

NATION 5
VIOLENCE REDUCED BY 20% IN NAXAL-HIT AREAS: MODI

WORLD 7
TRUMP ORDERS FBI PROBE OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

SPORT 10
DHAWAN AXED FROM TEST SQUAD

LUCKNOW, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PAGES 12+8 ₹3



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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Recent SC verdicts negate existence of absolute law

It is difficult to think of another time when the public agenda was set in so sharp a way by judicial pronouncements. The judgments of the higher courts matter in most democracies where there is a separation of powers, but the sheer frequency of socially relevant judgments in today's India is quite staggering.

It is tempting to attribute this onrush of judgments to the fact that Chief Justice Dipak Mishra retires on October 1 and, consequently, there was a need to conclude all cases involving him. Yet, what is significant is not merely the timing but the subject matter of the cases that the Supreme Court has decided. First there was the case of disqualifying potential — as opposed to convicted — criminals from holding public office. Then there was the issue of the legality and scope of Aadhaar, a subject that involves the future of India's elaborate network of welfare payments and tax revenues. That was certainly an issue the Supreme Court needed to settle once and for all, if only to remove the lingering uncertainty. Apart from that, there was the petition seeking a review of an Allahabad High Court judgment over the status of mosques in property disputes — a judgment that has a direct bearing on the never-ending litigation on the mandir-masjid dispute in Ayodhya.

However, apart from these crucial disputes involving public policy and questions of law, the Supreme Court appears to have focused its interest on social policy. Thus, in less than a month, the country has witnessed the decriminalisation of homosexuality and adultery and a sanction to modify a traditional (but discriminatory) practice in the famous Sabarimala temple. These judgments involving personal laws and the conduct of religious practices are highly significant and overturned old laws and customary practices.

An incidental feature of these judgments is that apart from those involving homosexuality between consenting adults and criminal prosecution for adultery, the decisions weren't unanimous. There were dissenting judgments on the Aadhaar case, the status of mosques and the Sabarimala temple entry issue. Some of these dissenting judgments were diametrically opposed to the majority judgment. Justice Chandrachud, for example, argued that Aadhaar was unconstitutional and should not have been passed as a Money Bill. He even questioned the right of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha to determine what should be a Money Bill, without judicial review. Justice Indu Malhotra in the Sabarimala case made out a persuasive argument against judicial interference in matters of faith, even when they failed the test of rationality.

Another curious feature of the minority judgments is that they were held up as the "correct" judgment by those who were unhappy with the majority judgment. In the social media, at least, Justice Chandrachud was painted as a poster boy by those who put privacy over financial integrity. Likewise, many Hindu traditionalists found it significant that the only woman judge hearing the case chose to be on the side of custom.

The cherry picking of judgments is an occupational hazard and the Supreme Court can at best smile indulgently at the attempts to secure consolation prizes. Their celebration or otherwise won't affect the final discourse, even though the terms of public discourse can be affected.

However, that such sharply different opinions can be expressed in judgments that are said to embrace interpretations of the law, raises some troubling questions. These are not original questions but it is noteworthy that they haven't been raised in the context of the public discussions on the judgments.

The most important concern the philosophy behind the judgments. It is strikingly clear that the judgments reflect — in some cases subtly and in other cases explicitly — the orientation of the judges. I hesitate to call these political orientation because there is an inclination in India to equate political with party-political. There is a big difference. However, considering the sensitivities involved, it is more appropriate to describe the differences as differences in legal philosophies. One set of judges viewed the concerns of the state as legitimate but sought openings to accommodate the rights of the individual. The other philosophy considered individual rights as supreme and which had to be protected against encroachment by the state.

Then there were questions regarding the role of the Supreme Court, always the last word on legal issues. The majority saw the court as the upholder of contemporary cosmopolitan values. A minority said that the court should hesitate before jumping in as the big social reformer.

All these raise a big question: where was the law involved? Common sense would argue that there should be a great deal of commonality when issues of law are involved, although there could be scope for variations. But when the differences between the majority and minority judgments are so huge, it is clear that the definition of what is the law is subjective and entirely dependant on the legal philosophies of the judges.

In the United States, there is always a huge tussle between "conservative" appointees and "liberal" appointees during the confirmation hearings. Although some of the controversies involve the moral character of the nominees of the President, the positions are almost entirely based on partisan politics. In India, politics is only discussed in hushed whispers and the discussions in secret conclaves are centred on competence in law and — of late — the "connections" of those to be elevated to the bench.

These recent Supreme Court judgments make it very clear that there is no such thing as the absolute law. The law depends entirely on who is interpreting them. A different bench may well have produced different verdicts.

I guess it had to happen. Sooner rather than later, the philosophies of those being considered for higher judicial appointments will start playing a big role in appointments. Should judges be the vanguard or should they epitomise consensual wisdom of the age?

UP cop shoots Apple staffer

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Two trigger-happy constables shot dead Apple executive who, along with his woman friend, was going in his XUV near Gomti Nagar Extension (Malesamau mazar) under Gomti Nagar police station area on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The errant cop and his colleague were rounded up and were taken in police custody. They were later summarily terminated from their services.

The incident kicked off a political controversy with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath telling newsmen that it was not an encounter and the accused constables had been terminated. The incident also evoked a stiff protest from family members of the deceased with social media activists pillorying the Lucknow police for its impertinent act and demanded 'exact action' against the errant constable and his colleague.

As per reports, Vivek Tiwari of Ganga Apartments in New Hyderabad colony of Mahanagar, along with his friend Sana Khan of Vinay Khand of Gomti Nagar, was going in their Mahendra XUV. Around 1.30 am on Saturday, when they reached near Magdooempur police outpost and were on a lone stretch, two constables, who were on a patrol duty, intercepted them asking Tiwari to stop the XUV.



Kalpana, wife of Vivek Tiwari, who was shot dead by a police constable on patrol duty, mourns his death, in Lucknow on Saturday PTI



Constable Prashant Chaudhary PTI



The bullet hole in the windscreen of the car Vivek Tiwari was driving is conspicuous PTI

Fear gripped Tiwari when he saw the constables and he tried to speed away at which constable Prashant Chaudhary, deployed at Gomti Nagar police station, fired a bullet while his colleague Sandeep Kumar allegedly incited him to open fire.

The bullet fired from the service pistol first hit the front windscreen of the XUV and then it hit Vivek in his chin. As he slumped down in the vehi-

cle, the accelerator probably was pressed by his foot and it bolted out at a high speed hitting the bike of the accused constables and later rammaged against one of the walls of the underpass. Both the constables guessed the wrong deed committed by them and they fled the scene leaving the victim in a pool of blood. His friend Sana stated that she began to cry while trying to seek help from

Constable guns down man for jumping check post, flees spot; terminated from job, sent to jail



Vivek Tiwari, who was shot by a police constable on patrol duty, in Lucknow on Saturday PTI

truckers who were passing there.

Meanwhile, a police team reached the place and the victim was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital where he was declared "brought dead". In a damage control attempt, the cops propagated conflicting information saying it was unclear that Tiwari died of gunshot or he suffered injuries

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Rain aplenty but 253 dists face drought

Cities in east, N-E and south face the heat

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Despite heavy rain which caused massive floods in Assam, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and some parts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the possibility of a drought looms large over 253 districts across the country, mainly in the east, northeast and south.

The rain deficiency has touched to 9 per cent till September 29 as the country witnessed 800.4 mm rainfall as against the normal of 883.6 mm. Normally, if the cumulative rainfall deficiency crosses 10 per cent and above, then it is declared as a "drought year" for the entire country.

This even as the withdrawal of monsoon started from some parts of Rajasthan, Kutch and north Arabian Sea from Saturday (September 29), which is almost a month's delay. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the official date of withdrawal is September 1. The delay in withdrawal of monsoon is good for rabi crops but will impact the winter season.

In nine States and Union Territories (UTs), including



Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, 50 per cent or more districts experienced deficient to "large deficient" rainfall. As per the IMD, as many as 239 districts — of the 662 for which rainfall data were available — received deficient rainfall (-20 per cent to -59 per cent) while 14 districts have received "large deficient" rainfall (-60 to -99 per cent). At least 19 districts have not shared any data with IMD on the current monsoon status.

According to the IMD, most of the districts so affected are in Gujarat (19), Bihar (27), Uttar Pradesh (27), Tamil Nadu (19), Jharkhand (17), Karnataka (15), Maharashtra (13), West Bengal (10) and Assam (10). But some of these States also had seemingly contradictory weather conditions:

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Valley villagers refuse haven to Shujaat's killer

ISI seeks details of terrorists on its roll in J&K

RAKESH KR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistani terrorist Naveed Jatt — wanted in the Kashmiri journalist Shujaat Bukhari murder case — is on the run in the Valley and is facing hostilities from the locals. Naveed, a Lashkar-e-Tayyeba terrorist, is moving along with Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Zeenat-ul-Islam and an unidentified mercenary, said Intelligence agencies.

"Naveed is living in fear from villagers of Heff, Shirmal, Shopian owing to his involvement in recent civilian killings,"

says a report of the Multi-Agency Centre.

Intelligence reports suggest his last location was in Heff under Zainapura police station in Shopian.

Amid the killing of civilians and Kashmiri policemen, there is widespread anger among locals, especially against the foreign terrorists, and Naveed has not got refuge.

The report further said there are inputs that Pakistani covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has issued written instructions to all Kashmir-centric terrorist outfits in Pak/POK to furnish on priority the complete details of terrorist cadres of Jammu & Kashmir who are on the rolls of ISI and are getting monthly remuneration, for the purpose of a "ground check".

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Ultras glorified due to lack of UN response, says Sushma

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India on Saturday lambasted the lack of progress at the UN for adopting a global convention on international terrorism, saying it is because of such inactions that terrorists are glorified with postage stamps.

India last week called off a meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi citing the release of postal stamps "glorifying" Kashmiri terrorist Burhan Wani by Pakistan as one of the reasons.

"Each year, for last five years, India has been arguing from this podium that lists are not enough to check terrorists and their protectors. We need to bring them to accountability through international law," Sushma said at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly.

Detailed report on P5

Hackers skim 50m Facebook accounts



AP ■ NEW YORK

Facebook reported a major security breach in which 50 million user accounts were accessed by unknown attackers.

The attackers gained the ability to 'seize control' of those accounts, Facebook said, by stealing digital keys the company uses to keep people logged in. Facebook has logged out owners of the 50 million affected accounts — plus another 40 million who were vulnerable to the attack. Users

don't need to change their Facebook passwords, it said.

Facebook said it doesn't know who was behind the attacks or where they're based. In a call with reporters on Friday, CEO Mark Zuckerberg said that attackers would have had the ability to view private messages or post on someone's account, but there's no sign that they did.

"We do not yet know if any of the accounts were actually misused," Zuckerberg said. Detailed report on P7

Kejriwal calls electricity amendment Bill anti-people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the proposed Electricity Act 2003, anti-people, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said it would only benefit power firms and lead to a sharp hike in electricity bills of the consumers.

Kejriwal said the proposed amendment Bill would put an end to cross-subsidy, injecting a steep two-to-five times hike in the charges, and even the middle class, let alone the farmers and poor, would find it difficult to afford electricity.

Addressing a Press conference at his residence, Kejriwal said, "I will write to all the CM and personally meet those from the non-BJP-ruled States against the amendments. This move is aimed at benefiting the big power companies close to the Prime Minister."

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CAPSULE

15 NAXALS SURRENDER IN CHHATTISGARH

Rajpur: As many as 15 Naxals including a couple surrendered on Saturday in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-hit Sukma district.

MAN KILLED WHILE TRYING TO CATCH ROBBERS

New Delhi: A man was shot dead by bike-borne robbers when he tried to catch hold of them in Anand Vihar area, police said on Saturday.

WITNESSES IN LYNCING CASE 'FIRED UPON'

Jaipur: Witnesses in the Pehlu Khan lynching case, including the victim's two sons, were allegedly fired upon by unidentified men on Saturday while they were on their way to depose before a court in Behror town of Alwar district, Rajasthan Police said.

Nearly 400 killed in Indonesia quake-tsunami

AFP ■ PALU

Nearly 400 people were killed when a powerful quake sent a tsunami barreling into the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, officials said on Saturday, as hospitals struggled to cope with hundreds of injured and rescuers scrambled to reach the stricken region. The national disaster agency put the official death toll so far at 384, all of them in the tsunami-struck city of Palu, but warned the toll was likely to rise.

In the city — home to around 350,000 people — partially covered bodies lay on the ground near the shore, the day after tsunami waves 1.5 metres (five feet) came ashore. There were also concerns over the whereabouts of hundreds of



people preparing for a beach festival due to start Friday evening, the disaster agency said. Hospitals were overwhelmed by the influx of injured, with many people being treated in the open air, while other survivors helped to retrieve the remains of those who died. One man was seen

carrying the mucky corpse of a small child. The tsunami was triggered by a strong quake that brought down buildings and sent locals fleeing for higher ground as a churning wall of water crashed into Palu, where there were widespread power blackouts. Dramatic video footage captured from the top

floor of a parking ramp in Palu, nearly 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the quake's epicentre, showed waves of water bring down several buildings and inundate a large mosque.

"I just ran when I saw the waves hitting homes on the coastline," said Palu resident Rusdianto, who like many Indonesians goes by one name. The shallow 7.5 magnitude tremor was more powerful than a series of quakes that killed hundreds on the Indonesian island of Lombok in July and August. Indonesian president Joko Widodo said the military was being called in to the disaster-struck region to help search-and-rescue teams get to victims and find bodies. Earlier, the head of the country's search and rescue agency Muhammad Syaqui told AFP

that local staff had found "many" dead bodies.

"We're particularly concerned about the impact of the earthquake on children, who are more vulnerable to being swept away in tsunamis," said Tom Howells, NGO Save the Children's Program Implementation Director. People living hundreds of kilometres from the epicentre reported feeling the massive shake, which came hours after a smaller jolt killed at least one person in the same part of the country.

The quake hit just off central Sulawesi at a depth of 10 kilometres just before 1100 GMT — early evening in Sulawesi — the US Geological Survey said. Such shallow quakes tend to be more destructive.

Yogi govt to host global farmers' summit in Oct

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After the success of two big ticket events — UP Investors' Summit and MSME-dedicated One District One Product conclave — the Yogi Adityanath government is preparing to host a three-day global farmers summit, the Krishi Kumbh 2018, from October 26.

An estimated 100,000 farmers, agricultural experts, scientists, entrepreneurs, and public and private sector representatives are expected to participate in the three-day international event, aimed at promoting modern farming techniques to achieve the ultimate goal of doubling the farmers' income.

UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said the Krishi Kumbh would incorporate all aspects of rural economy viz. agriculture and

allied activities like horticulture, dairy, pisciculture, beekeeping, food processing, animal husbandry, farm implements etc. to provide a holistic picture to farmers and the allied sectors.

To make a pitch for the proposed event, the government had organised a promotional pre-event meet in the national capital recently to market the summit as an exclusive brand. Interestingly, the state government is also preparing for the mega conclave of faith at Kumbh Mela 2019 to be held at Prayag, Allahabad, where 1.5 crore pilgrims are expected.

Shahi said the Krishi Kumbh would introduce the farmers to the evolving dynamics of farming so that they could increase their income by leveraging the vast untapped potential of agriculture and post-harvest management.

After coming to power, the Yogi Adityanath government had taken a 360-degree approach to virtually turn around the economy for sustained socio-economic growth and job creation. The various investors' summit and now the agri summit are strategic steps in the same direction.

To support farmers, the state government had last year announced the flagship crop loan waiver scheme worth Rs 36,000 crore to benefit 86 lakh small and marginal farmers.

This year, the government has taken steps to boost the cultivation of coarse food grains to economise the use of water, especially during deficient rainfall. The state also distributed 20,000 solar pumps and 15,000 sprinklers for drip irrigation and tapping solar energy for power.

Meanwhile, the state has identified 25 lakh farmers for

giving Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna cover during the current kharif crop season in UP.

Shahi claimed that the foodgrain production increased by 2 million tonnes (MT) this year and that UP had a surplus foodgrain inventory of 10 MT.

Besides, the agricultural and horticultural production has been robust, including potato, which clocked a record output of 15.5 million tonnes this year.

UP is among the top agricultural and allied sector producers in India, accounting for almost 36 and 12 per cent of wheat and paddy respectively, besides potato (35 per cent), sugarcane (40 per cent) and the top dairy producer. This year, the government clocked wheat and paddy procurement of 37 lakh metric tonnes and 52 lakh MT respectively, much higher than previous years.

CM flags off 2 medical vans in Gorakhpur

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday flagged off two mobile medical vans in Gorakhpur.

Both the vans are equipped with modern gadgets for treatment of serious ailments. Both the vans will cover rural and remote areas for treatment of serious ailments.

The vans have been sponsored by the Tata Trust.

Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated a special eye camp at Guru Goraknath Hospital. Lauding the objective of the eye camp, Yogi Adityanath said eye donation was an act of altruism as it provided eyesight to others.

The cm said all the identified persons in need of eye treatment would be provided all facilities in the camp, including free eye check-up and eye operations. He said the government was working relentlessly for providing better medical facilities to the people of the state and was working for improving medical facilities in the state under the centrally sponsored Ayushman Health Insurance Scheme. The health insurance scheme was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand.

The Chief Minister said that besides medical facilities, the state government had launched several welfare schemes for the poor like pension and housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Akhilesh demands Yogi's resignation

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath following the gunning down of a MNC executive by the police in Gombti Nagar in a "fake encounter" in the early hours of Saturday.

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee president Raj Babbar also slammed the Chief Minister over the "fake" encounter, saying "the state government is solely responsible for the ghastly incident and it is a matter of shame for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath."

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who Member of Parliament from Lucknow, also spoke to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the Director General of Police and enquired about the incident.

Yogi Adityanath assured the Home Minister of a judicious and effective investigation, saying that the guilty would be brought to justice.

Akhilesh Yadav said in a statement that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was solely responsible for the incident in which a family was destroyed by trigger-happy policemen.

He said ever since Yogi Adityanath became the Chief Minister, UP Police had gone berserk and hundreds of encounters had been conducted by the cops in which only Dalits, OBCs and Muslims had been targeted.

The former Chief Minister later tweeted: "UP police by gunning down a common citizen, has demonstrated the degree to which the culture of violence unleashed by the Yogi Adityanath government has degenerated. The fake encounter has also maligned the image of Uttar Pradesh among international investors".

Maurya assures action against the guilty

Lucknow (PNS): Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya also assured action against the guilty in the killing of a multi-national company executive in Gombti Nagar late Saturday night. "Investigation is underway. If an innocent person has been killed by the police, action will be taken against those found guilty," Maurya said here on Saturday.

The family of the deceased Vivek Tiwari has demanded a CBI probe into the incident. "Was he a terrorist that police shot at him? We chose Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath as our representative and want him to take cognisance of the incident. We also demand an unbiased CBI inquiry," Vivek's brother-in-law Vishnu Shukla said.

Minister seeks relief against crop loss

Mathura (PTI): Uttar Pradesh Dairy Development Minister Lakshmi Narain Chaudhary has said he would request the chief minister to provide immediate relief to farmers of Chhatta assembly constituency where paddy and cottonseed crop have been damaged due to waterlogging.

Chaudhary represents the Chhatta assembly constituency and is surveying several villages in the area to ascertain the crop losses. He said a support from Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath for the farmers would pave the way for sowing of Rabi crop. "Since 100 per cent paddy and 70 per cent cottonseed crop has been damaged and the crop is still waterlogged, the farmers need money for sowing Rabi crop," Chaudhary said after visiting over 30 villages on Friday to ascertain the crop damage. The minister is visiting Saturday over 20 villages in the Goverdhan assembly constituency, hit by waterlogging, to ascertain

the actual losses. Prior to demarcation, these villages were in Chhatta assembly constituency. According to Chaudhary, he would request Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to provide relief to every paddy and cottonseed grower as the magnitude of the devastation has been "unbelievable". The paddy growers have invested Rs 12,000 per acre on growing paddy/cottonseed that too without any

return, he said.



Samajwadi Secular Morcha workers from Rajasthan honouring Shivpal Singh Yadav in Lucknow on Saturday

Pioneer

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I, Manu Vikram S/o Ashok Kumar Singh resident of 539K/312, Kamla-Kunj Sanjay Gandhi Puram, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 (U.P.) have changed my name from Manu Vikram to Manu Vikram Singh Henceforth, I shall be known as Manu Vikram Singh for all purposes.

नीलामी सूचना

11.10.2018, 11:00 बजे राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य मारुति जिप्सी-1, मारुति वैन-1, एम्बेसडर कारें-2 "जहां/जैसे है" आधार पर नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु० 10,000/- बैंकड्राफ्ट "वरिष्ठ लेखाधिकारी, मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ" नामित/आई.पी.सिंह & सन्स

NOTICE

It is hereby informed to all concerned that house no 24/9 Iris Villa 4 B Prag Narayan road is a disputed property and a suit is pending before competent court at Lucknow Any sale or purchase of the aforesaid house, during the pendency of litigation will be entirely on risk and cost of seller and purchaser.

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Prayagraj Express to have coaches on Kumbh theme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

Prestigious Prayagraj Express and many other trains will be having Kumbh 2019 themed coaches. The North Central Railway General Manager Rajiv Chaudhary inspected the first such coach on Saturday and appreciated the work.

The NCR is gearing up for ensuing Kumbh Mela 2019 to be held at Allahabad. In its endeavour to serve the pilgrims visiting Triveni Sangam, Allahabad, North Central Railway is refurbishing the coaches of prestigious trains connecting Allahabad to different parts of the nation on the theme of Kumbh Mela 2019. These trains will be carrying pilgrims during Kumbh Mela. On Saturday the NCR GM visited Allahabad Junction to inspect the first modified refurbished "Kumbh-2019" theme based AC-1 Coach. Chaudhary applauded the efforts. He also motivated the officers and staff for maintaining the dedicated approach to ensure comfortable and hygienic experience for esteemed passengers.

UP govt plans to develop Kanpur-Lucknow Corridor

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In order to boost economic development in Uttar Pradesh's hinterland, the UP government plans to develop the Kanpur-Lucknow Corridor as a counter magnet to the National Capital Region (NCR).

The Kanpur-Lucknow Corridor consists of Lucknow, Kanpur and Unnao districts and includes in its purview the area notified under four urban development authorities namely, (LDA), Kanpur Development Authority, Unnao Shuklaganj Development Authority (USDA) and Lucknow Industrial Development Authority (LIDA).

The government has directed officials to draft a comprehensive action plan to develop the corridor as a potent counter magnet area to the NCR.

The government would also undertake measures to curb unplanned and unauthorised urban development in the NCR falling under its territory. The government has

also directed for subsuming the master plan of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) with the draft Revised Regional Plan 2021 of the NCR.

A few years back, LIDA was looking for revival with its Board approving its master plan spanning 30,000 hectares across 84 villages in Lucknow and Unnao districts.

The plan had trifurcated LIDA-notified land into Township A, B and C under which Township A would be a multifunctional zone near Lucknow; Township B, a tourism zone around the Nawabganj bird sanctuary; and Township C, an industrial zone in Unnao.

The notified land was proposed to have 26 per cent residential, 21 per cent industrial, 20 per cent green, 16 per cent transportation zone and the remaining for commercial and mixed land use.

The LIDA Master Plan had sought synergy with Lucknow Master Plan, providing for a parallel railway cargo corridor with a Bus

rapid transit system (BRTS) for transportation. The LIDA Board had even fixed Rs 886/sq mt and Rs 725/sq mt as internal and external development fees, respectively, to be charged by LIDA from developers and builders.

The state government had constituted LIDA in July 2005 during erstwhile Mulayam Singh Yadav government. It was aimed at boosting industrial and commercial activities, in the region and attracting investment beyond NCR. However, it has largely remained comatose ever since, although its Board had been meeting regularly. In fact, the draft Master Plan was approved by LIDA Board in November 2013. LIDA made sluggish progress during the Mayawati rule (2007-12), although the state had planned to acquire 2,000 acres along the Lucknow-Unnao highway in first phase. LIDA had also faced land acquisition hurdles. Earlier, LIDA had tied up with Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) for taking loan of ₹70 crore.

QUICK TAKES

9 INJURED IN CLASH

Muzaffarnagar: At least nine people were injured during a clash between two groups at Bhokaheri village in the district, police said. According to a complaint lodged by a woman, she had married a man three years ago, but some people were against their marriage. They were allegedly attacked on Friday during the clash, they said. A case was registered in this connection, police said.

MARRIED WOMAN RAPED AT GUNPOINT

Muzaffarnagar: A 26-year-old married woman was allegedly raped by her neighbour at gunpoint when she was alone in her house in a village in Shamli district, police said Saturday. Circle Officer Rajesh Kumar Tiwari said the incident occurred at Jandheri village under Kairana Police Station Friday. According to complaint lodged by the victim's husband, their neighbour, Gaurav Kumar, 27, entered the house in his absence and raped her at gunpoint, the CO said. Kumar threatened her with dire consequences if she revealed about the incident to anyone. She later narrated the incident to her

husband, he said. A case was registered against the accused who was on the run and the woman was sent for medical examination.

6 BOOKED FOR NOT ATTENDING DUTIES IN VOTER LIST REVISION DRIVE OF EC

Muzaffarnagar: Six booth-level officers (BLO) were booked for allegedly not attending their duties in voter list revision drive which was started by the Election Commission in the district, police said. According to the Election Commission sources, a case under Section 3/4 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 was registered against six people in this connection on Friday. The voter list revision drive was started in the district on the directive of the Election Commission.

3 ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING CHARAS

Mathura: Three members of an inter-state gang were arrested for allegedly smuggling charas near Ajhai, police said. On the basis of an input, two kg of charas, stated to be worth over 40 lakh, and a motorcycle used for smuggling the charas, was recovered from them on Thursday.

Centre to provide cashless cards to pensioners: Sinha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Union Minister of State for Railways and Communication Manoj Sinha said that the Central Government has decided to provide cashless cards to pensioners and added that the government is working on providing facility to pensioners and their families on the pattern of Ayushman Bharat Yojana. Speaking in biennial regional convention of Vidyut Pensioners Parishad at a lawn in Mehamooganj here on Friday evening, the Union Minister Sinha said that the Central Government was serious to address problems of pensioners and assured that their many demands would soon met. The nation has so far registered a profit of 90,000 crore from digitalisation and transparency in works, said Sinha and added that the government was working on providing facilities to pensioners and their families.

DIRECTORATE DAIRY DEVELOPMENT UTTARAKHAND MANGAL PARAO, HALDWANI (DISTRICT-NAINITAL)-263139

E-Tender Notice no:- 02/Re-tender/ DD-UK/2018-19, Date-29.09.2018

E-tenders are invited by the undersigned in two bid system for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Monochromator based machine, Protein estimation equipment, Raw milk analyzer, Muffle furnace, Moisture analyzer & Ammonia compressor at Central Dairy Lab Dairy Development Uttarakhand, Lalkuan District- Nainital and various milk unions/CFP Rudrapur/ U.S.Nagar milk union from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers up to 5 PM on 15.10.2018 which will be opened on 16.10.2018 at 11 AM. Tender documents may be downloaded/Uploaded from E-tender portal <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

Letter No - C 2950/2018-19
Date - 29 September 2018

Director DEVELOPMENT UTTARAKHAND MANGAL PARAO, HALDWANI (DISTRICT-NAINITAL)-263139

उप्रो राज्य औद्योगिक विकास निगम लि

कार्यालय अधिशापी अभियन्ता, विद्युत खण्ड-प्रथम, ए-1/4, लखनपुर, कानपुर

ई-निविदा सूचना

यूपीएसआईडीसी लिमिटेड, मुख्यालय भवन काम्लैक्स, कानपुर में 400 केवीए डीजीसेट की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापन कार्य हेतु जनरेटर निर्माता कम्पनियों जैवशन / किलोस्कर / कैटपिलर / वालो अथवा इन कम्पनियों के अधिकृत डीलर्स / डिस्ट्रीब्यूटर्स से ई-निविदाएं दिनांक 15.10.2018 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड किए जाने हेतु आमन्त्रित की जाती है। अपलोडेड ई-निविदाओं को दिनांक 16.10.2018 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे डाउनलोड की जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य सूचनाएं निगम की वेबसाइट www.upsidc.com एवं यूपीएलसी की वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in पर दिनांक 01.10.2018 से देखी जा सकती है।

अधिशापी अभियन्ता (विद्युत)

Grief-stricken kin question police act



File photo of Vivek Tiwari

The wife and kin of Vivek Tiwari protesting by putting the corpse on the road in New Hyderabad. (Right) LU students joining in the protest

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW
Gloom descended in Ganga Apartments where the victim lived with his family members. They were in a state of shock after the news of Vivek Tiwari's death reached the place. Vivek's two daughters, Shalini

(12) and Shivi (7), were crying bitterly and their mother lost her sense for some minutes due to grief. The inmates of the apartment were also in a state of shock. "Do police have a licence to kill innocents and without provocation?" they questioned. They said Vivek was killed

for none of his fault. "Policemen exceeded their brief and they shot Vivek dead. They could have chattered him or could have traced him on the basis of the registration number of the vehicle. They could well have passed on the information to the police picket to stop the XUV when

Vivek was fleeing," they argued. The victim's brother said that Vivek was a senior executive of a reputed company and the incident occurred in the state capital. "Due to our pursuance and the alacrity shown by the media in covering the incident made cops bow and act. Or they would

have termed it as a case of encounter and the police would have shown Vivek's criminal past too," he said. The victim's elder daughter minced no words and said the policemen should be given severest punishment for their act. "They killed my father for none of his fault. I fear them

very much and will never forget the highhandedness of the police in my life ever," she said. The kin of the victim put the corpse in the open space at the apartment and sat around it after the district and police officers failed to convince them. Later, Lucknow University students also

reached the scene to protest against the police act. They had black pieces of cloth on their mouths as protest while displaying plaques in their hands. Meanwhile, when Cabinet minister Ashutosh Tandon came, some of the protesters booed him. But the cops surrounded him and the protesters were dispelled from the scene. The police claim on the constable's arrest was exposed when the constable, along with his wife, who is also a constable, reached the Gomti Nagar police station in the evening to lodge a complaint in the case. As the news spread, scores of mediamen started reaching the police station and later the news was aired on news channels. The top cops developed cold feet on the revelation and instructed the Gomti Nagar police to handle the situation. Later, the Gomti Nagar police detained the constable accused of murdering Vivek. The SSP called a press conference to put his side of story and later left the press venue in a huff.

Police focusing more on cover-up

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Stony-hearted face of the police came to the fore during the investigation into the case. Sources claimed that the cops were more busy in finding out about Vivek, what work he had at night, why he was associating with a woman in the XUV and on a lone stretch of the road. "Instead of expediting the investigation into the case, the police eagerness to collect details about victim and his woman friend came as a big surprise. The cops probably were trying to twist the case terming it as an encounter or an accident," they claimed. They added the cops started propagating that the victim died in a road accident after if surfaced that victim was an area manager employed in a reputed mobile company and he was going to drop Sana at her house in Vinay Khand after the office party ended late at the night.



Police personnel conduct investigation near the bike of the constable responsible for shooting Vivek Tiwari in Lucknow

the police detained both the constables and sent them for a medical test in the morning," the sources said.

They said both the constables were in a drunken state and they picked up an altercation with the victim when they asked him to stop the XUV and he did not obey them. "The constables on patrol duty in the area are in the habit of harassing couples passing via the lone

stretch and extorting money from them. It is suspected that the cops erred in believing that the victim and his woman friend were a couple and tried to exact money from them. The victim probably drove away the car to avoid any scene there and later was hit by the errant cop," the sources said. They said the constable fired several rounds of fire. But the SSP maintained that the constable fired a sin-

gle shot which hit the man. He added a case of murder was registered against the cops on the complaint of Sana and the police had detained both the constables. The cops also delayed in rushing the victim to a hospital and he died due to excessive bleeding. "The man had suffered a huge blood loss when he was brought at the hospital and died due to that," the sources disclosed.

Complainant under house arrest



The damaged car in which Vivek Tiwari was shot by a police constable on patrol duty in Lucknow on Saturday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

With newsmen swarming the scene where Apple Inc assistant sales manager Vivek Tiwari lived, complainant in the case Sana Khan was allegedly under 'house arrest' on Saturday morning and thus was out of the reach of media and her statement on the issue could not be taken. Sana was also not allowed to meet Vivek's wife, who claimed that she was informed about the incident around 3.30 am and was told that her husband had met with an accident and died.

We have been asked to inform senior officials if any development took place," some of woman constables said. This made some newsmen indulge in a verbal spat and later additional police force was sent to the place. With news channel started running the news of Sana's house arrest, the police were under pressure and Sana was asked to give a complaint to the police. Following this, she was taken to Gomti Nagar police station where she lodged a complaint. Later, speaking to newsmen, Sana said that she was with Vivek when the cops approached the car. "Sensing danger and to avoid altercation with the constables, Vivek Sir drove the car at which one of the constables opened fire which hit him," she alleged. She added that Vivek was going to drop her at her house. Sources said the police exerted pressure on Sana to give a favourable statement. "The police trick did not work as Sana remained adamant and said what exactly had happened," the sources disclosed.

VIJAYA BANK E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
 (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
BRANCH : Aliganj, Lucknow

It is notified for all concerned that the following property is secured in favor of Vijaya Bank, Aliganj, Lucknow and as secured creditor taken possession under SARFAESI Act 2002, will be sold by e-auction "as is where is and as is what is basis" for recovery of Bank dues. This is a notice to the borrower/s and to the guarantor/s of the below said loan about holding of E-Auction sale on the said date 12.11.2018, if their outstanding dues are not repaid in full by the date of auction.

