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TREAT
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DIGNITY: SAIF
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Pressure mounts, Akbar quits Govt

Defamation suit hearing to begin in Patiala House court today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

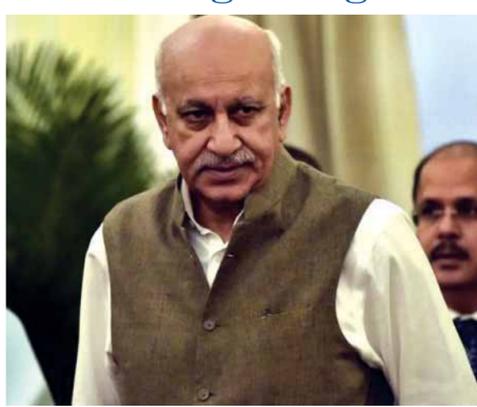
Facing storm of sexual misconduct allegations against women journalists in his stint as editor of a newspaper, Union Minister of State for External Affairs MJ Akbar on Wednesday resigned from the Council of Ministers saying he was stepping down to "challenge false accusations" leveled against him in his "personal capacity".

The resignation came a day before Akbar's defamation suit against journalist Priya Ramani, who was the first journalist to accuse him of sexual harassment around 20 years ago, is scheduled to come up for hearing in the Patiala House court here.

Akbar first tried to dig in his heels, but with the allegations refusing to die down and even RSS backing the woman journalists, the Modi Government had few options but to give him marching order to contain growing adverse publicity. With the case slated for hearing on Thursday, Akbar would have found it difficult to defend himself in the court in such a sensitive matter in his capacity as a Union Minister.

"I deem it appropriate to step down from office and challenge false accusations leveled against me, also in a personal capacity. I have, therefore, tendered my resignation..." Akbar said.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister



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- I deem it appropriate to step down from office and challenge false accusations leveled against me, also in a personal capacity. I have, therefore, tendered my resignation... Akbar said
- He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj for giving him the opportunity to serve the country
- Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said she saluted those women who stood on their charges against the Minister bravely despite the "brazen" stance taken by the Government
- This resignation is a vindication of the power of truth. More strength to India's women, Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said

Sushma Swaraj for giving him the opportunity to serve the country.

Akbar's lawyer Sandeep Kapur of law firm Karanjawala & Co said the private criminal defamation case will come up for hearing on Thursday before additional chief metropolitan

magistrate Samar Vishal. The lawyer also forwarded the brief resignation letter of Akbar who was associated with several media houses in the past.

Kapur said since the matter is subjudice, the law will take its own course.

"Since we have already filed the defamation case, we will pursue it in the court," he said.

Akbar on Monday had filed the criminal defamation complaint against Ramani alleging she "willfully" and "maliciously" made imputations against him with the ulterior motive of maligning his reputation and political standing.

As Akbar took the first step of filing the legal case, 19 women journalists who have worked with him in the past came out in support of their colleague Ramani.

The journalists have urged the court to hear their testimonies against Akbar, claiming that some of them suffered sexual harassment by the Minister and others have been a witness to it.

"Ramani is not alone in her fight. We would request the honourable court hearing the defamation case to also consider the testimonies of sexual harassment of some of us at the hands of the petitioner, as also of the other signatories who bore witness to this harassment," the journalists said in the joint statement underwritten by them.

"What Akbar has demonstrated through his legal actions is his refusal to introspect, acknowledge or atone for his actions that have caused immense pain and indeed harm to many women over the years."

"He himself, in the mean-

while, continues to enjoy enormous power and privilege as Minister and Member of Parliament," the statement said.

"When Ramani spoke out against him in public, she spoke not only about her personal experience, but also lifted the lid on the culture of 'casual misogyny, entitlement and sexual predation' that Akbar engendered and presided over at newspaper," it said.

The Akbar versus women journalists legal battle is set for a long haul as the cases are spread over to two decades. Ramani on Monday asserted that she was ready to fight the defamation complaint filed against her, and expressed disappointment over the Minister's statement, saying it paid no heed to the "trauma and fear of the survivors".

"I am ready to fight the allegations of defamation laid against me as truth and the absolute truth is my only defence," she had said.

The Congress termed as "victory of truth" the resignation of Union Minister MJ Akbar following charges of sexual harassment against him.

Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi said she saluted those women who stood on their charges against the Minister bravely despite the "brazen" stance taken by the Government.

"This resignation is a vindication of the power of truth. More strength to India's women," she said.



Chief Minister Raghuraj Das doing Kanya Puja at Jamshedpur on Wednesday

Violent protesters stop women's entry in temple

Despite SC verdict, women fail to enter Sabarimala in face of local resistance

PNS ■ NILACKAL/PAMBA (KERALA)

Amid massive protest and violent clashes, no woman from the "banned" age group could enter the hallowed precincts of Sabarimala temple when its gate opened on Wednesday evening for the first time since the Supreme Court allowed women of menstrual age to enter the shrine.

"No girl or woman in the age group of 10 and 50 has so far visited Sannidhanam (the temple complex) so far," said a

senior official of the Travancore Devaswom Board, the body which manages the shrine.

Vastly outnumbered, police officials could do little to enforce law and order situation as protesters turned violent and roughed up journalists and pelted stones at the cops. Women journalists were heckled and their vehicles smashed. Young female Ayyappa devotees turned back as hordes of protesters besieged the road leading to the hill-top temple, abode to Lord Ayyappa, its eternally celibate deity, officials said.

The protesters enjoy political backing as both the Congress, the main Opposition party in Kerala, and the BJP, which is desperately seeking to expand its footprint in the State, have lent support to the agitation against the Supreme Court verdict.

Through the day, the road leading from Nilackal, the gateway to the shrine, to Pamba in the foothills from where the devotees start the arduous trek to Sabarimala, protesters and policemen fought pitched battles. Several protesters were seen being bundled into police vehicles, while siren blaring ambulances carried some to hospitals.

The protesters also raised slogans against the Left Front's Kerala Government incensed as they were with its decision not to file a review plea against the Supreme Court's September

28 landmark order.

Simmering tension prevailing in Nilackal since morning erupted into raucous rowdyism as scores of activists of fringe groups heckled women journalists of at least four national TV channels and vandalised their vehicles.

National TV showed protesters wearing black and saffron turbans running after their cars, violently pounding and kicking the vehicles in a bid to stop them from proceeding to Pamba from Nilackal on way to Sabarimala.

At least 10 people from the media, including reporters and photojournalists, were injured and equipment of several of them damaged, senior Minister EP Jayarajan said.

Denouncing the attacks on media, he said cases were being registered against the suspects under sections relating to non-bailable offences.

News agency PTI reported that unfazed by the unfolding violence, Madhavi, a gutsy woman from Andhra Pradesh in her 40s, tried to climb the Sabarimala hills to reach the Lord Ayyappa temple but was forced to return to Pamba, menaced by agitated male devotees. Liby, a woman from Kerala's Alappuzha, also in the "banned" age group, was prevented from proceeding to Sabarimala at Pathanamthitta bus terminal. She was escorted to safety by police.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

NBW AGAINST NETA'S GUN BRANDISHING SON

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Wednesday issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against the son of a former BSP MP for allegedly brandishing a pistol at guests and threatening them in the foyer of a five-star hotel here, a video of which went viral on the social media.

J&K: 69% OF 598 WARDS DIDN'T WITNESS POLLING

Srinagar: The just-concluded urban local body polls in Kashmir recorded a poor voter turnout but it will perhaps be remembered for nearly 70 per cent of wards not witnessing any polling as there was no candidate at all or some of them winning unopposed.



WISHING OUR READERS A Happy Dussehra

On account of Durga Puja and immersion ceremony, the offices of this edition of THE PIONEER will remain closed on October 18 and 19. The next issue of the paper will appear on October 21.

CM performs puja, gives message of cleanliness



CM Raghuraj Das performs Durga Puja ritual in Jamshedpur on Wednesday

PARVINDER BHATIA ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Chief Minister Raghuraj Das who arrived in the city on Wednesday afternoon participated in rituals at several Durga puja pandals at Telco, Baridih, Sidhgora, Tinsplate and Golumuri. Das performed rituals and prayed for the progress and prosperity of the State. Senior BJP leader Kulwant Singh said that the Chief

Minister performed rituals at the temple and also prayed for the wellbeing of the people.

Addressing devotees at Tinsplate Kali Mandir, Das said that the devotees must pick waste and throw it into dustbin. He said that it is the duty of people to ensure cleanliness of temple and also their localities. The CM said that Durga Puja and Dussehra celebrate the triumph of truth over evil and the festivals inspire all to walk on

the path of righteousness and forbearance. He exuded hope that the festivities would usher in peace, happiness and prosperity for all.

"Our Government is committed towards development of the State. We want to ensure that the people reap the benefits of Government schemes. In these colourful festivals of Maa Durga and Lord Rama, let us pledge that the State reaches new height of progress," noted

Das. Amid festive mood, dressed in their best, people of the city today thronged at puja pandals to make offering to the deities. People in large numbers visited the colourfully decorated pandals in the evening and were overjoyed as cultural programmes began at all prominent pandals.

The entire city is bubbling with joy and enthusiasm; be it a child or an adult everyone has zeroed on his/her plans to make celebrations all the more special. "We are hosting cultural shows to add a tinge of entertainment for the visitors. We are happy to note the response from the devotees," said a functionary of Circuit House puja committee.

Meanwhile, a big fair is being organised at Sabuj Kalyan Sangh, Telco. The area has turned into playground for visitors. Meanwhile, artistically carved idols of Goddess Durga is also attracting the devotees a lot. Another Puja is here - another reaffirmation of our essential religiousness, another chance at renewing our social ties, another opportunity for restoring our links with divinity. People are seen standing in long queues in front of the pandals for their turn for darshan of the Goddess. Huge rush of devotees was seen at the pandals of Jay Ram Sporting Club in Adityapur and Thakur Pyara Singh and Dharundhar Singh in Kashidih.

Manvendra joins Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Ahead of Assembly elections in Rajasthan, the Congress received a shot in the arm when Manvendra Singh, son of former BJP stalwart and Union Minister Jaswant Singh, joined the Congress on Wednesday. Congress president Rahul Gandhi welcomed Manvendra into the party fold at his New Delhi residence on Wednesday morning.

BJP's Katol MLA in Maharashtra Ashish Deshmukh also joined the Congress on Wednesday. He is the son of Ranjeet Deshmukh, a former president of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee and Maharashtra Minister.

"It has been a fight for 'swabhimaan' (self respect). The decision to quit the BJP was not my own but that of our entire 'Swabhimaan Sena,'" said Manvendra addressing the media in the presence of Rajasthan Congress leaders Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot, Avinash Pande, Jitendra Singh and Randeep Surjewala.

Continued on Page 4

FOREIGN FUNDING OF NGOS

Interpol probe needed, says Pratul Shahdeo

PNS ■ RANCHI

Condemning Christian Missionaries engaged in forcible religious conversions, Jharkhand BJP spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo said the preliminary investigation by the CID has established the BJP's allegations that the Christian Missionaries have misused foreign fundings.

In a press release issued today, Shahdeo claimed the CID investigation has cleared why senior Christian clergys were giving statements against the State Governments decision to order a CID probe into foreign funding of NGOs including missionaries. "Actually, the priests were issuing statements against the probe because they were afraid of the outcome of the investigations. These religious leaders were issuing such statements because they wanted to influence the probe. Archbishop Felix Toppo and Bishop Mascarenhas had termed the probe was influenced politically. But, the CID interim probe has proved massive misuse of foreign fundings by NGOs for religious conversions," Shahdeo alleged.



foreign funds were also deposited in personal accounts and mutual funds. It is also being said that a major portion of the foreign funds were used for spreading awareness about a particular religion. "There is information that in some cases foreign funds were deposited in individuals who converted to other religions," Shahdeo said.

The BJP spokesperson said his party has always maintained that elements engaged in religious conversions are misusing foreign funds in the name of social service. Let alone conversion, the foreign funds are also diverted for anti-India activists. Shahdeo said the BJP has requested the state government to also take the help of CBI and the Interpol. This racket is linked to many foreign countries and it is necessary to take help of the CBI and the Interpol to expose this international racket, he added.

Shahdeo demanded the state government should immediately ask the CBI to probe the matter with help of the Interpol and all those organisations and people who tried to interfere in the CID probe should also be properly examined.

CBI files 2 cases in J&K gun licence racket

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered two cases to probe illegal issuance of over 40,000 arms licences issued during the last one decade by various district administrations of Jammu & Kashmir. The CBI move comes after reference from the State Government.

The two cases were registered on Tuesday against unknown officials of various districts of the State under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Corruption Act and Arms Act. A former District Collector of Kupwara has been named as an accused in one of the cases, a CBI official said.

Following reports of illegal issuance of arms licences to



people without due process, the State Government had earlier this revoked a number of such licences issued between January 1, 2017 to February 23 this year. The State Government also put a blanket ban on issuance of any licence. The racket came to light after the Rajasthan Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) in 2017 unearthed one of the biggest gun licences scam operating from Jammu & Kashmir. Key districts involved in the racket included Kupwara, Ganderbal, Leh, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur. Earlier, the Union Home Ministry had initiated a probe to look into allegations of irregularities including bribery in

issuance of arms licences across Jammu & Kashmir. The Home Ministry had also directed the State Government to look into the issue following which a ban was imposed on issuance of fresh licences.

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh had forwarded a complaint from Youth Voice of Jammu & Kashmir to the Jammu & Kashmir Division of the Ministry to probe the allegations.

The Youth Voice of Jammu & Kashmir, a voluntary organisation, had in a letter to the Union Home Minister in March underscored the need to urgently enquire into the illegal practice prevalent in every district headquarters of the State of issuing arms licences in lieu of bribe.

The outfit had also flagged concerns that the alleged corruption is so rampant that the touts even collect huge sums of money even from Army and paramilitary personnel who approach the district administration for obtaining personal arms licences.

According to the complaint, the touts charge as much as Rs 30,000 for every such arms licence issued to an individual. The touts have access to the staffers of the office of the District Collectors, the outfit had alleged.

The outfit further warned that a serious threat has emerged not only to the State but also to the nation as a whole due to issuance of arms licences in lieu of bribes.

In view of the seriousness

Former Minister Deo Dayal passes away

PNS ■ HAZARIBAGH

Veteran BJP leader and first agriculture minister of the State Deo Dayal Kushwaha breathed his last at a nursing home in Ranchi on Wednesday. Kushwaha had represented Hazaribagh Sadar in State Assembly thrice and was known as a mass leader. He was ill from last few weeks and admitted in Ranchi.

His family members said his condition kept deteriorating and all efforts to save him failed. His last rite will take place in his native Jhumra village. Present MLA from Hazaribagh Sadar, Manish Jaiswal expressed his grief over the death of Kushwaha and said Hazaribagh has lost the son of soil. He termed his death as big loss to party. Deputy Mayor



Rajkumar Lal said his death created a big void. He said Kushwaha was a simple and man of good nature.

Death of Kushwaha sent shock waves among party workers who started reaching to his native village Jhumra. Many remembered him as a good human being.

People throng Durga Puja pandals on Mahashtami



PNS ■ BERMO

Thousands of people thronged Durga Puja pandals on Wednesday as devotees ushered in 'Mahashtami' – the most auspicious day of Durga Puja, with prayers and Pushpanjali – offering flowers to the goddess Durga. Beautifully crafted idols of the goddess were adorned with fine jewellery and flowers at the various pandals set up in Station club, Punch Mandir, and Bokaro club by the Bengali and others communities here. While Mahashtami is no

less than a carnival for the Bengali community, scores of devotees from all communities flocked to the pandals for the festivities, prayers and to enjoy the delicious bhog. "We make it a point to enjoy the Sandhi Puja, which is performed on the evening of Mahashtami and Navmi, where we offer a saree, flowers, sweets and dakhina to the goddess. As my both sons are working in USA and Patna, I miss being there as Puja festivities are very different there. However, it is always a joy to be part of the community gatherings around Durga

Puja," said Shyama Kumari, principal of Government school and a resident of GM colony of Bokaro thermal.

"The event is funded by employees of DVC, BTPS and the pandals are always open not just for the Bengali community but also for others from the neighbourhood includes Phusro, Bermo, Gomia and Nawadih. We served the traditional bhog prasad like khichari to some 5000 devotees," said Krishnan Murari, secretary of Punch Mandir Puja pandals. "I've been in BTPS for 40 years and many Bengalis live in



Bokaro thermal. We organize cultural programmes – musical events and plays – so that our children stay in touch with the

language and other elements of Bengali culture," said Kuntal Dutta, a resident of Nishanhut in Bokaro thermal.

SAIL receives National Award

PNS ■ RANCHI

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has been awarded with the National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for first place in the category 'Public – Manufacturing – Mega' by The Institute of Cost Accountants of India. Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal presented the award to Chairman SAIL, Anil Kumar Chaudhary during the 15th National Awards for Excellence in Cost Management – 2017 event in New Delhi on October 16. SAIL has been continually following the best cost management practices to improve physical and financial performance in the competitive environment. The award has been decided by jury of eminent personalities.

Administration readies for Durga Puja festival

Magistrates and police officers have been instructed to remain on deputation till the immersion

PNS ■ GARHWALA

To ensure peaceful Durga Puja, Deputy Commissioner Harsh Mangala has deputed 203 magistrates all over the district.

All the magistrates and police officers have been instructed to remain on deputation till the immersion who have been made responsible for maintaining peace and control communal tension. From the point of view of vigil on law and order, he has instructed to take immediate action against those who spread rumors.

Those who spread rumors and incite communal feelings

Deputy Commissioner has instructed all SDOs to videography of procession and strict monitors on criminal and anti-social elements who joined in the procession

will be booked under section 505 of the IPC. The Deputy Commissioner said that during the procession, the use of the new route can not be accept-

ed under any circumstances. The Deputy Commissioner has instructed all SDOs to videography of procession and strict monitors on criminal and anti-social elements who joined in the procession.

To control traffic for the proper parking of vehicles DC directed to arrange parking before the Garh Devi more, Ranka more and Manjhiaon more.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the control room at the district level would be functioning day and night. Whose telephone number is 06561-222265 and 100.



Durga Puja pandal of Pragati Pratik Club catches fire after a short circuit accident during 'Maha Ashtmi' Durga Puja festival at Wednesday morning in Ranchi

PNS

Goddess Mahisasura-Mardini: Continuity and change from India to Indonesia

DR BACHCHAN KUMAR

Full of zeal, Juke Bandun started his work. He would have certainly managed to carry out the task if the sound of pounding the paddy by the girls of Prambanan had not disclosed to him that his work was in vain because that was a certain sign that is the sun would shortly be rising over the horizon. It is believed that the goddess herself asked JakaBandun to build this temple and she gave order to the girls to start pounding the paddy much earlier than usual. Some scholars believe that it was not Candi Sevu but Candi Lara Jonggrang, which was constructed. Nor it was the pounding of the paddy as a sign of the rising sun, which rendered the task of the youth futile. In fact, the girl (in disguise of goddess) herself gave the order to start the pounding of the paddy much earlier than usual. There is a statue in the niche of the temple worshipped by the both young and old as a statue of Lara Jonggrang. Willem Stutterheim (1989:109) believes that it is not a statue of Lara Jonggrang but the goddess Mahisasura-mardini. The temple was not built in one night as we see to the left nearby some hills, which consist of masses of broken stones covered with plant and bushes (Veth, 1875-1882, 2.94).

Some of the Old Javanese works and epigraphic records mention the continuity of the worshipping of deity. King Airlangga who ruled over Java during tenth and eleventh century worshipped the goddess. The Patakan inscription mentions that in order to face an attack, the king leaves his capital Watan Mas and visits to Terep hermitage in the village Kambang Sri to worship Bhattariarcarupa (image of the goddess). Later he succeeded in the battle. On



returning to the capital, the king issued a prasasti/Terep (Terep inscription) in the year A.D. 1032. The prasasti informs of a tax-free status given to Terep hermitage. However, the inscription does not mention the name of the deity. No doubt, the goddess was no other than

Mahisasura-mardini (Santiko, 1997, 216). An inscription of 1486 A.D. also mentions the worshipping of this goddess. The actual words are "Carwananira, bhataridurga" mean offering to BhattariDurga (Brands, 1913, XCIII, b, verses 8-9).

Quite a large number of

images of Mahisasura-mardini are found in Indonesia. The scholars have reported over 500 beautiful images of the deity in the different parts of Indonesia. During my study, I have come across 207 images. Some of the images are taken away during colonial rule.

The early concept of the

deity is reflected from the sculptures of late seventh to tenth century found from Central Java. The images of those times depict the goddess in a beautiful form, standing on buffalo revealing benevolent character. She holds in her hands different implements attacking on the demon. The battle between goddess and demon symbolizes dark and light, jnana (knowledge) and ajnana (ignorance), good and evil, truth and untruth. In classical Indonesian Hindu mythology, she is related to Saivism and considered as sakti, the wife of Siva (Ghatotkacasraya Kakawin, ch. XX, XXX, XXXI). The inscription of TimbanganTungkal dated 913 AD of Sanjaya rule invokes the deity along with Siva. The words of the inscription mention as "Omnamorudradurgebyahswaha" (invocating Rudra (Siva) and Durga" (Sarkar, II, 1972, LXXXII). According to Coedes, referring view of N.J.Krom with regard to Java and W.F.Stutterheim for Bali, Hinduism was practiced by the upper class and had not even been completely the religion of the masses (Coedes, 1967, 33). If we consider this view true, it seems that at first worshipping of Mahisasura-mardini began in Indonesia amongst the royal families and upper class people. It was because the local rulers performed Tantric ritual to enhance and secure power. Besides, the worshipping of the deity was performed for prevailing peace and prosperity in the kingdom and gaining victory over foreign invasion or winning over the battle. In India, same concept was prevalent as revealed in the texts the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

The Indonesian literatures substantiate the same concept. King Airlangga worshipped the goddess in the form of statue (bhattariarcarupa) at the

Terep hermitage to gain victory over an attack on his kingdom. The king finally won the battle (Patakan inscription, 11th century AD). The goddess was also worshipped for attaining supreme power to become "cakravarti" (supreme monarch). In Javanese tradition, a cakravarti king had tremendous power that was assisted by the female power, the prajapati (protector), and the purohita (taking to the right path as counselor). The temples of Java reflect the same concept. The kings built the temple to acquire supreme power. In Javanese Saivite temple, Siva is depicted in the form of cakravarti (supreme god). The supreme god (cakravarti) is located at the center. He is assisted by female power in the form of goddess Mahisasura-mardini to the northern direction, to the south purohita in the form of Rishi Agasta and Ganesha to the west as prajapati. The Agastyesvara temple at Anangapura (10th century A.D.) in South India, Mahisasura-mardini is depicted in the north wall devakostha niche (Huntington, 1985, 521-522). According to some pedandas, the kings for attaining supreme power worshipped the deity.

Around fifteenth century, the concepts were transformed from benevolent to terrific form. In two inscriptions, belonging to the same period, threatening is made in the name of goddess. It threatens Jiyu, Majakerta (Brandes, 1913, xcii and xcv). The actual words are tadahendenirabhatariDurga (may they be eaten by BhattariDurga) and tadahendeniradewiDurgastu (may be eaten by the goddess Durga so be it). These contents of the inscriptions make clear that by the end of the fifteenth century Mahisasura-mardini was seen as a terrific deity.

In the island of Bali, the

goddess is worshipped in the temples. Both benevolent and terrific form of goddess are worshipped by the Hindus of Bali. In the sculptures of Bali, we do not find the depiction of demon. The demon is shown in the form of Buffalo. The goddess is shown as she has won the battle while buffalo demon is shown as her carrier or pet. The Balinese says that they have not depicted the demon in their images as they do not want to depict evil image as part of their worship.

In Indonesia, three concepts of Mahisasura-mardini were developed during various periods. The first concept reveals the goddess bearing supreme power as benevolent in nature. This nature of the goddess reveals in the Saivite temples of Java. The second concept reveals the goddess as mahasakti, a powerful goddess who took part in the creation of the universe as mentioned in Kakawin Ghatotkacacraya. The third was the frightening form as the wife of Siva. It is represented in later works such as the Sudamalaand the TantuPangalaran, as well as in relief such as those at the Tegawangi temple (Sedyawati, 1994, 113). The third concept is now prevalent among the Hindus of Bali. The goddess is placed at puradalem, a temple adjacent to cremation ground. The goddess is known by an epithet Sundari (a beautiful woman). However, she is shown in terrific form having bulging breast, protruding eyes, broad nose and large tongue hanging from mouth. Because of her terrific form, the people wanted her favour as mother so that she may not disturb the people.

(Dr Bachchan Kumar, Regional Director, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, Ranchi He can be contacted at e-mail: bachchan_kumar@yahoo.com)

Chief Secy flags off Cycle Rally



PNS ■ RANCHI

Chief Secretary (CS) Sudhir Tripathy flagged off Cycle Rally – 'Swastha Bharat Yatra' organised under the aegis of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI). Focusing on importance of right nutritional need and create awareness about different health issues, the cycle rally has been organised.

The cycle rally covered over 40 km covering Ranchi

25 NCC cadets along with the officials of District Administration participated in the rally imparting messages among the people for healthy lifestyle. The cycle rally began from Morhabadi and concluded at Circuit House, Khunti

and Khunti. As many as 25 NCC cadets along with the officials of District Administration participated in the rally imparting messages among the people for healthy lifestyle. The cycle rally began from Morhabadi and concluded at Circuit House, Khunti.

SANGRAM CLUB

Tale of 'Bhagirathi' comes alive here

PNS ■ RANCHI

Based on the Hindu mythology's major incident -- the Shiva and Ganga episode, Sangram Club Puja Samiti of Ranchi has adorned the puja premises depicting the tale of 'Triveni Sangam'. From the incident when Ganga emerged on this land to the present condition of this holy river considered to be the 'Soul of India', the puja pandal is divided into different parts explaining the occurrence of this historic incident over each year.



avoided by the artists to keep up with the natural ambiance pace here.

Designed covering a huge area, theme has been divided into three different segments. The big draw at puja pandal is an audio-visual display inside the pandal setup unfolding the tale of Shiva and Ganga.

"Prepared by the local artisans, maximum work has been done using terracotta and sand. Handmade miniscule art work has been inked on plywood keeping the mythological design in mind," said, president of Sangram Club, Ajay Kumar Gupta.

"In three months, a complete backdrop of the theme has been prepared here involving 100 creative hands in the task. The attire of Goddess has been designed keeping the traditional style," added Gupta.

approach to the concept.

One of the most prominent Puja pandal of the State capital has modeled its concept based on the mores of

Hindu prodigy, making it the only puja pandal showcasing a mythological event. To augment the entrance gate design, the creative hands have repli-

cated the conventional Rajasthani design crafted out on ply boards. Keeping the intrinsic background alive, too much decoration has been

Vice-Admiral Narayan Prasad, AVSM NM: The pride of Sainik School Tilaiya

PNS ■ TILAIYA



It was a moment of great joy for the entire Sainik School Tilaiya fraternity when one of their illustrious Cadets, Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad, AVSM NM took charge as Director General Naval Projects. Group Capt S Jacob, Principal, Sainik School Tilaiya was a very happy man today for the first time an Ex-Tilaiyan in the Navy has been promoted to the rank of a Vice Admiral. Jacob remarked that the achievement of Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad is a beacon that would illuminate the path for the budding Tilaiyans at this school and they too would work hard to bring glory to their alma-mater.

Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad took charge as DGNP during a formal ceremony at

the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) Office on 15 Oct 18.

Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad was commissioned in the Indian Navy as an Engineering Officer on 1st July 1983. He holds a Masters Degree in Mechanical

Engineering and is also an M.Phil in Defence and Strategic Studies. An alumnus of Sainik School Tilaiya and National Defence Academy, he has held various important positions in the Navy, including Operations, Staff, Dockyard and Strategic Projects. He served on-board frontline warships, such as INS Talwar, INS Ranjit, INS Rana and also served as Fleet Engineering Officer. Prior to this appointment, Vice Admiral Narayan Prasad served as the Assistant Chief of Material (Nuclear System Maintenance) at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy) in Delhi and Admiral Superintendent of Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam and Chief Staff Officer (Technical), ENC, according to a press release issued by the Sainik School, Tilaiya.

City grips with festive fervour

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

With over 300 puja pandals adorning, the city has turned into an exotic location where radiant faces of the people speak volumes of the importance of the festival. The artistically carved idols of Goddess Durga are also attracting the devotees a lot.

Various puja committees are taking innovative steps to attract devotees. From skits to musical show a lot of ideas are being used this year.

The Circuit House Area puja committee, which is one of the oldest pandals in the city, is known for organising cultural events.

During Durga Puja, a large number of puja committees design pandals on various innovative themes.

