream.

"Chinese government is sharing information with Indian authorities and Indian authorities have shared information with district administration in Siang belt. All precautionary measures are being taken. You can't say it's a conspiracy. Siang river is a very big river & when there are some natural calamities like earthquakes or landslides, it possesses a danger to people who live downstream," said Rijiju.

Based on the information provided by China, all relevant authorities of the Central and State governments have been informed about the emerging situation.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday directed authorities in districts bordering Arunachal Pradesh to "remain alert" for possible flash flood. Sonowal has directed the authorities in Dhemaji, Dibrugarh,

Lakhimpur and Tinsukia districts to remain alert and take all possible steps to prevent any major catastrophe. The chief minister said that six companies of the NDRF has arrived in the state and that they are being deployed wherever necessary. He also asked the people of the state not to panic but remain on alert. Meanwhile, Sonowal has talked to External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj over the telephone regarding the issue of possible artificial floods that may affect the State.

The Inland Water Transport (IWT) department of Assam, however, suspended the ferry service in Dibrugarh district from today as precautionary measure.

The Arunachal Pradesh government has also instructed and alerted all the districts located near Siang which might be affected due to the water flow of the river in near future.

Earlier on Friday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had informed about the landslide blocking of Yarlung Zangbo/Brahmaputra River in the Tibet Autonomous Region. The MEA said that they are in constant touch with the Chinese side about updates on the landslide.

Chinese Embassy spokesperson Counselor Ji Rong said that his country has activated the 'Emergency Information Sharing Mechanism' with India following the landslide on Wednesday morning near Jiala Village in Milin County in the lower ranges of Yarlung Tsangpo river in Tibet.

NIA arrests key accused of Nagrota Army camp attack

Ashraf Khandey was a co-conspirator in facilitating, harbouring, transporting a group of three Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested a key accused absconding in the Nagrota Army Camp attack case. The person has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf Khandey, a resident of Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir.

He was arrested from the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi while he was trying to flee to Saudi Arabia via Sri Lanka.

According to NIA, Ashraf Khandey was a co-conspirator in facilitating, harbouring and transporting a group of three heavily armed Pakistani terrorists belonging to the proscribed terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad.

The three terrorists had infiltrated into India from Kathua-Samba sector of Jammu & Kashmir in the intervening night of 27/28th November 2016 and carried out an attack on 166 Medium Regiment Camp, Nagrota, Jammu in the early hours of 29th November 2016.

The Army had neutralized three Pakistani terrorists in retaliatory action. Geelani

The NIA unearthed a well-planned conspiracy and busted a network of Over Ground Workers of Jaish-e-Mohammad which was responsible in facilitating this attack. Three accused, namely Sayeed Munir-ul Hassan Qadri, Tariq Ahmed Dar, and Mohd Ashiq Baba have already been arrested in the case

was also media advisor of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (Geelani faction).

The investigating agency has named him in the terror funding case in which Hafiz Saeed and Syed Salahuddin among 10 other Kashmiri militants are accused.

In its investigation, the NIA unearthed a well-planned conspiracy and busted a network of Over Ground Workers of Jaish-e-Mohammad which was responsible in facilitating this attack.

Three accused, namely Sayeed Munir-ul Hassan Qadri, Tariq Ahmed Dar, and Mohd. Ashiq Baba have already been arrested in the case.

The investigation has established the role of all the accused in providing shelter and transportation to the terrorists on the directions of leaders/handlers of Jaish-e-Mohammad based in Pakistan for carrying out the terrorist attack, the NIA said in its release.

Modi, Sri Lankan counterpart Wickremesinghe hold talks

India-assisted development projects in Lanka discussed

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe held talks Saturday covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations and discussed ways to deepen the "historically close" relations between the two countries.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said the two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues during their meeting on the third and final day of the Sri Lankan leader's visit here.

During the talks, Modi and Wickremesinghe reviewed the progress in implementation of various decisions taken during the high level exchanges in the recent past, including Modi's visit to Sri Lanka in May 2017.

They also discussed the progress of India-assisted development projects in the island nation.

"This multi-faceted partnership has been marked by close contacts at the highest political level, growing trade and investment, wide ranging development cooperation, increasing linkages in the fields of education, health, infrastructure, connectivity and capacity building and broadening people to people contacts," the MEA said after delegation level talks between the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hand with his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe before a meeting in New Delhi on Saturday AP

two leaders.

Both prime ministers discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and ways to further deepen the "historically close and friendly relations" between the two countries, it said.

Key decisions taken in stepping up bilateral cooperation during Modi's visit to Lanka in May 2017 for the International Vesak Day celebrations, Sri Lankan prime minister's visit to India in April and November last year, and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena's visit for the International Solar Alliance founding conference in March this year, were discussed during the meeting.

The issue of India taking charge of operating Sri Lanka's loss-making Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota was also understood to have figured in the talks.

Earlier in the day, Home Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval,

also separately called on the visiting Lankan leader.

Wickremesinghe and Singh discussed issues related to security and anti-terror cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

In her meeting with the Lankan premier, Swaraj also reviewed the progress of India-assisted development projects in the island nation.

Prime Minister Modi also hosted a luncheon for the visiting dignitary.

Wickremesinghe's India visit came in the backdrop of controversial media reports that the Lankan President has accused Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing of plotting his assassination, a claim firmly rejected as "false" by Colombo.

Wickremesinghe was accompanied by his wife, Prof. Maithree Wickramasinghe, Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade Malik Samarawickrama, Minister of Petroleum Resources Development Arjuna Ranatunga, and senior officials



Protesters gather as a Trichy resident had trekked up with her family to Sabarimala temple in Pathanamthitta on Saturday

PTI

UP Govt to honour kin of 67 martyred policemen today

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government will honour widows of UP Police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty during Police Commemoration Day on Sunday (October 21).

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who will be present at the function to pay homage to the martyred policemen, is likely to make some announcements.

Recently, the State Government had promoted a record number of cops and also started the process for recruitment of about a lakh police personnel to reduce stress on the existing force.

Director General of Police OP Singh said here on Saturday that Police Commemoration Day was observed every year to pay homage to supreme sacrifice of 10 policemen, who died defending the borders with China on October 21 in 1959.

Singh said this year too, UP Police would honour the families of 67 cops who lost their lives in the last one year.

PNS

Centre will evaluate NSAP, take steps to plug loopholes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facing flak from the Supreme Court for huge gaps in the Central sponsored programme, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), which deals with person for elderly, widows and other issues, the Centre has decided to conduct a study to evaluate its performance and take steps to plug the loopholes.

Sources in the Union Rural Development Ministry said that expression of interest has been issued and we are in the process of finalising the agency to conduct the study of the scheme which was launched in 1995. All the schemes under the NSAP—Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and

Annappurna—will be evaluated.

The programme aims to ensure minimum national standard for social assistance, in addition to the benefits that states are currently providing or might provide in future, for old and poor citizens.

The Supreme Court hearing two PILs by advocates Ashwani Kumar, a former law minister, and Sanjeeb Panigrahi had noted that the NSAP was "prima facie" a good scheme but there were "huge gaps" in its implementation which needed to be filled.

The bench of justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta asked additional solicitor general Pinky Anand to come out with details of the implementation mechanism that has been put in place by the Centre to ensure that the benefits reached the destitute senior citizens.

Anand said as per 2011 census, there were 10.38 crore people above the age group of 60 years and 28.9% of them were categorised as living below the poverty line. She said Rs 6,564 crore have been earmarked for the welfare schemes.

She said that NSAP has a budget of around Rs. 9,975 crore in 2018-19 and the government has allotted funds for pension covering around three crore elderly persons under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme.

conditions of many senior citizens who are in need of help given the fact that 70% of the families in India have gone nuclear leaving the elderly high and dry.

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SABARIMALA ROW

Woman, 52, allowed inside temple after protests

Sabarimala: A woman from Tamil Nadu was allowed inside the Sabarimala temple on Saturday after facing initial protests, as traditionalists presumed her to be below 50 years of age.

The Supreme Court on September 28 overturned a centuries-old practice that barred women of menstrual age (10-50 years) from entering the hill temple, where a celibate deity Lord Ayyappa is worshipped.

Latha, 52, accompanied by her husband and son, was stopped just as she was about to climb the hallowed 18 steps leading to the temple. The protesters presumed her to be below 50, despite her protestations to the contrary.

It was only after the intervention of state BJP leader K. Surendran and others that the devotees allowed Latha to enter the sanctum sanctorum after checking her identity card.

Meanwhile, a 38-year-old woman, Manju, presented herself before senior police officials and requested them to facilitate her pilgrimage to the temple in the light of the SC verdict.

The police officials cautioned her about the risks, as

Tantri family, TDB disagree over emergency shutdown of shrine

IANS ■ SABARIMALA (KERALA)

Travancore Devasom Board (TDB) member KP Shankara Das on Saturday disagreed with the Sabarimala Tantri family's threat to close the temple doors if any woman within the barred age group arrive for darshan.

"It's the Supreme Court that has directed that women within the age group of 10 to 50 will be allowed within the shrine's sanctum sanctorum. Hence all are duty bound to adhere to it," the former legislator told the media here.

"It is not fair to say that the temple will be locked. Moreover the protest staged on Friday by temple staff and the Tantri (chief priest) was wrong and an explanation will be demanded," he said.

Hindu traditionalists had dug their heels in, opposing the entry of women in the 10-50

Frenzied protests and threats to close down the temple forced two women on Friday to return from Sabarimala on the third day of unrest as Kerala Police declined to escort a third woman to the hill shrine.

The Tantri family and members of the Pandalam royal family considered closing down of the temple if further attempts were made by women from the barred age group.

Chief Priest Kantararu Rajeeveru later on Friday confirmed that he would have no other choice but to close down the temple, if the age old traditions of the temple was violated. On Saturday, Rajeeveru garnered more support. Malikepuram temple chief priest Anish Nampoothiri said he could not find fault with the

age group in defiance of the SC order. However, Manju, who is the

Lord Ayyappa temple Tantri's statement, and that no action could be taken by the TDB against the Sabarimala staff.

On the fourth day on Saturday there has been no report of any women between the age of 10 to 50 attempting a trek to the hilltop shrine.

Pathanamthitta District Collector P.B. Nooh told the media here that he has not got any request from any woman for darshan at the temple on Saturday.

Security has been further tightened around the shrine which will close its doors on October 22.

The TDB would be submitting a detailed report about the happenings in and around the temple both to the Supreme Court and the Kerala High Court next week.

President of the Kerala Dalit Mahila Federation, would have none of it.

UNHRC, WHO call for banning virginity test

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Global agencies like UN Human Rights, UN Women and the World Health Organization (WHO) has called for ban on the virginity testing - a gynecological examination conducted under the belief that it determines whether a woman or girl has had vaginal intercourse - calling it traumatic and unscientific.

In India, the practice of virginity test still exists in certain parts of India among nomads and tribals besides a few other communities.

In a joint statement issued here, the UN agencies said that it has no scientific or clinical basis. "There is no examination that can prove a girl or woman has had sex - and the appearance of girl's or woman's hymen cannot prove whether they have had sexual intercourse, or are sexually active or not," they said.

"Virginity testing" is a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and can be detrimental to women's and girls' physical, psychological and social well-being. "Virginity testing" reinforces stereotyped notions of female sexuality and gender inequality. The examination can

'VIRGINITY TESTING' REINFORCES STEREOTYPED NOTIONS OF FEMALE SEXUALITY AND GENDER INEQUALITY. THE EXAMINATION CAN BE PAINFUL, HUMILIATING AND TRAUMATIC

including forced virginity examinations. Virginity tests on women prisoners are common, intimidating and humiliating; they violate women's rights to privacy and physical integrity, and further disempower them, said the UN agencies.

Besides a few parts of India, virginity testing reportedly happens in numerous countries, including Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, the UK and more places.

But the report notes that there is no scientific evidence to support that looking at or feeling someone's genitalia can tell you whether or not they've had sex, meaning that girls and women are subjected to invasive tests that aren't medically necessary.

"The concept of virginity is not a medical or scientific term; rather, it is a social, cultural and religious construct. The disproportionate social expectation that girls and women should remain 'virgins' (i.e. without having sexual intercourse) until marriage is rooted in stereotyped notions of female sexuality that have been harmful to women and girls globally," said the statement.

Popular Lingayat seer Siddalinga passes away in Karnataka

Bengaluru: Karnataka's popular Lingayat seer Siddalinga Swami passed away at Gadag in the state's northwest region, a member of his Thontadarya Mut said on Saturday. He was 69.

"Doctors at a private hospital declared Swamiji dead today (Saturday) morning after a massive cardiac arrest," the member told reporters at Gadag, about 390 km from Bengaluru. State Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, however, told reporters here that when the pontiff did not come out of his room till 9 a.m., he was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead due to cardiac arrest.

"Siddalinga was one of the most revered Lingayat seers in Karnataka and known for his oratory. He had slammed the Veerashaiva-Lingayat seers for opposing the Siddaramaiah-led government's decision to grant minority status to the community," said Kumaraswamy in a statement here. Recalling that the seer was a great writer and a patron of education and literature, the Chief Minister said the pontiff had thousands of devotees for his progressive and straight approach to various social and religious issues.

IANS

LIQUIDITY CRUNCH AT NBFCs

Assocham praises RBI's steps for easing process

New Delhi: Industry body Assocham on Saturday hailed the Reserve Bank's decision to incentivise banks to enhance their lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), saying the step will help them in tackling liquidity crunch.

The RBI on Friday allowed the banks to use Government securities equivalent to their incremental credit to non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for a three-month period to meet their liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) requirements.

The provision will allow banks to free up ₹50,000-60,000 crore of liquidity which banks can lend to NBFCs till December 31.

"This shall also send a message that the recent developments do not indicate any systemic problem but it is merely a case of sentiments having gone wrong after one of the big NBFCs defaulted," Assocham said.

The industry body said the whole issue of asset liability mismatch is more relevant in case of long-term lending

companies like the housing finance companies and infra financing NBFCs.

"A typical NBFC model is a retail lending model with short tenures of 2-5 years and small ticket sizes where asset liability mismatch is not a concern. NBFCs have shown impressive growth for the last few years maintaining a high capital adequacy ratio which is higher than the minimum prescribed levels. This growth has also been healthy as reflected in better asset quality," Assocham said.

However, provision of a dedicated refinance window, especially, for the large number of small and medium sized NBFCs is very important to ensure future growth, it said further.

The latest measure by the RBI to boost capital flow to NBFCs has been however downplayed by industry players and analysts and described it as too little and too late.

According to them, it will not help much, especially to those NBFCs which are into home and auto loans.

The only beneficiary will be those into short-term con-

sumer loans as well as micro-finance loans, feel the experts.

The NBFCs have come under heavy pressure with their stock prices witnessing sharp fall on the bourses, triggered by a series of loan defaults by IL&FS group firms about a month ago and has crippled the prospects of smooth credit flow of the sector.

Sensing the enormity of the crisis IL&FS group which is laden by debt to the tune of ₹91,000 crore, the Government swung into action quickly and took the management control by disbanding its board and replaced it by six newly appointed members headed by banker Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Besides, LIC and SBI — who are amongst the key stakeholders in IL&FS — have come to the rescue of IL&FS and are expected to infuse capital by raising their respective stakes in the company.

Separately, country's largest lender SBI has also announced to buy quality assets worth ₹45,000 crore from the NBFCs. **PTI**

HDFC Bank Q2 net profit climbs 21% to ₹5,005 cr on robust core income

New Delhi: Private sector HDFC Bank on Saturday reported a rise of 20.6 per cent in its net profit to ₹5,005.73 crore for the second quarter ended on September this fiscal, as the core income grew at a healthy pace.

The bank had registered a net profit of ₹4,151.03 crore in the July-September quarter of 2017-18.

Total income for the quarter grew by 21.2 per cent to ₹28,215.2 crore as against ₹23,276.2 crore, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

The net interest income (interest earned minus interest expended) for the quarter grew by 20.6 per cent to ₹11,763.4 crore, driven by average asset growth of 22.9 per cent and a net interest margin of 4.3 per cent, it said.

The net interest income stood at ₹9,752.1 crore in September quarter of 2017-18.

On asset front, the gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of the bank rose slightly to 1.33 per cent of the gross advances as on September 30, 2018 from 1.26 per cent on September 30, 2017.

In value terms, the gross

NPAs of the bank stood at ₹10,097.73 crore by end of September quarter, compared to ₹7,702.84 crore.

The net NPAs or bad loans, however, fell to 0.40 per cent of the net loans by end of second quarter against 0.43 per cent. The absolute value of net NPAs was at ₹3,028.24 crore as against ₹2,596.83 crore.

The provisions and contingencies for the quarter ended September 30, 2018 were ₹1,820 crore as against ₹1,476.20 crore as on September 30, 2017.

The lender said it made preferential allotment of more than 3.90 crore equity shares to its parent Housing Finance Corporation (HDFC Ltd) at a price of ₹2,174.09 crore on July 17 aggregating to ₹8,500 crore.

On August 2, the bank concluded a qualified institutional placement (QIP) of over 1.28 crore equity shares at a price of ₹2,160 aggregating to ₹2,775 crore and an ADR offering of 17.5 million, representing 5.25 crore equity shares aggregating to \$1.82 billion (equivalent to ₹12,440.90 crore). **PTI**

ArcelorMittal aims to complete negotiations swiftly with Essar CoC

New Delhi: After Emerging as the highest bidder for Essar Steel, global giant, ArcelorMittal, aims to complete the "negotiations as swiftly as possible" with the debt-laden firm's creditors committee.

The Lakshmi N Mittal-owned company, which is the world's largest steel maker, has been locked in a murky legal battle with other bidders, especially Russian VTB Bank-promoted NuMetal to take over Essar Steel, under the insolvency proceedings.

The company has been trying for long to enter India but has not succeeded so far. It had announced over a decade back to set up two plants - with 12 million tonnes per annum capacity each — in Jharkhand and Odisha, which could not be materialised.

"Now, look forward to

completing negotiations as swiftly as possible", the company said after it emerged as the highest bidder for Essar Steel late last night.

Earlier, Mittal, Chairman and CEO of ArcelorMittal, told PTI in an interview that he would be surprised if the world's largest steelmaker with sound financials and strong technology will be declared ineligible to participate in the bid for Essar Steel.

Last night, the CoC of Essar Steel declared the firm as the preferred bidder for Essar Steel.

"ArcelorMittal confirms it has been informed by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) for Essar Steel India Limited (ESIL) that it has been evaluated to be the H1 Resolution Applicant (the preferred bidder) in the corporate insol-

veny resolution process for ESIL," ArcelorMittal said in a statement last night.

The company said it will now enter into further final negotiations with the CoC.

Essar Steel was among the 12 companies referred by the RBI for insolvency proceedings.

ArcelorMittal, earlier this week has said it will pay ₹7,469 crore to the creditors of Uttam Galva and KKS Petron to be eligible to acquire the debt-laden firm, as per the Supreme Court order.

The Supreme Court on October 4 had granted one more opportunity to ArcelorMittal and NuMetal to bid for Essar Steel if they clear their non-performing asset (NPA) dues of their related corporate debtors within two weeks. **PTI**

Gold remains up on festive buying, positive global leads

New Delhi: Gold prices rose by ₹220 to ₹32,270 per 10 grams as upward trend continued unabated for the fourth straight week, backed by persistent buying by local jewellers to meet festive season demand coupled with positive global cues.

Silver after moving both ways on alternate bouts of buying and selling, managed to end higher by ₹200 to ₹39,600 per kg.

Traders attributed the sustained rise in gold prices to increased buying by local jewellers, driven by ongoing festive season and a firming trend in global markets.

Besides, weakness in the rupee, making imports costlier, also fuelled the upside in gold prices.

Globally, gold ended the week higher at \$1,227.50 an ounce and silver at \$14.70 against the previous week's of \$1,218.80 and \$14.68, respectively.

In the national Capital, gold of 99.9 per cent and 99.5 per cent purity commenced the week higher at ₹32,250 and ₹32,020 per ten gram, respectively, but slipped to a low of ₹32,180 and ₹32,020 for want of support. **PTI**



BSES receives the prestigious award for Excellence in Cost Management Pioneer photo

ICICI Lombard Q2 net surges 44% to ₹293 crore

New Delhi: ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on Saturday reported a jump of 43.6 per cent in net profit to ₹293 crore for the second quarter ended September this fiscal.

The company's net profit in the corresponding July-September quarter of 2017-18 was at ₹204 crore.

