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RUPEE BATTLES MACRO
FATIGUE; HITS NEW LOW

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

It'll take more than math to upset Modi applecart

The initial reaction to the Bahujan Samaj Party choosing to have an alliance with Ajit Jogi's Janata Congress Chhattisgarh, rather than the Congress, has followed expected lines. The BJP, understandably apprehensive about the consolidation of anti-BJP votes in a State where only a very thin margin separates it and the Congress, is all smiles. On its part, the Congress which has been banking on grand alliances in the three States that go to the polls post-Diwali, is a little dejected. The dejection is coupled with concern in view of the BSP also suggesting it will fight without alliances in Rajasthan and even Madhya Pradesh - States the Congress believes it can win.

The importance of the Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh need hardly be overstated. The overall outcome may not have a direct bearing on voting patterns in the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for April-May 2018, but there is little doubt that the atmospherics of the pre-campaign will be influenced. If the Congress performs creditably and wins, say two of the three States, it will enter the general election campaign with three booster doses.

First, there is nothing like the smell of political power to galvanise the Congress network, especially its sleeper cells that have gone into hibernation after the party's ignominious performance in 2014. A good harvest in the three Assembly polls will propel Congress sympathisers - and critics of the Narendra Modi Government - to emerge from the woodwork and show their loyalty. A large section of the media which in any case is wary of the Modi Government will bare its fangs more explicitly. The buzz of a lame duck Government awaiting dismissal by the electorate will resonate and affect governance in the final months of the five-year term.

Secondly, the Congress - and, for that matter, all the regional parties that are dominant in their respective States - will once again have access to funds. The funding of political parties before a general election follows a complex pattern. While most corporate groups try to be even-handed and donate to all parties on a proportional basis, a bit of extra is always kept on the side for the party that is emotionally favoured. This was the basis on which funds poured in for the BJP in 2014 - although the greater visibility of the Modi campaign had more to do with the fact that a section of the Congress, knowing defeat was inescapable, chose to conserve its war chests for another day. Whether the concealed war chests will

emerge for the general election will depend to a large extent on the perceptions that are formed after the three Assembly polls. This perception will also determine the quantum of target fulfilment of the ₹500 crore the Congress has reportedly set as its goal.

Finally, the outcome of the three Assembly polls will influence the future of the Grand Alliance that many Opposition leaders believe is the key to defeating Modi in 2018. Mayawati's decision to not ally with the Congress has already set tongues wagging. Various reasons - both political and personal - have been offered to explain the decision. The non-political reasons are a matter of pure conjecture and need not be addressed. From the political perspective, it is important to understand that the BSP ecosystem has a logic of its own, quite distinct from the logic that drives the Congress.

It is important to recognise that the core vote of the BJP is made up of social clusters that were traditionally associated with the Congress. An alliance with the Congress runs the automatic risk - in the three States at least - of these groups drifting back to their original political home. Moreover, borrowing a leaf from the old Left, the BSP has always used elections as an instrument of mobilisation and organisational expansion. For the old Kanshi Ram BSP, the important thing was not to win - though that is a bonus - but to expand and consolidate its support among Dalit communities. In Uttar Pradesh, this process is at an advanced state, although the BSP is yet to achieve total dominance among the most marginalised of the Dalit communities. However, in the three States that go to the polls now, the BSP penetration among Dalits is still patchy. Mayawati clearly hopes to increase her party's popular vote substantially. This will give her the leverage to bargain hard with other parties, including the Congress, for the general election.

For the moment, the Grand Alliance project has suffered a setback. However, to argue that this will also be the case in 2018 is, as yet, premature. Even a major BJP victory could propel a nervous alliance of the defeated.

However, purely in terms of optics, Mayawati's decision to opt out of the Congress net is damaging for the Opposition. In the course of the past four years, ever since the Modi-Amit Shah duo transformed the BJP into becoming India's principal (if not dominant) party, the BJP has painted itself as the party of stable Government - a claim that was made by the Congress in earlier decades. This claim has been bolstered by the shambolic nature of the Janata Dal (S)-Congress coalition in Karnataka that was forged only to keep the BJP out. It is entirely possible that shoddy governance will not affect the arithmetic of elections - after all, it is only the swing vote of around 5-6 per cent that decides electoral outcomes. However, elections that turn out to be quasi-presidential in nature often lead to a breakdown in traditional voting patterns. This was certainly the case in 2014 and could happen once again in 2018 if the issue becomes either Modi versus Rahul Gandhi or Modi versus the post-election lottery winner.

Clearly it will take much more than a plan centred on arithmetic aggregation to upset the Modi applecart in 2018. Nevertheless, the Assembly polls in three States will offer loose indications of which way the wind is blowing.

Reliance our pick: Dassault

France says Rafale maker given free hand; unnecessary rows, says Indian Defence Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After former French President Francois Hollande's reported sensational comments that India proposed Reliance Defence as off-set partner for the ₹59,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal, the French Government on Saturday said it is in no manner involved in the choice of the Indian partner.

It added French companies have the full freedom to select Indian firms and Dassault Aviation, manufacturer of Rafale jets, said it is the company's "choice" to partner with Reliance Defence.

"Dassault Aviation has decided to make a partnership with India's Reliance Group. This is Dassault Aviation's choice," the company said.

Reacting to the French Government's claim and Dassault Aviation's admission, the Indian Defence Ministry said "unnecessary controversies" are being created and reiterated that the Indian Government had had no role in the selection of Reliance as an off-set partner in the deal.

The French Government and Dassault company's clarifications came after Hollande in an interview to a French publication *Mediapart* said on Friday, "It was the Indian Government that proposed this service group, and Dassault negotiated with Ambani. We had no choice, we took the interlocutor who was given to us."

Reacting to Hollande's comments, the Indian Defence Ministry had said on Friday, "It is reiterated that neither the Government nor the French Government had any say in the commercial decision."

On Saturday, the Defence Ministry said, "Unnecessary controversies are being sought to be created following media reports regarding a statement purportedly made by the former French President, Francois Hollande, concerning the selection of Reliance Defence as the off-set partner by Dassault."

The reported statement perhaps needs to be seen in its full context - where the French media has raised issues of conflict of interest involving persons close to the former President. His subsequent statements are also relevant in this regard. For a rounded appreciation of this matter, it may be pertinent to dwell upon why and how Off-set Policy came into play.

The Off-set Policy was formally announced for the first time in 2005 by the then UPA Government and has been revised several times. To leverage its huge arms imports in order to develop a strong indigenous industry, a flow-back arrangement is made in the defence contracts, which is widely known as off-sets, and constitutes a certain percentage of the contract value.

The key objectives of the Defence Off-set Policy is to leverage the capital acquisitions to develop

PM's surgical strike on Defence forces: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of former French President Francois Hollande's reported comments on the controversial Rafale deal, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a fresh attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said "former French president Francois Hollande is calling the PM of India a thief" and that the PM needs to break his silence.

Addressing a Press conference here, the Congress president said it is "obvious that PM Modi is corrupt."

Rahul said the Prime Minister has "betrayed India's soul". Calling the Rafale deal ₹1.3 lakh crore surgical strike on the Indian Defence forces, Rahul said Modi "dishonoured



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses the media on the Rafale deal in New Delhi on Saturday

the blood of our martyred soldiers."

"Former French president calls our PM a thief... What is staggering is that the Prime

Minister is still silent on it. Not a single word from him," Rahul said. It is considered to be the sharpest attack by Rahul on Modi on the Rafale deal.

"It is very important for the Prime Minister now to either accept Hollande's statement or state that Hollande is lying and tell the truth," he said.

Rahul alleged that Modi got the contract for his industrialist friend Anil Ambani to bail him out. "The Prime Minister himself has given a contract of ₹30,000 crore to Anil Ambani. Anil Ambani had a debt of ₹45,000 crore and was bailed out by PM Modi," he said.

"The PM and Anil Ambani jointly carried out a One Hundred & Thirty Thousand Crore, SURGICAL STRIKE on the Indian Defence forces. Modi Ji you dishonoured the blood of our martyred soldiers. Shame on you. You betrayed India's soul," Rahul tweeted.



Indian Defence industry by fostering development of internationally competitive enterprises; augmenting capacity for research and development in Defence sector and to encourage development of synergistic sector like civil aerospace.

The off-set can be discharged by many means such as direct purchase of eligible products/services, FDI in joint ventures and investment towards equipment and transfer of technology.

As per Defence Off-set Guidelines, the foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is free to select any Indian company as its off-set partner.

Woman's throat slit, daughter clubbed to death in W Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a chilling incident, a 60-year-old woman and her 40-year-old differently-abled daughter were found murdered brutally at their residence in West Delhi's Mianwali Nagar on Saturday.

While Shashi Talwar the mother's throat was slit, her daughter Nidhi was bludgeoned to death with a blunt object. The hands of both victims were tied and their mouths gagged, the police said.

The incident came to light on Saturday morning when the victims' maid came for her daily chores. The police said the help rang the doorbell several times, but when there was no response, she entered the house



Police at the crime scene

from the other door and found the mother-daughter lying in a pool of blood. "She informed the police about the incident at around 10 am," said the police.

Their bodies have been sent for post-mortem. The police have ruled out robbery angle as jewellery were found intact on the persons and two tea-cups were lying in the drawing room insinuating a "friendly entry". According to the

police, initial probe indicated that the murder occurred on Friday evening or night.

The police suspected personal animosity behind the murders. At the same time, some people suspect property dispute could have led to the murder of the woman and her daughter. The police are sifting footage of eight CCTV cameras in the area to identify the accused. The Police have also recovered three mobile phones from the crime scene and are checking the call details.

"Investigation is on," the police said. Shashi was dependent on the family pension of the late husband. She had two sons. While one lives in Canada, another is in Mumbai.

CAPSULE

DELHI'S AIR TURNS 'GOOD' FOR 2ND TIME THIS YEAR

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality turned 'good' on Saturday, for the second time this year due to persistent monsoon that washed away pollutants from the air, according to authorities. The overall Air Quality Index of New Delhi was recorded at 48 which falls under the "good" category, as per the data of the Central Pollution Control Board.

TRUMP ADMIN TO REVOKE H-4 VISA WORK PERMITS

Washington: The Trump administration has told a federal court that its decision to revoke work permits to H-4 visa users, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans, is expected within the next three months, a move which will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

Shops, hotels to get more leeway with FAR relief

Union Govt allows DDA to modify Delhi Master Plan 2021

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to provide more coverage area to shop owners for commercial activities, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) has allowed the Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) proposal to modify the Master Plan for Delhi 2021, allowing retail trade, office space / commercial office, service apartments and related activities up to maximum 40 per cent of the

floor area. As per modification, hotel space / rooms shall be minimum 60 per cent of floor area, including exhibition space, banqueting, convention and meeting space. Service apartments shall be non-saleable with all services as per the Hotel Facility Management System.

The maximum 10 per cent additional ground coverage shall be allowed for providing atrium. In case, the permissible additional ground coverage for atrium is utilised, 25 per cent of the utilised ground coverage shall be counted towards floor area.

Cong chief playing into Pak, China's hands, retorts BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a symbol of honesty after Congress president Rahul Gandhi threw the "thief" barb at him, the BJP on Saturday rejected former French president Francois Hollande's sensational claim on the Rafale deal, saying it does not know under what compulsion Hollande said so.

The BJP condemned as "shameful and irresponsible" Rahul's remarks against Modi over the Rafale deal, saying no president of any party has ever used such language against a Prime Minister.

Hours after Rahul's Press conference, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad hit back at Rahul saying that the Congress chief is "playing into the hands of Pakistan and China" by seeking the details of the Rafale fighter jets.

The Union Minister also said that Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of the fighter aircraft, and Reliance had entered into an agreement as early as 2012 when the Congress-led UPA was in



Union Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad addresses the media in New Delhi on Saturday

power and refuted the allegation that the Modi Government had favoured the Anil Ambani-led company.

Ruling out Rahul's demand for a joint parliamentary committee probe into the deal, he told a Press conference that it cannot be done merely to satisfy the ego of "an arrogant and ill-informed leader repeating lies after lies".

Prasad said negotiations between Dassault and Reliance Industries dated back to February 13, 2002. Prasad also cited statements of the French Government and Dassault in which they said Indian and French dispensations had no role in picking the off-set partner of

the private company, to brush aside the charge of corruption.

Prasad said, "What happened later between the two brothers (Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani) we do not know but there is contemporary evidence of MoU between Reliance Industries and Dassault."

He said the UPA Government terminated negotiations with Dassault after a contract negotiation committee had chosen it as the lowest bidder in 2012 following years of process because the company did not pay it "bribe".

"This is the most shameful and irresponsible statement which is not believed by anyone in the country or world. But by levelling these allegations you (Rahul) have smeared black paint on your face," Prasad said.

He claimed Rahul "had no quality or capability" and held on to power because of his family connections. "I can understand the pain of Rahul and company because the corruption has stopped under Modi and doors are closed for middleman".

Vyapam Scam: Bhopal Court records statement of Digvijay

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A local court on Saturday recorded the statements of Congress leader Digvijay Singh in connection with his private complaint against Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Uma Bharti and five others in the Vyapam scam.

The Vyapam scam is related to irregularities in exams held by the Madhya Pradesh Professional Examination Board, also called Vyavasayik Pareeksha Mandal or Vyapam, for admission in professional courses and state services.

Singh deposed for over two hours before Judge Suresh Singh of the Special Court dealing with the cases related to MLAs and MPs.

The former MP Chief Minister was assisted by senior lawyer and former Union Minister Kapil Sibal, senior counsel and Congress leader Vivek Tankha, among other advocates. In his plea, Singh has sought criminal prosecution of Chouhan, Bharti and five others in the Vyapam scam. Later,



Congress leader Digvijay Singh, along with party leaders and Supreme Court lawyers Kapil Sibal and Vivek Tankha, appeared in the court in Bhopal on Saturday to register his statements seeking FIR against Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister Uma Bharti and others for allegedly tampering with electronic evidences related with the Vyapam scam

talking to media persons, Sibal said, "Digvijay Singh has submitted the copy of a document connected with the Vyapam scam in which Chouhan's name figures 48 times."

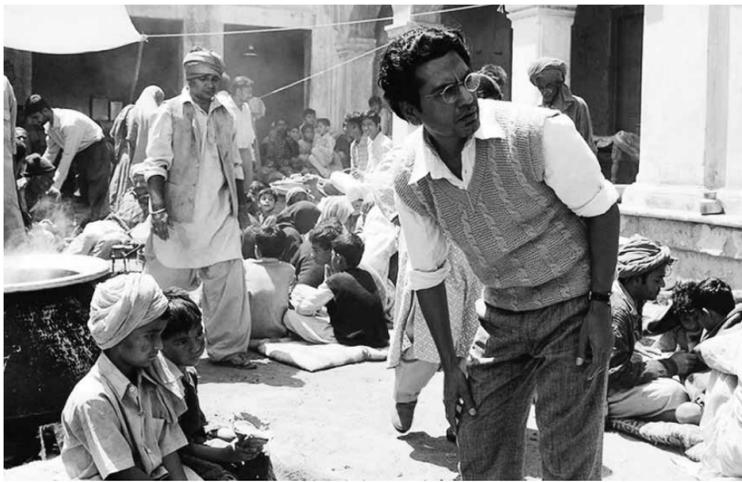
He claimed that earlier the state Special Task Force (STF), and now the CBI, are saving those involved in the scam, especially Chouhan. Tankha said that Singh submitted documents running into 27,000 pages to accompany his charges.

Earlier, the STF had investigated the scam. In 2016, the Supreme Court had directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the Vyapam scam.

The central agency had given Chouhan a clean chit in the case. Sibal Saturday alleged that Chouhan was the root of the scam. "With Digvijay Singh's private complaint, we are going to prove Chouhan's involvement in the scam," he said.

SHOW TIME

Powerful, brief & to the point



MANTO
*ing: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Rasika Dugal, Rajshri Deshpande, Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Javed Akhtar
Rated: 8/10

The power of Manto, as a writer, personality and self-destruct mode carries the power of an atomic bomb and most of it gets translated into this sepia shaded movie by Nandita Das.

The power of this film and its subject Saadat Hasan Manto lies in the gentle unfolding of the life and times of the writer whose cutting-edge pen was the toast of most Bollywood scripts at one time.

He loved Mumbai as much as he loved himself and yet decided to quit everything dear to him, including the graves of his parents and son, to leave for Lahore because he was "itna toh musalmaan hoon ki maar diya jaoon." Those were violent and divisive Partition days and Nandita does well to bring up one of the major faultlines in Manto's personality by telling us of his inherent fear of things.

He loved with passion, had immense anger issues over intangibles like the state of society and lived life as a smouldering ember in a time and place where almost everything and anyone was somehow struggling to survive the first wave of independence.

Manto, being the volatile writer who saw the wrongs, especially on women, much more than others, made brevity as much his virtue as revelling in the painful times his vice.

A film on a personality like Manto is bound to be powerful unless the director gets it entirely wrong. The power of Das' Manto lies in the fact that it interestingly captures all the nuances of the times and the people in a gentle unfolding of

explosive events in the life of its main protagonist. The ambience and the atmosphere of those smoky times when intellectuals like Ismat Chughtai and Manto intermingled with the glamorous world of cinema and powered scripts with their literature, thoughts and philosophy over liberal round tables splashed with whiskey and cigarettes, are aptly captured on camera.

The dialogues, pithy and cutting, get to you with one-liners that unfold an entire life and time in a stunning frugality of words. Das compels you to question why Manto would self-destruct in such a manner. Brilliantly, she tells you that the only reason why such a brilliant short story writer with immense power of thought could die at 42 was his belief that he had the artistic licence to do so.

The other high point of the film is the stunning way in which Das inserts the dramatisations of Manto's most loved stories *Thanda Gosht*, *Khol Do* and *Toba Tek Singh*, never once deviating from Manto's unfolding life story. Cameos by Rishi Kapoor, Javed Akhtar, Vinod Nagpal, Divya Dutta, Ranvir Shorey are impactful and rounded.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui loses himself completely in Manto and proves his versatility and brilliance as an actor yet again.

Manto was a meteoric writer who died a meteor's death — a fire of brilliance burning out brightly in the literary sky, often questioned and defiled for speaking the ugly truth of people and society with no punches spared. He was the *badshah* of brevity — both in writing and death, 42 being no age to die as an alcoholic who desperately wanted to live without alcohol but the realisation came too late in life and too close to death.

A rare movie on a rarest of rare writer!

An equaliser for Denzel fans

THE EQUALIZER 2
*ing: Denzel Washington, Pedro Pascal, Ashton Sanders, Bill Pullman, Melissa Leo
Rated: 5.5/10

Denzel Washington has been missing from the big screen for a very long time and it is his presence that saves this slow thriller some blushes.

Other than him, it is all very commonplace here, be it rogue sleuths, rogue situations or rogue villains. Washington returns from the dead quite literally in this one to unravel the brutal murder of his one-time friend and FBI agent Susan who is stabbed to death in her hotel room while on an assignment with Washington's former partner Dave.

Washington keeps a poker face most of the time, killing, spotting and getting into the case with ease. Not an expression generally means an actor is either good for nothing or too good to be true. Washington, we all know, is a specimen of the second category and he uses this trait to the hilt in *Equaliser 2* wherein he swears to kill the goons and does so in slow motion.

On the whole, will stick only for Denzel Washington fans. The rest would want some kind of urgency in the proceedings.



Gems shine against all odds

Four contestants from small towns have crossed many hurdles to make it to the Indian Idol platform which they are rocking. SANGEETA YADAV chats them up to bring you a report

NITIN KUMAR, 22

Hailing from Una, Himachal Pradesh, Kumar's singing journey started at age five with his father who used to sing *bhajans* in the temples. "I used to sing the chorus with my father in temples and began learning classical music at the age of seven.

"There was a time when we had no shows and events and faced financial crunch. My father



singing dream took a back seat as he had to look for a full-time job. But my life took a U-Turn when I participated in *SaReGaMaPa Lil Champs* and was adjudged third runner up. This gave me my identity and I gained confidence to work towards my dream." Kumar says and dropped out of school as he was not good in his studies.

He aspires to become a playback singer and a comedian as well.

ANKUSH BHARDWAJ, 26

He likes challenges and always remained on the top whether it is about studies or competitions. Son of a daily wage labourer, Ankush Bhardwaj from Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, came out a winner — whether it is about convincing his parents that he wanted to make singing his career or fighting keratoconus disease which has affected his visibility and makes it difficult for him to go out at night. But today, he is making waves at Indian Idol stage. His YouTube videos have touched over a lakh likes.

"My father is a Himachali folk singer and also encouraged me since I was 12. But he is only Class X pass, he couldn't get a better job and had to leave his singing to work as a daily wage labourer. There was no teacher to train me. I started singing in school and practise on my own. My father gifted a Casio keyboard to my elder brother. When everybody used to go to sleep in the afternoon, I used to steal it and learn to play on it. Since it was battery operated, it was difficult to buy them every time they ran out. My parents were not convinced about my making a career in singing. I was depressed and failed in the first year of my graduation. But I bounded back when my dad saw a potential in me when I started winning regional singing competitions," Bhardwaj says.

Talking about the disease which has affected his visibility, Bhardwaj says: "I am at stage III; this means that it has affected my eye len. I have blurred vision in the right eye and had a surgery which was not successful. Now if I go through another surgery, it has many risks involved. But has not deterred me to pursue my dream of being a singer."

SALMAN ALI, 20

Coming from the family of professional singers, Ali started singing at the age of seven and was inspired by his father with whom he used to sing *ghazals* at live shows and sing at people's marriages and *jagran* in Mewat district of Haryana. But circumstances were such that Ali was forced to discontinue his studies in Class IX and became the sole bread winner of the family. To fulfill his father's dream to become a singer, he participated in *SaReGaMaPa Lil Champs* in 2011 and was second runner's up.

"Platform like *Indian Idol* enabled people like me, who have no backing in the music industry, to come to this stage on the basis of our hard work and talent. Sufi and *qawwali* are my favourite and this show trains us to be versatile singers," Ali says.

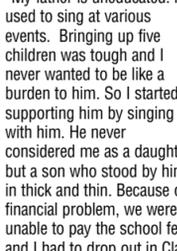


But coming to this stage was an uphill task. "I had no money; my uncle got me to Mumbai for the auditions and brought a set of new clothes so that I looked presentable. My relatives were jealous of my success and used to spread rumours about me that I am a criminal and there was a court case against me and hence I was rejected in 2011. They defamed me but I never gave up and continued to persevere and here I am prepared to give my best," Ali says.

RENU NAGAR, 22

First woman contestant from Rajasthan who made it to Indian Idol in the last 10 seasons, Renu Nagar has awed everyone with her rocking performance. She started singing from the age of five year and comes from the *kirana gharana* style of singing. Her journey to Indian Idol was full of challenges.

"My father is uneducated. He used to sing at various events. Bringing up five children was tough and I never wanted to be like a burden to him. So I started supporting him by singing with him. He never considered me as a daughter but a son who stood by him in thick and thin. Because of financial problem, we were unable to pay the school fee and I had to drop out in Class XII. This made me realise the importance of money. All I had was singing and I decided to make it big in this field. The competition is high and I never thought in my wildest dream that I will be performing on the Indian Idol stage. When I look back, I feel we should have big dreams and work towards it. It is great to see when you realise your dreams," Nagar tells you.



TELLYTALE



VICKY KAUSHAL'S MIDNIGHT MISADVENTURES

The power house of talent and National award winner Vicky Kaushal is the second guest on TLC's entertaining series *Midnight Misadventures* with Mallika Dua. Vicky Kaushal takes the fun quotient to a different level with an interesting and deeply emotional 2 am conversation with host of show Mallika Dua. Kaushal comes to the rescue of Shalishka alias Mallika Dua who is suffering from a recent break-up.

Talking about his little-known facets, Vicky Kaushal added, "I wear a watch only if my character demands it, otherwise I don't like to wear one."

In the truth or dare round, Vicky Kaushal refused to share remuneration details per movie and preferred to eat Mirchi powder. Host of the show, Mallika Dua, said: "Vicky Kaushal is the perfect Hero which Bollywood needs. He is phenomenally versatile and good that whatever he does inspires me. His energy motivates me to take it a notch higher and that's what he did on our set as well. We had a ball of a time where he shared his childhood memory related to homemade food; his favorite dish, breakup story and some tips as well." Shalishka will develop new recipes; mixing never before mixed ingredients followed by cooking; gossip, healthy conversations and a good face stuffing session over comfort food. Catch the latest episode on Monday, September 24 at 8 pm on TLC.



SALMAN GETS HIS SINGING BREAK

Talented contestants from Indian Idol 10 are creating waves across the country with their power packed performances. Salman Ali, the musical prodigy from Haryana has been impressing the judges and audiences along with the guests who make an appearance on India's biggest singing reality show. On the recent shaadi special episode of Indian Idol 10, Vishal Bhardwaj made a special appearance with wife Rekha Bhardwaj. Vishal was stunned with the level of talent on the show and couldn't stop praising the contestants. Salman Ali in particular impressed the veteran composer with his magnificent performance on *Dulhe ka sehra suhana lagta hai* so much so that the ace composer and filmmaker expressed



his wish to compose a song especially for Salman Ali. "I am absolutely blown away listening to Salman Ali sing! He is a powerhouse of talent and I am tempted to compose a song especially for him! I remember the time when I had composed a qawwali and travelled all over the country to find a singer, even overseas but how did I know that there was a gem in our country itself," Bhardwaj said.



WATCH OUT FOR KARNSANGINI

Get ready to witness an epic love triangle set in 10th Century BC with KarnSangini on Star Plus, a fictional story inspired by Kavita Kane's famous book *Karna's Wife: The Outcast's Queen*. It narrates the never-seen-before tale of a royal princess Uruvi who chose her love and stood by it against all odds. Talking about their new show, producer & writer Shashi Mittal, says: "The show is extremely special to all of us as it brings to light a new narrative of an epic like Mahabharata. Love triangles always call for a good narrative and we thought why not add some fiction and set one such triangle in the backdrop of the epic Kurukshetra war? KarnSangini is the untold tale of Karn and his Sangini, Uruvi and showcases a love story that transcends all class and social barriers. It's a show that proves love triumphs over all!"

JUNGLE KE BAAHUBALI

EPIC continues its quest of bringing the wonders of India to its viewers and raises the bar by airing multiple global award-winning film *Jungle ke Baahubali* for the first time on TV. The world TV premiere of this film will air exclusively on EPIC, split into two parts — first part went on air on September 22 and the second will go on air on September 29 at 3pm, 5pm, 7pm and 9pm.

Jungle ke Baahubali is an odyssey into India's picturesque and unique wetland canvases and the spectacular wildlife in them. The project entailed seven years of research that involved observing and filming the wild Asian

Elephant and the One Horned Indian Rhinoceros in its natural environment. The film's director Sumesh Lekhi along with his crew spent time with villagers understanding how their daily lives are affected. The EPIC line-up for World Tourism Day will bring out the international theme of Creating Sustainable Tourism and celebrate India and the tourism potential India has to offer. The programming for the day are curated episodes from an array of shows like *Indipedia* — a foreigner exploring and understanding India; *Ekaant* — a show on historically significant abandoned places; EPIC



Specials — *Andamans* — Jewels of the Sea anchored by Tom Alter; *Nandadevi* — a pilgrimage feature show hosted by Vivek Oberoi and *Wilderness Days* — a series on India's rich and diverse wildlife. The special will showcase on September 27 from 1 – 7 pm.