They also illuminate the premises with attractive lighting to woo more people.

Various puja committees are taking innovative steps to attract devotees. From skits to musical show a lot of ideas are being used this year. The Circuit House Area puja committee, which is one of the oldest pandals in the city, is known for organising cultural events

Ram Sporting Club in Adityapur and Thakur Pyara Singh and Dharundhar Singh in Kashidih.

For many pujas, it is also an occasion for 'home coming'. Students pursuing higher education in metro cities, look forward every year to come back home and spend time at home during the puja.

"It's always fun hopping different pandals with family members. I look forward every year to participate in the puja in my own city," said Rohit Das, a student from Mumbai. "Over the years the traffic has also increased in our city.

On Mahashasti, the traffic congestion is generally not much so we face less hassle when we visit puja pandals on this day. It is also a good time to enjoy the vacation," noted Radha Bhattacharya, a resident of Sonari.

People were seen standing in long queues in front of the pandals for their turn for darshan of the Goddess.

Huge rush of devotees was seen at the pandals of Jay



(1)-World of fairy tale at OCC Club, (2) Inner view of Bariatu Housing Colony Puja pandal (3) An idol of Goddess Durga at OCC Club Puja pandal (4) Devotees celebrate at Durga Bati Puja pandal on the occasion of Maha Ashtmi (5) Demon King Ravana at Argora Durga Puja Pandal on the occasion of 'Maha Ashtmi' during ongoing Durga Puja festival in Ranchi on Wednesday Ratan Lal / Vinay Murmu / Pioneer



या देवी सर्वभूतेषु शक्तिरूपेण संस्थिता ।
नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमस्तस्यै नमो नमः ॥



दुर्गा पूजा

की

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



“ नवरात्रि का ये पावन पर्व हमें नयी ऊर्जा के साथ राष्ट्र और समाज की सेवा करने की प्रेरणा देता है। शक्ति की देवी मां दुर्गा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि झारखण्ड की सवा तीन करोड़ जनता के जीवन में सुख, शांति और समृद्धि हो। सभी पर मां जगदम्बे की कृपा बनी रहे। ”

'Beti Bachao' message at 'Kanya Puja'

PNS ■ BOKARO

Keeping with the ongoing festival spirit of Durga Puja devotees at Bokaro on a novel crusade, spreading message Beti Bachao by performing 'Kanya Puja'.

Blurring the religious lines not only Hindu but Muslim women also observed 'Kanya Puja' all over the district to spread the message and to be aware the mass.

The function is about worshipping girls as part of the Navratri celebrations with a message to save the girl child. On Tuesday, over 251 girls were first worshipped in a function organised by Ojha Memorial Trust at Marafari while Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra Bokaro organised a girl felicitation function at Crescent Public School Sector 6 where more than 101 girls were first worshipped and later served food and gifts.

The district committee of JVM (P) also organised the same function at Sector 3 to



Devotee performing kanya puja at Bokaro

PNS

spread the message and planted saplings on the occasion on Wednesday.

It is said that without observing Kanya Puja, the sadhana (puja) of Maa Durga during Navratri is considered

incomplete, said Punam Sinha, a member of Bang Bharti club at Sector 3 in Bokaro Steel City.

"Because the festival of Navratri is a celebration of worshipping feminine divinity in the form of Shakti (Durga) and

virgin girls (Kanya) or young girls (below the age of puberty) are considered Shakti incarnate. So during Navratri there is a ritual to worship young girls who are 3 to 9 years of age," she added.

On this occasion, she washed the feet of the minor girls and worshipped as Goddess Durga incarnate. "The tradition inspires us to value women power," said Pradeep Kumar Sarkar president of the puja committee.

According to our Hindu mythology, Kanya Puja has great importance. Although Hinduism says that God resides in every child but young girls are especially believed to be a form of Goddess Durga, said Mamta Singh another devotee.

"As per our beliefs, inviting and worshipping of young girls will give us different blessings includes good fortune, perception and salvation, merit, blessed with authority, knowledge, six types of Siddhis, a power of kingdom, wealth and supremacy," added Mamta.

Aiming to curb female infanticide and promote the education of girl child, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign was started by the BJP government recently.

Man dies in jumbo attack in Dhenkanal

LOCALS RANSACK FOREST RANGE OFFICE, TORCH VEHICLES

PNS ■ DHENKANAL

Tension was triggered in the Sarangi Forest Range area of the district on Tuesday night as locals ransacked the range office and torched some vehicles after the death of a person of the locality in an elephant attack.

One Krushna Pradhan (45) of Sarangi village died after being attacked by an elephant. Irrate locals then stormed into the Sarangi Forest Range office and damaged many articles.

The mob also set two motorcycles on fire and vandalised an SUV. They later



staged a road blockade by burning tyres.

Later, Sarangi Forest Ranger Ashok Bhanja lodged a complaint with the Gondia police over the violence by locals.

Acting on the complaint, police have arrested three per-

sons and forwarded them to court.

Rs 40,000 was provided to the family of the deceased by the Forest Department for the last rites.

The elephant would be tranquilised and shifted to a different place, the Ranger said.

Ganga activist Gopal Das forcefully shifted to AIIMS Rishikesh



The ascetic protests by writing with his blood

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The Ganga activist Gopal Das who has been on fast for the cause of Ganga since June 24 was forcibly taken to AIIMS Rishikesh from Matri Sadan by a team of the administration officers led by the SDM Manish Kumar on Wednesday evening. They picked him from his room in Rishikesh. This is the second time he has been shifted to the hospital.

Earlier in the day, the attempt of the district administration team to lift him forcefully from Matri Sadan was foiled as the ascetic locked himself in a room. He also is said to have cut his finger and wrote a letter with his blood, protesting against the district administration's attempts to admit him at AIIMS Rishikesh in a bid to break his fast for Ganga.

Notably, Das, 36, was on fast since June 24, demanding free flow of the holy river.

He had, earlier, been forcefully shifted to the hospital by the district adminis-

Das, 36, was on fast since June 24, demanding free flow of the holy river

tration soon after he announced to take up the fasting stir at the same site at Matri Sadan where the former scientist-turned ascetic Sanand had done his fast, culminating in his death at AIIMS Rishikesh on October 11.

Speaking to *The Pioneer* on Wednesday, the Matri Sadan founder Swami Shivanand said that his ashram would continue to undergo sacrifices for the cause of the holy river. "Three- Swami Sanand, Swami Nigamanand Saraswati and Brahmarshi Gokulanand- have already sacrificed their lives while on fast.

We would make more sacrifices till our demand of ensuring unimpeded flow of Ganga is met," he said.

Mention worthy, Swami Shivanand had announced some days ago that he would embark on an indefinite fast after the Navratris were over for the same cause.

DESPITE SEXUAL SLUR AGAINST FATHER Nandita to continue to back #MeToo move

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Breaking her silence over the sexual harassment allegation against her father noted painter Jatin Das, actor and director Nandita Das has said she will continue to support the #MeToo movement.

In a Facebook post, Das said, "As a strong supporter of the #MeToo movement, I want to reiterate that I will continue to add my voice to it despite the disturbing allegations made against my father, which he has categorically denied."



She further said, "I have maintained from the very start that this is the time we all need to listen so that women (and men) feel safe to speak up. At the same time, it is also important to be sure about allegations

so as not to dilute the movement."

"I am touched by the number of people, friends and strangers, who are concerned and are trusting my integrity. I do believe truth will prevail. And that is all I have to say on this matter," she stated in the post.

Notably, on Tuesday, Assam conservationist Nisha Bora accused the Padma Bhushan recipient Jatin Das of sexually harassing her 14 years ago. However, the painter refuted the allegation terming it as "ridiculous and vulgar."

Violent protesters stop women's...

From Page 1

State Congress working president K Sudhakaran led his party workers in a protest at Nilackal to express solidarity with Ayyappa devotees.

An embattled Left Front Government reacted sharply to the protests, with the State's Religious Trusts Minister Kadakampally Surendran calling them "politically motivated".

Surendran, who reviewed the situation and preparations for the three-month-long Mandalam-Makaravilakku-festival beginning November 17 at Sannidhanam (Sabarimala temple complex), said the Government would tackle the agitation politically.

"The BJP-RSS are trying to create tension and destroy the peaceful atmosphere in Kerala for political gain. We know the agenda of the RSS and BJP very well," he said, and insisted the government did not want any confrontation with believers.

The BJP rejected the allegation, saying the Government was responsible for the "collapse" of law and order. Party leader and MP V

Muraleedharan said the Government should shed its stubbornness and respect the sentiments of the people of Kerala.

Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala blamed both the ruling CPI(M) and the BJP-RSS combine for violence.

Even as streets in Nilackal and Pamba erupted in tumult, thousands of bare-chested Ayyappa devotees waited patiently in the vast concourse outside Sabarimala for its gates to open at the appointed hour-5 pm.

Carrying "Irumudikettu" (the sacred bundle containing ghee-filled coconuts they offer to the deity), they calmly walked past security personnel to take their place in the long queue where they would wait for hours on end for a glimpse of Lord Ayyappa.

Though older women and very young girls could be seen in the crowd, none of menstrual age was spotted.

The shrine will remain open for the 5-day monthly pooja during the Malayalam month of Thulam before being closed on October 22.

Manvendra joins...

From Page 1

Last month, Manvendra Singh had quit the BJP saying, "Kamal Ka Phool, Badi Bhooh" (Big mistake to join the party with a lotus symbol). He took out a 'Swabhimani Rally' along with his supporters in Barmer's Pachpadra area for a mission of self-respect that he said began with the 2014 general election.

Manvendra alleged that his supporters have been targeted by the BJP and some of them in due course of time will quit the party. The Congress believes Manvendra will help bring Rajput votes to the party in the December 7 Rajasthan elections.

AICC general secretary Gehlot said only two people --- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief Amit Shah --- are ruling the country and leaders in the BJP were feeling suffocated. Alleging that there was a sense of fear and intimidation in the "rule of tyranny", Gehlot said the Modi Government's veil was coming off with exposes on corruption, particularly in the Rafale fighter jet deal.

"Today, every person in the country is frightened and there is an atmosphere of distrust and agencies like Income Tax department, ED and CBI are being abused,"

Despite dearth of funds, Congress will win ULB polls Violent



State Congress chief Pritam Singh meets party leaders and discusses ULB election at the State party office in Dehradun on Wednesday

Search on for the mayoral candidate for Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee president Pritam Singh said that despite the Congress grappling with dearth of funds, the party candidates would win hands down in the upcoming urban local body (ULB) elections thanks to the support of the common people, reeling under BJP misrule. He said while talking to the media persons at the State party office here on Wednesday that the Congress workers would manage the expenses the party would incur in the upcoming ULB elections.

Singh said that he had met the Congress president Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi last month and during the meeting, Gandhi had asked the party to start a fund collection drive in the State.

He added that though the party had been planning to start the drive it had been abandoned after the elections were announced. He accused the State BJP of remaining focused on collecting funds rather than doing any other work. "Under Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah, BJP knows how to collect funds. The party enjoys immense money power while we have to bank on the support of the people in the ULB elections," he said.

Singh informed that the party is now engaged in selecting candidates for the ULB elections with panels of probable candidates being formed. "The official list of the candidates would be declared before October 19," he said.

Quizzed on the demand raised by the former PCC president Kishore Upadhyaya that the party's parliamentary board should be authorised for selection of the candidates, Singh said that the party has set up a committee consisting of local MLAs, district presidents and presidents of the women wing in all the districts for selection of the candidates. "There is thus no need to call meeting of parliamentary board for this exercise," he said.

The PCC chief also slammed the BJP Government for not completing the mandatory process of reservation in Roorkee municipal corporation which is a clear violation of the act. He claimed that the BJP had deliberately left the lacunae so as to entangle the process in further litigation.

MANY CONTENDERS FOR DEHRADUN MAYOR POST

Hectic parleys are going on in the Congress for selection of the candidate for the post of the mayor of Dehradun municipal corporation. The names of the former Minister Dinesh Agarwal, State party vice-president Surya Kant Dhasmana, Mahanagar president Lal Chand, former Mahanagar president Prithiviraj Chauhan and S P Singh are making rounds as probable candidates.

Former president of DAV Students Union Sangram Singh Pundeer, former MLA Rajkumar and the leader of the opposition in the municipal corporation Neenu Sehgal have also thrown their hats in the ring for the coveted post.

The names of the former Minister Dinesh Agarwal, State party vice-president Surya Kant Dhasmana, Mahanagar president Lal Chand, former Mahanagar president Prithiviraj Chauhan and S P Singh are making rounds as probable candidates

Four Armyymen booked for 2015 hospital rape

PNS/PTI ■ NEW DELHIPUNE

Four Army officials were booked for allegedly sexually assaulting a 34-year-old speech-and-hearing impaired woman employee of a military hospital in Pune in 2015. Besides police investigation, the Army has instituted a Court of Inquiry (CoI) to ascertain the facts. The four accused worked in the same hospital where the woman was posted.

The alleged incident took place between January and June 2015 at the Military Hospital Kirkee in Pune's Khadki suburb. The woman was working there since 2014. According to the woman's complaint, she was on night duty (at the hospital) when she was allegedly sexually assaulted by one of the accused, who at the time was posted at the hospital.



incident, he reportedly initially told her that he would reprimand the "accused." "But, he too sought sexual favours from her by threatening her to make the message viral, and allegedly raped her. After some days, two more personnel approached the woman and allegedly took advantage of her," the police said, according to PTI.

The woman, a class IV employee at the hospital, had approached an NGO in Indore earlier this year. The NGO

subsequently approached the Indore police. On Tuesday night, the Indore police informed their Pune counterpart about the matter, who have registered a case against the four Army officials under IPC Sections 376 (rape) and 354 (molestation), he said.

Army Southern Command officials said they were conducting investigation into the matter, adding that the court of enquiry was initiated well before the police complaint was registered.

DURGA PUJA Animal sacrifice still a part and parcel in Odisha

Despite ban in State

KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSIINGHPUR

The Shakti Puja and Durga Puja celebrations are as old as the State's cultural heritage. During autumn, which falls in the month of Aswina, Durga Puja is celebrated all over the State with local variations. On the occasion, the deity is worshipped in Shakti shrines either as Ghata or Kalasa or in the form of earthen statues, called the 'Murmayee Pratimas' in several parts of the State.

Usually, the celebration goes about for 10 to 16 days in prominent Shakati Peethas with strict Hindu rituals and traditions while it is held in fascinating puja pandals for 4-5

days in urban and rural areas. Amid these rich traditions, a cruel ritual that still accompanies the celebrations is the brutal sacrifice of animal, which has been banned by the Orissa High Court since the year 2002. Despite the ban and a mass awareness drive against the cruel practice, animal sacrifices are made at several Shakti Peethas. On Tuesday, therefore the practice was held. Superstitious people find it hard to adhere to the ban on animal sacrifice.

Historic evidences suggest that Shakti Puja or Durga Puja celebrations are going on for more than 100 years. Shakti Puja gained importance in the erstwhile State of Kalinga, which led to the mushrooming of a number of other Shakti shrines throughout the State.

Historical data reveals that Durga Puja was celebrated since Ganga dynasty. Chodaganga Deva held the

puja. However, the puja celebrations have immensely developed in Odisha since 16th century. The arrival of the Bengali community during British rule gave a further impetus to the celebrations, informed historian Dr Bholanath Rout.

Shakti shrines also act as the socio-cultural centres of the people in the State. Odisha has at least eight famous shrines and each one maintained its own independent identity, besides having all the incarnations of Devi Durga.

The various forms of Shakti that are being worshipped in these shrines include as Bhagabati in Banapur, Biraja in Jajpur, Bimala in Puri, Mangala in Kakatpur, Sarala in Jhankad near Tirtol, Charchika in Banki, Sameleswari in Sambalpur and Hingula in Brahmapur.

According to historians, goddess Biraja at Biraja Kshetra in Jajpur district and Maa Bimala placed inside the famous Jagannath temple at Puri are the oldest deities of Goddess Durga in Odisha.

Goddess Durga is considered to be an embodiment of the supreme divine power. People believe that Durga saves her devotees from danger, distress, difficulty, calamity, sorrow, obstacles, misfortune and fear and reincarnates to destroy the evil.

Mythological stories related to the Goddess are depicted in the Vedas and Upanishads, the Ramayan, the Mahabharat, the Haribansa, the Srimad Bhagavat Gita, the Markandey Purana and the Chandi Saptasati, etc. These books speak of Maa Durga's triumph over demons, vices, evils, and how she restores peace, order and Dharma on earth. Artisans, blacksmiths, carpenters, and goldsmiths wor-

ship their instruments and take rest during six days of the festival.

On the day of Asvina Sukla Saptami, the idol is installed on Maha Ashtami when an animal or a bird is sacrificed or a Kushmanda (water gourd) is offered. On Dashami also called Bijaya Dashami after performing puja, the idol is immersed in river.

One Keshaba Mohapatra from Raghunathpur area in Jagatsinghpur district moved court filing a PIL for a complete restriction of animal sacrifices at Sirlo Pitha where thousands of animals are killed during Durga Puja.

Adjudicating the petition in the year 2002, the Orissa High Court had intervened in the matter and directed to stop the animal sacrifices in Sirlo Peetha and several other Shakti Peethas where inhuman practice had been running during Durga Puja.

NEW DOCUMENTS CROP UP IN RAFALE DEAL

Explanation from no less than PM: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the surfacing of new documents in the Rafale fighter jet deal, the Congress on Wednesday upped the ante seeking an explanation from no less than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the Rafale scam is getting "murkier and muddier" by the day as fresh documents have reinforced that the Prime Minister "facilitated a sweetheart deal" with Dassault to "illegitimately" benefit a crony friend — Reliance Defence.

"Undisputed evidence now corroborates, brazen 'crony capitalism' and 'quid pro quo' by the Modi Government in the multi-crore Rafale scam. Time for Prime Minister Modi to break his silence," Surjewala said.

The Congress alleged the new set of documents reveal the truth of ₹30,000 crore 'off-set contract' and a ₹1,00,000 crore 'life cycle cost contract' to Reliance Defence establishment that the deal was a "compensation" brokered by Modi Government and states that "it was imperative and mandato-



ry for Dassault-Aviation to accept this counterpart". Surjewala also asked who was brokering this deal bypassing the lone public sector company which has 60 years of expertise in manufacturing defence aircraft. He said the lid of the Modi Government's "murky sweetheart deal in the Rafale scam is now off" and asked whether Modi was Prime Minister of India or of Anil Ambani. The simple question that Modiji needs to answer is 'Are you PM of India or PM of Anil Ambani'? Are you 'chowkidar' of India or are you the 'chowkidar' (watchman) of business interests of Reliance group of Anil Ambani," he asked.

It also strongly underlines

the charge of French ex-President Francois Hollande about Modi securing a deal for Ambani, he claimed. "The BJP which is running helter-skelter and throwing all kinds of inconsumable alibis to defend the indefensible will have to be made accountable on the 'biggest defence scam' that has hit the country," Surjewala said.

He said French labour laws make it compulsory for companies with over 50 employees to set up a 'Central Works Council' (CCE), which is on the same lines as trade unions and has a role in financial management of the company as well as in social and cultural activities of employees.

The 'minutes of the meet-



"Undisputed evidence now corroborates, brazen 'crony capitalism' and 'quid pro quo' by the Modi Government in the multi-crore Rafale scam. Time for Prime Minister Modi to break his silence —Randeep Surjewala

ing held on May 11, 2017 between two such trade unions and Dassault Aviation's COO Loik Segalen lift the lid off the murky sweetheart deal of ₹30,000 crore" and according to minutes of the meeting with CGT, "Segalen is quoted as saying that 'it was imperative and

mandatory for Dassault-Aviation to accept this counterpart in order to obtain the export contract Rafale India," he said.

The minutes of the meeting with another trade union CFDT, state that "this is the inevitable consequence of the Rafale India contract which required making 'Make in India' to be signed, he said. Surjewala claimed this is the third confirmation after Hollande had clearly told a French outlet about Modi securing the deal for Reliance Defence.

The Congress leader asked if the BJP's and a slew of Ministers' claim that Dassault Aviation was free to choose its off-set partner, "why is it that Mr Segalen, the 2nd in command of Dassault state that 'it was imperative and mandatory for Dassault Aviation to accept this counterpart in order to obtain the RAFALE India export contract'?"

He also asked if Dassault Aviation willingly agreed to partner with Reliance Defence, why was it called an inevitable compensation? "Was it not deliberate squandering of HAL's interests," he asked.

India, China to resume joint anti-terror exercise in Dec

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an indication of a thaw in bilateral relations, India and China will resume bilateral joint anti-terror exercise 'Hand in Hand' in December this year in China. The annual drill did not take place last year due to 70-day stand-off between the two armies in Doklam in Sikkim sector. The impasse ended following intervention at the highest political and diplomatic levels.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army also conducted a tour of more than 100 defence attaches of various countries to Leh to familiarise them with the operating environment in tough conditions. This exposure to friendly countries about Indian armed forces in various operational areas takes place every two years with the last such event in Jodhpur.

The India-China exercise, a confidence building measure between the two neighbours who share a 4,200km long disputed boundary, will be held in Chengdu province of China, officials said here on Wednesday. More than 100 troops from each side will carry out anti-terrorism drills

in urban and rural scenarios during the 'Hand in Hand' exercise lasting about a fortnight.

The annual event takes place alternately in India and China and it was scheduled to hold exercise in 2017. However, the face-off in Doklam after the Indian army objected to the Chinese constructing a road in the strategically important region led to calling off the drill. The last joint exercise was held in Pune in 2016 and it was the sixth annual bilateral exchange. The first such exercise was held in Kunming, China in 2007.

With ties improving with the eastern neighbor, a Chinese army delegation also took part in yoga programme with Indian troops in Ladakh earlier this year on the occasion of International Yoga Day.

Moreover, then Eastern Command chief Lt General Abhay Krishna also led a high level delegation to China in August to interact with his counterparts. These interactions came about after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping decided to resume bilateral military ties. This decision was taken during

the meeting of the two leaders in Wuhan, China in April this year.

As regards the ongoing three-day visit of foreign attaches to Leh starting Monday, officials said despite cold climatic conditions, the tour evoked positive response from the attaches who were with their spouses. Diplomats from countries including US, France, Australia, Russia, South Korea, South Africa, Nigeria, Singapore and Hungary besides others were part of the entourage. They were familiarised with the working of field formations located around Leh.

On the upcoming joint exercises with some countries, officials said elite Special Forces of India and US will practice anti-terrorism tactics with latest weapons next month in drill named Vajra Prahar in India. Similarly, the three Services will have a joint exercise INDRRA with their Russian counterparts in December. This will be the second such exercise where the combined three services of two countries will participate. Earlier, each service used to have separate drills. India and Japan will also have a joint army exercise.

Akbar's resignation victory of truth, MeToo: Opp parties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties termed as "victory of truth" the resignation of Union Minister M J Akbar following charges of sexual harassment against him. While Congress remarked that it salutes the women who stood on their charges against the Minister bravely despite the "brazen" stance taken by the Government, Left parties said it was victory for the #MeToo movement and the protests carried out by them against the journalist-turned-politician.

Aam Admi Party (AAP) too hailed the women who accused Akbar of "sexual harassment" and said his resignation "completely exposed" the 'Chaal, Charitra and Chehra' of the ruling BJP at the Centre.

"This resignation is a vindication of the power of truth. More strength to India's women," said Congress spokesperson Priyanka Chaturvedi. Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev termed Akbar's stepping down as a "moral victory" for everyone and sought support for the #MeToo movement across party lines.

The Congress leader hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what she said was his "silence" in the matter. "I salute these women who stood their ground despite the brazen stance of the GoI, silence of the PM who speaks about women empowerment, the arrogant misuse of power by deploying

a battery of lawyers against one woman and allowing the accused to linger in his role," Chaturvedi said.

The CPI and the women's wing of CPI-M, however, said Akbar should have resigned early and the action has come "too late". "I think the Modi Government was compelled to ask M J Akbar to resign from the Union Ministry as the #MeToo movement gained momentum in the country. He should have resigned on the first day when his former colleagues made sexual harassment allegations against him," CPI general secretary Sudhakar Reddy said.

CPI Secretary D Raja said, "The resignation can be called a moral victory for all those women who have suffered such sexual harassment". He said the social atmosphere in the country was such that women can get the confidence to speak up against the sexual harassment faced by them.

All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) general secretary Mariam Dhawale termed Akbar's resignation as a victory of women bodies.

Reacting to Akbar's resignation, AAP spokesperson Dilip Pandey said the action was "not sufficient" and demanded criminal proceedings against him. "Mere resignation by Akbar is not sufficient considering gravity of allegations against him. Criminal proceedings must be started against him," Pandey said.

MUZAFFARPUR SHELTER HOME

ED registers money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a money laundering case in the Muzaffarpur shelter home case relating to alleged rape of minor girls by the functionaries of the NGO. The ED will probe the money laundering aspect of the scandal.

The ED case follows a CBI

case to probe the scandal at the shelter home. The ED will soon issue summons to the accused persons including the owner of the shelter home Brajesh Thakur. The ED will probe if illegal funds were generated and laundered by the alleged criminal activity, officials said.

As many as 34 girls were allegedly raped at the centre run by Thakur, chief of the state-

funded NGO.

The alleged sexual exploitation of the girls was first highlighted in an audit report submitted by the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS), Mumbai, to the Bihar Government's Social Welfare Department in April this year. An FIR was lodged on May 31 against 11 people, including Thakur and the probe was later taken over by the CBI.

Sexual abuse of 34 inmates out of 42 staying at the shelter home was confirmed in their medical examination while two others who were unwell were yet to undergo medical tests.

The NGO running the shelter home in Muzaffarpur was subsequently blacklisted by the State Government and the girls were shifted to shelter homes in Patna and Madhubani.

POST MCI DISSOLUTION

Glimmer of hope for non-medical teachers with new BoG

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

While the corruption-ridden Medical Council of India (MCI) no more exists following its dissolution recently, its ill-conceived proposals and Union Health Ministry's apathy have started rendering thousands of non-medical teachers (biomedical scientists with medical M.Sc postgraduate degrees) in the country, jobless.

Non-medical teachers are those having medical M.Sc degree/PhD in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, microbiology and biochemistry from MCI-recognised colleges.

The recent replacement of the MCI with the Board of Governors (BoG) of eminent personalities, has, however, brought a ray of hope among the

non-medical teachers working in the non-clinical departments of medical and dental colleges across the States. Hitherto neglected by the MCI, they feel that the BoG will recognise the services of the biomedical scientists in medical education and healthcare.

Not without reason. Those pursuing medical M.Sc courses in medical colleges are trained and skilled to render their services as consultants in diagnostic laboratories, teachers in non-clinical subjects of medical colleges and scientists in research establishments, pointed out Dr Sridhar Rao, President, National MSc Medical Teachers' Association (NMMTA), a representative of persons having medical M.Sc postgraduate degree in from MCI-recognised medical colleges.

However, the 'hostile policies' of the ex-MCI have started taking toll on the profession, he rued.

The NMMTA wants striking down of the MCI's proposal that aims to reduce appointment of non-medical teachers in colleges to 15 per cent from 30 per cent as it has "jeopardises job opportunities for those having medical M.Sc postgraduate degrees".

Though the proposal has not seen light of the day till date, some of the medical colleges have on their own started cutting down their posts: hiring MBBS Graduates for the post of tutors, instead of medical MSc post-graduates who are specialists in their subjects.

Also, said Dr Rao, as those pursuing medical M.Sc courses can also be utilized for diagnos-

tics or research purposes given their academic background, ironically thousands of them with Ph.D are idle at medical college, who do only teaching.

He also alleged discrimination at various levels ranging from work place to responsibilities, salaries, promotions etc. Also, many non-medical teachers are denied regularisation of job, increments, promotion etc. They are given low wages and exploited heavily. There is no ombudsman for grievances, Dr Rao said.

"Once included in first schedule of IMC act, the MCI had silently removed medical M.Sc course and washed its hands off it. Until 1980s MCI used to recognise these courses and used to give medical colleges permission to run them, but not anymore," he said.



The Mahila Shashaktikaran Daud (Women Empowerment Race) which was organised by BJP's Mahila Morcha to mark the Birth Centenary Year celebrations of its first president Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia from Gwalior to Delhi from October 12-16, came to a successful end at Talkatora stadium on Tuesday after covering 375-km. BJP Mahila Morcha president Vijaya Rahatkar, who led the race, thanked all participants for making the race a highly successful and meaningful event. Amongst the participants were 102-year-old Bibi Mann Kaur, another a Divyang who completed the 375-km race on crutches. Pioneer photo

Modi: Cong in MP has 3 CM candidates, each pulling others down

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As electioneering gains momentum for the upcoming Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday took a dig at the Congress saying that it has three Chief Ministerial candidates with each pulling others down and that it cannot think of the State's development.

