

OPINION 8
TRADE AGREEMENTS
WILL STRENGTHEN TIES'

WORLD 12
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TEENAGE GIRL: JOHN KERRY

SPORT 15
LIVERPOOL HOST
PSG IN CL CLASH

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2018; PAGES 16 ₹3



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TO BE MANI'S
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14 VIVACITY

Cong bids to end Goa stalemate

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

alliance and illness of Parrikar," Kavlekar said.

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

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

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

The solution should be in sync with what the allies have been requesting, he said, adding that his party had not given any specific proposal to the BJP on a change of leadership. "Yes, we have told them (the BJP) if they are considering it (change in leadership), then change should be given to the senior-most Minister. We continue to stick to our demand," Dhavalikar said.

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

POLITICAL impasse

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- The State is being ruled by the BJP-led alliance with the saffron party having 14 MLAs
- BJP allies Goa Forward Party and MGP have three MLAs each
- Three Independents and an MLA from Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) also support the BJP
- The Congress has 16 MLAs in the State Assembly

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Continued on Page 6

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

Khelokey to khiloley, PM tells children on 68th b'day in Varanasi

PTI/PNS ■ VARANASI

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

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

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

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

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

After Modi left the school, one of the students said, "Modi kaka told us 'khelokey to khiloley' (you will bloom only if you



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

play). "I came to your school on the special day of Vishwakarma jayanti. My greetings to everyone on this special day," he told the students.

Earlier, the students welcomed him enthusiastically saying "swagatam PM." The school is aided by a non-profit organisation, Room to Read.

The children also presented the PM greeting cards. Senior BJP leader and local MLA Neelkanth Tewari said that as part of Modi's birthday celebrations 68 cakes weighing 68 kg each were cut at 68 locations in Varanasi.

Tewari, who is a UP Minister, said, "Special prayers were being offered in 68 temples to pray for the long life of PM. About a thousand earthen lamps have been lit at 90 locations."

Medical camps were held at 72 places, he added. A clean-

ness drive was launched on the streets leading to various ghats in the city, including the Ganga ghat and the Vishwanath Temple. At Panini Kanya Vidyalyaya, a 'yagna' (special worship) was conducted for Modi's long life.

Modi was elected to the Lok Sabha for the first time in 2014 from Varanasi and Vadodara, but chose to retain the former saying "Mujhe to maa ganga ne bulaya hai". Earlier, on his arrival, the PM was received at the airport by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and state BJP president Mahendra Nath Pandey.

After spending the night here, Modi will Tuesday inaugurate or lay the foundation stone of various development projects, cumulatively worth more than ₹500 crore, according to a statement by the PM's office (PMO).

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/SONEPAT

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

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

"The victim hails from Bishanpur in Banka district of



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

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

"Due to security reasons, Pathak refused as the 18101 Muri Express train was approaching, following which the accused beat him and

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

The SHO said the Muri Express stopped after getting a distress signal and rushed Pathak to a hospital in Sonapat where he received emergency first aid. He was then taken to the Northern Railway Central Hospital in Delhi and finally shifted to Saroj Hospital in Rohini, whereas Chandan has been admitted to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, said the SHO.

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

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

Continued on Page 6

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

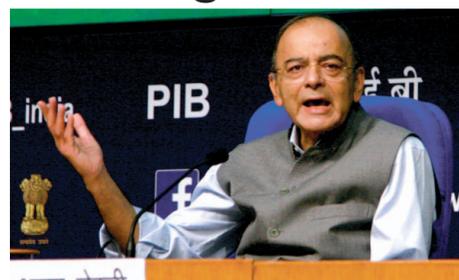
The Government on Monday unveiled another important step to address the problems being faced by the public sector banks in view of shrinking credit growth and ballooning NPAs. As part of the measures, the Centre announced that State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB), Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be merged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

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

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

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

The Modi Government had constituted a ministerial committee headed by Jaitley in October to oversee merger



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

prospects of State-owned PSU banks. The other committee also included Union Railways and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

State Bank of India last year merged with itself five of its subsidiary banks and taking over Bharatiya Mahila Bank, a niche State-run lender for women. As was in case of the SBI, no employee of the three banks would have service con-

ditions that are adverse to their present one.

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

Continued on Page 6

2019 UP Board exam schedule announced

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

UP Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad on Monday announced the schedule for High School and Intermediate examinations. The UP Board exams for both the High School and the Intermediate classes will begin from February 7 2019. The High School examinations will be conducted in 14 working days and will conclude on February 28 and the Intermediate examinations will be conducted in 16 working days and will conclude on March 2.

Keeping in view the interest of the students, the timings have been changed for the examinations. The morning shift will commence from 8 am to 11.15 am instead of 7.30 am and the evening shift will start from 2 pm to 5.15 pm. The results are likely to be declared by April 30.

Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, while announcing the schedule at a press conference held on Monday, said that the schedule was prepared keeping in view public holidays and important dates for Kumbh Mela.

Addressing media persons, he said that a number of important changes had been made in the past one year for bettering the system in terms of course content, conduct of examination, appointment of teachers and regularity of sessions and more changes were likely in future. He said that the state government was mulling over the idea of having an education tribunal where the teachers could appeal instead of rushing to the court.

Giving the figures for candidates who had registered for the examination, he said that for the High School examinations, a total of 3203041 candidates, which included 1761638 boys and 1441403 girls, had registered and for the Intermediate examinations, a total of 25,84947 candidates, including 11878 girls and 1397079 boys, had registered. "This year in comparison to the previous year, there had been a decrease of 4,53231 students registered in High School and 398039 students in Intermediate bringing in a decrease of a total number of 8,51,270 candidates," he said.

CAPSULE

NO ODD-EVEN RELIEF FOR TWO-WHEELERS: SC

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

SECURE EVMS USED IN DUSU POLLS: HC TO DU

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

BULLET-RIDDLED BODY OF LANCE NAIK FOUND

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

Democratic RSS engaged in rashtra nirman: Bhagwat

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"RSS ka kaam vyakti nirman hai aur RSS iski methodology hai," Bhawati said sum-

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

He said the RSS is not concerned about who would run the Government as "this is to be decided by the people" of the country who should be endowed with "achcha acharan" (good character). Bhagwat re-emphasised that his organisation is working to raise a society where people work for every one's progress and well-being. "Har mohalla, gaon main aisi toli khari karna, achche swayamsevak khare karna, Sangh yahi hai, isse jyada kuch nahi hai", the RSS leader said.

Delivering his address on the first day of the three-day lecture series here at Vigyan Bhawan, the RSS head said there is great misconception that the Sangh is a "dictatorial organisation" and asserted that the outfit works with the con-

sensus among all swayamsevaks and has no place for a remote control. He said even the founder of the RSS, Dr Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, decided on running "shakhas" three months after it came into existence in 1925 when other swayamsevaks so decided.

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

The RSS chief said the RSS is self-reliant and does not take a "single pause" from outside as it is run with voluntary contribution of RSS works described as "gurudakshina".

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

He said the RSS does not run after the publicity. "We

remained faceless for so long so that it does not lead to arrogance" among those becoming known and famous.

The RSS chief said the publicity department was set up only in 1980. "Meri prasadhi nahin, karya ki prasadhi" (not my fame, but that of my work), is the aim of a swayamsevak in Sangh, Bhagwat said.

Bhagwat prefaced the RSS exposition by first giving a detailed account of Hedgewar's work in the freedom struggle and his thought saying "to understand the RSS, start with Hedgewar".

The RSS leader quoted the RSS founder telling swayamsevaks that they should be devoting themselves like a seed does by surrendering itself to soil.

On Tuesday, Bhagwat would give his understanding of Hindu and Hindutva and on the last day of the 3-day event, he would reply to the written questions.



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

Govt committed to provide better health care: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Bharatiya Janata Party government was committed to providing better health care at the doorsteps of the poor and was hence building infrastructure across the state.

"This government is committed to improve its delivery system and it is our commitment to the people. We will be able to fulfil our promise if we can strengthen health care by providing the best possible treatment to the people at their doorsteps," Yogi said during inspection of Gorakhpur District Hospital on Monday.

The CM said that the government had taken steps to ensure that doctors came to hospital and primary health centres regularly and there was enough stock of medicines.

"Patients coming to these hospitals must get medicines from there. This is our priority,"

he said.

Yogi also enquired about the status of 100-bed NICU section which is coming up at the District Hospital.

"This region has been facing the menace of encephalitis. This separate section will help in providing better facilities to young patients. Also, underweight children will get better treatment here," he said.

Later, Yogi went to a Leprosy Centre in Chandralok colony and distributed sweets and fruits among the inmates on the occasion of the 68th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He also enquired about the facilities there and asked doctors to ensure cleanliness.

The Chief Minister also asked district officials to provide residential accommodation to leprosy patients on a priority basis. "The administration should ensure that their children go to school on a regular basis. These children must be taken care of," he said.



Meanwhile, taking a dig at the attempts of opposition parties bid to stitch an alliance for the Lok Sabha polls, the CM said "opportunistic politics" and a tie-up of those "who support corruption" would push the country towards instability.

He said everyone knew the motive behind the alliance and the character of the people in the alliance was also known to all.

On Bahujan Samaj Party SP chief Mayawati's statement on Sunday that there would be an agreement for grand alliance only if her party got a respectable share of seats, Yogi Adityanath said, "Opportunistic politics

and alliance of those who support corruption will push the country towards instability. The aim to put hindrance in the country's development will never be successful."

"It is necessary for wise people to learn lesson from the past," he said.

To a question on the death of two brothers, belonging to Musahar community, at a village under Kushinagar district last week, allegedly due to hunger, the CM said, "They did not die of hunger as they had the ration cards... their death was due to tuberculosis."

"A probe is underway to find out whether they got free treatment as it is available under DOTS for TB patients," Adityanath said.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party workers celebrated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday in style and distributed sweets in the hospital while some of them participated in Swachhata campaign.

A noble initiative of Prison dept on PM's birthday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The UP Prison department initiated a noble move on the 68th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday by arranging money to pay fine for 68 convicted criminals and ensure their release from jail.

An official communiqué said that after finding that many convicts had completed their terms but were still languishing in jails as they had failed to arrange money to pay the fine imposed on them, the Prison department brass contacted non-governmental organisations, social organisations, clubs, trusts and arranged to clear the fines of 68 convicts lodged in 29 jails of the state.

On Monday, the fines of all these convicts were deposited and this ensured their release.

A maximum of seven convicts each were released from Agra and Kanpur jails while six walked out of Gorakhpur jail on Monday.

RFID tag made must for goods carriers in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the aim to curb evasion of Goods and Services Tax, the state government has made it mandatory for transport carriers to use radio frequency identification device (RFID) tag along with e-way bill from October 1.

Though e-way rules require the use of RFID tag, no other state has made it mandatory since the start of e-way bill in April this year.

The e-way bill rules mandate that a vehicle carrying goods worth over ₹50,000 must furnish details electronically on the common portal and generate e-way bill.

The portal captures the details of supplier, recipient and the value of goods transacted, and this provides the Tax department with an anti-evasion tool, especially for monitoring business-to-consumer (B2C) traders.

"Before transportation of

such goods in Uttar Pradesh, vehicles will have to get a RFID tag and get it embedded on windscreen of the vehicle carrying goods and get it mapped to e-way bill system," a notification issued by state Commercial Tax department said.

In the absence of RFID tags on carriers, tax officials found it difficult to intercept cargo due to lack of intelligence. The enforcement measure has often been based on trial-and-error approach as check-posts on state borders have been dismantled after the e-way bill became effective.

"UP is ahead of other states in notifying RFID implementation. This will ensure real-time flow of data, captured from RFID on moving vehicles to e-way bill portal without technological glitch," said a Commercial Tax department official.

"With RFID readers set up at strategic locations and toll

plazas, random checking would not be required. Enforcement of RFID tag would also help in keeping track on inter-state transit of goods from UP," he said.

By another order, the UP Commercial Tax department directed all departments and agencies to ensure tax deduction at source for collection of two per cent of GST on all goods purchased above ₹2.5 lakh.

Courier agencies have also been directed to charge two per cent GST as TDS and deposit it with the department.

Both orders will come into force from October 1 next.

Additional Commissioner (Commercial Tax) BD Dwivedi said that provision for two per cent was there in GST Act but it was not enforced but from now on, all government departments, corporations would come under its ambit but this would not apply on purchases below ₹2.5 lakh.

United oppn no threat to BJP: Keshav Maurya

Mathura (PTI): Uttar Pradesh's Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya does not view the united opposition as a threat to the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

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

Recently, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati had said her party would join the mahagathbandhan if it was offered a respectable number of seats.

"We are not bothered about Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav or Rahul Gandhi. We are working for 73+ seats and how we can support the Prime Minister," he said.

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

results.

Speaking on the amended SC/ST Act, the Deputy Chief Minister said he could assure the people that its provisions would never be misused.

"In spite of winning 73 seats, we could not win in the rest seven seats in the state in 2014 general polls. However, now our aim is to ensure victory in 100 per cent seats," Maurya is said to have told BJP activists during an interaction, according to party media in-charge Pradeep Goswami.

Maurya told the party workers that they had to play a greater role in the 2019 Lok Sabha election compared to the state polls held last year, Goswami said, adding that Maurya advised the workers to apprise the public about various schemes launched by the Modi government.

Maurya later paid obeisance to the presiding deity at Banke Behari temple in Vrindaban.



BJP leaders offering prayers at the temple on party state office campus on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 68th birthday, in Lucknow on Monday

Priest battered to death in Deoria

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the murder of three Ajujaris in Etah and of another in Aligarh on Saturday afternoon, a priest of a Deoria temple was battered to death in broad daylight on Monday.

Before the police could take cognisance of the case, the angry locals caught the assailant and lynched him, in Sadar Kotwali area.

Circle officer (Sadar) Varun Mishra said that they were informed that Moti Yadav (65), a priest of Sakrapur village, was battered to death by his neighbour Pintu Yadav on Monday morning.

The CO said that before the police reached the spot, the agitated villagers nabbed the assailant and assaulted him. He said on reaching the spot, the police rescued the injured assailant and rushed him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

A case was registered and a heavy police force has been deployed in the area to avert any untoward incident.

In Farrukhabad, two youths were found murdered

under mysterious circumstances in Jahenaganj locality on Sunday night. Farrukhabad district police chief Santosh Kumar Mishra said that the police were informed about the bodies of two youths lying on the main road at Jahenaganj area on Monday morning.

On reaching the spot, the police managed to ascertain their identities of the deceased as Anil Pratap Singh (37) and Godhan (29) of Thada in Saurikh locality of Kannauj.

A Hyundai Santro car was also found abandoned at some distance from the place where the bodies were lying.

The victims' families revealed that the duo had left together on Sunday evening and they had launched a search when both did not return home till late in the night. While the police could not suspect any motive behind the murder, the cops suspect that an affair might have resulted in their deaths.

While Anil was married, Godhan was a bachelor.

The bodies were sent for autopsy and a case was registered. Investigations are on.

Shivpal unveils SSM flag

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Secular Morcha founder Shivpal Singh Yadav unveiled the flag of his outfit on Monday.

The flag has three bands of red, yellow and green along with photographs of Shivpal and Samajwadi Party patron Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Soon after its launch, the cars in Shivpal's motorcade were seen sporting the new SSM flag on Monday evening.

The SSM also offered a ticket to Mulayam Singh Yadav from his bastion, Mainpuri, for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Shivpal, who had a long war of attrition with his nephew and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, said, "We want Netaji (Mulayam) to contest on our party ticket in the coming general election from Mainpuri seat."

Soon after the launch of SSM, Shivpal had released a list of TV panellists and speakers that included former SP MLA Sharda Pratap Shukla, Shadab Fatima, Nawab Ali Akbar, Deepak Mishra, Sudhir Singh, Professor Dileep Yadav, Abhishek Singh Ashu, Mohammad Farhat Raees



Khan and Arvind Yadav. Most of them were either sidelined or shunted out by the SP in the past.

Shivpal, the MLA from Jaswant Nagar, also claimed that many SP leaders were in touch with him and would join the SSM soon.

"We will also get the party registered with the Election Commission of India," he said.

Shivpal said the aim of his new outfit was to emerge as a political power to bring a change in UP and the country. "The aim of the SSM is to emerge as a political power and bring a change in the state and country so as to ensure development of all," Yadav said inaugurating a function at the Saifai Sports stadium here.

Meanwhile, on Monday, SP

chief Akhilesh Yadav said in Lucknow that he was confident of stitching a grand opposition alliance to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2019 general election.

The SP president said the party would join an anti-BJP alliance for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls even if it would require taking a few steps backward.

"We have to show them (BJP) the door. SP will enter into an alliance for ousting the BJP even if it means going a couple of steps backward," Akhilesh Yadav told reporters after the Vishkarma Jayanti programme at the party headquarters here.

"Everyone is fed up of the BJP and they want it out of power. I want to assure you that an alliance will happen in UP. Let the time come... We are confident of forming an alliance for the 2019 elections. The opposition wants the BJP to be defeated in the next polls," the SP chief said.

His statement came a day after Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said that her party was ready for an alliance only if it was given a 'respectable' number of seats.

SP leader set on fire by her in-laws, critical

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a sensational incident reported from Jaunpur, senior leader of Samajwadi Party, Sangeeta Yadav, was critically injured when her in-laws allegedly tried to torch her on Monday.

The police claimed that a kin of the victim alleged that Sangeeta's parents-in-law called her to their room on Sunday night, doused her with kerosene and set her afire.

The SP leader, who was deputy chairperson of Lalit Kala Academy during the previous SP regime and enjoyed the status of a minister of state, was reported to be critical at Jaunpur district hospital.

Several senior SP leaders visited the district hospital to enquire about her health.

Elsewhere in Moradabad, a 15-year-old girl, student of class 11, was raped and later murdered on Sunday.

As per reports, the victim was alone in her home at

Bhagatpur locality of Moradabad on Saturday afternoon, when a youth barged into the house and raped her.

When her parents returned, the girl narrated her trauma after which the father contacted the pradhan, who asked him not to register a case and promised to identify the miscreant and punish him.

But after learning that the pradhan was looking for him, the miscreant visited the girl's house on Sunday evening and strangled her to death to ensure that his identity was not divulged.

After the incident, the victim's father registered a case with the local police. Efforts are on to ascertain the identity of the killer and nab him.

In a separate incident, a girl from Jalandhar (Punjab) complained that a youth from Milak area of Rampur befriended her on Facebook and later invited her to Rampur where he drugged and raped her.

She alleged that the accused

took her to a mosque and forced her to embrace Islam. When she refused, the miscreant brutally assaulted her and threatened to upload her obscene video clips on social media.

With the girl in his trap, the miscreant called her to Rampur several times where he and his friends took turns with her and also tried to push her into flesh trade.

Circle officer of Milak, NP Singh, said the girl was medically examined, a case was registered and one of the accused was arrested.

Efforts are on to nab the remaining four accused, who are absconding.

Meanwhile, the body of a 60-year-old man was found in a village in Ballia, police said Monday. According to Superintendent of Police Shriparna Ganguly, Videshi Rajbhar was found dead in Dumri village. He was allegedly killed late on Sunday night.

CLASSIFIEDS

नीलामी सूचना

25.09.2018, 3:00 बजे उठाराज्य खाद्य एवं आवश्यक वस्तु निगम, 17-गोखले मार्ग, लखनऊ निष्प्रायोज्य एम्बेसडर कार: ५०पी० 32-ए०एस०-९454 की नीलामी, सिस्कोरिटी रू० 5,000/- नगद/आई.पी.सिंह एण्ड सन्स

QUICK TAKES

SIBLINGS MOWED DOWN BY TRUCK

Muzaffarnagar: A brother and his sister, both in their twenties, were allegedly crushed to death by a truck in Muzaffarnagar district on Monday. Suman (23) and his brother, Tejbir Singh (20), were travelling on a bike when it was hit by a speeding truck near Kailashnagar village under Ratan Puri police station. The driver escaped with the vehicle and the bodies were sent for post-mortem.

BUS CONDUCTOR ROBBED OF ₹22,000

Etah: The conductor of a UP Roadways bus was robbed by two armed motorcycle-borne persons in Etah district, police said. Santosh was going to his

home after getting his bus parked at the Buddha Vihar depot late on Saturday night. The incident took place in Shanti Nagar area, where ₹22,000, ticket-vending machine and mobile phone were looted from him by the two miscreants.

POLICE CONSTABLE COMMITS SUICIDE

Lakhimpur Kheri: A 32-year-old police constable committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of a room at his rented house in Sikatiha locality here on Monday. "Ravi Tomar, who had joined (Lakhimpur) Kheri police in 2016, committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of a room," Superintendent of Police (SP) Ramlal Verma said.

Mathura gearing up for Chhappan Bhog fest

Mathura (PTI): Mathura is gearing up for 'Chhappan Bhog Mahotsava', a three-day festival during which devotees make lavish offerings comprising 56 dishes to Lord Krishna in Govardhan. Elaborate preparations are being made for the festival beginning September 21, according to the organisers. The festival will begin with circumambulation of the sacred Govardhan Hill by thousands of pilgrims, said Murari Agrawal, the founder president of Sri Giriraj Seva Samiti. Prior to the main event on September 23, activists of Sri Giriraj Seva Samiti will make a human chain to move prasadam from Annapurna Prasad Bhandar to the seat of the principal deity, he said.

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6-year-old boy drowns in JM Park lake

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A six-year-old boy drowned in the Janeshwar Mishra Park lake in Gomti Nagar on Monday afternoon. The police are investigating the case.

As per reports, the boy, identified as Krishna of Gwari village, along with boys of his age group, reached the park while playing some time on Monday afternoon. He and his playmates then reached the lake inside the park. Later, Krishna fell into the lake and died around 2 pm.

His friends cried for help and security guards and divers fished out the boy. He was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohiya Hospital where he was declared "brought dead."

Gomti Nagar SHO DP Tiwari said the family had not lodged any complaint as yet. "Legal proceedings will be initiated if they lodge any complaint," he said. The officer added that the boy was standing while leaning against the railing at the lake and lost his balance when he slipped into it.

Barring piece of information, the police were yet to collect details of sequence of incident till late at night. When asked how Krishna reached the lake, the SHO said Krishna, along with his friends, reached

the lake after ignoring instructions from security guards or by tricking them. But the SHO was not in the know of the names of boys accompanying Krishna.

Contrary to the police claim, it surfaced that security guards had strict instructions to keep a watch on minors reaching there without their parents or any adult to avoid such mishaps since a similar incident was reported in the past. The police failed to explain why the guards could not spot Krishna who was only six-year-old. The other surprising thing in the case was that life guards were not present at the spot when the mishap occurred. The police contested the claim and said that life guards immediately swung into action and they pulled out the boy but he could not be saved.

