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‘TRADE AGREEMENTS
WILL STRENGTHEN TIES’

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TEENAGE GIRL: JOHN KERRY

VIVACITY 13
MAKING HYGIENE
A WAY OF LIFE

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Cong bids to end Goa stalemate

Opp stakes claim to form a Govt, but BJP leader Ram Lal says Parrikar Govt is stable

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday staked claim to provide an alternative Government in Goa, which is facing political crisis following prolonged illness of Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.

The Congress, which has 16 members in the 40-member State Assembly, submitted a memorandum to Governor Mridula Sinha, urging her not to dissolve the Assembly and instead invite the party to form the Government. The State is being ruled by the BJP-led alliance with the saffron party having 14 MLAs.

While the Congress is in a wait and watch mode, BJP Central unit has sent three senior leaders — Ram Lal, BL Santhosh and Vinay Puranik — to meet the State party leaders and allies to take stock of the political situation.

Kavalekar said the Congress has support of legislators from other parties and can form a Government if given a chance by the Governor. “We will prove our majority on the floor of the House,” he said.

However, BJP leader Ram Lal said the Goa Government is stable and no demand has been made for a change in the leadership. He stated this after a meeting with party MLAs, former legislators and core committee members. He said the BJP’s alliance partners — the Goa Forward Party (GFP), the Maharashtra



Congress MLAs submit a letter in the Raj Bhavan to stake claim to form a Government in Goa Agency

Gomantak Party (MGP) and Independents — conveyed that they will agree to any political decision taken by the BJP.

AICC Goa incharge A Chella Kumar said the party High Command is keeping an eye on the development in Panjim, and the State Congress unit is in touch with some local parties even as some of the disgruntled BJP MLAs have reached out to the Congress.

“The Congress is ready to provide a stable alternative Government provided other parties are ready to join hands with us by not compromising the interests of the people of Goa,” said Kumar, who succeeded Digvijay Singh after the Congress High Command

removed him for failing to stake claim to form the Government even though the Congress emerged the single largest party after the 2017 Assembly polls.

Leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar said the Congress party has submitted a memorandum to the Governor staking claim to form an alternate Government. All the 16 Congress MLAs, led by Kavlekar, went to the Raj Bhavan but could not meet the Governor as she is out of the State.

“The party urged the Governor not to consider dissolution of the Assembly, which is a possibility considering internal fighting in the ruling

alliance and illness of Parrikar,” Kavlekar said.

The BJP has 14 seats in the Assembly, its allies Goa Forward Party and MGP have three each. Three Independents and an MLA from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also support the BJP.

The MGP, which is one of the constituents of the NDA Government in Goa with three MLAs, said a “common solution” on the political situation, rising out of the indisposition of the CM has to come from the BJP. “This is a coalition Government but the decision (on governance in the absence of Parrikar) has to be taken by the BJP since it is the largest party in the State Government.

POLITICAL impasse

- Goa is facing political crisis following prolonged illness of Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar
- The State is being ruled by the BJP-led alliance with the saffron party having 14 MLAs
- BJP allies Goa Forward Party and MGP have three MLAs each
- Three Independents and an MLA from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also support the BJP
- The Congress has 16 MLAs in the State Assembly

We are waiting for a common solution, which the BJP will give us,” MGP chief Deepak Dhavalikar said.

The solution should be in sync with what the allies have been requesting, he said, adding that his party had not given any specific proposal to the BJP on a change of leadership.

“Yes, we have told them (the BJP) if they are considering it (change in leadership), then charge should be given to the senior-most Minister. We continue to stick to our demand,” Dhavalikar said.

Parrikar, 62, who is suffering from a pancreatic ailment, is admitted in AIIMS for treatment.

Bikers hack Rly guard's hands for not opening crossing gate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/SONEPAT

In a horrifying incident that has put a big question mark on the safety and security of railway gatemen, three men on a bike severed the hands of a gateman after he refused to open a level-crossing gate in north Delhi’s Narela area because a train was approaching, railway officials said on Monday.

Gatemen Kundan Pathak’s hands were reattached after a major surgery that went on for more than four hours in a hospital in Rohini, said Northern Railway spokesperson Nitin Chowdhury. The 28-year-old, who also received serious injuries to his legs and neck, was attacked around 1 am on Monday while posted at a level-crossing at Delhi-Haryana border. In the incident, the gateman’s friend who had come to meet him was also attacked by the assailants.

“The victim hails from Bishanpur in Banka district of Bihar and was manning gate number 19 at Safiabad crossing which is adjacent to Narela in the national Capital. Pathak’s friend Chandan Kumar Singh, who comes from the same village in Bihar, was with him when three men on a bike came and demanded that the level-crossing gate be opened.

“Due to security reasons, Pathak refused as the 1801 Muri Express train was approaching, following which the accused beat him and



28 year-old Railway gateman Kundan Pathak undergoing treatment at Saroj Hospital in Delhi. Kundan’s hands were reattached after a major surgery that went on for more than four hours Pioneer photo

chopped off his hands with a sharp weapon. Chandan was also injured in the attack,” said Tara Chand, Station House Officer (SHO), Government Railway Police (GRP), Sonapat (Haryana).

The SHO said the Muri Express stopped after getting a distress signal and rushed Pathak to a hospital in Sonapat where he received emergency first aid.

He was then taken to the Northern Railway Central Hospital in Delhi and finally

shifted to Saroj Hospital in Rohini, whereas Chandan has been admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, said the SHO.

Pathak’s one hand was almost severed and the other was detached from the forearm and severely mutilated, the official said.

“All expenses are being taken care of by the Railways,” said the spokesperson, adding that an FIR has been lodged against unknown persons and investigation is going on.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions: Modi’s pep talk to school kids

Khelokey to khiloge, PM tells children on 68th b’day in Varanasi

PTI ■ VARANASI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent his 68th birthday on Monday in his Lok Sabha constituency in Varanasi during which he gave a pep talk to schoolchildren telling them never to feel afraid to ask questions, saying it is a key aspect of learning.

Modi, who is on a 2-day visit to Varanasi, first interacted with students of a primary school at Narur on the outskirts of the temple town and later met students of the Kashi Vidyaapeeth and the children assisted by them at the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) campus.

“As students, it is vital to ask questions. Never feel afraid to ask questions. It is a key aspect of learning,” Modi said in his interaction at the Narur school on a variety of subjects, calling the children “future of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with a schoolchild from Kashi Vidyaapeeth as part of his 68th birthday celebrations in Varanasi on Monday PTI

India?”

A smile lit up the face of the schoolchildren when the PM said they must give importance to sports and must go out and play since it is essential.

“Students must give importance to sports. It is important to learn various skills, this will help you forever,” he said.

After Modi left the school, one of the students said, “Modi kaka told us ‘khelekey to khiloge’ (you will bloom only if you play).”

“I came to your school on the special day of Vishwakarma jayanti.

My greetings to everyone on this special day,” he told the students.

Earlier, the students welcomed him enthusiastically saying “Swagatam PM.”

The school is aided by a non-profit organisation, Room to Read.

Rahul takes a dig at CM: Cong doesn’t make false promises

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday compared the ideologies of the Congress and BJP and said, “Our ideology and BJP’s ideology are very different. They fight with hatred and anger, while we fight with love.”

He was addressing party workers in the evening at BHEL Dussehra Ground.

Dubbing Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as an ‘announcement-making machine’, he said, “He only announces schemes but delivers nothing, just like PM Modi. On the contrary, we don’t make false promises.”

Criticising the BJP government in MP, Gandhi said that in Madhya Pradesh, with Vyapam scam, BJP completely destroyed the education system. “When Congress comes to power, we will not let the culprits of Vyapam and E-tendering scam run away like Vijay Mallya. The Congress chief also slammed PM Narendra Modi over the issue of Vijay Mallya’s escape, Rafale deal and demonetisation.

He said, “PM Modi said he



Congress president Rahul Gandhi along with State party president Kamal Nath and Jyotiraditya Scindia releasing a DVD at a party workers’ interaction programme at BHEL Dussehra Ground in Bhopal on Monday Pioneer photo

doesn’t want to be Prime Minister, but ‘Chowkidar’ of this country.”

A few days ago, Mallya revealed that he met and informed FM Arun Jaitley before fleeing to London. Jaitley too has accepted this. Mallya fled away with Rs 9,000 cr. After he informed the FM, neither CBI nor ED was notified about this. PM Modi snatched the Rafale deal from HAL. Even though HAL has a rich experience in manufacturing aircraft, PM Modi gave the deal to Anil Ambani who never manufactured any aircraft and has a debt of Rs 45,000 cr.”

“The price of Rafale aircraft tripled even when the aircraft was the same. PM Modi could

not face me when I questioned him about this,” he added.

On the issue of note ban, Gandhi alleged PM Modi stole money from people’s pockets and filled the pockets of crony capitalists. “It is the country’s biggest scam,” he claimed.

Earlier, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath and Guana MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, inter alia, received Gandhi at Bhopal’s Raja Bhoj Airport. Former chief minister Digvijay Singh was not present in the bus, like other senior leaders. However, he later reached the venue of the party workers’ convention, but remained aloof from the crowd of leaders.

KMP e-way to open on Oct 2

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After missing several deadlines, the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway, also known as the Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE), which bypasses the National Capital on its west, will be inaugurated on October 2. The original deadline for this project, conceived by then Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2002, was July 2009.

The 136-km long expressway was caught under numerous controversies and litigation. The WPE project is the part of a ring road around Delhi to divert nearly two lakh commercial vehicles which pass the Capital every day. The WPE offers signal-free connectivity to traffic headed towards Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Punjab, and J&K.

Top sources said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the stretch on October 2. Sources said that the project works is expected to be handed over to the Ministry within 10 days.

“The issue of the WPE had come up during Pragati II meeting chaired by the Prime Minister on August 29 when the PMO expressed annoyance over delay... The PMO has asked the Cabinet Secretary to hold a high-level meeting with all stakeholders and ensure it is completed by September end,” sources said.

The final touches are being given to the 83-km stretch of the Kundli-Manesar section executed at a cost of ₹1,863 crore.

The 53-km Palwal-Manesar stretch of the expressway, completed at a cost of ₹457.81 crore, was opened to traffic in April 2016.

“With a large number of vehicles off the Delhi roads, it will make commuting comfortable. The traffic system will also function much smoothly, and it is expected to bring down the number of traffic offenders, accidents and fatalities. The WPE is designed to ensure that such vehicles take the expressway, reducing congestion and pollution on the city’s roads,” officials said.

CAPSULE

NO ODD-EVEN RELIEF FOR TWO-WHEELERS: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the operation of the National Green Tribunal’s 2017 order which had directed that odd-even vehicle rotation scheme be made applicable to two-wheelers also in Delhi.

SECURE EVMS USED IN DUSU POLLS: HC TO DU

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday directed Delhi University to keep securely the EVMs used in the students’ union election on a plea by three candidates of the Congress backed National Students Union of India (NSUI) challenging the polls.

BULLET-RIDDLED BODY OF LANCE NAIK FOUND

Guwahati: A bullet-riddled body of a Lance Naik of Assam Police, who was posted at the Chief Minister’s official residence here, was found in his barrack on Sunday, a senior police official said.

Democratic RSS engaged in rashtra nirman: Bhagwat

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Monday asserted that the Sangh is one of ‘the most democratic’ organisations where decisions are taken with the consensus of ‘swayamsevaks’.

Explaining that the RSS is singularly engaged in the construction of ‘vyakti nirman’ in each street, ‘mohalla’ and village to awaken a society that is devoted to ‘Rashtra nirman’, Bhagwat said the decline of Hindus was on account of decline in ‘our values’ for that “we should not be blaming Muslim invaders.”

Calling for shaping up individuals who are laden with good values and self-less character, he said the RSS aim is to unite Hindus.

“RSS ka kaam vyakti nirman hai aur RSS iski methodology hain”, Bhagwat said sum-

ming up the role of his organisation which has been subject of multiple scrutiny in its over 90 years existence.

He said the RSS is not concerned with as who would run the Government as this is to be decided by the people of the country who should be endowed with good character and ‘achcha acharan’ and emphasised that his organisation is working to raise a society where people work for every one’s progress and well-being.

“Har mohalla, Gao main aisi toli khari karna, achche swayamsevak khare karna, Sangh yahin hain, isse jyada kuch nahin hain”, RSS leader said.

Delivering his address in the first day of the three-day lecture series here at ‘Vigyan Bhawan’, the RSS head said there was a great misconception that the Sangh was a “dictatorial organisation” and

asserted that the outfit works with the consensus of all ‘swayamsevaks’ and has not place for a remote control. He said even the founder of the RSS Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar decided on running ‘shakhas’ three months after it came into existence in 1925 when other ‘swayamsevaks’ so decided.

Bhagwat said even his participation in ‘Shakha’ is monitored by the ‘Shakha’ head of which he happens to be a member in Nagpur.

The RSS chief said the RSS is self-reliant and does not take a ‘single paise’ from outside as it runs with voluntary contribution of RSS works described as ‘gurudakshina’.

Clearing air about women not being visible in the RSS, he said RSS was not an organisation of ‘sanyasin’ and pointed out to the existence of ‘Rashtriya Sevika Samiti’, the women wing of the Sangh.

He said the RSS does not run after the publicity. “We remained faceless for so long so that it does not lead to arrogance” among those becoming known and famous. He said the publicity department was set up only in 1980. “Meri prasidhi nahin, Karya ki Prasidhi” (not my fame but that of my work), is the aim of a ‘swayamsevak’ in Sangh, Bhagwat said.

The RSS chief prefaced the RSS exposition by first giving a detail account of Hedgewar’s work in the freedom struggle and his thought saying to understand RSS start with Hedgewar.” Bhagwat quoted RSS founder telling first swayamsevaks that they should be devoting themselves like a seed does by surrendering itself to the soil.

Bhagwat would be present on Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesday he would give his understanding of Hindu and Hindutva and on the last day reply to the written questions.



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat with other leaders at the event titled “Future of Bharat: An RSS perspective” in New Delhi on Monday PTI

RaGa sips tea at roadside eatery while campaigning

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday relished a samosa and sipped tea at a roadside eatery while campaigning in the old city area in Bhopal for the upcoming Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections.

Rahul Gandhi was taking part in a roadshow when he halted at Raju tea stall where he also took selfies with youngsters. Accompanying him were Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath, Congress lawmaker Jyotiraditya Scindia and other party leaders. During his daylong visit to the state capital, Rahul Gandhi sought blessings from Hindu priests and young girls before beginning his 18 km long road show from Lalghati Square, close to the

The cavalcade passed through the old city areas, including Royal Market and Peer Gate, before concluding the show at BHEL Dussehra ground

Raja Bhoj Airport in Bhopal. Thousands of party workers and sup-



Congress president Rahul Gandhi takes refreshment at a tea stall along with other leaders during a roadshow in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

porters accompanied him holding the party's flags as he started the Sankalp Yatra. The cavalcade passed through the old city areas, including Royal Market and Peer Gate, before concluding the show at BHEL Dussehra ground.

In the posters across Bhopal, Rahul was described as a devotee of Lord Shiva in the posters.

In some posters, he was seen offering water to Shivalinga. This was for the first

Cong prez breaks law, uses tinted glass bus

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The bus used in the road show of Congress president Rahul Gandhi had tinted black glasses that are against the traffic rules.

However, instead of taking action against the vehicle, Traffic police officer told that he did not see the vehicle otherwise a penalty should have been levied.

DSP Traffic Parag Khare said that the use of tinted black glass is violation of Motor Vehicle Act and if the bus used in the procession would have been spotted definitely action would have been taken against the bus driver.

time in Madhya Pradesh that Rahul Gandhi was seen in new avatar of Lord Shiva's bhakt, probably to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, whose name has 'Shiva'. This was also surprising for the Congressmen that at Lalghati square, Rahul Gandhi was traditionally welcomed by a small girl and some articles were gifted to him.

23-year-old youth attacked, 3 of 5 miscreants arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 23-year-old youth was attacked by five miscreants with sharp-edged weapons near Arif Nagar under Gautam Nagar police station area on Sunday; condition of the victim is reportedly critical. Three accused have been nabbed.

According to the police, the victim Shahrukh was on his way to home he was abused by the five miscreants and later attacked by sharp edged weapons and iron rods. The victim was rushed to a nearby hospital where his condition is reportedly stable.

In his complaint the victim stated that he was attacked by Gufran, Adil, Imam, Achu and Saeed Khan with sharp edged weapon.

Investigating Officer SI SN Tiwari said that the incident occurred at around 12.30 in the night when Shahrukh was on his way back home and when he reached near the house of the accused they started an altercation and the victim was attacked. The victim was rushed to Hamidia hospital in

The victim was rushed to a nearby hospital where his condition is reportedly stable

an unconscious state claimed the doctors but his condition is reportedly critical.

The accused and victim had a fight around a month ago and complaint was lodged by them with the police and to settle score Shahrukh was attacked with sharp edged weapons, iron rods and wooden sticks.

The victim sustained multiple injuries. All his fingers of hands have been damaged and temple and face have sustained serious injuries, he added.

The nabbed accused persons were identified as Adil, Gufran and Saeed while two remained absconding.

The police have registered a case under sections 294, 323 and 307 of the IPC and have started searching for the miscreant.

We want people to look up to us with pride, not sympathy, says CABI secy

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

People look up to us in sympathy, but we want them to look up to us with pride, says secretary of Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) and cricket player Sonu Golkar.

For the first time, the city cricket lovers will witness an International tournament for the blind.

The international tournament will be played in Bhopal on October 17 that will be a great experience for the game lovers.

The tournament is organised by Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI). The back-to-back series of cricket will be held in different cities of the country.

Teams from Sri Lanka and England are coming down to participate in the matches.

In the tournament, two players from Madhya Pradesh will be the part of team India.

Sonu Golkar from Bhopal and Om Prakash Pal from Indore will be the part of team India.

It is to be noted that the

The tournament is organised by Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI)

tournament on Bhopal will be played at BHEL Sports Complex on October 17.

While informing about the tournament and matches to be played in Bhopal, Vice President of CABI Neerav Pradhan told the media persons on Monday that the triangular and bilateral matches will be played under the tournament.

"In Bhopal a T-20 match between India and Sri Lanka will be played."

"After triangular cricket series, India will play bilateral series with Sri Lanka where 5 T-20 and 3 IDI matches will be played in different cities of the country," he added.

Further, matches will be played in Karnataka.

Pradhan further said, "This initiative will give a new identity to Bhopal and will also give an inspiring opportunity to our people."

Amrita team trains 70 policemen on IAM technique

Bhopal: More than 70 policemen from the State Police Control Room, Dial 100 Group, Bhopal, underwent a session on Integrated Meditation Technique (IAM Technique) delivered by instructors from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, a top-ranking private university run by the Mata Amritanandamayi Math of Kerala to achieve inner peace and heighten their mental faculties.

The trainers also held an IAM Technique session for RBI employees and their families in the city. The workshop on IAM was led by a team of certified IAM instructors from Amrita. The simple yet effective

The trainers also held an IAM Technique session for RBI employees and their families in the city

meditation style, called Integrated Meditation Technique (IAM Technique), was created by the world-renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (affectionately called Amma).

IAM Technique instructor said, "IAM is a combination of relaxing yoga stretches, breathing and concentration exercises and takes only 20 minutes a day. It is a powerful practice that helps people find fulfilment in life. Its goal is the integration of body, breath and mind. It is a suitable practice for people of all faiths; it is not bound to any religious or spiritual belief system. As per Indian tradition, spiritual knowledge is given free of charge. This is also the case with the IAM Technique courses." SR

Two-day dance workshop Ganesh Stuti begins at Jawahar Bal Bhavan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As the entire city is gripped in the festivities of Ganesh Chaturthi, the kids explored the beauty of classical dance forms this festival. A two-day dance workshop Ganesh Stuti is being organised at Jawahar Bal Bhavan.

The two-day dance fest began here from Monday wherein children learned to dance during Ganesh Chaturthi. As many as 30 children are a part of this workshop and are learning about classical mudras.

On the first day of the workshop the students learned the Ganesh Stuti on the lyrics 'Namoh Namah Namoh Namah'. The students were enthusiastic

On the first day of the workshop the students learned the Ganesh Stuti on the lyrics 'Namoh Namah Namoh Namah'. The students were enthusiastic and full of energy to learn the classical forms

and full of energy to learn the classical forms.

While talking to The Pioneer, in-charge and dance instructor of the workshop Sanghmitra Bankar said, "This workshop classical dance is a bit different from other dance workshops. Here, the students are not only taught about the basics of the classical dance, but they will learn dance in mixed mudras which is based on

Shahstriya Shaili." Umashankar Nagaich, the director, Jawahar Bal Bhavan told that Ganesh festival is being celebrated throughout the country. People install Lord Ganesha in their homes. During this time, people worship Lord Ganesha and sing songs of praise to his glory.

In this workshop organized by Jawahar Bal Bhavan, children are being taught dance skills on those same Ganesh Stuti. On Tuesday, the children will learn a dance on Ganapati Jagavandan Ganesh Stuti.

The students enjoyed the first day of the workshop to the fullest and discovered the magnificence and innocence of classical mudras in the workshop.



A team of Haryana State Assembly visited the Madhya Pradesh Assembly on Monday

Pioneer photo

Min: Laxmi Mandi school building will have all facilities

Bhopal: Minister of State for Cooperative, Bhopal Gas Tragedy, Relief and Rehabilitation (Independent Charge) Vishwas Sarang said that the new building of Laxmi Mandi school will have all facilities like cultural hall, smart class and indoor games hall.

The school building is being constructed with a cost of ₹1.75 crore on approximately 2 acre area.

Sarang laid foundation stone of the new school building on Monday.

Sarang further mentioned that the Laxmi Mandi Higher Secondary School is an old school of Ashoka Garden. Over one thousand children are pur-

The school building is being constructed with a cost of ₹1.75 crore on approximately 2 acre area

suising studies in class 1 to 12 in this school.

The new school building will facilitate education to about 2,500 children.

Besides, the new building will be equipped with smart class, science lab, indoor games hall and cultural hall etc. Sarang told operators of the private schools, principals and faculty of the government school to prepare a combined plan to organize academic activities in the interest of students.

Local Corporator Kalpana Pappu Rai, Suryakant Gupta, Ashok Vani, DK Saxena, Pradeep Shekhawat, Sandeep Chouksey, BS Rajput, District Education Officer Dharmendra Sharma, teachers and students were present on the occasion. SR

Hindi play 'Kaal Kothri' staged at Shaheed Bhavan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The three-day Srijan Utsav 2018 theatre festival concluded with the play highlighting the inner conflict and struggle of theatre artist.

Hindi play *Kaal Kothri* was staged at Shaheed Bhavan auditorium here on Monday that marked the closure of theatre festival.

This story is about Rajat who is following his passion and is a great stage actor but when money becomes the sole measurement of success, the first thing which gets affected is art.

Scripted by Swadesh Deepak, the play was directed by Sarfaraz Hassan.

It was brilliantly performed by the artists of Young's Theatre, Bhopal.

The play showcases the personal life of theatre actors and his relation to his wife, parents



This story is about Rajat who is following his passion and is a great stage actor but when money becomes the sole measurement of success, the first thing which gets affected is art

and friends. It also talks about many more issues especially the corruption in culture.

He has hardly any money to feed his family and faces a very tough time with his son and wife.

His retired father and unmarried sister has to work in order to support the family. Eventually, Rajat is forced to find a job but does not get succeeded.

How Rajat then overcomes his fears and

faces the world forms rest of the story. The play beautifully depicts the life of a theatre artist whose future is as dark as a 'Kaal Kothari' where even the sun rays cannot keep in.

The play was wondrously performed. The intelligent light design and backdrop of the play added zest in the performance. Besides, the directorial skills of Sarafaraz were commendable. The fusion of opera and Persian theatre style were also used in the presentation of the play.



Children at a Dandiya training workshop ahead of Navratri festival at Jawahar Bal Bhavan in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Anuradha Singh to give solo performance at Pune festival

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

V Anuradha Singh, a noted Kathak exponent of the city, will give a solo performance at Pune festival. She will be performing on Tuesday at Pune.

To be held at Baal Gandharv Rang Mandir Auditorium Pune, this grand festival organised by Pune Festival committee and Department of Tourism, Maharashtra Government.

Later on Thursday, she will be performing on the Foundation Day celebration of Man Singh Tomar Music and Arts University in Gwalior organised by Department of Culture Madhya Pradesh Government.

Hailing from Bhopal, Anuradha is noted Kathak dancer for her innovation and improvisation in

traditional Kathak technique.

Rhythmic understanding, ability to extemporize with speedy rhythms and preserving pure Kathak classical style are some of her qualities. Experimenting with classical Sufi Kathak, she has evolved a refined, sophisticated style in pure classical form, based on fast speeds, swift turns, mind thrilling footwork, delicacy of movements and impressive expressions.

Anuradha is one of the well known dancers of solo classical Kathak dance.

With enchanting stage presence she has earned acclamation for intense and sensitive dance presentations.

Anuradha Singh is one Kathak exponent who does not need any introduction as she has created a niche for herself in classical dancing style.



Vehicular traffic was badly disrupted after the programme of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in Bhopal on Monday evening. Pioneer photo

Public service activities to be held: Chouhan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that various public service activities will be organised in the entire State from September 17 to 25.

Chouhan on Monday participated in the blood donation camp organised at Government Motilal Nehru College and tree plantation programme at Traffic Park. He inaugurated the blood donation camp at the college and planted saplings at the Traffic Park.

MP Alok Sanjar, Mayor Alok Sharma, Chairman Municipal Corporation Surjeet Singh Chouhan and MLA Surendra Nath Singh were present on the occasion.

Chouhan said that Raktadaan is Jivandaan (blood donation is donation of life). He greeted the blood donors for giving life to others. Chouhan wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his birthday



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan greets BJP workers at a blood donation camp organised to celebrate birth anniversary of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

on behalf of the 7.5 crore people of the state. He told that public service activities will be undertaken constantly with the cooperation of the society in the entire state from Modi's birthday

to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya's birth anniversary.

He said that Prime Minister Modi is engaged in building a new India and the people of Madhya Pradesh are standing with him. Students in a large number took part in the blood donation camp. The Chief Minister posed for photographs with the students. Chouhan said that Vriksh hai to manav jivan hai (If trees exist, human life will exist). He told that the birthday of popular Prime Minister Modi is being celebrated as Seva Divas in the state. Chouhan said that service is the biggest gift. Citizens are undertaking service activities in the entire state. He said that the country's glory has increased under the Prime Minister's leadership. The country is scaling new heights in every field. Our economy is also moving ahead at a fast pace in the world. The Chief Minister planted a mango sapling at Traffic Park.

Gwalior hospitals not yet ready to handle rising dengue cases

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Post rains, the occurrences of dengue, chikungunya and malaria have increased significantly but the hospitals, both government and private, in the city seem to lack adequate beds, drugs and other health-care logistics to handle the situation.

Even though huge amounts are spent by the government on tertiary and primary health care, adequate beds seem to be overlooked.

With increasing number of patients pouring in from all over the Gwalior-Chambal Division and even from far off places like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, the underprepared city hospitals pose a serious concern for all.

Most of the hospitals including the prestigious JAH have an acute shortage of phar-

macists, technicians, nurses and other support staff and this too is a cause of great concern.

It is no exaggeration to state that optimal conditions for the spread of the vector borne viral diseases, like Dengue, Chikungunya and Malaria in the city. Garbage and lack of sanitation extends all over the city and with the civic body's losing battle with water filled sewers, old tyres, plastic containers and refuse that are excellent hatching grounds for dengue-carrying mosquito larvae continues, the diseases are fast turning into epidemics of serious proportion.

As many as 471 cases of dengue were reported in the city last year, but the sad and shocking thing is neither the Municipal Corporation nor the Health Department learnt any lessons from that.

The lack of preparation

and alertness on the part of authorities is evident from the number of patients, in critical conditions lying on the floors, galleries and around the lifts in JAH, Kamla Raja Hospital and the District Hospital. In some cases three to four patients are seen sharing one bed.

The lack of drugs is another cause of great worry. Currently a dengue patient has to shell out more than Rs 10000.00 for the treatment and tests.

In many cases, the patients are forced to buy the medicines from outside and this increases the financial burden, especially for those who come from poor backgrounds. Families who are already experiencing the trauma of seeing one of their loved ones sick due to dengue are also forced to content with heavy financial burden.

Governor awards degrees at Ambedkar varsity

Mhow: Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on Monday visited Ambedkar University Mhow and awarded the degrees of MPhil to the passing out students.