Close on the heels of World Tourism Day is World Architecture Day on October 1 where EPIC will air episodes from its popular shows — *Sanrachna* and *Made In India* that tell the stories of India's ingenious structures and architectural marvels. The show will air on EPIC on October 1 from 1-7 pm.



National Awards



for Science & Technology Communication 2018
National Council for Science & Technology Communication
Department of Science & Technology
Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India

Invites nominations for the following National Awards for 2018

a) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication (Rupees five Lakhs)
Presented to an individual or an institution for outstanding work in communication of science and technology and/or promotion of scientific temper which had the widest impact in the country.

b) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication through Print Media including Books and Magazines (Rupees Two Lakhs)
Presented to an individual or an institution for outstanding efforts in popularization of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper through books, magazines, etc.

c) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Popularization among Children (Rupees Two Lakhs)
Presented to an individual or an institution for outstanding work in popularization of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper among children which had the widest impact in the country.

d) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Translation of Popular Science & Technology Literature (Rupees Two Lakhs)
Presented to an individual journalist or an institution for outstanding work in translating popular science and technology literature in and from regional languages.

e) National Awards for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication through Innovative and Traditional Methods (Rupees Two Lakhs)
Presented to an individual correspondent or an institution for outstanding efforts in communication of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper.

f) National Award for Outstanding Effort in Science & Technology Communication in Electronic Medium (Rupees Two Lakhs)
Presented to an individual correspondent or an institution for outstanding efforts in communication of science & technology and/or promotion of scientific temper through radio and/or television media.

The last date for receipt of completed nomination forms is 31 October, 2018. Full details of the scheme including eligibility conditions, application format, etc., may be downloaded from the website of the Department: www.dst.gov.in

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U'khand gets e-health service dashboard

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Amid the ongoing furore on the pathetic condition of health services in the State, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh inaugurated e-Health Service Dashboard at his residence on Saturday. The new initiative is aimed at completing digitisation and ensuring transparency and speed in the health services in the State. Speaking on the occasion, Rawat said that the State Government is taking the help of Information Technology (IT) to provide good health services in the remote areas of the State.



environment in the health facilities.

CM claimed that his Government has made sincere efforts to bring transparency, discipline and commitment to duty in the health services. "As part of the endeavour to ensure better health services, new doctors have been recruited for the remote areas. Besides, with the same end in view, telemedicine facility has been launched," he said.

CM further said that efforts are being made to create a good environment in the hospitals. "We are also ensuring adequate availability of doctors and nurses in the hospitals," he said and added that behaviour of the doctors is important in creating a good

Dwelling on the advantages of the e-health service dashboard, he said that it would not just bring transparency in the hospitals and the health services but it would also be helpful in administrative and management works. "Moreover, it would also provide figures to the doctors engaged in research works," CM said.

In the dashboard, the patients would be able to do online registration for any hospital through e-slip. It will also have information pertaining to the availability of blood, medicines and doctors in different hospitals, number

MoU signed under UHSDP

PNS: On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Himalayan Hospital, Jollygrant and the State health department under the Uttarakhand Health System Development Project (UHSDP). The Himalayan Hospital would provide quality health facilities in the district hospital Tehri and a community health centre (CHC) each at Beleshwar and Devprayag. Under UHSDP, provisions for tasks like the availability of quality health services in large hospitals, fulfilment of the conditions for

of patients and other important information with a click of the mouse, the health officers claimed and added that it would also enable the CM, the state administration and the health directorate officers to constantly monitor the hospitals located across the state.

Among those present during the launch were the secretary, medical health Nitesh Jha, project director of Uttarakhand Health System Development Project Yugal Kishore Pant and additional project director Dr Prem Lal.

their recognition from NABH, insurance for infants and senior citizens in OPD services, training at different levels and others are made with the help of private service providers under public-private participation. In the first phase, the Himalayan Hospital would provide best quality health services at the district hospital, Tehri, two CHCs and operate three mobile health vans. This is meant to ensure that no one is forced to go out of the district for the normal diseases and also for surgical procedures, the state health officers said.

Congress warns stir if health service does not improve in 10 days

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Alleging that the health services in the State have completely crumbled down, the State Congress has warned that it would launch a State-wide full-blown agitation if the health services do not improve in the next ten days.

On Saturday, the Congress activists staged a protest at the office of the director general (DG) of State health services and articulated anger over the recent death of a mother and her new born in the female hospital of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC). Earlier, in the day, a large number of party workers led by the state party vice president Surya Kant Dhasmana Assembled outside the DG office and staged a stir. Speaking on the occasion, Dhasmana said that the incidents of death of a poor woman and her newborn baby and the death of a baby in the mother's womb in the biggest female hospital of the State are very unfortunate.

"It is clear that negligence led to the death. One can easily understand the horrible state of the health service in the remote areas when things are so bad in the State capital," he said.

The Congress leader further said that 61 ambulances are rusting away in their long wait for refurbishments. "The Government is apathetic," he said. He warned that his party would be forced to launch a State-wide, vigorous agitation if the conditions do not improve in the next ten days.

The president of Mahanagar party unit, Lal Chand Sharma said that the Doon Hospital should be separated from the medical college and its old status as the district hospital should be restored immediately.

A Congress delegation later submitted a memorandum to the additional director Suman Arya, demanding prompt corrective steps in the interest of the people of the state.

UKD torches Govt's effigy at female hospital



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (UKD) activists torched effigy of the State Government on Saturday to vent anger over the poor condition of the female hospital of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC).

The party's women wing activists gathered outside the female hospital- now in the eye of a storm following the death of a mother and her newborn due to alleged medical negligence- in the afternoon and staged a stir. Led by the women wing chief of the party Rameshwari Chauhan, the workers put to flame an effigy of the state government. Agitated workers also stormed into the hospital and



yelled slogans in the office of CMS Dr Meenakshi Joshi. Tension running rife, some of the UKD activists were involved in minor skirmishes with the hospital staff. Police had to intervene to restore peace.

Later, the nursing staff of the hospital staged a protest outside the administrative block of the hospital. The nurses and other staff members demanded that the hospital administration should provide them with adequate security in view of the repeated assault attempts on them. The agitated nurses were later pacified by the assurance of security being strengthened in the hospital campus from Monday. They thereafter returned to their duty.

ASSEMBLY REVIEW

Cong's poor performance helps BJP MLAs steal show

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a break of three days, the monsoon session of the Uttarakhand Assembly would resume on Monday. Among the highlights of the session so far is the lacklustre performance of the Congress MLAs with the ruling BJP lawmakers stealing the show as they played the Opposition in the House while tearing hard into the Government on issues of public interests.

The Congress lawmakers seem to have cut a sorry figure as their performance so far this session is far from impressive, say the observers. "It is not that they lacked issues to attack the State Government with. Either they lacked the will to go all-out or the factional schism gnawing at the State party unit came in the way of the robust aggressive role expected of the Opposition party. The vacuum was aptly filled by some of the BJP MLAs who bared prowess while tearing into the ministers with sharply pointed questions on important public interest issues," said a State watcher.

Another observer said that despite her long experiences in legislative politics, the leader of the Opposition Indira

ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE SESSION ON TUESDAY, THE CONGRESS MEMBERS TRIED TO CORNER THE GOVERNMENT ON THE ISSUE OF PRICE RISE

Hridayesh failed to come into her true colour so far this session. "This is really disappointing. Besides, there was expectation of fireworks from the deputy leader of the Congress legislature party Karan Mahara. His performance was not impressive as per the expectation. The least said about the rest the better. They were ill-prepared and worse, unconcerned," said the observer.

Interestingly, the Congress legislators have so far failed to raise emotive issues like gang rape of a school girl in one of the most prominent boarding schools, sexual harassment of a visually challenged girl in National Institute of Visually Handicapped (NIVH) and the alarming spike in number of crimes against women, bringing under spotlight the fast deteriorating law and order

condition of the state. Many of the observers seemed to have been shocked by the Congress legislators' failure to latch on to the broad day light murder of a building material supplier in an area falling within the chief minister's constituency. "This is baffling, given the fact that the brutal, premeditated murder was committed when the House was in session," said an observer.

True, on the very first day of the session on Tuesday, the Congress members tried to corner the Government on the issue of price rise. But the intervention of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prakash Pant blunted the Opposition attack by his spirited and cogent defence of the State Government, according to the observers.

On the second day of the

session, the BJP MLAs raised issues like reservation of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Castes (OBC) in the Urban Local Bodies (ULB), sound pollution, pending compensation in the man-wild life conflict cases and felling of Pine trees. On issue of reservation in ULBs, BJP members Deshraj Karanwal, Chandan Ram Das and Suresh Rathore launched a fiery attack on the State Government. Similarly, BJP MLAs Surendra Singh Jeena and Munna Singh Chauhan raised issues which embarrassed the weather-beaten Forest Minister Harak Singh Rawat. On day three, BJP MLA Chandan Ram Das bemused the House when he offered to resign from membership of the Assembly on the issue of man eater leopard prowling around in Bageshwar.

Many hope that the Congress lawmakers would rise up to the occasion when the Assembly meets again on Monday, would show some fireworks and salvage the image of the party as a responsible, public-spirited Opposition which has taken a severe beating in the first phase of the session.

CM pitches for 'One Country One Election'



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Pitching for simultaneous elections for three-tier Panchayati raj system, State Assembly and Parliament, the Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat said that time, money and energy would be saved if all the elections are held at the same time. He said this while addressing a conclave of the newly elected representatives of the students unions of colleges and universities at his residence on Saturday.

CM said that if 'One Country, One Election' concept is adopted simultaneous elections of gram panchhans, chhetra panchayat representatives, block pramukhs, MLAs

and MPs would be held which would be beneficial for the country.

Expressing his happiness over a large representation of females among the office-bearers of the student unions, CM said that the women must come out strongly against injustice, exploitation, violence prevailing in the society.

While citing the single-day student union elections held across the State, he said that Uttarakhand has set up an example in the country. "This is an example which should be emulated by all. Now we have to seriously deliberate on 'One Country, One Election' in the country," he said.

Rawat exhorted the stu-

dent leaders to engage in works like environmental protection, tree plantation and polytechnic colleges campuses. "Besides, you must engage yourselves in removing illiteracy. The society looks forward to your participation in other creative social causes," he said.

CM reminded the student union leaders of the pledge of the State Government to make Uttarakhand completely literate by 2019. "The college students have an important role to play in achieving the target," he added.

The Minister of State for higher education, Dhan Singh Rawat said that the Union Government has provided a

sum of ₹300 crore to 55 degree colleges of the state for bettering infrastructural facilities. He claimed that 76 degree colleges would be shifted to their new buildings soon. The Minister further said that academic calendar of 180 days of classroom studies is being strictly followed in the state and the examinations would be conducted by June 30. He further announced that an anti-drug campaign would be launched in the colleges soon.

Among others present on the occasion were the additional secretary higher education, Iqbal Ahmed besides senior officers of the education department.

Heavy rain alert for many places in Uttarakhand for next 36 hours



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a few days' dry spell, the wet climate returned to the state. It rained intermittently in Dehradun since Friday night. The sky was overcast on Saturday and it rained the whole day. The regional Met centre issued heavy to very heavy rain alert for a large swathe of the state, including Dehradun, for the next 36 hours.

As per the regional meteorological centre, heavy to very heavy rain might lash several districts across the

Garhwal and the Kumaon regions, including Dehradun, Haridwar, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh during the next 36 hours. Besides, light to moderate rain and thunderstorm might occur in the rest of the state on Sunday.

In an orange alert issued by the Met office based in Dehradun on Saturday, the weather officers said that the present wet spell would continue for a few days and the monsoon season is likely to end by the end of this month.

As per the weather forecast, the sky would be mostly overcast in Dehradun on Sunday and there is a likelihood of one or two spells of shower or thundershower in the city on the day.

Meanwhile, Dehradun experienced a wet day on Saturday as it rained or drizzled intermittently throughout the day. The sky remained cloudy. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover between 28 to 21 degree Celsius in the city on the day, the Met officers said.

Investors Summit preparations reviewed

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Secretary Tourism Dilip Jawalkar held a meeting at Rishikesh to review the preparations for the coming 'Investors Summit' on Saturday. In the meeting, Jawalkar instructed the officials of the Irrigation department, Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN), National Highway Development Authority, police department, Nagar Palika, Haridwar Development Authority, PWD, forest department, Tehri district administration and local administration to complete all the necessary arrangements for the summit by September 30.

He asked the irrigation department to complete the construction works at the ghats and the stairs for the "Ganga Aarti" programme to be held during 'Investors Summit' and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) to complete the repair works at Ganga Resorts by September 30 so that all the arrangements are completed on time. Jawalkar asked the police department to prepare a traffic plan and asked for

identification of separate routes for arrival and departure of a large number of investors on different roads and deployment of sufficient number of police force for managing the traffic.

Secretary Tourism inspected the places where the summit will be held and asked the Haridwar Development Authority to make all necessary arrangements at the place. The National Highways Authority representatives were instructed to repair the roads by September 30.

It is to be mentioned that 'Investors Summit' is being organised in the state in October.

He made it clear that after the declaration of tourism as an industry, the holding of such a summit is every important.

Among those present at the meeting were the nodal officer K K Mishra, district magistrate Tehri, SDM Narendranagar, SDM Rishikesh, executive officer Nagar Palika and officials of PWD, power departments and officers and representatives of National Highways Development Authority.

Shamsher Singh Bisht passes away

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After a prolonged illness, the eminent journalist and philosopher Shamsher Singh Bisht passed away on Saturday in Almora. He was 69. Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has expressed condolence over the demise of Bisht. In his message, he said that Bisht was

associated with social concerns and environmental awareness. Apart from his active involvement of the Uttarakhand statehood movement, Bisht continued his struggle to save the forests and rivers, he said. CM added that during the Askot Arakot Yatra in 1974, he turned down all the offers and was completely engaged in the service of Uttarakhand.

Declare Gairsain as capital during Monsoon Session, demands UKD



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (UKD) has demanded Gairsain be declared as the capital of the State without any further delay.

Speaking to the media persons after the end of the two-day convention of party executive here on Saturday, UKD president Diwakar Bhatt said that the State Government should respect the sentiments of the people and declare Gairsain as the permanent capital of the state right in the Monsoon session itself. "The State Government must stop dithering and take

The State Government should respect the sentiments of the people and declare Gairsain as the permanent capital of the state right in the Monsoon session itself
—UKD president

the long over-due decision in tune with the soul of the statehood agitation," he said.

He further said that the officers involved in the excise and mining scam as exposed by the report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) should

be punished. He also demanded that the State Government should waive off the loans of the farmers.

Bhatt added that the Government should regularise the services of UPNL workers and strictly enforce the guideline of providing 70 per cent of jobs in the State to the local people. He warned that the UKD would launch a State-wide agitation if the Government fails to accept their demands. "These are the people's demands and the State Government cannot afford to sit on them for an indefinite period of time," UKD chief said.

Congress misleading people on Vyapam: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The ruling BJP in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday accused the Congress party of trying to mislead the people on the Vyapam issue. The saffron party alleged that the opposition was scared of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's popularity and hence moved to the court ahead of the State assembly polls.

The BJP's reaction came hours after a local court recorded the statement of Congress leader Digvijay Singh in connection with a private complaint filed against Chief Minister Chouhan, Union Minister Uma Bharti and five others in the Vyapam scam.

While talking to media persons, Public Relations



Minister Narottam Mishra told, "Congress doesn't believe in any investigating agency. They questioned the police investigation into the Vyapam case. Thus, the probe was handed over to the STF (special task force)."

However, since it was not satisfied, a high court-monitored SIT investigated the charges."

"The investigation was

later handed over to the CBI, but the Congress is still not satisfied," he said, adding that although the CBI did not find any tampering with the electronic evidence in the Vyapam case, the Congress continued to mislead on the issue.

Raising a question mark over the timing of Digvijay Singh's petition in the local court, Mishra said, "Instead of going to public, Congress moved the court ahead of the state assembly elections to mislead the people."

"The case was discussed in the local court, the high court as well as the apex court, yet the Congress leaders did not produce the evidence. Now, they have moved the court ahead of the election," he said adding that the opposition is feared of Chief Minister's popularity.

Musical concert held at MP State Tribal Museum

Bhopal: The Bhopalites witnessed an evening with the melodious old songs in a musical concert 'Ek Shaam Sadabahr Geeto Ke Naam' held at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum Auditorium here on Sunday. Renowned Bollywood playback singer Ravi Tripathi was in Bhopal and presented a scintillating performance before the musical lovers of the city.

In the beginning of the programme, Apoorva Mishra performed many popular songs of the Indian film world, while introducing 'Main Tenu Samjhanwa Ki' and 'Babuji Dheere Chalna, Pyar Me Zara Sambhalna'. After this, Ravi Tripathi performed 'Madhuban Khusbuda', then he per-

formed 'sajda' and chaupaiyan of Ramayana. Ravi Tripathi performed folk-style songs, the songs that were also sung in movies as well. In the folk songs, Ravi Tripathi mesmerized the audience by presenting 'Nain Lad Jhaiye' and 'Kahe Tose Sajna'.

Later, Ravi performed some of his songs as well and the songs of legendary singers too. The singers presented as many as 25 old songs before the music lovers of the city. Being the wondrous presentation for the old music lovers, the show evoked a good response. The listeners enjoyed the musical night with a lot of enthusiasm. The singers were accompanied by live musical orchestra that made the performance even more zestful. SR

Innovations, start-ups, products on display at IIT-Delhi on Industry Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D), organised its second Industry Day 2018 - "Accelerating Innovation in Science & Technology" on Saturday. The IIT-D flagship program is a platform that brought together academic researchers and business houses from across the board.

With the aim for promoting innovation and research done by the institute at the flagship programme "Industry Day 2018" a range of innovations, start-ups and products developed by the students of IIT-D were displayed. IIT-D is focusing on commercialization of technical solutions through patents and start-ups.

"The event brought together over 350 industry experts to discuss major collaborations and build rela-



Director, IIT Delhi said, "Industry Day presents an ideal way to identify meaningful collaborations that will both enhance industry and research needs. This year's event has been a stimulating one for the

tionships between industry and academia based on current societal requirement," informed IIT-D.

The Industry Day focused on five themes - Healthcare for all, smart manufacturing, artificial intelligence and Blockchain Technologies, Sustainable Habitat and Strengthening the Start-up Eco-system under which the event highlighted IIT Delhi's array of cutting-edge work and research capabilities.

Prof. Ramgopal Rao,

attendees and we are happy that we will be moving towards bringing exciting new developments to market."

A host of innovative solutions were on display, such as Pesticide-based treatment for snake bites, the advancement of recombinant DNA technology, Ultra Precision Machining for Strategic Manufacturing Capability, Air Pollution Monitoring from Space and Phase Change Material (PCM) incorporated bricks for composite climate.

Punjab Food Safety teams bust top brands replica racket in Mansa

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

After keeping an eye on the suspects for a few days, the Food Safety teams of Punjab finally nabbed a top brands replica manufacturing racket in Mansa.

In a statement, KS Pannu, Commissioner Food Safety and Drug Administration Punjab on Saturday said a raid was conducted around midnight by food safety team along with the police officials at a house in Mansa.

The domestic premise was being used to prepare the "fake branded products". The accused were caught preparing fake brands of Verka, Amul and Milkfood ghee. Besides, fake Tata Salt, Good Day Salt, Tide Detergent and other fake products under the label of famous brands were found on the spot," the statement said.

The official said that the accused made desi ghee from vegetable fat mixture and stamped and labelled the packets at their house. Five brands of vanaspati were being used alongwith three brands of desi



ghee of low cost to concoct a mixture to fill in the packaging similar to top brands in the market.

A crude "chulha cylinder" was installed to mix vanaspati, cooking medium and mixture of oils to make ghee. A large number of labels of various products were recovered, indicating the involvement of other people stationed at different places for preparing and selling the fake products under the garb of famous brands.

About 700 printed packets of Tata Tea Gold filled with low

quality tea were also found. Entire stock including wrappers and packets was seized and FIR has been registered under relevant sections against the accused.

Similarly, a case of fake labeling case pertaining to mustard oil was detected in Sangrur where in a mustard oil packer by the name of Ganesh Trading Company was found labeling the rice bran oil as pure mustard oil.

The owner confessed the crime. Sampling was done and the unit was sealed.

Student held for molesting Nigerian researcher

Indore: Police here on Saturday arrested a student of Devi Ahilya University for allegedly sexually harassing a 35-year old Biotechnology researcher from Nigeria. Besides, the University administration has also formed a committee to look into the matter.

The accused, identified as Udhham Singh Dohre (22), was arrested following a probe into the victim's statements. The accused is a student of a post-graduate course in the Physical Education department of Devi Ahilya University.

Bhawarkuan Police Station in charge Sanjay Shukla said that Dohre offered tea to the Nigerian researcher at Takshashila campus located at Khandwa Road late Thursday evening. During the meeting, the accused also gave his mobile number to the woman, the official said.

"The accused allegedly followed her after she had her tea. After some time, he inappropriately touched the victim who managed to run away and take refuge in a professor's house nearby. The accused fled the spot," Shukla said. SR

Widespread rainfall in Pb, Hry may damage paddy

Chandigarh: Widespread rainfall across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh on Saturday brought miseries to farmers as untimely showers have affected the standing paddy crop in the agrarian states.

The maximum temperature at most places has been below normal due to the downpour, weather officials said here.

Farmers in both Punjab and Haryana said the rain during this period was not good as the harvesting of the paddy crop was on.

"The harvesting is on and the rain will increase the moisture content in the crop that will get damaged if the rain persists," farmer Ajaib Singh of Fatehgarh Sahib told IANS. Reports said that the paddy crop, which is almost ready for harvest, was damaged in some areas.

Procurement of paddy in Punjab and Haryana is scheduled to begin from October 1. Officials from Agriculture



and Food and Supplies Departments are expecting a bumper paddy crop in both the states this year.

An official spokesperson said elaborate arrangements have been made to procure the expected 200 lakh metric tonnes of paddy in Punjab.

In Chandigarh, traffic was affected as water accumulated at many places in the city.

Complaints of water-logging were also received by authorities in the adjoining towns of Panchkula in Haryana and Mohali in Punjab.

Traffic on highways in Punjab and Haryana was slow due to the rain. The Punjab government on Friday issued an alert for heavy rains across the state till September 24.

As per information

received from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the state is likely to experience widespread rainfall from late Saturday to Monday, a government spokesman told IANS.

He said many districts in Doaba, Majha and Malwa were very likely to get very heavy rains, even more than 12 cm, during this period. IANS

Himachal Governor, CM to launch Ayushman Bharat Yojna in Shimla

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Himachal Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur will launch Prime Minister Jan Arogya Yojna (Ayushman Bharat Yojna) from Shimla on Sunday.

Health Minister Vipin Singh Parmar will also be present on this occasion.

The Ministers will simultaneously launch this scheme in the districts. Irrigation and Public Health Minister Mahender Singh Thakur and MP Ram Suroop Sharma will launch the scheme from Mandi, Food and Civil supplies Minister Kishan Kapoor at Dharmsala, Education Minister and MP Virender Kashyap from Solan, MPP and Power Minister Anil Sharma at Bilaspur, Urban Development Minister Sarween Chaudhary from Chamba, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Virender Kunwar and former Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhuaal at Hamirpur, Industries Minister Bikram Thakur and MP Anurag Thakur from Una, Forest Minister Govind Singh Thakur at Kullu, Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Rajiv Saizal in Sirmour district.

Haryana CM dedicates development works to people

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Saturday dedicated development works worth ₹54.54 crore to the people of Nalwa assembly constituency.

These works include Kisan Sewa Kendra to be set up by Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB) at village Chaudharywas at a cost of ₹35 lakh and the road upto Shahpur Gaushala in village Hindwan will be widened at a cost of ₹107 lakh. Apart from this, HSAMB will construct road from Chirod Road to Devesar Head at a cost of ₹66 lakh and ₹101 lakhs will be spent on strengthening of road from village Harita to Boora. Apart from this, HSAMB will set up road from Baadya Brahman to Boora at a cost of ₹66 lakh, road from Balaawas to Baadya Brahman at a cost of ₹173.90 lakh, road from village Daahima to Sultanpur at a cost of ₹224 lakh and from village Maatri shyam to Mingri khera at a cost of ₹83 lakh, 2 km road from Sarsana Miner Bridge located on Muklana Aryanagar road at a cost of ₹92 lakh, road from Mangaali Jhara main road

to Harikot at a cost of ₹41 lakh, road from Mangaali to Kaimri at a cost of ₹60 lakh, road from Chrod to Barwa at a cost of ₹215 lakh and pucca road from the field of Jagdish Patwari of village Gorachhi Sarsana miner chowk to Dhani of Mahender singh at a cost of ₹150 lakh.

Animal Husbandry Department would develop veterinary hospital in village Panihar Chakk at a cost of ₹35.83 lakh. A Shok sabha Bhawan will be constructed at Ghat situated on Patan Road in Arya Nagar at a cost of ₹25 lakh by the Urban Local Body Department.

Irrigation Department would clean the canal in village Talwandi Rukka through Gaushala and lift pump house at a cost of ₹600 lakh so as to run the canal smoothly. Likewise, park-cum-gymnasium would be constructed by Development and Panchayat Department in village Boora at a cost of ₹35 lakh. It would also make pucca roads in Mahatma Gandhi basti in village Gorchhi at a cost of Rs 12 lakh, construction of road from Gaawad Mor to Sati Dadi

temple in village Gorchhi at accost of ₹15 lakh, construction of park-cum-gymnasium in village Baadya Rangraan at a cost of ₹49 lakh. Besides construction of park-cum-gymnasium in village Panihar Chakk, village Chaudhrywas and village Mingaani Kheda at a cost of ₹32 lakh each, a park-cum-gymnasium in village Harita at a cost of ₹17 lakh and park-cum-gymnasium in village Bhojraj at cost of ₹35 lakh. Department of Elementary Education would rebuilt the wall behind the girls' Middle school at a cost of ₹15.55 lakh. New rooms in lieu of old and obsolete rooms and main-gate in Government school village Basda at a cost of ₹10.34 lakh, construction of boundary wall of Government school in village Boora at a cost of ₹18.72 lakh. The Public Health Department will construct a new water works in village Gujaar at a cost of ₹175 lakh and repair the water works in village Gorchhi at a cost of ₹88 lakh. It would also construct a new water works at Balawas Gunjar at a cost of ₹301 lakh. PNS

3 couples among 13 dead in Shimla road accident

PNS ■ SHIMLA

Thirteen people, including three couples, died after a vehicle veered off a road and fell into a deep gorge in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district on Saturday. Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur have condoled the death.

The accident happened at Sanail, three kilometres from Kuddu on Tiyuni Road. The ill-fated Trax vehicle (bearing registration number HP 02 0695) was on its way to Tiyuni from Swara.

All the thirteen occupants were killed in the accident, Shimla Superintendent of Police Omapati Jamwal said. While 10 of them died on the spot, three succumbed to injuries at Rohru hospital, Jamwal said.

The deceased included eight members of three families. Three couples were among the deceased.

The deceased have been identified as Matvar Singh (48), his wife Basanti Devi (44), their son Munish (24), Prem Singh (38), his wife Poonam (30), their

daughter Ridhima (6), Attar Singh (44), his wife Munna Devi (40), Bittu (42), Bandi Devi (48), Ner Singh (35), Manoj (35) and Anil (28).

A police team led by Jubbil Station House Officer and Swara police post in-charge reached the site shortly after getting information about the accident. The team rescued three injured people and sent them to Rohru hospital but they died, Jamwal added.