Sr.no.	(1)
Name & Address of the Borrower & Guarantor	Borrowers : 1) M/s Shyam Traders & Floor Mills Through proprietor Mr. Dileep Kumar Jaiswal/s/o Mr. Shyam Lal Jaiswal, R/o, 1/160, Sector-H, Jankipuram, Lucknow 2) Mr. Dileep Kumar Jaiswal/s/o Mr. Shyam Lal Jaiswal, R/o, 1/160, Sector-H, Jankipuram, Lucknow Guarantor : 1) Mrs. Sushma Jaiswal w/o Mr. Dileep Kumar Jaiswal, R/o, 1/160, Sector-H, Jankipuram, Lucknow, Lucknow 2) Mr. Durga Prasad Shukla, R/o 4/692, Sector-H, Jankipuram Lucknow
The under mentioned property will be sold by "Online e-Auction through website https://vijayabank.auctiontigger.net on	12.11.2018
Due Amount (Rs.)	Rs. 8,36,951.44/- plus Interest and other charges from date 30.04.2018
Schedule of the Property	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of land and building situated at Plot no. 9A, part of non agriculture Kharsa no. 254, situated at Village Tarhiya, Pargana Mahona, Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow, Owned by : Mrs. Sushma Jaiswal W/o Mr. Dileep Kumar Jaiswal, Boundaries : East : Plot Rakesh Kumar Jaiswal, West: Plot no. 10, North : Plot Seller, South : 25ft wide Road
Physical Possession is with bank (Yes/No)	06.09.2018
Reserve Price (Rs.)	14,85,000.00
Earliest Money Deposit (Rs.)	1,48,500.00
Bid Increment Amount (Rs.)	25,000.00
Date of inspection of property for intending purchasers	01.11.2018 up to 04:00 PM
Last date for submission of tender form along with EMD and KYC documents	03.11.2018 up to 04:00 PM
Date, time for online auction	12.11.2018 11.00 pm to 1.00 pm (with unlimited extension of 5 min each)
Any query regarding e-auction and process contact Details :-	E-Procurement Technologies Ltd. Contact person -Ram Sharma & Vishal Tiwari, Mobile No.-08000023297 & 987999611 Land Line no.- 079-40230821/823/824/825, E-mail -up@auctiontigger.net, ramprasad@auctiontigger.net, vishal@auctiontigger.net, support@auctiontigger.net
EMD Remittance Account Details	Ac. no. : 715700501000003, IFSC code : VIJB0007157, Branch Manager, Ph: 0522 2335644, Email: bm7157@vijayabank.co.in

Note: The intending bidder/purchaser may visit to bank's website https://vijayabank.auctiontigger.net and www.vijayabank.com and click on the too "Tender" or visit the Government website www.tenders.gov.in for detail terms and conditions regarding auction proceeding.

Place: Lucknow, Date: 30.09.2018 Authorised Officer (Vijaya Bank)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
Letter No. P/351/O/EG/Policy Dated: 28.09.2018
NOTIFICATION
Re-engagement of Retired Railway Employees on remuneration (daily basis) of different categories in different Departments.

In terms of Railway Boards letter No. E(NG)/2010/RC-4/6 dated 27.9.2017 and E(NG)/2007/RV-IV/CORE/1 dated 13.10.2017 applications are invited from willing retired railway employees for re-engagement on remuneration (daily basis) in Allahabad Division on the enclosed format. Statement showing vacancies in different departments is enclosed herewith as Annexure-A and the prescribed format for applying is enclosed as Annexure-B. The candidates who fulfill the following conditions will be engaged on daily remuneration -

- Those employees who have obtained retirement under LARSGESS, voluntary retirement, removal or dismissal will not be eligible to apply.
- Employees who have retired from Allahabad division will be given preference as they are well aware of the divisions work culture.
- Re-engaged employees will be required to work in shift duties but they will not be entitled for night duty allowance.
- Candidature of the applicants will be considered on the basis of their working through out their service career and APR.
- The eligible retired employee will be engaged on the same category or a category below from which he retired.
- Re-engaged eligible employee will only be considered finally when he qualifies the requisite medical prescribed for that category.
- Re-engagement of retired employees will only be considered in the vacancies notified in Annexure-A.
- Maximum age limit of re-engagement will be 65 years. At the time of final consideration his/her age should not exceed 65 years.
- This scheme is valid upto 1.12.2019. However, if the vacancies are filled due to receipt of sufficient regular employees through panels etc. their services will be terminated immediately.
- Working employees retiring upto 31.3.2019 are also eligible to apply.
- Monthly remuneration of re-engaged retired employee will be determined as per Railway Boards letter No.E(NG)/2007/RV-IV/CORE/1 dated 16.10.2017 (monthly remuneration of a retired employee being re-engaged be determined by reducing pension from his/her last pay drawn (i.e. basic pay+DA)).
- Re-engagement of retired employees can be terminated by the competent authority without notice.

Interested retired railway employees can send their applications in the box kept in this office upto 31.10.2018 at 18.00 hours or send by dak on the following address. Applications received through dak beyond 31.3.2018 will not be entertained. Address - Divisional Railway Managers office/Personnel Branch North Central Railway, Allahabad. Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh PIN - 211001. (Manish Kumar Khare) For Div. Rly. Manager/P/N.C.Rly.Allahabad

PERSONNEL AND G. ADMN DEPARTMENT			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 Ministerial staff	4600, 4200, 2800, 1900	08	
2 Steno	4600, 4200, 2400	03	
3 CLAs	4600	02	
4 Office Khalasi	1800	05	
MECH. C&W			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 SSE / C&W	4600	12	
2 JE / C&W	4200	30	
3 Artisan / C&W	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	150	
OPERATING DEPARTMENT			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 TNC	4200, 2400, 1900	41	
2 Ministerial	4600, 4200, 2800, 1900	10 (08 - OPTG) (02 - SAFETY)	
COMMERCIAL			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 CMI	4600, 4200	03	
2 Ministerial	4600, 4200, 2800, 1900	04	
S&T (Sig)			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 SSE/Sig	4600	03	
2 JE/Sig	4200	10	
3 Tech/Sig	4200, 2800, 2400	138	
4 Helper/Sig	1800	63	
S&T (Tele)			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 TCM/ Tele	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	67	
2 Black Smith	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	04	
3 Helper/PSI	1800	23	
4 VEHICLE DRIVER	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	02	
ELECTRIC-TRD			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 SSE	4600	09	
2 Tech/OHE	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	34	
3 Tech/PSI	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	25	
4 Tower Wagon Driver	2400	07	
5 Motor Vehicle Driver	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	15	
6 Tech-Bond	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	02	
7 Tech-RC	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	03	
8 Carpenter	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	02	
9 Painter	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	02	
10 Ministerial	4600, 4200, 2800, 1900	14	
11 HELPER	1800	20	
ELECTRIC-G			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 SSE	4600	04	
2 JE	4200	09	
3 Tech-SPA	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	37	
4 Tech-PS	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	44	
5 Tech-Mech	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	01	
ELECTRIC - RS			
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES	
1 SSE	4600	24	
2 JE	4200	02	
3 Welder	4200, 2800, 2400	03	
4 Machinist	4200, 2800, 2400	03	
5 Painter	4200, 2800, 2400	10	

6 Carpenter	4200, 2800, 2400	09
7 Truck Driver	4200, 2800, 2400	02
8 Tech. - Fitter	4200, 2800, 2400	174
9 Crane Driver	4200, 2800, 2400	11
10 Mill Wright Tech	4200, 2800, 2400	16
11 Armature Winder	4200, 2800, 2400	43
ENGG - P. WAY		
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES
1 SSE/P. Way	4600	40
2 JE / P. Way	4200	07
3 Motor Vehicle Driver	4200, 2800, 2400	12
4 Motor Mech	2800, 2400	02
5 Welder	4200, 2800	30
6 Black Smith	4200, 2800, 2400	50
7 Carpenter	4200, 2800	04
8 Painter	4200, 2800, 1900	06
9 Fitter	4200, 2800, 2400	07
10 M T Driver	2800, 2400, 1900	01
11 Track Maintainer	2800, 2400, 1900, 1800	300
ENGG - Works		
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES
SSE / Works	4600	12
JE / Works	4200	05
JE / Horticulture	4200	01
Painter	4200, 2800	05
Valve Man	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	40
Black Smith	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	21
Carpenter	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	27
Mason	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	34
Fitter	4200, 2800, 2400, 1900	22
Ministerial	4600, 4200, 2800, 1900	14
Helper Khalasi	1800	100
Welder	4200, 2800, 2400	04
Driver	4200, 2800, 2400	06
Mate	1900	14
Field Man	1900	06
Mali	1800	35
Chowkidar	1800	34
Safai Wala	1800	21
Chainman	1800	21
MEDICAL		
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES
2 Hospital Attdt.	1800	04
3 S. Wala/S. Wali	1800	02
4 Aya	1800	02
5 Staff Nurse	5400, 4800, 4600	03
6 Safai Wala Sanitation	1800	50
ELECT - RSO		
SN CATEGORY	GRADE PAY	No. OF VACANCIES
1 CH Office Supdt./OS	4600, 4200	(05-RSO) 10 (02 - Mech. / C&W) (03 - Mech. / O&F)

उत्तर मध्य रेलवे/NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY अनुमनक-ख
मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक कार्यालय / Office of the Division Railway Manager
कार्मिक शाखा / Personnel Department, Allahabad
सेवानिवृत्ति कर्मियों को मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक कार्यालय में दैनिक भत्ते के आधार पर पुनर्नियोजन/Re-engagement of the retired staff on daily remuneration basis for Office of the Division Railway Manager, Allahabad

प्रारूप/PROFORMA

- सेवानिवृत्ति कर्मचारी का नाम
- सेवानिवृत्त के समय पद/स्थान
- सेवानिवृत्त का वेतनमान/पे मैट्रिक्स लेवल
- सेवानिवृत्ति के समय विभाग/Department
- पिता का नाम/Father's Name
- पी.एफ. नम्बर/PF No
- पीपीओ नं./PPO No
- सेवानिवृत्त की तिथि/Date of Birth
- सेवानिवृत्त की तिथि/Date of Retirement
- 65 वर्ष पूरा करने की तिथि/Date of attaining 65 year
- अन्तिम वेतन भुगतान/Last Pay Drawn
- मूल पेशन/Basic Pension
- वैयक्तिक पद/Post applied
- वैयक्तिक स्टेशन/Choice of Station
- पत्राचार हेतु पता/Address for Communication
- आधार कार्ड नं./Aadhar No.
- पैन नं./PAN No
- मोबाइल/फोन नं./Mobile/Phone No.

मैं, घोषणा करता/करती हूँ कि मेरी सेवानिवृत्ति लार्सेज योजना के अन्तर्गत नहीं है/ I, hereby declare that I have not been covered under the safety Related Retirement Scheme/Liberalized Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARSGESS).

दिनांक 11/2017 को जारी अधिसूचना में दी गयी शर्तें मुझे मान्य हैं तथा सुरक्षा एवं संचालन सम्बन्धित नियम और रेगुलेशनों का पालन करूंगा / I abide by the conditions stipulated in the Notification dated... 11/2017 and will follow all the extant rules and regulation in respect of safety and other operational requirements.

सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारी के हस्ताक्षर
Signature of retired employee

North central railways | railway.northcentral@CPNCR | 1058/18 FA

Vajpayee's role highlighted

Lucknow (PNS): A lecture was delivered on Saturday by Rashtra Dharma director SC Dwivedi. It was part of the special lecture series on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee being held at Lucknow University. The lectures were on Atal and Indian education system, Atal and Indian economy, Atal and telecommunication, Atal and poetry, Atal and environment. Dwivedi, while speak-



ing on the occasion, said that the nation was passing through a very transitional phase where the role of students in the nation-building was very important. He said that the nation was not only a piece of land but a cultural entity. He shared many moments that he had spent with the former Prime Minister. He also spoke on Atal's contribution for Rashtra Dharma and his vision for the nation. He quoted many statements of Atal delivered by him in Parliament. Dr Brajendra Pandey traced historical prospective of the national concern of India and its evo-

lution through time from pre-independence to post-independence period. Pankaj Prasoan, a young poet, highlighted the sense of humour and many incidents of Atal. He also recited many poems of Atal. Prof UN Dwivedi said that the types of lectures based on Atal forced them to believe in Atal's ideology and Indian nationalism. He emphasised that institutions were very important in the nation-building. He appreciated the lecture series and said that it would bring a change in the thought process of students and prepare them for the nation-building.

Books on authentic history of Indian subcontinent

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Books on authentic history of Indian subcontinent are being showcased at the National Book Fair, currently underway at Moti Mahal Lawns. Stall incharge Madhuri Jain said that the books published by their publishing house Munshihal Manoharlal Publishers were those on Indian subcontinent dealing with its history in the ancient and the medieval part along with the art, religion and other aspects.

She said the books were well researched and written by professors of the likes not available anywhere in the country. Madhuri admitted that the serious reader was always looking for something authentic. Sharing an interesting incident, she said when the recent 'Padmaavat' movie controversy happened, their book titled 'History of Khilji' went off the shelves. "It was purchased by all those who wanted to find out how true were the claims of the protesters of the Karni Sena and others. We will be printing the second edition soon," she



also had the translation of Valmiki Ramayana, which again is the translation of the Ramayana written by Valmiki. The cost of the book is Rs 795. Madhuri said that they also had a book on Dara Shikoh, the brother of emperor Aurangzeb, and it talks

um and costs Rs 7,000 in hard-bound while the paper back costs Rs 4,500. It is written by Kisari Mohan. This is a unique piece because no one has given the complete Mahabharata though they have come out in parts," she added. She pointed out that they

also had the translation of Valmiki Ramayana, which again is the translation of the Ramayana written by Valmiki. The cost of the book is Rs 795. Madhuri said that they also had a book on Dara Shikoh, the brother of emperor Aurangzeb, and it talks

about his life and work. The book is written by Vikramjit Hasrat.

"There are books on the ancient geography of the country and the travellers who travelled in India, including Megasthenes and Hieun Tsang, along with the ancient maps of India. There is a book on Natya Shastra which has been written by none other than Adya Rangacharya," she said.

The stall incharge said that they had over 1,700 titles with books on medieval history. Yoga and the Mughal era. "These are books that can be picked up by the college students, general public and researchers. When it comes to history, readers like to pick up something whose veracity is unquestioned. One cannot just write anything and thereby distort history," she added.

She said that there was a huge market for these books abroad. "A large number of our books are exported and at many cities such as Bengaluru, a large number of these books are picked up. These books are very popular at book fairs," she said.

चालको NALCO
National Aluminium Company Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

Nalco Bhawan, Nayapalli
Bhubaneswar-751013, Odisha, India
CIN : L27203OR1981GOI000920
A NAVRATNA COMPANY

E-TENDER NOTICE
Digitally signed online bids for **Two Part, Open Tender Cum Reverse Auction** through Central Public Procurement e-procure Portal are invited on for the following Works.

1.Tender No. 6695-CMG-G00-CA-0011
Name of the work: Area Grading And Enabling Works For 5th Stream Alumina Refinery At Damanjodi, Odisha. Bdd: 12.11.2018. For query E-mail at "tk@india.nalco@thyssenkrupp.com".

2.RFP No. TNCC-039/2018
Name of the work: Road Transportation of Aluminium Metal Products from Nalco's Stockyard at Kolkata to Stockyard at Baddi.

3.RFP No. TNCC-040/2018
Name of the work: Road Transportation of Aluminium Metal Products from Nalco's Stockyard at Kolkata to Stockyard at Delhi.

DGM (Elect.), T & C

For details please visit www.e-procure.gov.in or www.nalcoindia.com. Any Updates/Amendments/Extension will only be hosted in above websites.

Stress on need of sugarbeet as a suppl source of sweetener

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Director general of Vasantdada Sugar Institute (Pune) Shivajirao Deshmukh, along with Rajendra Bhaure, visited ICAR-IISR on Saturday. Both had in-depth interaction with the IISR scientists and took keen interest in the current status of sugarcane and sugar production activities being carried out in Uttar Pradesh.

Deshmukh laid stress on the need to develop sugarbeet as a supplementary source of sweetener in Maharashtra under drought-hit conditions, and for that he sought a joint collaborative programme with IISR in near future. Bhaure reviewed the reasons for the highest-ever production of sugarcane and sugar in UP.

Deshmukh visited the Agricultural Engineering division of the institute to look at the number of machines, particularly sugarcane cutter planter developed for sugarcane cultivation. He said that the machine was effectively addressing not only the concerns of sugarcane farmers in view of acute labour scarcity during sugarcane planting but also reducing the cost of cultivation resulting accruing to higher net returns.

He appreciated the efforts of HoD (Agricultural Engineering) AK Singh for developing other machines such as ratoon management device for higher ratoon cane productivity and more specifically the raised bed sugarcane planter for planting not only



the sugarcane but also the intercrops simultaneously for higher net returns per unit area and time besides mitigating the operational difficulties in the system. He expressed concerns on the cultivation of sugarcane under drought condition in Maharashtra, and requested the IISR director to suggest some contingent plan so that sugarcane farmers of the state could reap higher yield of sugarcane under drought condition.

Director of ICAR-IISR Dr. AD Pathak presented a brief presentation on the current sugarcane cultivation scenario in Maharashtra and suggested a contingent plan for sustaining sugarcane and sugar productivity under moisture stress conditions, particularly in Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Pathak advised reduction in a sizeable area from adalsali plantings due to the maximum irrigation requirement and transfer of

some of that area in pre-seasonal plantings in September-October. In this way, sugarcane planting could be done successfully without irrigation by reaping the benefit of sufficient residual soil moisture after cessation of rains. He indicated that although the productivity of both sugarcane and sugar was higher under adalsali planted crop, it had the longest crop duration of 18 months, requiring 33-36 irrigations. On the other hand, pre-seasonal crop requires 22-27 irrigations.

"In addition to the benefits of growing pre-seasonal sugarcane in terms of water economy, it gives ample scope for inter-cropping of location specific crops for enhanced productivity and profitability of the system. This can be a better and economically viable option rather than to grow rabi crops followed by suru sugarcane as sequential cropping. After harvesting of intercrops,

the crop residues must be incorporated in between rows of sugarcane, so that it could be used as mulch for saving of soil moisture as well as for enhancing the soil fertility," he said.

Pathak said Uttar Pradesh had surpassed national average sugarcane yield and the state recorded 73.4 t/ha cane yield with sugar production over 12.0 m tonnes during 2017-18.

Pathak added that this year, the country had attained a new height in sugar production by producing about 36 million tonnes. Coordinating the visit, principal scientist & nodal officer of ICAR-IISR Biological Control Centre, Pravaranagar (Maharashtra), SN Singh, said that the institute had developed a technology called 'Cane node technology of sugarcane planting' for rapid multiplication of newly released varieties of sugarcane and also to cut down the cost on seed sugarcane material for higher net returns.

LMRC completes erection of 60m special steel span

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Metro on Saturday repeated a historic feat by successfully completing the erection of a 60m special steel span near Nishatganj over the main line railway operational track at the location. The achievement was accomplished by the LMRC engineers under managing director Kumar Keshav in just five days without hampering the movement of the mainline railway and the vehicular traffic plying along the adjacent Nishatganj bridge.

It was a daunting task in itself as the activity was performed during night hours at a height of approximately 16 metres above the ground level. LMRC applied the 'Push Launching Methodology' to achieve this engineering feat. Earlier, in August 2016, LMRC had achieved the similar feat for the first time at Awadh Rotary between the operational Transportnagar-Charbagh corridor.

Speaking about the achievement, Keshav said: "This is a huge accomplishment for us as it has been completed in just five days. We had to take several precautions during this operation for the safety of the public. Every activity was minutely monitored to check the deflection



and vibration of the support structures considering the huge load factor associated with the movement of the machinery." The job was started in the night of September 24 and the final erection of the 60m special steel span was achieved in the early morning hours of Saturday. "During night hours, the launcher was moved or pushed ahead over the supporting trestles with an automatic movement. However, this movement was not continuous as the span could gain only 500mm of distance in one go considering the trickiness of the job and the heavy traffic movement during night hours. What made it even more challenging was that it had to be erected above the 25000V OHE of Indian

Railways without disrupting their operations," an LMRC official explained.

Meanwhile, LMRC got clearance of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) for all their business transactions in delivering the project for the financial year 2017-18. The audited financial statements and accounts were tabled in the annual general meeting held on Saturday. The meeting was presided over by the Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Planning. Annual accounts of LMRC were prepared and approved by the Board of Directors in the 32nd Board meeting held in Delhi on July 23 last, where after clearance from the Board, the accounts were submitted to CAG for audit.

पूर्वांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लिमिटेड
निगम लिमिटेड पूर्वांचल विद्युत भवन, विद्युत नगर पोस्ट डी.एल.डब्ल्यू वाराणसी - 221004। अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना कैंस कलेक्शन के संचालन एवं काउण्टरों पर आवश्यकतानुसार विद्युत बिल जनरेशन हेतु प्रशिक्षित एवं उपयुक्त कम्प्यूटर आपरेटर उपलब्ध करने के लिए अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा निम्नलिखित विवरण के अनुसार स्वीकार की जाएगी। कृपया निविदा प्रपत्र का विवरण/डाउनलोडिंग एवं स्पष्टीकरण/संशोधन, शुद्धिकरण तथा निविदा तिथि के विस्तारण से सम्बन्धी सूचनाओं हेतु निगम की वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> को देखें।

क्र०सं 1, निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या ई0ए0वी0-70/2018-19 **कार्य का नाम** वाराणसी, इलाहाबाद एवं मिर्जापुर क्षेत्रों के विभिन्न टारनों, खण्डों, उपखण्डों एवं उपकेन्द्रों पर कैंस कलेक्शन काउण्टरों के संचालन हेतु प्रशिक्षित एवं उपयुक्त कम्प्यूटर आपरेटर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए। **घरोहर धनराशि (रु०)** 900000.00 (रु० नौ लाख), **निविदा शुल्क (रु०)** 10000.00 (रु० दस हजार मात्र)+ जी.एस.टी.@5%, **निविदा आनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय** 15.10.2018, 12:00 Hrs, **निविदा भाग-1 एवं भाग-2 खुलने की तिथि एवं समय** 15.10.2018 15:00 Hrs, **क्र०सं 2, निविदा विशिष्टि संख्या** ई0ए0वी0-71/2018-19 **कार्य का नाम** आजमगढ़, गोरखपुर एवं बस्ती क्षेत्रों के विभिन्न टारनों, खण्डों, उपखण्डों एवं उपकेन्द्रों पर कैंस कलेक्शन काउण्टरों के संचालन हेतु प्रशिक्षित एवं उपयुक्त कम्प्यूटर आपरेटर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए। **घरोहर धनराशि (रु०)** 700000.00 (रु० सात लाख), **निविदा शुल्क (रु०)** 10000.00 (रु० दस हजार मात्र)+ जी.एस.टी.@5%, **निविदा आनलाइन जमा करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय** 15.10.2018, 12:00 Hrs, **निविदा भाग-1 एवं भाग-2 खुलने की तिथि एवं समय** 15.10.2018 15:00 Hrs, **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (वाणिज्य)** पत्रांक- 6696, दिनांक- 29.09.2018 "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें"

LT GEN NEGI RETIRES TODAY

Lucknow (PNS): General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, Lt Gen Balwant Singh Negi is retiring on Sunday after an illustrious career spanning around 40 years in the Army. He has been a hands-on Commander and a true leader with extensive experience and has made notable contributions at tactical, operational and strategic levels during his service. Lt Gen Negi paid tributes to the martyrs by laying a wreath at 'Srnitika' war memorial. A guard of honour was also presented to him. An alumnus of the Rashtriya Indian Military College, National Defence Academy and Indian Military Academy, Lt Gen Negi is a highly decorated officer. He was commissioned into the ASSAM Regiment in December 1978 and has had extensive operational contributions both in the North East and in Jammu and Kashmir. He participated in Operation Meghdoot, Operation Rakshak, Operation Vijay (outside Kargil), Operation Parakram, Operation Falcon and Operation Trident in various command and staff appointments.

I pray to Krishna before playing Kans: Arpit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Actor Arpit Ranka said that even before playing Kans, he first offered prayers to Lord Krishna. The actor was in the city for promotion of his show 'Radha Krishna'. He said the show would highlight the spiritual love between Lord Krishna and Radha.

"It is always overwhelming to receive love and appreciation from our fans. Even for my character as Kans, the audience has showered constant love and support," he said.

He said that he has tried not to pay the role of Kans very loud. "The challenging part of the role is that I have to play the part of Kans which has been played on numerous occasions. Kans is a powerful character, completely opposite to who I am as a person, and I am working hard to bring out the right emotion and to play a convincing character," he said.

He pointed out that the biggest challenge was the 7kg crown which he had to wear for the role. "The total weight that I carry is 20-25 kg when garments are included," he added.

Arpit said that the folklore of Radha and Krishna was steeped in deep spirituality and it is projected in the show which made it different from other mythological shows. "Their eternal union has



stood the test of time as a symbol of true and selfless love. This is a timeless narrative of one of most celebrated love sagas in Indian culture," he said.

He pointed out that Radha-Krishna was an exemplary journey which would allow audiences far and wide, from all walks of life, to experience, understand, and learn the true meaning of love.

"It will appeal to every generation of viewers through its creative story-telling, musical score, choreography, and visuals. This is not targeted at one group alone," he said. Incidentally, ace Bollywood choreographer Chinni Prakash, along with his wife Rekha Chinni Prakash, add to this mesmerising musical journey through traditional dances and rasleela, curated to depict the enriching experiences and emotions of love.

CITYBRIEFS

SURGICAL STRIKE

On the occasion of the second Surgical Strikes Day, the NCC units of Lucknow University organised a parade on the campus in which around 250 cadets participated along with other students (pic right). A long march was taken out by the cadets who marched on the drumsbeats of 'Saare Jahan Se Achha...'. The cadets were carrying banners and placards displaying 'Parakram Diwas Zindabad', 'Vijay Diwas Zindabad', 'Indian Army Zindabad', 'Long Live Indian Army', 'Long Live India' etc.

HINDI PAKHWADA CLOSING CEREMONY

A programme was organised at the Chief Postmaster General's office in Lucknow to mark the closing ceremony of Hindi Pakhwada. The programme started with the felicitation of director, Postal Services (Lucknow) Krishna Kumar Yadav by assistant director (Rajbhasha) RK Mishra, who also outlined the details of various programmes held during the fortnight. "Hindi is our mother tongue and one should not connect it with fortnight only," he said. He also highlighted the role of Postal department in popularising Hindi and said that using its vast network, the department had united the nation and played an important role in implementation of Rajbhasha policies. He added that Hindi was not just a language but also a symbol of cultural heritage, which was uniting languages across the country and had played an important role in emotional unity and promotion of cultural diversity. He addressed the officers and employees and urged them to encourage Hindi in govern-



ment work. The winners of various competition were felicitated by Yadav.

DEBATE CONTEST

Unity PG and Law College organised 'Zafrul Hasan Khan Memorial Debate Competition-2018' on 'Creating a sense of fear is the only way of ensuring discipline' on Saturday. The participants explained their viewpoints in a lucid manner. The chief guest was IG (Railway Police) Vijay Pratap. He showed praise on the participants and the college management for designing such an innovative

and socially relevant topic. He said that discipline was the first thing in the life of a student which leads him or her on the path to success. The competition concluded with the announcement of winners and prize distribution. In the senior group, Samar Fatima was adjudged the winner. Pallavi Pant and Gauri Sharma secured second and third positions respectively. In the junior group, Nighat Fatima was declared the winner while Sara Rizvi and Mohd Shavez Siddiqui secured second and third positions respectively.



Debate contest at Unity PG and Law College

लखनऊ नगर निगम जलकल विभाग, जोन-1
लालबाग, लखनऊ
अल्पकालिक निविदा सूचना

पत्र सं 1042/EE-I/नियो दिनांक : 28-9/2018

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुमती टेकेदारों से नीचे दिये गये विवरण के अनुरूप कार्य को कराये जाने हेतु मोहरखन्द निविदायें दिनांक 09.10.2018 के सायंकाल 4.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 09.10.2018 को 1.00 बजे तक निविदा मूल्य का नगद भुगतान कैंस काउण्टर पर करके प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। भरी हुई सील निविदायें उसी दिन अघोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में 4.00 बजे तक निविदा बाक्स में प्राप्त की जायेगी। निविदा बाक्स से प्राप्त सभी निविदायें उपस्थित निविदादाताओं के समक्ष 4.30 बजे सायंकाल खोली जायेगी।

क्र०सं	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा का मूल्य	घरोहर धनराशि
1.	जोन-1 अन्तर्गत भेड़ी मण्डी में 600 एम0एम0 ब्यास की ट्रेक सीवर लाइन को चोक वाले स्थान पर पन्चर करके दोस वस्तु को निकालने तथा पन्चर की गयी सीवर लाइन की मरम्मत एवं सफाई का कार्य।	150.00	6000.00

नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में दी गई हैं, जिन्हें देखा जा सकता है। विस्तृत जानकारी अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-1 के कार्यालय में सम्पर्क कर किसी भी कार्य दिवस में प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
अधिशासी अभियन्ता जोन-1 जलकल विभाग

Violence reduced by 20% in Naxal-hit areas: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said violence in Naxal-affected areas has reduced by around 20 per cent in the last four years even as around 3,500 Naxals surrendered between 2014-2017 due to the impact of Government's policies and development.

In an interaction with BJP workers from 5 Lok Sabha seats of Bilaspur, Basti, Dhanbad, Chittorgarh and Mandasaur Lok Sabha seats, Modi also took on Congress for its "disconnect" with the people, alleged falsehood and corruption during its last tenure at the Centre. The Congress has failed as Opposition as it has remained disconnected with the people on the ground, the Prime Minister said while addressing the booth-level BJP workers via NaMoApp.

Responding to a question on Naxalism, the Prime Minister said violence in Naxal-affected areas has reduced by around 20 per cent in the last four years. On February 17, 2017, Modi had said in Rajya Sabha that around 700 Maoists have surrendered post-demonetisation and funds to terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir have been choked. He claimed the note ban has had a direct impact on Naxalism and terrorism.

He alleged that the Congress' sole agenda is to level false charges and spread canards against the Government while the party itself remained neck-deep in the acts of corruption during its tenure at the Centre.



Congress' sole agenda is to level false charges and spread canards against the Government while the party itself remained neck-deep in the acts of corruption during its tenure at the Centre

—PM Modi

"In past four years Congress has been disconnected with people and has failed as Opposition. Their sole agenda is to level false allegation on others and to spread fake news to divert people's attention," Modi said.

He urged the party workers to reach out to maximum number of people through various media platforms and counter Congress' "propaganda of false allegations" with facts.

"People with no vision today have become television, which always keeps on playing a comedy," Modi said targeting the Congress leadership.

Replying to questions from workers, the Prime Minister said that after demonetization, black money is no longer there in the property market.

Prices of property have also fallen. Home loan interest rate, which was more

than 10 per cent under the UPA, has now come down, Modi said.

He also underlined that Government has taken various initiatives for middle class as rebate on income tax and returns on savings have increased in last four years.

In the past four years, the Government has focused on development of all classes as part of its 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', Modi said, adding, "you can recall that people were facing price rise and inflation under the previous Government".

Modi expressed happiness over his interaction with the grass-roots workers of the party who know the ground realities the best.

"I think political parties rarely get a chance to interact with booth-level workers, who know the ground reality, with the medium of technology," the Prime Minister said.

GEARING UP FOR 2019 LOK SABHA

Stalin eyes clean sweep in TN for national role

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Though Lok Sabha election is seven months away, the Opposition DMK is getting fully geared up for a "great kill" with party president M K Stalin making it clear to the party office bearers to go out and win all the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu.

Stalin wants to play a major role in national politics and for that to happen, he should have at least 30 Lok Sabha members in his kitty. The DMK is certain to go to the hustings with the Congress, the CPI, the CPI(M), Muslim League and some of the Tamil and Dalit chauvinistic outfits.

"There is every possibility of DMMD led by film actor Vijayakanth joining the DMK-led front. There is no other alternative for Vijayakanth than this front," said a Congress bigwig in Tamil Nadu. But what is bothering Stalin is how he would share the 39 seats among these outfits. If Stalin decides to field 30 DMK candidates, the others have to contend with the remaining nine seats.

"The Congress is hopeful of getting at least ten seats," said the Congress leader. But a senior DMK functionary dis-



closed that the Congress many not get more than five or six seats. "There is no possibility of Stalin settling for anything less than 30 seats. He may not hesitate to go it alone also because others have proved themselves in the past elections that they are at the mercy of DMK," said the DMK leader.

EVKS Elangovan, former president of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee said that he preferred a front consisting of the DMK, Congress, the Lefts and Muslim League. "Others are extra luggage because the DMK and the Congress have to underwrite these parties," said Elangovan.

The DMK is particularly enthused with the words of Congress leader Ghulam, Nabi Azad and National Conference leader Farook Abdullah who requested Stalin to lead the Opposition fight back against

CPWD to put blow-ups of Gandhi in Delhi Govt buildings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) will put blow-ups of Mahatma Gandhi in Government buildings in the national Capital as part of his 150th birth anniversary celebrations. The agency maintains around 80 Central Government buildings in the city. According to CPWD, around 400 blow-ups of Gandhi have so far been provided by the Cultural Ministry.

In June this year, the Government had set up an Executive Committee (EC) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "spread Mahatma Gandhi's legacy" among the people at the national and international level.

"We will place blow-ups of Gandhi with frame in all Government buildings that are maintained by the CPWD in Delhi. All entry and exit gates of the office complexes as well as on the entry gates of the office buildings will have blow-ups of the nation's father," the official said.

He also said that CPWD Director General Prabhakar Singh has directed chief engineers concerned to fix the blow-ups immediately.

Prez Kovind: Swachhh Bharat represents spirit of Independence movement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said the Swachhh Bharat Mission (SBM) is not just about physical cleaning, it is about spiritual, social cleansing and reawakening which represent the spirit of our Independence movement.

Inaugurating a three-day Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in the national Capital, President Kovind said Swachhh Bharat has become a mass movement and a revolution playing out in real time.

"Swachhh Bharat is a revolution playing out in real time. As an instrument of mass mobilisation, as a people's movement, and as a national goal towards which there is near total commitment, it represents the spirit of our independence movement," he said.

The president quoted the father of the nation in his speech several times and said in the past four years, in keeping with the traditions and teachings of Gandhiji, "I am happy to note that Swachhh

Bharat has become a mass movement with domestic and international participation."

Talking about the progress of the mission, Kovind said the relentless and strenuous labours of the past four years have led India to significant milestones. He further said sanitation coverage was at 39 per cent at the start of the mission in 2014, which has touched almost 95 per cent.

"India is striving to eliminate open defecation in its entirety by October 2, 2019. This is the best 150th birthday gift we can give to Gandhiji," he said.

He, however, feels achieving universal access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene by 2030 is a major challenge in many parts of the world. Drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene are central to sustainable development goal, he said.

Emphasising on the importance of the SBM, the president said it sought to create a cleaner India with more efficient waste management, cleaner public and private places, improved sanitation and universal use of toilets.

Give equal emphasis to innovation: PM to varsities

New Delhi: Indian universities and higher educational institutions need to give equal emphasis to innovation as they give to knowledge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday stressing that life would become a burden without innovations.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of 'Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' organised by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of character building over literacy and called for 'wholesome' education in the country.

"Knowledge and education are not restricted to books. The purpose of education is to enable balanced growth of every dimension of a human being which is not possible without innovation," Modi said. "Innovation is very important because without it, life seems like a burden. In our ancient universities like Takshshila, Nalanda and Vikramashila, innovation was given emphasis along with knowledge.

"I insist that students should give knowledge in classrooms of college, university but they also add them to the aspirations of the country," he added.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives books from Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts Chairperson Ram Bahadur Rai as Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar looks on, during a conference on 'Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence' at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Saturday

Stressing upon the need for "interlinking" the institutions, Modi said no country or person can live in isolation.

"Our universities and colleges should be leveraged to find solutions to the challenges facing us. We should interlink institutions to innovate and incubate. The students should link their classroom learning to the aspirations of the country," he said. Modi also stressed upon the importance of character-building.