Minister Lal Singh Arya and Member of Parliament Savitri Thakur were also present during the award distribution ceremony. After arriving at the Ambedkar university, the Governor paid tribute and offered flowers to the statue of Dr Ambedkar and offered flowers and lit the holy lamp in front of the statue of Gautam Buddha. She also participated and walked in the rally conducted in the campus of the university.

While addressing the students the Governor told the students to take care of the old people especially the old parents and not to leave them at

old age home. She also told that all the universities of Madhya Pradesh will look after the TB patients in their local area and to support and help the TB patients. The Governor inaugurated the new computer unit in the university and also appreciated the collection of more than 25000 books in the University of the Library but she told that it is important that how many books are read by the students. She told that an expert committee is formed at state headquarter which will visit all the universities of the state and monitor the working of the universities and very soon the expert committee will visit the Ambedkar university for inspection.

Total 57 students were awarded M Phil degrees of the academic session of year 2014-2015 and year 2015-2016. PNS

Incubation Centre for innovation inaugurated

PNS ■ INDORE

Governor Anandiben Patel inaugurated the Incubation Centre established at the Prestige Institute of Management under the Atal Innovation Mission of NITI Aayog in Indore on Monday. The Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Satyapal Singh presided over the programme. Mayor Malini Laxman Singh Gour, Sunil Ambedkar, Mehar Master Mos and Director of the Prestige Group NN Jain grace the programme.

Patel said that innovation is a key for economy's growth. Innovations are carried out at every level of the society. The Atal Innovation Mission has been started by the Government of India. Innovation means a small or

big change in production, process and services, under which a new and useful method is adopted. She further mentioned that a good research builds a nation. Today's era is an era of innovations and start ups. A ground has been created by the big start ups for new era. The Governor described the start up by giving an example in the programme.

Union Minister of State Satyapal Singh said that Indore and its surrounding areas will be benefited in the agriculture sector to a greater extent by the Atal Innovation Centre. Students of the Institute, who have topped in various categories, were awarded in the programme. At the beginning of the programme, guests also saw the Center established under the Atal Innovation Centre.

Complaint against threat to Raisen school staff; no action yet

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Despite having lodged a complaint with the police against former Janpad chairperson's husband for threatening school staff and disrupting normal functioning of Government Primary School Kumhariya in Raisen district, no action has been taken till date.

The School head master and villagers have lodged a complaint with the police, Block Education officer and other authorities.

Villagers are angry over the threatening faculties and vandalizing Government Primary School Kumhariya in the month of August.

The victim teacher Santosh Malviya is posted as teacher while the complainant Tarun Kumar Jain is head master at Government Primary School Kumhariya.

A complaint has been lodged with Nooranj police and administration by Jain and villagers. With 19 students from class I to V at Government Primary School Kumhariya arrangements of Mid Day meal was badly managed for past four years when Surajmal's wife was Janpad chairperson and after Jain joined the school he found that the Mid Day Meal was of sub-standard quality and opposed; thereafter the arrangement was changed and

The victim teacher Santosh Malviya is posted as teacher while the complainant Tarun Kumar Jain is head master at Government Primary School Kumhariya

Panchayat started to arrange for Mid Day Meal. Last month on August 15 the husband of former Janpad chairperson's husband Surajmal Gaur threatened and torn off the schools register when he reached the school along with a dozen of his supporters and man-handled teacher Santosh Malviya who was present at the time of the incident.

He asked for complaint made by CM helpline and asked Malviya to provide the details which he failed to provide as he was not aware of the complaint lodged with the CM helpline.

The villagers and school decided to lodge complaint and informed principal of the school, BO and police station regarding the complaint but till date nothing has been done and soon BO and police would be contacted for collecting information of the complaint.

INBRIEF



VISHWAKARMA JAYANTI CELEBRATED
Bhopal: Vishwakarma Jayanti was celebrated at Helping Hands Centre run by BHEL Ladies Club with great zeal and fervor. On this occasion Durgesh Kumar Thakur, Executive Director BHEL, Bhopal; Pratibha Thakur, general managers, Vice-President of other centres, members of the club and employees of the centres run by the club. Thakur after offering prayers greeted the gathering on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti.

REGALIA: FANCY DRESS COMPETITION ORGANISED
Bhopal: The talented toddlers of Sagar Public School Gandhi Nagar showcased mesmerizing performances in 'Regalia' -The Fancy Dress Competition organized on 14-15 September, 2018. The toddlers were dressed up on the theme - Circus, Nature arounds and Fantasy World. It was a treat to the eyes to watch the kids performing in their depicted characters which created a timeless era. The presentation and speaking skills of the toddlers was confident and they connected everyone present in the audience. Various performances were showcased by the children making parents revive their childhood memories.

RAO APPOINTED VC OF BARKATULLAH UNIVERSITY
Bhopal: Professor RJ Rao has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Barkatullah University. Chancellor and Governor Anandiben Patel has appointed Professor RJ Rao, Rector of Jiwaji University, Gwalior as Vice-Chancellor of Barkatullah University. He has been appointed as Vice-Chancellor for four years from the date of taking charge. Before RJ Rao, Professor Pramod Verma was the Vice Chancellor of the varsity. But, after eight months of his tenure, Verma resigned from the post.

OPEN VARSITY CHARGE TO DD AGARWAL
Bhopal: Governor and Chancellor Anandiben Patel has nominated Secretary to the Governor DD Agarwal with the additional charge of Vice-Chancellor of Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University until further orders or till the appointment of Vice-Chancellor of the University. It may be noted that the Vice-Chancellor of Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University Professor Ravindra R Kanhera's appointment was for maximum six months that is till September 17, 2018.

STATE-OF-THE-ART MEDICAL COLLEGE DEDICATED
Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will dedicate the state-of-the-art Medical College at Vidisha district headquarters on September 18. A newly-constructed 750-bedded hospital is attached to the Medical College. There are special intensive care units well-equipped with most modern amenities for the treatment of serious patients. Ten doctors will render round the clock services in these units. Permission has been granted to begin a 150 admission capacity Medical College for the Vidisha Medical College by the Medical Council of India.

CM TO DISTRIBUTE EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Bhopal: Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will distribute e-governance excellence awards at the Golden Jubilee auditorium, Noronha Academy of Administration at 5 pm on Tuesday. Science and Technology Minister Umashankar Gupta will preside over the programme. Chief Secretary Basant Pratap Singh will be the special guest. E-governance Excellence Awards will be given for the year 2015-17. This year 24 awards will be given in 10 categories.

BHEL celebrates Vishwakarma Jayanti

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

BHEL, Bhopal on Monday celebrated the Vishwakarma Jayanti festival with traditional zeal and fervor. At the same time with the offering of puja, various tableaux were set-up at different blocks of the unit on the theme 'Digitalisation, Globalization and Modernization; accelerates BHEL to become nation's pride, with vision as its sole motto'.

On this occasion large number of the employees along with their family members also participated in the puja rituals.

DK Thakur Executive Director BHEL Bhopal, HK Nigam General Manager and President (BHECNIS), Kuldeep Mathur General Manager and Vice-President (BHECNIS), Shri Raghvendra Shukla Additional General Manager (Publicity & Public Relations Department), all general managers along with the members of the jury visited different tableaux installed at various blocks.

Thakur extending best wishes to the employees as well as their family members on Vishwakarma Jayanti, urged the employees to work with full commitment and dedication to clock the target turnover for the current fiscal.

The Jury member of the tableau competition for this year comprised of Vipin Minocha General Manager (MM & CDC), RK Arya General Manager (CMG, PMG & CMS), Vinay Nigam General Manager (WE & MOD) and Neelam Bhogal General Manager (SCR-Engg) whereas the members for the 5S competition were AK Kiyawat General Manager (HSE), MK Shrivastava General Manager (WEX) and P Kesharwani AGM (CPX).

The programme was co-ordinated by Ravindra Aind Secretary (BHECNIS), Clara Topo Cultural Secretary (BHECNIS) and DK Nidkhere.

In the tableau competition from among the Product category SCR won the First prize, STM the Second prize, TCB the Third and HCM won the special prize while from Services group CIM won the First prize, PRM the Second, HRD-Third, FHX-First Special prize, WEX-Second Special prize and TEM won the consolation prize.

Youth nabbed for assaulting minor

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Talैया police have nabbed a 24-year-old youth for sodomising an 11-year-old boy at Yadgar-e-Shahjehani park on Sunday.

Police said the victim was sodomised when he had gone to Shahjehani park in the afternoon and was lured by the accused who took him behind the bushes and sodomised him.

After the family members came to know about the inci-

dent, victim's father and victim lodged a complaint with the Talैया police and in his complaint victim stated that while on his way to home near Shahjehani park the victim was lured of by accused and took him and sodomised him. After the atrocity accused threatened him of life and warned him not to report the incident to parents or any other person.

Police said the accused has been nabbed and has provided his name as Azhar but

his identity is yet to be established. The victim is terrified with the incident and is not in a position to provide the details properly and investigation would be done based on his details.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under Sections 377 and 506 of the IPC and sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children against Sexual Offence Act 2012 and have started further investigation.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi at a roadshow (left); and, Rahul along with State Congress president Kamal Nath and party leader Jyotiraditya Scindia at an interaction programme with party workers (right), at BHEL Dussehra Ground in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

16L forms received for adding new names in electoral list

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

For adding new names in the electoral list, 16 lakh forms have been received and after verification of documents these new names would be added.

However, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Madhya Pradesh VL Kanta Rao said that the process would take time.

While talking to media persons, Rao said that Jabalpur District Collector Chhavi Bhardwaj had complained with the CEO regarding an officer of excise department who failed to discharge his duties with diligence during seizure of liquor under the directives of election commission and matter is under consideration.

Providing details of warrant executed, Rao said that 95000 warrants have been executed and 70000 would be executed soon

Providing details of warrant executed, Rao said that 95000 warrants have been executed and 70000 would be executed soon.

To a query, he said that if a candidate is promoted and publicity is done to garner vote in his favor from a platform organised by any political party, the expense would be added to the candidate's expenditure for the election.

There is no provision of any penalty if a meeting relat-

ed to political party is held at government house allotted to public representative at any time, he informed.

People involved in defacement of property would be penalized and continuous action has been taken under the act and would continue to take actions during the course of whole election process in the state.

The three departments Revenue, GAD and Home have been requested to coordinate and inform in cases of transfers of employees and officials.

Use of social media for publicity would be under scanner and expenses incurred will be added to the candidate's expenditure for contesting elections.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I hav Gawali Sahebrao son of Bhimaji age 45 years serving in army presently residing at MCTE Mhow district Indore MP declare that my son name Tejas is incorrect. The correct name of my son is **TEJAS SAHEBRAO GAWALI**. From now my son will be known as **TEJAS SAHEBRAO GAWALI** for all future purposes.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I Pydithalli Nangireddi son of Satyam age 29 years serving in army presently residing at MCTE Mhow district Indore MP declare that my wife name Santhoshi is incorrect. The correct name of my wife is **NANGIREDDY SANTHOSHI**. From now my wife will be known as **NANGIREDDY SANTHOSHI** for all future purposes.



Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
National Institutional Ranking Framework
INDIA RANKINGS 2019

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in the higher educational institutions. NIRF now announces India Ranking 2019, the Fourth edition of this annual exercise.

All the institutions which have participated in the previous India Rankings exercise have been preregistered.

A mail in this regard has already been sent to the Heads of the respective institutions to confirm institution details for India Rankings 2019.

In case, your institution is not pre-registered in the above manner, and wishes to participate in India Ranking 2019, you are requested to visit our website i.e. www.nirfindia.org and register your institution by clicking the registration button. In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation.

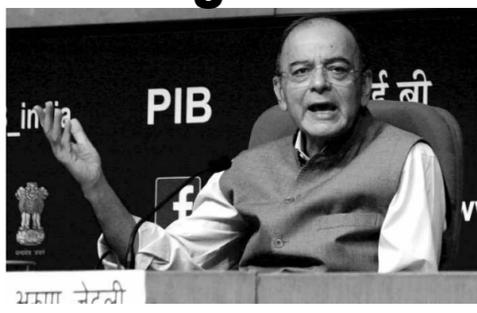
The registration window will be open from 19th September, 2018 to 30th September, 2018.

davp 21315/11/0004/1819 **Member Secretary**

BoB, Dena, Vijaya to merge as India's 3rd largest bank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday unveiled another important step to address the problems being faced by the public sector banks in view of shrinking credit growth and ballooning NPAs. As part of the measures, the Centre announced that State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be merged to create the country's third largest lender.



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Monday
Alwin Singh | Pioneer

Announcing the decision, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the merger will make the banks stronger and sustainable as well as increase their lending ability.

He said bank lending was becoming weak, hurting corporate sector investments, and many banks were in a fragile condition due to excessive lending and soaring NPAs.

More such merger proposals are understood to be in the offing.

The Modi Government had constituted a ministerial committee headed by Jaitley in October to oversee merger prospects of State-owned PSU banks. The other committee also included Union Railways and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

State Bank of India last year merged with itself five of its

subsidiary banks and taking over Bharatiya Mahila Bank, a niche State-run lender for women. As was in case of the SBI, no employee of the three banks would have service conditions that are adverse to their present one.

The Government owns majority stakes in 21 lenders, which account for more than two-thirds of banking assets in the Asia's third biggest economy. But these PSU banks also account for the lion's share of NPAs and need crores of rupees in new capital in the next two years to meet global Basel III capital norms.

Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said bank boards of the three banks

will examine the amalgamation proposal. "The merger will help improve operational efficiency and customer services."

The amalgamated bank would be the third largest bank in India and will be strong competitive lender with economies of scale, he said adding the three would have synergies for network, low-cost deposits and subsidiaries. While the employees' interest will be protected, brand equity will be preserved, he said. Capital support to the merged entity of Dena Bank, Vijaya Bank and BoB would be ensured, he said.

The three banks will continue to work independently post merger.

Blast in house: 1 killed, 1 hurt in Rourkela

50 nearby houses damaged

PNS ■ ROURKELA



At least a woman was killed and another critically injured when some explosive materials went off in a house at Madhusudanpalli area of Rourkela city on Monday. About 50 houses were damaged due to the blast in the vicinity. The impact of the blast was so heavy that the roof of the first floor of the house was completely blown away and

about 15 more houses of the adjacent area were destroyed.

Sources said the blast took place at the house of one Jawaharlal Srivastab, a business man of the city at Telegupada

except the double storied house of Jawaharlal.

The youngest daughter in-law of Jawaharlal, identified as Rekha Srivastab (25), died after being buried under the debris of the roof of the house, whereas the elder daughter in-law, identified as Doly (30), was recovered in critical condition and was rushed to IGH, Rourkela. Gayatri, wife of Jawaharlal, however, escaped with just minor injuries.

Injured Doly was later shifted to VIMSAR, Burla, since her condition had become critical.

A team of police and fire officials and senior police officials like DIG (WR) Kavita Jalan and Rourkela SP Uma Shankar Dash rushed to the spot and supervised the inspection. The police after preliminary inquiry suspect some explosive materials to be present in the house as the reason for the blast. "We suspect that some explosive materials present in the house went off in this case," said SP Rourkela, Dash.

"However, we are investigating into the matter and the exact reason of the blast can be confirmed only after the investigation is over," Dash added.

Meanwhile, arrangements were made by the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) for providing food to the victim family members for a couple of days.

Puri tea seller celebrates Modi b'day

SAROJ KUMAR MISHRA ■ PURI

A tea seller in Puri observed the 68th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by cutting a cake and distributing 3,000 cups of tea to people for free.



It is his fourth year in row the tea-seller celebrated Modi's birthday with much gaiety. The stall-owner is a fan of Modi, who runs his shop near roadside in front of Puri Urban Cooperative Bank in the city.

"Like Modi, I am also a small tea-seller. Since 2015 on this very day, I have been distributing tea to passersby for free. It is my fourth year," said Akhaya Jayasingh, the tea seller.

He told, since Modi has become the PM, so he was inspired to celebrate the birthday in distributing tea to people.

"I like Modi for his good works for the poor of the country," said Akhaya, adding that he has seen many PMs in his life but for him, Modi is completely exceptional.

At 10 am, his 6-year-old daughter Arya Jayasingh inaugurated the "Tea for Free" by cutting 2.5 pound of cake sur-

rounded by the invitees and fans of Modi.

Then tea distribution began for which he engaged half a dozen of staff members. This year he raised the cup numbers to 3,000 which was 2,000 in 2017. In 2015, he had started with 1,800 cups.

He used earthen cups which he brought from Kolkata since Modi is spreading messages of Swachh Bharat and stressing on eco-friendliness.

Asked about the expenditure in stall decoration, cake and tea, he said to have pegged a budget of ₹15,000 this year which was less last year.

Enthusied with works, in 2016, the State Bank of India (SBI) had sanctioned ₹40,000 Mudra loan by specially felicitating Jayasingh.

Govt shifts 4 IAS and 5 IFS officers in pre-poll reshuffle

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Government in yet another key reshuffle made, on Monday, shifted 4 IAS and 5 IFS officers as part of a pre-poll exercise.

Accordingly, Vivek Acharya, IFS was appointed as Director, Employment and Training, S Prakash, IAS, Director, Public Instruction and holding additional charge as Mission Director, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been posted as Managing Director, National Secondary Education Mission, Vineet Nandanvar, IAS, CEO, Zila Panchayat, Gariaband had been posted as Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Ms Nupur Rashi Panna, IAS, Section Officer (Revenue), Saraipali, Mahasamund district has been posted as CEO, Zila Panchayat, Kondagaon.

Similarly, R K Khunte, Deputy Commissioner, Thakur Pyarelal Singh

Panchayat and Rural Development Training Institute, Nimora has been posted as CEO, Zila Panchayat, Gariaband, Alok Awasthi, IAS, MD, Chhattisgarh State Khadi & Village Industries Board had been given additional charge as Director, Chhattisgarh Administration Academy, P C Mishra, IFS, Commissioner, MGNREGS, Raipur had been also been made Principal Secretary, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, the services of Anup Kumar Srivastava, IFS, Secretary, Agriculture Department and Commissioner (Sugarcane) and had been returned to Forest Department, Jaisingh Mashkey, IFS had been made Secretary, Forest Department, Amarnath Prasad, IFS had been made Special Secretary, Forest Department, V K Chablani, Indian telecom Service, had been made Special Secretary,

Woman and Child Development Department, Alarmelmangai D. Special Secretary, Skill Development and Director, Mines and Minerals had been only relieved from the charge of Special Secretary, (Independent Charge), Science and Technology Department,

Sanjay Shukla, IFS, Secretary, Housing and Environment Department had been given additional charge as OSD, Housing and Environment Department, Special OSD, Electronics and Information Technology Department and Commissioner and Director, City and Village Investment Department, the services of Sunil Mishra, IFS, MD, CSIDC had been offered as Member Secretary, CECB and Arun Prasad P. Additional Secretary, CECB had been made MD, CSIDC

CM on 3-day tour of Bilaspur, Surguja division from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Raman Singh will be leaving for three-day tour of Bilaspur and Surguja division on Monday (September 18) under the ongoing State-wide 'Atal Vikas Yatra', officials informed.

The Chief Minister will be visiting Bilaspur, Raigarh and Koriya districts on September 18, Kobra, Balrampur-Ramanujanj and Surajpur districts on September 19, and Surguja, Jashpur and Mungeli districts on September 20.

As per the final tour schedule, Singh will leave from Raipur on September 18 via helicopter at 10.50 am and reach tehsil headquarters Kota of Bilaspur district at 11.30 am, and at 1.15 pm, the Chief Minister will be addressing public meetings at Dharamjaigarh tehsil headquarters of Raigarh district.

At 3.15 pm, Singh will leave from Dharamjaigarh in helicopter and reach village

Ranai of Koriya (Baikunthpur) district at 4pm.

After welcome programme in Ranai, he will attend the programme in village Patna at 4.40 pm, then attend the programme in village Mahora at 5.05 pm and another programme to be held in Baikunthpur at 5.35pm.

In the evening at 6.15pm, Singh will come to Charcha of Koriya district and after addressing general assembly there, he will have night stay there.

On September 19, the Chief Minister will address press conference in Charcha at 10 am, and leave via helicopter at 10.50 and reach village Madanpur (Rampur) of Korba district at 11.30 am, and after attending the public meeting there, he will reach Ramanujanj of Balrampur district at 1.15pm via helicopter.

After attending public meeting there, Singh will reach Pratappur of Surajpur district at 3.30 pm and



address public meeting there.

He will visit Silphili at 4.40 pm, Telaichar at 5.10 pm, Vishrampur at 5.40pm, village Parri at 6.10 pm.

Singh will meet students of Livelihood College at Parri.

The Chief Minister will reach district headquarters Surajpur at 6.50pm, and inaugurate newly-built Collectorate building. Thereafter, Singh will have night stay there.

On September 20, the Chief Minister will address press conference in Surajpur

at 10.30 am, and after that he will reach tehsil headquarters Sitapur of Surguja district via helicopter at 11.30 am, Pathalgaon tehsil headquarters of Jashpur district at 1pm, and tehsil headquarters Lormi of Mungeli district at 3.40pm.

After addressing general assemblies at aforementioned places, Dr Singh will return from Lormi to Raipur at 5.15pm.

The Chief Minister will be addressing public meeting to be held in Kota block headquarters of Bilaspur district during state-wide Atal Vikas Yatra on September 18, tomorrow.

On the occasion, Singh will be inaugurating, laying foundation and doing bhumi puja of 44 development works worth nearly Rs 130.89 crore for development of the region.

In the public meeting, the Chief Minister will also distribute goods and financial aid to 587 beneficiaries under various beneficiary-oriented

schemes of the government.

Singh will be inaugurating 25 construction works worth nearly ₹ 111.34 crore, which includes Sakri-Ganiyari-Kota Road (nearly 22km) worth ₹ 76.57 crore, Bansajhal Diversion Scheme worth ₹ 11.72 crore, Kota-Belgahna Road (5km) worth ₹ 11.58 crore, power substation of capacity 33/11 KV worth Rs 1.70 crore in Ratanpur, and CV Raman Kota power substation of capacity 33/11 KV worth nearly Rs 1.55 crore.

In the public meeting, Singh will lay foundation and bhumi puja of 10 works worth ₹ 19.55 crore, which includes construction works related to Lufa Diversion Yojana worth nearly ₹ 9.17 crore, construction works related to Navagaon Diversion Scheme worth nearly 7 crore 77 Lakh, Billiband Nal-Jal Paday Yojana worth nearly ₹ 46 lakh, Kurdur Nal-Jal Praday worth ₹ 44 lakh, and Tendua Nal-Jal Praday Yojana worth nearly ₹ 44 lakh.

REWARI GANGRAPE Haryana DGP issues directions to deal with criminals

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Under fire over police's failure to nab all accused in Rewari gang rape case and lackadaisical approach in investigating cases of crime against women, Haryana Director General of Police BS Sandhu on Monday directed the police officers to adopt 'free registration and quick action' strategy to deal with criminals especially those involved in crime against women.

Sandhu held a video-conference with all Range ADGPs/IGs, Commissioners of Police, and district SPs to review law and order situation at Police headquarters. DGP said that complaints

pertaining to crime against women should be registered promptly without any delay in all police stations. Any lapse in this regard will be viewed seriously and officer/official concerned would be held responsible for any kind of negligence, he said.

"You should either perform better or face the music", warned DGP.

The directions came after the allegations of delay in registration of Rewari gang rape case last week. The family members of the 19-year-old victim had alleged that the registration of FIR was delayed as police kept citing jurisdiction issues making them shuttle between Rewari and Kanina.

A day before, Chief Minister Manohar Lal had summoned DGP to review progress of investigation in the Rewari gang rape case and also directed to ensure prompt action in cases of crime against women in the state.

The State Government had also ordered the transfer of Rewari's Superintendent of Police (SP) Rajesh Duggal, who had been accused of failing to take prompt action. He was replaced by the SP of Chief Minister's security, Rahul Sharma.

During the meeting on Monday, Sandhu said that Chief Minister is concerned with regard to safety and security of women. The specific aim

of police officers should be to take instant and firm action as soon as the complaint is received. Apart from this, every officer should also keep a close vigil to ensure that no untoward incident takes place in their respective areas, he said.

DG Headquarters, KK Mishra said that government has been taking serious initiatives to curb crime against women and children.

Thorough enquiry is being conducted into the Rewari case to find out any kind of negligence on the part of any police official. In case of any negligence, appropriate action would be taken against the erring officers, he said.

Mirra directed that dis-

trict SPs should be more proactive and sensitive and crime should be curbed in all circumstances.

He also emphasized on the need for a specific approach for faster investigation of crimes especially under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Such cases should be monitored on day to day basis by the concerned officers, he said.

He also stressed on expeditious trial and conviction of such heinous crimes.

The video-conference was also attended by ADGP crime PK Agrawal, ADGP CID Anil Kumar Rao and SP crime against woman, Manisha Choudhary.

Politicians making beeline to Rewari to score brownie points

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Leaders of both ruling BJP and the opposition Congress have been making a beeline to the Rewari hospital to visit the victim and her family, apparently to score a political point over each other.

Haryana Public Works (Building and Roads) Minister, Rao Narbir Singh and All India Mahila Congress president Sushmita Dev met the victim's family in Rewari on Monday.

Rao Narbir while talking to the mediapersons later said that the family is satisfied with the ongoing investigation and treatment of their daughter. We have assured them fair investigation in the case and assistance from government's side, he said.

On arrest of the accused in the case, the Minister claimed that absconding accused will be nabbed soon.

The victim's family had on Sunday rejected the compensation cheque for Rs 2 lakh sent by the Haryana Government.

On the other hand, Congress leader Sushmita Dev lashed out at the Haryana Government and alleged that law and order in the state has broken down completely.

"This is total failure of the government. The Chief

Minister Manohar Lal should quit on moral grounds. It is unfortunate that even after repeated failures on the law and order front, the Chief Minister is continuing on his post," she added. The Congress has made the gang-rape a major issue and holding protests across the state. A day before, former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda had also visited Rewari to meet victim and her family. Following to this, Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij on Monday said that strict action would be taken against the former Chief Minister Hooda and Congress MLA Karan Dalal, for meeting the rape victim in Rewari without the consent of doctors, and, for threatening the doctors attending on her. Vij said even though the doctors had informed Hooda and Dalal that the victim was not fit to interact with them, they met her. This is against the protocol. They also threatened the doctors which is a step in the direction of causing chaos, he added. Even the police and the investigation team cannot take statement of the victim without the consent of doctors, but Hooda and Dalal have done this, and knowingly violated the rules. Necessary action would be taken against them after investigation, Vij claimed.

Women hold protests in Haryana, Delhi

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/ NEW DELHI

Members of various women rights organisations protested outside the Haryana Bhawan in New Delhi on Monday, demanding justice for the Haryana gang-rape survivor and stringent action against the accused.

Protests were also held in various parts of Haryana by Congress and Aam Aadmi Party against the State Government.

"Only one of the (prime) accused has been arrested, while others are still on the run. The police's failure to

nab the culprit shows the government's insensitivity towards the issue," said a member of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA).

"One of the accused is an Army man. If he can't be punished, what is the credibility of our system all about?" asked Sheena Chibbar from the All India Progressive Women's Association (AIPWA).

The women activists demanded that strict punishment be given to the culprits in all the recent incidents of rape and murder. "We demand that

Nirbhaya centres be established in all the districts of the state and legal help and treatment be provided to all women victims of atrocities. It should be ensured that complaints of women victims are registered and acted upon by police. The activists have pledged to intensify their movement for women safety in the coming days," another activist said.

The 19 years old college student was gang-raped on September 12 after being kidnapped and sedated.

The women wing of Haryana Congress also held protest in various parts of

Haryana and burnt effigy of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar demanding his resignation over the issue of increasing crime against women in the state.

Senior Congress leaders Randeep Singh Surjewala and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda have demanded that Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar resign on moral grounds.

Senior Congress leader and communications in-charge of the party, Randeep Singh Surjewala on Monday said that the insensitive and arrogant BJP Government

has totally failed to control crimes against the daughters of Haryana.

"We demand that President's rule should be imposed in the state," he said.

"What is the Haryana Government doing? It seems there is no rule of law and criminals are roaming freely. It is a matter of concern that a small state like Haryana is ahead in the country in gang rape cases," the Congress leader added.

AAP's Haryana chief Naveen Jaihind has also condemned the State Government and alleged that 'Beti Padhao-Beti Bachao'

campaign of the BJP Government has totally flopped.

No lawyer will help any accused, declares Haryana 'mahapanchayat'

Chandigarh: No practicing lawyer will help any of the accused in the Board's topped gangrape case, a 'mahapanchayat' of 25 villages in Haryana's Rewari ruled on Monday. The 'mahapanchayat' held in Kosli town has also written to Haryana Governor Satyadev Naryana Arya seek-

ing strict action against accused.