The residents said Krishna's family started searching for him after he was not found outside his house. In the process, they asked some of the children playing there and were told that they had seen Krishna and some other boys going towards the park. Since their house is located close to the park, they went there to search for him and later reached the lake only to find Krishna drowned.

Shots fired during brawl over property row; girl injured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A 12-year-old girl suffered firearm injuries after her family members during a brawl over property dispute in Madaion late Sunday night. The victim is admitted to Trauma Centre and the police are investigating the case.

As per reports, the family members of the victim, identified as Neetu of Mubarakpur village, had a rivalry with Pramod and Amod, both of Palhari village of Madaion. Around 11 pm, the brother duo reached Neetu's house and a brawl ensued. It was alleged that Pramod and Amod opened fire on Neetu's cousin Dharmendra. However, as the attackers missed their 'target', the bullet hit Neetu in her jaws and she slumped down. The attackers fled the scene sensing danger. The family informed the police and a team reached the place for investigation.

The cops rushed the girl to Trauma Centre where her condition is said to be improving. Police are yet to register a case in this connection. "The family had not given any complaint as yet and so no case was registered. We have not arrested any one," Madaion inspector Pradeep Kumar Singh said. He said the police conducted raid and detained one of the accused identified as Amod. "He is being interrogated," the police said.

Contrary to police claim, the media cell of Lucknow

System failure exposed

Lucknow (PNS): Lack of coordination surfaced between the police and the media cell of Lucknow police in the Madaion violence. After the incident was reported at 11 pm on Sunday, the Madaion police swung into damage control mode by delaying the information about the incident. They said the police were yet to reach the place for investigation and that a team was busy in transporting the girl to Trauma Centre. On the other hand, the media cell spokesman flashed a message stating that the accused had been arrested in the Madaion case while praising the police. The message was flashed around 1.27 am on Monday.

On Monday, during routine briefing at the SSP's camp office, when the details about the arrest was asked and the media cell officials inquired the same, they

were told by the Madaion police that no arrest had been made in the case. The cell officials were told that one of the accused Amod was detained and no case was registered. When this came to light, the mediemen argued with cell officials and they were showed the message that was sent the SSP's PRO on his CUG number. As police spokesman AK Singh, who handles the media briefing, was not present, another official, who was assigned the task, asked the Madaion police but he was also told that no arrest had been made. This created a lot of confusion over the arrest of the miscreants and also exposed the lack of coordination. Sources in Police department said the SHOs/SOs did not receive calls from the media cell to brief them about the details of an incident.

location was found to be in Shahjahanpur at the time of the incident. "Pramod had showed a travel ticket of a roadways bus to the police to prove his innocence. The police are cross-checking the same," the sources said. Contrary to their claim, the family of the girl said Amod and Pramod wanted to grab the land from them. "They used to bully us every now and then and we had also complained to the police about the same. But as Pramod is an advocate and is on good terms with the cops, the police took his side only," they claimed.



Mourners walking on burning coals as they perform 'aag par matam' commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain and his companions, at Asafi Imambara on Monday

UPHDB to seal properties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

UP Housing Development Board will seal over a dozen properties in Rajajipuram and Indira Nagar areas for the violation of the land use. They will be sealed during a drive to be launched after the conclusion of Moharram. Notices were issued to their owners to wind up their commercial activities. Housing commissioner AK Chauhan regretted that no concrete action was initiated

against the violators in the past and that was the reason for their mushrooming growth and added that residents in a large number were also strongly opposing the misuse of the land. UPHDB officials held a meeting with the district administration last week urging the latter to provide them police squad while carrying out the drive. The District Magistrate assured them of police escort after the festival of Moharram. As per official record, there are seven resi-

dential accommodations which are being used for commercial activities in Rajajipuram area. Out of seven, three are marriage halls, two shopping centres, a restaurant-cum-fast food outlet and a service station of a leading automobile company.

In Indira Nagar, there are two big showrooms of a textile company, a restaurant-cum-banquet hall, a shopping centre and a show room engaged in selling mobile phones which are to be sealed.

Cop roughed by shop-owners

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A group of shop-owners pummeled a traffic constable, smashed his mobile phone when he tried to capture their act at Awadh Nursing Home crossing under Manak Nagar police station on Monday noon. The traffic constable's only 'fault' was that he had dared teach them rules of the road and asked them to clear encroachment outside shops to make the passage clear for traffic movement.

As per reports, the constable, identified as Dharamveer, was deployed at the crossing to man the traffic flow. Around noon, the road between the Alambagh and Awadh Nursing Home crossing was jam packed after the vehicle volume suddenly swelled. After having identified that the vehicles parked outside the shops were causing the hindrance, Dharamveer walked up to shop-owners asking them to shift the vehicles to make the road clear for traffic flow. When he was inspecting, he noticed that a car (UP32EM/3100), parked outside a lodge also had hindered the road and asked the owner to shift it. Lodge-owners, identified as Gagandeep and his cousin Rinku, opposed the constable. This snowballed into a verbal spat and a huge number of shop-owners gathered at the scene.

As the verbal spat intensified, the traffic constable threatened to challan the vehicles and this irked Gagandeep, Rinku

and their supporters. It was alleged that all of them then attacked the traffic constable, tore his uniform, hit him on his head and face and also looted his gold chain. The flustered constable then started filming the act of the attackers in his mobile phone. The accused and their supporters snatched the constable's mobile phone and smashed it.

As some of the commuters got sympathetic towards the constable, seeing him being roughed up on the road and in full public view, they intervened and that resulted into a stampede-like situation. The constable, somehow, slipped away from the scene and informed his seniors. He later lodged a complaint in this connection with the Manak Nagar police. Interestingly, the senior cops from Traffic department did not respond to the distress call. What was more interesting is that the local police reached the scene when the attackers had fled. Giving details, the police spokesman said a case for rioting, attacking and hindering

a government servant from discharging his duty, looting his gold chain and on other counts had been registered against Gagandeep, Rinku and more than 25 unknown persons. He said the police teams were conducting raids to nab the accused persons. Contrary to claims made by the constable, some of the shop-owners said the vehicles were parked on the road and also close to the divider under the Metro track depending on availability of the space. "There is no parking arrangement in the locality. The constable was trying to intimidate shop-owners for some vested interest," they claimed.

WONAN KILLED FOR DOWRY

A 27-year-old woman was allegedly killed for dowry by her husband and her in-laws in Gosainganj on Monday. She was identified as Shivdaee. The police adopted dilly-dallying tactics in the case but later registered a case of dowry death when senior cops pulled up Gosainganj SHO. The family alleged that Shivdaee's husband and her in-laws were torturing her for dowry since marriage and had threatened to kill her one day. The police said the accused persons were being hunted. The SHO claimed that the woman was found hanging from the ceiling with a saree tied around her neck while her parents claimed that they found her lying dead on the floor of her house.

Youth, girl die in car accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A youth and a girl died while their friend and another girl escaped with injuries after their car overturned on Shaheed Path in the wee hours of Monday in Gosainganj.

The incident exposed the Lucknow police insensitivity towards victims of road mishap. Also, the police had only half-baked information about the incident till late at night. Police suspect that the youths would be partying while driving the car and that led to the accident. An overspeeding car veered off all a sudden near Ekana Stadium on Shaheed Path around 3 am on Monday. Later, it overturned as it hit against the road divider and came on the other side of the road. The occupants in the car suffered serious injuries in the mishap. Villagers rushed to the scene and got busy in rescue operations. "Some of us called the police but the phone was not attended. We kept trying and also dialled No.100," they said. Gosainganj SHO Balwant Sahi said that the group was coming from Kanpur and they had to go to Gomti Nagar. He said the deceased were identified as Harish Kamran (28) of Kanpur and Reena (23) of Sonbadra. "The injured were identified as Shah Nawaz Hussain and Twinkle, both of Kanpur and in the age group of 20 to 25 years," he said.



Devotees immersing a Lord Ganesh idol into Gomti river on Monday

Chinhat: 5 bodies recovered in a week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The bodies of an unidentified man and woman were recovered from Sharda Canal in Chinhat on Monday afternoon intensifying the sensation which had gripped the locality since last week during which three unidentified bodies were recovered from the canal and in Chinhat only.

As per reports, an employee of an Irrigation department deployed at the regulator spot-

ted the bodies and alerted the police. Later, a team, led by sub-inspector Abhishek Tiwari, reached the scene. Giving information, Chinhat SHO RK Singh said both the bodies were in a highly decomposed state and beyond recognition. "They seemed to be several days old and flowed to the place from some other place in the city or from some neighbouring district," he said.

The police spokesman said the man was clad in a jeans and

a shirt while the woman was semi clad. "The bodies were sent for autopsy and further investigations are on. Efforts to ascertain the identities of the victims are on," the police spokesman said. The recovery of the bodies of a man and a woman came as a hot topic to discuss for the public. "The police had recovered three unidentified bodies as yet and the count reached five after the recovery made by the police on Monday. Earlier, two bodies of unidentified women

were recovered from the Sharda canal on Saturday and a body of an unidentified woman was recovered on Thursday," they said. Not only this, the Chinhat police recovered a body of an unidentified man from near railway tracks on Sunday. The man had his right leg and private parts severed. The police had claimed that the man died after he met with some mishap while crossing the tracks. The identity of the man could not be ascertained on Monday too.

'Will be happy if film inspires aspiring entrepreneurs'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma, whose 'Sui Dhaga' is scheduled for September 28 release, said they would be happy if the film was able to inspire aspiring entrepreneurs, especially the youth. The story carrying the 'Made in India' tagline, was relatable to every Indian who had been through the idea of taking forward a legacy of an art or craft, facing struggle and exploitation in the process, they added.

The stars were in the city on Monday to perform 'Vishwakarma puja' at a factory in Amausi to promote their film. The movie deals with the trials and the tribulations of a young couple trying to revive a craft which has been lost over the years. Giving his take on the concept of 'Made in India', Varun said that at one point in the script, he felt very patriotic. "The movie brings in that feel of patriotism which is not the preachy kind. The couple are trying to promote something which is very Indian and their own kala. It will be great if the film inspires others because as youngsters, we also

have been inspired by others and worked hard," he said.

Regarding the timing of the movie when the focus is on skill development, Anushka said it was purely coincidental. "It is such a heartfelt story of a couple. My character is not very communicative but is making all efforts to see that her husband leads a life of self-respect and dignity. The movie could not have been planned in such a manner. It is a coincidence. I was not even aware of this until the media started asking questions," she pointed out.

"Director Sharat Katariya told me how he wrote the story. He was once standing on the outskirts of Delhi when he witnessed the conversation between a washerman and his wife and it made him think about the struggle of the couple. It was how the story took roots. It was more of the human angle which he saw," Anushka said.

She added that her character was different from what she was doing till now. "I won't call it a character of a typical woman because there is so much of diversity amongst Indian women. It is a journey



Actors Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma performing Vishwakarma puja in Lucknow on Monday

of a woman who looks at the world with rose-tinted eyes and wants to lead a dignified life," the actress said.

Asked to comment on the memes made on her, she said it was a pointer to the reach of

the trailer and the youth who were reacting to it.

Asked if he was apprehensive of the kind of look which he would carry and the kind of way it would impact his fans, Varun said he was more than

happy to go for challenging roles. "I was very excited about the role and my look. 'Mauji', the character I play in the movie, is happy at whatever he is doing, and it took me some time to understand its soul.

There will be a range of characters which I will also play in my forthcoming films," he added. In a lighter vein, he said: "It is a film tailor-made for youths." The duo said they were delighted to be in Lucknow at the time of 'Vishwakarma puja'. Varun recalled that his father lived in Lucknow and studied at St Francis' College. "My father David Dhawan and his brothers lived in a house called 'Teen Bhai' at Singarnagar. Lucknow is all about the stories which my father shared with me," he said. He added that he was happy to be a part of 'Vishwakarma puja' and relate to the problems faced by people coming from that part of the society.

Anushka said she had many relatives in Lucknow. "I last visited the city when I was 14 and to me, it has been all about food. But now that I am a vegetarian, I love the chaat which Lucknow is famous for," she added. The actors said they were aware of 'Vishwakarma puja' but the connection with Engineer's Day was something they found really cool.

DM reviews bird flu control measures



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A meeting on control and monitoring of bird flu was held at Collectorate on Monday. It was presided by District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma. Officials who also attended the meeting included the CMO, CDO, chief veterinary officers and members of Pachayati Raj. The DM issues directions for district-level task force to remain alert about any untoward incident. He said bird flu was caused by birds and the best cure was prevention. He said serum samples for surveillance were being month-

ly sent to the IVRI. The DM said that in case any sample came out to be positive, the movement of humans within 5km radius of the affected area would be prohibited.

The CMO said that five rapid response teams had been constituted and in case of any death of a bird, people reached out through helpline numbers. The DM was informed that the sampling of birds was being done at Nakkhas market. The DM said that a meeting of poultry farmers and doctors should be arranged so that they were informed about the symptoms of the disease.

LMRC bid to achieve counterless ticketing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) is trying to achieve counterless ticketing for the benefit of the Metro commuters. With the commissioning of the 23 kilometre-long Metro Corridor between Chaudhary Charan Singh (CCS) Airport and Munshipulia for public services by early next year the Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC) aims to achieve maximum counterless ticketing in the near future for the benefit of Metro commuters. Keeping this in mind the Lucknow Metro is continuously organising special drives to promote counterless ticketing at Metro stations through the usage of automatic Token Vending Machines (TVMs)/ Recharge Card Terminal Machines (RCTMs).



Recently the LMRC organised this drive from September 11, 2018 to September 15, 2018, to educate the Metro commuters and make them aware about the usage of automatic TVMs and RCTMs.

"The Metro commuters are also increasingly shedding reluctance to find automatic Token Vending Machines (TVMs) and Recharge Card Terminal Machines (RCTMs) for the benefit of customers and also takes special initiatives to make passengers aware about automatic ticketing. During this drive the Ticket Office Machines (TOMs) meant for manual sale of tokens/smart cards at all the Metro stations remain closed to promote the usage of these machines. The Metro staff and the Customer Relations Assistant (CRA) present at the RCTMs/TVMs at all the Metro stations also assist these passengers in getting tokens and recharge of 'GoSmart' from the machines," he added.

He further pointed out that the LMRC undertook such drives twice a month in order to educate and make the masses aware about the use of latest technology for their convenience so that a 'smarter' way of Metro travel inculcated a 'smarter' behaviour in Metro passengers also as regards their token purchase or smart card recharge in the Metro system. "Passengers now buy the token and recharge their 'GoSmart' travel cards through the automatic Recharge Card Terminal Machine (RCTM) and the automatic Token Vending Machine (TVM) installed at all the Metro stations without any hesitation," he added.

CRIMELINE

BUS MOWS DOWN STUDENT IN BKT

A 12-year-old student was killed when a speeding roadways bus knocked him down in Bakshi-ka-Talab police station area on Monday morning. Reports said the boy, identified as Ankush of Bhauli village of BKT, was going to his school where he was studying in class VIII. He was on a cycle and when he reached Lucknow-Sitapur highway, the speeding bus mowed him down. The residents staged a protest and demanded action against the bus driver who was absconding.

INJURED

A man working for a Hindi newspaper suffered injuries after he was hit by a biker near Puraniya crossing in Aliganj around 2 am on Monday. Abhishek of Sector Q of Aliganj was returning home and was on a bike. When he reached Puraniya, the bike of another youth, identified as Jatin Verma of Mahanagar, collided with that of Abhishek. In the mishap, Abhishek suffered injuries and was admitted to Trauma Centre.

FOUND DEAD

A class IC employee of Soil Testing Lab of Alambagh was found dead under mysterious circumstances at his office on Monday morning. Reports said the victim, identified as Rajendra of Ballia, was lying on a bench outside the office with head injuries. Police said the man died after he fell down and got his head banged against some hard object. The police spokesman said the incident came to light when the office opened for the day and some employees found him lying in a pool of blood. He said Rajendra used to stay at the office.



Members of an organisation offering fruits to stray cattle in Lucknow on Monday

Pioneer

Sahej Awas Yojana to be launched on Oct 2

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The UP Housing Development Board will launch its ambitious scheme, 'Sahej Awas Yojana' on 100-acre land in Baruana village on Sultanpur Road on October 2. The scheme would be launched in phases and 2,000 low-cost flats will come up under the scheme. The Board had acquired the land in 2011 after paying compensation to the farmers but it was sold to a prominent private developer the same year for financial reasons. It had been agreed upon that the real estate company had to pay the entire sum within five years, or the agreement would stand cancelled. However, the company paid only three monthly installments.

Additional commissioner, Housing, Uday Raj Singh said that the Board authorities asked the private developer to return the land after the deadline expired in 2016. The land was returned only following the intervention of the state government six months ago, he added. The low-cost houses will be built using fly ash and latest technology of civil engineering. Singh said that it would help lower the expense and also take less time to complete. The size of flats will be bigger than that built under the Prime Minister Housing Scheme. However, no concession will be given to the beneficiaries and a flat will cost around Rs 15 lakh.

The Board authorities will construct a 20m wide road, joining the proposed site with the main Sultanpur road. The distance between the two is 2 km. The additional commissioner said the Board authorities had taken the steps for better connectivity so that people did not face hardships in reaching the main road. The authorities concerned have shared the plan with Public Works Department.

ICAR-CISH organises MTC on entrepreneurship development

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Doubling farmers' income requires entrepreneurship development and enhancing employment opportunities from the horticulture sector. In this background ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, organised a Model Training Course on 'Entrepreneurship Development through Market Driven Production and Processing of Horticultural Crops' from September 10 to 17 this year.

The training was sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. The district horticulture officers, rural development officers, extension personnel from seven different states — Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh participated in the training programme. The officers were

aged between 30-59 years with about 20 per cent women participants.

CISH scientists said that the officials were trained on entrepreneurial ecosystem, start-ups, nursery, floriculture-based enterprises, orchard-based poultry farming, market-driven production of exotic fruits in subtropics like strawberry and pepino, processing of fruits and vegetables, herbal cosmetics, essential oil extraction, hydroponic cultivation of vegetables, mushroom production, organic farming, inspection and certification of organic produce, FSSAI registration, protected cultivation, bio-fertiliser production, packaging, branding, food safety laws, dry flower technology etc. Lecture session experts were drawn from ICAR, CSIR, IIT, SAU and the corporate sector. The officers also interacted with the progressive farmers and new entrepreneurs

who had made their name in horticulture.

They were taken on exposure visits of nursery, CISH experimental farms and the 'Farmers FIRST' programme-adopted villages. This training course included pre- and post-feedback evaluation and validation. The training course has given an insight of start-ups and entrepreneurship to the horticulture officers which was very handy and could easily be implemented in their areas of operation. Shailendra Rajan, director of ICAR-CISH, Lucknow, said that the Government of India had sanctioned three model training courses to the Institute this year. Two more MTCs will be organised in the Institute soon. Course director Maneesh Mishra said that a WhatsApp Group of MTC participants had also been created to exchange technological advancements with each other.

CITY BRIEFS

CERTIFICATION CEREMONY

Sadbhavana Trust conducted a certification ceremony for the girls of minority community enrolled in 'Leadership Development Programme'. The programme was organised at Nehru Yuva Kendra. Approximately 150 girls were involved in the programme which saw discussions and presentation by young girls as they shared their growth and experiences with the audience. The 'Leadership Development



Programme' was conducted in 30 slum areas of Lucknow. It was based on the rights of girls under which the organisation worked with 30 of them to develop leadership skills in them so that they could take important decisions regarding their life. Under this programme, Sadbhavana Trust has worked with 900 girls directly and 2,700 girls indirectly in five years. "This programme has been successful in bringing important and successful

changes in the lives of these girls. It has also been successful in bringing positive environment to families, society and schools. The girls with their enhanced confidence and awareness can put forward their opinions, disagree with discrimination and are able to use community and public places. They have been successful in standing against gender-based paradigm by increasing their marriage age and taking a decision to study further. They are also asking for health and other facilities," a member of the Trust said. The leadership programme has taught videography, photography, computers, digital storing and exposure visit to these girls. It has also focused on social issues like gender identity, sexuality, reproductive health. The girls conversed about the difficulties they faced after they enrolled in the program to reach their goal. The girls who evolved during the programme discussed about life changing decisions like, to start studying again, to reach out to things other than marriage and to discover new ways of life after getting married.

convocation to be held on October 9. The Lucknow University also released the tentative list of medal winners on Monday.

CMS PRINCIPALS RETURN FROM GERMANY



City Montessori School's principals — Susmita Basu, Manjit Batra and Vineeta Kamran — returned from an eight-day educational excursion to Germany on Monday. The teachers accorded a warm welcome to them at the Amausi airport. The trio were on a tour to Germany for academic exchange programme and learn the pedagogy of foreign. During their tour, they discussed with the educators thereof the measures to evolve pedagogy suitable for the holistic development of students and travelled to various schools to know their teaching techniques. The educationists of Germany also came to know about broader and bolder education and teaching methodology of CMS.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
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Dated: 30.08.2018
Due to some administrative reasons **Tender No. 0320182019** (for supply of Fan Shaped Switches & Derailing Switches) of above tender notice will now be opened on **08.10.2018** instead of **03.10.2018**. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. **98818 (R)**
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The detailed NIT along with stipulated norms for export and other terms & conditions has two, uploaded on Punjab Govt. Website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in & website of the mill www.bhogpurcsml.com. The bids should be in two parts i.e. Technical & Financial. The technical bid will be opened first on **05-10-2018 at 11.00 AM** and thereafter financial bid will be opened on **05-10-2018 at 3 PM**, only of those bidders who so ever qualify / fulfill the terms & conditions of technical bid & had deposited the requisite earnest money.
For participation in e-tender bidders shall have to register themselves with www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. For User ID, Password, Class-2 or Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory. For any assistance please contact on Mobile **9872205319, 9417370679, 8968499779**. Any corrigendum/addendum/correction will be published on the above website.
The Authorized Committee reserves the right to cancel one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons
Sd/-
DPR/17SEP18/D-2479 Dt. 17-09-2018 **Authorized Committee**

Driver of priest shot dead from point-blank range

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The young driver of a priest was shot dead in Allahpur area under the Georgetown police station here on Sunday night. He was driving a car at that time when the miscreants came on a bike and shot him dead from a point-blank range. They fired two rounds and one bullet penetrated his temple.