In his condolence message, the Governor prayed to the Almighty to grant peace to all the departed souls and strength to the bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss. Jai Ram Thakur has also expressed grief over the death of 13 persons in the road accident.

Cong won Panchayat Samiti polls by misuse of power, says SAD

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Leader of Opposition in Punjab Assembly, Harpal Cheema on Saturday alleged that the Capt Amarinder Singh government has "looted" Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections with "unbridled use of muscle power and government machinery".

Cheema alleged that Police, administration and election commission has worked for Congress as if they were its cadre. "It is not the loss of opposition parties rather people and democracy have lost the battle," he said in his statement.

The Leader of Opposition said perhaps this is first instance in the history of Punjab when goons of the ruling party have unleashed a terror right from the beginning of Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections upto the announcement of results. It is undoubtedly left a blank spot on the democracy of Punjab.

"In spite of all this Aam Aadmi Party is thankful to all those Punjabis who showed courage to keep the lamp of democracy alight amid the anti-democracy storm

The Leader of Opposition said perhaps this is first instance in the history of Punjab when goons of the ruling party have unleashed a terror right from the beginning of Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad elections upto the announcement of results. It is undoubtedly left a blank spot on the democracy of Punjab

launched by the ruling party and gave a befitting reply to Congress by defeating its candidates at many places," he said, adding the government machinery worked alike Congress workers and at many booths 60 to 70 votes were rejected.

Cheema said that had the Capt Government fulfilled its promises made to the public there would have been no need to hijack the democratic system.

Cong sweeps Punjab Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti polls

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress on Saturday emerged as the clear winner in the Punjab Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti polls, winning the most number of seats against its rival Shiromani Akali Dal.

Counting of votes for the local polls took place on Saturday after the state went to vote on September 19.

A total of 354 zila parishad and 2,900 panchayat samiti members are to be elected through these polls. There are 22 zila parishads and 150 panchayat samitis in the state. 33 candidates were earlier

elected unopposed to various zila parishads and 369 nominees were elected unopposed to the panchayat samitis.

There are a total of 1,27,87,395 registered voters in Punjab, comprising 60,99,053 women and 97 third-gender voters.

Earlier, Opposition party Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) accused the ruling party of electoral fraud. Former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal at Muktsar claimed a large number of Congress workers, brandishing swords, were involved in booth capturing. He accused the police of being "mute spectator".

"Booth capturing is taking place and as an MLA I will not tolerate this in my area. Police was not performing its duty. What kind of elections were these, where booths were captured and nomination papers of Akalis rejected," he asked. Further, the SAD alleged bogus votes were polled at some locations.

Clashes between Congress and Akali workers were reported from Rajasansi in Amritsar, Jhoke Harihar in Ferozepur, Lodhi Gujjar in Ajnala and Sohia Kalan in Majitha.

During the clashes members of both factions pelted stones at each other and used

sticks as weapons causing minor injuries to a few. In Bathinda, former minister and Akali leader Sikander Singh Maluka accused Congress workers of booth capturing at Kangar, Bhai Rupa and Salabatpura. Akali workers led by Maluka blocked Bhagta Bathinda Road to register their protest against the ruling party.

A total of 17,268 polling booths were set up, 35 observers appointed and around 50,000 police personnel deployed for the polls in Punjab. The Congress was touted as the favourite to win the zila parishads and panchayat samitis after a gap of 10 years.

CAPT AMARINDER HAILS CONGRESS POLL VICTORY AS ENDORSEMENT OF HIS GOV'S POLICIES

Chandigarh: Soon after the results, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday hailed the Congress victory in the Zila Parishads and Block Samitis poll results claiming it to be an endorsement of his government's policies and programmes, and a total rejection of the Opposition's malicious campaign against the ruling dispensation.

In a statement issued here, Capt Amarinder congratulated

the people of Punjab for standing firm against the Opposition's attempts to sway them, and to thwart the free and fair democratic poll process, with its cheap pressure tactics and false propaganda. He also lauded the State Election Commission, Civil and Police administration, and all the poll officials for ensuring smooth conduct of Zila Parishads/Block Samitis elections in a free, fair and transparent manner. Pointing out that this was the fourth consecutive humiliating defeat of the SAD-BJP combine, after back to back victories for the Congress in the

State Assembly, Urban Local Bodies, Gurdaspur Parliamentary and Shahkot Assembly by-polls, the Chief Minister termed it a vindication of his party's efforts to bring the state out of the quagmire of devastation into which it had been plunged by the previous SAD-BJP Government.

Capt Amarinder thanked the Akali allegations of booth capturing by the Congress, saying that it was the SAD, on the contrary, which had stooped to all kind of hooliganism to try and derail the poll process, particularly in Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Cong, DMK caught off guard with Rajapaksa statement

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The disclosure by Mahinda Rajapaksa, the former President of Sri Lanka that the then UPA Government was kept informed by the then Government of the island nation about each and every stage of the final phase of the civil war against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in May 2009 has left the DMK and Congress leaders perplexed.

Rajapaksa, during his recent visit to New Delhi to address the delegates of the Virat Hindustan Sangham led by BJP MP Subramanian Swamy had said that a team of officials from India and Sri Lanka were in the know of things about the progress of the war which led to the annihilation of the LTTE and its leader Prabhakaran. The former Sri Lankan president also said that India had cooperated with his country in the last stage of the civil war.

This led to the AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu to declare on Friday that the party would organise public meetings all

over the State on September 25 to inform the people how the DMK played a crucial role in the murder of Tamils in northern Sri Lanka.

The AIADMK Government got a shot in the arm as World Tamil Forum, an outfit floated by the Lankan Tamils based in Chennai declaring its support to the September 25 public meetings against the Congress-DMK axis. "We know that the DMK leaders were hand in glove with the Congress and the Sri Lankan military in murdering Tamils in northern Sri Lanka. The Tamils extend our support to the public meetings to be held in Tamil Nadu on September 25," said Agni, coordinator of the Forum.

"The DMK has no role in that incident. What the AIADMK Government is trying to do is to divert the attention of the people from the corruption charges faced by the Edappadi Palaniswamy Government," said TKS Elangovan, the official spokesman of the DMK.

Pon Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Shipping, Highways and Finance said in Nagercoil that the disclosure by

Rajapaksa exposed the hypocrisy and double standard of the Congress and the DMK towards the Tamils in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu. "The Congress should not be allowed to set its foot in Tamil Nadu. It is a party of cheats and crooks. What we should understand from Rajapaksa's statement is that the Congress and the DMK were in secret alliance with the Sri Lankan military in the annihilation of 1.5 lakh Tamils in the May 2009 civil war," said Radhakrishnan.

The Congress in Tamil Nadu, facing factionalism and group war, found it difficult to clear the doubts among the people about the approach of the party towards the Lankan Tamils. S Thirunavakarassari, president, TNCC, stated that the announcement by the AIADMK government to hold public meetings against the DMK was to create confusion in the Congress-DMK alliance. "A wave of anti-AIADMK statement has begun sweeping the State. Hence protest meetings on the Sri Lankan Tamil's issue will never help the party save its Government or come back to power," said Thirunavakarassari.

J&K: CRPF inducts 500 women personnel to counter stone-pelters

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

In a first, the CRPF has inducted five Mahila companies (500 combatants) for anti-terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir and will help in containing women stone-pelters and areas gheraoed by women during cordon and search operations by the security forces.

The companies operate from a base at Bemina in Srinagar and dispatched to locations based on operational requirements. The women personnel are equipped with assault rifles like AK-47 for operations in the hinterland and 9 mm pistol for close combat in urban settings besides bullet-proof vests.

As part of pre-induction training, the companies were initially deployed in guard duties at various places including the Srinagar airport. The women personnel have also been exposed to riot control and mob control. The companies have been trained in counter-insurgency and anti-terrorist operations for operational requirement in the Valley.

The CRPF has already deployed Mahila companies for anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

A senior CRPF officer handling training in the paramilitary said, "The decision to put trained women on the ground in the Valley was taken as part of tactical requirements as the separatist groups and terror-sympathizing outfits often bring women to the fore to disrupt cordon and



search operations and often engaged for throwing stones on the security forces. In such a situation, our boys (jawans) are at receiving end and the terrorists escape after taking advantage of the disturbance. The Mahila companies will now take care of the stone-pelting women and those disrupting anti-terrorist operations."

The separatist and terrorist groups often made a huge issue when protesting women were injured even inadvertently by security forces during operations or for controlling violent stone-throwing mobs. The human rights groups also used to make a huge issue out of such lawful operations by the security forces against the ultras who were readily backed by local women and children, a source said.

The CRPF has deployed over 60 battalions (60,000 personnel) in Jammu and Kashmir for law and order and anti-terrorist operations in the insurgency-hit State.

Earlier, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police that guards the Indo-China border had deployed five companies for combat operations in the high-altitude frontier.

Trouble deepens for Hyd school after second complaint of sexual abuse

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Trouble seems to be deepening for the Azan International school as another minor girl has complained to the police that she and her classmates were also subjected to sexual abuse in the school.

According to the complaint lodged at Golkonda police station the incident occurred on the same day as the incident of rape of a four year old girl came to light leading to the closure of school last week.

The parents of the second victim told the police that they came to know when their daughter spoke of the abuse, she and her class mates were subjected to by an unknown "uncle".

The girl told the parents that the "uncle" pushed her and other class mates into a dark-room and after beating sexually abused her and others. He also threatened to kill them if they told anybody about it.

The fresh case came to light even before the students of the school and the parents could recover from the shock of the first incident a week ago. After the complaint of the rape was lodged last week the school education department ordered the closure of school.

Nayyara Feroz, correspondent of the school said that they were yet to receive any official information about the second complaint.

Karan Thapar: Rafale could be PM Modi's Bofors moment

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

Veteran journalists and famous TV personality Karan Thapar has said that the statement of former President of France, François Hollande, that Indian Government had suggested the name of Anil Ambani's company for the Rafale deal and Dassault was not given any choice possibly could be "Bofors moment" of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It has not only exposed the lies of the Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Arun Jaitley that it was the decision of Dassault but also showed that the Modi Government insisted that a particular organisation should be given offset making mockery of the rules.

Participating in an interaction with the journalists and journalism students under the aegis of Press Club, Hyderabad here on Saturday, Karan Thapar recalled that Modi can not question the integrity of ex-French President as he had invited him at the chief guest of the Republic Day celebrations in 2016.

"This (Rafale deal episode) has higher profile than Bofors. While there was a smoking gun and money trail in Bofors scandal, here there was a suspicion of a smoking gun now", Karan said.

He recalled that when Swedish Radio had exposed Bofors, the Opposition led by VP Singh had effectively used it and members of all the parties barring Congress had resigned from Parliament.

RAFALE ROW

As political blame game escalates, HAL feels tremor

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

As the political war and blame game escalates over controversial Rafale fighter jet deal, the Defence PSU HAL headquartered in Bengaluru is worried over the impact of the deal on its existence. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with over 29,000 employees spread across the country has very much cash strapped and now looking at a bleak future. HAL in its over 70 years of existence has suffered a huge financial crunch and might affect some of the ongoing projects.

A senior executive who is part of HAL's many projects on the condition of anonymity feels the cancellation RFQ for production of 106 Rafale fighters and technology transfer has hit the PSU very badly. He said "because of the faulty RFQ we have lost the production of

Rafale fighters in our facility. As the impact we are cash strapped. We have only ₹1,500 crore and have to pay ₹400 crores as salaries per month approximately for the employees."

"The SU-30 production is coming to end and the financial crunch has hit the design and development of new projects in the pipeline. We have to stop IMRH (Indian Multirole Helicopter), two aero engine development and new UAV projects apart from others," he said and added that government should come to the rescue of HAL to bring back its glory by reviving projects in the pipeline.

Another senior retired official who has seen the Rafale RFQ from the beginning said for the first time in the history of HAL, MoD wanted to sign a contract with OEM and accordingly introduced new

clauses in the RFP which were, unfortunately, not workable.

He said "I feel there was no other option for the MoD but to cancel the proposed contract due to the defective RFP issued by the them. He said "1. Only one contract will be signed by MoD with the OEM. HAL will sign a separate contract with OEM. 2. OEM has to take the responsibility of warranty and delivery of all the aircraft produced by him as well as the 108 jets assembled by HAL. 3. OEM has to include the cost of aircraft assembled at HAL in the overall quotation and 4. Life cycle cost to be included in the quote."

"We all know the result of negotiation with Dassault. It's not higher man hours claimed by HAL or perception of Nirmala Sitharaman about HAL, it's the defective RFP which pulled the curtain before the show could begin" he

added. Another official said the buyback share has affected the financial position to a great extent. He said recently the employees union demanded a pay hike and company could not give them any hike but rejected their demand because of the the financial position.

HAL has the experience of working with Dassault where over 60 Mirage 2,000 fighters were maintained and upgraded recently. Only they have orders for 73 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and sources say so far there is no confirmation about 83 LCA and waiting for the confirmation.

HAL which is the backbone of Indian defence forces is struggling for its existence and became an easy prey to the political slugfest of the Rafale deal.

'Microdots' to help curb vehicle thefts

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has come out with a draft of 'microdot system' to curb incidents of motor vehicle thefts in the country. Under this, thousands of small dots laser etched will be sprayed with a vehicle identification number on all over the vehicle's body including its engine. As the dots are less than 1mm in diameter it is impossible to locate and remove everyone. This makes it very difficult for a car thief to conceal the vehicle's true identity. It also allows usually untraceable parts to be linked to a particular vehicle, thereby aiding in the recovery of stolen components. The technology is being used in countries like South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Taiwan, Canada, the US and the European Union (EU), among others to prevent and reduce motor vehicle theft.

Officials of Home Ministry said that a microdot is text or an image substantially reduced in size onto a small disc to prevent detection by unintended recipients. It involves spraying thousands of the small dots laser etched with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), throughout the vehicle.

The dots, which are less than 1 mm across, are carried in an adhesive that fluoresces under Ultra Violet light. It's a simple matter then to identify a treated area and recover one of the dots for viewing under a special magnifier, which reveals the dot's number. Because the dots are spread throughout the vehicle, it is impossible to find and remove every one. "The microdots are brushed or sprayed onto the key parts of an asset to provide complete parts marking," officials said. "All the text on every microdot shall be legible with equipment that magnifies the



text at least 60 times. Characters on the microdot shall be consecutive and not separated by spaces," the draft said.

According to officials, the ministry discussed the technology with several industry experts before arriving at the final conclusion."

The use of marking vehicles with microdots is called Whole of Vehicle Marking (WoVM)," officials added. In South Africa it is a legal requirement to have microdot fitted to all new vehicles sold since September 2012.

As per Home Ministry's National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data, as many as 2.14 lakh vehicles are stolen across India annually. According to NCRB, Delhi is top in the list of vehicle theft as many as 38,644 cases were reported in 2016 followed by Uttar Pradesh with 34,480 automobile thefts. Maharashtra reported third highest 22,435 thefts of vehicles followed by Rajasthan 17,544 and Madhya Pradesh 15,878.

As per Delhi police data, in 2018, an average of 110-120 vehicles being stolen in the capital every day has been reported. What is more shocking is the fact that less than 8 per cent cases are solved by the police. Motor vehicle thefts account for nearly one-fifth of the total number of cases registered under the IPC in Delhi. Last year, cops recovered only 10 per cent of the stolen vehicles. The Delhi Police report states that 41,000 vehicles were stolen in the last year of which around 30 vehicles a month were recovered.

BJP MLA booked for opposing Muharram procession in UP

PTI ■ BAREILLY

Sitting BJP MLA from Bithari Schainpur here, Rajesh Mishra, his son and supporters were booked on Saturday for opposing a Muharram procession, police said.

Five cases were registered at Cantonment and Bithari Chainpur police stations against Mishra and others for opposing a Muharram procession in village Khajuria, they said.

The village lies at the border of the limits of the two police stations. "Five cases pertaining to rioting, disturbing peace and obstructing Government officials from performing their duty were registered against Rajesh Mishra, BJP MLA from Bithari Chainpur, his son, three aides and 25 unidentified persons," Inspector Cantonment police station Devendra Kumar Singh said.

Didi blames RSS, BJP for student deaths

Accuses them of creating communal disturbance

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday blamed the RSS and the BJP for the death of two students during a protest against appointment of Urdu teachers in a school and accused them of trying to create communal disturbance.

Banerjee, who is in Milan, Italy, on an official tour, also came out in support of providing Urdu teachers to Darbhita School in Islampur in North Dinajpur where a clash between protesters and police claimed the lives of the two students.

The BJP has called a 12-hour shutdown in the state on September 26 to protest against the death of the two students. Warning the saffron organ-

isations "not to play with fire by doing politics on the issue", she appealed to the people of the state not to pay heed to the politics of the BJP and the RSS and foil the shutdown.

"The BJP and the RSS should say why the two students were killed," she said while interacting with journalists from the city who were accompanying her.

"They (BJP, RSS) are like vultures waiting for a death and then start doing politics over it. They do politics even with death of students. First they commit a murder and then play holi with the (dead person's) blood.

"The BJP and the RSS have to answer why the two students were killed. And until they give their answer I ask my party activists to conduct peaceful meetings and rallies in their respective areas without fighting over the issue," the Trinamool Congress supremo, who is currently on an official tour of Europe to invite investors, said.



Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam being garlanded by party workers at the Centenary Celebrations of late Chief Minister MG Ramchandran in Kanyakumari on Saturday

Rahul Gandhi a 'bechara', reads from a script: Yogi

PTI ■ GORAKHPUR

Calling Rahul Gandhi a "bechara" (helpless), Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said the Congress president was not aware of facts and only reads the scripts given to him.

Adityanath's reaction comes after the Gandhi scion threw the "thief" barb at Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the wake of former French president Francois Hollande's sensational claim on the Rafale deal.

"Rahul Gandhi is a bechara (helpless) as he is not aware of facts and only reads the given script," Adityanath told reporters here at the Gorakhnath temple.

The UP chief minister said after more than 70 years of Independence and successive



Governments headed by the Congress party and the family of Rahul Gandhi, the poor were still neglected.

"The benefits of government schemes have not reached the beneficiaries. If poor people were aware of the schemes, they wouldnt have been deprived," he said.

"Congress and Rahul Gandhi should apologise (to the people of

India). Everyone knows who the thief is," he added.

He further accused the Congress of playing with the "security of the nation."

"They (apparently referring to the Congress) divided the country on the lines of caste and geographical area and also surrendered before terrorism, separatism and communalism," he said.

Showing praises on Modi, the UP chief minister said, the country was "moving on the path of development" under the prime minister's leadership.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided houses, toilets and gas connections to the people... These families were deprived and for this Rahul Gandhi's Congress and his family are responsible," he added.

Thousands take part in rally demanding 8th Schedule status for Khasi language

PTI ■ SHILLONG

Thousands of people took to the streets here on Saturday demanding the inclusion of the Khasi language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The rally came a day after the Meghalaya cabinet approved a proposal to pass an official resolution in the on-going Assembly session to seek inclusion of the language in the Schedule of official languages and the same will be forwarded to the Home Ministry for consideration.

Organised by the Khasi Authors Society (KAS) and backed by social organisations, the rally also saw participation of political leaders from the state and representatives of the local parties.

KAS president DRL Nonglait informed the gathering that there are over 14 lakh people (1.4 million) speaking Khasi according to the Census 2011 while only 4 lakh is the criteria for a language to be spoken to be included in the schedule of official languages.

Stern action needed to avenge Pak Army's barbarism against Indian soldiers: Rawat

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said on Saturday, stern action is needed to avenge the barbarism by terrorists and Pakistan Army against Indian soldiers.

The comment comes after a BSF jawan was shot and his throat slit recently, followed by the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu & Kashmir.

"We need to take stern action to avenge the kind of barbarism that terrorists and the Pakistan Army have been carrying against our soldiers. It is time to give it back to them in the same coin but not by resorting to similar kind of barbarism. I think the other side must also feel the same

pain," the Army chief said at a press conference here. He said talks and terrorism could not go hand in hand, and Pakistan needed to curb the menace of terrorism and not allow terrorist to use their soil against India.

Rawat insisted that action against Pakistan was needed

but not in a barbaric manner. "We have carried out similar actions against them whenever they did something against India on the border. Pakistan has suffered many casualties and we have been able to take on their defence system to a large extent but we never resorted to barbarism," he said.

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निविदा संशोधन सूचना
राज. स्वा. वि. वि. अयुर्विज्ञान महाविद्यालय के पैथोलोजी विभाग हेतु जारी ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 7248 दिनांक 12.07.2018 के द्वारा उपकरण 06 Part Automated Hematology Analyzer along with Chemicals/ Reagents, Research Binocular Microscope एवं Penta Head Microscope के संबंध में निविदा की प्रियम एवं शर्तों एवं तकनीकी स्पेसिफिकेशन में परिवर्तन किया गया है। जिसका विस्तृत समस्त विवरण eproc.rajasthan.gov.in की वेबसाईट एवं SPPP.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
Raj.Samwadi/18/4103 Principal

Rupee battles macro fatigue; hits new low

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian rupee remained under intense selling pressure and witnessed a free fall for the fourth straight week, plunging to hit a fresh life-time low against the US dollar before managing a small recovery.

Overall, the forex mood broadly undermined on the back of increasing impact of geopolitical threats and concerns on macro-economic front.

The Government's confidence building measures to curb the currency volatility also fell short of many investors' expectations, causing heavy sell-off and the local stocks to take a massive plunge.

Trading in an extremely volatile market environment, the bruised rupee ended at 72.20, showing a steep loss of 36 paise.

Panic dollar demand from importers and speculative traders sent the home currency sinking to a historic low of 72.99.

It lost a whopping 229 paise in its four-consecutive weekly slide. Although, the domestic currency managed to regain some lost ground, trimming its weekly decline.

The crash came despite the governments recent announcement of a slew of measures to attract more foreign fund inflows into the country.

The Asia's third-largest economy - India is facing severe macro challenges and goldilocks economic conditions are now changing fast.

A sharp spike in international crude oil prices weighed



on the trading front towards the tail-end session even as the US dollar fell to seven-week lows after Donald Trump announced fresh 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese imports

The stubbornly high global crude oil prices are opening up a can of worms to heightened inflation risks and likely to disrupt government's fiscal maths along with deteriorating global financial conditions.

Considering that India is a net importer of crude oil, the impact of this imported inflation is expected to be significant.

The upcoming week will bring a Fed's monetary policy meeting, with rates expected to be rising by 25 bps. The benchmark 10-year sovereign yield, however fell by 5bps to 8.08 per cent from 8.13 per cent.

In the meantime, crude prices pared gains, following a report that OPEC and its allies are considering a coordinated increase in crude production.

The OPEC meeting with allies in Algiers is expected to focus on production gains as Iranian sanctions and depletion rates in Venezuela look to force

the hand of OPEC.

Benchmark Brent crude futures settled at \$ 78.80 a barrel for the week.

Meanwhile, India's foreign exchange reserves rose by \$ 1.207 billion to \$ 400.489 billion in the week to September 14 on account of increase in foreign currency assets, according to RBI data. In the previous week, forex reserves had declined by \$ 819.5 million to USD 399.282 billion.

Foreign investors and funds pulled out a massive Rs 9,400 crore (\$ 1.3 billion) from the capital markets in September so far, on widening current account deficit due to a surge in oil prices and depreciating rupee.

The latest outflow comes following a net infusion of close to ₹ 5,200 crore in the capital markets, both equity and debt, last month and ₹ 2,300 crore in August.

Fitch Ratings has upwardly revised its forecast for India's economic growth to 7.8 per cent from 7.4 per cent for the current fiscal.

Backtracking a brief week-end recovery trend, the rupee opened with a sharp 66 paise fall to 72.50 against the US dollar at the inter-bank foreign exchange (forex) market.

It quickly extended losses due to heavy speculative sell-off and crashed to hit an all-time low of 72.99, forcing RBI intervention in the currency market and restricting the local unit from breaching the 73-mark.

Anyway, the domestic unit recovered some ground and extended to subsequent trading breakouts.

Google tweaks privacy policy for Indian payment app after Paytm complaint

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

Google has tweaked the privacy policy of its Indian digital payments mobile application, days after local rival Paytm complained that the US tech giant's platform allowed disclosure of customer data for advertising and other purposes.

The row has erupted amid heightened debate about user privacy and how technology firms treat data in India and abroad. The Government is developing a new data protection law which could force companies to change how they transfer or store customer data.

In a letter to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), dated 13 September, Paytm complained that Google Pay's privacy policy amounted to "clear disregard for a consumer's need for privacy".

Google Pay's privacy policy had said it could "collect, store, use and/or disclose" personal data and "any communications made through Google Pay".

A Reuters review of Google's privacy policy that was updated on Thursday showed the company had dropped the word "disclose" from its privacy clause.

Google told Reuters in a statement that the changes were made to make it easier for customers to understand their monetisation and data usage policy.

It declined to comment on



whether they were made due to Paytm's letter or any subsequent communication from the NPCI. "These changes are done from time to time and are based on product features and development," a Google spokesman said.

Dilip Asbe, the chief of the NPCI which oversees the payments services in India, declined to comment.

Paytm, which is backed by China's Alibaba and Japan's SoftBank, also declined comment.

Paytm's letter to NPCI indicates the increasingly fierce competition in India's digital payments market, which is expected to grow five-fold to \$1 trillion by 2023. Other companies vying for a bigger share of the market include PayPal and Facebook's WhatsApp.

Paytm gained traction after the government banned demonetised ₹500 and ₹1,000 currency notes in November 2016, boosting digital payments. It has 95 million active monthly users, compared to Google Pay's 22 million.

Tata Steel to buy Usha Martin's steel business for up to ₹4,700 crore

New Delhi: Tata Steel on Saturday announced it will acquire the steel business of Usha Martin Ltd for ₹4,300-4,700 crore.

The sale of steel business to Tata Steel will help the company in "significant reduction" of its debt, Usha Martin said in a filing to the BSE. The deal is expected to be completed in 6-9 months, it added.

Tata Steel, in a release, said it has executed definitive agreements for the acquisition of Usha Martin's steel business through a slump sale on a going concern basis. "It is proposed that the steel business of Usha Martin Ltd will be acquired subject to transaction closing, for a cash consideration of between ₹4,300 and ₹4,700 crore (subject to various transaction adjustments)," the release said.

The closing of the acquisition is subject to fulfilment of various conditions under the agreements.

Usha Martin's steel business comprises the specialised 1 million-tonnes-per-annum (MTPA) alloy based manufacturing capacity in the long products segment based in Jamshedpur, a producing iron-ore mine, a coal mine under development and captive power plants.

The transaction and acquisition structure would be determined shortly, Tata Steel added.

Tata Steel had an annual capacity of 27.5 MTPA as on March 31, 2018. PTI

Walmart India opens 22nd cash & carry store in India

Walmart India, the subsidiary of Walmart Inc, on Saturday announced the opening of its 22nd business-to-business Cash and Carry store in the country, making it the second Best Price Modern Wholesale store in Ludhiana and the sixth in Punjab.

The new store simultaneously got integrated with the B2B e-commerce platform, making it the 22nd Best Price store to go online, a release said here.

"I am very excited about opening the 22nd Cash and Carry store in India. It reiterates our commitment to India

and our growth plans. Setting up a second store in Ludhiana and sixth one in Punjab reinforces our belief in the ease of doing business here in the state," Walmart India President and CEO Krish Iyer said.