"A 'mahapanchayat' of 25 villages was held in Kosli town in connection with the gang rape incident, in which it was decided that no practicing lawyer will assist any of the prime accused," locals said. PNS

Jawan kills 2 colleagues, commits suicide in HP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the first case of fratricide in the Army this year, a soldier allegedly shot dead two of his colleagues and then killed himself in Dharamshala Cantonment, Himachal Pradesh on Monday morning. A court of inquiry has been instituted to find the cause leading to this action. This is the seventh case of fratricide in the last five years.



2017 besides the latest case. Incidentally, more than 100 service personnel committed suicide in 2016 due to issues like stress due to operating in high-pressure areas like insurgency-hit Jammu & Kashmir and north-east. However, the latest incident of fratricide took place in Dharamshala, a peacetime military station, sources said.

The incident took place at 2.30 am when a soldier of 18 Sikh fired at two of his colleagues and then shot himself with his rifle. He had joined the Army six months back. While a probe is on to ascertain the reason for this extreme action, unconfirmed reports said Sepoy Jasbir Singh was posted on guard duty. He had altercation with the other two after returning to the unit and shot them with his INSAS rifle. The soldier then committed suicide. The two soldiers were

identified as Havaldar Hardeep Singh and Naik Harpal Singh. They had finished 23 years and 18 years of service respectively, it was learnt.

The local police besides Army officials reached the spot and the bodies of soldiers were taken by the police for post-mortem, sources said.

This is the first such incident in the Army this year where a soldier has killed his colleagues. Three such cases were reported in 2014, one in 2015, two in 2016 and one in

ACID ATTACK ON HALALA PETITIONER SC orders UP Govt to ensure medical treatment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to ensure medical treatment and compensation to a Muslim woman petitioner in a case concerning polygamy and 'nikah halala', who suffered an acid attack and has sought protection.



The apex court directed the Chief District Medical Officer of Bulandshahr town, where she was attacked, to ensure proper treatment to Shabnam Rani and asked the administration to consider granting her additional security.

Rani was last week attacked with acid in Bulandshahr and it has been alleged that a close relative and his friend were involved in the attack.

While polygamy allows a Muslim man to have four wives, 'nikah halala' deals with the process in which a Muslim woman can re-marry her husband after divorce, only when she marries another person, consummates the second marriage and then gets a divorce.

In her plea against 'nikah halala' and polygamy, Rani had alleged that her husband had divorced her through 'triple talaq' and forced her to perform 'nikah halala' with her brother-in-law.

The court said if there was a scheme for compensation and any application has been submitted, then it may be dealt with in a span of two weeks.

It also said if any further security was required, then she could submit a representation to the Superintendent of Police who shall scrutinise it and do the needful.

"That apart, the applicant shall be given adequate treatment keeping in view the injuries. The concerned Chief District Medical Officer of the district shall do the needful in

the matter when it is brought to his notice," the court said.

Officers who have been mentioned hereinabove should be sensitive enough to carry out their duties as far as such treatment is concerned, that is, in consonance with the order of this Court and the policy of the State Government and, therefore, there cannot be delay in such matter," the bench said.

With regard to other Muslim women who have challenged 'nikah halala' and apprehend similar attacks, the top court asked them to submit representations to the concerned Superintendents of Police of the area who shall look into their grievance regarding providing them security.

The bench also directed that the pleadings in various petitions, challenging the constitutional validity of the practice of 'nikah halala' and polygamy among Muslims, be completed within one month. **PTI**

BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE Sanjay Agarawal appointed Agricultural Secy

Tarun Kapoor appointed DDA Vice Chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sanjeev Ranjan, a 1985 batch IAS officer, will be the Chairman of the NHAJ in the rank and pay of Secretary

Welfare on superannuation of S K Pattanayak, on September 30.

Ranjan, a 1985 batch IAS officer, will be the Chairman of the NHAJ in the rank and pay of Secretary. He is at present serving in his cadre state Tripura.

Kapoor, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Vice Chairman, DDA on superannuation of Uday Pratap Singh this month end.

Director General of National Archives of India, Pritam Singh, has been named

Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Castes. He is a 1984 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre.

Anita Bhatnagar Jain will be Secretary, Central Information Commission (CIC). She is at present serving in her cadre state Uttar Pradesh.

Rajeev Ranjan, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, will be Special Secretary, GST Council Secretariat under the Department of Revenue.

Sudha Krishnan, who belongs to Indian Audit and Account Service, has been named Member Finance, Space Commission. She would also hold additional charge of Member Finance, Earth Commission and Atomic Energy Commission (with headquarters at New Delhi), the Personnel Ministry order said.

Besides, over 20 officers have been promoted to the

FB data breach: CBI writes to Cambridge Analytica, GSR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has written to UK-based Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research (GSR) besides US-based Facebook, seeking information into alleged data theft of Facebook users of India.

It is alleged that Cambridge Analytica received data from Global Science Research which employed "illegal means" of personal data harvesting of Indians using Facebook, CBI said. Facebook has over 20 crore users in India.

A preliminary enquiry is the first step to decide whether the allegations deserve a full-blown investigation through an FIR or not, CBI added.

Data mining and analysis firm Cambridge Analytica earlier faced allegations that it used personal information harvested from 87 million Facebook accounts to help Donald Trump win the 2016 US presidential election.

Union Law and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had told Rajya Sabha in July that the probe will be handed over to the CBI.

He had said there were also reports that user data was "illegally accessed by hardware manufacturers who had tie-ups with Facebook. In regard to this issue, Facebook has reported that they are not aware of any misuse of information, including Indian users' information".

The Mark Zuckerberg-owned company had said that the data of about 87 million people — mostly in the US — might have been improperly shared with Cambridge Analytica.

New Delhi: The CBI has taken over investigation into alleged swindling of \$171 million (about ₹1,200 crore) from the Union Bank of India by hackers in 2016, officials said Monday. The case, which was being probed by the Mumbai Police, pertains to transfer of about ₹1,200 crore from the Nostro account of the bank to various countries on July 20, 2016, they said.

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Activists' house arrest extended till Sep 19

Will examine allegations against them: SC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said it will examine two days later whether there is material supporting the arrest of five rights activists in connection with the Koregaon-Bhima violence case.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra extended till September 19 the house arrest of the five rights activists — Varavara Rao, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bharadwaj and Gautam Navlaka — at their respective homes. "Every criminal investigation is based on allegations and we have to see whether there is some material," the bench, also comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud said.

The bench said if there are some grave lapses, it may consider prayers like investigation by a Special Investigating Team (SIT) into the case. The plea by Thapar and others has sought an independent probe into the arrests and the immediate release of the five activists.

The bench fixed the plea by Thapar, economists Prabhat Patnaik and Devaki Jain, sociology professor Satish Deshpande and human rights lawyer Maja Daruwala for final hearing on Wednesday. The court had on September 12 extended the house arrest of the activists till today.

Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra Government, said the court should make it clear that after adjudication by it, the arrested accused cannot avail remedies simultaneously on similar issues at other judicial fora. **PTI**

'Despite new PM, Pak still under Army's influence'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Union Minister V K Singh said Monday the army still rules Pakistan despite the election of Imran Khan as the new Prime Minister, adding that it remains to be seen whether "the person" will be able to bring about a change.

India is adopting a "wait and watch" approach after the installation of a new Government in Pakistan, the Minister of State for External Affairs told reporters.

Responding to a question on incidents of infiltration at the border after the change of government in Pakistan, he said, "Did you all expect a change? I don't know. After all, the person has been propped up by the (Pakistan) army. The army still rules. So, let's wait and watch how things go — whether the person

remains under army control or doesn't remain under its control." He did not refer to Khan by name.

Dialogue with Pakistan can happen only if the environment is "conducive" for talks, the minister added on the sidelines of the opening of a two-day conference — Smart Border Management — organised by FICCI.

"India's policy is very clear. Dialogue can happen only when the environment is conducive," Singh said when asked whether there have been any attempts from Pakistan to initiate further dialogue with India.

Referring to reports of proposals to open the Kartarpur border crossing for Sikh pilgrims, Singh said India has "not received any proposal" from Pakistan to open the route.

Swaraj reprimanded Sidhu for messing up Kartarpur talks: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: As Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu on Monday met External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal claimed that he was reprimanded by Swaraj for "messing up" the dialogue on the issue of Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara. Badal said Sidhu was also reprimanded by Swaraj misusing political clearance granted for the "private visit" by hugging Pakistan army chief who is responsible for killing Indian soldiers.

"External Affairs Minister reprimands Navjot Sidhu for messing up Kartarpur Sahib corridor dialogue and misusing political clearance granted for private visit by hugging military Chief responsible for killing our soldiers," Badal tweeted.

Sidhu, the local Government, tourism and cultural affairs minister in Punjab's Congress government, had visited Pakistan last month to attend the swearing ceremony of Prime Minister Imran Khan. A picture of him hugging Pak

army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa had gone viral which invited severe criticism from several quarters including from his boss Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.

Earlier, Sidhu had written to External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, urging her to "make every possible effort" on the issue of Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara and said Pakistan had shown "positive intent" in providing access to the historic shrine.

On September 7 Sidhu had claimed that Pakistan had decided to allow Sikh pilgrims direct access to the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara just across the border.

In a letter written to Swaraj on September 8, cricketer-turned-politician said: "Now an opportunity has knocked on our doors. Pakistan has shown a positive intent towards the long pending demand of Kartarpur Sahib corridor. Pilgrims and we all have been demanding for this corridor since years". **PTI**

India to reduce cooling energy demand by 25% by 2038

First country to develop draft blueprint on Cooling Action Plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has become the first country in the world to develop a draft blueprint outlining action plan to bring down cooling requirement and refrigerant demands across sectors by 20 per cent to 25 per cent by 2037-38 while slashing cooling energy requirements by 25 per cent to 40 per cent within the same period, said Union Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on World Ozone Day on Monday.

On the occasion at an event, he released the draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and a booklet on 'Montreal Protocol — India's Success Story'.

Stressing upon the need to strengthen active collaboration between the Government, industries, industry associations and all stakeholders, he said that the World Ozone Day offers an opportunity to focus global attention and action on the vital environmental issue of protection of the Ozone Layer.

He said that the Ministry has already undertaken an initiative for upskilling of 1,00,000 refrigeration and Air-Conditioning servicing technicians in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)

under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) — Skill India Mission.

Environment Secretary CK Mishra said that along with energy efficiency, it is critical to identify the usage of gases and not merely replacement of gases. "There are alternative ways to cooling that should be looked at. Another issue is an army of trained manpower to handle manufacturing and maintenance", he said. He also pointed out to the criticality of the need for finances and expanding research & development (R&D).

India is the first country in the world to develop such a document (ICAP), which addresses cooling requirements across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand. **PTI**

Khadi launches exclusive designer 'Modi jackets & kurtas' on PM's birthday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Coinciding with prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on Monday, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched an exclusive designer range of 'Modi Jackets' and 'Modi Kurtas' at its flagship store in Connaught Place here.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said it was the inspiration and vision of the Prime Minister that Khadi had achieved several milestones in the last four years.

"For Khadi, Prime Minister himself has become the biggest brand Ambassador. It was his call of 'Khadi for Fashion' that millions of youths adopted Khadi. The launch of these designer jackets and kurtas is the expression of love and gratitude from our artisans - for whom the Prime Minister has always shown his concern," he said.

SC stays NGT order making odd-even applicable to 2-wheelers, women-driven vehicles

New Delhi: Two-wheelers and four wheelers driven by women plying in the national Capital would be exempted from the odd-even vehicle rotation scheme with the Supreme Court on Monday staying the National Green Tribunal's 2017 direction which had made it applicable for all vehicles.

Under the scheme, which is currently not in force in Delhi, odd and even numbered vehicles are to ply on alternate days.

As per the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), the odd-even scheme comes into effect automatically whenever the particulate matter PM10 and PM 2.5 rises to 500 microgram per cubic metre and 300 microgram per cubic metre respectively for 48 hours.

The apex court's order came after the Delhi government said there were around 68 lakh two-wheelers here and it would be "impossible to accommodate" the people in public transport if the odd-even scheme was made applicable for two-wheelers also. **PTI**

Centre employees asked to undertake cleanliness drive in office premises

New Delhi: The Centre has asked all departments under it to undertake cleanliness drive on their premises, according to an official communique. All Central Government employees have been asked to contribute six hours of 'shramdaan' (labour) during the ongoing fortnight-long cleanliness drive.

"Shramdaan activities may include cleaning of office complexes, residential colonies and public places including cleaning of drains, public toilets, waste collection drives, and awareness campaigns," the Ministry of Personnel said in the directive issued to secretaries of all central government departments. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' movement on September 15. It will continue till October 2. **PTI**

INSHORT

PM GETS GREETINGS FROM ALL ON BIRTHDAY

New Delhi: Greetings from all quarters, including his political rivals, poured in Monday for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who celebrated his 68th birthday in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi. Modi thanked them for their wishes in a series of tweets. President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, BJP chief Amit Shah, Congress president Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, her Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah were among the first to greet Modi.

SINGHANIA GETS MEXICAN HIGHEST HONOUR

New Delhi: Dr. Raghupati Singhania, Chairman and Managing Director, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd, has been conferred with 'Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle', the highest honour accorded to non-nationals by the Government of Mexico. On the eve of the 128th National Day of Mexico, Melba Priá, Ambassador of Mexico to India, presented the award to Dr. Singhania on behalf of the President of Mexico, a press communique from the company stated.

NO CBI PROBE INTO ATTACK ON AGNIVESH: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to order a CBI probe into the recent attacks on social activist Swami Agnivesh in Delhi and Pakur district of Jharkhand, saying the State police was already investigating the matter. Agnivesh claimed that the police in Jharkhand was not probing the matter and a state Cabinet Minister had dubbed him a "fraud". The top court, however, granted liberty to Agnivesh to make a representation to the competent authority for providing security.

SC TO HEAR KIN OF RAJIV BOMB BLAST VICTIMS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the kin of those who had died in a bomb blast along with former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991, to file additional documents in their plea objecting to the Tamil Nadu Government's decision to release seven convicts in the case. A bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi, Navin Sinha and K M Joseph listed the matter for further hearing after four weeks.

AWARENESS CAMP AT POSHAN MAH HELD

New Delhi: The AYUSH Ministry and its affiliated bodies conducted various activities and organised awareness camps as part of "Poshan Maah", which is being observed this September to reach every household with the message of nutrition.

UNIFIED COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE ON SEP 28

New Delhi: The Unified Commanders' Conference has been planned for September 28 in Jodhpur. It will be attended by all the senior field commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force. It has been kept one day prior to the second anniversary of the surgical strike of 29 September 2016.

PLEA SEEKS BAN ON HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES



New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea seeking ban on nearly 85 pesticides that are being used in India on the grounds that they pose health hazard. A bench of Justices Arun Misra and Vineet Saran issued notices to the Centre and other authorities concerned on the plea which also sought empowering State Governments to take decisions at their level for prohibition and restriction related to pesticides.

CENTRE CAN IMPLEMENT BOUNDARY DISPUTE REPORT

New Delhi: It is "entirely up to" the Centre to implement the report of the Surveyor General of India to demarcate the boundary between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka passing through the Ballari reserve forest, the Supreme Court said Monday. The Surveyor General of India filed the final report with regard to the demarcation of boundary between the two states before a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta, which is hearing a matter relating to the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC). **PTI**



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Perils of Internet

Social media monitoring has become a new burden for the EC, one that it must execute with toothcomb efficiency

If managing the world's greatest democratic exercise fairly was not enough — the general elections of 2019 — the Election Commission of India has an added responsibility of tackling the perils and evils of social media and ensure that misinformation campaigns don't aggravate or create fraudulent situations that might be worked on by political parties for their benefit. Question is given the social media's expansion and reach, will the poll regulator, which is besieged by the unenviable task of enforcing the model code of conduct once polls are announced, manage to handle this overload? Because the dangerous game of manipulation, misrepresentation and selective sifting of truth facts requires almost a moment to moment hawk-eye vigil. So while seeking support from social media giants to stem misadventures of any kind, the EC has laid out a virtual campaign policy that mimicks the physical one in the run-up to the polls. It has restricted all political parties as well as individual campaigners from sending bulk messages, making calls and forwarding messages from 10 pm to 6 am. The aim is to prevent a breach of privacy of individuals. Further, the poll panel also plans to apply the protocol of prohibiting any kind of advertisement 48 hours before the voting time to the social media, too. The EC's night-long ban notification may come as a welcome relief to individuals, all victims of pesky telemarketers and unwanted bulk SMS rollers. This, of course, only minimises the flow of traffic, negative or positive. Besides its implementation can be compromised without a strict regulatory framework. Do we remember the National Do Not Disturb Registry? The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had laid down the procedure for consumers to put forth their preferences in the "do not disturb" category to block all commercial calls and text messages from unwanted service providers, such as banking, real estate, tourism, among others. But it has barely been effective.

The larger concern is of monitoring the authenticity of campaign claims and counter-claims. Whatsapp representatives, during their meetings with the officials of the Election Commission of India, had suggested bringing about the Verificado model in India, a collective fact-checking exercise by a consortium of mainstream newspapers to weed out rumours and doctored news. It was, in fact, even used in Mexico and Brazil. But to have a media watchdog, there is the added catch of ensuring the political neutrality of its constituents so that they can be trusted to judge freely and fairly without the baggage of affiliations. The C-Vigil app, as advocated by the ECI, may in part solve the problem. But as it has maintained, the procedure must be full-proof: From the launch of the complaint to fast-tracking the exact source of the violation to taking strict action against errands as also making it sure that the portal remains functional. The malpractice of tweaking information is not new to India. Other countries are increasingly becoming vulnerable to digital disinformation, which if left unchecked and uncontrolled, can threaten the national discourse. India must not lag behind and take on the battle upfront.

50WORD EDIT Don't spew hate

White trolling is not new to celebs. But fanatics touched a new low by attacking Shah Rukh Khan for posting son ABRAM's photo in front of a Ganesh idol as part of Sharrukh's celebrations. Bigots called the very secular SRK a non-Muslim. Targeting a child in the name of religion and schooling him about ritualistic mores based on his father's surname are simply disgusting.

Road to nowhere

With 39 per cent of India's premier highway considered unsafe for users, just how dangerous are India's roads?

A study conducted by several global bodies along with the National Highways Authority of India found that almost two-fifth of the Delhi-Mumbai national highway was unsafe for car users and even more dangerous for pedestrians and two-wheelers. Only a 40-km stretch of the highway was considered world-class and got a five-star rating; although just about more than half the stretch was considered reasonably safe. This newspaper has constantly raised the issue of India's unsafe roads. With just over 150,000 known fatalities annually at last count, India's roads are more dangerous than any active war zone in the Levant. And it has become contingent on automobile and two-wheeler manufacturers to install safety devices on their cars from 2019 onwards. This is why most vehicles that are being launched now feature safety devices such as anti-lock brakes and front driver and passenger airbags in cars. Some manufacturers are going further and installing additional airbags on all variants and more advanced software controlled 'Electronic Stability Programs' that help in car control under braking and in poor road conditions. Other safety features include an unwarranted speed warning which chimes constantly at 120 km per hour. But that all comes to naught if the culture of safety is not inculcated in Indian road users. The recent death of a politician near Hyderabad because he was apparently not wearing his seatbelt, the most basic of safety features, highlights this.

Additionally, putting the same onus on manufacturers as the Government doesn't absolve them from building safer roads. Even on several new, modern stretches of highway, global standards of safety have not been followed. Highways have been inaugurated without complete guardrail and on many stretches the guardrail has not been installed at the correct height. Other alternatives such as wire fencing and catch-fencing on elevated roads such as Delhi's Barapullah elevated roads have not been considered. Primarily this is due to the lack of tort compensation laws where road builders and the Government cannot be held to account for the lack of safety standards. At the same time, most of the road accidents in India are poorly investigated and blame passed onto the driver for over-speeding or inebriation, even if that is not the case by police forces with an inability to forensically investigate accidents. Then there are road users always wanting to take a shortcut, whether it is driving on the wrong side of the road or blatantly braking speed limits and more often than not driving vehicles unfit for the purpose. Of course, cattle herders think nothing of letting their flock roam. The only way to combat this is strictly enforcing the laws for all and sundry. The problem in India is not a lack of laws, it is the lack of enforcement. With enforcement agencies willing to look the other way for a few rupees and authorities happy to blame hapless road users, after all the dead can't answer back, India's roads will remain bloody and millions of lives will continue to be lost in the coming years.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS Trade agreements will strengthen ties

Ex-Sri Lankan President MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA says he is positive about his country's relationship with India and is looking forward to build on this bond through sustained dialogue. By PRASHANT TEWARI

There are a few leaders in contemporary global polity who have successfully changed a war-torn country to a vibrant progressive democracy in their lifetime. Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, a charismatic leader, accelerated the pace of development in nationalistic spirit by pushing various infrastructure projects that transformed the growth rate and the GDP of the country from 2009. He served as the sixth President of the island nation from November 19, 2005, to January 9, 2015. A lawyer by profession, he was first elected to the Parliament in 1970 and served as the Prime Minister from April 6, 2004, until his victory in the 2005 presidential election. He was re-elected for a second term on January 27, 2010.

However, due to international and domestic imperatives, he was defeated in his bid for a third term in the 2015 presidential election by Maithripala Sirisena. An ex-aid, Sirisena had been the Minister of Health in Rajapaksa's Government and the General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) before defecting to the Opposition coalition. Later, Rajapaksa unsuccessfully sought to become the Prime Minister in the 2015 parliamentary election, where the United People's Freedom Alliance was defeated. Many had attributed the shocking loss to his authoritarianism, nepotism, poor governance and corruption but the fact of the matter was that the

anti-incumbency factor and his strident desire to break new ground was the reason for his defeat. He was, however, elected as the Member of Parliament from Kurunegala district.

In 2005, Rajapaksa reshuffled the Cabinet and took charge of the Defence and Finance portfolios. He extended the term of the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Sarah Fonseka, less than a month before he was scheduled to retire. Over the next three and a half years, Fonseka and Rajapaksa's brother and the Defence Secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, led the country's Armed Forces in their battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), ultimately defeating them and killing their leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. It was one of the most grueling battles that the world has witnessed in recent times. It made Rajapaksa a national hero and an international leader of repute.

The challenging phase of Rajapaksa's political career came after he took over the presidency. A series of mine blasts blamed on the LTTE claimed the lives of many off-duty servicemen and civilians, pushing the country back to the brink of war. However, on May 19, 2009, Rajapaksa delivered a victory address to the Parliament and declared that the country had been liberated from terrorism. It was a near miracle achieved by the Rajapaksa-led team.

After ending the civil war in 2009, Rajapaksa's Government is known for undertaking largescale



Prof. Audrey Truschke, published in 2017 by Penguin Books, provokes one to think as to what path Muslims of India should now tread in order to live in amity. It is well-known that the name Aurangzeb is widely disapproved. In course of my travels, I came across only one shop named after the Emperor — it is situated in Kidderpore, Kolkata — and only recently, for the first time, I heard of a Kashmir police constable by the name Aurangzeb, who was killed by terrorists. The third example was the prominent road named after him, which has now been changed to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road without any protest which, though, has been resented by Prof Truschke in her book. Now only a lane by the name survives. Does this not reflect a widespread disapproval of Aurangzeb by Muslims as well as by Hindus and Sikhs?

infrastructure projects. Sri Lanka also made it into the high category of the Human Development Index during this time. Initiation, completion, and development of many highways and roads, the Colombo beautification project, the rural infrastructure development projects and so on are some of the several highlights. However, the roadways are known for high costs and are suspected to have been the hotbeds of corruption. A large sum of Chinese loans tripped the country's foreign debt, creating an economic crisis. But Rajapaksa insisted that under him Sri Lanka experienced rapid economic growth; the GDP growth rate reached over seven per cent.

In a move that was widely seen as solidifying his control over the Supreme Court, Rajapaksa removed the Chief Justice, Shirani Bandaranayake, from office in January 2013, allowing him to appoint an ally and legal adviser, former Attorney-General Mohan Peiris, as Chief Justice.

Domestic imperatives with regard to Tamil Nadu compelled New Delhi to keep an arm's distance from Rajapaksa, forcing him to tilt towards China during his second term of presidency. In fact, the Sri Lanka Government offered preferential infra-projects to India but received a lukewarm response from the Indian side. It was alleged that Rajapaksa, during the 2015 presidential campaign and elections, received large payments from the Chinese port construction fund

that flowed directly into the campaign and related activities. The perception was created that Rajapaksa had agreed to Chinese terms and was seen as an important ally in China's efforts to tilt influence away from India in South Asia. It is after his unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 2015 that Rajapaksa adopted a more sceptical China policy, opposing major development projects such as the Southern Economic Development Zone in which China had planned to invest over five billion dollars. He spoke to *The Pioneer* in an exclusive interview. Excerpts:

Q: The presidential election in 2010 saw the Sri Lankan electorate freshly participating after more than two decades of turbulence, unrest, and war; you are responsible for liberating the country from terrorism and set it on the path to peace. What went wrong in 2015?

It was an international conspiracy against my Government that was successfully implemented by certain political opponents to capture power. I will not reveal the names of the countries involved but I will be cautious in the future. Opponents have successfully alienated minority communities from SLFP to facilitate consolidation against us. However, everyone has realised the current bad governance. I am sure the trends of the local elections clearly indicate that SLFP is on its way back to power in the next general elections.

Q: The criticism that can be made out of

your political career is that you promoted nepotism, appointing three brothers to run important ministries and assigning other political positions for relatives, regardless of their merit. How would you react to it?

I think the built narrative is completely false. All the position-holders were elected by popular votes in their respective constituencies and all candidates had won the elections by large margins in various elections. If the people like them, how can they be ignored? However, I had appointed Gotabhaya Rajapaksa by executive order because I thought he was the right person to deliver what we wanted at that time. And my stand is vindicated when he displayed tremendous skills to eliminate terrorism during our arm struggle against LTTE.

Q: You won the presidency on a wide-ranging, people-oriented policy as laid out in the Mahinda Chintana? How satisfying was your experience of governance?

Mahinda Chintana means good governance for all. We drafted it to incorporate the desires of every section of the society in the political mainstream. Our concept is rooted in the soil; the governance that springs from the bottom of the pyramid. Yes, we have achieved most of our promises but we have to travel miles ahead to fulfill the aspirations of our native people.

Q: Please narrate the experience of dealing with international communities in emergency

situations so that other countries battling with terrorism can be inspired by your story.

We knew that wiping out terror would cost tremendous pain and stress but we were determined to live in peace permanently. The main issue was India because Tamil Nadu is an important State for the country and the sentiments were stoked by certain interests against the probable action. We created the TRIOKA plan wherein three high officials of each side were deputed for regular exchange of information to facilitate proper coordination. It worked as it removed the chances of dissemination of wrong information on either side. Finally, we offered a choice between peace and war to the LTTE and they opted for the latter. We faced tremendous pressure from all UN organisations, certain pockets of Tamil-infused countries and other local pressure but we were resolute to solve the terror issue. Many European countries and their leaders visited us to mediate in the war but I stuck to my original decision. Today, we are one of the most peaceful democratic countries in the world and I take immense pride to say that I was always right in the conflict that was forced on us by the LTTE.

Q: The remarkable transition from a war-torn country to a peaceful nation was achieved by you in no time. We have seen many Middle Eastern countries going through similar trauma but have ended up as a failed state after the war. How did you achieve this?

We have taken huge risks in the process of releasing 12,000 prisoners in 2009 immediately after the war. It could have gone wrong but fought the war with a humanitarian approach. We realised that though the people fighting was misguided by vested interests, they remained their own. The defence forces must be commended for the remarkable job in the recent war history worldwide. They cleaned up the landmines in north within one year after the war to facilitate immediate popular election process. This instilled confidence in the native population reminding them of our humanitarian sentiment and being in the rule of law. We invested over a billion dollars in the northern part of the country to develop infrastructure and better living conditions for our countrymen so their affection could be irrevocable in the next presidential election of 2015 which I won by huge margins.

Q: How do you assess the present state of the India-Sri Lanka relationship?

All is good but we have to strengthen it further. Let us continue the dialogue with Indian Government on a regular basis on economy, fisheries, free trade agreements and so on to build a more focused mutual relationship. I appreciate the efforts made in the individual capacity by the duo to improve the bilateral relationship between the two friendly countries. Efforts must be made from both G2G and P2P level consolidating the relationship.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Pawan washed my feet and drank the water out of respect. One day I will wash-drink the feet of a BJP worker like Pawan.



—BJP leader NISHIKANT DUBEY

Has the arrogance of BJP leaders reached such a zenith that now they want their karyakartas to wash their feet and drink that water?