Swami Jagdish Puri of Anand Akhara, who lives in Gandhi Dham, Gujarat, arrived

here via Haridwar in his car. The driver, Vikas Singh (22), a resident of Mandhata, Pratapgarh, took some of his friends with him in the car of his elder brother, Vipin Singh, driver of Anand Giri of Baghambari Math. He was on his way to his brother's Allahpur residence on Sunday night when three persons riding a moped approached him and shot him dead.

There is another version in this case that a shootout took



place at a neighbouring shop in which Vikas became a victim. The police were scanning the footage of the CCTV cameras of the area to nab the culprits. The friends of Vikas, who had been accompanying him at

that time, were giving contradictory statements, so the police was not ready to digest them. The family members were unable to tell anything to the police because Vikas did not have enmity with anyone. The SSP, SP (City) and circle officer reached the spot and asked the inspector to collect the footage of all the CCTV cameras installed in the area situated in front of the old Saket Hospital where the incident took place.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III
A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-48
N.I.T. No. 31/S-III/(2018-2019)
Contact No. 29233037

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost/ Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Improvement of water supply by P/L 200mm dia D.I. water line from E-2 G.K.-II to D.D.A. Park in Chitranganj park under South-III (AC-50).	3359382/- 67200/-	2018_DJB_158441_1 15.09.2018	03.10.2018 upto 3:00 PM
2	Enhancement of Underground tanks located at Gali No-36 & Gali No-13, Tughlakabad Extn under EE(South)-III (AC-49).	4697078/- 94000/-	2018_DJB_158441_2 15.09.2018	03.10.2018 upto 3:00 PM

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

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 377(18-19)

Sd/-
(RAM KISHORE)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) III



UCO Bank's Lucknow office celebrated Hindi Diwas. On the occasion, Rajbhasha officer Archana Kumari administered 'Rajbhasha oath' to the staff



The 84th Foundation Day of Bank of Maharashtra was celebrated as '83 years of customers' trust and patronage' at a city hotel. Father of Akash Mourya, who is UP Board state topper, received a certificate and cash prize on behalf of his son

Jawan kills 2 colleagues, commits suicide in HP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

In an effort to address these serious issues, the defence ministry some years back initiated several steps including liberal leave facility for jawans to take care of their families mostly living in rural areas of the country. The State Governments were also urged to mitigate the problems faced by families of the jawans mostly relating to disputes regarding land and other such matters.

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

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

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

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

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



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

A bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud noted the submission of Additional Advocate General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the State, that an FIR has been lodged and security has been provided to the victim.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INSHORT

PM GETS GREETINGS FROM ALL ON BIRTHDAY

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

SINGHANIA GETS MEXICAN HIGHEST HONOUR

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

NO CBI PROBE INTO ATTACK ON AGNIVESH: SC

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

SC TO HEAR KIN OF RAJIV BOMB BLAST VICTIMS

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

AWARENESS CAMP AT POSHAN MAH HELD

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

UNIFIED COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE ON SEP 28

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

PLEA SEEKS BAN ON HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES

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

CENTRE CAN IMPLEMENT BOUNDARY DISPUTE REPORT

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

BUREAUCRATIC RESHUFFLE

Sanjay Agarawal appointed Agricultural Secy

Tarun Kapoor appointed DDA Vice Chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle. Sanjay Agarawal will be the new Agriculture Secretary while Sanjeev Ranjan will be the new chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Tarun Kapoor the new Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

According to an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Agarawal, a 1984 batch officer, who is at present serving in his cadre State Uttar Pradesh, will be Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Besides, over 20 officers have been promoted to the

rank of additional secretaries from joint secretaries. Gyanesh Kumar and Govind Mohan have been made Additional Secretaries in the Home Ministry. They are joint secretaries in the same ministry.

Gujarat-cadre IAS officer K Srinivas and Lok Ranjan have also been appointed Additional Secretaries in the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). They are Joint Secretaries in the DoPT. IAS officer Sujata Chaturvedi, who is at present serving in her cadre state Bihar, has also been appointed Additional Secretary in the DoPT.

Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer Devesh Chaturvedi will be Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. He is Joint Secretary in the same department. There are some other officers who have also been promoted to the Additional Secretary ranks.

FB data breach: CBI writes to Cambridge Analytica, GSR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has written to UK-based Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research (GSR) besides US-based Facebook, seeking information into alleged data theft of Facebook users of India. About a month ago, on a reference from the IT Ministry, the agency had instituted a preliminary enquiry to determine whether GSR and Cambridge Analytica had illegally harvested and misused the data of Facebook users of India.

In the letters sent to the companies, the CBI has sought the details of data collection exercise adapted by them. After reference from the Centre, the investigative agency had initiated a preliminary enquiry against Cambridge Analytica and Global Science Research last month over the alleged data theft.

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

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

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

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

He had said there were also reports that user data was "illegally

accessed by hardware manufacturers who had tie-ups with Facebook. In regard to this issue, Facebook has reported that they are not aware of any misuse of information, including Indian users' information". The Mark Zuckerberg-owned company had said that the data of about 87 million people — mostly in the US — might have been improperly shared with Cambridge Analytica.

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

Activists' house arrest extended till Sep 19

Will examine allegations against them: SC

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

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

The bench said if there are

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Nothing has come from the government's (Pakistan) side. This issue has been going on for a very long time. If anything comes about we will let you know," he said.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, Singh said India's border is unique and therefore "one solution" cannot be devised to make it more secure. "From plains to deserts and mountains and other terrains, one kind of solution cannot be applied to our border and the variety of the terrain has to be factored in while designing any solutions for making the border security more robust and smart," he said.

The gathering included defence officials and experts, business leaders and a group of 'sarpanches' from villages near the border. PTI

Swaraj reprimanded Sidhu for messing up Kartarpur talks: Min

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

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

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

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

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

On September 7 Sidhu had claimed that Pakistan had decided to allow Sikh pilgrims direct access to the historic Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara just across the border. In a letter written to Swaraj on September 8, cricketeer-turned-politician said: "Now an opportunity has knocked on our doors. Pakistan has shown a positive intent towards the long pending demand of Kartarpur Sahib corridor. Pilgrims and we all have been demanding for this corridor since years". PTI

India to reduce cooling energy demand by 25% by 2038

First country to develop draft blueprint on Cooling Action Plan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

These designer jackets and kurtas are available in all KVIC outlets across the nation from Monday in a price range of Rs 999 to Rs 3500. After proper washing and shrinking, expert tailors were assigned to stitch these items.

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

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

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

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

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

Centre employees asked to undertake cleanliness drive in office premises

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

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

BJP targets TRS on 70th Liberation Day

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

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

As the day has come in the thick of the election campaign in the State, the saffron party has put the occasion to full use to target the TRS, questioning why it did not celebrate the day officially during its four-year long rule. "When it couldn't celebrate the most important day in the history of Telangana how it can claim itself to be the champion of the State," asked BJP state floor leader G Kishan Reddy.

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

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

president K Lakshman and former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya.

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

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

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

Reacting angrily to the senior TRS leader K Taraka Rama Rao describing BJP as "Bharatiya Jhootha Party", Kishan Reddy said, "If he calls our party

like that then the TRS is Telangana Razakars Party".

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

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

BJP leaders also recalled statements of the Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on various occasions in which he had expressed his admiration for the last Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan for his benevolent rule and the Hindu-Muslim harmony and composite culture which prevailed during his reign.

In the past KCR rejected the demand for celebration of Liberation Day saying it was a "merger day" and some people want to use it to create a discord among the people on communal lines.

HC notice to TN BJP leader for remarks on judiciary

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

When the video of his out-

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

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

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

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

Uma Anandan, his close associate, was the only person who came out to support Raja while other BJP leaders maintained silence over the issue. "Raja Sir has not told anything like what the DMK and VCK against Hindus in the State," said Anandan.

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

Naicker statue desecration mars festive season in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

North Central Railway, Allahabad

e-Auction Notice No. 7
No.S/Sale/611/e-auction programme/18-19 Date: 14.09.2018
E-auction programme for October-2018.
 It is intimated that available scrap materials of Allahabad, Jhansi, Agra Division and Scrap Depot/JHS will be auctioned by **Dy.CMM/SD/JHS** through e-auction. Scrap materials pertain to Kanpur Area (ETD, TMS etc.) will be e-auctioned by **Dy.CMM/GSD/CNB** and scrap materials pertain to ALD Division will be auctioned by **Sr.DMM/NCR/ALD**. **Scrap Items** : P. Way Scrap, Scrap Rail, Cast Iron Scrap, Condemned rolling Stock, Non ferrous and Non metallic Scrap, Turning & Boring, Condemned Oil /Paints Drums, Condemned Machinery & plants, Condemned Vehicles, Condemned office equipments, Foundry Slag, Released overhead MS/GI tanks, Released ferrous scrap of train lighting fans, Released MS/GI pipe line, foundry skull, Workshop MS scrap and other MS scrap.
Auction Programme details for October- 2018.

Scheduled programme for Dy. CMM/SD/JHS			
S.N.	Date of Auction	Depot/Division	e-Auction conducted by
1.	04.10.2018 (Thursday)	GSD/NCR/Jhansi	Dy.CMM/SD/NCR/Jhansi
2.	12.10.2018 (Friday)		(www.ireps.gov.in.through website)
3.	22.10.2018 (Monday)		
4.	30.10.2018 (Tuesday)		
Scheduled programme for Dy. CMM/GSD/CNB			
5.	09.10.2018 (Tuesday)	GSD/NCR/CNB	Dy.CMM/GSD/CNB
6.	23.10.2018 (Tuesday)		(www.ireps.gov.in.through website)
Scheduled programme for Sr. DMM/ALD			
7.	11.10.2018 (Thursday)	Sr. DMM/NCR/ALD	Sr.DMM/NCR/ALD
8.	25.10.2018 (Thursday)		(www.ireps.gov.in.through website)

Special Conditions : 1. All type of scraps will be through e-auction mode www.ireps.gov.in website. In the event of auction not being completed on the same day, auction may be continued on the next days also (Applicable only for Dy.CMM/SD/JHS). 2. The unsold lot of e-auction will also be included in next e-auction of respective depot. 3. The intending purchaser may inspect the lot of scrap material before the auctions during working hours. 4. To purchase material above Rs. 5 Lacs, the purchaser must be registered with Sale Tax department. 5. For further details on auctions (like catalogues, last sold rates in auctions & other details), Please visit North Central Railway's website "www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in". 6. For further detail regarding e-auction Please visit "www.ireps.gov.in". 1024/18 Ad

United Opposition is not a threat to us: Maurya

PTI ■ MATHURA

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

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

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

"We are not bothered about Mayawati, Akhilesh Yadav or Rahul Gandhi. We are working for 73+ seats and how we can support the prime minister," he said.

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

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

"In spite of winning 73 seats, we could not win in the rest seven seats in the state in 2014 general polls. However, now our aim is to ensure vic-

tory in 100 per cent seats," Maurya is said to have told BJP activists during an interaction, according to media in-charge of BJP Pradeep Goswami.

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

Petrol, diesel cheaper by ₹2 in Karnataka

KESTUR VASUKI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

Monday announced the cut in rate.

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

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

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

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

J&K Govt approves Single Window Act

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday approved the J&K Single Window (Industrial Investment and Business Facilitation) Act, 2018, which aims to ease flow of investments into the State.

"The Governor's administration approved the J&K Single Window Act, 2018. The Act has been approved by the state administrative council (SAC), headed by Governor Satya Pal Malik," an official spokesman said.

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

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

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

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

The Congress, if elected to power in the coming assembly

"The deletion of 20-30 lakh names from the electoral rolls was not incidental, but part of a conspiracy by the ruling TRS and BJP"

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

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

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

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

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

Kashmiri migrants can vote in civic polls: EC

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

"As the Municipal electoral rolls are reliable to the legislative assembly electoral rolls, their names exist in the electoral Rolls of the municipal bodies in the Kashmir valley,"

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

notification to this effect has been issued on 16 September, 2018, he said. "Consequent upon this notification, a detailed scheme for voting by Kashmiri migrants by means of postal ballots in the municipal elections, 2018 stands notified," he added.

Bikers...

From Page 1
 Following the attack, several gatemans and railway staff on Monday around 10 am blocked the Safiabad crossing disrupting Delhi-Chandigarh railway route

for a few hours. The protesters demanded railways authorities to install CCTV camera at every crossing and also to reduce working time from 12 hours to 8 hours a day.

Cong bids to end Goa stalemate

From Page 1
 He had just returned from United States after a prolonged treatment and remained active for some time. BJP president Amit Shah and many senior party leaders visited Parrikar at the AIIMS. Shah flew to Delhi from

Rajasthan and left again for the State after visiting AIIMS. Sources in the premier hospital said although Parrikar "is not critical", he was under observation. He is admitted at the old private ward under Dr Pramod Garg, professor of gastroenterology.

BoB, Dena, Vijaya...

From Page 1
 Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said bank boards of the three banks will examine the amalgamation proposal. "The merger will help improve operational efficiency and customer services."

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

Shutdown hits normal life in Kashmir



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

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

The authorities deployed police and paramilitaries in sensitive areas of capital

Srinagar to prevent any law and order situation.

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

Meanwhile, unidentified militants shot dead a Territorial Army (TA) man Mukhtar Ahmad Malik alias Mukhtar Gola at his home in Shurat area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday afternoon.

Mukhtar Gola was a former cadre of pro-government militia known as Ikhwan, a counter-insurgent group that killed hundreds of militants in Kashmir Valley between late 1990s and early 2000.

Three more Hizbul ultras held in Assam

ANUP SHARMA ■ GUWAHATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KAPS unit 2 nuclear plant in Surat attains criticality

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Many angles to 'honour killing' in Nalgonda

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He also developed many ventures and earned a lot of money to emerge as one of the richest persons in the town. At one stage he was involved in a confrontation with the dreaded naxalite turn mafia don Nayeemuddin over a piece of land. But the two later compromised and cooperated with each other.

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

persecution of those who dared to raise their voice against them.

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

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

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



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

On whether she saw the Opposition parties coming together to defeat the BJP, she said "everyone is fighting against the

BJP in his or her own way. But I have told the Opposition leaders to first think of defeating the BJP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rajnath inaugurates smart fence pilot project in Jammu



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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

Addressing a separate press conference, the Union Home Minister announced since it is a 'pilot project' "we will monitor its performance and depending upon the feedback we will further improve it and make it more effective," Singh said that the technology would be introduced along a 2026 km long border stretch that has been identified as 'vulnerable'.

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

ment behind starting two pilot CIBMS projects.

Rajnath Singh also dedicated the SMART fence pilot project to the jawans who made supreme sacrifices in the line of duty while guarding frontiers of the nation.

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

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

The Minister said that smart fencing at the borders is a technological solution devised to address the security issues in the border states and the two projects in five kilometers areas each have been installed along the Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu on a pilot basis. He said the number of casualties of our jawans on borders would get minimised and the stress level among the jawans would also reduce to a large extent.



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

Abuse of minor girl: Owaisi plea to close down school

OMER FAROOQ ■ HYDERABAD

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

Accompanied by the family members of the four-year old victim, Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen president and Member of Parliament from Hyderabad Asaduddin Owaisi met the Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar and district collector Yogita Rana and demanded that school should not be allowed to open till the probe was completed.

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

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी पीलीभीत

पत्रक-मु.चि.अ./आयु.मा./2018-19/558 सविदा विज्ञापित दिनांक-08.09.18

प्रशांत त्रिवेदी प्रमुख सचिव उत्तर प्रदेश शासन के पत्र संख्या - 2212/चौच-6-2018 चिकित्सा अनुभाग 6 लखनऊ 27 जुलाई 2018 एवं जिलाधिकारी के अनुमोदन दिनांक 6.2018 के क्रम में आयुष्मान भारत-नेशनल हेल्थ प्रोटेक्शन मिशन के अंतर्गत सृजित सविदाित पदों पर सविदा तैनाती हेतु 31.03.2019 अथवा भविष्य में प्राप्त होने वाली अनुमोदित तिथि (जो भी पहले हो) तक की अवधि के लिये सुसंगत अर्हता रखने वाले स्वस्थ अर्थव्यवस्था से नीचे दिए गए निर्धारित प्रारूप पर दिनांक 28.09.2018 तक पंजीकृत डाक द्वारा आवेदन कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी पीलीभीत में आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। आयुष्मान भारत-नेशनल हेल्थ प्रोटेक्शन मिशन के अंतर्गत सविदा कर्मियों के कार्य करने की अधिकतम आयु 65 वर्ष है।

क्रम	पदनाम	पदो सं	शैक्षिक योग्यता	मानदेय	अनारक्षित	अनु जाति	अ.पि.व.
01	डिस्ट्रिक्ट प्रोग्राम को-ऑर्डिनेटर	01	MBBS/BHMS/BAMS/ BUMS/BDS Perferable-MBA in Health Care or Master of Health /Hospital Admin or Master of Public Health Full Time regular university degree with at least 5 year experience	1-Rs. 50,000 per month to the candidate having qualification of MBBS/BHMS/ BAMS/ BUMS/ BDS having at least 5 years of experience. 2-Rs 70000 per month the candidates having qualification of MBBS/ BHMS/ BAMS/ BUMS/ BDS with full time regular university degree of MBA in Health Care Or Master of Health/Hospital Administration Or Master of Public Health and having at least 5 year of experience	01	00	00
02	डिस्ट्रिक्ट इन्फार्मेशन सिस्टम मैनेजर	01	B.Tech in computer Sci/IT/ Math & Computing /Data Science/MCA. Minimum of 5 years experience in implementing and managing information systems. Desirable: Experience in insurance industry IT system maintenance would be an advantage. Familiarity with insurance enrolment and claims IT systems shall be an added advantage	Rs.40,000 per month	01	00	00
03	डिस्ट्रिक्ट प्रिवायंस मैनेजर	01	MBA or Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration or Master in Hospital /Health Administration or MBA IN Health Care. At least 5 years experience in managing publicrelations/social audits/monitoring of large publicsectorprogrammes (preferably health sector projects). Or similar experience in marketing/customer service/grievances of a large private sector/PSU organization preferably insurance sector	Rs.40,000 per month	01	00	00

नियुक्ति की शर्तें :- यह तैनाती मासिक मानदेय पर आधारित है तथा भविष्य में किसी भी रिक्त पद पर विनियमितोत्तरण, स्वयंकीरण, समायोजन एवं नियमित वेतनमान में नियुक्ति हेतु कार्यवाही करने का आधार नहीं होगी तथा सविदा कार्य की अवधि में तैनाती के स्थान पर अनिवार्य रूप से निवास करके सेवायें प्रदान करनी होंगी। भारत सरकार, राज्य सरकार दिशा-निर्देशों एवं कार्यक्रम के हित में उच्च अधिकारियों के निर्देशानुसार कार्य सम्पादित करना होगा। भविष्य में प्राप्त होने वाले भौतिक / वित्तीय दिशा-निर्देश इस विज्ञापित का अंग नहीं माने जायेंगे। राज्य शासन द्वारा निर्धारित आरक्षण नियमों का पालन किया जाएगा। वर्गित पदों की संख्या घट-बढ़ सकती है। तैनाती से पूर्व निर्धारित अनुभव्य पत्र अनिवार्य रूप से भरा जायेगा। कार्य व आवरण सन्तोषजनक न पाये जाने पर रिक्त किसी नोटिस के सेवेयें तुरन्त समाप्त की जा सकती हैं। समस्त निर्धारित मानदेय योजना के अंतर्गत स्वीकृत होने वाले मानदेय के अंतर्गत परिवर्तनीय है।

आवेदन का प्रारूप :- सविदा पदनाम 2-अर्थव्यवस्था का नाम 3-पिता /पति का नाम 4-जन्मतिथि 5-जाति /उपजाति 6-शैक्षिक योग्यता (विवरण स्पष्ट रूप से अंकित करें) 7-गृह जन्मपद 8-स्थायी पता 9-पत्र व्यवहार का पता 10-प्रेरिकाएं एवं अनुभव सम्बन्धी विवरण 11-दोई तरफ अनाम पासपोर्ट साइज का सत्यापित फोटो अवश्य चरसा करें।

घोषणा :- एतद्वारा घोषणा करता /करती हूँ कि 1. मेरे विज्ञापन में पात्रता की शर्तें सावधानी से पढ़ी हैं। वे मुझे मान्य हैं और वे शर्तें में पूरी करता /करती हूँ। 2. इस आवेदन पत्र में दिए गए सभी विवरण /सूचना सत्य हैं और इस विवरण /सूचनाओं में कोई तथ्य सूचना छिपाई नहीं गयी है। यदि विवरण /सूचना असत्य अथवा गलत पायी जाये अथवा कोई तथ्य छिपाया जाय तो मेरा अर्थव्ययन समाप्त कर दिया जाए। 3. मैं यह भी घोषणा करता /करती हूँ कि इस सविदा की सेवा के उपरान्त विभाग में राजकीय नियमित / स्वाई सेवा हेतु किसी भी प्रकार का दावा प्रस्तुत नहीं करूंगा /करूंगी। (इस आशय का 10/- के स्टाम्प पर एकीडेबिट में संलग्न करें।)

संलग्न :- शैक्षिक योग्यता के समस्त प्रमाण पत्र 2 प्रेरिकाएं सम्बन्धी प्रमाण पत्र 3. जाति प्रमाण पत्र 4. अर्थव्यवस्था के पत्र व्यवहार का पता लिखे हुए पंजीकृत डाक हेतु आवश्यक टिकट लगे हुए दो लिफाके।
अर्थव्यवस्था के पदनाम हस्ताक्षर अर्थव्यवस्था का नाम/पता दिनांक
उपरो 132048, दिनांक 14.09.2018
मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी पीलीभीत

the pioneer PAPER WITH PASSION

Perils of Internet

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

Managing the world's greatest democratic exercise fairly was not enough — the general elections of 2019 — the Election Commission of India has an added responsibility of tackling the perils and evils of social media and ensure that misinformation campaigns don't aggravate or create flammable situations that might be worked on by political parties for their benefit.

The larger concern is of monitoring the authenticity of campaign claims and counter-claims. WhatsApp representatives, during their meetings with the officials of the Election Commission of India, had suggested bringing about the Verificado model in India, a collective fact-checking exercise by a consortium of mainstream newspapers to weed out rumours and doctored news.

50 WORD EDIT Don't spew hate Vile trolling is not new to celebs. But fanatics touched a new low by attacking Shah Rukh Khan for posting an abram's photo in front of a Ganesha idol as part of Chauththri celebrations.

Road to nowhere

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

A study conducted by several global bodies along with the National Highways Authority of India found that almost two-fifth of the Delhi-Mumbai national highway was unsafe for car users and even more dangerous for pedestrians and two-wheelers.