The Best Price Modern Wholesale Store stocks over 5,000 items, including a wide range of fresh, frozen and chilled foods, fruits and vegetables, dry groceries, personal and home care items, hotel and restaurant supplies, apparel, office supplies, electronic goods and other general merchandise items. PTI

Floating WB solar plants by next yr

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The West Bengal government is the process of commissioning floating solar

power plants by next year, state Minister for Power and Non-renewable Energy Sobhanjee Chatterjee said.

The two plants would come up at Sagardighi and Mukutmanipur with generating capacities of five MW and 100 MW respectively.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a seminar

organised by MCCI and WBSEB Officers Association here on Saturday, Chatterjee said detailed project report (DPR) of the projects has been already prepared.

Cost for constructing the Sagardighi plant would be Rs five crore, he said adding that the cost of installation reduces with the increase in generating capacity.

Chatterjee said that in the last seven years, industrial demand had increased 27.22 per cent.



US manufacturing facility faces closure due to Trump's China tariff policy, say lawmakers

Washington: President Donald Trump's China tariff policy is having a devastating impact on the US polysilicon manufacturing industry, which could soon force the closure of REC Silicon in Washington State, a group of top American lawmakers said Saturday.

In a letter to Trump, the group of five lawmakers from Washington State urged him to find an immediate resolution to

the trade dispute over Chinese solar panels and American polysilicon, noting that hundreds more highly skilled workers could lose their jobs if a solution was not found. The issue of immediate concern is the possible closer of the REC Silicon manufacturing facility, they said. "The closure will result in the loss of 150-200 highly skilled manufacturers and will severely impact the

economy of Eastern Washington," said the letter, signed by Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Congressmen Dan Newhouse, Dave Reichert and Denny Heck. "We strongly encourage your trade negotiators to raise the issues facing the US polysilicon industry, and we request a progress report on these negotiations as soon as possible," the letter reads. PTI

Jack Ma prefers to die on the beach than at a work table in Alibaba

AGENCIES ■ BEIJING

Jack Ma, the pioneer of China's Internet industry, termed the speculation around his retirement as a "sea gossip", saying he would rather die on the beach than in his executive office at Alibaba.

On 10 September, Chinese billionaire Ma, on his 54th birthday, announced that he would step down as Alibaba's executive chairman in one year to make way for the next generation of leaders at the \$420 billion e-commerce giant. He named the company's Chief Executive Officer Daniel Zhang as his successor who would take charge in September next year, while he would continue to be a director.

His retirement report sparked off speculation that he could be stepping down due to the prevailing business environment in China. The New York Times in its report said Ma was retiring as China's business environment had soured, with Beijing and state-owned enterprises increasing its playing more interventionist roles with companies.

Speaking about his retirement at the concluding session of the Summer Davos Forum in China's Tianjin city on Thursday, Ma said "gossip has been around us every day for the last 19 years. For someone



who has a dream for the future, gossips, rumours, hardships and frustrations will always be part of your life."

Reporting on Ma's speech at the forum, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported that sceptics said he was forced to step down, while others claimed he had already shifted a large number of assets to other countries, and was planning to leave China.

Ma said he did not care about rumours. "To friends, you don't need to explain. To non-friends, the more you explain, the worse the situation becomes," he said. "At the age of 54, I am a bit old in the Internet industry, but quite young for many other sectors," he said. "In the next 15 to 16 years, there's still a lot of things I can do. I know it would be difficult for people at the age of 55 or 56, so I leave. By then you would no longer be sure about your future, and you would hang on."

The retirement decision was not a retreat, but actually "a step forward" for himself and the company, Ma said.

Jet Airways offers options for lowest fares

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Passengers travelling in economy class of Jet Airways flights can choose a travel plan with or without complimentary meals, according to the airline. The full service carrier has introduced "unbundled fares in 'Light' and 'Deal' categories" for economy class journey in domestic flights. In a release issued on September 19, the airline said it is introducing "options for lowest fare categories, enabling guests to choose between flight plus meal or flight only option".

From September 25, 2018, guests travelling in the economy and booking 'Light/ Deal' fares for travel from September 28, 2018, on its flights within India will not only be able to avail competitive low fares but have the opportunity to buy meals from a specially curated on-board menu," the release said.

The airline would continue offering complimentary meals across 'Light/ Deal' fare



choices who have made bookings before September 24. "On flights within India, all features and benefits, including complimentary meals will continue for Economy fare options viz. 'Saver', 'Classic' and 'Flex' and for all fare options in Premiere," the release said. Currently, there are five fare options in economy class -- 'Light', 'Deal', 'Saver', 'Classic' and 'Flex'. On all domestic flights, all features and benefits, including complimentary meals will continue for the economy fare options of 'Saver', 'Classic' and 'Flex' and for all fare options in Premiere.

WESTERN RAILWAY		E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/37/2018 Date 21/09/2018		
S. No.	Tender No.	Description of Material	Quantity	EMD (₹)
869	04-17-5154	Bullet Proof Jacket	82 Nos.	37200
870	04-18-3146	Polymer Water Hose	16434 MTR	20900
871	07-17-1329	PVC U/G RLY SIG Cable Size 2 Core X 2.5 SQ.MM	674.802 KM	500000
872	07-18-5212	PVC Power Cable Size 2 Core X 25 SQ.MM	464 KM	500000
873	09-18-5002	Complete Set of Traction Electrics	1 Set	277500
874	14-18-5089	24 Fibre Armored Optic Cable	558.3 KM	500000
875	15-18-5028	Back Rest & Seat For Coaches	3516 Set	500000
876	22-18-1158	Reversor J1 & J2, Capacity 1500 Amps	26 Set	212900
877	22-18-3618	Metallised Carbon Strips Suitable	490 Nos.	183100
878	30-17-2059	Tube Assy	30 Nos.	2300
879	22-18-5070	Vertical DBR	12 Nos.	178600
880	11-17-5027	Welding Transformer	2 Nos.	17600
881	22-18-5038	Set of Cable Terminal	70 Set	117100

Tender Opening Date for above tenders are Sr.No. 869 to 878:- 15/10/2018, Sr.No. 879:- 16/10/2018, Sr.No. 880 to 881:- 17/10/2018. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (Non-refundable) for manual tenders, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.westernrailways.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

ABOUT ITEMS NEEDING NEW VENDORS, DETAILED INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON PORTAL "E-EXHIBITION FOR VENDOR DEVELOPMENT" ON THE HOME PAGE OF WESTERN RAILWAY WEBSITE.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PRESIDENCY DIVISION, MUMBAI E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 65 FOR 2018 -2019

Online E-Tenders in "D" Form For the Following Work are invited by the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, PWD, 2nd floor Bandhakam Bhavan, 25 Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001 (Tel. No-22016975/22016977) from Experience Suppliers of the Public Works Department.

Sr. No.	Name Of Work	Estimated Cost
1.	Providing and fixing M.S.Bracket & Nylon Net at 1 floor flowerbed level for safety Net at Tower A.B.CD for Assembly now 2018 1989/P/7101/1135/2018-19/71/2359	Rs.27.57/-
2	CR to Old Council Hall MIAs hostel Mumbai Supplying Hardware Sanitary cleaning Plastic Misc Mattresses Curt Assembly now 2018 1970/P/7101/762/2018-19/71/2358	Rs. 14.65/-
3	CR to New MLA Hostel Supplying Hardware, Cleaning, Plastic,Misc,Material Mattresses Curtain,Bedsheets at New MAL Manora Assembly now 2018 1989/P/7101/1135/2018-19/71/2361	Rs.39.37/-
4	Requirement of skilled and unskilled Assembly Session 2018- 19 1989/P/7101/1135/2018-19/71/2362	Rs.9.90/-
5	Supplying Coir Carpet for Assembly Session 2018-49 1989/P/7101/1135/2018-19/71/2360	Rs.3.74/-

Issued Date:- 24.09.2018 to 11.10.2018
Opening Date:- 15.10.2018.
All the detail Information is available on following websites,
1) www.mahapwd.com
2) www.mahatenders.gov.in
No.EE/PD/Store/9921
Office Of the Executive Engineer
Presidency Division 2nd Floor, Bandhakam Bhavan
25, Murzban Road, for Mumbai 01
Dated : 12.09.18
DGIPR/2018/2019/3121

Sd/-
(S.D. Indurkar)
Executive Engineer
Presidency Division Mumbai.

TENDER NOTICE No. NIT No. 44/TS/PANIPAT/2018-19 Dated:- 19.09.2018

Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited
O/E Executive Engineer, T.S. Division, Panipat

On line tenders are invited for :-
Raffling of fire fighting equipments (DCP & CO2 type) under TS Division, HVPNL, Panipat

Estimated Cost / Earnest Money (In Rs.) 4.13 / 0.085 lac

Last date of online bid submission 25-09-2018 13:00 Hrs

Details NIT and tender document is available at website: <https://haryanaprojectprocurement.gov.in/>
<https://www.hvpng.gov.in/>

(Sd) Executive Engineer
TS Division Panipat

RO NO. 72031 Dt. 22-09-2018

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Om Pal S/o Babu Lal R/o Village Mai Basai Kasba & P.S. Bisoli Distt. -Badau, U.P.** has committed (or suspected to has committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 384/11, u/s 12 G Act, P.S. Krishna Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said Om Pal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the Om Pal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Om Pal of **FIR No. 384/11, u/s 12 G Act, P.S. Krishna Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.11.2018**.

By order
Smt. Mahima Rai,
Metropolitan Magistrate-02, Court No. 15, 1st Floor,
DP/737/SHD/18-(Court Matter)

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

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 09.05.2018 calling upon the borrower **M/s Hitex Grain Processing Pvt Ltd Borrower / Mortgagee, Mrs. Asha Mittal, Mr. Naresh Mittal, Mr Vipul Mittal Director / Guarantor** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 29,38,38,936.55 (Rupees Twenty Nine Crore Thirty Eight Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six and Paise Fifty Five Only)** and interest thereon w.e.f 06.05.2018 together with future interest and charges thereon within 60 days of the receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) Mortgagee(s), having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) / Mortgagee(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 under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said Rules, on this **20th day of September, 2018** at Noida. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower(s)/ Mortgagee, 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 HDFC Bank Ltd, for an amount of being **Rs. 29,38,38,936.55 (Rupees Twenty Nine Crore Thirty Eight Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six and Paise Fifty Five Only)** and interest thereon w.e.f 06.05.2018 and interest thereon as aforesaid together with expenses and charges etc.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

S. No.	Description of the Property	Date & Time of Possession
1.	All that pieces and parcels of Property being Plot No. 39, Block B, admeasuring 6156 Sq Mtrs. in Sec-1, Noida, Dist-Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., 201301, which is bounded as under- On or towards North by-Plot No. B-38, On or towards South by- Plot No. B 34 & B 40, On or towards the East by- 27.12 meter wide road. On or towards the West by-Plot No. B-35, together with all the buildings and structures thereon and all the plant, machinery, equipments and accessories attached to the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to earth.	20.09.2018 Time 11.00 AM onwards

Note: The above notice be also considered as 30 days notice for sale under rule 6,8 and 9 of the Act.
Place: Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Date : 20/09/2018 Authorised Officer, HDFC Bank Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dear All Investors, we have decided to change the name of our project from **PRIMROSE SQUARE** to **GLOBAL BUSINESS SQUARE** as the Greater Noida is going to be a Global Business Hub in near future. The Metro Services shall be operational very soon and an International Airport is proposed in the area. The value of your investment shall increase in multiple folds and we grow together for a better future. Yours ever Trustworthy Srigarv Infratech Pvt. Ltd, Plot No: B-2, 7th Floor, MSX Tower-II, Commercial Belt, Alpha-I, Greater Noida-201308, Phone: 0120 42 99604 / 5

GLOBE TROTTER

Trump Admin to revoke H-4 visa work permits

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has told a federal court that its decision to revoke work permits to H-4 visa users, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans, is expected within the next three months, a move which will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

H-4 visas are issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediate family members (spouse and children under 21 years of age) of the holders of H-1B visa, the most sought-after among Indian IT professionals.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in its latest court filing Friday told the US District Court in District of Columbia that it was "making a solid and swift progress in proposing to remove from its regulations on certain H-4 spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants as a class of aliens eligible for employment authorisation."

The DHS said the new rule would be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), White House, within three months. Till then, the department urged the court to keep in abeyance its decision on a lawsuit filed by 'Save Jobs USA', representing a group of US workers who claim that their jobs have been hit by such a policy of the government that was promulgated during the previous Obama administration.

The Trump administra-



tion is currently reviewing the H-1B visa policy that it thinks is being misused by companies to replace American workers.

The administration has said publicly and also in its court filing that it wants to revoke work permits to H4 visa holders, a significant majority of whom are Indian-Americans and women.

The move will have a major impact on Indian women as they are the major beneficiary of the Obama-era rule.

This is for the third time that the Department of Homeland Security has informed the court about the delay in issue of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

The DHS has filed three status reports - on February 28, May 22 and August 20. The next status report is due on November 19.

Explaining the reasons for delay, the US attorney said since the filing of the most recent status report, the DHS's senior leadership reviewed the proposed rule and returned it to the USCIS this month for revisions.

"Senior leadership review and the request for revisions is standard practice within the

DHS. When the necessary revisions are incorporated, the USCIS will return the proposed rule to the DHS for final clearance and submission to OMB," he said.

However, 'Save Jobs USA' has sought an early decision from the court, arguing that the longer the case remains in abeyance, the greater the possible harm to the US workers.

As of December 25, 2017, the USCIS had approved 1,26,853 applications for employment authorisation for H-4 visa holders. These count all approvals since May 2015 when the rule was implemented. This number includes 90,946 initial approvals, 35,219 renewals, and 688 replacements for lost cards.

"Ninety-three per cent of approved applications for H-4 employment authorisation were issued to individuals born in India, and five per cent were issued to individuals born in China. Individuals born in all other countries combined make up the remaining two per cent of approved applications," the Congressional Research Service said in its recent report, based on information obtained from the USCIS.

clearly conveyed to BSF through official channels that the country had nothing to do with it, he said.

"Pakistan...Categorically reject these allegations...Our authorities would be prepared to conduct a joint investigation to establish the truth," Faisal said.

On the issue of the postage stamps, he said they were issued before the July 25 elections and before Prime Minister Khan assumed office on August 18.

"We choose not to further comment beyond saying that these comments are against all norms of civilised discourse and diplomatic communication," Faisal said.

"We believe by its ill-considered cancellation of the meeting, India has once again wasted a serious opportunity to change the dynamics of the bilateral relationship and put the region on the path of peace and development," he added.

IRAN MILITARY PARADE ISIS claims killing 29

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Militants shot dead at least 29 people including women and children in an attack on Saturday on an Iranian military parade claimed by the Islamic State group, as Tehran accused a US ally in the region of the assault.

The attack in the southwestern city of Ahvaz came as the country marked the anniversary of the start of its 1980-1988 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq and prompted President Hassan Rouhani to warn of a "crushing response".

"The response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the smallest threat will be crushing," Rouhani said on his official website. "Those who give intelligence and propaganda support to these terrorists must answer for it." Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a tweet that the attack near the Iraqi border was carried out by "terrorists recruited, trained, armed & paid by a foreign regime".

"Iran holds regional terror sponsors and their US masters accountable for such attacks," he wrote. IS jihadists said via their propaganda mouthpiece Amaq that "Islamic State fighters attacked a gathering of Iranian forces" in Ahvaz.

The city lies in Khuzestan, a province bordering Iraq that has a large ethnic Arab community and has seen separatist violence in the past that Iran has blamed on its regional rivals.

State television gave a casualty toll of 29 dead and 57 wounded, while official news agency IRNA said those killed included women and children among spectators at the rally. Many of the wounded were in

critical condition.

Armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said the dead included a young girl and a former serviceman in a wheelchair.

"Of the four terrorists, three were sent to hell at the scene, while the fourth who had been wounded and arrested went to hell moments ago due to his severe wounds," Shekarchi told state television.

Khuzestan deputy governor Ali-Hossein Hosseinzadeh told the semi-official ISNA news agency that "eight to nine" troops were among those killed, as well as a journalist.

Zarif did not specify which regional government he held responsible for the shooting, but Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards said the attackers were funded by Sunni arch-rival Saudi Arabia.

"Those who opened fire on civilians and the armed forces have links to the Ahvazi movement," Guards spokesman Ramezan Sharif told ISNA.

"They are funded by Saudi Arabia and attempted to cast a shadow over the Iranian armed forces," Zarif vowed Iran would "respond swiftly and decisively in defence of Iranian lives".

In a message of condolence to Russia's close regional ally, President Vladimir Putin said he was "appalled by this bloody crime".

"This event once again reminds us about the necessity of an uncompromising battle against terrorism in all of its manifestations," Khuzestan was a major battleground of the 1980s war with Iraq and the attack on the anniversary parade in Ahvaz had significant symbolic value.

The province saw unrest in 2005 and 2011 but has since



In this photo provided by the Iranian Students' News Agency, ISNA, Iranian armed forces members and civilians take shelter in a shooting during a military parade marking the 38th anniversary of Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, in the southwestern city of Ahvaz, Iran on Saturday

seen been largely quiet. Attacks by Kurdish rebels on military patrols along the border further north are relatively common. But attacks on regime targets inside major cities are far rarer.

On June 7, 2017, 17 people were killed and dozens wounded in simultaneous attacks in Tehran on the parliament building and on the tomb of revolutionary leader Ruhollah Khomeini -- the first since Iran claimed by the Sunni Muslim extremists of the Islamic State group. In April, 26 alleged IS jihadists went on trial on charges connected with that twin attack.

The attack in Ahvaz came as President Rouhani was among dignitaries at the main anniversary parade in Tehran.

In a keynote speech, Rouhani vowed to boost Iran's ballistic missile capabilities despite Western concerns that were cited by his US counterpart Donald Trump in May when he abandoned a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran.

"We will never decrease

our defensive capabilities... We will increase them day by day," Rouhani said at a military parade. "The fact that the missiles anger you shows they are our most effective weapons," he said, referring to the West.

Iran has ballistic missiles with a range of up to 3,500 kilometres, enough to reach both Israel and US bases in the Middle East.

The United States reimposed crippling sanctions on Iran last month, and a new round of even harsher sanctions targeting Iran's vital oil sector is set to go back into effect on November 5.

Washington has said it is ready to open talks on a new agreement to replace the July 2015 accord, but Tehran has said repeatedly it cannot negotiate under the pressure of the sanctions.

Trump and Rouhani will both be in New York next week for the United Nations General Assembly. But Iran has repeatedly ruled out any meeting.

Pak PM Imran hits out at India, calls its response 'arrogant' for cancelling talks

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

India's decision to cancel the Foreign Minister-level meeting in New York was "arrogant", Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Saturday, asserting that he was "disappointed" by the New Delhi's "negative" response.

India on Friday cited the "brutal" killing of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the release of the postal stamps "glorifying" Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani for calling off the meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York this month.

Announcing the cancellation of the meeting, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said in New Delhi that the incidents "exposed" the "true face" of



Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan to the world as well as Islamabad's evil agenda behind the proposal for talks.

"The latest brutal killings of our security personnel by Pakistan-based entities and the recent release of a series of 20 postage stamps by Pakistan glorifying a terrorist and terrorism confirm that Pakistan will not mend its ways," Kumar said.

"Disappointed at the arrogant and negative response by India to my call for resumption of the peace dialogue," Prime Minister Khan said in a tweet.

"However, all my life I have come across small men occupying big offices who do not have the vision to see the

larger picture," he said in a sharp reaction to India's cancellation of the meeting.

Kumar said talks with Pakistan after the "two deeply disturbing" developments would be "meaningless".

"In view of the changed situation, there will be no meeting between the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan in New York," he said.

Reacting to India's remarks, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said on Friday that the "so-called 'disturbing developments'" alluded to in the Indian statement predated the Indian agreement to hold the bilateral meeting in New York.

He said the alleged killing of a BSF soldier took place two days prior to the Indian announcement of its agreement to hold the bilateral meeting.

When the allegations of Pakistan's involvement first appeared, Pakistani rangers

The alleged killing of a BSF soldier took place two days prior to the Indian announcement of its agreement to hold the bilateral meeting: Pak Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal

China summons US envoy over military sanctions for buying Russian arms: Report

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Saturday summoned the US ambassador to lodge an official protest over sanctions imposed by Washington on a Chinese military unit for purchasing advanced fighter jets and missile systems from Russia, according to a media report.

Also, China has cancelled a reported move to send Vice-Premier Liu He to Washington for talks to end the escalating trade war between the world's two largest economies, following imposition of tariffs on Chinese goods by the Trump administration.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry summoned the US ambassador to protest against US sanctions on the equipment development department of the Chinese military and its director, the official media reported on Saturday.

The US State Department said on Thursday that it would

immediately impose sanctions on the equipment development department of the Chinese military and its director, Li Shangfu, for engaging in "significant transactions" with Russia's main arms exporter.

The US said the purchases of Russian Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets and S-400 surface-to-air missiles by China's Equipment Development Department (EDD) of Ministry of Defence has violated US sanctions on Russia.

It was the first time the Trump administration targeted a third country with its Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (CAATSA), designed to punish Russia for its seizure of Crimea and other activities.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang on Friday expressed outrage and asked Washington to revoke the decision or face consequences, China's military

today expressed indignation over the move.

"The Chinese military expressed strong indignation and opposition to US sanctions on the equipment development department of the Chinese military and its director," the state-run China Daily quoted a military spokesman as saying.

Col Wu Qian, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defence said that the military cooperation between China and Russia is within the normal range of cooperation between sovereign states in accordance with international laws, and the US has no right to interfere.

The US move has trampled on the basic norms of international relations in a full embodiment of hegemonism, seriously damaging relations between the two countries and their armies, he said.

The Chinese military urged the US to correct its mistake and withdraw sanctions, or

Rouhani vows to boost Iran missiles despite Western concerns

AFP ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani vowed on Saturday to boost Iran's ballistic missile capabilities despite Western concerns that were cited by his US counterpart Donald Trump in May when he abandoned a landmark nuclear deal with Tehran.

"We will never decrease our defensive capabilities... We will increase them day by day," Rouhani said at a military parade.

"The fact that the missiles anger you shows they are our most effective weapons," he said, referring to the West.

Iran has ballistic missiles with a range of up to 3,500 kilometres (2,200 miles), enough to reach both Israel and US bases in the Middle East.



Trump picks combat over caution in court fight

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Combat won out over caution. White House aides and congressional allies worked all week to keep President Donald Trump from unloading on the woman who has accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct.

But as Kavanaugh's nomination hung in the balance, Trump couldn't contain his frustration any longer and unleashed a direct Twitter attack on the credibility of Christine Blasey Ford, who says Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her decades ago during a high school party.

Friday's tweet landed with a splat in the noxious brew of gender and politics that has taken over a high-stakes confirmation battle playing out against the backdrop of the #MeToo movement.

In keeping with Trump's natural instinct to fight back when under attack, as well as his long pattern of defending powerful men against the claims of women, the president's tweet reflected growing anger over all the focus on Ford's accusation.

without wading into the specific allegations against Kavanaugh since they did not involve him.

But that began to change as Trump watched ongoing coverage of the accusations, particularly on Air Force One TVs tuned into Fox News on his long flight Thursday from Washington to Las Vegas, according to a White House official and a Republican close to the White House.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss private conversations. Trump began to view the allegations as a scheme to undermine his pick and told one confidant that he doubted Ford's credibility. The "fake" attack on Kavanaugh reminded him of the broadsides launched against him during his presidency and the claims of sexual misconduct that dogged him at the end of his campaign.

Increasingly convinced the accusations were a Democratic plot being advanced by the media, Trump tweeted that if the attack was really so bad, "charges would have been immediately filed with local Law Enforcement Authorities by either her or her loving parents."

UN chief Antonio Guterres to visit India in October

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

UN chief Antonio Guterres will travel to India early next month, his first trip to the country as head of the world body that coincides with the commencement of events marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Secretary-General will arrive in New Delhi on October 1. His visit coincides with the beginning of events to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 next year, Deputy Spokesman for the UN Secretary-General Farhan Haq told reporters here Friday. On October 1, Guterres will formally open the new UN House in New Delhi and on October 2, the Secretary-General will participate in the closing session of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention.

During the visit, he will meet President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on October 3. He will also meet with Speaker of the Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan before giving a lecture at the India Habitat Centre on Global Affairs on the theme 'Global challenges, global solutions'.

Russians tried to help Assange escape from London embassy

PTI ■ LONDON

Russian officials had devised a covert plan to help Wikileaks founder Julian Assange escape to Russia from his Ecuadorian embassy hideout in London, a UK media report claimed on Friday.

The 47-year-old Assange remains in hiding in a back room of the central London building six years after losing a legal battle against extradition to Sweden for questioning on allegations of rape and sexual assault.

The Australian national had sought asylum from Ecuador over fears of further extradition to the US for sedition and espionage for leaking secretive documents on Wikileaks.

"The Guardian" has now claimed that Russian officials were involved in a "basic" plan to extract the Wikileaks founder from the embassy on Christmas Eve last year and fly him to Russia. The plot, said to have been abandoned at the last moment, was thought to have involved a diplomatic vehicle.

The newspaper said that details of the Assange escape plan are "sketchy".

Russian model says her UK poisoning scare was no hoax

PTI ■ LONDON

A Russian model at the centre of a poisoning scare in the UK town of Salisbury, who had triggered speculation that the incident may have been an elaborate hoax, has asserted that her fears were genuine.

Anna Shapiro, 30, and her partner Alex King, 42, had been rushed to a hospital on the Sunday following the suspect-

ed poisoning scare at an Italian restaurant in Salisbury, the town where former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found collapsed after being poisoned with the deadly Novichok nerve agent earlier this year. Shapiro blamed the media for casting doubt over her account that she and King had been targeted by the Russian state.

US court sentences Pak-origin businessman for unlawful export to Pakistan military

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A US district court has sentenced a Pakistani-origin businessman to three years of probation for procuring and unlawfully exporting material and equipment to Pakistan for its military.

Imran Khan of North Haven in Connecticut was sentenced in Bridgeport to three years of probation, the first six months of which the 44-year-old Khan must serve in home confinement for violating US export law. Khan has also been ordered to perform 100 hours of com-

munity service and pay a \$3,000 fine. First six months of the three-year probation is in home confinement, John Durham, US Attorney for the District of Connecticut, said Friday.

According to court documents and statements made in court, from at least 2012 to December 2016, Khan and two of his family members engaged in a scheme to purchase goods that were controlled under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and to export those goods without a license to Pakistan, in violation of the EAR.

Pope begins Baltics pilgrimage as Russia threat looms large

AP ■ VILNIUS (LITHUANIA)

Russia will be the elephant in the room as Pope Francis begins a four-day visit to the Baltics amid renewed alarm about Moscow's intentions in the region it has twice occupied.

Francis arrived early on Saturday in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, for a four-day trip that also takes in Latvia and Estonia to mark the 100th anniversaries of their independence and to encourage the faith in the Baltic nations, which saw five decades of Soviet-imposed religious repression and state-sponsored atheism.

"Fifty years of occupation left their mark both on the church and on the people," said Monsignor Gintaras Grusas, archbishop of Vilnius.

"People have deep wounds from that period that take time to heal."

The trip will feature meetings with political leaders as well as the Catholic, Lutheran and Russian Orthodox faithful. Grusas notes that all three denominations suffered during communist rule but said those persecutions strengthened their bonds.

Lanka economic instability caused by govt infighting: Rajapaksa

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's economic and political stability has been affected due to infighting between President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, former president Mahinda Rajapaksa claimed on Saturday.

"This is because the president and prime minister are clashing. They clash in the open. As long as instability prevails no investor will come," Rajapaksa said.