—Congress spokesperson RANDEEP SURIJEWALA

Striking a fine balance

With the launch of PARIVESH app, the Environment Ministry has shown its commitment towards achieving development goals, keeping in mind environmental security, but challenges remain



—VK BAHUGUNA

License raj for industries came to an end in 1991 after the economic reforms kicked in. Business enterprises became a sigh of relief and results were evident soon. However, at present, various business communities and development planners have derided the functioning of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change akin to the old license raj. Environmentalists, on the other hand, have dubbed the Ministry as ineffective and have blamed it for bartering away forestlands and promoting polluters. The truth, however, lies in between.

A review of the environmental policies and programmes of the present NDA regime will make us believe that things have changed for good. Laws governing the environment and forest conservation were generally treated as irritants. Initially, most violations were condoned, especially for the release of forest lands and polluting industries on grounds of ignorance of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986. After the Supreme Court's intervention in 1996, the scenario for the enforcement of regulatory laws completely changed. The Ministry was blamed by both the proponents of development and environmentalists for arbitrariness in decision-making, inefficiency, delay, corruption and absence of transparency. This writer has worked for a long time in the Ministry and is a witness to its growth and follies. It will, hence, be interesting to examine the performance of the Modi Government in the last four years.

One of the best policy decisions towards ensuring transparency, professionalism and to ward off any criticism of delays and arbitrariness in decision-making was taken by the Ministry with the Prime Minister Modi's launch of PARIVESH portal on August 10. The Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub (PARIVESH), for online submission, monitoring and management of proposals, will allow the project proponent as well as the common man to track the entire approval

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz. environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies. This has been a regular feature in the past 10 years before 2014. In one stroke, real-time decision-making process will be in the public domain. This is the best thing that has happened in the Ministry. This has far-reaching consequences and it would benefit the country's development process without compromising on environment. This has also opened the first door for e-governance. If implemented sincerely, it can ensure timely clearances and quick decision-making.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the court. During the period of 2004 to 2014, only eight proposals were finalised and 24 were in the draft stage. In the last four years, the Ministry finalised 281 cases and 202 are still in their draft stage, which have been fast-tracked. The portal will also ensure development of stalled projects and protection of wildlife areas. A report titled, 'India State of Forest Report 2017' by the Forest Survey of India revealed that India's total forest and tree cover area increased to over 8,021 sq km, which is one per cent increase from 2015. This is in line with meeting India's Paris climate commitment. The country now is sequestering 49.50 million tonnes of carbon annually and India is also one of the front-line leaders in the world in mitigating strategy deployment.

However, everything is not hunky-dory in the Ministry's working, considering the emerging challenges, especially the fund position is critical. The country is facing serious threats from climate change, which is now visible in the form of devastating floods/landslides, like the ones we witnessed in Kerala this year and Tamil Nadu last year. Floods and cloudburst in Himalayas, recurrent droughts and intense heat waves and scarcity of water, are going to severely affect livelihoods of a large section of people.

Dense forests of more than 40 per cent crown density are not in good shape as they lack adequate regeneration. Vegetation in major forest types has changed due to temperature and rainfall pattern changes substantially, as revealed by the task force of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

Agriculture and water supply is going to be severely impacted if we do not put money into the management of catchments of major rivers. This loss of water deprives locals of drinking water and is also lead-most of the country's development process, where the problem gets further compounded. According to a recent study by Kumaun University and Australian National University, due to the interference of man, water sources in the Himalayas are getting dry. The region is losing 65 per cent of the rain water, leading to disasters like drying up of water sources, flash floods and landslides in the region, and floods in the plain areas. There is a constant reduction in river flow in the tributaries of Yamuna in Himachal, Ganga and Kosi in Uttarakhnad and Teesta in Sikkim. The reduction in stream flow varies from 38 per cent to 45 per cent in these rivers. The net result of this has prevented irrigation in over 20 per cent of the land in plain areas and 15 per cent reduction in agriculture productivity. The current available annual Budget of the Ministry is around ₹2,600 crore. Compared to the needs of today, this is very less.

The Prime Minister must take a review and sanction at least ₹1,000 crore annually for watershed activities in the recorded forest areas for the next five years. This must be complemented with cultural and regeneration of forests and sufficient fund flow for research and lands vested with tribals. This will improve the forest and non-forest land hydrology, and the landscape will adapt to the climatic changes. The forestry sector needs institutional reforms. The ICFRE's autonomy is half-done if it is brought back to the Government as an attached office as forestry institutions cannot be expected to earn revenue to sustain them. The joint forest management programme needs second generation reforms. Well-planned activities can solve much of the threats posed by pollution as the technologies are available. What is needed is a far sight and a will to do things in a coordinated manner. (The writer is a retired civil servant)

In search of a path to integration

It is for the post-Congress Governments, whether in the States or the Centre, to correct the misleading impression created of Muslims. This provokes one to think as to what path the Muslim community of India could now tread in order to be stakeholders in amity



—PRAFULL GORADIA

Aurangzeb's biography by Prof. Audrey Truschke, published in 2017 by Penguin Books, provokes one to think as to what path Muslims of India should now tread in order to live in amity. It is well-known that the name Aurangzeb is widely disapproved. In course of my travels, I came across only one shop named after the Emperor — it is situated in Kidderpore, Kolkata — and only recently, for the first time, I heard of a Kashmir police constable by the name Aurangzeb, who was killed by terrorists. The third example was the prominent road named after him, which has now been changed to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road without any protest which, though, has been resented by Prof Truschke in her book. Now only a lane by the name survives. Does this not reflect a widespread disapproval of Aurangzeb by Muslims as well as by Hindus and Sikhs?

For the first 67 years after Independence, Muslims in India have survived the trauma of Partition quite comfortably, except for periodic riots with Hindus, so necessary for a Congress-style secular party to survive in power. Under communist secularism in Kerala and West Bengal, its rule was almost entirely riot-free. So was the so-called Hindu rule under the BJP and earlier under the Jana Sangh in a couple of States, except for 2002 in Gujarat, which was provoked by the burning of railway bogies that claimed 58 lives in Godhra. The lesson of this short history is that a Muslim minority can co-exist with a Hindu majority. The reverse ratio, however, is not true as demonstrated by the rapid ethnic cleansing in 1947-48 Pakistan and a similar but chronic process in Bangladesh.

The first lesson to be drawn from this paradox is that for Hindu-Muslim amity, the population of the latter community should not exceed 20 per cent. With 25 per cent in 1947, Muslims were able to force Partition. This, despite being given reservations in jobs as well as separate electorates. Until 1940, they claimed to be a

minority, and then to justify Partition, they changed to being a nation. In short, they have a chronic tendency of separatism. Second, the ruling party should not come to power by playing the two communities against each other. The Congress had to remind Muslims periodically what a riot is, and more of it would be their fate if they did not vote for the party. Otherwise, let the Muslim clergy hold veto to power, for example, the Shah Bano alimony, followed by the Muslim Women's Act.

The pinnacle of this Congress secret of success was reached in the 10-year prime ministership of Manmohan Singh, who several times virtuously declared 'Muslims first' as his policy and also appointed five commissions and committees of whom the Sachar-led effort was the most talked about. No wonder, the four Modi-led years were filled with complaints by Muslims and their friends repeatedly saying that 'every one feels insecure. The Muslim clergy no longer held the veto after 67 years of being used to it. That there has been virtually no rioting during the four years across the country, is not appreciated.

Another feature of Muslim performance has been its failure to produce an eminent leader. Mohammad Ali Jinnah was the last one thrown up by the sub-continental *ummah*. Even he became prominent as a Muslim leader, as it were, more to fulfill the mass desire for delivering Partition than as a community eminence. A possible explanation could be that Islam, as ethos, prefers autocracy, whether monarchical, military or civilian, but not a Western-type democracy. By contrast, in the sub-continent, Hindu performance has been much better. In the absence of the responsible and respected leadership, the Muslim masses have been mesmerised by their clergy as well as the Congress. These two have worked in tandem — the only time the link had snapped was in the 1977, post-Emergency elections — otherwise, their interests are similar. The former wants to keep a grip on the followers, while the latter needs the votes.

From the beginning, the Congress has been pro-Muslim. As a glaring example, Gandhiji had equated a hope for success in his 1921 Non-Cooperation agitation with a victory of his *Khilafat* movement to save the Caliph on the Turkish throne. The failure of both led to what BR Ambedkar called a 20-year Hindu



Muslim civil war until 1940, when the Pakistan resolution was passed at Lahore. A century later this year, Rahul Gandhi did not hesitate to admit that the Congress is a Muslim party. And why not? Because the grand old party has placed the community superiority to the Hindus, especially Articles 29 and 30 reader Articles 14 and 15 a sham. Additionally, the wafks, which own up to six lakh acres of urban land in the country, have been left untouched by the Government, whereas *zamindari* and *jagirdaris* were abolished on the morrow of Independence. These and other laws make Muslims appear to be the favourite offspring of India while the Hindu majority feel like, as they were, step-children.

It is for the post-Congress Governments, whether in the States or at the Centre, to correct the misleading impression created of most of Muslims. Citizens of all hues below 45 years in age are mostly unaware of the facts of Partition. Discussions in the media give the impression that free India's life began with the Constitution. The earlier years were all part of *ajdhal* or darkness. Instead, an attempt should be made to inform people who voted how in the 1945-46 elections and the run-up to the

Partition. As a backgrounder, how in 1940, the League declared that Muslims were a nation and not a minority! If, therefore, had to have a separate homeland or Darul Islam. The League leaders wanted Muslims to transfer to Pakistan and the rest to go to Hindustan. Those who remained behind were to live as aliens with the help of issues issued by the respective Governments. Instead, today Hindustan has probably more Muslims than any other country, except Indonesia. The community itself claims to be poor and backward. It seems it appears to spread backwardness to the States it lives in.

Today, the belt beginning with Uttar Pradesh and ending with Assam via Bihar and West Bengal, is distinctly poorer economically than the rest of India. Although the Ganga flows across the belt, the soil is mostly fertile and there is a great deal of mineral wealth to mine. These States have to pick up and, more patriotically, the Muslims, if this writer were a Sunni *Musalman*, he would tell his people that not many of us can emigrate and, therefore, to live happily in India, we should join the mainstream.

Licensed *madrasas* all over should be given a say — four or five

to be affiliated to the mainstream boards like CBSE or ICSE. Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia should cease to be Muslim or Islamic since they are entirely State-financed. If not a Uniform Common Code, the community itself could take the initiative and modernise the personal law and draft a Muslim Code Bill. All temples converted to mosques, which are readily convertible to mandirs, should be vacated. Around 2,500 or so recycled (built anew with the debris of demolished temples) mosques may be left as they are.

All these suggestions would help Muslims integrate with the rest of the people of Hindustan and share the benefits of national prosperity. The Shias are already on the path to integration. Why not the Sunnis too? All that is being recommended is to favour the ways of Dara Shikoh, away from the misguided whims of Aurangzeb. Both were full blood brothers. But the latter caused and presided over to the fall of the Mughal Empire. Hindustan does not wish to fall similarly.

(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

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(The writer is a well-known columnist and an author)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY
Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987. This year's message from the UN Environment Programme was "Keep cool and carry on". The need of the hour is to use more of environmental-friendly products and less of products emitting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). To be honest, the Earth without

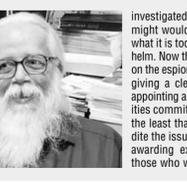
the ozone is like a house without roof.
TS Karthik
Chennai

RECYCLING HEROES
Sir — This refers to the article, "Exposing a repressive campaign in Xinjiang" (September 13) by Claude Arpi. The article is right in its intent to point out that the Chinese barbarians towards the Uighur Muslim minorities are not new but what is surprising is that nobody dares to question Beijing's Muslim policy. The writer gives an account of what is happening in the Chinese

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims. This brings us to question the double standards of the Governments of the Muslim majority or Islamic nations, who were mute while condemning Myanmar on Rohingya Muslims. In my opinion, those who condemn the cause of Uighur or Rohingya Muslims will be asked by the international community to shoulder the responsibility which they wish to avoid. One wonders why the

ISRO spy case: It is more than compensation

This refers to the editorial, "Hurt pride" (September 17). The grit, determination and the unflinching faith in the judiciary, despite its meandering pace, have made it possible for former ISRO scientist Nambi Narayanan to come out clean from the fabricated espionage case. As it was pointed out in the editorial, no amount of monetary compensation can substitute the trials and tribulations and the mental agony Narayanan was subjected to by the officials who



ing the case is necessary. It is said that iron should be hit while it is hot — like-wise, the crime and punishment should go hand-in-hand to have a lasting impact on the wrong-doer. Those who held office and those successive rulers who pursued the case even when the CBI/Court had closed the case as "fostled and fabricated" just to wet their own appetite should tender apology to the scientist.

VS Jayaraman
Chennai

US is meddling in these affairs especially suffering from the September 11, 2001 incident and thereafter?

Sh Panda
Bhubaneswar

INDIA'S EMERGING MARKETS
Sir — This refers to the article, "New-age business model" (September 17) by Mohandas Pai and Shobha Mishra Ghosh. Business is basically about knowing something that nobody else knows. The Indian business houses are on a growth trajectory and are harnessing human resources to develop a cutting edge technology.

The businesses must make work-places more employee-oriented and make their businesses global — OYO rooms has entered Chinese market and OLA cab is now taking its fight with Uber to the next level. Indian businessmen must start taking risks to make best utilisation of human and physical resources.

Gourang Naryanji
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Purvanchal: A manifest destiny

After suffering years of neglect, a slew of measures undertaken by the Modi-Yogi duo will ensure that the best of the region's natural resources is utilised



—MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH

Purvanchal has fertile land, tracts and huge natural resources. The irony is that despite having all these positives, it remains the most backward region not only in Uttar Pradesh but the entire country. The region has been represented in the past by former Prime Ministers like Lal Bahadur Shastri and Chandrasekhar and stalwarts such as Kamalapati Tripathi, Kalpana Bai and Mulayam Singh Yadav. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath too got elected from here — and yet politics in this part of the country is marked with little other than caste. However, things are looking up for Purvanchal.

The Modi-Yogi duo have been focussed on this region. The reason is simple: It sends more than two dozen members to the Lok Sabha, more than what the entire State of Gujarat sends. The inauguration of Purvanchal Expressway, which was touted as the lifeline of development of the region by the Chief Minister, is a major step in this direction. There are several developmental initiatives, running into thousands of crores of rupees, to boost infrastructure in cities like Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Allahabad and Azamgarh. Gorakhpur, which is Yogi's stronghold as also other parts of the region, are now being connected with a new Delhi-Ayodhya flight has been announced from Ganga — this is expected to give a major fillip to industrialisation.

Yogi Adityanath is also working on the aggregation of an industrial land bank of 10,000 acres in his home turf, which will soon be notified by the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA). A direct road will connect the district with the proposed Purvanchal Expressway which will also connect Ayodhya. Besides, there are plans to revive a fertiliser plant in the city which has been shut for some time. The Yogi dispensation has already announced industrial corridors along the Purvanchal Expressway. Efforts are on to spread the rail network to the untouched areas of Purvanchal. Both the Union and State Governments are keen on ensuring air connectivity. While the

BJP targets TRS on 70th Liberation Day

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

On the 70th Liberation Day of Hyderabad on Monday marking the merger of the erstwhile princely State of Hyderabad into the Indian Union following a military action in 1948, the BJP launched a fresh onslaught on the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti.

As the day has come in the thick of the election campaign in the State, the saffron party has put the occasion to full use to target the TRS, questioning why it did not celebrate the day officially during its four-year long rule.

"When it couldn't celebrate the most important day in the history of Telangana how it can claim itself to be the champion of the State," asked BJP state floor leader G Kishan Reddy.

While all other parties including the TRS, Congress and the Left marked the day by hoisting national flags at their respective party offices, the BJP adopted an aggressive posture linking its programmes to the party's election campaign.

The national flag was hoisted at the State BJP headquarters in the presence of the top

State BJP leaders, including the State president K Lakshman and former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya.

They promised that after coming to power in the State the BJP will officially celebrate "Telangana Vimohana Day" or liberation day. A similar promise was made by the BJP national president Amit Shah during his visit on Saturday.

Kishan Reddy who paid tributes to the Telangana martyrs at the memorial alleged that the TRS was playing into the hands of the Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (MIM). "TRS has done a great injustice to Telangana by not celebrating the day. It will be possible only if BJP comes to power. We will organize official celebration in every government office when we come to power", Reddy said.

He urged the people to stand up against the vote bank politics of K Chandrasekhar Rao. He said that KCR did not have any moral right to ask for votes when he had failed to keep any promise made to the people.

Reacting angrily to the senior TRS leader K Taraka Rama Rao describing BJP as "Bharatiya Jhootha Party",

Kishan Reddy said, "If he calls our party like that then the TRS is Telangana Razakars Party".

He was referring to the Razakars, a private militia force in Nizam reign which fought against the Indian army during the operation polo. Nizam rule had come to an end on September 17, 1948 after a three day long "Operation Polo" by the Indian army at the behest of then home minister Sardar Patel.

BJP has been demanding that the day should be celebrated officially in Telangana like it was done in the parts of Nizam dominion which were merged into Karnataka and Maharashtra.

BJP leaders also recalled statements of the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on various occasion in which he had expressed his admiration for the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan for his benevolent rule and the Hindu-Muslim harmony and composite culture which prevailed during his reign. In the past KCR rejected the demand for celebration of Liberation Day saying it was a "merger day" and some people want to use it to create a discord among the people on communal lines.

HC notice to TN BJP leader for remarks on judiciary

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday asked H Raja, the national secretary of the BJP, to present himself before the court in four weeks and explain why no action should not be taken against him for his derogatory comments against the judiciary.

Justices CT selvam and Nirmal Kumar on Monday took suo motu cognisance of his remarks made in Puthukottai district on Saturday when the police tried to prevent him from taking a Vinayaka Chaturthi procession through a locality which has been declared out of bound because of the communally sensitive region.

Raja reportedly shouted at the police and used derogatory comments against the judiciary, the video of which went viral in the social media.

Raja reportedly shouted at the police and used derogatory comments against the judiciary, the video of which went viral in the social media.

The BJP leader has heard shouting that the whole police forces in Tamil Nadu were corrupt and the State Police Chief's residence had been raided recently by the CBI.

When the video of his out-

bursts went viral, Raja changed tracks and claimed that he had not made any comments like that.

He also claimed that the voice in the video does not belong to him and it has been dubbed by some forces who were against him and the BJP.

The Pudukottai Police have registered a first information report against Raja and five others under various sections of the Indian Penal Code ranging from unlawful assembly to criminal intimidation.

The BJP leader remained incommunicado despite many attempts to contact him over the phone.

Uma Anandan, his close associate, was the only person who came out to support Raja while other BJP leaders maintained silence over the issue.

"Raja Sir has not told anything like what the DMK and VCK against Hindus in the State," said Anandan.

It may be remembered that Raja had courted controversy last year for his exhortation to the BJP cadre to destroy and demolish the statues of EV Ramasamy Naicker, founder of the Dravida movement in Tamil Nadu.

Naicker statue desecration mars festive season in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The festive season in Tamil Nadu commenced on a stormy note with unpleasant incidents being reported from various parts of the State in connection with Vinayakar Chaturthi and the 139th birth anniversary of EV Ramasamy Naicker, social reformer and founder of the Dravidian movement.

Miscreants reportedly placed footwears on the statue of Naicker at Tiruppur in south western Tamil Nadu on Monday morning. Though the police got the footwears removed immediately, the city witnessed demonstrations condemning the desecration of the statue.

Another miscreant threw his chappals at the statue of Naicker in Chennai's arterial Mount Road. A crowd which had gathered around the statue to offer floral tributes to the late leader was taken aback by this act of vandalism and caught hold of the miscreant and was handed over to the police.

In Tiruppur, a team of police officers are scanning the entire district to nab the people who vandalised the statue of Naicker. All political parties barring the BJP came

out in the open and condemned the attack on the statues.

MK Stalin, DMK president, wanted the Tamil Nadu Government to slap National Security Act on anti-social elements who desecrated Naicker's statues. The attacks on the statues of Naicker come a day after the communal riots that rocked the southern town of Senkottai.

The town bordering Kerala saw Hindus and Muslim rioting on Thursday. Though there were no untoward incidents during the processions, the day prior to the immersion saw pitched battles between the two communities over the route through which the procession was to take place.

Many shops and vehicles were set ablaze by miscreants as there were stiff opposition to the procession scheduled through streets having Muslim population.

The district administration's orders not to use high decibel music and slogans like Bharat Mata Ki Jay were challenged by activists of Hindu Front and devotees of the Lord.

Since they did not get the desired help from the administration, Hindus in the district convened a meeting on Saturday and decided to social-

ly and economically boycott the Muslim community. "Though a peace meeting was held on Sunday at the instance of the district administration, the impasse caused by Vinayaka Chaturthi remained unresolved," said Sriram, writer and social activist.

Meanwhile, the outburst by H Raja, the national secretary of BJP, at Thirumayam in Pudukottai district against the judiciary and police has resulted in the deterioration of the communal harmony in the State. Raja accused the court and police of corruption and termed them as anti-Hindu. The outburst went viral and the police registered a first information report against him and other Hindu leaders under various sections of the IPC.

Though Raja denied that he had raised allegations against the judiciary and police, Shyamala and C Rajasekar, advocates of Madras High Court said that the BJP leader had bitten more than he could chew.

Last year also Raja was in the news for making allegedly derogatory comments against Naicker. BJP leaders in Tamil Nadu refused to come out to help their colleague. "We are helpless as this is a situation created by Raja himself," said a senior leader.

Petrol, diesel cheaper by ₹2 in Karnataka

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

In a major decision, the Congress-JD(S) coalition Government in Karnataka captained by Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy has reduced the petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2 in the State. Karnataka has one of the highest rates of petroleum products and this has reduced the burden of the common people to an extent.

This makes Karnataka the fourth state to bring down the soaring fuel rates after Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Fuel prices have been on an upward swing for weeks now with union Government so far refused to cut in central taxes, while maintaining that rates would stabilise depending on the international market.

Petrol was selling at ₹84.59 per litre in Bengaluru on Monday, while diesel was retailing at ₹76.10 a litre. Addressing a rally at Kalburgi to commemorate the Hyderabad Karnataka liberation day on

Monday announced the cut in rate.

He said "Today, this coalition Government has decided to reduce both petrol and diesel prices by ₹2 per litre."

Former PM and Janata party Supremo HD Deve Gowda said in a tweet "It is a commendable decision by the Government of Karnataka to reduce fuel prices by around ₹2 per litre."

Announcing the price slash, Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy said, "Our Government has decided to reduce the cess on petrol and diesel. The fuel price will be decreased by two rupees per litre."

Deputy CM G Parameshwara also took to Twitter to hail the decision. "In a landmark move to reduce the burden of rising fuel prices on the people of Karnataka, our coalition Government has slashed the cess on petrol & diesel by ₹2. Hope the union Government too follows suit," he wrote.

20 to 30L names deleted from poll lists in T, alleges Cong

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Congress in Telangana on Monday alleged that between 20 to 30 lakh names have been deleted from the electoral rolls and that the party would work to include every eligible citizen in the voters' lists.

"The deletion of 20-30 lakh names from the electoral rolls was not incidental, but part of a conspiracy by the ruling TRS and BJP," Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged.

The Congress would not allow the conspiracy to succeed and would fight until each and every eligible citizen gets enrolled in the voters' lists, he said, speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, the State Congress headquarters here.

Reddy also alleged that the TRS government in Telangana has "crushed people's freedom".

The Congress, if elected to power in the coming assembly

with it to end the "misrule" of TRS, has held preliminary talks with TDP and CPI on forming a broad-based alliance to defeat the TRS.

AICC incharge of party affairs in Telangana R C Khuntia had earlier indicated that a Common Minimum Programme (CMP) could be evolved for the alliance.

Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with other party leaders, later visited party leader and ex-MLA T Jayaprakash Reddy, who was arrested in connection with a human trafficking case last week, at Chanchalguda jail here.

"Reddy has been implicated in a false case by the TRS government," the TPCC president said.

Meanwhile, Congress leader A Revanth Reddy claimed that there was a conspiracy against him as he is expected to play a key role in the party's election campaign.

Assembly elections, would restore 'Dharna Chowk' (a place near Indira Park here to organise protests) as protests are not being allowed there now, Reddy said.

The Assembly elections were originally scheduled to be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha polls next year, but the assembly was dissolved earlier this month as per a recommendation of the TRS Government.

The Congress, which called upon all political and non-political forces to join forces



Shiite Muslims beat their chests in a religious procession of mourning during the holy month of Moharram in Jammu PTI

United Opposition is not a threat to us: Maurya

PTI ■ MATHURA

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya does not view the united opposition as a threat to the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to reporters here Monday evening, Maurya said, "Our target is 73+ seats (in the state) and we are not concerned about the opposition's strategy."

Recently, BSP chief Mayawati said her party would join the mahagathbandhan if her party was offered respectable number of seats.

"We are not bothered about Mayawati, Akhilesh

Yadav or Rahul Gandhi. We are working for 73+ seats and how we can support the prime minister," he said.

He said the opposition's main aim was to stop Modi in 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He said the opposition leaders were frustrated, dejected and sad as their efforts were not yielding desired results.

Speaking on the SC/ST ordinance, the deputy CM said he can assure the people that the provisions of the ordinance and the act in the future would never be misused.

"In spite of winning 73 seats, we could not win in the rest seven seats in the state in

2014 general polls. However, now our aim is to ensure victory in 100 per cent seats," Maurya is said to have told BJP activists during an interaction, according to media in-charge of BJP Pradeep Goswami.

Maurya told the party workers that they have to play a greater role in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections compared to the state elections held last year, Goswami said, adding that Maurya advised the people to apprise the public about varnane schemes launched by the Modi Government. Maurya later paid obeisance to the presiding deity at Banke Behari temple in Vrindaban.

CEC meets representatives of political parties in Raj

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Chief Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat met the representatives of seven political parties in Jaipur on Monday to discuss the issues related to the upcoming Assembly election in Rajasthan.

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party submitted a memorandum to the commissioner, demanding elections in the state in two phases. The representatives sought adequate security and administrative force for a free-and-fair election, a BJP spokesperson said.

Collectors in Telangana given training on election work

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A training programme for All district Collectors in Telangana on how to deal with the process of election work, especially those involving information technology, was conducted here Monday.

According to the guidelines of the Election Commission of India, all the Collectors/District Election Officers (DEOs) of the state have been imparted training on how to deal with the process of election work.

Also, deputy DEOs with IT wing have been trained to have a clear idea to perform their duties with transparency during the process of the elections,

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer Rajat Kumar told reporters.

The ECI has deputed teams from Delhi to impart the training at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) head office where Kumar and the civic body Commissioner M Dana Kishore monitored the programme, he said.

The ECI has made available 10 IT applications which would help the DEOs perform their duties in an appropriate way, Kumar said. Also, the ECI has introduced an application 'C Vigil' wherein any citizen can upload photos and videos during the election time, for

which time-bound response would be provided, he said.

Every citizen can utilise the application to upload and give information about the model code of conduct, malpractices etc, and the EC officials would act on the grievances in a time-bound schedule to sort the issues out immediately, Kumar said. These are some sophisticated and powerful IT tools which would be used this time in the election, he said.

Special awareness campaigns towards voter enrolment were also conducted over the last three days across the state where every booth-level officer performed the assigned duties at the polling stations, he said.

Girl sets self afire after lover hangs himself

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

A 19-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide by setting herself ablaze after learning that her 22-year-old lover had hanged himself, near here, police said on Monday. The couple were neighbours, and the reason for taking the extreme step was not known, the police said. On Sunday, the lovers were arguing with each other over the phone while the boy was having drinks with his friend, they said. Later, the boy went home, told his family he would return on Monday, but phoned up his brother and his friend and said he was going to commit suicide, police said.



Members of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) participate in a road blockade agitation against alleged attack on BJP Bengal president Dilip Ghosh by TMC workers in East Midnapore district, in Kolkata on Monday PTI

J&K Govt approves Single Window Act

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday approved the J&K Single Window (Industrial Investment and Business Facilitation) Act, 2018, which aims to ease flow of investments into the State. "The Governor's administration approved the J&K Single Window Act, 2018. The Act has been approved by the state administrative council (SAC), headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik," an official spokesman said.

Giving details of the Act, Principal Secretary, industries, Shailendra Kumar said enactment of the act is part of the

government's flagship initiative to improve ease of doing business indicators. "The act aims at comprehensive and unprecedented overhaul of the outdated processes and procedures involved in setting up businesses in the state," he said.

