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OLD IS STILL GOLD

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HONG KONG POLICE TIGHTEN NOOSE ON PROTESTERS

SPORT 16
ENGLAND BEAT AUSTRALIA IN 3RD TEST

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DID WHAT I WANTED TO: TABU
13 VIVACITY

Jaitley consigned to flames

Cremated with full State honours with several dignitaries present



Family members, dignitaries and others attend the last rites of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at Nigambodh Ghat in Delhi on Sunday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was cremated at the Nigambodh Ghat with full State honours on Sunday. A host of dignitaries, including Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Lok Sabha Speaker

Om Birla, veteran BJP leader LK Advani, party's working president JP Nadda and Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Harshwardhan, Smriti Irani and Anurag Thakur paid their last respects. Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Uttarakhanda, Karnataka, Gujarat, Bihar and Delhi were among the dignitaries who were present when

the mortal remains of the departed leader were consigned to the flames amid chants of "Arun Jaitley amar rahen". Earlier, the top leaders from across the political spectrum and hundreds of his admirers and party workers gathered at the departed leader's residence at Kailash Colony in the morning and at

party headquarters on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg from where his last journey began and the mortal remains were taken to the Nigambodh Ghat for cremation. A huge crowd gathered at the cremation site along the banks of the Yamuna to bid final farewell to the 66-year-old BJP stalwart who passed away

at AIIMS on Saturday after a prolonged illness.

People started chanting "Jaitley ji amar rahen" (long live Jaitley) soon after his body which was wrapped in the national flag and taken to the cremation ground in a flower-decked carriage.

Jaitley's son Rohan performed the last rites as the skies opened up to heavy rainfall. Jaitley's body was placed on the same platform where Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, the RSS thinker and president of Bharatiya Jan Sangh, was cremated in 1968.

BJP MPs, including Vijay Goel and Vinay Sahasrabudhe, Congress leaders Ghulam Nabi Azad, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Kapil Sibal, and NCP leader Praful Patel too were present at the cremation site.

A visibly emotional Naidu, who had worked closely with Jaitley in the BJP as BJP president and then in the Governments of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi, stood with folded hands for several minutes near the body. The V-P was seen wiping off tears with a handkerchief.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a foreign visit, had on Saturday paid an emotional tribute to Jaitley, saying he cannot imagine that he was far away from India in Bahrain while his "dear friend" and party colleague passed away in New Delhi.

Continued on Page 4



PV Sindhu cheers after winning her women's singles final match against Japan's Nozomi Okuhara at the BWF Badminton World Championships in Basel, Switzerland, on Sunday. PTI

Sindhu 1st Indian shuttler to win World Championships

Last time, I lost in the final, before that also I lost in the final, so it is a very important win for me. I won it for my country and I am very proud being an Indian — PV Sindhu, after exacting revenge from Nozomi Okuhara to whom she lost in the last Olympic final

PTI ■ BASEL (SWITZERLAND)

PV Sindhu on Sunday scripted history as she became the first Indian to win badminton World Championships gold by beating arch-rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in a lop-sided summit clash here. The Olympic silver-medalist won 21-7, 21-7 in the final that lasted just 38 minutes.

Nehwal bagged a silver and a bronze in 2015 and 2017 respectively in women's singles.

Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa also won a bronze in women's doubles in 2011 while B Sai Praneeth was the latest to join the club as he settled for a bronze in the men's singles in this edition on Saturday.

Sindhu, who has also won a silver each in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2018 Asian Games, was in a different class on Sunday as she towered over her Japanese opponent in all departments of the game.

The fifth seeded Indian, who enjoyed a 8-7 head-to-head lead over third seeded Okuhara ahead of Sunday's contest, was simply unstoppable as she dished out an attacking game right from the start to race to 8-1 lead.

The Indian targeted the deep corners and unleashed her big smashes to gather points at will. A precise net shot helped Okuhara to snap Sindhu's run of straight eight points but the Indian quickly got the control back when Okuhara went wide and then unleashed two good-looking smashes to enter the break with a massive 11-2 lead.

Okuhara tried to step up the pace but an alert Sindhu was up to the task.

The Indian targeted Okuhara's forehand corner to take two more points. Sindhu used her height to produce those attacking clears which Okuhara could not negotiate. At 16-2, Sindhu committed a couple of unforced errors before again taking control of the match.

Sindhu eventually grabbed as many as 13 game points when Okuhara went long and she sealed the first game with a body blow which her rival sent out.

In the second game, Sindhu continued her rambling form, grabbing two quick points before Okuhara earned a point with a cross court smash.

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In snub to Pak, Bahrain condemns terror as foreign policy

India-Bahrain joint statement after PM-King meeting asks international community to act against terror sponsors

PTI ■ MANAMA

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, India and Bahrain on Sunday called on the international community to reject the use of terrorism against other countries as both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation in the field of security and counter-terrorism.

A joint statement, issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Prince and Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa during his two-day visit to Bahrain, said the two sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest during the meetings.

"Both sides called on all states to reject the use of terrorism against other countries; dismantle terrorism infrastructures where they happen to exist and to cut off any kind of support and financing to the terrorists perpetrating terrorism from all territories against other states; and bring perpetrators of acts of terrorism to justice," the statement said without naming any country.

India has been pressing Pakistan to end its state policy of backing cross-border terrorism and its support to terror groups on its soil.

The two countries agreed to focus on enhancing cooperation in energy, covering the areas of joint exploration and training of human resources.

The two leaders agreed to enhance cooperation to strengthen maritime security in the Gulf region, vital for the security and safety of sea lanes. The two sides underlined the importance of enhancing high-level political exchanges, defence and higher education cooperation, trade and economic relations and people-to-people linkages.

The leaders also noted the increasing trend of bilateral trade and existing potential for two-way investments and reaffirmed their desire to provide favourable environments for trade and investments.

India also welcomed the interest of Bahrain to join the International Solar alliance (ISA), recognising the importance of it as international inter-governmental organisation, which has become an effective platform to facilitate the deployment of solar energy.

Both the sides also emphasised on the urgent need to pursue UN reforms, including the Security Council through an expansion of both categories

of its membership, to make it more representative and effective in tackling global challenges.

The two countries also signed MoUs on cultural exchange programme, space technology, solar energy, the

statement said. An MoU was also signed between BENEFIT, a Bahrain company handling ATM and POS transactions among others, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for launch of

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi being seen off as he prepares to depart for France to participate in the G-7 summit meetings, in Bahrain on Sunday. PTI

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Sanjay will join party on September 25: RSP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Rashtriya Samaj Paksha (RSP) chief and Dairy Development Minister Mahadev Jankar on Sunday created a sensation by claiming that Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt would join his party on September 25.

Jankar made the claim at the RSP's 16th foundation day event here in the presence of Minister of Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare Pankaja Munde, after a video of the "Munnabhai MBBS" actor was played out at the event.

In the video clip, Dutt said: "I congratulate RSP National President Mahadev Jankar, my

friend and my brother. If I would have been here, I would have come," said Dutt in the 17-second video.

Later, speaking at the function held at the historic Shivaji Park in north-central Mumbai, Jankar claimed: "Just now you heard the byte of big boss...big brother. Sanjay Dutt has given date of 25 September to join (RSP). He is in Dubai (today). Had he been in Mumbai, he would have joined us".

There are not many takers to Jankar's claim that Dutt would join the RSP. An emotional person that he is, Dutt may not have even realised as that his mere greetings to Jankar would result in Jankar's claim.

Detailed report on P7

Secretariat takes off J&K flag, nails tricolour to mast

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The J&K flag that fluttered atop Civil Secretariat complex alongside the national flag in Srinagar was taken off on Sunday, three weeks after the abrogation of Article 370.

With this went away the last sign of Article 370 which granted special status to the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K Assembly Speaker Nirmal Singh was first to remove the State flag from his official vehicle on August 6.

The tricolour alone will now flutter atop the Civil Secretariat complex and other Government buildings.

Before the abrogation of Article 370, the J&K State was permitted to fly its own flag along with the National flag under Article 370.

The State flag was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of J&K on June 7, 1952.



The Indian national flag flies alone atop the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar as the Jammu & Kashmir flag has been removed after the abrogation of Article 370 on Sunday. PTI

According to highly placed official sources, the J&K flag was removed from the Civil Secretariat complex early on Sunday after necessary instructions were passed by the authorities concerned.

The decision to remove the J&K flag was delayed partially due to prevailing tension in the region. Partial restoration of normalcy in the last one week motivated the officials to execute the task.

During the recently concluded 73rd Independence Day celebrations, the State flag was seen fitted alongside National flag on the official vehicles of VIPs who inspected the parade after unfurling the tricolour.

Meanwhile, situation remained peaceful across the Valley on Sunday.

Posting a tweet on Sunday evening, Kashmir Zone police said, "No untoward incident has been reported from any-

where so far."

On the other hand, defending the decision to suspend network services and internet facilities since August 5, J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday claimed the decision was taken to prevent a backlash in the region.

Referring to media reports highlighting shortage of essential commodities including medicines in Kashmir Valley, the Governor told reporters in New Delhi that there is no shortage of essential commodities.

He said the lack of communication lines is a better option than loss of lives.

Referring to similar situations in the past, he said "In all the crises that happened in Kashmir in the past, at least 50 people used to die in the first week itself."

So far, no deaths have been reported from the State.

CAPSULE

TRUCK DRIVER KILLED VALLEY STONE PELTING Srinagar: In a freak stone-pelting incident, protesters on Sunday evening hurled stones at a civilian truck in Anantnag, killing the driver, police said. The driver, who was hit on the head, was shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, they said.

MARKETS	
SENSEX	36701.16 (+228.23)
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Guest column

BY Neeraj Kumar Pande



LUNGS OF THE EARTH

Torching of our forest resources

One of the most overriding threats confronting the contemporary world is inarguably climate change. The last few decades have witnessed a considerable alteration of global climatic pattern, with rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall spells across almost all the countries. While the Nordic and west European countries have been experiencing a prolonged and aggressive summer season, the coastal regions in South Asia have been flooding recurrently.

The primary reason behind such a climatic mayhem is the ossifying forest cover all over the globe. The overall rise in the indigenous population combined with heavy migration has led to expanding concretisation of most of the plantation land including several river beds and mountainous terrains. With a decreased rate of carbon sequestration owing to the decline in trees, the air pollution levels are hitting an all time high.

The ongoing forest fires in Amazon rain forests in Brazil which are also known as the "lungs of the Earth" and yields more than 15 per cent of the world's oxygen, is a testimony to the devastating plight which the forest and grasslands have met. Similarly in 2016, the wild fire which had set ablaze the California forests torched down almost half a million acres of forest land.

From 2015 jungle fires in Indonesia to the frequent ones which get triggered off in the mountains of Uttarakhand, the burning of trees down to ashes is an unfortunate affair which results in smoke enveloping even the surrounding regions. Whether the reasons behind

The ongoing forest fires in Amazon rain forests in Brazil which are also known as "lungs of the Earth" and yields more than 15 per cent of the world's oxygen, is a testimony to devastating plight which forest and grasslands have met. Similarly in 2016, the wild fire which had set ablaze the California forests torched down almost half a million acres of forest land

the forest fires are commercial with the tacit connivance of local communities and government, or due to winds and heat, the consequences are always regrettable. It is paradoxical that the forests which enable life on earth by pumping oxygen, are being forced to roast away, emanating copious fumes, carbon dioxide, dust and heat.

The wildfires which have torched the forests in Uttarakhand have been compared to the ones in Australia, in the extent to which they have ravaged the local flora and fauna, besides having threatened human life. Although the history of wildfires in Uttarakhand mountains dates back to the 1920s, they have become a cause of major concern in contemporary times due to the vulnerability of the State to population onslaughts, construction and spiralling air pollution.

In the past shifting agriculture practices, land requirements for cattle grazing and vested interests of timber mafia lobbies in collusion with

authorities have been the leading causes of such fires. However in the present times the increase in temperatures along with low atmospheric moisture has also become a decisive determinant of such incidents. Most of the wildfire incidents have taken place between the months of February and June. The chir pine which dominates the mountain regions is known to be susceptible to catching fires. Besides the forest floors often gets covered with shed needles of the pine trees.

These are also highly combustible in nature. Even the fire which begins as a localised ground fire spreads very fast in the presence of strong winds and eventually ends up gulping down hectares of forest lands altogether. The 2016 forest fires were reported in more than 1000 regions and they continued over a period of almost three months.

The damaged areas included parts of important places like Corbett national park, Rajaji national park and Kalagarh tiger reserve among



others. A huge loss is caused to the biodiversity of the state including the wildlife and plant varieties.

The topography of Uttarakhand is already sensitive and given the weak soil structure of the Shivalik mountains, the absence of old trees can aggregate massive soil erosion and landslides in the monsoon season. It is the trees which hold the soil in place and prevent surface erosion caused by storms and floods. With recurrent burning and the heat ensuing from the process the glaciers in the upper mountain reaches are under the threat of melting as well. A study conducted by scientists at the GB

Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development and the Centre for Earth Sciences, clearly demonstrated how the Chaturangi glacier, a tributary of the Gangotri glacier, has been steadily retreating from the main Gangotri glacier and retreating in mass. Similar is the plight of several other small glaciers which are responsible for feeding the mountain rivers with water flow.

The narrowing of many local rivers and their tributaries can be owed to the shrinking of Himalayan glaciers. We are witnessing a painful vicious cycle where on the one hand climatic change leads to forest

fires and on the other hand these fires lead to further global warming and disturbed water cycle. A proactive initiative must be taken by the Government and local communities alike to prevent such incidents from repeating in the future. A nip in the bud strategy has to be adopted where as soon as the fire is witnessed by nearby dwellers, they must inform the forest department, who in turn must assume aggressive measures to stop it. A routine clearing of forest grounds to remove all the older leaves and debris is extremely necessary. Any deliberate attempts at arson for commercial purposes should be immediately

punished by the authorities and nature friendly farming practice have to be encouraged among the local farmers. Forests are the life lines of human civilisation and efficiently absorb the toxic gases churned up by humans and animals.

The older the forests the more carbon sequestration they are capable of. The reason why countries like Bhutan and Philippines have mandated more than half of their territorial cover to be forested is evident from the well maintained natural resources they can boast of. Right from the primitive ages humans have derived their livelihood, food and shel-

ter through forests and we will continue to do so. The Conservation of Forest Act 1980 and the further amendments made to it in 1992, clearly State that it will not be allowed to undertake any non forest activity near or inside forests which leads to felling of trees.

However the act needs to be implemented strongly and more inclusions must be made to it for avoiding any damage to the trees. By not protecting our forests we are ripping away the very channels through which we breathe, eat and live.

(The author is a retired civil servant)

3-day-long Aman Ekta Hariyali Yatra begins

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The Global Interfaith WASH Alliance (GIWA) and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (JUH) and the Jamiat Youth Club organised a three day Aman Ekta Hariyali Yatra, starting on Sunday, in an effort to combat the devastating effects that deforestation is having on the planet.

As evidenced by India's increasing water crisis and dwindling forest cover it is estimated that over one trillion trees need to be planted to reverse climate change. Led by Parmarth Niketan chief, Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind secretary general Maulana Mahmood Madani over 1,000 madrasas, temples, mosques, schools, stations, hospitals and other public places will be covered in the Yatra.

Chidanand Saraswati said, "Haryali - which means greenery and prosperity is when the followers of Hari (Hindus) and the followers of Ali (Muslims) come together to make the world a cleaner and greener place for all. The next war will be over water and the growing water crisis is becoming a reality of our times. Therefore it is



crucially important for us to work together across all faiths building bridges and breaking barriers through our collective efforts to make a cleaner and

greener world for all." Maulana Mahmood Madani said, "In cities like Chennai water scarcity has created a massive call for action. Together with Chidanand

Saraswati and GIWA, Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind is committed to climate action, interfaith harmony and serving towards a clean and healthy India for all.

This yatra is the beginning of our journey together but each one must play their part to be the change they want to see in the world." After tree plantation

at Rishikesh Railway Station the faith leaders met Acharya Balkrishna in Kankhal, Haridwar who pledged to donate 50,000 neem trees for the next season.

Thereafter the yatra stopped in Darul Uloom Rasheediyah, Subhash Nagar, Jwalapur where Speaker of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly Prem Chand Agarwal and Mahant Ravindra Puri, Nirvani Akhara and others united to plant trees of hope and healing with children from the locals. At Margubpur, Chidanand Saraswati addressed to hundreds of followers on the crucial need to protect and preserve water and the significance of mass tree plantation.

Everyone was deeply inspired to care for the plants and to plant as many trees as the number of children studying at the Madrasa. The Yatra which includes visits to temples, mosques, madrasas, schools, stations, hospitals and other public places will culminate in Delhi in Gandhi Ashram on August 27. Cities such as Rishikesh, Haridwar, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Deoband, Shamli will be covered in the Yatra.

Second issue of Century Darpan dedicated to BK Birla

PNS ■ LALKUAN



The second issue of the quarterly magazine published by the Century Pulp and Paper Mill has been dedicated to noted industrialist and mill founder, the late Basant Kumar Birla.

The second issue of the quarterly magazine was released jointly by the JP's chief operating officer JP Narain and senior adviser SD Bahuguna on the occasion of Janmashtami recently. Narain said that the con-

tribution made by Birla to nation building will never be forgotten and will continue to inspire people. The fruits of his strong character and commitments are being enjoyed by lakhs of workers in the nation today.

Expressing his views on the occasion, Bahuguna said that even though Birla is not alive now, his inspiring life will continue to provide guidance to many people. He exhorted the mill workers to pursue the path shown and exemplified by him with dedication.

OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, CLEMENT TOWN, DEHRADUN

Notice Inviting E-Tender

E-Tender of Civil Conservancy is hereby invited from eligible firm/contractor (who will have to register with Cantonment Board, Clement Town before participation in the Tender) for Cleaning and Sweeping of Roads, Streets, Road Burms, Public Toilets, Cleaning of Big & Small Drain, Barsati Nallahs, Cantt. Board School, Hospital, Office, Cantonment House & Camp Office and Grass Cutting, Spray of Anti Larvas/ Insecticides, Collection of Garbage from Dustbins Points, Roads, Streets, Silt of Drains lifting and disposal in the Waste Processing Plant of Sheeshambara from the Civil Areas of Clement Town, Cantonment. Tender Notice No. 35/Civil Consvy/CBC/dated-24.08.2019

Name of Work	- Supply of 30 Nos. of manpower from Civil Area Consvy.
Estimated Cost	- As per nerrick rate of 30 Nos. of Manpower and Miscellaneous expenditure to be incurred by the contractor.
Earnest Money	- Rs. 1,10,000/-
Cost of Tender Form	- Rs. 3,000/-+18% GST
Days of Completion	- One year (from the date of receipt of work order)
Registration of firm	- Upto 10.09.2019 (Registration fee Rs. 5000/-)
Registration renewal	- Upto 10.09.2019 (Renewal fee Rs. 300/-)
Bid Submission	- 27.08.2019 to 19.09.2019 upto 1500 Hrs.
Bid Opening Technical	- 20.09.2019 at 1530 Hrs. ("Hard copy of all supporting tender documents, as uploaded at the time of online bid, are to be submitted by 19.09.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.")
Financial	- 25.09.2019 at 1530 Hrs.

Note:
1. Detailed instruction / information about the tender are available at <http://www.eprocure.gov.in> and www.cblementtown.org
2. Bidders are required to submit technical and financial bids through CPP Portal for e-procurement at <http://www.eprocure.gov.in> and hard copies of technical and financial bid documents of tender will be submitted separately in the sealed envelope on or before the aforesaid date.
3. Tentative workforce development alongwith equipment and machinery deployment ward wise should also be submitted.

Chief Executive Officer,
Cantt. Board, Clement Town

Fifth District roller skating championship held

A total of 250 participants take part in the event

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

The fifth district roller skating championship was organised by Haridwar district roller skating association in the skating rink of new Saint Thomas Academy at Roshnabad here on Sunday. As many as 250 participants from 13 schools in Haridwar, Rishikesh and Roorkee participated in the event.

Presiding as chief guest, the municipal council chairman Rajiv Sharma said that skating is a sport which teaches a person balance in life. The first thing needed for a good skater is to have

balance, he said. The principal of the new Saint Thomas Academy, Beta Garg said, "We hold skating classes twice a week for students. It is an optional subject and in the past few years we have seen the increasing craze for skating among children." The contest was held for children in the under six year and under 18 years categories.