The gross direct premium income (GDPI) of the company increased to ₹3,530 crore in the September quarter, registering a growth of 11.3 per cent over ₹3,173 crore in the same period previous fiscal, ICICI Lombard said in a regulatory filing.

The combined ratio improved to 101.1 per cent in second quarter from 102.9 per cent in the same quarter a year ago (combined ratio was 99.9 per cent in second quarter excluding the impact of Kerala

floods), it added.

The Board of Directors of the company has also declared interim dividend of ₹2.50 per share for first half of 2018-19.

ICICI Lombard said that its profit before tax (PBT) and profit after tax (PAT)/ net profit includes a one off impact of ₹58 crore recovered on account of doubtful reinsurance recoverable already provided in earlier years.

Profit before and after tax grew by 36.6 per cent and 25.1 per cent, respectively, in the second quarter of the fiscal excluding the one-off impact.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company offer products, including motor, health, crop, fire, personal accident, marine, engineering and liability insurance, through multiple distribution channels. **PTI**

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007, Gujarat.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocoon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi-110055

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Nadeem Waheed Khan / Gitter Advertising And Marketing / Nida Khan / LBDEL00002048586	Flat No-1803, 18th Floor, Tower-F, Up Country, Situated At Plot No Ts-1, Sector 17-A, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Noida / October 15, 2018.	Dec 30, 2017 Rs.10,86,378/-	DELHI/ NCR
2.	Satish Upadhaya / Smita Upadhaya / LBDEL00002438861, LBDEL00002438858	Flat No. 14-FF, 1st Floor, Situated In Pocket/ Block 12/17, Sector- 82, Noida / October 15, 2018.	July 31, 2018 Rs.17,10,597/-	DELHI/ NCR
3.	Surinder Kumar Saini/ Bhagwati Devi / LBFB00001636567	H No. 677, Sector- 16A, Faridabad/ October 16, 2018.	June 27, 2018 Rs.9,17,374/-	DELHI/ NCR
4.	Ravinder Choudhary / Ritu Choudhary / LBDEL00003840633	Appartment No. 3, Tower No. 21, Lotus Panache, Plot No. Gh- 05, Sector 110, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Up. / October 15, 2018.	May 31, 2018 Rs.84,88,140/-	DELHI/ NCR
5.	Tusha Gupta / Rattan Kumar Gupta / LBGUR00002364233	14022 14th Floor Fusion Home Stower Gh-05A Techzone 4 Greater Noida West Noida- 201301 / October 15, 2018	Feb 28, 2018 Rs.16,29,776/-	DELHI/ NCR
6.	Ajay Kumar / Ramesh Pandit/ LBDEL00001997098	G-410, Avj Heights, Plot No. Gh-12/2, Sector Zeta I, Greater Noida / October 15, 2018	April 27, 2018 Rs.15,14,127/-	DELHI/ NCR
7.	Archana Singh / Ravinder Singh / LBDEL00001626227 LBGUR00002052834	Flat No. 144, Sector 21 B, Urban Estate, Faidabad-121002 / October 16, 2018	May 30, 2018 Rs.40,76,338/-	DELHI/ NCR
8.	Predominant Engineers & Contractors Pvt Ltd/ Vineet Sood/ Kuldeep Chander Sood/ Reeta Sood/ LBGUR00001060264	Plot No. 3, Poorvi Marg, DII City Phase II Gurgaon-122002 / October 16, 2018	May 29, 2018 Rs.56,78,221/-	DELHI/ NCR
9.	Sariputra Waghdhare/ Marwati Inesneh / Nirmala Waghdhare / LBGUR00001950424	Unit No. B1003, Grand Arch On The Floor Of The Building Proposed To Be Named As / Named As Ireo Grand Arch Situated At Sector 58, 10th Floor, Gurgaon / October 16, 2018	July 31, 2018 Rs. 1,43,06,398.66/-	DELHI/ NCR
10.	Khushboo Bhatia / Gulshan Bhatia / Naresh Kumar Bhatia/ LBDEL00001126598	House No. 755, Type Ews, Sector 22, Housing Board Colony, Faridabad-121001 / October 16, 2018	June 30, 2018 Rs.8,02,799/-	DELHI/ NCR
11.	Gyanendra K Srivastava / Monika Srivastava / LBDEL00002116986	Flat No. D-47, First Floor, Piyush Rosette, Bhiwadi / October 17, 2018	Aug 31, 2017 Rs.33,06,304/-	DELHI/ NCR
12.	Rupesh Kumar / Manish Kumar / LBGUR00002270207	Flat No. E-121, F F, Piyush Rosette, Bhiwadi Alwar-301018 / October 17, 2018	Aug 20, 2016 Rs.25,96,148/-	DELHI/ NCR
13.	Rajeev Bakshi / Leena Bakshi / LBGUR00001983346	Flat No.-101, 1st Floor, Avalon Residency, Tower A-3, Alwar By Pass Road, Bhiwadi- 301001 Rajasthan / October 17, 2018	July 27, 2018 Rs.18,55,842/-	DELHI/ NCR
14.	Ranjeet Kumar Ray / Kiran Devi / LBGUR00002008819	A/5/ 305, Tower A-5, 3rd Floor, Avalon Rangoli, Alwar By Pass Road, Bhiwadi 301417 Rajasthan / October 17, 2018	Aug 31, 2017 Rs.19,16,998/-	DELHI/ NCR
15.	Dharmendra Kumar / Sumita Singh / LBNOD00002029333	Flat No. C4/ 121, 12th Floor, Tower C4, Aravali Heights, Sector 24, Dharuhera, Rewari. / October 17, 2018.	Mar 31, 2018 Rs.46,01,848/-	DELHI/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited
Date: 20-Oct-2018
Place: Delhi/NCR

केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग ई-टेंडर्स आमंत्रण सूचना

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से कार्यपालक अभियंता, 'ए' मंडल, केओनोटो, राणा कृष्ण पुरम, नई दिल्ली द्वारा अधोलिखित कार्यों के निष्पन्न हेतु केओनोटो के approved and eligible ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाइन प्रतियोगिता पर निविदा प्रणाली आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1. निग आ सू सं 103/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Upgradation in GPPA Type-II Qtrs at Sec-3, R.K.Puram, New Delhi dg 2018-19 (SH- Providing and fixing kitchen cupboards shutters)", अनुमानित लागत ₹ 25,90,640/-, घोहर राशि ₹ 51,813/-, कार्य निष्पन्न अवधि-03 (तीन) मास बिड़ को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 29.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।
2. निग आ सू सं 104/EE/S Div/2018-19 (Revised) Name of Work "A/R & M/O to various types of qtrs. at Sector-1, R.K.Puram, New Delhi during 2018-19 (SH- Providing Male Security guard)", अनुमानित लागत ₹ 5,94,177/-, घोहर राशि ₹ 11,884/-, कार्य निष्पन्न अवधि-12 (बाइस) मास बिड़ को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 29.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।
3. निग आ सू सं 105/EE/S Div/2018-19 Name of Work "Comprehensive maintenance through outsourcing including day to day maintenance & special repair work in respect of civil works in 1275 various type of qtrs at CGH Complex, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi for a period of 2 months", अनुमानित लागत ₹ 21,83,223/-, घोहर राशि ₹ 43,664/-, कार्य निष्पन्न अवधि-02 (दो) मास बिड़ को जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय 29.10.2018 को 12:00 बजे तक।

नोट:- बिड़ प्राप्त कर अन्य विकल्प वेबसाइट www.tenderwizard.com/CPWD से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। प्रेस विज्ञापन www.eprocure.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

Despite talk of equality, women bosses still rare in US

New York: This year was touted as the year of women in politics in the United States, but in the business world, female bosses remain few and far between.

And some warn the situation is unlikely to improve with men unwilling to play the role of mentor to younger female colleagues in the era of the #MeToo movement, which has heightened awareness of sexual abuse and inappropriate behaviour in the workplace.

The departure in September of India's Indra Nooyi as head of PepsiCo after more than a decade in the job has only reinforced a trend that has been growing for the past two years: the decline in the number of women CEOs even as debate about the need for

equality in the workplace wages, and amid increasing calls for women to break through the "glass ceiling".

Recently, a number of prominent women have left their posts as company heads, including Denise Morrison of Campbell Soup, Margo Georgiadis of Mattel, Sheryl MyCo of Avon, Meg Whitman of Hewlett-Packard, Ursula Burns of Xerox, and Ellen Kullman of Dupont.

All of them have been replaced by men, a blow for diversity since fewer than five per cent of leaders of the S&P 500 largest enterprises are now women, down from 5.4 per cent in 2017.

"We are going in the wrong direction," said Lorraine Hariton, whose NGO Catalysts

advocates for women in senior positions.

"Women have gotten into entry-level positions very successfully, and then they get to middle management, and things stall out," she said. "Women still today are not reaching the top, particularly women of colour."

Dismissing the idea that the glass ceiling is down to women's decision to focus on family rather than career, experts lay the blame more on deep-rooted cliches.

Hariton said her group's research "shows that the stereotype that men 'take charge' and women 'take care' puts women leaders in a double bind and can potentially undermine their leadership and career advancement options." **AFP**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. I, JAMMU

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Fresh Short e-NIT No. CD-I/122 of 2018-19 Dated 16-10-2018 (2nd Call)
Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I, Jammu on behalf of Governor of J&K State, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. upto 1600 Hrs on 27-10-2018 for the following work.

S.No.1 Name of Work:- Balance work for Completion of road from Chakroi to Nowabad via Hansa and Berla by way of construction of 10.00 Mtrs Span RCC Bridge on Chai Nallah on downstream side of road, 0.50 Mtr Span RCC culvert (03 Nos.) and Edge Wall (125 Mtrs) including allied links by way of providing and laying of RBM Filling and 150mm thick WBM Grade-II (Shingling) Under NABARD (2nd Call)
Name of Division :- PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu.
Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs):- 59.63
Cost of Document (In Rs.) :- 1000/-
Earnest Money (In Rs.) :- 119260/-
Time Allowed for complete on :- 06 Months
Time & Date of Opening of tender :- 29-10-2018 at or after (1300 hours)

Class of Contractor :- "A" Class
1/ Date of Publishing from 17-10-2018
2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jtenders.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 17-10-2018 to 27-10-2018 (1600 Hrs).

Sd/- (Er. S. A Wani)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. I Jammu

WESTERN RAILWAY E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/41/2018 Date 19/10/2018

S. N.	Tender No.	Description of Material	Quantity	EMD (₹)
935	06-18-5058	Microprocessor Controller For Roof Mounted AC	47 Set.	99500
936	03-18-3021	Ply Wood For General Purpose	514.2 Sqmm	6900
937	04-18-1706	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	58508 Kgs.	67000
938	04-18-1718	Boron Free Non Chromate Type Corrosion Inhibitor	19740 Ltr.	66400
939	04-18-1720	Non Destructive Testing Penetrants	2496 Set.	22500
940	15-18-1837	Bolt For Axle Box Roller	5373 Set.	13400
941	16-17-5045	Retro Filament	40 Nos.	1000000
942	22-17-5016	BL Switch	130 Nos.	74100
943	22-17-5119	Set of Axle Box	1 Set.	18900
944	04-18-1701	Industrial Dissolved Acetylene Gas	12385 Cum.	60800
945	07-18-5379	High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter (HASSDAC)	25 Set.	378900
946	10-17-1230	'193 SQMM, Hard Drawn Joint Less Grooved Copper Contact Wire	40000 Kgs.	500000
947	10-18-5083	Various size of Copper Conductor Cable	8000 Mtr.	17700
948	15-18-0522	Silent Block For Bolted Design Anchor Link	7305 Nos.	79800
949	15-18-1004	Lower Spring Seat For Axle Box Guide Arrangement	3647 Nos.	95900
950	22-18-3287	EP Contactor Complete	67 Nos.	52600
951	23-18-2280	Clutch Sleeve For Slack Adjuster Type IRSA 600	74 Nos.	700
952	07-18-5378	Block Proving With Digital Axle Counter Using UFSBI	41 Set.	500000
953	09-18-1745	AOH Kit For ELGI Compressor	161 Nos.	5885
954	22-18-4043	Set of Dampers	2 Set.	16200
955	22-18-5006	Set of Cable Terminal	14 Set.	24300
956	23-18-2283	Mandatory Kit For IRSA-600 Type Slack Adjuster Consisting of 8 Items	3284 Nos.	12700
957	24-18-2540	Axle Suspension Bearing Oil	19410 Ltr.	35200
958	11-18-5026	Percutaneous Foraminoscopy For Neurotome & Discectomy Set	2 Set.	30400
959	24-18-2521	Gear Case Oil-Camex Compound-H	9670 Kgs.	25100

Tender Opening Date for above tenders are, Sr. No. 935: 09.11.2018, Sr. No. 936 to 943: 12.11.2018, Sr. No. 944 to 951: 13.11.2018, 952 to 957: 14.11.2018, 958 to 959: 15.11.2018. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non-refundable) for manual tenders, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.irps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered.

For Principal Chief Materials Manager
About items needing new vendors, detailed information is available on portal, "E-exhibition for Vendor Development" on the home page of Western Railway website.
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follows us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

KONAKARN IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hetawane Medium Project Division, kamarli Tal- Pen Dist. Raigad
Email:- eehmpd@rediffmail.com Ph.No. 02143278011/278346

RATE LIST NOTICE
Date:- 12.10.2018

Detailed item wise rates are invited, from accredited consultants/agencies, in two separate envelopes (Forest Clearance And Environmental Clearance) for Samberkund Medium Project (Irrigation Project), Tal.- Alibag, Dist.-Raigad (Maharashtra) for Environmental clearance & approx. 235 ha. of Forest land clearance from Ministry of Environmental and Forest (MoEF), Govt. of India.

The Rates will be used for the preparation of estimates of Environmental clearance & 235 ha. of Forest land clearance from accredited Consultants/Agencies.

Accredited consultants/agencies should submit their itemwise rates, in two separate envelopes (Forest Clearance And Environmental Clearance) from Period 22/10/2018 to 31/10/2018 to Executive Engineer, Hetawane Medium Project Division, Kamarli, Tal.- Pen, Dist.-Raigad (Maharashtra).

Note:- Right To Reject any /all the rates without assigning any reason thereof is reserved.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Hetawane Medium Project Division,
Kamarli, Tal.- Pen. Dist.-Raigad (Maharashtra)

DGIPR/2018/2019/3764

Saudi admits Khashoggi killed in Istanbul consulate

→The kingdom also sacked deputy intelligence chief Ahmad al-Assiri and royal court media advisor Saud al-Qahtani

AFP ■ RIVADH

Saudi Arabia on Saturday admitted that critic Jamal Khashoggi was killed inside its consulate in Istanbul, more than two weeks after his disappearance tipped the kingdom into one of its worst international crises.

The kingdom also sacked deputy intelligence chief Ahmad al-Assiri and royal court media advisor Saud al-Qahtani, both top aides to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who has faced mounting pressure over the Khashoggi affair.

The admission that Khashoggi died at the hands of Saudi officials after weeks of vehement denials by the Gulf kingdom comes after President Donald Trump said that the United States, which is Saudi Arabia's biggest backer, could impose sanctions if it was proved the journalist was killed.

Saudi Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said Khashoggi died after "discussions" at the consulate devolved into an altercation, without disclosing any details on the whereabouts of his body.

"Preliminary investigations... Revealed that the dis-



cussions that took place between him and the persons who met him... At the Saudi consulate in Istanbul led to a brawl and a fist fight with the citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, which led to his death, may his soul rest in peace," the attorney general said in a statement.

In its first reaction to Khashoggi's confirmed death, the White House said it was "saddened" but made no mention of any possible action against its major ally.

"We will continue to closely follow the international investigations into this tragic incident and advocate for justice that is timely, transparent and in accordance with all due process," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said.

Turkey will 'reveal whatever happened'

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey vowed on Saturday to reveal all details of the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi after Saudi Arabia admitted he was killed at its Istanbul consulate, state media reported.

"Turkey will reveal whatever had happened. Nobody should ever doubt about it," said Omer Celik, spokesman for the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), the

Anadolu news agency reported. Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor and critic of the Islamic petro-state's powerful crown prince, was last seen on October 2 entering his country's consulate in Istanbul.

Riyadh's admission came after persistent claims by the Saudi authorities that the journalist had left the consulate alive. Turkish police and prosecutors this week searched both the consulate as well as the consul's residence in Istanbul.



Ayman Nour, an Egyptian dissident, second left, and Turan Kislacki, right, head of the Turkish-Arab media association talk to the media regarding Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, near Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Saturday

Trump believes Saudi Arabia's explanation for Khashoggi's death

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Saturday he believed Saudi Arabia's explanation that dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi died in a "fist fight" and termed the arrest of 18 people by the Gulf kingdom "a great first step".

Saudi Arabia on Saturday announced that Khashoggi, 60, died following a "fist fight" at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, without disclosing any details on the whereabouts of his body.

"Preliminary investigations... Revealed that the discussions that took place between him and the persons who met him... At the Saudi consulate in Istanbul led to a brawl and a fist fight with the citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, which led to his death, may his soul rest in peace," Saudi Attorney General Sheikh Saud al-Mojeb said in a statement.

The government said that 18 Saudis had been arrested for further investigation while Deputy Director of Saudi Intelligence Ahmed al-Assiri has been dismissed.

"I do, I do," Trump said when asked about his confidence in the Saudi explanation. "Again, it's early. We haven't finished our review, our investigation. But I think it's a great first step," he said.

Trump said talks with



Saudi officials would continue, including raising some questions about their account of events that led to the death of Khashoggi, and that he would work with Congress to develop a response.

"We are saddened to hear confirmation of Mr Khashoggi's death, and we offer our deepest condolences to his family, fiancée and friends," White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said after Saudi Arabia issued the statement.

An investigation in the killing is on.

"The United States acknowledges the announcement from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that its investigation into the fate of Jamal Khashoggi is progressing and that it has taken action against the suspects it has identified thus far," Sanders said.

"We will continue to closely follow the international investigations into this tragic incident and advocate for justice that is timely, transparent and in accordance with all due process," the White House Press Secretary said.

170 killed as violence rocks Afghan polls

AFP ■ KABUL

Nearly 170 Afghans were killed or wounded in poll-related violence on Saturday, officials said, as the legislative election turned chaotic with many polling centres opening hours late — or not at all — due to technical glitches and lack of staff.

In the latest attack, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a Kabul polling centre, killing at least 15 people and wounding 20, police said, taking the number of casualties across the Afghan capital to 19 dead and nearly 100 wounded.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast, but the Taliban said earlier it had carried out more than 300 attacks on the "fake

election" across the war-torn country.

Violence also disrupted voting in the northern city of Kunduz where a health official said three people died and 39 were wounded after more than 20 rockets rained down on the provincial capital.

An Independent Election Commission (IEC) employee was killed and seven others were missing after the Taliban attacked a polling centre several kilometres from Kunduz city, destroying ballot boxes, provincial IEC director Mohammad Rasoul Omar said.

Eight explosions were recorded in the eastern province of Nangarhar, with two people killed and five wounded, the provincial governor's spokesman said.



Afghan men line up to cast their votes, outside a polling station during the Parliamentary election in Helmand province, south of Afghanistan on Saturday

Comoros Army starts operation to disperse rebels: Minister

AFP ■ MUTSAMUDU

The Comoros military on Saturday started an operation to disperse armed rebels who had taken control of Mutsamudu's city centre on the island of Anjouan earlier this week, a Government Minister said.

"The Army has started to take up positions inside the Medina (old city centre), no shots have been fired. The forces are content to secure the Medina so that the population can move freely," said Mahamoud Salim Hafi, who has led the Government response to the uprising.

US-backed Syria offensive kills 35 ISIS fighters

AFP ■ BEIRUT

An offensive by US-backed forces against the Islamic State group's last redoubt in eastern Syria killed 35 jihadists on Saturday, a Britain-based war monitor said.

Twenty-eight IS members were killed in air strikes by the US-led coalition around the town of Hajin, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Another seven jihadists were killed in ground fighting with the Syrian Democratic Forces, who launched a coalition-backed offensive against the IS-held pocket in the Euphrates Valley last month.

Moscow slams US for 'fabricating' election indictment

Moscow: Moscow on Saturday condemned Washington for indicting a Russian woman for interfering in US 2018 elections, saying the accusations were fabricated in order to impose further sanctions on Russia.