Kumar said services of more than 12 departments have been brought together in an online service. "All services from the pre-operation, pre-establishment stage to the renewal stage are present in the single window portal," Kumar said. He said the act involves setting up of three-tier committees at the state, division and district levels to ensure speedy clearance of business proposals.

Kashmiri migrants can vote in upcoming civic polls: EC

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The election office of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday said Kashmiri migrants can vote in the upcoming municipal polls as their names continue to be enrolled in electoral lists of the Assembly constituencies of the Valley.

"With the amendments in J&K Representation of the People Act-1957 and J&K Conduct of Election Rules-1965, the names of Kashmiri migrants continue to be enrolled in the electoral rolls of the Assembly constituencies of Kashmir Valley.

"As the Municipal electoral rolls are relatable to the legislative assembly electoral rolls, their names exist in the electoral Rolls of the municipal bodies in the Kashmir valley," a spokesman for the election office said.

He said in order to provide Kashmiri migrants facility to exercise their franchise in the municipal elections-2018, they have been notified as a class of persons who shall cast their votes through postal ballots.

The notification to this effect has been issued on 16 September, 2018, he said.

"Consequent upon this

notification, a detailed scheme for voting by Kashmiri migrants by means of postal ballots in the municipal elections, 2018 stands notified," he added. The spokesman said the scheme makes available electoral rolls to the Kashmiri migrants at 16 places including six transit camps in Kashmir so that they can file an application to opt for voting by way of postal ballot.

He said the chief electoral officer has prescribed the last date for making such application as the last date for making nominations for a particular municipal body.

Shutdown hits normal life in Kashmir



Security personnel stand guard along a barbed wire during a strike called by separatist leaders against the recent civilian and militant killings in South Kashmir, in Srinagar on Monday

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Normal life was affected in Kashmir Valley on Monday by a shutdown called by separatists to protest against the recent killings of militants and a civilian in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Even as the shutdown passed off peacefully, suspected militants shot dead a soldier of the Territorial Army (TA), who had been active in counter-insurgency operations.

The separatists' Joint Resistance Leadership (JRL), a grouping of prominent separatist leaders Syed Ali Geelani, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Yasin Malik, had called for day-long shutdown against the recent killings. Five local militants of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits including top-ranking commander Gulzar Padder, all

residents of Kulgam and Anantnag districts, were killed in a counter-militant operation in Chowgam village of Qazigund on Friday. In the aftermath of the gunfight, a civilian youngster Rouf Ganaie from Anchidora Anantnag was also killed and two dozen protesters were injured.

Shops, fuel stations, business establishments and educational institutions remained closed in Srinagar and other areas of the city while public transport was generally off the roads. Very scanty private and public transport vehicles were seen plying on some Srinagar roads.

The shutdown also impacted attendance in government offices including the Civil Secretariat.

The authorities deployed police and paramilitaries in

sensitive areas of capital Srinagar to prevent any law and order situation.

The train services were suspended between Banihal and Baramulla for the third consecutive day since Saturday following killings in Kulgam. The speed of mobile internet has been reduced in south Kashmir areas and elsewhere in the Valley as a precautionary security measure.

Meanwhile, unidentified militants shot dead a Territorial Army (TA) man Mukhtar Ahmad Malik alias Mukhtar Gola at his home in Shurat area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon. Mukhtar Gola was a former cadre of pro-government militia known as Ikhwan, a counter-insurgent group that killed hundreds of militants in Kashmir Valley between late 1990s and early 2000.

Three more Hizbul ultras held in Assam

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam police arrested three more suspected linkmen of Hizbul Mujahideen from Nagaon and Jamunamukh areas of central Assam on Monday.

A senior official of the Assam police said that the Hizbul Mujahideen had managed to set up a module in Assam.

The arrests came after the recent arrest of Qamar Uz Zaman, a Hizbul terrorist from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, and the subsequent arrest of his close aide Shahnawaj Alam from Hojai last week.

"We have arrested Saifudin, who is the brother of Qamar-uz-Zaman. He was produced in the court and was sent

to 10 days police remand. We believe that Saifudin has a big role in spreading the Hizbul network in Assam," he said adding that the police are interrogating him to get vital details.

"Three linkmen arrested included Riazudin Bhuyan, Jainal Ahmad and Bharul Islam," he added.

It may be mentioned here that a team from Kanpur police visited Lanka police station after the arrest of Qamar Uz Zaman and Assam police had also sent a team to Kanpur. Police is trying to place various inputs together for Hizbul Mujahideen interest in Assam was for recruiting the youths or procuring arms.

"We are analysing various inputs as to for what this outfit was here," he said.

KAPS unit 2 nuclear plant in Surat attains criticality

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Unit 2 of the Kakrapur Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Surat district in Gujarat attained criticality — which in other words means the initiation of self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction in the reactor - in the early hours of Monday.

Announcing this, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL)'s Associate Director (CP&CC) AK Nema said: "The 220 MW KAPS-2 went critical at 2.22 am today, after undergoing a renovation and modernisation programme, encompassing En-Masse Collant Channel Replacement, En Masse Feeder Replacement and other safety upgrades. The task was com-

pleted three and a half months ahead of the schedule."

According to Nema, the NPCIL, Nuclear Fuel Complex (manufacturer of coolest channels), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and various vendors and contractors contributed to the KAPS-2 attaining criticality.

"The approach to criticality was undertaken after adhering to all the stipulated regulatory requirements, and shall be followed by conducting various tests, connection to the grid, increase in power level to full power as per laid down procedures and regulatory clearances," Nema said.

The KAPS comprises two units of indigenous 220MW (KAPS-1&2) Pressurised

Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR), which commenced commercial operations in 1993 and 1995 respectively. Two more units of 700 MW PHWRs (KAPP-3 & 4) are under construction.

The NPCIL currently operates 22 nuclear power reactors, including the 100MW RAPS-1, owned by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), with a capacity of 6780MW.

Additionally, eight reactors with a capacity of 6200MW are currently under construction in different parts of India, while work is underway for 12 more nuclear reactors with a capacity of 9000MW for which all administrative and financial sanctions have been received from the government.

Many angles to 'honour killing' of Dalit in Nalgonda

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

The "honour killing" case of Nalgonda has taken many sensational twists and turns, adding a political angle to the brutal murder.

While Nalgonda district police has claimed that it was very close to achieving break through in the case by identifying the main killers, the victim's wife Amruthavarshini has alleged that her father T Maruti Rao had paid a whopping ₹10 million to get her husband Pranay Kumar killed.

According to police sources, 9 or ten people were involved in the killing of Pranay last week. Maruti Rao was the main conspirator, as he wanted the Dalit youth killed for marrying his upper-caste daughter.

The police have already arrested five people, including Maruti Rao, his brother Shruvan, friend Kareem.

There were speculations that the police have also taken Abdul Bari and Shafi into custody and Abdul Bari confessed that he had given the responsibility of eliminating Pranay to Shafi.

Abdul Bari is a notorious rowdy in Nalgonda and he was also accused in the case of murder of former Gujrat Home Minister Haren Pandya.

According to the police sources, Maruthi Rao, a prominent businessman from Bania community, had come into contact with Abdul Bari a few years ago when Bari had kidnapped in a land grabbing case.

Maruti Rao gave him the contract to kill Pranay who had married his daughter in January in Hyderabad.

Rao approached Abdul Bari two months ago and hired his services to eliminate Pranay Kumar. Police sources said that

during the questioning Maruti Rao admitted his hand in the killing and also justified it. "For me nothing is more important than my social status and name, not even my daughter or her happiness," he reportedly told the police.

Police officials said that Maruti Rao was one of the richest business and politically very influential personality of Miryalaguda town of Nalgonda district.

He was reportedly worth ₹100 crores as he had his finger in many pies including the real estate and kerosene business. He and his brother had also recently joined the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samiti and had his photographs with a minister G Jagdeesh Reddy and TRS MLA Vemula Veeresham.

There was a big hoarding in the town with the photo of Maruti Rao with the minister. Amrutha, whose husband

was hacked to death in front of her eyes has alleged that her father spent a huge amount of money to get her husband killed. She also alleged that her father had tried to pressurize her through the TRS MLA Veeresham to desert her husband and return to her parents which she refused.

Amrutha alleged that the MLA took money from her father and threatened her as well as parents of Pranay.

Nalgonda district superintendent of police AV Ranganath confirmed that Maruti Rao had approached political leaders of different parties including Veeresham for their help to get his daughter back.

"But there is no evidence to link the MLA to the killing," he said.

According to the investigation Maruti Rao had quite a shoddy background. Belonging to a lower middle class family

Maruti Rao originally belonged Kakinada but settled in Miryalaguda about two decades ago.

Starting as a kerosene dealer he gradually developed his business as a dealer of jiggery and expanded it to real estate.

There were also allegations that through the manipulation and forgery of documents and revenue records he grabbed prime lands including those allotted to freedom fighters.

He also developed many ventures and earned a lot of money to emerge as one of the richest persons in the town.

At one stage he was involved in a confrontation with the dreaded naxalite turn mafia don Nayeemuddin over a piece of land. But the two later compromised and cooperated with each other.

Nayeem was killed in an encounter with the police a couple of years ago.

BJP will be thrown out of power in '19: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Narendra Modi Government's days are numbered as the people of India have made up their mind to throw it out in the 2019 polls, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

The Chief Minister, who is currently in Frankfurt for a business trip, told reporters how a "comeback for the BJP Government will be catastrophic for the country." Calling the Modi Government "anti-people" to the core, Banerjee said the BJP came to power by peddling loads of promises but kept none.

Instead of the promised "acchhe din" they only gave distress, inflation and

persecution of those who dared to raise their voice against them. "This Government is insensitive towards people's daily woes which can be proved by the hike in petroleum prices on a daily basis. Though the price of crude has gone down in the international market they are increasing prices of petrol, diesel, LPG.

They have slapped petroleum cess on nine occasion which is inhuman and cruel. This is not a people's Government but a Government of the rich," Banerjee said.

"Under this regime every protest is met by repression: that may come either through levelling of false charges, lynching or CBI and ED. Just because I had always been vocal against



their anti-people policies they sent our leaders to jail on false charges," she maintained adding the people had been watching their activities and "they are sure to be thrown out of power in 2019."

On whether she saw the Opposition parties coming together to defeat the BJP, she said "everyone is fighting against the BJP in his or her own way. But I have told the Opposition

leaders to first think of defeating the BJP.

"Different parties which are strong in different places should be allowed take on the BJP. The Opposition parties must stop the division of votes and unite to pull down this Government."

The Modi Government had no original thoughts and only survived on aping the States. For instance she said, "they have stolen the Kanya Shree and other similar projects from us and have started their Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme. Look at what they spend on their scheme what we do."

Alleging that absolute power had made the BJP arrogant she said, "they are not only arrogant but also vindictive.

They will not allow democracy to operate in India. If they come for the second time India will be finished. So it is better to finish the BJP before they finish India."

On the BJP's target of 22 seats from Bengal she said "this is only their pipedream. Let them dream and when it will come to the reality they will get nothing. At present they have two seats. But let me tell you that when they come to power they will not be able to win even that two seats."

Bengal was a culturally advanced, peaceful state which had witnessed the renaissance in real sense of the term, she maintained adding it would not be easy for the BJP to penetrate that ring of renaissance.

Burrabazar fire rages on

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The fire at Kolkata's Burrabazar continued to rage on even after 38 hours on Monday while a helpless posse of firemen said it could take another 72 hours for the inferno to die down. Meanwhile, parts of the imposing 150-year-old structure developed cracks threatening the adjoining buildings, sources said, adding there were about 700 shops inside the 7-storey whole-sale market. "About ₹200 crore is lost to the fire ahead of Durga Puja," a shop owner said adding it could take years for the businessmen to rebuild their business.

Abuse of minor girl: Owaisi plea to close down school

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

As the incident of sexual abuse of a minor girl in a private school rocked Hyderabad, the local MP on Monday urged the State Government to close down the school and take stringent action against the school management for negligence and attempt to cover up the heinous crime.

Accompanied by the family members of the four-year old victim, Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president and Member of Parliament from

Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi met the Police Commissioner Anjali Kumar and district collector Yogita Rana and demanded that school should not be allowed to open till the probe was completed.

He urged the commissioner to transfer the case to the Central Crime Station from the local police station and also book a case against the school and seize it.

After the case of sexual abuse in Azan International school came to light the police arrested a school supervisor Mohammed Jeelani.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age : 55-60 years approx., Height : 5'7", Complexion : Shallow, Wearing: Kurta Pajama. He was admitted in SGM Hospital due to accident at Surajmal Stadium Metro Station, Delhi on 27.08.2018 and during the treatment he was died on 28.08.2018. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 323-18 u/s 279/304 IPC dated 28.08.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

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

SHO :
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Outer Dist., Delhi
Ph. 011-25947225, 25949470

DP/1398/OD/18

Rajnath inaugurates smart fence pilot project in Jammu



Home Minister Rajnath Singh addresses the media as MoS in PMO Jitendra Singh and DG BSF KK Sharma look on, after the inauguration of the first 'Smart Fence' pilot project along International Border in Jammu on Monday

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Adding teeth to the border guarding capacity of Indian border guards, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday inaugurated the 'smart fence' pilot project developed under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) in Jammu.

After attending an e-inauguration function here at the frontier headquarters of the BSF, the Union Home Minister briefly chatted with the jawans deployed along the five-km long stretch where 'SMART' fencing has been made operational.

Addressing a separate press conference, Rajnath announced that since it is a 'pilot project'

"we will monitor its performance and depending upon the feedback we will further improve it and make it more effective."

Singh said that the technology would be introduced along a 2026-km long border stretch that has been identified as 'vulnerable'.

"As I said, this is a pilot project. When I went to Israel, I came across this technology. It was discussed, and finally, it is being implemented," Singh said, adding that making the borders 'foolproof' was the primary motive of his Government behind starting two pilot CIBMS projects.

Rajnath also dedicated the SMART fence pilot project to the jawans who made supreme

sacrifices in the line of duty while guarding the frontiers.

"Today is birthday of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and on this occasion, I dedicate this 'smart fence' pilot project to the jawans who attained martyrdom for the nation while guarding the borders," Singh told reporters during the press briefing here at the frontier headquarters.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, Singh said the Centre has been making maximum use of technology to make the security system at the borders stronger and effective.

The Minister said that smart fencing at the borders is a technological solution devised to address the security issues in the border states and the two projects in five kilometers areas each have been installed along the Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu on a pilot basis.

He said the number of casualties of the jawans on the borders would get minimised and the stress level among the jawans would also reduce to a large extent.

The Union Home Minister further added that with the digital smart fencing, our borders would become absolutely safe since it would virtually make it impossible for the terrorists to breach it and infiltrate across the borders.



Muslim women and BJP members celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday at Azad Park in Varanasi

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-110048.

N.I.T. NO. 31/S-III (2018-2019)				
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost/ Earnest Money	Date release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of water supply by P.I. 200mm dia D.I. Water line from E-2 G.K. II to DDA Park in Chitranganj Park under South _III (AC-50)	Rs.33,59,382/-	2018_DJB_158441_1 15.09.2018	01.10.2018 Up to 3.00 PM
2.	Improvement of underground tank located at Gali No. -30 & Gali No.-13, Tughlakabad Extn. under EE(South) -III (AC-49)	Rs.4697,078/-	2018_DJB_158441_2 15.09.2018	01.10.2018 Up to 3.00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 377/2018-19

Sd/
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WEST) I
(SOUTH) III

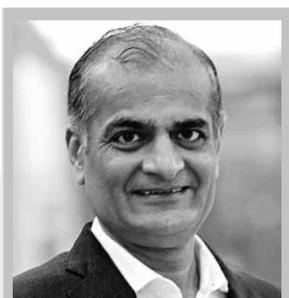


I'm looking forward to working with USISPF's Board of Directors to build upon the key relationship between India and the US. The Tata group has been at the forefront of US-India business ties, and USISPF will be an important platform to further develop this relationship

S Jaishankar, President, Global Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons

BUZZ FROM GOVT/CORP

This is a progressive move and signifies the Government's determination to strengthen the banking sector in the country for a better performance and service delivery. A stronger banking sector is vital for the overall health of the economy and we hope to see more such measures in the times ahead



Rashesh Shah, President, FICCI

Adani, IOC, BPCL, Torrent bag city gas licences

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Oil regulator PNGRB Monday declared the final list of winners of city gas retailing licences that had billionaire Gautam Adani's group, state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Torrent Gas as the big winner.
Adani Gas won rights to retail CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households and industries in 13 cities on its own and another nine, including Allahabad, in a joint venture with IOC, according to results of 84 cities that were bid out in the country's biggest city gas distribution (CGD) bid round.
According to the list of winners put out by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), IOC on its own won rights to seven cities, including Coimbatore and Salem in Tamil Nadu and Guna in Madhya Pradesh.
Bharat Gas Resources Ltd, a unit of state-owned BPCL, won a licence for 11 cities like Amethi and Rai Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh and Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, while Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd made 10 winning bids that included ones for Chennai, Alwar in Rajasthan, Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh and Karaikal in Puducherry.
State gas utility GAIL's retailing arm, GAIL Gas, managed rights for five cities, including Dehradun.
Indraprastha Gas Ltd, the firm that retails CNG in the national capital, won city gas rights for Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh.
Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) and Gujarat Gas won rights for one city each while Green Gas got licences for two and Maharashtra Natural Gas Ltd that for three.
Other winners included smaller players like IRM Energy, Haryana City Gas, Essel Gas, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd, Tripura Natural Gas, and Assam Gas.
PNGRB said a total of 4,346 CNG stations have been committed to be set up in the 84 Geographical Areas (GAs) in eight years. Also, the entities have committed to provide 2.1 crore piped natural gas connections to households kitchens by September 30, 2026.
When the ninth CGD bidding round closed in July, IOC, BPCL and Adani Gas were the top bidders. As many as 86 cities were offered in the bid round but results of two have been withheld pending legal challenge mounted by certain bidders.
Of the 86 cities offered for retailing of CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households in the ninth CGD bid round, IOC bid for 34 cities on its own and another 20 in partnership with Adani Gas.
Adani Gas on its own bid for 32 cities.
Bharat Gas Resources Ltd bid for as many as 53 cities, while GAIL Gas Ltd put in offers for 34 cities.
Gujarat-based Torrent Gas Pvt Ltd bid for 31 cities, while Gujarat Gas Ltd put in offers for 21 areas.
Petronet LNG Ltd, India's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, sought to foray into CGD business by bidding for a licence in seven cities but drew a blank.

Sensex cracks 350 pts on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The benchmark BSE Sensex sank over 350 points in early trade on Monday after two sessions of gains as investors cashed profits in consumer durables, banking, oil & gas and PSU stocks, amid fresh weakness in the rupee and weak global cues.
The BSE 30-share barometer dropped 366.52 points, or 0.96 per cent, to 37,724.12 driven by losses in index majors Axis Bank, SBI, Asian Paint, Tata Motors, HDFC and HDFC Bank.
The gauge had rallied 677.51 points in the previous two sessions on sustained buying by domestic institutional investors.
The NSE Nifty index too dipped below the 11,500-mark by falling 111.80 points, or 0.97 per cent, at 11,403.40.
Brokers said investors turned cautious and logged gains after recent rally, pulling down key indices.
The rupee again crashed below the 72-mark by plunging 81 paise to 72.65 against the dollar, despite the Government's steps to stem a steep fall in the currency.

Govt may extend deadline for imposition of higher duties on 29 US products

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Government will further extend the deadline for the imposition of higher customs duties on 29 products, including almond, walnut and pulses, imported from the US, a senior official said on Monday.
In June, India decided to impose retaliatory tariffs from August 4. But it was extended by another 45 days till September 18.
"We are still in discussion with the US authorities. The deadline will be extended tonight," the government official said, adding that the deadline will be extended for another 45 days until November 2.
The duty hike move by India was in retaliation to the March 9 decision of US President Donald Trump to impose heavy tariffs on imported steel and aluminium items, a move that has sparked fears of a global trade war.
Senior officials of India and the US are in discussions to finalise a kind of trade deal. Both the sides holding two track discussions — to increase trade in short and medium term, and identify long term trade potentials.
India is pressing for exemption from high duty imposed by the US on certain steel and aluminium products, resumption of export benefits to certain domestic products under their Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), greater market access for its products from sectors, including agriculture, automobile, auto components and engineering.
As many as 3,500 Indian products from sectors such as chemicals and engineering get duty free access to the US market under the GSP, introduced in 1976.
On the other hand, the US is demanding greater market access for its farm and manufacturing products, including medical devices.
As part of imposition of higher import duties, New Delhi has notified higher tariffs on several products. While import duty on walnut is to be hiked to 120 per cent from 30 per cent, duty on chickpeas, Bengal gram (chana) and masur dal will be hiked to 70 per cent from 30 per cent. Levy on lentils will be hiked to 40 per cent from 30 per cent.

Business Corner

INNOVATIVE LITERARY INITIATIVE BY CORPORATE SECTOR
NTPC Vindhyaal received National Award for its publication "Khila Hain Jyon Bijlee KaPhul" at the 4th Global Literary Fest organised jointly by International Chamber of Media & Entertainment Industry and Asian Academy of Art. AK Tewary, ED, Vindhyaal received the award at a colourful session during the event at the Marwah studios in FilmCity, Noida. The Award was received for NTPC Vindhyaal's contribution to promotion of Literature. This is an Innovative Literary Initiative by any Corporate Organisation. Present on the dais were prominent personalities like Vivek Agnihotri, Film Director, HE Bothata Tsikoane, Ambassador to Kingdom of Lesotho, Sandeep Marwah, President Marwah Studios, well known authors, Asgar Wazahar, Pankaj Mitra, Bhalchand Joshi and Rakesh Bihari.



AAI TO DEVELOP PLAN FOR PALALY AIRPORT, SRI LANKA

AAI signed an agreement with Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India for preparation of Detailed Project Report for development of Palaly Airport in Sri Lanka. The agreement was recently signed by Anil Gupta Executive Director (Land Management & Business Development), Airports Authority of India and Sanjay Panda, Joint Secretary, IOR, MEA, Govt. of India. Speaking on the occasion, Anil Gupta ED (LM & BD), AAI envisaged AAI's vision for going global considering AAI's expertise and capabilities in airport development and operation management. He also informed that over of period of time, AAI has developed more than 60 Airports in Metro and Non Metro cities in India and now AAI wants to leverage its expertise to other countries on a bigger scale.



ITDC inks MoU with Morocco for tourism development

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
State-run hospitality company ITDC signed an MoU with the Moroccan Agency for Tourism Development (SMIT) on Monday, for strengthening cooperation in the tourism sector, a statement from the Ministry said.
India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) a PSU under the aegis of the Ministry of Tourism signed the MoU with the SMIT, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Kingdom of Morocco.
Chairperson and Managing Director (C&MD), ITDC, Ravneet Kaur said, "Signing of the MoU is an acknowledgement of the capabilities and core competency of ITDC and the important role it has played in development of tourism and related infrastructure in the country."
With the signing of the MoU, both the organisations will be able to share engineering and tourism products development expertise, new trends and technology in tourism products and innovative tourism product development, the statement from the Tourism Ministry said.

BHEL flags off its first 6K HP electric locomotive

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Expanding its footprints in the transportation sector, state-run engineering major BHEL Monday flagged off its first 6,000HP electric locomotive from its Jhansi plant.
"As part of its diversification initiatives, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has flagged off of its first 6,000HP electric locomotive (Type WAG-9H)," a company statement said.
BHEL TO MANUFACTURE 30 SUCH LOCOMOTIVES FOR RAILWAY
The 6,000 HP locomotive has been manufactured against an order from the Railway Board for 30 locomotives.
BHEL has created a dedicated centre for research and development in transportation technology and manufacturing facilities at Bhopal, Jhansi and Bengaluru plants.
The PSU has a share of over 50 per cent of railways requirement for electric propulsion equipment for rolling stock.

Infosys invests \$3 mn in US-based TidalScale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
IT company Infosys on Monday said it has doubled its investment in US-based software firm TidalScale by putting in an additional USD 1.5 million (around ₹11 crore) through the Infosys Innovation Fund.
"Infosys...Has made an additional investment of USD 1.5 million through the Infosys Innovation Fund in TidalScale Inc, the company at the heart of the software-defined server revolution," the Indian software major said in a statement.
The Bengaluru-headquartered company had previously invested \$1.5 million in TidalScale Inc in 2016.
TidalScale has developed software-defined servers that deliver in-memory performance at any scale, are self-optimising, use standard hardware and are compatible with all applications and operating systems.
"We are excited to further strengthen our relationship with TidalScale.
Their ground-breaking software defined server technology addresses a key challenge that many enterprises face — to rapidly increase the return on their existing investments in technology infrastructure assets," Deepak Padaki, executive vice president, Infosys, said.
The investment is expected to be completed by September 28, 2018 subject to necessary approvals, the statement said.
"At TidalScale, our focus is to solve problems that until now were difficult or impossible to tackle using the usual approaches to scaling. We are excited that Infosys so enthusiastically shares our vision," Gary Smerdon, President and CEO, TidalScale, said.



India's cashew exports to grow by 5% this year: Icra

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Cashew kernel exports, which have been on a decline since last five years following intense competition from Vietnam is likely to be around 5 per cent this calendar year (CY), Icra said in a report.
In CY12, India's exports stood at 1.02 lakh tonne, enjoying 27 per cent market share compared to 58 per cent of Vietnam, Icra assistant vice president and head, mid-corporate ratings, R Srinivasan said.
"However, since then India's marketshare began declining and while the Indian cashew exports recorded a marginal decline at an annually 3 per cent between CY2012 and CY2017, the exports from Vietnam grew at 10 annually during the same period," he said.
In CY17, India's share was 19 per cent of global exports with 88,000 tonne while Vietnam enjoys 74 per cent, he added. Lower cost of production aided by a higher degree of mechanisation and cheaper labour costs have aided the Vietnamese processors to become more competitive.



Central Vigilance Commissioner KV Chowdhary, releasing the Special issue of Kaleidoscope on "New India Vision 2022" published by SCOPE, in the presence of Ved Prakash, Chairman, SCOPE & CMD, MMTS and UD Choubey, Director General, SCOPE

'MSME loans: Pvt banks, NBFCs eat into PSU banks' market share'

PTI ■ MUMBAI
State-run banks' market share is under the Reserve Bank of India's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework because of earning pressures and networth concerns, which puts restrictions on lending.
The share of private sector banks has grown to 29.9 per cent in June 2018, against the 28.1 per cent in the same month last year, while the same for non bank finance companies (NBFCs) has grown up to 11.3 per cent from 9.6 per cent, according to the report.
Despite the aggressive growth, private sector banks and NBFCs fare better on asset quality as well, it said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male dead body found at Rajan Babu T.B. Hospital, Kingsway Camp, Delhi During the treatment Doctors declare him dead on dated 30.08.2018. In this regard a DD No. 37-B Dated 31.08.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Ganesh, (As per MLC) **S/o:** Late Babu Lal, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** Approx 35 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **ID Mark:** A mole on face. **Wearing:** White Shirt and Gray Paint. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.



S.H.O
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.
DP/1397/OD/18
Ph: 011-25946700, 25946710

AXIS BANK		POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002	
<p>Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(1)(f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.</p>			
<p>The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates:</p>			
<p>The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.</p>			
Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Date of Possession 3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	
1. Mr. Narendrapal Madan S/o Late Fateh Chand and Smt. Pooja, Vaishali Ghaziabad U.P. - 201010 Also at: Mr. Narendrapal Madan s/o Late Fateh Chand Madan Plot No - 200, Sector-1, Vaishali Ghaziabad, UP 201010	The residential vacant Free Hold Plot No. F/288, Admeasuring 31.94 square meter situated at residential colony Vaishali Sector-3 Ghaziabad Tehsil & Distt Ghaziabad U.P. Bounded (According to sale Deed):	1. 07-May-18 2. 14-Sep-18 3. Rs 437345/-	Interest, incidental expenses and cost
2. Mrs. Neelam Madan, W/O - Mr. Narendrapal Madan, Plot No - 533, Sector 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad U.P. - 201010 Also At: Mrs. Neelam Madan, W/O - Mr. Narendrapal Madan, Sarvodaya Govt Kanya Vidyalaya, Block - 13, Geeta Colony, Delhi - 110031	East : as per sale deed West : as per sale deed North : as per sale deed South : as per sale deed		
3. Mr. Rajinder Singh R/O - 158, West Angad Nagar, Laxmi Nagar Delhi			

NPA provisions for banks may stay elevated till FY20: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Banks are witnessing a spurt in asset quality stress in the non-corporate segment and the overall loan loss provisions for lenders are expected to stay elevated till fiscal year 2019-20, a report said.
The outlook on private sector banks, along with SBI and Bank of Baroda among the state-run ones is stable, while all the other state-run banks carry a negative outlook, India Ratings said in its mid-year outlook on banks on Monday.
Banks will continue with credit costs or provisions of up to 3 per cent for both the ongoing fiscal as well as the one after, according to the rating agency.
It attributed the higher credit costs to ageing of NPAs (non-performing assets) recognised earlier since the asset quality review of FY16, accelerated provisioning and slippages especially from non-corporate accounts.
In what can be a worrying sign, the agency said it has observed a spurt in asset quality stress building up in the non-corporate loans, even as the same in the corporate segment has plateaued.
It said there has been an increase in the share of smaller corporates, and small and medium-sized enterprises and personal/retail loans in the special mention accounts (SMAs) pool in FY18 over FY17.
The share of loans under ₹5 crore in SMA1 accounts, or those cases where there has been no loan repayment for 31-60 days, has increased to 40 per cent at the end of FY18 from 29 per cent the year-ago, the report said, while the same for SMA2 where loans have not been serviced for 61-90 days has been to 68 per cent as against 12 per cent earlier.
Even as the asset quality troubles continue, there are rising headwinds for credit availability, according to India Ratings.
"The prevailing stressed financial conditions could intensify credit tightening, unless liquidity of financing channels is at least partially reinvigorated," it said.