Skating coach Vatsal Saxena said that for one month any skating enthusiast is given adjustable skates compulsorily to practice on, after that they move on to the regular skates.

The general secretary of the district roller skating association, Shantanu Manglik said the winners of district championship will be sent for the State level championship in coming days.



Mystery of drugging Balkrishna continues

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Though aide of Yog Guru Swami Ramdev, Acharya Balkrishna, was discharged from All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in Rishikesh on Saturday evening, the mystery of the suspected conspiracy against him continues to linger on. After his urine test revealed traces of marijuana (THC) in his body, speculation is rife about who made him consume the intoxicating substance. On the day the Acharya was hospitalised, Swami Ramdev had tweeted a video message in which he had stated that Balkrishna had fallen ill after consuming a peda offered to him by a man on the occasion of Janmashtami.

Throughout the day on Sunday, Kripalu Bagh Ashram of Divya Yog Mandir Trust where Acharya Balkrishna resides and Patanjali Yogpeeth, his main office of work, were abuzz with the discussions on who conspired to give the sweet laced with intoxicating marijuana to Balkrishna.

Ever since Acharya Balkrishna has returned from the hospital, a number of mem-

bers of the religious fraternity and his well wishers have been making a beeline to his residence to ask about his well being. The ascetics of the city expressed concern over his health and prayed for his speedy recovery. On Sunday morning, Union minister Uma Bharti, the Haridwar district magistrate and senior superintendent of police met Acharya Balkrishna. The other ascetics who visited his Ashram in Kankhal included Swami Rishishwaranand of Chetan Jyoti Ashram, disciple of Swami Swarupanand, Swami Ramanand, former municipal council chairman Satpal Brahmachari, Juna Akhada Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Avdheshanand Giri, Shivam Mahant, BJP councillors and legislators, Baba Balram Das Hathyogi.

Meanwhile Baba Ramdev

said that soon it will be revealed who had been behind the incident of food poisoning of Acharya Balkrishna. He said that even Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of Arya Samaj had to suffer attempted poisoning 10 times. Many such saints have been victim of such conspiracies but who was the key person behind this incident will soon be traced out, he said. No complaint has been lodged by Patanjali Yog Peeth in the issue, said the police.

Notably the urine test report of Acharya Balkrishna which was released on Saturday night showed traces of THC. It is being surmised that the intoxicating drug was mixed in his food after consuming which he felt ill and unconscious. Now every meal will be given to him after testing said, Ramdev.



Governor completes one year in office today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The seventh Governor of Uttarakhand, Baby Rani Maurya will be completing one year in office today (August 26). Since assuming charge as the State's Governor, she has fulfilled her constitutional responsibilities gracefully along with giving importance to the fact that along with considering the constitutional limits and responsibilities an elected popular government in the State should get guidance.

Maurya has a long experience of administrative and public life which is reflected in the first year of her tenure.

She has been dedicated to the interests of women and children since the start of her public life. Within a week of taking charge of her office of the governor she visited all the districts of the State and met the people. She met the women, farmers and public representatives during her visit to the districts and observed the problems and possibilities both, at grass root level. The governor visited the Garhwal and Kumaon circles of the State extensively. She also took the meeting of various districts level officers and tried to know the State deeply. During the visits to the districts, governor Maurya visited the girls schools particularly and talked to the girl students. She met members of the women self help groups in the districts and saw their products. Maurya firmly believes that a big change might be possible in the economy of the mountainous regions by promoting self-

employment for the women.

The governor also discussed various issues with the students and principals of various governmental and private schools during her Nainital visit. She took information about the efforts being taken by all the educational institutions to save the children from drug addiction and sexual assaults. Taking a progressive decision, she also stopped the use of titles like "Her Excellency" in addresses to her through a formal order.

Within a week of taking charge of office of the governor, she undertook a surprise inspection of Nari Niketan in Dehradun and gave necessary directions to the officials there. The governor has been serious in context of appointment of teachers, doctors and supporting staff in the schools and hospitals in the State and has directed the officials for this from time to time.

In her role as the chancellor of government universities, she has remained sensitive towards higher education. She believes that universities should ensure active partner-



ship with government and society and solutions to various social and economic challenges should be sorted out through research works. She also lays emphasis on the job oriented syllabus in the universities. She has been careful in context of appointment of vice chancellors in the universities. Vice chancellors have been appointed in six universities in the last one year. In a very important decision related to future of the students the governor has given authority to the executive council of universities for "One Time Solution" for the transparent resolution of the cases of pend-

ing affiliations of the colleges since many years. This will sort out the problems of the recognition of degrees of thousands of students who have completed their education.

Maurya also held the vice chancellor's conference with the vice chancellors and higher officials of Government. She has not only continued the best traditions set up by former governors but also gave directions to make them more attractive and beneficial by taking personal interest. As in the past years, floral exhibition Vasantotsav was organised in the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun this year too. Products from

the local small enterprises were given space along with flowers this time while extending the floral exhibition. Governor's Cup Golf was organised in Raj Bhawan Nainital. A competition category for school children was also held in this tournament. The governor also organised Best Research Award 2018 on April 25 this year. Local language-culture category has been added under the Governor Research Award this year. She also directed officials to increase the numbers of teachers of Sanskrit for Governor Teacher Award given every year.



Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat pays tributes to former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley before his cremation at Nigambodh Ghat in New Delhi on Sunday. Pioneer photo

One arrested in dowry case, others at large

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a dowry harassment case registered in Clement Town police station, police have now arrested the victim's brother-in-law, while the other accused are absconding. The victim is presently undergoing treatment in Coronation Hospital after her in-laws allegedly tried to burn her to death. According to the police, the victim has also alleged that her husband Amzad Ali had threatened to give her triple talaq. The local police are yet to verify the statement on which investigation is ongoing.

The accused arrested has been identified as Aabid, resident of Morwala, Clement Town. According to the information provided by local police on August 22, victims Seema Ahmed along with her brother filed a complaint in the police station stating that her in-laws have been torturing her through physical and mental abuse. On the morning of August 22, at 11 AM her mother-in-law, sister-in-law and brother-in-law started beating her. They later called her husband and together they all started torturing her. Initially they were only beating her for dowry but then they set her on fire.

Superintendent of Police (city) Shweta Choubey said, "The other accused in this case are absconding. Investigation on that account is still ongoing. The victim has also stated that her husband threatened her to give triple talaq, we are looking into that as well."

Station Officer (SO) of Clement Town police station Ratan Bisht said, "The victim is undergoing treatment at Coronation Hospital. According to the doctors she is 50 percent burnt, but is talking now. She is still under observation; it is difficult for them to say anything for certain."

Statements to be recorded today in rape case against god-man

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the case registered against an Uttar Pradesh based 'god-man' and his aide in Rajpur police station on Friday, two women have accused them of raping them. The complaint has been filed against four people including the 'god-man', his aide and two other women. According to the officials, Dehradun police have now started to go through the past criminal records of the said 'god-man' Chandramohan, one of which includes the case registered against him in Muzaffarnagar regarding the alleged murder of his wife. Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi said that further action will be taken after the magisterial statements are recorded on Monday.

Dehradun Superintendent of Police (city) Shweta Choubey said, "As of now we are trying to get in touch with as many women who were reportedly present during the time of the alleged crime at Ashram as the purported victim has stated in her complaint. We are also checking past records, however we will mainly be focusing on the crimes that have happened here. The complaints have been registered under the section

376 of the Indian Penal Code." According to the sources, police suspects that the victim's stories might have been fabricated, as one of victim is a relative of one of the accused against whom god-man Chandramohan has filed case alleging extortion in Uttar Pradesh. Another point that has police scratching their heads is how no one in 50 metres distance was able to hear any of the screams the victim was reportedly raising.

It is pertinent to mention here that two women on Friday filed a complaint in Rajpur police station stating that one of them was raped in June last year and another was raped three months ago. According to the complainant, she was sleeping under a tin shade at the Ashram situated in Sheri village, Sahasthradhara in June earlier this year, when two women came to her and said that "Gurujii" has asked for her in his chambers. As soon as she entered the room branch manager Kuldeep closed the door and then both of them allegedly took turns raping her. She said that she came to the Ashram with a group of women in order to attend a religious meeting. The other victim said that she was raped by the accused last year and was also threatened to keep quiet.

Need to work together to fight drug menace: Expert

Experts call for more elaborate measures to tackle substance abuse

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

While the Dehradun police claim to have started a full blown drive against the suppliers and retailers of hard drugs in the district, an expert said that departments concerned need to work together in order to work effectively against the increasing drug abuse among the youngsters and then the rehabilitation procedure. He also alleged that most of the rehab centres have become the place of choice for criminals seeking shelter under the guise of addicts. These rehab centres also lack proper professional care because of which sometimes it is not only the addicts who take treatment there, but also those who are not mentally stable. In addition to that he said that it is high time that the educational institutions also start taking responsibility for the students who spend most of

their time in these institutions and end up abusing substances.

Clinical psychologist Dr Mukul Sharma said, "Police department, Anti-Drug Task Force (ADTF), narcotics and then the health department--they all work according to their individual capacity with no accountability whatsoever. Then the rehab centres here have become commercialised. People without proper knowledge and professional skills are giving treatment, again with no accountability. So, first and foremost step that the authorities should take is to ensure accountability. If a given amount of drug is found at a place, the Station House Officer should be held responsible."

He added, "If the maximum supply is from Bareilly then border police there should be held accountable. It is understandable that they cannot check every vehicle, but then this is hard to accept than not even once in a while they come across of some bulk cotraband. Then there is the health department--the number of prescription drugs that are being sold in the market without prescription is increasing every year, but the health department just conducts checks and seizures for formality."

Speaking about educational institutions he said, "Dehradun is known as the educational hub, but now this hub is turning into a cluster of



drug clubs. Most of the students studying in colleges here are from outside Dehradun. After getting freedom and under peer pressure they start taking drugs, alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco. There was a time when doing all these things were considered social stigma, now they have become a medium to

increase your status quotient. Why these educational institutions are not held accountable for at least identifying students who are going in the wrong direction and providing them with appropriate counselling, when they charge fees in lakhs yearly?"

Sharing statistics he said, "According to a study, the

shops nearby one of the private universities in Premnagar collect revenue of Rs 2.5 lakh per month from selling cigarettes alone. This is the legal transaction; one can only imagine the revenue people selling drugs or alcohol must be earning."

Saurav Malhotra, administrator at non-governmental

organisation Nijaat-alcohol and drug rehabilitation centre said, "We at Nijaat work at two levels, one is to help those people who have become dependent so that they can come out of the state of addiction and second thing we do is to conduct awareness sessions at all levels, right from community to school and colleges, even

government institution."

He further stated, "We have had patients right from the age of eight years to 82 years. During awareness sessions among the students we found that the in most of the cases a person who is not emotionally healthy tries to find an alternate medium to find emotional comfort, relief

or peace. Taking a substance boils down to the fact the person has unresolved issue right from the childhood."

When asked that whether youngsters experiment with these substances for fun, he said, "Being a former drug addict I can say that fun part came later. I started smoking at the age of eight. Initially I smoked to feel like a grown up. I had self-worth issues. Second thing that drove me towards nicotine was that it had become a status symbol. After using the the substance twice or thrice it started affecting me, relaxing and calming that is what kept me motivated to use it for the next 17 years."

When asked what shall be done to create awareness he said, "Till we do not address the root issue as to why a person moves towards nicotine subsequently alcohol and other drugs, till we do not address the issues of personality development specially emotional wellness, till this does not become part of our education system, there is little scope that youngsters will be able to abstain from these substances."

It is pertinent to mention here that following the instructions issued by Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi, local police have been targeting retailers and suppliers of drugs in Dehradun.

Cong leaders flay Swamy's statement on Kartarpur corridor

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after BJP MP Subramanian Swamy demanded to immediately halt the work on the Kartarpur corridor voicing apprehension about Pakistan's "intentions", the rival political parties in Punjab, including the Congress, have lashed out at the BJP while asking the SAD to come clean on the issue.

Punjab Congress leaders have challenged the Akalis to come clean on Swamy's statement "which has hurt the Sikh sentiments", while the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has asked the BJP to either ask its MP to apologise else show him the door out of the party.

In chorus, AAP's rebel leader and Punjab Ekta Party (PEP) president Sukhpal Singh Khaira warned the BJP and SAD against any conspiracy to scrap the prestigious Kartarpur Sahib corridor, while demanding clarification from the Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and SAD president Sukhbir Badal on Swamy's controversial statement. Punjab's senior Congress leaders, including two Cabinet Ministers — Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and Bharat Bhushan Ashu along with eight MLAs, have castigated Swamy for advocating halting of Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor work saying that the Akalis must come clean on the issue and spell out their stand that how would they react to a senior leader of the party with which they so loudly profess to have immensely close relationship, openly and so brazenly opposing Sri Kartarpur Corridor.

"SAD's silence on various issues from GST on Gurdwaras earlier and now opposition to Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor proves that SAD is hand in glove with BJP in this sin," they said. They stated that it was a part of deep-rooted conspiracy that Swamy gave this statement in Chandigarh. "Now,

the Punjab BJP leadership must also clarify their position as to whether they are in agreement with Swamy's statement or not...The Sikh panth would never forgive SAD-BJP for creating obstacles in fulfilling their long cherished wish," they said.

AAP MLAs Prof Baljinder Kaur, Rupinder Kaur Ruby, Manjeet Singh Bilaspur, Kulwant Singh Pandori and Jai Krishna Singh Rori, in a joint statement, asked the BJP high command to either direct Swamy to withdraw his statement on Kartarpur corridor and apologise for the same or immediately expel him from the party.

Khaira, maintaining that Swamy's statement at Chandigarh, is part of deep-rooted conspiracy of BJP and its alliance partner SAD against Sikh community, said that neither Punjab BJP nor SAD president Sukhbir Badal had clarified their stand on his statement. Demanding a clarification on

SAD hits back at Congress over Kartarpur corridor

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Strongly hitting back at Congress party and its Ministers for questioning Akali Dal on Kartarpur Sahib corridor, the SAD on Sunday said that it was Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh who had raised question about this corridor.

Releasing Capt Amarinder's video on Kartarpur Sahib corridor, the SAD senior leader Manjinder Singh Sirsa asked the minis-

ters, including Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Bharat Bhushan Ashu and eight MLAs on whose named Statement was issued, to first listen to the video and then explain to 'Nanak Naam Leva Sangat' that why Congress leader chose to oppose this corridor. "It was Akali Dal who had raised issue of this corridor since long and it followed up the issue with the Centre who acceded to honour Sikh sentiments and built Kartarpur Sahib corridor. SAD

has always worked for the Sikh community and will continue to do so but it is always the Congress party which works against the Sikh community and always tries to sabotage the projects related with the community," he said.

Sirsa said that before levelling baseless allegations, these Ministers and MLAs should admit that their leader and their party is trying to sabotage this projects for which millions of Sikhs are praying to open in the world.

the issue from Modi, state BJP president Shwair Malik and Sukhbir Badal, Khaira apprehended that the Badal family

had literally pledged and surrendered the interests of Punjab and Sikhs before the BJP merely to ensure the continuance of

Harsimrat Kaur Badal as a Cabinet Minister. The BJP leader, Swamy had on Saturday said the work on the Kartarpur

corridor should be stopped in the interest of the nation and there should be no talks with Pakistan on any issue. "In my view, in the interest of the nation, the work (on Kartarpur corridor) should not move ahead. Whatever work has taken place (on the project), let it stop there," Swamy had said while talking to the mediapersons on the sidelines of a seminar here.

When asked about its impact on Sikh sentiments, Swamy had said Sikhs are nationalists and they would understand it. Asserting that there should be no talks with Pakistan on any issue, Swamy had further said the neighbouring country should not be given any excuse, including the Kartarpur corridor project, for talks. In a major initiative last November, both India and Pakistan had agreed to set up the corridor to link the historic Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur-- the final resting

place of Guru Nanak Dev -- with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur. Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi river, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had on November 26 last year laid the foundation stone of the Kartarpur corridor in Gurdaspur district.

Two days later, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan had laid the foundation stone of the corridor in Narowal, around 125 km from Lahore. Pakistan is building the corridor from the Indian border to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, while the other part from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur up to the border is being built by India. The corridor will be opened in November to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

600 participate in 10th Nainital Monsoon Marathon

PNS ■ NAINITAL

The tenth 'Nainital Monsoon Marathon' was organised by the Run to Live organisation here on Sunday. More than 600 people participated in different categories in this run.

The run was flagged off by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) executive director Vinay Sah, Olympian Suresh Chandra Pande and Uttarakhand dairy federation managing director Prakash Chandra and others. In the main 21 kilometre run, among the men, Stephen from Kenya came in first followed by Vipin of Ranikhet and army man Anil Yadav in the second and third positions respectively. In the women's category, Arpita from Muzaffarnagar came in first followed by Renu from Amroha and Seema Patel



from Varanasi in the second and third positions respectively. In the veterans category, Damodar from Nepal came in first followed by

Anil Kumar from Gurugram and Charan Singh from Meerut in the second and third positions respectively. The theme of

this year's run was 'say no to drugs'. The run began at 7 AM from the Mallital band stand. The participants ran through Mall

Road, Snowview road, Raj Bhawan road and Barapatthar to return to Mall Road and then to Pant Park. Despite it being a

rainy day, about 600 people participated with enthusiasm in the run. Apart from Kenyan runners, participants in the event came from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and the host State Uttarakhand among other places. For the first time, 18 children from a remote village of Bageshwar district and 10 children from Gaulapar in Haldwani also participated in the event.

As part of the competition, two children were presented with the DN memorial award while the students of model Government girls inter college were presented the Pyare Lal Sah memorial award. Veterans were presented award in the memory of Nainital's noted advocate, the late Nand Prasad.

Central team to visit Punjab to assess damage from floods

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Union Home Ministry has finally conceded to Punjab Government's request of including the State in review of flood situation by the Central team.

A central team will soon visit Punjab to assess the damage and loss due to floods in the state. "The Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla has informed that a Central team, to assess damage on account of floods, would also be sent to Punjab, along with 11 other flood ravaged states," said a government spokesperson on Sunday.

Earlier, the BJP-led Central Government had virtually ignored this border state while initiating steps to assist the other flood-hit states.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had, in its meeting on August 21, decided to immediately constitute and depute the Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala affected by recent floods, while keeping Punjab out of the same. Notably, the State Government

had estimated the initial loss by the floods in some parts of state at Rs 1,700 crore, including an estimated crop loss of Rs 750 crore.

Extending gratitude towards the Central Government for including Punjab in the list of visits which have to be conducted by the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) of the Union Government, Punjab Civil Supplies and Consumers' Affairs Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu on Sunday said that the pressure exerted by Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on the Union Government has forced it to include Punjab in the list.

At the same time, Ashu urged the Union Government to give equal importance to Punjab at par with other states which have been badly affected by the floods. Ashu demanded that Central Government must give adequate relief to the state of Punjab to mitigate the agony of the flood affected people. He expressed surprise over the fact that Punjab has been hit hard by the torrential rains which caused havoc and most of the Punjab was inundated by the flood waters but the Union

Government didn't take the situation of Punjab seriously. "Flood has derailed the normal life in Punjab and enormous damage to the life and property has been caused.

As many 10,000 people of 87 villages have been directly affected by the floods as these are completely submerged by the flood water whereas 20 other villages have also lost connect with other villages due to water stagnation," he said adding that for the damage to the life and property caused in Punjab, a package of Rs 1000 crore would not be sufficient.

He also flagged the point that the estimated damage in Punjab is around Rs 1,700 crore, so the Union Government should consider the state's case sympathetically and grant financial aid to Punjab with big heart.

Applauding the efforts of the Army, NDRF teams and other social organizations who gave rendered service to evacuate the people, the Minister also appealed the general public to stand by the Punjab Government in this hour of distress and donate generously in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to help the flood victims.

Delhi Signature Bridge likely to open for tourists by Sept

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited bird's eye view of Delhi for the tourist from the viewing gallery of Signature Bridge, situated at the height of 165 metre twice the height, is likely to be thrown open for the public by the end of September of the current year. The Government is also planning to develop the bridge as an international tourist destination by developing biodiversity parks, amphitheatres, markets, river fronts, and other such developments on both banks of the Yamuna. After missing two deadlines, the first phase of the signature bridge project will be completed with



The opening of this viewing gallery. The eight-lane signature bridge is the country's first asymmetrical cantilever spar cable-stayed bridge. The

pylon of the bridge is the tallest structure in the national Capital after Qutub Minar. The bridge has been constructed on the Yamuna connecting Wazirabad to East Delhi was thrown open to the public in November 2018. The bridge was constructed by the Delhi Travel and Tourism Development Corporation (DTTDC).