In a video interaction with party workers of five Lok Sabha seats, Modi claimed that more than a dozen Congress leaders were also nursing Chief Ministerial ambitions in the State which, has been transformed from "bimaru" (sick) to "bimisal" (unparalleled) by the Shivraj Singh Chouhan Government.

He said the Congress, which is out to challenge the BJP's 15-year-rule in Madhya Pradesh, was issueless in the poll-bound State and had become desperate due to all-

round development works of the ruling State Government.

In desperation after finding no issues to oppose the BJP, the Congress used photos from Pakistan and Bangladesh to target the State Government and also resorted to "fake news", he alleged.

Modi said he saw on a TV programme that over 90 per cent of first time girl voters, who had taken part in an event in Sagar in the State, supported the BJP.

"The Congress has three chief ministerial candidates and over a dozen are in queue," he said, apparently referring to Kamal Nath, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Digvijay Singh, three main leaders of the Opposition party in the State.

"When more than dozen people have chief ministerial ambitions, then they cannot think of people's development. You should expose their lies to public," he told the BJP workers.

Lankan PM to arrive on 3-day visit

New Delhi: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will arrive here on Thursday on a three-day visit which comes in the backdrop of controversial media reports that Lankan President has accused Indian intelligence agency RAW of plotting his assassination, a claim firmly rejected as "false" by Colombo.

Wickremesinghe, who will arrive here Thursday evening on a scheduled visit, will hold wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena also called up

PM Modi Wednesday and "categorically rejected" the media reports about him alluding to the involvement of Research and Analysis Wing in an alleged plot to assassinate him and a former defence secretary, an Indian Government statement said.

"The President apprised the Prime Minister of the urgent steps taken by him personally and the Government of Sri Lanka to publicly reject these reports. In this context, he also recalled his meeting with the High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka today morning," the statement said. PTI

600 CISF commandos take over security of Kannur airport

New Delhi: The CISF on Wednesday took over the security of the yet-to-be operational Kannur International Airport (KIAL), the largest civil air facility in Kerala, with the deployment of over 600 armed commandos, a senior official said.

This is the 61st civil airport in the country that has come under the cover of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) after the Union Home Ministry accorded manpower sanction for the purpose.

The CISF unit will be headed by a Commandant rank officer and the airport, spread over 2,330 acres with a runway length of 3,050 metres, will be operational from the first week of December.

KIAL is about 20-km from the popular tourist town of Kannur and will have common departure and visitor gates for international and domestic passengers and also a common check-in area.

Kerala has three other major airports at Kochi, Kozhikode and

Thiruvananthapuram. "KIAL would be the first airport in India which would dispense with stamping of hand baggage from day one of its operations due to the surveillance systems in place," CISF spokesperson Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Hemendra Singh said.

The CISF is a federal security force which guards strategic installations including airports in the country. It has a special aviation security group for rendering this task. The security at the airport

would be similar to what is seen at 60 other civil airports, the CISF said, adding that quick reaction commando teams and other personnel would be deployed at KIAL to thwart incidents of terror and sabotage.

"In the light of the increased threat perception to the aviation sector across the country, security of KIAL is of utmost importance as thousands of tourists including foreigners will visit Kerala through this airport," Singh said. PTI

PNB fraud: ED attaches over ₹218-cr assets of Mehul Choksi, others

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday seized assets worth over ₹218 crore, including diamonds and flats abroad in the name of fugitive diamond traders Mehul Choksi and others in connection with the over ₹13,000 crore credit fraud case.

The ED said three provisional orders under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were issued by the agency's zonal office in Mumbai for attachment of the properties.

Besides Choksi, the other beneficiaries include Mihir Bhansali, a close aide and US-based executive of prime accused in the case Nirav Modi, and a Hyderabad-based company named A P Gems and Jewellery Park linked to Choksi.

The total value of the attached and seized assets is ₹218.46 crore, the ED said.

The attached properties include a ₹51 crore flat of Bhansali in a foreign country and the agency said it was purchased by him and his wife jointly.

"Bhansali is a close confidante of Nirav Modi and beneficiary of the scam. He was



actively involved in the diversion of funds received from PNB's LoU's (letters of undertaking)," the ED said in a statement.

Similarly, a villa valued at ₹27 crore of Choksi in an undisclosed country has also been attached.

A 2,10,000 sq feet building on a 2.5 acre land in Hyderabad's posh Banjara hills has been attached and the agency said it is in the name of A P Gems and Jewellery Park.

Choksi holds 89 per cent of shares in this firm by way of a "convoluted structure and overseas entity". A flat worth ₹1.70 crore in Trump Towers in Mumbai in the name of Choksi's daughter has been also attached, the agency said.

Also, diamonds worth ₹18.76 crore belonging to the Firestar group of Nirav Modi were seized as part of the latest order. The total value of attachments in this case with this latest order stand at ₹4,488 crore now, the agency added.

Slash cap on anonymous donations to ₹2,000, EC urges law Ministry

New Delhi: The Election Commission has urged the Government to slash the cap on anonymous donations to political parties from the present ₹20,000 to ₹2,000 to usher in more transparency, a move which comes months ahead of Lok Sabha elections due next year.

In a letter to the Legislative Department of the Law Ministry last week, the commission pointed out that while its demand to cap cash donations to parties to ₹2,000 per person has been accepted and made part of the Finance Act, another demand to cap anonymous donations to ₹2,000 is still pending.

The poll panel had written

to the Government in the middle of 2017 to amend Section 29C of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to put a cap of anonymous donations. The letter sent last week is a reiteration reminding the Government that its demand has not yet been acted upon.

"The commission feels that since donations up to ₹20,000 can be kept anonymous and need not be declared, there is a possibility that cash will also be accepted. This runs contrary to the bar on accepting cash donations beyond ₹2,000," explained a functionary.

There is no constitutional or statutory prohibition on receipt of anonymous donations by politi-

cal parties. But there is an "indirect partial ban" on anonymous donations through the requirement of declaration of donations under Section 29C of The Representation of the People Act.

But, such declarations are mandated only for contributions above ₹20,000.

According to Section 29 C of the law, the treasurer of a political party shall every financial year prepare a report on the contribution "in excess" of ₹20,000 received by it from any person.

As per the proposed amendment sent by the commission to the Government, "anonymous contributions above or equal to the amount of ₹2,000 should be prohibited."

SABRIMALA TEMPLE VERDICT

Protests spread to neighbouring TN

Ayyappa devotees take to Chennai streets and temples chanting hymns

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Agitation happening all over Kerala against the Supreme Court verdict allowing women in the age group of 10-50 to worship at Sabarimala Temple, the holy shrine in the Western Ghats has spread to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

Hundreds of devotees including young and old women, took to the streets in various places in Chennai and elsewhere in the State demanding status quo and withdrawing the permission granted to young women to pray in the shrine. Demonstrations were held even at Lord Ayyappa Temples at Mahalingapuram, RA Puram, Anna Nagar and other temples in the capital city which drew hundreds of young and old women irrespective of caste, creed or even religion. "The sentiments of devotees have been hurt by the court judgment. These demonstrations were not organised by us. It was a spontaneous reaction from the women devotees without any persuasion and coercion. They only assembled in front of the temple to express anguish," said K Asokan, an office bearer of Mahalingapuram Lord Ayyappa Temple.

The same was the cases with other Ayyappa Temples in the city. The Mahalingapuram Ayyappa Temple is a "shrine" that draws thousands of devotees daily and acts as a hub for pilgrims to Sabarimala Temple. It is here the devotees perform all rituals which are mandatory for the annual pilgrimage to



The Sabarimala temple that was opened by Melsanthi Unnikrishnan Nampoothiri for the five-day monthly puja in the Malayalam month of 'Thulam' on Wednesday. Tension was witnessed outside the temple that was opened for the first time for women between the age of 10 and 50 on Wednesday following the Supreme Court verdict, turning over the age-old custom of not admitting them

VIJAYASHREE RAMESH, A YOUNG LAWYER IN CHENNAI SAID THAT THE SUPREME COURT VERDICT WAS COMPLETELY WRONG AND WAS DELIVERED WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE GROUND REALITIES

Sabarimala. In addition to this what makes the temple a landmark in Chennai is the feeding of poor undertaken by it on a daily basis. Thousands are fed everyday with sumptuous breakfast, lunch and dinner free of cost by the temple authorities who make use of the donations received at the 'hundis'.

Vijayashree Ramesh, a young lawyer in Chennai said that the Supreme Court verdict was completely wrong and was delivered without understanding the ground realities. "Law can never over rule age old traditions and customs. It is not impossible to agree with the verdict delivered by Justice Deepak Misra," said Ramesh.

She pointed out that there was no ban on the entry of women in any of the Ayyappa Temples elsewhere in the world. "That is further proof that there is a difference in the sashtras governing each temple. Sabarimala shrine because of its own unique tradition and rituals is a no-go place for women devotees. But there is no embargo on women above the age of 50 from visiting it. Hence it is not gender discrimination but Sanadhana Laws which should be respected by all," said Ramesh.

The demonstrations held at Chennai were unique in all respects. "No slogans were raised by the demonstrators. The participants numbering thousands recited hymns in praise of Lord Ayyappa. This was a new experience to the city's population," said Pravin Pillai, an activist working with Hindu cultural outfits in the city.

Asokan said more demonstrations and protest marches have been planned in the coming days as the Travancore Devaswam Board and Kerala Government have become adamant in their approach to make Sabarimala Temple a commercial enterprise.

Woman thrashes bank manager for asking sexual favour

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

As the MeToo movement in India is growing strong taking a toll on senior scribe and Union Minister MJ Akbar, in Karnataka a woman thrashed a private financial bank manager for seeking sexual favour in lieu of sanctioning a bank loan. A 52-second video which went viral on local channels and social media where a woman seen dragging a man on the streets thrashing him with a stick has a sequel to the ongoing MeToo movement in India.

According to reports in the media, the incident took place on Monday in Karnataka's Davanagere, a Central Karnataka district, when the woman visited the Dewan Housing Finance branch to seek a loan. The on-duty manager assured to help her and agreed to approve her loan despite her poor financial condition.

However, to pass loan, he allegedly demanded sexual favours. The enraged woman dragged him on the street and thrashed him with a stick. The visual shows the woman held the managers collar and then beating him up with a stick and slippers. The woman can also be heard asking the man to come to the police station while thrashing him with a stick.

Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DFHL) on Tuesday Soon after the incident came to light, sacked the employee and termed the incident as very unfortunate. In a statement the company said "in the light of the unfortunate incident at Karnataka's Davanagere, we have terminated the services of the employee with immediate effect. DFHL strongly promotes and cultivates an environment that is conducive for the safety of women."

Ramani said in a statement on Twitter on Monday that she was ready to fight the defamation allegation "as truth and the absolute truth is my only defence".

The MeToo movement, which began in the United States just over a year ago in response to accusations of sexual assault and harassment in the entertainment industry, has hit the India and taken its toll. After Bollywood actress Tanushree Dutta accused film actor Nana Patekar, it has hit many big names which include MJ Akbar and many others.

More than a dozen men in politics, media, entertainment and the arts have been accused of a range of offences, with several prominent figures either resigning or being suspended as a result.

MeToo movement has become a mainstream media talking point and woman are coming forward to voice against the predators.

But two of those accused, M.J. Akbar and veteran actor Alok Nath, filed criminal defamation suits against the women who accused them. In India defamation provisions which classify it as a criminal offence punishable with a jail term of up to two years.

Akbar, who founded and edited several newspapers before joining politics, has been accused of inappropriate behaviour by at least a dozen women who had worked with him. He has called the accusations "wild and baseless". On Monday, he filed the defamation suit against one of his accusers, journalist Priya Ramani, at a Delhi district court. Ramani had "intentionally put forward malicious, fabricated and salacious" allegations to harm his reputation, the suit alleged.

Ramani said in a statement on Twitter on Monday that she was ready to fight the defamation allegation "as truth and the absolute truth is my only defence".

Pune Police's evidence against 5 activists flimsy: Defence

PTI ■ PUNE

The letters seized by the Pune police from the five activists and being dubbed as proofs of their Maoist links are "flimsy and uncorroborated" evidence, a Pune court was told on Tuesday.

Defence counsel Yug Chaudhary, who is representing activist Sudha Bharadwaj, told Additional Sessions Judge KD Vadane that the activists arrested by the police were "eminent" people.

The court heard the bail pleas of Bharadwaj and another activist Vernon Gonsalves.

The police had raided the homes of prominent Left-wing activists in several States in August and arrested at least four of them for their suspected Maoist links.

The raids were carried out as part of a probe into an event — Elgaar Parishad — organised in Pune on December 31 last year, a day before the caste violence broke out between Dalits and the upper caste Marathas at Koregaon-Bhima village near the city.

Near simultaneous searches were carried out at the residences of prominent Telugu poet Varavara Rao in Hyderabad, activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira in Mumbai, trade union activist Sudha Bharadwaj in Faridabad, and civil rights activist Gautam Navalakha in New Delhi.

Rao, Bharadwaj and Ferreira were subsequently arrested.

Chaudhary argued that the present case involving some "sensational" allegations was referred to the Supreme Court which gave a split verdict on it at a premature stage.

"The case is extra-ordinary. As after four months of investigation, police arrested some eminent people without any evidence and the evidence (seized letters) that they are producing right now is flimsy," he said.

Chaudhary said the police arrested 60-year-old Bharadwaj, who is a professor

The raids were carried out as part of a probe into an event — Elgaar Parishad — organised in Pune on December 31 last year, a day before the caste violence broke out between Dalits and the upper caste Marathas at Koregaon-Bhima village near the city

at the National Law College in Delhi "where children of the Supreme Court and high court judges study".

"You are arresting her on the basis of some undated, unsigned, unverified, uncorroborated, typed letters, which were found in someone's possession. On the basis of these evidence, the police are claiming that this lady makes bombs, plants booby trap, decides which weapons need to be procured," he said.

Chaudhary said Bharadwaj had appeared for state governments in various cases and was on a search panel for appointment of universities' vice-chancellors, besides being a representative of the President of India.

"You are arresting a lady whose organisation has received a grant from the high court," the defence counsel said.

Bharadwaj has no criminal antecedents and she has sacrificed her whole life for the marginalised, he asserted.

Bharadwaj is also the vice president of the Indian Association of Peoples' Lawyers (IAPL), headed by retired judge H Suresh, he said.

"The police are claiming that IAPL is the front organisation of the banned CPI (Maoist). The high court judges such as Abhay Thipsay and Ajit Shah had attended the IAPL event as speakers," he pointed out.

"Are you going to arrest justices (retd) Suresh, Thipsay and Shah also?" asked Chaudhary.

He said the police were "silent" on calling the IAPL the

front organisation of the CPI (Maoist) in the Supreme Court. Citing the apex court's order, he said the "divided verdict" in the case is itself a ground for the bail.

"The apex court has taken an extra-ordinary measure in the case by crafting the provision of house arrest and the reason behind it was that we could come and apply for the bail," he added.

He claimed the police did not specify the grounds for Bharadwaj's arrest and did not even produce the translated case diary in the magisterial court while seeking her transit remand.

Challenging the authenticity of the letters, allegedly seized from the activists, Chaudhary said, "Let the prosecution take as long as they want to verify and authenticate the letters and I will not press for the bail."

"Till they verify or authenticate the letters, do not reject or allow my bail application. Keep me on interim bail," said Chaudhary, arguing for Bharadwaj.

Before Chaudhary, senior advocate Dhairysheel Patil, who represented activist Vernon Gonsalves, argued for his bail.

"If the letters which were allegedly fabricated are thrown out in the case, the very foundation of the case will be collapsed," he said.

The prosecution will Friday argue against bail of five accused — Surendra Gadling, Shoma Sen, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, apart from Bharadwaj.

Gadling and Sen, arrested in the Elgaar Parishad case in March this year, are currently in judicial custody of Pune police. Ferreira, Gonsalves, Rao, and Bharadwaj are under house arrests at their respective residences.

The Supreme Court had on September 28 extended by four weeks the house arrests of Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navalakha, who was subsequently freed by the Delhi High Court.

He said the police were "silent" on calling the IAPL the



Ayyappa Temple head priest (Tantri) Kandararu Rajeevaru gestures at devotees who were staging a protest against the Supreme Court verdict on entry of women, as he arrives on the opening day of the Sabarimala Temple in Kerala on Wednesday

UAE MoS for Defence visits HAL, shows interest in Tejas

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

As the controversial Rafale deal has hit the Defence PSU Hindustan aeronautics Limited (HAL), the United Arab Minister of Defence visited in Bengaluru on Wednesday and evinced keen interest on India's indigenously fighter jet Tejas. According a statement by HAL Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi Al Falacy, Minister of State for Defence Affairs, United Arab Emirates visited HAL facilities in Bengaluru. He was received by R Madhavan, CMD-HAL and other senior HAL officials.

The visiting dignitary was briefed on the ongoing projects in HAL and taken



around the Helicopter Complex, LCA Tejas Division and Hawk Final Assembly hangar. "I am happy to be here and proud to see the sophisticated level of manufacturing that in place", remarked the Minister. He evinced keen interest in LCA Tejas.

The UAE Minister had a meeting with Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Delhi and envisaged interest in Tejas, the Light Combat Aircraft.

HAL has been sandwiched between the political slugfest between ruling BJP and the opposition congress over the Rafale deal.

Last week Congress President Rahul Gandhi had interacted with some working and retired employees of the state-run aerospace and defence company in the context of the defence behemoth not getting offset contract from the Rafale fighter deal. He applauded the employees for their work and said he wanted to work with them in making HAL more effective.

Centre denies permission to Kerala Mins to go abroad

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Centre has denied permission for the scheduled visit of Kerala Ministers to 17 countries to mobilise funds from expatriates for flood relief work, officials here said on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is scheduled to leave for some of the Gulf countries on Wednesday as part of the efforts to mobilise funds from Kerala expatriates.

He is expected to be back by October 21.

Seventeen of the 20 State Ministers had also planned to visit different countries in the Gulf and Europe to mobilise funds.

THE MINISTERS WERE SCHEDULED TO VISIT VARIOUS COUNTRIES, FOR FIVE DAYS BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY TO MOBILISE FUNDS FROM THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY TO HELP REBUILD THE FLOOD-HIT STATE

However, the Centre has approved the foreign visit of the chief minister alone.

Officials at the CM's office said the Centre has refused permission for the ministers' foreign trip.

The Ministers were scheduled to visit various countries, for five days beginning on Wednesday to mobilise funds from the expatriate community to help rebuild the flood-hit State.

Vijayan had said on October 3 that each Minister would visit various countries from October 17 to 21, including in the Gulf and Europe.

Kerala had suffered huge damage in the torrential rains that lashed the state in August last, claiming 493 lives and leaving a trail of destruction.

The LDF Government had last month decided to raise ₹15,900 crore as loan from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and other funding agencies to rebuild the prime sectors of the State.

2 ultras shot, cop martyred in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Two terrorists believed to be cadre of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) outfit along with their accomplice were killed in fierce gunfight in downtown area of Fateh Kadal in Srinagar early Wednesday morning. One jawan of special operations group (SOG) of the State police made supreme sacrifice while two JKP and CRPF personnel received injuries during the gunfight.

According to State police spokesman, "The encounter in the Fateh Kadal are started early Wednesday on the basis of a specific input about the presence of militants in one of the houses located in the thickly populated area."

"During cordon and search operation civilians were evacuated. While search operation was going on at the target location, terrorists made indiscriminate firing from inside," the police spokesman said.

"In the ensuing gunfight, constable Kamal Kishore of JKP, hailing from Reasi district, made supreme sacrifice while two JKP and CRPF personnel also received injuries," he said.

"During the encounter, all the two terrorists and their active accomplice refused to come out of the house and in turn fired upon the search party. Consequently, they were killed in the encounter. The



Kashmiri men shout pro-freedom slogans as they carry body of Mehraj-Ud-Din Bangroo, a terrorist commander during his funeral in Srinagar on Wednesday

332, 427 RPC, FIR No. 28/2017 U/S 147, 148, 149, 336, 152, 353 RPC at Police Station Khanyar. The complicity of Rayees Ahmad who was part of the group in providing shelter and logistics to the militants is being investigated," said police spokesman.

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. Police has registered a case in this regard and investigation has been initiated," the spokesman in a statement said.

Meanwhile, in another incident of grenade throwing in Pattan area three cops including DySP rank officer received injuries while one of the terrorist was apprehended by the police party.

According to police spokesman, "terrorists travelling in a passenger vehicle lobbed a hand grenade on police party after the driver was directed to stop the vehicle for routine checking at the security check point near Baba Teng Pattan on Baramulla-Srinagar highway.

In this incident one DySP and two other policemen sustained injuries but their condition was stated to be stable. The police party apprehended a young terrorist identified as Faizan Majeed Bhat, aged 11 years. He was recently recruited in the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen terrorist outfit.

Police win laurels while jailers 'help' prisoner escape high security prison

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Even as sleuths of Tamil Nadu Police made a big breakthrough late last week by arresting two persons involved in what is being described as the State's biggest "train robbery", another incident which went unnoticed has tarnished its image.

A team of investigators from Tamil Nadu Police created a record of sorts by solving a train heist which took place on August 8, 2016. Dacoits on the prowl decamped with ₹5.75 crore from the parcel van of the Salem-Chennai Express train without leaving trace of any clue.

The parcel van was transporting soiled currency notes worth ₹342 crore from various banks in Salem to the Reserve Bank of India office in Chennai.

Though the heist was believed to have taken place around 10 pm, the incident came to the notice of the authorities only by 11 am next day when the train reached Egmore Station. Someone had made a 2ftX2ft hole on the roof of the parcel van while the train was moving and removed as many

bundles of currencies they could lay their hands on.

With no clues coming in their way, the sleuths were almost on the verge of coming to a dead end when they chalked out a strategy in one of the brainstorming sessions. They analysed the calls made from mobile phones which were active at Salem Junction and in the Salem-Villupuram stretch on the day the heist happened.

"We came across some suspicious mobile phone numbers that were active at Salem Junction and along the route between Salem and Villupuram, the stretch where the heist has happened. That was the turning point in the investigation. Though it was a painstaking operation, it paid rich dividends," said one of the officials in the team.

The results took them to Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh from where they arrested Dinesh (38) and Mohan Pardi (29) members of a crime syndicate led by Moharsingh, a hard core criminal who has been imprisoned there in connection with another case.

Though the currency notes were accompanied by armed police guards, they were travelling in the adjacent compartment and did not

notice the operation happening at the roof top of the compartment. By the time the train reached Virudhachalam, the dacoits completed the mission successfully and made their way to safety.

While the Tamil Nadu police brought laurels to the department by resolving this two year-long mystery, another real life drama was enacted in the high security Puzhal Central Prison, a suburb in Chennai on October 5 when a remand prisoner walked away to his freedom by submitting a fake bail order issued by a Chennai court. Mohammed Sherif, 27, a remand prisoner, walked away from the prison to 'freedom' when he submitted a bail order issued in the name of another prisoner.

"This could not have happened without the connivance of an insider's help. I find it difficult to believe that such a thing has happened in a high security prison," said Dr TP Senkumar, former chief of Kerala Police. The escape of Sherif happened after photographs of some of the inmates in Puzhal Prison leading luxurious life with smart phones, colour TVs and other high end goods went viral.

SSM founder Shivpal shifts to new bungalow

Hits back at Akhilesh for terming him 'B team' of BJP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Secular Morcha founder Shivpal Singh Yadav on Wednesday shifted to the 6, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg bungalow allotted to him by the State Government.

The bungalow was earlier allotted to Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati in the capacity of Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and she had vacated it in compliance with a Supreme Court order in June this year.

"On the auspicious occasion of Navratri, puja and havan was performed as part of 'grih pravesh' and Shivpalji formally entered the bungalow on Wednesday," a SSM leader said.

Soon after the rituals, Shivpal, without naming Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, said, "I don't want to join the issue with political green-horns who had no contribution in the formation of Samajwadi Party. I along with Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) built the SP from scratch and catapulted it to the level where it won Assembly poll and formed a Government on its own in



'I AM THE REAL SP. THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WITH SHALLOW POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE OF UP BUT HAVE LOFTY AMBITIONS. THEY WILL BE SHOWN THEIR STRENGTH IN POLITICS DURING THE 2019 LOK SABHA POLL,' SHIVPAL SAID

March 2012."

He also hit back at his nephew Akhilesh for terming him the 'B team' of Bharatiya Janata Party.

"I am the real SP. There are some people with shallow political knowledge of UP but have lofty ambitions. They will be shown their strength in politics

during the 2019 Lok Sabha poll," Shivpal said.

The SSM founder said that the bungalow would be used as office of his recently floated outfit. "The SSM is in touch with several parties wedded to secular and socialist ideology for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. The established political parties suffer from credibility crisis and that is why I floated the SSM," he said.

Without naming the SP, Shivpal said, "A large number of leaders who have been marginalised in their respective parties have approached the SSM and they will soon join it. My party will consider if a proposal is made to join an anti-BJP grand alliance in UP for 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Amit Shah kick-starts BJP's campaign in poll bound Mizoram

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

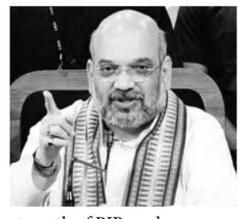
BJP national president Amit Shah on Wednesday sounded the poll bugle for the November 28 Assembly polls in Mizoram and said that people of the State will celebrate this year's Christmas under the BJP rule.

Shah also inaugurated the party office in Aizawl and said that the party will go to the polls alone, on the basis of the strength of the party cadres.

"I am indeed happy to see such a large gathering here today. Seeing the jam packed hall I am sure that next government in Mizoram will be formed by the BJP. Once BJP forms Government in Mizoram, 20 States of the country will be ruled by BJP," he added.

The BJP national president thanked the people of Christian dominated Meghalaya and Nagaland for voting for the BJP candidates and said that people of Mizoram will also vote for the saffron party as people have realized the misdeeds of Congress.

Assuring that BJP will not go with congress and opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), he said BJP will contest all the seats on its own depending on the



strength of BJP workers.

He added, "When UPA government was in power there was 13th finance commission which allocated ₹19,974 Crore for Mizoram during NDA rule 14th finance commission doubled the allocation to ₹42,972."

Attacking the congress which is ruling the state for last 10 years, he said, "Congress is infested by the corruption and dynastic rule. Chief Minister, Lal Thanhawia wants to make his brother chief minister."

Shah said that Mizoram Government blocking implementation of 129 schemes meant for the State. "However after polls all these schemes will be implemented. Congress is worried for once these schemes are implemented, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity will further soar in the State," Shah added.

ICG vessels avert apprehension of two Indian boats from Pakistan

GANDHINAGAR: Indian Coast Guard vessels averted apprehension of two Indian fishing boats from the grip of Pakistan entities.

ICGS 'Rajratan' while undertaking the notional International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) patrol got alerted by intercepting a VHF communication. The Pak warship was chasing the Indian Fishing Boats reportedly operating in Pakistan waters.

ICGS Rajratan is a Fast Patrol Vessel based at Porbandar operating in the area for maritime surveillance. It intercepted two Indian Fishing Boats namely Mayshab Maa (GJ-10-MM-3480) and Safina Al Tahir (GJ-10-MM-1761) both registered at Okha in Devbhoomi Dwarka district. There were total 19 fishermen onboard.

The reports also confirm that PMSA Basol, a Pakistan Maritime Surveillance ship 'Basol' has apprehended another IFB Khuda Dost Ka Karam (GJ-10-MM-3250) also registered at Okha with 11 fishermen at the mutually agreed No Fishing Zone (NFZ) about 9 nautical miles from the nearest Indian land and about 36 nautical miles from nearest base port of Jakhau. ICG ship is maintaining constant liaison with their PAK compatriots for the release of this boat as well. PNS

Surat tense after another rape of infant by migrant

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Close on the heels of rape on a 14-months-old girl by a migrant worker near Himatnagar in North Gujarat, yet another incident of rape and murder of three-years-old girl that too by a migrant created tension in the diamond city Surat.

The incident of rape in Himatnagar resulted into backlash against Hindi-speaking labourers as the accused arrested by the police was hailing from Bihar. Due to continue attacks on migrant workers post the incident, exodus of nearly one lakh workers reported from Gujarat to their respective States. Now police have come into action to prevent similar situation in the South Gujarat's biggest town as in the fresh incident of crime against a toddler, once again a Bihar migrant identified as an accused.