L&T Infrastructure Finance revises Prime Lending Rate

PNS ■ MUMBAI
L&T Infrastructure Finance Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of L&T Finance Holdings Ltd, has announced a revision in its Prime Lending Rate (PLR). The company has increased the PLR by 25 bps to 16.00% from 15.75% for all eligible loans linked to PLR effective September 14, 2018.
As on June 30, 2018, the wholesale finance loan book stands at ₹45,945 cr. with disbursements amounting to ₹8,665 cr. in Q1FY19. L&T Infrastructure Finance is the market leader in its focused areas of Infrastructure Finance - renewables, roads and transmission. The company's strength lies in its strong underwriting ability, structuring and syndication capabilities and providing all infrastructure finance related services under one roof.

Sebi bans fugitive economic offender from making open offer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Markets regulator Sebi has barred 'fugitive economic offender' from making an open offer or a competing offer for acquiring shares in a company.
The move is expected to help in preventing such offender from taking control of a listed company.
"No person who is a fugitive economic offender shall make a public announcement of an open offer or make a competing offer for acquiring shares or enter into any transaction, either directly or indirectly, for acquiring any shares or voting rights or control of a target company," Sebi said in a notification dated September 11.
In the event of failure of the delisting offer, Sebi has issued a framework for acquir-

NCLAT AMENDS ORDER ON ESSAR STEEL, ADDS DARIUS KHAMBATA AS COUNSEL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) today amended its order on the Essar Steel, passed by it on September 7, to add the name of senior counsel Darius Khambata, which was left out.
Khambata had represented Resolution Professional of the debt ridden firm Essar Steel in this matter before the appellate tribunal and his name was missing in the final order.
Tribunal's direction came after an application was moved to include his name.
In its judgement, passed earlier this month, NCLAT had ruled that Numetal's ₹37,000 crore second-round bid for Essar Steel is valid, but asked rival bidder ArcelorMittal to clear ₹7,000 crore dues of its previously associated firms within three days to qualify for the acquisition.

MOON'S PYONGYANG VISIT

Denuclearisation high on agenda

AFP ■ SEOUL

Denuclearisation will be high on South Korean President Moon Jae-in's agenda when he meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang this week, Moon's office said on Monday.



and Washington and Pyongyang have sparred since over what that means and how it will be achieved.

The US is pressing for the North's "final, fully verified denuclearisation", while Pyongyang has condemned demands for it to give up its weapons unilaterally as "gangster-like".

Im said the South Korean leader will try to close the gap between the US and the North by playing the role of a mediator.

"Through various meetings and phone calls, President

and the vice chairman of Hyundai Motor.

Moon has been pushing economic co-operation but several South Korean newspapers urged caution Monday, with the Korea Herald calling the businessmen's presence on the trip "untimely".

"It is better to postpone economic projects involving the North until after negotiations to remove its nuclear program make substantial progress," it said in an editorial.

And investment in the North was "fraught with risks and uncertainty", it added.

Other issues on Moon's agenda will be improving inter-Korean ties and easing military tensions on the peninsula, which the South said could lay the ground for declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

That suggested a declaration — which Pyongyang has been pressing for strongly — was unlikely during Moon's trip.

Moon has a better understanding of what the US is thinking than Chairman Kim," he said.

Moon will become the third South Korean leader to visit Pyongyang and will hold at least two meetings with Kim, who may make a rare appearance at the airport to welcome his guests, the chief of staff said.

He is also scheduled to attend a concert and visit key sites in the North's capital with his delegation, which includes tycoons Lee Jae-yong — the heir to the Samsung group —

Trump has insecurity of a teenage girl: John Kerry

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Former US secretary of state John Kerry has torn into Donald Trump for accusing him of holding "illegal" meetings with Iran, saying the American President has the maturity of an "eight-year-old boy with the insecurity of a teenage girl".

Kerry's attack came in response to Trump's tweet accusing the former secretary of State of holding "illegal meetings" with the Iranian Government that were "to the detriment of the American people".

"He told them to wait out the Trump Administration! Was he registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? BAD!" Trump tweeted.

Reacting to the accusation on a late-night talk show on Friday to promote his new memoir 'Every Day is Extra', Kerry said, "He's the first President who spends more time reading his Twitter likes than his briefing books or the Constitution of the United States".



"Unfortunately, we have a president, literally, for whom 'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth' is three different things. And you don't even know what they are," Kerry was quoted as saying by 'The Washington Post'.

"He really is the rare combination of an 8-year-old boy — he's got the maturity of an 8-year-old boy with the insecurity of a teenage girl. It's just who he is," he said.

Kerry's remarks received a mixed response online. While some lauded the comparison as "absolutely priceless" and a "mic drop" moment, many expressed disappointment for



his "condescending" and "inaccurate" generalisation of young women.

Matt Summers, a spokesman for Kerry, later defended Kerry's Iran meetings.

"Secretary Kerry stays in touch with his former counterparts around the world just like every previous secretary of state," he said.

Kerry along with other top US officials played a key role in negotiating the 2015 agreement between Iran and several world powers that lifted sanctions against Tehran in exchange for restrictions on its nuclear programme.

Taliban attacks kill 27 members of Afghan security forces

AP ■ KABUL

The Taliban launched multiple attacks on Afghan checkpoints as well as police and military bases in different parts of the country, killing at least 27 members of the security forces, Afghan officials said Monday.

The attacks and the high casualty toll underscore the difficulties Afghan forces face in trying to secure the country on their own. The Afghan forces have struggled to combat both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate since the U.S. and NATO formally ended their combat mission in the country in 2014.

In western Farah province, attacks began on Sunday night and killed at least 17 members of the security forces. Fared Bakhtawer, head of the provincial council, said the Taliban attacked police checkpoints across the province and around the provincial capital.

A group of Taliban fighters first targeted checkpoints in the district of Push Rod, where 10 policemen died. Another attack struck in Bala Buluk district, where seven were killed and at least three others were abducted by the insurgents. Separately, also in Bala Buluk, six policemen surrendered to the Taliban after an intense battle.

There were also attacks elsewhere in Farah but Bakhtawer couldn't provide any casualty figures, pending more detailed reports.

In northwestern Badghis province, five officers were killed, including Abdul Hakim, the police commander of a reserve unit, in an attack that took place on Monday morning near the provincial capital of Qala-i-Now.

Jamshid Shahabi, spokesman for the Badghis Governor, said around 22 Taliban fighters were killed and 16 others were wounded during the gunbattle there.

In northern Baghlan province, the Taliban on Monday attacked a joint army and police base, killing three army and two police officers, said Gen. Ekramuddin Serih, the provincial police chief. Four other members of the security forces were wounded in the attack, which took place in the Baghlani Markazi district, he said.

GLOBE TROTTING

WORLD'S 1ST HYDROGEN TRAIN ROLLS OUT
Bremervorde: Germany on Monday rolled out the world's first hydrogen-powered train, signalling the start of a push to challenge the might of polluting diesel trains with costlier but more eco-friendly technology

BIRD HIT NEPALESE AIRLINE PLAIN CONTINUES FLIGHT
Kathmandu: A private Nepalese airline's plane was hit by a bird shortly after take-off from Tribhuvan International Airport here on Monday, but the pilot continued to fly, risking the life of 52 persons on board.

UK OPP WANTS BAN ON FOETUS GENDER TESTS
London: Britain's Opposition Labour Party on Monday called for a ban on sex determination tests for pregnant women to counter a bias among South Asian communities in favour of male babies.

Kavanaugh's accuser willing to talk to Cong, lawyer says

WASHINGTON: The woman accusing Judge Brett Kavanaugh of sexually assaulting her is willing to tell her story in public to a Senate panel considering his nomination to the Supreme Court, her lawyer said Monday.

Kavanaugh had been on a smooth confirmation track, but the new allegations have roiled that process. Republican senators have expressed concern over a woman's private-turned-public allegation that a drunken Kavanaugh groped her and tried to take off her clothes at a party when they were teenagers.

Debra S. Katz, the attorney for the woman, Christine Blasey Ford, said her client considered the incident to be an attempted rape. "She believes that if we were not for the severe intoxication of Brett Kavanaugh, she would have been raped," Katz told NBC's "Today."

Kavanaugh has "categorically and unequivocally" denied the allegations, a statement the White House repeated Monday. "This has not changed," said White House spokesman Kerri Kupec. "Judge Kavanaugh and the White House both stand by that statement."

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said of Ford Monday: "She should not be insulted. She should not be ignored. She should testify under oath and she should do it on Capitol Hill." Conway, who said she had discussed the situation with President Donald Trump, said that both Ford and Kavanaugh should testify, but made clear it was up to the Senate Judiciary Committee. She said Sen. Lindsey Graham had told her it could happen as soon as tomorrow and the White House will "respect the process."

Stressing that Kavanaugh had already testified and undergone FBI background checks, Conway said: "I think you have to weigh this testimonial evidence from Dr. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh along with the considerable body of evidence that is already there about the judge's temperament and qualifications and character."

In morning television interviews, Katz said her client was willing to tell her story in public to the Senate Judiciary Committee, although no lawmakers or their aides had yet contacted her. Katz also denied that Ford, a Democrat, is politically motivated. "No one in their right mind regardless of their motives would want to inject themselves into this process and face the kind of violation that she will be subjected to by those who want this nominee to go through... She was quite reluctant to come forward."

Initially the sexual misconduct allegation was conveyed in a private letter, without revealing Ford's name. With a name and disturbing details, the accusation raised the prospect of congressional Republicans defending Trump's nominee ahead of midterm elections featuring an unprecedented number of female candidates and informed in part by the #MeToo movement. AP

4 killed, 3.11 million evacuated as Typhoon Mangkhut hits China

PTI ■ BEIJING

Typhoon Mangkhut, the year's most powerful tropical storm to hit the Chinese mainland, barreled into the coast of Guangdong province killing at least four persons and forcing evacuation of over 3.11 million people in the southern region after leaving a trail of death and destruction from the Philippines to Hong Kong.

Mangkhut landed at 5 p.m. On Sunday on the coast of Jiangmen City in Guangdong province, packing winds up to 162 km per hour, according to the provincial meteorological station.

Three people were killed by falling trees in Guangzhou, the provincial capital, while another person died from collapsing construction materials in the city of Dongguan, Guangdong's disaster relief authorities said.

More than 3.11 million people had been relocated and over 49,000 fishing boats were called back to port in the province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Monday.

Work has been suspended at more than 29,000 construction sites and 640 tourist spots were closed.

The airports of Guangzhou

and Shenzhen. All high-speed train services and some normal-speed rail services have been suspended in and Hainan provinces.

The storm was still raging across southern China's coast and the provinces of Guangdong, Guangxi and Hainan and rain and strong winds were expected to continue through Tuesday, the report said.

Mangkhut made landfall in western Guangdong on Sunday afternoon before moving into neighbouring Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, bringing with it torrential rains and gales.

Though the worst appears to have passed for Guangdong province, local meteorological authorities warned residents to remain alert for floods and landslides in Guangxi.

Mangkhut earlier lashed the Philippines, sparking landslides and building collapses that killed at least 65 people, with another 43 missing.

Hong Kong was also buffeted by fierce winds that tore off roofs, downed trees and caused cranes perched atop half-built skyscrapers to swing ominously. However, there were no reported deaths in Hong Kong, a city well prepared for tropical cyclones.

Parents of 13-yr-old rape victim in Nepal meet Oli

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The grieving parents of a 13-year-old girl in Nepal who was raped and murdered in July in the country's remote west, met Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Monday and sought justice for their daughter whose brutal killing triggered nationwide outrage.

Prime Minister Oli told the parents that he had directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to reinvestigate the case and briefed them about the Government's actions, including suspensions of police personnel, My Republica reported.

The girl's parents came to the capital last week to draw the attention of the Government towards the case.

Oli said the Government would leave no stones unturned to nab those involved. "No matter how wealthy, strong or politically connected the culprit is, we will book the criminals," Oli said.

The girl was raped and murdered on July 26. Her body was found in a sugarcane field the next day.

Angry crowds took to the streets accusing police of protecting the person responsible for the brutal crime.

The victim's father alleged that top police and civil official had coerced him to sign a paper and quickly perform the



Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal had earlier defended the investigation as well as the way the incident was handled

last rites of his daughter with about 300 police personnel deployed, Nepalese media reported.

Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa Badal had earlier defended the investigation as well as the way the incident was handled.

The parents had last week met President Bidhya Devi Bhandari and asked the Government not to deny justice to their daughter.

Bhandari had said that "justice should not be delayed and denied to the victim and her family".

Pak denies Afghan trade route for India

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has refuted media reports that it has expressed readiness to talk on the restoration of the India-Afghanistan trade route using its land.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi rejected the reports after US Ambassador to Afghanistan John Bass was quoted as saying by an Indian newspaper

that Pakistan had approached Afghanistan earlier this year and indicated its willingness to resume trade between Afghanistan and India through its land.

"Pakistan has not agreed to consider Afghanistan-India trade through our land," Qureshi was quoted as saying by the Express Tribune.

Pakistan does not allow India to use the land route for trading with Afghanistan, argu-

ing that "technical and strategic" issues connected to transit trade should be resolved first.

Bass was quoted as saying by the Indian daily that "A couple of months ago, for the first time the Pakistani Government expressed a willingness to start talks with its Afghan counterparts for parameters to enabling trade between India and Afghanistan through Pakistan."

Mattis condemns Russia's influence-peddling in Macedonia

AP ■ SKOPJE (MACEDONIA)

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis arrived in Macedonia Monday, condemning Russian efforts to use its money and influence to build opposition to an upcoming vote that could pave the way for the country to join NATO — a move Moscow opposes.

Mattis told reporters travelling with him to Skopje that there is "no doubt" that Moscow has been funding pro-Russian groups in order to defeat the referendum on a name change later this month.

"They have transferred money and they're also conducting broader influence campaigns," Mattis said.

"We ought to leave the Macedonian people to make up their own minds." Macedonians will vote Sept 30 on whether to approve the new name of North Macedonia in an effort to placate Greece, which has for years blocked Macedonia's path to NATO

and the European Union.

But any progress toward NATO membership by the Balkan nation is strongly opposed by Russia, which doesn't want the alliance to expand to areas formerly under Moscow's influence.

Mattis is the latest in a string of international leaders visiting Macedonia to voice support for the referendum, and he's the most senior US official to go there.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, German chancellor Angela Merkel, and Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz have all visited and made public endorsements of the name change, saying it's critical in order for the country to join NATO, after years of waiting.

Mattis said that he and other NATO allies "say right up front in open press what we think."

"We're not passing money to people behind the scenes, we're not putting together parties that we control or try to control." Russia has already been

called out for trying to influence the vote.

In July, Greece expelled two Russian diplomats accused of supplying funds to protest groups who were opposing the name change deal. Russia denounced the expulsions as unjustified.

Greece, a member of NATO, has for years vetoed attempts by Macedonia to join NATO, complaining about the country's name ever since Yugoslavia broke up in the early 1990s. Greece argues that the name implies a territorial claim against the northern Greek region of Macedonia and its ancient heritage.

NATO leaders in July formally invited Macedonia to begin membership talks on the condition that it wouldn't become effective until the name change was implemented.

But there is widespread concern about Russian impact on the vote.

"There is this influence campaign to try to buy off peo-

ple and try to support pro-Russian organizations," said Laura Cooper, the deputy assistant defense secretary for Russia and the region.

She said she couldn't give specifics about the pay-offs, but said the US is aware of financial support that Moscow has given to pro-Russian individuals and groups that are working to undermine the referendum.

Russia, she said, is "swooping in now with disinformation and other forms of malign influence to try to change the minds of the Macedonian people."

As examples, she cited efforts to convince people that the vote isn't relevant and isn't the last step for NATO admission.

Evelyn Farkas, an expert on the region who is a fellow with the Atlantic Council and a former Defense Department adviser, said Mattis' visit to the tiny nation could help sow support for the name change.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, GRID CONSTRUCTION DIVISION PDD, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU (J&K), TELEPHONE: 0191-2437028, E-mail ID: xengdjm@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR e-BIDS FOR

E NIT No.: GCD/J08 of 2018-19 Dated :- 13.09.2018

Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, PDD Ambedkar Chowk Jammu (J&K) (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") for and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, wishes to receive e-bids for Turkey project including Supply, Transportation, Erection, Testing and commissioning of following work in Jammu Region of Jammu & Kashmir :-

"Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Twinning of 220 KV Bus Bar (Main and Reserve) from Double ACSR Zebra to Double STACIR HTLS Conductor (Equivalent to Moose) of the existing 220/132/66 KV Hiranagar Substation (J&K) associated with Transmission System Strengthening of JKPPD under PMDP Scheme-15."

Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this Standard Bidding Document (SBD) shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the standard bidding document with full understanding of its implications.

The scope of work covered under package "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Twinning of 220 KV Bus Bar (Main and Reserve) from Double ACSR Zebra to Double STACIR HTLS Conductor (Equivalent to Moose) of the existing 220/132/66 KV Hiranagar Substation (J&K) associated with Transmission System Strengthening of JKPPD under PMDP Scheme-15" is brought out in subsequent clauses of this section Technical specifications, Volume-II.

The above scope of work is indicative and the detailed scope of work is given in the Technical Specification (Volume-II) of the Bidding documents.

The completion period for subject Package shall be the period as specified in special conditions of contract.

The detailed qualifying Requirements (QR) are given in Section-III, Vol-I of the bidding document.

The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below :-

A. Estimated Project Cost :- Rs.98.11 Lacs

B. Date & Time of downloading of Bidding Document :- 17.09.2018 from 1600 hrs.

C. Start date for receipt of Clarifications :- 18.09.2018 from 1000 hrs.

D. Last date for receipt of Clarifications :- 20.09.2018 upto 1000 hrs.

E. Pre-Bid Meeting :- 22.09.2018 at 1300 hrs.

F. Replies to Clarifications :- 24.09.2018

G. e-Bid submission (start) date & time :- 25.09.2018 from 1000 hrs.

H. e-Bid submission (end) date & time :- 09.10.2018 upto 1600 hrs.

I. Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date and time :- 16.10.2018 at 1200 hrs.

J. Venue of opening of technical & commercial e-Bids :- office of the Executive Engineer, Grid Construction Division, Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K), Pin Code - 180004 or any other place to be intimated.

K. Cost of e-Bid document :- Rupees 5000/- (Non-refundable)

L. Amount of Earnest Money Deposit :- Rs. 1.9622 Lacs

M. Last date of submission of Hard Copy :- 09.10.2018 upto 1400 hrs.

The bidders need to submit the proof for purchase of e-Bid document as stated in the above table through Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled Bank pledged to Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu Payable at Jammu (J&K). The scanned copy of Demand Draft must be enclosed along with the e-Bids but the original Demand Draft should reach the office of Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu by last day of submission of hardcopy Commercial and Technical e-Bid.

All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/Bank Guarantee issued by a nationalized/scheduled Bank only pledged to the Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department.

Hard copy of original instrument of EMD should reach to the office of the Executive Engineer, GCD, Jammu, (J&K) by 09.10.2018 upto 1400 hrs. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Grid Construction Division, PDD,
Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu (J&K)

No. DIP/J-2801-P/18
Dated:- 15.09.2018

GURUGRAM METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GMDA)

TENDER NOTICE

GMDA invites bids from eligible bidders through e-Tendering mode on the Government of Haryana web portal <http://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in> before 27-09-2018 as under:-

S/N	Name of work	Value (Rs.) (Approx.)	EMD (Rs.)	Time (Months)
1	Providing & fixing wire mesh jali and barbed wire fencing on tee iron and M.S. center plate frame fixed with cement concrete blocks around waterbody in Wazirabad, Gurugram.	46,35,000/-	92,700/-	6
2	Providing & fixing wire mesh jali and barbed wire fencing on tee iron and M.S. center plate frame fixed with cement concrete blocks around water course in Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurugram.	49,30,000/-	98,600/-	6
3	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Tau Devi Lal Park, Sector -22, Gurugram.	14,50,000/-	29,000/-	12
4	Maintenance of Horticulture works in Basai water treatment plant, Gurugram.	9,40,000/-	18,800/-	12
5	Maintenance of Horticulture work in Chandu Buhara water treatment plant.	9,75,000/-	19,500/-	12
6	Repair of boundary wall and petty works in Plaza Area Park, Leisure Valley, Sec-29, Gurugram.	3,05,000/-	6,100/-	2
7	Running operation maintenance and watch & ward of Musical fountain in Maharana Pratap Swam Jayanti Park, Sec-29, Gurugram.	2,97,000/-	5,940/-	6
8	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in MP/SJ Park (Leisure Valley), Sec-29, Gurugram.	88,000/-	4,400/-	6
9	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec 52A.	88,000/-	4,400/-	6
10	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Park, Sec -22, Gurugram.	59,000/-	2,950/-	6
11	Maintenance of Tubewell Electric Motors in Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Sec -38, Gurugram.	59,000/-	2,950/-	6
12	Security Services in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec -52A, Gurugram.	7,80,000/-	15,200/-	6
13	Security Services in Tau Devi Lal Biodiversity Park, Sec -52A, Gurugram.	7,80,000/-	15,200/-	6
14	Security Services in Plaza Area Park, Leisure Valley, Sec 29, Gurugram.	3,80,000/-	7,600/-	6

The detailed tender document including eligibility criteria can be downloaded from the above web portal by the firms/individuals registered there upon. Possession of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and registration on the web portal is a prerequisite for e-tendering.

Advisor & Head
UE Division, GMDA,
Gurugram.

RO NO. 71750 Dt. 17-09-2018

PSG FACE REDS & ANFIELD

Ligue 1 toppers tie against Premier League giants in CL opener, Barca host PSV as Inter face Spurs

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah outshone Neymar and Kylian Mbappe on the Champions League stage last season, but as Paris Saint-Germain's star duo head to Anfield on Tuesday seeking to make amends, the Egyptian is struggling to match the heights of his debut campaign at Liverpool.

Salah's failure to hit top form dates back to his last Champions League appearance four months ago.

Back in May, Salah was on the crest of a wave as his 44-goal campaign had carried Liverpool to the Champions League final and ensured qualification for this season's competition.

However, he lasted just 30 minutes in Kiev after injuring his shoulder when wrestled to the ground by Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos and the Spanish giants went on to lift the trophy in a 3-1 win.

That started a difficult few months for Salah as he was also robbed of being 100-per cent fit for Egypt's first World Cup in 28 years.

Without their talisman, the Pharaohs were beaten by Uruguay in their opening game and his goals against Russia and Saudi Arabia couldn't prevent Egypt returning home without a single point.

Salah has also gone to war with the Egyptian federation over the use of his image and the decision to host their base camp in Chechnya.

Egypt's star player was put in the awkward position of having to pose for photos with Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov, who has been accused of human rights abuses.

That hangover has been felt on the field with Salah scoring just twice in Liverpool's opening five games of the campaign and missing chances he ruthlessly put away last season.

No one-man team - So far Salah's slackness hasn't cost Jurgen Klopp's men. A summer of shrewd investment to build on the already substantial progress made under the German is already bearing fruit with five straight wins.

"Of course, it's important that we don't



Liverpool players celebrate after Georginio Wijnaldum (No 5) scores opener against Tottenham in Premier League on Friday.

Liverpool vs PSG
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY TEN 2

have only one goalscorer," Klopp said after an impressive 2-1 win over Tottenham on Saturday, that should have been a far more comprehensive victory if the visitors had taken their chances.

"It's still early. Five games, fantastic we've won all of them, we have improved."

The 39 million euros (\$45 million) Liverpool paid for Salah from Roma was brilliant business not just based on Salah's production, but the hyper inflation that took place in the market just weeks later when PSG smashed the world transfer record by splurging 222 million euros on Neymar.

A further 180 million was then splashed on beating Europe's big guns to the signature of Mbappe, who confirmed his status as the rising star of world football in winning the World Cup for France.

Both Neymar and Mbappe will see themselves as heirs to the throne of Lionel



Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the world's best player.

But it is Salah who is on the shortlist for FIFA's Best Player award alongside Ronaldo and Croatian midfielder Luka Modric of Real Madrid, after PSG failed to get beyond the last 16 of the Champions League last season.

The limited spotlight offered by Ligue 1 means Europe's premier club competi-



PSG attacking trio of Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani and Neymar Jr celebrates after win

Barcelona vs PSV
Live from 10:25pm IST
SONY TEN 2

tion is where Neymar and Mbappe need to shine to be in the running for individual awards.

However, a blockbuster clash on a Champions League night at fortress Anfield is also the perfect stage for Salah to demonstrate to the world he is no one-season wonder.

BARÇA THIS TIME?

BARCELONA: Almost exactly an hour after the final whistle, Barcelona posted a tweet: "Congratulations to @realmadrid for winning the 2017/18 Champions League title."

Underneath some fans demanded the message be deleted immediately while others claimed it as a classy touch. "We are rivals, not enemies", one wrote.

Meanwhile, Barcelona's key players - Lionel Messi, Gerard Pique, Luis Suarez, Andres Iniesta - stayed quiet. Some had recently posted pictures of themselves surrounded by their families, with the World Cup just around the corner.

But from the words that have been spoken since, and despite the club's stately message, it is clear Madrid's triumph hit home.

Barcelona had failed and this made it even harder to bear.

"Obviously it's infuriating (for us)," Suarez said in an interview with RAC1 earlier this month.

"Madrid have won the Champions League in each of the last three years. They have made history and it's a thorn in our side." Chiefly, perhaps, because Barca will feel they were better than Madrid last season.

They blew them away in a 3-0 flurry at the Santiago Bernabeu and then played with 10 men for the second half at the Camp Nou and still drew 2-2. They even led with a man fewer until Gareth Bale's late equaliser.

Valverde was accused last season of

over-exerting his players in the league, particularly when it was clear it was won.

Three days before the capitulation to Roma, the likes of Messi and Suarez were playing 90 minutes to beat 14th-placed Leganes.

Valverde has indicated he will adapt. Ahead of their Group B opener at home to PSV on Tuesday, Sergio Busquets and Philippe Coutinho started as substitutes in Saturday's win over Real Sociedad, even if both were needed before the end.

Messi, who turned 31 in June, may also need to be preserved if he is to add a fifth Champions League success to his collection. Now captain, he appears hungrier than ever.

"It's time to win the Champions League," Messi told Catalunya Radio earlier this month.

"We've been knocked out in the quarter-finals three seasons in a row and maybe the last one was the worst of all because of the result and how the match was played."

"I think we have to aim for that, as a club, as a team and as a collective. We have a spectacular squad and we can do it."

INTER EYE WINNING RETURN

Eight years have elapsed since Jose Mourinho's reign as Inter Milan coach ended on a historic high of Champions League glory, and the fallen Italian giants are still struggling to recapture that magic from Madrid.

The Portuguese oversaw the most successful season in the club's history — a 2-0 win over Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu completed the first treble of Serie A, domestic Cup and Champions League in Italian history.

Since those days it has been lean times for the 18-time Italian and three-time European champions, with the only title of any sort a 2011 Italian Cup crown.

Luciano Spalletti's side return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2011-2012 season on Tuesday when they host Tottenham at the San Siro.

Expectations are high, but their return comes against a backdrop of continuing crisis as the Nerazzurri lie a lowly 15th with just one win and four points from four games.

Shuttlers sight China glory

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Top Indian shuttler PV Sindhu will have to find a way to battle fatigue if she has to continue her consistent run in international circuit and regain the China Open, beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu showed signs of fatigue during her second-round exit at last week's Japan Open, her first early loss since the first-round ouster from the Denmark Open last October.