As per the officials, the site lifts that were being used for the construction will be dismantled over the next few weeks to prepare the access to the Gallery for the public. "The viewing gallery will be constructed with the glass facade and it will be divided into three levels and will be

equipped with two elevators that will carry people to the top of the pylon. About 50-60 people will be carried to see the birds view," said a Senior DTTDC official.

Further, the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal along with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Delhi Chief Secretary Vijay Dev has recently visited and inspected the bridge. During his visit to the bridge recently, the CM said, the Signature Bridge will be developed as the pride and lifeline of the city's tourism sector and directed the officials to ensure that commuters using the bridge face no inconvenience in both Phase I and II of the project.

JJP, BSP begin seven-day yatra to reach people

DUSHYANT SAID THAT THERE IS ONLY ABOUT 45 DAYS LEFT IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND NOW EVERYONE HAS TO WORK REALLY HARD TO BRING A CHANGE IN THE STATE

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In view of the forthcoming Assembly elections in Haryana, Jannayak Janata Party and Bahujan Samaj Party have launched seven-day yatra to cover all the districts and reach out to the people of the State.

The JJP-BSP held its first joint 'Badlav rally' on Sunday in Nuh and announced seven-day yatra across the state.

JJP leader and former MP Dushyant Chautala said that the strength of JJP-BSP alliance has created a wave of hope in poor section and farmers of the state. There is a panic in BJP and Congress after the JJP-BSP alliance, he added. Dushyant said that there is only about 45 days left



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YOU THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS, CO-BORROWERS AND GUARANTORS HAVE AVAILED HOME LOANS/LOANS AGAINST PROPERTY FACILITY (IES) BY MORTGAGING YOUR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES FROM MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED) YOU DEFAULTED IN REPAYMENT, YOUR LOAN/S WAS CLASSIFIED AS NON-PERFORMING ASSETS. A DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSET AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE OUTSTANDING DUES SENT ON LAST KNOWN ADDRESSES HOWEVER THE SAME HAVE RETURNED UN-SERVED. HENCE THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE BEING PUBLISHED HEREWITH AS PER SECTION 13(2) OF THE ACT READ WITH RULE 3(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002 AS AND BY WAY OF ALTERNATE SERVICE UPON YOU.

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SR. NO.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE BORROWER, CO-BORROWER, GUARANTOR AND LOAN AMOUNT	DETAILS OF THE SECURED ASSET	DEMAND NOTICE DATE	AMOUNT DUE IN RS.
1.	PAWAN KUMAR (BORROWER), SUNITA (CO BORROWER) LOAN AMOUNT RS. 20,00,000/- (RUPEES) TWENTY LAKHS ONLY) HM/0173/H/16/100017	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PLOT NO-12 KHASRA NO. 62/16/2/2 SITUATED AT BHARAT MATA PURAM COLONY, VILL - BHOPATWALA KALAN HARIDWAR, PIN -249401	07.06.2019	RS.20,76,218/- (RUPEES) SIX THOUSANDS TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEEN ONLY) ALONG WITH INTEREST ON 07/06/2019

You the Borrower/s and Co-Borrower/s/Guarantors are therefore called upon to make payment of the above mentioned demanded amount with further interest as mentioned hereinabove in full within 60 Days of this Notice failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to take action under the act to enforce the above mentioned security/ies. Please Note that as per Section 13(13) of The Said Act, You are in the meanwhile, restrained from transferring the above-referred securities by way of sale, lease or otherwise without our consent.

PLACE: HARIDWAR
DATE: 26.08.2019

AUTHORIZED OFFICER FOR MAGMA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD, CLEMENT TOWN, DEHRADUN

Notice Inviting E-Tender

E-Tender for the period of 2019-20 are invited from the registered contractor/firm/s/agencies/ NGO's of Cantonment Board, Clement Town for supply of Co-Ordinator, Special Educator, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Dance Therapist, Sports Trainer & Support Staff etc. for Tarang School 'A' School For Differently Abled Children's on Nerrick Rates. The details are as under:

S. No.	Earnest Money	Estimated cost of tender	Firm Registration Fee	Registration Renewal fees	Cost of Tender Form
1.	Rs. 40,000/-	20,00,000/-	Rs. 5000/- (non-refundable)	Rs. 300/- (non-refundable)	Rs. 3000+540 (GST@18%)

Registration / Renewal of registration of Firm : 27.08.2019 to 10.09.2019 upto 1700 hrs.
Bid Submission End Date : 27.08.2019 to 19.09.2019 upto 1700 hrs.
Opening of Technical bid : 20.09.2019 upto 1530 hrs.
Opening of Financial bid : 25.09.2019 upto 1530 hrs.

Note:

- The detailed instruction / specifications and tender inquiry, documents, tender forms are available at <http://eprocure.gov.in> and www.cbcllementtown.org.in
- Bidders are required to submit technical and financial bids only through CPP Portal for eprocurement <http://eprocure.gov.in> Manual bids will not be accepted.

Chief Executive Officer, Cantt. Board, Clement Town

No.134/CBC/E-Tender/24.08.2019

in the assembly elections and now everyone has to work really hard to bring a change in the state.

The JJP leader, while holding the BJP-Congress responsible for lack of development in Mewat, said that even today, five decades after the formation of the state, Mewat is the most back-

ward. Questioning the BJP government, he asked whether the State Government is undertaking development here or destruction.

Notably, the JJP will contest on 50 and BSP will fight on 40 assembly seats in the state.

In general elections 2019, the Aam Aadmi Party and the JJP had joined hands to fight all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana. The AAP had fought on four seats while the JJP contested the remaining six. However, there was a clean sweep by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on all the constituencies.

Dushyant had himself contested Lok Sabha polls from Hisar but had lost to BJP's

bureaucrat-turned-politician Brijendra Singh.

With INLD chief Om Prakash Chautala being in jail in connection with the teacher recruitment scam, his son Ajay Chautala had broken away from the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and formed JJP last year. The two political factions of the Chautala family will separately observe the birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal for the first time after the split in the INLD. INLD secretary general Abhay Chautala has announced a state-level function in Kaithal on September 25 while Dushyant Chautala has announced to organise a similar event at Meham in Rohtak district the same day.

MANN KI BAAT

Make Gandhiji's birth anniv palstic-free: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday in his radio talk urged people to observe the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi this year as a day to make India plastic-free and exhorted municipalities, NGOs and the corporate sector to come up with ways for safe disposal of accumulated plastic waste before Diwali. The call for a mass movement came days after Modi's Independence Day's address in which he had urged people to shun 'single-use' plastic to protect the environment.

In his monthly radio address 'Mann ki Baat', the prime minister also urged people to participate in the annual 'Swachhta Hi Seva' or 'the quest for cleanliness is service' campaign, which will begin on September 11 this year. "This year, on October 2, when we celebrate Bapu's 150th birth anniversary, we shall not only dedicate to him an India that is open defecation-free but also shall lay the foundation of a new revolution against plastic, by people themselves, throughout the country," he said.

He said people from all strata of the society should celebrate Gandhi Jayanti this year as a day to make 'Mother India plastic-free'.

The prime minister urged all municipalities, municipal corporations, district adminis-

trations, gram panchayats, government and non-governmental bodies to work towards ensuring adequate arrangement for collection and storage of plastic waste.

"I also appeal to the corporate sector to come out with ways and means for appropriate disposal of all accumulated plastic. It can be recycled; it can be transformed into fuel. This way we can accomplish our task of ensuring safe disposal of plastic waste before this Diwali," he said.

Diwali festival this year falls on October 27.

He said all that is required to take up the challenge is resolve and "what can be a greater inspiration than Gandhiji?"

In his Independence Day's address, Modi had urged citizens to eliminate 'single-use' plastic and suggested that shopkeepers provide eco-friendly bags to customers.

"This campaign has enthused people... Many of my merchant brothers and sisters have put up a placard at their establishments, boldly mentioning that customers ought to carry shopping bags with them. This will result in monetary savings as well as one would be able to contribute towards protection of the environment," he said.

Prime Minister also shared his experiences in the Discovery Channel's show with Bear Grylls. "Whenever I

spoke, it was instantly translated into English. Bear Grylls had a small cordless instrument in his ear. So I used to speak in Hindi and he heard it in English... The communication became very easy. This is an amazing aspect about technology," the prime minister explained. He said, with some hesitation, people do ask him as to how could Grylls understand Hindi.

"Was the episode edited later? How many times did the shooting happen for this episode and how it happened? They ask with great curiosity... There is no secret in this. Many people have this question in their minds, so I will unravel this secret. In a way it is no secret at all the reality is that technology was used extensively in my conversation with Bear Grylls," Modi said.

After the show's broadcast, a large number of people have been discussing about the Jim Corbett National Park, he said. "You must also visit sites associated with nature and wildlife and animals. As I have said before, and I emphasise, that you must visit the northeast in your lifetime," he said.

Walking through the wild and taking a ride on a cold river in a makeshift boat were some of the things that Modi put up with as he teamed up with Grylls to promote causes close to his heart -- conservation of nature and cleanliness.

RAHUL-LED OPPOSITION ATTEMPT TO VISIT KASHMIR

Leaders got taste of draconian administration: RaGa

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is furious over the way he and several other Opposition leaders were packed off from the Srinagar airport to Delhi on Saturday and denied permission to visit the valley. On Sunday, Rahul said leaders of the Opposition and the press got a taste of the "draconian administration" and "brute force" unleashed on the people of Jammu & Kashmir when they tried to visit Srinagar.

The delegation was there to take stock the situation following massive deployment of troops in the wake of abrogation of Article 370.

The delegation included Congress's Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and KC Venugopal, CPI(M) leader Sitaram Yechury, Tiruchi Siva (DMK), Sharad Yadav (LJD), Dinesh Trivedi (TMC), D Raja (CPI), Majeed Menon (NCP), Manoj Jha (RJD) and D Kupendra Reddy (JDS).

TV journalists covering the visits beamed live picture from the Srinagar airport where policemen assaulted them in an attempt to prevent them from talking to anyone.

"It's been 20 days since the people of Jammu & Kashmir had their freedom and civil liberties curtailed." Leaders of the Opposition and the Press got a taste of the draconian administration and brute force unleashed on the people of J&K when we tried to visit Srinagar yesterday," he said.

The former Congress president also posted a video of



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Ghulam Nabi Azad, left party leader D Raja and DMK MP Tiruchi Siva return from Srinagar, at IGI airport in New Delhi on Saturday. A delegation of opposition leaders who visited Srinagar to assess the situation in the Kashmir Valley were sent back from the airport by J&K authorities. PTI

Saturday's events, showing authorities reading out an order to the opposition leaders and Gandhi addressing the media.

The video showed Gandhi speaking to the media and alleging that media persons accompanying the delegation were mishandled and beaten up. He also said it is clear that things are "not normal" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Rahul's sister and Congress's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday shared a video of a Kashmiri woman breaking down before Rahul Gandhi

on a flight to New Delhi. Priyanka lashed out at the Centre for the restrictions in Kashmir and accused it of being anti-national by silencing the people of the valley.

"How long is this going to continue? This is one out of millions of people who are being silenced and crushed in the name of 'Nationalism'. There is NOTHING more 'political' and 'anti national' than the shutting down of all democratic rights that is taking place in Kashmir. It is the duty of every one of us to raise our voices against it, we will not

stop doing so," Priyanka tweeted.

In the video, the woman is seen recounting how the lockdown in the Valley has affected the lives of those in Jammu and Kashmir. "Our children have not been able to move out of their houses. My brother is a heart patient. He could not see the doctor for 10 days. We are in trouble," she said sobbing. In the video, Rahul can be seen trying to console the woman.

The woman met Rahul Gandhi in the flight that he and other opposition leaders had

taken on their way to Delhi after the administration did not allow them to move out of the Srinagar airport.

On his return to Delhi the former Congress chief said things were not normal in Jammu and Kashmir. "We wanted to get a sense of what people are going through and help the situation if we could. But unfortunately we were not allowed to go beyond the airport. The press people with us were mishandled, beaten. It's clear that things are not normal in Jammu and Kashmir," Rahul said.

5K kids quit study for mica mining to support family: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian laws may have mandated right to education to every kid while prohibiting anyone under the age of 14 from working — and certainly not in dangerous jobs like mining. But a Government body has found that over 5,000 children in the age group of six to 14 years quit education to slog away in mica mining supplement their family income.

According to a survey conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) which came following a report by Terre Des Hommes, an international development agency working in India, revealed last year that more than 22,000 children are employed as child labourers in the mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar.

Taking serious view in the matter, the child rights' body has called for making the supply chain of the mica mining and industry free of child labour.

The survey was conducted



in the districts of Koderma and Giridih in Jharkhand and Nawada district in Bihar. "As per the survey, there are 4,545 children in the age group of six to 14 years in the area of Jharkhand reported as not attending school," the NCPCR said.

The survey on 'education & well-being of children in mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar' found that 649 children in the same age group were reported as not attending school in Nawada district of Bihar.

The reasons for not attending school included lack of aspiration, lack of interest and

also cases of collecting mica scraps, according to the survey.

It also found that children in the age group of six to 14 years in 45 habitations of Koderma, 40 habitations of Giridih and 15 habitations of Nawada go for mica scraps collection.

Officials say selling mica scraps is the main means of livelihood for many families in these areas.

"Several families do not see the benefit of sending their children to schools and instead prefer them working in collecting and selling mica scraps," an official said.

India is one of the world's largest producers of mica, with Jharkhand and Bihar being the main mica producing states in the country. Mica is used in various sectors, including buildings and electronics, and even in cosmetics and paint production.

The objectives of the survey conducted by the NCPCR were to find out the educational status of children in the mica mining areas, number of children who are not attending school, whether children are involved in collecting mica scraps, if vocational trainings are provided to the adolescents,

and the presence of NGOs in the areas.

The NCPCR said strict action should be taken against buyers of mica scraps from children, and said a special drive to abolish child labour in the mica mining areas of Jharkhand and Bihar should be carried out by the administration.

It also recommended the implementation of PENCIL scheme. "The PENCIL scheme (Platform for Effective Enforcement of No Child Labour) may be introduced and implemented properly in the district of Koderma and Giridih to help in effective enforcement of no child labour in the areas," the NCPCR said in its report.

It said residential schools and hostel facilities should be made available in the mica mining areas to accommodate children who are not attending school.

The NCPCR also flagged the issue of malnutrition among children in these areas.

"In case of Giridih and Koderma, the undernutrition cases reported in 14 per cent and 19 per cent of the habitations and villages, respectively in the survey area. In case of Nawada, 69 per cent habitations have reported that some children are undernourished," it said.

Urban Ministry develops 1,159 parks on 4,288 acres of land under AMRUT

990 projects worth ₹812 crore are under progress: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 1,159 parks have been developed on 4,288 acres across the country under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) a flagship programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, more than 4,288 acre is being enriched as green spaces and parks under the mission, a flagship programme of the central government. "So far, a total of 1,159 parks have been developed across the country under AMRUT," the official said.

He said the components of parks developed include children friendly equipment, divyang (disabled) friendly features, open gym, besides providing park-related softscape and hardscape elements and other horticulture works. "Development of parks and public places is one of the major thrust areas under the



mission to increase the amenity value of the cities by developing greenery," he added.

Around ₹1,768 crore was allocated for the green spaces and parks sector, and a total of 2,355 park projects costing Rs 1,522 crore was taken up under the AMRUT, the HUA ministry said. In addition to the completed projects, 990 projects worth ₹812 crore are under progress, it said. The AMRUT was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015 in 500 cities across the country, covering about 60 per cent of the total urban population.

According to officials, water scarcity will also be

addressed through this flagship programme. In the first phase, 496 ULBs have been identified in 200 districts. In the second phase, between October 1 and November 30, the guidelines will be implemented in 260 ULBs in 55 districts. In all, according to the ministry, 255 districts (India has a total of 725 districts), 756 urban local bodies (ULBs; municipalities and corporations), and 1,597 blocks across the country face a severe water crisis and shortage of drinking water from a rapid decline in ground water levels due to indiscriminate extraction, erratic monsoons, and unauthorised development.

Election Commission announces Assembly bypolls for four seats

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday announced by-elections to one assembly seat each in Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Chhattisgarh and Kerala. The bypolls for Dantewada (Chhattisgarh), Pala (Kerala), Badharghat (Tripura) and Hamirpur (Uttar Pradesh) Assembly seats will be held on September 23. The notification for the by-elections would be issued on August 28, counting will be held on September 27, the EC said.

The bypoll in Hamirpur was necessitated by the disqualification of BJP MLA Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel following his conviction in a murder case. He was awarded life imprisonment in the murder case of five persons. By-elections to 12 other Assembly seats in UP are also due as most of the sitting MLAs won the Lok Sabha elections this year. But the dates are yet to be announced by the poll panel. The Dantewada, Pala and Badharghat bypolls were neces-

sitated following the death of the respective sitting MLAs.

The Pala seat had become vacant after the demise of Kerala Congress (M) supremo KM Mani. The former Kerala Finance Minister, KM Mani had represented the Pala constituency since its formation in 1965 and until his death on April 9 earlier this year. According to political experts, this round of Pala bypoll will see some internal bickering that could decide the fate of the second-biggest Kerala ally of Congress - Kerala Congress (Mani) or KC(M) party. After the recent death of Mani, the party was split between Mani's son Jose K Mani and a splinter faction led by senior leader PJ Joseph. Both groups have accused each other of a hostile takeover of the party.

The Dantewada seat in Chhattisgarh fell vacant after sitting BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi was killed by alleged Naxals in April this year. The Badharghat seat in Tripura fell vacant after the death of sitting MLA Dilip Sarkar.

ASI lists 10 monuments of national importance

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Archeological Survey of India (ASI) has made a sort of record by declaring as many as 10 monuments of national importance in the last one year itself. These include four important temples-one each in Jammu and Kashmir and Odisha and two in Uttarakhand, taking the total tally of monuments under its protection umbrella to 3,697.

The "national importance" tag puts the sites on the world tourism map, and ensure their regular fund for conservation, preservation and maintenance by the ASI on priority basis, as per archaeological norms.

Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have the highest number of sites maintained by the country's premier conservation body, an autonomous organization under the Union Culture Ministry.

Excavated by the ASI way back in 1950s, Jagatgram village, the 2,000-year-old site in Dehradun is associated with the ancient practice of horse sacrifice or the ritual of Ashvamedha. It been now declared a monument of 'national importance'. An official in the ASI said



the site known as Jagatgram has remains of three fire altars where the horse sacrifices were presumably conducted. The excavated remains of the three fire altars here reveal that they were built in the eagle-shaped Syena Chiti form, where the bird is depicted with its wings spread. According to experts, such altars are extremely rare. Similarly, the 12th-century old Janardhanagudi temple in

Kerala's Wayanad has been recently given national tag. An artist's delight, the temple's huge stone pillars have nearly 300 intricate and elaborate carvings, sculpture of a fishing man, a primitive war scene featuring tuskers, a stone edict in old Kannada script, figures of Jain deities and sculptures of the 'Dashavathara'. Yet another monument is an ancient complex housing

ruins of over 52 temples in the twin villages of Ranipur-Jharial in Odisha's Balangir district. The site has a famous shrine known as Chausathi Yogini temple showcasing 64 yoginis in various dancing poses, which is already a centrally protected monument. Dating back to the 9th/10th century AD, pertaining to the reign of Somavanshi Keshari kings, the plethora of temples showcase

Record of Sorts in Last One Year

- ◆ HAVELI OF AGAH KHAN IN AGRA, UP
- ◆ HATHI KHANA IN AGRA IN UTTAR PRADESH
- ◆ WANLA GOMPA COMPLEX IN LEH
- ◆ JANARDHANAGUDI TEMPLE IN KERALA'S WAYANAD DISTRICT
- ◆ 52 TEMPLES IN THE TWIN VILLAGES OF RANIPUR-JHARIAL IN ODISHA'S BALANGIR DISTRICT
- ◆ TRILLOCHAN TEMPLE IN KATHUA IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR
- ◆ VEERPUR KHURD IN VEERBHADRA IN UTTARAKHAND
- ◆ VISHNU TEMPLE IN KOTALI, PITHORAGARH DISTRICT, UTTARAKHAND
- ◆ 125-YEAR-OLD OLD HIGH COURT BUILDING IN NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA
- ◆ NEEMRANA BAORI IN RAJASTHAN'S ALWAR DIST

cults such as Shaivism, Buddhism, Vaisnavism and Tantrism.