He was referring to the Sri Lankan rupee hitting an all-time low this week against the US dollar, reaching near the 170 mark.

"When we left (in 2015) the dollar was 131.40," the former president said.

As a result of the rupee's depreciation, Sri Lanka's external debt had jumped, he said. "In 2014 (his last year) the external debt was Rs 7,391 billion or 71 per cent of the GDP. Now it has risen to 87 per cent. Interest payment was Rs 443 billion and now it has risen to Rs 820 billion, almost doubled". Rajapaksa said if he was in power he would have better managed the currency issue.

MEN IN BLUE EYE FINAL SPOT

With three wins in as many games, confident India face unpredictable Pakistan in super 4 clash

PTI ■ DUBAI

Favourites India have no grounds for complacency as they wait to see 'which' Pakistan turns up in the Asia Cup here on Sunday, well aware of the unpredictable arch-rivals' penchant for surprising not just opponents but themselves, too.

India are eyeing a place in the final after three wins in as many matches, while Pakistan will look to step up their game in the Super Four match, after a scare against Afghanistan.

India walloped Pakistan by eight wickets in the group game three days ago but if history is any indication, the Men in Blue will take their traditional rivals lightly at their own peril.

After being made to work hard by minnows Hong Kong in their tournament opener, India got their act together in the much-awaited group game against Pakistan and produced a clinical display to make short work of Sarfraz Ahmed's team.

Chasing a small target, India were hardly tested as a half-century from skipper Rohit Sharma ensured that the team was home with as many as 21 overs to spare.

Even without their talismanic captain Virat Kohli, the Indian batting looked formidable and lived up to the billing by scoring freely on surfaces that are not really perfect for stroke-play.

Opening the innings, Rohit was at his fluent best against Pakistan and followed that up with another fine knock of 83 in the seven-wicket win over Bangladesh, more than making up for the failure against Hong Kong.

Rohit's opener partner, Shikhar Dhawan found himself amongst the runs after a torrid time in England's seaming conditions, scoring in all three matches, including a century against Hong Kong.

The middle-order duo of Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik will again look to grab the opportunity with both hands by making useful contributions in the big game.

Rayudu missed out against Bangladesh after making an unbeaten 51 in the group game against Pakistan.

Veteran Mahendra Singh Dhoni



Kedar Jadhav celebrates with teammates after dismissing Pakistan's batsman in Asia Cup AP



managed to spend some time in the middle on Friday, remaining unbeaten on 33 off 37 balls. Then there is Kedar Jadhav, who has often proved his worth with the bat besides his bowling.

Coming back to the ODI side after more than a year, Ravindra Jadeja marked the occasion with a fine four-wicket haul against Bangladesh, and he seemed hungry for more. Pakistan will be wary of the threat posed by the left-arm spinner, who is also a handy bat lower down the order.

INDIA-PAKISTAN IN ODIs				
Type	Played	Ind	Pak	N/R
In UAE	27	8	19	-
Asia Cup	12	6	5	1
D/N matches	43	21	22	-
Last 5 matches	5	3	2	-
Overall	130	53	73	4

INDIA-PAKISTAN LAST FIVE ODIs		
Date	Venue	Result
02-03-2014	Dhaka	India(245-8) lost to Pakistan (249-9) by one wicket
15-02-2015	Adelaide	India (300-7) beat Pakistan (224) by 76 runs
04-06-2017	Birmingham	India (319-3) beat Pakistan (164) by 124 runs (D/L)
18-06-2017	The Oval	Pakistan (338-4) beat India (158) by 180 runs
19-09-2018	Dubai	Pakistan (162) lost to India (164-2) by 8 wickets

Faisal Features

India vs Pakistan
Live from 5:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & 1HD

India will look to the pace duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah to make the initial breakthroughs and put Pakistan on the backfoot before the spinners are introduced.

Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav are the two mainline spinners, but it was Kedar, who picked up the most number of wickets among the slow bowlers in the last game against Pakistan.

Pakistan will look up to their seasoned campaigner Shoaib Malik for inspiration. All-rounder Malik made 43 against India and saved his team the blushes with a crucial knock against a spirited Afghanistan on Friday night.

Opener Fakhar Zaman, who made a name for himself with a match-winning hundred against India in the final of Champions Trophy last year, flopped in their first game here.

Fakhar will look to make amends and so will be the likes of batsmen Babar Azam, Sarfraz and Iman-ul-Haq.

Pakistan's another cause of concern is the form of their strike bowler Mohammad Aamir, who has not been among the wickets in recent time.

While the left-arm pacer failed to deliver against India in the group game, he was not played against Afghanistan. The likes of Hasan Ali and Usman Khan will have to step up their game if their team is to do well.

SQUAD

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Dinesh Karthik, MS Dhoni, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Khaleel Ahmed, Siddharth Kaul, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja, Deepak Chahar

Pakistan: Fakhar Zaman, Iman-ul-Haq, Babar Azam, Shan Masood, Sarfraz Ahmed(captain), Shoaib Malik, Haris Sohail, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Faheem Ashraf, Hasan Ali, Junaid Khan, Usman Khan, Shaheen Afridi, Asif Ali, Mohammad Amir.

Rohit hopeful of repeating performance against Pak

PTI ■ DUBAI

Hailing his team's "clinical performance" against Bangladesh, India skipper Rohit Sharma says they would look to replicate the show in Sunday's Super Four Asia Cup match against arch-rivals Pakistan here.

Rohit played another classy knock after comeback man Ravindra Jadeja picked up a four-wicket haul to set up a seven-wicket win over Bangladesh on Friday.

"It was a clinical performance from the start. We bowled very well and we always knew it was going to be better batting under the lights. Very good from everyone. It was important on a pitch like that to rotate the bowlers and now allow the batsmen to settle," Rohit said at the presentation ceremony.

India bowled out Bangladesh, who batted first, for a paltry 173, and then chased down the target with plenty to spare.

India's bowling show was led by left-arm spinner Jadeja, who was making a comeback to the one-day team after more than a year.

"We wanted to rotate the bowlers in shorter spells. It was a challenge for us, but I think they responded well. We always knew if we stuck to tight lines, the wickets would come."

"Jadeja, playing an ODI after a long time, to come out and bowl like that was a great effort from him. Great effort from everyone, I don't want to single out anyone," said Rohit, who scored an unbeaten 83.

India next play against traditional rivals Pakistan, having already beaten them in the group stage.

Rohit said, "When everything goes to plan, it looks easy. We will go back and recover and come back fresh against Pakistan and try to replicate this performance."



Rohit Sharma in action against Pakistan AP

Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Mortaza urged his batsmen to shoulder more responsibility.

"From the start we kept losing wickets. Today we were just all over the place," Mortaza said.

"If you score 170, it's a difficult ask of the bowlers. The batsmen need to take responsibility, especially after failing to score in back-to-back matches."

"The next match is against a tough team with good bowlers. We need to bat well."

Bangladesh batsmen faltered again, having come a cropper in the run chase against Afghanistan on Thursday night.

However, India were hardly troubled in the chase after Rohit and Shikhar Dhawan (40 off 47) provided a solid start with a 61-run stand.

Dhawan, like in the game against Pakistan, looked in good touch but was not able play a long innings.

Rohit changed gears after Dhawan's departure, bringing up his 36th ODI fifty with a towering hit off Shakib Al Hasan over deep mid-wicket.

SINGLES

INDIA FINISH 2ND IN ASIAN SNOOKER C'SHIP

DOHA: India settled for the Silver medal after losing to Pakistan 2-3 in the final of the Asian Team Snooker Championship here. After Babar Masih put a fluent 81 break to win the first frame against Pankaj Advani, Malkeet Singh restored parity with a 52 break win over Mohammad Asif. The doubles was the turning point where Asif played out of his skin to pull back a 62-point deficit and allow his partner Masih to wrap up the frame 70-72. Pushed on the back foot, Pankaj displayed fine potting to craft a frame-winning 68 break. It was then again down to Malkeet to save the day for India, but he could not on this occasion. Hours before that, Malkeet played the match of his life under pressure to clinch the deciding frame against Pakistan 2 and a berth for the Indian team in the final.

WOODS MAINTAINS LEAD AT TOUR C'SHIP

ATLANTA: Tiger Woods edged closer to snapping a five-year winless drought as the 14-time major winner maintained a share of the lead at the halfway stage of the Tour Championship. Woods birdied the final hole en route to a 68 to tie Justin Rose (67) at seven-under par 133 in heatwave conditions at the East Lake golf course in Atlanta. Rory McIlroy, winner two years ago of both the FedEx Cup and Tour Championship, remains in the hunt in sole possession of third after shooting a 68. "The best way to describe today is I ground out a round," said Woods, a former two-time winner of the season-ending tournament. "I wasn't quite as sharp as I was Friday, but I hung in there and tried to miss the ball on the correct sides so I had angles. For the most part, I did that." Woods' last victory was in 2013 at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.

CHONG WEI DIAGNOSED WITH NOSE CANCER

KUALA LUMPUR: Legendary shuttler Lee Chong Wei has been diagnosed with early stage nose cancer and he is undergoing treatment in Taiwan, Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) said Saturday. "In response to recent reports concerning Datuk Lee Chong Wei, BAM confirms that the player has been diagnosed with early stage nose cancer," BAM President Datuk Seri Norza Zakaria said in a statement in their website. "Chong Wei is currently in Taiwan seeking treatment and I am pleased to inform you that he is responding well to his treatment and is currently resting and recuperating amongst family and close friends." Two months ago, BAM had issued a statement a couple of months back saying that Chong Wei had been diagnosed with a respiratory-related disorder in July and was taking a break. BAM said: "We urge everyone to respect his privacy and that of his family. BAM is in constant contact with Chong Wei and we will offer any support we can to our legend."

SELECTION TRAIL FOR GYMNASTIC WORLD C'SHIP

NEW DELHI: Top Indian gymnasts, including Dipa Karmakar and Rakesh Patra, will feature in the selection trials here on September 29 and 30 for next month's Artistic Gymnastic World Championship in Doha. "A selection trial has been scheduled on September 29 and 30 to select the team for the World Championship," India's long time gymnastics coach GS Bawa said. Indian gymnasts were left in the lurch after reports emerged that the sports ministry refused to clear the team for the World Championship in Bulgaria since the Gymnastic Federation of India (GFI) is de-recognised and stands suspended as per the National Sports Code. "A maximum of six members — three boys and three girls — will be selected for the World Championship," Bawa said. The selection trials will decide who makes the cut for the prestigious tournament. Agencies

Asghar, Rashid & Hasan Ali fined 15%

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Pakistan all-rounder Hasan Ali along with Afghanistan duo of Asghar Afghan and Rashid Khan have been fined 15 per cent of their match fees for different incidents during their Super Four match in the Asia Cup on Friday.

They have also received one demerit point each for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct.

Afghanistan skipper had brushed his shoulder with Hasan as he passed him while taking a run when he was bowling the 37th over.

The incident involving Hasan happened in the 33rd over of Afghanistan's innings when he threatened to throw the ball towards striker Hashmatullah Shahidi off his own bowling.

Rashid was charged and fined for giving a send-off to Asif Ali in the 47th over of Pakistan innings.

Hasan and Asghar were found guilty of breaching Article 2.1.1 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "conduct that is contrary to the spirit of the game", while Rashid was found to have violated Article 2.1.7, which deals with "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batsman upon his/her dismissal during an International Match," according to an ICC release.

While Hasan and Rashid have received demerit points for the first time, it is the second occasion that Asghar has been handed a demerit point within a 24-month period.

In February 2017, Asghar received a reprimand and one demerit point for showing dissent against an umpire's decision in an ODI against Zimbabwe. As such, he now has two demerit points.

After the match, all the three players pleaded guilty to the offences and accepted the sanctions



Rashid Khan bats during his innings against Bangladesh AP

proposed by Andy Pycroft of the Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Anil Chaudhary and Shaun George, third umpire Rod Tucker and fourth umpire Anis-ur-Rahman.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Earlier on late Friday night, Experienced Shoaib Malik conjured up a crucial unbeaten 51 under pressure as Pakistan survived a scare from Afghanistan, winning their Super Four match of the Asia Cup by three wickets.

Chasing a competitive 258 to win, Pakistan overhauled the target with just three balls to spare with former captain Malik playing the match-winning knock from 43 balls.

Pakistan required 10 runs from the last over and Malik dispatched pacer Aftab Alam for a six and four after playing a dot ball.

Wickets kept falling for Pakistan with star Afghan spinner Rashid Khan yet again proving his utility with a three-wicket haul but Malik held his nerves to keep one end tight.

I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING: JADEJA

PTI ■ DUBAI

Ravindra Jadeja kept count of the number of days he was out of India's One-day squad and once in, he made it count with four wickets, and stated "I don't have" to prove anything to anyone.

The left-arm spinner, who is also a handy bat, returned, in his own words, after around 480 days, with very impressive figures of 4/29 and bagged the Man-of-the-Match Award in India's seven-wicket win over Bangladesh in the Asia Cup.

"I will always remember this comeback because I returned to the team after a gap of around 480 days. The earlier gaps have not been this long," Jadeja told reporters at the post-match press conference.

Making a statement of sorts, he said, "I don't have to prove anything to anyone. What my ability is, I need to sharpen it. I don't have to show anyone what I can do. I need to challenge myself."

With less than a year left for the 2019 World Cup, Jadeja might have sent a timely reminder to the selectors about his prowess, but he said he was not thinking that far ahead.



Ravindra Jadeja celebrates after dismissing Shakib Al Hasan on Friday AP

focus is to perform in this series."

Jadeja, back in the Indian One-Day International team for the first time since July 2017, foxed the Bangladesh batting line-up with his smart bowling.

"Even in Test cricket, because the last few series have been overseas, I haven't been getting chances consistently. So I was determined that whenever I get the chance I will perform, that's all that I can control. I was only focused about my own game and how I can improve further," he said.

The Saurashtra cricketer is known for his ability to bowl his spinning deliveries quickly.

"On a slow wicket, you have to bowl with more of your own effort. On a normal wicket, the ball goes through quickly after bouncing so it doesn't give the batsman as much time. But on a slow wicket you have to bowl with more effort," said Jadeja.

Asked about Sunday's Super Four match against arch-rivals Pakistan, he said, "Be it India-Pakistan or any other country, playing for India is a matter of pride. But India-Pakistan is something everyone is excited about."

Warner returns with hundred

AFF ■ SYDNEY

Disgraced cricketers Steve Smith and David Warner made stunning returns to Australian cricket on Saturday, with the pair both notching up big scores in front of some of the largest grade-level crowds the country has seen.

Former captain Smith looked as though he had not a missed beat, with a classy 85 of 92 deliveries for Sutherland against Mosman in New South Wales grade cricket.

He was greeted with loud applause from hundreds of fans when he walked out to the pitch at Sydney's Glenn McGrath Oval, supporters delighted to see a return of his trademark fidgeting at crease.

"It's awesome to see him playing," Sutherland teammate Shane Watson told *Cricket Australia's* official website.

"I'd prefer him to be playing for Australia, but the support that he got, the warm applause when he scored



runs and also when he got out shows that everyone is supporting him."

Some 30 kilometres (19 miles) north at Coogee Oval, former Australian vice-captain Warner smashed a century from 98 balls in his Australia return for club side

Randwick-Petersham against St George.

The impressive innings included a huge six hit out of the ground, to the delight of hundreds of onlookers crammed into the small ground.

"It's great to have him back," cricket fan Kim Perry said. "He's a great entertainer for Australian cricket."

The pair are serving one-year suspensions from international and state cricket for the scandal, while opener Cameron Bancroft was banned for nine months.

"I think they will probably welcome them (Smith and Warner) back after they've done their time. Not before," said 82-year-old cricket fan.

Smith and Warner are expected to spend more time at their respective grade-level clubs in New South Wales this summer if they decide not to join the new Twenty20 competition in the UAE.

EVES WIN 3RD T20

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Young Jemimah Rodrigues scored a power-packed 40-ball 57 as Indian women won the third T20 International against Sri Lanka by five wicket here on Saturday.

India now enjoy an unassailable 2-0 lead in the five-match series with the second encounter being a washout.

Opting to field, India restricted the islanders to 131/8 with Shashikala Siriwardene (35) and Nilakshi de Silva (31) being the chief contributors. India comfortably chased down the target in 18.2 overs.

For India, rookie medium pacer Arundhati Reddy kept things tight with figures of 2/19 in four overs. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur also chipped in with a couple of wickets in the penultimate over.

In reply, Rodrigues anchored the chase with six boundaries and two huge sixes adding 53 runs for the fourth wicket with Harmanpreet (24).

The two sixes came off pacers -- one off Udeshika Prabodhani and other off Sreepali Weerakoddy.



International.

While Harmanpreet and Rodrigues were both dismissed in the same over by Chamari Atapattu, India didn't panic with only 19 runs to get.

Veda Krishnamurthy (11 no) and Anuja Patil (8 no) completed the chase without much difficulty.

It was Patil, who hit a boundary off Prabodhani, to bring up their second win in the series.

Rodrigues had scored 36 in the first T20

the pioneer agenda

I never want to stop learning or being challenged, and I never want to stop challenging my partner. That will lead to success
—Mila Kunis



3 A chink in the armour
In his new book, Kapil Sibal charts the history of India's governance and shows how the BJP Government has failed to keep its promises

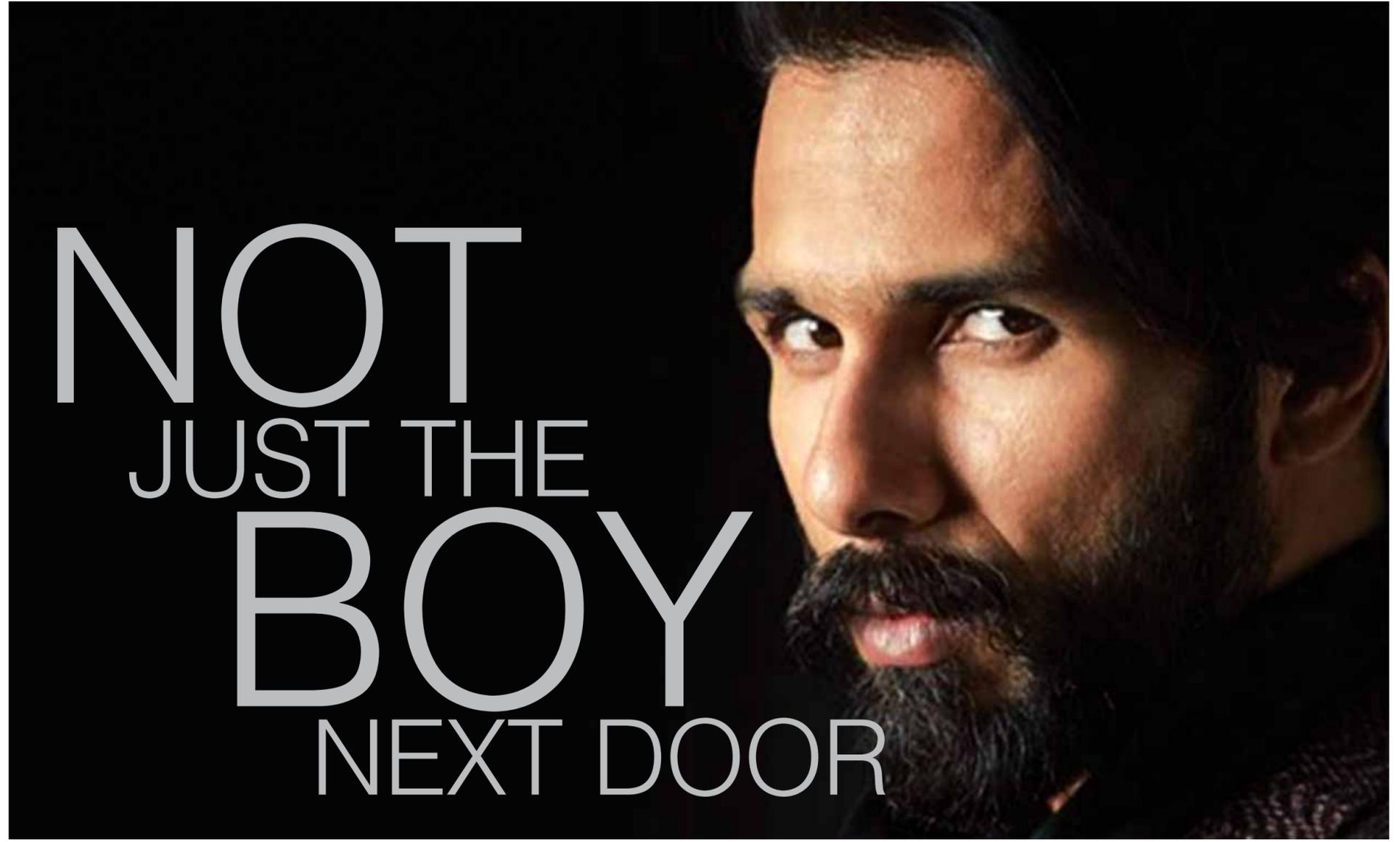


5 May trade prosper...
Theresa May's Chequers plan, which is aimed at protecting trade cooperation, is disliked by the Brexiteers as well as Brussels



6 Henry VII's birthplace
Archaeologists believe they have identified the exact site of Henry VII's birth in 1457 after excavations in the grounds of Pembroke Castle

FROM THE INSIDE



NOT JUST THE BOY NEXT DOOR

When we meet **SHAHID KAPOOR**, he undoubtedly has the laidback elegance of a star in comfortable casuals. But then he asks the photographers to spare him, switches off and settles in for a coffee conversation of sorts, recalling his years of jumping around Press Enclave. That child-like curiosity to explore the world has been the bedrock of the fine actor that he has become. The process wasn't easy as an industry outsider with chocolate boy looks who danced for fun at a time when content and stories lacked the bandwidth they have today. But he was one of the few who pushed the envelope. Here he is, effervescent, honest, fighting and forever a student of life with strong family values. Excerpts from an interview with **RINKU GHOSH**

You credit a lot of your early influences to the way they have shaped you, but obviously, as a person and then the actor you have become. What were those influences?
Growing up in Press Enclave, I was surrounded with journalists, intellectuals and their families, so there was a certain culture vibe. I was quite a naughty kid and very spoiled by my grandparents as I used to live with them. I was very close to my maternal grandfather and my strongest memories are of him dropping me off to school (Gyan Bharati) every morning and the conversations we had. I don't remember a single day when he didn't walk me to school. He was an extremely learned man and I was very attached to him, imbibing my fundamentals. So whenever I come to Delhi, it reminds me a lot of my grandfather. In that sense, this city is my influencer.
I think the times that you have spent in life before you became an actor, when you have been living life just as anybody else has, make a very big part of whatever it is that you portray later because those are the associations, memories and experiences that help you interpret different kinds of situations and scenarios. For example, *Batti Gul Meter Chalu* is a very grass-root film, a very heartland film. It's a film about simple people, their problems and their interpersonal relationships and to be able to recreate that as an actor convincingly, you have to draw from certain real life experiences that I have had first-hand.
Is this film a satiric comedy? How would you classify it?
I would say that the film is very quirky and entertaining. I actually feel that there are two films in one film because the first half of the film is about friendships, their inter-currents, dreams and aspirations, and the second half of it is the reality of life as it challenges them, the social issues and electricity being the fundamental human right to access. How power supply sets the everyday tenor of life and how faulty meters and power thefts besiege the common man as he cannot identify the faceless enemy are the big questions. Where will the *aam aadmi* (common man) go and raise his

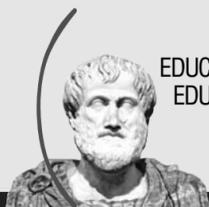
voice, who will hear him? Sitting in the comfort of a couch, power pilferage might seem very small and not even make the headlines of the morning newspaper, especially when we read that rural electrification is 100 per cent, but the kind of impact power distribution patterns and their abuse have on ordinary people is huge. There's actually a three-and-a-half minute speech in the climax of this film, which is a monologue delivered by me and we did it in a single shot. It was a four-page content and it made me cry because it spoke about the problem from a common man's perspective with facts and logic. India needs to hear this voice. I was very emotionally moved by that speech when I read the script and it stayed with me in much the same manner that certain chapters leave an imprint when you are reading a book. I felt this is the reason why this film should be made. So I signed up.
Haider and *Udta Punjab* dealt with socially relevant issues. *Haider* spoke about the issue of human rights in a disturbed area, a very sensitive subject. Tommy Singh revealed the ugly face of youth trapped in the menace of drug abuse. But the issue that really bothers me these days is that of farmers' suicides. The agrarian crisis is real and pan-India.
How did you process the requirements of these twin roles?
It was very difficult. Shooting *Haider*, I came across locals, students and others up close and got to know their perspectives. We shot in places that were restricted and where we had just an hour's permit from the Army. There was a time when our shooting was cancelled and we were told to go back to the hotel and were not explained why. The next day, we were told there were two known terrorists who had been seen doing a recce of our crew site. *Udta Punjab* again dealt with a taboo subject. When I heard the script, I was in shock because my understanding of Punjab was very different till then. I was like really, is this happening? And I was told it's a massive problem. Your perception might be something and that might be even true but this is a growing menace and if you want the rosy perception to stay, then the drug problem has to be addressed, accepted and

dealt with. Till the time you don't accept there's a problem, how will you solve it? *Batti Gul...* is not as dark as intense. The format is entertaining, accessible and easy to absorb.
There was a time when issue-based films were considered arthouse and then there was the mainstream which dealt with the cliché of the rich-poor divide. Now the lines have blurred and issue-based commercial films have gained commercial credibility. How difficult a job it is to walk the line as an actor?
I find it much easier. Honestly, I used to find it very troublesome when I had to participate in films which were too flighty for my liking. I was 21, so I guess people thought being in college was the only thing I could pull off at that time and that was a huge psychological barrier. My age and my boyish looks were like an impediment in my career because they restricted the offers that came my way. *Yeh* to dance *karta hai*, cute *lagta hai*. I have struggled with that perception for a good 10 years and it is only in the last five years or a bit more that I have been able to reinvent myself. During that time, I have pushed myself very hard to search for and take up offers which weren't run-of-the-mill or expected of me, which weren't putting me in a box. I may have lost out on mainstream work in the process but I needed these roles. I think as an actor it is very claustrophobic to inhabit a confined space, though as a star it might be satisfying. There are many cases where people have loved stars for what they have done in a certain space and the latter have done exceedingly well for many years, but that's not my call.
I have always understood cinema as a way of representing life, telling stories about different people, having different experiences, feeling enriched by those experiences, learning from them and somewhere being impacted by them as a human being. I saw acting as a very enriching opportunity to participate in something that can help you understand life at a really different level. I mean, how many people would be able to do so many different things in one life? So as a profession, acting really excited me because I could get closer to the depth of life's myriad experiences.