"Ambedkar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Ram Manohar Lohiya always emphasised on character-building over litera-

cy. Swami Vivekananda stressed on wholesome education that makes us a human," he said.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of preparing good teachers for society.

"Scholars and students can take responsibility for spreading digital literacy, and generating greater awareness of government programmes that can improve the ease of living. Youth has given 'Brand India' a global identity," he said.

The conference is being attended by vice chancellors and directors of over 350 higher education institutions.

It is being organised joint-

ly by University Grants Commission, All India Council for Technical Education, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University.

The theme of the conference is to deliberate on the challenges facing the Indian education system and to work out a plan for a paradigm shift both in terms of achieving academic outcomes and also in regulation of education. PTI

Weapon loot: NIA, J&K police start probe, announce ₹2L reward

KHURSHED WANI ■ SRINAGAR

Jammu & Kashmir Police and NIA on Saturday began in-depth investigation into the case of looting of weapons by Personal Security Officer (PSO) from the guard post at official residence of sitting legislator in Srinagar on Friday. The legislator belongs to PDP representing one of the south Kashmir constituencies in Shopian district.

Police have already announced a cash reward of ₹2 lakh for capturing deserter Special Police Officer (SPO) alongwith weapons.

On Friday, a Special Police Officer (SPO) deployed as Personal Security Officer (PSO) of PDP legislator representing Wachi constituency in south Kashmir's Shopian district, decamped with eight weapons including seven AK 47 rifles alongwith ammunition of police personnel deployed for the security of the State Assembly Member at his official residence at Jawahar Nagar in summer capital Srinagar. PSO also took away one licensed pistol of MLA Advocate Ajaz Mir who was in winter capital Jammu at the time of commission of the act by PSO.

Besides legislator Advocate Ajaz Mir, around a dozen other PSOs deployed at MLA's Guard Post were also questioned by Police and NIA sleuths at legislator's official residence that has been sealed. Jawahar Nagar area also houses official residences of government officers, legislators, political leaders and media-persons.

The PSO's act is being seen as highly motivated unprecedented surprising move in the past nearly three decade history of militancy in Kashmir region. There have been several recent cases wherein PSOs and police personnel deserted Police force and decamped with service rifles and joined militant ranks.

Official statistics revealed that 34 rifles and one pistol have been looted, snatched or taken away by the militants besides PSOs and Policemen who deserted police force, in nine major incidents since March 29, 2015. This includes yesterday's Jawahar Nagar MLA residence incident.

A senior police official said that 24 year SPO Aadil Bashir Sheikh hailing from Zainpura Shopian area executed his plan in a "meticulous manner". Aadil had joined Police force in March last year. Security sources said that high alert has already been sounded and massive search operation launched in Srinagar and elsewhere to nab him alongwith looted weapons.

Pertinently, one among two Hizbul Mujahideen militants

BESIDES LEGISLATOR ADVOCATE AJAZ MIR, AROUND A DOZEN OTHER PSOS DEPLOYED AT MLA'S GUARD POST WERE ALSO QUESTIONED BY POLICE AND NIA SLEUTHS AT LEGISLATOR'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE THAT HAS BEEN SEALED

killed in a protracted gunfight at Panzan Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday, was also SPO turned militant who had deserted the police force several months ago.

Pertinently, this week the Ministry of Home Affairs enhanced monthly honorarium for SPOs with different categories of service period starting from one year to 15 years with honorarium ranging from 5000 to maximum 15000 per month depending upon the length of the service of SPO.

This followed after over four dozen SPOs tendered their resignations through video statements that went viral on social media networking sites after three police personnel including one SPO were killed after abduction by militants in south Kashmir's Shopian district last week.

The police department denied it has received any formal resignations from SPOs. Even internet services were snapped in Pulwama and Shopian district to diminish influence of SPOS' videos tendering resignations through social media networking sites. One woman SPO from another south Kashmir district Kulgam with 15 year service had also posted resignation video. Even one counter insurgent SPO Uzair Billa from Srinagar outskirts posted his resignation video through social media networking sites seeking apologies from public.

Meanwhile, Acting Director General Police, Dilbagh Singh said that Special Police Officer, who fled with weapons, was in contact with militants across the border. DGP on the sidelines of police Durbar in North Kashmir's Bandipora on Saturday said, "SPO was connected with militants on other side". He added that Police have registered a case and all sides of the incidents were being checked.

Govt doctor's son dies after being stabbed 40 times

PATNA: In a shocking incident, a Government homeopathic doctor's 15-year-old son Satyam Kumar was killed by his friends after stabbing him nearly 40 times in Patna. Satyam's body was recovered by police from an empty ground filled with at least six feet high wild grasses located just behind RPS Engineering College near Gola Road under Rupaspur police station area in the city on Saturday afternoon.

Satyam's father Shashi Bhushan Gupta had lodged a missing person's complaint with Rupaspur police station at around 10pm on Thursday after his son did not return home at Aparna Colony from coaching at Danapur.

Later the family received ransom call of Rs 50 lakh on Friday morning after which a kidnapping case was lodged. The family lives at a flat in Aparna Colony.

Satyam's friend Neeraj Kumar and Pramod Kumar, both aged around 20 years, were arrested from village Kothwa under Khagaul police station in Patna on Friday evening.

It was on duo's confession that Satyam's body was recovered. Neeraj studies at RPS Engineering College while Pramod is a student of another private school.

Another suspect Ajeet Kumar Devraj alias Chakia was evading arrest. They had

made ransom call to Satyam's family using his cellphone to cover his murder.

Police sources said Satyam's body seems to bore around 40 stabbing marks.

"His throat was slit and one of the eyes were gouged. One of the daggers used in killing was left inserted on right side of his waist while another dagger was lying in between his legs," police sources said, adding it was a pre-planned murder. When asked, City SP (West) Ravindra Kumar said that several stabbing marks were present on Satyam's body and one of the daggers used in killing was left inserted in his waist.

He said arrested youths

were constantly changing their statements on reason behind the killing.

"Neeraj had rang Satyam and called him from Gola Road on Thursday. Satyam reached there from his coaching located at Danapur around 4.30 pm after which they took him inside the empty ground and stabbed him to death," the SP said, adding, Neeraj had stabbed Satyam maximum times.

He said Neeraj, Pramod and Ajeet killed Satyam within a few hours of meeting him. Quoting Neeraj's statement, SP said Satyam used to come to Kothwa for a girl whom he did not like and thus killed him. AGENCY

Over 30 children rescued per day from Rly stations since Jan 2017: RPF data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Railway Protection Force has rescued more than 30 children per day starting January 2017 till August of this year, compared to less than 20 a day in three immediate years before 2017.

According to official figures, while over 20,000 children have been rescued by the RPF in 20 months beginning January 2017, a similar number of such children were sent home in three years — 2014, 2015 and 2016.

As far as year-wise numbers are concerned, according to the figures, 11,178 children were rescued in 2017 while 8,963

children have been sent home by the force with the help of child welfare committees and NGOs in 2018 (till August) — the combined 20-month number of 20,141 i.e. More than 1,000 children per month which comes out to be over 30 children per day.

In 2014, 5,294 children were rescued, the following year, the RPF rescued 7,044 children while in 2016, it sent home 8,593 children — the combined 36-month number of 20,931 or 581 children per month i.e. Nearly 20 children per day.

A senior RPF official said the increased number of children being rescued does not mean there has been a corresponding

increase in the number of crimes associated with them.

"We are taking a more proactive role in identifying children in need of protection at railway premises and sending them home before they get into crime. Earlier, our role would begin when a crime has been committed," Inspector General, RPF, Jaya Singh Chauhan told PTI.

"That is why we are rescuing more children now than ever before."

Chauhan also said the RPF has started extensive sensitisation programmes for its staffers, especially the female workforce, on how to deal with such vulnerable children "especially if they are minors".

PARAKRAM PARV CELEBRATIONS

7K civilians flock IAF station in Jammu

Jammu: Nearly 7,000 civilian visitors thronged the Indian Air Force station here which organised a two-day static display of military assets here to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes, a defence spokesperson said Saturday.

The enthusiastic civilians participated in the 86th anniversary celebrations of the IAF along with the second anniversary of the surgical strikes carried out by the Army across the Line of Control, the spokesperson said.

The two days event "Parakram Parv" started with inauguration by group captain N K Choubey, officiating Air Officer Commanding (AOC), Air Force station, Jammu on Friday and culmi-

YOUTHS WERE HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO JOIN THE ARMED FORCES AND SERVE THE COUNTRY IN AN ELITE MANNER

—Defence spokesperson

nated Saturday evening. "The event witnessed a huge turnover of nearly 7,000 enthusiastic visitors comprising of students of various age groups and civilians of Jammu. The visitors were amused with the special display MI-17 heli-

copter, Air Force Garud commandos with their state-of-art weapons," the spokesman said. He said a selfie point with mighty MI-17 helicopter in the background was the prime attraction of the event.

"The event has been quite effective to put a positive impression in the hearts and minds of the visitors about Armed Forces as a friendly force," the spokesman said.

He said they were highly appreciative of the gallant actions undertaken by the brave armed forces in various eventualities. "The youth were highly motivated to join the armed forces and serve the country in an elite manner," the spokesman said.

Parrikar praises soldiers in tweet

PTI ■ GOA

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar Saturday congratulated soldiers on the second anniversary of the surgical strikes carried out in 2016 to smash terror camps operating from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

Parrikar, who is currently in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi undergoing treatment for a pancreatic ailment, tweeted that such military actions were necessary for national security.

"There are times when military actions are necessary for national security. The Indian Armed Forces possess strong capabilities to execute missions in tough terrains. I salute

our brave soldiers who are always ready to protect the country," Parrikar tweeted Saturday.

On September 29, 2016, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes on seven terrorist launchpads across the LoC in retaliation to an attack on its base in Uri earlier that month.

The Centre had announced last week that various events will be held from September 28 to 30, as part of Parakram Parv, to commemorate the valour of soldiers.

The state BJP in its executive committee meeting congratulated Parrikar, who was Defence Minister during the strike, for his role in the mission, Goa BJP chief Vinay Tendulkar said.



NCC cadets pose for photos during an event to commemorate Parakram Parv in Jabalpur on Saturday

PTI

Surgical strikes 2nd anniv observed in Shillong

Shillong: Parakram Parv was observed on Saturday here to mark the second anniversary of the surgical strikes carried out by the Indian Army across the LoC in 2016.

Various types of equipment, weapons and emergency medical support system used by the Army were displayed for the visitors at a function organised on the occasion.

Gorkha Training Centre and Assam Regimental Centre displayed their band perfor-

mance for the visitors which included former Army personnel, school students and civilians.

Inaugurating the function, Brigadier Ajay Tewari, (Sena Medal) said that such programme is for the youths to get inspired and join the forces.

It will also give motivation to the public and get a sense of pride that the armed forces are capable of many more things than just protecting the country, he added.

He said that the diverse communities of the North East has been an integral part of the defence forces and have contributed so much for the country. The Brigadier said the day is observed the theme Know Your Army.

Wing Commander Ratnakar Singh said that the day is celebrated in 51 locations across the country to commemorate the second year of the surgical strike conducted by the army along the LoC. **PTI**



Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das takes selfie as he experiences an Army weapon to commemorate 'Parakram Parv' at the Dipatoli War Memorial in Ranchi on Saturday

Army showcases its might to schoolchildren in Gujarat

PNS: The Golden Katar Division of Indian Army celebrated 'Parakram Parv' at Ahmedabad Military Station on Saturday. It was part of the ongoing nationwide celebrations to commemorate 2nd anniversary of surgical strikes carried out by Indian Army on terrorist launch pads in Pakistan occupied Kashmir in Sep 2016. As part of the event, the weapon and equipment of Indian Army were displayed to showcase the might of Indian Army to schoolchildren. Indian Army conducted surgical strikes in 2016 which had strategic ramifications and were aimed to dissuade inimical adversary from adopting the path of violence and to ensure an environment of peace for the Nation. To showcase the courage and sacrifice of Armed Forces, 'Parakram Parv' is being observed.

Juvenile cobra, python rescued from Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

On Saturday, wildlife SOS has rescued two different species — python and juvenile cobra from different locations. The juvenile cobra was rescued from Gate number — thirty of the Rashtrapati Bhawan while nearly six foot long Indian Rock Python rescued from a tree located near the Saket Metro Station on the Mehrauli-Badarpur road.

Both the snakes are under observation and will be released back into its natural habitat, once deemed fit by the NGO's veterinarians.

Responding emergency call on Saturday afternoon, Wildlife SOS two member rescue team immediately deployed to carry out the rescue operation. "The snake was later carefully transferred into a safe transport container. The common cobra (naja naja) is one of the four venomous snake species to be found in the Indian subcontinent. They are revered in Indian mythology and culture and are listed under Schedule II of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972," said Wildlife SOS official.

Kartick Satyanarayan, CEO, Wildlife SOS said, "I thank the staff of the President's Estate for alerting Wildlife SOS to this emergency. Rescues involving venomous snakes require patience and skill, and we have professionally trained rescuers who are experienced in handling such operations. Cobras seldom bite, but will give out a warning sign by displaying their hood.

The snake uses its venom primarily to hunt prey like rats, mice and frogs. People get accidentally bitten only when they step on the snake or an untrained person attempts to catch or handle these snakes.

Hinduism a way of life, not a private affair: Chandan



SUDARSHAN CHHOTORAY ■ BHUBANESWAR

The seventh edition of the Odisha Literary Festival 2018 kick started here on Saturday with lighting of lamp by Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal in the presence of a host of dignitaries. The Governor posed whether there should be a code of conduct for journalists so that newspaper would be a bridge between people and the State. A session on "Why does religion matter so much" was held being moderated by eminent journalist Ashutosh.

While opening the discussion *The Pioneer* Editor and former Member of Parliament Chandan Mitra observed, "Religion is never a private affair even though many people say it is a private affair. Hinduism is a way of life, not a private affair." Mitra added during the Ibrahim phase and till today, there are prayers

among Muslims and Christians in mosques and churches on Friday and Saturday, respectively, but nothing like this in Hinduism. Hindus have religious congregations like during Holi and various Pujas.

"There are two things that come to mind: One is spirituality and other is religion though there are conflicts between the two. I don't want to compare between these two. Religion is manifestation of spirituality. Spirituality is like a private affair when there are some essential components like reciting mantras, meditation, etc," Dr Mitra said. Of late, he said a new phenomenon has come to fore called Shiva Kamal Yatra or Bom Bhole. This trend is purely a transition from private affairs; and people are becoming more sentimental organising camps and community kitchens for them and mostly young people are attracted to this.

4 held for smuggling red sandalwood

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Friday arrested four people involved in red sandalwood smuggling racket.

Police also recovered 133 red sandalwood logs weighing 4580 kilograms. The logs were estimated to be worth ₹1.40 crore in the Indian Market and ₹4.20 crore in the Chinese Market.

"Information was received that one truck carrying red sandalwood would be passing through Ring Road on Friday. A team led by Inspector Jatan Singh under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police Pankaj Singh was formed. A trap was laid near Ashram Chowk and the truck was intercepted at 9 pm and three persons Krishan (27), Ravinder (24) and Neeraj sehgal (38) were arrested," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch, STARS & Special Task Force) Dr. G Ram Gopal Naik stated.

"133 logs were recovered from the truck which was concealed behind cartons of incense sticks. A wildlife inspector was called on the spot and the recovered logs were identified as Red Sanders (Pterocarpus Santalinus). Accordingly a case under appropriate sections of the Indian Penal Code and Indian Forest Act were registered," Naik said.

"During interrogation, the accused persons told about one of their associate, identified as Nikhil Salwan, who was also arrested. They revealed that they loaded the trucks with Red Sandalwood



Crime Branch personnel arrest 3 people accused of smuggling red sandalwood in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

from a Transportation centre in Bangalore and to conceal the presence of the Red Sandalwood, they used to put cartons of Incense Sticks so that their smell could not be detected. From Bangalore, they smuggled these logs to Delhi and its neighbouring regions and

delivered them to receivers who store them in godowns situated in Delhi, Noida and other neighbouring regions," DCP revealed.

"One of the accused Neeraj has a godown in Greater Noida where he stored the smuggled sandalwood and

would supply it to potential customers in different parts of the country and abroad. More arrests and recovery of huge quantity of Red Sandalwood is expected as raids are going in several places in Delhi and its neighbouring regions," the police officer said further.

RAIN APLENTY...

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka received normal rainfall, as did Andhra Pradesh, where six of 13 districts, about 46 per cent, recorded deficient rainfall. All three states also experienced widespread floods in August 2018—six districts in Tamil Nadu, seven in Karnataka and two in Andhra Pradesh. IMD officials claimed that East and North eastern State have recorded rain deficiency up to 25 per cent while Central India recorded six per cent till date. North Western India has recorded only two per cent deficiency while South Peninsula only one per cent. Out of total 36 sub-divisions, as many as 25 have witnessed normal rains, while 9 continue to remain rain-deficient and two sub division has recorded excess rains. The monthly deficit has increased from 5 per cent in June, to 6 per cent in July and 7.6 per cent in August.

In September, the deficiency touched 18 per cent. According to agriculture ministry, if 20-40 per cent of the State receives deficient rainfall, it will be declared as 'deficient year'. If it goes beyond 40 per cent, it will be declared a 'largely deficient year'.

A deficient monsoon year is when the cumulative rainfall across the country remains minus 10 per cent or above, once called an 'All India Drought Year'. According to officials, about 45 per cent and

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

40 per cent districts of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh received deficient to 'large deficient' rainfall but the cumulative rainfall over both the States remained normal. These States are India's largest and second-largest rice producers (respectively), accounting for 30 per cent of national rice production, depends on a good monsoon. "These unusual conditions are caused by large variations in the rainfall received at state and district levels," officials said. Recent heavy rainfall which occurred due to low pressure area over Bay of Bengal, has ravaged in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, some parts of Bihar, UP and Assam destroyed crops and properties worth crore of rupees. Despite variation of monsoon rain across the country, the Agriculture Ministry's data released on Friday shows the drop in the kharif planting season ended on September 30.

The kharif crop planting has covered 1,052.38 lakh hectare from June up to September 28, a 1.90 per cent drop from 1,072.79 lakh hectare a year earlier. Southwest Monsoon 2018 has begun its journey of withdrawal from West Rajasthan, setting in pace

for post-monsoon cyclone season in the country. Sea surface temperatures (SST), both in Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, have been on rise for last many days. According to Skymet Weather, whenever the sun is over the equator, the heat potential of the ocean rises phenomenally. This eventually leads to increase in SSTs, which is highly conducive for formation of a cyclonic storm. Besides this, ITCZ (Inter Tropical Convergence Zone) has now also started shifting southwards towards the coast. This is the main generator behind the disturbances in the open waters. As per weathermen, Indian seas are the deadliest basins for the formation of severe cyclonic storms during this time of the year.

KEJRIWAL...

"The amendments also sought to initiate forward trading in the power sector. It would snatch away the power of the State Governments by bringing all the decision-making rights into the Centre's domain," he said, adding "Forward trading will mean the big people will gamble and the common people will have to bear the entire burden of generation, speculation, supply as well as the corruption of the

power companies." The AAP will launch a movement against the amendment bill so that its passage in the Rajya Sabha could be stopped, he added.

"We will go the people, telling them that (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi is sold to the power companies," Kejriwal said. Incidentally, the Central Government had sent the proposed amendments to the Electricity Act to the states for their feedback on September 7. "It planned to pass the bill in the coming Winter Session of Parliament, Kejriwal said.

UP COP SHOOTS...

after the car hit the wall of the underpass. In his e-bite, SSP Kalanidhi Naithani said the man in the car, who was identified as Vivek, attempted to run the car over the policemen on being asked to stop. "Vivek drove the vehicle and run it over the bike of the constables and damaged it. The eyewitnesses to the incident said the police man fire at the car which hit the front windscreen and hit the man," he said. The SSP said the car ran ahead and later banged into the wall of an underpass there. Later, the autopsy report ascertained that the victim suffered gunshot and he died of excessive bleeding. Senior officials, including

IG, Range, Sujit Pandey inspected the scene and talked to pavement dwellers to get the sequence of incident. The family put the corpse at an open space at Ganga Tower in New Hyderabad locality and denied to perform the last rites demanding the CM to visit their house and announce compensation and action against the errant cops. They demanded Rs 1 crore as compensation, a government job and CBI inquiry into the case. This ratcheted up pressure on the government with BJP minister Ashutosh Tandon reached the victim's house to express his sympathy. District Magistrate and SSP also reached the house. The minister and the officers struck a dialogue assuring the family of speedy action and compensation. But the two-hour-long talk with the family members failed to end the deadlock and the family members came out of the flat while raising anti-police and anti-government slogans. They sat around the corpse put in an open space. The deadlock had not ended till the last reports came in. The government recommended an SIT probe which would be headed by IG, Lucknow Range, Sujit Pandey. The SSP also assigned Mahanagar SHO Vikas Tripathi to probe into the case.

VALLEY VILLAGERS...

The report further said there are inputs that Pakistani

covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has issued written instructions to all Kashmir-centric terrorist outfits in Pak/POK to furnish on priority the complete details of terrorist cadres of Jammu and Kashmir who are on the rolls of ISI and are getting monthly remuneration from the Pakistani agency, for the purpose of a 'ground check'. The agencies are working on the sensational input and seeking to get the ISI payroll for the Valley. Agencies have also pointed out that terrorist Farooq Ahmed Bajran, a local terrorist of Hizbul Mujahideen who was undergoing further training in Pakistan, has returned to the Valley. Naveed had fled from police custody on February 6 while undergoing medical check-up at the SHMS hospital in Srinagar and his cohorts killed two policemen guarding him. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) that probed his escape from police custody had in August filed a charge sheet against him at a designated court in Jammu. Six persons, including Naveed, have been chargesheeted in the case. The Jammu and Kashmir police has identified three people for the sensational murder of Bukhari. Bukhari, 50, was Editor-in-Chief of Rising Kashmir and was killed by three gunmen in a daring attack on his car on June 14 this year. Two of his security guards were also killed.

Guj Govt appoints Air Marshal RK Dhir as adviser

PNS ■ GANDHINAGAR

Air Marshal RK Dhir, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief stationed at headquarters of South Western Air Command (SWAC) Gandhinagar has been appointed as adviser of defence aerospace industries on Saturday.

The Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has given him appointment letter to join the State Government as adviser from Monday, October 1, 2018. A senior official in the Rupani government said that in the upcoming Vibrant Gujarat Summit to be held in January 2019, the State Government would give major thrust to defence and aerospace industry. In this context, Dhir's expertise and his long association with Indian Air Force would help to attract investments in the State in defence sector, said the official.

Meanwhile, a day long Commanders' Conclave was organised at Headquarters SWAC Gandhinagar on Sunday. All Commanders of

Dhir's expertise and his long association with Indian Air Force would help to attract investments in the State in defence sector

—Senior official

units located in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra attended the conclave. The conclave was addressed by Air Marshal Dhir. During his address the Air Marshal appreciated the efforts of various units for their noteworthy performance in different spheres. Commanders along with senior officers from Administration and Maintenance Branches gave presentations on their respective expertise.

Trump orders FBI probe of Kavanaugh

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Agreeing to the demands by Democrats, US President Donald Trump ordered a limited investigation into allegations of sexual assault against his embattled Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, throwing his Senate confirmation in doubt. The FBI has been asked to complete its investigation in a week, meaning the confirmation of Kavanaugh, 53, as Supreme Court judge would be delayed by at least a week.



"I've ordered the FBI to conduct a supplemental investigation to update Judge Kavanaugh's file. As the Senate has requested, this update must be limited in scope and completed in less than one week," Trump announced Friday.

In an accompanying statement issued by the White House, Kavanaugh promised full co-operation in the investigation. "Throughout this process, I've been interviewed by the FBI, I've done a number of 'background' calls directly with the Senate, and yesterday, I answered questions under

oath about every topic the senators and their counsel asked me. I've done everything they have requested and will continue to cooperate," Kavanaugh said.

At least three women have now accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct while drunk. On Thursday, Christine Blasey Ford, 51, during a televised public hearing before the committee recounted the alleged sexual assault by the conservative judge, which "drastically altered her life".

The two were in high schools when the alleged incident happened in the early 1980s. Kavanaugh, making appearance before the same Senate committee after Ford, denied the allegations.

Trump's decision on a limited FBI investigation against Kavanaugh came after the Republicans agreed to it. The Republicans hold a 51-49 majority in the Senate. "The Senate Judiciary Committee will request that the administration instruct the FBI to conduct a supplemental FBI background investigation with

respect to the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court," the committee said in a statement.

"The supplemental FBI background investigation would be limited to current credible allegations against the nominee and must be completed no later than one week from today," it said after Republican Senator Jeff Flake demanded the same. Flake called for a delay in the Senate vote to allow for an FBI probe into the claims levelled against Kavanaugh.

While Trump continued to back Kavanaugh and said he would not change his Supreme Court nominee, he also praised Ford. "I thought her testimony was very compelling, and she looks like a very fine woman to me."

A very fine woman. And I thought that Brett's testimony, likewise, was really something that I haven't seen before. It was incredible. It was an incredible moment, I think, in the history of our country," he told reporters during a media

appearance with the visiting Chilean President Sebastian Pinera in the Oval Office. "Certainly, she was a very credible witness. She was very good in many respects," Trump said. Kavanaugh is the second judge to be nominated by Trump on the nine-member US Supreme Court. Trump's first nominee, Judge Gorsuch, was confirmed by the Senate on April 7, 2017.

Unlike India, where Supreme Court judges have a retiring age, the judges to the US Supreme Court are appointed for life. As a result, all nominations to the apex bench have long-term implications - mostly generational.

For instance, Judge Clarence Thomas, who was nominated by George H W Bush, has been a Supreme Court judge for nearly 27 years and Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was nominated by the then president Bill Clinton, has served on the bench for over 25 years.

Judge Stephen Breyer, also nominated by Clinton, has been a Supreme Court judge for more than 24 years now.

Data of 50 mn FB users at risk after security breach

... user accounts from India likely hit

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Data of 50 million Facebook users have been exposed following a massive security breach by unknown hackers, its CEO Mark Zuckerberg said, amid fears that a significant number of the accounts affected could be from India.

The precautionary measure taken by the social media giant has impacted another 40 million users, Zuckerberg said Friday.

In a conference call with reporters, he did not give a country-wise of the user accounts hit by the data breach.

However, a significant number of affected users are expected to be from India, given that the company has the maximum 270 million users in the country. It has 2 billion global users.

He did not immediately respond to a PTI question on the number of accounts affected in India. On Tuesday afternoon, our engineering team found an attack affecting up to 50 million accounts on Facebook.

The attackers exploited a vulnerability in the code of the View As feature which is a privacy feature that lets people see what their Facebook profile would look like to another person," Zuckerberg said.

"The vulnerability allowed the attackers to steal Facebook access tokens - which are the equivalent of a digital key -



logged out. "These people will now have to log back in to access their accounts again and we will also notify these people in a message on top of their News Feed about what happened when they log back in," the chief executive officer said. In addition to getting in touch with law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, Zuckerberg said Facebook is logging out all users who used the "View As" feature since the flaw was introduced last year as a precautionary measure.

"This will require another 40 million people - or more - to log back into their accounts," he said.

"This is a really serious security issue. And we're taking it really seriously. We have a major security effort at the company that hardens all of our surfaces, and investigates issues like this," he said in response to a question.

"In this case I'm glad that we found this and that we were able to fix the vulnerability and secure the accounts.

But it definitely is an issue that this happened in the first place," he said. Gary Rosen, vice president of product management at Facebook, said in all 90 million users would have to log back in. "After they have logged back in, people will get a notification at the top of their News Feed explaining what happened," he said. Facebook said users don't need to change

Trump admin reiterates support for India's role in reformed UNSC

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has reiterated its support for India's bid for a permanent seat on a reformed UN Security Council, a senior US official said, emphasizing that the two "global partners" share a commitment to work together on global challenges like denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asia Region Alice Wells said US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale met Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale at the beginning of the week of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly to build on the momentum of the first 2+2 meeting between the US and India in New Delhi as well as to reaffirm the strategic convergence that Washington sees in the bilateral ties.



"We really are global partners and the meeting (between Hale and Gokhale) reaffirmed our shared commitment to working together on international challenges - from a denuclearised Korean Peninsula to a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan," Wells told reporters Friday during a briefing on US priorities in the South and Central Asia Region.

The American diplomat said the US reiterates its support for India's role in a reformed UN Security Council. The New York meeting was a continuation of the discussion at the 2+2 meeting. "It's a conversation that really covers the map in terms of how we can work together in Afghanistan, what we are doing to promote free and open Indo-Pacific and also in particular, how we are both very supportive of the democratic developments that we see transpiring in the Maldives," she said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called Maldives' President-elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and congratulated him.

The US too congratulated the people of Maldives, saying they had peacefully raised their voices to determine the future of their country.

During Modi's visit to Washington in June last year, Trump supported India's bid for a permanent seat in a reformed UNSC and in other multilateral institutions such as the Nuclear

General Assembly session in New York.

However, India called off the meeting last week, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad releasing postage stamps "glorifying" slain Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani. "Why are they reluctant? Simply politics, elections...they are scared of the electorate. They have swung the pendulum to such an extreme (that), now they're finding it difficult to bring it back. And (with) the elections round the corner, they (Indian government) felt that it could boomerang," Qureshi said Friday in response to a question at an event organised by the Asia Society here.

India has maintained that there can be no talks with Pakistan unless it stops supporting terrorists. On Thursday also, Swaraj, in a huge snub to Pakistan, left a meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers early, which was attended by Qureshi.

Pak FM: Domestic political, electoral compulsions behind India's reluctance to talk

New York (PTI): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has alleged that India's "domestic political and electoral compulsions" were behind New Delhi's reluctance to talk to the new government in Islamabad. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Qureshi were slated to meet on the sidelines of the ongoing UN General Assembly session in New York.

However, India called off the meeting last week, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad releasing postage stamps "glorifying" slain Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani. "Why are they reluctant? Simply politics, elections...they are scared of the electorate. They have swung the pendulum to such an extreme (that), now they're finding it difficult to bring it back. And (with) the elections round the corner, they (Indian government) felt that it could boomerang," Qureshi said Friday in response to a question at an event organised by the Asia Society here.

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Chinese FM defends move to block India's bids to list Azhar as global terrorist

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has defended Beijing's repeated blockage of India's bids at the United Nations to list chief of Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) Azhar Masood as a global terrorist, arguing that the issue lacks "consensus" among the members of the UN Security Council as well as the "directly concerned" parties - India and Pakistan.

Azhar is accused of several deadly terrorist attacks in India, including one on the Uri military base in Kashmir in 2016 in which 17 security personnel were killed. A veto-wielding permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has repeatedly blocked India's move - supported by the US, Britain and France - to designate Azhar a terrorist under the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.

The JeM, founded by Azhar, has already been in the UN's list of banned terror outfits. "If all parties come to a consensus, we will support it. But it is the parties that are rightly concerned who are not coming around to the same conclusion, like India and Pakistan don't have the same conclusions," Wang said on Friday in response to a question on China defending Pakistan-based terrorist in the UNSC at

a conference organised by the American think-tank, Council on Foreign Relations. He said if the parties "directly concerned" are able to come to a consensus, then "together we will be able to push the process forward".

"We think that is a better way to go, and we will stay in close touch with India on this issue because we also have very good ties with the Indian side. We hope to see an early consensus, and together we can contribute to the fight against terror," the foreign minister said. China and Pakistan are considered all-weather allies.

Wang, who is currently in New York to attend the 73rd annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, argued that listing of terrorists should be based on proof and claimed that there is not enough evidence against Masood. "Whether these people are terrorists or not, there should be solid facts and proof. If there is irrefutable evidence, no one can turn its back on it. I don't think Pakistan will do that," he asserted.

He also praised Pakistan for its fight against terrorism. "China is against all forms of terrorism...We have been supporting and encouraging Pakistan in its efforts in fighting terrorism...Years ago, at the request of the US, Pakistan participated in the fight against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. It

Calif divorce courts go to dogs as pets gain status

Los Angeles: California courts could be going to the dogs - and maybe cats, too - under a new law granting judges authority to settle disagreements over who keeps the family pet in divorce cases the same way they handle child-custody disputes. Until now, Fido and Kitty have been considered family property, a status giving them little more standing in a divorce than a family's big-screen TV.

Under a bill signed Thursday by Gov Jerry Brown, pets will still be considered community property but a judge deciding who gets to keep them will have the discretion of weighing such factors as who feeds them, who takes them to the vet and on walks, and who protects them. "I think it's a good idea. I personally have a little rescue bichon poodle named Rodney King Stone. He's like a family member," said family law attorney Megan Green of Los Angeles, who has seen her share of divorce cases where couples battled relentlessly over the pet.

In one case, a woman said the dog was a gift from her husband, but the husband maintained he was the one who took care of it.

They finally worked out an agreement just ahead of trial. Without the law that goes into effect on January 1, attorneys said judges have often had to get creative in reaching agreements when both sides say they can't bear to part with their pet. PTI

Opp candidate confirms Maldives President-elect

AFP ■ COLOMBO

The shock winner of the Maldives' leadership vote was declared president-elect on Saturday, with election authorities saying they received death threats to delay the final announcement of strongman Abdullah Yameen's decisive loss. Common opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih won last week's election with 58.4 percent of the ballot, or 134,705 votes, election commission chief Ahmed Shareef confirmed. The commission had released what it called "interim results" on Monday, but the official outcome of the September 23 polls was pushed back to allow legal challenges over the vote's conduct. "There were accusations... against all five members of the commission, and we received death threats via phone calls, Shareef said. "But we didn't consider the threats at all because the



security forces are providing all five members with security." Constitutionally the commission had till Sunday to announce the final result. He said there were "minor disparities" involving just one ballot paper out of 233,889 votes cast.

Yameen, who jailed or exiled most of his rivals during his turbulent five-year term, took just 96,502 votes or 41.6 percent, Shareef said. Scores of Yameen's supporters had lodged complaints saying that they and other voters had not been allowed to cast their ballot. Some had also accused the

commission of taking bribes. Shareef said the commission would file defamation suits against their accusers. An investigation was underway into the hacking of the commission's Twitter account two days before the vote, he added.

Nearly 90 percent of the electorate of 262,135 turned out to vote, according to the official results. Private election monitors had warned that the electoral process was heavily weighted in favour of the incumbent, but the final results showed huge support for the opposition.

Solih was backed by four opposition parties, three of which had supported Yameen in a controversial 2013 run-off that saw the country's first democratically elected leader Mohamed Nasheed lose narrowly. Solih is set to be sworn in on November 17 when Yameen's term comes to an end.

There had been intense speculation that Yameen could try to hold on to power despite losing to the 54-year-old political lightweight.