Two Mughal-era structures - Haveli of Agah Khan and Hathi Khana, both located on the eastern side of Taj Mahal have been declared as 'monuments of national importance'.

Largely in a state of dilapidation, the 11th-12th Century old Buddhist monastery Wanla Gompa housing 16-foot-high

statue of Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva (prospective or future Buddha) on lotus pedestal, in the cold deserts of Ladakh's Wanla village too have been brought under the ASI fold.

The Ministry has notified these structures as protected monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Remains Act (AMASR), 1958.



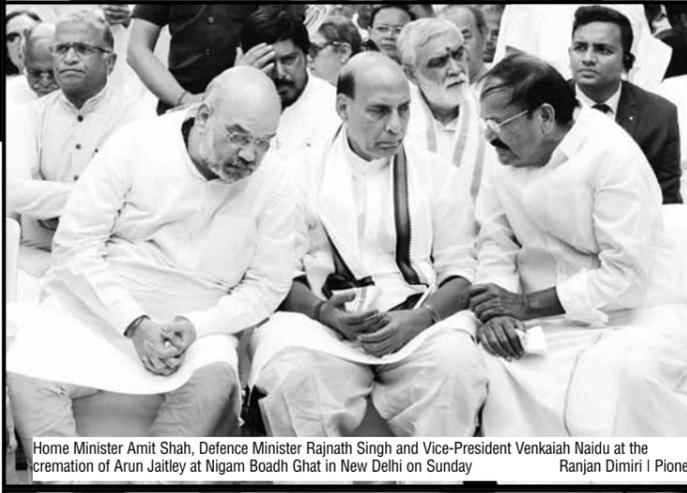
Remembering

ARUN JAITLEY (28 DECEMBER, 1952 – 24 AUGUST, 2019)



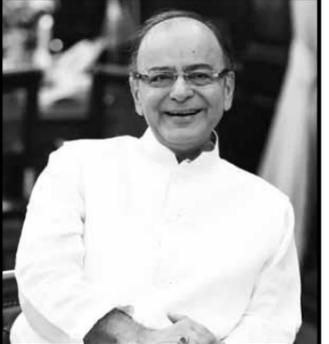
1) Arun Jaitley as a student leader during his Delhi University days
2) Arun Jaitley with his family
3) With Prime Minister Narendra Modi
4) With Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan
5) At an election rally with Sushma Swaraj
6) Arun Jaitley with his family
7) With LK Advani and Vijay Malhotra
8) Arun Jaitley during an ABVP event
9) Arun Jaitley's marriage
10) With Rajeev Shukla and cricketer Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi (second left)
11) While playing cricket
12) With Barack and Michelle Obama
13) With Shashi Tharoor

Photo credit: arunjaitley.com/Agencies/Social Media



If some students belonging to weaker section of society suffer distress, humanity says it must be addressed
Hate speech can't be a part of free speech
We as a Government are entitled to be criticised

ARUN JAITLEY



Sanjay will join party on Sept 25: RSP

- RSP chief, Maha Minister Jankar makes claim at party's 16 foundation day function
- Says RSP has staked claim for 57 Assembly seats from BJP, would settle down for 14 seats
- We will give respectable number of seats to RSP, says Pankaja Munde

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Rashtriya Samaj Paksha (RSP) chief and Dairy Development Minister Mahadev Jankar on Sunday created a sensation by claiming that Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt would join his party on September 25.

Jankar made the claim at the RSP's 16th foundation day event here in the presence of Minister of Rural Development, Women and Child Welfare Pankaja Munde, after a video of the "Munnabhai MBBS" actor was played out at the event.

In the video clip, Dutt said: "I congratulate RSP National President Mahadev Jankar, my friend and my brother. If I would have been here, I would have come," said Dutt in the 17-second video.

Later, speaking at the function held at the historic Shivaji Park in north-central Mumbai, Jankar claimed: "Just now you heard the byte of big boss...big brother. Sanjay Dutt has given date of 25 September to join (RSP). He is in Dubai (today). Had he been in Mumbai, he

would have joined us."

There are not many takers to Jankar's claim that Dutt would join the RSP. An emotional person that he is, Dutt may not have even realised as that his mere greetings to Jankar would result in Jankar's claim.

It may be recalled that on May 1, 2016, the presence of Dutt — who had just then been released from Pune central prison after serving his sentence in the 1993 serial blasts case — at a BJP's Maharashtra Day function organised at Dindoshi in north Mumbai on Sunday night — had set tongues wagging in the State political circles.

Donning an orange Maharashtra 'pagdi' at the function organised by his friend and BJP leader Mohit Kambhoj on the occasion of "Maharashtra day", the actor had pledged not only to do anything for his friend (Manoj) but also reportedly said that the BJP seats in the state "must increase", a statement the actor did not deny later.

Jankar's claim should be seen in the context of the fact



that he is the son of late actor-politician Sunil Dutt and a five-time Congress MP from Mumbai and late actress Nargis Dutt, who had also been a Rajya Sabha MP. His sister Priya Dutt-Roncon is the Congress' former MP. Priya had represented Congress for two terms in Lok

Sabha from November 2005 to April 2014. Dutt has been very close to the Nehru-Gandhi family for decades now. Dutt campaigned for his sister Priya in the recent Lok Sabha polls, in which the latter suffered defeat at the hands of the BJP's Poonam Mahajan.

Jankar said the RSP's power in the State had increased considerably. "We have 98 members of zilla parishads. The RSP holds the reign of several market committees. We have asked for 57 Assembly seats in the Assembly after considering our party's increased strength," Jankar said.

An engineer, Jankar — who is born in a poor family in Mann taluka of Satara district in western Maharashtra, has for several years been championing the cause of the Dhangar community. Having started his career with then Kanshi Ram-led BSP, he became the president of Yeshwant Sena. After floating RSP in 2003, he unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls from Baramati in 2014. He was elected a member of Maharashtra

Legislative Council in 2015, with the support of BJP.

Later, talking to media persons, Jankar said that his party continued to remain in the BJP-led ruling alliance in the state, despite the fact that it did not get even one seat in the seat allocations for the recent Lok Sabha polls. "Since the BJP has announced reservations for the Dhangar community, we are with the principal ruling party in the state. Though we have demanded 57 seats, we expect at least 14 seats," he said.

Addressing the rally, Pankaja Munde said that from being a party that was confined to chowks had now reached Shivaji Park. "The BJP will give befitting number of seats to the RSP in the State Assembly polls. "The earlier Congress-NCP had fooled the Dhangar community. It tried to create rift among the backward communities. The Dhangar and other backward communities have seen through their game. The BJP-led ruling alliance will return to power in the state with a thumping majority," she said.

No shortage of drugs, essentials in J&K: Guv

Communication curbs saved lives: Satya Pal Malik

PTI ■ SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Most of the chemist shops remained open in the Kashmir Valley on Sunday as Governor Satya Pal Malik denied any shortage of medicines and essential commodities in Jammu & Kashmir, and said communication curbs helped save many lives in the State.

In a statement, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said 1,165 out of 1,666 chemist shops in Srinagar remained open on Sunday.

The Kashmir Valley has 7,630 retail chemist shops and 4,331 wholesale shops, it said, adding that around 65 per cent shops remained open there. Malik said there was no shortage of medicines and essential commodities anywhere in Jammu & Kashmir and enough stocks were available for people to buy. "In fact, we delivered meat, vegetables and eggs to people's doorsteps on Eid," he said.

Medicines worth Rs 23.81 crore have reached end user retail shops in the last 20 days. "That's slightly higher than the monthly average," the statement said. It said all 376 notified drugs are available at government shops and also private retailers. Sixty-two essential/life saving drugs were also available. "Both categories for 15-20 days stock," it added.

The average delivery time from placement of order is 14-18 hours from Jammu, as most of the distributors are from there, the statement said.

Noting that there was some shortage of baby food in the Valley for nearly two days, it said fresh stocks have been received and they are sufficient for the next three weeks.

"No cases of overpricing received in 72 test check cases," it added. Governor Malik, who was in the national capital to pay his last respects to former



Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley who died on Saturday, also said no life has been lost in Jammu & Kashmir due to any violence in the last 10 days after the abrogation of the special status given to Jammu & Kashmir and its division into two Union Territories.

"If blockade of communication helps save lives, what is the harm?" he told reporters when asked to comment on how long the restrictions will continue.

Malik said in the past, whenever there was a crisis in Kashmir, at least 50 people used to die in the first week itself. "Our attitude that there should be no loss of human life. '10 din telephone nahi honge, nahi honge, lekin hum bahut jaldi sab wapas kar denge. (If there is no phone connection for 10 days, so be it. But, we will restore everything soon)," he said.

Fondly remembering Jaitley, Malik said it was the departed leader who had insisted him to take up the responsibility as the Jammu & Kashmir Governor last year.

"I was advised by Arun Jaitley to take up the responsibility as Governor. He told me that it will be historic. He also told me that his in-laws are from Jammu," he said.

85 schemes with set time-frame launched in J&K

New Delhi: The Centre on Sunday launched 85 people-oriented development schemes, like PM-KISAN, P M - K I S A N - P e n s i o n, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and Stand-Up India, in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Government aims to achieve 100 per cent coverage of these schemes, which come under 21 Ministries, within one month (by September 30).

A slew of insurance schemes, including the Atal Pension Yojana, has also been introduced in the newly carved Union Territory and the Government plans to provide electricity to all the J&K households.

The PM's special initiatives, like LPG connection to the poor household and direct benefit transfer (DBT) for LPG and kerosene, focussing to empower women especially in rural areas, have also been introduced.

IANS



Devotees load an idol of Lord Ganesha into a luggage compartment of a long distance train at Mumbai Central station on Sunday



PTI Participants during mass making of clay idols of Lord Ganesha in Bengaluru on Sunday

Muslims cremate Hindu friend in Assam village

PTI ■ RANGIA

A group of Muslim villagers in Assam's Kamrup district has performed the last rites of a Hindu man, who had stayed at a Muslim friend's residence with his family for over 25 years, officials said on Sunday.

Sixty-five-year-old Rajkumar Gaur used to stay at Saddam Hussain's residence in Rangia's Khandikar village after the death of his father rendered him homeless in the 1990s. After Rajkumar Gaur died on Saturday, Hussain and his friends pooled money to purchase the items required for a Hindu cremation and arranged a priest, said Shukur Ali, a resident of Khandikar village.

They also carried his body to the cremation ground and set fire to the funeral pyre amidst chanting of Vedic chants, Maidul Islam of the same village said. Upen Das of a neighbouring Hindu village backed this ver-

sion saying the people of Khandikar had asked him for the list of items needed for Gaur's last rites.

Official sources said the administration was not involved in the cremation but was aware of the incident. Hussain said he had given shelter to Gaur after he was forced to vacate the Railway quarters where he was living following the death of his father who had come to Assam from UP.

"I had built a dwelling for Rajkumar inside my premises so that he could live with his family," he said. Gaur remained a Hindu but used to take part in Muslim religious and social functions, another villager Majibar Rahman said. His two daughters were married to Muslims. "The gesture is in line with the traditional Shankardeb-Azan Fakir communal harmony culture of Assam," All BTAD Minority Students' Union central secretary Najrul Islam said.

Bengal BJP not in unison on inducting tainted TMC leaders

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP seems to be divided on the induction of alleged "corrupt" leaders from other parties particularly the Trinamool Congress. A section of the BJP leadership has objected to the induction of leaders like Sovan Chatterjee and further talks of taking in some other MPs and MLAs who are facing charges of corruption against them.

"I have no doubt about the organisational capabilities of Sovan Chatterjee. He is a big leader in Bengal politics but it is also true that he is facing charges against his name Narada case. It will be difficult for the BJP to go to the people with a clean face and a party with a difference," a State party leader said adding he would raise the issue at the national level.

Meanwhile, in a separate development tension ran high in Kulri town near Asansol where a TMC councillor murdered late on Saturday night. The TMC has accused the BJP for the violence while the latter party has rejected their claims

Another leader from North 24 Parganas who have been instrumental in expanding the base of the party in the region said, "the party will not only face difficulty in explaining its stance but also we will face problem in carrying out our anti-corruption movement in various places."

How the BJP would carry out its anti-cut money campaign against the local TMC leadership he wondered. After vehement protest the BJP lead-

ers of Birbhum had succeeded in reversing the induction of turncoat TMC MLA Manirul Islam who is also a local strongman facing a number of charges against him.

On Chatterjee who was once blue-eyed boy of Chief Minister Mamat Banerjee a leader said "what is the surety that he will not quit the BJP if situation changes tomorrow." Making massive inroads in Bengal politics the BJP won 18 out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the last Lok Sabha polls. Since then hordes of local leaders are joining the saffron outfit.

Meanwhile, in a separate development tension ran high in Kulri town near Asansol where a TMC councillor murdered late on Saturday night. The TMC has accused the BJP for the violence while the latter party has rejected their claims.

Sidda mocks at BSY over delay in portfolio allocation, calls him BJP's 'unwanted baby'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday took a dig at Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa over the delay in allocation of portfolios to his ministerial colleagues and said he has become unwanted baby of the BJP.

The former Chief Minister claimed BJP was facing rebellion within due to which the portfolios could not be allotted even after five days of the Cabinet expansion and the party high command had also been not giving any response to Yediyurappa.

What has happened is, Yediyurappa has become an unwanted baby for the BJP high command... On one side there are disgruntled MLAs who went there (to BJP). They are threatening them and then there are many disgruntled within BJP too. Hence portfolio allotment is not happening, Siddaramaiah told reporters here. Yediyurappa had been going to Delhi and coming back and was not able to meet BJP president Amit Shah (to finalise the portfolio allocation), he claimed.

Blame game over fall of Cong-JD(S) Govt continues

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The war of words between the Congress and JD(S) continued unabated with Siddaramaiah on Sunday slamming HD Kumaraswamy for treating him as an "enemy" and indicated that it led to the fall of the coalition Government headed by the latter.

His comments were in response to Kumaraswamy's recent interview to a news portal, in which he reportedly said Siddaramaiah treated JD(S) as its first enemy. However, Kumaraswamy on Sunday clarified that he had not made such remarks and his interview had been 'distorted'. "There lies the problem. He (Kumaraswamy) started nurturing grudge against me by treating me as an enemy. Instead of foe, had he considered me as a friend, a trusted man and an ally from the coalition party, nothing would have happened," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Mysuru.

The Congress stalwart charged Kumaraswamy with "hiding" his failure by blaming others. "How can I be an enemy? Those who don't know how to rule say such things," Siddaramaiah said.

The JD(S) leader reportedly alleged Siddaramaiah was never happy with the government formation under him. Kumaraswamy in a tweet said: "Some news channels have distorted my interview to a news portal a few days ago. I had only said that more than BJP, Siddaramaiah had targeted our party during the elections but I never said Siddaramaiah is my first enemy. There is no need for unwanted confusion," he said.

Gujarat: 2 dead, 4 hurt in clash between two communities

PTI ■ ANAND

Two persons were killed and four others injured on Sunday in a clash between members of two communities in Gujarat's Anand district, police said.

According to police, violence broke out following an argument over money between the groups of the Patel and Molesalam Garasiya (Muslim) communities in Undel village in Khambhat taluka in afternoon. "The clash left two dead and four injured. Sharp weapons were used in the fight," said Deputy Superintendent of Police (Khambhat) Reema Munshi.

Four to five persons from each group were involved in the violence, the officer said.

"The injured have been hospitalised in Karamsad and Vadodara," said the Dy SP. No arrests have been made so far. "A police contingent has been deployed at the site to maintain law and order and for investigation," Munshi added.

Intel about intrusion of LeT men, K'taka on toes

PTI ■ MANGALURU

The Coastal Security Police in coastal Malpe in Karnataka has issued a public notice asking people to be on alert in view of intelligence reports about infiltration of six

Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists into neighbouring Tamil Nadu, police said on Sunday.

The public notice asked the people of Malpe area in Udipi to be vigilant and inform the police if they come across any suspicious looking persons,

they said. It comes days after Tamil Nadu was put on high alert after intelligence agencies said six LeT terrorists, including a Pakistani, have sneaked into the state from Sri Lanka to carry out destructive activities. CSP Malpe Police station

inspector Pramod Kumar told PTI that based on information from the intelligence, all police stations had been put on alert.

Following the intelligence input, an alert has also been sounded in Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

Sec 144 imposed after man beaten to death on Janmashtami in Deoria

Deoria: The administration imposed Section 144 of the CrPC in Barhaj area of the district after a 25-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death by some youths on Janmashtami.

Section 144 of the CrPC prohibits the assembly of more than four persons in an area. District Magistrate Amit Kishor said the restrictions would remain in force till September 15. Sumit was injured when he tried to save his father from the attackers, who were enraged over the objection to loud music during the festival.

The incident had taken place on Saturday night in

Barhaj's Patel Nagar, police said. "On the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami, some youths were playing DJ in Patel Nagar of Barhaj on Saturday night. Munnu Lal asked them to stop it, which enraged 10-12 youths," Deoria SP Shripati Mishra said.

"They attacked Munnu Lal with sticks. When his sons Sumit and Sachin, along with his wife Sanju Devi, rushed to save him from the attackers, they too were beaten up," the SP added. On getting information, police rushed to the spot and admitted the injured to the local health centre, where doctors referred Munnu Lal and Sumit to the district hospital for treatment.

Local truck driver killed in stone pelting in Anantnag

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

In a freak stone-pelting incident, protesters on Sunday evening hurled stones at a civilian truck in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, killing the driver, police said.

Noor Mohammed Dar, 42, who belonged to the same Zradipora Uranhall locality, was returning home when protesters mistook his truck for a security force vehicle and hurled stones at it. The driver, who was hit on the head, was shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, they said.

Police said protesters have been hurling stones even at

Police said protesters have been hurling stones even at civilians and earlier this month, they injured an 11-year-old girl in eye at downtown of Srinagar

civilians and earlier this month, they injured an 11-year-old girl in the eye at downtown of Srinagar city.

Director General of Jammu & Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh has directed officials to catch the culprits and ensure that stern action is taken against them, police added.

Booster shot

Can Sitharaman's announcements be the energy drink that the Indian economy needs to wake up from its slumber?



The Government is right about something, the Indian economy is still growing. But the problem is nobody believes that it is doing so or that it is catching up as fast as it should and this lacklustre conviction is the Government's fault. Growth numbers have been manipulated and uncomfortable figures massaged, others have been withheld to spin a particular narrative. But not all numbers can be fudged. Declining sales and growth figures for publicly listed companies do come out as does Government data. These numbers are painting a grim picture. And while Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman may be right in arguing that India too will be impacted as the world itself is headed towards a cyclical slowdown, the fact is that the Indian economy is still largely based on domestic consumption. This makes arguments from the likes of former vice chairman of Niti Aayog, Arvind Panagariya — which essentially went (with due apologies to Marie Antoinette) "let them export" when he was talking of the troubles faced by the Indian automotive industry — belie an understanding of the situation. But at least someone in the Government, maybe even the Prime Minister, saw that private sector investment in our country was hurtling downhill. This, coupled with little or no major foreign investment, will worsen the job crisis further. India, which mind you needs to create a million jobs a month over the next decade to absorb its "demographic dividend," might actually start losing them.

At least the realisation has dawned that unless domestic consumption is enhanced, there can be no short-term growth. So the measures announced by the Finance Minister, crucially about bank recapitalisation and associated issues as well as the Government paying back its dues to ease working capital crisis alongside, are a good start. It is the cup of coffee that many people have to start their day. It is, however, not a full meal and one hopes that the Government thinks of some other radical new measures to boost the economy. While cutting tax rates is an anathema to Indian Governments — whether on the personal side or on products — it might become essential to boost spending because when people are worried about the state of the economy, they will not spend unless one actually puts money in their hands. Cheaper loans will not make an iota of difference if people do not want them. At the same time, the Government has to rein in motormouths inside the official structure, who have actively gone and harmed industries with comments that have been out of line. Many of those remarks have come from motivated individuals inside policy-making institutions and others, who hold important roles. There is no doubt that this Government, or any Indian government, will have major social sector priorities but if economic growth falters, the aim to lift hundreds of millions out of poverty will remain a pipe-dream. The situation is frankly quite critical and while one should not go as far as to say that the survival of the modern Indian nation state depends on competent handling of the situation, anyone who makes such an argument today will have the attention of many. We are hoping that this stimulus will lift sentiments and energise the equity market. Others still want the big bang reforms, not a nudge.