"We understand that Washington is fabricating a pretext in order to impose its notorious sanctions once more against our country," deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov was quoted as saying in a statement.

He complained that after previous accusations involving

the 2016 presidential elections won by Donald Trump, "in Washington they are now trying to play the same card ahead of the approaching election day in the US".

On November 6, Americans will vote in mid-term congressional elections.

The finance chief of Russia's leading troll farm, named as Yelena Khysainova, was indicted by the US Justice Department on Friday, becoming the first person to face charges of interfering in next month's vote.

AFP

AXIS BANK Retail Assets Centre, Noida: Axis Bank Ltd. K-10, 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, Retail Assets Centre, Delhi: Axis Bank Ltd. 408, Asaf Ali Road, Near Delle Cinema, New Delhi-110002. Retail Assets Centre, Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO 12, Sector 14, Urban Estate, Opp HUDA Office, Gurgaon, 122001 Haryana. Retail Assets Centre, Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sector 16, Faridabad, Haryana. Office - Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Corporate Office: Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025. Registered Office: Trishat, 3rd floor, opposite Samarshwar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

DEMAND NOTICE

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(1)(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

S. No	Name of The Borrower / Address/ Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name	Property Address of Secured Assets
1.	1. Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul R/O Flat No 201 2nd Floor Tower T -15 Park Floors Btpt Sec 76 Faridabad Haryana-121003 Also At: Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul R/O 101 Panch City S Sector-37 Gurgaon Haryana-122001 Also At: Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul House No. 2460, G.F., Sector 16, Faridabad 121001, Haryana Also At: Mr. Monish Paul S/O Kishan Chand Paul 94/65 Aggarwal Farm, Mansarovar, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan 2. Mr. Rajender Kumar S/O Mr. Budh Ram, R/O House No. 2619, Azad Nagar, Mujesar, Sector-24, Faridabad-121004 Haryana	Fully finished Flat No. T15-201 on Second Floor of Tower 15, having a super area of 1225 Sq. Ft. (113.805 Sq. Mtrs.) situated in Group Housing project known as park floors, Sector 76 Faridabad Haryana, alongwith the proportionate, undivided, impartible share only in the land underneath the said building in which the said unit is located, together with the right to use and access all common areas, paths, passages, benefits, and advantages, appurtenant whatsoever to the said unit or any part thereof and to hold the same unto and to the use of the Vendee
	NPA Date 11-Jun-18 Date of Demand Notice 5-Sep-18 Outstanding Amt (Rs.) As On Date of Notice Rs.3,705,424/- Loan Amount (Rs.) Rs.3,782,487/-	Situated within the revenue estate of Village Fajipur Majra, Nimka, Sub Tehsil Tiagaon, Distt. Faridabad and bounded as under: East: As Per Title Deed, West: As Per Title Deed, North: As Per Title Deed, South: As Per Title Deed
2.	1. Mr. Mahesh Sharma S/O Sh. Som Dutt Sharma R/O-67D, Pocket -R, Dilshad Garden New Delhi 110095 Also At: - Mr. Mahesh Sharma S/O Sh. Som Dutt Sharma C/o- M/S Shonkh Technologies Int. Ltd, 12th Floor Indira Prakash Building 21, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001 2. Mrs. Suman Sharma W/o- Sh. Mahesh Sharma R/O-67D, Pocket -R Dilshad Garden New Delhi 110095 3. Mr. Krishan Kumar Sharma (Guarantor) R/O - H -269, Alpha -II, Greater Noida U.P Also at: Mr. Krishan Kumar Sharma (Guarantor) LG Electronic India Private Limited 51, Udyog Vihar, Surajpur Kasana road, Greater Noida U.P - 4560900	A Residential DDA Flat bearing No 251-C, Pocket J &K, under MIG Category, 11nd Floor, situated in the layout plan of Dilshad Garden -110095 and bounded as under : East :As Per Sale Deed, West :As Per Sale Deed, North :As Per Sale Deed, South :As Per Sale Deed
	NPA Date 4-Jan-18 Date of Demand Notice 5-Sep-18 Outstanding Amt (Rs.) Rs.11,56,202/- As On Date of Notice Rs.1,480,615/- Loan Amount (Rs.) Rs. 1179000/-	Situated within the revenue estate of Village Fajipur Majra, Nimka, Sub Tehsil Tiagaon, Distt. Faridabad and bounded as under: East: As Per Title Deed, West: As Per Title Deed, North: As Per Title Deed, South: As Per Title Deed
3.	1. Mr. Sanjay Kumar, S/o - Sh. Narendar Kumar R/O- C-10/3, Pocket -10, Top Floor, Sector -15, Rohini, New Delhi -110089 Also At: Mr. Sanjay Kumar, S/o - Sh. Narendar Kumar C/o - Sanjay Enterprises, 131, AD Block, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi - 110089 Also At: Mr. Sanjay Kumar, S/o - Sh. Narendar Kumar Flat No-2039, 2nd Floor, Gayatri Lok, By - Pass Road Hardwar Village - Shekhpura URF Kankhal, Tehsil & Distt - Hardwar 2. Mrs. Preeti Puri W/O - Mr. Sanjay Kumar, R/O- C-10/3, Pocket -10, Top Floor, Sector -15, Rohini, New Delhi -110089 Also at: Mrs. Preeti Puri W/O Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Flat No 2039, 2nd Floor, Gayatri Lok, By - Pass Road Hardwar Village - Shekhpura URF Kankhal, Tehsil & Distt - Hardwar	Residential Flat no 2039, on 2nd Floor of the project Gayatri Lok situated at bypass road, Hardwar in revenue Village Shekhpura also Kankhal Pargana Jwalapur, Tehsil & Distt - Hardwar within the limits of Nagar Nigam Hardwar having total super area of 432 sq.ft i.e 40.14 sq. mtrs and total covered area of 272 square feet .Being one bedroom, one drawing room, one kitchen, one latrine-bathroom, balcony along with share and interest in the said land underneath the building in which said property is located and the common areas and facilities provided in the building/ scheme/ complex and bounded as under/According to sale Deed): East :As Per Sale Deed West :As Per Sale Deed North :As Per Sale Deed South :As Per Sale Deed
	NPA Date 10-Apr-16 Date of Demand Notice 29-Sep-18 Outstanding Amt (Rs.) As On Date of Notice Rs.1,108,000/- Loan Amount (Rs.) Rs.1,108,000/-	

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ co-borrower(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 21-10-2018, Place: Delhi Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.

US official: Trump likely to meet with Kim early next year

Washington: President Donald Trump will likely have his second meeting with Kim Jong Un early next year to continue charting a way for the North Korean leader to give up his nuclear weapons in a verifiable way.

A senior administration

official told White House reporters Friday that a meeting is "likely sometime after the first of the year."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because details of the meeting have not been finalized.

EUROPE-JAPAN, MISSION SET OUT FOR MERCURY

London: Two satellites developed in Europe and Japan are on their way to the Sun's closest planet Mercury. It is likely to take them seven years to reach their destination. The joint endeavour BepiColombo left Earth on an Ariane rocket that launched out of South America on Friday, the BBC said. The probes lifted clear of the Kourou spaceport in Atlantic coast.

Government Of Maharashtra
Office Of The Executive Engineer
Medium Project Divisional Unit, Ambadpat-Kual
Tal-Kudal, Dist-Sinhudurg, PIN Code-416520
E Mail Address: kundal.mpd@gmail.com, Telephone No. 02362-244241
E-Tender Notice No- 2 For 2018-19 (IInd Call)

Online electronic bids in B-1 Form for below mentioned work is invited by the Executive Engineer, Medium Project Divisional Unit, Ambadpal-Kudal from eligible and capable contractors. Main tender documents are available form Online bid preparation and submission on web site from Dt 05.10.2018 to Dt. 19.10.2018. Any conditional tender will not be accepted

Name of work:-	Estimate for Computation of Blue Line and Red Line including marking for Vaghotan, Devgad, Naringe, Achra, Gad, Karli, Terekhol & Tillari River in District - Ratnagiri, Sindhudurga & Kolhapur.
Estimated cost put to Tender	Rs. 412.08 Lakhs.
Tender documents are available form Online bid preparation and submission	Dt. 22.10.2018 To Dt. 5.11.2018
E-Tender Opening	Dt. 12.11.2018

The information regarding Online electronic bids are below:

- <https:// wrd.maharashtra.gov.in>
- <https:// www.mahatenders.gov.in>

(If any change regarding the above tender notice will be available on above web site)

- Copy to notice board in the office of the Executive Engineer, Medium Project Divisional Unit, Ambadpal-Kudal .

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Medium Project Division Unit,
Ambadpal-Kudal

DGIPR/2018/2019/3776

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext., New Delhi- 110055

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (1)(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Vikas Kumar Sharma / Vie Technology Pvt Ltd / Rajni / LBDEL0002305468	Third Floor, Property Bearing No. 13/2, Tihar I, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi / 15-10-2018	April 27, 2018 Rs.56,76,290/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 20-Oct-2018
Place: Delhi NCR

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division,
P.W.D., Sawali Building Ganpat Jadhav Marg Worli Mumbai-18.
e-mail : elcentralmumbai.ee@mahapwd.com
Tel. No. 022-24924349
e-Tender Notice No.40/2018-19

Online item rates tenders form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, Worli Mumbai for the following work from Electrical Licence Holder Contractor. B-I e-Tender document can be downloaded from the e-Tendering portal of P.W.D., Government of Maharashtra <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

The Executive Engineer, CMED, Worli, Mumbai reserves right to accept or reject any tender. The conditional tender will not be accepted.

Sr No	Name Of Work	Amount
1.	Est no1509 of 2018-19 Providing and Replacement to 2 Nos of Kone Make 8 passengers (544 kg) capacity Lifts for G+10 upper flors with necessary Electrical installation work in Gulmohar Building at mazgaon Court Compound, Mazgaon, mumbai.	Rs. 5323728/-
2.	Est no. 1513 of 2018-19 Providing Fully Comprehensive Maintenance of 11 to and 22 ton capacity package type Aic-conditioning system at 3rd flr C& D wing and 8th Flr C&D wing, sales tax new building, Mazgaon, Mumbai (3 years)	Rs. 5216016/-
3.	Est no. 1604 of 2018-19 - sub Work -3 - Providing VRF Air Conditioning System in the Auditorium at new Administrative Building at sir jj Hospital, Byculia Mumbai.	Rs. 8364717/-

- Contactoer Should Quote Price Excluding G.S.T. G.S.T upto 12% will be paid Extra.
- Download/ Sale Period: Date: 20.10.2018 to 13.11.2018 up to 05.30 pm.
- Bid Opening Date: 16.11.2018 after 02.01 pm. As Possible Time.
- All information about e-Tender is available on following website, <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
- (If there will be change in e-Tender Notice, it will be informed on above website)
- Executive Engineer, Central Mumbai Electrical Division, Worli Mumbai for office Notice Board.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Central Mumbai Electrical Division
P.W.D. Worli Mumbai

EE/CMED/TC/3141/2018
Date: 11/10/2018
DGIPR/2018/2019/3757

ABD BACKS INDIA TO DO WELL IN AUSTRALIA

HARSHIT BISHT ■ NEW DELHI

South African great AB de Villiers believes India "has a very good chance" of beating Australia in the upcoming away series notwithstanding their recent losses overseas.

India played better in South Africa than what they managed in England but ended up losing both the high-profile series.

The batting let India down on both tours but de Villiers backed batsmen to do well Down Under in the four-Test series beginning from 7th December in Adelaide.

"They have a very good chance, to be honest with you. They came to South Africa, probably played better cricket (but lost 1-2). Lost in England now but once again the first Test was on a knife's edge and could have gone either way, which would have changed the whole complexion of the series," said de Villiers here on Saturday. "Going to Australia now, I think if they

can keep the fast bowlers fit they have a very good chance. I saw some of the guys were not hundred percent fit (Bumrah and Bhuvni but have recovered now). If they can get all the fast bowlers ready, if not the best, they are one of the best bowling attacks in the world at the moment. And we know what the batting unit is capable of," said the 34-year-old.

The former South African international backs Indian batsmen referring them as the best in the world despite their poor outing in England, which cost side way too much.

"India's Bowling attack is one of the best but India's batting lineup is the best in the world. So there's absolutely no problem with the batting lineup amid the poor outing in Eng, that's my opinion. They can't always score 500-600 but we know what they are capable of."

The series opener in South Africa and England were fiercely fought but India failed

to win the crucial moments of the game. De Villiers feels the trend of losing the series opener will have to change if India were to do well against Australia, who will be without their star players David Warner and Steve Smith.

"They have got to take the opportunity, especially going to Australia. If you slip first Test match there, it becomes a snowball. Actually anywhere in the world, the minute you are playing away from home, the way you start is very important. They slipped in South Africa and England and it snowballed (into a series loss)," said de Villiers on the sidelines of Royal Stag Barrel Select Perfect Strokes.

Talking about young Prithvi Shaw, who gained highlights after his brilliant debut against West Indies in the recently concluded Test series. Ab says that young Shaw has got a lot of talent and is going to be a big asset.



"He has got that talent. I have seen him playing well in the IPL and told Virat that this guy is going to be amazing one day. But it doesn't matter what we say and that's what Prithvi believes. We'll see how it goes. He has got a lot of talent within him. He is a fantastic player. He has got a bright future. He just needs to tell himself that he really wants to achieve this."

De Villiers who played alongside Virat in IPL for eight years also praised Virat's captaincy saying that he is a great leader.

"Virat is a fantastic captain. Great leader. He has got a really good mind around the game of cricket. He has learned a lot in the past few years and is growing as a captain. He is someone who Indian player follows."

He also added that Indian skipper is well aware of his game and that what makes him different from the others.

"Virat knows his game very well and

that's the secret of his playing. The best possible of playing cricket is to know your strength and that you can maximize when you are out there in the field. And he knows that well which in turn makes him the best batsmen in the world."

On his remaining cricketing career, de Villiers said he is not done yet and is looking forward to playing South Africa's newly launched domestic T20 league next month. He will also continue to play in the IPL.

"I am pretty happy with my decision (of quitting international cricket) but I am not finished yet. You will see me playing around the world in the next few years. I still love the game but playing 12 months in a year got a little too much for me," he said.

"I had to make a really tough decision. But as they say 'never say never'. You never know what is going to happen in the next six to 12 months. It has been a very intense 15 years," he said.

India look to solve middle-order puzzle

Keeping World Cup preparation in mind, Men in Blue seek perfect combination

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Formidable India will hope to get more answers for their unresolved middle-order puzzle when they take on a reeling West Indies in the five-match ODI series starting here on Sunday, ticking off the home team's countdown to the 2019 World Cup.

The World Cup in England is less than eight months away and India have 18-odd games left to decide their middle order, mainly the number four position where many have been tried but with little success.

The series will also mark captain Virat Kohli's return to white-ball cricket as he had taken a much needed break during the team's triumphant campaign in Asia Cup.

Kohli is expected try out a new combination in the middle order that will see Rishabh Pant make his ODI debut, following his exploits in the longest format.

The 21-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman, who scored a century at the Oval in his debut series against England, continued his sublime form with consecutive scores of 92 against the West Indies in the two-match Test series.

The focus once again will be on MS Dhoni, whose batting ability is on the wane and with limited playing time in the middle, the job gets only tougher for the legendary cricketer. However, chief selector MSK Prasad has time and again said that Dhoni remains the first choice wicketkeeper at least till the World Cup.

Dhoni was far from his best in the Asia Cup, scoring 77 runs in four innings with an average of 19.25 and a strike rate of 62.09.

While the top-three select themselves, the spotlight will also be



India vs West Indies
Live from 1:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

on Ambati Rayudu, who is expected to bat four and will look to carry forward his fine form of Asia Cup where he amassed 175 runs, averaging 43.75 from six innings. However, time may be running out for Manish Pandey as he is yet to cement his place in the team after making his debut more than three years ago.

Ravindra Jadeja in the lower-order and in the absence of injured Hardik Pandya, he will have to step-up. The preceding Test series was productive for the southpaw and so was the Asia Cup, where he made his ODI comeback after a year's gap.

Looking at the bowling attack,

the spin department will see the potent duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal, while fast bowlers Mohammad Shami and an in-form Umesh Yadav will share the workload in the absence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, who have been rested for the first two ODIs.

Rookie left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed, who impressed in the two matches he played in Asia Cup, will look to grab the opportunity.

Unlike the Tests, the West Indies were expected to be much more competitive in ODIs but they are grappling with multiple woes.

Dynamic opener Evin Lewis has withdrawn from the ODI series citing personal reasons, dealing another blow to the side which is already missing Chris Gayle and Andre Russell.

To make matters worse, coach Stuart Law, who is into his penultimate assignment with the team, will not be allowed in the dressing room in the first two ODIs due to a breach of ICC's code of conduct.

However, the team has veteran Marlon Samuels, captain and all-rounder Jason Holder and pacer Kemar Roach. The squad features three uncapped players — opener Chandrapaul Hemraj, all-rounder Fabian Allen and pacer Oshane Thomas.

The ninth ranked side lost 1-2 to Bangladesh in its last ODI assignment and has not won a series since 2014.

The venue, Barsapara Stadium, will be hosting its second international match after staging the debut game, a T20 between India and Australia last year. The game had made headlines for wrong reasons after the visiting team's bus was attacked on way to the hotel.

Rayudu's consistency will solve middle-order problem: Kohli

GUWAHATI: India captain Virat Kohli on Saturday said his side's middle-order puzzle will be solved if Ambati Rayudu cements his place at the crucial No 4 position in the matches ahead of next year's World Cup.

Kohli said the challenge was only to find someone for the No 4 slot and with Rayudu stepping up for that position in recent times, the batting order is more or less settled.

"The only position we were trying to figure out was number four for a long time. We tried many players who unfortunately could not capitalise or cement their places in a way we wanted," Kohli said ahead of the first one-dayer against the West Indies here on Sunday.

"With Rayudu coming in and playing well in the Asia Cup, it's about giving him enough game time till the World Cup so that the particular slot will be sorted for us," he added.

On the back of a strong performance for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Rayudu, who scored 602 runs at an average of 43.00 and a strike-rate of 149.75, had earned a national call-up for the ODI leg of the England tour but was dropped after failing the 'Yo-Yo' test.

But he made a successful return to the Asia Cup in UAE last month and played an instrumental role in India's victorious campaign.

"The team felt there — and I also watched him — that he (Rayudu) is designed to play that middle order batsman's role. We feel that our middle-order is more or less balanced now," Kohli said.

"We believe he is the right person to capitalise on that spot. He is experienced and has won many games for his state and also in the IPL. He has a great ODI record already for India. I think the batting order is sorted." PTI



Adil Rashid celebrates with teammates after dismissing Sri Lankan batsman AP

ENGLAND SEAL ODI SERIES

AFP ■ KANDY

Thunder, lightning and torrential rain halted England on their Sri Lanka tour on Saturday, but they wrapped up the one-day series against their hosts with a faster run rate.

After Dasun Shanaka hit a boundary-smattered 66 to help Sri Lanka make 273-7 from their 50 overs, Jason Roy made 45 and England pair Joe Root and captain Eoin Morgan were just shifting up a gear in the chase when dark clouds gathered over Kandy.

With England on 132-2 from 27 overs, Root (32) and Morgan (31) seemed well placed to put their side on the route to victory. They already led the series 2-0 going into the fourth of the five games.

As with the other wins, the decision came with the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern run rate system, and England were awarded victory by 18 runs. Every game in the series has now been halted or interrupted by rain.

While frustrated, Morgan will be satisfied with the show from his team in difficult circumstances.

Roy closed in on a half century which included a six and five fours when an Akila Dananjaya leg spin hit his pad as he came down the wicket. The

umpire did not give him out -- but Sri Lanka demanded a review, which proved their shouting was justified.

Morgan himself was shunting ahead with a six and three fours in 34 balls when the deluge started.

Earlier, Shanaka led another starring role for Sri Lanka's middle order after England won the toss and made the home side bat at the Pallekele stadium.

Opener Niroshan Dickwella's 52 was the only resistance shown by Sri Lanka's leading batsmen.

Shanaka made five sixes and four fours in his highest 50-over score, which kept Sri Lanka in a game they had to win to hold out any hope of avoiding another series defeat.

Moeen Ali was England's most effective bowler, taking two for 55 as the tourists used a mixture of spin and pace to maintain pressure.

Dickwella steadied the Sri Lanka innings, putting on 60 for the second wicket, with captain Dinesh Chandimal (30) after Sadeera Samaawickrama fell for one. Thisara Perera (44) and Dananjaya (32 not out) put on 56 for the seventh wicket to give a late boost to the score.