Yameen's headline rule dented the Maldives' image as a honeymoon paradise and caused alarm to be raised abroad. Suspecting a plot to impeach him, Yameen in February declared a state of emergency and arrested top judges as well as political opponents.

Shortly after his surprise defeat last week, Yameen freed five political prisoners.

But scores of others - including his estranged half brother Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, a former president - remain incarcerated.

Despite the election upset, Yameen managed to retain leadership of his party at its first congress after the vote on Friday night.

No Nobel Literature Prize as Academy's bell tolls

Stockholm (AFP): In tatters after a #MeToo scandal, the Swedish Academy has postponed this year's Nobel Literature Prize, leaving an empty page for 2018 as it attempts to reform the venerable institution. Created in 1786 by King Gustav III and modelled on its French elder, the Swedish Academy has selected the winner of the prestigious literary distinction since it was first awarded in 1901. The "Holy Grail" of authors, poets, and playwrights, the Nobel has gone to some of the greatest writers of all time, from Albert Camus to Samuel Beckett and Ernest Hemingway. But the list of recipients also includes US rock icon Bob Dylan, the 2016 choice harshly criticised by some who lambasted the Academy for overlooking other popular and critically-acclaimed authors - such as American novelist Philip Roth, who died in May this year without getting the nod.

After the Dylan controversy, the Academy attempted to smooth things over last year with an uncontroversial laureate, Kazuo Ishiguro, a British author of Japanese origin whose nomination enjoyed broad consensus. But just three weeks after that announcement, the institution again found itself in controversy, this time in the eye of the #MeToo

hurricane. Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, married to an Academy member, and the head of an influential cultural club in Stockholm, was accused of rape and sexual assault.

An internal Academy probe also revealed conflicts of interest between him and the institution, which had funded his club for years. Arnault ultimately faced trial on two counts of raping a woman in 2011. His verdict is due on Monday, and the prosecution has sought a three-year sentence.

The Academy has been deeply divided over how to deal with Arnault and on the reforms it needs to undertake. Some of the 18 members, who are appointed for life, have refused to participate in the Academy's work over the row - including its first female permanent secretary Sara Danius - leaving it without a quorum.

And in the months since the scandal erupted, the usually-discreet members have exchanged ugly jibes in the media.

Paralysed and ridiculed around the world, the scandal forced the Academy's hand: it announced in May that it would postpone by one year the 2018 Nobel Literature Prize, a first in 70 years.

The 2018 laureate will be announced at the same time as the 2019 prize.

Dark chocolate, cocoa butter important source of vitamin D

Berlin (PTI): Cocoa butter and dark chocolate can be a significant source of Vitamin D and may help reduce the risk of respiratory diseases and brittle bones, a study has found. Vitamin D is crucial for the human body. It comes in two types: vitamin D2 and D3. Vitamin D3 is produced in the human skin through exposure to the sun. Humans get 90 per cent of their vitamin D requirements this way. The rest is ideally consumed through food, such as

fatty fish or chicken eggs. Vitamin D2, which can also be utilised by the human body, is found in fungi. The study, published in the journal Food Chemistry, found that cocoa and foods containing cocoa have significant amounts of vitamin D2. "Many people do not get enough vitamin D. The problem increases in the winter months when sunshine is scarce," said Gabriele Stangl from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) in Germany. Researchers investigated the



vitamin D content of cocoa and products containing cocoa because they suspected that they contained a previously unknown source of the vitamin. Cocoa

beans are dried after fermentation. They are placed on mats and exposed to the Sun for one to two weeks. The precursors of vitamin D, which presumably

originate from harmless fungi, are transformed by the sunlight into vitamin D2. In order to test their theory, the research group analysed various cocoa products and powders using state-of-the-art mass spectrometry. What they found is that products containing cocoa are indeed a source of vitamin D2, but the amount varies greatly from food to food. While dark chocolate has a relatively high vitamin D2 content, researchers found very little in white chocolate.

SHOW TIME

Too good and too sweet. Gives you a sweet tooth



SUI DHAAGA
*ing: Varun Dhawan, Anushka Sharma, Raghubir Yadav
Rated: 6/10

Sab Badiya Hai — both with the film and its tagline. Indeed, everything in the film is good — Anushka is good, sweet and completely wife material; Varun is good, sweeter and perfect husband as well as *beta* material; their mission of establishing a tailoring label with world class recognition is good too, in fact, too good to be true. But true it is, thanks to films encasing Government initiatives, this one being skill India and Made in India campaigns of the Narendra Modi Government.

So far so good! From a burdened family struggling to make ends meet, it is hard to fathom a way into the dizzying world of fashion designers but the simple couple makes it to the top

despite all odds. Varun as a no-good worker but a fantastic tailor without a sewing machine or any aspirations to rise in life tries hard to fit into the rustic, small town role but the effort keeps showing up.

Anushka, despite the deglamourised look and the sweet face, also shows up the chinks in her *pallu*-ed sari avatar of a perfect *bahu*, a silent wife and an anxious woman wanting her husband to do better than he does in life.



Raghubir Yadav is the only actor in this well meaning film on an unlikely start-up success, who merges into his role of an angsty, lower middle class, retired, reconciled father of two sons.

So is there chemistry between Anushka and Varun? Well, enough if you are told that they have not touched each other as husband wife. Also, the film is not about their chemistry. It is more about existentialism and those rabbits under the caps which come into the hands of only a few of the billion aspiring people in India's convulsing middle class. This couple works hard and gets a brand of success that makes the climax exactly as unbelievable as the entire film and the circumstances of its characters are believable, commonplace and routine.

You may or may not like this good, simple film depending on how much of simplicity you can take.

Deliberate & loud

PATAAKHA
*ing: Sanya Malhotra, Radhika Madan, Sunil Grover, Vijay Raaz
Rated: 5/10

Making a film on almost nothing is an art in need of applause. This one, though based on a book on an eternal bond of hatred between two sisters, comes across as one of those in that category. Can't say wholeheartedly that there should be unchecked applause but yes, despite all the screechiness and the catfights between two women, it does hold you back in the seat.

Vishal Bhardwaj is known to have a yen for *hatke* films, even if they are adaptations of known plays by Shakespeare. From *Omkaara* to *Pataakha*, he has maintained a distinctness in style and presentation and even the story but that distinctness does not always stand tall.



Pataakha, a tale of two sisters with only hatred in their hearts for each other, is much too screechy and off-putting when the fights are in progress. It is an unexplained hatred often falling flat on a bed on incredulity. Also, too high pitched to be in the realm of sane cinema. Yet, the film kind of holds you back with deft handling of a nutty relationship. Details like stained teeth due to *beedi* smoking, the rustic look, the *mori-mora* language and the ambience of the village where the story pans out are impeccable. As are Sanya and Radhika in their unkempt, almost primitive, roles. Vijay Raaz lends weight to the proceedings but Sunil Grover is beset with a role that is way over the top and largely unexplainable.

Need more laughter, less un-womanly violence and a sequence that did not get disrupted with such volume of insane hatred.



English reborn yet again

JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN
*ing: Rowan Atkinson, Ben Miller, Olga Kurylenko, Jake Lacy, Emma Thompson
Rated: 5/10

Rowan Atkinson, aka Mr Bean, is back as this year's bumbling MI7 sleuth who is called out of retirement to save England from a vicious cyber attack.

Atkinson, though aged considerably, and looking tired, tries hard to keep up the antics of an old world spy in a post modern no-gun-for-agents era wherein the mobile phone is exactly that — a phone to make calls and messages. Too spooky hidden agenda of gadgets, till Johnny English walks in, picks up a vintage car with embedded tear gas canons, missiles and jelly beans that can explode, give you maniacal energy, put you to sleep and perform all functions — all functions except sweetening your tastebuds!

This is the third edition of this initially hilarious buffoon's take on James Bond. The format is the same, the jobs too, though in a different guise. English has his familiarisms and is thus much too fathomable to excite you on screen, with his comic breakouts as well as his sleuth bozotics.

Maybe, for a lean week at the cinemas he would do but too much of the same things gets to be boring even if it repeats itself after seven years. Good memories fade very slowly and in comparison to his former roles, this one somewhat sucks.

Plan your Week

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT PISO16
Venue: 16th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019
When: Every Sunday, 12-4pm
Price: ₹2195 plus taxes

Set amidst a picturesque location, the restaurant Piso16 offers a Sunday Brunch featuring a lavish spread and live counters. Guests can spend a relaxing Sunday afternoon while sipping on unlimited sangria, beer and wine over an unmatched view of the city.



Japanese Film Festival

Till: October 3, 2018
Where: PVR Cinemas, Select Citywalk, Saket
Time: 2 pm Onwards

Entry: Free entry on a first come first serve basis
This six-day festival will showcase 13 of the best Japanese releases with English subtitles. Some of the films that will be screened today are Lu Over the Wall, Chinayafuru Musubi and Mixed Doubles.

Play: Macbeth

Directed by: K Madavane
Producer: Rajul Khare
When: September 30, 2018
Time: 4:30 PM & 7:30 PM
Venue: Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts, Mandi House, New Delhi

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* — a play narrated, staged and filmed through generations continues to recreate magic and spring surprises through creative interpretations. Tamasha's *Macbeth* promises uniqueness in its representation of this play.



Golgappa Festival

Dates: September 30, 2018
Timings: 4 PM to 10 PM
Venue: Plaza Area, Select Citywalk, Saket, New Delhi

Get ready to satisfy your Golgappa cravings with unique Golgappa flavors such as Chocolate Golgappas, Butter Chicken Golgappas, Shawarma Golgappas and much more.

'BIGG BOSS IS NOT MY THING'

SEHBAN AZIM talks to MUSBA HASHMI about his new show Tujhse Hai Raabta and his acting journey

What is your role all about?

I play ACP Malhar Rane a reserved person who stands by truth and lets his work do the talking. He tries to bind Kalyani's family. He is the connection between mother and daughter.

What attracted you to this role?

I relate to my character. This was something I wanted to do. Like Malhar, I am the person in my family who tries to keep everyone connected. I have replied back to my elders. This is what Malhar does in the show.

How has the journey been?

It has been beautiful. I never thought I would be an actor. I was a computer engineer. I was working with Wipro but realised that 9 am to 7 pm job was not my cup of tea. So, I quit and started modelling — did ads and short films. Eventually I got bored of that. I wanted to experience new things, do something which interested me and learn more. That is how acting happened and I got *Dil Mil Gaye*. Since then you can see the transition in me — from not being able to act to being able to act. It has been a roller coaster ride. Now, there is no stopping. I never set any goals when I came to Mumbai and that is what has worked for me. I did whatever work I got.

What was the challenging part of your journey?

There are a lot of ups and downs in life, be it corporate or acting, all of them have challenges. For me, the challenging part is that sometimes I feel even though I work so hard, there is not enough money. If I would have been in the corporate world, I would have had more money than what I am making as an actor.

I would have got married. But I chose acting. The challenge is I have to live by it. It is the only thing I am fighting for. Initially, I felt why I was even here. These were discouraging thoughts, the good is that it was just a phase that I was going through. I am enjoying my journey now.

Which role came close to you and why?

Each every role that I have played is close to my heart. When you start living the character that you play, you start connecting with them. The best thing I realised being an actor is that in one life I am able to live so many lives and play different characters. In some or the other way I have given my soul to every character that I played. But there was one character that I was not able to connect with, one was a negative role in *Ek Hazaron Me Meri Behna Hai*, though it was much appreciated, I was not able to give anything of my own to the role.

A reality show that you would like to be a part of?

I have been offered a few, but I don't think

I am made for the reality shows. If I would be able to do something it could be *Khatron Ke Khiladi*, because the tasks are interesting and challenging. But *Bigg Boss* is not my thing until and unless I have to earn a lot of money and buy three-four houses in Mumbai, maybe then I can do it. (laughs)

Who is your inspiration?

I haven't taken any inspiration from anyone when it comes to acting. But if we talk about being a good human being, all my inspiration comes from my father. I have never seen such a humble, nice, simple and a learned man like him. Whenever I meet such people, I connect with them. And then my mother who has raised five kids. She is a teacher and a writer and then comes home and cooks for us. She is a commendable woman. It is hard for me to learn her multitasking skills.

Any actor you would like to work with?

There are so many actors that I want to work with. Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Irrfan, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan are on my list. Acting is a give and take relationship. A scene will be good when both of the actors — who are sharing the screen space — are good together. But by working with these men, I will get to learn many things.

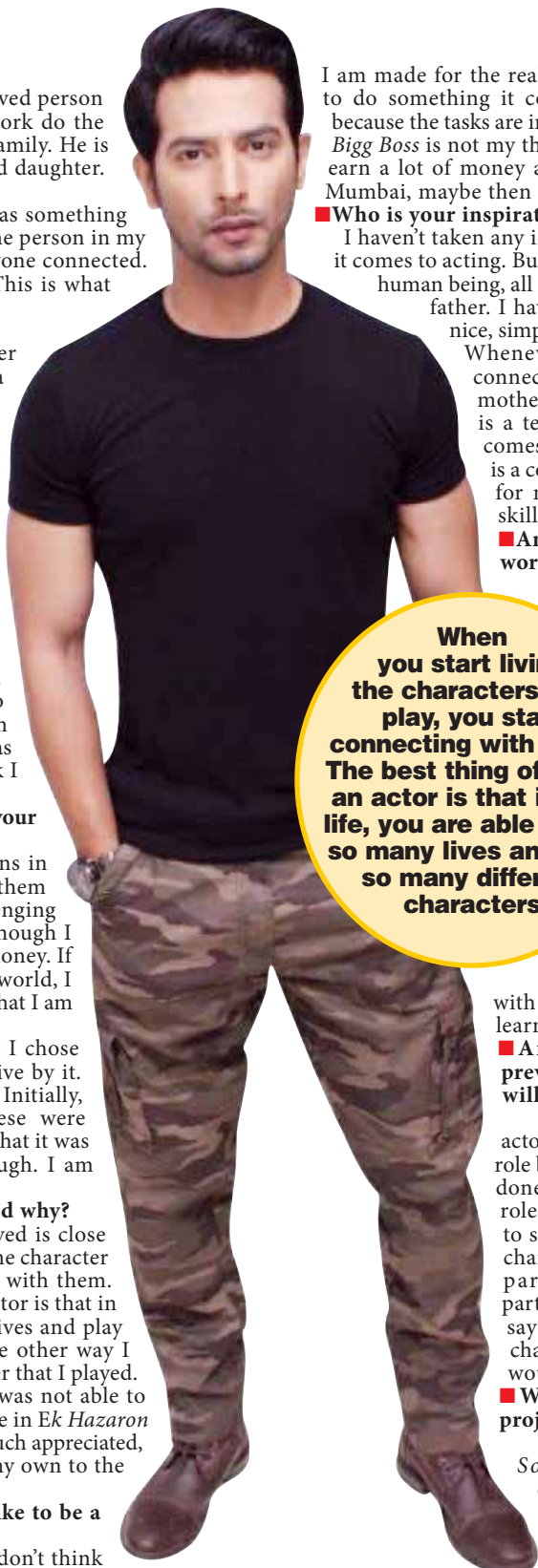
Any character from previous shows that you will like to play?

I think all the actors have played their role brilliantly and have done justice to their roles. It is a very weird to say that I can play a character better than a particular actor in a particular film. What I can say is: If I had played any of the characters played by others, I would have brought in my style.

What are your upcoming projects?

There is one short film — *Soulmate*, Adah Sharma is opposite me in that film. It is a simple love story, we have already shot it and will release shortly.

When you start living the characters you play, you start connecting with them. The best thing of being an actor is that in one life, you are able to live so many lives and play so many different characters



HOUSE TALK

Before entering the House, TV's most popular actors Karanvir Bohra and Dipika Kakar reveal why they entered the Big House and how they are going to play it out to be in the game. SANGEETA YADAV reports

'Being in the show is like doing tapasya'

CLAIM TO FAME: Main leads in *Dil Se Di Dua Saubhagyavati Bhava*, *Naagin 2* and *Qubool Hai*

It was a difficult choice for 36-year-old actor Karanvir Bohra to say yes to *Bigg Boss* as that meant staying away for three months from his twin daughters Vienna and Raya Bella and wife Teejay. Hence, his nod came only at the last moment. Initially,

"Our main concern was who is going to take care of the kids if we enter the House as a jodi. I wish the kids were also allowed in the show. Then all four would have come together. Not having my favourite girls around me is a challenge. I am an emotional person and I miss them terribly," Bohra said before entering the House.

For Bohra *Bigg Boss* is more than just a show. "I am not here to show who I am. I am here to be myself. It is not just a show to showcase yourself and get more work and fame. This show is like doing *tapasya*," Bohra shares, adding that one task that he would not like to do in the *Bigg House* is cooking.

"Whatever limited food that we will get, I don't want to burn that. My other inmates will hate me the most for this," Bohra chuckles.

Talking about the strategy he is going to use to stay in this game, Bohra says: "You can't strategise on a show like *Bigg Boss* because you have to tackle one day at a time. Every week a new villain and a new hero is born. You have to go with the flow with whatever is happening around and take a stand on what is right. If someone is wrong, I will not stand with them even though he is a good friend. There are bound to have fights but we need to understand that somehow everybody is right in their own right. You are right or wrong for others."



Bohra and Teejay were approached to enter the show as a *jodi* but his wife had to take care of the girls.

'Want to win this to bring my in-laws closer'



She is TV's favourite *bahu*. Simar of *Sasural Simar Ka*, Dipika Kakar is already stealing the limelight in the *Bigg House*. Before entering the show, Kakar made it clear that no matter how big the problem, she would do everything in her power to keep her dignity.

"Empty utensils make a sound. *Bigg Boss* is a mental game and you are forced to stay with people who you would not like to even talk to. People will try to manipulate you and pick a fight over small issues. But I will draw a line to keep my dignity. I will not abuse since I don't in personal life either," Kakar says.

Though she has been married for less than a year, her in-laws and husband (TV actor Shoab Ibrahim) were all supportive. "It was offered to me even last year too but I had other commitments. This year, I said yes as a collective decision with my husband. It is going to be a testing time for both of us. I am excited about

being a part of such a big show. At the same time, I am a little emotional because I have never stayed away from the family with no contact. I'm going to miss them a lot and cry," Kakar tells us.

She has come with the mindset to win the show by giving her best and be true to her personality.

"People have seen me as Simar and showered me with their love and support. Now, I'm going to be Dipika who is a simple girl-next-door kind of person. People will be able to connect with me on a more personal level. I want my fans to know the real me. I owe to them is that I don't put on the mask when I am in the House. I will be myself. I do not want to go in the House with a strategy or preparation as it is a very unpredictable show," Kakar says.

If she does manage to win, Kakar tells us that she wants to buy a house for her in-laws so that they can all stay in the same building.

I want to file a case against the doctor who operated upon my father. My father recently underwent a liver transplant that led to fatal complications. To top that, the prolonged hospital threw up an exorbitant medical bill. I saw on YouTube how the surgery should have been done and now that the surgeon erred. Please take appropriate action against him.

IN THE DOC

Thousands of patients die due to medical negligence in hospitals across India, the number steadily rising. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks to the families of the dead who say that there is an urgent need to revamp the healthcare system. Doctors, on the other hand, are ruing the fallen doctor-patient trust which they say is the lowest today

The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals Report claims that 98,000 deaths from medical injuries occur in India every year. According to Manupatra, a legal research source, medico-legal cases in the Supreme Court have gone up by 400 per cent in the last decade.

Take the case of Pankaj Arora who has been fighting a case against Medanta-The Medcity in Gurugram for the last five years.

"My son (10) suffered a deranged liver after he had jaundice. In October 2010 when I brought him to Medanta, his prognosis was 'Auto-immune Hepatitis'. A liver transplant was recommended. I was given an estimate of ₹15 lakh. I was not in a position to shell out so much and requested the doctor to cut the cost, but to no avail. I approached Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda. He urged the hospital to give me discounted treatment in January 2011. Immediately, the transplant was postponed to March 2011. This delay led to post-surgery complications. My son's body rejected the graft. A medical condition called Cytomegalovirus set in along with hepatic thrombosis. The hospital discharged my son despite these complications because they had already given me a discount of ₹3.5 lakh," Arora claims.

On April 4, 2011, he adds, the son was re-admitted. His previous treating doctor prescribed him antibiotics and tests and the family was sent back again. But the condition of the patient deteriorated and Arora rushed him back to Emergency of the same hospital.

"A call for retransplant was taken but no action was taken. I was repeatedly asked to make a payment so for the treatment to start. By April 19, the complications were so high that a re-transplant should not have been done yet they went ahead with it. My 55-year-old mother was the donor. My wife was the primary donor but couldn't donate again. The surgery was unsuccessful due to complications. My son was on immunity suppressant drug and should have been in isolation but was kept next to a drug resistant TB patient in a sharing ward for a month. He caught TB. Four more drugs were added to his schedule. A liver transplant patient couldn't handle so many antibiotics. On July 31, 2011, my son passed away due to multiple-organ failure and septic-shock," Arora said at a recent Press conference in the Capital.

Since then he has been in a running battle with the hospital giant.

"If only, others had decided to fight instead of merely abusing the hospital and returning home to weep in silence, my son would have been alive today. But I will fight till justice is imparted," Arora said. He finally ended up paying the hospital ₹30 lakh. This included the amount raised in charity.

Rinku Singh, who hails from Azamgarh, is in a similar situation. His father, Sardar Pradhan Singh (59) was suffering from a kidney problem and advised a transplant by Max Hospital, Saket. Rinku's mother was the donor.

The family was told that the operation was a success. But it now alleges that doctors neglected the case by not factoring in the high infection levels in Singh. Three immuno-suppressant injections costing ₹16,500 each to be given before the transplant were never administered. "After the operation when the patient was in ICU and complained of excruciating pain, no senior doctor came to see him till 9 pm. The doctors then wheeled him into the OT again and my father was put on the ventilator. His eyes were taped and there was no movement. He was declared dead four days later, a day after my mother was discharged from the hospital," he recounted.

Rinku alleged that the doctors were careless and that he was given an additional bill of ₹3.19 lakh over and above the ₹6.4 lakh which he had deposited before the operation.

"There were serious lapses in my father's treatment. You had a patient in the ICU screaming in pain and no senior doctor comes to see him till 9 pm! Why? Then, when they took him to the OT again why were his eyes taped? I think he was long dead but they wanted to build up the bill and also thought they should wait till my mother was discharged," Rinku said at the Press conference.

He filed a complaint with Delhi's Health Minister and met his OSD who advised him to complain to the Delhi Medical Council where he submitted all the documents. He also wrote to the Directorate General of Health Services, Delhi, but no action was taken.

After several months, he got a response from the DMC stating that no negligence was found and, hence, no action could be taken against the hospital or the doctors. He was given an option to approach the Medical Council of India. He, instead, decided to approach the Delhi State Consumer Court in September 2016. Since then, seven hearings have taken place. Meanwhile, Max Hospital has filed a case against Rinku for non-payment of ₹3.19 lakh which he claims had earlier been waived by the treating doctor. The case is in the Saket District Court now.

Advocate Piyush Chhabra who is fighting on behalf of Arora says that the problem in cases of medical negligence is that there is no singular forum where a complaint can be filed.

"Some go to a consumer court and others file a criminal case against the hospital and the doctors concerned with the police. I have written to the Government about how our system is not competent to hear medical negligence cases. Special courts are needed to hear and investigate such cases. Even during a trial, there should be a Tribunal. The Government can do many things. The investigation should be carried out by a special team set up for this purpose at each level, depending on the demand, similar to what we have in economic offence cases. Then a chargesheet should be filed at the special tribunal which understands medical terms. This can have a retired judge, a doctor and a social activist," Chhabra explained.

The problem faced by the families, he said, was that "hospitals and the doctor have no fear. A forum will make them cautious. A person who is dead can't be brought back. We just want further negligent deaths prevented," Chhabra said.

He was critical of doctors who say that being brought to scrutiny ties their hands in treating patients.

"A good doctor has no such fear. Every profession comes with riders, even lawyers. Courts agree that wrong advice can't be held liable. That doesn't mean lawyers won't give advice. The same is true for doctors. But if there is factual and glaring negligence, that can't be ignored, negligent acts like making a liver transplant patient share a room with a TB patient. A hospital like Medanta has the best facilities. A person goes there because he feels he will get the best treatment. Such a hospital can't be expected to make such a mistake in the face of clear guidelines," Chhabra added.

Jayant Singh lost his seven-year-old daughter to Dengue in 2017. He alleged that the Gurugram-based Fortis Hospital charged the family an exorbitant fee of ₹18 lakh.



- A report by an Indian doctor from Harvard School of Public Health has concluded that more than 43 million people are injured worldwide annually due to unsafe medical care.
- Health care errors is the 8th leading cause of death in the world.
- Over 7 million people across the

- globe suffer from preventable surgical injuries every year, says WHO.
- Globally, 234 million surgeries take place every year, one in every 25 people undergo a surgery at any given time.
- In developing countries, the death rate is nearly 10% for a major surgery.

- Mortality from general anaesthesia affected one in 150 patients while infections were reported in 3% of surgeries with the mortality rate being 0.5% worldwide.
- Nearly 50% of the adverse effects of the surgery were preventable.
- 5.2 million medical injuries are

- recorded each year in India
- 43 million people get injured each year due to unsafe medical care worldwide.
- About two-thirds of medical injuries occur in low and middle income countries like India.

Excerpted from the Study of Medical Negligence Cases decided by the District Consumer Courts in Delhi

Singh posted this on the social media which was picked up by the Delhi Health Minister who ordered an enquiry. Charges of medical negligence and over-charging through consumable products, the pharmacy and the path lab were proved. Not only this, the hospital forged Jayant and his wife's signatures which was also proved. Singh filed an FIR. A Special Investigation Team was formed on December 10, 2017 and a writ filed in the Supreme Court asking for reforms in the Healthcare sector. The proceedings are going on. Several families asserted that no doctor had the right to treat a patient

Every profession comes with riders. Courts agree that wrong advice can't be held liable. That doesn't mean lawyers won't give advice. The same is true for doctors. But a factual & glaring negligence can't be ignored

based on 'personal experience' without the backing of authentic medical literature. Courts, these families said, often exonerated doctors by giving them benefit of doubt after he is able to show he followed a mode of treatment shared by other medics. In a vast and poor country like India, only a fraction of the cases of genuine medical negligence actually reach the court or the medical council because of lack of public awareness. Singh, like Chhabra, insisted that doctors should be open to scrutiny. "Human error is acceptable. But in my case, the investiga-

tion found gross negligence. The problem lies in the system. Doctors are given targets by private hospitals. What will you say when a patient with multiple-organ failure is put next to an MDR-TB patient? Human error or negligence? Definitely negligence. The only alibi the doctor and the hospital had was 'we only have one ICU'. People go to a premium hospital to get the best care. I am willing to pay, why not give me the best? Doctors are not to be blamed, it is the hospitals who make doctors party to the problem," Singh said. Dr Anand Bansal, medical director with Delhi's Sri Balaji

Action Medical Institute Hospital, says that the rise in medical negligence cases is because the Internet has information on everything.

"This means that the patient and his family doubt the doctor from the start. The increased awareness that this profession is no longer noble means that we are questioned on everything. There are always chances of human error which does not mean negligence. There is no doctor who will harm the patient deliberately. They go beyond their call of duty to give their best. Just because a patient has come to a hospital doesn't mean that he will be cured. This doesn't mean that the doctors are not competent or there is pressure leading to negligence. Most patients want quick results. But we can no longer depend on clinical diagnosis. We have to first prescribe tests. If we don't they go to court as to why we didn't do so. The doctor is no longer trusted and that's wrong. The patient and the families must realise that we are not God," says Bansal. He feels that this is the worst patient-doctor relationship phase.

"They have no confidence in the doctor; they only see us as people wanting to money. If they go back and hail and hearty, the doctor is just doing his job, otherwise we are blamed and taken to court. Therefore, we have to take signatures for everything. Something that we never did a couple of decades back. The problem is that some doctors are unable to communicate, to the family, the critical situation. Most times the doctor is in the right but the patient and the family are not willing to listen," Bansal explains and says that out of the 1,000 gross medical negligence cases one or two per cent would be based on factual errors.

Both the doctors and families agree that there is no dispute that medical science is not perfect adding two plus two to four. There is a grey area in diagnosis and treatment of many clinical conditions as our knowledge in medicine is changing everyday through remarkable medical research across the globe. Thus, there is every possibility that a doctor may commit an inadvertent error of judgment while treating a patient by not following the latest medical guidelines or by following the least supportive school of thought. But no doctor should be held guilty for medical negligence in this situation.

President of the Heart Care Foundation of India and former president of Indian Medical Association, Dr KK Agarwal, agrees that there is no escape for treating doctors if a negligence is alleged. "But no case should be registered unless a preliminary inquiry proves negligence. Today, this happens only for criminal negligence cases but not with non-criminal negligence cases," he says, adding that no medical treatment is risk-free.

"No surgery or drug is risk-free. For sudden death or unexpected complications, consent should be taken in every case. Unexpected deaths and complications are a reality but often not explained to the patients," Dr Agarwal says.

A word of advice for the families by the doctors. The most important aspect to get the right treatment is awareness about the rights of a patient. For example, every patient has a fundamental right (under section 1.3.2 of MCI Code of Ethics & Regulations, 2002) to obtain the medical records of the treatment, both during and after the therapy.

The patient must demand (in writing) these records that are crucial for obtaining a second medical opinion (which is recommended in serious medical condition) and also to fight for medical justice, if necessary. Unfortunately, from thousands of victims of alleged medical negligence that one has seen, who come to People for Better Treatment seeking justice, after their loved one may have fallen prey to reckless treatment, that they have little, if any, records of treatment given by the errant doctor/hospital.

All patients must demand and obtain all medical records from the treating doctor and hospital. This sends a strong signal to the doctor/hospital that the patient-party is well-aware about his rights. This is enough pressure on the treating physicians to be careful in treatment.

'Good doctors should raise their voice against errant colleagues'

US-based doctor Kunal Saha, who was awarded a compensation of ₹5.96 crore by the Supreme Court for medical negligence leading to the death of his wife, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about the inherent problem in the Indian medical regulatory system

- Has the SC dismissed the petition filed by you seeking to cancel the license of three doctors?

It is not correct that SC dismissed my petition for cancellation of licence of the three doctors guilty of medical negligence causing my wife Anuradha Sahal's death. It was the Medical Council of India that had scrapped the licences of those doctors in 2011 in view of the SC verdict. However, the doctors moved court on the technical ground that the law under which MCI acted (Section 8.8 of MCI Code of Ethics & Regulations, 2002) was enacted in 2004 but Anuradha's case was decided in 2002. Therefore, this law could not be used retrospectively.

- You are a doctor yourself. Can you talk about the loopholes in the system?

The inherent problem in the Indian

medical regulatory system is that unlike in all other developed countries, including the US and the UK, both the MCI and State medical councils in India, the ultimate authority to adjudicate allegations of medical or ethical violations by doctors, comprise members who are doctors thereby creating an environment in which no doctor is willing to stand for truth or go against his errant medical colleagues. This creates a dangerous cocoon that provides an impregnable shield for all members of the medical community in India. The Government must try to answer this simple question — Why is there no non-doctor member in any medical council in India when every medical board elsewhere contains up to 50 per cent members from the non-doctor community? The onus is on the members of the medical fraternity to



Dr Kunal Saha

bring a change in this untenable situation and until that happens, unfortunate incidents of medical negligence will continue and the sagging standard of doctor-patient relationship will take a further dive. ■ Healthcare overhaul will take time? Any solution right away? A complete overhaul of the medical regulatory system is necessary to bring a change in the deep-rooted rot in the medical system. A minimal requirement would be to make all medical councils completely transparent and honest bodies by permanently removing old and unscrupulous medical leaders running the show until now, backed by equally corrupt political parties. While widespread corruption has riddled the healthcare delivery system for

many decades, there are still many doctors in the country who are honest and maintain a high degree of moral values and integrity. Unfortunately, most of these good doctors have remained on the sideline as silent spectators. This must change. The good doctors must step raise their voice to and throw the corrupt and immoral leaders out from medical councils and other medical groups like the Indian Medical Association. These doctors must be posted at the helm of the medical system to judge every complaint of medical negligence honestly without any favour to their delinquent medical colleagues so that all genuine cases of medical negligence can find justice. Then and only then, public trust on doctors can be restored and innocent lives saved from the wrath of unethical and errant medics.

Ready for captaincy if given opportunity: Rohit

PTI ■ DUBAI

His record as stand-in captain has been quite impressive and Rohit Sharma today made it clear that whenever the opportunity comes along, he would be 'ready' for full-time captaincy.

Under Rohit, India have won two close multi-nation tournaments -- the T20 tri-nation in Sri Lanka and now the Asia Cup 50-over tournament.

A three-time IPL winning captain of Mumbai Indians, Rohit was asked if he is ready for a long-term leadership role in future.

"Definitely. We have just won so I will surely be ready (for captaincy). Whenever the opportunity comes, I will be ready," a smiling Rohit told reporters after India's Asia Cup triumph.

There are challenges of a stand-in captain, Rohit admitted, adding that the main objective is to allow players to play freely without thinking about their places in the team.

"It's a challenge for any team when few of your senior players are rested. Obviously they will make a comeback and few of the guys have to miss out. Every team is doing that and also guys understand that."

"It's up to them whenever they get an opportunity they make it big and make it count but for us -- myself as a captain and our coach, we have to make sure that they have the liberty to go out and play their game without feeling any pres-

sure," said Rohit.

"I understand the dynamics of this team, how we play our cricket and how we want to go forward as a team. I think in this tournament we have ticked all the boxes," Rohit looked satisfied after accomplishing his task.

Rohit made it clear that his philosophy of leadership is to help players shed insecurities while playing for the country. He in fact assured the likes of Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik that they will be playing all games.

"When we came here, I wanted to give them the assurance that they will be playing all games. That's how you make players. If you know after two games you are going to get dropped, it's not easy for any player."

"I wanted to give everybody a fair run and play more games. That's how you understand a player's capabilities. One odd game, you can't judge a player," said Rohit.

He agreed that No's 4 and 6 are still not settled and the picture would be clearer closer to the World Cup.

"Numbers four and six need to get more games as the World Cup comes closer. Right now is not the time. Come the World Cup, we will get a clearer picture. The next few tournaments, that will be ideal for us to judge as management where they stand as players."

Rohit was more happy with the fact that a young team achieved so much.

"It was very young team

Rohit calming influence reflected in his captaincy: Shastri

DUBAI: India coach Ravi Shastri is impressed by skipper Rohit Sharma's "calming influence", which reflected in his leadership during India's triumphant Asia Cup campaign.

In the absence of regular captain Virat Kohli, Rohit led India to its seventh Asia Cup title on Friday night, defeating Bangladesh in a last-ball thriller in a low-scoring final here.

Rohit's captaincy is like a breath of fresh air for Team India which now has a second line of leadership in the limited overs format.

"Rohit was a calming influence and it showed in his captaincy. To keep his intensity going even after the start they (Bangladesh) had, showed he was really cool in every aspect of captaincy," Shastri said after India retained the Asia Cup title.