Additionally, putting the same onus on manufacturers as the Government doesn't absolve them from building safer roads. Even on several new, modern stretches of highway, global standards of safety have not been followed.

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

There are a few leaders in contemporary global polity who have successfully changed a war-torn country to a vibrant progressive democracy in their lifetime. Former Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa, a charismatic leader, accelerated the pace of development in nationalistic spirit by pushing various infrastructure projects that transformed the growth rate and the GDP of the country from 2009.



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

infrastructure projects. Sri Lanka also made it into the 'high' category of the Human Development Index during this time. Initiation, completion, and development of many highways and roads, the Colombo beautification project, the rural infrastructure development projects and so on are some of the several highlights.

situations so that other countries battling with terrorism can be inspired by your story. We knew that wiping out terror would cost tremendous pain and stress but we were determined to live in peace permanently.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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

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

Striking a fine balance

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



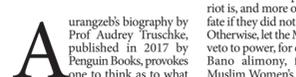
VK BAHUGUNA

process under the Central and State Government for all four clearances viz, environment, forest, wildlife and coastal regulation zone. One of the highlights of the portal is the auto-generation of minutes of the meetings which will remove any scope for backroom modifications by expert bodies.

The Ministry has also for long been blamed for prevaricating on delays in finalising the declaration of eco-sensitive zones near national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. The Supreme Court in 2002-2003 had asked the Government to declare these zones, and till then, in a radius of 10 km, most of the developmental activities were forbidden by the court.

In search of a path to integration

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



PRAFULL GORADIA

Arangzeb's biography by Prof. Audrey Truschke, published in 2017 by Penguin Books, provokes one to think as to what path Muslims of India should now tread in order to live in amity.

Another feature of Muslim performance has been its failure to produce an eminent leader, Mohammad Ali Jinnah was the last one thrown up by the sub-continental ummah. Even he became prominent as a Muslim leader, as it were, more to fulfill the mass desire for delivering Partition.



Muslim civil war until 1940, when the Pakistan resolution was passed at Lahore. A century later this year, Rahul Gandhi did not hesitate to admit that the Congress is a Muslim party. And why not? Because the grand old party has placed the community superiority to the Hindus; specially Articles 29 and 30 under Articles 14 and 15 a sham.

Partition. As a backgrounder, how in 1940, the League declared that Muslims were a nation and not a minority? It, therefore, had to have a separate homeland or Darul Islam. The League leaders wanted Muslims to transfer to Pakistan and the rest to go to Hindustan. Those who remained behind were to live as aliens with the help of visas issued by the respective Governments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WORLD OZONE DAY Sir — The world celebrated September 16 as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to commemorate the date of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987. This year's message from the UN Environment Programme was "keep cool and carry on".

Province of Xinjiang (formerly Sinkiang). Having successfully enslaved the Tibetan Buddhists, now they are bent upon doing the same to the Uighur Muslims. This brings us to question the double standards of the Governments of India and Pakistan.

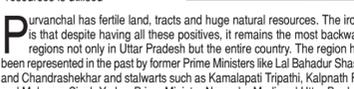
ISRO spy case: It is more than compensation

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

US is meddling in these affairs especially suffering from the September 11, 2001 incident and thereafter. SC Panda Bhuvaneshwar INDIA'S EMERGING MARKETS Sir — This refers to the article, 'New-age business model' (September 17) by Mohandas Pai and Shobha Mishra Ghosh. Business is basically about knowing something that nobody knows. The Indian business houses are on a growth trajectory actively harnessing human resources to develop a cutting edge technology.

Purvanchal: A manifest destiny

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



MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH

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

The Modi-Yogi duo has focussed on this region. The reason is simple: it sends more than two dozen members to the Lok Sabha, more than what the entire State of Gujarat sends. The inauguration of Purvanchal Expressway, which was touted as the lifeline of development of the region by the Chief Minister, is a major step in this direction. Then there are several developmental initiatives, running into thousands of crores of rupees, to boost infrastructure in cities like Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Allahabad and Azamgarh. Gorakhpur, which is Yogi's stronghold as far as any other parts of the region, are now being connected with a gas pipeline grid under the Pradhan Mantri Ujda Ganga — this is expected to give a major fillip to industrialisation.

Finally, it is for the first time that the political class has got serious regarding the development of Purvanchal. It may be recalled that in the recent past, a great deal was said about the backwardness of Bundelkhand but Purvanchal somehow couldn't attract the attention of the politicians. This has changed now perhaps because the Chief Minister is from that region. There is one more not so optimistic in saying that the people of Purvanchal can look forward to a better tomorrow in the foreseeable future. (The writer is a former journalist and currently teaching political science at DDU Gorakhpur University)

NoaspirinPlease

A new trial shows that taking daily low-dose aspirin doesn't prolong healthy, independent living in otherwise healthy people aged 70 and older. Aspirin has long been recommended for the middle-aged with a history of heart disease to prevent future heart attacks or strokes



DOCYARD

DR PRADEEP MOONOT

Orthopaedic Surgeon & Podiatrist

BREACH CANDY HOSPITAL, MUMBAI



Put your best foot forward

Health is one of the major concerns for sportspersons who are prone to injuries due to the repetitive pounding of the game. The most common injuries are related to the foot and ankle, and the condition may take longer time to recover. Some of the common injuries are:

HEEL PAIN

It is one of the most common and the severest form of pain when occurs when players undergo training without proper warm up. There are two types of heel pain:

Plantar Fasciitis

It is acute pain in the thick tissue (Plantar fascia) at the bottom of the foot that connects the heel bone and toes. It occurs when tissue becomes swollen or inflamed. Ignoring this pain may result in chronic heel pain and can also change the way of walking.

Also, people with very flat feet or very high arches are more prone to plantar fasciitis. If a person has a flat foot or weak and misaligned first toe, the pain is sure to occur. Weak foot muscles with high arch can contribute to the same that also lead to tight and shortened calf muscles.

Achilles Tendonitis

Achilles is the large tendon connecting the two calf muscles with the back of the heel bone. Heavy pain is felt in the heel when this tendon is ruptured and can lead to ankle pain as well. This may be caused due to overuse, excessive running without warm up exercises.

SHIN PAIN

It happens in the front and the inner aspect of the shin due to imbalance between the calf muscles and the muscles in the front leg. This happens as a result of inadequate stretches, over pronation inclination of

foot towards the ground.

STRESS FRACTURE

It is a tiny incomplete crack in the surface of bone found in the lower leg of the foot. A stress fracture is caused due to sudden increase in training. It can be present in any of the bones comprising the foot, but fractures occur most typically in the metatarsals.

TREATMENT

Pain in the knee and heel should never be ignored. Consult a knee, foot and ankle surgeon immediately if any of the above symptoms persist after one to two weeks of rest along with ice treatment. You may require to do blood tests and X-Rays. Blood tests may show low haemoglobin, iron levels or vitamin D3 levels. It may show stress fractures of the metatarsals or the leg bone (tibia). Heel pain may be because of a stress fracture of the calcaneum. If the X-rays are normal and pain persists, MRI may be required to assess the extent of the damage.

If your condition has developed recently, anti-inflammatory or analgesic medication (in tablet form), coupled with heel pads may be all that is necessary to relieve pain and reduce inflammation. Stress fractures will require rest, analgesics and supportive treatment like a plaster or a walker boot for four to six weeks.

Along with rest, ice and compression, medical treatment is required to correct abnormal blood levels like low haemoglobin and vitamin D levels. In case of heel pain, stretching is the best treatment as it helps to try to keep weight off your foot until the initial inflammation goes away. You can apply ice to the sore area for 20-30 minutes several times a day to relieve your symptoms. Home exercises to stretch your Achilles tendon and plantar fascia are the mainstay of treatment and reduce the chance of recurrence.

In case of the knee pain, hamstring stretches and stretching of other tight muscles is important for treatment. A supportive knee cap which reduces pressure on the knee cap may help. If the pain is not relieved by non-surgical methods, surgery may be required for fixation of the stress fracture or knee key hole surgery (arthroscopy) for knee pain or the release of the Iliotibial (IT) band.

SUMMER COOLER

COCOA: There have been some studies that show eating cocoa lowers the chance of heart disease and death, possibly by lowering blood pressure and improving the function of the blood vessels. What's more, cocoa has been found to reduce bad LDL cholesterol and has a blood thinning effect.

The powder which is rich in flavanol helps maintain a healthy brain. Consumption of cocoa powder has been shown to be effective in improving insulin resistance and glucose metabolism.

Cocoa extracts have been trusted for their therapeutic and wound-healing properties in the manufacturing of natural medicinal products. A study has shown that cocoa helps regulate metabolism and reduces the synthesis and transport of fatty acids. Finally, consuming cocoa powder enhances the mood, fights depression and promotes cognitive activities.



OIL'S WELL

Cooking oils are unavoidable in Indian kitchen. Experts say that a blend of rice bran and canola oil cooking helps beat cardio-vascular diseases. PIONEER HEALTH reports

Cooking oils are particularly suitable for making Indian foods more palatable by spreading heat more evenly while cooking. They also serve as the best source of healthy fat in the body provided the right kind of oil is chosen.

"Unhealthy fat accumulates in the arteries that distribute blood from the heart, making them narrower and eventually clogging them. This can lead to various disorders of the heart for which prevention is the best cure. Prevention could begin with the simple step of choosing the right cooking oil for your vegetables and grains," Priyanka Kharbanda, educator, Public Health Nutrition, says.

NECESSITY OF OIL IN DIET

Fats are used by the body to absorb nutrients. They power your muscles while you exercise and are the reason you feel satisfied after eating a meal. But one cannot avoid eating fat or oils completely. In fact, American dietary guidelines recommend an intake of at least 20 to 25 percent fat in the body. However, only nutritious sources of fat ought to be used to provide the body's basic needs.

For example, rice bran oil, which is extracted from the bran fraction of rice, contains large quantities of gamma oryzanol, which is a mixture of antioxidant compounds. "The main benefit of oryzanol is its medicinal effect on high levels of bad cholesterol. It manages this by disallowing the absorption of certain unhealthy fats in your food. Hence, it promotes blood circulation and overall physical health," Kharbanda says.

Further, rice bran oils have been observed to be quite safe as far as adverse reactions are con-

cerned and very few minor allergic reactions have yet been reported as a result of regular use.

"When used as cooking oil, rice bran oil, known for being a high smoke-point oil, is good for deep frying without providing excessive smoke when heated to high temperatures," Kharbanda tells you.

HIGH CHOLESTEROL RISK

High cholesterol in the blood leads to deposition of fatty substances in the blood vessels. The accumulation of such deposits will eventually result in obstacles to blood from the heart reaching all tissues through the arteries. The heart fails to gain enough oxygen-rich blood for its needs and hence the risk of heart failure increases. A reduced blood flow to the brain can also cause a stroke. Fortunately, high cholesterol is most often the result of unhealthy lifestyle choices and can be prevented and treated.

PICK THE RIGHT OIL

A substantial number of Cardiovascular disease (CVD) victims can trace their condition to physical inactivity and unhealthy diets. As Indians, we are used to cooking our vegetables in oil. Frying food in oil enables better transfer of heat where the oil acts as a fluid conductor by uniformly allowing heat to pass through the uneven surfaces of the food article and the utensil being used.

"What we eat should provide us with carbohydrates, fats, proteins, water based macronutrients, vitamins and mineral micronutrients. Certain essential nutrients can't be produced within the human body. The body needs mono-unsaturated fatty acids and poly-unsaturated fatty acids but saturated fats can be pro-

duced internally and are bad for your health only when consumed in excess.

BENEFITS OF CANOLA OIL

Considered to be one of the healthiest cooking oils available, canola oil, contains two main essential fatty acids. These are Alpha Linoleic Acid (ALAs), which is an omega-3 fatty acid known for lowering harmful cholesterol, and Linoleic Acid (LA), which is an omega-6 fatty acid, known for brain development in infants," Kharbanda explains.

According to the US Food and

every day provides roughly a quarter of the vitamin E required by an individual. Vitamin E is an antioxidant that shields your body's fats and proteins from free radical damage. It may also help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer and memory loss," Kharbanda says.

BLEND OILS

It is unhealthy to totally avoid oil-based foods as high-density lipoproteins (HDL) (good cholesterol) are essential for tissue function and cell memory. Plants are the best source of essential fatty acids. But, not all cooking oils have equal levels of unsaturated fats. Both rice bran oil and canola oil have the advantage of low levels of LDLs and high levels of HDLs.

"The blend of rice bran and canola oil maximises its benefits while ensuring that a wide variety of non-communicable diseases associated with the functioning of the heart and the prevalence of obesity are avoided and overall health maintained.

"Both rice bran and canola oil are observed to work well with Indian vegetables and grains in particular. They make food softer and easier to chew (and hence more digestible) and ensure that your food is more evenly cooked. This particular blend is particularly good for the heart because of the mixture of omega-3, 6 and 9 fatty acids apart from MUFAs and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), one of the highest anywhere and the presence of oryzanol," Kharbanda says.

Cooking oils are virtually unavoidable in a typical Indian diet. But those at risk of cardiovascular diseases do not need to resign themselves to plain food for life.

THE BLEND OF OILS MAXIMISES ITS BENEFITS WHILE ENSURING THAT A WIDE VARIETY OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE HEART AND THE PREVALENCE OF OBESITY ARE AVOIDED AND OVERALL HEALTH MAINTAINED

Drug Administration (FDA), canola oil contains Monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFAs) which lower Low-density lipoprotein (LDLs) (unhealthy cholesterol) and help bring blood-glucose levels under control. Canola oil contains the lowest saturated fat quantity in comparison with all other vegetable oils used for cooking.

"It is the only oil to have been described as zero trans-fat rated oil. A typical serving of canola oil

SIT PRETTY & CORRECTLY

FITNESS TRAINER

BADAL UPREETHI

shares workouts to reverse damage from prolonged sitting



After sitting for several hours a day, your posture changes permanently. Long hours at the desk does unwanted damage to your bones and joints. If this was not alarming enough, long sitting can also lead to cardiovascular, Diabetes and other related risks. The problem is that even if we do take into account the number of hours we spend sitting at work, we forget to account for the number of hours we sit while travelling and the harm this is causing our body daily.

One can't obviously decrease working hours but you can certainly keep your bones and joints from getting affected due to long sitting hour jobs or just sitting and relaxing. Here are some damages prolonged sitting does to our body and the workouts which can help in reversing the effects.

Sitting lowers the core strength and posture: We all know how to sit and maintain the correct posture but we all slouch. This affects our body posture. Bringing movements that can isolate the mid-section muscles into a workout routine will help build core strength. **Exercise:** Side planks, flutter kicks and V-ups, we can improve posture.

Sitting wrongly and slouching put pressure on spine: Spine contains stacked discs that are meant to stretch and expand. While doing so, they absorb nutrients and blood that is required for its proper functioning. But, if you do not move your spine and surrounding tissues, it will not function properly. In this case, it can even lead to cause a herniated disc. **Exercise:** To reverse the affects try to include exercises like bridges, planks and core area workouts. These exercises will benefit glutes and abs and actively work for the spine. This works best with spine movement because the back supports the other muscle groups in the body to hold these positions and the core includes the lower back or lumbar spine.

Sitting makes your legs and glutes weak: The glutes and leg muscles like the hamstring, inner thighs and quads get affected when one sits for long with zero movement. The worst case scenario is living a largely sedentary lifestyle which could pave the way for decreased muscle mass and loss of overall strength. It is important that one gives the legs and glutes the much needed attention after a long day's sitting. **Exercise:** There are exercises which can reverse the effect, however like squats, lunges, and bridges targets and activates the major muscle groups.

Sitting affects hip joints and bones: If one is sitting for too long, one may experience pain in the hip region. This is because sitting causes the hip flexors to shorten. **Exercise:** There are several moves which can reverse the pain of hip joints and bones caused by prolonged hours of sitting like lunges, fire hydrants, and squats. A good leg workout and a good amount of stretching is just as good.

Sitting causes stiffness in the neck and shoulders: The dangers of hunching and craning the neck to look down at the laptop and phone causes stiffness and pain in the neck and shoulder joints. **Exercise:** Reversing the effects of the stiffness there are certain recommended exercises like rows (any variation), dumbbell shrugs, push-ups, and high planks are the ones which work to strengthen and prevents muscle imbalances, strain, and soreness.

The writer is personal trainer, Anytime Fitness India

DadiKaKehna

We all love to have nice hair. But given the fact that our hair is exposed to so much environmental damage, hair care products are rarely able to do the trick. Here are home remedies that can help, says ROSHANI DEVI



Given that our hair is exposed to sun and environmental elements, to have nice shiny hair is almost an impossible dream. Or is it? Here are a few simple things that one can follow:

First, use an egg. The only problem is that it stinks when you put in on. But the end result is worth all the smell. Mix one egg white and tablespoon of olive oil and honey into a paste. Apply this paste on damp hair and scalp. Leave it for 30 minutes. Wash your hair with shampoo and cool water. Follow this treatment once a week.

Apple cider vinegar is a great moisturiser for the hair. Mix one part of apple cider vinegar with one part of water. Wash your hair with shampoo and then pour the solution on the scalp. Leave it for a few minutes and then rinse it off



with cold water. Third, use aloe vera. Prepare a paste with four tablespoons of aloe vera gel, two tablespoons of coconut oil and three tablespoons of yogurt. Apply this paste on damp hair and leave it on for 30 minutes. Wash with lukewarm water. Honey is good for shiny hair too. Mix two tablespoons of honey in two cups of warm water. Put the mixture in a spray bottle. After shampooing, spray this solution on your hair. Massage your scalp for five minutes and leave it on for 15 minutes. Rinse it out with warm water. Do this once a week.

TIPTOP

A new inhaler — Synchrobreath — designed to manage Obstructive Airway Disease (OAD) has been launched. It is an innovation in managing respiratory disease. Approximately 90% of physicians in India reported prescribing inhaler devices to at least 40% of their asthma and COPD patients in the first clinic visit. Educating patients on the benefits of inhalation therapy and the correct inhaler technique can help increase the acceptance, adherence and correct usage of inhalers, which can result in better disease control.

In New Delhi, chronic respiratory disease is the number one leading cause of death in the 15-39 year age group and the third leading cause of death in

the 40-69 year age group. Further, COPD has moved from the thirteenth leading cause of death and disability in 1990 to the third leading cause in 2016. This shows the growing burden of respiratory disease and the burning need to control it," Dr Karan Madan, Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders, AIIMS, said. Inhaled medicines are integral to the management of respiratory diseases like asthma and COPD. They deliver drugs directly to the lungs and hence act faster and at a lower dose, thereby reducing the risk of side effects. Inhaled medications have been shown to improve disease status, control symptoms, reduce the number and severity of exacerbations and improve quality of life.

SLIMLINE

Children who experience some type of adverse event following initial immunisation have a low rate of recurrent reactions to subsequent vaccinations, reports a new study.

Although recurrent AEFIs can sometimes occur after repeat doses of vaccine, this study suggests that the risk of recurrent AEFIs after re-vaccination is relatively low, especially when the previous reaction was mild or moderate.

The study provides helpful information on the risk of recurrent reactions to specific vaccines and in patients with different types of initial reactions. Dr De Serres (MD of Laval University, Quebec) and co-authors suggest that vaccine adverse event passive surveillance systems could be adapted to include "systematic and standardized follow-up" to provide more complete information on recurrence risk and other outcomes for children with AEFIs.

STUDYCENTRE

A superbug resistant to all known antibiotics is spreading undetected through hospital wards across the world, according to scientists. The bacteria, known as Staphylococcus epidermidis, is related to the better-known and more deadly MRSA. Found naturally on human skin, it most commonly infects the elderly or patients who have had prosthetic materials implanted, such as catheters and joint replacements. The bacteria can cause "severe" infections or even death over time.

Many of the most powerful antibiotics are extremely expensive and even toxic, and the team behind the study said that the practice of using multiple drugs at once to prevent resistance may not be working. The World Health Organization (WHO) has long warned of antibiotic overuse sparking new strains of killer, drug-resistant bacteria. Some tips:

- Practice rational use of antibiotics
- Use when needed and according to guidelines
- Avoid broad spectrum antibiotics without appropriate diagnosis
- Prevent infections with the use of vaccination and by improving basic hygiene
- Farmers and food industry must stop using antibiotics routinely to promote growth and prevent disease in healthy animals to prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance.



SEBI REVISES SHARE BUYBACK REGULATIONS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has revised the regulations for share buyback to provide more clarity on the requirement to make public announcements.

The markets watchdog, separately, said credit rating agencies will not carry out any activity other than the rating of securities offered through public or rights issue.

Besides, any activity, other than the rating of financial instruments and economic or financial research, will have to be hived off by the CRA

into a separate entity within two years.

The review of the current buyback norms has been done in order to simplify the language, remove inconsistencies and update the references to the new Companies Act that came into force in April 2014.

In a notification issued on September 11, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said, definition of buyback period and clarity on the requirement to make public announcement for the offer after declaration of postal ballot results has been provided in the

amended regulations. Besides, explanation for 'free reserves' in line with Companies Act, 2013 is part of the new framework.

As per the notification, buyback period is defined as the time between date of authorisation for buyback by a company's board of directors and the date on which the payment is made to shareholders who have accepted the offer.

Another change is with regard to filing requirements and time for public announcements.

Now, a company authorised to do the buyback of shares, will have

to make a public announcement within two working days of its declaration.

Two days will be from the "date of declaration of results of the postal ballot for special resolution/board of directors".

A company can undertake buyback of shares out of its free reserves and securities premium account, among others. However, buybacks cannot be made out of the proceeds of an earlier issue of the same kind of shares or same kind of other specified securities. Free reserves include securities premium account.

Besides, clarity has been provided on timelines with respect to various requirements under buyback regulations.

The new regulations pertaining to buyback and credit rating agency came into effect from September 11.

Earlier this year, a discussion paper on new buyback regulations was issued in March this year. More than 150 comments were received from various entities on the discussion paper and after taking them into consideration, the revised buyback regulations have been prepared.

Hope to cross ₹11.5l direct tax collection target: CBDT chief

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

CBDT chairman Sushil Chandra Monday expressed confidence in exceeding ₹11.5 lakh crore direct tax collection target in current fiscal. In 2018-19 budget, the government had projected a 14.3 per cent rise in direct tax collections to ₹11.5 lakh crore. "We certainly hope to cross the Rs 11.5 lakh crore direct tax collection target for the current fiscal," Chandra told reporters.