The 23-year-old Indian has been the most consistent this season with Silver medals in all the major events this year - the Commonwealth Games, the World Championship and the Asian Games.

She also reached the finals at the India Open and Thailand Open.

However, a hectic schedule left her with very little time to recover or savour the moment.

The Olympic and world championship Silver medalist had won the \$ 700,000 China Open in 2016 and will be one of the favourites to secure the women's singles title at the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The third seeded Indian will start her campaign against Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

Two-time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Saina Nehwal, who had clinched a Bronze at Asian Games at Jakarta, will be rejuvenated after skipping the Japan Open. The Indian faces a tough first round against Korea's Sung Ji Hyun.

Saina, who also had won the China Open title in 2014, has a 8-2 head-to-head record against Sung Ji and if she can surpass the Korean, fifth seed Chinese Chen Yufei will stand in her way.



Saina Nehwal reacts after winning a point against Fitriani; (right) PV Sindhu in action against VT Trang

Sindhu vs Kawakami
Live from 10:15am IST
STAR SPORTS NETWORK

In fact, Saina and Sindhu are on a collision course and might clash in the quarter-finals if they can clear the earlier rounds.

Among others, Kidambi Srikanth has looked a shadow of the man who clinched four titles last season. Though the seventh seeded Indian won the men's singles Silver at the Commonwealth Games, he has been inconsistent in the season so far.

Srikanth, who held the world No 1 ranking for a brief period this year, will look to build on his quarterfinal finish at Japan Open when he begins his campaign against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

However, world champion Kento Momota, who had ended his campaign at Malaysia and Indonesia, will once again



stand in his way in the quarterfinal. HS Prannoy too will look to go deep in the tournament after starting against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus, seeded eighth.

Among others in fray, women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.

In men's doubles, Commonwealth Games Silver medalist pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will square off against Malaysia's Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong, while Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will fight it out against Taiwanese combination of Liao Min Chun and Su Ching Heng.

In mixed doubles, Satwik and Ashwini will meet English combination of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith, while Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will take on Germany's Marvin Emil Seidel and Linda Efler in another match.

Ballon d'Or on my mind, says Griezmann

AFP ■ PARIS

Atletico Madrid star Antoine Griezmann says he still can't fathom why he was not voted one of the world's top three players by FIFA — but hopes winning the "more prestigious" Ballon d'Or will make amends.

"It's a prize from FIFA and it seems a pity that no World Cup winners were nominated," Griezmann, who helped France to World Cup glory in Russia this summer, told Spanish sports daily AS.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, World Cup finalist Luka Modric of Croatia and Egyptian Mohamed Salah, who enjoyed a stunning campaign with Liverpool last season, were the three players nominated by FIFA for the world ruling body's top prize.

Now grouped within the FIFA Best awards, it will be presented on September 24.

For Griezmann, who helped Atletico to Europa League glory as well as playing a pivotal role in France's World Cup win, FIFA's choice was unwarranted.

"We had a really good World Cup campaign, the whole team deserve to be awarded: (Kylian) Mbappe, (Raphael) Varane, (N'Golo) Kante, who had an amazing World Cup even though no-one talks about it, or even myself."

"But that's the way it is."

The snub has galvanised Griezmann's ambition to land the Ballon d'Or, the prize awarded by



Antoine Griezmann celebrate after scoring

France Football magazine to the world's top player as voted on by journalists around the globe.

"I think the Ballon d'Or has more prestige, a richer history," said Griezmann.

Conceived in 1956, it has been won by Ronaldo and Lionel Messi a record five times apiece. By contrast, the FIFA Best award has been a stand-alone award only since 2016, having spent the 2010-2015 period merged with the Ballon d'Or.

He added: "It's on my mind and I've got three months to give it everything (to win it). We'll see what happens."

Asked if he felt comfortable "sitting at the same football table" as five-time Ballon d'Or winners Messi and Ronaldo, Griezmann said: "Yes, I think so, although other players would be there as well."

Mercedes cautious despite lead

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said it was special to conquer "bogey track" Singapore but cautioned the F1 title race wasn't over yet after Lewis Hamilton's "stardust" propelled him to a potentially decisive 40-point lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Team principal Wolff said there was no mystery to Mercedes' form, it was all down to sheer hard work back at the factory and the track.

"Singapore has been our bogey track for several years, so it is a special feeling to come here and win this race on pace," Wolf told reporters after Hamilton's pole-to-flag win and team-mate Valtteri Bottas's fourth place gave them a 25-point lead over Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

"The entire team has worked so hard to understand the car and take steps forward, and this result is an indication that our work is paying off. It was a weekend of many parts: a star-dust lap from Lewis in qualifying, a chess game of tyre management this evening, and some nervous moments with traffic and backmarkers during the race," Wolff added.

"It's just the strongest the team has ever



Lewis Hamilton, center, poses after winning Singapore GP

been." Wolff warned they had to keep up the intensity to win both drivers' and constructors' championships this season, starting with the Russian Grand Prix in two weeks.

"From our side, we can be pleased with a very solid weekend," he added. "We have leads in both championships, but they change nothing in the mindset of this team."

"We have six weekends to go and we know how quickly the situation can swing back against us. We will take it weekend by weekend, feet on the ground and determined to maximise our potential every time."

Sakshi grabs World C'ship spot

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Struggling wrestler Sakshi Malik has made it to India's World Championship squad without facing the trials as her opponent Sarita Mor has withdrawn from the 62kg clash, due to an injury.

The Olympic Bronze medalist has been battling poor form since the start of the 2018 season. She could win only a Bronze at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and failed to win any medal at the Asian Games.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) wanted both Sushil Kumar and Sakshi to undergo trials but the former pulled out due to poor form.

"The trials in four categories were left. Out of those, we chose not to disturb Bajrang (men's 65kg) and Vinesh Phogat (women's 50kg). Sakshi was to fight Sarita but she has reported a knee injury so we are sending Sakshi to the Worlds," WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said.



Sakshi Malik and Pooja Dhandia poses with medal

Sakshi had ended a runner-up at a UWW ranking event in Belarus, where she lost the Gold medal match 2-6 to Azerbaijan's Marianna Satsin on Sunday.

The performance is encouraging for Sakshi ahead of the World Championship, to be held in Budapest from October 20-28.

"The fourth category is women's 53kg. Ritu Phogat and Pinky will fight for that place. Ritu had competed in

the 50kg category at the Yasar Dogu International in Turkey but we feel she can do well in the 53kg as well. She has a good medal chance in this category, so, we decided to conduct a trial match between Ritu and Pinky," Tomar added.

The 53kg clash will be held on Tuesday in Lucknow under the supervision of National women's coach Kuldeep Malik.

The WFI official also informed that the inaugural U-23 National Championship, to be held in Chittaurgarh, Rajasthan from September 27-30, is an effort to identify next line of wrestlers.

"In the senior nationals, many juniors also compete but they get to clash against only with the aged wrestlers. They do not get great competition. They need to fight it out with strong wrestlers to be ready for international events. In the Under-23 Nationals, we will see better bouts and next stars will be identified," Tomar added.

SINGLES

GETAFE DOWNS SEVILLA 2-0

SEVILLA: Getafe defeated host Sevilla 2-0 on two goals by Angel Rodriguez before the break and a winning attitude all the way through the match. Although Sevilla was in possession of the ball for 70 per cent of the match and fired 15 shots towards the goal, just three of them were on target and all were saved by Getafe goalkeeper David Soria on Sunday. Getafe, on the other hand, fired just 10 shots towards their rivals' goal, with six of them being on target, and two of them - both by Rodriguez - got by Tomas Vaclik for the tallies. Rodriguez scored his first goal of the evening just three minutes into play and then took advantage of a Sevilla mistake to make it 2-0 in the 38th minute. Sevilla go down to its second consecutive loss in the fourth week of Spanish La Liga action.

PKL SEASON 6 POSTPONED TO OCT 7

NEW DELHI: The start of the sixth season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) has been postponed by a couple of days due to logistical reasons, the organisers Mashal Sports announced on Monday. The 6th season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League will start on October 7 instead of the earlier date of October 5 owing to logistical reasons such as caravan movement and stadium availability. Mashal Sports Pvt. Ltd, the rights owner and organisers of the league has made this considered decision in consultation with the principal stakeholders, a statement read. Chennai will continue to host to the first leg of the tournament from October 7. The playoffs would be held as planned in Kochi on December 30 and 31 with the final on January 5 in Mumbai.

IND WOMEN TO KICK-OFF SAFF U-18 C'SHIP

NEW DELHI: Seven countries are set to kick-off the inaugural edition of the SAFF U-18 football Championship for Women which gets underway later this month in Bhutan. India have been clubbed in Group A, along with neighbours Sri Lanka and Maldives. The Indian girls kick-off their campaign against Maldives on September 28 before facing Sri Lanka on October 2. The tournament follows a round robin format where all the teams in each group play each other once. The top two teams get to qualify for the semi-finals (October 5), where the winner of Group A faces the runners-up of Group B, and vice versa. The final of the tournament is set to be held on Sunday, October 7. The Senior SAFF Women's Championship is scheduled to be held later in December.

NADAL MAINTAINS ATP RANKINGS TOP SPOT

MADRID: Spain's Rafael Nadal maintained the No 1 spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings released on Monday with 8,760 points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer. The Spaniard continued to lead the rankings despite his forced retirement at the US Open over a knee injury, which also made him miss the Davis Cup semifinal against France on Sunday. Top-10 list witnessed no change as Serbia's Novak Djokovic is still occupying the third position, followed by Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentine Guido Andreozzi rocketed 11 places to the 97th, following his victory at the Pekao Szczecin Open played at Szczecin, Poland against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

CANADA IN DAVIS CUP FINAL

TORONTO: Milos Raonic defeated Scott Griekspoor of the Netherlands in three sets, securing for Canada a berth in the Davis Cup final. Raonic took two hours and 23 minutes to triumph over Griekspoor 7-6 (4), 6-3 and 6-4 in the world group qualification playoff on Sunday. This was the ATP No 20 player's second win of the five-match tie, with the fifth match being cancelled once Canada got its third win. Fellow Canadian Denis Shapovalov had won his singles rubber on Friday night, but Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil lost their doubles rubber on Saturday for their country's only loss to Holland's Matwe Middelkop and Jean-Julien Rojer. Canada now joins Argentina, Britain, Austria, Sweden, Serbia, the Czech Republic and Japan, all of which on the weekend managed to win for themselves a spot within the elite of the Davis Cup, which starting next year will be played according to a new format

vivacity

ADITI WANTED
TO BE MANI'S
HEROINE

- P14



Making hygiene a way of life

It is essential that we maintain hygiene to prevent the development and spread of various diseases. **TEAM VIVA** says hygiene is also a prerequisite for social acceptance.



To keep personal hygiene necessary for many reasons - personal, social, health, psychological or simply as a way of life. Keeping a good standard of hygiene helps to prevent the development and spread of infections, illnesses and bad odors.

It has been observed that many healthcare practices focus on preventing diseases by strengthening the body from the inside out, personal hygiene focuses on preventing problems by working from the outside in. Simple measures, like proper washing, oral and foot care, are cornerstones of good body maintenance.

Personal hygiene is something that comes really naturally to every individual. Exactly that their way of maintaining the actual hygiene levels is different. The entire idea of good personal hygiene is aimed at keeping your body, hair, as well as teeth clean and free from smells and infections. Additionally, it is crucial to follow hygiene practice within accord with the social, social, and family norms.

Handling raw food, changing

diapers, working in the garden, cleaning toilets and emptying garbage cans all expose us a variety of contaminants and bacteria. Immediately after coming into contact with any materials you feel might be harmful if swallowed or rubbed into your eyes or nose, wash your hands with soap and warm water.

Body image influences self-esteem, confidence and motivation. Those who already have low self-esteem and especially those with depression often neglect personal hygiene which perpetuates the problem of poor body image. Many forms of modern media including magazines, fashion, TV, film and the internet present a certain body image as being "acceptable" or "expected". Young children and teenagers are especially influenced by this; physical appearance being the ultimate factor by which to judge and be judged.

Skipping any cleanliness practice even for a day or even more can lead you to a higher risk of being a target to different ailments. If the fingers are not washed with clean-

ing soap after visiting the bathroom and also you directly get involved in food preparation, you might expose others to various contagious diseases. Additionally, skipping bathrooms also increases infection danger. Therefore, it is important to develop great personal hygiene is helpful in reducing the likelihood of falling sick.

Keeping your teeth, tongue and gums clean takes more than a rinse with mouth wash or the occasional brush. Your mouth is a considerable breeding ground for bacteria, and a transfer station for sending harmful bacteria throughout your body's system. According to research bacteria trapped in teeth can travel throughout the body, infecting organs, glands and tissue and can damage the kidneys, eyes, heart, brain and joints. In addition to thorough brushing, floss frequently to remove food lodged between teeth. Flossing also helps strengthen gums. Brush your tongue and gums, as well as your teeth, twice a day, to remove harmful bacteria and promote fresh breath.

Athlete's foot is caused by a fun-

Keeping your teeth, tongue and gums clean takes more than a rinse with mouth wash or the occasional brush. Your mouth is a considerable breeding ground for bacteria, and a transfer station for sending harmful bacteria throughout your body's system.

gus which thrives in warm, damp places. Wearing shoes without socks increases your chance of contracting this fungus. Athletes who do not change their wet socks after they are done with sports also run the risk of picking up this affliction. If you play recreational sports, consider

bringing an extra pair of socks to your game or match so you can keep your feet dry if the team or foursome goes out for pizza or a beer after the night's activity. If you wear shoes without socks, line the shoes with an absorbent pad and/or use foot powder each time you wear them.

The actual quotient of personal attractiveness can be enhanced through good personal hygiene methods like brushing the teeth, getting regular showers, taking a mind wash, and regular utilization of a deodorant. Being thoroughly clean as well as free from smells makes it much simpler for others to get acquainted with a person. Being cautious with your cleanliness requirements also makes you aware of the appearances. Feeling physically great enables you to look at yourself within an optimistic way.

Always wash fingers regularly. Since we're talking about fingers, trim and clean your own nails regularly. Wash the body and your hair often. Keeping your finger and toe nails trimmed and in good shape may prevent problems such as hang fingernails and infected nail mat-

tresses. It lessens the likelihood in order to contract athlete's foot.

To maintain a wholesome smile, visit the dentist from six-month intervals for checkups as well as cleanings. Being clean and hygienic supplies a much better feeling about you than the one experienced while becoming dirty. Furthermore, you get better reactions to a hygienic as well as clean appearance thus obtaining a raise in your self-esteem.

One of the most important thing is proper hygiene which is quite crucial for social acceptance. This is because no one likes being about a dirty or unhygienic individual. Most people hate to be talked about, especially in a negative manner. By ensuring that our body is clean and well presented, we are more assured of projecting a positive body image that reflects our personalities.

Children should be taught the importance of hygiene and how to achieve good hygiene very early to keep themselves and others healthy and to reduce the risk of being bullied at school.

Conditions such as head lice, athlete's foot etc. should be treated immediately to prevent further infections and spread to others. Hand washing cannot be emphasised enough as this simple action can prevent a plethora of illnesses and disorders developing. Many people 'forget' to wash their hands after using the toilet or before handling foods; this can cause a great deal of illness and even death. By being well presented, clean and tidy, people can feel more confident, especially in social situations. Our chances of succeeding either in work or social settings, or even with the opposite sex can be altered by maintenance of good hygiene.

It is seen that for most people, good hygiene is so much a part of their daily routines that they think little about it. They bathe, they brush their teeth, visit the dentist and doctor for regular checkups, and wash their hands when preparing or eating food and handling unsanitary items. To keep those you care about healthy and safe, help them learn, and be sure that they are practicing good personal hygiene.

Trend Glazer

Aditi blessed to be Mani's heroine

Actress **ADITI RAO HYDARI**, who has collaborated with filmmaker **Mani Ratnam** for a second time for his next Tamil film *Chekka Chivantha Vaanam*, said she always wanted to act with him. The actress had previously worked with Ratnam in *Kaattru Veliyidai*. Aditi said, "I feel really blessed. I haven't grown up watching too many films but I just had this dream. In fact, it was a little girl's dream when I saw Mani sir's film *Bombay* and wanted to be a Mani (Ratnam) heroine."



"Those who know me well know that I'm an asthmatic. What's to hide? I knew that I had to control my asthma before it controlled me. As long as I've got my inhaler, asthma can't stop me from achieving my goals and living a 'Berok Zindagi.'"
—Priyanka Chopra

Actress **MANDIRA BEDI** agrees that juggling between family and work is a struggle for a working mother but she suggests that one needs to find the right formula. She says that some of her best works happened after she became a mother. "Some of the best works that I have done have been after I became a mother. I did *24*, a couple of movies and some commercials are coming my way. I am enjoying work now. So, I don't think that there is any such thing as work not coming your way when you become a mother," said Mandira.



Alejandra and Gere expect baby

RICHARD GERE is expecting his second child and first with new wife **ALEJANDRA SILVA**, who announced the news with some help from the Dalai Lama. "A very special moment just a few minutes ago... Getting blessings for our precious to come," penned Silva on an Instagram photo showing the Buddhist leader blessing her baby bump. "We couldn't announce it before telling HH Dalai Lama," added the 35-year-old Spanish businesswoman and activist, who went on to share the message in her first language.



A CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS?

A vibrant nightlife is an essential component of modern civilisation. **AYUSHI SHARMA** talks to world city experts and finds out what are the markers and how Delhi needs to strike a balance between regulation and freedom

This city never sleeps. Can this be the tagline of Delhi? Most of us women would vigorously shake their heads in the negative. For when it comes to nightlife, the first image that comes to mind is of safe-strolling the streets and bumping into urban sub-cultures. A mix of pubbing, dancing, music concerts and cultural soirees or what can be termed as a "happening" urban expression is one of the major reasons for tourists to visit a certain city.

But then all that Delhi or for that matter any of the Indian cities have on offer are two categories of recreational experientials. On one side of the spectrum are downmarket, shady and run-down bars, which a major chunk of the educated class and urban population steers clear of. On the other side are high-profile lounges, diners and cafes which welcome the middle to upper-class citizens but are naturally priced steeply.

Experts from all over the world, therefore, got together at Shangri-La to unravel the markers for a great nightlife and bring Delhi and our other cities up to the mark.

Lutz Leichsenring, spokesman and executive board member for the Berlin Club Commission, who focusses on the informal aspects of city life and has played a key role in legitimising the city's underground movement, defines nightlife: "It can be defined as a space where like-minded people meet, communicate and interact socially. It's basically a space which is diverse and inclusive."

Lutz argues that if a city wishes to be advanced and modern, "you have to think how can you create a culture of vibrancy which has to do with diversity, focussing on art and music and also on the idea to be a better place where individuals can connect, interact and get together."

He feels the idea of nightlife in India is definitely evolving and getting more diverse than it used to be. "I'm happy that Indian artists have started developing their own identities and no longer copy from what's happen-



ing around the world. It's a very positive development as it shapes the unique identity of who you are," Lutz added.

He strongly feels that there's a huge amount of competition between different parts of the world to become a global hotspot, inviting and attracting visitors with a vibe and breath. That comes purely from the cultural environment and people-bonding. Says Lutz, "The reason why people leave cities and move somewhere else is mostly driven by new pursuits of nightlife."

Berlin is a place which people see as a safe haven, where you will be welcomed and accepted no matter what sexual orientation you have, what kind of music you like, how you dress or what you look like. "It's really hard to compare the nightlife in Berlin and Delhi. There's unquestionably more cultural vibrancy in the former because there's much greater space which is accessible not just to a certain group but to every individual. Of course India has made headway but still has to do a lot when it comes to be a site which is night friendly and accommodating."

Lutz also shares some tips for Delhi's nightlife makeover. "The first and foremost step towards making Delhi a night-friendly city is to keep

IF YOU WANT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE FOR CREATING A VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE, YOU HAVE TO ALSO GIVE THEM THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK. IF YOU HAVE REGULATIONS WHICH ARE OFFERING YOU RESTRICTIONS AND BOUNDARIES ONLY, THEN THIS IS DISAPPOINTING

laws, rules and regulations easy-going and friendly. I think if you want to attract people for creating a vibrant nightlife, you have to also give them the right framework. If you have regulations which are offering you restrictions and boundaries only, then this is disappointing. Second, the idea of having longer opening hours creates a safer nightlife because people are not pressured to get drunk within a certain time. Third, you need to have enough accessible space where new talent can grow and evolve where a mix of local and global can gather to have a good time together."

Hideyuki Yokoi, a

rapper who is also a Hip-Hop activist, popularly known as Zeebra, was the Chairman of the Club Culture Conference (CCC). He has also played the main role in re-inspection of the Fu-Ei-Ho which is the National Law that prohibits late night business hours. Fu-Ei-Ho had strongly restricted Japanese night entertainment for over 25 years. He says, "If all the pubs and clubs would be in an enclosed space and not scattered all around the city, people wouldn't face the hassle of going around places. It would just be one place where everything could be within reach. It would definitely be safer than any other place which is alienated from civilisation."

Lutz adds, "There's a need for right talent, people who have unconventional ideas and originality in their works and not those who follow someone's footsteps."

Indians are definitely full of talent but where they lack is an accessible space for a good nightlife where people can feel safe and enjoy the after hours. Another thing is acceptance from the governmental side. It's important to have rules and regulations which are a combination of strict as well as liberal."



As authentic as it gets

Varun Dhawan and **Anushka Sharma** have left no stone unturned to get in character for their parts in *Sui Dhaaga - Made in India*. To become the self-reliant tailor **Mauji** and his embroiderer wife **Mamta**, Anushka and Varun shot in the outskirts of Delhi at a real textile factory to get authentic visuals of how small-scale businesses operate and how textile workers from small towns work in factories. They also shot with actual workers of the factory to get the body language right and acquired skill sets of operating industrial machines.

Anushka says, "We have tried to keep *Sui Dhaaga* as authentic to real life as possible. We lived the life of Mauji and Mamta for this film and

VARUN & ANUSHKA worked at a textile factory for *Sui Dhaaga* to get under the skin of their characters

this journey took us to work in an actual clothing factory in Faridabad. We shot there for four days with real workers who tirelessly work day and night to produce outstanding pieces of garments. We learnt how to operate the machines from them which was very helpful."

Varun adds, "The factory in Faridabad was a perfect location to shoot. The equipment and machinery looked genuine and extremely authen-



tic to be the place where Mauji and Mamta's first brush with a textile factory could be. To

prep for our parts, we both interacted and met with all the real workers on set and exchanged notes. These people were invaluable in getting us more prepared for our characters."

Since they run a factory in the film, the duo also went for a Vishwakarma puja in Lucknow.

A film about finding love and respect through self-reliance, *Sui Dhaaga - Made in India* is a heart-warming story that celebrates the spirit of self-reliance.

The National Award-winning dream-team of director **Sharat Katariya** and producer **Maneesh Sharma** have come together for this **Yash Raj Films'** entertainer that is set to release on September 28.



We are falling into a stereotype as a reaction to another stereotype. We need to have nuances in portrayal of characters. It is important that you understand a woman's character does not exist to titillate or to feel sorry for

Life in the shadows

Actor **RASIKA DUGAL**, who plays **Safia**, the wife of **Manto** in the eponymously named film, believes that the writer is more than ever relevant in the polarised times that we live in, says **SAIMI SATTAR**

For the longest time, actor **Rasika Dugal** had been in love with the writings of **Manto**. And when the role of **Safiya** was offered to her, she had just started learning to read and write Urdu. "When **Nandita (Das)** offered me the role, it seemed to be poetic justice," says the petite 33-year-old who plays **Saadat Hasan Manto's** wife in *Manto*.

There were reasons for **Dugal** being enamoured of his writings which made her say yes to the role. "I really like his stand on the freedom of speech. In the 21st century, we no longer need heroes of free speech and you expect to take it for granted but the truth is it is increasingly threatened these days. By being a part of this film, I am responding to the circumstances which are happening around me," she reasons.

She believes that more than ever, **Manto** is relevant today when people are being lynched for speaking up. "I can speak for myself that **Manto** a day keeps me going. It inspires me that I should never give up speaking my mind. But I should temper my fearlessness with kindness and sensitivity and leave room for discourse and discussion and not shut out other voices. There should be space for conversation which is so important when the country is witnessing extreme polarisation," she says passionately.

There is one more reason why **Dugal** likes **Manto's** works. "The way women are etched out in his stories and the way they have been humanised. You have to see the innocence of **Sarita** who just wanted to sit in a car in *100 Rupaye* or the sex worker in *100 Watt Bulb* whose only desire is to get a good night's sleep to know how well he understood women. Given a chance, I would like to play all of these characters as these are real women," she says.

This, she feels, is in stark contrast to women's portrayal in contemporary cultures. "We are falling into a stereotype as a reaction to another stereotype. We need to have nuances in portrayal of characters. It is important that you understand a woman's character does not exist to titillate or to feel sorry for," she says.

There are other ways that **Manto** resonates in her life. **Dugal** was moved by his stories in a personal way because her family too had faced displacement during **Partition**. "During the **Second World War**, my grandparents were forced to move from **Burma** to **Rawalpindi** and when the **Partition** took place, they moved back to **Burma** again. The grief of being displaced, what it does to pride and memories, is similar," she says and adds that memory is a subjective thing where two people might remember the same episode differently. "My grandfather and grandmother have different memories and takeaways. My grandfather did not have a job and my grandmother was pregnant which made her recall the hard times that she had. But my grandfather only remembered the

not lacking in spine, much like the character that she plays.

Even though **Manto** wrote prolifically and women often were the centre of his stories, there are not many references to **Safia**. "There are really a very few essays where she is mentioned. He talks about his arranged marriage to **Safia** in 1936 in an essay titled, *Meri Shaadi (My Wedding)*. Then there is one chapter in the book *Ganjay Farishtay (Bald Angels)* called *Nargis* which talks about how **Safia** and her sister used to make crank calls to the legendary actress as they were in awe of her. Later, they became friends," says the actor, last seen by the Hindi film-viewing audience in *Qissa*. There are also references to **Safia** by writer **Ismat Chughtai**, who along with **Manto**, was tried for obscenity for her controversial story *Lihaaf*.



"**Nandita** made it easier for me as she had already met **Safia** and **Manto's** daughters, **Nighat**, **Nusrat** and **Nuzhat** as well as **Safia's** sister, **Zakia**. **Nighat** *apa* was nine years when she lost her father, so they do not remember much about **Manto**. But when they think of **Safia**, there is a lot of anecdotal information which is beautifully incorporated into the script," she says and adds, "Moreover a talented director and a good script aids you."

Of course, the biggest compliment for **Dugal** was when the eldest of the writer's children compared her to **Safia**. "When I spoke to **Nuzhat Apa**, she said I looked like her mother, which overwhelmed me. We tried to style the look according to the photograph of her sitting with **Manto** in a garden," she says.

But while getting the look was a matter of styling it right, getting into the skin of the character was something that **Dugal** did. "I can speculate how she felt and I hope that through me the audience can feel **Safia's** pain and that of **Manto** in her and vice versa. I also want to portray the idea that there is a lot of strength in being vulnerable rather than in screaming out," she says.

And therein lies the line that **Manto** stood for all the 43 years of his short life — in defence of free speech.



Kung Fu nuns perform ritual dance on the grand opening of the Naropa festival 2018 at Narophotang, 3 km away from the Hemis Monastery. Photo: Ami Bhat

'THUMRI IS ALL ABOUT IMPROVISATION'

Classical singer PADMAJA CHAKRABORTY shares with CHAHAK MITTAL how the artform allowed her to explore her own range of emotions

Born in a complex and pressure-cooked time, only few from the younger generation might have the patience or the inclination to listen to *Thumri*. Or so one would suppose. Yet the repetition of a line, which connoisseurs know is a form of improvisation, makes one seep into the flavour of the music gradually as it enraps the senses.

While the other music forms are not as popular, *Thumri* continues to have its takers, especially among those who like things a bit more nuanced than EDM or Hip Hop. And to give an opportunity to them to enjoy the art form, the Sahitya Kala Parishad celebrated the Thumri Festival 2018. Padmaja Chakraborty, who has been singing this form for more than two decades, presented the inaugural sequence.

While *Thumri* seems to be a classical art form, not many know that it is a much lighter version of classical and comes under the semi-classical category of music. She explains, "Classical forms of music comprise two parts — first, pure classical, which comprises *Khyal Gayeki* as well as *Dhrupad*, second, semi-classical, which is where *Thumri* comes under. It is called the *Upashastriya Gaan*. It is a lighter version of classical music. But it takes a lot of work, skills and dedicated practice for one to become an expert in the field."