"The bowling changes he made were really good, to concede just around 100 runs in the last 30 overs, I thought it was brilliant," he added.

The coach said India's biggest gain from the Asia Cup was the high standards of fielding the players have displayed all throughout the tournament.

"I liked the intensity with which we played, we were a bit flat against Hong Kong in the first match, but pulled up afterwards."

"The biggest plus was the fielding, game after game, we



preparation for this tournament was good. Seven-eight guys came here early while the other boys from England landed here a day before the tournament," said the skipper.

Fitness was an issue in gruelling conditions, admitted Rohit.

"The message was to focus on the fitness because we haven't played in conditions like this before. I think this was a big challenge for us. The conditions here were quite slow and there was help for the slow bowlers."

The skipper also praised his spinners for their consistent show.

"Even today, if you see, the way Bangladesh started in the first 10-15 overs and after that the way our spinners brought us back in the game. Our spinners' performance in the last six-eight months has been con-

sistent. It's been a positive sign."

"I think he has proved himself in this tournament that he is much better than what he was before. His bowling, batting and fielding abilities are very crucial to the team," he added.

Jadeja made a spectacular return to the ODI side and immediately made an impact with figures of 4 for 29 from his 10 overs against Bangladesh in a Super 4 match earlier in the tournament.

Jadeja made his return to the playing eleven exactly after 442 days with his last game coming against the West Indies at Sabina Park on July 6, 2017.

Desperate to make his comeback in white ball cricket, Jadeja too agreed that he wanted to prove himself rather than anyone else.

"I was almost out for 15 months and I wasn't feeling good. I want to play white-ball cricket, I just wanted to prove myself and improve on my game," he said after helping India lift the Asia Cup title on Friday night with a three-wicket win over Bangladesh in the final.

"You need to prove yourself when you get the opportunity, you need to show you are good enough. I just wanted to play my natural game, try and hit the ball well and win the game for my country", Jadeja said.

In the four matches he played in the Asia Cup, including the final, Jadeja picked up seven wickets besides playing two crucial 20-plus knocks with the bat.

Jadeja also reminded everyone of his fielding abilities with a sensational run out of Mohammad Mithun in the final against Bangladesh.

"What he did today on the field, that run out, I think that was the turning point of the match. That is something that gave us a way to comeback into the game. That run out was crucial," Rohit said.

"He knows that and also as a team we understand what sort of a player he is and what he brings to the table. His made 25 odd today but it was so crucial. I would say it was as good as 50 in the context of the match."

Dhawan dropped from Test squad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shikhar Dhawan was on Saturday dropped from the two-match Test series against West Indies after his poor run in England while Mayank Agarwal and Mohammed Siraj's achievements in the domestic circuit were rewarded with maiden India call-up.

The selectors decided to rest the pace duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, taking into account their "recent workload".

The pace bowling department looks a little inexperienced with Mohammad Shami and Umesh Yadav being the two experienced players in the Virat Kohli-led 15-member squad.

Mumbai's Prithvi Shaw has retained his place in the side after failing to make the playing XI in the last two Tests in England. Considering that Dhawan has been shown the door, young Shaw could finally get his chance to open the batting with K L Rahul, who had saved his place with a fine knock in the final Test against England.

"Taking stock of the recent workload, the selectors have decided to rest Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Both Ishant Sharma and Hardik



Pandya were not considered for selection, as they are yet to recover from their injuries," BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary said in a statement.

The first Test will be played at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot

from October 4 to 9, followed by the second match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad from October 12 to 16.

INDIA SQUAD

Virat Kohli (captain), K L Rahul, Prithvi Shaw, Mayank

Agarwal, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), R Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Shardul Thakur.

Bawne scores ton in warm-up tie against WI Mayank Agarwal smashes 90 runs

PTI ■ VADODARA

Mayank Agarwal served a timely reminder to the selectors with a brisk 90 while Ankit Bawne hit a patient hundred as Board President's XI scored 360 for six before declaring against the West Indies in the warm-up game here on Saturday.

In the national reckoning since last season, opener Agarwal played his natural attacking game, hitting 14 boundaries and two sixes, but his younger Prithvi Shaw (8) was removed quickly after hitting two boundaries in the two-day game.

Karun Nair (29), whose confidence took a beating after being benched during the entire the England Test series, missed a golden opportunity to play a big knock on a flat track where BP XI players maintained a run-rate of four per over.

Shreyas Iyer (61 off 64 balls) was in the T20 mode, hitting five sixes, and he was especially severe on veteran spinner Devendra Bishoo (3/104 in 21 overs), who had the last laugh when a century looked like there for the taking.

During the second part of



the innings, Maharashtra batsman Bawne showed why he is such a consistent performer in domestic cricket with an unbeaten 116 off 195 balls with 15 boundaries. Bawne's hundred came off 153 balls.

The match was like a last trial for the Shaw-Agarwal pair, which have been prolific at the domestic and A level matches.

Shaw is likely to retain his

place in the squad for the Tests but it is not clear if Agarwal can make it, with the team management more inclined to pick Shikhar Dhawan for his prolific record on flat decks.

Shaw was quickly snuffed out by opposition pacer Shanon Gabriel, caught by Shimron Hetmyer, but Agarwal didn't let the tempo drop and hit the pacers on the up.

He hit some lovely drives

on both sides of the wicket. His half-century came off 73 balls as he added 82 runs for the third wicket with Nair.

Agarwal and Nair were out in quick succession but Iyer and Bawne added 113 runs in 25.2 overs for the fifth wicket.

BRIEF SCORES:
BP XI 360/6 decl in 90 overs (Ankit Bawne 116 no, Mayank Agarwal 90, Devendra Bishoo 3/104) vs West Indies.

We didn't capitalise when we had it under control: Mortaza

PTI ■ DUBAI

Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza rued his team's inability to capitalise on a good start but at the same time was proud of their performance after giving India run for their money in the title clash of the Asia Cup.

Opting to bat, a depleted Bangladesh (without Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan) got off to a great start as Liton Das and Mehidy Hasan stitched a 120-run stand for the opening wicket before losing their plot to be restricted to a modest 222.

Bangladesh bowlers, however, made a match of the low total before India sneaked home with a nervy three-wicket win in a last-ball thriller.

"Our boys should feel proud. I think we have to learn so many things. Every time we play a tournament like this, we are struggling somewhere or the other. Today we made a good start but couldn't go through. We had it under control, but we couldn't capitalise," Mortaza said after the game.

"Mortaza praised his bowling department but said the script could have been different had the spinners bowled well in the middle overs."

"In the last few matches, we lost early wickets but managed to score 240-250. I think the bowlers did a good job in the tournament. We are proud but



we have to move forward. Not having Shakib (Al Hasan) and Tamim (Iqbal) was a big blow, but I think boys have done a really good job," he said.

"If our off-spinners bowled well, the scenario would have been so different," Mortaza said.

He, however, said he can't blame his bowlers after his batsmen squandered a great opportunity to put up a big score on the board.

"(But) You would always back the spinners when you see the ball turning in the first

innings. Mehidy has bowled well throughout the tournament. Mahmudullah was good in the last game.

"We needed to get 10 overs from them, but we were struggling to do that. Apu (Nazmul Islam) could have bowled better. But you cannot blame the bowlers when the target is 223. I think all of you thought in the half-time that we won't be winning," Mortaza said.

The skipper said he would have ideally wanted one of the pacers -- Rubel Hossain or Mustafizur Rahman -- to bowl

Bangladesh praised for a fight

AFP ■ DHAKA

Bangladeshi media on Saturday lauded the national cricket team's spirited showing in the Asia Cup final after they went down to favourites India in a last-ball thriller in Dubai.

Opener Liton Das slammed his maiden one-day international century in Bangladesh's modest 222 but it was the bowlers who made India sweat in their nervy chase of the 50-over contest.

A 45-run sixth wicket stand between Ravindra Jadeja and Bhuvneshwar Kumar and a gritty 23-run unbeaten knock by Kedar Jadhav, who was limping due a hamstring injury, finally gave India a three-wicket win.

India, led by Rohit Sharma, could not rest until a leg-bye off the final ball of the innings completed their chase for their seventh Asia Cup title.

A Daily Star headline read: "Tigers falling agonisingly short."

"Despite the batting implosion after their brightest start of the tournament, it was a bowling effort that Bangladesh can be proud of as

they seemed out of the game on numerous occasions but clawed their way back each time," the country's biggest-selling English newspaper wrote.

Another English-language daily New Age headlined its report "Brave Bangladesh fall just short", with an accompanying picture of Mahmudullah lying on the pitch after he failed to accomplish a run out of Kumar.

The newspaper hailed Bangladesh's batting hero and man-of-the-match Das as "next big thing in Bangladesh" in a separate article, saying that with each stroke en route to his 121 off 117 balls, the 23-year-old batsman "showed his class".

Das set up the foundation for a competitive score but a mid-innings collapse saw Bangladesh slip from 120-0 to 151-5 before being dismissed in 48.3.

Meanwhile India, who went into the tournament without regular skipper Virat Kohli, relished their title win that comes after a 1-4 Test loss in England.

But former Indian cricketers praised Bangladesh for their fighting instincts that made the Asia Cup final an entertaining affair.

at the death but said situation didn't permit him to do so. "Mustafiz (Rahman) and Rubel (Hossain) bowled so well that if we could have given them the ball from the 46th over, I think even 25 runs could have been defended.

But it wasn't ideal situation," he said.

"I told (Mahmudullah) Riyadh that the only chance we will have is when they mis-hit one. We wanted Kuldeep (Yadav) to mis-hit one, because (Kedar) Jadhav is a recognised batsman. He would have better calculations. The inside edge off the fifth ball could have gone to the stumps. Actually, you need luck in these situations."

The skipper said Bangladesh were 30-40 runs short of what could have been a winning score on this wicket. "To be honest, we wanted a partnership when (Mahmudullah) Riyadh and Mushfiq (Mushfiqur Rahim) were batting. We were 120 in the 21st over. If we had scored low-risk cricket for the next 14-15 overs, we could have added 60-70 runs for the loss of one wicket," Mortaza said.

"Mushfiq couldn't execute well. The run-outs also hurt. Intent doesn't mean getting out playing big shots. You have to look after the batting after the good start. We should have scored 250-260 on this wicket."

Updated DLS System to come into effect from Sept 30: ICC

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Saturday announced updated versions of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) System and its Code of Conduct, which will come into effect from September 30.

The new version of the DLS, introduced in 2014, is based on information from 700 ODIs and 428 T20Is, which comprise over 240,000 outcomes of individual deliveries.

The update has been carried out following a detailed ball-by-ball analysis of scoring patterns, including in the Powerplays, in all limited overs internationals played during the previous four years, according to an ICC media release.

The latest analysis has revealed that teams have been able to extend their acceleration patterns for longer periods, and the average scores in ODIs have continued to increase.

This means that par score calculations will assume that teams will be able to score a slightly higher proportion of their runs towards the end of an innings.

In finalizing the updated version, the scoring patterns between ODI (final 20 overs) and T20 were analyzed, as were the scoring patterns

between men's and women's international matches.

The study has confirmed that in both cases, while overall scoring rates are obviously different, wicket-adjusted resource utilisation rates are essentially identical.

"As such, it has again been confirmed that a single version of the DLS System is compatible with all formats," the ICC said.

The cricket governing body also introduced new offences and changed the level of sanctions for few existing offences in its Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel.

The new additions include "attempting to gain an unfair advantage (cheating, other than ball-tampering) being made a Level 2,3 offence.

The maximum sanction for a Level 3 offence has also been increased from eight suspension points to 12 suspension points (equivalent to 6 Test matches or 12 ODIs).

With the World Cup less than a year away, the ICC has not made any major changes to the existing playing conditions.

All the changes will come into effect from September 30, when the first ODI between South Africa and Zimbabwe will be played in Kimberley.

Monaco slump again ahead of Champions League date

AFF ■ SAINT-TIENNE

Monaco slumped to their sixth defeat in all competitions this season when they lost 2-0 at Saint Etienne, a worrying setback just days before they face Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League.

Monaco, runners-up in Ligue 1 to Paris Saint Germain last season, remain third from bottom of the table with just one victory -- achieved on the opening day of the campaign -- to their name.

Friday's loss was Monaco's second defeat of the week after they went down 1-0 to Angers on Tuesday. That embarrassment prompted under-fire coach Leonardo Jardim to make seven changes to his starting line-up but the radical surgery had little effect.

Radamel Falcao wasted a handful of chances before Saint Etienne took a grip on the game.

Tunisian midfielder Wahbi Khazri opened the scoring four minutes before half-time when he latched on to a cross from



Norwegian teammate Ole Selnaes to beat Monaco goalkeeper Diego Benaglio.

Khazri added a second in the 54th minute for his 40th career goal in Ligue 1 and his fourth of the season.

"Defensively, we made mistakes for which we paid dearer, especially on Khazri's first goal," admitted Jardim.

"We need to pay more attention to these type of situations. In principle, if we have

six chances then we must score two or three goals but our players lack confidence."

Saint Etienne are now second in the table, six points behind PSG who have a perfect seven wins in seven games.

Murray ends season after Shenzhen quarters loss

AFF ■ BEIJING

Former world number one Andy Murray has brought his season to a premature end, pulling out of the China Open in Beijing after reaching the quarter-finals at the Shenzhen Open.

The 31-year-old Briton is battling to regain top form and fitness following hip surgery in January but British media including the BBC said that he has suffered a minor ankle problem.

Murray was not included when the China Open draw was made on Saturday and also absent was world number three Novak Djokovic, who was offered a wildcard.

The China Open -- which begins this weekend -- has been hit by several high-profile pull-outs with Rafael Nadal not involved because of injury, Roger Federer saving himself for Shanghai and Serena Williams all absent.

Murray, ranked 311 in the world, previously said that Beijing would be his final tournament this season and he is carefully managing his schedule following his operation in order to get the most out of his creaking body.

He was beaten 6-4, 6-4 on Friday in Shenzhen by Spanish veteran Fernando Verdasco, although he defeated world number 11 David Goffin in the last 16 for the best win since his comeback.

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam title winner, will spend the winter working himself back to the sort of fitness levels that saw him capture nine titles in a stellar 2016 campaign, including his second Wimbledon crown and another Olympic



gold. "It was another three matches, which is positive," said Murray after defeat to Verdasco.

"But obviously I want to play better than that, I have higher ambitions than losing in the quarter-finals. I want to try to be better in these events.

"I need to spend more time on the practice court and the gym so that I'm more robust and physically in better shape."

Juan Martin del Potro, the top seed in Beijing, will play Albert Ramos in his opener.

Kapur best Indian at T-12 after three rounds in Taiwan Masters

PTI ■ CHINESE TAIPEI

Shiv Kapur carded a sedate one-under 71 in the third round to stay as the best Indian after 54 holes at the Mercuries Taiwan Masters on Saturday.

Kapur was one-under through three rounds to be at T-12.

On another battling day, overnight co-leader Adilson Da Silva of Brazil edged closer to his long-awaited Asian Tour breakthrough after getting to a two-under 70 to grab the outright lead following the penultimate round.

Jeev Milkha Singh, who has been going through a tough period, was the next best Indian after Kapur. The Chandigarh golfer shot even par 72 and was one-over 217 for three rounds in T-18th place, where he was tied with SSP Chawrasia (71).

Shubhankar Sharma, who seemed set for a good score dropped two bogeys on his second nine and ended at 71 for the day and was T-30 at 3-over 219. Gaganjeet Bhullar (75) was 4-over 220 and T-34th.

The 46-year-old Brazilian, Da Silva, who claimed a second joint runner-up finish in the event 12 months ago, continued to bank on his past experiences as he carded four birdies against two bogeys to lead by one shot on five-under-par 211 total in the USD 850,000 event.

Home hero Lin Wen-tang raised the local hopes after signing for a 70 to share the second place with South African Justin Harding (71), young Thai Jazz Janewattananond (70) and Heungchol Joo of Korea (66) at the fabled Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

Motivate yourselves, Mourinho urges under-performing United

AFF ■ MANCHESTER

Jose Mourinho believes Manchester United have been found wanting for motivation in a difficult start to the season, but is expecting a big response from his side in Saturday's visit to West Ham.

United begin the weekend sitting seventh, eight points off the top of the Premier League, after defeats to Brighton and Tottenham and being held to a 1-1 draw at home by Wolves last on Saturday after three straight wins.

That was followed on Tuesday by elimination from the League Cup on penalties at home by Championship side Derby County after a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford.

"I sometimes feel frustrated because with the work we do, I'm always expecting more," said Mourinho on Friday.

"It looks that when we feel we are really improving and playing better and having a good run of results there is always a little going down in terms of the focus or the motivation. I feel



that." Mourinho has also had the distraction of a clash with midfielder Paul Pogba having stripped the Frenchman

of his role as vice-captain on Tuesday, and seen video footage of a standoff between the pair at training on Wednesday go viral.

The Portuguese insisted that Pogba will return to his starting line-up at the London Stadium having impressed with his attitude in training this week.

And unlike in recent times when Mourinho has been criticised for his negative outlook, he backed his side to beat a West Ham side on the up having won at Everton and held Chelsea in their last two league outings.

"I expect to win tomorrow. I expect to play very well tomorrow. We worked very, very well - especially on Wednesday and Thursday, so tomorrow I expect a very good performance and I expect to win a very difficult match," said Mourinho.

"I don't come here and say the training session was not very good, that the players are not committed and that I have a bad feeling."

Mourinho's problems with Pogba are just the latest in a series of fall outs

he has had with members of the United squad in just over two seasons in charge.

Luke Shaw and Anthony Martial have previously been in the firing line, but he refuted suggestions his players are struggling to deal with the demands of representing the 20-time English champions.

"I don't think any player is afraid to play for the club," added Mourinho.

"If I put myself in the position of a journalist, maybe people think that sometimes the boys are not committed, maybe people can think the manager doesn't demand enough from them, maybe people think on the training ground we don't train enough this area or that area. That's quite frustrating."

"But I repeat that tomorrow I think we are going to play very well, I think we are going to win a very difficult match against a very good opponent, an opponent with great investment, an opponent with a champion manager (Manuel Pellegrini) with lots of experienced players and lots of very talented players."

Former Argentina striker optimistic about future of Indian football

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Argentina and Barcelona striker Javier Saviola on Saturday said that he is optimistic about the future of Indian football.

The World Cupper said, "India has always been a sports loving nation. Historically, it has been a football playing and loving nation. In the last several years, we have seen this beautiful game regaining its glory with fervour."

"More so when it comes to the youngsters. If the young footballers are nurtured from an early age, India can produce world class and competitive footballers in the near future."

Speaking about Barca Academy in India, Saviola pointed out that its success is due to the growing demand for professional football training.

"Barca way of training is very popular globally. Our technique of teaching is not limited to the pitch but we spend time in classrooms to impart knowledge about the



game. At Barca academy, it is a holistic development of the young footballer that we stress upon.

"It is also very encouraging to see schools like Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurugram encouraging world class football training to young

footballers."

He added that in the last seven years, Barca Academy has opened centres across India and has extensively held camps to introduce young footballers to the Barca way of training."

The ex-Barcelona player, during his short visit to the

"MORE SO WHEN IT COMES TO THE YOUNGSTERS. IF THE YOUNG FOOTBALLERS ARE NURTURED FROM AN EARLY AGE, INDIA CAN PRODUCE WORLD CLASS AND COMPETITIVE FOOTBALLERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE"

Barca Academy at Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurugram interacted with over 500 young footballers from Barca Academy NCR.

According to him, "My interaction with the young footballers of Barca Academy reinforced my belief that given the best training, India has the potential to be a leading football nation in the world."

Saviola also formally announced Barca Academy, Gurugram as the destination for Barca Academy Asia Pacific Tournament between January 24-27, 2019.

The premier intra Barca Academy competition will have 50 international teams vying

for the honours in the mega tournament. Technical Director of Barca Academy, India, Aitor Olmo will be the Tournament Director.

Young footballers from across the world will be travelling to India to participate in the tournament, which will have teams participating in four categories -- Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15. Anu Jain, Director Conscient Football, said, "In 2011 when we partnered with FCBarcelona to bring in Barca Academy to India, we were certain that the partnership will change the way the game of football was perceived in the country."

Let's not lie, my goal was better than Salah's, says Ronaldo

MILAN: Cristiano Ronaldo believes the overhead bicycle kick he scored for Real Madrid against his current club Juventus last season was better than Mohamed Salah's which won the FIFA goal of the year award.

"Salah deserved to win the Puskas award, it was a good goal. But let's be honest, let's not lie to ourselves, my goal was the best," Ronaldo told his 142 million Instagram followers.

The 33-year-old Portuguese star lost out to former Real Madrid teammate Luka Modric for the FIFA best player award and to Liverpool's Salah for the Puskas Award for the best goal.

Salah won the award for his curling strike against Everton in the Premier League in December.

"I'm not disappointed, life is like that, sometimes you win and others lose, what interests me is that in 15 years of



career I managed to maintain the same levels of performance," Ronaldo said.

"Awards are awards... I already have a lot. I play to win and not to win awards."

Five days after the awards ceremony in London -- which he did not attend -- five-time Ballon d'Or winner Ronaldo hailed his former Real teammate, saying: "Congratulations to everyone, to Modric, best player of the year according to FIFA."

Ronaldo scored his acrobatic goal in the Champions League quarter-finals against Juventus before joining the Serie A giants just months later.

The reigning seven-time Italian champions take on Napoli in a top-of-the-table clash Saturday. Juventus lead Napoli by three points after six games.

"It will be a good game, we want to win against a great team, it's an important day," added Ronaldo.

Indian men crush Paraguay, women outwit Argentina

BATUMI: Viswanathan Anand recovered to post a clinical victory over Neuris Delgado Ramirez of Paraguay as Indian men posted an impressive 3.5-0.5 victory over Paraguay while the women also posted an identical win over Argentina in the fifth round of the 43rd Chess Olympiad now underway here.

Anand had lost his previous round game to American Fabiano Caruana and many pundits had predicted he will take a break, however the Indian ace decided to do what he knows best and in a mere 15 moves had a winning position on board. Anand was at his best in capitalizing his advantage and cruised home in quick time to record a smooth victory.

P Harikrishna was held to a draw in the longest game of the day by Indian men but way before that B Adhiban and

Krishnan Sasikiran had ensured that the team was secured of another victory. With this big win, the Indian men are back in the thick of things especially as the top seeded Americans were held to a draw by Israel while the fancied Chinese men suffered a shock defeat at the hands of Czech Republic.

At the top of the tables Azerbaijan tamed Armenia 2.5-1.5 while Poland proved better than France in their 3-1 triumph. With eighth points from five rounds, the Indian men can fancy their chances given the new developments.

The Indian eves are placed better following another triumph. D Harika survived a nearly lost position while the trio of Koneru Humpy, Tania Sachdev and Eesha Karavade did what was needed from them to cruise to an emphatic

victory.

The Indian eves took their tally to nine points out of a possible ten and look forward to a profitable campaign in the rounds to come. Having finished fifth in the last edition, the expectations this time are high as they are coached by Jacob Aagaard. One of the best known trainers in the world.

Indian Results round 5: India (8) beat Paraguay (6) (V Anand beat Neuris Delgado Ramirez; Guillermo Vazquez drew with P Harikrishna; B Adhiban beat Antonio Almiron; Paulo Jodorcovsky Werjivker lost to Sasikiran, Krishnan).

Women: Argentina (7) lost to India (9); (Carolina Lujan lost to Koneru Humpy; D Harika drew with Amura Claudia; Maria Florencia Fernandez lost to Tania Sachdev; Eesha Karavade beat Ayelen Martinez).

Record-setting Hamilton tops Sochi practice session

AFF ■ SOCHI

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton topped the times in record fashion as he and Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas dominated the third and final practice for Sunday's Russian Grand Prix.

The Mercedes men delivered a convincing one-two on a bright sunlit morning by the Black Sea where Ferrari again struggled to keep pace with the Silver Arrows.

Britain's defending four-time world champion, who leads Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel by 40 points in this year's title race, stormed to a fastest lap in one minute and 33.067 seconds - an outright lap record for the Sochi Autodrom.

This left team-mate Bottas trailing by nearly three-tenths of a second and Vettel, down in third, by six-tenths with the Sauber-bound Kimi Raikkonen taking fourth in the second



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain prepares in the pit garage during the third free practice at the Sochi Autodrom circuit in Sochi on Saturday

Ferrari. Dutchman Max Verstappen, who celebrates his 21st birthday on Sunday, was fifth for Red Bull ahead of team-mate Daniel Ricciardo and Ferrari-bound

Monegasque prodigy Charles Leclerc of Sauber.

Frenchman Esteman Ocon, who is expected to lose his seat at Force India despite a highly-promising season, was eighth ahead of Kevin Magnussen of Haas and Sergio Perez, in the second Force India.

The session followed confirmation from Toro Rosso that local hero Daniil Kvyat had been re-signed by the team for next season. It will be the Russian's third spell with the team.

Current Toro Rosso driver, Frenchman Pierre Gasly, is moving to replace Renault-bound Ricciardo at Red Bull.

"Toro Rosso has always made me feel at home and I'm sure it will still be the same next season," said Kvyat, who has been released by Ferrari where he was hired as a development driver.



'Village Rockstars is a people's story'

■ National Award winning film Village Rockstars has been nominated for an Oscar. What does this mean to you?

I never expected that it will get an Oscar nomination. It is a poignant tale of 10-year-old Dhunu, played by Bhanita Das, from a village in Assam, who dreams of forming her band and becoming a rockstar. It has become not just my film but of

many other who is taking it to various places. After the Oscar nomination, Village Rockstars has now become a mainstream film. PVR Vakaao is doing a special screening and has already been running houseful in theatres in Assam and other cities.

■ What's the response?

It has brought Kalardiya village in Chaygaon and its people into the lime-light. People in Assam always complain and have laid back attitude. They live in a comfort zone and have a carefree life. It took me four years to make this film. Initially, people from that village perceived Village Rockstars as just another film with no big screen ambitions. They had never got this kind of exposure and they can't believe the response they are getting.

They can't believe that they have become popular actors. The entire village is celebrating and every single person who has helped me to make this film has a sense of victory. Families are going to cinema halls to watch it. People are gifting tickets so that others can also go and watch it. This film is going to change a lot of things for me and many others.

■ Where did you get the inspiration?

Lack of basic infrastructure & resources will not stop me from making a film. I believe in making the best use of everything. Filmmaking is an art and emotions create magic. People inspire me. I follow my intuition to keep learning and improving my craft

The film sends a message that you can enjoy life to the fullest and that real happiness doesn't lie in materialistic things. How it is important to unlearn. When I shifted to Mumbai to learn acting and filmmaking, I realised that people were running after something or the other all the time. I was not able to adapt this culture.

People don't understand that Nature plays an important role in life. In the hustle and bustle of city life, you deprive yourself of the pleasures that you derive from Mother Nature. I am happy that the message that I wanted to give through this film has been conveyed to the audience worldwide.

■ You made this film on a shoestring budget. What compromises did you have to make?

I wanted space and freedom to make this film the way I wanted to. When you take money from others, there are many conditions that you have to adhere to. I shot this film with limited resources — one camera and natural light. Post production activities required a lot of money. I didn't compromise on the quality of my work. That is why it took a lot of time.

■ How was your experience working with children?

The relationship I developed with the

children is the most beautiful thing that happened through this project. I got to learn so much from them.

They have something which is very special and powerful. They were the ones who helped me in making all my film and they worked very hard for each shot. They were ready to support and if I need anything, they gave their best. We once had to shoot in a very remote area and told them to be careful. They turned around and said: 'Don't worry. We are your bodyguard and will be there around you all the time'. They have grown up now. When I look at them, I feel proud to see their development.

■ What is your style of filmmaking?

Lack of basic infrastructure and resources will not stop me from making a film. I believe in making the best use of the resources I have. Filmmaking is an art which has grown by leaps and bounds.

Advancement in technology has been the real driving force behind this. But I feel the emotion is the key that can take you places; something that no advancement can. I follow my intuition, learn and improve my craft. Each time, I try to do something different. People inspired me a lot.

Talktime

RIMA DAS

Basking in the success of Village Rockstars, which bagged 65th National Film Awards for Best Feature Film and is 2018's Oscar nomination from India, Das feels that she has a long way to go. This actor turned self-taught filmmaker talks to Sangeeta Yadav about finding her calling in filmmaking and her experience of making this film

Cinema's Govt handle

Sui Dhaaga promotes Government's Make in India and Skill India initiatives. This is not the first film to prop up official campaigns. Toilet Ek Prem Katha and Pad Man raised impactful issues and yet were commercial successes. SANGEETA YADAV looks at this trend

Call it a trend that has gripped Bollywood — telling realistic stories that connect with the audience, or a new formula to endorse Government initiatives. Filmmakers are picking up subjects that were once considered best suited for documentaries. Today, such initiatives have become money-minting subjects raking in hundreds of crores at the Box Office. From Shree Narayan Singh's Toilet: Ek Prem Katha on Swachh Bharat to R Balki's Pad Man on menstrual hygiene, to now Sharat Katariya's Sui Dhaaga on Make In India and Skill India campaigns of the Modi Government, people are going in droves to watch such movies.

For Katariya, the intent behind Sui Dhaaga was not to follow any trend or endorse a Government initiative but to tell a story that was realistic and connected with the masses.

"I never follow a formula or a trend. It was not my intent to make a film to endorse any Government initiative. It so happened that the story of my film was in sync with Skill India and Make In India initiatives. The idea was to tell the story of an underdog who trusts his talent and ability to start something of his own and the problems he faces in his start-up. It talks about how you should start small, go through big hiccups, survive and be hopeful for a bright future. It is the documentation of human spirit in a realistic way," Katariya asserts.

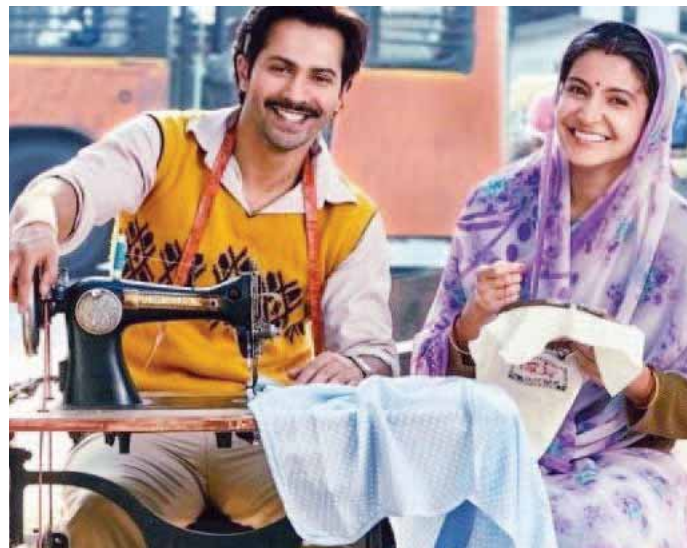
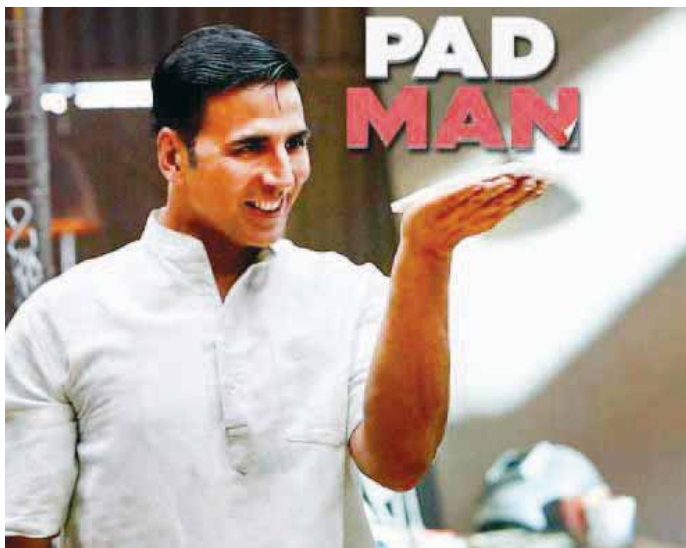
It was a chance encounter with a tailor in Noida which inspired Katariya to tell the story of tailors trying to make a living out of this profession and fulfilling their dreams.

"This story came to my mind after I saw a tailor in Noida who had his shop under a tree on the footpath. At the end of the day, he would lock his toolbox to the tree and go home. This gave me the idea for a story — that one should make film on a person like him who is trying to earn his daily bread," Katariya says.

The challenge with making such films is to not end up being preachy and boringly serious. "It was difficult to keep it simple and subtle instead of preachy and in your face. We didn't want the subject to become propaganda material and somehow we managed to stay away from such pitfalls. When you have actors like Varun Dhawan and Anushka Sharma, you don't have to bother about anything because they are very sharp," Katariya says.

Even Toilet Ek Prem Katha (TEPK), which is a satirical comedy in line with the Government's campaign against open defecation. Director Singh took inspiration from the real story of Anita Narre from Madhya Pradesh who refused to go back to her husband Shivram's home because it had no toilet. It was not an easy task to make a film on such a subject.

"TEPK could have gone wrong had it not been mounted well. The basic line of thought



(Clockwise): Stills from Pad Man, Sui Dhaaga & Toilet: Ek Prem Katha

to make a film was to create awareness on the subject which could have been narrated in just one line. To hold the audiences' attention for two-and-a-half hours was not easy. Therefore, a lot of effort was put into the development of the script," Singh tells you.

Starring Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar, TEPK entered the ₹300 crore club with a gross Box Office collection of \$43 million worldwide. It bagged awards like Best Film at Zee Cine Awards and many others.

However, Singh disagrees that there is a sudden rise in films endorsing Government initiatives. "There is no sudden rise. There is absolutely no fixed formula that is being followed today, unlike the films that were made between 1960-80s which had a basic formula. From the 80s, there was a change in the subjects. This was the time when movies on zamindars and dacoits did good business. The 90s saw stylised films which were more content driven. Today, the scriptwriters are given a basic brief about the subject and are expected to come up with an out-of-the-box storyline," Singh explains. He tells you that it was not as he got no Government support during the making of the film.

"It is only after the movie got rave reviews from all quarters that the film was made tax-free. The Government organised special screenings in sizeable numbers for those who had limited access to theatres. We organised a special screening for the Prime Minister as well. People take these issues seriously. I remember reading in newspapers that a girl from a village in UP refused a marriage proposal as the house had no toilet," Singh tells you.



IT WAS DIFFICULT TO KEEP IT SIMPLE AND SUBTLE INSTEAD OF PREACHY AND IN YOUR FACE. WE DIDN'T WANT THE SUBJECT TO BECOME PROPAGANDA MATERIAL AND SOMEHOW WE MANAGED TO STAY AWAY FROM SUCH PITFALLS

— SHARAT KATARIYA
DIRECTOR OF SUI DHAAGA

R Balki's Pad Man, inspired from the life of Arunachalam Muruganantham, a social activist from Tamil Nadu who introduced low-cost sanitary pads for rural women, created waves, especially on various social media platforms. Its impact was such that men posted pictures holding sanitary napkins in support of the film and the campaign. Government made sanitary napkins tax-free and showed this film in remote villages.