However, Controller General of Accounts data shows, the direct tax collections grew a paltry 4.2 per cent on year to ₹1.54 lakh crore in April-June.

Chandra said total tax refund so far in the current financial year stands at about ₹95,000 crore. This year, the government conducted a special drive during June 1-30 to expeditiously clear pending direct tax refunds.

Over 99 per cent of all refund claims pending as of June 30 had been processed and disbursed, a finance ministry statement had said earlier. In last fiscal (2017-18), direct tax collection increased over 18 per cent to Rs 10.03 lakh crore.

Chandra said the government has received close to ₹7,500 crore on account of Flipkart-Walmart deal. Walmart Inc had completed

the acquisition of 77 per cent stake in Flipkart for about USD 16 billion in mid-August. Following the deal, it had to withhold taxes as per Indian laws while making payments to shareholders of Flipkart.

Withholding tax, or retention tax, is an income tax to be paid to the government by the payer of the income rather than by the recipient of the income. The tax is withheld or deducted from the income due to the recipient. As per domestic tax law, long-term capital gains tax is levied at 20 per cent for shares sold by foreign investors after 24 months of purchase.

Mother Dairy won't cut prices despite Patanjali's cheaper cow milk

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unfazed by the introduction of cheaper packaged cow milk by new entrant Patanjali group, market leader Mother Dairy Monday said the company will not reduce prices to match competition. Mother Dairy, which sells around 7 lakh litres of cow milk per day largely in Delhi-NCR market, also expressed confidence that its sales volume will not be affected with more players entering in this segment. Haridwar-based Patanjali Ayurved has launched cow milk at ₹40 per litre as against ₹42 charged by the Mother Dairy. "We welcome competition. Patanjali group's entry will lead to an increase in the overall size of the cow milk segment. It will also help farmers and the rural economy," Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd Director Saugata Mitra told PTI.

Asked whether the company will cut rates, he said: "We will neither increase nor decrease our price of cow milk."

Last week, Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved announced its entry into the cow milk segment by launching cow milk and milk-based dairy products, targeting sales of around ₹1,000 crore by FY20. Amul and Parag Milk, too, have launched cow milk in Delhi-NCR. "We have been serving the Delhi-NCR market for last 40 years. Our customers are loyal to the brand," he said, ruling out any adverse impact on its sales volume.

"The packaged cow milk market across the country is estimated to be of around 10-12 lakh litres per day. We sell around 7 lakh per day currently and this is estimated to touch 8 lakh litre per day by March next year," Mitra said, adding the entry of new players would expand the market size of this segment. Overall, Mother Dairy supplies about 36-37 lakh litres of milk (pouches and token) per day, of which 32 lakh litres per day are in Delhi-NCR through 1,400 retail outlets. PTI

BUSINESS CORNER

MARKET CRASH WIPES OUT OVER ₹1L CR OF INVESTOR WEALTH

New Delhi: Investor wealth eroded by over ₹1 lakh crore Monday following a weak broader market where the BSE benchmark index tumbled more than 505 points to slip below the 38,000 mark. Following the sharp fall in stocks, the market capitalisation (m-cap) of BSE-listed companies dropped by ₹1,14,676.15 crore to ₹1,55,22,343 crore. The 30-share key index plunged 505.13 points or 1.33 per cent to end at 37,585.51. Escalating trade war tensions between the US and China, as well as the rupee worries have dented the market sentiment, experts said. The Indian currency once again breached the 72-mark to hit a low of 72.69 (intra-day) against the US dollar. From the 30-share basket, 25 stocks ended with losses led by Sun Pharma, HDFC, Tata Motors and Reliance Industries Limited. At the BSE, 1,441 stocks declined, while 1,282 advanced and 191 remained unchanged. Also, more than 140 stocks hit their 52-week low levels Monday on BSE.

SOARING PETROL PRICES HIT PRE-FESTIVE BUYING: SURVEY

New Delhi: Ahead of the festive season, the surge in petrol rates has left consumers scrambling and cutting household expenses to adjust with the price hike, a survey said. "The festive season is near. Everyone wants to spend on gifts and do those much-awaited upgrades of the home appliances. But the roof-touching fuel prices have put a dent in the pre-festive season spirit," citizen engagement platform LocalCircles said in its latest survey. "It is a big burden on the middle-class Indians and many of them are scrambling and cutting household expenses to adjust with the rising fuel prices," it said. 78 per cent households have plans to reduce or have already reduced their discretionary spending like eating out, leisure travel, movies, shopping etc, the survey said. The rest said that they will restrict their expenses by spending only on purchase of the basic items.

RAYMOND WEIL EXPECTS INDIA TO BE AMONG TOP 5 MARKET GLOBALLY IN NEXT 4-5 YEARS

New Delhi: Swiss luxury watchmaker Raymond Weil expects India to be among its top five global market in next 4-5 years, as the company is witnessing good growth here led by aspirational class consumers, said a top company official. The company is upbeat as it has doubled its India business in last 12 months and expects to continue such growth in the coming years also. Raymond Weil sees huge 'potential' in the Indian market, which ranks around 12 to 13 in its overall global sales, said Raymond Weil Director Olivier Bernheim. "India is one of the two markets for us which has the biggest potentials," Bernheim said. On being asked whether India could be among Raymond Weil's top five global markets in next 4-5 years, he said: "Off Course. It should be".

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
BPCL	353.05	367.25	348.1	364.2	9.7
HINDPETRO	250.1	260.45	248	257.4	4.75
TECHM	759.5	772.75	755	767.6	7.15
IOC	154.1	158.85	153.1	156.5	1.25
HCLTECH	1070.05	1084.40	1070.05	1078.15	7.45
EICHERMOT	29,305.00	29,780.00	29,172.00	29,580.00	196.25
POWERGRID	197.4	203.55	197.4	201.4	1.25
GAIL	369.8	374.4	366.1	371.3	1.35
TCS	2,070.00	2,077.80	2,054.55	2,072.00	6.6
TATASTEEL	610	624.4	605.55	616.25	1.25
ADANIPORTS	377.3	384	376.3	380.85	0.75
ZEELE	469	478.8	466	473	0.95
GRASIM	1,053.10	1,079.20	1,044.00	1,064.35	0.65
M&M	947.65	956.4	936.6	952	0.1
VEDL	235.45	237.75	232.15	235.5	-0.1
WIPRO	332.25	336	328.1	330	-0.2
ONGC	171.1	173.55	170.65	172.35	-0.2
INDUSINDBK	1,857.80	1,880.90	1,849.00	1,870.10	-2.7
DRREDDY	2,581.00	2,615.00	2,547.90	2,572.10	-9.75
CIPLA	673	673	660.4	663.9	-2.5
BHARTIARTL	380.15	391	377.1	382	-1.6
BAJAJ-AUTO	2,864.00	2,879.90	2,840.05	2,860.00	-17.5
ICICIBANK	327.3	327.5	321.35	326.15	-2.2
COALINDIA	277.5	278.15	273.25	274.9	-2.45
KOTAKBANK	1,227.65	1,238.90	1,221.65	1,228.20	-11.35
INFY	735	740	724.6	729	-6.8
LT	1,351.55	1,353.80	1,339.60	1,345.90	-12.95
MARUTI	8,587.00	8,659.70	8,517.00	8,520.00	-106.7
NTPC	175	175.4	171.1	172.4	-2.55
HINDUNILVR	1,620.00	1,626.00	1,595.00	1,605.00	-24.3
ITC	305	306.1	301.5	302.5	-4.65
HINDALCO	244	245.65	240.5	241.7	-3.75
YESBANK	317.5	321.85	315.95	317.5	-5.6
AXISBANK	633.7	634	622	624.6	-11.8
HDFCBANK	2,021.30	2,022.95	1,988.00	1,991.95	-37.65
LUPIN	958.45	978	945.55	950.5	-18.25
HEROMOTOCO	3,180.00	3,180.00	3,110.25	3,126.00	-60.65
SBIN	288.5	288.5	284.1	285.1	-5.55
UPL	734.9	735.95	722	722.4	-14.35
ULTRACEMCO	4,156.00	4,174.95	4,090.65	4,102.00	-87.1
ASIANPAINT	1,329.95	1,329.95	1,302.00	1,305.00	-28.9
IBULHSGFIN	1,222.00	1,222.00	1,187.50	1,199.35	-27.75
RELIANCE	1,250.75	1,250.75	1,221.60	1,224.00	-29.15
HDFC	1,910.00	1,910.00	1,871.00	1,877.45	-48
TATAMOTORS	263.35	264.1	259.65	259.85	-6.75
BAJAJFINSV	6,691.20	6,699.95	6,530.00	6,540.15	-169.5
SUNPHARMA	661	668.25	644.2	646.4	-16.85
TITAN	834.8	838	816.7	819	-23.6
INFRADEL	274.8	275	266	266.9	-7.7
BAJFINANCE	2,660.00	2,660.00	2,588.25	2,596.00	-76.2

BSE 500

Script	Last Price	Abs Change	Chng %
CHENNPETRO	302.55	12.65	4.36
CHOLAFIN	1314.6	-8.65	-0.65
CIPLA	663	-3.25	-0.49
COALINDIA	274.8	-2.5	-0.9
COCHINSHIP	420.55	1.4	0.33
COFFEEAYD	307.7	-5.4	-1.72
COPAL	1111	-10.3	-0.92
CONCOR	635.6	-9.55	-1.48
COROMANDEL	4.04	0.05	1
CORPBANK	26.65	0	0
COX&KINGS	216.9	-3.45	-1.57
CRISIL	1747.55	2.1	0.12
CROMPTON	220.75	0.6	0.27
CUB	182.45	-1.05	-0.57
CUMMINSIND	738.05	-23.1	-3.03
CYIENT	732.5	-9.8	-1.32
DABUR	459.9	-7.75	-1.66
DALMIABHA	2638.65	-51.3	-1.91
DBCORP	217.45	0.65	0.3
DBL	796.6	3.05	0.4
DCBBANK	166.35	-2.1	-1.25
DOMSHIRIRAM	415.45	25.65	6.58
DEEPAKERT	241.05	4.4	1.86
DEEPFICE	267.5	-5.35	-1.96
DELTAACORD	259.85	-9.6	-3.66
DENBANK	15.95	-0.1	-0.52
DHUNUKA	533.3	-11.6	-2.13
DHFL	49.9	-4.9	-9.8
DHFL	610.2	-0.65	-0.56
DISHTV	67	-0.65	-0.97
DIVISLAB	1363.75	34.2	2.57
DIVS	213	3.8	1.82
DMART	1521.7	-12.25	-0.8
DRREDDY	2569.4	-11.8	-0.46
EDELWEISS	1171.2	45.55	4.04
EIDERR	267.1	-3	-1.11
EIDEPARRY	2967.05	300.75	10.2
EIDEPARRY	236.45	16.5	7.5
EIHOTEL	163.15	-3.65	-2.19
EIGLOEQUIP	288.15	-4.85	-1.66
EMAMILTD	547.85	-5	-0.9
ENDURANCE	1431.6	-10.25	-0.71
ENGINEERSIN	136.05	4.15	3.15

SENSEX



NIFTY



NAVNETEDUL	123.05	-2.4	-1.91	SONATSOFTW	409.25	14.65	3.71
NBCC	68.5	0.05	0.07	SOUTHBANK	16.25	-0.15	-0.91
NVENTURES	135.3	10.5	8.01	SPARC	397.9	-2	-0.5
NCC	91.65	1.85	2.06	SPICEJET	79.65	1.1	1.4
NESTLEIND	10165.5	-176	-1.7	SREINFRA	49.05	-0.05	-0.1
NETWORK18	54.7	-0.75	-1.35	SRF	2025.6	17.8	0.89
NH	251.95	0.15	0.06	SRTANSFIN	1195.85	-17.8	-1.47
NHPC	24.65	-0.2	-0.8	STARCEMENT	104.4	-0.6	-0.57
NIACL	250	2.6	1.05	STRTECH	340.8	5.35	1.59
NIITTECH	1343.35	13.15	0.99	SUDARSCHEM	427.45	-6.85	-1.58
NILKAMAL	1818.8	27	1.51	SUNCLAYLTD	397.2	2	0.05
NLCINDIA	72.45	1.5	2.11	SUNDRMFAST	632.75	3.8	0.6
NMDC	120.55	-3.25	-2.63	SUNPHARMA	646.15	-18.95	-2.85
NOCIL	166.65	0.45	0.27	SUNTECK	476.8	-1.3	-0.27
NTPC	172.6	-2.4	-1.37	SUNTV	675.5	-13.05	-1.9
OBEROIRLTY	488.25	0.2	0.04	SUPPETRO	255.25	6.2	2.49
OFSS	4503.05	254.3	5.99	SUPRAJIT	243.2	12.3	5.33
OIL	205.85	0.4	0.19	SUPREMEIND	1132.85	-16.4	-1.43
OMAXE	219.35	-1	-0.45	SUVEN	314.75	2.05	0.66
ONGC	171.75	-1.15	-0.67	SUZLON	7.63	0.63	9
ORIENTBANK	76.2	-0.1	-0.13	SWANENERGY	152.55	-1.6	-1.04
ORIENTCEM	107.5	0.75	0.7	SYMPHONY	1039.55	-3.05	-2.29
PAGEIND	30208.05	-852.75	-2.52	SYNDBANK	39.35	1.2	3.15
PARAGMILK	283.4	-3.4	-1.19	SUNGENE	628.55	8.8	1.42
PCJEWELLER	83.65	1.75	2.14	TAKE	198.1	-2.15	-1.07
PEL	2961.05	-80.3	-2.64	TACHEM	749.95	2.15	0.29
PERSISTENT	849.05	-0.1	-0.01	TATACOFFEE	111.45	-1.1	-0.98
PETRONET	237.75	-4.15	-1.72	TATACOMM	524.5	-1.75	-0.33
PFC	84.9	0.05	0.06	TATAELSI	1361.55	14.3	1.06
PRIZER	3449.55	-82.45	-2.33	TATAGLOBAL	235.95	2.8	1.2
PFS	17.6	0.25	1.44	TATAINVEST	775.5	-7.55	-0.96
PGH	9924.55	-181.65	-1.8	TATAMETALI	723.05	9.55	1.34
PHILIPCARB	232.75	3.15	1.37	TATAMOTORS	260.2	-6.25	-2.35
PHOENIXLTD	603.65	2.4	0.4	TATAMTRDVR	141	-3.1	-2.15
PIDILITIND	1111.2	-21.3	-1.88	TATATATAT	77.85	1.75	2.3
PIIND	774.65	8.45	1.1	TATASTEEL	615.65	0.3	0.05
PNB	83	0.15	0.18	TCS	2071.6	8.3	0.4
PNBHOUSING	1280.85	-10.9	-0.84	TEAMLEASE	2515.05	28.75	1.16
PNCINFRA	161.35	5.45	3.5	TECHM	767.1	6.85	0.9
POWERGRID							

Trump has 'insecurity of a teenage girl': Kerry 'Americans don't trust Trump'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

people". "He told them to wait out the Trump Administration! Was he registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act? BAD!" Trump tweeted. Reacting to the accusation on a late-night talk show on Friday to promote his new memoir 'Every Day is Extra', Kerry said, "He's the first President who spends more time reading his Twitter likes than his briefing books or the Constitution of the United States".

"Unfortunately, we have a president, literally, for whom



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

"He really is the rare combination of an 8-year-old boy — he's got the maturity of an 8-year-old boy with the insecurity of a teenage girl. It's just who he is," he said. Kerry's remarks received a mixed response online. While some lauded the comparison as "absolutely priceless" and a "mic drop" moment, many expressed disappointment for

his "condescending" and "inaccurate" generalisation of young women. Matt Summers, a spokesman for Kerry, later defended Kerry's Iran meetings. "Secretary Kerry stays in touch with his former counterparts around the world just like every previous secretary of state," he said.

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Americans do not trust US President Donald Trump as they cannot believe that he does not know anything about his campaigns' connection with Russia during the 2016 presidential election, Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal has said.

Her comments came days after Paul Manafort, who once headed Trump's campaign, pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and agreed to cooperate with special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing investigations of Russian interference in the election.

Jayapal, the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the US House of Representatives, told CNN on Sunday: "When you think about this, it isn't just the individual pieces that we're seeing, but what we're seeing is top advisers, people who ran the campaign, the campaign manager, the deputy campaign manager, the president's personal lawyer who have all pleaded guilty".

"You have to begin to wonder how it could possibly be the case that the president knew nothing about what was going on."

"We obviously still have ways to go in terms of connecting Russia to the campaign and the president. That is still out there," she said.

This is reflected in the polls, she said. "You see people recognising they don't trust the president. They believe that Bob Mueller is doing a good job and that the investigation should continue. People are saying, look, this is outrageous," Jayapal said about the ongoing investigations by former FBI director Mueller on the allegations of Russian interference in 2016 elections.

"This level of corruption, greed, some of the individual charges that are outlined in the Manafort, charging document really show that this guy (Paul Manafort, former Trump Campaign manager)... is in jail because of jury tampering. This was the person who ran Donald Trump's campaign. Not just some junior person, the person who ran his campaign.

I think that's a problem," said the Indian-American Congresswoman from the Washington State.

Jayapal said people want a check on the president. "They see the chaos of the last 18 months. They don't want it. They don't like shattering of norms. What does a person who has the biggest bully pulpit of the White House do? They don't like the tweets that come from the president, contesting what happened in Maria," she said.

People want him to be focused, to be presidential and Trump is none of those things. But in addition to that, people are not seeing their own lives changing. Healthcare is the number one issue on the table. It really is, she said.

"When you look at what Republicans have done to undermine healthcare costs, to drive premiums up, to strip pre-existing, the ability to qualify for health care with pre-existing conditions, these are things that Americans care about. They do not see healthcare getting better," Jayapal added.

Russia: Missile that shot down flight MH17 was Ukrainian

AP ■ MOSCOW

The Russian military says the missile that shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 came from the arsenals of the Ukrainian army, not from Russia.

The passenger jet was shot down by a Soviet-made missile over rebel-held eastern Ukraine in July 2014, killing all 298 people aboard. The Netherlands and Australia announced in May that they believe the missile was transported to Ukraine from a military unit in the Russian city of Kursk.

Russia has vehemently denied involvement. Lt. Gen. Nikolai Parshin, chief of the Missile and Artillery Directorate at the Russian Defense Ministry, told reporters on Monday that the military had studied archives at the research center that produced the Buk missiles.

He said the missile in question was transported to a military unit in 1986 and to their knowledge never left Ukraine.

S Korean Prez wants 'heart-to-heart' summit talks with Kim Jong-Un

AFP ■ SEOUL

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that he will push for "irreversible, permanent peace," and for better dialogue between Pyongyang and Washington, during "heart-to-heart" talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week.

His chief of staff, however, played down the chance that Moon's summit with Kim will produce major progress in nuclear diplomacy.

Moon flies to Pyongyang on Tuesday for his third summit of the year with Kim. This one comes as global diplomatic efforts to rid North Korea of its nuclear programme have stalled and questions have been raised about how serious Kim is about following through with his vague commitments to denuclearise.

"I aim to have lots of heart-to-heart talks with Chairman Kim Jong Un," Moon said during a meeting with top advisers, according to his office.

"What I want to achieve is peace. I mean irreversible, permanent peace that is not shaken by international politics." To achieve such a peace, Moon said he'll focus during the summit on easing a decades-long military standoff between the Koreas and promoting a North Korea-US dialogue on denuclearization issues.

Moon said he wants "to find a middle ground between a US request for (North Korea's) denuclearization and the North's request for corresponding measures such as ending hostile relations and security assurances."

During a June summit between Kim and President Donald Trump, the North Korean leader expressed his commitment to denuclearization while Trump promised to provide him with security guarantees and announced the suspension of major military drills with South Korea.

North Korea has long maintained that its nuclear program is aimed at coping

with what it calls US military threats. North Korea is pushing for a peace treaty with the United States to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. It also wants the lifting of US-led sanctions. North Korea has taken some steps, like dismantling its nuclear and rocket-engine testing sites, but US officials have said it must take more serious disarmament steps before receiving outside concessions.

Earlier Monday, Moon's chief of staff, Im Jong-seok, told reporters that it's "difficult to have any optimistic outlook" for progress on denuclearization during the summit. He said progress will depend on how candid the discussions are.

Im said he expects the summit to produce "meaningful" agreements that "fundamentally remove the danger of armed clashes and ease fears of war" between the two Koreas. He said the agreements will help promote chances for the signing of a peace treaty that

formally ends the Korean War. Military officials have in recent months discussed the possibility of disarming a jointly controlled area at the Korea's shared border village, removing front-line guard posts and halting hostile acts along their sea boundary. The Korea's 248-kilometre (155-mile) border is the world's most heavily fortified, with hundreds of thousands of troops stationed along a line that's laced with mines, barbed wire fences and anti-tank traps. The navies of the Koreas have fought several bloody skirmishes off the west coast of the Korean Peninsula.

Moon will also take a group of business tycoons including Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong to Pyongyang. Some experts say Moon is preparing for the resumption of inter-Korean economic cooperation projects after diplomacy eventually yields results. Currently, all major joint economic projects between the Koreas remain stalled because of US-led sanctions.

Spanish PM defends giving weapons to Saudi Arabia

AFP ■ MADRID

Spain's Prime Minister on Sunday defended his government's controversial decision to go ahead with the delivery of 400 laser-guided bombs to Saudi Arabia, saying it was needed to preserve good ties with the Gulf state.

His Socialist government announced earlier this month that it would block the delivery of the weapons amid concerns that they could harm civilians in Yemen where Saudi Arabi is engaged in a bloody conflict.

But on Thursday Foreign Minister Josep Borrell announced the government had decided to deliver the weapons after all, angering humanitarian groups.

Cancellation of the deal would jeopardise a much larger order for five Corvette warships worth 1.8 billion euros, to be built by Spain's Navantia shipyard in the southern region of Andalusia, with thousands of jobs at stake.

Workers in the region, a stronghold of the ruling Socialist Party, had staged demonstrations pressing for the deal to go ahead.

Asked about the policy reversal during an interview with private television La Sexta, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said his government risked "creating the image that it was revising its entire relationship" with Saudi Arabia if it did not deliver the weapons.

"The situation was very complicated. The dilemma the government faced was breaking its commercial, economic and political ties with Saudi Arabia, with the impact this could have in some areas of the country, such as the Bay of Cadiz, or carry out a contract signed by the previous government," he added.

Saudi Arabia, a longtime ally, had already paid 9.2 million euros (USD 10.7 million) for the bombs under a 2015 contract signed by a previous, conservative administration in Spain. Apart from the warship deal, Madrid has obtained juicy engineering contracts to build a high-speed railway linking Mecca and Medina, and a metro in Riyadh.