She lays down the fundamentals, saying, "There is a rule for presenting classical music on the basis of a *raga* only, which is composed as both vocal and instrumental. It tells which *taal* and note has to be applied and even the time when it should be sung. For instance, when we sing *Khyal* or *Dhrupad*, we consider the time as our main player to present a song. However, *Dhrupad*, that was first sung and recited by Tansen, is not heard or sung very often these days."

She explains how these pure classical forms were modified to make it better for the common folk to understand and enjoy. "For the *sadharan log* (commoners), *Khyal Gayeki* has been a very serious and grim form of music. Legends decided to give it a lighter tone for the common listeners to appreciate.

Initially, the *Thumri Gayeki* was mostly sung with the Kathak dances and was preferred in the royal courts of kings and rulers. It wasn't considered a very rich music culture at that time. Hence, it was transformed into a much lighter version with more *lachaks* and *mataks*. Post that, the art form evolved to be widely accepted by people."

There is not just one side to *Thumri*, rather many small classifications and divisions. She tells us, "*Thumri* is derived from all forms of music, from pure classical music and *Khyal Gayeki* to some lighter versions of it to folk music. It combines all these forms to become a beautiful composition. It doesn't religiously follow all the rules, though we do use *raga* but not follow rules like we do with *Khyal* and *Dhrupad*."

She adds that it is "more about the artist's own improvisation and emotions where we can even form something from our own heart. It is rich in terms of expressions (*bhaav*). One needs to be highly-skilled to showcase such expressions in its aesthetic sense. *Isme bhi taal hai, raga hai par thodi si chhoot hai, isme apne mann ki chinta aur bhav-*

na bhi vyakt kar sakte hain. Yeh hai thumri ki gayeki (Thumri has taal, raga but stays a little behind the rules. One can express worry and one's own feelings with it)."

The music form is mostly devotional in nature or sets the romantic mood through its compositions on the tales of Radha-Krishna's divine love. However, Chakraborty believes that "*Thumri* isn't confined to only their tales but is full of *sringaar-rasa* — the music of romance. It has both *biraha* and *milan*. They are even lighter versions of *Thumri* which are classified as *Dadra*, *Chaittee*, *Kajri* and *Jhoola*."

As someone who has been around for decades, she has seen the change in music. Chakraborty believes that "music hasn't changed at all and it won't even will." She compares today's generation and hers: "During our early 20s, we took classical music very seriously. We felt that a proper training to learn classical music is the best way to learn it. Even today the case is the same. You need proper guidance about notes — *sargam*, *taal aur sur*. For instance, when a child begins studies, s/he doesn't just jump to making words and sentences, it's the



alphabets that come first. And then eventually, the child is able to write something. Similarly, in *Thumri* or any art form, only a proper training will let somebody improvise it in a much better and beautiful way."

On the erosion of the finer sensibilities courtesy the multiplicity of popular music shows on TV, she says, "It is not that only today's younger generation doesn't accept it. Even during my childhood, I and children of my age would never prefer it. Why will they do that after all? Classical music is all about seriousness and quietness. It's dark and grim. Children can't be interested in it at their age. They will

nothing really gets accomplished — neither their studies, nor their music. They don't understand that even if you have talent, proper training and basic knowledge are important in every field and subject." The young generation is shifting away from classical music forms. They find it hard to follow. Why so? She says, "It is not that only today's younger generation doesn't accept it. Even during my childhood, I and children of my age would never prefer it. Why will they do that after all? Classical music is all about seriousness and quietness. It's dark and grim. Children can't be interested in it at their age. They will

question everything related to it and might not even find it that exciting. It is only after we explain to them properly what it is that they develop perspective."

Dance forms like Kathak are a play of the eyes and expressions. They could be joyful, they could be depressing or even terrifying. She recalls singer Asha Bhonsle's words who said, "One doesn't need to form a grim expression to showcase something. One can show it very normally too. The expression should look beautiful but not unusual." So we are also responsible for not being able to explain or portray it to the children properly. We also

need to make a change so that they also find it interesting and after a time they also follow its seriousness."

She shares how singing *Thumri* is quite a task. "It is very difficult and is all about improvisation. Consider other music from films or *bhajans*; the *mukhda* and *antara* are already written and pre-decided, which you only have to memorise. *Thumri*, however, isn't like that. It is all about improvising the same verse but making it sound better every time it is recited. For instance, the line, '*Madhke bhare tore nain*.' It is just a two-liner but we have to keep singing it for 10 minutes as best as we can. No one can listen to the same line more than eight times. If it looks like repeating, it means that it is not presented in a good way. Even if you're doing it for more than 10 times, every time it should be different and completely new, improvised."

A presentation of an artistry of expressions, improvisations through instrumentals and vocals, classical music is full of amusement. This is why it always keeps inspiring Chakraborty. She says, "Music inspires me in every way possible. I have lived with music all my life and grown up with it. When children went for some recreation time apart from studies, that for me was a chance to pursue music. I didn't think of becoming a celebrity or a famous superstar or a musician, it was only because of my dedication and passion that I followed it so religiously. I found myself getting immersed and lost in it as I grew up. I think I cannot even live without music in my life. It is the most precious thing that I have."

WHEN POSTERS WERE AN ART

A book released by IGNCA documents a vital link of India's film history

Cinema *ghar*...the words spelt magic at a time. For it was the house of dreams, the medium of entertainment and a giant canvas for the amazing art of storytelling. The magic that has gone on for more than a 100 years has now trickled down to the palm of your hand. But can smart trailers and snazzy teasers ever crest the excitement of film posters, which were at one time the only peek at things to come?

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts recently published a book called the *Poster Speaks*. Author Iqbal Rizvi has tried to retrieve all details about the various aspects of poster-making and encloses the oldest poster of *Kalyan Khajin* (1924). This was created by Baburao Painter.

Posters were the first information gateway about films. Adding more and more people to this information used to be the responsibility of the poster artist, due to which the use of gaudy and contrast colours elevated it to a different art form. But it was unfortunate that film posters never got the status of art in India.

The tradition of producing film posters by hand has existed for nearly 80 years but there is a lack of serious writing on this subject. This can, therefore, be called the first book of its kind in Hindi. It reveals how great efforts were made by actors, writers and lyricists about publishing their name in the posters and in what sequence. There is also a chapter which talks about posters



and their makers' run-in with the censors. Did you know that at one time the Centre had to form a study committee to investigate claims of pornography in the film poster? For nearly 80 years, the world of posters continued to flourish. Till the man-made art fell to the digital revolution.

Nourish yourself with grand and austere ideas of beauty that feed the soul... Seek solitude," the young artist Delacroix counselled himself in 1824. He has inspired a sculptor after more than a century who, tucked away near the Bhaislana mines in Rajasthan near Jaipur, is creating stunning ceramic ware. In the process, Vipul Kumar, one of the greatest students of Balbir Katt, has challenged existing techniques of firing and moulding. And he loves to work in solitude.

His show, that opened at Threshold Gallery, mirrors isolation as the raw material of all art. "Katt Sir told us we must always create works that are original and born of the earth. They are large, so that they create an impact in the mind of the viewer," says Vipul.

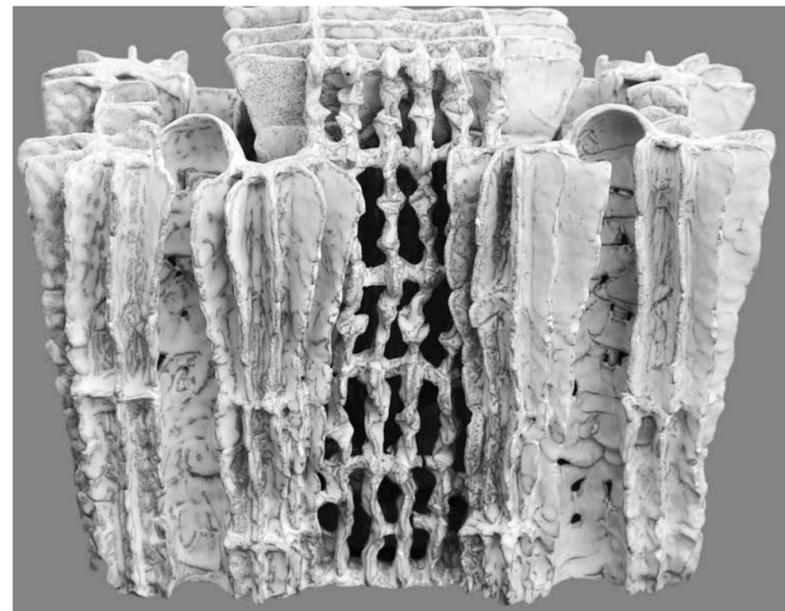
STONEWARE
Untitled III is a hybrid creation that attempts to re-examine and reinterpret the genre of still life in the 21st century with particular emphasis on the mechanisms and mixed art categories reflecting changes in our natural environment such as global warming. The delicate intricate modelling of the columns is symbolic of the form becoming a metaphor for the fragility and vulnerability of our natural ecological balance. Since 2014 Vipul has also been developing a new range of porcelain ceramics, focussing on organic vessel forms.

The show unravels like an eclectic selection of ceramic creations of various ages, with an emphasis on form and design, that serve to enhance the shape of the objects. Whether a ceramic piece is hand-built, thrown on a wheel or made from a mould cast construction, the adaptability and versatility of clay allows for a multitude of permutations in the design. The texture and chosen formulations can be the key factor for the choice of form or conversely, the sliver of columns adapted to the resulting form.

SCULPTURAL CONTOURS
The curve of a singular contour line can be solid or slim

Shape of solitude

Artist VIPUL KUMAR has cut many more facets into stone by playing with the dichotomy of design. He combines the lines of straight sides against relaxing sinuous curves to recreate a powerful impact of sculpted identities, says UMA NAIR



enough to hold appeal for a particular form without any further embellishments required. If anything, the succinct focus of Vipul's works contribute to the appeal of the shapes he creates. Complex and definite details also fit more appropriately to very basic forms like a column or a flat hollow rectangle — sometimes you think of the indigenous and sometimes of the modern but certain styles can even add shape to the form.

Alternating firing temperatures and minerals add depth and

highlight aspects and angles within the forms.

Within the sculptural contours, Vipul changes the perspective with a heightened sense of perpetual curvature which leads to the notion of infinity. Within that notion we see that there is a definite dynamic between restraint and overt display.

Vipul plays with the mathematics of the dichotomy of design, he combines the lines of straight sides against relaxing sinuous curves also to recreate a powerful impact of sculpted identities.

WOOD FIRING
Vipul explains his work with a kiln in his studio. "Firing ceramic work in a kiln using wood as fuel can take several hours or many days, depending on the size of the kiln and the desired temperature to be attained. The wood fires usually take five days of continual stoking and the kiln reaches about 1400 degrees C (2500 degrees F). I generally fire at 1350 degrees for high fired porcelain glazes. During the fire, as the wood combusts, it produces fly



ash and some volatile salts and minerals, which ultimately fuse with the silica on the surface of the ceramic pieces in the kiln, forming a glaze. The placement of each piece in the kiln determines the effects of the fire on the appearance of the sculptural stoneware or porcelain."

WEATHERED STRUCTURES
The weathered, unadorned monolithic structures look like rugged surfaces and they provide an excellent contrast for the language of contemporary pottery. Perhaps this is why Rajeev Sethi, the design genius, used Vipul Kumar to create an epic installation of Mount Meru at a private estate in Ahmedabad.

Vipul's sculptural stoneware merge numerous design influences, including biomorphic curves, fractured cubist forms, unseen abstractions and rare minimalist forms. He brings organic styles into the mainstream, reflecting the thrust of architectural leanings and modern design concepts which he contemplates while reading Hindi literature.

The inventive styles of stoneware, ranging from the quirky to the sophisticated, have a timeless appeal and spell harmony with contemporary modernism. Due to the precision in craftsmanship, tasteful simplicity and innovation it is the originality of his sensibility and his panache that gives his works an enduring symbolism.

(Show runs at Threshold Gallery till October 20)

Deepali Roongta presents an exhibition of paintings, titled *Vivid Clusters*. This solo exhibition delves into an amalgamation of vibrant colours, pleasant thoughts, happy moments, struggles and internal conflicts and compromises. **WHEN:** Till September 23 **TIME:** 11 am to 8 pm **WHERE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, Near Mandi House Metro Station.

HCL concerts presents *Infinite Hope*, a fusion concert featuring sarod maestros Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash, who will break through the troublesome polarities of continuity and change, tradition and innovation. People will encounter technical assuredness strengthening by elegant lyricism and joy-filled dynamism. **WHEN:** September 28 **TIME:** 7 pm **WHERE:** Shiv Nadar School, Noida.

Artist Manir Mrittik presents a solo show of his photographic works, titled *The Realm of Ambivalence*. He captures love, sexuality, issues of environment and nature in a surreal manner, reminiscent of magic realism. **WHEN:** September 25 to October 20 **WHERE:** Akar Prakart Art Gallery, Defence Colony.

The Japan Foundation is organising the Japanese Film Festival. It will showcase handpicked selection of 13 Japan releases with english subtitles to make the Indian audience experience the contemporary Japanese cinema. **WHEN:** September 28 to October 3 **WHERE:** PVR Cinemas, Select Citywalk, Saket.

Shridharani Gallery presents *Faith*, a solo exhibition of photographs by S C Sekhar. The exhibition captures myriad facets of India showcasing monasteries, landscapes of Kailash and Mansarovar, temples of Hampi, icy water of Ganges during the Maha Kumbh, and rituals and colours of Varanasi. **WHEN:** 11 am to 8 pm **DATE:** Till September 20 **WHERE:** Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg.

WATCH OUT

INDIA BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE

Defending champions eye big win against Hong Kong in Asia Cup opener before clash against Pakistan

PTI ■ DUBAI

Formidable India will be aiming to make short work of minnows Hong Kong in their Asia Cup opener Tuesday before getting battle-ready for their much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on Wednesday.

The match against Hong Kong will be an 'appetiser' before cricket junkies are treated to a lavish spread of main course which will be the Indo-Pak rivalry.

Even without regular skipper Virat Kohli, the Indian side, led by Rohit Sharma, is an intimidating one in the limited-overs format.

Although Rohit and his colleagues won't want to take Hong Kong lightly, in reality the match will only be a precursor or a glorified dress rehearsal before they take on an in-form Pakistan the very next day.

In the searing Dubai heat, where the mercury has risen up to 43 degree Celsius, the primary aim for the Men in Blue would be to get their combination right before the big game.

Hong Kong lost their opener against Pakistan by eight wickets in a thoroughly one sided showdown where they could manage only 116 runs.

Unless a miracle happens, there won't be a remarkable improvement in their performance against an Indian team that boasts of the likes of Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Kedar Jadhav in batting along with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in bowling.

For the past few years, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's waning batting skills have repeatedly come under scanner and this tournament will give everyone a fair idea of his ideal position.

Whether it would end up being No 5, 6 or 7 will be the big contention going into the Pakistan game.

If Dhoni comes in at No 7, he will have to face a skilful Mohammed Aamir at the death along with a skiddy Usman Khan and talented Hasan Ali.

Possibly, Kedar Jadhav or Manish Pandey at No 5 and Hardik Pandya with his big hitting abilities at No 7 could prove to be ideal foil for the former India cap-



Indian players during the practice session on Monday ahead of their first game against Hong Kong BCCI

PAKISTAN ARE FAVOURITES TO WIN ASIA CUP: MANJREKAR

MUMBAI: Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar believes India are one of the main contenders to lift the ongoing Asia Cup, but tipped Pakistan as the favourites given the neighbour country has been playing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regularly. Pakistan have begun their Asia Cup campaign routing minnows Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday and have the added advantage of playing in the UAE, their 'home' ground. "I think Pakistan start as favourites more than India, because they have been playing in those conditions (in the UAE) for a while now and it's a team which is on the surge. "India, of course, are resting Virat (Kohli), which takes a lot of strength away from the team," Manjrekar, said. He was quizzed whether in the absence of Kohli, India were the favourites going into the tournament. "India are obviously one of the contenders, but when you look at favouritism, (question arises) which team can be rated as the strongest. "It's Pakistan because of where it (the tournament) is being played," explained Manjrekar.

OUR AIM IS TO SORT BATTING ORDER: ROHIT

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma on Monday admitted that the team's middle-order is still fluid and their objective will be to identify players for the number four and six slot during the Asia Cup.

The problem for India during the past one year is the lack of a settled middle-order, which was evident during the recent ODI series defeat in England.

Rohit made it clear that the likes of Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Ambati Rayudu are fighting for the key middle-order slots.

"Lot of spots are up for grabs like Nos 3, 4 and 6. All these guys (Kedar, Manish, Rayudu) are eyeing for those slots. We want to give chances to as many guys for this particular series. In this tournament, we need to seal the batting slot Nos 4 and 6," Rohit said on the eve of the lung opener against Hong Kong.

Rohit's answer was an indication that Mahendra Singh Dhoni will bat at number five. Ambati Rayudu is back in the Indian team having cleared the YoYo test and he also performed well in the Quadrangular series for India A. Kedar Jadhav is back having recovered from a hamstring surgery.

"They are both important members of this team. Rayudu was originally part of England series and similarly Kedar before his injury. It was unfortunate that they couldn't play for some time and I am very happy that both are back in the team. I expect them to win matches for India," said Rohit.

Rohit didn't reveal whether he was open to rotating bowlers in this searing Dubai heat but did say that performers should be given a longer run.

"I haven't thought about it right now. We want to see how each individual react to different situations. At the same time, we want to give chance to as many guys as possible but also give more opportunities to those who are consistent. We would see how individuals respond to conditions and take decisions accordingly," said Rohit.

Having had a look at the match strip, Rohit's



Indian skipper Rohit Sharma speaks during press conference

assessment is that it will get slower as the game progresses.

"The wicket isn't that bad. It's going to get slower and slower as the match progresses. The first match we need to figure out the dimension of the ground and things like that," he added.

More than Hong Kong, it is the change in climate that might bother the players, coming from the cooler confines of English weather.

"It will be a challenge as a lot of our guys are coming from England. Some of us have been here for four days now and we are getting used to it."

About Hong Kong, the answer was on predictable lines.

"We are treating every opposition equally. We are looking at what we want to do as a team and if we do that a lot of worries and issues will take care of itself. Yes, the conditions are not going to be that easy. But it's game time now and we have to focus on the match."

On a personal note, Rohit is excited as well as nervous as this is the biggest tournament for him as India captain.

"I am excited as well as nervous. It is a big tournament for me. I know all the boys well. I understand them well which is necessary," he signed off.

tain, if he decides to come at No 6.

The middle-order that has been an issue for India for quite some time now and need to be sorted going into the World Cup next year.

It is expected that KL Rahul will bat at No 3 but the incoming deliveries from Aamir or Hasan could be a problem like it has been in England.

The BCCI has already hired a left-arm throwdown specialist from Sri Lanka to ensure that India have no trouble tackling Pakistan's battery of left-armers. Also, they have Khaleel Ahmed in the team to give the batsmen much-needed practice.

However, on flat decks with little movement from white kookaburra, the Indian batsmen can play their customary 'hitting on the rise' game with minimal footwork.

The Hong Kong encounter will be a match simulator for the likes of Dhawan,

India vs Hong Kong
Live from 5:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

Rahul and Pandya, who will have to adjust to the different length and pace of the track.

The Bumrah-Bhuvneshwar combination will be back in action along with the Kuldeep-Chahal combination, which has been a steady set-up for past one year.

The Hong Kong game will also be ideal warm-up for Bhuvneshwar, who has been out due to back injury.

He recently came back to competitive cricket for India A against South Africa A.

The stadium is expected to be packed to capacity on Wednesday but one

can expect a sizeable Indian population on Tuesday itself during the Hong Kong game.

SQUADS

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Dinesh Karthik, Khaleel Ahmed.

Hong Kong: Anshuman Rath (captain), Aizaz Khan, Babar Hayat, Cameron McAulson, Christopher Carter, Ehsan Khan, Ehsan Nawaz, Arshad Mohammed, Kinchit Shah, Nadeem Ahmed, Raag Kapur, Scott McKehnie, Tanvir Ahmed, Tanvir Afzal, Waqas Khan, Aftab Hussain.

Shah shines as Afghans post 249

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rahmat Shah top-scored with a composed 72 before pacer Thisara Perera's five-wicket haul helped Sri Lanka bowl out Afghanistan for 249 in their opening match of the Asia Cup here on Monday.

Perera returned figures of 5/55 as Sri Lanka picked up seven wickets in the last eight overs of Afghanistan innings on a pitch that looked to be on the slower side.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, Afghanistan were off to a cautious start with the openers Mohammad Shahzad (34) and Ihsanullah Janat (45) putting on 57 runs in just under 12 overs.

Spinner Akila Dhananjaya made the first breakthrough when he had Shahzad trapped in front of the wicket. It was a loose shot and attempting to reverse sweep a length ball proved to be his undoing.

There was another half-century stand, between Ihsanullah and Shah, as the Afghanistan dressing room looked relaxed at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

However, Sri Lanka found another wicket after the two batsmen added exactly 50 runs for the second wicket. Umpire Gregory Brathwaite was not impressed with Akila's shout for an lbw, prompting the Sri Lankans to go for a review, and got the decision in their favour.

Returning to the side after missing the tournament opener against Bangladesh, off-spinner Akila returned with tidy figures of 2/37 in his 10-overs spell on a wicket that played slow, making stroke-making difficult.

Skipper Asghar Afghan came to the middle, but his stay was short-lived



Hashmatullah Shahidi, right, and Rahmat Shah run between the wickets AP

as Shehan Jayasuriya foxed him, the two wickets in as many overs reducing Afghanistan to 110 for three at the end of the 26th over.

An 80-run partnership ensued between Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi (37), helping Afghanistan to 190 when Dushmantha Chameera sent the Afghan top-scorer back to the pavilion. Shah's knock included five hits to the fence.

Shahidi was the next man to get out, falling to Perera. Mohammad Nabi scored 12-ball 15 before the seasoned Lasith Malinga cut short his stay in the middle.

The Lankan pulled back things in the death, picking up seven wickets, with Thisara doing the bulk of damage.

TAMIM OUT OF ASIA CUP

Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal

has been ruled out of the rest of the Asia Cup with a broken hand after batting despite his injury in the opening match, an official said on Monday.

"He got two fractures in his hand. He would not be able to continue here and also for the next three to four weeks," team manager Khaled Mahmud said from Dubai.

Tamim was hailed as national hero after he returned to bat with his injured hand for the final wicket during Bangladesh's 137-run win in Saturday's opening match against Sri Lanka.

The left-hander received a blow to his wrist in the second over of Bangladesh's innings when he was hit by a short ball from Suranga Lakmal.

He left the field for hospital for a scan, and when he returned to the ground with a sling on his injured hand his Asia Cup was thought to be over.

But the opener stunned all by striding out to bat after Bangladesh lost their ninth wicket for 229 runs.

He fashioned a hole in his glove in order to fit his taped wrist, and used one hand in facing a single delivery to give the strike back to Mushfiqur Rahim, who was batting on 112.

Mushfiqur then scored 32 off 16 balls alone in their 10th-wicket partnership, guiding Bangladesh to 261 runs before he was dismissed in the final over for 144.

Bangladesh later bowled out Sri Lanka for 124 runs to record their biggest win on foreign soil, making a giant leap towards the Super Four round.

Bangladesh will face Afghanistan in their second match of the tournament in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

'Kohli's absence won't be a factor against Pak'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former skipper Sourav Ganguly said India are a better team and absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli won't be a factor when the defending champions take on arch-rivals Pakistan in a high-voltage Asia Cup clash on Wednesday.

The two bitter foes will reignite their rivalry in the Asia Cup Wednesday with India having a 6-5 win-loss record from 12 encounters in the continental event.

"It will be a 50-50 contest in Dubai," Ganguly said on the sidelines of a promotional event here.

India are the most successful side in the Asia Cup, having won the title a total of six times, while Pakistan bagged the crown twice.

Rohit Sharma will lead India in the absence of Kohli who has been given rest after a draining England tour.

"Virat Kohli's absence won't be a factor, they are a better side," Ganguly said, adding Pakistan too have improved on their performance.

The last time the two sides met was the Champions Trophy summit clash in England last year, with Pakistan winning the match by 180 runs.

India begin their Asia Cup campaign against Hong Kong Tuesday, while Pakistan have made their intentions clear with an eight wicket win over Hong Kong on Sunday.

Need to raise our game to beat India: Sarfraz

PTI ■ DUBAI

A comprehensive win over Hong Kong is a perfect start but Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed says his team will have to raise the game by several notches to outwit arch-rivals India in the much-awaited Asia Cup clash on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday night in the Asia Cup. Sarfraz said his team needs to iron out a few things before the clash against India.

"As a captain, I saw a couple of things which we should work on. For us to go the distance in the tournament, we should have won this game (against Hong Kong) by nine or 10 wickets."

"We also need to ball better with the new ball. We need to get early wickets with the new ball. It didn't swing for us with the new ball, that is alarming for us," Sarfraz said after the match.

"We will work on it in our next practice session. It's a good win but to win against India we have to be at our best in all the three departments," he added.

Left-arm pacer Usman Khan was the star performer for Pakistan and was adjudged the Man-of-the-Match for picking up three wickets in an over that helped Pakistan bowl out Hong Kong for a paltry 116.

"When I came to bowl in the



Sarfraz Ahmed, center, appeals during Asia Cup match against Hong Kong AP

first spell, I tried to pick wickets with the new ball, but luck was not with me. In the second spell, I got the ball to reverse swing and I managed to take wickets," Usman said.

Hong Kong skipper

Anshuman Rath blamed his batsmen for not being able to put enough runs on the board.

"Lots of soft dismissals. 120 (116) was not enough. It was a good wicket. Credit goes to the Pakistan bowlers," he said.

Virat, Mirabai recommended for Khel Ratna; Neeraj picked for Arjuna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were Monday jointly recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, while star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among 20 sportspersons picked for the Arjuna Awards.

Besides Chopra, other prominent names recommended for the Arjuna Awards were junior world champion sprinter Hima Das and Asian Games Gold-medallist middle distance runner Jinson Johnson, cricketer Smriti Mandhana, hockey players Manpreet Singh and Savita Punia, multiple Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist table tennis star Manika Batra and Asiad doubles Gold-medallist tennis player Rohan Bopanna.

These recommendations by a selection committee headed by Justice (retd) Indermeet Kaul Kochhar are subject to approval by Sports Minister Rajyavardhan



(from left to right) CWG and Asian Games Gold medallist Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra; CWG Gold medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu; Indian skipper Virat Kohli PTI/AP



Singh Rathore. Once ratified by him, President Ram Nath Kovind will present the awards on September 25 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Kohli will become the third Indian cricketer to win the country's highest sporting honour after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (1997) and the talismanic former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007) once

the sports ministry officially accepts the committee's recommendation. "Yes, Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chanu's names have been recommended by the awards committee," a top source said.

It is learnt that India's top male shuttler Kidambi Srikanth was also in Khel Ratna contention for his good show in the Super Series circuit last year but lost out to the 24-

year-old Chanu, who is the reigning world champion in the 48kg category.

Asian Games Gold-medallist boxer Amit Panghal was discussed for the Arjuna Awards but the committee decided against recommending him due to a failed dope test back in 2012, a source said.

Similarly, the selection committee also decided against recommending veteran

discus thrower Seema Punia for the awards due to his doping past. The 35-year-old Seema, who won a medal each in the Commonwealth and the Asian Games, had failed a dope test during the 2000 World Junior Championships.

Former Asian Games Bronze-medallist and Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Satish Kumar was the lone boxer to get the Arjuna honour this year.

Three shooters - Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal and Shreyasi Singh — also figured in list of 20 recommended sportspersons while there were two from para-sports - Ankur Dhama and Manoj Sarkar.

The 18-year-old Hima, who won a Gold and two Silver in the Asian Games, and golfer Shubhankar Sharma were not in the original shortlist but were later added for their impressive performances.

Indonesia. The Khel Ratna awardees are entitled to a cash prize of ₹ 7.5 lakh, while the Arjuna winners are given ₹ 5 lakh.

Kohli, the world's No 1 Test batsman as per the ICC rankings, has been in stupendous form for the past three years and missed out despite nominations in the years 2016 and 2017.

The BCCI has been nominating Kohli for the Khel Ratna for the past three years but in 2016, it was given to Sakshi Malik, PV Sindhu and Deepa Karmakar for their good show at Rio Olympics.

Last year, the Khel Ratna was awarded to former India hockey captain Sardar Singh and para-athlete Devendra Jhajharia.

For Chanu, the award comes as a massive morale-booster as she is currently recovering from a lower back injury, which forced her to skip the Asian Games. She is the current Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and India's only medal hope in weightlifting going into 2020 Olympics.