It is because of Sui Dhaaga that Dhawan and Sharma have been made the brand ambassadors of the Skill India Movement. To shoot this film, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan provided the infrastructure to the makers to shoot the film in Chanderi.

"Sui Dhaaga is a fairytale story. I hope that it is able to give hope to the people and helps them to trust their abilities and talent. This is the message in the film. Go with your gut and make a difference instead of doing what the society wants you to do. If a film is able to make a little difference in the lives of the people and society, my work is done," Katariya says.

It is not always about promoting Government initiatives. Filmmakers believe in bringing out the biggest issues in society and make a satire on it. After TEPK, Singh latest film Batti Gul Meter Chalu questions the Government propaganda of achhey din. "The inflated bill issue is something that almost everyone has gone through. Everyone can easily relate to this topic. I always was keen in bringing up issues which had mass appeal. It wasn't something done to ridicule the Government. The idea is to highlight an issue," Singh says.



'TV medium is too loud for me'

SAHIL ANAND, seen in the film Student of The Year, is back in a webseries Banned. He talks to SHALINI SAKSENA about his acting journey, among other things

■ What is the digital series Banned all about?

It is about four youths from Sirsa in Haryana. They have big dreams and what to make of their lives. They come together to form a band. Not that they know much but just their love for music. They have been handpicked for their raw talent — one plays the guitar to impress girls, another is on the pots and pans in a family-owned dhaba, another plays the harmonium at jagratas. The story is about these boys who get into a controversy and land in jail due to politics even though they are innocent.

■ Why this title?

This is because their band is not allowed to perform anywhere because they are history-sheeters.

■ What is your role?

I play guitarist Bhalla.

■ What were the challenges in playing a rustic character?

I didn't know how to play the guitar, an electric one at that! But I did my best to learn. Getting the Haryanvi accent was the other challenge. The series has four full-fledged songs, something unique to a webseries.

■ Why did you say yes to such a subject?

This is the age of webseries. The story of Banned intrigued me. It was something that most people would not have come across. It has twists and turns. Most subjects have one genre. This is a mix of love, drama, comedy and thrill.

■ How did your acting journey begin?

I am a B.Tech Engineer in Chandigarh when Roadies 4 came to the city for the first time. I went for the auditions for a lark and the fun of it attracted me to this line. I cracked it and my acting journey began.

■ You have done TV and films. Where does your comfort zone lie?

Definitely films! TV is too loud and over the top for me. Films are more real and one can find a connect with the character one plays. You get everything that you want.

■ But you did Bigg Boss.

Yes, I had done reality shows, TV and films and wanted to try my hand at being in the House since it is totally different from what I had ever done before. But it was not within my comfort zone. I can't fight, shout, rude or be OTT. We were being shot 24x7 but only an hour of footage is shown. My time inside was like a jail for me, maybe worse than that.

■ Do you have roles that you want to play within your comfort zone?

Not really. I want to do roles that I have never done before like that of an Army officer or that of a psychopath. I want to push myself and see what I do.

■ What do you love about this industry?

The most basic thing — the fame and the love of the people that comes.

■ What are the other projects that you are working on?

I do have a TV show in the pipeline and another webseries.

■ What makes the digital platform so popular?

Besides great content, it offers actors, who have not been able to make a mark in TV or films, to showcase their talent. Then there are some who are too big to do TV but want to be part of something meaningful. The digital platform gives them that opportunity.

—IANS

W E E K L Y N A T T E R

MASALA FILMS HOLY GRAIL OF MAINSTREAM CINEMA: RANVEER

Actor Ranveer Singh feels Masala movies are the holy grail of mainstream Hindi films, and is happy to step into the zone with Rohit Shetty's Simmba where he is playing flamboyant policeman Sangram Bhalerao. "Simmba is a full blown masala film and a complete entertainer. I believe masala films are the holy grail of mainstream Hindi films and is the king of all genres," Ranveer said.

The actor, who made his debut in 2010 with Band Baaja Baaraat, has proved his mettle in the various roles in Ladies vs Ricky Bahl, Lootera, Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela, Gunday, Dil Dhadakne Do, Bajirao Mastani & Padmaavat.

Talking about working with



Rohit Shetty, Singh said: "I'm very lucky and blessed that I'm under the guidance of the king of the genre. Rohit Shetty is the gold standard in the masala film genre."

I'm making a foray into this genre in his film so I could not get any better."

Singh says there are "exciting action sequences and great songs" in the film "and a very substantial story that is driving the narrative of the film. There is intense drama and bits of comedy. Just what you expect that a mainstream Hindi audience loves is that all these flavours come into one film and Rohit Shetty has crafted it so beautifully. So, we are hoping to set a new benchmark for this genre."

Also starring Sara Ali Khan & Sonu Sood & produced by Karan Johar & Reliance Entertainment, Simmba is scheduled to hit the screens on December 28.

MEN NEED TO STOP BEING THREATENED BY CHANGE: VARUN

There are calls to make gender parity a reality in the entertainment industry and Varun Dhawan feels men have an important role to play in this discourse. The actor says men should stop feeling threatened and work towards creating a better work environment for all.

"Men can be a big part of the dialogue and they should be a part of the change. I think men need to stop being threatened by this change. They should be more accepting about it. It is only going to be beneficial if there is equality, because, first & foremost, more talent will shine through. Let people come through on the basis of talent. Let us not discriminate just because of gender. Talent

should be the one that speaks the loudest and we have immense talent in our industry," added the actor, who stood up for his October co-star Banita Sandhu during the promotion of the movie.

Dhawan is back on the big screen as tailor named Mauji in Sui Dhaaga — Made in India. The Yash Raj Films production highlights the untapped potential of India's talented craftsmen and skilled workers at the grass-root level and the challenges and issues faced by them. "It is a film I'm very proud about and excited. Our siblings are our biggest critics. If the sibling likes the film, it is a very big deal," said Varun, who has a brother.

Since he has worked behind the camera, Varun

says knowing the technicalities of filmmaking is always helpful. "But knowing technicalities in a film like Sui Dhaaga — Made in India was not that helpful. Because this is almost about being free and being very raw. You kind of unlearn a lot of things. It is a raw and fun film. We were pretty much doing the things we wanted to do. As actors, we were given a lot of freedom," added Dhawan, who has been signed on to promote and endorse the Skill India Mission, and got associated with Indian textile major and fabric manufacturers Raymond along with Anushka.

The actor says the fear of failure is attached to every project, but he is confident about his latest movie. "I want a lot of people to go and watch my film and then I want to go grocery shopping with them," he said.

the pioneer agenda

I hate committing myself to anything. It's probably the lack of discipline. I'm a spoiled brat worried about getting my way every time
— Cameron Diaz



3 **Inside the Supreme Court**
Abhinav Chandrachud's *Supreme Whispers* makes the decorated annals of the hallowed Supreme Court accessible to lay readers



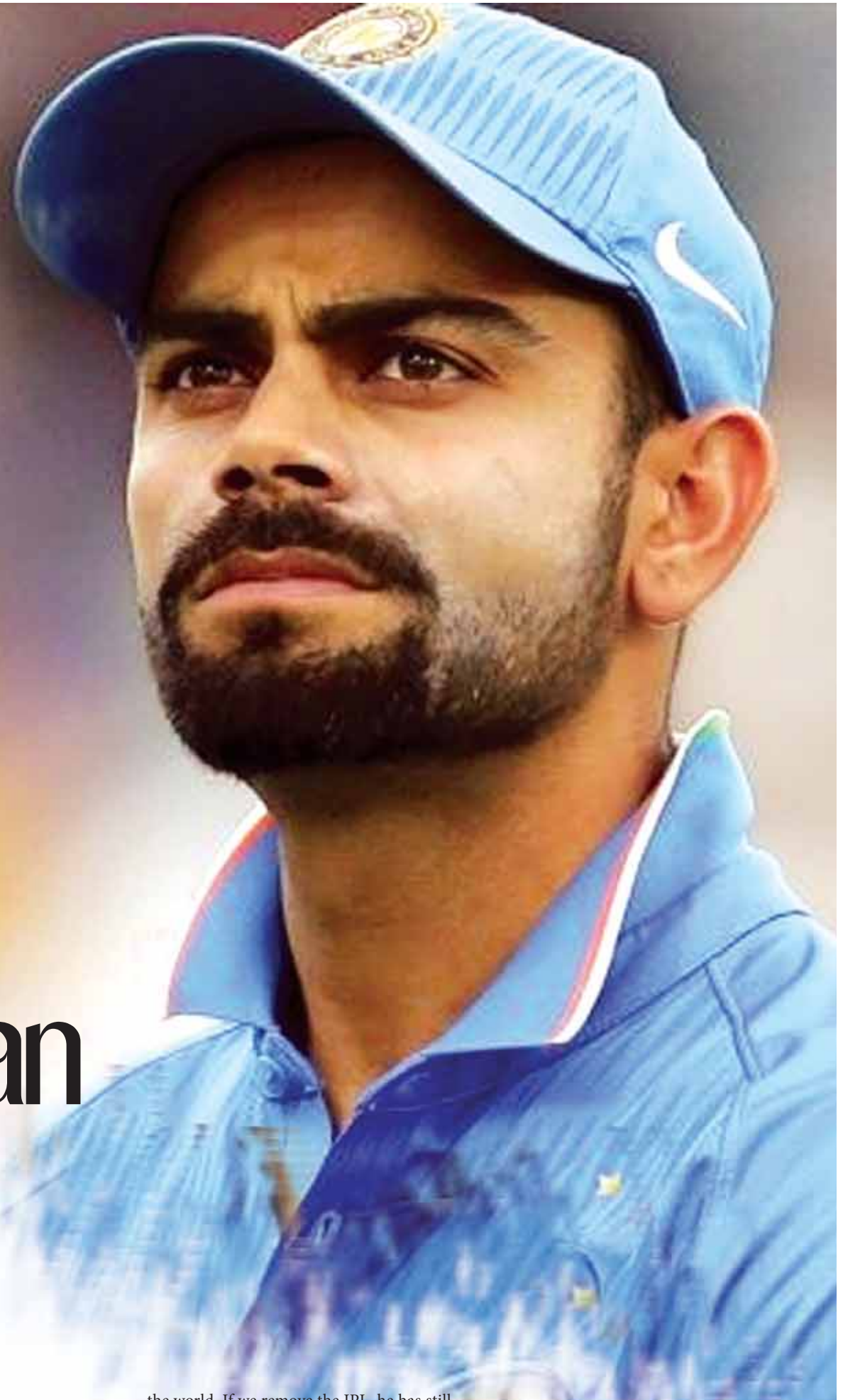
6 **Let the scaffolds fall**
Sri Lanka has performed well in developing its human capital. If its scaffolds fall, new leaders will be the social and political reformers



7 **Power of the Vedas**
The forces our actions are dominated by decide whether we will rise or fall. An understanding of the *Vedas* can help us choose the right path in life

Kohli is the top-end product of the modern game. At a time when Yo-Yo Tests have become more important than legacy, we should be willing to embrace the fact that we don't know what is happening. We have not seen anything like this before. We cannot predict what will happen next. So why don't we buckle in and see what Kohli — the batsman and the captain — has to offer, writes AAKASH AGGARWAL

Virat Kohli Captain vs batsman



July 13, 2002 — from my English Literature college classroom, where I first learnt that 'romantic' can mean something else apart from Shah Rukh Khan standing in Switzerland with his hands wide open and a silly smile on his face as the heroine runs excitedly towards him, I first heard about this character called Icarus. Belonging to Greek mythology, his story is one where he puts on wings made of feathers and wax and starts flying. He flies too close to the Sun and as you would expect, his wings melt and he has a great fall from the Sun to Earth and is crushed to death. This story can be seen as a lot of things: A warning against selfish ambition, perils of a foolhardy strategy, a cautionary tale that forbids you from going against conventional wisdom, a symbolic story about science and innovation and how man must not play God. However, surprising as it may sound for people who aren't familiar with the story, Icarus is celebrated by the Romantics. Their focus is on not how his wings melt and how he dies a horrifying death, but on the fact that he over-reached, he tried and he almost succeeded. They celebrate his spirit and strong will to try. As a cricket-crazy nation, as true Romantics, we need to celebrate this phase of Indian cricket and marvel at the genius of Virat Kohli while keeping self-doubt at bay.

I would like to believe that while gully-cricket playing days are long over and I am hardly able to find the time to watch a full day of a Test match like I once used to, my love for consuming cricket-related opinions is still alive and kicking. So, I have read the accounts of English players talking about how Kohli is their primary target, how he is a better batsman than what they saw in the last India tour of England, and how he reminds them of Sachin Tendulkar. I have read expert comments about his form and fitness, his criticality to the Indian team's totals, and his absence from the Asia Cup. I have read news articles about how India needs MS Dhoni's 'guiding' hand in Kohli's absence, how Hanuma Vihari is indebted to Kohli for giving him confidence in his Test debut, and what Kohli needs to learn about leadership. In fact, I have watched and read Kohli's interviews where he stoically defends his choices, where he tries to move the conversation about the team from self-praise and Anushka Sharma, and where he asserts that India has certainly not been outplayed in the England Test series.

The harsh reality is that the 4-1 score line certainly doesn't make you beam with confidence and is probably one of the key things that will haunt Kohli and the team on every overseas tour in the near future. If they lose

again, the England tour will be the benchmark to showcase consistently bad results. If they win, people will say, well it still isn't England. And then, of course, there is the most-loved schizophrenic comparisons that will continue to spring up: Virat Kohli, the batsman vs Virat Kohli, the captain. My humble suggestion would be to try, and for once, not do what we have always done and instead try something new: Soak in what is happening, understand the big transition that is currently under play for Indian cricket, and then take a close, hard look at Kohli again.

Let us first discuss what everyone seems to be discussing. The two statements that he has made in the recent past on which a lot of media ink has been spent. At a press conference after the series, he was asked by a reporter whether he still believes Coach Ravi Shastri's assertion that the current team is the "best in 15 years". Kohli responded, "We have to believe that, why not? What do you think?" To which the reporter replied that he's not sure and with a "that's your opinion", Kohli moved on. He did but the rest of India seems to have not. Remarks that suggest that he was arrogant, rude, angry, desperate and what not have played on TV news channels and splashed across headlines. I only want to brainstorm with you on what else could he have said to make it a reply that was approved by all. Should he have said, "What time did you ask Ravi? Was it in the evening? Never believe what he says in the evening..." or should he have said, "Best in 15 years? Well I thought so before the series. I now think that the 11 chosen team members that represent India on the cricket ground are a bunch of worthless talentless nincompoops"? He simply said that you are the best only if you believe that you are. He meant, as many self-help books tell you, that you must 'fake it till you make it' in the real world. Even when the reporter said that he wasn't sure that the 15-year claim was true, Kohli simply said that the reporter is entitled to his opinion and moved on to the next question.

Let's discuss his second statement, where he said that he will not be participating in the Asia Cup. He said, "The workload has started to disagree with me a little bit." People see this as someone choosing the series he wants to participate in, a self-admission that he is burning out, choosing to make money in cash-rich tournaments such as the IPL rather than representing the nation and what not. I would only want them to look at the numbers: Since the 2011 World Cup, Kohli has played more international matches than any other cricketer in

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the world. If we remove the IPL, he has still played a mind-boggling 287 games across the three formats. For a man who will clock his 30th year later this year, this is a lot. For any living person, this is too much. If he has decided to take a break to recharge the batteries, it would not be the craziest think to allow it. Think of Marcus Trescothick, Jonathan Trott, and most recently, AB de Villiers. If we have to choose a series over five years of international cricket, it would be a no-brainer.

Now to address the looming questions: Kohli is a great batsman, but is he a great captain? Is Kohli better than the team? Are we forcing Kohli to burn out before his time? My response to all those asking these questions is to request them to take a deep breath. I think an issue that may have needed attention would be if his performance had been significantly lower as a captain than as before. As we all know, even Sachin 'God' Tendulkar faced that challenge even if he doesn't care to admit it. But that is not the case. In 71 tests, Kohli has amassed 23 tons and 19 half-tons at a rate of 53.92 runs per match. But as captain, he seems to be in a different zone. In the 40 tests that he has played as the captain, he has scored 4,049 runs at an average of 64.26, with 16 100s and nine 50s. In fact, in ODIs, in 211 games where he has scored 9,779 runs peppered with 35 tons at an average of 58.2, as captain in 52 games, he has scored 3,059 runs with 13 tons at a much higher average of 82.67. Whether you say that he was made captain when he was in the best form or argue that this form won't last, one thing is for sure — he has taken on the captaincy challenge with élan and proven his critics wrong.

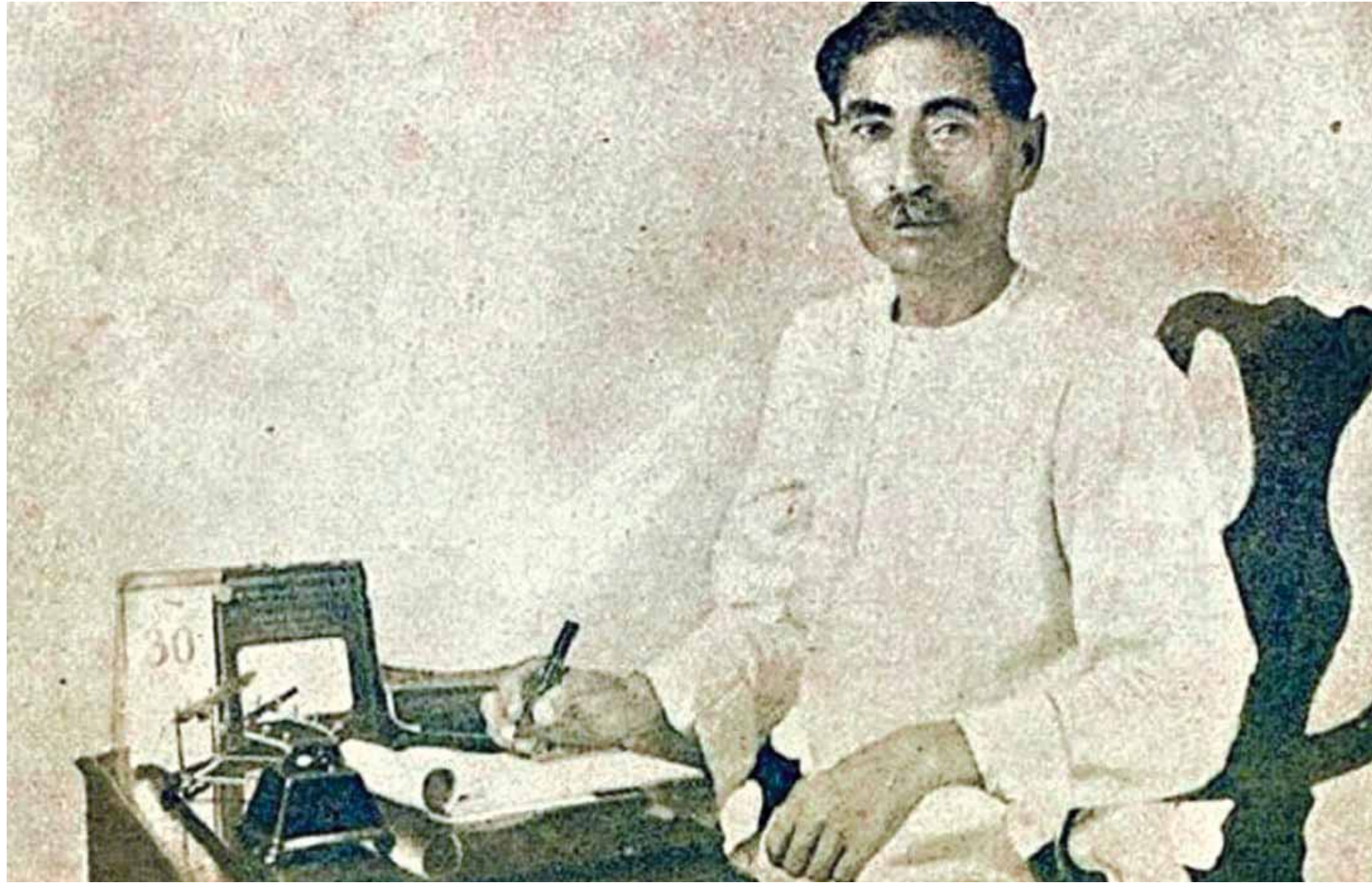
Doubts about his captaincy fade away when one stops putting him into the same mould of a previous captain. If we look at a previous generation, MAK Pataudi aka Tiger Pataudi first taught the Indian cricket team to roar; he was a leader of men. Sunil Gavaskar, the original master-blaster, laid the founda-

tion of a fast-bowling Indian team probably for the first time. Then came Kapil Dev — the tearaway fast bowler or the swashbuckling batsman — his real identity was as every man's Captain *Paaji*. He taught India how to snatch victory from the jaws of a loss. Mohammad Azharuddin, the stylish batsman, who relied heavily on Tendulkar, the batsman, and Anil Kumble, the bowler. Sourav Ganguly, the Prince of Kolkata, built the nucleus of a team that had the world's strongest batting line-up and the desire to perform at the highest level. With a fair sprinkling of experience and youth, he built the team that ruled the hearts of an entire nation. As an emotional, stubborn, and shrewd captain, his tenure saw the likes of Virender Sehwag, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan, and Yuvraj Singh spread their wings without the fear of being dropped after one bad performance.

And finally, Dhoni — the captain cool, the helicopter shot, the gambler, the finisher — rebuilt a team from the foundation that Ganguly had laid. Winning looked more possible and as one after another senior hung up their boots, the strength of a team — the sum total of 11 players — mattered for the first time. His game awareness and his ability to calculate the opponent's next move in pressure situations made him stand out and he is still loved more than any other player. All of these great captains came into their own over a period of time. Their trademark styles, their preferred team combinations and personal performances became known over long years.

THE WORLD OF PREMCHAND

A collaborative enterprise of around 70 translators working on 300 stories, the project boasts of several short stories being presented in English for the first time. Jamia Millia Islamia Professor M Asaduddin shares with KALYANEE RAJAN the journey of the making of these volumes, the unique characteristics, and his future projects



struggle, women empowerment, caste injustice, Hindu-Muslim relations, life in the village and the city — these are some of the themes that occur in Premchand's works again and again. He treats these themes from different angles. No aspect of the society of the time has remained untouched in his fiction. It is possible to recreate a comprehensive picture of contemporary Indian society from Premchand's fiction and non-fiction.

Premchand had to face enormous censorship during his time. In these times, we are faced with lingering, uncomfortable questions of freedom of expression with respect to both the citizen and the litterateur. What would be your observations? Premchand was writing under a repressive colonial regime where there was very limited freedom of speech and expression. His first volume of stories, *Soz-e-Watan* (*The Dirge of the Nation*) was banned by the British Government. Later in life, he had to submit a security deposit of ₹1,000 (a substantial sum) several times at the mere whiff of writing political material in his two journals. Premchand was a popular writer, who had extraordinary reach and penetration, and hence, the nervousness of the colonial Government was understandable. Today, we live in an independent country and Premchand would have expected every citizen of India to enjoy freedom of thought and expression in full measure. The recent phenomenon of intolerance of each other's views and faith and ideology would have pained him deeply. Right through his life, he fought all kinds of narrowness and sectarianism, and never made any compromise with the forces of obscurantism.

What are the difficulties faced by translators today? Specifically in terms of their engagement with the language, do translators get the freedom to translate as is, without mediation and are they able to express the topical, historically rooted themes and idioms, however controversial they may sound, in the globalised, modern world of today? As far as translation is concerned, more specifically translation from Indian languages into English, India is passing through a good phase. The entire nation seems to be engaged in translating India into English. The general axiom that one usually translates into one's own mother tongue has been turned on its head in India. The multi-lingual nature of our society and polity requires that we must translate into English in order to make our own literature accessible to a pan-Indian and foreign readership. For various reasons, Indian literature in English translation is in great demand today. It has grown both in volume and quality over the past couple of years. The art of translation has been the subject of countless seminars in the country. It is now being studied as an academic subject with potential for jobs. All this has contributed to making the art of translation and the discourse around it more nuanced, refined, and complex. The environment in India is now quite conducive for an aspiring translator.

You have been awarded by the Sahitya Akademi for your translation of Ismat Chughtai's *Kaghazi Hai Pairahan*. You have contributed extensively to the Premchand Scholarship. What are your current and upcoming projects? I have recently completed translating a collection of animal stories by Syed Muhammad Ashraf. This was sponsored by Aleph Books and is being published this summer. Then there is a project by Penguin Random House to translate a comprehensive collection of stories by Intizar Husain, the foremost Pakistani writer. I have also been approached for a re-translation of Premchand's *Godaan*. So much needs to be done, and the time at one's disposal is so limited.

What are some of the recurring themes in Premchand's short stories and do you believe he fleshed them out to a logical culmination? Does he leave some of them unresolved or unsatisfactorily done? The plight of the common people, exploitation of the marginalised sections of society, agrarian distress and peasants' struggle, women empowerment, caste injustice, Hindu-Muslim relations, life in the village and the city — these are some of the themes that occur in Premchand's works again and again. He treats these themes from different angles. No aspect of the society of the time has remained untouched in his fiction. It is possible to recreate a comprehensive picture of contemporary Indian society from Premchand's fiction and non-fiction.

Premchand: The Complete Short Stories, published in four volumes by Penguin Random House, has been edited by author, critic, and translator in several languages M Asaduddin. A collaborative enterprise of about 70 translators working on 300 stories, the project boasts of several short stories being presented in English for the first time. Taken together, the volumes constitute 3,264 pages of dense printed material, running into more than 1,500,000 words. The volumes present Premchand's entire short-fiction oeuvre for the delight of the English-speaking world.

Along with a comprehensive foreword by Harish Trivedi and an extensive introduction by the editor, M Asaduddin, this pathbreaking anthology features several stories not hitherto available either in Hindi or Urdu. Also included are comprehensive notes that provide the publication history of each story — highlighting the differences, sometimes significant and radical, between the Hindi and Urdu versions of the same story — as well as a definitive chronology, making this a truly singular collection. Prof M Asaduddin shares the journey of "the making" of these volumes as it were, the unique characteristics, and his future projects.

Premchand: The Complete Short Stories in four volumes is a massive project. Please tell us about its inception and the journey.

It all started as a part of the UGC-SAP-DRS project awarded to the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi) in 2004. But as happens with such ventures, it met several roadblocks along the way and at one time it seemed that it would never be completed. It remained in limbo for quite a few years until I managed to revive it in 2016 and gave it a major push. I always felt that it was a work that needed to be done, and failure to complete the project would have meant a major setback to the Premchand Scholarship.

What were the major challenges before you, both as an editor and a translator, as you embarked upon this ambitious project?

The foremost challenge was to gather a large number of translators with adequate bilingual competence and knowledge of cultural nuances. We organised quite a few workshops to train translators in honing their skills. Translators came to several rounds of three-day workshops with their translations and worked with mentors to polish and finalise them. Special lectures were organised during the workshop to familiarise translators with the cultural world of Premchand and the peculiarities of his style. Premchand was not simply writing in Urdu and Hindi, but fashioning modern prose in these languages. As an editor, my challenge was to see that there is some stylistic uniformity, given such a large number of translators and each translator having his own individual style.

What are some of the unique features of this set of short stories compared to existing translations?

The four volumes, for the first time, endeavour to present the entire corpus of Premchand's short stories in English translation. A proper chronology has been established by painstakingly exploring the publishing history of each story. This has never been done earlier. Before this, there were several anthologies in circulation — good, bad, and indifferent — that showcased a limited number of stories, mostly less than 20. They were awfully inadequate to give the reader an idea of the range and complexity of the writer. The current volumes address this inadequacy.

However, the most unique feature that sets these volumes apart from any other existing volume is the fact that they have combined both the Hindi and Urdu versions wherever such versions exist. Typically, most of the other volumes used only the Hindi original, and in doing so, they presented only a partial version of Premchand's larger vision. It is because of this that the volumes are expected to give a fillip to Premchand studies — by presenting both versions and also by making available materials that were not available earlier.

What kind of archival sources did you need to access and what were some of the challenges you faced while locating and accessing the primary texts?

The editions of Premchand's work in Hindi and Urdu that claim to be definitive are not definitive at all. There are differences among versions. As far as possible, my effort was to track down sources where the stories were first published. For instance, a large number of his stories in the first phase were published in *Zamana*, an Urdu journal published from Kanpur. Fortunately, I could lay my hands on all the *Zamana* files from the Premchand Archives at Jamia Millia Islamia that contained these stories. Similarly, I tried to access archives in Pakistan and the US for other stories. In the process, some new stories were discovered from these sources that are not available in any of the existing collections of Hindi and Urdu, not to speak of English.

How far do you think Premchand is relevant to the current literary and socio-political scenario?

Premchand is considered the greatest writer in Urdu and Hindi, with respect to both his popularity and the range and depth of his corpus. His enduring appeal cuts across all barriers of class, caste, and social groups. In fact, few, or none of his contemporaries in Urdu-Hindi, have remained as relevant today as him, in the contexts of the women question, Dalit discourse, Gandhian nationalism, Hindu-Muslim relations, and the current debates about the idea of India that is inclusive of all groups and denominations irrespective of caste and creed. Hence this project, which not only places Premchand's short fiction in a reliable chronological order, but also underscores the need to revisit Premchand in the light of the new materials that have been discovered.

Please talk a bit about Premchand, his life and times, and Premchand as a writer.

When Premchand began to write in the opening decade of the 20th Century, novels and short stories, as we understand in the modern senses of the terms, were yet to emerge. The atmosphere of *dastan* or prose romances hung heavy on fiction writing in Hindi and Urdu. It can be seen in Premchand's early stories too. But he soon grew out of it and made his fiction more socially relevant by giving it the hard, gritty texture of realism. In this sense, he can be regarded as the father of modern fiction in both Urdu and Hindi. The Hindi-Urdu controversy was virulent at the time, vitiated as it was with rank communalism and the Hindu-Muslim relations had touched their lowest depth. It goes to the credit of Premchand that he negotiated all this

with courage and conviction, untouched by any kind of sectarianism. It was nothing less than heroic, given the vitiated atmosphere of the time.

Since you have been working on Premchand for quite some time now, could you briefly touch upon what has been the history of translations of Premchand's oeuvre in India and abroad?

A limited number of Premchand's stories have been translated into all Indian languages. Some of his popular stories, like 'Idgah' and 'Boodhi Kaki', have been a part of school syllabi in every part of the country. So most of the educated Indians have encountered Premchand either in their schools or at some stage in their lives. Six out of his 14 novels have been translated into English so far. Quite a few anthologies of his short stories in English have also been published. As far as translation of Premchand's works in foreign languages is concerned, I have dealt with this in a volume, *Premchand in World Languages* (Routledge), edited by me. Preference for Premchand's work picked up for translation was, in most cases, determined by the ideology and the image of India that the translators wanted to project through their translations. Premchand was hugely popular in the Leninist and Stalinist Russia, presumably because of his concern for the underdogs and marginalised sections of society.

Premchand translated quite a few foreign writers during his lifetime. What were his objectives in translating them? What are the kind of concerns you engage with while encountering his own translations or translations in his own lifetime?

Premchand translated Leo Tolstoy, the Russian maestro, Maurice Maeterlinck, the Belgian-French writer, and Charles Dickens and George Eliot, the English Victorian novelists. He also translated John Galsworthy. In each case, the choice of his texts was driven by ideological impulse. He translated Tolstoy's short stories for their simple morality and folk wisdom that appealed to him. He translated Maeterlinck's play *Les Aveugles* (as *Shabe Tar Yaani Andheri Raat*), as he found the play extremely relevant in post-Jallianwala Bagh India, and he translated Eliot's *Silas Marner* (as *Sukhdas*) because he felt a special affinity with the protagonist's simple view of life. In all these cases, his translations were fairly close to the originals. However, when he rendered his own novels and short stories from Urdu to Hindi or the other way round, he often took recourse to rewriting, changing them significantly in the process. One can mention the novel *Sevasadan* (*Bazar-e Husn* in Urdu) and the short stories, 'Pooos ki Raat' or 'Mritak Bhoj' as illustrations.

Premchand's stories are marked by a stark, ruthless realism mingled with a great deal of idealism. How do you think, as a writer, Premchand viewed the world around him and what kind of solutions did he offer, if any? The best of Premchand's stories deal with social inequities. It will not be incorrect to say that the readers of Hindi and Urdu fiction encountered such stark realities in literature for the first time. His idealism consists of his belief in the goodness of human heart and the possibility of human beings transforming themselves. Quite a few of his stories attain denouement through the strategy of change of heart of the protagonist. Yet, it will be fair to say that Premchand was aware of the human potentiality for both good and evil in equal measure.

What are some of the recurring themes in Premchand's short stories and do you believe he fleshed them out to a logical culmination? Does he leave some of them unresolved or unsatisfactorily done?

The plight of the common people, exploitation of the marginalised sections of society, agrarian distress and peasants' struggle, women empowerment, caste injustice, Hindu-Muslim relations, life in the village and the city — these are some of the themes that occur in Premchand's works again and again. He treats these themes from different angles. No aspect of the society of the time has remained untouched in his fiction. It is possible to recreate a comprehensive picture of contemporary Indian society from Premchand's fiction and non-fiction.

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FROM PAGE 1

Kohli is not these men. He is Virat Kohli. He is the player that Gavaskar described as the best under-22 player in the world. He is the batsman that Tendulkar named as the one who he expects will break his record. And he is the same person who was defined by his trademark on-field and off-field outbursts. His uncontrolled aggression, his fights with opposing teams, the abuses that he hurled on-camera seem to have become a thing of the past. His new-found success in Tests indicates that he is more patient. Yes, Kuldeep Yadav and Hardik Pandya flopped. Yes, playing an Ashwin while he was injured was questionable. Yes, saving Ravindra Jadeja for the last Test was probably too late.

Virat Kohli: Captain vs batsman

What if none of this happened — Yadav and Pandya succeeded. Ashwin didn't get injured, and Jadeja played from the first match onwards? Unless Paul the Octopus is reading this, I can surely say that you and I will never know.

And isn't that saying something? Not knowing? Getting to know as the match progresses. Biting your nails as a gamble pays off. Sitting on the edge of your seat as someone goes against conventional wisdom? That is what keeps you in the



game. Kohli is the top-end product of the modern game. At a time when bodies are leaner and pay cheques fatter, where probably the maximum amount of cricket is being played, where Yo-Yo Tests have become more important than legacy, we should be willing to embrace failures and be open to wait long enough to see new captains come into their own, it will remain like the punishment meted out to King Sisyphus. Our cricket captain will be the Sisyphus rolling the boulder of our expectations up the hill with all his efforts, only for it to fall back, making him repeat the endless punishment.