Sources in the Surat police said that the toddler girl was missing from Sunday evening and her body was found in a gunny bag on the next day. The forensic reports revealed that the girl was not only murdered but also raped. During the investigation, the police found

a 22-year-old man as suspect. According to an official involved in the investigation of the case the accused hailing from Bihar had switched off his phone and probably went to his home-state. Couple of teams of Gujarat police have been sent to Bihar to trace the accused. The family of the victim has migrated from neighbouring Maharashtra to Surat.

Surat police commissioner Satish Sharma said that police were trying to nab the suspect and sections including rape, murder, atrocity and POCSO would be put against him. Sharma has also appealed the people to remain calm and not to harm innocent migrants. According to him as part of precautionary measure, extra police personnel have been alerted to prevent any untoward incident.

Meanwhile in another incident as many as six construction workers and a civil engineer, all hailing from Bihar were allegedly assaulted in Vadodara for wearing Lungi. The incident occurred when they were busy working at a construction site of a school building.

Maha cops bust int'l job racket, arrest 4 persons from B'luru

Gang duped job seekers by collecting lakhs of rupees, promising jobs in Canada, US, UAE, other countries

IN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Crime Branch-CID sleuths of the Mumbai police have blown the lid off an international job recruitment racket with the arrest of four persons, including a woman, from Bengaluru who had allegedly cheated scores of job seekers from several States in the country to the tune of several lakhs of rupees by promising jobs in Canada, US, UAE and other countries.

Acting on the complaint of a senior citizen who was duped while looking for a job after his retirement, the investigators carried out an elaborate investigations and tracked down four

persons from Bengaluru who had allegedly cheated scores of job seekers from Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and other states by promising "technical" jobs abroad. They had collected lakhs of rupees on several pretexts.

The four arrested youngsters were identified as Ajay Bhavanishankar Gupta (23), Cedric Dominic Robert (23), Vignesh Suresh KC (22) and Mrs Sneha Narendra Panchariya (23). All of them are residents of Easter Enclave at Hormalu in Karnataka's Bengaluru. While one of them was arrested in Mumbai, the remaining three were picked up from Bengaluru.

In August, 2018, a senior citizen who had earlier worked abroad was looking for job after his retirement came across an advertisement that read 'International Jobs and Free Recruitment' on a Facebook page which claimed that there were vacancies for technical posts with huge salaries in countries like Canada, United States, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other countries.

The senior citizen concerned applied for a job in Canada and sent bio-data and other documents to the advertiser through email and WhatsApp. He began following up with the advertiser for the job through email and WhatsApp.

The advertiser concerned meanwhile set up a WhatsApp group with a fake job recruiting official as an administrator for those looking for technical jobs using an international mobile SIM card. The administrator concerned asked the job seekers to send a total money to the tune of Rs 1,54,000 each to the advertiser online.

However, the job seekers did not jobs as promised nor was the advertiser ready to return the money taken to the job seekers. When asked for return of money, the alleged recruiters began to threaten the job seekers.

With no alternative, the senior citizen concerned registered a complaint with the Mumbai police. The case was then transferred to Unit-11 of the Crime Branch-CID visited Bengaluru early this week and arrested the remaining three youngsters. The investigators have seized a laptop, mobile phone and other documents that had used for allegedly cheating the job seekers.

"The investigations have revealed that these four arrested youngsters have cheated scores of persons in Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and other states to the tune of lakhs of rupees, by promising jobs abroad," Crime Branch's Deputy Commissioner of Police Akbar Pathan said here on Wednesday.

The four arrested youngsters have been booked under sections 420 (cheating), 465 (forgery) 467 (forgery of valuable security, will), 468 (forgery for cheating), 471 (using a forged document), 34 (common intention) of IPC and sec 66 D of Information Technology Act.

PM's unveiling Patel's statue will be BJP's 2019 campaign launch

IAN S ■ GANDHINAGAR

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is virtually kicking off its campaign for the 2019 general elections by taking out 'Ekta Yatras' across Gujarat in the run up to the unveiling of the 182-foot statue of Sardar Patel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31.

The Prime Minister will unveil the tallest statue in the world, Statue of Unity, on the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel at Sadhu Bet, near Narmada Dam.

The almost ₹3,000 crore statue is being projected by the BJP as a symbol of unity and as a message that the Congress underplayed the contribution of Sardar Patel towards the country in favour of the Nehru-Gandhi family.

As a precursor to the unveiling event, the Bharatiya Janata Party is taking out 'Ekta Yatras' across Gujarat from October 19 to 29. The yatras will carry a prototype of the Statue of Unity all through the length and breadth of the state.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani will flag off one such Yatra from the historical Bardoli town in South Gujarat where Sardar Patel launched his Bardoli Satyagraha.

Similarly, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel will flag off another Yatra from Karamsad, the hometown of Sardar Patel. Likewise, many Ministers of the government will flag off other modules of the Yatra from different regions of the state. All these modules will tour around 5,000 villages of Gujarat through the 26 Lok Sabha constituencies of the state before the big event.

The ruling party also plans to hold get-together events at

district levels during this period. The party also plans to expand its reach to the public where district-level expansion officers will be appointed full time within six months.

"Through the Ekta Yatra, we will be reaching out to the villages and showcase the development we have carried out at the state and central level," says state BJP President Jitu Vaghani.

He added: "After independence, it is for the first time that the central government has announced minimum support prices (MSP) of 1.5 fold of the production cost of farm produce like paddy, maize and millet.

"The BJP is working for the development of the farmers and farming and we are receiving overwhelming response from them," Vaghani claimed. Even after the big event, the BJP government is gearing up for visits by state delegations to the tallest statue and the Narmada dam.

Right now, Gujarat Ministers are inviting Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, Governors and other dignitaries, including the President and Vice President, to the statue site. The BJP ruled state delegations are expected to visit the statue during the entire November month, one by one.

"This is done so for the sake of convenience. We cannot accommodate and entertain them all of them at a single go. So the visits from them will be one after other," Nitin Patel told reporters.

Subsidy withdrawal posed no fiscal burden on Haj pilgrims in '18: Naqvi

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said here on Wednesday that even after the withdrawal of subsidy during the current year, there "was no unnecessary financial burden on pilgrims", all thanks to the elimination of middlemen and "100 percent online and transparent" system introduced during the year for scrutiny of applications.

Unveiling "Haj-2019" plan at the Haj House in Mumbai, Naqvi said that during 2018 pilgrimage season when Haj subsidy was withdrawn, the elimination of middlemen and 100 percent online and transparent system ensured that there was no unnecessary financial burden on pilgrims."

"The Haj pilgrimage was successful during 2018. For the first time after the Independence, a record number of 1,75,025 Muslims from India performed Haj this year and that too without any subsidy. We are hopeful that a larger number of Indian Muslims will go to Haj 2019," Naqvi said.

Earlier in 2017, a total of ₹1,030 crore had been paid to the airlines as fare for 1,24,852 Haj pilgrims, where as in 2018, a total of ₹973 crore were paid to the airlines for 1,28,702 Haj pilgrims, going through Haj Committee of India. "This means, we paid ₹57 crore less this year even



Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi unveiling "Haj-2019" plan at the Haj House in south Mumbai on Wednesday

after ending the Haj subsidy," the Minister said.

The minister said it was for the first time that preparations for next year's Haj (2019) had been started immediately after completion of the 2018 Haj pilgrimage process.

"The online application process for Haj 2019 will start from tomorrow (October 18), while offline application process will begin from October 22. A total of 3,55,604 applications had been received for Haj 2018 which included 1,89,217 male and 1,66,387 female applicants. We expect to receive more number of application for Haj pilgrimage," Naqvi said.

Naqvi said that early start of Haj process, there would be better facilities for the agencies in India and Saudi Arabia. "This year, we will get more

time to make arrangements. The process of airlines tender will be completed by November. The accommodation process in Makkah and Madina will be completed by December-January. The accommodation rates in Saudi Arabia will be same as it was in 2018. All 20 embarkation points will be functional and Haj pilgrims will also be able to go from Calicut airport," he said.

Meanwhile, Naqvi inaugurated 'Viewers' Gallery' at Haj House and unfurled a national flag on the roof top of Haj House, Mumbai. The unfurled Indian National flag is of size 20 feet by 30 feet with a mast of 20-meter height. The national flag installed atop the Haj House is at 350 feet height from the ground level.

Information Technology Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)
 (Department of IT, Government of Uttarakhnad)
 IT Bhawan, Plot No. IT-17, IT Park, Sahasrabhara Road, Dehradun - 248001
 Telephone: 0135-260830, email: critd-uk@nic.in
 e-Tender
Tender Notice No. 06/ITDA-521/2018 dated 17/10/2018
Notice of invitation for e-Tender
 RFP (Request for Proposal) is being issued by ITDA, Department of IT, Uttarakhnad to the reputed IT companies meeting the qualification criteria, for Selection of Service Provider (SP) for Delivery, Installation and maintenance of Wi-Fi setup at Rajbhawan. The RFP document can be downloaded from www.uitenders.gov.in from 18/10/2018 (10.00 Hrs). The tender document fee of Rs 5000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) through demand draft (non-refundable) favouring 'Director, ITDA' payable at Dehradun should be submitted along with the Bid. The parties willing to participate in the bidding will have to apply through the Electronic Tendering Procedure (e-Tendering) as per the guidelines issued by Government of Uttarakhnad available on the above mentioned web site under the link 'Bidders Manual Kit'.
 The amendments in tender in future, if any, would be published in the website www.uitenders.gov.in only. No other notification would be published separately. Director ITDA reserves the right to cancel the tender at any point of time, without assigning any reason thereof.
 883/ITDA-521/2018 DIRECTOR

CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
 The Deputy Director (Horticulture), Horticulture Division-II, CPWD, I.P. Bhawan, New Delhi on behalf of the President of India invites online procurement / item rate tenders from approved and eligible Contractors registered in Horticulture Category of CPWD who have valid licence or registration in ESIC and EPFO (for works at Sl. No.1 to 2), Contractors registered in Horticulture Category of CPWD or Registration with NSIC under MSME who have valid licence of Insecticide/ Pesticide (for works at Sl. No.3) and Contractors registered in Nursery Category of CPWD (for works at Sl. No.4 to 5) for the following work:-
 1. NIT No.- 119/DD/HDI/DB/2018-19
 Name of Work: M/o Garden Area attached to Parliament House Complex, under Hort. Sub Division-II/I, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH- Maintenance of Potted Plants in Earthen pots at Parliament House, Parliament Library Building, Parliament House Annex and Extension Building.)
 Estimated Cost Rs. 70,14,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 1,40,280/-, Period for completion - 12 Months. Form-7
 2. NIT No.- 120/DD/HDI/DB/2018-19
 Name of Work: M/o Garden Area attached to 176 M.S. Flats at B.D. Marg & B.K.S. Marg, New Delhi, under Sub-Div. I/II dg. 2018-19. (SH- Complete Maintenance of Garden area and Potted Plants.) Estimated Cost Rs. 34,73,460/-, Earnest Money Rs. 69,469/-, Period for completion - 12 Months. Form-7
 3. NIT No.- 121/DD/HDI/DB/2018-19
 Name of Work: M/o Different Horticulture Work under Horticulture Division-II, CPWD, New Delhi dg. 2018-19. (SH- Providing and spreading of Organic Manure (Vermicompost)) (Revised). Estimated Cost Rs. 5,85,000/-, Earnest Money Rs. 11,700/-, Period for completion - 30 Days. Form-9
 4. NIT No.- 122/DD/HDI/DB/2018-19
 Name of Work: M/o Garden Area attached to M.P.'s Bungalow/Flats, under Hort. Divn.-II, CPWD, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH- Providing and Display of Dahlia, Petunia flowering plants) Estimated Cost Rs. 27,55,600/-, Earnest Money Rs. 55,112/-, Period for completion - 03 Months. Form-7
 5. NIT No.- 123/DD/HDI/DB/2018-19
 Name of Work: M/o Garden Area attached to Parliament House, under Hort. Sub-Div.-II/I, CPWD, New Delhi, dg. 2018-19. (SH- Providing and Display of Alyssum, Pansy, Petunia flowering plants) Estimated Cost Rs. 9,28,800/-, Earnest Money Rs. 18,576/-, Period for completion - 02 Months. Form-7 Last date & time of submission of bid is 25-10-2018 upto 15:00, and date of opening is 25-10-2018 at 15:30. Tender forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/cpwd or www.cpwd.gov.in

noida **New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
 Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
 E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPCL Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
A (1) 15/GM(S)/SM(WC-7)/ET/18-19, Strengthening of Road (P/L B.C. Layer in Sector-83) Noida.
 Which can be uploaded by date 12/11/2018 upto 5.00 PM . Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 13/11/2018 at 11.00AM.
B (1) 05/CE(C)/PE(WC-8)/ET/18-19, M/o Road (P/L Damaged Interlocking Tile in Pocket-A, Sector-105.) Which can be uploaded by date 23/10/2018 upto 5.00 PM . Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 30/10/2018 at 11.00AM.
C (1) 09/GM(S)/SM(WC-8)/ET/18-19, D/o Sector-92 (External development of Community Center Compound & rising of its peripheral boundary wall in Sector-92) Noida.
 Which can be uploaded by date 23/10/2018 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05/11/2018 at 11.00AM.
General Manager (S) NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOODLUCK INDIA LTD.
 Regd. Off: 509, Arunachal Building, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi -110001
 Website: www.goodluckindia.com | E-mail: goodluck@goodluckindia.com
 CIN : L74899DL1986PLC050910
Notice To Transfer The Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority
 In term of section 124(G) of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") read with Rule 6(3) of Investors Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rule, 2016 ("Rules"). Notice is hereby given to the shareholders of Goodluck India Limited ("the Company") as under-
 As per said Rules, if a shareholder does not claim the dividend amount for a consecutive period of seven years or more, then the shares held by him/her shall be transferred to the Demat account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority ("IEPF Authority") constituted in accordance with the Rules. Accordingly, shares of all those shareholders, who haven't claimed the dividends for the last seven consecutive years or more are now due for transfer to demat account of IEPF Authority.
 Adhering to the various requirements set out in the Rules, the company has already communicated individually to the concerned shareholders whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority under the said Rules for taking appropriate action(s). The full details of such shareholders including their names, folio no. or DP ID & Client ID and shares due for transfer are also posted on the website of the Company i.e., www.goodluckindia.com. The concerned shareholders are thus requested to claim the unclaimed dividend. The necessary steps will be initiated by the Company to transfer the shares which are due for transfer to IEPF without further notice, in accordance with the Rules.
 In case, the shareholder wish to claim the shares/dividend(s) after its transfer to IEPF, a separate application has to be made to the IEPF authority in form IEPF-5, as prescribed under the IEPF rules and available on the website, i.e. www.iepf.gov.in and a physical copy of the same duly signed, has to be sent to the company along with requisite documents enumerated in the form IEPF-5.
 Further, if the shareholders have any queries on the subject matter or the rules, they may contact to the company's RTA at Mas Services Ltd, T-34, Okhla Industrial area, Phase II New Delhi-110020, Tele. 011-26387281, email-info@maserv.com.
 By order of the Board
 For Goodluck India Limited
 Sd/-
 (Abhishek Agrawal)
 Company Secretary
 Place : Ghaziabad
 Date : 08.10.2018

ROAD-IV DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPTT. NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
 ROOM No. 215, SBS PLACE, GOLE MARKET, NEW DELHI
e-Procurement Tender Notice
 Tender ID No. 2018_NDMC_160321_1
 Name of Work: Road Improvement programme in NDMC Area during 2018-19.
 SH: Shifting of utilities in corridor of TML at PM House for Construction of security wall.
 Estimate Cost : Rs. 10,92,576/-
 Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution on 12.10.2018
 Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution 25.10.2018 upto 3.30 PM
 Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
 Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory. Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R-IV)
To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
 Office of the Executive Engineer (SLF)
 Adjacent to MC Primary School, Lalita Park, Near Metro Station Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, Email: eesfledmc@gmail.com, Ph. No. 011-40104246
TENDER NOTICE
 No. EE(SLF)/EDMC/2018-19/D-762 Dated : 15.10.2018
 Sub. : Imp. and Dev. of newly allotted land by DDA at Village Singhola Khampur for disposal of silt.
 SH : Const. of pitless type Weighbridge, Civil foundation along with both side RCC road for each Weighbridge, GI Earthing, installation, cable conduit laying, cabin with AC, computers etc. all complete of 50 tonne weighing capacity.
 NIT No. EE(SLF)/EDMC/TC/2018-19/16 dated 15.10.18
 Tender No. : 311967
 Date of release of Tender : 15.10.2018
 Last date of purchase/download : 29.10.2018 at 14.00 PM of tender
 Last date/time for receipt of Tender : 31.10.2018 upto 3.00 PM
 Opening of Technical Bid : 31.10.2018 at 3.01 PM
 Opening of Financial Bid : Will be opened after evaluation of technical bid
 Head of A/C : XL-III-D-IV
 Further details can be seen at <http://mcdetenders.com>
 R.O. No. 104/DPI/East/2018-19 Executive Engineer (SLF)
 EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. : 155303



Entitlement culture

VIP privilege which leads to the kind of incidents that went down in Delhi is the bane of a meritocratic society

Events that unfolded at a posh hotel in South Delhi a few nights ago have once again highlighted the many shades of the all-pervasive, boorish VIP culture that infects the Indian body politic. A famously affluent, entitled and sordid brat, son of a former MP, was seen brandishing his gun at a couple, hurling vile abuse at her as well as the hotel's security staff and using his version of the time-tested default threat of India's entitled: *Tu jaanta nahin mera baap kaun hai?* You don't know who I am... I am from Lucknow, the offensive brat can be heard saying, his threat punctuated by vile abuse. He may well belong to the city of *nawabs* but they must all be turning somersaults in their graves given Ashish Pandey epitomises the exact opposite of the culture of *tehzeeb* that city has been known for. The accused (police have registered a case) is the son of a former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) parliamentarian Rakesh Pandey and brother of Ritesh Pandey, currently a sitting MLA from Jalalpur in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar. His brazen brandishing of his sophisticated high-bore sidearm in full public view to threaten a couple he and his equally abusive and vile female companions had a disagreement with was bad enough, but the attitude of hotel staff who ended up with his enablers allowing him and companions to escape unhindered in his multi-crore vehicle from the hotel premises too needs to be condemned.

The loser Ashish Pandey's obsession with weapons is on full display on his social media profile, incidentally, including a photograph of him showing off what appears to be a sub machine-gun. But then gun licences in this country are usually granted to the rich, famous and powerful and never to those who need to protect their selves, families and/or properties. And they don't come more powerful and connected that a political family facing multiple criminal charges from the badlands of Uttar Pradesh. Pandey's father himself faces three criminal charges and his uncle (a former MLA) has 32 criminal cases registered against him. But why blame politicians and their kin alone for this sort of abusive, entitled and dangerous behaviour? In a country and society where due process and rule of law is jettisoned in the face of communitarian ideologies whether of class, jaati, gender, community or creed, and education, civility and restraint are considered passe, this what you get. The culture of entitlement is so deeply ingrained in the collective psyche of the rich and the powerful in India that it will take a generation to reverse it; not that there seems to be any concerted move afoot to do so. VIP privilege which leads to the kind of incidents that went down in Delhi a couple of nights ago is the bane of a meritocratic society. And when guns do the talking, the potential for violence is ever-present. There are about 5,79,092 officially categorised VIPs in India as against just about 84 in Britain, 252 in the US and 435 in China. For a majority of these over five lakh people roaming our country and jumping the queue, as it were, with impunity, the power they wield has proven toxic for the rest of us ordinary or garden variety of citizens. The law is their plaything and they know it. Their clout is such that it even provides them with a protective shield organised by the very people mandated to protect citizens. They know they can get away with anything, however grotesque. A look-out notice for Ashish Pandey has been issued, who of course can't be found after that night, but don't expect much. Public memory is short and the will to take on VIPs non-existent in our great and ancient land.

50 WORD EDIT Shashiti surge
The good residents of Kolkata know how to celebrate, give them that. On Shashiti, or the sixth day of Durga Puja, on Monday, their indefatigable approach towards going for an outing seems to have gripped them renewed vigour as the oldest Metro network in India registered a record footfall of more than one lakh passengers in a single day. Talk about knowing how to party!

Goa, going, gone

For the Congress, it appears to be game over in Goa, a State that was their stronghold too so long ago

In the 2012 Assembly poll in the tiny State of Goa, which has significant minority population, the Manohar Parrikar-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a simple majority in the 40-member House on its own for the first time. The traditional ruling party the Congress, buffeted by accusations of corruption and nepotism, was turfed out by voters rather unceremoniously but it retained a substantial vote-share. The man who has been in many ways the face of Goa for the last decade, Parrikar, took over as chief minister but midway through his term he was summoned to Delhi after the BJP swept to power at the centre in 2014 to take over as the Defence Minister. In the last Assembly election in 2017, a Parrikar-less BJP crashed to a resounding defeat. The Congress, though it did not manage to cross the majority-mark, emerged as the single largest party with 17 MLAs. What followed is well known; Congress failed to stake claim in time, its MLA Vishwajit Rane quit reducing its strength to 16, Parrikar came back as Chief Minister at the head of a fragile coalition supported by two regional parties, his subsequent and ongoing medical issues, the increasing instability of the BJP Government and the Congress scenting a chance.

In one fell swoop on Tuesday, however, the Congress had the door firmly shut in its face and the BJP showed it had mastered the art of realpolitik. With two more Congress MLAs joining the BJP and resigning as legislators, the Congress strength in the House is now 14 and expected to dwindle further. The BJP has not only ensured that they can take their time to stake stock of Parrikar's medical situation and a practical call on his replacement but also sent out a signal to its allies, the leaders of the Goa Forward Party and Manarashtrawadi Gomantak Party, that they should keep their ambitions of taking over from Parrikar in check. Or should that be checkmate?

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

Khashoggi death: Worse than a crime

The killing of the Saudi journalist was definitely a blunder. Mohammed bin Salman thinks he can make foreigners shut up but his very own family can probably bring him down



GWYNNE DYER
If Saudi Arabia's *de facto* ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS), did really send a hit team to Turkey to murder dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, what will happen next? Perhaps history can help us here.
A little over two centuries ago, in 1804, the Armies of the French Revolution had won all the key battles and the wars seemed to be over. The rest of Europe had decided in 1801 that it would have to live with the French Revolution and made peace with Napoleon. Everything was going so well — and then he made a little mistake.
Many members of the French nobility had gone into exile and fought against the Armies of the Revolution, and the Duke of Enghien was one of them. In 1804 he was living across the Rhine — on German territory.
Napoleon heard an (untrue) report that

Enghien was part of a conspiracy to assassinate him, and sent a hit team — sorry, a cavalry squadron — across the Rhine to kidnap him. They brought him back to Paris, gave him a perfunctory military trial, and shot him. After that things did not go well for Napoleon.
The idea that Napoleon would violate foreign territory in peacetime in order to murder an opponent was so horrifying, so repellent that opinion turned against peace with France everywhere. As his own chief of police, Joseph Fouché, said, "It was worse than a crime. It was a blunder."
By the end of the year every major power in Europe was back at war with Napoleon. After a decade of war he was defeated at Waterloo and sent into exile on St Helena for the rest of his life. So is something like that going to happen to MBS too?
Nobody's going to invade Saudi Arabia, of course. (Not even Iran, despite MBS's paranoia on the subject.) But will they stop investing in the country, stop selling it weapons and buying its oil, maybe even slap trade embargoes on it.
Since it seems almost certain that Khashoggi was murdered by the Saudi Government — Turkish Government officials have even told journalists off the record that they have audio and partial video recordings of Khashoggi's interrogation, torture and killing — all of Saudi Arabia's friends and trading part-



HE ROSE RAPIDLY OUT OF THE MULTITUDINOUS RANKS OF ANONYMOUS PRINCES THROUGH THE FAVOUR OF HIS FAILING FATHER, KING SALMAN, BUT HE COULD FALL AS FAST AS HE ROSE

ners have some choices to make.
US President Donald Trump immediately rose to the occasion, declaring that it would be "very upset and angry" if Saudi Arabia was responsible for Khashoggi's murder, and that there would be "severe punishment" for the crime.
He even boasted that Saudi Arabia "would not last two weeks" without American military support. Presumably Trump was talking about the survival of the Saudi regime, not the country's independence, but he was still wrong. He is as prone to overestimate his power as MBS himself.
The Saudis struck right back, saying that "the kingdom affirms its total rejection of any threats or attempts to undermine it whether through threats to impose economic sanctions or the use of political pressure. The kingdom also affirms that it will respond to any (punitive) action with a bigger one."
But Trump was only bluffing. He really had no intention of cancelling the \$110 billion of contracts that Saudi Arabia has signed to buy American-made weapons, because "we'd be punishing ourselves if we did that. If they don't buy it from us, they're going to buy it from Russia or... China."
People have been turning a blind eye to the weekly hundreds of deaths caused by Saudi bombing in Yemen for three years

POINT-COUNTERPOINT



The LDF Government is responsible for law and order situation in the State. We aren't responsible. No BJP worker was involved.
—BJP Kerala spokesperson MS KUMAR

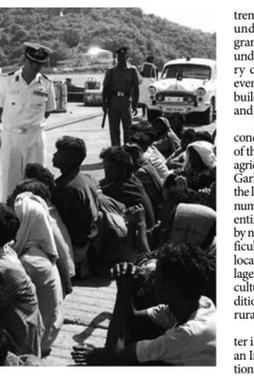
I think it's dirty politics they (protesters) are playing. Supreme Court's order is Constitutional. Government is bound by it.
—Kerala Minister KK SHAILAJA

Environment risks and migration

A vicious cycle of failing environment and rising migration levels needs to be ended by implementing effective agricultural strategies as suggested by FAO



HARI SHANKER SINGH
October 16 is observed as World Food Day in honour of the founding date of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945. The day is celebrated widely by many organisations concerned with food security, including the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The 2018 World Food Day celebrated recently brought to light issues of food security, agricultural production and nutrition challenges amid worsening environmental conditions and climate change. The FAO is engaged in finding solutions and strategies to overcome hurdles on the path to ensure a secure and nutritious food availability environment for the global population.



As a result of this, the FAO published the latest 2018 State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) report which focused on the role played by rural migration in both developing and developed countries in food security and nutrition for the migrants. In developed regions, these conditions can be remedied by strengthening agricultural value chains to create livelihood opportunities beyond primary agriculture in rural areas.
The influx of rural population is putting unimaginable pressure on urban areas and its natural resources, leading to urban chaos and sprawl. However, the FAO report proposes measures, such as the creation of attractive livelihood opportunities in villages that can help stem rural migration. In Andhra Pradesh, the zero budget natural farming initiative which encourages polycropping and drought proofing in agriculture, has helped reduce migration to a great extent by helping farmers diversify income generation through variety of crops. This in turn has

improved agricultural productivity and per capita household income, thereby ensuring better food security and nutrition. For generations, rural households have seen migration to urban areas as a time-tested risk management strategy for farming households to overcome income uncertainty and food insecurity. This needs to change.

Supplementing farmer's non-agricultural income is one way to create incentive for people to stay in rural areas. Creating opportunities in non-farm employment in rural areas can be an important element of the rural development strategy, especially in the Indian context. This is crucial since rural urban migration has always been a matter of concern. As per the 2011 census report, for instance, India saw a rural to urban migration of nearly 90 million people and this has only risen over the years. This migrating population is greeted with scarce resources and dismal nutrition and food security levels upon their arrival in the urban areas.