What was the film which changed your image?
It started with *Kaminey* but I guess the mould started cracking with *Jab We Met*. I remember there was such a big conversation whether, as a hero, I should wear glasses or not. It used to be so hard to convince everybody back then that glasses would not emasculate the hero. Or that they didn't signify tragedy or depression. I'm fortunate that Imtiaz (director Imtiaz Ali) was forward thinking and we could do things in that film that might sound so stupid today. Yet, it was a big deal then. I am eternally grateful for my role in *Kaminey* because it provided me an opportunity to surprise and shock people at the same time and that, as an actor, but happens once in a while. However, it also raised my bar. For me to surprise people that much today is more difficult because they have a certain expectation and reference point. So I have to consistently rediscover myself like I did in *Haider* or *Udta Punjab*. The idea is to do different films and be an Indian character from across its geographical sweep. Now, I have Arjun Reddy to explore.
How challenging is *Batti Gul* after those two intense performances? This one is also a complex character?
He's the kind of guy you would come across very often in life and most of the time, you wouldn't like him. I don't think I'll be very likeable in the first half of the film because I'm not such a nice guy; I'm pretty self-absorbed and a little full of myself, bit oversmart, cocky, very *jugaadu*, not necessarily doing the right thing, but obviously very entertaining. The kind of voice used is not very nice to the ears; it's slightly sharp, roguish, raw with a hard texture. I have tried to make the character what he is. But at some level, he also has to be relatable as a human who fights when he has to.
How do you reconcile the star and the actor within you?
I don't address the star so much within a film.



SITTING IN THE COMFORT OF A COUCH, POWER PILFERAGE MIGHT SEEM VERY SMALL... BUT THE KIND OF IMPACT POWER DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS AND THEIR ABUSE HAVE ON ORDINARY PEOPLE IS HUGE



EDUCATING THE MIND WITHOUT
EDUCATING THE HEART IS NO
EDUCATION AT ALL
— ARISTOTLE

A SOCIETY GONE AWRY

We are accustomed to writing angry posts about crime and tragedy in the country and blaming the Government for anything that goes wrong. It's about time we took responsibility for building the nation we want to live in, writes PRAMOD PATHAK

Why all these flies, why all these gliding ghosts, why birds and beasts, from quality and kind, why old men, fools and children calculate; why all these things change from their ordinance, their nature, and pre-formed faculties, to monstrous quality — why, you shall find that heaven hath infused them with these spirits to make them instruments of fear and warning unto some monstrous state," asks Cassius in William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. He tries to suggest that when all the things around us cease to exhibit their regular or inherent qualities and take some horrible shape and form, it is a warning from heaven — the unnatural state of things warns us that something untoward is likely to happen.

In *Julius Caesar*, these were projections used to unnerve a gullible Casca into believing that Caesar's rise to glory was what the heavens did not approve of. However, it can apply even to the world we live in today. The screaming headlines, the scary news reports full of spine-chilling details that we wake up to every morning suggest that something is rotten in our seven-decade-old democracy.

There are recurrent signs of our society going awry. Recently, three girls died of hunger in the nation's Capital. In the same National Capital, members of one family were found dead under suspicious circumstances. Reports suggested that they were under duress. And why just the Capital? In July, Jharkhand saw six members of a family end their lives over similar reasons. And just two weeks later, in the same State, seven members of a family committed suicide, leaving a note which said that they were taking the extreme step because they were in debt. They had been unable to repay a substantial amount of money they had borrowed from different sources for the medical treatment of their child. Are we gradually drifting towards an orderless society? Has it become normal for us to read about people dying for such reasons or to find out about mobs lynching people in broad daylight?

The Nirbhaya case of December 2012 was, it now seems, just a precursor to the horrors that are now unfolding. Reports of gang rapes continue to appear, that too at a nauseating frequency. This tendency to treat women with violent contempt has brought India the kind of infamy that will take some time to be wiped off. Nirbhayas are wronged across the country on a daily basis — be it in Bihar's Muzaffarpur or Haryana's Jind. If the global opinion finds India among the most unsafe places for women, we have only ourselves to blame. Reports about sexual exploitation of more than 30 minor girls at a State-supported shelter home in Bihar scream of a collective failure for us as a society and a country. For how long and to what extent will this go on?

Rise in population and the resultant crowding that social scientists have been warning India against for quite some time, still continues. The fact that it is the cause of many evils has become common knowledge. And still, it persists to threaten us with more mind-numbingly dreadful incidents in store.

There is another aspect to the story that throws up a contrast. It is to do with the rise in the Gross Domestic Product and the growth prospects of a trillion dollar economy. Whether it is financial jugglery or fuzzy logic is besides the point. Because the fact is that even these seemingly promising statistics are hardly reassuring when one looks at the social evils staring us in the face. Because the question is, how is this kind of progress ever going to help us?

Governments have become the



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favourite whipping boy of all and sundry for any kind of problem that society faces. Maybe it provides some kind of catharsis, a vent for pent-up feelings that mount year after year. The frustrations, the angst, the failures, the lapses and of course the wasted opportunities — they all pile up and reflect in our statements about our Government. However, we need to introspect to find out if our ire is directed right. An honest evaluation will reflect that it is not. Had it been so, we would have rid ourselves of the problems that continue to bother us today at the same nagging pace even after we have had 16 Parliament Elections and chosen 14 Prime Ministers. We could not get the redressal of our grievances because we have been barking up the wrong tree. The Government is not the problem. The problem is somewhere

else. In the society, which seems to have lost the fundamental human qualities of compassion, love, camaraderie and concern for fellow beings, a society that has turned paranoid, it is important to think hard about what it is that we are really angry about. We must try to find out the reasons for this derailment in society. It is a job cut out for social scientists. Why does even advancement in science and technology, or growth in economy, or improvement in school education fail to curb these basal tendencies?

The one word that can define the state of our society today is 'anomie'. As self-interest gains precedence over national interest, the situation only worsens at every stage. Problems that earlier affected smaller areas and for shorter duration have acquired gargantuan proportions. For instance, floods

used to be a regular feature in various areas of several States as swollen rivers would run amok. But with every passing year, boundaries of the areas affected by such a calamity keep expanding. There are areas where people have started to dread the rainy season. And the same applies to droughts. Only a couple of months ago, parched farm lands forced farmers to end their lives. Come winter and long duration of widespread fog affects life in many regions. We have not improved our handling of these problems. We have become more vulnerable. Because our standard response to this is complaining about the aid in the form cash and kind. It's simply convenient to talk about the role of the Government, write some angry Facebook posts, and eventually forget about what happened. We fail to talk about the role of individuals in creating an environment for sustainable development, in identifying ways through which we can help our society and our economy progress simultaneously.

Commercialisation and commodification of everything has brought our society to an impasse. Posts on Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp do indicate that people at least understand that something wrong has happened and that they want to create awareness about it. But it should not stop at just that. Our duty as individuals should not begin with reading those posts and end with forwarding them with one or two added comments. There is a need to think of the remedies to reinvent society. The first thing that is needed is 'renovision' — a different, perhaps more rational way, to look at the problems that face our society. We have been playing the blame game for far too long.

When we invoke the Constitution, our focus should not be on just the fundamental rights. It is about time we gave a thought to our fundamental duties, too. Our emphasis on technology-based education has, at some instances, come at the expense of inculcating the right values and inspiring interest in the social sciences. Progress cannot be guaranteed by technological advancement alone. It comes from a proper attitude. The attitude that guides one to think right and drives one to act right.

For decades, our focus has been on functional literacy. Computer literacy, too, quickly acquired a place of importance in our scheme of development. But in this process, we might have made the blunder of neglecting ethical literacy. It is time for us to go back to the basics. Ethics will form the very core of our development as a society. As individuals, we clearly and urgently need to get much better at being able to discriminate between right and wrong. As Swami Vivekananda once said: "So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every person a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them!"

FROM PAGE 1

But you have become a star
over time. So you cannot
completely ignore or dis-
regard it either.

I am not disregarding it. I have a huge amount of respect for my fans. I am very grateful for being in that category and I wanted to get there, it's not like I didn't. But now I have grown out of the infatuation of being a star. You know an actor is fascinated by this whole concept of being a star and then that kind of becomes his/her guiding force. That's somehow not the best thing though. I think it's nice to not take yourself seriously or carry the tag because it's a baggage that will overload whatever it is that comes your way. I think it's nicer to know that you happen to be a star but not function on the basis of that. You ought to be an artiste. At least that's who I am.

Eventually, you have to find yourself. And whatever success you get will be truly relevant when you become original and say something that is different. I have seen people also connect to your truth. Our audience is actually so accepting and sensitive. And the camera never lies, so you've got to be honest.

Have you, therefore, eased your position in the fraternity because, let's face it, there are industry pressures of being seen with the right set of people or circuit. Have you been accepted more than the initial years?

I think fundamentally I see two things that are different. First, I have never been somebody who has been in the centre of the spotlight or wanting to be the

most popular person in the room. Having said that, I'd love to know people and them to know me more but that has to happen organically and naturally. I have tried at different times in my career to be someone who I am not and honestly I have not enjoyed it. I think I have my own unique personality, good or bad. And I think 15 years into the fraternity, people may like it or not but have come to terms with it.

Second, I think I am comfortable in my skin and that's the most important facet for every human being. You are happy with yourself only when you're happy with what you're doing.

What has been your actor's workshop? What were your first film inspirations?

There are so many films and so many actors like Dilip *saab* to Balraj Sahni. But my first film experience was at Anupam theatre, now PVR Anupam. It was a documentary on white elephants (laughs). That was my strongest memory though not very exciting. I have subsequently watched serious classics. For example, *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* has been one of my favourites. At the same time, I loved Jackie Chan. Yes, the *Sherlock Holmes* series on TV, with Jeremy Brett, had a deep impact. There were all kinds of stuff but as you grow older, obviously you need to understand cinema and do take

Not just the boy next door



it a little more seriously. My father was also somebody who hugely inspired me as an actor and even though he worked largely in television, his roles were so fine and well-crafted.

The same goes for my mother, especially when it came to classical dance. During her performances, she has been exponentially at another level. So what started inspiring me was the skill that they had and the refined movement of that skill. It became something that I aspired for, the fact that they are so good at it.

I remember attending an acting workshop at NSD conducted by Naseer sir (Naseeruddin Shah) for only a week where I met Randeep Hooda too. I had, at that time, already become an actor and was getting some work, so I thought *ki thoda better kar lete hain skills apne aap before kisi ko pata chale ki bohot kharab hai yeh* (laughs). As I said, I saw my parents work really hard to be exceptional. It is never just about popularity but about the skill and drill of the craft.

So how do you go with that drill and process your acting skills? Do you research?
I am good with my instincts. I really feel that these days, a lot of research is done by writers and filmmakers. The material is in front of you, you just have to absorb and interpret and that

happens once I start shooting. I stay within that character's defined zone for that time. Because I feel that you can spend six months doing a film and after you're out of it, you don't really know what it was. That happens. So concentrated time works for me.

How do you balance your family and work, now that you're a hands-on father? As someone who is transiting through changing times, both societally and in cinema, how do you keep it real?

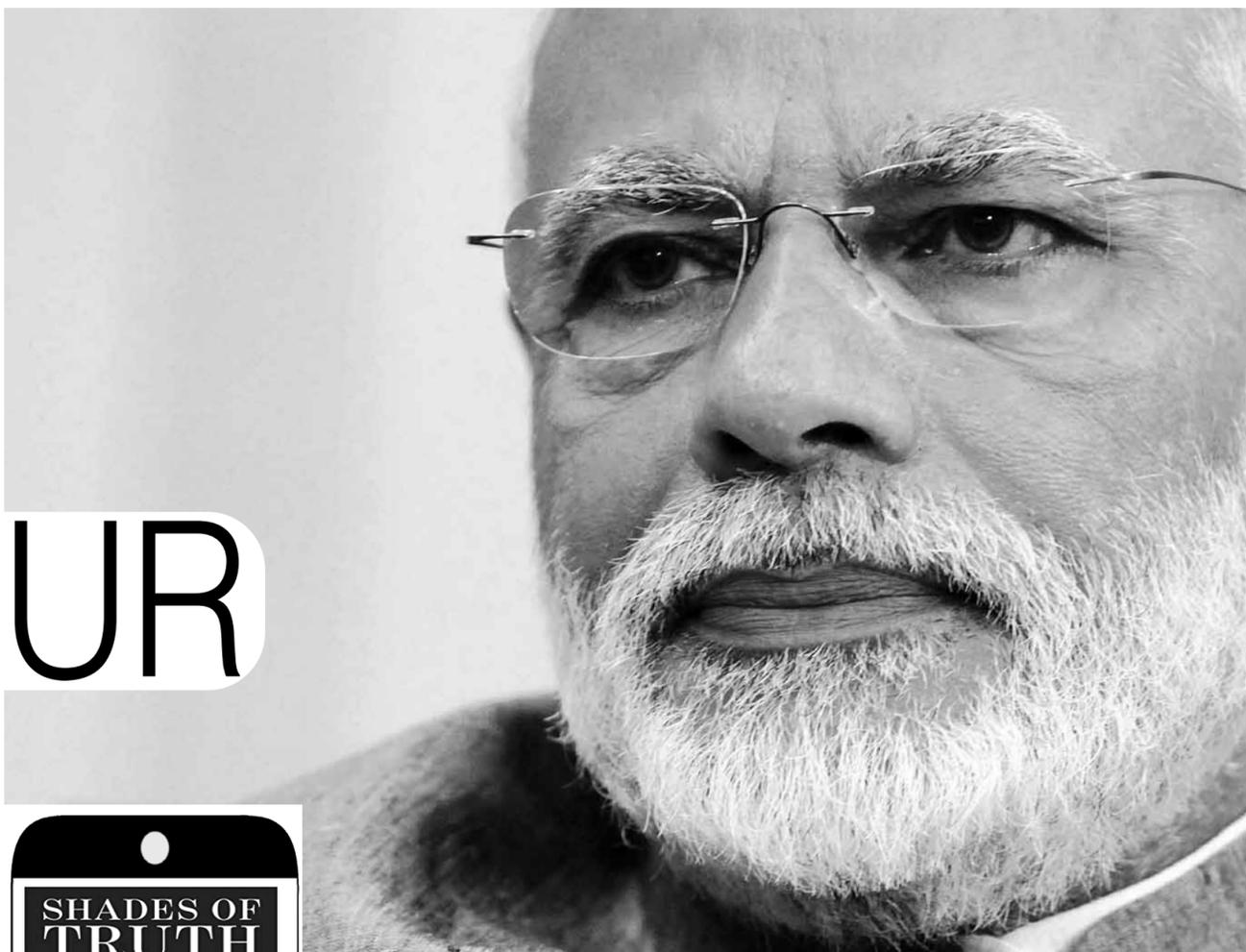
First, I want to express very candidly and honestly that individuality is a huge part of being a youngster today and I have gone through this phase. I have been living alone since I was 22. Even though I was close to my parents, I was living alone. So I am used to this phase of wanting to find myself and being my own person. But it is because of this that I also feel a family is the bedrock of society. You truly understand that when you have it. So that is something I would definitely want to say openly. I can see that people are afraid, unsure and sometimes not even prepared to give so much to something as marriage and a home, but I feel that what you give to it is nothing compared to what you get from it. Whoever I am and what I think is largely governed by my personal life and the space that I have today. Even the actor that I am draws itself from my personal space. My family is my nucleus. Even when there are bits of my life, my daughter Mishra, on social media, it is an organic extension of this fundamental truth.



IT IS OUR CHOICES THAT SHOW WHAT WE TRULY ARE, FAR MORE THAN OUR ABILITIES — JK ROWLING

This book charts the history of India's governance and shows how the current BJP Government, too, has failed to keep many of its promises, says AMIT GOEL

A CHINK IN INDIA'S ARMOUR



You never know what the voter will do. Will have to wait till 2019," says Kapil Sibal in the conclusion to his new book titled *Shades of Truth: A Journey Derailed*. As he pens his ideas and thoughts in his latest literary presentation, he is quite vociferous when talking about the current political situation and what the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections might bring along. As the reader moves along the writer's line of thought in this comfortably sized book spanning around 250 pages, his detailing of how the Indian society has developed fault lines in the past four years since the installation of the Modi Government in 2014 comes across sharply and unabashedly.

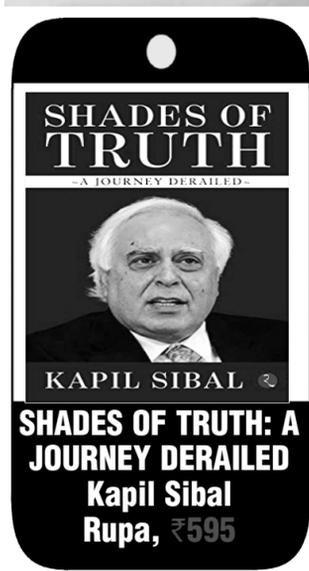
Through his book, Kapil Sibal has presented his case on why the Modi Government should not be voted back to power. The Congressman's antagonist Modi becomes the protagonist in his book. He recounts how Modi, by way of his mesmerising and magical speeches and tongue-in-cheek acronyms, has succeeded in misleading the voter into distrusting the Congress. He further explains how Modi has created a poor image where the Congress has been inefficient and corrupt not only in the

past few years but all through the 60 years of its rule at the Centre.

The reader is duly escorted through India's journey from being hailed as a culturally and socially diverse country in the past to being called a dubious and deviant society that has little or no respect for peace and harmony. This bipolarity is evident in all spheres of life in modern India. India, as the largest democracy in the world, has been witness to some of the most tempestuous times in its history, either on account of numerous invasions and attacks that time and again convulsed the nation or on account of its own dogmas and prejudices that left an indelible impression on the cultural and social canvas of India.

History is also witness to the fact that we as a race are quite resilient and have mostly responded positively to change during upheavals and vicissitudes alike. Be it the two decades of colonial suppression or the aftermath of a painful Partition, India has always picked up the pieces and managed to reconstruct itself.

After all, we are a country of 1.3 billion with a diverse culture and an enviable heritage to back us. Despite the tensions and turmoil that accompanied India's struggle for Independence, new-



found freedom in the post-Independence era presented a tabula rasa with enormous potential to create a safe, secular and sustainable model of a nation for others to envy and replicate. Unfortunately, over the past four years, the BJP seems to have missed the bus and has afflicted the nation with intolerance, boorishness and bigotry. India is grappling with issues such as caste-based reservation and politics, *gau raksha*, women safety and gender equality, corruption and religious fanaticism.

Lucid and simple in its style of writing, the book also captures the events leading up to the Congress's debacle in 2014. It starts with scams like 2G and Coalgate and ends with Anna Hazare's Arab Spring, which had

people convinced that the Congress Government had to go. Sibal also blames the CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India) for having acted in a partisan manner. However, he does not make any effort to admit that corruption did take place in Spectrum and Coal allocations while dismissing them as false propaganda by the BJP and CAG. According to him, Modi rule has compromised on each of the three pillars of democracy — judiciary, executive, and media.

Normally, a book written by a politician is reviewed critically and consumed with a pinch of salt, taking into consideration the bias that the writer might have. But, besides being a politician, Kapil Sibal is also an astute

lawyer and a Harvard graduate. That's why his claims in the book are accompanied by convincing arguments. But still, the fact that he's a Congressman cannot be fully ignored.

Personally, it would have been a delight to read about the good things that the Modi Government has done during its tenure as well because that would have made the book a more balanced read. Just like it would be interesting to hear Modi saying that whatever happened in the country in the past 70 years was not all that bad. From the point of view of the anti-Modi brigade, the book is a must-read, although one does get a feeling of déjà vu at points as the book progresses. For die-hard Modi *bhacts*, it's a serious no-no.

NEW ARRIVALS

LOOKING FOR THE NATION
Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee
Speaking Tiger, ₹350



This compelling book comes at a time when toxic nationalism is causing the violent and systematic exclusion of political, religious, sexual and other minorities. Manash Firaq Bhattacharjee reminds us that the modern nation-state, built on fear and an obsession with territory, is often at odds with democracy, justice and fraternity. Analysing the ideas of thinkers who laid the political and ethical grounds of India's modern identity, he shows how we have strayed from their inclusive, diverse visions.

KASHI: SECRET OF THE BLACK TEMPLE
Vineet Bajpai
TreeShades, ₹295

Kashi — Secret of the Black Temple is part 3 of the Harappa Series, written by Vineet Bajpai. It is a fiction novel that blends mythology and history with a modern-day thriller. It's 1699 BCE, and the setting is the marshes of Aryavarta. As the titanic waves of *pralay* swallow city after city, a final battle for the Ark and the Earth begins. A ruthless barbarian-king threatens the very existence of mankind, heralding Kaliyuga — the eon of Kali. 2017, Banaras — a sacred *nakshatra* erupts in the night-sky as the fateful, prophesied hour arrives.

WINDHORSE WARRIOR
RC Friedericks
Niyogi, ₹795



Windhorse Warrior offers an inside look at the struggles and aspirations of the Tibetan people during the 1950s. It is a tale that weaves together the politics of occupation and resistance, an other-worldly romance between a Chinese Communist and an educated Tibetan woman, and the soaring vision of the Tibetan spiritual heart. Chuang Wei Ming, a young zealot from Shanghai, arrives in Lihang — on the eastern Tibetan plateau — with a mission to prepare the people for Maoism but soon outgrows its limiting worldview.

Of romance and revenge

Mukul Kumar's book takes a plunge into an analysis of all the complexities that plague marriage and tempt individuals to overstep its bounds. It talks about how the social institution often threatens individual identity

Naturally given to offering his readers slice-of-life tales, bureaucrat-author Mukul Kumar seems to be on a quest to solve possibly mankind's oldest puzzle — marriage. The result is his second novel, *Seduction by Truth*, which will be released by Bloomsbury, India just before Dussehra in October.

Belonging to the Indian Railway Traffic Service, Mukul is a civil servant of the 1997 batch. In his successful career of 20 years, Kumar distinguished himself from others with his dedication to service in the Indian Railways. He has been honoured with the National Award for outstanding performance by the Ministry of Railways. The officer takes pride in and draws immense satisfaction from his service. He fondly shares, "Individual efforts, even the small ones, that are aimed at keeping the wheel moving, and helping the huge population reach their destinations fill me with a thrilling sense of service." Kumar holds a senior and an important position in Northern Railway, Delhi.

Passion and love for literature is something that he has inherited from his father, a professor of English Literature. He would often talk to Kumar about accomplished authors and introduce him to their worlds of imagination when he was enjoying his early school days in Bihar. Poetry came naturally to this little author, then. He started composing poems as early as when he was in Class VIII. His creative sensibilities were first embodied in an anthology of English poems — *The Irrepressible Echoes*, which was published in 2012 at Nagpur. Kumar had lots of stories to

share with the world — stories of young minds, old people, and couples in love. Now, he shares stories of couples struggling with dwindling passion in marriage. Kumar has a penchant for going into the seemingly inaccessible recesses of human behaviour and crafting lifelike characters that readers can instantly relate to. His writings show the conflict between individual and society. Philosophy, mythology and poetic style complete the package of Kumar's writing.

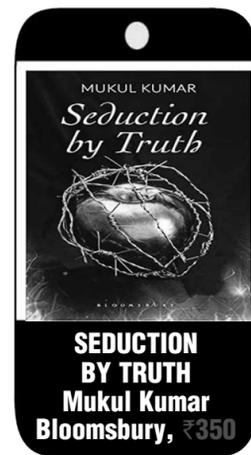
Seduction by Truth is a bold and unorthodox take on marriage. It deals with the dip in passion when the initial gloss of attraction between the spouses dries up after a few years of marriage. It spins a story about what happens after that. Can desire be renewed or is overstepping the bounds of marriage the only panacea for passion? Daringly yet honestly, Kumar has captured the sensitive truths about marriage, adultery, society, and tradition, which many couples grapple with in the modern world.

Dark realities like marital rape and deprivation of sex have been portrayed in a subtle and sensitive manner in this narrative. The author has very diligently tried to study the matrix of sex, love and trust in marriage through the protagonist's extramarital relations with many women. While writing about adultery, the author adds complexity to the narrative as ideas about revenge, religion, and gender roles also creep into the account. Shiva, the protagonist, calls his journey an act of "intellectual masculinity" even as he struggles with handling the complex emotions emerging in the course. It's a unique



THE NOVEL TRIES TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITIES OF MARRIAGE, STUDYING THE BOND BETWEEN A HUSBAND AND A WIFE AS DISTINCT INDIVIDUALS. IT RETHINKS ACCEPTED IDEAS AND ANALYSES ADULTERY IN FRESH LIGHT

journey which has to do with Shiva's attempts at 'winning' against his adulterous wife and at fulfilling the void of sex in his life. It also deals with Shiva's need to study the behaviour of other couples in order to understand marriage as a social institution. Eventually, Shiva's journey takes a spiritual turn when he



begins to seek redemption. The novel tries to understand the complexities of marriage, studying the bond between a husband and a wife as distinct individuals. It rethinks accepted ideas and analyses adultery in fresh light. Since the setting of the story involves many countries, the readers get a peek into Hindu, Islamic, and Christian traditions and beliefs about marriage and sex. The narrative travels through the posh suburbs of Delhi, the land of Baku in Azerbaijan, and then through the Renaissance country, Italy.

Through this novel, Kumar has tried to distinguish the woman from a wife, a man from the husband, the extraordinary from the tradition, and the absolute truth from deduced truth. He concludes that there is no absolute truth. *Seduction by Truth* gives the woman the centre stage. It argues that she can unapologetically choose to be a woman first, and a wife later.

PERSPECTIVE

Education sans values is useless

One of the fundamental aims of the education is to identify and promote core values of the society. The core values of India are world peace and betterment of the humanity



SATISH KUMAR

If I had to advise a 14-year-old kid to choose between sports and Geeta reciting, I will advise him to play sports
SWAMI VIVEKANAND



While a good education system creates values among pupils, ultimately becoming the fabric of social and political lives, the present education system in India is devoid of such characters. Aping the West, Bharat graduated into India only to have a lopsided education system that is a means to an end — to lead a luxury lifestyle at the cost of the value system which is already at a low ebb. And therefore, sports and music are considered antidote to education. The overall development of a child is not possible without a proper set of sports system. One-third problems of the country are related to physical weakness of the youth, Vivekanand had said.

To address the issues, the Modi Government is leaving no stone unturned to refurbish the education system that empowers people through education. Under "Khelo India" scheme, the Government is trying to improve sport infrastructure in villages.

"One Bharat Shreshth Bharat" aims to bridge the regional disparity. The Government is keen to synergies the ingenious knowledge system and modern technology. "Technology is the biggest driver in improving the quality of education," said HRD Minister Prakash Javedekar. The digital black board is one of the top priorities of the Government. And efforts are on to use technology to enhance teachers' skills as well.

There are several other initiatives that aim at improving the overall condition of the education system. More than hundred new Kendriya Vidyalayas and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened during the last four years. Ekalavya Model Residential schools will be opened in the tribal areas.

Despite these praiseworthy initiatives, higher education is smitten with many ills. The scheme of upgraded autonomy is bound to create further problems in education system. "I am a Stephenian, a JNUite or a LSRite" will only widen the chasm. The existing apartheid system in educational system will further deepen if the Government policies are not implemented in toto.

The debate on the need for foreign faculty members is picking up, even as the concept of "Gurukul" has been pigeonholed as traditional. Rubbing salt into the wound is the exodus of brains from quality educational institutions in India to the US and the EU, indeed for greener pastures. To address this burning issue, the Central Government is trying to reverse the brain drain into brain gain through the scheme of Prime Minister Schemes of fellowships. Though it is not enough, well begun is half done.

One of the fundamental aims of the education is to identify the core values. The core values of India are world peace and betterment of the humanity. It flows from the cultural heritage of India. There is need to connect children with Indian heritage along with the western tips.

(The writer is Head of the Department of Political Science, Central University of Haryana)

Default settings curb choices

In the case for AC, default temperature is the temperature which is automatically assigned by the manufacture when the machine is switched on. Defaults are portrayed as mechanism to ensure welfare of society but there is scepticism around their adoption as it is seen as authoritarian and paternalist move by the Government to make choice for the consumers



VANDANA MAURYA



MADHAV GOVIND

Recently the Ministry of Power (MoP) issued a notification to set temperature of air conditioners (ACs) as default at 24 degrees Celsius in all major commercial establishments such as airports, hotels, shopping malls, offices and Government buildings to save electricity and reduce emissions.