Seniors are against 'demonising' Modi or drawing comparisons but want the party to fight the government cogently on issues

Cong's inner voice

Seniors are against 'demonising' Modi or drawing comparisons but want the party to fight the government cogently on issues



It would perhaps be easy enough to conclude that some senior Congressmen leading the "stop demonising Modi" chorus have been coopted by prevalent nationalist thinking and are in a rebellious mood as the party goes adrift every day. Some would say the simmering down of the attack could perhaps be influenced by the severity of government probes against fellow Congressman P Chidambaram. But what senior leaders like Bhupinder Hooda, who has refused to critique the abrogation of Article 370, or Jairam Ramesh said of appreciating the governance of the Modi regime when it did right, is perhaps indicative of what could repair the Congress. If one looks back at the party's heady days of winning crucial heartland polls last December and the slide within months in the Lok Sabha polls this summer, then one could find the answers. For the Assemblies, the Congress campaign relied strongly on regional CM faces, an issue-based counter and practical alternatives to the existing governance. In contrast, the party's national election campaign played into the personality cult war that Team Modi had set up with "Modi versus Who," and the Congress atrociously relying on a catchy but self-defeating tag of "Chowkidaar Chor Hai." Given the Congress' own burden of corruption, it was no doubt easier for Modi to rightfully project himself as a vigilante of the nation's interests and turn the nomenclature on its head. Undoubtedly, the negative campaign against Modi only ended up lionising him. Many senior leaders had then murmured privately that the party was just not cut out for a presidential style contest and needed a different sales pitch. It could have countered "sabka vishwas" with its own broad-based alliance of varied interests and regional aspirations, one which it failed at. And by the time it unfurled NYAY as its vision document and policy statement, it had missed the bus. It completely misread the nationalist surge after Balakot and would now want to bury the Rafale allegations with the ghosts of history.

While the Young Turks have set their terms of engagement, refusing to criticise the Government's Kashmir policy for the sake of it and wanting to strengthen their network in States where Assembly polls are due, some saner seniors have claimed the "nationalist" tag of the INC. They are urging the leadership to develop a template on issues that have been mishandled by the Modi regime rather than just being a petulant noise-maker. Jairam Ramesh, although considered a close inner circle member, at least knows that true loyalty is not about acquiescence but about showing the mirror to the leadership so that it undertakes a much-needed course correction. He was pragmatic enough to admit that Modi's "economics of governance" and the Ujjwala Scheme to provide cooking gas connections to BPL households did generate a groundswell that no rhetoric could check. In fact, continued attacks would only make the Congress look like a vituperative irritant and not the serious national party it is. Besides, focussing on Modi would automatically draw attention away from the gravity of issues and the Prime Minister, too, would be happy with that. What the Congress must realise is that a responsible Opposition means that its criticism is worth respecting and paid heed to instead of becoming the subject of an internet joke fest. If such musings do inspire a change of thinking, then maybe the party will actually look towards working on issues and develop an alternate matrix of governance. The Congress supreme leader can be powerful not by entitlement any longer, certainly not by individual charisma but by drawing on organisational strength and giving hope to the rank and file. In short, giving Congressmen a workable narrative.

SC Agrawal Delhi

Visually differently abled people face the same problem when new ₹2 coins of exactly the same size, shape and weight of the then prevailing old ₹1 coins are circulated. The RBI should also ensure that similar sized coins in different denominations are not in circulation simultaneously. We must be sensitive in policy-making.

Old is still gold

The Govt's decision to abruptly remove 10-year-old seed varieties from the market may do more harm than good. It must phase them out gradually and earn farmers' trust



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

The Government is about to make a terrible mistake with its seed policy. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has decided to withdraw certified/notified varieties of seeds that are older than 10 years from the market. The Government system, backed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), cancelled the indent of seed producers, who have requested for popular varieties between 10-15 years old.

Several small and medium seed companies across the country obtain breeder seeds from ICAR every year and take up the production of foundation seeds and certified seeds to distribute them to the farmers. Older varieties, between 10 and 15 years, are still very popular among the farmers. In fact, they demand varieties that are older than 25 years, too, because of their adaptability, resilience and high-yielding capabilities under adverse conditions. The sudden disappearance of the seeds from the market will rob the farmers of freedom, their right to choose the seeds he/she wants to grow and the market of *laissez-faire* principles. Besides, this conservative policy decision may also cause extreme chaos among the farming community, disrupt the seed economy and impact crop production negatively.

Any sound agriculturist will tell you that diversity breeds resilience, delivering both higher yields and immunity for the plants from diseases and pests. This can be achieved through breeding and introduction of newer varieties to maintain pace with natural evolution among pests and pathogens. With time, older varieties need replacement as they become vulnerable to biotic and abiotic factors. Seeds bred for disease resistance may lose those traits as pests/diseases keep evolving, depending on agro-climatic conditions, among other things. This results in decreased efficiency of the seed or requirements of more crop protection or artificial boosters to maintain sustained yields. So when it comes to science, the Government is making an objective decision, a scientific one.

But a one size fits all approach does not work in the farm sector. And why should it? The category of the Indian farmer is occupied by many — starting from the forest-dwelling Santhal farmers of Jharkhand to the progressive cereal farmers from Punjab, the Gond farmers growing corn in central India, the Assamese farmer cultivating paddy in the fields of North-East, the desert farmers of Ladakh and Thar and the coastal farmers from Kerala. The list can go on and on.

The Indian farmers are a diverse group with different qualities and limitation but have one common requirement of certified/superior seeds. While farmers in Punjab are very progressive and quick to adapt to newer schemes and seeds, the



Gond farmers of Madhya Pradesh may not even know about the many Government schemes and seeds, given they are remotely located.

It can be concluded from historical evidence based on the spread of Green Revolution in India that there are three groups — Core areas, covering Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu; periphery, covering eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala; and remote, covering North-Eastern and hilly States, Goa and Puducherry — when it comes to the spread of technological innovation in agriculture.

The time of adaptation or even a variety being accepted by one zone differs to a great degree. After the commercialisation of a variety, it may take around one to three years for it to be widely accepted by core areas such as Punjab and Haryana. For the same variety to trickle down to eastern Uttar Pradesh, it may take another three to four years and for it to reach remote areas like Jharkhand, six to eight years. By the time farmers across these zones gain confidence in the variety and raise demands, the 10-year period is already over.

Old is gold, there is no better adherent to this adage than Indian farmers. General consensus on a good seed is built on how it performed last year or when some farmers get higher yields or less disease. The approach to buying seeds is very conservative. Mostly, varieties that have proved themselves over a season or two in the region are sold. Smaller farmers do not gamble with new varieties. Medium/large farms may experiment with newer varieties but it takes two to three seasons before the intended advantage is delivered.

Farmers need to trust a variety before they adopt it. And given the climatic variations and water scarcity, it may take a longer time for the seed to perform ideally. Hence, the time of adaptation increases, depending on the area.

The harshest truth of the seed world is that its economy is based on the choices made by the farmers. The market is driven by demand and is based not only on science but farmers' intuition. They trust their logic over and above the Government/seed retailer or the labelling. To cultivate demand for a particular variety of seed, therefore, may take ten years or more. In India, the sat-

uration point may be reached way beyond the 25-30 year period. There are many examples. PBW-343 (1996), WH-147 (1978) in wheat, Varuna (1976) for mustard, Pusa Basmati 1 (1989), Govind (1989) in paddy among others are still the farmers' favorites and they have continuously given yields and performed optimally. If suddenly they are removed from the market, with no alternative to the farmers, this may lead to discontentment among the agrarian community.

This will also encourage black marketing, hoarding of trusted varieties as the farmers will not gamble. Besides, it may give birth to a shadow seed economy. Instead of aiding the farmers, the Government may well push them to act complicity with black marketers. The rural economy will suffer and the seed economy along with the markets will see a decline, which may translate to a decrease in crop production.

But the Government can still steer the moment towards creating a positive impact. It may begin by allowing varieties till 15 years to be produced through the ICAR system. Then, it should do a detailed study to get an estimate of market penetration of new varieties

and understand market trends to bring transformative changes. This policy needs to be reviewed on a case-to-case basis.

While less popular varieties can be phased out after 10-12 years, more popular varieties may continue up to 20-22 years. Preparing for the replacement drive of a variety of seed, the Government can use digital media to showcase efficiency, using farmer-friendly videos in regional languages and live crop demonstrations.

This campaign can be strengthened by efforts of *Krishni mitra*/village-level agriculture officers. The Government can supply new varieties to the farmers directly so that they can sow them in small patches in their region. Once the farmers see the new varieties perform better, they will develop trust for new seeds and, thus, natural demand can be created. The Government must not only make the best use of scientific principles but also keep in mind economic forces of demand as for many farmers, old seed is still gold.

(The writer is Programme Director for Policy and Outreach at the National Seed Association of India)

SOUNDBITE

Opposition parties could have visited Srinagar and told the truth to the country. It would have built confidence among people.



Rajasthan Chief Minister — Ashok Gehlot

She (Mira) is creative and has a great sense of clothes and is very good with food, too. Having said that, she is pretty comfortable in front of the camera, too.



Actor — Shahid Kapoor

For many years China (and many other countries) has been taking advantage of the US. As President, I can no longer allow this to happen.



US President — Donald Trump

In the interest of the nation, the work (Kartarpur corridor) must not move ahead. Whatever work has been done (on the project), let it stop there.



BJP MP — Subramanian Swamy

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welfarist approach

Sir — The Bombay High Court has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to file a reply on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by the National Association for the Blind, seeking the Central bank's assurance that sizes of currency notes will not be changed in future as visually challenged people take time to get familiar with new-sized notes. The subject came to light after the size of ₹100 and ₹500 notes were gradually changed after demonetisation. The RBI should give an assurance that in the future, if notes are required to be changed, it will be done simultaneously for notes of all denominations. The problem also extended to coins.

Visually differently abled people face the same problem when new ₹2 coins of exactly the same size, shape and weight of the then prevailing old ₹1 coins are circulated. The RBI should also ensure that similar sized coins in different denominations are not in circulation simultaneously. We must be sensitive in policy-making.

Healthy criticism is a must for democracy

At last, some Opposition parties, including Congress leaders, have come out in the open to highlight Prime Minister Narendra Modi's success in the "economics of governance." A section of the Congress' senior leadership, including Jairam Ramesh, Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Shashi Tharoor, has said that "demonising" the Prime Minister will not help the Opposition's cause and accepted that he "talks in a language that connects him with the people." The lingering impression among the citizens, too, is that the rabid "anti-Modi" stance adopted by the Congress led to the Modi Government's resounding victory in 2019. Demeaning and demonising the Prime Minister of a country, despite public opinion to the contrary, cannot bring laurels to the Opposition. When a leader is denounced on a consistent basis by any party, it tends to lose acceptability and trustworthiness even if the condemnation is genuine.

Though Modi 1.0 could not dissect the problems faced by the nation and find a long-lasting solution, citizens still reposed faith in it. Even the economic slowdown did not change their standing. The Congress brass must take note of Jairam Ramesh's remarks. Instead of



ganging up against him, it must re-evaluate its campaign strategy to emerge victorious. With Rahul Gandhi gone and Sonia Gandhi at the helm, she must enthuse the spirit of party workers, rebuild the organisation, reviving communication strategy in order to connect with the masses and sharpen the economic critique. Instead of criticising the Government for the sake of it, it must take recourse to healthy criticism.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

"political vendetta" ought to be dismissed. Whether the charges levelled against him are true or not is for the judiciary to determine. Nobody is above the law. Ultimately, corruption in high places must be weeded out.

J K Ashray Bengaluru

Custody blues

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). It is indeed ironical that Congress leader P Chidambaram has had to spend time in custody of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) at the very guest house that was inaugurated by him. Whether the charges against him in the INX Media case are true are not, it cannot be denied that the *modus operandi* adopted by the CBI to arrest him was deplorable. It also defies logic as to why Chidambaram had to knock the court's door numerous times if indeed he is not guilty?

Shubham Kashyap Via email

Law is supreme

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Chidambaram in a spot" (August 22). The ugly spectacle of a former Union Home Minister going through unseemly contortions and evasions to dodge the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) had unnecessarily riveted the nation to its television sets.

Any top politician getting arrested — be it Lal Prasad of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in the fodder scam in 1997 or M Karunanidhi in 2001 — becomes a premise for settling political

scores. A look at all such cases, where high-profile leaders are involved, points to a similar outrage and hullabaloo surrounding their arrest, though the merits of allegations in each case may vary drastically.

So, the Congress' charade that Chidambaram is a victim of

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Greenland's gamble

It makes little difference to Greenlanders whether foreign investment comes from Denmark, China or the US, so long as they have political control



GWYNNE DYER

Right from his purchase of New Jersey casinos to his proposed acquisition of Greenland, Donald Trump's real estate deals have always been plagued by bad timing. The US could probably have bought Greenland from Denmark in 1917 (when it did buy the US Virgin Islands from the Danes), but it's a century too late now. Nevertheless, the US President's latest bad idea does give us an incentive to catch up with what's been happening in Greenland and it's quite interesting. Trump may not know this, since he rarely reads intelligence reports, but in November 2017 Greenland's premier, Kim Kielsen, led a government delegation to Beijing to seek Chinese investment.

Greenland, the world's biggest island, is not yet fully independent but it is autonomous from Denmark in everything except foreign affairs and defence. Kielsen was looking mainly for Chinese investment in mining enterprises but he was also interested in attracting a Chinese bid to build three modern airports on the island, which currently depends on World War II-era airstrips.

This set off a security panic in NATO, involving implausible nightmare visions about Greenland getting so deep in debt to Chinese banks that it would end up letting China (which has comically declared itself a "near-Arctic nation") operate military aircraft from those airports. The US military, which has a large air base at Thule in northern Greenland, then took fright. Washington strongly urged the Danish government, which provides two-thirds of Greenland's budget revenue, to nip this threat in the bud. Copenhagen had previously refused to fund the new Greenland airports but late last year it suddenly came up with very low-interest loans for them. End of panic.

By then Kielsen's government in the tiny capital of Nuuk (population 17,000) had collapsed but his Siumut Party came out ahead in the election last April and he is back. And the issue of Chinese mines in Greenland is still on the table. In fact, there already is one in southern Greenland, producing uranium and rare earths for a Chinese-Australian consortium. Other projects potentially involving Chinese capital and workers are under discussion, including an open-cast iron-ore mine near Nuuk, a zinc mine in the north, and both offshore and onshore oil and gas leases.

For the 56,000 Greenlanders, 90 per cent of whom are Inuit (Eskimo), the geo-strategic implications of Chinese investment are irrelevant and they are probably right about that. What worries them, and occupies a central place in Greenlandic politics, are the cultural and social implications of foreign investment by anybody, Chinese or not.

The Greenland Inuits are one of the few indigenous societies in the world that have full or almost full control over their own destiny but the impact of the modern world on their traditional culture has been as destructive as it was for all the others: depression and other psychological illnesses, rampant alcoholism and drug use, and an epidemic of suicides. So they face a choice. Do you go on trying to preserve what is left of the old Arctic hunting and fishing culture, although it's already so damaged and discouraged that the island has the highest suicide rate on the planet? Or do you seek salvation in full modernisation through high-speed economic growth, while keeping your language and what you can of your culture?

What's remarkable about Greenlandic politics is how aware the players are of their dilemma and their options. "If you want to become rich, it comes at a price," says Aqqaq Lyngne, one of the founders of the Inuit Ataqatigut (Community of the People) party that ran the government until 2013. Lyngne and many others didn't want to pay that price, and under the Inuit Ataqatigut administration, all mining was banned in Greenland. Quite apart from the environmental costs of large-scale mining operations, they believed, the many thousands of foreign workers they would bring in would have a devastating impact on the already very fragile Greenlandic culture.

The decision was made in 2013, when the Siumut Party took power. It believes that modernisation has gone too far to turn back now. Better to gamble on solving the current huge social problems by enabling everybody to live fully modern, prosperous lives. If you're no longer marginalised and poverty-stricken, you'll feel better about yourself. Let us hope so but the die is cast. Greenland will modernise, and in due course, we will find out if that helps. It makes little difference to Greenlanders whether the foreign investment comes from Denmark, China or the US, so long as they have political control — but they certainly don't want to become Americans. The "Greenland Purchase" is not going to happen. As Soren Espersen, foreign affairs spokesman of the Danish People's Party, said last week: "If (Trump) is truly contemplating this, then this is final proof that he has gone mad."

(The writer's new book is *Growing Pains, the Future of Democracy and Work*)

THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY THE FINANCE MINISTER WILL FACILITATE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, IMPROVE DEMAND AND BOOST THE OVERALL ECONOMY.

—PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

POINT-COUNTERPOINT



THE NATION IS REELING UNDER RECESSION. THE MODI GOVERNMENT IS ONLY DOING HALF AND INCOMPLETE ROLLBACK OF THE PROVISIONS IT IMPOSED.

—CONGRESS CHIEF SPOKESPERSON RANDEEP SURJEWALA

Integration wasn't won in a day

The fight for total mainstreaming of J&K with the rest of India began with the birth of the All Jammu & Kashmir Praja Parishad in 1947



ANIL GUPTA

The political movement headed by Sheikh Abdullah, that originated in Kashmir in 1931, to some extent remained unsuccessful in gaining the support of Jammu, especially the Hindu-dominated areas. Its genesis, growth and ideological moorings made it suspect in the eyes of Dogra nationalists who viewed it as something alien and unacceptable. Pandit Prem Nath Dogra led the All Jammu and Kashmir Rajya Hindu Sabha as the main opposition party. It merged with Praja Parishad which was formed in Jammu immediately after the tribal invasion in November 1947.

The struggle for total integration of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with India began with the birth of the All Jammu & Kashmir Praja Parishad, popularly known as Praja Parishad. It opposed Abdullah's major policy planks such as abolition of landlords, anti-Dogra drive, attempts at framing a separate constitution for J&K, a separate flag and so on.

Sheikh Abdullah became the Prime Minister of J&K in March 1948. He abhorred opposition and wanted to become de facto ruler of the state. As an advocate of a one-party State, he forced the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to introduce Article 370 in the Constitution of India to ensure Kashmiri Muslim domination. After, that he began annihilation of the opposition. His cronies chanted slogans like, "ek rehnuma (mentor), Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, ek tanzeem (organisation) National Conference, ek jhanda (flag), Halwala, ek manshoor (manifesto) Naya Kashmir, which alarmed the pro-integration Dogras of Jammu. Prem Nath Dogra and his colleagues felt this was dangerous for democracy and would fulfill Abdullah's totalitarian ambitions.

Moreover, Abdullah's policies were exclusively confined to the welfare of Kashmiri Muslims and ignored the sentiments and interests of the people of Jammu and Ladakh. His animosity towards the Maharaja transformed into hatred for the Dogras of Jammu. Unfortunately, he had clout with the ruling party at the Centre which had a Kashmir-centric inclination. This was a major cause of concern for the people of Jammu. Praja Parishad was committed to full integration of J&K with the Indian union and safeguarding the legitimate democratic rights of the people of Jammu. Consequently, it became popular in Jammu, including among Muslims there. Its growing popularity irked Abdullah who resorted to suppressing its growth. Several activists, including the author's grandfather, Bishan Das Mahajan, were expelled from the state. Praja Parishad leaders were also put behind bars in February 1949 and by mid-1949, Abdullah imprisoned as many as 294 of its workers. In May 1949, the Parishad began a protest for the release of Prem Nath Dogra.

Abdullah finally yielded to the combined pressure and intervention of some nationalist leaders in Delhi and released him from jail in October 1949. However, the persecution did not end there and Abdullah's hatred for the nationalists was further aggravated by the fact that the Parishad's demand for full integration clashed directly with the National Conference (NC) demand for complete autonomy for J&K. As many as 15 youths were shot and some others injured at various places for hoisting the Tricolour. The agitators even included the demand for abolishing the permit system for entering or leaving J&K.

Many may argue about the relevance of this

MANY MAY ARGUE ABOUT THE RELEVANCE OF THIS ARTICLE UNDER THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE PRESENT GENERATION TO BE AWARE OF THE STRUGGLES AND SACRIFICES MADE BY THEIR PREDECESSORS WHICH ACTED AS THE ENABLER OF THE PRESENT LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT OF ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370



article under the changed circumstances but it is imperative for the present generation to be aware of the struggles and sacrifices made by their predecessors which acted as the enabler of the present landmark achievement.