Often, environmental factors, like drought and water scarcity, spark migration like in the case of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh, where recurring water availability issues have led to frustrated population migrating towards Bangalore and Hyderabad cities. To counter this, the Government must focus on building

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEEK HELP

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Here we go again" (October 16). This is the time of the year when air pollution hits a peak in the Capital. Air quality becomes inferior and toxic. It affects everyone, including crops, trees and forests.
Crop stubble burning in neighbouring States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are major contributors to the rather abysmal level of air quality. However, it is not just the crop stubble that is the trouble-maker. Road side dust, along with dust that accumulates from construction sites also vehicular pollution makes the situation rather alarming.
Inferior quality of fuels that drives vehicles also contribute to high levels of air pollution. The Delhi Government in particular have criticised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his decision to renounce Allahabad as Prayagraj. The Congress has opposed the change of name on the plea that Allahabad has a significant role since the days of independence. Congress spokesperson, Onkar Singh pleaded that Congress Mahaadivshwas took place in Allahabad and Allahabad University would lose its identity as it would also be renamed as

WELCOME CHANGE

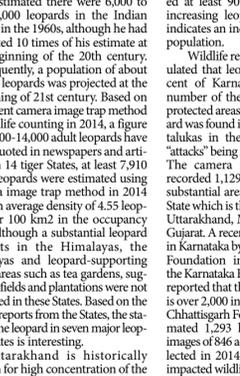
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POVERTY ERADICATION REMAINS A DAUNTING CHALLENGE

Laks of people across the globe are living in abject poverty. Not merely being poor, but an imbalance between rich and poor is the biggest socio-economic disorder that cannot be rectified easily. India no more leads the 'extreme poverty' rank because as of May 2018 44 Indians per minute came out of this State.
Living on less than \$1.9 per day is generally defined as being in a category of extreme poverty by the UN definition, and by 2022, less than three per cent of Indians

Leopards on the prowl again

Although the rate of poaching of the leopard in our country is shocking, numbers of the big cat are on the rise and they are dispersing in new areas in a majority of the States

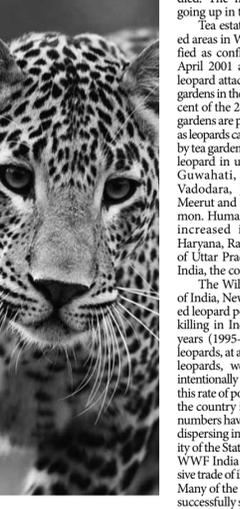


GANAPATHI BHAT AKOLA
Tripara, Mizoram and Sikkim) in the North-East of India support good forests, about 143,230 km², which have forest canopy density above 10 per cent. But survival of even 500 adult leopards in these seven states is doubtful. Similarly, Dandakaranya (a massive forest) in four Naxalite affected states (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Telangana) is historically known for wildlife — tiger, leopard, elephant sloth bear, wild buffalo, Indian gaur, deer and antelope. This region still has good forests in an area of 152,864 km² but the leopard population is expected to be below 2,000. The forests in the rest of twelve leopard states have moderate density of the cat. Increasing human-leopard conflicts, frequent straying of the animals to the fringe areas of cities and villages and their dispersion in new areas reveal that the leopard is on a come-back trail in all States, except the North-East of India and Naxalite affected region in the Central India.
Based on the recent survey using camera image trap method in the tiger states, leopard census in other states

NAME OF STATES AND UNION TERRITORY (UT)	LEOPARD POPULATION ADULT/SUB-ADULTS (ESTIMATE)
1. Jammu & Kashmir	150-250
2. Himachal Pradesh	800-1,000
3. Uttarakhand	2,300-2,500
4. Uttar Pradesh	200-250
5. Bihar	100-200
6. Gujarat	1,200-1,300
7. Rajasthan	680
8. Haryana	50-100
9. Punjab	20-30
10. Maharashtra	910-1,000
11. Madhya Pradesh	1,850-2,050
12. Chhattisgarh	850-1,000
13. Jharkhand	100-300
14. Odisha	450-550
15. Andhra Pradesh	150-250
16. Telangana	250-300
17. Goa	70-80
18. Karnataka	1,500-2,000
19. Tamil Nadu	820-900
20. Kerala	470-500
21. Dadra Nagar Haveli (UT)	150-200
22. West Bengal	400-500
23. Assam	250-300
24. Seven States of the North-East, including flood plains of Brahmaputra (seven States: Arunachal, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim)	250-350
Total	13,930 - 16,410

Leopard population ranges from 13,900 to 16,400 with about 15,000 adult and sub-adult leopards.
Note: For several States, the population is marginally adjusted to the lower side compared to the report from the Chief Wildlife Wardens and studies by institutions, to avoid over estimation.

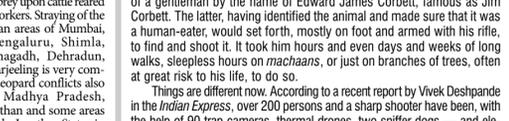
and the recent (2018) reports of the Chief Wildlife Wardens in the states, the State-wise leopard population has been presented in Table above.
During the last few decades, leopards claimed maximum human casualties after elephants among all wild mammals in India. During 2000-15, on an average, about 90-100 people were killed (average of 96 annual humans death/year during 2001-05) and near thousand human injuries annually by the leopards in India, although it was less in 1970s but over four times before the Second World War. Maximum human attacks have been recorded in Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Himachal, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir in Uttarakhand, the leopards attacked 874 humans over a period of 14 years with an average of over 62 attacks per year. Over 300 people died due to leopard attack during (2000-15) and 95 man-eating leopards were hunted down.
Human killing by the leopard in and around the Sanjay Gandhi National Park near Mumbai is globally known. After removal of leopards



from several areas of high concentration zone, leopard attack on human decreased but increased subsequently with increase of the leopard population in Maharashtra. The leopards' attack on humans has increased again in the present decade as 97 deaths and 337 injuries to human due to leopard attacks were reported from the State during 2010-17.
In Gujarat, the scale of leopard rescue is going up. In 2016-17, a total of 334 leopards were caged from the villages in the state which further increased to 451 leopards in 2017-18. The increasing rescue operation of leopard indicates the level of conflict that the management has to deal with; in 2019 leopard attacks on human beings during the last three years increased to 33 people died. In Karnataka, a study (March 2013 to April 2014) documented 245 leopard attacks on humans and 56 leopards captured in 14 months. It has been reported that "near half of Karnataka lives with leopards." Himachal Pradesh has witnessed 306 cases of leopard attacks on humans during 10 years (2006-15) and many of them

What it takes to kill a Tigress

The human-animal conflict is unequal given the weapons and other resources which humans command. T1 is perhaps destined to be one of its victims



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR
Time was when, faced with persistent complaints of a human-devouring tiger or tigress on the prowl, authorities in what is now Uttarakhand, particularly its Kumaon region, would seek the help of a gentleman by the name of Edward James Corbett, famous as Jim Corbett. The latter, having identified the animal and made sure that it was a human-eater, would set forth, mostly on foot and armed with his rifle, to find and shoot it. It took him hours and even days and weeks of long walks, sleepless hours on *machaans*, or just on branches of trees, often at great risk to his life, to do so.
Things are different now. According to a recent report by Vivek Deshpande in the *Indian Express*, over 200 persons and a sharp shooter have been, with the help of 90 trap cameras, thermal drones, two sniffer dogs — and elephants lit against — and a powered hand grip, scouring, for more than 45 days, 170 square kilometres of Pandharkwada and Kalamb tehsils in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district. The purpose of this massive exercise in the presence of the State's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, AK Mishra, and the Assistant Principal Conservator General of Forests Sunil Limaye, is to find and kill T1, a six-year old tigress who has been proclaimed a human-eater with five kills to her name. The order excludes her two cubs which have been moving around with her.
It is likely that, given this elaborate effort, which should certainly have prioritised tranquilising and removing — and not killing — her, T1 will be exterminated despite the remarkable intelligence and ability to evade humans she has displayed. Some people will celebrate, which will be a horrific shame. Jim Corbett, who knew more about tigers than most people in this planet, was proud of never having killed one for sport or reward. He did not even make a prestige issue of killing one. Slow to label a tiger as a human-eater, he wrote in *Man-Eaters of Kumaon*. "The tiger is a large hearted gentleman with boundless courage and that when he is exterminated — as exterminated he will be, unless public opinion rallies to his support — India will be the poorer by having lost the finest of her fauna."
Corbett killed even human-eaters with regret and the reason is clear from his observation in *The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudrapurag*, that the crimes of the animal, which he killed, "were not against the laws of nature, but against the laws of man." It is under the laws of man — and by men — that he has been sentenced to death. She has had no say in the process. There could be no question of her appearing before any authority and argue that she was not a human-eater. People have doubtless argued in her defence, as others have bayed for her blood. The harsh fact is that she has been condemned unheard.
Motive and circumstances are important factors considered while determining the quantum of punishment for an offence. Hence one needs to ask here: What made T1 into a human-eater if she had become one? This is because, as Corbett once wrote, "Human beings are not the natural prey of tigers, and it is only when tigers have been incapacitated through wounds or old age that, in order to survive, they are compelled to take to a diet of human flesh." He found that the Champawat tigress which he had killed, and which had killed 200 people in Nepal and 234 in India, had been shot in the mouth some years earlier, which had destroyed her teeth, making them useless for consuming the flesh of her natural prey. The Champawat tigress, who he had also killed, had a number of porcupine quills embedded in her right foreleg, causing, over the years, the muscles to rot and bones craters with signs of infection, making it easier for her to hunt humans and not her natural prey.
The question as to what would have turned T1 into a human-eater is particularly important given the dimensions the human-animal conflict has achieved thanks to increasing human encroachments into animal habitats for agriculture, establishment and extensions of towns and villages, industry and mining, the construction of arterial roads and railway lines. Cattle-grazing and collection of fire-wood are degrading even protected forests. Denied living space and prey, carnivorous animals like tigers and leopards are moving close to — even inside — human settlements for food. Their injuries can occur from stepping on broken glass, dashing against barbed wire, hits by trucks, electrocution and in numerous other ways.
The number of animals moving into or close to human settlements would increase continually as human encroachment into animal habitats grows. Tigers, according to Corbett, are keen to leave humans alone and keep to themselves. Nevertheless, conflict is built into the situation with instances of tigers or other carnivorous wild animals preying on livestock and occasionally killing humans, triggering a clamour for exterminating the alleged culprit. It is an unequal conflict given the weapons and other resources which humans command. And T1 is perhaps destined to be one of its victims.
(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and an author)

END POVERTY

Sir — October 17 is celebrated as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Poverty is the root cause for many socio-economic problems. Overpopulation, unemployment, low literacy levels, increasing crimes are all its consequences. If steps are taken to reduce poverty many social problems will be solved.

TS Karthik Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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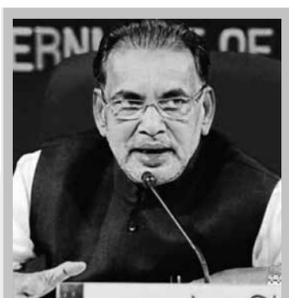


India is a key cornerstone of our overall global investment strategy, providing outstanding engineering talent for our global R&D operations that are helping to drive innovation across our entire product portfolio

Pat Gelsinger, CEO, VMware

BUZZ FROM GOVT/CORP

The US assured to expeditiously finalise the legislation related to the access of Indian commodities in the US markets so to be able to export Indian table grapes to the USA by November 2018 season



Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture Minister

NIIT Tech shares up over 5% as Q2 net profit jumps

REGISTERED 66.3 PER CENT JUMP IN NET PROFIT TO ₹111.8 CRORE

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of NIIT Technologies on Wednesday rose over 5 per cent after the company reported 66.3 per cent jump in net profit for the quarter ended September 30.

The stock soared 4.34 per cent to close at ₹1,189.60 on BSE. Intra-day, it jumped 6.56 per cent to ₹1,215.

On NSE, shares of the company surged 5.14 per cent to end at ₹1,198.

NIIT Technologies on Wednesday reported 66.3 per cent jump in net profit to ₹111.8 crore for the second quarter driven by strong demand across sectors like BFSI and travel and transportation.

The company had registered a net profit of ₹67.2 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. The company's revenues grew 23.1 per cent to ₹907.4 crore in the reported quarter from ₹737.2 crore in the year-ago period.

ACC Q3 NET PROFIT UP 15 PC TO ₹209 CR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cement maker ACC Ltd on Wednesday reported 15.20 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹209.14 crore for the third quarter ended September 30, led by volume growth spurred by higher demand. The company, which follows January-December financial year, had posted a net profit of ₹181.53 crore during the year-ago period, ACC said in a BSE filing.

Total income from operations was up 10.35 per cent to ₹3,465.92 crore as against ₹3,140.76 crore in the September quarter of 2017. ACC's total expenses were at ₹3,160.38 crore as against ₹2,877.00 crore. During the quarter, ACC's cement sales were up 9.89 per cent to 6.55 million tonne (MT) as against 5.96 MT earlier.

"The company grew cement sales volume by 10 per cent during the quarter spurred by higher demand," said ACC in a post earning statement.

ACC MD & CEO Neeraj Akhoury said: "Despite continuing input cost headwinds, ACC has delivered consistent positive financial performance. We are also encouraged by the Government's push on infrastructure and affordable housing which is driving growth in cement demand."

During the reported quarter, revenue from cement was at ₹3,184.64 crore, while Ready Mix concrete contributed ₹303.33 crore.

"The company's Ready Mix concrete sales volumes grew 12 per cent driven by an increase in the sale of value added products and the addition of 8 new plants across the country," said ACC. Over the outlook, ACC said it will continue to maintain its focus on operating efficiencies to improve performance.

"Demand drivers including growth in affordable and rural housing segments as well as infrastructure projects will remain healthy. We are optimistic that cement demand growth will strengthen in the coming year," Akhoury said.

Essar Steel: ArcelorMittal to pay ₹7,469 cr to clear Uttam Galva, KS Petron dues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Following the October 4 Supreme Court order linking its eligibility to bid for Essar Steel through bankruptcy courts, ArcelorMittal Wednesday said it will pay ₹7,469 crore to the financial creditors Uttam Galva and KSS Petron, its two domestic subsidiaries from which it had claimed to have exited.

The NRI Laxmi Mittal-owned company, which is the world's largest steel maker, which has been on a murky legal battle with other bidders, especially the Russian VTB Bank-promoted NuMetal, had on April 2 submitted a proposal to take over Essar Steel.

Of the ₹7,469 crore payment, around 80 per cent will be used to settle the dues of Uttam Galva and the rest 20 per cent for KSS Petron, the company said.

ArcelorMittal has reportedly submitted ₹42,000 crore to the 10-million-tonne alloy mill in Gujarat, which is one of the newest steel mills set up by Essar Steel, which owes over ₹45,000 crore to a clutch of lenders.

"Our board believes that Essar Steel represents a unique and compelling opportunity for us to establish a significant footprint, with substantial expansion potential, in the high-growth Indian steel market."

"Given the significant benefits that Essar Steel would bring to ArcelorMittal, making this payment is an appropriate course of action under the circumstances," ArcelorMittal said in a statement.

As per the Supreme Court ruling, Essar Steel creditors now have an eight-week period to accept what it considers to be the best resolution plan from eligible applicants.

ArcelorMittal and Numetal, which was initially promoted by Revant Ruita's shell company and subsequently exited and taken over by the Russian lender VTB Bank and some others, have been in a bitter court battle to establish their eligibility to bid for the steel plant.

After losing their case in NCLT and NCLAT, they had moved the Supreme Court, which on October 4 had allowed them to bid provided they cleared their dues to their lenders.

ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company, with a presence in 60 countries and an industrial footprint in 18 countries. When it comes to coal mining, it is the fifth largest globally.

Punjab Cabinet approves new sand and gravel policy

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

To bring further transparency in sand mining sector, the Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday approved major policy changes to enable the Government to grant contracts by auction of mining blocks in strategically established clusters through progressive bidding instead of the earlier process of auction by individual mines.

The decision came during the Cabinet meeting held Wednesday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

It was decided that the new policy would come into force two months after the Cabinet approval to the Punjab State Sand and Gravel Policy, 2018 and amendment to the Punjab Minor Mineral Rules, 2013, the statement said.

The move would help substantially increase the royalty receipt of the state exchequer, provide adequate supply at fair price to the consumer and curb illegal mining, an official statement said here.

It has also been decided that the department of mining would launch an online Punjab Sand portal for sale of sand to all the consumers.

All transactions/payments will be captured through an online real-time monitoring system.

The sale of sand would be controlled by electronic documentation linked to the central documentation, with modern facility, and the daily progress report would be uploaded on the portal.

As per the new policy, the mining rights of concession quantity of sand and gravel in mining blocks identified by a process would be put to bidding through transparent e-auction process, the statement said.

Only registered companies, partnerships, societies including cooperative societies, sole proprietorship, individuals and consortia of up to three such entities would be eligible to bid, subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

The average annual turnover of the bidder during the last three fiscal ending March 31 should not be less than 50 per cent of the reserve price of the mining block he bids for.

Notably, during 2017-18, four progressive bid e-auctions of minor mineral mines were held. Due to speculative bidding in these auctions, it resulted in a significant number of mines being auctioned at increased prices.

However, many of the contractors failed to operationalise these mines, which led to dearth of supply of sand and gravel, causing the market price of these commodities to trade at higher levels, the statement said.

In the case of consortium, the combined technical and financial capacity of all the members would be considered for the eligibility, the statement said.

The new policy provides for the quantity of sand and gravel, to be called 'annual concession quantity', that the concessionaire shall be allowed to mine per annum from a block as detailed criteria given for seven blocks of the state, the statement said.

The estimated available quantity in each block is, however, indicative and it would be the responsibility of the bidder to make his own assessment of it before bidding.

The concessionaire would be responsible to identify the mines in the block allotted to him, obtain consent of the land owners, arrange for all the infrastructural requirements like a right of way and obtain all clearances before the starting of mining operations.

Both sand and gravel would not be sold by the concessionaire at the mining site at more than ₹9 per cubic feet, which includes cost of loading on the vehicle.

VMware to invest \$2 billion in India over next five years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

VMware-specific efforts in India between now and 2023 as part of the company's overall global investment strategy.

This investment will enable the company to expand to new offices in Bangalore and Pune as well as increase headcount and capital expenditure for both R&D and to support its growing sales operations in India.

"India is a key cornerstone of our overall global investment strategy, providing outstanding engineering talent for our global R&D operations that are helping to drive innovation across our entire product portfolio," said Pat Gelsinger, CEO, VMware. "VMware remains committed to providing innovative technologies that help drive our customers' digital transformation."

Sensex logs first fall in 4 days, tanks 383 pts on rupee woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE benchmark Sensex snapped its three-day gains, plunging 383 points due to heavy selling mainly in financial and auto stocks as rising crude prices and rupee volatility spooked investors.

The flagship index swung nearly 880 points both ways on alternate bouts of buying and selling during the session.

The NSE Nifty too fell by 131.70 points to slip below 10,500-mark.

Intense selling pressure was witnessed in select counters led by auto, realty and oil&gas stocks.

Sentiments were also hurt by liquidity concerns that dragged down non-banking financial stocks.

Meanwhile in the forex market, the rupee after showing strength in early session at 73.37, slipped 13 paise to 73.61 against the US dollar (intraday) too had its shadow on equities.

Overall sentiment was cautious as investors were on a wait-and-watch mode ahead of quarterly results from Reliance Industries, to be released later in the day, brokers said.

"Market slid below 10,500 mark as rise in oil price and volatility in the rupee influenced investors to book profit. Global market remain mixed ahead of the release of FOMC minutes later in the day to get cues about rate hike trajectory," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

After a gap up opening at 35,543.38 points, the Sensex advanced to hit a high of 35,605.43 points in early trade on the back of better-than-expected Q2 earnings posted by tech major Infosys on Tuesday.

However, emergence of selling by investors across-the-board, mostly of a profit-taking nature, gave up session's gain to hit a low of 34,727.16 in late afternoon trade, before settling 382.90 points, or 1.09 per cent, down at 34,779.58.

The index had risen nearly 1,161 points in the past three sessions on the back of unabated buying by domestic institutional investors (DIIs) and rebound in global equity markets.

The broader NSE Nifty too dived by 131.70 points, or 1.24 per cent, to close at 10,453.05. Intra-day, it reclaimed the 10,700-mark to scale a high of 10,710.15 and a low of 10,436.45.

"A strong rupee and buoyant global markets set the stage for the Indian markets to trade cheerfully in the morning. Nifty did open with gusto, though could not sustain and fell more than 250 points from the highs," VK Sharma, Head PGC & Capital Markets Group, HDFC Securities, said.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold shares worth ₹1,165.63 crore, while domestic institutional investors bought shares to the tune of ₹1,059.44 crore on Tuesday, as per provisional data available on the BSE.

Shares of Reliance Industries after initial firmness, fell 1.27 per cent ahead of its September quarter results.

Punjab Govt to amend industrial policy, give sops on intra-State sales

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Government on Wednesday decided to amend the industrial policy to give investment incentives by way of Net SGST on intrastate sales to promote business enterprises in the State.

The State Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, also approved global tendering for the upcoming hi-tech cycle valley on a 100-acre industrial park in Ludhiana, an official statement said here.

The Cabinet noted that since the Government could not give direct concessions to industry in matters of land acquisition, other incentives should be provided through amendment to the policy so that both the state and the industry get the best deal through measures such as global tendering.

The Cabinet observed that for effective implementation of the policy there was need to explicitly define and explain the term 'Net SGST Incentive'.

A series of meetings/consultations were held among departments of Excise and Taxation, Finance, Industries and Commerce and Investment Promotion, the statement said.

After deliberations, a detailed formula for different eventualities was finalized in the meeting under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister.

According to the new formula, incentive amount would be calculated based on output IGT (or CGST+SGST), that would be called GST rate for formula, the statement said.

Overall quantum and/or period for claim of incentives shall remain same as defined in IBDP-2017 (as amended from time to time) for the respective category.

Availing of incentives up to the overall ceiling i.e. 200 per cent/125 per cent/100 per cent of FCI, as applicable, shall depend on the capacity utilization of the unit during the eligibility period, the statement said.

The incentive under the present policy would only be applicable for such investment proposals where Common Application Form has been submitted by March 31, 2020.

Infosys shares end over 1% higher post Q2 results

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Infosys ended over 1 per cent higher on Wednesday after the company posted a better-than-expected 10.3 per cent net profit growth for the second quarter.

The stock trimmed most of its early gains and ended at ₹704.50, up 1.16 per cent on BSE. Intra-day, it surged 3.53 per cent to ₹721. At NSE, shares of the company went up 1.47 per cent to close at ₹705.50.

In terms of equity volume, 11.46 lakh shares of the company were traded on BSE and over 2 crore shares changed hands at NSE during the day.

Sanjeev Hota, ANP Research at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said Infosys had delivered "better than expected numbers on topline and bottomline front for second quarter, though margins performance missed the mark."

India's second-largest software services exporter Tuesday posted 10.3 per cent net profit growth in the second quarter after margins were boosted by large deal wins and reiterated its revenue forecast for full year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) TATA 3518 REG. NO. NLO1L6203- YOM 2014 UNDER HYPOTHECAATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT

BRANCH ADDRESS:
3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO.7 INSTITUTIONAL AREA, SECTOR-125 NOIDA NEAR DELL CAMPUS NOIDA (U.P) OR CONTACT : AVINASH SOURAV KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. CONTACT NO.09643804296

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Ashraf Ali S/o Zannudeen Ahmed R/o Flat No.-257, 2nd Floor, Pkt.-1, Sec.-25, Rohini, Delhi-110085 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 415/18 dated 28.07.2018 u/s 323/341/354/376/506 IPC, P.S. S.B. Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ashraf Ali cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ashraf Ali has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that I accused Ashraf Ali of FIR No. 415/18 dated 28.07.2018 u/s 323/341/354/376/506 IPC, P.S. S.B. Dairy, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.11.2018.

By Order,
Sh. Jitendra Pratap Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate-05 (North), North Distt., Court Room No. 114, DP/2260/RD/18-(Court Matter) 1st Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a unidentified male (depicted in the photo) Namely Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age : 30-35 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Shallow, Built : Heavy, Face : Disfigured, Wearing : Baniyan & Underwear has been found dead on 08.10.2018 at Canal Near Anand Vihar JJ Camp, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 10A dated 08.10.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi Shahdara Distt. Delhi
Tel. No. 011-22384300, 22384600

Commerce Ministry working on new export incentive scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry is working on a new World Trade Organisation (WTO)-compliant export incentive scheme for merchandise shipments to replace the existing MEIS, an official said.

Currently, exporters of goods avail incentives under the Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS). In this, the government provides duty benefits depending on product and country.

"The work is going on for the drafting of the new scheme, which will replace the existing MEIS. It will be finalised soon. It could be named as rebate of levies," the official said.

The WTO is a Geneva-based 164 member body which frames rules and norms for global exports and imports. India is a member of this multi-lateral body since January 1, 1995.

The formulation of the new export incentive scheme also assumes significance as the US has dragged India to the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism over export subsidies, saying that these incentives were harming American companies.

The US has challenged India's export subsidy programmes such as MEIS in the WTO, asserting that these initiatives harm its companies by creating an uneven playing field.

Other export benefit programmes including Export Oriented Units Scheme, Electronics Hardware Technology Parks Scheme; Special Economic Zones; Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme; and duty free imports have been challenged by the US.

According to Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the new scheme should include refund of indirect taxes like on oil and power; state levies such as 'mandi' tax and embedded tax.

Balkrishan Goenka is new ASSOCHAM president

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Welspun Group Chairman Balkrishan Goenka on Wednesday assumed charge as the President of industry chamber ASSOCHAM.

Goenka succeeds Monnet Ispat & Energy Chairman and MD Sandeep Jajodia in the role.

In a statement issued by the chamber, Goenka shared that ASSOCHAM has formulated a new vision called '4-SIGHT' based on the four pillars of entrepreneurship, digitisation, women empowerment and sustainability. "Within each of these areas we will have a focussed approach so that we can play an important role with industry and Government," he said. Inspired by his father's flair for business, Goenka began his entrepreneurial journey at the age of 19.

PNB fraud: ED attaches over ₹218-cr assets of Choksi, others

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Wednesday seized assets worth over ₹218 crore, including diamonds and flats abroad, in the nearly ₹13,000 crore loan fraud case probe, the agency said.

It said three provisional orders under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) were issued by the central investigative agency's zonal office in Mumbai for attachment of the properties.

The beneficiaries of these assets put under attachment, it said, are absconding diamond jeweller Mehul Choksi, Mihir Bhansali, a close aide and US-based executive of main accused in the case Nirav Modi, and a company named A P Gems and Jewellery Park linked to Choksi.

The total value of the attached and seized assets is ₹218.46 crore, the ED said.

The attached properties include a ₹51 crore flat of Bhansali in a foreign country and the agency said it was purchased by him and his wife jointly. It was not immediately clear as to which country this asset is based in.

"Bhansali is a close confidante of Nirav Modi and beneficiary of the scam. He was actively involved in the diversion of funds received from PNB's LoU's (letters of undertaking)," the ED said in a statement.

Similarly, a villa valued at ₹27 crore of Choksi in an undisclosed country has also been attached.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is known to all that the allottee of Residential Flat No.60 (F.F.) Block-B-3, Arawali, Sector-34, Noida, Smt. Poonam Vaish W/o Sh. Nitish Kumar Vaish R/o I-87, Sector-41, Noida has sold the above flat on GPA basis as under:-

A G.P.A. was executed on dt. 29.06.2018 in favour of Sh. Raj Kumar Singh S/o Suraj Pal Singh R/o MIG-BIG-4, Vikas Nagar, A.D.A., Agra Road, Koli, Aligarh U.P.-202001, Chief Manager of Noida Co-Operative Bank Ltd. Raghunathpur, M.P. Road-1, Sector-22, Noida which is regd. in the office of S.R. Noida Vide Book No.4, Volume No.1496, Pages 59 to 80, Dated 29.06.2018, and the Agreement to Sell was not executed in favour of any person.

Because the Agreement to Sell was not executed/regd., so with the help of this notice, it is informed that the transfer of the above said flat on the basis of GPA is going to be transfer in favour of Smt. Sharmila Sharma W/o Sh. Dharmendra Sharma R/o B-3/116, Arawali, Sector-34, Noida, U.P. If anyone has/have any objection he/she will submit his/her objection in the Residential (Housing) Dept. of Noida Authority within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Raj Kumar Singh

Adani, Total join hands to set up retail network, LNG terminal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's largest infrastructure conglomerate Adani Group and French energy giant Total SA on Wednesday announced a partnership to develop liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminals and fuel retailing network in India.

Total, which had a few weeks back exited Royal Dutch Shell-led Hazira LNG import terminal in Gujarat, will join Adani in developing a 5 million tonnes a year import facility at Dhamra in Odisha.

The two will also set up a joint venture to roll out a fuel retail network of 1,500 outlets, mostly on highways, in the next 10 years, Adani and Total said in a joint statement.

While the two firms did not indicate details of the deal, including how much stake Total was picking up, sources privy to the development said the agreement signed was a preliminary collaboration pact and details would be announced later.

Also, Total is eyeing a stake in city gas distribution projects of Adani but talks are stuck on valuation.

"Adani and Total have signed an agreement to jointly develop multi-energy offerings to the Indian energy market. The diversified portfolio includes

LNG and fuel retail," the statement said.

Total, the world's second-largest LNG private player, and USD 11 billion Adani Group, which has interests in energy, infrastructure, ports and edible oil, "will serve the fast-growing gas demand of the Indian market," it said. "The partnership has set a target of developing various regasification terminals including Dhamra LNG on the east coast of India," it added. "Most essentially, it would be a big stride towards India's vision of achieving a healthier energy mix through the promotion of LNG."

Also, Total and Adani will create a joint venture to build a retail network of 1,500 service stations over the period of 10 years, on the main roads of the country such as highways and intercity connections to take advantage of a market that is growing at 4 per cent per year driven by the development of road infrastructures and the emergence of middle class.

"These new service stations, in line with international standards, will offer Indian customers Total's full lineup of fuels, lubricants, as well as a broad range of other products and services," the statement said.