The final one-day game is in Colombo on Tuesday while the two play a 20 over challenge next Saturday. They will play three Tests in November.

B'desh nervous of Zimbabwe upset

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza warned his players against complacency ahead of the start of a one day series against outsiders Zimbabwe on Sunday.

Zimbabwe go into Sunday's game in Dhaka as whipping boys of international cricket after losing every match during a recent tour of South Africa.

The visitors have not won a one day international in Bangladesh since 2010.

"If we win everyone will say this is what should have happened. But if we lose they will take it differently," said Mortaza, whose team are seventh in the world rankings against Zimbabwe's 11th.

"It can create pressure at the back of the mind. It's not as though we have never lost to Zimbabwe." Mortaza said the three match series — with two more 50 over games in Chittagong on Wednesday and Friday — would be doubly important as Bangladesh have only four more series to prepare for next year's World Cup in England.

"They have almost all their senior players back and

outside Zimbabwe they have the best record in Bangladesh. So we have to give 100 per cent," he said.

An eight-wicket loss in Friday's warm-up against a Bangladesh Cricket Board XI did not help the visitors' morale, but Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza



B'desh skipper Masrafe Mortaza speaks during press conference AP

insisted his side was not despondent.

"We didn't have a great time in South Africa or in the match yesterday. But the main thing is to focus on tomorrow and to focus on the tour and what we have come to achieve," he said.

"We can only go up from where we are and we are really looking forward to this. The guys are upbeat."



Langer urges Australia to think with their feet

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

Head coach Justin Langer on Saturday urged his batsmen to use their feet in Test matches following his side's 373-run defeat against Pakistan, to lose the two-Test series 1-0.

Langer, himself a batsman of great repute, said feet movement is important.

"You talk about the great Australian players they moved their feet like boxers, every one of them," said Langer, who scored 7696 runs in 105 Tests during an illustrious career.

"They had footwork patterns and then from there you have the skill of run-scoring ability. And it's a really important thing."

"Even in T20 cricket or one-day and most certainly first-class and Test cricket when the ball starts moving around, if you don't move your feet then you're going to come unstuck." Langer termed series loss as

disappointing after the first Test fightback.

"I think really, a huge disappointment," said Langer.

"I thought our preparation was brilliant. We came into the first Test really encouraged, really upbeat. We knew we were evenly matched with Pakistan in terms of ages and games played."

Langer admitted key batsman Shaun Marsh was a big flop in the series, managing just 14 runs in four innings.

"Shaun has obviously had a poor series and he knows that. You can see it in his face he knows he's had a poor series," said Langer of the left-handed top order batsman.

"Whether you're making them in T20 cricket or one day cricket or Sheffield Shield cricket or Test cricket. The only currency of value are runs. That's just the truth of it," said the coach.

Perfect Mumbai win Hazare title

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Aditya Tare struck a fluent half-century as a clinical Mumbai defeated Delhi by four wickets to win their third Vijay Hazare Trophy title at M Chinnaswamy stadium here on Saturday.

Mumbai last won the trophy way back in 2006-07 when they defeated Rajasthan.

Opting to bowl after winning the toss, pacers, Shivam Dubey (3/29) and Dhawal Kulkarni (3/30) picked up three wickets apiece as Mumbai bowled out Delhi for a paltry 177 in 45.4 overs.

Later, Tare starred with the bat with an 89-ball 71 that included 13 boundaries and a six and in the company of crisis man Siddesh Lad (48) stitched 105 runs for the fifth wicket to seal the win for Mumbai with 15 overs to spare.

But Tare had his heart in his mouth in 19th over of the innings when he survived a caught behind decision. Repeated TV replays showed the ball had bounced before nesting into Delhi wicket-keeper Unmukt Chand's gloves.

Tare eventually fell prey to Manan Sharma, trapped plumb in front of the wicket in the 31st over but by then he had already taken Mumbai to sniffing distance of a win. Lad's valiant 48 came off 68 deliveries with four boundaries and two sixes but he fell two short of his half century, caught by Dhruv Shorey off Lalit Yadav with Mumbai scoreboard reading 176 for six.

Chasing 178, Mumbai lost in-form Prithvi Shaw for eight in third ball of



Mumbai players celebrate with winners trophy after beating Delhi in Vijay Hazare final PTI

the innings after he smashed two consecutive boundaries of Navdeep Saini.

Ajinkya Rahane (10), captain Shreyas Iyer (7) and Suryakumar Yadav (4) all departed cheaply to Saini and Kulwant Khejroli, leaving Mumbai struggling at 40 for four in 7.4 overs.

Earlier, Delhi began their innings on a bad note with Mumbai pacers Kulkarni and Tushar Deshpande exploiting the moist conditions.

Deshpande (2/30), Dubey and Kulkarni picked up eight wickets between them to rattle Delhi's batting line-up.

Captain Gautam Gambhir got out for one in second over off the

innings. Soon Unmukt Chand (13) and Manan Sharma (5) also went cheaply.

Delhi were reeling at 21 for three in six overs, but Nitish Rana (13) and Dhruv Shorey (31) tried to stabilise the innings for a brief period before the former was removed by Dubey, leaving Delhi precariously placed at 60 for four.

Shorey too did not last long as he was stumped by Tare off a brilliant Shams Mulani's delivery.

Thereafter, Pawan Negi (21), Subodh Bhati (25) and Himmat Singh (41) scored vital runs to take Delhi to 177.

But once Negi walked back to the pavilion retired hurt, Mumbai ran through Delhi's tail in quick time.

I'm empathetic to a fault. I really do — embarrassingly enough — tear up when someone squishes a bug in front of me — Kristen Bell



3 The Indian Guru in Kenya
The sheer humility of the narration in Narendra Raval's autobiography is impressive, coming as it does from a self-made billionaire in Africa



6 The gaslight effect
There is growing awareness around the signs of coercive control — the psychological abuse of a partner through threats and restrictions



7 Learn to pray properly
Our method of praying has to change from ordering God to seeking His guidance, and we will never be disappointed

FROM THE INSIDE

SRI LANKA

The road to recovery



The island nation has made significant strides after the LTTE's reign of terror ended in 2009. And for that, the country is obliged to former Lieutenant Colonel in Sri Lankan Army, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, also the younger brother of former President Mahinda. He tells KUMAR CHELLAPPAN how the US and other Western nations played a key role in the 2015 regime change, and how Sri Lanka will never allow its soil to be used by foreign elements to work against India

Once known as the Pearl of Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka has suffered a series of setbacks due to power play and ethnic crisis, which prompted Pope Francis to describe it as the "tear drop in the Indian Ocean". Life in Sri Lanka has undergone a major change from the crisis-ridden period of 1975 to 2009, and the 'tear drop' is slowly but steadily on its way to regain the sobriquet of 'the pearl'. The number of people who lost their lives and property during the period of strife runs into lakhs. Several eminent people, both Sinhala and Tamil, were the victims of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the dreaded terrorist organisation led by Velupillai Prabhakaran.

The remnants of the LTTE days are still visible in the island nation, as people are yet to recover fully from the reign of kidnappings, murders, and mayhem. When there were no healthy men to fight as suicide bombers and terrorists, the LTTE forcefully took away children above the age of six and groomed them as young warriors. Even girls were not spared in this coercive recruitment drive. Adele, wife of the then LTTE strategist Anton Balasingham, played a key role in this ghastly drive. After the end of the conflict in May 2009, human rights organisations have been on the warpath with the Sri Lankan Government with demands to declare the army commanders and political chiefs, who led the country during the civil war, as criminals and prosecute them. Although, they never mention Adele or other LTTE leaders, who wreaked havoc all over South Asia.

If Sri Lanka is breathing easy and on its way to recovery, it's majorly because of one man. No, it's not Mahinda Rajapaksa, the then President, who led the nation in obliterating the Tamil Tigers who were fighting for secession from the country and demanding a separate Tamil Eelam. The country is obliged to a low-profile former Lieutenant Colonel in Sri Lankan Army, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, the younger brother of Mahinda.

Till Mahinda became the President in 2005, nobody had heard of Gotabhaya, who had retired from the Army. It was in November 2005 that Mahinda appointed Gotabhaya as the Defence Secretary of Sri Lanka with the mandate to obliterate the LTTE. When he assumed office, the LTTE had emerged as heroes among a section of the global community, who saw in Prabhakaran a combination of Che Guevara

(the Argentine Marxist revolutionary), Ho Chi Minh (the Vietnamese revolutionary), and Yasser Arafat (the Palestine Liberation Organization chief). But Prabhakaran was the embodiment of all that represented evil. The LTTE fought on land, water, and air; its activists died to kill. Any voice different from that of Prabhakaran was silenced.

The media blitzkrieg unleashed by the LTTE across the world portrayed the Sinhalese as a cruel, unethical, dictatorial, and racist regime. The LTTE media had stakes in the media (especially in Tamil Nadu), which portrayed the Tigers as heroes. Pictures of Sinhalese and Tamil children butchered by the LTTE, the Muslims slaughtered by them in Batticaloa, and thousands of Buddhist monks, who were massacred by suicide assassins were conveniently buried by the pro-LTTE media, as well as human rights organisations across the globe.

Gotabhaya entered the Defence Ministry headquarters at a time when the morale of the forces was at its lowest. The LTTE had outnumbered and outmaneuvered the Sri Lanka Army and taken possession of the Elephant Pass, the wild and narrow link connecting the mainland with Jaffna in the north. "The moment he was appointed as the Defence Secretary with the mandate to finish off the LTTE challenge, we knew that Prabhakaran's fate was sealed. The question I asked myself was how long it would take for Gota to give us the results," said Siri Fernando, former corporate honcho and a long-time friend of the Rajapaksas.

Siri recounted the day when he and his journalist wife, Hiranthi, called on Gota to extend Christmas greetings. "Gota spent considerable time with us that day and spoke to us about his challenges and strategies to lift the morale of the forces. By the time we came out of the meeting, we were sure that Mahinda had appointed the right person for the job, and the mission would be accomplished," said Siri, who is leading a retired life in Colombo. The 78-year-old also recollected how Gotabhaya entrusted officers with the responsibility of speaking to each soldier and find out the problems they faced in the fight against the Tigers. "When Gota took charge, he had to deal with some Commanders who he never saw eye to eye with. But Gota was made of dif-

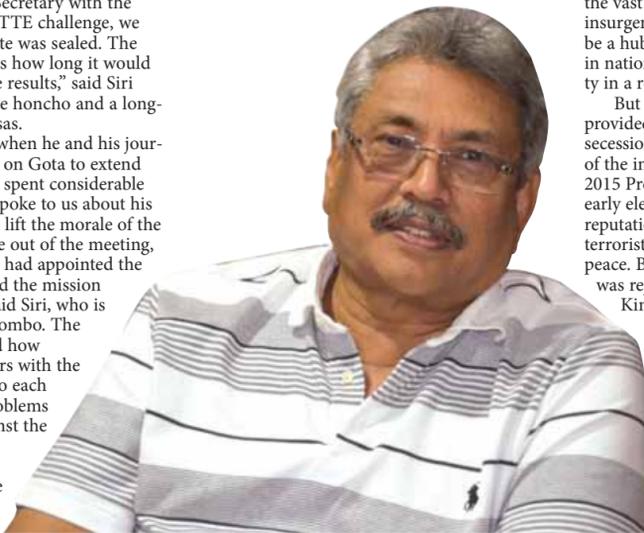
ferent mettle and the LTTE thoroughly underestimated his abilities," added Siri.

Now Gotabhaya, the soldier, has melted down. He doesn't speak much because his actions, looks, expressions, and body language are sufficient to make his colleagues understand what is on his mind. Trained in some of the best military establishments in the world, including the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington, Nilgiri, and the Jungle Warfare School in Assam, Gotabhaya is still passionate about his alma mater.

The Sri Lankan forces crushed the LTTE by May 2009, of course, with active and dynamic help from India. The economy of the island nation had been hit severely because of three decades of terrorism. Mahinda, who led the country in its fight against the LTTE, gave a new direction to the economy and development once the civil war came to an end. Massive infrastructure development to make Sri Lanka an El Dorado began in right earnest. The economy gathered pace as the tourism industry flourished in an unprecedented manner. An annual conclave called the Defence Seminar was organised by the Sri Lankan Army to share with friendly nations its experiences in fighting terrorism and the vast knowledge gained by it in counter-insurgency operations. Colombo turned out to be a hub of disseminating skill and knowledge in national development, prosperity, and security in a regional and global context.

But in spite of the excellent leadership he provided to the country in its fight against secessionism, terrorism, and isolation by some of the international bodies, Mahinda lost the 2015 Presidential Elections. He decided to hold early elections to reap the benefits of his good reputation and the image he had gained fighting terrorists and making the country a haven of peace. But he lost, a la Winston Churchill, who was rejected by the people of the United Kingdom in the 1945 General Election. It was the leadership of Churchill which led the Allies to a great victory in World War II, defeating the then "evils" that included Hitler and Mussolini. (It is another thing that Churchill was called out of retirement in 1951 by the same British people and he served them as the Prime Minister till 1955).

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"Don't ask me anything about national politics. I am not in politics and won't be able to tell you anything

about the recent scenario," were the words with which Gotabhaya welcomed this writer to his house. "Tell me about my friend Dr Subramanian Swamy. He is the best friend Sri Lanka has in India. How is he?" asked Gota as we settled into his beautifully arranged office-cum-library.

More than the present-day politics in Sri Lanka, what was haunting the mind was the reason behind Mahinda's defeat in the 2015 polls. "It is something that has to be explained in detail. The result of that election is also an experience we gained in our strides to progress and prosperity," said Gotabhaya before revealing the hitherto untold story. The reasons for Mahinda's defeat are as important as the lessons gained by the outside world from the victories registered by the Sri Lankan Army in its war against the LTTE and holds good for all politicians, irrespective of the region, nation, continent, and the part of the world they belong to.

According to Gotabhaya, Mahinda declared the elections well in advance because he was confident of winning. "It was a winnable election because of a number of factors. Once the LTTE was wiped out, the country lost no time in ushering in an era of development. Economy was progressing and was in a good condition. The entire country was witnessing developmental activities on a fast rate. We were doing quite well in agriculture; farmers were getting good prices for their crops and were economically well off. All over the country, there was a feel good factor and the general impression was that it was a winnable time and thus the election," explained Gotabhaya.

He pointed out that though there were various forces working against the Mahinda Government, they were a minuscule fraction of the total population. "They unleashed a campaign accusing Mahinda and his family of corruption. They alleged that the Government was authoritative and Mahinda's family was calling the shots, which were false and blatant lies," he said.

Mahinda's other brothers — Chamal, Basil, and Namal — are active in politics and were holding important positions in the Government during his tenure as the President. Basil was in the Government not because he was the brother of the President, but because he was the main strategist and brain of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.



HALF OF INDIA'S
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS,
WHICH ARE LOCATED IN
SOUTH INDIA, ARE WITHIN
500 KM OF EACH OTHER



LESSONS FROM HYDERABAD AIRPORT

Built economically yet without any compromise on aesthetics or quality, Hyderabad's new Interim International Departure Terminal is a lesson in the development of airports in our country, writes SRINATH RANGARAJAN

It does not take much time to recognise that today's airports are fast becoming hotspots for congestion. The long queues at check-in counters, clogging of boarding gates and associated risks and delays clearly reiterate this. Many of the major airports in India are already operating beyond their capacity and a few more are expected to breach their capacity this year. To refresh our memory, it was only around a decade ago that the new, state-of-the-art airports were built in Bengaluru and Hyderabad with Delhi. A few more are set to join the club. These airports were designed with operational capacities considering the passenger-traffic growth for at least the next two decades. But the unprecedented growth in the Indian aviation industry at nearly 20 per cent every year is crippling our Airport Infrastructure. Added to this, we have the UDAN Scheme of the Government of India to boost regional connectivity which is in turn contributing further to the increased demand.

While India's airport infrastructure needs to take a giant leap, it also needs to be understood that any expansion will take a time of three-four years before the facility gets operational for passengers. With the current geometric progression of the year-on-year growth, any meaningful enhancement of capacity should also address the interim passenger growth that will be taking place in these three to four years in a phased manner.

The recently inaugurated Interim International Departure Terminal (IIDT) building at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad has not got a lot of attention. It is not a giant infrastructure project built with thousands of crores spent over the years. The press coverage on it has also been meagre. Needless to say, it is not something that has sought much limelight. However, there are a lot of things which need to be appreciated in this facility. This terminal building has been carved out of a meticulous planning exercise involving and analysing the pre-

sent traffic growth at RGIA, projected traffic growth, rapid capacity assessments of airside and land-side facilities among others. While analysing these at micro levels, it was observed that passenger traffic is stressed the most at the pre-boarding stage. Thus developed this idea of an exclusive concourse to handle check-in, security, immigration and customs process for international passengers. After completing these formalities, passengers will move into the main passenger terminal building through a connecting corridor from where they will proceed to boarding. The terminal will also have a premium check-in facility from where passengers travelling in business class can avail personalised and assisted check-in process. The terminal also boasts of India's first ever remote, hand baggage screening facility which can increase passenger throughput and reduce the consumption of time at security check.

The terminal thus frees the main passenger terminal building from interna-

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national departures, potentially making it completely open for domestic departures. The terminal building is at par with any of the airport terminals in India. The construction techniques employed at every level are designed in such a way that enables this facility to be modified, dismantled or reused for a different purpose in the future. And to make all these aspects significant is the fact that this terminal has been constructed in fast-track mode — it took just six months.

Today, we are living in an India where the demand for infrastructure is burgeoning and the citizens are becoming increasingly aspirational. The demand for enhancing infrastructure is also progressing exponentially and this is something which has its own gestation period to come up. More often than not, the whole situation becomes messy on various accounts while the infrastructure is actually being built. In fact, the issue of catering to the rising interim demand for infrastructure while the actual infrastructure is being built to ensure unhin-

dered growth is a ubiquitous phenomenon across all sectors of the economy and it is in this context that we need to understand the importance of innovative ideas like the proposal to come up with an IIDT Building in RGIA which can act as a temporary shock absorber before the big expansion works take shape.

As mentioned by the Civil Aviation Secretary RN Choubey in his speech at the inauguration function, we need more people like GMR Hyderabad International Airport CEO SGK Kishore and GMR Group Business Chairman GBS Raju. Their idea of conducting an exhaustive and meticulous infrastructure planning exercise well in advance and using those results analytically in coming up with innovative ideas is something which needs to be replicated across the board. These are the practices which have the potential of keeping India's economy flying high at all times, without any hindrance.

The writer is a Senior Engineer working for the Hyderabad Airport Expansion Project through Vijay Nirman Company

FROM PAGE 1

The Rajapaksas could not be singled out for bringing family members into politics and the Government. The history of Sri Lanka politics is full of the roles played by family members of the leader, whether it is SWRD Bandaranaike, Sirimao Bandaranaike, Junius Richard Jayewardane or Premadasa. Mahinda ruled with an iron hand and had no pretensions about it. "Those who stay in glass houses should not throw stones at others," said a retired Army commander, when asked about family members dabbling in politics.

But who were the forces behind the media onslaught and false campaign against the Rajapaksa Government? The answer was shocking as it synchronised well with what we see in India. "There were various civil rights groups, leaders of the Opposition, who had a fear psychosis about an impending defeat, and a section of Western countries and groups which worked actively against us," explained Gotabhaya.