The Parishad tirelessly tried to unite the people of Jammu with a view to foil the attempts of those who either favoured autonomy or tried to separate the state from the Indian Union. It also opposed the setting up of a separate Constituent Assembly and favoured the application of the Indian Constitution.

Despite being opposed to a separate constitution for the state, a special session of the party held on May 8, 1951, decided to contest the elections to the Constituent Assembly. Because of large-scale rejection of nomination papers of its candidates and nefarious manipulation of the elections by Abdullah, the party decided to boycott the elections. In spite of its strong support base, it did not have a single member in the Constituent Assembly, which under Abdullah's leadership, framed a constitution that promoted the concept of "State within a State".

The NC and Abdullah did everything to ensure that all party members were part of the J&K Assembly. Abdullah dubbed the Parishad as communal, ignoring the fact that many Muslims were also contesting on its tickets. Slowly, the Parishad turned into a mass movement and played a key role in opposing separatist and communal politics in J&K.

Emboldened by the support he enjoyed from Nehru and after signing of the Delhi Agreement, Abdullah began hoisting the NC flag at official functions and atop government buildings. However,

in keeping with his habit of double-speak, he implemented the agreement only in part to further his agenda of autonomy. On January 15, 1952, he delivered a speech at an official function at Gandhi Memorial College, Jammu and hoisted the NC's flag alongside the Tricolour, asking the students to salute it but they objected. This infuriated Abdullah and he ensured that they were penalised.

This was followed by a 38-day hunger strike by students in 1952. On February 8, 1952, the people of Jammu came out in solidarity with them that led Abdullah to impose curfew and get PN Dogra arrested. The intense public pressure that followed this forced Delhi to act and ensure the release of Dogra and others. It soon turned into a public movement against Abdullah's despotism and his anti-national activities. The movement found support nationally in the form of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which was formed in 1951.

Another mass movement was launched by the Parishad in November 1952 against the separatist and communal politics of Abdullah. In December 1952, Jan Sangh president Syama Prasad Mookerjee announced the launch of a nation-wide agitation for the abolition of Article 370. On May 8, 1953 he decided to enter J&K, thus violating the prevalent permit system and was arrested by Abdullah as soon as he set foot in the state. He was jailed and tortured at Srinagar, which led to his mysterious death on June 23, 1953. An estimated 10,000 activists were imprisoned in Jammu, Punjab and Delhi, including Members of Parliament, leading to an uproar in India.

Blinded by his ambition, Abdullah

indulged in competitive communalism and worked towards the establishment of an independent Muslim majority-state claiming that India was not secular enough. The Parishad opposed it tooth and nail and accused Abdullah of not being Indian enough. Abdullah was finally arrested in August 1953 after he made secessionist speeches at RS Pura on April 10 and on July 13.

After this, the Praja Parishad movement largely subsided and it finally merged with the Jana Sangh in 1963. Ever since then, Jana Sangh and later its successor, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had been struggling and agitating for ending J&K's special status, which not only promoted separatism, religious militancy but was the major cause of rampant corruption and poor development. The re-entry of Sheikh Abdullah in state politics in 1975 under an agreement with the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the subsequent Rajiv-Farooq accord and Rahul-Omar bonhomie gave a new fillip to the demand for autonomy and saw the rise of *jihadi* and radical forces in Kashmir.

The historic decision of August 5, 2019 is the result of the struggle and sacrifices of three generations of Praja Parishad, Jana Sangh and BJP workers. The BJP, as a successor of the Jana Sangh, remained focussed and committed to abolition of Article 370 and J&K's full integration with India. Many accused the party of using it only as an election plank to woo voters in the Hindi heartland but all of them have been proved wrong.

(The author is a Jammu based political commentator and columnist)

The great surrogacy debate

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, which prohibits commercial surrogacy but allows it for altruistic purposes, has once again put the spotlight on reproductive autonomy, women's rights and the extent to which the State should intervene



NEHA CHAUHAN

The newly-introduced Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019, passed by the Lok Sabha, has once again stirred the big debate regarding reproductive autonomy, women's rights and the extent to which the State should intervene. The Bill prohibits commercial surrogacy but allows it for altruistic purposes. It mandates that the intending couple should have a "certificate of essentiality" and a "certificate of eligibility" that are issued upon fulfillment of certain conditions.

For instance, the couple must be Indian citizens and married for at least five years; the wife should be between 23 to 50 years of age and the husband between 26 to 55-years-old. They must not have any surviving child (biological, adopted or surrogate). However, this would not include

a child who is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from life-threatening disorder or fatal illness. This apart, the couple must also fulfill other conditions that may be specified by regulations.

The Bill was introduced to clamp down on rampant commercial surrogacy, with India fast becoming a hub. Surrogacy is a \$400 million a year business with an estimated 3,000 fertility clinics in major Indian cities, says a 2012 UN study.

Worldwide, it is estimated that around 15 per cent of reproductive-aged couples are affected by infertility. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the infertility rate in India is between 3.9 to 16.8 per cent. Infertility rates vary from State to State. While it is 3.7 per cent in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, it's 5 per cent in Andhra Pradesh and 15 per cent in Kashmir.

Hence, there's a big population that needs help starting a family but the new law will make surrogacy inaccessible for this cohort. There are arguments for easy availability of the option for adoption in India, but in the end, the state shouldn't decide how couples expand the family.

While this Bill makes altruistic surrogacy legal in India just like South Korea,

Hong Kong and Vietnam, in most of the neighbouring countries it's either banned or there are no regulations governing it. After widespread reports of Indian women travelling to Nepal once India enforced visa restrictions for foreigners commissioning surrogacy in India in 2013, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled against commercial surrogacy in August 2015.

To date, however, normative standards on surrogacy have been relatively limited. The UN international human rights mechanisms have not yet taken up the issue of surrogacy in a focussed or uniform way. The UN Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography has addressed the issue and highlighted the lack of regulation of commercial surrogacy. It has called upon countries to adopt legislation to protect the rights of women and children and develop and implement international standards.

Coming back to the Bill, another sticking point is that surrogacy remains only for the married heterosexual couples and completely excludes singles, live-in partners and same-sex couples.

The other problem that various sections of women groups and activists have

with this Bill is that the following aspects are missing from it and must be addressed.

First, the reason for not having a common position on surrogacy as outlined in the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2017 is not having an integrated approach towards the use of assisted reproductive technologies.

Second, as per the definition of "infertility", the Bill excludes women who conceive but are unable to carry a child through the period of the pregnancy due to miscarriage, fibroids, hypertension and diabetes. In some countries like The Netherlands, South Africa and Greece medical conditions that permit altruistic surrogacy are well-defined.

Third, the Bill includes a sub-clause for National Surrogacy Board to define "any other condition or disease" for which surrogacy may be allowed. For a robust implementation, the eligibility criteria should not be left to regulations but be part of the law.

Fourth, as part of the certificate of essentiality, the Bill outlines the following conditions, a certificate of proven infertility of one or both the partners from a District Medical Board; an order of parentage and custody of the surrogate

child passed by a magistrate's court. However, the Bill lacks any review or appeal procedure in case of rejection of the application.

Fifth, the surrogate mother is required to be a close relative of the intending couple. However, the "close relative" or the nature of this relationship is not defined. While it provides flexibility to the intending couple to broaden the choice of surrogates, it may also be subjected to perceptual scrutiny at the time of receiving the certificate of essentiality.

Sixth, the eligibility criterion that specifies that the couple should be married for at least five years stops the couple from deciding the size of their family as per their requirement. It's not clear that once infertility is established, why a couple should be made to wait for five years.

Seventh, the criteria of not having "been a surrogate mother earlier" cannot be monitored until there's a centralised system to record pregnancies in the country.

Eighth, the purpose of imposing a focus on "altruistic surrogacy" is an assumption that it will not be exploitative or coercive. With commercial surrogacy, there is at least an option for stringent contract and legal provisions but it will be difficult to

monitor altruistic surrogacy. There is enough evidence that families can also be exploitative towards women who may be coerced to become surrogates for close relatives. Thus, the argument that the altruistic surrogacy cannot be an exploitative arrangement does not stand.

From a surrogate mother's perspective, there are several concerns like prevention of coercion or any other form of exploitation, legal counselling for the implications of surrogacy on health and lives, informed consent, access to remuneration for surrogacy, nature of the relationship with the legal family of the child, among others.

The Bill violates the fundamental rights of surrogates and potential parents. The banning of surrogacy will make it more discreet and underground, putting a lot of these women at further risk.

Despite all the intricacies of the Bill, it leaves us with these questions — Where is the choice of surrogate women? Will banning commercial surrogacy address all these pressing issues? Why ban surrogacy and not regulate it?

(The writer is Senior Technical Advisor, Advocacy and Accountability at International Planned Parenthood Federation, South Asia)

FPIs withdraw ₹3,014 cr from capital mkts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Overseas investors have pulled out a net amount of ₹3,014 crore from the Indian capital markets this month so far, but the trend may reverse following the removal of enhanced surcharge on FPIs, experts said.

According to depositories data, foreign portfolio investors (FPI) withdrew a net amount of ₹12,105.33 crore from equities, but pumped in ₹9,090.61 crore into the debt segment during August 1-23.

This has translated into a total net outflow of ₹3,014.72 crore from the capital markets (both equity and debt).

"Out of 15 trading sessions, foreign investors were net buyers in only two sessions. The sell off in equities continued due to a mix of factors including US Fed rate cut, US-China trade war and the post Budget tax hike on high income investors," said Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO of Groww.

The Centre on Friday announced a slew of measures to revive growth momentum, including rollback of enhanced super-rich tax on foreign and domestic equity investors imposed in the Budget.

Prior to the announcement of enhanced super-rich tax in the Union Budget for 2019-20 in July, FPIs were net buyers for five consecutive months.

FPIs had infused a net ₹10,384.54 crore in June, ₹9,031.15 crore in May, ₹16,093 crore in April, ₹45,981 crore in March and ₹11,182 crore in February into the Indian capital markets.

However, the position reversed in July, when FPIs turned net sellers to the tune of ₹2,985.88 crore.

Now, with the withdrawal of the enhanced surcharge on FPIs, confidence in the market is likely to be restored, analysts said.

"One can now expect reversal of the FPI selling. The market is likely to look up from now on. However, sustained rally in the market will happen only when we have visibility on good earnings growth and reversal of the slowdown underway in the economy which requires more reforms."

"The Finance Minister has announced that she will come back with more reforms soon. So, there is hope," said V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

FPI surcharge removal, stimulus steps to boost markets: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The stock markets may see a relief rally this week after the government removed enhanced surcharge on FPIs and also unveiled various measures to jumpstart growth, analysts said.

Giving in to the demands of overseas investors, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced rollback of enhanced surcharge on foreign portfolio investors levied in the Budget.

The Budget proposal to hike surcharge on FPIs had spooked foreign investors, who withdrew more than USD 3.4 billion (Rs 24,500 crore) from domestic equities in July and August. The massive capital outflows also put pressure on the rupee, which slumped to 72-level against the US dollar last week.

"Withdrawal of enhanced surcharge on FPI is a big positive for Indian markets as it could reverse the outflows seen since post Budget. It should also help INR appreciation. Overall, a good sentiment booster for the Indian economy," said Rusmik Oza, Head of Fundamental Research, Kotak Securities.

The Centre also announced a raft of measures to revive growth momentum, including exempting startups from 'angel tax', a package to address distress in the auto sector and upfront infusion of Rs 70,000 crore into public sector banks.

"Withdrawal of the surcharge on FPIs is a shot in the arm for the sagging market. One can now expect reversal of the FPI selling. The market is likely to look up from now on," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said.



"However, sustained rally in the market will happen only when we have visibility on good earnings growth and reversal of the slowdown underway in the economy. This requires more reforms," Vijayakumar added.

In a bid to address slowdown in the auto sector, the government lifted ban on purchase of vehicles by government departments, and allowed additional 15 per cent depreciation on vehicles acquired from now till March 2020.

The revision of one-time registration fees has also been deferred till June 2020.

These steps are likely to prop up the automobile sector and revive demand, said Ashwin Patil, Senior Research Analyst (Auto Sector) at LKP Securities.

"These are just the kind of measures which were required to boost the economy. In the immediate term, we can expect the markets to bounce back on Monday with a gap up opening, and continue the rally for a few sessions to come," said Amit Gupta, Co-Founder and CEO of TradingBells.

Stimulus package will boost growth and stabilise economy: CII

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industry body CII on Sunday said the multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional policy stimulus announced last week will have significant impact, imparting stability and underpinning a new growth impetus for India.

CII said the measures announced come at a time when the world economy is buffeted by global headwinds and trade slowdown.

"Coming in the wake of several retaliatory and counter-retaliatory trade measures between the two largest global trading nations, the economic package announced by Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, on Friday imparts stability and underpins a new growth impetus for India," it added.

"It is indeed commendable that all these multi-sectoral steps were carried out without pressure on the fiscal deficit. With her six-dimensional announcement, FM has indeed hit a sixer out of the grounds," he added. The industry body said it expects that the economy will climb up in the coming months.

Trump's only regret on China is 'not raising tariffs higher'

AFP ■ BIARRITZ (FRANCE)



US President Donald Trump on Sunday rowed back from a suggestion made just hours earlier that he regrets his trade war with China, saying instead he's only sorry not to have raised tariffs even higher.

Trump's spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham told reporters at the G7 summit in the French resort of Biarritz that the president's earlier comments had been misunderstood.

"The president was asked if he had any second thought on escalating the trade war with China. His answer has been greatly misinterpreted," she said.

"President Trump responded in the affirmative — because he regrets not raising the tariffs higher."

Earlier on Sunday, Trump appeared to signal he might be considering a softening of his position in the trade war, which has seen Washington impose steep levies on all Chinese

imports — and China responding with billions of dollars of tariffs of its own.

"I have second thoughts about everything," he said.

He also said he would hold off for now on declaring a national emergency which would allow him to invoke an obscure law that he says gives him the power to order US companies out of China.

"I have the right to, if I want. I could declare a national emergency," he said.

"I have no plan right now."

Trump first brandished the possibility of the drastic measure on Friday, when he tweeted that American companies "are hereby ordered to immediately start looking for an alternative to China."

NCLT starts insolvency proceedings against Today Homes Noida

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The NCLT has initiated insolvency proceedings against NCR-based real estate firm Today Homes Noida Ltd on a petition filed by a group of homebuyers.

A two-member NCLT bench, headed by President Justice M M Kumar, has appointed an interim resolution professional (IRP) to take over the management of the company.

There are many companies in Delhi-NCR which are facing insolvency proceedings, including Jaypee Infratech, because of default to home buyers and bankers.

The tribunal rejected the submission of the real estate firm that it has got four-year extension from UP Real Estate Regulation Authority (RERA) to complete the project, saying that Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) overrides provisions under the realty law.

Today Homes Noida Ltd had contended that UP-RERA has extended its timeline till

June, 2021 to complete the Ridge Residency housing project in sector 135, Noida.

Observing that there is "overwhelming evidence to prove default" against the company, the tribunal directed the erstwhile promoters, directors and employees of Today Homes Noida to "provide every assistance and cooperation" to IRP in managing the affairs of the company.

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) also granted it protection from the lenders by prohibiting them to recover the amount for a certain period. The tribunal order came after a batch of petitions filed by home buyers of the real estate firms, who are now a financial creditor of the company following amendments in the IBC.

The petitioners had entered into home buying agreement with the firm on March 29, 2012 and had paid almost 90 per cent of their amount for flat in the Ridge Residency Housing Project, sector 135, Noida.

India urges nations to join hands to leverage its workforce

PTI ■ KAZAN (RUSSIA)

India, projected to have the largest working population between 2022 and 2034, has called upon nations to join hands with it to leverage its skilled manpower, with an estimated 10 million youths entering the workforce per annum.

India, with a strong 48-member contingent, is among the 63 countries participating in the world's biggest international vocational skill competition -- WorldSkills Kazan 2019, which is underway in the capital of Tatarstan.

"As we know, India is a young nation in an ageing world with the median age of 27.6 years as compared to median age of above 40 in large parts of developed nations. India is also projected to be the region with the largest working population from 2022 till 2034. In view of this, skilling on global standards can ensure global mobility of highly skilled Indian workforce," Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey said here.

He urged nations to come forward to encash this opportunity while attending the sec-

ond edition of the Summit for Ministers, held in Kazan on the sidelines of the 45th WorldSkills Competition.

Ministers from more than 40 countries participated in the summit and deliberated on the most advanced approaches to workforce training system excellence.

Participants included Tatyana Golikova, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation; Olga Vasilyeva, Minister of Education of the Russian Federation; Jos de Goey, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Chair of the Strategic Development Committee at WorldSkills International; Tang Tao, Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security, People's Republic of China, amongst others.

Pandey said India's focus is on ensuring that its demographic dividend is appropriately skilled, and people are productively employed in decent work.

"For India, this demographic dividend is a limited opportunity which will peak around year 2040 wherein it is estimated that there would be 46 dependents per 54 workers," he said.

Currently, India has more

than 10 million youths entering the workforce every year, he said.

"To provide access to quality skilling opportunities within a short time frame, India has adopted an accelerated modular competency-based programme of 200 to 600 hours duration. For enhancing the employability of youths coming out of these short-term programmes, it is envisaged to further skill them under an industry-led apprenticeship program. Youths directly entering the labour market are trained on in-house bridge courses by industry," he said.

At the same time, the minister said industry interface was equally important and one of the key strategies for skilling with scale, speed and standard is the focus on industry-led apprenticeship training.

"A comprehensive set of legislative, policy and administrative reforms have been undertaken to create one of the most liberal and industry friendly interventions in apprenticeship."

"The intent behind these interventions is to reduce the burden of compliance by moving towards self-certification, provide flexibility to industry

in terms of hiring and training apprentices, creating a role for Industry Chambers to be third party aggregators and leveraging technology for process standardisation and simplification," he said.

A National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched in August 2016 to extend financial benefits to the government to industries for taking up apprentices.

Targeting high population of youths migrating overseas for good opportunities, the minister said the government has taken numerous initiatives to improve opportunities for decent overseas work and enhance the skills level of emigrating workforce.

Detailing initiatives, he said these include a number of government-to-government (G2G) agreements focused on testing centres and joint skilling programmes.

"A case study in point is the Technical Intern Training Programme (TITP) of Japan. Indian workers are now going to Japan under this programme due to a G2G agreement. This has also led to setting of several Japan-India Institute of Manufacturing at various locations in India," the minister said.

CVC sets up panel to examine bank fraud above ₹50 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has constituted Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud over Rs 50 crore and recommend action.

The panel in its previous avatar called the Advisory Board on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.

The ABBF, formed in consultation with the RBI, would function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector banks (PSBs), CVC said in an order.

The four-member board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the PSB in respect of an allegation of a fraud in a borrowal account, it said.

Lenders would refer all large fraud cases above Rs 50 crore to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matter, it said.

"Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) may also refer any case or matter to the board where it has any issue or difficulty or in technical mat-



ters with the PSB concerned," it said.

Other members of the panel are Madhusudan Prasad - former Urban Development Secretary, D K Pathak - former Director General of the Border Security Force and Suresh N Patel - former MD and CEO of Andhra Bank.

The tenure of the Chairman and members would be for a period of two years from August 21, 2019, the order said.

It further said the board will also periodically carry out frauds analysis in the financial system and give inputs for policy formulation related to the fraud to the RBI.

support along with the necessary funding to the board.

In a bid to check such incidences, the government has already issued the 'framework for timely detection, reporting, and investigation relating to large-value bank frauds' to PSBs, which makes it clear that all accounts exceeding Rs 50 crore, if classified as an NPA, should be examined by banks from the angle of possible fraud, and a report be placed before the bank's Committee for Review of NPAs based on the findings of the investigation.

Besides, the PSBs have been advised to obtain a certified copy of the passport of promoters/directors and other authorised signatories of companies taking loan facilities of more than Rs 50 crore.

Govt to soon consider proposal to relax local sourcing norms for FDI in single brand retail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will soon consider a proposal of relaxing rules for complying with the mandatory 30 per cent local sourcing norms by foreign single brand retailers, official sources said.

As per the proposal, single-brand retail firms would also be permitted to open online stores before setting up brick-and-mortar shops.

Currently, online sale by a single-brand retail player is allowed only after opening of physical outlet.

Relaxations are expected in a provision where foreign retail traders are presently allowed to adjust procurement of goods from India for their global operations for meeting the mandatory local sourcing requirement.