Indian cricket team captaincy has always been a thankless job. In my cricket-watching tenure, I have seen Tendulkar giving it up, Ganguly blame his hair loss and greying hair on it, Kumble bowing out of it, and Dhoni being loved and hated with equal measure. It's tough, but unless we learn to embrace failures and be open to wait long enough to see new captains come into their own, it will remain like the punishment meted out to King Sisyphus. Our cricket captain will be the Sisyphus rolling the boulder of our expectations up the hill with all his efforts, only for it to fall back, making him repeat the endless punishment.

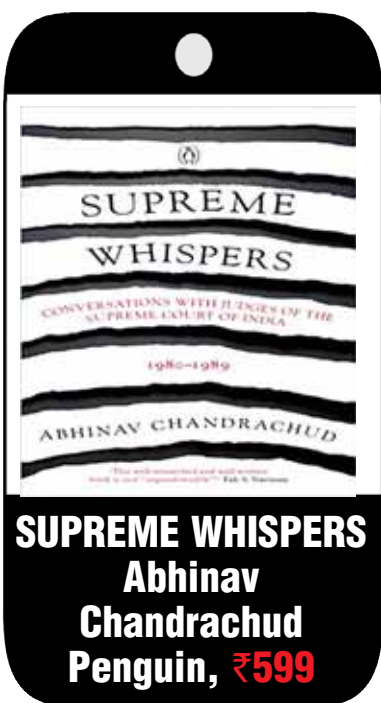
The writer is a communications professional and a cricket lover



HINDUSTAN HAD BECOME FREE. PAKISTAN HAD BECOME INDEPENDENT. BUT MAN WAS A SLAVE IN BOTH COUNTRIES — SAADAT HASAN MANTO

INSIDE THE SUPREME COURT

This book makes the decorated annals of the Supreme Court, to a certain extent, more accessible to a lay reader, says **KALYANEE RAJAN**



acquired during his PhD work at Stanford University Law School with practical knowledge handed over through generations, Chandrachud in this second book (the first was *Republic of Rhetoric: Free Speech and The Constitution of India*, Penguin 2017) strives to analyse and bring to the fore an insider's view of the Supreme Court — a space as dynamic and full of upheavals as its contrasted public image of grave stillness, seclusion and absolute state of orderliness. The six chapters open up the several sites of con-

testations within, the infusion of politics both subtle and above board, the legal culture within the court, the process of appointments and work-distribution, its own thorough procedure of decision-making, and above all, the supremely guarded lives and times of the judges who are at all times expected to preside over fellow humans from the pedestal.

It is evident that even in the best of times, such a book is tremendously difficult to write. There is an enormous potential of such a project firing controversies

and breach of confidentiality, admittedly it is the "supreme" law which binds the nation state and guards its sanctity with respect to its duties towards its subjects as well as the mundane inter-relationships between the subjects themselves, and chinks or crevices if any in the heart of the highest court of law need to be treated with utmost delicacy. Abhinav Chandrachud's narrative and analysis treads this edge of a sword path with enviable precision: While he has classified the contents of the interviews thematically,

the several sub-sections of each chapter add extra layers to the discussion waiting for a discerning reader to reach the crux of each revelation therein. Many potentially debatable statements made by the Supreme Court Judges in their free-wheeling interviews are shrewdly denied further analysis while they are utilised to arrive at general, broad deductions. The book contains a 17 pages long introduction which neatly holds the book together apart from laying a solid foundation for the six chapters that follow, titled 'Judicial Rivalries', 'Disagreement without Dissent', 'Special Leave, a Special Burden', 'Decliners', 'The Fictional Concurrence of the Chief Justice' and 'Criteria for Selecting Judges' respectively, along with coloured plates of some of the judges and personalities mentioned in the book, and finally a whopping 86 pages of fastidiously compiled end notes.

The first chapter titled 'Judicial Rivalries' runs into 44 pages and discusses the "intense professional, ideological and personal rivalries" between the judges of the Supreme Court, especially those between the CJI and the senior most judge or the second in command or the Puisne judge, on issues such as the true role of a judge whether as arbiter of disputes or as an activist, matters relating to succession, post-retirement positions or in general, a day-to-day distribution of work at the court. In Chandrachud's words, "the stories of these rivalries and disagreements are immensely valuable...because they stand in stark contrast to the general lack of dissent in the Supreme Court's decision-making..." The relatively shorter 21 page long second chapter titled 'Disagreement without Dissent', through specific case studies reveals a "puzzling lack of dissent in the day-to-day decision-making of the court" despite the dazzling display of intense rivalries between the judges. A similarly short third chapter titled 'Special Leave, a Special Burden', is very informative as it traces the history and development of the Special Leave Petition or the SLP as it is popularly called, through the colonial times of the Privy Council to the current day Supreme Court and the growing backlog of such SLPs pending before the court. It also sheds light on the growing absence of dissenting judgments being written at the Supreme Court due to a severe shortage of time. The fourth chapter titled 'Decliners' makes a case for those lawyers and judges who have declined "offers of elevation" to the Supreme Court on various counts such as varying pay package and the contrast in prestige as chief justice of a prominent High Court versus that of a Supreme Court Judge. Chandrachud deserves rousing accolades for giving a fresh lease of life to the extensive Gadbois interviews.

NEW ARRIVALS

THE RABBIT AND THE SQUIRREL
Siddharth Dhanvant
Shanghvi
Penguin, ₹399



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

TIDES DON'T CROSS
Simar Malhotra
Rupa, ₹250



Sparks fly immediately when Rukmani — fierce and assertive in the best and worst possible ways — meets the gentle Ayaan in the magical city Paris. Meanwhile, back in India, her reticent sister, Mrinalini struggles to cope with the void of a loveless marriage and an early pregnancy. *Tides Don't Cross* follows these extremely interesting characters as their lives cross in surprising ways. Mrinalini, Ayaan and Rukmani wade through choppy tides, unaware of their common destiny. This is an unforgettable story of thwarted desires, of love and its loss.

FLIRTING WITH STOCKS
Anil Lamba
Westland, ₹799



This book introduces the uninitiated to the world of share markets. Acclaimed financial expert Dr Anil Lamba begins with the basics of how the investment cycle works, and builds up to the nitty-gritties of bulls and bears, mutual funds, kerb trading, badla finance and share-price fixing. Included also are case studies on asset bubbles and insider trading that are lessons for potential investors on how to make money while minimising risks. Written in Dr Lamba's characteristic lucid style, this book makes stock market investing a non-intimidating, fun activity.

A white knight for elephants

This book shows how author Mark Shand made a case for Asian elephants — the gentle giants who were struggling to survive in India, writes **GAUTAM MUKHERJEE**

Mark Shand, overflowing with an endearing, if aristocratic, noblesse oblige, British upper class, was the late brother of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, the future queen of England. After an epic journey through rural Odisha, as newly trained White mahout, atop his female Indian elephant, christened Tara, he wrote this wonderful book that captivated the world.

It was published first in 1991, became an iconic bestseller, won Shand the Travel Writer of the Year Award. It became the purpose, via his charity, Elephant Family, which evolved from this journey, of the rest of his relatively short life. It is however a toss-up between being a book about travel, camping, rivers, ponds and architectural monuments on the way, and the relationship between Shand, his educated Marathi companion Aditya, his frequently drunk mahout teacher Bhim, a couple or three other assistants, Gokul, Idrajit, Khusto, and the very expressive thirty odd year old elephant.

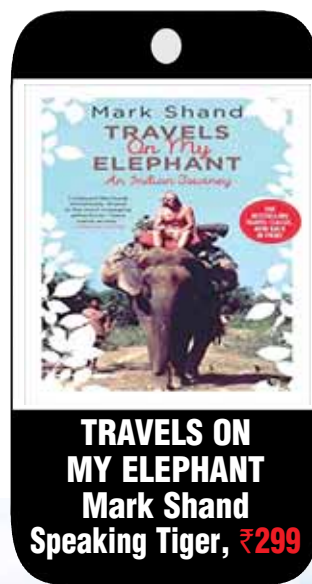
The elephant, in particular, scrawny, under-fed, injured from ill-fitting leg irons, is rescued by Shand when he buys her for ₹1,01,000 when that meant 4,000 pounds sterling. There is also some of an Englishman's musings over the onward progress of a beloved former colony, a patchwork of social and cultural history, and amusing anecdotes and conversations with the people Shand met along the way. Of course, he keeps saying how well everyone, particularly in officialdom, treats him and his entourage. And well they might, given his own eminence, that of his exalted friends, and the officials, including the police, tasked to help him along the way.

Through it all, there is a genuine eagerness to learn, contribute, and share, that sparkles through the narrative. This was one Raja-Sahab, who wasn't afraid of laughing at himself and the sight he presented. There he was, stripped to the waist, bandanna on head, rocking on his cushioned howdah, callused and bleeding bare toes used to steer the elephant from behind its ears. Shouting out bravely, doing the best he could with Hindustani mahout commands.

From a life of begging and party tricks, going

largely hungry for half the year when it wasn't being used at weddings, Tara gradually develops an unmistakable mischievousness, dignity, and grace under the ministrations of Shand.

Time and again Tara escapes, particularly when being given a bath, and has to be coaxed back with the intuitive moves suggested by Bhim the senior mahout, sometimes, even after going AWOL for a night or two. And so, they travel, at a pace of perhaps four miles an hour. Mark Shand, died in 2014, at the age of 63. But before he passed on, he had already raised more than 10 million pounds sterling to help the survival of the Asian elephant, under pressure from growing urbanisation and destruction of its habitat. The money has been used, mostly in India, to relocate and resettle people living in the jungle and to facilitate the creation of elephant corridors so that the pachyderms can move about freely from one protected forest to another.



TRAVELS ON MY ELEPHANT
Mark Shand
Speaking Tiger, ₹299

It all began with the journey described most engagingly in this book. A progress through rural Odisha, from near the Sun Temple at Konark, facilitated by current Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, a personal friend of Shand's, to the elephant fair at Sonpur in Bihar.

At the Sonpur Mela, both master Shand, and Tara the elephant, by now deeply loved by Shand, are terrified at the prospect of selling Tara. Providentially however, Shand is able to find Tara a home at the Wrights, old India hands, of Tollygunge Club fame, who were at the fair because they needed an elephant for their resort and reserve, Kipling Camp in Madhya Pradesh.

Shand kept tabs, and went, more than once, to visit Tara, whom he credited with saving his "life", presumably from the pursuit of non-stop hedonism. He is recognised by the elephant and finds her well looked after, content, every bit the pampered princess. "She wakes up, eats, sleeps,

swims, has a massage, eats and

then goes back to bed-day in, day out".

It is not as if Mark Shand did not try his hand at various adventures. He went to Bali to sail a yacht to retrace an old romance starring a WWII pilot called Tyler, who settled with many *apsara*-like local wives on an island called Renill — but unfortunately in the face of a typhoon. And then, there were travels on the moody Brahmputra.

But in retrospect, it is animal conservation — mainly the Asian elephant, that became the nub of Mark Shand's lasting contribution. The relevance of this book, even 23 years after it was first published, was brought home by a recent news report on six elephants rescued by the authorities, two of them quite ill, being used illegally in Delhi by people who rent them out for weddings.

It is, as if, nothing has changed for elephants ever since heavy machinery and tanks put them out of their primary business. Gone are the days when they moved logs, though they still might be doing so in Asia Pacific rain forests. But certainly, the days of Hannibal and Porus and their war elephants is long gone. Now elephants are used in temple processions in South India, weddings all over the country to symbolise the God of new beginnings, and to amuse tourists.

Taking in elephants out of such servitude however, is easier said than done. Each elephant needs at least 1.25 acres of space, and lakhs of rupees to look after. They need specialised feed and care to thrive. To send such urban elephants back to the wild, apart from posing transport problems, needs a period of gradual psychological rehabilitation as well. Still, there is work that must be done urgently.



PERSPECTIVE

Can Solih, Mahathir redeem anti-China poll campaign vows?

Three Muslim-majority Asian countries — Malaysia, Pakistan, and the Maldives — have elected leaders who campaigned on a promise to temper China's growing influence in their respective countries, but analysts say reducing the foothold of the world's second-largest economy won't be easy because of the billions of dollars in development projects that are already underway.

The surprising elections in recent months of nonagenarian Mahathir Mohamad in Malaysia, cricketer Imran Khan in Pakistan and longtime Opposition lawmaker Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the Maldives buck a regional trend toward authoritarianism, and could present an obstacle for Chinese President Xi Jinping's hallmark "Belt and Road Initiative".

"The projects are not free aid from China, but an economic cooperation, a kind of business deal," said Zhao Gancheng, a Shanghai Institute of Foreign Studies researcher. New governments in Malaysia, Pakistan and the Maldives are free to decide they no longer want Chinese investment in these projects, Zhao said, but they should be prepared to compensate China accordingly. How newly elected Governments could buy their way out of China's grasp remains to be seen.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia's former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad led an Opposition alliance to a stunning victory in May 9 elections, ushering in the country's first change of power since the country's independence from Britain in 1957. It led to a political earthquake for Malaysia, sweeping aside the Government of Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose reputation was tarnished by a monumental scandal and the imposition of an unpopular sales tax that hurt his coalition's poor rural supporters.

Mahathir, 93, was credited with modernising Malaysia during his 22-year rule that ended in 2003 but was also known as a heavy-handed leader who imprisoned opponents and subjugated the courts. Angered by the graft scandal involving the IMDB state investment fund, Mahathir emerged from political retirement and joined the Opposition to oust Najib. Mahathir, the world's oldest elected leader, has reopened investigations into IMDB and banned Najib and his wife from traveling abroad. Najib is facing 32 charges of criminal breach of trust, corruption, abuse of power and money laundering. He has denied any wrongdoing and his trial is to start next year.

Mahathir's Government has also axed China-backed energy pipelines and a rail project along peninsular Malaysia's eastern coast as part of efforts to reduce national debt that it said worsened under Najib's rule. The projects were part of "Belt and Road" but Mahathir said the deals struck by Najib were too costly and unfair to Malaysia.

MALDIVES

In the Maldives, an island nation southwest of India with around 4,00,000 people, Solih declared victory in presidential election, an unexpected result against an incumbent Government accused of suppression and the jailing of political opponents. Outgoing Maldives President Abdulla Yameen travelled to Beijing last year to sign a free-trade deal that eliminates most tariffs on Maldivian exports, primarily fish, and opens the island nation to Chinese goods and services, including in finance, health care and tourism.

China is already the Maldives' primary source of tourists, whose spending largely drives the economy, and Beijing is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in an airport expansion, housing development and other projects. Beijing considers Maldives a key cog in "Belt and Road" projects following along ancient trade routes through the Indian Ocean and Central Asia.

The Center for Global Development, a Washington think tank, estimates China's loans to Maldives total at least \$1.3 billion, a quarter of the island nation's gross domestic product. The country is considered by the World Bank and the IMF to be at high risk of debt distress because of its vulnerability to outside shocks. The kind of debts the Chinese have subjected the Maldivians to, the effects of it will continue to linger on and Maldivians will have to continue to deal with it. It has happened so with Sri Lanka.

Solih's friend and the leader of his party, former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed, has described China's growing influence as a land grab in the guise of investments in island development even as China congratulated Solih on his victory and said it would like the new Maldivian Government to uphold the previous administration's policies toward China, including the free trade agreement. While campaigning, Solih criticised the agreement, complaining that Parliament was only given five minutes to review a several-hundred-page document. "He has been quite furious about the money that's been said to have been lost to corruption," said Hamid Abdul Gafoor, an Opposition spokesman and former Maldives lawmaker now living in Colombo, adding "Our country's under financial straits because the debt is very high, and so that is a concern."

PAKISTAN

While in Opposition, Pakistan's new Prime Minister, former cricket star Imran Khan, questioned whether a "Belt and Road" partnership with China benefited Pakistan. He promised the contracts would be made public, something the new Government is yet to do.

He also promised greater transparency moving forward on the multi-billion-dollar project known as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC), which includes an ambitious cross-country road system linking Pakistan's Arabian Sea port of Gwadar to China. The multi-level project was undertaken by Pakistan's previous Government, although little is known about the details of the contracts with China and the debt Pakistan would incur as a result of these deals.

Imran promised to reveal all to Pakistanis, who have watched with a mix of enthusiasm and caution the development that has taken place in recent years as four-lane superhighways open up linking northern areas to other parts of the country. Pakistan's previous Government also negotiated agreements with Chinese power companies to supply much needed electricity to energy-starved Pakistan. However, criticism has been loud about the terms of the agreements and the revolving debt costs to Pakistan.

Imran's earlier stridency has softened since July elections propelled him to power. In one of his first speeches to the nation as Prime Minister, Imran said Pakistan had much to learn from China, praising its economic development and an anti-corruption drive, which was the central plank of his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's platform.

However the Chinese researcher, was incredulous that Imran would oppose Chinese investment, given the massive amounts of money poured into Pakistan. "No Pakistan leader would risk damaging the country's relations with China," Zhao said.

(Associated Press writers Eileen Ng in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Kathy Gannon in Islamabad, Pakistan; and Gillian Wong in Beijing contributed to this report)



In this September 22 file photo, Maldives' Opposition presidential candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih jumps as he walks in a street march with supporters in Male

AP

Maldives' long road to democracy

The message is loud and clear. The people of Maldives want change, peace and justice

— Ibrahim Mohamed Solih after inflicting heavy defeat on iron-fisted anti-India pro-China President Abdulla Yameen



MAKHAN SAIKIA

The Maldives, the Indian Ocean archipelago, heaved a sigh of relief last Sunday. Much talked about presidential election in the island nation has heralded the new phase of democracy. Opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's triumph over iron-fisted incumbent President Abdulla Yameen has reflected the age-old Latin adage Vox Populi, Vox Dei (Voice of the people is the voice of the God) in the popular mandate.

Truly speaking, the voters have shown indomitable courage and conviction. The majority of them demanded an immediate recall of Yameen as they accused him of extending the shadow regime of Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. But then Yameen was also more paranoid and disturbed by the fast growing Opposition unity in the country.

What has really propelled the victory of a candidate of an Opposition alliance against an all-powerful Yameen? Succinctly, the 2018 presidential election was symbolic for the political community and for the populace of the Maldives. Solih is no political novice anymore. He was elected to Parliament at the age of 30 by defeating a ruling party candidate. He was one of the founding members of the MDP, which came into being in November 2003. And, he served as an MDP MP for three five-year terms. He was made the leader of the MDP in the People's Majlis (Maldivian Parliament) in 2011, a unicameral legislative body, even when Nasheed was the President of the country. However, Solih's political clout among the masses grew with the absence of Nasheed from the political firmament — first ouster from power, imprisonment and later exile. But, Solih received a political break-

through when he was named a joint presidential candidate for an Opposition alliance in July 2018 by the MDP, the Jumhooree Party and the Adhaalath Party. This also happened when Nasheed formally relinquished his plan to contest the presidential poll. Besides, what finally shepherded Solih to victory was his clean public persona against the exposed façade of a recalcitrant, corrupt, authoritative and boisterous Yameen. People longed for a change at the establishment in Male. It culminated in the unexpected rise of an unlikely 'hero' Solih, who was able to upstage Yameen.

This is the third multi-party election held in the Maldives since 2008, when the international community recognised the first ever democratically elected head of the Maldives — Mohammed Nasheed, a young progressive leader who took over from seasoned dictator Gayoom and signaled a gradual transition towards a full-fledged democratic Government.

However, the island's history is replete with the history of one-upmanship. Troubles in the Maldives politics started even during the early days of its first president Gayoom's rule since 1978 to 2008. His three decades of reign was reinforced by corrupt autocracy, accompanied by his proverbial iron fist. The first spell of native rule, after its transition from the British colonial yoke, set the tone for future autocrats in the country. Though there was relative calm in the archipelago for 30 long years, Gayoom had to shrug off multiple coup attempts in his long and eventful rule. But being a wily tactician, he managed to survive till the last day of his rule. Despite being a ruthless ruler, he found it difficult to ignore incessant

waves of democracy hovering around Maldives. Precisely, the credit for introducing multi-party democracy goes to Gayoom only. It was he who brought a new Constitution that provided a system of multi-party electoral competition. Eventually, this unique provision in the Constitution gave an opportunity to Nasheed, a former political prisoner, to inflict a historic defeat on the longest serving President of the island. But, it was an uphill task for the newcomer to match the political tactics of Gayoom to survive in power for long. Actually, it happened and he could not complete his five-year term. By 2012, Nasheed had to resign after a police mutiny and weeks of demonstrations against his Government around the country. His supporters and the MDP considered it as a coup against the first democratically elected President of the country. Gradually the political scene of the country changed in Gayoom's favour. He won the run-off election against Nasheed in 2013. Later, Nasheed was arrested on terrorism charges and sentenced to 13 years in prison, and afterwards, he managed to leave the country for London for medical treatment in January 2016. Since then he is in exile.

By March 2017, the Maldives was about to see another role reversal as the Opposition lawmakers tried to wrest the control of the Government from Yameen. But, it failed and since then the President became more sensitive towards the activities of all Opposition groups, including local media, social activists and a section of foreign media outlets. The worst came for the Yameen regime when the country's top court ordered his Government to release all convicted politicians including President Nasheed. He prompt-

ly refused to enforce the court order and declared a 'State of Emergency'. Subsequently, the Armed Forces arrested two judges and the most daring and unbelievable act performed by the Yameen establishment was the jailing of Gayoom, his son Faris Maumoon (a legislator) and son-in-law Mohamed Nadheem. He curtailed Press freedom in entirety. The crackdown exposed his demeanour as to how long he can go to save his regime. All these were viewed as cruel attempts by Yameen to stay in power for longer, and he made it clear that he would not tolerate any challenge or Opposition to his rule. Around the same time, exiled Nasheed called for an intervention by the Indian military to restore normalcy in his country. In fact, some sections in India also advocated for an early intervention in the island neighbour.

During the course of his five-year ignominious rule, Yameen distanced himself from India and inched towards China. Nasheed had developed cordial relations with India and the relationship went to seed when Yameen took up the reins. He even asked India to take back its Army choppers, restricted the number of work permits for Indians and drifted towards the Xi Jinping regime. He went on to ink a free trade agreement with China. The Maldives soon became part of China's "One Belt-One Road" initiative; and Yameen posed himself as big nationalist.

However, Solih declared that his party is interested in rolling back or reconsidering Chinese infrastructure projects signed during Yameen's presidency. In the past, Solih accused Beijing of "busy buying up the Maldives", but how he will turn his presidency towards an India-centric route

will be worth watching. Meanwhile, Beijing has reacted cautiously, saying, "We hope that the Maldives side can preserve continuity and stability of the relevant policies." Many regional experts are of the view that China's massive investments may leave the island nation into a debt trap in the near future.

Whatever it may be, the country lies at the heart of a much bigger strategic power play in the Indian Ocean. Its more than 1,000 islands stretch 800 km into the Indian Ocean. All these islands straddle critical sea routes, prosaically named bottleneck known as "One and a Half Degree Channel". That is why this tiny nation has become a pawn in the regional power game. But, Solih's Government at Male has potential to change the course for the mini-Cold War between Delhi and Beijing in the days to come.

Yameen's admission of defeat in the presidential polls was strange in the background that there was suspicion that Yameen may delay his departure from power on some or the other reasons. Even Nasheed, who had predicted mandate against the incumbent President, doubted Yameen's reactions to the poll result and hence even before the results were declared, he had appealed to the international community to reject the outcome of the rigged polls.

Latest media reports say that Yameen is trying to cling onto power despite conceding defeat in public immediately after the declaration of the poll results. It is disturbing not only for the country, but also for the entire South-Asian region. By now provisional election results have been declared. The formal election results are not yet declared by the Election Commission.

When Yameen completes his five-year term on November 17, he is supposed to hand over power to Solih.

Meanwhile, rumours were rife that Yameen may postpone the declaration of the formal results. And, this he could do by filing an election petition seeking the delay of the announcement. The chief of the Election Commission already said that Yameen's party has brought to notice many instances of voting irregularities in this poll. The speculation was emboldened by no release of high-profile political prisoners such as Gayoom.

However, late on September 29, Election Commission chief Ahmed Shareef declared the final results despite receiving death threats to delay the final announcement of strongman Yameen's decisive loss. "There were accusations... Against all five members of the commission, and we received death threats via phone calls... But we didn't consider the threats at all because the security forces are providing all five members with security," said Shareef.

However, what had reassured the common Maldivians about a possible fair play are the two strong statements released by the chief of the Military and the Election Commission. Major General Ahmed Shiyam aired his view through a private TV channel saying, "I want to assure the Maldivian people that the military will protect the will of the people." And, the chief of the Election Commissioner said there were no grounds for Yameen to delay the announcement of the formal results.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



MELANIA TRUMP IS THE SECOND FIRST LADY IN AMERICAN HISTORY TO BE BORN OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

Making sense of India's growth

Amitabh Kant's book gives a sense of the challenges our nation faces, and details how it has been dealing with them and moving towards development. An excerpt:



The significance of good, verifiable land records has been self-evident in India for a long time. Under the Constitution, land falls within the jurisdiction of states. The Central Government released a draft 'Land Titling Bill' in 2011 as a model law for the consideration of States, but further action has been scarce. Starting in the late 1980s, the Central Government began incentivising States to modernise and computerise their land records, principally through two centrally sponsored schemes—Strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updating of Land Records in 1987–88 and the Computerisation of Land Records in 1988–89. The States unfortunately fared poorly in utilising the funds released by the centre, with little progress towards the ambitious goal of conclusive titling, and little design recognition of how tough a challenge such a goal posed. DoLR then merged the two schemes, resulting in the National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP, Figure 1) in 2008. NLRMP continued to be a centrally sponsored scheme and was renamed in 2014 after the change of Government as the DILRMP, now under the nominal umbrella of the new 'Digital India' initiative.

The main objective of the DILRMP (and the NLRMP before that) is to develop a modern, comprehensive and transparent land records management system in the country with the aim to implement conclusive land titling with title guarantee, based on four principles, (i) a unique identity for every property that will enable a common base for all land transactions, including the maintenance and updating of textual records, maps, survey and settlement operations and registration of immovable property; (ii) the 'mirror' principle, with cadastral records mirroring ground reality; (iii) the 'curtain' principle which makes the title the final proof of ownership, with mutation automatic following registration, and a curtain brought down on all past ownerships; and (iv) title insurance to guarantee title and indemnify the holder against losses from any title defects.

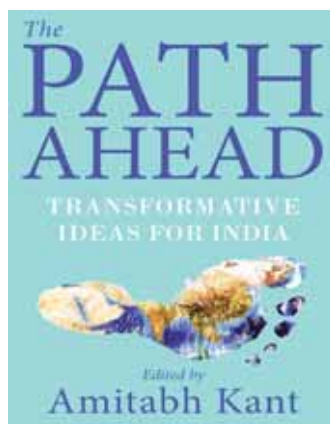
The Path Ahead: Transformative Ideas for India, Rupa Publications India; ₹595. Excerpted with permission from the publisher

to improve land records. A network of three Indian research institutions came together in 2016 to produce a pilot assessment for three States of the Government's 'Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme' (DILRMP). Their research findings point the way to two things: First, the key considerations that the Government should keep in mind in designing any national assessment of the DILRMP, and second, the core reforms that the Government should consider as it thinks about substantially improving the impact of the DILRMP.

The paper also has a second, process objective, which is to highlight the importance of piloting in public policy and

State action. Too often in India, policymaking, implementation and assessments all go straight from the drawing board to national implementation for the world's soon-to-be largest population. The vital lessons that could be learnt from experimentation and piloting are often lost in the administrative or political hurry to roll out programs, resulting in both ineffective schemes that don't deliver when subjected to the test and, if politically important, schemes that undergo drastic changes in the very first few months of their being rolled out. Neither outcome bodes well for the effectiveness or stability of Government action.

In this instance, the agency that manages the DILRMP, the



Department of Land resources (DoLR) in the Government of India's Ministry of Rural Development, felt the strong need in 2015 for a national

evaluation in order to understand the nature of the DILRMP reforms needed. DoLR, unlike many other sister agencies, decided to do a pilot assessment first before considering national effort. They felt that a pilot would greatly inform any nationwide evaluation and avoid the mistakes of a massive but uninformed national effort and of the policy prescriptions that might ensue from a poor quality evaluation.

Furthermore, DoLR also decided to have three nationally known, credible, independent research organisations working closely with each other to do the pilot assessment rather than do it departmentally with hired consultants. DoLR felt that the internal and external expert

peer review processes among the three research institutions would further enhance the credibility of the findings and, as a side benefit, create new analytical capacity on land records issues in the country. Funding for the pilot was provided by the Omidyar Network. An external Technical Advisory Committee of experts was constituted for the continuous review and guidance of the research and met three times during the course of the impact assessment. Finally, stakeholder focus group discussions were held in each state and the findings discussed with the State authorities. The reports were released and discussed with policymakers and practitioners on 13 November 2017 in New Delhi.

Does Melania Trump like to troll her husband?

Her choice of clothes and words after some of the biggest Trump controversies in the past two years has been too loaded to have been coincidental, says ELEANOR STEAFEL

channel she wants".

LE BRON JAMES DEBACLE

After Trump questioned LeBron James's intelligence in a tweet, Melania's spokeswoman released a statement asserting the First Lady's admiration for James's work with at-risk children in his hometown:

Cut to the following afternoon, when a statement emerged from Melania's office proclaiming: "LeBron James is working to do good things on behalf of our next generation and just as she always has, the First Lady encourages everyone to have an open dialogue about issues facing children today," adding that she would be "open to visiting the I Promise School in Akron".

THE 2018 AFRICA TRIP

The announcement was simple: US First Lady Melania Trump will make her first major solo international trip later this year. Where will she be jetting off to? Africa. The continent which her husband once described as "s---hole countries".

Needless to say she'll be going without him.

"I am excited to educate myself on the issues facing children throughout the continent, while also learning about its rich culture and history," she said in a statement. "We are a global society and I believe it is through open dialogue and the exchanging of ideas that we have a real opportunity to learn from one another," she added.

The Daily Telegraph

Melania Trump — who is she and what is her game? To some, she is a fashion icon and a source of inspiration; to others she is secretly working to overthrow her husband through her not-so-subtle digs.

Is she a discreet First Lady with as much political influence as a teapot? Or a crafty, calculated observer, with a knife at her husband's back? Or is The Donald in on it all, with every perceived slight — from her improbable cause de choix, cyberbullying (yes, really) to her jackets — all part of a grand plan to soften his image?

We're unlikely to find out what Melania truly thinks of her husband and his presidency until the couple leave the White House and she writes her tell-all autobiography (pretty please). But for now, the First Lady's extraordinary behaviour increasingly seems to suggest one thing — she is trolling her husband.

If you just can't get enough of the Trumps' marital power play, you're in luck. We've rounded up some of Melania's most eye watering left hooks and will be updating it as every new entry emerges. Brace yourself. It might seem a harmless item, but Melania keeps coming back with seemingly loaded wardrobe choices.

Back in 2016, she wore a blouse with a £585 Gucci pussy-bow neck detail in her first public appearance after the release of damning audio-tape in which her husband made reference to routinely grabbing

women by the p----

She wore one again in August 2018 at the Cyberbullying Prevention Summit, while her husband ranted and raged on Twitter, likening Robert Mueller to Joseph McCarthy.

THE PASSION PROJECT

We should have seen it coming, really. When Melania became First Lady, she pledged to focus the efforts of her office on putting an end to cyberbullying. In her first solo speech, she called for an end to online hate, describing it as "absolutely unacceptable".

"Technology has changed our universe," she said. "But like anything that is powerful it can have a bad side," she said, apparently unaware of unfussed by her own husband's Twitter reputation. Ouch.

MAY 2017 — THE TWEET

It's her husband's preferred platform on which to conduct matters of international importance. But Melania appeared to send a message herself in 2017 when she liked a tweet which read: "Seems the only #Wall, @realDonaldTrump's built is the one between him and @FLOTUS".

It was swiftly unliked, of course, but it was enough for the Twittersphere to read between the lines.

For the President's first State of the Union address, Melania wore a white pantsuit. It was in the wake of the Stormy Daniels ruckus, a reference, some speculated, to virginal purity (in stark contrast to Stormy Daniels' adult star credentials).

It also served as a sartorial reminder of Hillary Clinton. Not to mention the ability to hide all manner of emotions

IN 2016, SHE WORE A BLOUSE WITH A GUCCI PUSSY-BOW NECK DETAIL AFTER THE RELEASE OF A TAPE IN WHICH HER HUSBAND MADE REFERENCE TO ROUTINELY GRABBING WOMEN BY THE P----

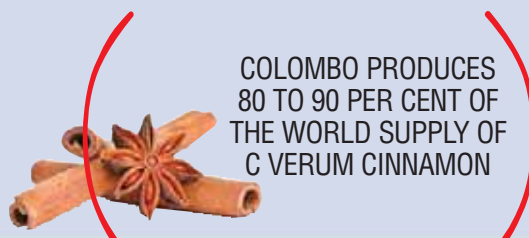
under that brim.

JUNE 2018 — JACKETGATE

Her husband was fighting off anger on both sides of the aisle for his government's decision to remove children from their parents and keep them in child detention centres at the Mexican border.

What did Melania do? She got on a plane to visit the children at a Texas detention centre





STILETTOS

Let the scaffolds fall



MINIYA CHATTERJI LILARAMANI

Despite Sri Lanka's slow and clumsy governance, it has performed well in developing its human capital. There is a clear emphasis on education, learning, and nurturing rational citizens, who respect one another. So, if the scaffolds of the nation fall, new young leaders will emerge as social and political reformers



I was in Colombo for the first time last month for the launch of my book in Sri Lanka. The city is beautiful — in an odd, cynical way. The chicest shopping and dining quarters of the city was once a dreary police station, before which it was a hospital built by the Dutch. An elegant recreational area once housed the Sinhalese Government offices, prior to which it was a mental asylum! The hotel where we stayed was built by a gallant British military general for his lover who was a local mestizo dancer, and boasted of a tunnel connecting to the lady's house. So on and so forth.

At first sight, its people, however, seemed very familiar — it felt as if I had never left India. It was only when we spoke about Dutch relics, orphaned elephants, and the island country's chequered modern history strife with civil war and weak governance, I was reminded that I was in Ceylon.

Amidst the conversations, I found two events in Sri Lanka's political history to be especially peculiar. One was that Sri Lanka became a republic more than two decades after gaining political independence in 1948. Even after the British had retreated, the British held economic, ideological, and political influence in Sri Lanka until 1972. This was in stark contrast, to say, India, where we became a Republic only three years after our Independence, and immediately set in place a formidable constitution as well as economic, educational, and political institutions. The second event that surprised me was that Sri Lanka had established universal suffrage a decade before its Independence! Elsewhere it usually would be the other way around in the chronology of events.