Spain is the fourth largest provider of military equipment and weapons to the Gulf state, according to Amnesty International.

Imran govt auctions fleet of luxury cars Part of austerity drive

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The cash-strapped Pakistan government on Monday sold 34 cars as part of an auction of 102 luxury vehicles, including some bullet-proof ones, as part of Prime Minister Imran Khan's austerity drive.

Apart from luxury cars, the government, facing huge debts and liabilities, plans to auction eight buffaloes kept by deposed and jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif at the PM House for his "gastronomic requirements", a senior aide to Khan said last week.

It will also sell the four surplus helicopters lying unused with the Cabinet Division, Naeem-ul-Haq, the Prime Minister's Special Assistant for Political Affairs, said.

Thirty-four non-imported cars have been sold so far during the action, Geo News reported. In the second phase of the auction, 41 imported cars will be sold, it said. The cars that are being auctioned include four recent models of Mercedes Benz, eight bullet-proof BMWs, three 5000cc SUVs and two 3000cc SUVs of 2016 model.

Twenty-four 24 Mercedes

Benz of 2016 model are also being auctioned. Two of the 28 cars are 4,000cc bullet-proof vehicles, the report said.

Further, 40 Toyota cars, a Lexus SUV, and two Land Cruisers are also up for auction. Other vehicles that are being auctioned include eight Suzuki cars, five Mitsubishi vehicles, nine Hondas and two jeeps. The cars will be sold to those who have the highest bid, the report said.

In his first address to the nation, Prime Minister Khan had emphasised on cutting government expenditure. As part of the cost-cutting initiative, he had announced the auction of surplus PM House vehicles.

Pakistan's debt and liabilities rose sharply to nearly Rs 30 trillion or 87 per cent of total size of the economy at the end of previous fiscal year, according to media reports. Statistics released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) last month showed that in the last five years, Pakistan's total debt and liabilities increased Rs 13.5 trillion or 82.8 per cent to stand at Rs 29.9 trillion. Five years ago, Pakistan's total debt and liabilities were Rs 16.4 trillion, the Express Tribune reported.

Amazon probing staff data leaks

AFP ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Amazon is investigating allegations that some of its staff sold confidential customer data to third party companies particularly in China, the online giant confirmed on Sunday.

According to a Wall Street Journal report, which did not give figures, employees of the e-retailer sell internal data and other confidential information — usually through intermediaries — to merchants who sell their goods on the US giant's website.

On Amazon, customers can buy products sold directly by the company along with goods from many other merchants.

The practice under investigation is a violation of company policy. It is particularly present in China, the paper said, citing the example of intermediaries in Shenzhen working for group employees and selling information on sales volumes for payments ranging from 80 to more than 2,000 dollars.

An Amazon spokesperson told AFP in a brief statement that the company is "conducting a thorough investigation of



these claims."

"We have zero tolerance for abuse of our systems and if we find bad actors who have engaged in this behaviour, we will take swift action against them, including terminating their selling accounts, deleting reviews, withholding funds, and taking legal action," the statement said.

Fake reviews by purported customers are among the concerns of the internal probe, according to the WSJ, which said Amazon has been investigating this topic for months.

Amazon employs approximately 560,000 people worldwide.

Martian dust storm clearing over rover: NASA

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A global dust storm that shrouded Mars — halting operations for NASA's Opportunity rover — continues to abate, raising scientists' hopes to hear back from the 15-year-old, solar-powered probe.

Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in the US believe that the rover will soon receive enough sunlight to automatically initiate recovery procedures, if it is not damaged.

To prepare, the Opportunity mission team has developed a two-step plan to provide the highest probability of successfully communicating with the rover and bringing it back online.

"The Sun is breaking through the haze over Perseverance Valley, and soon there will be enough sunlight present that Opportunity should be able to recharge its batteries," said John Callas,

Opportunity project manager at JPL.

When the tau level — a measure of the amount of particulate matter in the Martian sky — dips below 1.5, researchers will attempt to communicate with the rover by sending it commands via the antennas of NASA's Deep Space Network.

"Assuming that we hear back from Opportunity, we will begin the process of discerning its status and bringing it back online," said Callas.

The dust storm on Mars was first detected May 30 and the rover's last communication with Earth was received June 10.

The dust storm on Mars was first detected May 30 and the rover's last communication with Earth was received June 10.

Opportunity engineers are

relying on the expertise of Mars scientists analysing data from the Mars Color Imager (MARCI) aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) to estimate the tau near the rover's position.

"The dust haze produced by the Martian global dust storm of 2018 is one of the most extensive on record, but all indications are it is finally coming to a close," said MRO Project Scientist Rich Zurek at JPL.

"MARCI images of the Opportunity site have shown no active dust storms for some time within 3,000 kilometers of the rover site," said Zurek.

With skies clearing, mission managers are hopeful

the rover will attempt to call home, but they are also prepared for an extended period of silence.

"If we do not hear back after 45 days, the team will be forced to conclude that the Sun-blocking dust and the Martian cold have conspired to cause some type of fault from which the rover will more than likely not recover," said Callas.

At that point, the team will report to NASA HQ to determine whether to continue with the strategy or adjust it.

Even if the team hears back from Opportunity during either phase, there is no assurance the rover will be operational. The impact of this latest storm on Opportunity's systems is unknown but could have resulted in reduced energy production, diminished battery performance, or other unforeseen damage that could make it difficult for the rover to fully return online.

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court was thrust into turmoil Sunday after the woman accusing him of high school-era sexual misconduct told her story publicly for the first time.

Democrats immediately called for a delay in a key committee vote set for this later week and a Republican on the closely divided panel said he's "not comfortable" voting on the nomination without first hearing from the accuser.

The woman, Christine Blasey Ford, told The Washington Post in her first interview that Kavanaugh pinned her to a bed at a Maryland party they attended in the early 1980s, clumsily tried to remove her clothing

and put his hand over her mouth when she tried to scream.

"I thought he might inadvertently kill me," Ford said.

"He was trying to attack me and remove my clothing," Ford, 51 and a clinical psychology professor at Palo Alto University in California, says she was able to get away after a friend of Kavanaugh's who was in the room jumped on top of them and everyone tumbled.

Kavanaugh, 53 and a federal appeals judge in Washington, on Sunday repeated an earlier denial of Ford's allegation. "I categorically and unequivocally deny this allegation. I did not do this back in high school or at any time," Kavanaugh said through the White House.

The allegation first came to light late last week in the form

of a letter that has been in the possession of Sen Dianne Feinstein of California, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, for some time.

The committee recently concluded four days of public hearings on the nomination and the panel's Republican chairman, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, scheduled a Thursday vote on whether to recommend that the full Senate confirm Kavanaugh for a lifetime appointment to the nation's highest court.

Democrats, led by New York Sen Chuck Schumer, immediately called for it to be postponed, though Republicans gave no indication Sunday that they would accede to the calls by Democrats, most of whom already publicly oppose Kavanaugh.

US Def Secy in Macedonia to counter 'Russian influence'

AFP ■ SKOPIJE

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis arrived in Skopje Monday to back a 'yes' vote at this month's referendum on Macedonia's name change and counter what he called "Russian influence" against the move.

On September 30, Macedonians will vote on whether to change the country's name to the Republic of North Macedonia, which would open the door to NATO and EU membership.

The planned vote follows a landmark deal on the change signed by Athens and Skopje in June in a bid to break a stalemate that has poisoned their relations since 1991 and hobbled Macedonia's integration with the West.

Greece objected to its neighbour being called Macedonia because it has its own province of the same name.

It had accused Skopje of territorial ambitions and blocked the Balkan country from joining NATO or starting EU accession talks.

"I think to the people whose lives can be changed by economic opportunities, by security among... 30 democratic nations, I think it's very important that they have those options available," Mattis said on the plane taking him to Skopje.

But "this is a decision for our Macedonian friends. And however they go, you know that we are going to live by it." Mattis is to meet with his Macedonian counterpart Ludmila Sekerinska and with Prime Minister Zoran

Zaev, who struck the name-change deal with Greece.

He will also hold talks with President Gorge Ivanov, close to the rightist nationalists and an opponent of the deal.

Washington accuses Russia, which opposes NATO enlargement in eastern Europe and the Balkans, of leading a disinformation campaign in Macedonia through social media to discourage voters from taking part.

The Pentagon chief slammed what he called "Russian influence operations" in the country of 2.1 million.

"We don't want to see Russia doing there what they have tried to do in so many other countries," he said.

Mattis accused Russia of sending money to influence some political groups.

Aspirin does not reduce heart attack, stroke risk: Study

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Taking aspirin daily does not reduce the heart attack or stroke and has no benefit in prolonging life free of disability, a study has found.

Aspirin-related compounds have been used for the treatment of pain since the 16th century BC, when it was reported that people chewed on the bark of willow and papyrus.

It was first synthesised in 1898, and since the 1960s has been known to lower the risk of heart attack and stroke among those who had previously experienced heart disease or stroke. This protective capacity of aspirin was extrapolated to people who were otherwise healthy to prevent a first heart attack or stroke, despite the evidence supporting this to be sparse.

In three studies, published in the New England Journal of

Medicine, researchers showed that daily low-dose aspirin (100mg), when initiated in otherwise healthy people from age 70 onwards, has no benefit in prolonging life free of disability, or substantially reducing the risk of having a first heart attack or stroke.

Over 19,000 people in Australia and the US were studied over seven years for the study was called ASPREE — Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly.

The results showed that low-dose aspirin did not prolong healthy life. Nor did it prolong life or substantially reduce the incidence of heart attack or stroke — with little difference between the placebo and aspirin groups.

"The take-home message of such a complex, large, placebo-controlled study is that healthy older people contemplating how best to preserve

their health will be unlikely to benefit from aspirin," said John McNeil, a professor at the Monash University in Australia.

However, bleeding, a well-known side-effect of aspirin, was borne out by the study, with a small increase (3.8 per cent) in cases of serious bleeding among aspirin takers versus (2.8 per cent) in those who took placebo.

"It means millions of healthy older people around the world who are taking low-dose aspirin without a medical reason may be doing so unnecessarily, because the study showed no overall benefit to offset the risk of bleeding," McNeil said.

While aspirin remained a relatively safe medication, it was not benign and patients should follow the advice of their doctor about daily low-dose use, researchers said.

Typhoon Mangkhut lashes China

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

More than 3.11 million people had been relocated and over 49,000 fishing boats were called back to port in the province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Monday. Work has been suspended at more than 29,000 construction sites and 640 tourist spots were closed.

The airports of Guangzhou and Shenzhen. All high-speed train services and some normal-speed rail services have been suspended in Guangdong



Typhoon Mangkhut leaves a trail of destruction in southern China

and Hainan provinces.

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

Mangkhut made landfall in western Guangdong on Sunday afternoon before moving into

neighbouring Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, bringing with it torrential rains and gales.

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

Mangkhut earlier lashed the Philippines, sparking land-

slides and building collapses that killed at least 65 people, with another 43 missing.

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

Massive clean-up in Hong Kong

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong began a massive clean-up Monday after Typhoon Mangkhut raked the city, shredding trees and bringing damaging floods, in a trail of destruction that left dozens dead in the Philippines and millions evacuated in southern China.

The death toll in the Philippines, where the main island of Luzon was mauled with fierce winds and rain, rose to 65 overnight as rescuers pulled more bodies from a huge landslide in the mountain town of Itogon.

The landslide buried an emergency shelter which was being used by miners and their families in the town.

No-one has yet been pulled alive from the rubble and relatives of those buried are taking part in the rescue efforts, the town's mayor Victorio Palangdan told AFP.

National police spokesman Senior Superintendent Benigno Durana said 43 other people are missing, and more than 155,000 people remain in evacuation centres two days after the typhoon struck.

Farms across northern Luzon, which produces much of the nation's rice and corn, were sitting under muddy floodwater, their crops ruined just a month before harvest.

After tearing through Luzon and pummeling Hong



Debris caused by Typhoon Mangkhut is seen on the waterfront in Hong Kong, on Monday

Kong and Macau, the storm made landfall in mainland China late Sunday, with two reported dead in Guangdong province.

Authorities there said they had evacuated more than three million people and ordered tens of thousands of fishing boats back to port before the arrival of what Chinese media had dubbed the "King of Storms".

In the high-rise city of

Hong Kong, the government described the damage as "severe and extensive" with more than 300 people injured in Mangkhut, which triggered the maximum "T10" typhoon alert.

The monumental task of cleaning up the city began as residents, some in suits and ties, struggled to get back to work on roads that remained blocked by felled trees, mud and debris. Schools were closed, bus

services halted, and travel disruption saw commuters piling onto platforms trying to board infrequent trains after trees fell on overhead lines.

Landslides and severe flooding affected some areas, with over 1,500 residents seeking refuge in temporary shelters overnight.

The storm, with gusts of more than 230 kilometres per hour (142 mph), sent buildings swaying and waters surging into homes and shopping malls in Hong Kong, with some roads waist-deep in water.

Windows in tower blocks and skyscrapers were smashed as people cowered inside.

In the neighbourhood of Heng Fa Chuen, thousands of rocks and pebbles from the sea covered parkland along the coastline which had been battered by waves.

Low-lying fishing villages were also badly affected after seawater swept through.

Streets in the seaside village of Lei Yue Mun were covered in debris and glass as residents picked their way through.

The city's main Victoria Park had become an obstacle course with hundreds of trees down and many completely uprooted.

Emergency teams were sawing apart some of the biggest trees blocking roads and pathways across the city in a clean-up operation that is likely to take days.

Co-founder of Salesforce buys Time magazine

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Time Magazine is being sold by Meredith Corp to Marc Benioff, a co-founder of Salesforce, and his wife, it was announced Sunday.

Meredith announced that it was selling Time magazine for USD 190 million in cash to Benioff, one of four co-founders of Salesforce, a cloud computing pioneer.

Meredith had completed the purchase of Time along with other publications of Time Inc earlier this year.

The Benioffs are purchasing Time personally, and the transaction is unrelated to Salesforce.com, where Benioff is chairman and co-CEO and co-founder.

The announcement by Meredith said that the Benioffs would not be involved in the day-to-day operations or journalistic decisions at Time.

Those decisions will continue to be made by Time's current executive leadership team, the announcement said.

"We're pleased to have found such passionate buyers in Marc and Lynne Benioff for the Time brand," Meredith president and CEO Tom Hartly said in a statement.

"For over 90 years, Time has been at the forefront of the most significant events and impactful stories that shape our global conversation."

Meredith, the publisher of such magazines as People and Better Homes & Gardens, had put four Time Inc publications up for sale in March.

Negotiations for the sale of the three other publications — Fortune, Money and Sports Illustrated — are continuing. The prospective sale is expected to close within 30 days.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, Benioff said he and his wife were investing "in a company with tremendous impact on the world, one that is also an incredibly strong business. That's what we're looking for when we invest as a family."

The purchase of Time by Benioff continues a trend of acquisitions of old-line media institutions by wealthy tech giants.

The Washington Post was purchased by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos in 2013 for USD 250 million. Time, like other magazines, has struggled with continued declines in print advertising and newsstand sales.

Started by Yale University graduates Henry Luce and Briton Hadden, Time first went on sale in March 1923.

Trade war: 'Beijing should target goods needed by US'

AP ■ BEIJING

One of China's most prominent figures in global finance says Beijing should press Washington to end their tariff battle by clamping down on exports of goods needed by American companies, according to news reports Monday.

The comments by Lou Jiwei, a former finance minister and chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, follow reports regulators are squeezing American companies by slowing down customs approvals and stepping up environmental and other inspections.

Also Monday, an official newspaper called for more aggressive Chinese measures to "make American pain worse" following tariff hikes by both sides on USD 50 billion of each other's goods.

Beijing is considering Washington's invitation last week to revive talks on their fight over Chinese technology policy and plans for state-led development of global champions in robotics and other fields.

American officials say those violate Beijing's market-opening commitments and worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

At the same time, US

President Donald Trump is deciding whether to go ahead with potentially disruptive plans to raise tariffs on an additional USD 200 billion of Chinese goods.

Chinese authorities have yet to confirm what steps aside from retaliatory tariffs they might take. But they have threatened to take "comprehensive measures" as Beijing runs out of imports for penalties due to its lopsided trade balance with the United States. American companies worry their operations in China might be targeted.

Other commentators have suggested Beijing use its holdings of U.S. government debt or tar-

get American companies in China.

Speaking on Sunday at an economics forum, Lou said Beijing should disrupt supply chains of American companies that rely on low-cost goods or components from China's vast manufacturing industries, the website Sina.com reported.

China's "counterattack strategy needs to restrict exports to the United States as well as (imports of) U.S. goods," Lou was paraphrased as saying.

"Only knowing the pain of fighting will stop the war and cause (the United States) to negotiate seriously," said Lou.

Lou was finance minister through 2016 and serves as chairman of China's 1.9 trillion yuan (USD 290 billion) National Social Security Fund, which manages assets of government pension plans. He is a former chairman of China's sovereign wealth fund, the China Investment Corp.

The Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party, warned that China sees the technology conflict as a long battle.

"China will choose the most favorable and powerful way to counterattack," said the newspaper, which is known for its unusually nationalist and con-

frontational tone. "We are looking forward to a more beautiful counterattack that will make American pain worse."

Sina and other outlets did not indicate if Lou suggested specific products or industries Beijing might target.

Last week, the American Chambers of Commerce in China and in Shanghai reported 52.1 percent of more than 430 companies that responded to a survey said Chinese authorities are subjecting them to "qualitative measures" including slower customs clearance and increased inspections and bureaucratic procedures.

Pair taken ill in UK, not linked to Russian poisoning: Cops

PTI ■ LONDON

British police Monday said there is nothing to suggest that Novichok was the cause of two people falling ill at a restaurant in Salisbury, where a former Russian double agent and his daughter suffered poisoning from a military-grade nerve agent attack in March.

Wiltshire Police declared a major incident after a man in his 40s and a woman in her 30s became ill at Prezzo in High Street on Sunday evening.

Nearby streets were cordoned off "due to recent events" in the city, but restrictions have now been lifted, the BBC reported.

Police say they are no longer treating the illness as a major incident.

Salisbury is in south-west England where former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia had suffered a Novichok nerve agent poisoning in March.

"Due to recent events in the city and concerns that the pair had been exposed to an unknown substance, a highly precautionary approach was taken by all emergency services," a Wiltshire Police statement said.

In June, two Amesbury residents also fell ill after being exposed to the same nerve agent. Dawn Sturgess, 44, died and a murder inquiry was launched.



Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu pose for a photograph with a group of Indians, in Floriana, Malta, on Sunday. Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla, High Commissioner of India to Malta Rajesh Vaishnav and other dignitaries are also seen

India, Malta sign 3 MoUs

PTI ■ VALLETTA

India and Malta signed three MoUs on Monday, including one on maritime cooperation, as Vice President Venkaiah Naidu held comprehensive discussions with the President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca on ways to enhance bilateral relations.

Naidu, who arrived here on Sunday, is the first senior Indian leader to visit the Mediterranean nation in last 28 years.

The vice president, who is also the chairman of Rajya Sabha, was accorded a ceremonial welcome by Coleiro Preca.

"A relationship that is coming of age! Giving impetus to bilateral relationship through high level engagements, Vice President met with President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Naidu and Coleiro Preca led delegation-level talks between and discussed tourism, manufacturing, education and shipping, Kumar tweeted. During the visit, the two sides signed three MoUs for collaboration between the Foreign Services Institutes of the two nations and cooperation in maritime and tourism.

Machines will do more tasks than humans by 2025: WEF

AFP ■ PARIS

Robots will handle 52 per cent of current work tasks by 2025, almost twice as many as now, a World Economic Forum (WEF) study said Monday.

The sharp increase could also see a net gain in "new roles" for humans, who will have to revamp skills to keep pace with the "seismic shift" in how we work with machines and computer programmes, the forum estimated.

"By 2025 more than half of all current workplace tasks will be performed by machines as opposed to 29 per cent today," a statement by the Swiss non-profit organisation said.

Simultaneously, rapid changes in machines and algorithms, or computer processes

that are designed to solve problems, "could create 133 million new roles in place of 75 million that will be displaced between now and 2022," the group forecast. Based near Geneva, the WEF is known for the annual pow-wow of wealthy individuals, politicians and business leaders that it organises in Davos, Switzerland.

Its report, The Future of Jobs 2018, foresees robots swiftly replacing humans in the accounting, client management, industrial, postal and secretarial sectors.

Jobs that require "human skills" such as sales, marketing and customer service should see demand increase meanwhile, along with e-commerce and social media.

A major challenge will be to retrain workers, who will

themselves be pressed to update skills especially in the areas of "creativity, critical thinking and persuasion", the study found. It surveyed personnel directors and senior executives from a broad range of companies around the world that account for 70 per cent of global output.

Between now and 2022, they believe the aviation, travel and tourism sectors in particular will have to retrain workers, and identified an overall trend towards lifelong learning and adaptation.

Governments were advised meanwhile to prepare safety nets for workers and communities threatened by what the WEF concluded would be "a significant shift" in the quality and permanency of the new jobs.

May hints at parity in immigration rules

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Monday gave the first major indication that immigration rules for non-EU citizens such as Indians are set to be closely aligned with those for European Union nationals once Britain has left the economic bloc by next year.

The UK is at present bound by the EU's freedom of movement rules, which offers nationals from the 27 EU member-countries an automatic right to work and settle in Britain.

On the other hand, non-EU countries like India are subject to a strict visa regime and quotas under specific categories. In an interview with the BBC, the prime minister said that the vote in favour of Brexit in the June 2016 referendum

was a vote to end this dual system of migration.

"The message from the British people was very simple. It was they didn't want a situation where they could see people coming from the European Union having those automatic rights in terms of coming here to the United Kingdom, and a set of rules for people outside the European Union," May said in response to a question about the UK's post-Brexit immigration plans.

"What we will be doing is putting forward a set of rules for people from the European Union and people from outside the European Union," she said.

The government is set to publish its detailed immigration proposals in the coming months, which is widely expected to be a general toughening of stance on controlling the numbers that come into the

country in line with the Conservative party's target to reduce migration.

May has so far refused to rule out any post-Brexit preferential treatment for EU migrants, one of the issues which has deeply divided MPs and ministers within her own party.

However, the idea that EU and non-EU migrants would get a level playing field in terms of immigration was the central plank on which many of the leading Brexiters campaigned for a vote in favour of leaving the economic bloc.