However, "incremental" sourcing of goods from India is only taken into account presently, and it will be allowed only for five years.

"Amendments and easing are also likely in this provision," the sources said. The move comes in the backdrop of announcements



made by the Government in the Budget.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech had said that local sourcing norms will be eased for FDI in single brand retail sector.

In January 2018, the government allowed 100 per cent FDI in the sector, permitting foreign players in single-brand retail trade to set up own shops in India without government approval.

In February 2006, the government for the first time opened the sector for foreign players by allowing 51 per cent FDI.

In January 2012, the cap was raised to 100 per cent - up to 49 per cent through automatic route and beyond that with the Government approval.

During April-September 2018-19, FDI in India declined by 11 per cent to \$22.66 billion.

Toyota to keep selling diesel models in India as it expects demand to continue

New Delhi: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) is planning to continue to sell diesel models in the country even as prices of such vehicles are expected to go up significantly with the upcoming BS-VI emission norms from April 1 next year, a top company official has said.

"We still see demand for diesel variants, and will continue to manufacture them till we have the future technology setting in," TKM Vice-Chairman Shekar Viswanathan told PTI.

The company has even invested in a plant in India to make diesel engines which is capable of manufacturing diesel BS-VI engines with minimum investment, he added.

This was done keeping in mind the 'Make in India' philosophy, Viswanathan said.

TKM sells popular models such as Innova Crysta and Fortuner in the country and based on its total vehicle sales from January to July 2019, the current diesel-petrol ratio is 82:18.

However, considering only the passenger car segment, the petrol-diesel ratio is close to 50:50.

With diesel cars set to become costlier from next year with the implementation of stricter BS-VI emission norms, major automakers are contemplating about the future of such vehicles in their portfolios.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India has already announced phasing out of diesel cars from its portfolio with effect from next year.

Similarly, Tata Motors is also contemplating phasing out small diesel cars.

The company, which is a joint venture between the Japanese auto major and Kirloskar group, said it has the technologies in place for various kind of electric vehicles (EV) which it can introduce depending upon the market requirements. PTI

BAJAJ FINSERV OFFERS PERSONAL LOAN WITH FLEXI LOAN FACILITY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bajaj Finance Limited, a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) and a lending arm of Bajaj Finserv group offers personal loan with Flexi Loan Feature for salaried customers. Under this facility, the entire loan amount is disbursed to the customer's account and are provided with a facility of multiple part payment and withdrawals. Customers can part pay and withdraw from the loan amount as per their convenience and pay interest only on the loan amount utilized. A Flexi personal loan can be used by the customers to meet their immediate cash requirements for a variety of purposes such as taking a vacation, paying for higher education, planning a wedding, medical emergency, home renovation, and a vast array of other requirements.

US Cranberry Ice Cream Carnival held in New Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Cranberries in India are quickly gaining popularity as three leading Delhi ice cream brands have updated their menus to include the superfruit. Gian's, Emoi, and Kulfiano launched a range of cranberry ice creams during the US Cranberry Ice Cream Carnival, and thanks to their popularity, have converted the most popular items to permanent menu offerings. During the Ice Cream Carnival, NCR residents enjoyed cranberry flavored desserts such as Cranberry Sorbet, Vanilla and Cranberry Snowman, Cranberry Cheesecake, and Malai Cranberry Kulfi. The 45-day event delighted nearly 8 lakh people in and around Delhi city. Over half of the carnival participants said that they will begin to consume cranberries regularly for their great taste. PTI

HONG KONG PROTEST

Police tighten noose on protesters

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police used water cannon for the first time on Sunday, raising the stakes against protesters who have staged sometimes violent rallies that have rocked the city for the past three months.

Officers were also seen with drawn sidearms as protesters clashed with police in the district of Tsuen Wan after a rally at a nearby sports stadium.

The financial hub has been gripped by mass rallies that were initially against a proposed extradition bill to China, but have spun into a wider pro-democracy movement targeting the pro-Beijing government.

As thousands of people marched in the pouring rain to Tsuen Wan, a group of hardcore protesters erected makeshift roadblocks and dug up bricks from the pavements.

After firing tear gas in an attempt to disperse the crowds, police drove water cannon vehicles onto the streets, unfurling signs warning protesters they would deploy the jets if they did not leave.

The jets were later fired from the moving trucks towards a crowd of protesters who ran away, but a hardcore group of protesters later threw



A policeman points a weapon during a protest in Hong Kong on Sunday

bricks and Molotov cocktails in violent confrontations with riot police.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Police had previously said the vehicles, complete with surveillance cameras and multiple spray nozzles, would only be used in the event of a "large-scale public disturbance".

Throughout the protests, Beijing has used a mix of intimidation, propaganda and

economic muscle to constrict the protests in a strategy dubbed "white terror" by the movement.

The MTR - the city's metro - is the latest Hong Kong enterprise to face public censure, after appearing to bend to Chinese state-media attacks accusing the transport system of being an "exclusive" service to ferry protesters to rallies.

On Sunday the MTR shut stations near the main demonstration area in Tsuen Wan, in

the second day of station closures in-a-row.

"However bleak our future is, we're trying to express ourselves rationally," said Peter, in his 20s, before the clashes began.

"We have faith in ourselves and we have faith in our city that some day our demands will be answered."

A second rally in the afternoon of a few hundred people - some of them family members of police - criticised the

government for leaving officers to handle the brunt of the crisis, while also calling for an independent investigation into the police handling of the protests.

"I believe within these two months, police have got enough opprobrium," said a woman who asked not to be named and said she was a police officer's wife.

The city's officers are often the focus of protesters' anger because of their perceived heavy handling of the rallies.

Ten people were left in hospital after Saturday's clashes - two in a serious condition - staff said, without detailing if they were police or protesters.

On Saturday police baton-charged protesters and fired tear gas, while demonstrators threw rocks and bottles later into the night in a working-class neighbourhood.

Protesters say Hong Kong's unique freedoms are in jeopardy as Beijing tightens its political chokehold on the semi-autonomous city.

The city had appeared to have pulled back from a sharp nosedive into violence, with the last serious confrontation taking place more

than a week ago, shortly after protests paralysed the airport.

G7 to help nations hit by Amazon fires: Macron

Biarritz: World leaders at the G7 summit have agreed to help the countries affected by the huge wildfires ravaging the Amazon rainforest as soon as possible, French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday.

"We are all agreed on helping those countries which have been hit by the fires as fast as possible," he told journalists at the summit in the southwestern French resort of Biarritz.

Ahead of the gathering, Macron called on world leaders to hold urgent talks on the wildfires ripping through the world's largest rainforest, pledging "concrete measures" to tackle it.

The vast forest also takes in parts of eight other countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

"This morning, Colombia called on the international community (to help), so we must help out," he said.

"Our teams are making contact with all the Amazon countries so we can finalise some very concrete commitments involving technical resources and funding."

Macron's bid to put the Amazon crisis high on the agenda at the G7 angered Brazil's far-right leader Jair Bolsonaro, who lashed out over what he sees as outside interference, denouncing the French leader's "colonialist mentality".

AFP



France's President Emmanuel Macron gestures as he speaks to the press after a plenary session at the Bellevue centre in Biarritz, southwestern France on Sunday

Pope fears for Amazon, the planet's 'vital lung'

Vatican City: Pope Francis on Sunday voiced concern for the Amazon rainforest, a "vital" lung for the planet, as the worst blazes in years have sparked a global outcry.

"We are concerned about the vast fires that have developed in the Amazon," the pope told the faithful at the Vatican.

"That forest lung is vital for our planet." He urged the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to pray for the fires to be extinguished as quickly as possible.

Official figures show 78,383 forest fires have been recorded in Brazil this year, the highest number of any year since 2013.

The Argentine pope, who will gather bishops for a conference on the Amazon in October, met Brazilian indigenous leader Raoni in 2013 when he toured Europe warning of the dangers of deforestation. The pope denounced the exploitation of the Amazon by "huge international economic interests" in a 2015 encyclical.

AFP

N Korea tests new 'super-large' multiple rocket launcher

Seoul: North Korea said on Sunday leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test-firing of a "newly developed super-large multiple rocket launcher," another demonstration of its expanding weapons arsenal apparently aimed at increasing its leverage ahead of a possible resumption of nuclear talks with the US.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said Saturday's weapons test was successful and cited Kim as saying the rocket launcher is "indeed a great weapon."

Kim underscored the need to "continue to step up the development of Korean-style strategic and tactical weapons for resolutely frustrating the ever-mounting military threats and pressure offensive of the hostile forces," according to the

KCNA.

The "hostile forces" likely referred to the United States and South Korea, whose recently ended regular military drills infuriated North Korea.

The North has called the drills an invasion rehearsal and conducted a slew of missile and rocket tests in response.

Some experts said North

Korea aims to show off its weapons to try to get an upper hand ahead of a possible restart of nuclear negotiations, which remain largely stalemated since the second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim in Vietnam in February fell apart due to squabbling over US-led sanctions on North Korea.

Biarritz (France): US President Donald Trump on Sunday denied signing off on a joint G7 message to Iran over its nuclear programme as announced by his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

"No I haven't discussed that," Trump told reporters on the sidelines of the G7 summit in the southwestern French resort of Biarritz.

This contradicted Macron who shortly beforehand had said the G7 countries "agreed on what to say to Iran".

Trump said: "We'll do our own outreach. But you can't stop people from talking. If they want to talk, they can talk."

A landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Western powers and Iran all but collapsed after Trump unilaterally withdrew US support last year, reimpos-

ing sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

Macron has been leading efforts to defuse the crisis by finding ways of resuming dialogue, meeting Iran's top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif for rare talks in Paris on Friday

on the eve of the summit.

He has also held telephone talks with President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday, a diplomatic source said.

G7 leaders had mutually agreed to task Macron with sending a message to Iran.

Iran's Zarif lands in France's Biarritz

Tehran: Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif landed in the French seaside resort of Biarritz on Sunday for talks during a G7 summit, a spokesman for his Ministry said.

"Zarif... Has arrived in Biarritz, where the G7 is being held, to continue talks regarding the recent measures between the presidents of Iran and France," spokesman Abbas Mousavi tweeted, referring to

their efforts to salvage a nuclear deal.

"There will be no meetings or negotiations with the American delegation during this trip," he added.

French President Emmanuel Macron and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani have held a series of phone calls in recent weeks aimed at de-escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Iran denies its Syria positions hit by Israeli strikes

Tehran: A high-ranking Iranian official on Sunday denied Iranian positions had been hit by Israeli air strikes near the Syrian capital overnight.

"This is a lie and it is not true," Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of the Expediency Council, told ILNA news agency in response to Israeli claims its air force struck Iranian positions in the war-torn country.

"Israel and America do not have the power to attack various centres of Iran, while the advisory centres that we have, have not been harmed," said Rezaei, a former commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. "Actions taken jointly by Israel and America in Syria and Iraq are against international regulations and defenders of Syria and Iraq will soon respond to them."

Iran blacklists US-based think-tank, says Ministry

Tehran: Iran has blacklisted US-based think-tank the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and its chief Mark Dubowitz on accusations of being behind "economic terrorism" against the Islamic republic.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued late Saturday that it had "added the so-called Foundation for Defence of Democracies (FDD) and its director to the sanctions list".

"The American institution with the deceitful name" and Dubowitz were accused of being involved in "designing, imposing and intensifying the impacts of economic terrorism against Iran", it said.

The FDD and Dubowitz were blamed for "seriously and actively trying to harm the

Iranian people's security and vital interests", according to the English-language statement posted on the ministry's website.

They were accused of doing so through "fabricating and spreading lies, encouraging, providing consultations, lobbying, and launching a smear campaign" against Iran.

As a result, they would be "subject to legal consequences", it said.

The move would be "without prejudice to any further legal measures that the other administrative, judicial or security institutions and organisations may take" against them and their "collaborators and accomplices". The FDD describes itself as a Washington-based "non-partisan research institute focusing on national security and foreign policy".

Trump backs Johnson, sends mixed signals on China at G7

Biarritz (France): US President Donald Trump on Sunday backed British Prime Minister Boris Johnson as the "right man" for Brexit and sent mixed signals about his trade war with China at a G7 summit dominated by worries about the global economy.

Johnson and Trump were on obviously friendly terms as they sat down for a working breakfast in the southern French resort of Biarritz where Group of Seven leaders are gathering this weekend.

"He's going to be a fantastic prime minister," Trump said in their first meeting since Johnson took office last month.

Asked what his advice was for Brexit, Trump replied: "He needs no advice. He's the right man for the job. I've been saying that for a long time."

In the lead-up to the talks, Johnson had appeared at pains to distance himself from Trump after facing accusations in the past of being too cosy with the American leader.

And at their meeting, Johnson again pressed a common message from European leaders at the summit about Trump's escalating trade war with China.

"Just to register a faint, sheep-like note of our view on the trade war — we are in favour of trade peace on the whole," Johnson told Trump.

2 Israeli drones crash over Beirut, Hezbollah denies firing

Beirut: Two Israeli drones crashed in a Hezbollah stronghold in the Lebanese capital overnight, Lebanese and Hezbollah officials said on Sunday, saying the first fell on the roof of a building housing the group's media office while the second landed in a plot behind it.

The spokesman for the Iran-backed Hezbollah said the group did not fire on any of the drones, which crashed amid heightened tensions between neighbouring Israel and Iran and shortly after Israeli warplanes attacked targets near the Syrian capital, Damascus.

Israeli aircraft continued to violate Lebanese airspace Sunday, flying low over Beirut hours after the drones had crashed, raising fears of a wider conflict.

Hezbollah spokesman Mohammed Afif said a small, unmanned reconnaissance drone fell on a building housing Hezbollah's media office in the Moawwad neighborhood in Dahyeh, the group's stronghold in southern Beirut.

He said a second drone, which appeared to have been sent by Israel to search for the

first one less than 45 minutes later, exploded in the air and crashed in an empty plot nearby, shattering windows in surrounding buildings. He said the second drone was likely armed, judging by the damage it caused.

Lebanon condemns Israel 'aggression' after anti-Hezbollah drone attack

Beirut: Lebanon condemned an Israeli "aggression" after two drones Sunday targeted the Beirut stronghold of the Iran-backed Shiite group Hezbollah, warning of further regional tensions.

Hezbollah, considered a terrorist organisation by Israel and the United States, is a major political actor in Lebanon and a key backer of the Damascus regime in war-torn Syria. The early morning incident in south Beirut came hours after Israel said it had conducted air strikes in neighbouring Syria to prevent an Iranian force from launching an attack on the Jewish state.

Iran denies its Syria positions hit by Israeli strikes

Tehran: A high-ranking Iranian official on Sunday denied Iranian positions had been hit by Israeli air strikes near the Syrian capital overnight.

"This is a lie and it is not true," Mohsen Rezaei, the secretary of the Expediency Council, told ILNA news agency in response to Israeli claims its air force struck Iranian positions in the war-torn country.

"Israel and America do not have the power to attack various centres of Iran, while the advisory centres that we have, have not been harmed," said Rezaei, a former commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. "Actions taken jointly by Israel and America in Syria and Iraq are against international regulations and defenders of Syria and Iraq will soon respond to them."

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French President Emmanuel Macron and President Donald Trump participates in a G-7 Working Session on the Global Economy, Foreign Policy, and Security Affairs at the G-7 summit in Biarritz, France on Sunday

GENOCIDE DAY

Thousands of Rohingya rally in B'desh camps

Kutupalong: Some 200,000 Rohingya rallied in a Bangladesh refugee camp to mark two years since they fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar forces, just days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees.

Around 740,000 Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state escaped in August 2017 during the brutal offensive, joining another 200,000 who fled earlier persecution in vast camps in southeast Bangladesh.

Children, hijab-wearing women, and men in long-sleeved shirts shouted "God is Great, Long Live Rohingya" as they marched at the heart of the world's largest refugee camp to commemorate what they described as "Genocide Day".



Under the scorching sun, thousands joined in a popular song with the lyrics "the world does not listen to the woes of Rohingya".

"I have come here to seek justice for the murder of my two sons. I will continue to seek justice till my last breath," 50-year-old Tayaba Khatun said as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Myanmar had said they were conducting counter-insurgency operations against Rohingya extremists after they attacked police posts, but the UN last year called for Myanmar's top generals to be prosecuted for genocide over the

crisis. Rohingya leader Mohib Ullah said the stateless minority wanted to return home, but only after they were granted citizenship, their security was ensured and they were allowed to settle back in their villages.

"We have asked the Burmese government for dialogue. But we haven't got any response from them yet," Ullah told the rally.

AFP

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NIT Time Extension Notice-1
Due to unavoidable circumstances the date of submission and opening of NIT no 03/EE(Gen)/MB-II/2019-20: Maintenance of Garden and operation of canteen at Dharasu power house for the year 2019-20 invited by the office of Executive Engineer (Generation), Dharasu Power House, MB-II Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) is hereby extended as below:
Last Date/Time for receipt bid : 02.09.2019 at 16:00 Hrs.
Date of opening of bid : 05.09.2019 at 11:00 Hrs.
Name & Address of the officer inviting the bid : EE(Gen), MB-II, Dharasu Power House, Dharasu, Uttarkashi (U.K.)
Further details, subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be seen at www.uttarakhandjvalvidyut.com.
पत्र. 464 दिनांक 24.08.2019 Executive Engineer (Generation)
" Avoid wasteful use of Electricity "

Trend Blazer

I did whatever I wanted to: Tabu

Two national awards as best actress and an experience of over three decades in Bollywood has taken TABU to a space where there is no room for self-doubt but the acclaimed actress reveals that even today she questions herself a lot before signing a new project.

"It's not self doubt but I try to ask myself questions before saying yes or no to a project. I want to be sure, because that is important for me. I ask myself, 'why am I doing it?' or 'why don't I want to do this thing?' When I am convinced with my answers, only then will I go ahead with it," said she.



'I am always myself. I don't pretend to be someone else or compete with anyone.'

I believe in always honing your authentic self and believing in everything that you can do or will do. I think that is my fresh factor. I am authentic. I am honest and I don't compete with anything or anyone. If we are honest and passionate about our beliefs and dreams, there is nothing that can be not achieved.'

—Radhika Madan

Actress NEENA GUPTA says that she has always got roles of strong women but she also wanted to play the damsel in distress.



"I have always received roles of strong women from the beginning. The media had built my perception of being a strong woman because of my personal life. I wanted to play the damsel in distress but I wasn't given an opportunity to explore that kind of a character," said the single mother.

The actress has essayed numerous commendable performances over the years and has even won national awards.

Scarlett highest paid actress

Lucy star SCARLETT JOHANSSON has topped the Forbes list of the highest-paid actresses for the second time, beating names like Sofia Vergara, Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman among others.

Johansson earned top spot with an earning of \$56 million (approx ₹402.01 crore).

According to the portal, the actress, who is popular for her character Black Widow in the Avengers universe, raked in a lot of "Marvel money, like an eight-figure check for her forthcoming 'Black Widow' film and an impressive back-end payment of about \$35 million for the \$2.8 billion-grossing Avengers: Endgame.



The experience of the runway was elevated further as it was embellished with flowers and mirrors. The models sashayed down in a treasure trove of colours, ranging from ivory, ecru, champagne, sapling blue to emerald green which set the mood for Day 4 of the Lakme Fashion Week.

It saw designers blending traditional weaves with modern techniques. The show commenced with designers Abhishek Sharma, Sunaina Khera and Kshitij Jalori presenting their latest collections.

Sharma's collection reminded one of Mithila paintings and drew inspiration from the "union of male and female forms in ancient Indian philosophy". The designer tried to draw a contrast between silhouettes, colours, textures and embroidery. Fabrics like chiffon, satin, organza and handloom silks were used to create crop tops, skirts, dresses, gowns and blazers in colours, including off white, ivory, pastel shades of lavender. The use of glass pipes and cut work added surface texturing and intricate detailing to the collection.

Designer Sunaina Khera's collection, Dear Mom, was an ode to her mother who she says is the "strongest female figure in her life". The collection saw Sunaina incorporate all things dear to her, including motifs, colours and techniques. Channelising her emotions and life journey through her design sensibilities and aesthetics, Sunaina created an eclectic

PIECING TOGETHER HEIRLOOMS

Lakme Fashion Week saw designers fuse conventional weaves and fabrics with modern techniques

vocabulary of ensembles. The beautiful curation of feminine motifs and silhouettes allowed the designer to use emotion as her design language.