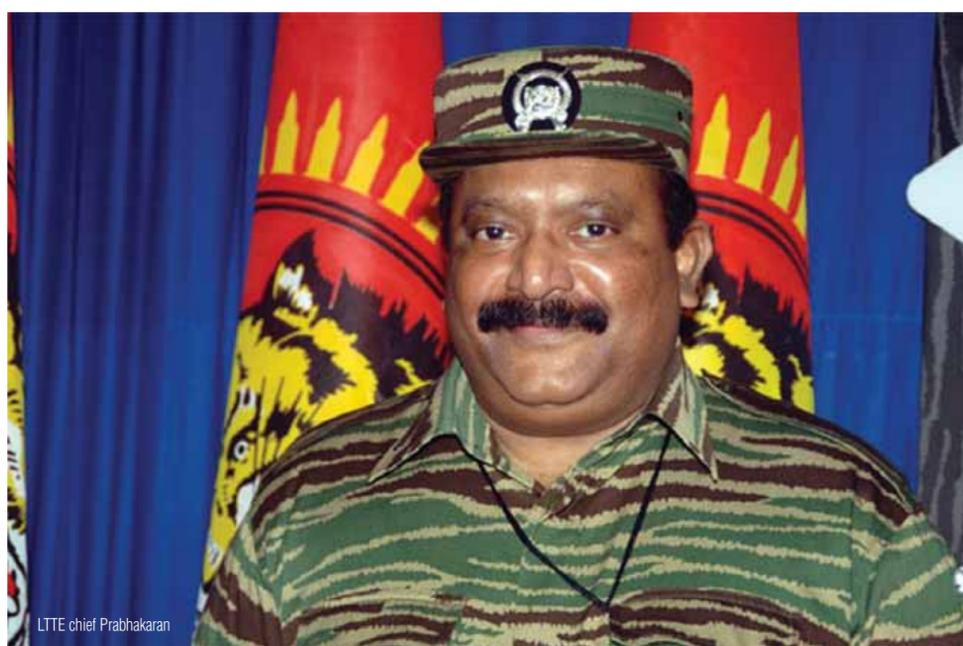
This group worked overtime and created a sense of hopelessness and helplessness among a section of the population. "Their theme was 'good governance'. But they were sure that the Sinhala population would vote only for Mahinda. Hence, they focused on the minorities and Tamils. They conceived and executed a shrewd plan to keep the Muslims away from Mahinda. They even managed to get the help of some extreme Buddhist organisations, which turned the Muslims against the Government," he added.

Sri Lanka: The road to recovery

He also revealed the role played by urban elites, upper middle class, and a section of the youth in the mission to defeat Mahinda. "These are the sections of the population which go by the promise of good governance and spread bogus allegations against the rivals. This resulted in 95 per cent of the Tamils, Muslims, and the urban elites voting against Mahinda," said Gotabhaya, quoting from the analytical report of the 2015 election results.

The day in and day out campaign was centred on allegations of corruption and accusing a democratic Government of being authoritarian. This campaign proved successful. "More than the capability of the Opposition parties in Sri Lanka, it was the Western powers which planned and executed it," said Gotabhaya, who uses measured and calculated words and phrases, the stiff upper lip culture developed in the Military Academy, perhaps.

Though he was initially reluctant to name the forces which conspired against the then Sri Lankan Government, Gotabhaya finally put the blame on the Barack Obama administration. "The Western nations had a feeling that the Rajapaksa Government was anti-West. The State Department of the Obama administration was dominated by human rights activists. The United States and other Western powers viewed the



LTTE chief Prabhakaran

China factor in Sri Lanka with a different perspective. Our ties with China bothered them," Gotabhaya explained.

The ties between Sri Lanka and China date back to more than six decades. But the US and Western powers felt uncomfortable for reasons best known to them. "They have a lot of vested interests, ranging from commerce, trade, the Indian Ocean, strategic locations, and security. The

involvement of China in the economic development of Sri Lanka also rattled them," he said. Hence, they wanted the Mahinda Government to go. The Opposition parties — which had lost all hope — the urban elites, human rights and civil rights groups, and minorities joined hands with the Western forces, which resulted in Mahinda losing narrowly," Gotabhaya disclosed. This is the first time that the

role of the US and European powers in the 2015 elections has been accepted openly by a powerful person from that administration.

Gotabhaya was an eyesore for those who wanted the division of the island nation. "Let them say whatever they want. That's their freedom and I do not care about it," was his reply when asked about the propaganda against him by the Tamils as well as other

Opposition parties.

There were allegations of India's interference in the 2015 elections in Sri Lanka, and Gotabhaya did not hide his disappointment over them. "We had good relations with the Manmohan Singh-led UPA Government, which was in office till May 2014. The then Government of India helped and supported us in our war against the LTTE. Even the DMK in Tamil Nadu had understood

the seriousness of the LTTE issue and stood by us during the war. But we did not get much time to establish good ties with the new Indian officials, like National Security Advisor Ajit Doval or the Foreign Secretary, after the change of Government in 2014," said Gotabhaya.

He also referred to the "false" campaign by the Opposition on China's role in boosting Sri Lankan economy and security. Mahinda had launched the Colombo Port City project, which would have played the role of a force multiplier. This was done with Chinese investment but strictly under the control of the Sri Lanka Port Authority. "The Opposition and the urban elite claimed that the Hambantota Port had been leased to the Chinese Navy for 99 years, which upset the new Indian Government. The truth was that even in our wildest imagination, we had never thought of such a possibility. But what happened is that the same Opposition, which came to power after the

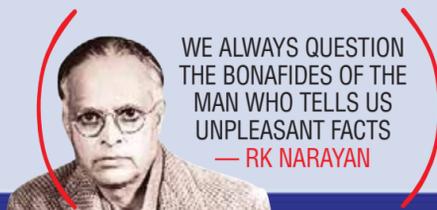
2015 elections, handed over port to China on a platter," he pointed out.

Mahinda did not make extra efforts to convince the new Government in India about the assurances guaranteed to the UPA administration on the role of China in the island nation. "It is well-chronicled by Shivshankar Menon, the then NSA, in his book *Choices*," said Gotabhaya. In the chapter

titled 'Force Works', Menon wrote: "Security was Gotabhaya's sole preoccupation, which made him sensitive to India's concerns, while his brother Mahinda was much more compliant with Chinese demands, having built a political machine on Chinese money. The basic assurances that Gotabhaya and more reluctantly, Mahinda, gave us were that India's security interests would be respected and that there would be no surprises in Sri Lanka's relations with China. I was assured that there would be no permanent Chinese military presence in Sri Lanka and that Sri Lanka would look to India for most of its military training and intelligence needs."

Gotabhaya, a professional security expert, said his country was and is always conscious of the concerns of India, especially in security related issues. "We will never allow Sri Lankan soil to be used by any foreign elements to work against India. The Indian Ocean and especially the sea lines of communications must be free for all to use without hindrance. Both countries are united not only by the Indian Ocean, but by common historical and cultural ties," said Gotabhaya.

The world learnt a lot from Sri Lanka in how it succeeded in tackling terrorism of the worst kind. It is the ideal time for India to take note of the fact that a Government, which wiped out the last vestiges of terrorism, lost the next elections. There are a lot of similarities between the game being played in New Delhi and the one staged in Colombo; only the language and characters differ.



The sheer humility of the narration in this autobiography of Narendra Raval is impressive, coming as it does from a self-made billionaire and one of the leading private sector lights of Africa, writes GAUTAM MUKHERJEE

The Indian Guru in Kenya



Forewords to this autobiography of Narendra Raval (nicknamed Guru), one of Kenya's greatest industrialists, include congratulatory letters from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has long known Raval, and Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, the Amherst educated son of the legendary Jomo Kenyatta. Another is from Lord Raj Loomba of the UK, whose charitable foundation Raval supports. The Loomba Foundation helps widows in India, and at the behest of Raval, in Kenya as well.

This book speaks endearingly and conversationally, in Raval's voice. It is cast in inspirational terms, with a plethora of slogans, pieties and bon mots, with a clear belief in destiny. It descends from time to time into a family and organisational scrap book — without however taking anything away from the impressive tale at its core.

Raval was born in a joint family in the tiny village of Mathak in the Halvad Taluka of Surendranagar district of Gujarat, the gateway to Saurashtra. His father and family were thrown out of the prosperous family home by his grandfather before Raval turned 10. Raval's early years were spent dodging school and book knowledge, not only while in his father's care, but elsewhere in Gujarat, with his maternal grandparents, and maternal uncles. A key turning point was his induction as a priest into the Swaminarayan sect. It became

something of a lifelong association and network for him. It began in his late teens, as a priest, first in Bhuj, and later in Nairobi, when he was sent to a Kenyan temple. It laid down the basis of his freelance priestly work carried out later at Nakuru, a Kenyan hill resort. It also has a good deal to do with his own spiritual outlook and honesty, his caring attitude towards employees and colleagues, animals and birds. All this combined with Narendra Raval's extraordinary abilities in palmistry and astrology that made him much sought after in the Gujarati business circles in Kenya and the UK.

It was at Nakuru where the young Brahmin priest began to be called Guru for the first time. This, both for his priestly and astrological skills, the latter learned initially during his time at the Bhuj

Swaminarayan Temple. It was also at Nakuru where he met President Daniel Arap Moi for the first time in rather mundane circumstances when he had tagged along with technicians who had gone to fix the President's TV.

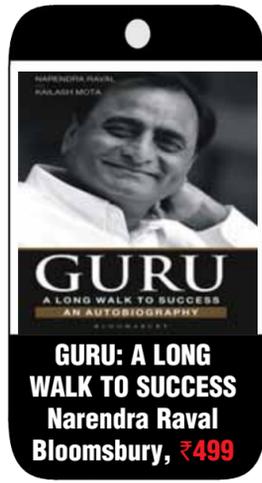
He was invited, soon after, to live in as resident priest and spiritual adviser by the owners of Kenya's most successful steel rolling mills — the Kikuyu Steel Rolling Mills in Nairobi. Raval was thus introduced, in his early twenties, to an opulent business environment by the Dayabhai H Patel family.

He started going to the office with the head of the family, and learnt about the steel rolling business in all its aspects. By the time, not very long after, this family sold up and went their separate ways, to the US, UK, and elsewhere, Raval had his basic grounding in the steel

business. He also had a renewable work permit for Kenya.

Next, Raval teamed up with some of his Nakuru friends who ran a hardware business — Delta Hardware, and persuaded them to open a Nairobi branch for wholesaling. Introducing more and more steel items to the mix out of his knowledge at Kikuyu, Raval gradually took the business national, started importing quota regulated items, and grew Delta Harware to the biggest business in its field in Kenya. But Raval was not a shareholder, nor did he work for a salary. The very growth he induced led to the split and closure of Delta by its four partners. By now Raval had also got married to Neeta, a qualified chemist. Though so much had happened, he was only 23 and not yet a Kenyan citizen.

In Raval's life, many turns for



the better, it is seen, was always preceded by being sent back to square one. Married and almost penniless, Raval resolved to set up for himself, opening the "Steel Centre" in the name of Neeta who was a Kenyan citizen already. They rented a warehouse in a new business district of Gikomba in Nairobi, even though it was in a rough neighbourhood.

But in four years, between 1986 and 1990, the business had grown to Kenyan Shillings 1 million. Raval found finance from wealthy friends and friendly bankers, all due to his priestly work of yore and his ongoing astrology that he still dispensed to help many people free-of-charge.

By 1993, Steel Centre in turn was now the largest hardware trading business in Kenya encompassing wholesaling and retail as

well. The two existing steel rolling mills in Kenya could not keep up with demand, and so, Raval resolved to set up a steel rolling mill of his own. The Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) was instrumental in both financing Raval's move into manufacturing (Devki Steel Mills Ltd.) and seeing it through to stability by 1996. And meticulous accounting, he says is: "The heart and soul of your business. A small error, if not nipped in the bud, can bring down a well established business". Gradually, Narendra Raval expanded, acquired, diversified, and backward integrated, growing his businesses into the "one stop manufacturer for all infrastructure products" he dreamed of. This, in time, meant Steel, Building Materials, Cement, and spreading out into the counties neighbouring Kenya as well.

NEW ARRIVALS

MODI AND MARKETS
Dhiraj Nayyar
Westland, ₹599

India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. This momentum needs to be sustained for the next 30 years. Fortunately, a solid foundation is now in place. No country has prospered without the leadership of private enterprise; few have prospered without a political leadership that delivers key public goods. Most importantly, many countries have faltered at the altar of crony capitalism, or stagnated under the spectre of a corrupt and listless political leadership.

THE NEXT PERSON YOU MEET IN HEAVEN
Mitch Albom
Sphere, ₹499

Fifteen years ago, in Mitch Albom's beloved novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, the world fell in love with Eddie, a grizzled war veteran-turned-amusement park mechanic who died saving the life of a young girl named Annie. Eddie's journey to heaven taught him that every life matters. Now, in this magical sequel, Mitch Albom reveals Annie's story. The accident that killed Eddie left an indelible mark on Annie. Injured, scarred, and unable to remember why, Annie's life is forever changed as she is whisked her away from the world she knew.

THE GUILTY FEMINIST
Deborah Frances-White
Virago, ₹499

This really is the "everything you have always wanted to know about feminism but were afraid to ask" manual. In 2015 I described myself as 'guilty feminist' for the first time. My goals were noble but my concerns were trivial. I wanted desperately for women to be taken seriously in leadership roles all over the world, but I also wanted to look good sitting down naked. A funny, joyful, frank and inspiring book about embracing both feminism and our imperfections, from the creator of the hit comedy podcast, Deborah Frances-White.

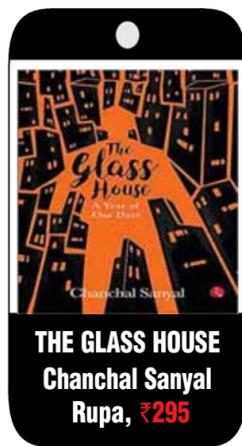
The dream of owning a house for those who do not is a dearly cherished one. But since there is no gain without pain, the dream, usually, is hardly accomplishable without hardships. The gain of a house is fraught with multiple challenges, stressful factors, and even nightmarish uncertainties. Chanchal Sanyal, in his debut novel *The Glass House*, takes a keen look at the house-owning dream — its difficulties, its fragility that is indicated by the title itself, and even its necessity.

The protagonist couple — college lecturer M.B. and his wife, fashion designer Roshni — are young urban Indians, living in Delhi and seeking to gain a house in Gurgaon, part of the National Capital Region of India. As the subtitle to the novel — *A Year of Our Days* — aptly indicates, the story stretches to about a year in the lives of the protagonists and relays accounts of everyday struggles of contemporary urban living. The narrative charts the frustrations associated with the protagonists' house-building, including politics, legal stays, unkept promises of the builder, charges added at a later stage, and risk of having invested years of savings and of having taken on the additional burden of EMIs. M.B.'s successful NRI elder brother Tubluda justly comments, "This middle-class housing game in India is not liberation, it is enslavement." (p.103)

Besides, thwarted ambitions, relationship matters, extramarital affairs, misplaced suspicions and misunderstandings, prejudiced notions that steer relationships the wrong way, and workplace politics all form part of the narrative, making it a complex and therefore, fitting — in view of what life for many is today — portrayal. Sanyal employs his acute observation and his wide-ranging experience of dealing with people in different capacities, having gained exposure to varied domains professionally, to shape his characters. Although he plays with stereotypes often, there is no ringing of a jarring note. His understanding of the intricacies of

The fragility of dreams

For young professionals chasing goals of house ownership, this novel provides consideration-worthy perspective, writes RONICA WAHI



relationships and the cracks that lie beneath smooth surfaces of relationships is sharp, and so is his understanding of perspectives and motivations of people in distinct stations of life.

Among the most interesting aspects of the novel is Sanyal's discussion about Delhi-NCR. His portrait of Delhi is accurate, not only because it has factual correctness, but also because it is unbiased; this portrait lays bare the city's faults and evils alongside its merits. The portrait is also powerful since it shows the love of its creator despite such absence of bias. The truth of the claim in Sanyal's short biography that greets the reader on the first page of the book — "The city and its peoples are of endless

fascination to him" — is revealed as the reader progresses through the book.

M.B., also the novel's narrator, is a lecturer in History and he, fittingly in view of his inclinations, reveals fascinating aspects of the history of the city's geography and popular places. Imagination of what life would have been at a particular place for some individual in times past adds a different dimension to and as if brings alive mere historical facts. He comments on the resilience of Delhi, despite the destructive "development", failed key infrastructural projects, and pollution in and around it, though as he feels despondent in a later portion of the narrative, he imagines Delhi finally surrendering. He particu-

larly dwells, with wit and sarcasm, on the haphazardness of the development in Gurgaon where he and his wife invest all their money for a flat.

The novel takes the readers through the happenings of one year — the point of beginning being the first month of the year and the initiation of the buying process. Events and emotions are recorded in intervals of twenty-one days that make up the parts of the whole up to "Day 379"; just "Day 337" gets three parts — the space accorded sufficiently indicates that multiple important bits are discussed in these. With such division of intervals, the story progresses at a good pace, with recollections making up a major chunk, recollections of the pre-

ceding three weeks to the day discussed as well as of occurrences from the past years of the characters' lives.

With recollections mesh in thoughts, imaginations, and asides of the male protagonist-narrator, and charted are also journeys of learning, growth, hope, and realisations, all gained through happenings and conversations. Despite the gloom over the fate of the flat, hope lingers and the reader wishes for a happy closure as M.B. comments and voices the ardent hope of so many to be able to claim, "This is the permanent address that all government documents keep asking for." (p. 148). The novel says that with the uncertainty of life, getting bogged down by situations is ill. Though certainly important to lead meaningful lives, goals must not determine whether we remain happy. Insights about many aspects of life are also thrown in — for instance, M.B. says for decisive leadership, "Clear instructions with no options, yet, delivered as a request." (p.161)

While the dream, challenges, hesitations, and fears are identifiable, so is M.B. for young urban professionals and particularly for those with academic pursuits. Even the "inverted snobbery of the intellectual for the materially successful" (p.4) that makes M.B. call his rich and imposing landlord "FatBun" is not alien.

The language, wordplay, imagery, and metaphors are vivid and colourful. One interesting comparison is of the "rivers of traffic" in Delhi to those natural streams of water that are referred to as rivers. There are meditations on how English is used by Indians, and the mutated, amalgamated language that many Indians use in their individual ways. Though the text is produced well overall, there are some punctuation errors and typos.

The house-owning dream, despite its fragility, has power enough to keep people ensnared. The novel compels a close look into what must truly matter, ending on a strong note that demands some introspection.

Nascent Gorakhpur Literary Festival

Many literary festivals wane, become dull and then pale into insignificance mainly because of lack of transparency and dominating vested interests. But lovers of literature hope every such festival held in Gorakhpur will act as a stepping stone for the next. Gorakhpur Literary Festival should in due course reach out to pacifying effect of literature and should aim at achieving what Seamus Heaney wrote, "You've listened long enough. Now strike your own."



KK SRIVASTAVA

The market has changed; these days there were more writers than readers. Everyone was speaking at once while no one heard as in an asylum. The only books people read were diet books, cookery books or exercise books. People didn't want to improve the world, they only wanted better bodies.

— Hanif Kureishi in his novel THE LAST WORD

Rita Srivastava lives in Gorakhpur. She is a teacher, TV personality and an accomplished announcer. During 1976-78, I was her classmate in graduation in DAV Degree College Gorakhpur. Sometime back, I got a message from her requesting me to attend Gorakhpur Literary Festival in October 2018. That was how I came to know about this literary event though unfortunately I could not attend it. In this article I aim at stipulating a general framework for literary festival like Gorakhpur's which is in its nascence. Different people form different notions about places they are not well acquainted with. People know Gorakhpur because they have chosen to learn of its fame or absence of it based on what they have read or heard about the place. Unfortunately in the absence of effective defence against such notions, people believe that the image of Gorakhpur despite a few noteworthy literary and other artistic accomplishments, more or less, has not improved much. VS Naipaul, whose mother hailed from some village in Gorakhpur leaving it in late 19th century to settle as indentured laborers in Trinidad before good fortunes started dawning upon Naipaul, had no demur, after visiting Gorakhpur around early sixties of last century, in describing it as a "half-made" and "unorganised society". In that "unorganised society", literature boomed; thoughts got propelled out of writers and we have had literary giants like Munshi Prem Chand and Firaq Gorakhpuri — one writing novels in Hindi; the other poetry in Urdu. English continues to be an anathema. Two things have emerged out. First after these two legendary writ-

ers, there is not the third, not only from Gorakhpur but also from entire eastern Uttar Pradesh, who can claim a status akin to either of them. Not that, there are no literary activities. There are writers but their writings are confined to closed literary groups or a few selected local newspapers. Second, I am not aware of any literary piece worth its salt in English from Gorakhpur. Some very enthusiastic readers may accuse me of feigning ignorance. I will like to be enlightened about a few. Self-critique is the best form of defence. It is the best disinfectant. The doubting Thomases can spare sometime to scan the literary scene in Kerala and Odisha to see for themselves how vibrant these places are when it comes to matured literary activities and literary personalities.