Adani holds a 25 per cent

stake in just-completed 5 million tonnes a year liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal at Mundra in Gujarat. It is also building a similar capacity LNG import terminal at Dhamra in Odisha at a cost of ₹5,100 crore by 2021.

Sources said Total may take buy some of Adani's stake in the two terminals. It is also looking at buying a 50 per cent stake in under-construction LPG import terminal that Adani is building at Mundra in Gujarat as well as a stake in Adani's flourishing city gas distribution projects.

While the Mundra LNG terminal has Gujarat State Petroleum Corp (GSPC) as the lead partner, Adani is building a new LPG import facility at the same port with a total capacity to 3.56 million tonnes per annum. The LPG terminal is to be completed by next month.

Adani Gas, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Ltd, is development city gas distribution (CGD) networks to supply the piped natural gas (PNG) to industrial, commercial, domestic (residential) units and compressed natural gas (CNG) to the transport sector. It already has set up city gas distribution networks in Ahmedabad and Vadodara in Gujarat, Faridabad in Haryana and Khurja in Uttar Pradesh.

In the recently concluded CGD bid round, it won rights to 13 cities on its own and another nine in joint venture with state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). These are in addition to the 50:50 Adani-IOC joint venture winning rights to develop CGD network in Allahabad, Chandigarh, Ernakulam, Panipat, Daman, Dharwad, and Udhamsingh Nagar in previous bid rounds.

Total chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanne had on Tuesday stated that the French company was "very interested" in investing in downstream sectors in India, including LNG terminals. "City gas is interesting business" that can use the imported LNG, he had said without giving details.

He had stated that Total does not qualify for a licence to retail petrol and diesel in the country as it does not meet the ₹2,000 crore minimum investment threshold set for such a permit. But with Adani, which has already invested many times more than that amount in oil and gas infrastructure, it will qualify for a retail licence.

India is looking at more than doubling the share of natural gas in its energy basket to 15 per cent in the next few years and is giving a major push to city gas distribution projects.

NIIT Tech Q2 net profit jumps 66% to ₹111.8 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

NIIT Technologies on Wednesday reported 66.3% jump in net profit to ₹111.8 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, driven by strong demand across sectors like BFSI and travel and transportation.

The company had registered a net profit of ₹67.2 crore in the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. The company's revenues grew 23.1% to ₹907.4 crore in the reported quarter from ₹737.2 crore in the year-ago period.

On sequential basis, net profit was up 30.3%, while revenue was higher 10%. Digital revenues grew 11.6% sequentially contributing to 28% of the total revenues.

NIIT Technologies CEO Sudhir Singh said the growth had been driven by the restructured leadership team, differentiated strategy and focussed execution by the team. "The extremely robust 10% sequential revenue growth and the 217 basis points sequential improvement in operating margin is a reflection of the new normal as we target predictable and fast scaling profitable growth," he said.

Singh noted that the recent

rupee fall has not had a major impact on the numbers as on a constant currency basis, the company saw 7.6% sequential growth. He added that "broad-based de-risked growth" across all verticals and significant investments in building differentiated capability, while simultaneously improving margin profile were factors contributing to the strong set of numbers.

Singh said the deal pipeline remained strong across geographies with acceleration in demand for digital services.

The company booked fresh business of USD 160 million during the quarter, which included 10 new logos. Of this, USD 86 million was from the US, USD 39 million from EMEA and USD 35 million from Rest of the World (RoW). Order book executable over the next 12 months has expanded to USD 363 million, the company said.

"Significant increase in new logo acquisition, accelerating order book generation and new leadership firmly in position have materially improved the business profile of the company," said Arvind Thakur, vice-chairman and managing director at NIIT Technologies.

QUICK TAKES

ASUS EYES 5% SHARE IN INDIAN SMARTPHONE MARKET BY YEAR-END

New Delhi: Taiwanese mobile phone maker Asus aims to garner 5% share of the hyper-competitive Indian smartphone market as it ramps up product portfolio in the country. The company has seen strong traction for its recent launches like Zenfone Max Pro and Zenfone 5Z and is confident that it can exit the year with 5% market share, Asus India head (mobile business) Dinesh Sharma said. With an eye on sub-₹10,000 segment handset segment, which account for over 50% of smartphone users, the company on Wednesday unveiled two 4G smartphones, Zenfone Lite and Max, for ₹5,999 and ₹7,499 a unit. These smartphones will be available on e-commerce portal Flipkart.

WELSPUN GROUP CHAIRMAN BALKRISHAN GOENKA IS NEW ASSOCHAM PRESIDENT

New Delhi: Welspun Group chairman Balkrishan Goenka on Wednesday assumed charge as the president of industry chamber Assocham. Goenka succeeds Monnet Ispat & Energy chairman and MD Sandeep Jajodia in the role. In a statement issued by the chamber, Goenka shared that Assocham has formulated a new vision called '4-SIGHT' based on the four pillars of entrepreneurship, digitisation, women empowerment and sustainability.

ABB BAGS ₹115 CR ORDER FROM INDIAN RAILWAYS

New Delhi: Swiss power major ABB on Wednesday said it had won an order worth ₹115 crore from Indian Railways to supply traction transformers. The contract has been awarded by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, ABB said in a statement. These transformers are customised for the WAP-7 type electric locomotive. The 6,000 horsepower capacity locomotive is capable of hauling 24 coaches at speed of up to 140 km per hour. The project is part of the 'Mission Electrification' initiative of the Indian Railways, which aims to convert an additional 24,000 km of railway network from fuel oil to electrification.

HAVELLS INDIA Q2 NET PROFIT UP 4 PC

New Delhi: Consumer electrical goods maker Havells India on Wednesday reported a 4.44% rise in standalone net profit to ₹178.62 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. The company had posted a net profit of ₹171.02 crore for the same period a year ago, Havells India said in a filing to BSE. Standalone revenue from operations stood at ₹2,190.99 crore as against ₹1,777.36 crore in September quarter 2017.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
HCLTECH	1,007.00	1,036.00	1,007.00	1,022.00	18.6
WIPRO	322.7	329.1	316.5	324.4	5.35
COALINDIA	279.6	283.85	277.2	280.75	4.35
INFY	710	721.8	701.35	705.5	10.25
ITC	283.9	291.65	281.55	286.05	3.4
HINDUNILVR	1,558.10	1,577.80	1,546.05	1,564.00	17.8
POWERGRID	186.05	190.1	188	189.3	2.1
CIPLA	644.9	646	637	640.2	0.45
TECHM	721	735	717.6	718.25	-0.45
KOTAKBANK	1,185.00	1,188.65	1,172.25	1,173.05	-2.7
DRREDDY	2,580.00	2,599.00	2,552.00	2,566.00	-7.8
HDFC	1,772.00	1,775.00	1,729.50	1,748.00	-8.25
NTPC	164.55	165.7	162.2	163	-0.95
ASIANPAINT	1,282.20	1,282.25	1,255.00	1,260.00	-7.6
UPL	646.15	665	631.7	638.15	-3.95
TITAN	817.1	823.3	792.55	804	-6
HDFCEMCO	3,785.50	3,790.50	3,715.00	3,719.85	-32.85
HDFCBANK	2,006.10	2,013.00	1,963.50	1,974.65	-18.1
LT	1,236.65	1,238.00	1,208.70	1,211.50	-13.15
RELIANCE	1,179.00	1,179.35	1,140.00	1,151.00	-12.8
INDUSINDBK	1,636.25	1,652.55	1,600.00	1,601.45	-19.1
SUNPHARMA	609.4	609.4	591	596	-7.7
BHARTIARTL	296.6	298.35	284.65	290	-4
HINDALCO	233.2	233.85	223.7	227.35	-3.2
ZEEL	474	476.6	460.2	463	-7.5
ICICIBANK	325.1	328.15	311.65	316	-4.65
TCS	1,970.00	1,989.00	1,920.00	1,930.00	-32.3
VEDL	215.4	216.45	206.85	208.7	-3.75
INFRAEEL	268.7	269.65	258.2	261.05	-5.2
ONGC	166.6	167.3	160.55	162.25	-3.35
GAIL	356.9	364.25	343.6	345	-7.3
HINDPETRO	213	214.45	204.5	207.6	-4.55
AXISBANK	594.75	598.8	566.6	576	-12.85
GRASIM	915.6	915.6	878.85	884.95	-20.55
IOC	136	136.5	131.75	132.35	-3.1
M&M	789.2	790.75	751.2	757.55	-20.15
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,638.00	2,649.65	2,538.00	2,541.00	-69.55
JSWSTEEL	376.9	378.45	359.15	362.6	-11
TATASTEEL	578.05	579.55	552.1	555	-17.8
TATAMOTORS	187.6	187.8	179.1	180	-5.85
HEROMOTOCO	2,915.00	2,995.00	2,766.25	2,803.55	-91.65
SBIN	273.75	275	260	261	-9.3
MARUTI	7,237.65	7,245.00	6,853.45	6,901.00	-249.9
EICHERMOT	23,389.00	23,727.40	21,850.00	22,100.00	-902.15
BAJAJFINSV	5,700.00	5,740.00	5,350.00	5,400.00	-257.1
BPCL	303	304.45	283.2	285.45	-16.65
ADANIAPORTS	337.5	339.3	309.6	314	-19.35
YESBANK	252.5	254.85	228.5	233	-15.9
BAIFINANCE	2,340.00	2,369.25	2,132.85	2,148.00	-160.85
IBULHSGFIN	911.9	920	777.2	777.9	-129.45

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
SBILIFE	551	567	549	562.1	15.5
IDEA	37.3	38	36.85	38	1
MCDOWELL-N	531.5	551.7	523.4	534.1	7.65
BIOCEN	633.05	645	622.85	634	5.1
ICICI	795	806.95	780.85	790	3.85
MOTHERSUMI	250.8	254.25	244	249.1	0.6
PGHF	9,191.90	9,295.65	9,135.20	9,140.95	-4.8
LUPIN	900	909.35	885	895	-1.45
CONCOR	610	613	596	598.05	-2.25
CADILAC	384.9	384.9	376	378.25	-1.8
DABUR	409	423	400.75	404.5	-2.15
BANKBARODA	442.45	442.65	426.75	426.75	-9.97
ICICIPRULI	332.3	341.9	327.5	327.5	-2.05
SIEMENS	945	946	926.35	931.65	-6.6
HDFCLIFE	380.75	382.35	369	373.5	-2.75
ABB	1,313.00	1,313.00	1,280.00	1,281.85	-15.5
NHPC	24	24.45	23.6	23.75	-0.3
MARICO	319	325.5	312	313.95	-4.05
COLPAL	1,102.00	1,112.00	1,080.50	1,083.00	-16.1
OFSS	3,975.00	4,025.00	3,890.00	3,912.00	-58.8
NIACL	210.75	213.95	206.55	207.55	-3.2
AMBUJACEM	223.5	227.85	217.4	218	-3.5
HINDZINC	278	280.1	269.05	271	-4.7
GODREJCP	759.9	762	731	738	-14.05
ACC	1,573.00	1,578.00	1,518.15	1,524.15	-28.25
SUNTV	675	675.4	649.35	657	-13.45
BANDHANBNK	466	471.95	450.55	454.5	-9.45
GIRE	320.95	320.95	306.1	310	-6.5
SHREECEM	15,549.90	15,712.05	15,053.55	15,170.00	-361.5
LICHSGFIN	453.9	454.05	428.7	434	-10.65
DMART	1,344.90	1,354.00	1,300.00	1,304.00	-32.95
SAIL	68.45	68.7	65	65.7	-1.85
AUROPHARMA	780.05	784.25	746.25	754	-21.5
BRITANNIA	5,759.00	5,777.65	5,505.10	5,540.00	-160.5
NMDC	114.05	114.6	108.25	110	-3.25
PIDILITIND	997.6	1,004.90	959	962.15	-29.45
BEL	88.6	89.25	84.85	85.3	-2.7
BHEL	77	77.65	73.55	73.85	-2.35
INDIGO	870.1	877.35	830	842	-27.25
PETRONET	225.45	227	213.95	216.5	-7.8
BOSCHLTD	19,150.00	19,169.00	18,265.00	18,310.00	-646.95
OIL	209.55	212	200.5	201.6	-8.25
HAVELLS	614.85	619.6	579.05	584	-23.95
ABCAPITAL	110.7	110.9	104	104.35	-4.85
ASHOKLEY	122	123.1	112.55	114.7	-5.85
SRRANSFIN	1,095.00	1,098.15	998	1,005.00	-67.55
DLF	161	162.4	143	144.9	-13.25
PEL	2,353.00	2,370.95	2,082.00	2,111.00	-219.45
L&TFH	133	134	118.95	119	-12.4

BSE 500

Script	Traded	Last Price	Abs Change	Change %
3MINDIA	21796.3	-955.4	-4.2	
8MILKES	112.05	-5.85	-4.96	
AARTIND	1253.55	-28.05	-2.19	
ABB	1284	-16.05	-1.23	
ABBOTINDIA	7314.9	-113.25	-1.52	
ABCAPITAL	104.85	-4.35	-3.98	
ABFRL	186.4	-8.95	-4.58	
ACC	1539.9	-11.25	-0.73	
ADANIAPORTS	314.3	-18.7	-5.62	
ADANIPOWER	34.35	-1.4	-3.92	
ADANITRANS	163.3	-2	-1.21	
ADVENZYMES	196.4	-3.55	-1.78	
AEGLISLOG	218.55	3.7	1.72	
AJANG	1584.7	-8.45	-0.53	
AJANTPHARM	1001.1	-26.65	-2.59	
AKZINDIA	1592.85	-12.25	-0.76	
ALBK	37.85	-0.5	-1.3	
ALKEM	1975.45	2.3	0.12	
ALLCARGO	96.5	-3.5	-3.5	
AMARAJABAT	744.35	-14.15	-1.87	
AMBUJACEM	218.1	-3.3	-1.49	
ANDHRABANK	26.35	-0.7	-2.59	
APARINDS	562.75	-11.25	-1.96	
APLAPOLLO	1346.9	-33.45	-2.42	
APLTD	603.2	3.6	0.6	
APOLLOHOSP	1122.55	12.8	1.15	
APOLLOTYRE	208.95	-10.85	-4.94	
ARVIND	315.05	-17.65	-5.31	
ASAHINDIA	296.4	-4.5	-1.5	
ASHOKA	114.15	-1.7	-1.47	
ASHOKLEY	114.3	-5.85	-4.87	
ASIANPAINT	1256.2	-10.6	-0.84	
ASTRAL	945.65	-1.3	-0.14	
ATUL	3218.75	-140.2	-4.17	
AUBANK	598.5	-31.6	-5.02	
AUROPHARMA	756.25	-17.75	-2.29	
AVANTI	416.95	-5.6	-1.33	
BAJAJ-AUTO	574.6	-14.2	-2.41	
BAJAJCORP	2548.05	-63.1	-2.42	
BAJAJFINSV	389.9			

ANTI-MBS JAMAL KHASHOGGI MISSING MYSTERY

Trump criticises rush to condemn Saudi Arabia

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump on Tuesday criticised rapidly mounting global condemnation of Saudi Arabia over the mystery of missing journalist Jamal Khashoggi, warning of a rush to judgment and echoing the Saudis' request for patience.

In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Trump compared the case of Khashoggi, who Turkish officials have said was murdered in the Saudis' Istanbul consulate, to the allegations of sexual assault levelled against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearing.

"I think we have to find out what happened first," Trump said. "Here we go again with, you know, you're guilty until proven innocent. I don't like that. We just went through that with Justice Kavanaugh and he was innocent all the way as far as I'm concerned."

Trump's remarks were his most robust defence yet of the Saudis, a US ally he has made central to his West Asia agenda.

They put the president at odds with other key allies and with some leaders in his Republican Party who have condemned the Saudi leadership for what they say is an obvious role in the case.

Trump appeared willing to resist the pressure to follow suit, accepting Saudi denials and their pledge to investigate.

The Oval Office interview came not long after Trump spoke Tuesday with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of whom Khashoggi has been a harsh critic.

He spoke by phone a day earlier with King Salman, and he said both deny any knowledge of what happened to Khashoggi. After speaking with the king, Trump floated the idea that "rogue killers" may have been responsible for the disappearance. The president told on Tuesday that that description was informed by his "feeling" from his conversation with Salman and that the king did not use the term.

In Turkey earlier Tuesday, a high-level Turkish official told that investigators



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo shakes hands with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara, Turkey on Wednesday. A Turkish newspaper published a report citing an audio recording of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's alleged torture and slaying at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul

Istanbul police search Saudi consul's residence

AFP ■ Istanbul

Turkish police on Wednesday began a search at the residence of the Saudi consul to Istanbul, in the investigation into the disappearance of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's consulate in the city, according to an AFP correspondent.

A team of a dozen police and prosecutors, including forensics experts in white overalls, entered the residence of Mohammed al-Otaibi, a day after he flew out of Istanbul for Riyadh. Earlier in the day, a Saudi delegation had also arrived at the building to take part in what is presented as a joint search with their Turkish counterparts. Turkish police had on Monday searched the consulate building itself for over eight hours, taking away soil and DNA samples for further examination.

searching the Saudi Consulate had found evidence that Khashoggi was killed there.

Also Tuesday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with the king and crown prince in Riyadh and said the Saudis had already started a "serious and credible investigation" and seemed to suggest it could lead to people within the kingdom.

The secretary of state noted that the Saudi leaders, while denying knowledge of anything that occurred inside the consulate, had committed to accountability "including for Saudi Arabia's senior leaders or senior officials."

Pompeo was heading next to Turkey, where officials have accused the Saudis of using a 15-member team to kill Khashoggi inside the consulate.

Trump said he hoped the Saudis' own investigation of Khashoggi's disappearance would be concluded in "less than a week." In the meantime, there were signs at home that Trump's party was growing uncomfortable with his willingness to defend the Saudis.

Chinese mining firm successfully test-fires supersonic missile

Dragons may sell it to Pakistan: Report

PTI ■ BEIJING

A Chinese mining company has claimed to have successfully test-fired a supersonic missile, touted as a potential competitor to the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos missile, according to the official media here.

The test conducted on Monday at a discreet location in North China verified the launch, power and flight control systems, state-run *Global Times* reported while indicating that Beijing's all-weather ally, Pakistan could be one of its buyers.

All parameters for the supersonic flight of the HD-1 missile achieved their estimated values, it quoted a statement released by Guangdong Hongda Blasting Company located in southern China.

"The test flight shows that the HD-1's core components are now mature, with its aerodynamic design, materials and overall structure already proven viable," Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military analyst, told the daily.

Hongda independently invested in and developed the HD-1 missile, the statement said.

Wei said the mining company's move to build and test a supersonic missile is an excellent example of military-civilian integration.

Established in 1988,

Hongda is a mining company based in Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province that also manufactures blasting and military equipment.

The HD-1's advanced solid fuel ramjet needs less fuel than its competitors, rendering the lighter missile able to fly faster and farther, Wei said.

After government approval, Hongda intends to sign deals and mass-produce the HD-1 for export, the report said.

There are not many such supersonic missiles available on the international defence market, Wei said.

Pakistan and West Asian countries are likely to show interest given the weapon's potential to break anti-missile systems at supersonic speeds, he said, claiming that the new missile could be cheaper than the BrahMos.

"The BrahMos missile is a more expensive, less useful supersonic cruise missile developed by India and Russia," Wei claimed.

Hongda will participate in Airshow China 2018 in Zhuhai, South China's Guangdong Province next month, a company spokesperson said.

The HD-1 is a comprehensive weapon system consisting of missile, launch, command and control, target indication and comprehensive support systems, Hongda had said in a separate statement released earlier.

The HD-1 can be adapted to aircraft and ships as well as the basic ground-based vehicle version, the company said.

The total investment in HD-1 is expected to top 1.3 billion yuan (about USD 188 million).

Ahvaz attack 'mastermind' killed in Iraq, says Iran

AFP ■ TEHRAN

An Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which also known as Daesh, mastermind named as Abu Zahi and linked to a deadly attack last month in southern Iran, was killed along with "four other terrorists" in Iraq Tuesday, the elite Revolutionary Guards said in a statement.

The five were killed "during a reconnaissance and surprise operation by forces of the resistance this morning in Iraq's Diyala province," northeast of Baghdad, the statement said.

The attack on a military parade in the mainly ethnic Arab city of Ahvaz in southwestern Iran left 24 people dead last month

The "resistance" is a term used for militias operating in Iraq and Syria with Tehran's support, and trained by the Revolutionary Guards. Abu Zahi was "the mastermind of the recent terrorist crime in Ahvaz," the statement added.

The attack on a military parade in the mainly ethnic Arab city of Ahvaz in southwestern Iran left 24 people dead last month.

Claims of responsibility for that attack were posted by both the jihadists of the Islamic State group and by a separatist group calling itself Ahvaz National Resistance.

On October 1, Iran said it had struck jihadists in Syria with ballistic missiles and combat drones in retaliation for the September attack.

GLOBE TROTTER

AMERICA'S MOST FAMOUS PIMP DIES

Pahrump: America's most famous pimp partied for days with porn stars, political pals and others to celebrate his 72nd birthday, but the revelry ended when Dennis Hof was found dead in one of his Nevada brothels.

BUDDHIST MONK PUNISHED FOR RAPING 13-YEAR-OLD

Bangkok: Oct 17 (AP) A Thai court on Wednesday sentenced a former Buddhist monk known for his jet-set lifestyle to 16 years in prison for raping a 13-year-old girl who he also impregnated.

UK CAMPAIGN FOR BRITISH INDIAN WWII SPY

London: A campaign for British Indian World War II spy Noor Inayat Khan to be featured on a redesigned 50-pound currency note is gaining momentum in the UK.

ATTACK ON CRIMEA COLLEGE, 17 KILLED

Simferopol: At least 17 people were killed and dozens more wounded, most of them teenagers, after an attack on a college in Russian-annexed Crimea on Wednesday, with conflicting versions referring to a lone shooter and a bomb.

2 KILLED, FIVE INJURED IN ROLL OVER ACCIDENT IN NEPAL

Kathmandu: At least two persons, including a child, were killed and five others sustained injuries when a tanker hit a van on Wednesday.

TWITTER RELEASES 10 MILLION TWEETS

Washington: Twitter on Wednesday released data on foreign influence campaigns on its platform showing some 10 million tweets, mostly from Russia, dating back as far as 2009.

S KOREA DENIES REFUGEE STATUS TO YEMENIS

Seoul: South Korea on Wednesday denied refugee status to nearly 400 asylum seekers from war-torn Yemen months after their arrival on the resort island of Jeju sparked an anti-immigrant uproar.

Tehran calls US sanctions 'blind vindictiveness'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran called new US sanctions against its paramilitary Basij group an act of "blind vindictiveness" on Wednesday.

"America's new sanctions are a clear insult to international and legal mechanisms and a result of the American government's blind vindictiveness against the Iranian nation," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi.

He called Washington's "lack of adherence to international legal mechanisms" a threat not only "to the Iranian people's interests but also the world's stability and security."

On Tuesday, the US Treasury Department slapped sanctions on the Basij paramilitary group along with a network of more than 20 businesses that were providing it financing.

The US pulled out of nuclear accord between Iran and six world powers in May and is reimposing punishing sanctions on the West Asian country, hoping to pressure Tehran into what President Donald Trump calls a "better deal".

Iran stays quiet on Khashoggi's alleged murder

Tehran: Iran has been playing it cool as it watches the furor over the disappearance of writer Jamal Khashoggi create a crisis for its regional rival Saudi Arabia.

As of Wednesday, the Government had yet to make any official comment on the alleged murder of Khashoggi, who vanished after entering the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Barraged by questions at his weekly press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said only that Iran was monitoring events.

The Iranian press has been reprinting the gruesome claims from Turkish and other international sources that Khashoggi was tortured and dismembered inside the consulate, and on Wednesday alleged a cover-up by Riyadh and Washington.

"US, Turkey and Saudi colluding to close the murder case of Jamal Khashoggi," read the headline on Wednesday's *Jomhour-i Eslami* as it reported on US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's visit to Riyadh and Ankara. AFP

US: SAUDIS PROMISE ACCOUNTABILITY BUT DENY KNOWLEDGE OVER MISSING SCRIBE

AFP ■ ANKARA

Saudi Arabia promised to Sensure a thorough probe and accountability over a missing Saudi journalist but stood by denials the kingdom killed him, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday, as he paid a supportive visit to the under-fire ally.

President Donald Trump dispatched Pompeo on an urgent mission to Riyadh to defuse a crisis over Jamal Khashoggi, an insider turned critic of the conservative monarchy who was last seen on October 2 when he entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul to sort out marriage paperwork.

After a full day of talks, a statement from Pompeo and a tweet by Trump said that the Saudi leadership "strongly denied knowledge of what took place" in the consulate, without outright rejecting that an incident occurred.

Officials in Turkey, where Pompeo heads on Wednesday, say that the Saudis killed Khashoggi inside the consulate.

Pak: Serial killer of minor girls executed

PTI ■ LAHORE

A serial killer of minor girls in Lahore on Wednesday after he was convicted and sentenced to death by an anti-terrorism court for raping and murdering a seven-year-old girl, in an incident that sparked outrage and violent protests in Pakistan early this year.

Imran Ali, 24, who was convicted for the rape and murder of the minor girl in Kasur city, some 50-km from Lahore, was hanged at 5.30am in the presence of the victim's father Amin Ansari and magistrate Adil Sarwar in Kot Lakhpat Central Jail. The girl's uncle was also present at the jail.

A resident of Kasur, Imran was accused of being involved in at least nine incidents of rape-cum-murder of minors. The court has given its verdict in five cases. The incident triggered nation-wide street protests in Pakistan with people demanding a harsh punishment for the convict.

Lanka rejects reports on Sirisena's killing plot

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Government on Wednesday rejected as "baseless and false" the media reports that President Maithripala Sirisena accused India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of plotting his assassination and he opposed awarding a key port project to India.

The media reports came ahead of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speed up India-backed projects, including the East Terminal project, in the island nation.

Sirisena accused his senior coalition partner, the United National Party (UNP), of not taking seriously an alleged conspiracy to kill him and former secretary to the ministry of defence, Gobbhaya Rajapaksa, the economynext.Com reported quoting a ministerial source after a heated Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Canada legalises marijuana for recreational use

AFP ■ OTTAWA

Nearly a century of marijuana prohibition came to an end Wednesday as Canada became the first major Western nation to legalise and regulate its sale and recreational use.

The change was praised by pot enthusiasts and investors in a budding industry that has seen pot stocks soar on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges, but sharply questioned by some health professionals and opposition politicians.

"We're not legalising cannabis because we think it's

good for our health. We're doing it because we know it's not good for our children," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on the eve of the reform.

"We know we need to do a better job to protect our children and to eliminate or massively reduce the profits that go to organized crime." The Cannabis Act, which fulfills a promise Trudeau made in the 2015 election campaign, makes

Canada only the second nation after Uruguay to legalize the drug.

Its implementation will be scrutinized and dissected by Canadians ahead of the next

election in 2019, as well as other nations that the prime minister has said may follow suit if the measure proves a success.

Trudeau himself admitted in 2013 to having smoked pot five or six times in his life, including at a dinner party with friends after being elected to parliament.

He has also said that his late brother Michel was facing marijuana possession charges for a "tiny amount" of pot before his death in an avalanche in 1998, and that this influenced his decision to propose legalizing cannabis.