"The pressures being put on our services by immigration from the EU has meant that tough limits have been put in place on immigration from outside the EU. This means that our relatives struggle to get visas to come to the UK for family celebrations, restaurants

cannot employ skilled chefs from abroad, our temples cannot bring in priests, and we cannot bring people in for business, cultural or sporting events — as well as the thousands of talented professionals like doctors, teachers and engineers," said Gujarati-origin Priti Patel, former UK Cabinet minister and a prominent pro-Brexit campaigner.

"Once we take back control of our borders and 'Vote Leave', we can have an immigration system that is fair to all and allows us to bring in the brightest and the best from across the world," she said.

Other Indian-origin pro-Brexit MPs, including Rishi Sunak — the son-in-law of Infosys chief Narayana Murthy, and Goan-origin Suella Fernandes had joined Patel in signing an open letter in the lead up to the Brexit referen-

dum making similar arguments on immigration, which marked one of the most contentious issues in the Brexit debate. The letter issued in May 2016, a month before the referendum, read, "As well as damaging our economy, membership of the EU has left Britain vulnerable to the pressures of mass uncontrolled levels of immigration from Europe. The pressures this causes means that we have to turn away qualified doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs from non-EU countries who would make a positive contribution to this country."

"The ancestors of many people we represent fought alongside the British in two world wars, but are now forced to stand aside in favour of people with no connection to the United Kingdom. This is unfair."

Trend Slazer

Aditi blessed to be Mani's heroine

Actress ADITI RAO HYDARI, who has collaborated with filmmaker Mani Ratnam for a second time for his next Tamil film *Chekka Chivantha Vaanam*, said she always wanted to act with him. The actress had previously worked with Ratnam in *Kaatru Veliyidai*. Aditi said, "I feel really blessed. I haven't grown up watching too many films but I just had this dream. In fact, it was a little girl's dream when I saw Mani sir's film *Bombay* and wanted to be a Mani (Ratnam) heroine."



'Those who know me well know that I'm an asthmatic. What's to hide? I knew that I had to control my asthma before it controlled me. As long as I've got my inhaler, asthma can't stop me from achieving my goals and living a 'Berok Zindagi.'

—Priyanka Chopra

Actress MANDIRA BEDI agrees that juggling between family and work is a struggle for a working mother but she suggests that one needs to find the right formula. She says that some of her best works happened after she became a mother. "Some of the best works that I have done have been after I became a mother. I did *24*, a couple of movies and some commercials are coming my way. I am enjoying work now. So, I don't think that there is any such thing as work not coming your way when you become a mother," said Mandira.



Alejandra and Gere expect baby

RICHARD GERE is expecting his second child and first with new wife ALEJANDRA SILVA, who announced the news with some help from the Dalai Lama. "A very special moment just a few minutes ago... Getting blessings for our precious to come," penned Silva on an Instagram photo showing the Buddhist leader blessing her baby bump. "We couldn't announce it before telling HH Dalai Lama," added the 35-year-old Spanish businesswoman and activist, who went on to share the message in her first language.



A CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS?

A vibrant nightlife is an essential component of modern civilisation. AYUSHI SHARMA talks to world city experts and finds out what are the markers and how Delhi needs to strike a balance between regulation and freedom

This city never sleeps. Can this be the tagline of Delhi? Most of us women would vigorously shake their heads in the negative. For when it comes to nightlife, the first image that comes to mind is of safe-strolling the streets and bumping into urban sub-cultures. A mix of pubbing, dancing, music concerts and cultural soires or what can be termed as a "happening" urban expression is one of the major reasons for tourists to visit a certain city.

But then all that Delhi or for that matter any of the Indian cities have on offer are two categories of recreational experientials. On one side of the spectrum are downmarket, shady and run-down bars, which a major chunk of the educated class and urban population steers clear of. On the other side are high-profile lounges, diners and cafes which welcome the middle to upper-class citizens but are naturally priced steeply.

Experts from all over the world, therefore, got together at Shangri-La to unravel the markers for a great nightlife and bring Delhi and our other cities up to the mark.

Lutz Leichsenring, spokesman and executive board member for the Berlin Club Commission, who focusses on the informal aspects of city life and has played a key role in legitimising the city's underground movement, defines nightlife: "It can be defined as a space where like-minded people meet, communicate and interact socially. It's basically a space which is diverse and inclusive."

Lutz argues that if a city wishes to be advanced and modern, "you have to think how can you create a culture of vibrancy which has to do with diversity, focussing on art and music and also on the idea to be a better place where individuals can connect, interact and get together."

He feels the idea of nightlife in India is definitely evolving and getting more diverse than it used to be. "I'm happy that Indian artists have started developing their own identities and no longer copy from what's happen-



ing around the world. It's a very positive development as it shapes the unique identity of who you are," Lutz added.

He strongly feels that there's a huge amount of competition between different parts of the world to become a global hotspot, inviting and attracting visitors with a vibe and breath. That comes purely from the cultural environment and people-bonding. Says Lutz, "The reason why people leave cities and move somewhere else is mostly driven by new pursuits of nightlife."

Berlin is a place which people see as a safe haven, where you will be welcomed and accepted no matter what sexual orientation you have, what kind of music you like, how you dress or what you look like. "It's really hard to compare the nightlife in Berlin and Delhi. There's unquestionably more cultural vibrancy in the former because there's much greater space which is accessible not just to a certain group but to every individual. Of course India has made headway but still has to do a lot when it comes to be a site which is night friendly and accommodating."

Lutz also shares some tips for Delhi's nightlife makeover. "The first and foremost step towards making Delhi a night-friendly city is to keep

IF YOU WANT TO ATTRACT PEOPLE FOR CREATING A VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE, YOU HAVE TO ALSO GIVE THEM THE RIGHT FRAMEWORK. IF YOU HAVE REGULATIONS WHICH ARE OFFERING YOU RESTRICTIONS AND BOUNDARIES ONLY, THEN THIS IS DISAPPOINTING

laws, rules and regulations easy-going and friendly. I think if you want to attract people for creating a vibrant nightlife, you have to also give them the right framework. If you have regulations which are offering you restrictions and boundaries only, then this is disappointing. Second, the idea of having longer opening hours creates a safer nightlife because people are not pressured to get drunk within a certain time. Third, you need to have enough accessible space where new talent can grow and evolve where a mix of local and global can gather to have a good time together."

Hideyuki Yokoi, a

rapper who is also a Hip-Hop activist, popularly known as Zebra, was the Chairman of the Club Culture Conference (CCC). He has also played the main role in re-inspection of the Fu-Ei-Ho which is the National Law that prohibits late night business hours. Fu-Ei-Ho had strongly restricted Japanese night entertainment all around the city, people wouldn't face the hassle of going around places. It would just be one place where everything could be within reach. It would definitely be safer than any other place which is alienated from civilisation."

Lutz adds, "There's a need for right talent, people who have unconventional ideas and originality in their works and not those who follow someone's footsteps."

Indians are definitely full of talent but where they lack is an accessible space for a good nightlife where people can feel safe and enjoy the after hours. Another thing is acceptance from the governmental side. It's important to have rules and regulations which are a combination of strict as well as liberal."



We are falling into a stereotype as a reaction to another stereotype. We need to have nuances in portrayal of characters. It is important that you understand a woman's character does not exist to titillate or to feel sorry for

Life in the shadows

Actor RASIKA DUGAL, who plays Safia, the wife of Manto in the eponymously named film, believes that the writer is more than ever relevant in the polarised times that we live in, says SAIMI SATTAR

For the longest of time, actor Rasika Dugal had been in love with the writings of Manto. And when the role of Safiya was offered to her, she had just started learning to read and write Urdu. "When Nandita (Das) offered me the role, it seemed to be poetic justice," says the petite 33-year-old who plays Saadat Hasan Manto's wife in *Manto*.

There were reasons for Dugal being enamoured of his writings which made her say yes to the role. "I really like his stand on the freedom of speech. In the 21st century, we no longer need heroes of free speech and you expect to take it for granted but the truth is it is increasingly threatened these days. By being a part of this film, I am responding to the circumstances which are happening around me," she reasons.

She believes that more than ever, Manto is relevant today when people are being lynched for speaking up. "I can speak for myself that a Manto day keeps me going. It inspires me that I should never give up speaking my mind. But I should temper my fearlessness with kindness and sensitivity and leave room for discourse and discussion and not shut out other voices. There should be space for conversation which is so important when the country is witnessing extreme polarisation," she says passionately.

There is one more reason why Dugal likes Manto's work. "The way women are etched out in his stories and the way they have been humanised. You have to see the innocence of Sarita who just wanted to sit in a car in *10 Rupaye* or the sex worker in *100 Watt Bulb* whose only desire is to get a good night's sleep to know how well he understood women. Given a chance, I would like to play all of these characters as these are real women," she says.

This, she feels, is in stark contrast to women's portrayal in contemporary cultures. "We are falling into a stereotype as a reaction to another stereotype. We need to have nuances in portrayal of characters. It is important that you understand a woman's character does not exist to titillate or to feel sorry for," she says.



pregnancy and glossed over his joblessness," she says.

Of course signing up for *Manto* had other perks as well. "It was legitimising my hobby. I could say that I was reading Manto because I was preparing for a role."

Being in awe of a real life character has its perils, more so for an actor. "I had to convince myself for the longest of time that he was my partner, so I could not be in awe of Manto since I was living with him," she says and goes on to add, "It is very intriguing what a caregiver or a person who supports or looks after the house is going through in relation to a person who is in the public eye. There was often a backlash from the society against Manto. Then there were cases of obscenity against him. Sometimes his stories didn't sell and he turned into an alcoholic, which meant that Safia lived through a lot," says the actor, her voice tender but

not lacking in spine, much like the character that she plays.

Even though Manto wrote prolifically and women often were the centre of his stories, there are not many references to Safia. "There are really a very few essays where she is mentioned. He talks about his arranged marriage to Safia in 1936 in an essay titled, *Meri Shaadi* (My Wedding). Then there is one chapter in the book *Ganjay Farishtay* (Bald Angels) called *Nargis* which talks about how Safia and her sister used to make crank calls to the legendary actress as they were in awe of her. Later, they became friends," says the actor, last seen by the Hindi film-viewing audience in *Qissa*. There are also references to Safia by writer Ismat Chughtai, who along with Manto, was tried for obscenity for her controversial story *Lihaaf*.

"Nandita made it easier for me as she had already met Safia and Manto's daughters, Nighat, Nusrat and Nuzhat as well as Safia's sister, Zakia. Nighat *apa* was nine years when she lost her father, so they do not remember much about Manto. But when they think of Safia, there is a lot of anecdotal information which is beautifully incorporated into the script," she says and adds, "Moreover a talented director and a good script aids you."

Of course, the biggest compliment for Dugal was when the eldest of the writer's children compared her to Safia. "When I spoke to Nuzhat *Apa*, she said I looked like her mother, which overwhelmed me. We tried to style the look according to the photograph of her sitting with Manto in a garden," she says.

But while getting the look was a matter of styling it right, getting into the skin of the character was something that Dugal did. "I can speculate how she felt and I hope that through me the audience can feel Safia's pain and that of Manto in her and vice versa. I also want to portray the idea that there is a lot of strength in being vulnerable rather than in screaming out," she says.

And therein lies the line that Manto stood for all the 43 years of his short life — in defence of free speech.

As authentic as it gets

Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma have left no stone unturned to get in character for their parts in *Sui Dhaaga - Made in India*. To become the self-reliant tailor Mauji and his embroiderer wife Mamta, Anushka and Varun shot in the outskirts of Delhi at a real textile factory to get authentic visuals of how small-scale businesses operate and how textile workers from small towns work in factories. They also shot with actual workers of the factory to get the body language right and acquired skill sets of operating industrial machines.

Anushka says, "We have tried to keep *Sui Dhaaga* as authentic to real life as possible. We lived the life of Mauji and Mamta for this film and

VARUN & ANUSHKA worked at a textile factory for *Sui Dhaaga* to get under the skin of their characters

this journey took us to work in an actual clothing factory in Faridabad. We shot there for four days with real workers who tirelessly work day and night to produce outstanding pieces of garments. We learnt how to operate the machines from them which was very helpful."

Varun adds, "The factory in Faridabad was a perfect location to shoot. The equipment and machinery looked genuine and extremely authen-



tic to be the place where Mauji and Mamta's first brush with a textile factory could be. To

prep for our parts, we both interacted and met with all the real workers on set and exchanged notes. These people were invaluable in getting us more prepared for our characters."

Since they run a factory in the film, the duo also went for a Vishwakarma puja in Lucknow.

A film about finding love and respect through self-reliance, *Sui Dhaaga - Made in India* is a heart-warming story that celebrates the spirit of self-reliance.

The National Award-winning dream-team of director Sharat Katariya and producer Maneesh Sharma have come together for this Yash Raj Films' entertainer that is set to release on September 28.



Kung Fu nuns perform ritual dance on the grand opening of the Naropu festival 2018 at Narophotang, 3 km away from the Hemis Monastery. Photo: Ami Bhat

PSG FACE REDS & ANFIELD

Ligue 1 toppers tie against Premier League giants in CL opener, Barca host PSV as Inter face Spurs

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Mohamed Salah outshone Neymar and Kylian Mbappe on the Champions League stage last season, but as Paris Saint-Germain's star duo head to Anfield on Tuesday seeking to make amends, the Egyptian is struggling to match the heights of his debut campaign at Liverpool.

Salah's failure to hit top form dates back to his last Champions League appearance four months ago.

Back in May, Salah was on the crest of a wave as his 44-goal campaign had carried Liverpool to the Champions League final and ensured qualification for this season's competition.

However, he lasted just 30 minutes in Kiev after injuring his shoulder when wrestled to the ground by Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos and the Spanish giants went on to lift the trophy in a 3-1 win.

That started a difficult few months for Salah as he was also robbed of being 100-percent fit for Egypt's first World Cup in 28 years.

Without their talisman, the Pharaohs were beaten by Uruguay in their opening game and his goals against Russia and Saudi Arabia couldn't prevent Egypt returning home without a single point.

Salah has also gone to war with the Egyptian federation over the use of his image and the decision to host their base camp in Chechnya.

Egypt's star player was put in the awkward position of having to pose for photos with Chechen president Ramzan Kadyrov, who has been accused of human rights abuses.

That hangover has been felt on the field with Salah scoring just twice in Liverpool's opening five games of the campaign and missing chances he ruthlessly put away last season.

- No one-man team -

So far Salah's slackness hasn't cost Jurgen Klopp's men. A summer of shrewd investment to build on the already substantial progress made under the German is already bearing fruit with five straight wins.

"Of course, it's important that we don't



Liverpool players celebrate after Georginio Wijnaldum (No 5) scores opener against Tottenham in Premier League on Friday, (right) PSG attacking trio of Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani and Neymar Jr celebrates after win



UEFA

Liverpool vs PSG
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY TEN 2

have only one goalscorer," Klopp said after an impressive 2-1 win over Tottenham on Saturday, that should have been a far more comprehensive victory if the visitors had taken their chances.

"It's still early. Five games, fantastic we've won all of them, we have improved."

The 39 million euros (\$45 million) Liverpool paid for Salah from Roma was brilliant business not just based on Salah's production, but the hyper inflation that took place in the market just weeks later when PSG smashed the world transfer record by splurging 222 million euros on Neymar.

A further 180 million was then splashed on beating Europe's big guns to the signature of Mbappe, who confirmed his status as the rising star of world football in winning the World Cup for France.

Both Neymar and Mbappe will see themselves as heirs to the throne of Lionel



Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo as the world's best player.

But it is Salah who is on the shortlist for FIFA's Best Player award alongside Ronaldo and Croatian midfielder Luka Modric of Real Madrid, after PSG failed to get beyond the last 16 of the Champions League last season.

The limited spotlight offered by Ligue 1 means Europe's premier club competi-

tion is where Neymar and Mbappe need to shine to be in the running for individual awards.

However, a blockbuster clash on a Champions League night at fortress Anfield is also the perfect stage for Salah to demonstrate to the world he is no one-season wonder.

Barcelona vs PSV
Live from 10:25pm IST
SONY TEN 2

But from the words that have been spoken since, and despite the club's stately message, it is clear Madrid's triumph hit home. Barcelona had failed and this made it even harder to bear.

"Obviously it's infuriating (for us)," Suarez said in an interview with RAC1 earlier this month.

"Madrid have won the Champions League in each of the last three years. They have made history and it's a thorn in our side." Chiefly, perhaps, because Barca will feel they were better than Madrid last season.

They blew them away in a 3-0 flurry at the Santiago Bernabeu and then played with 10 men for the second half at the Camp Nou and still drew 2-2. They even led with a man fewer until Gareth Bale's late equaliser.

Valverde was accused last season of

over-exerting his players in the league, particularly when it was clear it was won.

Three days before the capitulation to Roma, the likes of Messi and Suarez were playing 90 minutes to beat 14th-placed Leganes.

Valverde has indicated he will adapt. Ahead of their Group B opener at home to PSV on Tuesday, Sergio Busquets and Philippe Coutinho started as substitutes in Saturday's win over Real Sociedad, even if both were needed before the end.

Messi, who turned 31 in June, may also need to be preserved if he is to add a fifth Champions League success to his collection. Now captain, he appears hungrier than ever.

"It's time to win the Champions League," Messi told Catalunya Radio earlier this month.

"We've been knocked out in the quarter-finals three seasons in a row and maybe the last one was the worst of all because of the result and how the match was played."

"I think we have to aim for that, as a club, as a team and as a collective. We have a spectacular squad and we can do it."

INTER EYE WINNING RETURN

Eight years have elapsed since Jose Mourinho's reign as Inter Milan coach ended on a historic high of Champions League glory, and the fallen Italian giants are still struggling to recapture that magic from Madrid.

The Portuguese oversaw the most successful season in the club's history — a 2-0 win over Bayern Munich at the Santiago Bernabeu completed the first treble of Serie A, domestic Cup and Champions League in Italian history.

Since those days it has been lean times for the 18-time Italian and three-time European champions, with the only title of any sort a 2011 Italian Cup crown.

Luciano Spalletti's side return to the Champions League for the first time since the 2011-2012 season on Tuesday when they host Tottenham at the San Siro.

Expectations are high, but their return comes against a backdrop of continuing crisis as the Nerazzurri lie a lowly 15th with just one win and four points from four games.

Shuttlers sight China glory

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

Top Indian shuttler PV Sindhu will have to find a way to battle fatigue if she has to continue her consistent run in international circuit and regain the China Open, beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu showed signs of fatigue during her second-round exit at last week's Japan Open, her first early loss since the first-round ouster from the Denmark Open last October.

The 23-year-old Indian has been the most consistent this season with Silver medals in all the major events this year - the Commonwealth Games, the World Championship and the Asian Games.

She also reached the finals at the India Open and Thailand Open.

However, a hectic schedule left her with very little time to recover or savour the moment.

The Olympic and world championship Silver medalist had won the \$ 700,000 China Open in 2016 and will be one of the favourites to secure the women's singles title at the BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

The third seeded Indian will start her campaign against Hong Kong's Cheung Ngan Yi at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

Two-time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist Saina Nehwal, who had clinched a Bronze at Asian Games at Jakarta, will be rejuvenated after skipping the Japan Open. The Indian faces a tough first round against Korea's Sung Ji Hyun.

Saina, who also had won the China Open title in 2014, has a 8-2 head-to-head record against Sung Ji and if she can surpass the Korean, fifth seed Chinese Chen Yufei will stand in her way.



Saina Nehwal reacts after winning a point against Fitriani, (right) PV Sindhu in action against VT Trang



PTI

Sindhu vs Kawakami
Live from 10:15am IST
STAR SPORTS NETWORK

In fact, Saina and Sindhu are on a collision course and might clash in the quarterfinals if they can clear the earlier rounds.

Among others, Kidambi Srikanth has looked a shadow of the man who clinched four titles last season. Though the seventh seeded Indian won the men's singles Silver at the Commonwealth Games, he has been inconsistent in the season so far.

Srikanth, who held the world No 1 ranking for a brief period this year, will look to build on his quarterfinal finish at Japan Open when he begins his campaign against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke.

However, world champion Kento Momota, who had ended his campaign at Malaysia and Indonesia, will once again

stand in his way in the quarterfinal.

HS Prannoy too will look to go deep in the tournament after starting against Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long Angus, seeded eighth.

Among others in fray, women's doubles pair of Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy will face Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.

In men's doubles, Commonwealth Games Silver medalist pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will square off against Malaysia's Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong, while Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will fight it out against Taiwanese combination of Liao Min Chun and Su Ching Heng.

In mixed doubles, Satwik and Ashwini will meet English combination of Marcus Ellis and Lauren Smith, while Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Sikki will take on Germany's Marvin Emil Seidel and Linda Efler in another match.

Ballon d'Or on my mind, says Griezmann

AFP ■ PARIS

Atletico Madrid star Antoine Griezmann says he still can't fathom why he was not voted one of the world's top three players by FIFA — but hopes winning the "more prestigious" Ballon d'Or will make amends.

"It's a prize from FIFA and it seems a pity that no World Cup winners were nominated," Griezmann, who helped France to World Cup glory in Russia this summer, told Spanish sports daily AS.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, World Cup finalist Luka Modric of Croatia and Egyptian Mohamed Salah, who enjoyed a stunning campaign with Liverpool last season, were the three players nominated by FIFA for the world ruling body's top prize.

Now grouped within the FIFA Best awards, it will be presented on September 24.

For Griezmann, who helped Atletico to Europa League glory as well as playing a pivotal role in France's World Cup win, FIFA's choice was unwarranted.

"We had a really good World Cup campaign, the whole team deserve to be awarded: (Kylian) Mbappe, (Raphael) Varane, (N'Golo) Kante, who had an amazing World Cup even though no-one talks about it, or even myself.

"But that's the way it is."

The snub has galvanised Griezmann's ambition to land the Ballon d'Or, the prize awarded by



Antoine Griezmann celebrate after scoring

France Football magazine to the world's top player as voted on by journalists around the globe.

"I think the Ballon d'Or has more prestige, a richer history," said Griezmann.

Conceived in 1956, it has been won by Ronaldo and Lionel Messi a record five times apiece. By contrast, the FIFA Best award has been a stand-alone award only since 2016, having spent the 2010-2015 period merged with the Ballon d'Or.

He added: "It's on my mind and I've got three months to give it everything (to win it). We'll see what happens."

Asked if he felt comfortable "sitting at the same football table" as five-time Ballon d'Or winners Messi and Ronaldo, Griezmann said: "Yes, I think so, although other players would be there as well."