Amitav Ghosh is a highly rated writer though I am more comfortable with the books by writers like Raj Kamal Jha, Pico Iyer and Amitava Kumar. But Amitav Ghosh stands head and shoulders above his peers in as much as he shuns literary festivals, never raring to showcase his face before a crowd a majority of which hardly understand what literary books are all about. His articulated views are well expressed in his essay Festivals and Freedom. The essence of this essay is: Books are important; not their authors. "Public spectacles are a sideshow". Great. The relationship between writers, their books and readers gets evolved not in such places of public rendezvous but in private, in isolation where only the book and the reader exist. The message being conveyed here is simple. Faces and personalities vie with each other to decorate the dais in literary festivals. This restricts the scope of such festivals. Should a ravishingly beautiful young actress or a model inaugurate or address a literary festival unless she herself is a literary tour de force? The lines cited in the beginning from Hanif Kureishi's novel confirm the mish-mash between what present day readers prefer to read and what ought to be happening in any literary gatherings. Tastes of readers defy logic behind literary festivals. People



oftentimes don't understand that not all books penned: fiction, non-fiction, poetry or any genre get classified in the category of literary books. The organisers of such literary events ought to be as careful with selection of writers as selection of books or themes. Ensuring a judicious mixture of really known writers and really known books, with a few from aspiring writers factored in between, is the sine quo non for those responsible to host such events. Unfortunately many literary festivals are driven by presence of "vested interests" and "coteries" and only some really serve the objectives of literature and literary events.

Likewise, for many writers not so established, social media sources have become potent instruments for the display of grandeur of achievements and these writers unfortunately fall a victim to walking on the air syndrome, unmindful of the fact that these portrayals imparting joyously rapturous feelings leave momentary visual impact on viewers. Unfortunately they carry the impression that attending such functions tantamount to zenith of their literary pursuits. One is really amazed when confronted with 30 years old writers with twenty books of poetry (mostly self-published or published through non-descript publishers) to their credit. One can

easily guess what these books would be like and what damage may ensue if the ilk of such writers decides the destiny of literary gatherings.

Late twentieth century was and twenty first century is going to be the age of clash of ideologies. World over many ideological battles are being fought on various fronts. Modern literature is privy to onslaught ideological differences bestowed upon human mind. Freedom of expression by thinking minds continues to be a subject of heated discussion. Literary festivals are occasions when concepts like freedom of expression with logical limitations, issues of identity, fragmentation of personality, increasing sense of isolation as culled out from literary sources, can be ruminated over.

Literary festivals too are solemn calling providing writers and artists an outer world so vital to their inner creative works. A new door gets opened or a new path is entered upon. The memories, thoughts, experiences, feelings, criticisms shared on these platforms may make some, to use Ted Hughes phrase, "luminous at the core of their mind". Buzzing with debates and discussions, realisation of self-worth may emanate from genuine interactions here. More questions ought to be raised than answered. More doubts should get scattered to be

pondered over in times to come. No piece of writing is the end of literature and therefore what is the best stays buried in unknown arenas of human unconsciousness. No brave claims should be made to improve or modify the society, for writers are least equipped to perform this assignment. They must not assign this assignment to themselves.

The objective of thinking about larger issues society is encountering should not be lost in the humdrum sound and fury of big names and big books. Oftentimes, the untidy, the weird, the oddball forms of art and literature have to be accommodated in order to give a proper and bigger representation to literary skills. To what extent differing points of view can be resolved into a coherent order of art is something these gatherings should strive for. Moments of insight should figure during discourses. Literature gives society a vantage point; it paves the way for seeing new or afresh. A sound literary festival should be able to accommodate the unruly, the unmanageable and the discordant. It must allow at least serious participants to rein in what American poet and critic Robert Pinsky calls, "inward motion of another mind".

In absence of adequate number of men and women of letters and literary material, many literary festivals the very next day or even in the

post-lunch session of the first day, succumb to less important activities like reciting of local singers locally manufactured songs or turn out to be venues for local *mushairas* or still worse panel discussions on themes which have nothing to do with any form of art. Chattering classes are left with no choices. The sheen is lost. Exploring the unadorned past and contemporary literature making a foray into themes like backwardness, casteism, gender discrimination and insensitivity, regional disparities, terrorism, sexual harassment, incurable diseases, etc., will make pungent material for deliberations and thus consume significant time of events. For this organisers' penetrating gaze should be able to sift the grain from the chaff. Making general plebeians aware of these issues should serve the objectives of a literary festival. Forging connections between writers and masses is essential for any literary festival to succeed.

Taking a clue from Kureishi's lines, I feel tempted to recall a small anecdote before conclusion. I told one of my university mate long associated with academia in Gorakhpur about VS Naipaul's ancestors coming from Gorakhpur. Came out a benign question, "Who is Naipaul?" I tried to quench his thirst. A more benign remark ensued and ended the conversation, "Uske jaise bahut hain yehan." (Many like him are here.) The problem lies not with his question but his astute observation made later. When ignorance and arrogance blend, they make excellent bedfellows. Major apprehension emanates from such blending. It poses great threat to any creative ventures.

Of late, it is learnt that Gorakhpur is witnessing much desirable progress on many fronts. This should sustain literary activities. The organisers of Gorakhpur Literary Festival deserve kudos and appreciation for their seminal efforts to organise it. Coming from that place, I can guess how difficult organising it can be. All those in responsible positions should support, by all means, Gorakhpur Literary Festival. The organisers should not be overawed by "big lit-

erary festivals" in India and elsewhere nor should they mimic any of these. Any efforts at these would be narcissistically wallowing in an exercise in futility. To begin with Gorakhpur Literary Festival organisers should open its website stating clearly what its vision and mission statements are. The charter should be clearly laid out along with a brief description as to how the organisers are going to achieve the objectives and raise funds. Most importantly the website should provide facility for public to give their feedback on issues connected with activities of the festival. Transparency must not be surrendered nor any group or coterie must hog its activities. Many literary festivals wane, become dull and then pale into insignificance mainly because of lack of transparency and dominating vested interests. Notwithstanding, lovers of literature hope every such festival held in Gorakhpur will act as a stepping stone for next one: well crafted, gleaming, both lighthearted and intensely serious and enthralling. Gorakhpur Literary Festival should in due course reach out to pacifying effect of literature and should aim at achieving what Seamus Heaney wrote, "You've listened long enough. Now strike your own." A great objective would be served if this literary festival succeeds, even in a very limited way, in seducing both the participating writers and audience to engage with society's interior melee and sharpen the focus towards mitigating the melee.

(The writer was born in Gorakhpur in 1960. He did his Masters in Economics from Gorakhpur University in 1980 and joined Indian Audit & Accounts Service in 1983. Currently he is Director General in the Office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. He is a poet writing in English with three poetry collections. His third book *Shadows of the Real* has been translated into Hindi and Russian. He is literary reviewer and columnist for the newspapers *The Pioneer* and *The Daily Star*. His fourth book, a semi-autobiographical: *literary non-fiction*, will be released next month. The views expressed in this article are his personal).

PERSPECTIVE

Energising the third world with innovation

Keeping in mind the Global Innovation Index 2018, the demand for energy needs to be met with a sustainable solution. Untapped energy sources must be discovered. But then the burden of relocating and processing these should not fall on the poor. True innovative efforts are those which send benefit to the lowest rung of society. In India, this is very vital.



MAKHAN SALKIA

The Global Innovation Index (GII) released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) aims to give innovation multi-dimensional aspects. It offers various tools which can be used to shape policies to spearhead long-term output growth, enhanced productivity and job growth. It is unique mechanism that can create an ambience wherein elements of productivity are continually examined.

The 2018 GI Report, which covers about 126 countries, highlights the ranking of innovation capabilities and results. These economies represent 90.8 per cent of the world's population and 93.6 per cent of the global GDP. And this year's edition of the GI is based on the theme "Energising the World with Innovation". At a time when the population is rising at an alarming rate, the amount of natural resources are fast exhausting around the world. The demands of our industrial societies are increasing day by day whereas the supply of natural resources is on precipitous decline. While they do occur naturally, it might take hundreds of thousands of years to replenish them or it may so happen that they may not be reproduced forever. What we all require is innovations so as to reap benefits from our existing and untapped resources around the planet. The GI 2018 Report says: "Higher levels of technological and non-technological innovation are required to meet this demand, both on the production side of the energy equation (alternative sources, smart grids and new advanced energy storage technologies) and on the consumption side (smart cities, homes and buildings; energy-efficient industries; and transport and future mobility). Innovation plays key roles

on both sides." But the report rightly delineates that technological innovation is not the only solution. What is demanded is "changes in societal norms and cultures along with innovations in organisational processes".

In a global age, purely driven by super connectivity, higher technology and superior human intellect, energy is believed to have held the key for every nation. Without adequate supply of energy, no nation can tap its opportunities for further development. It's time to focus on the critical issue of energy access from production to storage, and from transportation and distribution stage to consumption patterns. The GI Report concludes that supply does not commensurate with the global demand for energy needs. It further highlights the need for a sustainable solution to address the issue. Norbert Schwieters, Barry Jaruzelski and Robert Chwalik mention in the report that an estimated 1.2 billion people worldwide are living without electricity, and 2.8 billion without clean and safe cooking facilities. This demands global concerns and solutions. It is clear that across the globe traditional energy frameworks are undergoing fundamental changes as demands and supplies for energy are unmatched. What is critical here is that private sector investment will play a critical role as this new systems take shape, both from traditional utilities, many of which are seeing this new way forward as an opportunity rather than disruption and from the start ups and from the entrepreneurs developing and applying new technologies in the renewable space. It so happens that in vast part of the world, companies are implementing projects, often in close collaboration with public



sector enterprises which show the transformative potential of these new innovations.

Hence, "energy for all" is a goal worthy to be achieved at any cost. But then the issue is to bridge the existing gap between innovation goals and tangible societal benefits. It's a serious challenge. It demands cooperation from both the Government and private sectors accompanied by civil society support. Then only innovative efforts can be successful, particularly in developing society like India. It needs to

be seen how and what can really foster innovations in a globalised world.

It was widely believed that globalisation would lead to innovations. Competition is supposed to spur immediate innovations and related activities. Probably the most counterintuitive research finding was that massive competition from giant foreign firms has a complete negative effect on product innovations around the world. Those who suffered the most were the domestic companies and firms that do not have easy access

to a multi-national supply chain or other resource facilities available for a health business environment. It was found by top research groups that firms at local rather than national level markets were less likely to innovate. Big firms were likely to innovate more than the smaller ones; on the other hand state-owned enterprises are less likely to innovate than their respective private-owned counterparts, particularly in the field of new and emerging product development.

Also it was found that firms with a large number of college graduates were globally more effective on innovative efforts. But firms with highly skilled workers have a mixed impact on innovations. Finally, that firms with higher capacity utilisation i.e. those that sell everything they make, have lower innovation index than their less efficient counterparts. Thus it can rightly be said that in emerging economies, forces of globalisation can be counterproductive for innovations. However it has been observed that easy access to supply chain and business friendly environment in such countries can surely help in fostering innovations. So globalisation and post-globalisation forces are not purely creating anti-thesis for innovations. What matters most is that firms or industries operate within a range of efficiency and increased competition associated with liberalisation and globalisation has different effects on firms/industries depending on their level of technology. This has brought home the message that technology at this age makes more impact while even innovating at the local level.

There is a huge innovation divide that has been brought out by the GI Report to the world. Countries like India requires

working out its way while competing with its neighbour China. For us what we need is a stable polity supported by an environment less influenced by natural calamities and more business friendly. With a huge skilled young workforce and emerging market, India can definitely shine better than many of its counterparts in the developing world. But then growth and development is not all about access to economy and technology. It is also about what flows back to society and how common man gets benefitted by all these. At the end of the day, basic minimum resources should be accessible to the needy. The gap between the rich and the poor should be minimised. True innovative efforts are those which send benefit to the lowest rung of the society. In India, this is very vital.

Keeping in mind the GI Report 2018, the demand for energy needs to be met with a sustainable solution. This will in turn help in enhancing innovative efforts around the world. Untapped energy sources must be discovered. But then the burden of relocating and processing these should not fall on the poor. What we need is a fair deal at the end so as to see to it that global innovation divide is lesser and lesser in coming days. Isaac Newton rightly highlighted the importance of innovation and creativity simply by saying, "If I have seen further, it is standing on the shoulders of giants." It is all about the massive streams of innovations left behind by our elders, we are simply surviving and making progress in our daily life.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



THERE'S BEEN MACHO TALK ABOUT COUNTRIES SURVIVING A NO-DEAL BREXIT; IT CREATES SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS — SIMON COVENEY

Elections in five States: Grand alliance talks on hold for now

sunday gupshup

HARI SHANKAR VYAS



All talks on the grand alliance of the Opposition parties have been put on the back burner for now, and no one will talk about a united front until the results of elections in five States are out. In fact, the Opposition parties are not even talking to each other about the *mahagathbandhan* these days. The parties, which have nothing to do with the elections in five States, say the decision on alliances will be taken only after the results. The BJP has already told its alliance partners that Amit Shah is busy with the elections, so discussions over seat sharing and the alliance formula will be held only after the results. This has also been conveyed to Nitish Kumar, but despite this, the JDU leaders are saying that the seat-sharing announcement will be made soon.

There's another reason why the grand alliance talks have been put on hold. The Congress President Rahul Gandhi is engrossed in the elections of five States, with the party facing a do-or-die situation. It is leaving no stone unturned in campaigning. That is why the parties — which will be going with the Congress, but have nothing to do with these States — have put the talks on hold.

Amid this, there is news that BSP supremo Mayawati has talked to Akhilesh Yadav over phone. Ajit Singh, leader of the RLD, has also spoken to both leaders. However, the final decision will be taken only after the elections. From the alliance point of view, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra are the other important States after Uttar Pradesh. But in these States, there are no talks of alliance as of now. In fact, all regional stalwarts are waiting for the results of five States. The Congress and BJP will also wait for results because after that the political picture of the country will change drastically.

If the BJP fares well, it will either go with the JDU in Bihar and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra on its own terms and conditions, or it will go alone in both States. If the BJP's performance is dismal, then both the JDU and Shiv Sena would impose their conditions on the party. In the same manner, if the Congress does well, the *kshatrapas* will have to go into alliances on the party's terms. In case the Congress doesn't do well, then it will have to kneel before the SP, BSP, RJD, NCP, TMC, DMK, and TDP.

THE BIGGEST OPPN ALLIANCE

Whatever be the result of five States, one thing is clear from the present political scenario: The Opposition is going to form the largest alliance in



Maharashtra. The Congress and its oldest ally NCP are reaching out to each and every small and big party, trying to persuade them to join the Opposition bandwagon. The Congress and NCP have finalised their alliance partners. Though the seat-sharing formula has not been decided, some arrangement is ready and has already been discussed. Both parties will stick to the old formula. The BSP and Raju Shetti's party will also join the Congress and NCP, and will get one seat each from the latter's quota.

Now, the Congress is talking to Prakash Ambedkar's party for a tie-up. On the other hand, the NCP is in talks with Raj Thackeray's MNS. Though the Congress is not ready to take the MNS into the alliance, Sharad Pawar might have other things in mind. The NCP chief might persuade Raj to either not fight the Lok Sabha Elections or field such a candidate who will pose a threat to the candidates of the BJP and Shiv Sena. Apart from that, the Congress and

NCP are also reaching out to the Left parties and AAP. Though these parties don't have much hold in Maharashtra, an alliance will be finalised with them and they will be given a chance to fight the Assembly Elections. A similar arrangement can be made for the SP as well.

THE STRATEGY OF AAP

The Aam Aadmi Party has announced the name of in-charges of all seven seats of Delhi. People are saying that these seven leaders will be the Lok Sabha candidates of the party. While announcing their names, it was said that they would be declared as candidates at the right time. But sources say that these names can be changed at the last moment. That means their names as Lok Sabha candidates are not final.

This must be noted that in the last Lok Sabha polls, the AAP candidates were on the second position, after giving a tough fight to the BJP. But interestingly, the AAP has decided to not give tickets

to any of the leaders who were in the fray last time. Anand Kumar has already been thrown out of the party, while Ashutosh and Ashish Khetan have also left. Rajmohan Gandhi is facing the age barrier, and MLA Devendra Sherawat is considered a rebel. Rakhi Bidlan is the Deputy Speaker in the Assembly, but the party will not give her a chance to fight. Jarnail Singh will also not contest.

This time, the AAP has given a chance to Dilip Pandey instead of Anand Kumar, Atishi Marlena in place of Rajmohan Gandhi, Raghav Chadha in place of Devendra Sherawat, Brajesh Goyal in place of Ashish Khetan, and Rajpal Solanki in place of Jarnail Singh. They have been made in-charges for five Lok Sabha seats. In North-West Delhi, Gagan Singh Ranga has been made in-charge of the party in place of Rakhi Bidlan. In place of Ashutosh, Pankaj Gupta has been made in-charge for Chandni Chowk seat. Party sources say that many of them are new, so they can

be changed before the elections. This is also being said that if an alliance is finalised with the Congress, then three seats can go to the other party.

'NO ENTRY' FOR BJP IN UP

There is a new headache for the BJP in UP. People have started opposing leaders, MPs, and MLAs of the party in many places. It started in April and has now become a common feature in both east and west UP, where people have put up 'no-entry' boards. It's common to spot a hoarding with a warning to the leaders and workers of the party to "not be seen anywhere in the area". In Shivkuti of Prayagraj, such signages cropped up after the Unnao and Kathua rape cases. Now, the no-entry campaign has started in the Awadh area. In many villages of Azamgarh, Bahraich, Kannauj, and Unnao, such boards are being put up. At first, the local BJP leaders tried to sort this problem out on their own, but now they have roped in the State leadership.

A no-deal Brexit is now closer than ever

It was a moment that has been about 18 months in gestation, but the decision by Dominic Raab to walk away from the Brexit negotiating table recently was entirely predictable. What comes next is much less so. For many months now, it has been clear to those that follow the detail that what was technically deliverable in the negotiating rooms of the EU's Berlaymont headquarters in Brussels was never going to be negotiable politically in London. As the contours of the deal became clear last week, the chorus of opposition from the Democratic Unionists (DUP) and leading Brexiters in the European Research Group (ERG) only grew louder, reaching a crescendo over the weekend.

Raab, himself on the harder end of the Brexiteer spectrum, had little choice but to walk away, or Theresa May would have had a fatal revolt on her hands. So what happens next? In the short term, the wheels continue to grind onwards in Brussels. The clock is still ticking. EU leaders still decided to meet in Brussels to listen to May and decide what to do next.

The Prime Minister, pointing at the febrile nature of her backbenches at home, can only plead for more latitude, and warn EU leaders not to repeat the mistake they made with David Cameron and give her a deal she cannot sell to her party or the country at large. It may be too late for that. The UK is on the way out of the EU now, soon to become a competitive

What separates the two sides is a deep and structural divide, which can't be bridged by warm words, says PETER FOSTER



'third country' to a Union that is wrestling with a populist menace, of which Brexit is deemed a part.

No-one, least of all Emmanuel Macron, the increasingly erratic and pompous French president, is in any mood to build off-ramps for the British. The German chancellor Angela Merkel, whose governing life-force is ebbing away at home, seems unable or unwilling to rein in her French counterpart. Macron was very clear at Salzburg that without significant progress by the October Council, the plan for a November 'seal-the-deal' summit would not be enacted.

Already there is talk about turning this into a 'planning-for-no-deal' gathering.

So where does that leave May? For now, playing for time — pushing back the final reckoning further towards the March 29 2019 deadline in the hope that the pressure will build sufficiently on her domestic critics to make them more amenable to compromise.

But 'playing it long', as Number 10 strategists like to call it, is itself a sign that the limits of what can be negotiated technically are now very close to being reached.

Put aside the detail (which most people understandably

can't be bothered with) and it boils down to two basic questions from Unionists and Brexiteers — how differently will Northern Ireland be treated from the rest of the UK and how soon will we be 'free' from the EU? The two questions are obviously interlinked, but it is clear that, in the absence of May's unicorn solutions (shot down in Salzburg) to try to preserve the Union while delivering trade independence, the UK is going to stay in a 'temporary' customs union with the EU for the foreseeable future. And even then, Northern Ireland will be treated quite differently from the rest of the

UK as it remains in the EU single market for goods.

There are, or were, possible compromises and 'fudges' around this reality — what the negotiators call 'wrapping' — but these are fundamentally cosmetic. They only work if you don't look too closely, and all sides are prepared to suspend their disbelief and buy into the illusion that they are anything more than prettification. Lipstick on the proverbial pig.