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Corporate I.D. No. UAA0109UP2001SGC025087/2358 V.C.V. Gabbar Singh Urja Bhawan,
Kanwal Road, Dehradun, Tel. No. 0135-276372-75, Fax No. 0135-2762269, Website: www.uktders.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE
This office e-tender specification No. CCP-II/15/2018-2019 invited previously for Selection of additional online electronic Payment Gateway and Electronic Electricity Bill Collection Services provider to UPCL are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchase and submitted upto 17.00 hrs of 26.10.2018. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 27.10.2018 at 15:30 hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktders.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)
No. 529/EE/ICM/UPCLA-2 DL16-10-2018
SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION Use LED Bulb to save Electricity. (Toll Free No. 1912) *Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org (For information on Electricity theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4193/Fax No. 0135-276991)

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Dinesh Kumar S/o Late Madan, R/o FCA-2418, Block-B, SGM Nagar, NIT Fardabad, Haryana, is owner alongwith Mr. Nareesh Kumar and Banwari of property western portion of area measuring 55 Square yards. Property No. 27, Khasra No. 85/16, 17/15, 86/20, Village & Tehsil Bahabgham, District Fardabad, Haryana and its Original Sale Deed Registration No.2232, Book No. 1, Dated 18.05.2007 with Sub-registrar, Bahabgham, has been lost and for the same a complaint has been lodged by Dinesh Kumar with Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi Vide LR No. 233853/2018 on 01.10.2018 and the said property is to be sold by Dinesh Kumar and others to Dalip Kumar. The same is financed by art Affordable Housing Finance India Limited Branch Fardabad, Haryana. If any person, having any type of claim/ right/ title/ interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Neveen Kumar Verma, Advocate
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010
Contact at: 09958871432

FROM AGENT ORANGE TO AGENT OF CHANGE

US Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, right, is greeted by Vietnam's Air Force Deputy Commander Gen. Bui Anh Chung, second from right, as he visits Bien Hoa airbase, where the US army stored the chemical weapon called Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, in Bien Hoa city, outside Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam on Wednesday

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) namely Niranjn Lal S/o Lt. Sh. Basant Lal R/o 1219, B Block, Jhuggi Kalaster Ph-II, Mayapuri, Delhi Aged-75 Years has been reported missing since 30.09.2018 vide DD No. 16A dated 04.10.2018 lodged at Police Station Mayapuri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 5'9", **Face:** Oval, **Puilt:** Medium, **Wearing:** Pink coloured shirt, grey coloured pant and black coloured floater in feet.
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Mayapuri, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
DP/1929/WD/18

SHO, Mayapuri, Delhi.
Tel. : 011-28117644, 28116097
Mob. : 8750871121

बिहार सरकार

सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग

अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

गणतंत्र दिवस परेड, 2019 के अवसर पर नई दिल्ली के राजकीय समारोह में बिहार राज्य की ओर से "बिहार में मद्य निषेध" विषय पर झांकी प्रदर्शित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है।

उक्त अवसर पर नई दिल्ली के राजकीय समारोह में बिहार राज्य की ओर से झांकी के प्रदर्शन हेतु पी०आर०संख्या - 17213 (I&PRD) 18-19 द्वारा आमंत्रित अल्पकालीन निविदा को रद्द करते हुए अनुमोदित डिजाईन/ मॉडल के अनुरूप झांकी का निर्माण करने हेतु द्वि लिफाफा पद्धति के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय बिड (अलग-अलग) दो भागों में होगी। निविदा दिनांक- 25.10.2018 को 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में दी जा सकती है। निविदा की तकनीकी बिड विभागीय क्रय समिति के समक्ष दिनांक- 25.10.2018 को 5.00 बजे अपराह्न में खोली जाएगी, जिसमें निविदादाता या उनके प्राधिकृत प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। तकनीकी निविदा में सफल निविदादाताओं की ही वित्तीय निविदा खोली जाएगी।

निविदा की शर्त/उपबंध, झांकी के विषय एवं विशिष्टियों आदि से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी सहायक निदेशक (प्रदर्शनी), सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग, सूचना भवन, पटना (मो०-9430955361) अथवा सहायक निदेशक, बिहार सूचना केन्द्र, नईदिल्ली (फोन-011-23361087/ मो०-9540961100) से किसी भी कार्य दिवस में सम्पर्क कर प्राप्त की जा सकती है। साथ ही इसे विभागीय वेबसाइट www.prdbihar.gov.in पर भी देखा जा सकता है।

निदेशक

PR No.10278 (I&PRD) 2018-19 सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग, बिहार, पटना
अधेय धराव एवं मादक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

HDFC BANK
We understand your world

Department For Special Operations
11nd Floor, Indian Express Building, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

Possession Notice
Whereas the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Secured Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the following guarantors/mortgagor to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act, 2002 read with rule 8 of the said rules for and on behalf of HDFC Bank Ltd. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of HDFC Bank Ltd for an amount of dues outstanding together with interest thereon with costs and charges.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Mortgaged Properties	Date of demand Notice/ date of possession/amount due
1	Borrower:- Savemam Wholesale Club (Private Limited (earlier known as M/s Golden India Export Private Limited) (under insolvency vide order dated 28.03.2018 passed by NCLT, Delhi) Guarantors:- Mr. Vaibhav Singhal, Ms. Seema Gupta & Mr. Gian Chand Aggarwal	1. Vacant Plot admeasuring 01 Bighas, 01 Biswas, out of Khasra No. 154/115 Min (4-01), 116 (1-0), situated in Extended Lal Dora Abadi of Village Pooth Khurd, New Delhi - 110039 2. Entire Property situated at Land measuring 07 Bighas, 08 Biswas, Khasra No. 6/25 Min (0-6), 23/15/1 (0-18), 23/15/2 (1-8), 23/5 Min (2-8), 23/6 Min (2-8), Village HolambiKhurd, New Delhi	Demand notice dated: 23-May-2018 Date of Possession- 16-Oct-2018 Amount Due to HDFC Bank Ltd.- Rs.48,23,60,442.07 (Rupees: Forty Eight Crore Twenty Three Lakh Sixty Thousand Four Hundred Forty two and Paise Seven Only)along with future interest thereon @18 % PA from 24-May-2018 and incidental expenses, cost, as per the sanction terms till the date of payment

Date -16-Oct-2018, Place: New Delhi
Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd

Trend Slazer

'Gender solidarity is positive'

Actress **SHARMILA TAGORE** believes that creating gender solidarity is a step towards a better tomorrow. She said, "As a female actor in Bollywood, owing to some choices I made I was often perceived by some as a social suspect and by some as a woman ahead of her times. Both brickbats and bouquets by different sections came my way, however I stood my ground. Today my decisions have been vindicated both by my industry colleagues and viewers. Ironically, those choices are even celebrated as game changers. True, it is empowering to make one's own choices and continue doing what one believes in but it's even more joyful to receive encouragement to do so rather than being questioned, put down or dissuaded. Creating gender solidarity is a positive concept."



The pandal at the B-Block, Chittaranjan Park is designed like a mountain range. People get the distinct feeling of entering a cave to before they can get a darshan of the goddess



Flanked by her daughters, Lakshmi and Saraswati as well as sons Ganesh and Kartikeya, she is a regal sight to behold at the Aram Bagh pandal. The conch shells are a traditional way to invoke the blessings of the Goddess for successful completion of the Pujas

ASTRIDE A LION

Durga Puja is the time to go take the blessings of Ma Durga, go pandal hopping and gorge on the most delicious of food. **PANKAJ KUMAR** takes one through the most ethereal and at the same time worldly descent of the goddess on earth



Pandal are traditionally decked up by using white shola (a kind of papier-mâché made from the shola plant found in the wetlands in and around Kolkata) detailing



No abstinence when it comes to food is the byword at the Puja. It is the time to give in to your cravings



What's Durga Puja without friends to go pandal hopping with and capturing it right there, right now? It is just the time to catch up with school, college or para (locality) buddies

'Some ridiculous and inhuman things have happened in the past few years and I know that new talents might fear to step into the industry. But as member of the fraternity, we have to make sure that women are treated with the utmost dignity and there is no abuse of power.'

— Saif Ali Khan



Actor **SALMAN KHAN**, who celebrated 20 years of *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai*, revealed that he agreed to do the film, as, "Karan met my sister Alvira and told her that he's looking for a third character for a short role in his first film. Alvira told me, 'He is a really good guy. It's his first film, you should help him.' After that, I told him that I will do it for my sister, Yash (Johar) uncle, Hiroo (Johar) aunty, Karan Johar and Shah Rukh.



Ariana says bye to social media

Singer **ARIANA GRANDE** plans to quit social media following her split from Saturday Night Live star **Pete Davidson**. "Ok today was very special and I am so grateful I was able to be there," Grande said on social media, which has since been deleted. "Time to say bye bye again to the internet for just a little bit. It's hard not to bump news and stuff that I'm not trying to see... It's very sad and we're all trying very hard to keep going. Love you and thank you for being here always," Grande added.



A LOT LIKE LOVE

When the trailer of Amit Ravindernath Sharma's *Badhaai Ho!* aired, it created an instant buzz. The audience wondered about the repercussions of having a child late in life. What age is it too late to have a baby? When is a mother too old to have another child? Are your parents too old to still love each other and express it in bed? The idea wasn't something new but is a "real phenomenon" that is usually kept under wraps. Amit explains that the storyline originally came from Akshat Ghildial, the writer of the film, who had written it as an ad film in 2012 which was "luckily" never made. "In 2015, he narrated a one-line story of a 50-year-old mother getting pregnant. We realised that this hasn't been taken up and it's the only reason that it should be. We wanted to do a film that shows all these aspects but isn't vulgar. We didn't want to make anything serious. We worked on the script for two and a half years to give it a comic touch," he says. After the trailer launch, Amit reveals that they received a number of calls from people "who told us that the story looked identical to their lives. We just don't talk about it nowadays." He gives an example from his family, "My grandmother and her mother were pregnant at the same time." As was evident from the trailer, the film talks about the embarrassment an elderly couple, their children and family, neighbours and friends face. It makes one ponder about what happens if your parents get pregnant when you're already grown up? Amit says he doesn't aim to teach "ki abhi bhi iss umar mein bache paida karo (have babies in this old age), but we want to make the audience understand that if still there's love between your parents, what's the harm in it? We are not preaching. Everyone has a different point of view and the film aims to break the stereotypes." Talking about breaking taboos through progressive cinema, Ayushmann Khurrana is one of the first names that comes to mind. Many of his films like *Vicky Donor*, *Shubh Mangal Savdhaan*, *Dum Laga Ke Haisha* and now *Badhaai Ho*

Director **AMIT SHARMA** and actors **AYUSHMANN KHURRANA** and **NEENA GUPTA** get candid about their roles in *Badhai Ho*. By **CHAHAK MITTAL**



venture into the territory. So why is it that we always find him unlocking such doors? Is there a particular selection process that he goes through while choosing his roles and films? For Ayushmann, a new concept is important and he believes that everyone should be selective. "To be clutter-breaking and to do something different, always attracts me." It's a two-way process. "I choose such roles because such films also come to me. When I started out, I was on the track of unconventional roles. I just wanted to have best script choices." He believes that actors become specific to "their kind of zones" after playing certain roles. For instance, if Varun Dhawan worked in *Sui Dhaaga* and *October*, Tiger Shroff is mostly seen in action films. "Hence, an actor starts to trend a journey from their first film. I did *Vicky Donor* and *Shubh Mangal Savdhaan*, and also *Andhadhun*, which is quite different from the other two. My zone and preference is to work on slice-of-life and taboo-breaking cinematic films. I am happy to be a part of progressive cinema. *Badhaai Ho!* is different." The film raises questions about old-age pregnancy which might make the audience think twice before heading to the theatres with their families. But the

role was the best experience in her acting career. "I have always wanted to do this kind of a role in a middle class background but was never offered one because of my image. I was really excited after reading the script." If you ask her about the problems that she faced while acting as an old and pregnant woman, she says, "There was a slight physical discomfort in the beginning around my waist due to the velcro that would pierce my skin and sometimes I would sweat, but then it grew into a habit. And the process became easier with time." As the #MeToo movement is increasingly gaining prominence in the country, the star cast trio share a word of what they feel about the revolution. Gajraj Rao, "It was overdue. Just like we do pest control in our homes every six months, it should be done in the human society as well. Now the way women and even men, to some extent, are coming out to speak against harassment and it looks like those who harassed are afraid to do anything. They will think at least 50 times before doing something. A young girl is told not to discuss if anyone harasses her. It is considered a taboo. But every child should be taught that it is important to speak up. She will be able to react at the right time when she grows up." Ayushmann adds, "It's not just in Bollywood but everywhere, and it should be everywhere. It's just that people in public eye have been affected the most since. We have a very strict patriarchal society since time immemorial. So it takes a lot of courage for a woman to come up about something that has happened to her in the past. It's a very good movement." Neena says, "It's a power game. Women are speaking up after 15-20 years because when it happened they were not in a position to speak up and nobody would have even believed them. The one in power would always try to shut them in public. But now that they are established and powerful enough, they feel empowered to speak. They are finally raising their voices and it is really good. We need to listen to them and believe them."

DATE THE PARENTS

KJo is ready yet again to start sipping, chatting and of course spilling some beans in the sixth season of *Koffee with Karan*. In the past two weeks, the director anchor has dropped a bomb of photos on Instagram as well as Twitter indicative of the few initial guests on the programme. Since the newest Bollywood fad seems to be the on screen debut of future stars along with their parents, here are the top five *jodis* that are awaited.

NAVYA NANDA & SHWETA BACHCHAN
The most loved granddaughter of B-Town and Big B's pride made her modelling debut earlier this



year. Shweta latter along with designer Monisha Jaising launched a luxury fashion label called MxS and Navya became her mother's muse for the same. Navya has inherited Shweta's love for reading and has an eye on everything in her closet, from clothes to shoes. It would be great



Who better than Suhana and Shahrukh themselves to talk about their future plans and the dynamics of their relationship?



to see some Bachchan family secrets spill over in an episode. **KHUSHI KAPOOR & BONEY KAPOOR**
Janhvi and Khusi Kapoor have been the most talked about Bollywood star kids. While Janhvi has already debut, Khushi too seems to have shifted her focus to acting. The audiences do not have much insight in Khushi's life as she is not active on social media. In a QnA, Anshula, her half sister

IBRAHIM & KAREENA
This duo is probably one of the most good-looking stepmother-son pairs. The London vacation in 2015 saw the two spending some quality time together and earlier this year the duo along with other family members was seen bonding



at Saif's 48th birthday bash. Bebo being one of KJo's closest buddies, probably has a lot to share about her relationship with Ibrahim.



AARAV & TWINKLE
The internet is filled with images of Aarav, Akshay and Twinkle whether it is shopping trips or the 15 year old pulling a prank on his mother on her birthday, earlier this year. The charming mother-son duo can bond over a cup of coffee with KJo.

revealed that Khushi, being the youngest, is father Boney Kapoor's favorite. It would be fun to have the young fashionista Khushi and her father talk about the bond that they share. It is time KJo fulfilled this wish list (*Koffee with Karan Season 6* premieres on Star World, on October 21)

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



NO MORE SLEEPING EMPTY-STOMACH

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Radha Mohan Singh, believes that efforts of many farmers and the techniques developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have contributed to an increase in agricultural production and food security to remove the suffering from hunger and ensure food security and a nutritious diet for all. Zero hunger could save the lives of 301 million people a year and can help build a safer, more prosperous world for everyone. He was speaking at the two-day Agri Startup and Entrepreneurship Conclave on the occasion of the World Food Day celebrated at the NASC Complex, Pusa in New Delhi with a theme—'Zero actions are our future—A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible.'

The minister said, "The purpose of celebrating this day is to demonstrate our global commitment to achieve the goal of creating 'Zero Hunger World' by 2030. The government aims to transform India's agricultural sector to contribute to the achievements of the global environmental objectives and has launched a new project in association with FAO, India office—'Green

On the occasion of World Food Day, a two-day Agri-Startup and Entrepreneurship Conclave was held in New Delhi which discussed India's progress towards eradicating hunger in the country and government's initiatives to incentivise the youth towards the agriculture sector

Agriculture: Transforming Indian agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes."

According to the fourth advance estimate, the food grain production is estimated at 284.83 million tonnes in 2017-18, an increase of over 20 million tonnes as compared to 2013-14. The horticulture crops, which contribute significantly to the nutritional security, have witnessed a record production this year at 307 million tonnes. The minister pointed out that India occupies the top spot in the horticulture production. In the year 2015-16, the production of pulses was 16.25 million tonnes, which increased to 25.23 million tonnes in the year 2017-18, which is about 9 million tonnes higher as compared to the production achieved in the year 2013-14.

The role of high quality

crop variety, seeds and technology has been significant in increasing production. Singh added that 795 crop varieties were released for production during 2014-18 as compared to 448 crop varieties during 2010-14. The demand and production of breeder seeds during 2013-14 was 8,479 tonnes and 8,927 tonnes respectively which rose to 10,405 tonnes and 12,265 tonnes in 2016-17.

Addressing the agricultural entrepreneurs present at the conclave, Singh informed that the government started the startup program to create an atmosphere for the agriculture startups to provide appropriate support to set up the enterprises. In this context, the Skill India Scheme was launched by the government on a large scale. He explained that there is a tremendous potential for startups in the field of seeds and plant production, food processing and post-mortgage management, veterinary, farm

machinery, poultry, fish production, biological products, bioplasty and so on.

According to statistics, there is a requirement of 22 lakh skilled youth in the agriculture sector and to meet this demand, training and skill development is being conducted in various employment areas with the help of the agriculture department, ICAR and the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). "Though a record of food grain production has been established in the country, the government is working very fast on the value chain. The recently launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana aims to create world-class food processing infrastructure. This is expected to leverage investment of five billion USD, benefit two million farmers and generate more than half a million jobs over the next two years."

To attract the youth of

the country towards agriculture, a project called 'Arya' is being run through the KVKs and the Farmer Fest program is also playing a leading role in this direction.

Singh also explained that through the mega food farms the government plans to link agro-processing clusters with key production centres. This will offer immense value proposition in crops such as potato, pineapple, oranges and apples. The farmer groups are being encouraged to set up units in these parks, thereby reducing wastage and transportation costs, and creating new jobs.

On digitalisation in the domain of agriculture, the minister commented, "We plan to link our villages through broadband connectivity, within a clear timeframe. We are digitalising land records and providing various services to the people on mobile platforms. These steps are building momentum towards real-time transfer of information, knowledge and skills to farmers. The e-NAM, our national agriculture e-market, is connecting our agricultural markets nationwide, thereby giving our farmers the benefit of competitive pricing, and freedom of choice."

LEGACY SPARKLES ON

The sixth generation of the Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri (TBZ) takes the lineage of the family business forward with the launch of Rajaswee by TBZ (Delhi)

Born into a family with a lineage of over 150 years, Rajaswee Zaveri, the granddaughter of Padmashree Kishorebhai Zaveri and the great-great-grand daughter of Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri, is the sixth generation member to join the family enterprise of fashion jewellery. She recently revealed an exquisite preview of the new Bridal Collection of TBZ (Delhi) along with her own stand-out collection for the modern women—Rajaswee by TBZ.

"I have always been fascinated with the history of jewellery in our country; the craftsmanship, techniques and the various kinds of gems and metals that entail this industry. I am blessed to be born in a family where I had the opportunity to see different kinds of traditional and modern jewellery and study their intricate designs and patterns very closely."

Rajaswee's lineage has enabled her to look at things with detail and facilitated her education. After successfully completing the undergraduate course in visual arts and photography from the UK, she returned to India and opened her photography company—'Kaiross', which has completed a wide array of projects both commercial and artistic in a short span of time. It was during this period that she shot an advertisement for TBZ. "This shoot resulted in my understanding of the intricacies of jewellery and the keen interest led me to educate myself about the various types and cuts of



diamonds, slowly progressing to grading and then their designing. The glitter and shine of gold and the possibilities of it working beautifully with diamonds were the natural progression of my thought process. The fact that I had a ready-made school in TBZ gave wings to the flight of my imagina-

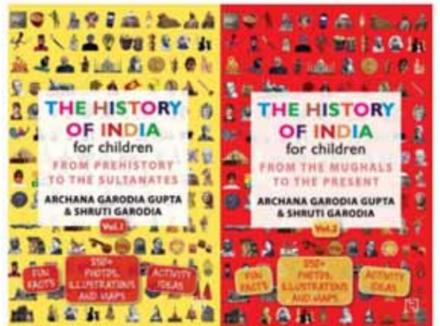
tion and soon I was curating and consulting the brand's jewellery pieces", she said. Her vision became clearer with her designs coming to life and thus resulted in the creation of her own line. TBZD has served its clients for generations and this addition to the lineage with a contemporary and modern outlook is expected to do justice to the rich legacy of excellence that the brand is known for. Rajaswee added, "The shifting relationship dynamic, women's expanding roles in society and the changing perceptions of femininity are creating new motivations for jewellery acquisitions. I wanted to create a line of exquisite uncut diamond jewellery which is modern yet timeless, makes a statement yet is relatively affordable." She further explained her line of thought and said that every woman more than once in her life, has felt the excruciating pain of aching ears while removing heavy earrings after a long day/night and she realised that for her collection of jewellery comfort and look for the wearer was the essential driving force. "Fashion can look and feel beautiful without being painful. I have always felt that simplicity and elegance is what appeals to my sense of aesthetics as a designer. While creating each piece in my collection, I wanted to make sure that my buyer is not restricted to a certain color or type of clothing while wearing the jewellery. I was attracted to the uncut diamonds for my line because of the perfection that lies within their imperfections. It comes in all shapes and sizes, it's a little rough around the edges but it is the toughest rock on earth and a statement of femininity," explained Rajaswee.

Twist to Indian History

With a story-telling format, replete with anecdotes, authors Archana Garodia Gupta and Shruti Garodia, offer a fresh take on the country's enigmatic saga over the years

Reading Indian history is often a precarious proposition and more often than not, it has been beaten into bland and boring submission, with hardly any flavour to it and only endless pages of dates and dynasties. In an attempt to change this perception of the subject and bring about a refreshing change to its study, the two BBC Mastermind quiz

life with little anecdotes about their quirks like Gandhi's witty one-liners, Akbar's insane energy and Shivaji's sheer audacity. However, it is important to note that one is not misled by the title which says 'for children' as it packs a solid punch for adults as well. Each page yields at least one fascinating fact. For instance, who knew that there were banks that gave loans in the 500 BC including to an Indian lady in Iraq, who then opened the world's first Indian restaurant abroad? It is fascinating to realise that the staple dishes like *chivra* and *moori* have been around since the Vedic times, while the beloved chili pepper only



champions—Archana Garodia Gupta and Shruti Garodia, have launched a two-volume set of books—'The History of India for Children' (Vol 1 and Vol 2), which takes the readers, both young and old, on an enlightening and entertaining journey through India's past.

The books are sweeping in their scope, arching from as far back as the continental drift, before humans had evolved, down to the present day. The authors do not limit themselves to endless wars and politics. Each chapter delves into the economy, society and culture of the age, and also how the people lived, what they wore and ate. They areandid and chatty, peppering each chapter with unusual facts. Their deprecating humour brings India's rulers and leaders to

came with the Portuguese, and a national favourite like *paneer makhani* is less than a century old. Throughout the books, there is a marked focus on the deep connection between India and the outside world since antiquity, covering facts like how Indian trade is mentioned in the Bible and that since so much Roman gold flowed into India for its fine cotton textiles that the emperors of Rome tried to ban trade with India.

These books give the students, parents and the teachers a chance to really start enjoying the Indian history and are a valuable addition to their bookshelves.

Authors: Archana Garodia Gupta and Shruti Garodia
Publisher: Hachette
Cost: ₹399 each
Age: 10 to 100 years

CORPORATE BRIEFS

BSNL CUSTOMERS TO ENJOY UNLIMITED OFFERS FOR THIS FESTIVE SEASON

The Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has introduced an unlimited voucher—STV-78 on the occasion of Durga Puja, Dussehra and Diwali for all its prepaid mobile customers. The new STV 78 offers unlimited data, unlimited voice calls and unlimited video calls, having validity of 10 days. This offer is effective from October 15 on a pan-India basis. The CMD of BSNL said that STV-78 will suit all and will enable them to be in touch with their friends and family during this festive season.

NSD WORKERS UNION'S NEW OFFICE BEARERS

A general election among the staff of National School of Drama Workers Union was held recently where Ramavtar Singh Meena was elected as the president; Mukesh Kumar as the vice president; Satbir Singh became the new general secretary; Dharamveer Singh was elected as the secretary and Parwati Bisht became the cashier.

The Border Security Force (BSF) organised a 5-kilometer run of force personnel of CRPFs and other volunteers in New Delhi. The run, dedicated to the martyrs was flagged off from the Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium by the Minister of State for Human Resource Development Dr Satya Pal Singh, and saw approximately 4,000 participants.



MUTHOOT GROUP'S AI-BOTS LAUNCHED

The Muthoot Group has become the first in the NBFC sector to launch its chatbot—MATTU (Muthoot Advanced Technology Transformation Unit) and MITTU (Muthoot Intelligent Technology Transformation Utility). The bots are an Artificial Intelligence powered Virtual Assistant which will offer 24/7 customer assistance and instantly respond to customer queries across the Muthoot Group's diverse products and services ranging from gold loan, insurance, money transfer, forex, mutual funds, home loans and so on. The AI-bot is also said to act as a financial advisor to break myths around Muthoot's flagship product—gold loans, and enable customers to make informed decisions.



VINEET GULATI IS AAI'S NEW MEMBER (ANS)

Vineet Gulati has taken over the charge of Member (Air Navigation Services) on the Board of the Airports Authority of India. Prior to this appointment, he has served at AAI in various capacities, as Executive Director (Air Traffic Management), General Manager (Air Traffic Flow Management) and Air Traffic Controller in ATC Centers at various international airports.



A TRIBUTE TO KISHORE KUMAR

The cultural programme organised by the Kishore Kumar Memorial Club at the Pyarelal Bhawan to pay tribute to the legendary playback singer was graced by the Union Minister of Tourism K J Alphons, as the chief guest. Alphons released a book written by the general secretary of the club, Kamal Dhiman, on the life and times of Kishore Kumar, titled—'Filmmaker Kishore Kumar' on the occasion.



SPMCIL'S SC, ST & OBC EMPLOYEES MEET FOR TRAINING

The Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) recently organised the 7th Interaction Meeting of the scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and other backward class employees of its nine units at the India Government Mint, Kolkata. The meeting was inaugurated by SPMCIL's Director (HR) S K Sinha. A one-day training program was also conducted in association with the National Productivity Council titled—'Developing Competencies in Manufacturing Environment.'

38TH TRADE FAIR IN DELHI FROM NOV 14-27

The 38th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) is going to be held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi from November 14 to 27 with the theme—'Rural Enterprises in India'. As many as 800 participants are expected to participate this year. The Republic of Afghanistan is the Partner Country while the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is the Focus Country. The 'Focus State' status has been accorded to 'Jharkhand'. Added attractions to the visitors are the state day celebrations.

The Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has paid a dividend of ₹474.92 lakh to the



The Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has signed an agreement with the Foundation for Innovation and Technology (FITT)-IIT Delhi to recognise excellence in research. Under the project titled—'POSOCO Power System Awards (PPSA)-2019', the agreement is made to recognise research-excellence in the area of power systems.



Handicrafts galore in Delhi



The 46th edition of one of Asia's largest gifts and handicrafts fair—IHGF Delhi Fair (Autumn), organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) held at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida from October 14 to 18, witnessed 4,900 buyers and buyer representatives over the three days.

The fair was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Textiles Ajay Tamta, amidst the buying community from more than 110 countries which attended the fair to source home, lifestyle, fashion and textiles products. While inaugurating the fair, Tamta said that this fair has played a vital role in increasing exports of handicrafts from the country and has acquired a special importance for handicrafts sector as overseas buying community finds this fair to be the most effective sourcing medium for their requirements and that the Indian exporting community considers this as the most effective marketing medium for their merchandise. "Participation by over 3,200 exhibitors in this fair and visit of overseas buyers from over 110 countries shows its popularity amongst Indian handicrafts exporting and importing community," he added.

The fashion shows organised by EPCH during each edition of the IHGF-Delhi fair have always been a hit to showcase the products of the exhibitors duly worn by the models, thus attracting many visitors to the fair.

This year the fashion show displayed the products of fashion jewellery and accessories of North Eastern region companies of India such as Orchid

Petal, Nagaland, Silk Culture, Jorhat, HDN Crafts, Assam, Kraftin, Assam, Women Empowerment and Rural Development Handicrafts, Manipur, Mizoram Mahila Sangathan, Kenway Sartaj Worldwide, Moradabad, Veva Fashion, Jaipur and so on.

The other days were filled with knowledge sessions and seminars on topics such as 'Enabling B2B Exports through Online Channel' and 'Design Sustainability and Transparency—Key factors in European markets'.

During the session, PARTICIPATION OF OVER 3,200 EXHIBITORS AND 110 FOREIGN BUYERS SHOWS ITS POPULARITY AMONGST THE HANDICRAFTS IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COMMUNITY

Anshuman Harjai, the manager for sales and business development at Amazon Global Selling, highlighted how through online retailing of all segments of products being produced by the member exporters of the EPCH, can increase their reach to consumers worldwide. Susanna Bjorklund, the trend analyst, future thinker and a journalist from Finland, through a detailed presentation, apprised the participants about the benefits of adopting latest designs and trends, which can help the exporters to foresee the future requirement of their products.

Griezmann adds to Germany's woe

French striker struck twice as Les Blues bounce back to beat Germany 2-1



Antoine Griezmann reacts after scoring a goal

AFP ■ PARIS

Defiant Joachim Loew praised Germany's display in their 2-1 UEFA Nations League defeat by world champions France as he lamented "a totally unjust penalty" awarded to the hosts.

Antoine Griezmann hit a pair of second-half goals, including the winner from the spot, as France recovered from falling behind to a Toni Kroos penalty to inflict a sixth defeat on Germany in their past 10 matches on Tuesday.