Mercedes cautious despite lead

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said it was special to conquer "bogey track" Singapore but cautioned the F1 title race wasn't over yet after Lewis Hamilton's "stardust" propelled him to a potentially decisive 40-point lead over Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Team principal Wolff said there was no mystery to Mercedes' form, it was all down to sheer hard work back at the factory and the track.

"Singapore has been our bogey track for several years, so it is a special feeling to come here and win this race on pace," Wolf told reporters after Hamilton's pole-to-flag win and team-mate Valtteri Bottas's fourth place gave them a 25-point lead over Ferrari in the constructors' championship.

"The entire team has worked so hard to understand the car and take steps forward, and this result is an indication that our work is paying off. It was a weekend of many parts: a star-dust lap from Lewis in qualifying, a chess game of tyre management this evening, and some nervous moments with traffic and backmarkers during the race," Wolff added.

"It's just the strongest the team has ever



Lewis Hamilton, center, poses after winning Singapore GP

been." Wolff warned they had to keep up the intensity to win both drivers' and constructors' championships this season, starting with the Russian Grand Prix in two weeks.

"From our side, we can be pleased with a very solid weekend," he added. "We have leads in both championships, but they change nothing in the mindset of this team."

"We have six weekends to go and we know how quickly the situation can swing back against us. We will take it weekend by weekend, feet on the ground and determined to maximise our potential every time."

Sakshi grabs World C'ship spot

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Struggling wrestler Sakshi Malik has made it to India's World Championship squad without facing the trials as her opponent Sarita Mor has withdrawn from the 62kg clash, due to an injury.

The Olympic Bronze medalist has been battling poor form since the start of the 2018 season. She could win only a Bronze at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and failed to win any medal at the Asian Games.

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) wanted both Sushil Kumar and Sakshi to undergo trials but the former pulled out due to poor form.

"The trials in four categories were left. Out of those, we chose not to disturb Bajrang (men's 65kg) and Vinesh Phogat (women's 50kg). Sakshi was to fight Sarita but she has reported a knee injury so we are sending Sakshi to the Worlds," WFI Assistant Secretary Vinod Tomar said.



Sakshi Malik and Pooja Dhanda poses with medal

Sakshi had ended a runner-up at a UWW ranking event in Belarus, where she lost the Gold medal match 2-6 to Azerbaijan's Marianna Satsin on Sunday.

The performance is encouraging for Sakshi ahead of the World Championship, to be held in Budapest from October 20-28.

"The fourth category is women's 53kg. Ritu Phogat and Pinky will fight for that place. Ritu had competed in

the 50kg category at the Yasar Dogu International in Turkey but we feel she can do well in the 53kg as well. She has a good medal chance in this category, so, we decided to conduct a trial match between Ritu and Pinky," Tomar added.

The 53kg clash will be held on Tuesday in Lucknow under the supervision of National women's coach Kuldeep Malik.

The WFI official also informed that the inaugural U-23 National Championship, to be held in Chittaurgarh, Rajasthan from September 27-30, is an effort to identify next line of wrestlers.

"In the senior nationals, many juniors also compete but they get to clash against only with the aged wrestlers. They do not get great competition. They need to fight it out with strong wrestlers to be ready for international events. In the Under-23 Nationals, we will see better bouts and next stars will be identified," Tomar added.

SINGLES

GETAFE DOWNS SEVILLA 2-0
SEVILLA: Getafe defeated host Sevilla 2-0 on two goals by Angel Rodriguez before the break and a winning attitude all the way through the match. Although Sevilla was in possession of the ball for 70 per cent of the match and fired 15 shots towards the goal, just three of them were on target and all were saved by Getafe goalkeeper David Soria on Sunday. Getafe, on the other hand, fired just 10 shots towards their rivals' goal, with six of them being on target, and two of them - both by Rodriguez - got by Tomas Vaclik for the tallies. Rodriguez scored his first goal of the evening just three minutes into play and then took advantage of a Sevilla mistake to make it 2-0 in the 38th minute. Sevilla go down to its second consecutive loss in the fourth week of Spanish La Liga action.

PKL SEASON 6 POSTPONED TO OCT 7
NEW DELHI: The start of the sixth season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) has been postponed by a couple of days due to logistical reasons, the organisers Mashal Sports announced on Monday. "The 6th season of the Vivo Pro Kabaddi League will start on October 7 instead of the earlier date of October 5 owing to logistical reasons such as caravan movement and stadium availability. Mashal Sports Pvt. Ltd, the rights owner and organisers of the league has made this considered decision in consultation with the principal stakeholders," a statement read. Chennai will continue to host to the first leg of the tournament from October 7. The playoffs would be held as planned in Kochi on December 30 and 31 with the final on January 5 in Mumbai.

IND WOMEN TO KICK-OFF SAFF U-18 C'SHIP
NEW DELHI: Seven countries are set to kick-off the inaugural edition of the SAFF U-18 football Championship for Women which gets underway later this month in Bhutan. India have been clubbed in Group A, along with neighbours Sri Lanka and Maldives. The Indian girls kick-off their campaign against Maldives on September 28 before facing Sri Lanka on October 2. The tournament follows a round robin format where all the teams in each group play each other once. The top two teams get to qualify for the semi-finals (October 5), where the winner of Group A faces the runners-up of Group B, and vice versa. The final of the tournament is set to be held on Sunday, October 7. The Senior SAFF Women's Championship is scheduled to be held later in December.

NADAL MAINTAINS ATP RANKINGS TOP SPOT
MADRID: Spain's Rafael Nadal maintained the No 1 spot in the men's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) world singles rankings released on Monday with 8,760 points, ahead of Switzerland's Roger Federer. The Spaniard continued to lead the rankings despite his forced retirement at the US Open over a knee injury, which also made him miss the Davis Cup semifinal against France on Sunday. Top-10 list witnessed no change as Serbia's Novak Djokovic is still occupying the third position, followed by Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. Meanwhile, Argentine Guido Andreozzi rocketed 11 places to the 97th, following his victory at the Pekao Szczecin Open played at Szczecin, Poland against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina of Spain 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

CANADA IN DAVIS CUP FINAL
TORONTO: Milos Raonic defeated Scott Griekspoor of the Netherlands in three sets, securing for Canada a berth in the Davis Cup final. Raonic took two hours and 23 minutes to triumph over Griekspoor 7-6 (4), 6-3 and 6-4 in the world group qualification playoff on Sunday. This was the ATP No 20 player's second win of the five-match tie, with the fifth match being cancelled once Canada got its third win. Fellow Canadian Denis Shapovalov had won his singles rubber on Friday night, but Daniel Nestor and Vasek Pospisil lost their doubles rubber on Saturday for their country's only loss to Holland's Matwe Middelkoop and Jean-Julien Rojer. Canada now joins Argentina, Britain, Austria, Sweden, Serbia, the Czech Republic and Japan, all of which on the weekend managed to win for themselves a spot within the elite of the Davis Cup, which starting next year will be played according to a new format

INDIA BEGIN TITLE DEFENCE

Defending champions eye big win against Hong Kong in Asia Cup opener before clash against Pakistan

PTI ■ DUBAI

A formidable India will be aiming to make short work of minnows Hong Kong in their Asia Cup opener Tuesday before getting battle-ready for their much-anticipated clash against arch-rivals Pakistan on Wednesday.

The match against Hong Kong will be an 'appetiser' before cricket junkies are treated to a lavish spread of main course which will be the Indo-Pak rivalry.

Even without regular skipper Virat Kohli, the Indian side, led by Rohit Sharma, is an intimidating one in the limited-overs format.

Although Rohit and his colleagues won't want to take Hong Kong lightly, in reality the match will only be a pre-cursor or a glorified dress rehearsal before they take on an in-form Pakistan the very next day.

In the searing Dubai heat, where the mercury has risen up to 43 degree Celsius, the primary aim for the Men in Blue would be to get their combination right before the big game.

Hong Kong lost their opener against Pakistan by eight wickets in a thoroughly one sided showdown where they could manage only 116 runs.

Unless a miracle happens, there won't be a remarkable improvement in their performance against an Indian team that boasts of the likes of Rohit, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Kedar Jadhav in batting along with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal in bowling.

For the past few years, Mahendra Singh Dhoni's waning batting skills have repeatedly come under scanner and this tournament will give everyone a fair idea of his ideal position.

Whether it would end up being No 5, 6 or 7 will be the big contention going into the Pakistan game.

If Dhoni comes in at No 7, he will have to face a skilful Mohammed Amir at the death along with a skiddy Usman Khan and talented Hasan Ali.

Possibly, Kedar Jadhav or Manish Pandey at No 5 and Hardik Pandya with his big hitting abilities at No 7 could prove to be ideal foil for the former India cap-



Indian players during the practice session on Monday ahead of their first game against Hong Kong. BCCI

PAKISTAN ARE FAVOURITES TO WIN ASIA CUP: MANJREKAR

MUMBAI: Former India batsman Sanjay Manjrekar believes India are one of the main contenders to lift the ongoing Asia Cup, but tipped Pakistan as the favourites given the neighbour country has been playing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) regularly.

Pakistan have begun their Asia Cup campaign routing minnows Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday and have the added advantage of playing in the UAE, their 'home' ground.

"I think Pakistan start as favourites more than India, because they have been playing in those conditions (in the UAE) for a while now and it's a team which is on the surge.

"India, of course, are resting Virat (Kohli), which takes a lot of strength away from the team," Manjrekar said. He was quizzed whether in the absence of Kohli, India were the favourites going into the tournament.

"India are obviously one of the contenders, but when you look at favouritism, (question arises) which team can be rated as the strongest. "It's Pakistan because of where it (the tournament) is being played," explained Manjrekar.

OUR AIM IS TO SORT BATTING ORDER: ROHIT

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma on Monday admitted that the team's middle-order is still fluid and their objective will be to identify players for the number four and six slot during the Asia Cup.

The problem for India during the past one year is the lack of a settled middle-order, which was evident during the recent ODI series defeat in England.

Rohit made it clear that the likes of Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Ambati Rayudu are fighting for the key middle-order slots.

"Lot of spots are up for grabs like Nos 3, 4 and 6. All these guys (Kedar, Manish, Rayudu) are eyeing for those slots. We want to give chances to as many guys for this particular series. In this tournament, we need to seal the batting slot Nos 4 and 6," Rohit said on the eve of the lung opener against Hong Kong.

Rohit's answer was an indication that Mahendra Singh Dhoni will bat at number five. Ambati Rayudu is back in the Indian team having cleared the YoYo test and he also performed well in the Quadrangular series for India. A. Kedar Jadhav is back having recovered from a hamstring surgery.

"They are both important members of this team. Rayudu was originally part of England series and similarly Kedar before his injury. It was unfortunate that they couldn't play for some time and I am very happy that both are back in the team. I expect them to win matches for India," said Rohit.

Rohit didn't reveal whether he was open to rotating bowlers in this searing Dubai heat but did say that performers should be given a longer run.

"I haven't thought about it right now. We want to see how each individual react to different situations. At the same time, we want to give chance to as many guys as possible but also give more opportunities to those who are consistent. We would see how individuals respond to conditions and take decisions accordingly," said Rohit.

Having had a look at the match strip, Rohit's



Indian skipper Rohit Sharma speaks during press conference

assessment is that it will get slower as the game progresses.

"The wicket isn't that bad. It's going to get slower and slower as the match progresses. The first match we need to figure out the dimension of the ground and things like that," he added.

More than Hong Kong, it is the change in climate that might bother the players, coming from the cooler confines of English weather.

"It will be a challenge as a lot of our guys are coming from England. Some of us have been here for four days now and we are getting used to it."

About Hong Kong, the answer was on predictable lines.

"We are treating every opposition equally. We are looking at what we want to do as a team and if we do that a lot of worries and issues will take care of itself. Yes, the conditions are not going to be that easy. But it's game time now and we have to focus on the match."

On a personal note, Rohit is excited as well as nervous as this is the biggest tournament for him as India captain.

"I am excited as well as nervous. It is a big tournament for me. I know all the boys well. I understand them well which is necessary," he signed off.

tain, if he decides to come at No 6.

The middle-order that has been an issue for India for quite some time now and need to be sorted going into the World Cup next year.

It is expected that KL Rahul will bat at No 3 but the incoming deliveries from Aamir or Hasan could be a problem like it has been in England.

The BCCI has already hired a left-arm throwdown specialist from Sri Lanka to ensure that India have no trouble tackling Pakistan's battery of left-armers. Also, they have Khaleel Ahmed in the team to give the batsmen much-needed practice.

However, on flat decks with little movement from white kookaburra, the Indian batsmen can play their customary 'hitting on the rise' game with minimal footwork.

The Hong Kong encounter will be a match simulator for the likes of Dhawan,

India vs Hong Kong
Live from 5:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1

Rahul and Pandya, who will have to adjust to the different length and pace of the track.

The Bumrah-Bhuvneshwar combination will be back in action along with the Kuldeep-Chahal combination, which has been a steady set-up for past one year.

The Hong Kong game will also be ideal warm-up for Bhuvneshwar, who has been out due to back injury.

He recently came back to competitive cricket for India A against South Africa A.

The stadium is expected to be packed to capacity on Wednesday but one

can expect a sizeable Indian population on Tuesday itself during the Hong Kong game.

SQUADS

India: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, Ambati Rayudu, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, MS Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Shardul Thakur, Dinesh Karthik, Khaleel Ahmed.

Hong Kong: Anshuman Rath (captain), Aizaz Khan, Babar Hayat, Cameron McAulson, Christopher Carter, Ehsan Khan, Ehsan Nawaz, Arshad Mohammed, Kinchit Shah, Nadeem Ahmed, Raag Kapur, Scott McKehnie, Tanvir Ahmed, Tanvir Afzal, Waqas Khan, Aftab Hussain.

Shah shines as Afghans post 249

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Rahmat Shah top-scored with a composed 72 before pacer Thisara Perera's five-wicket haul helped Sri Lanka bowl out Afghanistan for 249 in their opening match of the Asia Cup here on Monday.

Perera returned figures of 5/55 as Sri Lanka picked up seven wickets in the last eight overs of Afghanistan innings on a pitch that looked to be on the slower side.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, Afghanistan were off to a cautious start with the openers Mohammad Shahzad (34) and Ihsanullah Janat (45) putting on 57 runs in just under 12 overs.

Spinner Akila Dhananjaya made the first breakthrough when he had Shahzad trapped in front of the wicket. It was a loose shot and attempting to reverse sweep a length ball proved to be his undoing.

There was another half-century stand, between Ihsanullah and Shah, as the Afghanistan dressing room looked relaxed at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

However, Sri Lanka found another wicket after the two batsmen added exactly 50 runs for the second wicket. Umpire Gregory Brathwaite was not impressed with Akila's shout for an lbw, prompting the Sri Lankans to go for a review, and got the decision in their favour.

Returning to the side after missing the tournament opener against Bangladesh, off-spinner Akila returned with tidy figures of 2/37 in his 10-overs spell on a wicket that played slow, making stroke-making difficult.

Skipper Asghar Afghan came to the middle, but his stay was short-lived



Hashmatullah Shahidi, right, and Rahmat Shah run between the wickets. AP

as Shehan Jayasuriya foxed him, the two wickets in as many overs reducing Afghanistan to 110 for three at the end of the 26th over.

An 80-run partnership ensued between Shah and Hashmatullah Shahidi (37), helping Afghanistan to 190 when Dushmantha Chameera sent the Afghan top-scorer back to the pavilion. Shah's knock included five hits to the fence.

Shahidi was the next man to get out, falling to Perera. Mohammad Nabi scored 12-ball 15 before the seasoned Lasith Malinga cut short his stay in the middle.

The Lankan pulled back things in the death, picking up seven wickets, with Thisara doing the bulk of damage.

TAMIM OUT OF ASIA CUP
Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal

has been ruled out of the rest of the Asia Cup with a broken hand after batting despite his injury in the opening match, an official said on Monday.

"He got two fractures in his hand. He would not be able to continue here and also for the next three to four weeks," team manager Khaled Mahmud said from Dubai.

Tamim was hailed as national hero after he returned to bat with his injured hand for the final wicket during Bangladesh's 137-run win in Saturday's opening match against Sri Lanka.

The left-hander received a blow to his wrist in the second over of Bangladesh's innings when he was hit by a short ball from Suranga Lakmal.

He left the field for hospital for a scan, and when he returned to the ground with a sling on his injured hand his Asia Cup was thought to be over.

But the opener stunned all by striding out to bat after Bangladesh lost their ninth wicket for 229 runs.

He fashioned a hole in his glove in order to fit his taped wrist, and used one hand in facing a single delivery to give the strike back to Mushfiqur Rahim, who was batting on 112.

Mushfiqur then scored 32 off 16 balls alone in their 10th-wicket partnership, guiding Bangladesh to 261 runs before he was dismissed in the final over for 144.

Bangladesh later bowled out Sri Lanka for 124 runs to record their biggest win on foreign soil, making a giant leap towards the Super Four round.

Bangladesh will face Afghanistan in their second match of the tournament in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

'Kohli's absence won't be a factor against Pak'

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Former skipper Sourav Ganguly said India are a better team and absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli won't be a factor when the defending champions take on arch-rivals Pakistan in a high-voltage Asia Cup clash on Wednesday.

The two bitter foes will reignite their rivalry in the Asia Cup Wednesday with India having a 6-5 win-loss record from 12 encounters in the continental event.

"It will be a 50-50 contest in Dubai," Ganguly said on the sidelines of a promotional event here.

India are the most successful side in the Asia Cup, having won the title a total of six times, while Pakistan bagged the crown twice.

Rohit Sharma will lead India in the absence of Kohli who has been given rest after a draining England tour.

"Virat Kohli's absence won't be a factor, they are a better side," Ganguly said, adding Pakistan too have improved on their performance.

The last time the two sides met was the Champions Trophy summit clash in England last year, with Pakistan winning the match by 180 runs.

India begin their Asia Cup campaign against Hong Kong Tuesday, while Pakistan have made their intentions clear with an eight wicket win over Hong Kong on Sunday.

Need to raise our game to beat India: Sarfraz

PTI ■ DUBAI

A comprehensive win over Hong Kong is a perfect start but Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed says his team will have to raise the game by several notches to outwit arch-rivals India in the much-awaited Asia Cup clash on Wednesday.

Pakistan defeated Hong Kong by eight wickets Sunday night in the Asia Cup. Sarfraz said his team needs to iron out a few things before the clash against India.

"As a captain, I saw a couple of things which we should work on. For us to go the distance in the tournament, we should have won this game (against Hong Kong) by nine or 10 wickets.

"We also need to ball better with the new ball. We need to get early wickets with the new ball. It didn't swing for us with the new ball, that is alarming for us," Sarfraz said after the match.

"We will work on it in our next practice session. It's a good win but to win against India we have to be at our best in all the three departments," he added.

Left-arm pacer Usman Khan was the star performer for Pakistan and was adjudged the Man-of-the-Match for picking up three wickets in an over that helped Pakistan bowl out Hong Kong for a paltry 116.

"When I came to bowl in the



Sarfraz Ahmed, center, appeals during Asia Cup match against Hong Kong. AP

first spell, I tried to pick wickets with the new ball, but luck was not with me. In the second spell, I got the ball to reverse swing and I managed to take wickets," Usman said.

Hong Kong skipper

Anshuman Rath blamed his batsmen for not being able to put enough runs on the board.

"Lots of soft dismissals. 120 (116) was not enough. It was a good wicket. Credit goes to the Pakistan bowlers," he said.

Virat, Mirabai recommended for Khel Ratna; Neeraj picked for Arjuna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli and world champion weightlifter Mirabai Chanu were Monday jointly recommended for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, while star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was among 20 sportspersons picked for the Arjuna Awards.

Besides Chopra, other prominent names recommended for the Arjuna Awards were junior world champion sprinter Hima Das and Asian Games Gold-medallist middle distance runner Jinson Johnson, cricketer Smriti Mandhana, hockey players Manpreet Singh and Savita Punia, multiple Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist table tennis star Manika Batra and Asian doubles Gold-medallist tennis player Rohan Bopanna.

These recommendations by a selection committee headed by Justice (retd) Indermeter Kaul Kochhar are subject to approval by Sports Minister Rajyavardhan



(from left to right) CWG and Asian Games Gold medallist Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra; CWG Gold medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu; Indian skipper Virat Kohli. PTI/AP



Singh Rathore. Once ratified by him, President Ram Nath Kovind will present the awards on September 25 at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Kohli will become the third Indian cricketer to win the country's highest sporting honour after the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (1997) and the talismanic former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (2007) once

the sports ministry officially accepts the committee's recommendation.

"Yes, Virat Kohli and Mirabai Chanu's names have been recommended by the awards committee," a top source said.

It is learnt that India's top male shuttler Kidambi Srikanth was also in Khel Ratna contention for his good show in the Super Series circuit last year but lost out to the 24-

year-old Chanu, who is the reigning world champion in the 48kg category.

Asian Games Gold-medallist boxer Amit Panghal was discussed for the Arjuna Awards but the committee decided against recommending him due to a failed dope test back in 2012, a source said.

Similarly, the selection committee also decided against recommending veteran

discus thrower Seema Punia for the awards due to his doping past. The 35-year-old Seema, who won a medal each in the Commonwealth and the Asian Games, had failed a dope test during the 2000 World Junior Championships.

Former Asian Games Bronze-medallist and Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Satish Kumar was the lone boxer to get the Arjuna honour this year.

Three shooters - Rahi Sarnobat, Ankur Mittal and Shreyasi Singh — also figured in list of 20 recommended sportspersons while there were two from para-sports - Ankur Dhama and Manoj Sarkar.

The 18-year-old Hima, who won a Gold and two Silver in the Asian Games, and golfer Shubhankar Sharma were not in the original shortlist but were later added for their impressive performances.

This year's award ceremony was postponed to September 25 from the usual August 29 National Sports Day event due to clash of dates with the Asian Games in

Indonesia.

The Khel Ratna awardees are entitled to a cash prize of ₹ 7.5 lakh, while the Arjuna winners are given ₹ 5 lakh.

Kohli, the world's No 1 Test batsman as per the ICC rankings, has been in stupendous form for the past three years and missed out despite nominations in the years 2016 and 2017.

The BCCI has been nominating Kohli for the Khel Ratna for the past three years but in 2016, it was given to Sakshi Malik, PV Sindhu and Deepa Karmakar for their good show at Rio Olympics.

Last year, the Khel Ratna was awarded to former India hockey captain Sardar Singh and para-athlete Devendra Jhajharia.

For Chanu, the award comes as a massive morale-booster as she is currently recovering from a lower back injury, which forced her to skip the Asian Games. She is the current Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and India's only medal hope in weightlifting going into 2020 Olympics.