SRI LANKA HAS COME A LONG WAY — ITS LITERACY RATE IN 1971 WAS 80 PER CENT, AND NOW IT IS 96 PER CENT. IN THE LATEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX REPORT, SRI LANKA RANKED HIGHEST IN SOUTH ASIA FOR NUMBER OF YEARS OF SCHOOLING, LIFE EXPECTANCY, AND RANKED LEAST FOR INEQUALITY

And so, Sri Lanka's civil society has been democratically active and vibrant for far more number of years than the country's political institutions.

A few months ago I had challenged my students at a university in Paris where I teach, to propose solutions to Colombo's desperate urban planning crisis. The students immediately huddled in their study groups to research the situation and were abhorred when they learnt about the gigantic 300 feet dump — as high as a 14-storey building — of Colombo's garbage that had recently exploded, collapsed, and killed 32 people.

Some students pointed out that the exact same scenario had played out in 2009 yet no corrective action had been taken. They suggested that, at the very least, the Sri Lankan Government

should establish a Government policy for waste management. A waste management policy has allegedly been in the hands of the Sri Lankan Government since 1996, but it is still on hold. A few others spoke about leveraging technology for converting the massive amounts of waste to energy — this was a hugely lucrative opportunity, they said enthusiastically. Nonetheless they all emphasised that any solution must be accompanied by a definite change in attitude for residents of Colombo towards waste — the people of Colombo need to be more responsible.

Whilst my students pondered over solutions, Sri Lanka rejected a proposal from the Japanese Government to help with the country's waste disposal. Anguished, I wrote in the newspapers to raise awareness about this appalling state of affairs and approached the Sri Lankan Government with the suggestions made by my students amongst other recommendations. These efforts fell to deaf ears. Local Sri Lankan Government authorities said they had other more important priorities and that they had no time nor money for any action on this agenda. My dear friend and a prominent and young Sri Lankan intellectual Asanga Abeyagoonasekara said it well: "Masons who built the walls of political culture in my country were so horrible, there are cracks everywhere and you see this every day. Usually when you build a good building you let the scaffolds fall, in Sri Lanka since Independence we can't let the scaffolds fall because the masons... probably had no idea what they were doing." Last month while visiting Colombo — a city emerging from the aftermath

of war, struggling with weak governance, ethnic tension, and mountains of its own garbage — I discovered its people. There is an evident thrust on education amongst the Sri Lankans. There is a desire for reform and a cognisance that the country's political establishment is still young and in a flux. I saw both women and men at work outside home, and couples I spoke to seemed to be equally involved parents to their children. Serious crime such as murder or rape, I was told, was unheard of. Health and well-being featured high on people's priority, and the people I met were unmistakably calm and stress-free. The country has come a long way — its literacy rate in 1971 was 80 per cent, and now it is a laudable 96 per cent. In the latest Human Development Index report released last week, Sri Lanka ranked highest in South Asia for number of years of schooling, life expectancy, and it ranked least for inequality.

Despite Sri Lanka's slow and clumsy governance, the country has evidently performed well in developing its human capital. There is a clear emphasis in society, school, and family on education, learning, and nurturing rational, independent-minded, healthy citizens who respect one another. And this is why if the scaffolds of the Nation fall, I am full of hope that new young leaders will emerge as social and political reformers. In the long term, the defining characteristic of a nation is the collection of its people.

Miniya is the author of *Indian Instincts: Essays on Freedom and Equality in India*, Penguin Random House (2018), and the CEO of Sustain Labs Paris, the world's first sustainability incubator. Email: miniya@absparis.com



ODDLY ENOUGH

SEX ROBOT BROTHEL PLANS IRK RELIGIOUS GROUPS

A Houston religious group is pushing back against plans to open a realistic sex robot brothel in the city. KinkySdollS, an Ontario-based business where customers can rent realistic sex robots for a half hour or an hour at a time, recently announced plans to expand to cities including Houston, raising the ire of local



religious groups.

Micah Gamboa of Elijah Rising, a religious nonprofit dedicated to fighting sex trafficking, is calling for the city to bar KinkySdollS from opening a sex robot brothel in Houston.

"We were absolutely horrified," Gamboa told KTRK-TV.

"Our biggest concern is that this sex brothel with robots is gonna train men to become rapists," Gamboa said. "What's next? Is it child robots? Where's the line? Where is the boundary?"

"We can't allow these kind of public masturbation businesses to operate in our city," Gamboa said.

Elijah Rising posted a petition on Change.org calling on the city mayor's office to address the issue.

"Robot brothels will ultimately harm men, their understanding of healthy sexuality, and increase the demand for the prostitution and

sexual exploitation of women and children," the petition argues.

Legal experts said the business does not appear to violate any currently enforceable laws in Texas.

COCAINE IN BANANA BOXES DONATED TO TEXAS PRISON

Nearly \$18 million worth of cocaine was found in boxes of bananas that were donated to a prison in Texas recently, law enforcement officials said. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice said 45 boxes of bananas from Ports of America in Freeport, Texas were donated to the Wayne Scott Unit, a prison about 32 miles north, due to the fruit being already ripe. But when corrections officers were unloading the boxes, one of the officers "discovered something not quite right." "One of the boxes felt different than the others," TDCJ said in a statement. "They snipped the straps, pulled free the box, and opened it up. Inside, under a bundle of bananas, he

found another bundle! Inside that? What appeared to be a white powdery substance." U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials were called in to test the substance and found it was cocaine.

ANIMAL RESCUER SAYS REPORTED LIZARD WAS A TOY

An animal rescuer called to a London home on a report of a collapsed lizard arrived to find the reptile was actually a chewed-up dog toy. The RSPCA said Animal Collection Officer David Eckworth responded to a home in the Hackney area of London where a resident reported spotting a lizard collapsed in her garden. "The call came in saying the lizard was unresponsive and was curled in a ball," Eckworth said. "But when I attended the address and ventured into the garden to locate the poorly reptile — I found a half-eaten dog's chew toy of an elephant!" he said. "It was quite entertaining but I think the woman was a little embarrassed." The RSPCA said a rescuer was previously called last

CULTURE LANE

'Nightmarish' Trump comedy in London

A "nightmarish comedy" about Donald Trump, with characters including the US president, former FBI director James Comey and George W Bush, will have its world premiere at the Almeida theatre in London next year. *Shipwreck* is written by the US playwright Anne Washburn, who is best known for *Mr Burns*, a post-apocalyptic epic that revolves around an episode of *The Simpsons*, and for an adaptation of *The Twilight Zone*.

The Almeida's artistic director, Rupert Goold, who will direct *Shipwreck*, says that "Trump, his family and his immediate inner circle [will be] either on stage or talked about almost incessantly" in the play. Alongside them are fictional liberal characters who are "wrestling with what Trump is, both politically and existentially". Washburn, said Goold, also wants to understand people who voted for Trump and to give them a voice.

Washburn was partly inspired to write the play by a 2017 production of *Julius Caesar* at New York's Public Theater that prompted rightwing protests over its Trump-like Caesar. Goold says Washburn became interested



in "the difficulty of pinning down the contemporary political moment" and how playwrights could respond to Trump "when he changes every day in terms of controversy".

The director thinks that while the unsettling, Kubrick-like comedy is steeped in US current affairs, it also chimes with a global political climate and will resonate for British audiences when it opens next February, one month before Britain is due to leave the European Union.

Rihanna, the new Barbados ambassador

Rihanna has been given an ambassadorial role in her native Barbados. The singer and entrepreneur will promote education, tourism and investment in her home country. Rihanna said she was proud to receive the prestigious title and was looking forward to helping "reimagine Barbados". As well as her multi-platinum record sales, the 30-year-old singer was hailed for her "significant creative acumen and shrewdness in business" by the Caribbean island's prime minister, Mia Amor Mottley.

Mottley said: "Rihanna has a deep love for this country and this is reflected in her philanthropy, especially in the areas of health and education. She also shows her patriotism in the way she gives back to this country and continues to treasure the island as her home."

Already a cultural ambassador for Barbados, Rihanna's expanded role reflects her "global influence across a much broader range of areas". Mottley also noted her significant charitable



contributions at home and abroad.

"I couldn't be more proud to take on such a prestigious title in my home country," Rihanna said. "Every Barbadian is going to have to play their role in this current effort, and I'm ready and excited to take on the responsibility. I look forward to working with Prime Minister Mottley and her team to reimagine Barbados."

Historians to remake Henry VIII's tent



Tudor monarchs did not travel light. Vast tents — with great halls and multiple chambers, sumptuous furniture and fabrics of gold and velvet — used to accompany them on their journeys to far-flung areas of the realm, and even to battlefields. But not a single remnant of these extraordinary displays of wealth and power has survived, and little, if any, research has been done on their design. Now Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) has launched an ambitious project to reconstruct a huge section of one of Henry VIII's tents,

an edifice whose spectacular appearance is hinted at by a surviving design in the British Library. Covered in exquisite red cloth, it is decorated with Tudor roses and has tent poles topped by "king's beasts", including heraldic antelopes.

Charles Farris, a research associate on the project, entitled *Portable Palaces: Royal Tents and Timber Lodgings 1509-1603* and supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, said the reconstruction would explore how multi-compartmental tents were put together.

September on a report of a lizard under a Coventry, England, resident's bed, but the officer arrived to discover the reported animal was actually just a dirty sock.

PICKUP TRUCK DRIVES ON ROAD WITH WHEEL MISSING

A shocked traveler on a Texas road captured video of a man driving a severely damaged pickup truck with a missing front wheel. Justin Seidel said he was leaving a cellphone store with a friend and his mother in the Magnolia area when they spotted the truck traveling with its hood open and a front wheel missing.

The trio decided to follow the vehicle and Seidel captured video of the pickup before it was pulled over minutes later by Montgomery County Sheriff's deputies.

"Sparks were just going everywhere under his truck," Seidel told KTRK-TV. The Conroe Police Department, which is handling the investigation,

said the man was not intoxicated when he was pulled over.

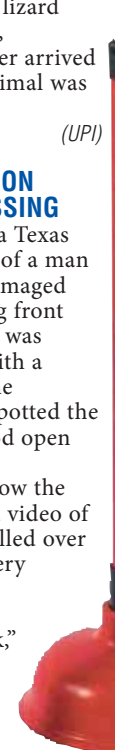
Investigators said the vehicle had been damaged when the driver struck a transformer.

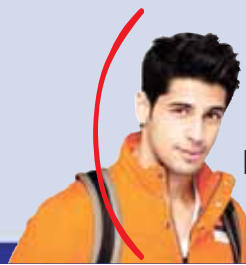
Police said the man was not arrested, but the driver could face legal troubles if the owner of the transformer decides to press charges.

WOMAN MAKES OWN BUS HANDLE USING PLUNGER

An ingenious passenger on a bus in China was filmed making her own handle by affixing a toilet plunger to the vehicle's ceiling.

The video shows a woman boarding a bus in Hua'an City, Jiangsu Province, and looking for an available handle to hold as the bus starts to move. The woman discovers all of the handles are in use, so she brandishes a toilet plunger and quickly suction it to the vehicle's ceiling, making her own handle. The scene draws the attention of her fellow passengers, who laugh at the unusual scene.





THINGS HAVE A WAY OF WORKING OUT. IF THEY DON'T WORK OUT, MAYBE IT'S NOT THE RIGHT THING — SIDHARTH MALHOTRA

BRIEFLY
speaking



NEVER TOO LATE
FOR PARENTING INTERVENTION

Parenting intervention is a common and effective tool for reducing child behaviour problems. According to a recent study, parenting interventions for helping children with behaviour problems are just as effective in older children as it is in younger ones. There is a predominant view amongst scientists and policy-makers that for greatest effect, interventions need to be applied early in life when a child's brain functions and behaviour is thought to be more malleable. However, a new research says that it can be helpful for children of all ages. A team of researchers analysed data from over 15,000 families from all over the world and found that older children benefited just as much as younger ones from parenting interventions for reducing behaviour problems. There was no evidence whatsoever for the common belief that earlier interventions are more powerful. This was based on data from more than 150 rigorous trials. Professor Gardner, Head Researcher of the study, said, "It's never too early, never too late."

WALKING DAILY
LESSENS STROKE SEVERITY

People who walk for even just 35 minutes a day or participate in light to moderate physical activity, such as swimming for two to three hours a week, may have less severe strokes than people who are physically inactive. In a new study, participants were asked after the stroke how much they moved or exercised during leisure time before the stroke. Questions about duration and intensity of exercise were used to determine the average amount of physical activity. Relatives were asked to confirm exercise levels when needed. Study author Katharina S Sunnerhagen, said, "Finding ways to prevent stroke or reduce the disability caused by it is important. Physical activity each week may have a big impact later by possibly reducing the severity of a stroke."

USE VERBS
WHEN AROUND CHILDREN



A recent study has suggested that using verbs to talk about actions with children, such as encouraging them to help, read, and paint, may make them more resilient. According to the research, encouraging children "to help," rather than asking them to "be helpers," can instil persistence as they work to fulfill daily tasks that are difficult to complete. Marjorie Rhodes, senior author of the study, said, "The new research shows how subtle features of language can shape child behaviour in ways not previously understood. In particular, using verbs to talk to children about behaviour, such as "You can help", can lead to more determination following setbacks than using nouns to talk about identities, for instance, "You can be a helper". In an experiment, children were asked either to "be helpers" or "to help." Results showed that children who had been asked "to help" were more resilient than those asked to "be helpers."

Power of the Vedas

The universe has destructive forces as well as constructive ones. In the microcosm of an individual's life, the forces that his/her actions are dominated by decide whether he/she would rise or fall. An understanding of the Vedas can lead one to choose the right path, writes YOGI ASHWINI

Creation is not linear; it is cyclical in nature. There is childbirth, death, and then rebirth. The Sun rises and sets only to rise again. A seed gives rise to a tree, and then that tree produces more seeds for more trees to grow. The Moon follows a cycle, and so does water. This cyclical pattern is seen in human evolution too. Lighter thoughts, which are aimed at creation and lead to selfless action, make one rise. But heavier thoughts that come with an *asuric* disposition force one onto the descending path.

The extent to which one rises or falls depends on the influence of *asuras* and *devas* in his/her life. While *asuric shaktis* pave the way for the destruction of various aspects of creation, *daivik shaktis* aid growth and development.

Ravan, for example, ascended to become one of the greatest pandits of all times who extemporaneously created the Shiva Tandava Stotra. It requires *sadhana* of several years. Ravan could do it owing to the strong influence of *daivik shaktis* on him. But as *asuric shaktis* took over, his descent began.

In economics, it is said that a company whose graph is horizontal, that is, where there is no upturn or downturn, would shutdown in a short while. Even a downturn is considered a growth factor. This law is constant in all aspects of creation. It is applicable even to *yogis* and to huge empires. Upturn and downturn cycles are very important for growth. With every downturn, one must use its momentum to reach a new high.

Saffron clothes have always been worn by *rishis* and *munis*. And the *asuras* have always tried to attack them. We all know of Lord Ram who went to defend the *yagya* of Rishi Vishvamitra against the attack of *asurs*. *Yagyas* create positivity and *asurs* thrive on negativity.

In today's world, there is an increasing influence of *asuric* forces. It can be traced back to the beginning of invasions by the Nomadic Tribes of the Arabian Peninsula and tribes from Europe. For example: The Portuguese invasion of the West coast of India in the 16th century that brought in its wake large-scale destruction of the temples, burning of ancient scriptures as well as disbanding of *yagyas* and other spiritual practices in the region or the invasions by Ghori and Ghazni. Mahmud of Ghazni destroyed thousands of temples during his raids, including the Somnath Temple in 1025AD which killed over 50,000 people who tried to defend it. In the early years of British penetration in India, there was an uprising of the saints termed as the Sanyasi Revolt. British fearing the power of these men in saffron and knowing that they would not be able to establish their rule in India till these people are suppressed, killed 150 saints.

In present times, the term 'saffronisation' has been coined by negative, *asuric* forces to uproot the vedic culture and undermine the saints. Corrupt, so-called saints are highlighted in the media repeatedly to pull down the image of saffron,



KNOWLEDGE OF THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF CREATION THAT WAS POSSESSED BY THE VEDIC SEERS IS UNMATCHED. AT LEAST 1,100 YEARS BEFORE GALILEO AND NEWTON, ARYABHATA WROTE, 'JUST AS A PERSON TRAVELLING IN A BOAT FEELS THAT THE TREES ON THE BANKS ARE MOVING, PEOPLE ON EARTH FEEL THAT THE SUN IS MOVING'

while hardly ever is a saint working for animals or people or environment brought to the fore. Our country is known to have produced saints like Ramakrishna Paramhans, Ramana Maharishi and their modern counterparts, but no one talks about them. No one even talks about so-called saints from any other community, when many are known to have committed crimes against

humanity. I wonder why the media handpicks only specific few.

In such times it becomes our prime duty to uphold saffron, by understanding what it is all about, by understanding the *The Vedas* and what they talk about and not a myopic opinion based on a minority highlighted in the media.

Did you know Rishi Agastya made the first electric cell? Did you know Rishi Kanad described the atoms before Mendeleev and Bohr? Did you know plastic surgery was practiced in India at the time of Rishi Shushruta? Nasa-sandhana of Sushruta became the precursor of Rhinoplasty and till date all operations which involve replacement of skin from immediate vicinity of loss are known as 'Indian Plastic Surgery'.

Vedic civilisation is perhaps one of the most advanced civilisations. The kind of knowledge and understanding of various aspects of creation that was possessed by the Vedic seers and is documented at length in ancient texts is unmatched till date. While the rest of the world was inhabited by barbarians as per modern historians, Vedic masters were dispelling the *gyaan* of *shanti* (peace), preservation and protection of nature and its resources, compassion to animals and envisioning universes and galaxies far and beyond. To quote from *The Rigveda*, "The Sun moves in its orbit which itself is moving. Earth and other bod-

ies move around the Sun due to force of attraction because sun is heavier than them." (RV 1.164.13) "The moving Moon always receives a ray of light from the Sun" (RV 1.84.15). In the 5th century itself, Aryabhata knew that Earth revolves around the Sun, is spherical in shape, rotates on its axis, and is suspended in space. He understood the laws of gravity, the circumference of the Earth, the distance between the planets and the Sun, the revolutionary movement of the earth around the Sun, and so on. At least 1100 years before Galileo and Newton, Aryabhata wrote in *Aryabhatiyam*, "Just as a person traveling in a boat feels that the trees on the banks are moving, people on Earth feel that the Sun is moving."

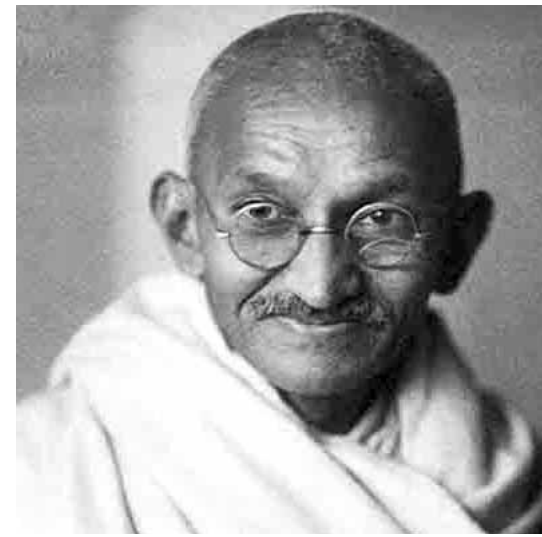
Slowly and gradually, modern science is progressing, only to appreciate and validate the Vedic concepts and the ways of life they propound. This is to say that every Vedic practice and concept is rooted in science and reason, some modern science agrees with in present times, for some others it needs to further develop to understand. This is the heritage of Bharatvarsha, the phenomenal power of saffron and *The Vedas*. Let us not encourage *asuric shaktis* in bringing down this glorious culture. Let us delve deeper into our ancient sciences and revive them for the benefit of mankind.

The writer is the guiding light of Dhyani Foundation



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

FOR GANDHI'S INDIA



The nation will be celebrating the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 this year. It is needless to say that given his stature and the contribution he has made to this country, his birthday calls for a grand tribute. Gandhi is a leader who is paid rich tributes not just in India, but across the world. But is showering his bust with marigold garlands and bouquets of fresh flowers year after year enough to celebrate Gandhi? Is it really a fitting tribute to the man he was? We need to revisit his ideas, his ideals and of course his very own model of India. Just like he taught people to, there is a need for the men and women of his nation to look around and analyse the situation for themselves. Screaming headlines and scary news stories portraying the goings on of the present times in our seven-decade old democracy suggest that such diabolic things are happening on the ground which, if not contained, will have very serious consequences. These are the signs of a society that has become lopsided. Sometime back, three little girls died of hunger in the nation's capital. And that too when there is so much of clamour over right to food security. Families are committing mass suicide as the burden of poverty becomes unbearable for them. Farmers resort to death as the final alternative. These are just a few recent pointers to the already grim scenario that is heart-rending. The fact, though, is that we are gradually drifting towards utter chaos as mobs lynch people on the flimsiest of the pretext in broad daylight. And worse still is the fact that those perpetrating the crime are glorified by the people who matter. Shelter homes are turning out to be nightmares for those who were seeking succour in those four walls. But we are more concerned with signing deals with the likes of Walmart for glitzy malls where vulgar consumerism is at display. As we boast of GDP numbers and economy's growing size we turn a blind eye to what Gandhi had tried to convey through his talisman — "Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]". The question is that after whatever we are witnessing, is there any room for doubt? Financial jugglery notwithstanding, the fact is that statistics hardly reassure one when the state of the teeming millions is a saga of duress and tragedy. The rise in number of millionaires may be phenomenal and the fast growth in billionaire count may appear glamorous. But the question is: How is that going to help the majority who are still struggling to make both ends meet? The increasing gap between the haves and the have nots continues to mount. And logic may not provide the answer. What matters is the life of a large section of the people. People who are weak, people who are vulnerable, people who are slogging without as much as a little hope that their struggle will end. How long will it take for us as individuals to change the situation? Economic theories of growth and distribution may fetch Nobel Prizes but they are hardly of any use to the suffering masses. It's time to revisit Gandhian logic and Gandhian economics in which the poor and the destitute are at the centre of gravity.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

What keeps old folks going?

Faith in God and genuine attempts at following His teachings ensure that an individual has sound health and leads him/her to a blissful old age, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

another big challenge. There must be a deep desire to do so for some reason. Inadequacy of a suitable support system is another huge drawback. This has links with monetary resources, family, friends, etc.

These challenges appear very daunting but people generally manage and some manage quite well. Let us examine how the successful ones do so. Some have unfinished duties like family responsibilities which keep them going; they are focused on them. Some have highly valued goals like good writers have, especially spiritual ones. It is very hard to develop unflinching faith in God, who indeed is a reality. Spiritual writing helps to convince oneself. Eminent doctors, lawyers, etc. remain gainfully



engaged almost to the end of their lives. They feel satisfied both by what they earn and the attention they get.

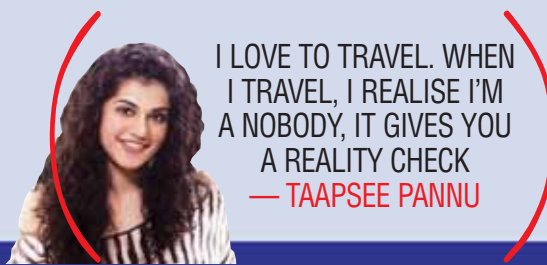
Love of family is another strong factor to want to live. Family bonds are great clues to give meaning to life. Attachments also do the same but they have negativity linked to them, especially if one is attached to material objects. Fame/attention is really craved and one who gets it in plenty wishes to go on living. One has lots of ways to be able to enjoy like a rich person is able to. Then, one does not need other reasons to go on living. Good physical health in old age makes it very pleasant when one has plenty of time to enjoy.

If the mental health is sound,

then everything appears positive and one sees everything as zero plus. Good companionship of say a loving spouse is a real boon. Both want to give love to one another. Spiritually inclined persons live in their own world having the best company, ie of God. Financial security is highly satisfying as it is helpful in old age with almost inevitable health issues. Sound support system makes one feel secure. As mentioned earlier, a soul is quite helpless by himself or herself.

I have detailed many ways as to how people can make a blessing out of the difficult periods of one's life in terms of health, finances, etc. The very first requirement for happy old age is a good connection with God, who is the repository of peace, which is essential for happiness. Simple living will go a long way towards financial security in old age. Why get used to unnecessary expenses in order to show off. Mental health is guarantee if one is a devotee of God. Good physical health remains the backbone for satisfactory old age.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

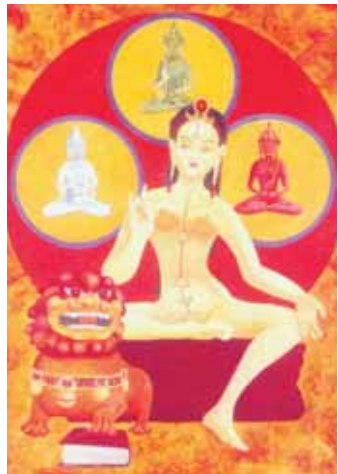
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

Health remains good this week. You will remain poised despite loads of work that will make you exhausted and strained. You will experience unbounded energy and stamina. You need to use your energy in creative direction. It is advisable that you follow a disciplined life; it will give you good physical and mental strength and pave the way for success. Career-wise, your willpower and determination will help to achieve your target. In the moment of crisis, your tough decisions will give you strength to strategise plans. Chances to choose from job options are indicated. Therefore, follow the advice of some senior person who is close to you. Conflict in the family is likely. This is because you are not able to give time and attention to your loved ones or you try to dictate your terms.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you will enjoy good health. But be careful while exercising as you might be prone to some sprain or injuries. If you are in the process of healing from an injury, then take care and do not stress yourself. Try to have a focused mind and follow your health regime religiously. On the career front, you will be feeling content and will cultivate smooth interpersonal dynamics and harmonious communication patterns. Your words will carry more weight with others now; use that wisely to further your prospects. Those looking for a job are likely to get one. On the relationship front, this is not a good week. You will find yourself unmotivated and disengaged with your partner. You need to re-evaluate the situation and seek your inner voice for peace and tranquillity. If you are single, have patience.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Finally, you will find the determination within yourself to get rid of your bad habits. This week, you will indulge in some new activities that are good for you. Be ready for some distressed nerves during this transition. Your physical fitness is of utmost importance and joining a fitness regime class will help you a lot. Take good care of yourself in order to look after others. This week, you can expect some good news related to your career. If you are awaiting the results of a competitive exam, they will be positive. People seeking jobs may receive a call letter for a job with better perks and facilities. Those waiting for a posting will get the desired destination. For a business person, this week monetary gains are indicated.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you are likely to feel depressed and gloomy as things are not going your way. You will be stressed due to some or the other health issue. Keep a regular check on your BP, sugar and blood — you need regular medical attention. Stay calm because this is a temporary phase. The situation will change, but you need to follow a strict health regime. You need to relax and have a positive approach. You are going to progress in your professional life. There will be money, prestige and honour and you enjoy the parties and good times at work. Those in business are going to earn good money and are likely to invest in a property. This is fairly a good week on the emotional front, too. Romance is on the cards. Married couples need to understand each other's feelings.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Sunday



VIRO Aug 23-Sep 22

It is very important that you maintain a positive attitude to stay healthy. If you worry about your health issues, things will become worse. A positive outlook will work wonders. In case you are not sure about your physical well-being, take medical support. Trust your instincts. By facing your fears and turning them to your advantage, you will grow even stronger. This week, your career looks good. You will enjoy the outcome of your hard work. If you are in the line for promotion, then celebration is on the cards. All your efforts will be valued and appreciated. It is indicated that you might take up the position of a leader or the head in some adventurous venture. You will face agony and pain in your relationship. In order to survive this relation, both you and your partner need to sit and talk.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Health-wise, this week will be tough for you. You may face some illness, but stressing over this will make things worse. Don't let your health problems lead to a decline in your spiritual growth. Stay positive because after every crisis there is the promise of a good time. If required, reach out to others for help. It can be a friend or a medical practitioner. At this point in your career, things are not that great. You may face a challenge that will leave your project incomplete. Keep telling yourself that you have the inner strength to overcome all difficulties. You need to be resilient and not to be intimidated by others who are pulling you down. Don't worry; you will sail through. It will be a magical time for love. Females should trust their intuition as you are in a phase where men will be throwing themselves at you.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Sky blue
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Till now, you did not give attention to your health. Since you have realised that health is very important, you are conscious and aware of the needs of your body and mind. Now you are following the proverb: Prevention is better than cure. You should attend classes and seminars on healing therapies and apply them in your life to find inner strength. On the career front, you need to come out of the self-made limitations which are hampering your progress. In some matters you are required to be fluent and quick-witted but you are confused. You have to be very careful while spending money; there might be financial crunch. Be quick to grab the opportunities that come your way. In love life, avoid false commitments else you might have to pay for it.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health-wise, this week is full of energy and vitality. This will make you optimistic about the future. Those who are waiting on test results need to relax as the result will likely be in your favour. Think about your usual mode of thought and remember that your mindset affects your health. You will be in a position to mentor and share the spiritual insights that you have gained. On the career front, you will be at a stage where you will get work success and recognition. Give your best to be organised and productive — it will pay off. This week you should have a conservative approach in terms of financial dealing and decisions. Those who are planning to invest, put your money in conservative stocks/ bonds with really good track records. This is not the time to take risk. Good luck will follow you in matters of the heart.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Your health is likely to be good this week. You will experience high-level energy and enthusiasm. Be a little careful when exercising as minor sprain or injury is indicated. You need to start following a health regime to attain a healthy lifestyle. It is important to channelise the new found energy in the right manner. At your workplace, you may encounter a person who would like to mentor you. This person has the leadership skills to guide you; you can trust him/her. Those who have been facing challenges, this is the right time to take control and find solutions to them. This is beneficial for you and others as well. You will be goal-oriented. It will help you to get that leadership position you have been eyeing for a long time. Relationship-wise, you will find yourself in conflict with your partner.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you need to listen to your inner voice when it comes to health issues. If you are not sure about a diagnosis or not comfortable with your medical attendee, get a second opinion. Stay away from alcohol or drugs. On the career front, you need to be a generous person. Your friend or a colleague might ask for financial help. Your act of generosity and kindness will earn you a good name. This is an apt time to invest in property and long-term projects. Relationship-wise, this week is good. Your relationship will move into a lighter, easier and a more balanced phase. Those who are single and are looking for love, there is a need to consider your emotional side and see if there is any issue to be dealt with at the first place. Seek happiness within you and you will be able to get into a relationship you always wanted.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Your health will remain good if you pay proper attention to your health regime. The week will start with an upswing in your creative energy; you will be active and enthusiastic. Be careful because as the week progresses, you may face some health issues which will need immediate attention. You should consult a doctor. Be positive — there is a cure for everything. In your professional life, if you are not dedicated to your work, you might have to pay for it. You are under scrutiny and every act of yours is being reported to the higher authorities. This is a highly emotional time in relationships as situations can quickly become heated and uncomfortable. Pick your battles and be sure to treat your lover like a friend.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

In terms of health, you are restricted. Your fear, anxiety and negative thoughts are not allowing you to lead a normal life. It is crucial to bring balance in body, mind and spirit. Negative thinking or anxiety always has a bad impact on health. Find ways to bury these negative thoughts. Meditate and listen to your inner voice — half of your problems will be solved. You will face some injustice at the work place. The position you have been aspiring for may be given to another candidate equal to your caliber. Those looking for a better job option may get one, but with that comes another consideration which will cause tension. You might find it difficult to take a decision about whether you should remain in the existing one or join the new one.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Be true to yourself in your actions

Someone came asking: "How fast can I have a male child?" "How can you ensure conception of a male child and that too in a time bound manner?" I countered. "IVF technology has grown to a level that it can ensure male conception." He answered. Assuming that it is possible, it is also important that your wife should be healthy enough to sustain the pregnancy. And going by astrological reading, her health status doesn't seem worth it as of now. Have patience for another three years, and let her work upon her health. Even otherwise, she has already birthed two children. In between she had few miscarriages. Also, had to contend with two failed IVF attempts for her account. Your wife's body is not a machine. She needs to be allowed enough time to gather strength. And, you are not without children; how does their gender matter. In today's world, don't you think that insistence for a male child reflects a regressive attitude? Isn't your egotistical desire which is driving you crazy? Also, remember, life doesn't necessarily move to your asking. Meanwhile I realised that my advisory was not getting into his head. I then had to tell him that he

was not being true to himself. Pat came his reply. "I am sorry, Sir, but I beg to differ. It is because I am true to myself that I am passionately pursuing this desire." Well, you have not understood what I meant. Bear in mind; you don't exist in your own right. Truth of the matter is that the world is actually a well-knit unified organism where no existence has a reality independent of the entirety. In this scheme of things, we are all necessarily bound to an interdependent framework. Even in immediate terms, you are a part of your family, all having a shared destiny. God forbid, if something untoward happens to your wife, you and your family can't go unaffected, and especially your young kids, who will be hit hard. 'Being true to the self' actually means making such reasoned choices as would at the least not prove detrimental to the family. All the advisory fell flat on his head. His wife had to bear with another two failed IVF attempts. Meanwhile, she naturally conceived. And now in her advanced stage of pregnancy, it has been found that she is not carrying a healthy baby. The question now is: How is it that an educated person could be



so blindly stuck to his delusory perceptions, to willfully ignore what was inevitable? The man's astrological pointers offer the answer. Born when fiery and active sign Aries owned by Mars was rising, he was headstrong, impulsive, aggressive, impatient, and intolerant. He had a tendency to jump to action without applying proper forethought, and would not budge till pushed to the wall. He may not like to play second fiddle to any, nor would be open to listening or counselling. But then, when faced with a difficult situation, there can be no better a crisis manager than him either. What further compounds his problem is that mind-signifying Moon occupies Mercury-owned sign. That brings in the wish to live on his own exclusive terms. He may remain stuck to his self-perceptions and beliefs. Such characters like only 'yes persons'. They can't digest any contrarian view. So long as you offer such advice as would be in line with his perception, you remain the best sought after friend. The moment you speak something that would be at variance with his perceptions, he may go wild, and you may turn out to be the worst enemy. Moon conjunct erratic Rahu

makes him a restless character. Moon is also placed adverse to the Sun, Venus, and Mercury. This combination in the first place implies that he is emotionally unstable and oversensitive. He may take even trivial issues to heart, and keep unnecessarily mulling over them beyond due. Second, he would be high strung. The Sun is placed adverse to Uranus, which makes him unconventional, self-willed, tactless, and at times even erratic. He won't mind going against socially accepted norms, and would rather prefer charting out his own path. Mercury ill-disposed off to mischievous Neptune accounts for his insensible reasoning and judgment. Jupiter placed adverse to Neptune makes him stuck to peculiar beliefs, which he may blindly pursue. The result is there to see. I wish, he looks within to figure out his own innate fault lines for necessary correction, and proves true to himself. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: pioneerqueries@bharatastro.com Website: www.bharatastro.com