The result eliminated Germany from Nations League title contention, and left them needing to beat the Netherlands in their final group match on November 19 if they are to avoid relegation from the top tier.

However, Loew insisted he was "very pleased" with the performance as Germany were much improved compared to the team that lost 3-0 against the Netherlands in Amsterdam.

"I'm disappointed with the result, although though I must say the defeat is different to Saturday's," said Loew.

"Not because of the result but because of the performance. I'm very pleased with the performance.

"I think we were on an even level with what is probably the best team in the world.

"But France has a lot of individual quality, and if you're not careful you'll get punished straight away." A first defeat to the neighbouring Dutch in 16 years prompted Loew to make five changes for the trip to Paris, as he injected additional pace into the attack with the inclusions of Leroy Sane and Serge Gnabry.

The Germans deservedly led through a Kroos penalty after a sliding Presnel Kimpembe handled a Sane cross, but Loew's youthful frontline was unable to capitalise on further opportunities.

"The negative point is the converting of our chances. We were unable to put the ball in the goal," said Loew.

"I think we deserved to win because we were the best team but that's not how things work.

"We lacked a bit of intelligence and sangroid. If we'd been able to score a second we could have played in a calmer manner and won the match."

Griezmann equalised with a magnificent glancing header from a Lucas Hernandez cross on the hour, and the Atletico Madrid striker won



THE GERMANS DESERVEDLY LED THROUGH A KROOS PENALTY AFTER A SLIDING PRESNEL KIMPEMBE HANDLED A SANE CROSS

the game for France with a penalty 10 minutes from time.

'SOMETHING TO BUILD ON'

Loew was particularly unhappy with referee Milorad Mazic's decision to award France a spot-kick after Blaise Matuidi went to ground after a tangle with Mats Hummels.

"The penalty was totally unjust," said Loew.

"I've watched it back on the replay. Mats didn't touch Matuidi. He stepped on Mats' foot and then slipped."

That grievance aside, Loew singled out the positive contributions of Bayern Munich winger Gnabry, who made his first Germany appearance since November 2016, as well as Paris Saint-Germain defender Thilo

Kehrer. "It was a really good display from the young players," said Loew. "Gnabry played well and Kehrer too, it was first time he has started."

"It was a very, very good performance and something to build on for the future." Didier Deschamps' France can clinch top spot in the group with a draw in their final game away to the Netherlands in Rotterdam next month.

"It's a good thing in terms of our aim of finishing top of the group but we were up against a very good German side today," said Deschamps.

"Hugo (Lloris) ensured it was only 1-0 to them at the break and that we were still in it." Griezmann admitted France's revamped set-up had knocked Germany off track initially, but he said a series of "calm" exchanges at half-time allowed them to regain their rhythm.

"We played poorly in the first half. I think we were disrupted by them playing three at the back, so we had to calmly speak a bit in the dressing and change two or three things tactically," Griezmann told French television.

"It was better afterwards. It's more than tactical, we weren't making the effort for one another."



Netherlands' players celebrate the first goal of their team

KOEMAN'S DUTCH HOLD BELGIUM

AFP ■ BRUSSELS

The Netherlands continued their resurgence under Ronald Koeman as youngster Arnaut Groeneveld's first international goal secured a 1-1 friendly draw with Belgium in Brussels.

Dries Mertens fired the World Cup semi-finalists into a sixth-minute lead, but Groeneveld marked his full debut for the Dutch by equalising before the half-hour mark on Tuesday.

This was another strong performance for the Oranje after Saturday's stunning 3-0 Nations League victory over Germany, while Roberto Martinez's Belgium remain unbeaten at home since a loss to Spain in September 2016.

"I think there is still a lot of work to do, but we've shown that we've made good progress lately and at the end of the match we tried to play more offensively to try to win," said Koeman.

"We had the best chances and overall we can be very happy with the last 10 days." The hosts struck early through a fantastic goal from Mertens, as the Napoli winger pounced after some slack Dutch defending, curling the ball past goal-

keeper Jasper Cillessen and two men on the line, and into the top corner.

The 31-year-old continued to run the visitors ragged, stretching to dig out an excellent cross which Romelu Lukaku could only head over from less than six yards out.

The Netherlands almost levelled after a quick counter-attack, but Memphis Depay failed to get a clean connection on his shot and was denied by the legs of Simon Mignolet, making his first appearance in the Belgian goal since March.

But the Lyon forward cut open the home defence in the 27th minute, sending through a perfect pass for Nigerian-born winger Groeneveld to slide home on just his second international appearance after coming on as a substitute against Germany.

The visitors continued to slice through the Belgium defence with ease, and Quincy Promes saw a fierce long-range strike bounce back off the post with Mignolet scrambling.

Eden Hazard, who has already scored 10 goals this season for club and country, should have restored the Belgian advantage before half-time, but shot wide with the goal gaping after Lukaku's clever lay-off.

Miranda silences Argentina

AFP ■ JEDDAH

Brazil snatched a dramatic 1-0 win over Argentina with an injury-time header from Miranda in their friendly match in front of a sell-out crowd in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

The Inter Milan centre-back was left all alone to thump in a 93rd-minute effort from Neymar's corner when the match between the fierce South American rivals seemed destined for a stalemate on Tuesday.

The lapse spoiled an otherwise strong defensive performance from Argentina, who contained Brazil for long periods.

He may be 34, but Miranda, whose career has also seen him play in France and Spain, says he is far from done in the yellow shirt of Brazil.

"Despite my age I've been able to show that I'm in good physical shape and, of course, I want to keep playing for the national team because I still have a lot to show in this jersey," he said.

With Neymar to the fore, Brazil exerted late pressure and could have scored in the few minutes before Miranda struck.

Casemiro came close with a 25-yard free-kick manufactured by Neymar that flew past goalkeeper Sergio Romero's left post. Then Nicolas Otamendi stuck out a boot to deflect a diverted shot from Richarlison in the last minute.

Argentina's best chance came during a period of pressure around the hour mark, when Leandro Paredes hit a swerving, dipping drive that had



Brazil keeper Alisson beaten.

But while Brazil named a strong team including Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus, Philippe Coutinho of Barcelona and Liverpool's Roberto Firmino alongside Neymar in attack, Argentina were without a host of top stars, including Lionel Messi.

"It's always difficult, but our team is better than theirs because we've had the same foundations for many years while they're in the process of a drastic renovation," Brazil's full-back Felipe Luis told TV Globo.

Missing from the Argentina lineup were also Manchester City's in-form forward Sergio Aguero, Paris Saint-Germain winger Angel Di Maria and AC Milan striker Gonzalo Higuain.

Messi has sat out Argentina's last four matches, all friendlies, since the country's disappointing last-16 elimination from the World Cup in Russia.

He is believed to have asked for some time off from international duty ahead of next year's Copa America in Brazil.

It was the 105th time the South American arch-rivals have faced each other in an official match, with Brazil marginally ahead on 41 wins to 38, with 26 draws.

The two sides last met in June 2017 in a friendly in Australia, won 1-0 by Argentina, but Brazil romped to a 3-0 success in their last competitive fixture, a World Cup qualifier in November 2016.

Champions Chennaiyin eye first win

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Defending champions Chennaiyin FC would look to notch up their first win of the season after suffering back-to-back defeats when they take on NorthEast United FC in their Indian Super League match here Thursday.

After an away loss to Bengaluru FC in their campaign opener, Chennaiyin were outclassed by an attack-minded FC Goa at home on October 6.

Chennaiyin head coach John Gregory will be hoping his team improves upon its performance in the first two games.

The forward line of Jeje Lalpekhlua and Carlos Salom have had a disappointing start and have not hit the ground running for their team. Their form will be crucial for the team's revival, as would be that of other key players like Raphael Augusto and Gregory Nelson.



Chennaiyin players play during a practice session ahead of the match

In the season opener against Bengaluru, Lalpekhlua missed a couple of sitters, which eventually cost Chennaiyin. He needs to start scoring in order to get his team to winning ways.

Gregory may look to ring in some changes in the starting eleven

against NEU FC and there is a possibility of Palestinian striker Carlos Salom fitting into the team. He looked sharp after being brought in in the second half in the defeat to Goa.

NorthEast United, under Eelco Schattorie, made a strong start to

the tournament. After an exciting 2-2 draw against FC Goa at home, they defeated a strong ATK side in Kolkata.

Rowlin Borges, Federico Gallego and Bartholomew Ogbeche have done well for the team from the north-east.

Nigerian Ogbeche, the former PSG striker, has been good upfront and will look to improve NEU FC's efficiency in front of goal.

The Croatian duo of Mato Grgic and Mislav Komorski will marshal the defence with Rowlin Borges playing the anchor role in midfield.

In the 2017-18 season, the Highlanders were handed a 3-0 drubbing by Chennaiyin and will be looking to exact revenge with the defending champions not in the best of forms.

NEU FC will go into the match high on confidence while Chennaiyin were in search of some spark to spur their campaign.

SRIKANTH SETS UP CLASH WITH LIN DAN

PTI ■ ODENSE

World number six Kidambi Srikanth set up a second-round clash with the legendary Lin Dan after an easy win over Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus even as one Indian women's doubles pair was knocked out of the Denmark Open, here Wednesday.

Srikanth needed 35 minutes to get the better of local hope Vittinghus 21-16, 21-10 in the opening round of the \$ 7,75,000 tournament.

Srikanth has lost three of his four matches against Dan but the Chinese great is not the force he once was. The former world number one is now placed 14th in the international rankings.

The last time Srikanth beat Dan was in 2014 at the China Open.

If Srikanth manages to get past Dan and Sameer Verma overcomes Asian Games Gold-medallist Jonathon Christie, it will be an all-Indian quarterfinal in the bottom half of the men's singles draw.



Srikanth plays a shot during the match

In the doubles competition, Ashwini Ponappa and N Sikki Reddy moved to the second round of women's doubles with an easy 21-7, 21-11 win over the American team of Ariel Lee and Sydney Lee. But it was curtains for Meghanna J and S Ram Poorvisha, who lost 17-21, 11-21 to the Swedish combination of Emma K and Johanna Magnusson.



India face Oman in Asian Champions Trophy opener

PTI ■ MUSCAT

Determined to redeem pride after a below par show at the Asian Games, the Indian men's hockey team is expected to make a solid start when it clashes with hosts Oman in the Asian Champions Trophy opener, here on Thursday.

The Indian team was favourite to win Gold in Jakarta but had to settle for a Bronze after a disappointing loss to Malaysia in the semifinals.

World No 5 India goes into the tournament as the highest-ranked Asian nation and tackling Oman should not be a problem for the side at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex.

India beat Oman 7-0 when the two teams met the last time during the 2014 Asian Games 2014, and coach Harendra Singh believes that facing the hosts will be a good test for his team ahead of other crucial round-robin matches.

"We are very excited to start our



campaign against the hosts Oman, who will be playing in front of their home crowd. The opening match will be a good test for us ahead of some crucial pool matches against the likes of Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan and South Korea," Harendra said.

"It is important for us to start the competition by doing the basics right and producing our best performance in order to build momentum for the upcoming fixtures."

India go into the tournament as the defending champions, having won the 2016 edition by defeating Pakistan 3-2 in the final in Kuantan, Malaysia.

But Harendra believes his team needs to keep the errors to the minimum if it has to lift

the trophy again. "We know that we have a good team which is capable of defeating any country in the world, but sometimes things do not go your way. Therefore, it is important for the unit to keep focus throughout the sixty minutes and not give the opponents any chances," he said.

"We have to make sure that we have improved from the mistakes we committed at the Asian Games, and this tournament gives us the perfect opportunity to regain confidence ahead of the World Cup in Bhubaneswar. Our immediate aim is to qualify for the semi-finals of the competition and the team will work hard to achieve that."

After playing Oman in the first match, India will face arch-rivals Pakistan on October 20, Japan on October 21, Malaysia on October 23 and South Korea on October 24.

The last edition of the tournament saw India remain undefeated as they defeated Japan 10-2, drew 1-1 with South Korea, beat Pakistan 3-2, China 9-0 and Malaysia 2-1 in the pool stages.

In the semi-finals, India had beaten South Korea 5-4 in penalty shootout.

India vs Oman
Live from 10:40pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2

Shaw, Shreyas lead Mumbai to final

Prithvi continues his rich form to help Mumbai reach Vijay Hazare summit clash after bowlers' good show in rain hit match

PTI/PNS ■ BENGALURU

In form Prithvi Shaw and skipper Shreyas Iyer smashed half-centuries as Mumbai brushed aside Hyderabad by 60 runs in a rain-marred contest to move to the summit clash of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, here on Wednesday.

Chasing 247, Mumbai were placed comfortably at 155 for two when rain halted play. Iyer (55 not out) and Ajinkya Rahane (17) were at the crease with their unbeaten third wicket stand of 73 runs.

The game never resumed after that and Mumbai were declared winners via VJD method.

Left-arm spinner Mehdi Hasan struck twice, dismissing openers Rohit Sharma (17) and Shaw (61 off 44 balls) to leave Mumbai at 82 for two after their 73-run opening stand.

Chasing 247 to seal final spot, unbeaten in the tournament, domestic powerhouse Mumbai started chase in fashion with teenage prodigy Prithvi Shaw resuming his innings where he last left against Railways at the same very ground in Bengaluru before moving to make his Test debut for India.

Shaw, who tried to start with a big hit in the very ball of Mumbai innings, smashed two boundaries in the third over bowled by Akash Bhandari and from there he never looked back to slow the pace of his destructive innings.

While the entire limelight was on seasoned campaigner Rohit Sharma, who was expected to play a big knock before leaving to join Indian squad for the five-match ODI series starting Sunday at Guwahati. Shaw enjoyed the freedom of playing shots and while he was struggling with a shoulder issue, the young sensation didn't restrict pain to over-power will hard hitting.

However he was quiet lucky when in the seventh over bowled by Mohammed Siraj he was dropped twice by Ravi Kiran.



Prithvi Shaw celebrates his half-century as Rohit Sharma congratulates him during their 1st semifinal PTI

Prithvi made good use of the two chances and went on to hit two consecutive sixes to Siraj in his next over to complete his fourth fifty plus score in this year's tournament in as many games.

But on the other end, Mumbai's another star on the field Rohit couldn't make much use of the opportunity to get match practice before resuming national duty and was bowled by Mehdi Hasan for 17 of 24 balls in the fifth ball of tenth over.

Hasan strikes again in the next over and this time he caught big fish Prithvi Shaw in the similar fashion, who was also sent to the dugout leaving Mumbai's scorecard read 82 for 2 in 11.5 overs.

Shaw's knock had eight fours and two sixes. The teenage batting had hit a century on Test debut in Rajkot against West Indies. He amassed 237 runs in the series with an average of 118.50 and strike rate of 94.04 to be adjudged Man-of-the-series.

However after that skipper Shreyas Iyer and Ajinkya Rahane batted sensibly and didn't allow Hyderabad bowlers to do much damage.

Earlier, Hyderabad posted 246 for eight after Rohit Rayudu scored a 132-ball 121, which went in vain.

The knock was studded with eight boundaries and four sixes.

Hyderabad had a dismal start with openers Tanmay Agarwal (11) and Akshath Reddy (7) returning to the pavilion early.

Rayudu and Bavanaka Sandeep (29) then stitched a vital 50-run stand for the third wicket.

Tail-ender Mehdi Hassan made 23 off 17 to help Hyderabad put on board a respectable total.

For Mumbai, Tushar Deshpande was the lead wicket-taker with three wickets for 55 runs and Royston Dias bagged two for 43.

Pacer Dhawal Kulkarni, Shivam Dubey and Shams Mulani snapped a wicket each.

BRIEF SCORES

Mumbai 155/2 (Prithvi Shaw 61, Shreyas Iyer 55 not out; Mehdi Hassan 2/23) beat **Hyderabad** 246/8 (Rohit Rayudu 121 not out, Bavanaka Sandeep 29; Tushar Deshpande 3/55) by 60 runs (VJD Method).

Delhi eye final spot

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Gautam Gambhir-led Delhi will need to negotiate Jharkhand's potent bowling attack with guile when the two teams meet in the second semifinal of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Thursday.

Gambhir leads a formidable Delhi unit comprising Unmukt Chand, Nitish Rana and Dhruv Shorey. The captain himself has led from the front, scoring 490 runs in the competition at 61.25 including two hundreds.

He had smashed 104 off 72 balls in the quarterfinal against Haryana after pacer Kulwant Khejroliya claimed six wickets including a hat-trick to set-up the five-wicket victory.

Both Delhi and Jharkhand, who have won the tournament once each, are high on confidence going into another knock-out fixture.

Jharkhand's win against Maharashtra was fashioned by their quality bowling attack, boasting the spin duo of Shahbaz Nadeem and Anukul Roy, and the pace combine of Rahul Shukla and a resurgent Varun Aaron.

Left-arm spinner Nadeem, who has been knocking on the India doors for a while now, is the tournament's leading wicket-taker with 22 scalps.

Young Roy, who also bowls left-arm, is not far behind with 14 wickets and was the man-of-the-match in the rain-affected quarterfinal after picking up a match-winning four-wicket haul.

The spinners had made their presence felt after the early damage done by Shukla and injury-prone Aaron, who has so far picked up 16 wickets at 17.87. The way Jharkhand have performed convinced even their mentor M S Dhoni that the side could go all the way without his services.

Just like Delhi captain Gambhir has let his bat do the talking, Jharkhand skipper Ishan Kishan too has made compelling contributions, amassing 405 runs at 50.62, including a hundred and three half centuries.



Gautam Gambhir reacts during Vijay Hazare match

Kishan was out cheaply against Maharashtra but the experienced Saurabh Tiwary did the job alongside Shasheem Rathour who scored an unbeaten 53 to take his team home in a truncated tie.

But come Thursday, they will be tested against the likes of Khejroliya and Navdeep Saini along with young-spinner Lalit Yadav, who has been Delhi's leading wicket-taker with 13 scalps at 24.38.

SQUADS

Delhi: Gautam Gambhir(c), Unmukt Chand, Hiten Dalal, Gaurav Kumar, Himmat Singh, Kulwant Khejroliya, Manan Sharma, Pawan Negi, Rishabh Pant, Nitish Rana, Navdeep Saini, Dhruv Shorey, Pranshu Vijayran, Lalit Yadav
Jharkhand: Varun Aaron(c), Anand Singh, Ashish Kumar, Kumar Deobrat, Ishan Kishan, Jaskaran Singh, Monu Kumar, Shahbaz Nadeem, Shasheem Sanjay Rathour, Anukul Roy, Rahul Shukla, Atul Singh Surwar, Saurabh Tiwary, Utkarsh Singh, Virat Singh.

Delhi vs Jharkhand
Live from 9:00 am IST
STAR SPORTS 1

SINGLES

PRAJNESH MOVES TO NINGBO QUARTERS

NEW DELHI: Prajnesh Gunneswaran, the lone Indian surviving in the singles main draw, quelled a late challenge from Zhe Li to book a quarterfinal berth at the Ningbo Challenger on Wednesday. After a sound start, the Chennai southpaw struggled to keep focus but regrouped for 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(0) win in the second round against his Chinese opponent. Prajnesh is the only Indian left in singles main draw. His compatriots Ramkumar Ramanathan, Sumit Nagal and Saketh Myneni had all exited in the first round. The 28-year-old, who had won Kunming Open in Anning in April, next faces Yunseong Chung, who knocked out Ramkumar in the opening round. Ramkumar and Nagal crashed out of the men's doubles too following their first round defeat but the pair of Myneni and N Sriram Balaji advanced to the quarterfinals. Balaji and Myneni outplayed Hiroki Moriya and Ruben Statham 6-0, 6-3 in the first round.

WOMEN'S CAMP FOR T20 WC AT CCI TILL OCT 21

MUMBAI: The Indian Women's team preparatory camp for the upcoming World T20 will be now held at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) till October 21. The BCCI requested us to conduct the camp till the October 21 and we have agreed to it. The camp will happen at the Brabourne Stadium till the said date. After that it is for the BCCI to decide on it, a senior CCI official said on Wednesday. The Women's camp was earlier scheduled to be held at the CCI but with the fourth One Day shifted to it from the Wankhede Stadium to it, the BCCI had initially asked MCA to hold it at the Wankhede Stadium. However, the MCA had refused to allow the players to enter the Wankhede Stadium as it's members had taken BCCI and CCI to the Bombay High Court over shifting of the said match. "We are always promoting the game of cricket, so now when the BCCI requested us, we did not say no," the CCI official maintained.

YUKI SUFFERS DEFEAT ON COMEBACK

NEW DELHI: Yuki Bhambri's comeback to the ATP circuit after recovering from a knee injury didn't go well as he suffered a first-round defeat at the European Open in Antwerp, Belgium. Playing his first match after the US Open in August, Yuki lost 6-7(6), 7-5, 1-6 to Italian Salvatore Caruso in the Euro 686,080 hard court tournament. At one stage Yuki was a break up, serving for the opening set but lost his serve and eventually the set. After drawing parity, Yuki twice lost his serve to fall behind 0-3 in the decisive set and never recovered. India's top singles player, the 26-year-old Bhambri's progress has been hampered by fitness issues, the major problem being his knees. He broke into the top-100 in October 2015 but then missed out half of the 2016 season due to injury. He got back in good shape and reclaimed his place in top-100 in April this year, but injuries once again pulled him back. Meanwhile, Divij Sharan and his Kiwi partner Artem Sitak ousted Leander Paes and Miguel Angel Reyes-Varela 7-5, 6-4 in one our and 10 minutes to move to the doubles quarterfinals.

MESSI NAMED BEST LA LIGA PLAYER IN SEPT

MADRID: Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi on Wednesday was named the best player in the Spanish football league for the month of September, La Liga said in a statement. Messi is to receive the award in Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium ahead of Saturday's clash with Sevilla. "Leo Messi, the FC Barcelona forward, has been named the La Liga Santander Player of the Month for September," La Liga said via their website. "The Argentine scoops the first prize of the 2018/2019 season after an impressive start to the campaign which saw his side go to the top of the standings," the statement added. Messi scored three La Liga goals last month, one against Girona and a brace against Huesca, as well as collecting four assists. Barcelona holds the second spot in the Spanish league table with 15 points, one point behind Sevilla.

Agencies

'Aus tour will be challenging even without Smith, Warner'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar feels that the upcoming Australia tour will be challenging even though the hosts will be without their two star players — David Warner and Steve Smith.

The 28-year-old also believes that no overseas tour is easy.

"It (the Australian tour) will be challenging, no tour is easy. But Australia will be challenging because when you play outside your home (country) you need to adapt to certain conditions. It won't be easy for bowlers as there is hardly any movement these days," Bhuvneshwar said on Monday.

Australia will not be having the services of Smith and Warner, who are serving a one-year ban for ball-tampering during Australia's previous visit to South Africa.

Asked how the absence of Smith and Warner will affect Australia, Bhuvneshwar said: "I cannot say that we will overcome them. They don't have the two batsman (Smith and Warner), who have done well over the years. (But) there are other batsmen in their place and it is not that they aren't good."

"It's their home conditions. For us, if the two (Smith and Warner) were there, it is a challenge, now they are not there, it will still be a challenge," the Uttar Pradesh fast bowler said.

"If it would have been easy, we would have always won the series (in the past). It won't be easy. Our preparation in the practise matches there will matter," he



Jasprit Bumrah, left, talks to Bhuvneshwar Kumar. ICC

India are set to tour Down Under for a four Test match series, which begins with the first Test at Adelaide on December 6.

Bhuvneshwar has been rested for the first two ODIs against the West Indies. The right-arm fast bowler, who has played 92 ODIs and 21 Tests, lauded the rotation policy of the team management.

"The way fast bowlers are managed, the rotation policy is in a way good, as we get a break and others get a chance and the body remains fresh," he said. He also stressed on the need to have breaks.

"Breaks are needed after you play a long tour. You are mentally tired, like Jasprit (Bumrah) said when you return you are fresh and are rearing to go. Hence breaks are needed, as your body gets tired," he said.

SA named Steyn for Australia tour

AFF ■ JOHANNESBURG

Dale Steyn was named on Wednesday as part of a strong South African fast bowling arsenal for the limited-overs tour of Australia later this month.

Steyn, 35, was named in the 15-man squad which includes young stars Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi, as well as returning fast bowling all-rounder Chris Morris, who has recovered from a lower back injury.

South Africa will play three one-day internationals and a Twenty20 international during a tour which starts with a match against a Prime Minister's XI in Canberra on October 31.

Steyn made a successful return to one-day international cricket in the recent series against Zimbabwe after



South African coach Otis Gibson talks to Dale Steyn during practice session

a two-year absence, largely caused by injuries.

"We feel that we got quite a lot out of the Zimbabwe series, notably the form of (leg-spinner) Imran Tahir and the return of Dale Steyn to his very best," said selection

convener Linda Zondi.

Morris has not played international cricket since February but Zondi said he had proven his fitness by taking 12 wickets in two four-day matches for the Titans franchise.

Abbas puts Pak on top

AFF ■ ABU DHABI

Medium pacer Mohammad Abbas registered a five-wicket haul to steer Pakistan into a dominating position in the second Test against Australia in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Abbas finished with five for 33 to bowl out Australia for a paltry 145 to give Pakistan a 137-run lead in the first innings on the second day at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Pakistan stretched that lead to 281 as they were 144 for two at close, with Azhar Ali not out on 54 for his first half century in the series and Haris Sohail was 17 not out.

With eight wickets in hand Pakistan were in a great position to force a 1-0 lead in the two-match series after the first Test ended in a fighting draw in Dubai last week.

Azhar, who fell for disappointing scores of 18, four and 15 in the last three innings, batted with resolve, having so far hit three boundaries.

But it was once again debutant Fakhar Zaman who lifted Pakistan with a brilliant 66 following up his 94 in the first innings, before giving a return catch to Nathan Lyon who took an evasive action but still managed to hold onto the ball.

Zaman hit seven boundaries in an enterprising knock. Mohammad Hafeez, who scored a hundred in the drawn first Test, fell to a lazy shot off pacer Mitchell Starc, caught at short mid-off for six.

Earlier, Abbas and spinner Bilal Asif (3-23) wrecked Australia for 145 in their



FASTEST TO 50 WICKETS FOR PAK

Bowler	M	I	Time
Yasir Shah	9	16	247 days
Mohammed Abbas	10	14	1 year & 178 days
Waqar Younis	10	18	1 year & 9 days
Shabbir Ahmed	10	18	2 years & 86 days
Mohammed Asif	10	18	2 years & 272 days

innings.

Abbas had Shaun Marsh, in the fourth over of the day, for three and Travis Head for 14 before wrapping up the innings by trapping Starc leg-before for 34.

This becomes Abbas's third five-wicket haul in a burgeoning career of ten Tests. Asif had removed Aaron Finch (39) and in the last over before lunch trapped Tim Paine leg-before for three.

Marnus Labuschagne offered some resistance during his 25 before falling to a freakish run out, backing up too far as

a drive from Starc was deflected to the stumps by Yasir Shah with Labuschagne out of his crease.

Abbas, whose first wicket of the match made him the joint second fastest Pakistani to 50 wickets, gave Pakistan an early wicket in the fourth over of the day, removing Marsh with a catch in the slip.

He then had Head caught in the second slip to leave Australia at 56 for four. Yasir made it 75 for five with the wicket of Mitchell Marsh, caught close to the wicket for 13 before Australia lose two more to reach lunch at 91 for 7.

Lewis pulls out of India series

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The struggling West Indies were dealt another blow on Wednesday with opener Evin Lewis pulling out of the limited overs leg of the India tour, citing personal reasons.

Lewis had recently declined a central contract offered by the Cricket West Indies, potentially making him more available for leagues around the world, following in the footsteps of Chris Gayle and other stars from the region.

Gayle, who is playing the Afghanistan Premier League in Sharjah, had already made himself unavailable for the five ODIs and three ODIs in India. Lewis would have come handy in India, having played for Mumbai Indians in the IPL. He has two ODI hundreds in 35 games and as many in T20 format in just 17 matches.

Kieran Powell will be Lewis' replacement in ODIs and Nicholas Pooran in the T20s.

Uncapped pacer Obed McCoy has also been drafted into both the squads.

"Powell and Pooran have been asked to replace Evin Lewis in the ODI and T20I



WI opener Evin Lewis plays a shot during match. ICC

squads; while McCoy will replace Alzarri Joseph, who remains under observation for his return to full fitness," read a Cricket West Indies statement.

The five-match ODI against India begins in Guwahati on October 21.

REVISED SQUAD

(ODI): Jason Holder (Captain), Fabian Allen, Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Chandernaul Hemraj, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Obed McCoy, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Kieran Powell, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels and Oshane Thomas.