But listen to David Davis and Boris Johnson, Arlene Foster and Nigel Dodds in recent days, and it's pretty clear that this is about more than semantics. They may be wrong

about a lot of what is possible in the here and now, but they are not wrong that the deal May is negotiating, with its hand-me-down trade policy and constitutional intrusions, is indeed pretty abject. And it will be seen as such, by large swathes of the electorate.

The EU must take their share of responsibility for this situation. They never made a really serious offer on Northern Ireland, forcing it on to the 'divorce deal' agenda without stopping to think that their 'offer' involved regulatory annexation of a piece of UK territory.

This was a massive failure of political imagination. If they had thought about it, none of the other 27 leaders around the table on Wednesday night would ever accept such a deal. But now it is too late. And instead the EU says only that "you asked to leave, it's your problem". This is the language of the playground.

May has made a good many mistakes of her own, mostly the failure to be brave and honest about what was possible. She did not ask to leave the EU (I bet she wishes we never had) but a clear majority of the British public did, at a fully contested referendum. The EU side has never fully accepted this. In any event, her tortuous efforts to plot a way through the Brexit labyrinth are now close to their end. A 'no deal' Brexit — which might yet result in no Brexit at all — is closer than ever.

The Daily Telegraph

NORTHERN IRELAND AND BREXIT

■ Did Northern Ireland want Britain to leave the European Union (EU)?

No. Northern Ireland voted 55.8 per cent in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, substantially higher than the UK average. The vote was strongly split on political lines

■ Who wanted to stay and who wanted to leave?

The Democratic Unionist Party, the country's largest party, supported Brexit. Sinn Féin, the SDLP, the Ulster Unionists, Alliance and the Green Party wanted to Remain in the EU. The Irish government also supported a Remain vote

■ How might Brexit impact Northern Ireland?

Northern Ireland faces the unwelcome prospect of a hard land border between the EU and UK. This would put North-South relations under strain. Brexit might also have a disproportionate impact on Northern Ireland's economy, heavily reliant on food exports to the EU

■ What will happen to the Irish border?

Both British and Irish governments have stated their commitment to preserving free movement and trade between north and south. Difficulties arise from the fact that Ireland will be the UK's only land border with the EU trade bloc

The EU and the Irish governments would prefer for the Irish Sea to be the border between the United Kingdom and Ireland, avoiding a land border. However, Unionist politicians fear regulation that would in any way drive a wedge between Northern Ireland and the mainland UK

■ Will Brexit lead to Northern Ireland leaving the United Kingdom?

Probably not. However, Northern Ireland would automatically rejoin the European Union if it reunified with Republic of Ireland and the Good Friday Agreement provides a mechanism for that to occur via referendum



How can you tell whether your partner is emotionally abusive or controlling? RADHIKA SANGHANI finds out

THE GASLIGHT EFFECT



There is a growing awareness around the signs of coercive control — the emotional and psychological abuse of a partner, through threats and restrictions, as well as physical violence. This raised profile is thanks, in part, to last year's storyline in *The Archers*. The BBC Radio 4 soap was following a new law on coercive control, introduced at the end of 2015, which can carry a jail term of up to five years. The law — which has been praised by women's charities — can help victims achieve justice and will hopefully instigate cultural change around this lesser known side of domestic abuse. Although it was only used five times between December 2015 and March 2016, there are now signs that emotionally abusive behaviour is being recognised and taken seriously.

Now, the issue has raised its head again, as actress Rebecca Humphries appears to have suggested that her ex-boyfriend, comedian Seann Walsh — who was pictured kissing his *Strictly* dance partner Katya Jones — was “controlling” and has gaslighted her, a term used to describe a man who manipulates a partner into doubting their own sanity. “He aggressively, and repeatedly, called me a psycho/nuts/mental. As he has done countless times throughout our relationship when I’ve questioned his inappropriate, hurtful behaviour,” she wrote in a statement on Twitter.

“This whole business has served to remind me that I am a strong, capable person who is now free; and no victim. I have a voice and will use it by saying this to any woman out there who deep down feels worthless and trapped with a man they love. Believe in yourself and your instincts. It’s more than lying. It’s controlling.”

Walsh and Jones, who is married to fellow *Strictly* professional Neil Jones, have dismissed their encounter as a drunken mistake and not responded to Humphries statement. But it has raised a number of questions for people in unhappy relationships, who might have started to wonder whether their partner's behaviour falls under emotional abuse. That's why we asked national domestic violence charity Women's Aid, to explain what constitutes coercive control — and where the line falls in any relationship.

MORE THAN JUST ONE ARGUMENT

Emotional abuse happens over a sustained period of time, where the perpetrator repeatedly controls their victim. “From our point of view, when we are talking about domestic violence it's not the case that one argument crosses the line and it becomes an abusive relationship,” say Women's Aid. “It's a pattern in the relationship, where one partner is controlling and there's an ongoing sense of fear.”

ABUSER WANTS TO SCARE VICTIM

“With domestic violence, (usually male) partners behave in a way that's designed to intimidate, frighten or coerce their victim's behaviour,” Women's Aid point out. When a victim is frightened of their partner and treads on eggshells out of fear of their reaction, that's a problem. [It's abuse] if you feel frightened of your partner and you're worrying about the consequences of what externally might be relatively minor things. If he gets angry at the slightest thing. If you have to do every thing his way. If you're worried and feel like your behaviour will ‘set him off.’”

THE SMALL THINGS COUNT

Women's Aid give one example, where a man told his partner that she had to wrap cheese in a particular way before putting it in the fridge. If she did it wrong, he would scream and shout at her. “We all have funny little things like that. But the point is she was frightened of his response,” they explain. “He didn't hit her, but she knew he would see it as a symbol that she didn't love him and she was trying to wind him up. It seems like a minor thing to you — but it has a big impact to them.”

A ONE-WAY STREET

In a healthy relationship, equality is present. If one person has particular needs, they accept that their partner will also have their own needs. But an abuser will not think about their partner, and generally puts themselves first. “It doesn't go the other way,” explain Women's Aid. “There's no consideration that you're upset. ‘Perpetrators of domestic violence do it because they feel entitled to behave that way. They think their partner is there to meet to their needs and they're entitled to take whatever they want.’”

“GASLIGHTING IS WHEN SOMEONE EXHIBITS ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR AND THEN PRETENDS IT DIDN'T HAPPEN — OR EVEN SWITCHES BLAME ON TO THE VICTIM. IT'S ALSO COMMON AMONG PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSERS. IT GETS SERIOUS WHEN A WOMAN STARTS TO DOUBT HERSELF”

NOTHING EVER HAPPENED

Gaslighting is when someone exhibits abusive behaviour and then pretends it didn't happen — or even switches blame on to the victim. It's also common among psychological abusers. “It can be very confusing,” say Women's Aid. “It can cause serious problems when a woman starts to doubt herself. That's very difficult to get your head around as a survivor. It takes a woman a long time to recognise that the nice behaviour and abusive behaviour are both a conscious decision on the behalf of the perpetrator.”

UNHAPPINESS DOESN'T MATTER

In a healthy relationship, if one person tells their partner just how unhappy they are with their behaviour, they may be upset, annoyed or both. But they will eventually get over it. An abuser will not react that way. Say Women's Aid: “A perpetrator is unwilling to listen to why you're unhappy and will often minimise what has happened. If they're not willing to do any work towards your relationship that would be concerning, as would being too scared to talk about it. If you feel like you have to give up on the things that are important to you to make your partner OK, and to avoid his bad behaviour, that's where the line is.”

CONTROLLING IN MANY WAYS

Women's Aid explain that control is a significant factor in psychological abuse, and a perpetrator can exact it in a number of ways, such as not letting their partner go out or visit friends and family. It can also be financial, with a perpetrator controlling their victim's money, or it can be a case of the abuser not wanting to ever socialise. Control can also extend to the online realm — with tracking software used on smartphones or email and social media accounts hacked.

PERSONAL ATTACKS

There doesn't have to be any physical violence for someone to be guilty of domestic abuse. It's not just about bruises. Often it can simply involve words, where a perpetrator might make comments designed to emotionally manipulate his victim. “[It's abuse] if he or she puts you down and tells you you're stupid and unattractive, that no one else will love you.”

The Daily Telegraph

CULTURE LANE

Johnny Depp defends his casting

Johnny Depp has defended JK Rowling's comments about his casting as the title character in *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, the second film in the successor franchise to the eight-film Harry Potter series. Rowling had justified Depp's inclusion in the film following allegations of physical abuse made by Depp's ex-wife Amber Heard. Rowling issued a statement in December 2017 saying: “The film-makers and I are not only comfortable sticking with our original casting, but [are] genuinely happy to have Johnny playing a major character in the movies.”

In a new interview with *Entertainment Weekly* to promote the film, Depp said: “I'll be honest ... I felt bad for JK having to field all these various feelings from people out there ... But ultimately, there is real controversy. The fact remains I was falsely accused ... JK has seen the evidence and therefore knows I was falsely accused, and that's why she has publicly supported me.” He also repeated his intention to sue the *Sun* newspaper for defamation in a story about the film.

In a statement to *Entertainment*



Weekly, Heard's lawyer said: “As the parties agreed in their divorce to resolve future disputes in confidential arbitration, that is the appropriate forum to address Mr Depp's public denials that he abused Ms Heard.”

Depp and Heard married in 2015, and Heard filed for divorce in 2016, obtaining a temporary restraining order alleging Depp had been “verbally and physically abusive” towards her. The divorce was finalised in January 2017, and the restraining order was lifted.

Troyer's death ruled as a suicide

Austin Powers star Verne Troyer's death was a suicide, a coroner in Los Angeles has said. The actor, best known for playing Mini-Me in the spy comedy franchise, had openly battled alcoholism and died aged 49 in April. Troyer, who was born with a form of dwarfism that stopped him growing past 2ft 8in, spent the final three weeks of his life in hospital in Los Angeles for alcohol intoxication.

Following an autopsy and further tests, the Los Angeles county department of medical examiner-coroner said Troyer died on April 21 from the effects of alcohol. They ruled his death was a suicide.

Following Troyer's death, tributes flooded in from fellow celebrities. Model and actor Carmen Electra shared a snap of the two of them on Instagram in which she can be seen holding Troyer in her arms. The *Baywatch* star posted “R.I.P Verne Troyer” along with the image. *West Wing* star Marlee Matlin described him on Twitter as having a “lovely smile with a caring and big heart”.



Singer Vanilla Ice and *American Pie* actor Shannon Elizabeth also posted images of themselves with Troyer following the news of his death. As well as *Austin Powers*, Troyer, who appeared on *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2009, starred in films including *Harry Potter* and *the Philosopher's Stone*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*, and *Men in Black*.

Tilda Swinton poses as an old man



Tilda Swinton used prosthetics and makeup to pose as an 82-year-old man in an elaborate hoax for her latest film. The British actor, 57, is starring in the horror remake *Suspiria*, alongside Dakota Johnson, Chloë Grace Moretz and, ostensibly, octogenarian first-time actor Lutz Ebersdorf.

After pictures emerged showing a resemblance between Swinton and Ebersdorf, who was playing a psychoanalyst named Dr Josef Klempere, the director, Luca Guadagnino, dismissed suggestions they were the

same person as “fake news”. But Swinton has now come clean on the stunt and revealed she underwent four hours in makeup every day to make it work — and even donned fake male genitalia. Asked why she was posing as Ebersdorf, Swinton told the *New York Times*: “Undeniably, I would have to say, for the sheer sake of fun above all. As my grandmother would have it — a motto to live and die by — Dull Not To.” Guadagnino, however, insists Swinton playing the role of a male was essential because the film is about female identity.

ODDLY ENOUGH

CREEPY PLAYING CARDS UNNERVE NEW YORK STATE NEIGHBOURS

Residents of a New York State neighbourhood said they were unnerved to find playing cards in their mailbox as part of an apparent Halloween prank. Neighbors in the Nevins Road area of Henrietta said they have found Joker playing cards in their mailboxes in recent days bearing what appears to be fake blood and the date “10/31” — Halloween. “Is it a sign that they're going to come back on Halloween and do something to my property? To my dog?” resident Michelle Meyer told WHEC-TV. “I think the intent was to scare people and I don't understand why this was funny.” Meyer said he believes

at least six neighbours have found similar cards in their mailboxes. “It seems small and I want to hope it's a prank but you can't assume it's a prank,” Meyer said. “Not anymore.” The Monroe County Sheriff's Office is investigating. (UPI)

PHILADELPHIA BUILDING TAKEN OVER BY TENTACLES

A sculpture installation in South Philadelphia makes it appear as though a building is being attacked by a many-tentacled sea monster. The sculpture at Building 611 in the Philadelphia Navy Yard features more than a dozen inflatable tentacles protruding from the building's windows, as though a giant sea monster is attempting to escape. The installation is a partnership between the Navy Yard and art collective Group X. “Earlier this year, Group X pitched us on doing this piece,” Jennifer Tran, director of Navy Yard marketing and communications, told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. “Out of all the designs, this one spoke to us because we thought it

was really unique. It's never been seen before in Philadelphia. We thought it really pushed the boundaries.” The installation is scheduled to last until November 16. (UPI)

OINK OINK, HONK HONK: ROGUE PIG GOES HOG WILD IN TRAFFIC

It was a classic case of a ham on the lam. Police in Maine's capital city are looking for the owner of a 50-pound piglet that wore itself out while dodging traffic Saturday evening after presumably escaping. *The Portland Press Herald* reports Augusta police went door to door looking for the animal's owner without any luck. They say the pig is being cared for by a person familiar with farm animals until the owner can be found. The animal was in good condition other than being tired out from running around. (AP)

SCUBA DIVERS COMPETE IN UNDERWATER PUMPKIN CARVING

Scuba divers in the Florida Keys took their Halloween spirit 30 feet below



the surface for an underwater pumpkin carving contest. The contest, organised by the Amoray Dive Resort, saw the divers going 30 feet below the surface at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to carve sub-aquatic jack-o-lanterns. Participants said the task was complicated by the fact that their buoyant pumpkins kept trying to float away mid-carve. Brothers Sebastian and Gabriel Gimeno, ages 16 and 14, were declared the winners with their pumpkin carving, which portrayed a dolphin and a half moon. The Gimeno brothers were awarded a return dive trip with Amoray Dive Resort. (UPI)

HOUSTON COUPLE CREATES 'GOOD BOY' BEER FOR DOGS

A pair of Houston bar owners who started brewing beer for their ailing canine a few years ago are now selling Good Boy Dog Beer at more than 20 locations. Megan and Steve Long said they learned how to brew beer for dogs, which does not contain alcohol, when

their Rottweiler mix, Rocky, started having digestion problems a few years ago. The brews are called beer “because we use a lot of the same equipment a brewery does. We just skip the fermentation process,” Megan Long told *USA Today*. She said the beer contains all natural ingredients, including vegetables, meat and turmeric, a spice known to aid digestion in canines. The Good Boy Dog Beer company now has products available at more than 20 dog-friendly bars and restaurants in the Houston area and they also ship their products in cans. The beer is available in three varieties: “IPA lot in the yard,” “Session...Squirrel!” and “Mailman Malt Licker.” (UPI)

'WILLY WONKA' PLEADS GUILTY TO CRIMES

The leader of a multi-state ATM and vehicle burglary ring known as “Willy Wonka”

or the “Chocolate Man” has pleaded guilty to 60 charges. *The Salem News* reports that 47-year-old William “Willy Wonka” Rodriguez pleaded guilty Thursday to his role in crimes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut that netted more than \$300,000 in property and currency. The Lawrence man was one of five people arrested in August during a police investigation dubbed Operation Golden Ticket. Rodriguez remains jailed on \$500,000 bail pending sentencing November 7 where he faces up to 12 years in prison. Authorities say the gang wore black clothing and masks, carried police scanners, two-way radios and power tools. They often stole vehicles, which they used to crash into businesses so they could steal ATMs. (AP)



BRIEFLY
speaking



KETO DIET MAY PREVENT COGNITIVE DECLINE

Following a ketogenic diet — a high-fat, low-carbohydrate regime — may boost cognitive abilities, a study in mice suggests. Researchers from University of Kentucky in the US showed that the gut and the brain are more closely connected than we once thought, and in fact the health of one can affect the other. “Neurovascular integrity, including cerebral blood flow and blood-brain barrier function, plays a major role in cognitive ability,” said Ai-Ling Lin, from University of Kentucky. “Recent science has suggested that neurovascular integrity might be regulated by the bacteria in the gut, so we set out to see whether the Ketogenic Diet enhanced brain vascular function and reduced neurodegeneration risk in young healthy mice,” said Lin. The Ketogenic Diet has previously shown positive effects for patients with other neurological disorders, including epilepsy, Parkinson’s disease, and autism.

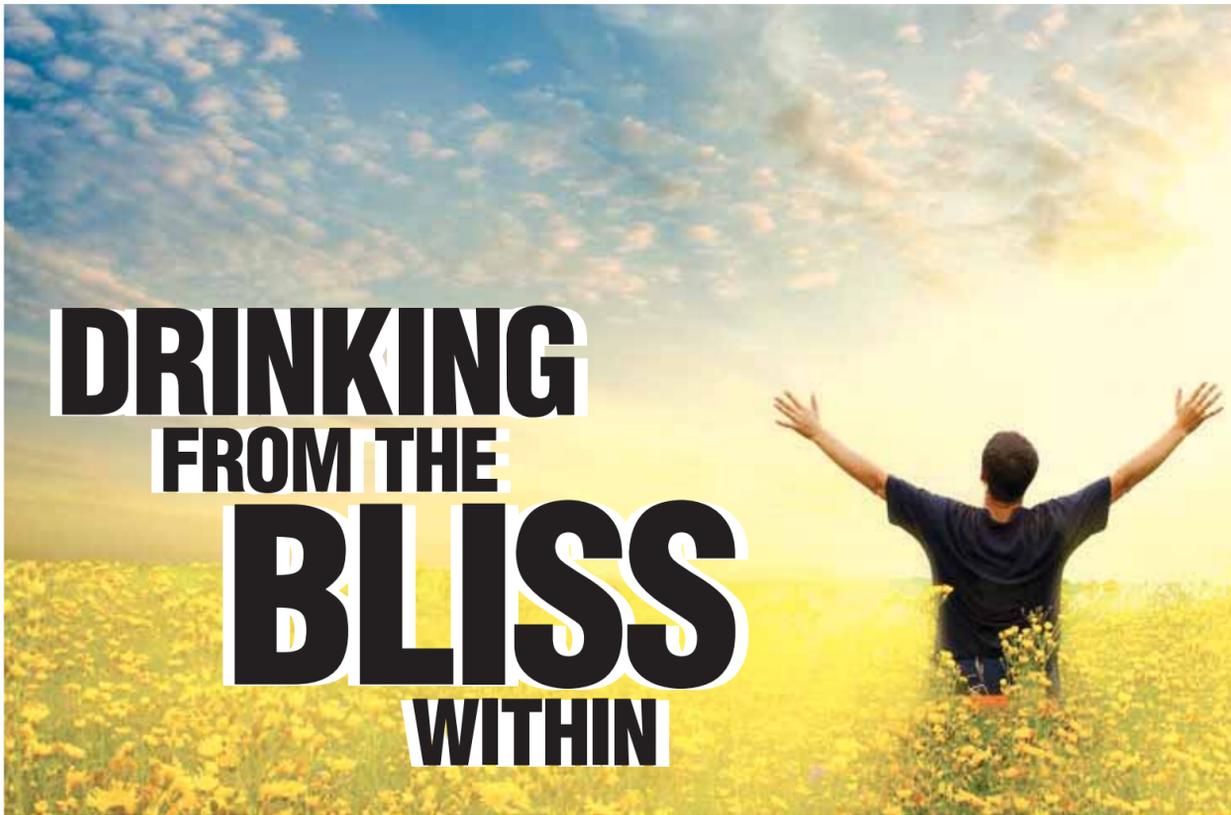
PAIN DISRUPTION THERAPY FOR BACKACHE

People with treatment-resistant back pain may get significant and lasting relief with dorsal root ganglion (DRG) stimulation therapy, an innovative treatment that short-circuits pain, suggests a study. Chronic pain — pain that lasts three months or more — occurs when nerves continue to send signals to the brain after the original source of the pain is gone. An alternative to spinal cord stimulation, DRG stimulation disrupts pain signals by specifically targeting the nerves responsible for the pain. This may avoid unnecessary stimulation of nerve fibers that come from non-painful areas, which may occur with spinal cord stimulation. It also helps to meet the need for non-drug pain treatments in select patients. “People who had DRG stimulation reported significant improvement in pain even after a year, which is notable,” said lead author.