Manufacturers of ACs are asked to maintain default temperature and are also advised to set a label on ACs indicating the optimum temperature as part of consumer awareness which can help consumers to make informed decisions. This announcement by the Ministry drew huge public response from various sectors. A few appreciated the move and others simply raised questions about attempts by the Government to control the personal choice of service.

Understanding defaults

In the case for ACs, default temperature is the temperature which is automatically assigned by the company or maker when the machine is switched on. It is a setting or position that has been pre-selected but can be changed by the users if they wish to do so. This is a mass default as it applies to all consumers of a product or service, without taking consumers' individual characteristics or preferences into account.

In setting default, policymakers take initial decision for consumers without their knowledge (occasionally) but also keep a scope of changing that decision if they want to.

Many of us fail to acknowledge that defaults have become part of our lives. Take an example of wallpaper of laptops or mobiles when we unpack it for first time. That wallpaper is a default; it will stay unchanged until we change it. Similarly we have lot of default setting in MS office which will not change until we do it. Research in various fields e.g. decisions to buy insurance, organ donation, breaking unhealthy food habits, improving environmental concerns, addressing privacy concerns in various countries have shown that policymakers made decision as a reference on behalf of users and set a default for users' welfare which resulted in positive outputs.

An experimental study was conducted by Danieal Pichert and Konstantinos V Katsikopoulos in 2008 in which they noted that consumers use more of green electricity (electricity generated from renewable resource) given to them as default as compared non-green electricity. In other study named "Can indifference make the world greener", Johan Egebark and Mathias Ekstrom in 2013 conducted a natural field experiment in which they changed the default setting of printers from "print on one



side" to "print on both sides" at a university and noticed 15 per cent reduction of paper consumption for printing.

From the above studies, it is evident that when people are provided with environment friendly options as default, they tend to stick to it and do not take decision to opt out of it until their intention changes or their requirement of the service changes.

Faulty defaults or restricting choice

Defaults are portrayed as mechanism to ensure welfare of society but there is scepticism around their adoption as it is seen as authoritarian and paternalist move by the Government to make choice for the consumers. But, these settings are usually based on libertarian paternalism (the term was coined by Richard H Thaler and Cass R Sunstein in 2003) which suggests that it is possible and legitimate for private and public institutions to affect the behaviour of consumers along their freedom of choice. The libertarian aspect insists that people should be free to opt out of a specified arrangement and should be able to make their decision, whereas paternalistic aspect emphasised on the autonomy of private and public institutions to make attempts to influence consumers' choice for the welfare of society.

The libertarian paternalism is considered as a weak and non-intrusive type of paternalism as choices are not blocked and does not impose huge sum of cost for deviating from the policymakers' option.

But what is the extent of paternalism and liberalism used in devising defaults? Is it 50-

50? The answer may depend on the conditions on which defaults are set. Defaults are set because users are not always rational in their decision making and bound by their habits, intentions and lack of enough information. If consumers are overloaded with information which is complex and difficult to understand, then they don't tend to choose the best available option rather they opt for first available option or option that satisfies the minimum requirements (known as satisficing) at less effort and cost.

In general, defaults are for welfare of society and therefore sticking to default can be considered as a rational decision as it can save time, effort and money.

Default setting remained unchanged by the consumers when it is completely unobserved by the users or when it is not affecting the users adversely. But, if the default goals are unrealistic i.e. if they are too low or too high as compared to self set goals, then they will detrimentally affect behaviour of users and the impact can be negative or positive depending on the reason of default.

It is observed that unrealistic and extreme defaults are less likely to stick for long period of time and can be rejected by consumers especially when they do not trust the policy makers who are devising default setting.

Way ahead: Smart default

Air conditioning technology is one of the technologies which is predicted to be widely adopted in coming days especially when the temperature is expected to increase due to change in climatic conditions. When

the temperature of air conditioners is proposed to be set at 24 degrees Celsius as default for major establishments, then the major point to keep in consideration is that all establishments don't have similar consumers and these consumers require different services.

The temperature in an Information Technology (IT) firm will have different requirement as compared to an office or a library. The IT firms may require keeping the ACs at 16 degrees Celsius as they want the machines to be maintained properly even though this temperature is highly uncomfortable for the employees. But a library can easily maintain the temperature of 24 degrees Celsius. In this case, default setting for library can be successful but for an IT firm it may fail. Therefore, it would be better if the mass default can be more of smart default.

It can be a smart strategy in which various defaults can be set for various sectors depending on their requirements of service keeping in consideration various factors i.e. demographic variables or climatic variables etc. It would be relevant to observe and understand the behaviour of consumers and identify the factors which nudge them towards sticking to default and saving electricity.

This shift towards smart default will have better chances for sticking for long time.

(Vandana Maurya is a PhD scholar at Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Professor Madhav Govind teaches at the same centre)

INSIGHT

Fearing success more than failure

During the fourth innings of the first Test in Cape Town against South Africa earlier this year, India was set a modest target in challenging conditions. Part of the commentary team for the series, former South African great Jonty Rhodes commented, "How India bat in this innings will define how they bat in the rest of the series and on the tour to England and Australia later this year." His words have turned out to be profoundly prophetic so far.

Good beginnings are crucial in Test cricket. Only the great West Indies team of the 1970s and 1980s were masters of winning from being behind the curve in a series. But even with them it was an exception. The great Australians of the 1990s and 2000s invariably won series by making a strong impression in the first Test of most series they played. Great victories in the first games were enough to deflate oppositions for the rest of the series. By the middle of most series, the Aussies had done and dusted most oppositions. First games define a series more often than not. Good teams realise it, great teams capitalise on it. India, though, have wanted to prove Jonty Rhodes right.

Behind both series losses lies the fact that perhaps the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is working to maul Indian Test cricket performances overseas. India



begin the South Africa tour without a practice game and the one before the first Test at Edgbaston was a token. This showed utter lack of seriousness and how low in importance Test cricket was in the Indian mindset. It is something even the usually pro-India Sunil Gavaskar criticised.

India lost some unquestionable winnable games against a team that was a basket case with issues on and off the field: Openers in poor form; a captain in iffy touch; an all-rounder with a pending court appearance; an ageing

seam bowling unit and untested second-in-line bowlers. Could one have asked for an easier opposition? As for India, one may have reckoned they'd have consolidated the biggest problem area after the Test series in South Africa: top order batting. But did it happen?

After this series, though, there is a greater credibility crisis over the International Cricket Council's Test rankings. Number one teams are supposed to have at least an edge over their rivals. It is the opposite now. India is still the number

one side after a 2-1 defeat in South Africa and a 4-1 defeat in England. This is a travesty of the sport's rankings. Midway in the series India's head coach Ravi Shastri had the gall to say that India had won three series abroad. He didn't mention those were against weak teams like Sri Lanka and the West Indies. This is poor mental form.

Indian Test batting in demanding overseas conditions is the worst casualty of the Indian Premier League. In England (and South Africa), almost every batsman barring

Kohli was called out for his technique and temperament. The two losses in South Africa and the two out of the four losses in England happened when the Indian team were in winning positions. They choked exactly like they have in the past and like their batting ancestors of yore. They don't have the bloody-mindedness to guts it out when it matters. But batting masterclasses don't happen in England even for their home batsmen without preparation.

Kohli spoke much about "intent" like he did in South Africa, but it now sounds mis-

placed. While he may have the game, skill and mental strength to mould his batting according to the opposition, the conditions and the game situation, his peers are mortals. Has he been unfair in assessing the individual capacity of his batsmen to perform under pressure? The way they batted when set a target, one doubts they'd even be able to chase 100 runs in the fourth innings under straining circumstances.

The bowlers got great praise for their sustained aggression. However, they too failed to deliver the killer blow

twice at critical junctures in the series. Sean Curran and Adil Rashid made them pay with the bat. This pattern too is well established in Indian Test cricket history. During crunch moments, they have not produced yorkers they bring out in the shorter format. All this now makes Ishant Sharma a player who has been part of three consecutive Test tours to England where he has bowled very well and the series has been lost.

Ravi Shastri has now spoken of having proper tour games before the Test matches in Australia. It has taken two series to figure that basic fact an armchair cricket viewer will know. But even without their frontline batsmen like Steven Smith and David Warner, the Aussies have a bowling attack to rattle any batting line-up in home conditions. Except for Kohli, there is no assurance in India's batting.

Therefore, prepare for another series loss in advance. Like they'd have had in the past, India will have their chances. And like they have in the past, the best way to watch them lose will be to put them in a winning situation. For it now seems they fear success more than failure. The former is new and scary; the latter is old and established. India's Test cricketers are respectful of tradition.

(The writer teaches at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities)

The best way to watch the Indian Test team lose is to put them in a winning situation overseas



RAHUL JAYARAM



HUMANS HAVE ALWAYS USED INTELLIGENCE TO IMPROVE EXISTENCE. AFTER ALL, WE FOUND A VACCINE FOR POLIO — NAVEEN JAIN

HOW INDIA WON AGAINST POLIO

Thomas Abraham's book discusses the history of how people across the world responded to the polio eradication campaign. It also shows in detail how India went from mistrusting the campaign to finally embracing it. An excerpt:

The polio eradication campaign's most anguished and difficult years in India were from 2005 to 2011. This was a period when polio exploded in large, periodic outbreaks in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, even though the WHO and its partners had thrown the equivalent of the kitchen sink at the virus, with some of the most intensive polio vaccination campaigns the world had seen. Children in parts of western Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were being fed polio drops once a month as opposed to the two times a year that was supposed to be the norm. A new monovalent OPV had been introduced in these States in the hope that at least one of the two polio virus serotypes could be stamped out. But it was not at all clear that any of this was working. In 2005, after an intensive vaccination campaign with the new monovalent Type 1 vaccine, the number of cases of polio in India had been brought down to a low of 54. This led to optimistic predictions that the disease could be wiped out the following year. But between 2006 and 2008, the numbers had shot up again to nearly 900 cases.

Vaccinators and their supervisors in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were being stretched to their limits by these repeated campaigns. Some went on strike demanding better pay. Parents were becoming increasingly irritated and suspicious about these repeated knocks on their doors by health workers forcing polio drops on their children.

Could polio actually be wiped out from India? Should the Government continue to spend money on eradicating polio, or should it use the money to focus on other diseases, officials asked. Was OPV as effective as the WHO claimed it was? All the questions and doubts that had been raised since the 1960s about the right strategy to eradicate polio surfaced again. Should the polio campaign use IPV instead of OPV? Should a combination of the two be tried? Should the polio campaign get involved in strengthening routine childhood immunisation instead of concentrating solely on delivering polio vaccine through house-to-house campaigns? Should improving sanitation and hygiene



be seen as part of the polio eradication mission?

It was not just the Government that was sceptical. A group of Indian doctors and epidemiologists also felt that the strategies the WHO was pursuing would lead nowhere. The Indian Academy of Paediatrics, an umbrella organisation for the country's paediatricians, felt that WHO's reliance on OPV alone was unwise, given that efficacy of the vaccine was low in the environmental and social conditions that existed in the heavily populated States of northern India. Some decades earlier in the 1990s, there had been a proposal to start manufacturing IPV in India, but that never got off the ground. However, there remained a strong body of professional opinion that favoured using IPV as well as OPV.

It was in India that the debates over the dangers of the Sabin vaccine and its propensity to provoke paralysis in some recipients, or VAPP, was brought back under the spotlight. The polio programme and the Indian Government never publicly talked about OPV's known propensity to cause paralysis, at the rate of roughly one child being paralysed per million doses of vaccine distributed. This rate of paralysis was small, but given the scale of India, where around 150 to 160 million doses were administered at each national immunisation day, as well as the additional doses that children were given during subnational immunisation rounds, several hundred children were developing polio from the vaccine.

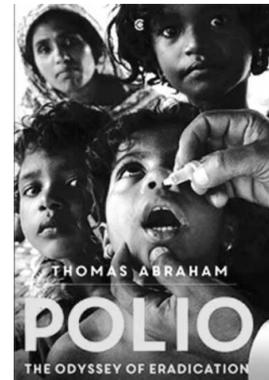
The WHO and the polio programme justified use of the

THE ERADICATION OF THE POLIO VIRUS FROM INDIA WILL GO DOWN AS A MAGNIFICENT CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. IT WAS ACHIEVED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME THAT REACHED CHILDREN IN CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS

vaccine on the grounds that the risk of the virus reverting to a disease state needed to be balanced with the benefit of a polio-free world. The Indian Government had no interest in publicising these risks because it could lead to claims of compensation from children who were affected by the vaccine (as had happened in the United States). IPV did not have these side effects, and the Indian Academy of Paediatrics urged the Indian Government to introduce IPV in addition to the OPV in order to reduce risks.

It was also in India that a question that ticks like a bomb beneath every global health initiative surfaced again: Whom was polio eradication a priority for? Was it a priority for India where so many other diseases

demanding greater attention? Or was it a greater priority for the wealthy developing countries that had eliminated the disease, but did not want to face the threat of it being reimported from countries where it still circulated? This was a question that public health experts in the West critical of the concept of eradication had raised decades earlier. This argument had more or less disappeared from the discourse in the West, but it re-emerged with new vigour from Indian academics, who found the emphasis on polio questionable. A 'Memorandum on Pulse Polio' submitted to the WHO and UNICEF in New Delhi by a group of academics from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi claimed that the polio eradication initiative had been



thrust on India by the WHO, UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Rotary International. It contended that a "disease of lower public health importance in the country has been justified on the grounds of some small saving for developed nations".

A group of Indian doctors and academics, dubbed the 'dissenters' by the historian William Muraskin, subjected the polio campaign to the kind of critical scrutiny that it was not accustomed to anywhere else in the world. The polio campaign blamed the health authorities in the problem States of UP and Bihar for not implementing immunisation campaigns with sufficient care and rigour. Yet Indian critics wrote "the failure of the eradication campaign is not because of a lack of proper implementation (as they so often claim) but because of a flawed strategy itself." Many of these objections were valid, and others less so. But it is to the credit of the polio programme that it persisted, and mobilised the political support it needed from the Central and State Governments to bulldoze ahead until polio disappeared from India. Despite often valid criticism of the campaign, the eradication of the polio virus from India will go down as a magnificent chapter in the history of public health. It was achieved by meticulous implementation of a vaccination programme that reached children in some of the most physically and epidemiologically challenging environments that the polio programme had ever encountered.

Excerpted with permission from Thomas Abraham's *Polio: The Odyssey of Eradication*, Westland, ₹699

Can Mrs May unite Brussels and Brexiteers?

The British Government, Brussels and the Brexiteers agree that a free trade agreement coupled with customs technology can prevent a hard border in Ireland after Brexit — but can't agree how, in what legal framework, or where, on the island of Ireland or in the Irish Sea, those solutions can be employed. Theresa May's Chequers plan is unpopular with Brexiteers and Brussels alike but while the likes of Boris Johnson want to chuck the proposals, the EU (European Union) is intent on cherry-picking from them. The impasse can only be resolved by a fudge, U-turns and climbdowns or the collapse of negotiations.

CHEQUERS
The Prime Minister insists the only choice is Chequers or no deal Brexit. May's plan calls for the creation of a free trade area in goods buttressed by a common rulebook on standards and by technology that smooths trade and reduces customs clearance time. There would be no border checks between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland or on the Irish border because the whole of the UK would be aligned with EU standards on goods through the common rulebook. Britain would reserve the right to move away from Brussels' rules on services, which has been criticised by the EU as cherry-picking access to the Single Market.

KEY QUESTIONS
Did Northern Ireland want Britain to leave the EU? Northern Ireland voted 55.8 per

cent in favour of the UK remaining in the EU, while the overall UK vote was only 48.1 per cent 'remain'. The Northern Ireland vote was split on political lines.

'Who wanted to stay and who wanted to leave?'
The Democratic Unionist Party, the country's largest party, supported Brexit. Sinn Féin, the SDLP, the Ulster Unionists, Alliance and the Green Party wanted to remain in the EU. The Irish Government also supported a 'remain' vote.

How might Brexit impact Northern Ireland?
Northern Ireland faces the unwelcome prospect of a hard land border between the EU and UK. Without careful negotiation this may once again put North-South relations under strain.

On some models Brexit might also have a disproportionate impact on Northern Ireland's economy, which is heavily reliant on exports to the EU. The food and agriculture sectors could be hit hard if the UK ends up paying EU tariffs.

What about the Irish border?
Both British and Irish Governments have stated their commitment to preserving free movement and trade between north and south. Difficulties arise from the fact that Ireland will be the UK's only land bor-



der with the EU trade bloc. The EU and the Irish Governments would prefer for the Irish Sea to be the border between the United Kingdom and Ireland, avoiding the prospect of a land border. However, unionist politicians fear regulation that would in any way drive a wedge between Northern Ireland and the mainland UK.

Will Brexit lead to Northern Ireland leaving the UK?

Almost certainly not. However, EU ministers have concluded that Northern Ireland would automatically rejoin the European Union if it reunified with Republic of Ireland.

THE ERG PLAN
Chequers is anathema to Johnson and the ERG's Jacob Rees-Mogg, who have declared that would turn Britain into a rule-taking vassal state. They prefer a "Canada plus" trade

deal with the EU that would leave scope to diverge from Brussels regulation and gain a competitive advantage but also necessitate stricter checks. The ERG says trusted trader schemes and controls away from the Irish border would help solve the issue. Technology could be used to prevent the need for physical checks, the ERG has argued. It also wants Brussels to recognise UK agricultural rules as equivalent to EU rules.

BRUSSELS
Brussels has warned that frictionless trade is impossible outside of the Single Market. Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, believes Chequers would compromise the integrity of the Single Market and argues that any alignment of standards can only apply to Northern Ireland and not the whole of the UK — putting a border in the Irish Sea. The ERG's technological border claims were long ago dismissed by EU officials as "magical thinking". Its agricultural rules proposal has also been ruled out by Brussels, which argues standards can only be met under the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice.

The EU has called for a "backstop" that would keep Northern Ireland in the EU's custom territory and aligned with its rules on goods, if the UK Government and the Brexiteers' preferred options of a free trade agreement and technological solutions fail. Without a backstop, there will be no Brexit deal at all, Brussels warns. However, writing for *The Telegraph*, Johnson branded that a plot to annex Northern Ireland because it would introduce customs checks between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland. The commission denies it wants to create a new border, insisting

the checks are simply controls.

THE SOLUTION?
Barnier wants to "de-dramatise" the issue of the Irish border by combining a promised trade agreement with technological solutions but these solutions, reminiscent of Chequers' "maximum facilitation", would be employed in the Irish Sea or in British ports, rather than on the Irish border.

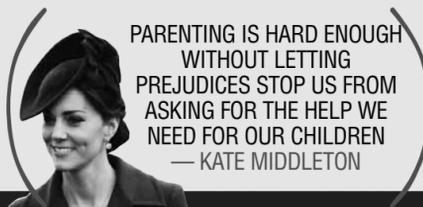
At a recent meeting of EU-27 Ambassadors, the commission pointed to British data that showed that only half of goods destined for the island of Ireland go through Northern Ireland.

If product standards were aligned, those goods could be checked by simply scanning barcodes on containers while they were in transit rather than checking each individual container. This could be done by UK officials, it has been suggested, and would take care of VAT, if the tax is levied at the end of the chain.

There are already controls on animal, plant and animal products from Britain to Northern Ireland, which has a separate island of Ireland veterinary regulatory oversight. After Brexit, the current system of spot checks will have to be replaced with checks on every animal or product, one EU diplomat said.

The commission told Ambassadors the process could be smoothed by striking facilitation agreements in the future UK-EU free trade agreement for goods, which the EU supports.

The Daily Telegraph



KEEPING UP WITH PARENTING NEEDS

BRYONY and JANE GORDON say that parenting becomes trickier when a kid starts growing up and thinks he/she does not 'need you'



Life as a Year 1 parent is very different to life as the mother of a child in reception. Bryony Gordon, 38, married to a very patient husband Harry, and mother to Edie, five, says, "When Edie started school last year, I thought I was a proper grown-up (at last!) but that wasn't really the case given that: a) I had just started in rehab and had yet to learn how to be a functioning adult; and b) reception is basically extended nursery school.

Now, stuff has got serious. 'Is it true that for the rest of school we are not allowed to play in our classroom?' asks Edie one evening, as I am putting her to bed. 'That all day we have to do learning?' she looks horrified. 'Well,' I respond, attempting to choose my words carefully, 'You can play in break time. And after school, I want to go back to being in reception,' she says. 'But then you wouldn't see your friends any more,' I respond. And then she says, 'They want to go back to reception too. We are all going to go back to reception together. I have a vision of 30 five- and six-year-olds storming down the corridors shouting, 'What do we want? Play-Doh! When do we want it? Now!' This amuses me, briefly, until I am berated by Edie for 'not paying attention'; apparently I am 'always away with the fairies' and need to 'con-trate' more. It strikes me that the only problem Edie has with her new class is that she isn't doing the teaching.

Is this how it goes, I wonder? Does childhood really whizz by, as everyone warned me? 'Savour it,' I was told again and again — but only during the seemingly never-ending newborn stage, when a day feels like a week and a week feels like a month and so on. Now Edie is using words like 'con-trate' and telling me off for 'interrupting' (yes, that is how she spells it), while I keep noticing crow's feet on my face and crinkles between my breasts. It is happening. I am getting older. We all are. And frankly, after the year we've had, it's a kind of relief."

Jane Gordon, age unknown, mother, grandmother and 24/7 childminder, shares, "Years ago — back when I was a madly busy mother of three and wife to one — I used to joke about the day when I'd finally be free of parenting and would move to a cottage in the country that I would name not Dunroamin but Dun-nurturing.

I fancifully imagined that after such a protracted period as a mum (bear in mind that my third child was born some 12 years after Bryony, meaning that my life as a parent has spanned four decades and two centuries) I would be grateful for the chance of lots and lots of 'me' time.

But nothing ever quite works out as you imagined, does it? And now that I have far, far too much time with myself, I realise that there is absolutely nothing I like doing more than a bit of nurturing. So, the idea of slipping back

I USED TO JOKE ABOUT THE DAY WHEN I'D FINALLY BE FREE OF PARENTING AND MOVE TO A COTTAGE IN THE COUNTRY THAT I WOULD NAME NOT DUNROAMIN BUT DUN-NURTURING. BUT NOW THAT I HAVE TOO MUCH TIME WITH MYSELF, I REALISE THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I LIKE DOING MORE THAN A BIT OF NURTURING

into my term-time routine with Edie — whereby for at least one day (and night) a week I would be able to indulge my need to nurture — was really, really exciting.

And there I was, last Wednesday, at the school gates clutching her (I thought) favourite treat (a Kinder Surprise), full of anticipation for an enthusiastic greeting and a lovely Edie-and-me afternoon/evening. I would cook her (I thought) favourite tea and we would play with her (I thought) favourite Sylvanian Family toys and I would read her (I thought) favourite bedtime books.

But from the moment Edie emerged, I sensed something had changed. Was it my imagination or did she seem slightly less pleased to see me than she used to be this time last year? And did I really see her roll her eyes when I gave her the treat and tried to give her a huge hug?

Back home, I realised that while time had virtually stood still for me over the summer holidays, it had done the very opposite for my granddaughter. She had grown taller (I am shrinking), lost her first tooth and moved on from the little girl in reception class to the big girl in Year 1. 'ANNIE,' she said when she was trying to teach me to play her new favourite game, Guess Who? 'It's your turn! KEEP UP!'

My worry now is that, at just five and a half, Edie is Dun-with-Granny...
The Daily Telegraph

CULTURE LANE

BBC plays down Zoe Ball rumours

The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) insists it has still not chosen a new host for *The Radio 2 Breakfast Show*, despite press speculation that Zoe Ball is set to take over the biggest programme in UK radio.

Chris Evans announced this month that he was leaving the programme for Virgin Radio. This prompted speculation over who would inherit the slot, which reaches more than nine million listeners a week.

Ball, a former host of the show who presents a weekend show on the station, has been linked to the job. On Monday, the *Sun* reported that she was in advanced negotiations to take over the programme but no contract had been signed. The newspaper said a key concern was how she would handle her family commitments in Brighton, where she lives and has two sons with her former husband Norman Cook.

"We are considering and talking to a number of people," a BBC spokesperson said. Sara Cox, a longtime friend of Ball's and a former host of the show, has also been linked to the job. She currently presents a late night show on Radio 2. The station is under pressure to



appoint a woman to the job, which has only ever been held by men.

Cook was coincidentally being interviewed on Monday morning's Radio 2 breakfast show by Evans, who said: "I'm going to ask you a question, then you're going to say: 'I'm sworn to secrecy', and then we're going to move on. So, what do you know of this front-page story in the *Sun* today about Zoe being offered this show come 2019?"

Cook replied: "I couldn't possibly comment on that, Christopher."

Discount for over-60s unfair?

More than three-quarters of museums, galleries and other attractions in the UK are giving £65m of ticket-price concessions to the over-60s every year, while in many cases young people are charged full-price tickets, according to a study.

People over 60 are offered concessions regardless of their ability to pay and even when they are below the state pension age, according to the Intergenerational Foundation (IF), a charity that researched 35 of the UK's leading attractions' ticketing policies.

The giveaway to older people is expected to fuel concerns that Britain has failed to adjust to growing pensioner incomes and wealth. With millions of pensioners boasting incomes above the average wage, the IF said it was concerned that charging policies developed in previous decades were out of date. While they all offer the over-60s senior discounts apart from RHS organisations, only four — Chester zoo, Stonehenge, Canterbury Cathedral and Bristol zoo gardens — have raised the ticket-price concession threshold in line with the state pension age (SPA) of 65.



Only one out of the 35 organisations offers a young person discount — the Royal Shakespeare and Swan theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon — although 27 offer student discounts.

Among the worst offenders are Scottish attractions Edinburgh Castle, the National War Museum in Edinburgh, Stirling Castle and Urquhart Castle, all of which offer an over-60s concession but no student or young person's discount.

Likely birthplace of Henry VII found



Archaeologists believe they have identified the exact site of Henry VII's birth in 1457 after excavations in the grounds of Pembroke Castle in Wales uncovered the remains of a massive medieval mansion worthy of one of the most famous kings of England. Just days into an initial dig, archaeologists have uncovered up to half a metre of the building's walls — and they are yet to reach the main floor levels. One wall is a metre thick.

They have also unearthed so many slates and tiles that they are concluding it had a slate roof. Green-glazed ridge

tiles have also been found, which suggest a particularly imposing building, while other finds include a curving stair from a spiral staircase. James Meek, who is heading the excavation for the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, said such finds suggest "a fairly showy building" inside of the outer walls of the castle. It is about the size of two tennis courts, while the scale of the walls suggests a structure of a considerable height.

Pembroke Castle dates back to the 11th century. Henry VII was believed to have been born in its 13th-century tower, which is named after him.

ODDLY ENOUGH

HOV LANE CHEAT TRIES TO TRICK POLICE WITH SKELETON

Police in Washington state shared three photos of creative carpool lane cheats — including one who used a Halloween skeleton as a passenger. The Washington State Patrol shared three photos this week showing the faux-passengers that HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lane users used in unsuccessful attempts to ward off scrutiny from police.