PPD LINKED TO MOM’S PAIN AFTER CHILDBIRTH



A recent study has shown that postpartum depression is linked to mother’s pain after childbirth. Previous researches had demonstrated the pain associated with giving birth may increase the risk of postpartum depression but has not specified which part of the labor process (eg before, during or after delivery) may be the source of the problem. This is the first study to differentiate postpartum pain from labour and delivery pain and identify it as a significant risk factor for postpartum depression. “For many years, we have been concerned about how to manage labour pain, but recovery pain after labour and delivery often is overlooked,” said Jie Zhou, MD, MBA, lead author of the study and assistant professor of anesthesia at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston. “Our research suggests we need to focus more on helping new mothers manage pain after the baby is born.”



By learning to meditate and enjoying the eternal joy that lies within, we get protection from temporary sorrows of life, writes **SANT RAJINDER SINGH**

While growing up, we are taught how important our physical and mental development is. We begin to believe that happiness only lies in developing ourselves in these two areas. Life becomes like a rat race in which we try to meet our physical needs for food, clothing, shelter, and comfort, along with sensual enjoyment, possessions, and love. We spend time developing our intellect by receiving a good education which leads to a rewarding career. We engage in hobbies and pastimes that bring enjoyment to our mind. We look for happiness in meeting our emotional needs for love and companionship through our relationships with our family, friends, and loved ones. We look for a companion in life, and ultimately marry and raise a family. But does anyone ever teach us that happiness lies within our own selves? It has been the role of the spiritual adepts, saints, and mystics to awaken us to the reservoir of this bliss-giving nectar within us.

The way to tap into this pool is simple. It is only a matter of our attention. We can direct our attention wherever we wish. We can place it on our body. We can focus it on our mind. Or, we can concentrate our attention on our soul. Unfortunately, since childhood, we have been trained to focus ourselves on our body and mind. Our senses naturally find it easy to become involved in the activities of the world through our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and skin. Our parents and teachers have never taught us how to focus on our soul. Had they done so, we would have been proficient by now in tapping into the source of consciousness and bliss within.

Instruction in how to place our attention on our soul is the domain of spiritual teachers. From an adept, we can learn the simple process which can help us experience the pure bliss of our true nature. We call this process concentration or focusing our attention. But its most popu-

lar name is meditation.

Meditation is easy. Spiritual teacher Sant Kirpal Singh used to say that it is like closing one drawer and opening another. During the time of meditation, we merely put our thoughts of the world and our problems in one drawer and close it. Then, we open the drawer of meditation and concentrate only on that. When the meditation is over, we can then open the drawer of our thoughts and worldly problems and deal with them.

Meditation entails focusing one’s attention at the seat of the soul, located between and behind the two eyebrows. If we can stop putting our attention on our outer eyes and ears for a while and concentrate at the seat of the soul, we will tap into the source of happiness and bliss awaiting us.

Spending two hours concentrating on the eye-focus each day will help our attention withdraw from the body. Generally, our sensory currents which give us sensation of this physical world are spread out through the body. As we concentrate at the seat of the soul, the sensory currents start withdrawing from our extremities. They come up from our feet and legs to our trunk. Eventually they are totally concentrated at the seat of the soul. Once at that point, a vista of divine light and celestial sound opens up for us. We witness the light and sound which is emanated from God at the dawn of creation. Like a current, this stream flows out from God through all the regions. It also returns to Him. When our soul comes in contact with this stream, it can travel on it back to the source.

The journey begins at the third eye. By putting our attention there, the soul begins its voyage to the ultimate source of happiness. This is what meditation is.

God and the soul are eternal. They are all conscious, all bliss, and in a perpetual state of happiness. When we are in that state all our desires and longings for the things of this world dissipate. Our worldly desires become mere trifles when we

experience the astounding joy within. At some time in our lives, we experience some great euphoria, such as when our team wins a football game, or we get a long-awaited raise, or we have any of our dreams fulfilled. For that moment, we are so lost in joy that all other problems suddenly seem like a trifle. We put these former difficulties aside, for we do not want to be distracted from the moment of glory and happiness. This is just a small example to show how tapping into happiness can keep us in permanent bliss so that the problems of the world fade away.

Those who learn to meditate can switch their attention to the source of happiness within even in the midst of sorrow. True, they still undergo the outer pains and sorrows of life, but they are not affected by them. They are drinking from the inebriation from within that cushions the pain and takes their attention off their sufferings.

There is nothing magical about meditation. It is something every person, from a child to an elderly person, can learn. Had we learned how to focus our attention within during our youth, it would have become a habit by now. We would be able to do it at will anytime we wanted. But it is never too late to learn this practice. By learning to meditate we can perfect the art of directing our attention to the source of happiness within us. Then we can drink from the eternal pool of happiness at any time. Outer sources of enjoyment may be taken from us, but we have access to an eternal bliss we carry within.

We realise that this world is but a passing show. The ecstasy we experience within fills us with happiness and we are able overcome our problems. As we meditate and come in contact with the source of love within, we begin to spread it to others. By following this path, we will always be in tune with the happiness within and will radiate it so that the people we come in contact with absorb it. So, we can spread joy wherever we go.

The writer is a spiritual leader

“SINCE CHILDHOOD, WE HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO FOCUS OURSELVES ON OUR BODY AND MIND. OUR TEACHERS HAVE NEVER TAUGHT US HOW TO FOCUS ON OUR SOUL. HAD THEY DONE SO, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN PROFICIENT IN TAPPING INTO THE BLISS WITHIN”



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Ethics for administrators



The need for ethics is felt in all walks of life. More so, in the administration which is responsible for good governance. Needless to say that the governance in our country leaves much to be desired. The onus is certainly on the administrative machinery headed by the civil servants, particularly the officers of the coveted Indian Administrative Services, the kingpins of India’s Administration. Perhaps for this reason there is a complete paper on Ethics, Integrity and Attitude that has been included in the recent past as General Studies Paper-IV for the Civil Services Main examination. The objective of this paper is to test the candidate’s attitude and aptitude towards issues related to integrity and probity in public life, and his ability to handle ethical dilemmas that arise during the course of the career of the civil servant. Ethics is certainly a major issue in the present days and challenges in the form of allurements and sometimes threats to career and even personal well-being do arise in public life. Ethics, it must be understood, is a multifaceted concept which often involves grey areas where the decision maker does not find simple right or wrong answers. It is these areas that offer the greatest challenge to the career bureaucrat and the ability to discriminate is often put to test. Ethics is too wide and complex an issue to be understood and evaluated as consistency is often found missing. The issue of ethics is an issue of attitude, even aptitude but largely character. To ensure that anybody entering the coveted ranks of Indian Civil Services remains ethical in his dealings all through his career is difficult. Ethics is that uncanny ability to exercise the right choices when distraction in the form of rewards are too alluring to ignore. But this is the real test of character. Though this one paper may be of some use in finding out the orientation of the candidate appearing for the examination to some extent, the larger issue is the predictive validity of such examination. What is more crucial is the continuous training and personality development of the incumbent once he joins the services as that is where situations fashion changes in attitudes. One paper then may serve to be some kind of an indicator and, that too, not a very strong one. But the important issue is maintaining integrity all through. Important because the Indian Civil Services is supposed to be the steel fame of Indian Administration. It is, therefore, imperative to ensure that this steel frame does not rust. Unfortunately the rusting is being evidenced as occasional incidents would point out. The big question is training for ethics. How an administrator has to be sensitised. For an effective training regimen the key areas that need to be focused are empathy, non-partisanship, tolerance, humility and compassion. The periodicity of such training is also a consideration. How long and how often? With changes in job requirements the role of the civil servant calls for a systematic change but the intriguing aspect is that the basic model has more or less remained the same. Hence it is important to reinvent the services with emphasis on emotional quotient and morality quotient. The loyalty must shift to the people and the nation rather than the powers that be. The loyalty to the crown was the hallmark of the British rule. Post-independence this seems to have shifted to the party in power in many cases.

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Let us first learn to pray properly

Our method has to change from ordering God to seeking His guidance. We will never be disappointed; God always finds ways to communicate, says **AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI**

Remember, God has set the bar quite high for that as He has clarified in *The Gita*, “Those people who worship Me with undivided attention, meditating on Me — for those practitioners of yoga, I help in getting what one does not have and provide security of what one has.” (9.22)

Does it mean that others don’t deserve anything? No, they do because they fall in the category of distressed or seeker of wealth. (7.16) Anyone approaching God will get God’s response. There is a big range from none for atheists to full for devotees, mentioned earlier. What do they deserve? Let us go back to the example of a sick person in a family? God will guide, ie God will indicate what all needs to be done for the patient, but all that has to be done by the family members. God cannot make all of us lazy by doing our duties for us. Even those devotees who are engaged in doing the highest duty of the human life must do all



their duties including attending to their sick family members themselves. God will be very active in helping them. (18.58)

Let us see the logic of God. Whose problem is this? Not God’s. Who is best placed to help? The family members of the sick person of course! So shouldn’t they be used to help? After all, God must act through a medium — a physical person. A person who prays benefits in two ways. One finds workable solutions which can be implemented. And the negativity disappears because one is no longer helpless and is engaged properly with hope in the heart.

There are general guidelines for praying in different situations. I have already mentioned about sickness in family. The next situation is when we need help, and don’t know who can and how. Pray sincerely and God will indicate, because He knows who can and how. Similarly, we are confused between two choices. Both appear okay. Who will

know the answer? God will because He can see the big picture. He can shed light on the various pluses and minuses, which can help us make the decision.

We need something desperately like a material object and do not know where to find it. Again, if anyone knows God will because He is omnipresent. We need protection as all do. We can pray to God — the omnipotent after creating a sound support system; He obliges. We want success. Who can ensure it? God can because He is omniscient. Lastly, we wish to help someone. Pray to God recommending him or her detailing why that person should be helped. What did we learn? That we must establish a solid relationship with God to deserve His active help, which is unlimited. That we must do all our duties as guided by God; He guides.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

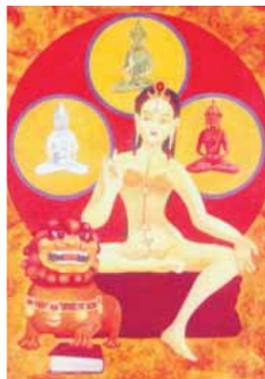


YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
 You should now listen to your body with care and compassion. Those who are having health issues, it is advisable not to stress about them. You should focus on a healthy outlet to your emotions. Don't overload yourself with work. Indulge in some kind of youthful sport activities that will help you to stay active as well as connect you with your inner child. On the career front, some of you have achieved goals and attained materialistic gains. Even though you are financially sound, do not give too much importance to wealth. Some of you may have a hard time at work place due to your inflexible approach towards change. On the relationship front, those who are committed — your relationship will become stronger and reliable.
Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
 This week you should follow the mantra — 'patience is the key'. If your health has been out of balance, then you need to act with great wisdom. Those awaiting test results, don't panic and jump to a conclusion. Trust your intuition. If you feel that a particular treatment is not right for you, then look for another healthcare practitioner. You may face dilemma at the work front. Situations which require immediate action are likely to be there. But before taking any action, you should analyse all the available information. Your own value system is likely to be challenged. Therefore, be honest and seek spiritual guidance. Those thinking to put an end to their relationship should look within and then make the right decision. Ensure that you and your partner are on the same page before parting ways.
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
 A major disturbance on the health front will shake you up. It may be an illness that may take time to heal. This may also affect you spiritually, mentally and physically. The only thing that will save you from becoming negative is an optimistic — whatever happens, happens for good and you will use this tough time to make yourself stronger. This week in your career, you are likely to meet a counsellor or a mentor that you needed for a long time. This person will help you with new skills and sound advice. Things will be good if you work in an organised way or as per certain rules. Love is in the air this week. You and your partner will share a positive energy. You will be happy in your relationship. A new relationship is on the cards for the singles.
Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
 This week you if you feel that something is wrong with your body, then you need to pay attention to your concerns. You should not panic and don't feel that you can't do anything about it. Trust your intuition and look for other ways to sort out the issues. Be patient while awaiting results. Ensure proper diet, rest and exercise. At work, things will be the way you want them to be. Some of you may face challenges in a project. It is recommended that you take some time off from work and don't take any important decisions this week. You need to maintain your calm amidst the chaos around you. If you can't stay calm, then seek another position. Those who are committed need to focus on their relationship towards the future. Change your old perspective towards an ongoing issue.
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
 In the matter of health, you need to pay attention to your emotions. There will be situations when you will not be able to deal with the challenges with the best of your abilities. In case you are facing illness, then rather than feeling negative about it, start helping yourself with information by talking to experts. Maintain a health regime. Career-wise, this is a very positive time for you. Your efforts will be acknowledged and some of you may be awarded. This will help elevate your confidence in your abilities; ensure that you don't become arrogant. Any self-importance that you display will not go down well with your peers or seniors. Those looking for a new job — the result will be in your favor. Those in committed relationships will have a mystical experience. You will connect with your partner spiritually.
Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Parrot green
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
 This week you need to balance your health with your personal and professional responsibilities. This will make your life hectic and you need to be patient. Amidst all the chaos, make sure you take some time out for your own healing. Prioritise your tasks and avoid suffering on account of your health. Your work front will be filled with stress and anxiety that is likely to affect you. Being worried about the future of your career will immobilise you in pursuing your goals in the present. Do not discourage yourself and opt for a flexible approach to deal with negative situations. Those in a committed relationship are likely to feel disappointed in some situation or with the partner. If that is the case, then you need to look deep within yourself for a solution.
Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Baby pink
Lucky day Monday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
 It is time to get up and take action to improve your health condition. Your laid back attitude will have a bad impact on your health. Evaluate your health scenario and decide what steps and efforts are required; it could be a physical exercise or a nutritional diet. You need to revive your positive energy. You have to tighten up your belt and get ready to do some hard work at the work place. Some of you may experience a new beginning. Those seeking employment will be hired into a position that will test their skills. For those of you who are already working will be burdened with responsibilities. This is a great time for love. Committed couples will experience a deep sense of bonding. Some of you may enter the next stage of your relationship. For singles, there are chances to meet someone.
Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
 You should maintain balance in everything including your routine activities like eating nutritional food and getting adequate rest. In case you are facing health issues, trust that things will get better. You are mentally strong and stable. Ensure a healthy body and mind connection to keep going. This week at career front you may get an increment in your pay or a promotion. Some of you may achieve your goals post a minor setback. This will make you feel a sense of accomplishment. You should be grateful for this upswing. Those seeking a new job, keep trying, you will achieve a better position with a better pay. Love is in the air. You and your partner will bond well and will have a mutual understanding. Married females may conceive. Singles, this is the time to find your partner.
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
 You will enjoy strong vitality this week and will be self-motivated to make any health-related efforts. This is an excellent time to make some changes in your fitness plan as you will make more progress. You have to channelise this energy in the right manner; being impulsive may create health problems. At work, all your actions will have their own consequences. You are likely to face a situation in which you have to make a decision. Try to be reasonable and consider others' points of view before making any choice. Some of you need to be fair in your dealings. Relationship-wise, this week is a great time to improve your bonding with your partner. Your positive frame of mind will be received well by your partner. Avoid being impulsive. Singles are likely to meet someone with the same mindset.
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22
 News related to your health will be positive and your efforts are likely to bear fruit. You have full control of the situations around you. Thus, you must take advantage of this and look for an alternative ways to deal with health challenge issues. How you speak your mind and conduct yourself will matter the most at your work place. Conflict and disagreement with peers is indicated. This will create tension. Unfairness at workplace is likely to cause trouble. But ensure that you are not the creator of problems. You need to choose your battles wisely. This week, you will feel that your relationship has come a full circle. As a result, it may culminate into a marriage and for some there will be a sense of closure. Singles have bright chances of meeting someone special.
Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Off-white
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
 A news with regard to your health is going to be good. At present you are in a stronger position and have the ability to control your surroundings. This week, any efforts that you put towards your health improvement will be successful. The only thing you need to do is consider an alternate way to deal with health challenges for long-term benefit. Career-wise, you will be happy as money will flow in with an increase in your pay or a promotion. This is because of all the hard work you put in to achieve your goals. Those seeking jobs may get the desired position. At relationship front, you are clear about what you want from your relationship. This is a good sign, but your way of communicating with your partner will be crucial.
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
 You are likely to face health challenges this week. You need to hold your ground during serious health problems. A positive attitude will enable you to do the right things for your health. If a test is required, then get it from a trusted practitioner. You need to walk the path of recovery with courage. Career-wise, things may not be going as per your expectations. If you don't like your job or are facing problems, then remember that you have the ability to improve your environment. Try to have the right mindset before making any decision. Others are likely to oppose you, but you should keep moving forward. Those in a committed relationship may face issues with the partner. It is advisable to have an open conversation to sort out the things.
Lucky number 24
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Friday

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Child's healthy growth needs love

The way one is brought up during early childhood has a long lasting influence on a being's personality frame up. The children remain witness to all that would be going around, even if that doesn't relate to them. They may not understand as to what is happening in real terms. They, however, are quite sensitive and receptive and can intuitively have a sense of good and bad; pleasant and unpleasant; love and hatred; anger and frustration. Accordingly, they pick up positive and negative emotions from the environment. At their age, their mind remains uncluttered. So, they have enough of empty mind-space to store a baggage full of inputs. Unfiltered, these impressions get into the inner realms of their raw mind. That shapes the mind and psyche of a child, which given a small trigger, spontaneously play out even much later in life.

In case of over sensitive children, it has been experienced that even during their infant stage, they often behave in an unpredictable way when faced with unpleasant environmental condition. In one such case, an infant used to cry non-stop whenever his parents were quarrelling. No amount of pampering could soften the child for hours together. After

intensive probing, a pediatrician marked this phenomenon, and accordingly counselled his parents to behave properly particularly in his presence. The irony, however, is that the parents and other family members caught up in their ego trip, often lose their sense of reason. They seldom care that their child would be watching their unseemly conduct. They don't realise that unmindfully though, but they corrupt child's mind-state.

Experience suggests that in majority of cases of those suffering from some short of mental disorder, had a very unpleasant childhood. A sense of fear and insecurity develops in minds of children faced with a turbulent domestic atmosphere. A male child deprived of mother's love, or a girl child lacking father's care, end up having serious personality imbalance. Such children grow with a sense of want and deprivation deeply ingrained in their mind, which reflects later in their usual conduct.

Recently, someone came looking for what is in store of his young son's destiny, whose abnormal mind-trends was bothering him too much. The young man's astrological chart bares open his state of affairs. Evidently, my study began with a look at his mind-signifying Moon, which



occupies a dual sign Sagittarius, and is conjunct Neptune. This speaks of a wavering mind not able to reason out things properly in as much as that his indiscrete ill-timed reactions may put him off with others. He may remain stuck to his self-delusional perceptions, distanced from ground realities, and being subject to unpredictable mood swings. Also, he would be habitually an escapist, not keen to take challenges in life.

Here again, Moon happens to be the 4th lord identified with mother and domestic atmosphere, which is conjunct Saturn, the planet of its nemesis. It, in the first place, is indicative of a disturbed home. Second, he would be deprived of motherly love. Third, he may have a doubting negative mind, habitually suspicious of one and all. Fourth, he may nurse a sense of victimhood. On top of that Moon is involved in unholy exchange of zodiac signs with Jupiter, the 9th lord identified with father. It clearly implies parental separation, which must have been preceded by long drawn confrontation.

The fellow could not digest all these and developed inferiority complex. For, Neptune is locked in unholy relationship with Mars, the *lagna* lord, the prime-mover of the young man. More so,

because of his Aries *lagna* where its lord Mars is firmly placed, which happens to be the most volatile sign of natural zodiac. This by itself is enough to make out an impulsive, aggressive, rash, impatient, intolerant, domineering and demanding character. He will wish to be in command of things. All the more, because the Sun, which is marked with individual identity is ill-disposed off to Jupiter.

That points to his swaggering ego, out of touch with reality, stuck to his self-defined dos and don'ts, and not open to look beyond for the right lead. It is also indicative of a sluggish liver, which makes him vulnerable to being short of energy. If all that was not enough, even intelligence signifying Mercury, is conjunct Neptune, which accounts for his insensible reasoning and judgment. And the result is there to see.

To sum up, the parents and family members should bring up their children with love and utmost care to ensure their healthy growth.

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