One of the photos featured a Halloween skeleton dressed in a jacket and a baseball cap. "This driver NB 15 at 1405 in Sno County was dying to not get caught with this passenger, there's no bones about it! Another HOV violator stopped by WSP," Trooper H Axtman, the

Washington State Patrol's District 7 public information officer, tweeted.

Another example tweeted by Trooper Rick Johnson of District 2 shows a pillow dressed in a hoodie and holding a cup of coffee and a tablet.

Axtman also shared a photo of a "creepy" dummy that appears to be composed of a mannequin wearing a surgical mask, a hoodie and a pair of glasses.

HOV lane violations are punished by a \$136 fine in Washington state.

A DREAM COME TRUE, LITERALLY

Australian man who won a lottery prize worth \$3.5 million said it wasn't entirely a surprise — he had dreamed the win just three weeks earlier.

The Sydney man told NSW Lotteries officials when he and his wife claimed the prize that the dream left him with a strong feeling that he was going to win the Set for Life drawing, which carries a top prize of \$14,374 every

month for 20 years.

"Three weeks ago I had a dream where I won Set for Life," the man said.

"Then when we were sitting on the beach relaxing, I looked at my wife, grabbed her hands and I said to her, 'We are about to win something, you just wait.'" The couple said they plan to use the money to retire early, do some traveling, fix up their home and give to charity.

RESTAURANT OWNER FINED OVER NO DOG PEE SIGN

A sarcastic sign in the window of a Connecticut restaurant asking people not to let their dogs pee on the eatery's outside flower pot has earned the owner a \$250 fine.

Duc Nguyen, owner of Duc's Place in New Haven, said that he was disgusted with people allowing their dogs to urinate on his pot. He thought a humorous sign was a good way of discouraging dog walkers from letting pets relieve themselves there. It read: "Attn: dog owners. This is a pay-per-pee flower pot. (Pay inside or leave your address and we'll

kindly return the favor.)"

Honda Smith, the city's public space enforcement officer, said Nguyen broke two city ordinances for being a public nuisance and issued the fine. Nguyen says he plans to appeal.

MAN FINED \$124 FOR KICKING SEAGULL THAT ATE BURGER

A man accused of kicking a seagull that tried to eat his cheeseburger at a New Hampshire beach has been fined \$124. Police investigated the report from a bystander at Hampton Beach earlier this summer.

Reports suggest that the man, Nate Rancloes, said he had just returned from getting a cheeseburger and fries and was sitting on the sand. He said seagulls got to the burger, and he spun around with his leg to shoo one away, but struck the bird. He said it was a simple mistake. A witness said it appeared the bird's leg was injured and that it struggled to fly away. New Hampshire Fish and Game Lt Adam Cheeny says seagulls are protected under federal law.

SNAKE RESCUED FROM MOUSETRAP IN LONDON

Animal rescuers in London said a Acorn snake is recovering from minor injuries after being found stuck in a mousetrap. The RSPCA said an animal collection officer was dispatched earlier this month when a snake was spotted stuck in a mousetrap in London's Station Square.

"The poor snake could barely move and was well and truly stuck in the mousetrap. The snake had an abrasion where he was stuck but his injuries do not seem to be too severe," Animal Collection Officer Joe White said.

"Unfortunately, an owner could not be found so the reptile was transferred to the South Essex Wildlife Hospital for veterinary treatment. If we can not trace an owner then the snake will be rehomed," he said.

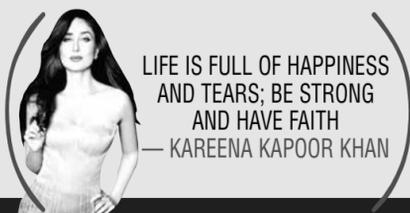
PADDLE BALL WORLD RECORD PLANNED IN CLEVELAND

Ohio organisers are hoping to gather at least 500 people to break a Guinness World Record for most people doing paddle ball at the same time.

The record attempt, will be organised by LAND studio and the Gordon Square Arts District, a public art organisation in Cleveland, and hosted by the Superelectric Pinball parlour. It will involve a period of paddle ball practice before the official record attempt.

LAND studio said it is hoping to gather at least 500 people for the attempt, and each participant will be presented with their own paddle ball to keep after the event. The attempt is timed to coincide with the installation of a 14-foot paddle ball public art sculpture to be installed in the Gordon Square Arts District by Superelectric artists.





BRIEFLY
Speaking



SOCIAL MEDIA & SLEEP DEPRIVATION IN TEENS

More than half of the parents of sleep-deprived teens are blaming social media for lack of sleep among their children, a new study has found. The University of Michigan study suggests that 56 per cent of parents of teenagers who have sleep trouble believe that the use of electronics is hurting their child's shut-eye. Forty-three per cent of parents report that their teens struggle to fall asleep or wake up and can't get back to sleep, according to the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health at the University of Michigan. A fourth of these parents say their child experiences occasional sleep problems (one to two nights per week) while 18 per cent believe their teen struggles with sleep three or more nights per week. Not being able to stay off electronics — including social media and cell phones — was the no.1 reason parents cited for sleep disturbance. Other reasons included irregular sleep schedules due to homework or activities, and concerns about social life.

The connection between sports and spirituality is often overlooked. It's through the adventurous process of challenging oneself, trusting the instincts, and going beyond the limitations that one gets to truly experience life, writes **NIHARIKA NIGAM**

LIFE LESSONS LEARNT STANDING ON THE EDGE

That moment when your eyes close and yet it feels like you are all-seeing, the moment when you are surrounded by people, and yet your solitude is the most powerful presence around, the moment when your physical self ceases to exist and the essence of your life harmoniously resets to its raw, innate form; that is the moment when your consciousness peaks, and absolute mindfulness washes over, terrifying and liberating you at the same time.

It is truly fascinating to have an experience so intense. There are a number of ways in which people try to be a part of something so exhilarating. Adventure sports is one of the unconventional ways which opens the gates to the spiritual world for you. With an increasing pile of hassles all around you and an extremely busy schedule where one needs to take care of a gigantic workload, stress, depression, and anxiety are rampant today. Naturally, people feel the need to look for ways in which they can beat the stress and make life more enjoyable. This search often leads to adventure sports as it is seen as a tool for improving mental health. Surprisingly, the quality of experience that these sports offer is, in essence, quite similar to the experience of meditation. If you have ever gone for an adventure sport, you certainly know what kind of experience is being talked about. It is empowering to feel like a daredevil.

Indulging in something that seems so crazy helps one experience each moment completely and appreciate life. It directs one onto the path of self-awakening and makes them feel alive. It is while standing at the edge and indulging in an 'extreme experience' that one gets a taste of spirituality. One push, and a whole new realm opens up — spirituality leads man to the harbour of happiness, satisfaction, calmness, and serenity. India has been the spiritual leader of the world throughout the evolution of civilisations. Today, adventure sports have created a new path for the Indian youth and global sports enthusiasts to witness this new, 'cool' form of spirituality.

There are four life lessons that one



can learn while standing on the edge:

- Dare to open your eyes: Only you know that you have suffered. You know what it has cost you but instead of dealing with it, you have learnt the trick of blocking out the pain. But it can't serve you for long. All it will do is block out the gorgeous view that is right in front of you. A lot of people, while taking on adventure sports, try to shut their eyes and desperately try not to let the fear creep up on them or to take control of them. But it does not work that way. Strength is in acknowledging the presence of the darkness within, and choosing to move forward and onwards anyway. Open your eyes, take in the thunderous moment and you will find the strength to take one step at a time.
- You are all you've got: In the final moments before you take the leap of faith, when you're about to take on a challenge, you are amazed, terrified and excited, your heart pounding louder, adrenaline rushing through your body, and breath coming in short and fast. That's when you suddenly realise that what lies ahead of you is a journey that is yours alone. In those moments, as scared as you are, there is a moment of absolute clarity. Suddenly you find yourself conscious to every thought within you. You find yourself rooting for yourself, and you find yourself consciously drawing out your inner strength. Within that fraction of a second, lies a profound lesson — you're all you've got, and somehow, that is enough. You were always complete and whole, all by yourself. It's a rare moment that is deeply empowering.

IN THE FINAL MOMENTS BEFORE YOU TAKE THE LEAP OF FAITH, WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO TAKE ON A CHALLENGE, THAT'S WHEN YOU SUDDENLY REALISE THAT WHAT LIES AHEAD OF YOU IS A JOURNEY THAT IS YOURS ALONE. IN THOSE MOMENTS, AS SCARED AS YOU ARE, THERE IS A MOMENT OF ABSOLUTE CLARITY

- Let go: That moment when you've accomplished your adventure sport marks a lot of changes within you. It's the act of letting go of your apprehensions, inhibitions and all that has been holding you back. It's the time for soaring and diving into the unknown. It's re-instilling faith in the magic of taking risks. It's stumbling upon the realisation that even in your own solitude, you are whole and complete. Freedom, you realise with a jolt, is a state of mind that was always latent within you. You realise that the only thing actually keeping you caged was your own mind and your own thoughts. You are engulfed in the realisation that you just broke free from all the chains pulling you down, and you are now ready to fly.
- Re-centre you mind, body and soul: As you finish your dare, you find yourself amazingly alive in the present moment. It's deeply calming and brings the consciousness back into what is. This is neither the future nor the past; this is just 'now'. All the frustrations, chaos, the triviality of daily life, stress, and depression is just external 'noise' that we end up carrying as baggage. The calm within gets lost, and we forget the beauty of silence. One attempt at overpowering your fear, and overcoming an unsurmountable challenge and positivity gets restored within yourself and you find yourself throwing away the negativity into the depth below. Becoming aware of every little moment is a beautiful gift. Every now and then, you realise, you need to get out of our own head and just live. Live in the joy of being alive.

The writer is Director, Business Development at Jumpin Heights



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Stress and the individual



Be it popular discussion to extant literature, stress and its effect on human health is often talked about. It's not because stress is a new problem. It's because now there is more awareness about how stress can or is having an impact on human beings. Stress has been talked about right from the ancient days when human beings were cave dwellers and the fear of the unknown created anxiety leading to stress. But the question is why, even with so much advancement in science and technology coupled with some people's ability to predict the future, stress still manages to bog us down? Is it that ignorance was bliss and awareness has made us more fearful, more paranoid? It's a pressing question that needs to be answered. There is a lot of information on the ill-effects of stress on health. For researchers, new areas like Psychobiology and Psychoneuroimmunology have emerged in Behavioural and Medical sciences. Yet, the problem remains. The simple reason is that the thought process of human beings in the evolutionary cycle has still remained programmed for the same basic instinct of survival. Interestingly, it is not just the human beings, but the animals too that worry about survival. The basic emotion of fear still continues to haunt humanity. Stress, we must understand, is not a cause. It is an effect that arises out of an emotional state. Psychologists talk about two kinds of stress — eustress and distress. While eustress is good stress that doesn't lead to negative consequences, it is distress that is harmful. However, at times, even too much of eustress may lead to negative consequences resulting out of euphoria. Nevertheless, we have to understand that stress is a serious issue in the present day society, causing several psychological problems including some that lead to suicide. The important thing that must be borne in mind is that stress is a reaction of an individual, a deliberate act. Thus, controlling stress depends on an individual's coping skills. The same emotional state can have a wide range of outcomes depending on how it is tackled. We, therefore, must focus on the stress tolerance capacity of the individual. The important question is how to raise this stress resilience. The first step lies in identifying that state. Since stress is a non-specific response, many a time it may not be possible for an individual to even realise that he is stressed. It is an outcome of the thought process and the remedy lies in changing the thought process. Since thought processes are conditioned mental states, it may require a lot of mental training for that to be reoriented. But it is certainly possible. Just like for training the body there are physical exercises, for shaping the mind, too, there are mental exercises. The basic step is changing the thought pattern. Rather than being skeptical about the intention of God, it is important to have full faith. This is the essential first step. Every day, you need to spend some time with God, praying to him, thinking about his kindness. The second step is talking to yourself. That means, be on your own sometimes every day. Talk to yourself. What have you been doing, what do you need to do? The third step is talking to genuine well-wishers who give positive vibes. Though all three steps are important, the last one is perhaps the most significant as it's difficult to identify such persons.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

THE IMPACT OF WITNESSING BULLYING

Turns out, witnessing violence in high school is as bad as being bullied. Students who witness violence in school at the age of 13 are at later risk of psycho-social and academic impairment at age 15, according to a new longitudinal study by researchers at Université de Montreal with colleagues in Belgium and France. The researchers statistically tested the relationship between witnessing school violence in Grade 8 and subsequent antisocial behaviour (drug use, delinquency), emotional distress (social anxiety, depressive symptoms), and academic adjustment (school achievement, engagement) in Grade 10. They also compared the contribution of different forms of witnessing school violence and compared them to experiencing violence directly over the long term.

CAN RYGB HELP PEOPLE BEAT OBESITY?



Obesity is a growing epidemic worldwide and a leading cause of death alongside heart disease and smoking. Bariatric surgery, specifically Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB), is the most effective treatment for obesity. With RYGB, many patients exhibit a reduction in taste preference for sweet and fatty foods, although this effect may only be temporary, according to a new research from Binghamton University, State University of New York. Professor Patricia DiLorenzo said, "People who have this surgery are what we call morbidly obese, meaning that they are at least 100 pounds overweight, and in many cases are diabetic. It's life or death for them." RYGB makes the stomach much smaller into what is called a pouch. This pouch bypasses part of the small intestine, so when you eat, your food enters a smaller stomach and empties right into the small intestine. This means that people cannot eat large meals anymore, leading to weight loss.

We may in our ignorance either think that God doesn't exist or that He is living somewhere above us, not much involved in whatever is going on here. This is far from truth. He is the owner of the whole creation. (Gita 5.29) How can God not be concerned about His creation? Rather, God is very much involved and has many responsibilities. This must be so because we, souls, are rather small and quite helpless to say the least. We need God's help at almost every step if we wish to exist well. Yes, we have free will and can choose to ignore God, but then, we more or less condemn ourselves. We keep on struggling till we drop dead. There is neither peace nor happiness. Material achievements do not satisfy us.

Therefore, God must help whoever chooses to turn to Him. Four kinds of persons do so. These are: Distressed, seekers of wealth, inquisitive, and wise. (7.16) God has to respond to all those who deserve, individually. Imagine what this means in terms of responsibility. How many of us are here on this planet? Even a small portion of us will be a very big number. But God handles it; He has to, because this is what He has chosen to do.

Yes, God does delegate some of His responsibilities to His many forms. God also uses many of us as His mediums (11.33); God empowers us. Classical

God's many responsibilities

Just like a parent is always a part of what his/her child does, God never runs away from the responsibility of guiding all his children across the globe in everything that they seek to do, says **AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI**

examples of mediums of God are spiritual preachers and writers. Then, there are those involved in social welfare activities. Researchers, scientists engaged in finding what can help the mankind are similarly empowered by God. These are great uses of the human life.

Still, God has to be very active. (3.22) Otherwise, godlessness will spread and there will be unwanted progeny. (3.24) God has to keep encouraging a belief in *dharm*a and goodness. He incarnates; He sends His representatives like Adi Shankaracharya; and He keeps on doing miracles in various parts of the world. It is also God's responsibility to see that no one misuses his/her power to harm others; He punishes such persons as He punished Ravana. Let us remember that we, souls, have been given just enough power to exercise our free will. If we gather more either by gaining it through *tapasya* or collecting a lot of



people like Hitler did and then misuse it, God must intervene as He did in case of Hitler through His material nature.

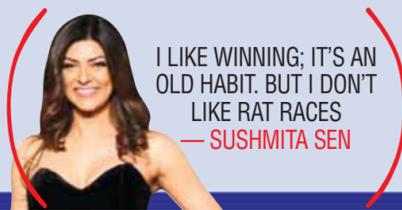
This is just one way God is active. There are several other ways. A famous example is of Nostradamus. This man

desired to know the future. It is said that He meditated for very long periods over a brass bowl filled with water. God responded and allowed Him to know about the future selectively about which Nostradamus wrote. Mother Teresa

wished to serve the humanity, and she needed money for this purpose. God provided her with that and in plenty. It enabled her to serve the poor, the dying, and the destitute.

God is active vis-à-vis all those souls, who aspire to connect with Him and seek His help. God responds to our prayers in the way He deems fit. God alerts His devotees of likely dangers in what they are doing or are thinking of doing. God gives precious intuitions to those who are linked to Him. How does one make spiritual progress? God gives those aspiring to do so through realisations, which cement one's faith in God. Yes, we have limited power intrinsically as souls but we don't lack anything if we are connected with God, who is unlimited. He takes the responsibility of all those who do so and responds to them individually.

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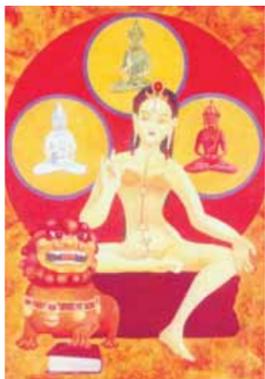


YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
This week your health is good. You will be emotionally balanced and in control. In case you face any health issues, stay calm and you will deal with them successfully. Treat your mind and body with care and compassion. At the work front, things are good for you. You should empathise with your colleagues and understand their point of view. This will bring positivity in your work environment. The role of senior woman is indicated. Taking her help or advice will be beneficial to your project. Those awaiting interview results, good news is on the cards. Your love life is in a very good phase. You and your partner are serious about the relationship. Ensure that you spend quality with your partner. If you are single, chances of 'new love' coming your way are bright.
Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
This week, you may face changes in your health. If you resist change, then it will have bad impact on your health. Try to keep your stress level under control. When in doubt, go back to the basics. Have adequate food, rest and proper exercise. This will help you stay healthy. You should meditate regularly and stay positive. At the work front, you may not have a great time. Chances are that you feel disengaged and demotivated. In such cases, you need to re-evaluate the situation and get a better understanding of the scenario. During this process, it is highly recommended to stay connected with the world else things can get worse. Be grateful for everything and act according to what you think is right. Love life seems to be in a good phase. Both you and your partner will be in touch with your inner voice.
Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This week your health is not in a good condition. And it is likely to deteriorate. You have the tendency to feel low when facing problems. So, if any health issue arises, it is suggested that you try to stay positive. Feeling powerless will not do you any good to you. Follow a health regime or if required, consult a healthcare professional. Meditation and yoga will help you connect with your inner strength. You will be excited about a new venture or a project that will come your way very soon. You will explore your creative side and this will make you take decisions and manifest your ideas. Don't let go of any opportunities. For those seeking higher positions, something positive is indicated. You will be aware of the issues in your relationship with your partner.
Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
You will witness an upswing in your energy as well as vitality. Those who are facing any health issues need to relax. A new and improvised mode of healing or a healer will come into your life this week. Always keep a positive attitude and help will be available if you seek it. At work, if you are way too ambitious then control yourself as you may find yourself stuck in a conflicting situation. It is very important that you respect the feelings of your colleagues else you might struggle in your professional life. Be careful about whom you trust at this time because betrayal from a colleague or a business partner is indicated. Make sure that your behaviour is impeccable. When it comes to relationships, you will doubt your own capabilities and underestimate yourself.
Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Ruby
Lucky day Tuesday



VRIGO Aug 23-Sep 22
You might have to face a serious health problem or might have been dealing with it for a while. Adopting a positive approach is the only way to get through these health issues. Try to get rid of the old and bad habits which are having a bad impact on your health. This is the right time to make a transition. There are alternate ways to heal you. You could either go on a vacation or even talk to people you haven't spoken to in ages. At the work front, you are progressing towards your goals. With your ambitious outlook and determination, you will find success. Ensure that you do not show any disregard to your colleagues while pursuing your goal as that can go against you. Those seeking employment will get their desired job. You will keep a great sense of calm in your relationship.
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week you will realise that you should live a life that will serve your needs. This helps improve your health in the long term. Try to not repeat your past mistakes and take up a step towards a healthy lifestyle. This time, trust your inner voice. Your positive attitude will help you recover from any chronic illness. Keep a positive outlook. At work, you are being overburdened with responsibilities. Even though you have achieved your goals, now you are facing the great commitments and responsibilities that come with it. It is very important that you prioritise your goals and implement a time management technique to avoid extra burden. You will definitely have a good time with your loved ones this week. You will socialise with everyone and will enjoy being the centre of attraction.
Lucky number 26
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
This week, constant worry about your health will keep you stressed and anxious. Ensure that you treat yourself well. It is very important to have adequate sleep, proper food and ample amount of water intake. Apart from all these, maintain a positive attitude. Follow a meditation routine and do breathing exercises to keep your mind calm. Career-wise, the situation is not favourable. You are bound to face some challenges. Do not hesitate to ask for a help from your trusted ones. Miracles happen every day, and you must believe in it. Focus on your work and do your bit; the situations will improve. Those in a relationship will face conflicts with partner. Other's views on your love life may cause tension in your relationship. In such a case be open to what comes your way.
Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



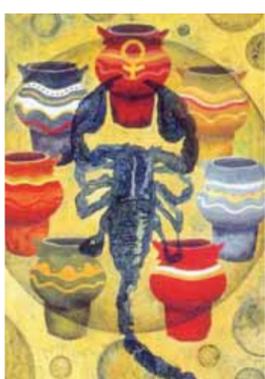
LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
Your health will remain good this week. If you have been facing any health problems, then it is likely that your stress and anxiety associated with health vanish this week. Your health is improving. If required, reach out to a practitioner or follow a good health regime. Your work life is satisfactory this week. Some of you may score well in your career. Showing concern towards your colleagues will do wonders at the work front. You may sense a problem before it arises. So, make a good use for your intuition. Keeping a positive attitude will help you sail through. Some of you may face issues with your partner. You have been dealing with these issues for a long time. It is better that you and your partner make some changes. Give space to your partner and trust them. Utilise this time to work on your emotions.
Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
You will have a peaceful week in terms of health. Those awaiting test results, stay calm, the results will be to your liking. Some of you have the tendency of daydreaming. Do not let this affect you. Dreaming big and not working on it will only lead to downfall. Make the most of this good phase and enhance your good habits. In professional life, you will experience success. You will be able to accomplish your goals and your efforts will be appreciated. A sense of recognition from peer or a boss will motivate to keep up with your hard work. But with success comes arrogance. So, make sure you are down to earth and don't adopt a superior attitude. Those seeking jobs might get something better than they had hoped for. Some of you might get emotionally hurt in a relationship.
Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This week, get up and take responsibility of your health. All the health problems that you are facing are due to your negligence in the past. If you still continue your negligent behaviour and avoid the consequences, you will only make things worse. Your inner peace is not at its best and it is very important that you regain your inner harmony to maintain a balance between your mind and body. This week, your career is moving faster than before and you are excited about this progress. Chances of a new and inspiring venture are there. Some of you may have to travel for business-related purposes. Enjoy this renewed energy, but do not make hasty decisions. Those awaiting interview results can expect good news. The week looks promising with positive energy in your relationship and hence you will be happy.
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
It is very important that you take care of your body. If you are facing any health problem, this due to your negligent attitude. Be aware of your body issues and start taking steps to maintain your health and well-being. If you need help, reach out to a healthcare professional. It is crucial to maintain a balance in your physical and mental well-being. Career-wise, you are not doing justice to your work. If you think that you can get success by standing behind your colleagues and taking credit for what they have done, then please stop dreaming. This gain is temporary. Face the issues that arise and take responsibility to sort it out. Be very careful while doing a business dealing. Try to keep yourself aloof from work politics. Long term success depends on your approach towards work.
Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
This week, you should find balance between your mind and body. If you have been down with some health issues then you should have a positive approach to recover from it. If you feel negative, things might go bad. In case you need help, reach out to those you trust or consult a healthcare professional. Your health is in your hands. Therefore, rise above all the miseries and stay positive. This week is very important for your career. You have been successful in achieving your goals. This will give you a sense of attainment. Some of you may get an opportunity to work overseas. Single Pisces, this is a good time to go out and mingle. Beginning of a new relationship is indicated. Those in a committed relationship, your bond with your partner is likely to grow stronger and deeper.
Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Sunday

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Astrology for healthy body and mind

Mind and matter are both rooted to a common pool of energies flowing through the cosmos, and are therefore, inter alia connected. So, no wonder, when mind is under stress for whatever reasons, it has related bearing on the person's health status. In the same vein, if physical health comes under strain, it disturbs one's mind-state. It simply implies that in the event of ailment, a holistic approach is needed to get over the problem. The other day, worried parents of a man suffering from ulcerative colitis came asking: "What lies in store of our son's destiny in so far as his health status is concerned?" "Well, it is unfair to chart out your son's health profile in finite terms," I suggested. For, it depends on so many factors. If he has health issues, it certainly needs medical help, and I am sure he must be undergoing treatment. Medicine will play its part. But simultaneously, he has to work upon his thought process. Otherwise, medicine may suppress his suffering for a while, but problem may keep arising again and again. Explaining further, I suggested that if your son is suffering from ulcerative colitis, it would mean that the fire ele-

ment is higher than the desired level. That leads to excessive bile secretion in the body, which has been corroding his intestine. If there is excess of fire element, it will find reflection in the person's usual conduct also. A look into the man's chart reveals that mind signifying Moon occupies a movable sign Aries marked with fire, which is ruled by Mars. That speaks of a hot headed person. He would be impulsive, aggressive, intolerant, impatient, and judgmental. He wishes to be at the head of things, not open to listening or counsel of others. In fact, it is difficult for him to digest any contrarian views. A person with high ambitions and desires may jump into action targeting his dream destination without applying proper forethought. Evidently, for lack of the required level of preparedness, he remains vulnerable to be caught unaware when confronted with challenging situations. It is only when put to difficult situations, that he applies his mind. But then such characters carry the potential to be the best crisis managers also. The Sun, the planet identified with his individuality, occupies another movable sign Capricorn. It speaks of a being



armed with leadership abilities, keen to move in an organised way, but on his own exclusive terms, as would his *lagna* sign Gemini imply. Gemini born carry the tendency to have only 'yes-persons' around. So long you agree with their viewpoints, you remain their best friend. The moment any contrarian view is offered, they can't take it kindly, and feel offended. If that was not enough, the *lagna*-lord Mercury occupies the *nakshatra* owned by erratic Rahu, which is conjunct fiery Mars in a watery sign Pisces. That leaves him boiling when confronted with an advisory that would be at variance with his perceptions. He may then lose his sense of order and direction, and misdirect his energies towards unproductive ends. The Sun is posited in the lunar constellation owned by Moon. It, therefore, carries the fiery streaks of Moon. Not simply that, the two are placed adverse to each other. That makes him vulnerable to a lot of stressful situations. What further compounds his problem is his volatile emotionality. For, emotions signifying Venus is placed adverse to both the luminaries. That makes him too touchy and sensitive, who may get over exercised even on trivial issues. He may keep unnecessarily mulling over them

for long. In a way, it can be said that from within, he remains a live boiling pot. Evidently with dissipation of so much fire within, his gross-body has to come under strain. Now, in terms of his specific ailment, the *lagna* lord Mercury occupies the *nakshatra* owned by Rahu, which is conjunct Mars, the sixth lord identified with ailment. So, his health profile is fragile. Placement of eighth lord Saturn in the sixth house implies long drawn ailment. The sixth cusp sub-lord Venus occupies the fiery sign Sagittarius, and is posited in the *nakshatra* owned by Ketu, which occupies Virgo sign identified with lower intestine. That makes him vulnerable to long drawn problem of bowel genesis. Now to get over his problem, it is important that the man works upon his thought process as much as he has to follow medical prescription. Remember, a healthy mind facilitates a healthy body chemistry. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: pioneerqueries@bharatastro.com Website: www.bharatastro.com