The line-up was dominated by red and green colours and included shades of pink, burgundy, beige and black, including motifs of lilies, roses and cherry blossoms. There were intricately embellished sarees worn with straight kurtas, the brand's signature lehengas with hand-embroidered dupattas and dresses made of fabrics like organza, tulle and crepes.

Jalori presented his collection which had contemporary, free-flowing silhouettes, including a breathtakingly beautiful black sequined saree paired with a

matching blouse and a plain silk lehenga, choli with embroidered dupattas in off-white and ivory colours. A crop top was paired with a pencil skirt while the skater dresses and sequined midi dresses had flower motifs, surface texturing which made the collection ideal for today's modern women who want to look for comfortable yet glamorous outfits.

Further, Designer Gaurang launched his latest collection, Peshwai, inspired by the grandeur of the Peshwas. The show saw a line-up of ethnic wear that comprised sarees, lehengas, cholis, dupattas and suits with motifs of birds, trees and flowers. For men, the collection had kur-

tas with dhotis, churidaar, dupattas and sherwanis. The collection also saw Persian designs and mosaics and ranged from shades of pink, yellow, orange, red, golden and white.

Actresses Pooja Hegde, Diana Penty and Tara Sutaria walked the ramp. Pooja turned show-stopper for designer Jayanti Reddy's collection, Benares and Beyond, which drew inspiration from the old cities, Kashi and Varanasi. Diana and Tara closed the shows for Riddhi Mehra and veteran Ritu Kumar.

Mohenjo Daro actress Pooja wore a purple lehenga, choli with intricate mint green-coloured meenakari detailing, and a contrasting silver dupatta. She completed her look with a glossy makeup and beach wavy hair. The model-turned-actress who returned to the runway said her journey from the ramp to films and to ramp again had made it a "full circle". On her look, she said, "I

would definitely choose a similar look as it gives a modern twist to the traditional outfit."

Diana wore an ivory lehenga that had a lot of surface texturing and pearl embellishment with a matching blouse and dupatta for Mehra's collection, An Ode to Heirlooms, that saw a mix of it, bohemian and Kashmiri prints with a contemporary touch. The range was inspired by rich Kashmiri pashmina shawls, Basra pearls, inherited vintage jewels and hand-woven silk sarees. Diana said, "Walking for Riddhi Mehra was such a delight. Not only is she lovely, her collection was so regal and elegant, it made me feel every bit gorgeous."

Tara Sutaria, who made her Bollywood debut with Karan Johar's Student of the Year 2, walked the ramp donning a boho look. She wore a slip dress with white, full-sleeved blouse, layered with long tassels and knee-length black boots.

— With inputs from agencies



TECH TALK

Driving automation

Here are some of the used car features that might not need an upgrade

Automakers have introduced a flurry of new automotive safety and convenience technology features the past few years. Close-to-new vehicles with these features are now increasingly showing up on dealership lots as used vehicles. The upshot: You don't have to buy a new car to get modern convenience and safety features.

Picking a used model coming off a two- or three-year lease, in particular, is an ideal opportunity. Edmunds has identified seven desirable technology and safety features to look for. We've also provided example vehicles that have that particular feature.

ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL

Adaptive cruise control makes driving on the highway easier by automatically maintaining a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front. This feature debuted on high-end luxury cars roughly two decades ago, and it has now trickled down to less expensive vehicles. Adaptive cruise control is typically an option on slightly used cars, and you can find it on affordable vehicles such as the 2016 Honda Civic and 2016 Mazda 3.

APPLE CARPLAY AND ANDROID AUTO

Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are two systems that allow you to easily control some smartphone apps through your vehicle's infotainment display. Doing so can add functions such as navigation and streaming audio to a vehicle that might not otherwise



AUTO-DIMMING MIRRORS

There are few things more distracting at night than a car behind you with overly bright headlights. Auto-dimming mirrors alleviate this problem by darkening the surface of the mirror to eliminate the intensity and glare of the light. This feature is standard on many lightly used luxury cars, including the Mercedes-Benz GLC SUV and Lexus IS 300 sedan. It's also widely available on high-trim versions of standard vehicles.

AUTOMATED PARKING

An automated parking system takes the stress out of parking by computer-controlling most of the process. Not all systems are created equal, however, and they don't always offer both perpendicular and parallel parking. Some automate acceleration and braking, while others keep those functions under the driver's control.

BLIND-SPOT MONITOR

A blind-spot monitor (BSM) uses sensors to identify any vehicle that might be outside your peripheral vision. A light on the outside mirror or inside the car illuminates whenever a vehicle is in your blind spot. The system also sounds an alert if you activate your turn signal when a vehicle is in your blind spot. BSM debuted on luxury and expensive versions of non-luxury vehicles in the late 2000s. Starting with the 2016 model year, you'll typically find BSM available on top trim levels of non-luxury cars or as part of a safety package on luxury vehicles.

HID OR LED HEADLIGHTS

Automakers are increasingly swapping out traditional halogen headlights for high-intensity discharge (HID, or xenon) and LED headlights. These new headlights started to appear on high-end cars in the early 1990s, giving them an association with luxury that continues to this day. Besides giving

a car an upscale appearance, these headlights typically provide better road illumination. By 2016, a lot of non-luxury vehicles started to offer HID and LED lights. The 2016 Toyota Corolla and Toyota RAV4 are examples of affordable cars with standard LED lighting.

VENTILATED SEATS

Ventilated seats cool down passengers by either blowing cold air on their backsides or sucking in hot air and dispersing it elsewhere. A few years ago it was unusual to find this feature in non-luxury cars. High-trim versions of Hyundai and Kia models were the exception — a ventilated driver's seat was optional on the compact Kia Forte, for instance. Seat ventilation is now much more widely available, though this feature is typically reserved for the most expensive trim levels.

Edmunds says, "If you want most of the safety and tech features offered on a new car but also want to save some money, a lightly used vehicle might be the way to go. In particular, vehicles coming off-lease cost a fraction of new models but have many of the same features."

—AP

WEBBED



LATE NIGHT

It is a 2019 American comedy-drama film directed by Nisha Ganatra from a screenplay by Mindy Kaling. It talks about a late night talk show host who suspects that she may soon lose her long-running show. The prime original releases on Amazon on September 3.



LOCKED UP: SEASON 3

The series talks about a naive young woman who is manipulated into embezzling funds for her boyfriend and sentenced to prison. It shows how important it is to learn to survive in a harsh new world. The thriller will be releasing on Netflix on August 30.

DAVE CHAPPELLE: STICKS & STONES

Dave Chappelle takes on gun culture, the opioid crisis and the tidal wave of celebrity scandals in a deft stand-up special filmed in Atlanta.

The stand up makes it evident that the comedian is in the midst of a full-fledged comeback. The series streams on Netflix from today.



PRESERVE THE VALUES OF KRISHNA

Green activists have demanded protection of the original Sri Krishna land with restored mangroves, water bodies and the Yamuna as described in ancient texts



Green activists of Braj Mandal have demanded protection of the original Sri Krishna land, with mangroves, water bodies and the Yamuna river restored, as described in ancient texts.

The right bhakti and tribute to Sri Krishna would be to save nature, save the environment of the area and return to pre-development days, said local green activists who are alarmed by the mad race for urbanisation.

The so-called 'development lobby' has created havoc in Braj area by disturbing the ecological balance.

"Now you see concrete structures everywhere. The holy land which was once decorated with a cluster of trees, attracting a variety of flora and fauna, is now covered by ugly looking structures and garbage heaps," said Jagan Nath Poddar, Friends of Vrindavan convener, who has been waging a relentless war against deceptive beautification projects by various government bodies.

The 84-kos, roughly 150 kilometre area around Mathura, is described as Braj Mandal, the leela bhoomi of Sri Krishna. Each year millions of devotees from all

over visit Vrindavan, Goverdhan, Barsana, Gokul and other shrines associated with the Sri Krishna-Radha lore.

On Saturday, as lakhs of devotees line up for a darshan of little Sri Krishna in the temples of Mathura and Vrindavan on his birthday, nature lovers, river activists and heritage conservationists have sounded an alarm over the frenetic pace of development that is eating up all the green spaces and gobbling up water bodies.

Braj or Sri Krishna land, is losing its pristine glory and tranquility, thanks to a spurt in construction activity and illegal sand and stone mining.

Once upon a time there used to be more than a dozen dense forests from Vrindavan to Agravan, from Kaamyan to Mahavan, Kokilavan to Kotvan. All have disappeared, only the names remain to make way for 'demonic' concrete structures in a most haphazard and out of sync with local ambience manner, say locals.

Acharya Sri Vats ji maharaj, Vrindavan's eminent spiritual leader, rued that "Sri Krishna was an environmentalist. He consumed Davanal to cool off heat,



eating mud he purified the soil and by killing the Kalia Naag, he purified the Yamuna water."

"Lord Krishna was an environmentalist. He was a protector of hills, ponds, rivers, forests and animal life. The mor pankh (peacock feather, tulsi, bansuri, love for cows, these are all manifestations of his bonding with nature. But his followers in the holy towns of Mathura, Vrindavan, Goverdhan are doing just the opposite of what Krishna symbolised," lamented a Sri Krishna bhakt Surendra Sharma, president of the Braj Mandal Heritage Conservation Society, in Agra.

Along with physical assaults, there were attempts being made to foist a spurious culture by transforming an essentially religious centre into a tourism hub. The intellectual, musical and emotional wealth of Braj is under stress and on the verge of extinction, say activists.

Music maestro Acharya TN Jaimini said, "Haveli sangeet parampara of the Sri Krishna temples appears to be already gone, replaced by a loud filmy CD culture. The lanes of Vrindavan no longer reverberate with divine music, its all cacophony at the loudest, shops selling spurious music to lakhs of tourists."

Locals feel that though the Iskcon has been doing a splendid job through its various social welfare projects, the white bhakts have also brought in a lot of cultural change, not all good.

In Goverdhan, the 21 km long parikrama marg is not only heavily encroached upon but large scale construction has destroyed the original ambience and nature. Fortunately, the National Green Tribunal has now woken up to these threats and is addressing the issues promptly.

Environmentalists active in the area point out that there were more than a thousand water bodies in the Braj area, now you can count them on your finger tips. Most of them have been encroached, others heavily silted while a few others have been reduced to waste water disposal holes.

With ongoing urbanisation and the influx from outside, the sensitive ecology of the area is under threat. Effective pre-emptive steps to stall further encroachment and safeguard the natural assets are required to preserve the heritage values of Sri Krishna land, say activists.

—IANS



Divine intervention

It was only at the confluence of the iron and golden ages when God intervened, did his job of transformation to start something new, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJJI

All of us have heard the most famous verse from chapter eight of the Bhagavad Gita, where God says that he will appear on this earth during every age to protect the righteous, to annihilate the wicked and to re-establish the principles of dharma. However, the question that one might raise here is that when, in the history of this world, did the Almighty perform this task?

The words sambhavami yuge yuge in the Gita has led most of us to believe that God's descent takes place in each of the four yugas or ages in the cycle of time. Really? Well, after some reflection, it becomes clear that this is not possible because the time cycle begins with the golden age or the satyuga, when both human souls and the elements of nature were in their purest state. Humans at that time were replete with divine virtues and free of all vices, for which they are worshipped as deities even now. They were blessed with health, wealth and happiness.

Evil did not exist in that age and hence every soul lived in a blissful state through the golden and silver ages, even though they lost some of their shine over the time. Thus, it is obvious that there was no need for God to intervene in this happy state of affairs.

As we all know, humans call out to God in times of sorrow and when things deteriorate beyond human tolerance. So, God, the redeemer, rejuvenator and remover of sorrows, comes to restore peace and happiness in this world. Practically-speaking, God's descent is meant to remove human suffering and rejuvenate the world.

In the copper age, as humans came increasingly under the influence of

vices, their pain and suffering increased and they lost the awareness that they were souls and begin to identify themselves with their bodies, which gave rise to lust, anger, greed and ego. As the copper age gave way to the iron age, this process of degradation gathers pace, which would not have happened had God come to salvage humanity at the end of the age. Finally, seeing that his beloved children are unable to get out of the grip of vices and suffering, he came to this world to remind them of their true, spiritual identity. God also reminded them about their relationship with him and how they could regain their original, pure state by re-connecting with and remembering him. By this remembrance, souls filled themselves with power and virtues, gradually overcoming the influence of vices. Those who made the effort to get cleansed in this way and attained a divine status became worthy of taking birth in the golden age that dawned after the iron age. All others were also liberated from sorrow in this process of change when the Almighty brought about the destruction of all evil and paved the way for the golden era.

So in the entire cycle of time, it was only at the end of the iron age that this massive and positive process of world transformation took place and it could only be carried out by the Supreme. During the rest of the cycle, souls underwent a process of degradation — which was quite slow in the beginning and faster as time went by. Thus, it was only at the confluence of the iron and golden ages, also called the sangam between the kaliyuga and the satyuga, when God intervened, did his job of transformation to start a new beginning.

—IANS



Knowing when to snip is as vital as knowing how

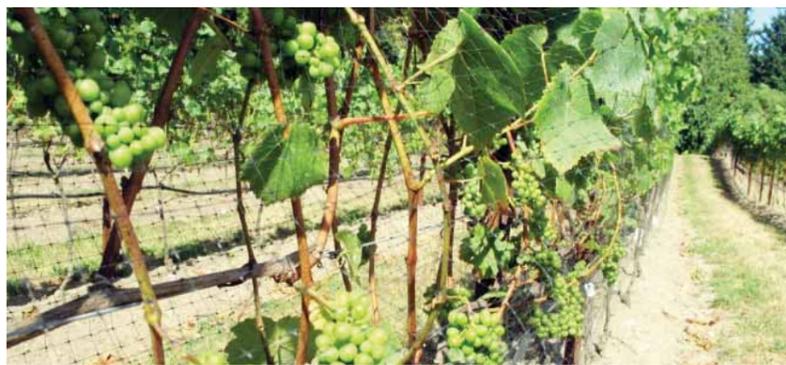
Pruning is one of the most fundamental tasks in gardening, and knowing when to trim is as essential as knowing how. Pruning woody plants at the wrong time can interrupt bloom cycles and damage stressed plants.

"It's time to prune whenever your pruners are sharp" is an old adage that applies only when removing diseased, dead or dying branches — the "three D's" of pruning that can be done at any time.

Otherwise, certain times of the year are better for pruning than others, based on plant life cycles, said Ryan Pankau, an Extension horticulturist with the University of Illinois.

"It's pretty safe to say that most woody plants are best snipped in winter, during their dormant period," Pankau said. "At other times of the year, such as leaf out, leaf drop or during flowering, pruning can have a very negative impact on plant

The three Ds of pruning



health." Plants expend a lot of energy during those stages, and snipping can place undue stress on trees and shrubs because it causes so much of

that vital energy to be lost, he said. Spring-flowering plants often bloom on flower buds produced the previous year. Pruning before spring flowering removes many of those

buds, reducing the number of blooms that would have emerged. Pruning them shortly after they flower gives them time to regenerate.

But if your plant is already stressed and it has to be cut, it may be best to sacrifice some of the coming year's flower buds and prune during winter, since snipping during dormancy has the least impact on plant health," Pankau said.

Why prune at all? Many reasons. It eliminates the threat of property damage, controls plant growth, improves aesthetics, boosts crop yields, shapes and rejuvenates, reduces disease threats and prevents insect infestations.

Deciduous trees should be pruned in the spring, before they leaf, said Leonard Perry, Extension professor emeritus with the University of Vermont. Summer-flowering shrubs, like hydrangea, should be pruned in early spring before they bud. Fruit trees should be pruned in late winter while they're still dormant but before the buds begin to swell, Perry said.

Evergreen trees usually don't require pruning except for shaping. Pruning evergreen shrubs may be required in mid-summer to keep vigorously growing plants at the desired size, he said.

"Wait until after flowering or if the plant produces berries, after the berries fall," Perry said in a fact sheet.

Pruning is never the answer for maintaining a plant too large for its space, Pankau said.

"Consider the mature size of the plant before deciding where to plant it," he said. "By selecting the right plant for the right place in your landscaping, you can avoid a lot of maintenance issues and you will have a much healthier plant in the long run."

Disinfect pruning equipment with alcohol before using it on another tree or shrub, Perry said. "Disinfecting tools helps reduce the spread of disease," he said.

As a general rule, wound dressings or pruning paints are unnecessary, said Bob Polomski, an Extension horticulturist with Clemson University. He cited studies showing "that these topical applications impair the natural wound closing process," Polomski said. "In some cases, these paints trap moisture, which fosters fungal infections." —AP

“However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at.” —Stephen Hawking

USING PHONE NOT BAD FOR MENTAL HEALTH

In contrast to generally held views about the negative impact of using smartphones, researchers have found that teenagers spending time on their phones and online is not that bad for mental health.

"Contrary to the common belief that smartphones and social media are damaging adolescents' mental health, we don't see much support for the idea that time spent on phones and online is associated with increased risk for mental health problems," said Michael Jensen, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina.

For the study published in the journal Clinical Psychological Science, researchers surveyed more than 2,000 teenagers (aged between 10 and 15 years). They collected reports of mental health symptoms from the adolescents three times a day and also reported on their daily technology usage each night. They said that teenagers who reported sending more text messages reported feeling better than kids who were less frequent texters.



ACUPRESSURE CAN HELP IN LOW-BACK PAIN

People with back pain, take note. Researchers have found that acupressure, a traditional Chinese medicine technique, can improve chronic pain symptoms in the lower back.

"In many cases, acupressure is advisable for minor pains in the body which includes lower back pain also as it deals with applying pressure on the body which includes massages, stretching and other techniques that results in relaxation," Sumit Bhushan Sharma, Associate Director, Department of Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement, Jaypee Hospital said.

In the study, published in the journal Pain Medicine, the research team randomly assigned 67 participants with chronic lower back pain into three groups- relaxing acupressure, stimulating acupressure or usual care.

"Acupressure is similar to acupuncture, but instead of needles, the pressure is applied with a finger, thumb or device to specific points on the body," said study lead author Susan Murphy, Associate Professor at Michigan University.



FISH OIL PILLS WON'T PROTECT YOU FROM DIABETES

If you are popping fish oil supplements to protect yourself against diabetes, you may be mistaken. According to the researchers, Omega-3 fats have little or no effect on risk of Type 2 diabetes.

Increased consumption of omega 3 fats is widely promoted because of a common belief that it will protect against, or even reverse, conditions such as diabetes.

According to the team from University of East Anglia (UEA), omega 3 supplements offer no benefit. "Our previous research has shown that long-chain omega 3 supplements, including fish oils, do not protect against conditions such as heart disease, stroke or death. This review shows that they do not prevent or treat diabetes either," said Dr Lee Hooper, from UEA's Norwich Medical School. "Omega-3 supplements should not be encouraged for diabetes prevention or treatment," he added.

The research team assessed the effects of long-chain omega-3 fats, ALA, omega-6 and polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) taken as supplementary capsules, or via naturally rich foods.



FACIAL PAIN MAY BE A SYMPTOM OF HEADACHE

Facial pain may be a symptom of headaches as researchers have found that up to 10 per cent of people with headaches also suffer from facial pain.

"Facial pain has not been well recognised as a symptom of headache and some people end up waiting a long time for a proper diagnosis and treatment," said study author Arne May from the University of Hamburg in Germany. "This study shows that facial pain is not uncommon, and for many people their pain occurs mainly in the face, not the head," May said.

Published in the journal Neurology, the study involved 2,912 people with primary headaches — headaches not due to another condition and include migraine and cluster headaches. Participants were asked to fill out questionnaires about their headaches and facial pain.



OWN A PET FOR BETTER HEART HEALTH

Pet ownership, especially that of a dog, is associated with a decreased risk of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), says a new study.

According to Hemant Madan, Director Cardiology, Narayana Superspecialty Hospital in Gurugram, it is a well-observed fact that pet owners tend to have a lower incidence of heart disease. "This is due to several reasons such as lower blood pressure, a better exercise schedule and a lower cholesterol level. Moreover, even after a cardiac event, the calming effect of a pet leads to better recovery and rehabilitation," Madan said.

"People who owned a pet were likely to report more physical activity, better diet and blood sugar at ideal levels. The greatest benefits from having a pet were for those who owned a dog," said Andrea Maugeri, Professor at the University of Catania in Italy.



Champion for the ages

Sindhu says 'No words to express happiness, have waited Gold for so long'

PTI ■ BASEL

Two-time Silver medalist P V Sindhu was left speechless after her agonising wait for the elusive Gold finally ended with a maiden World Championship title here on Sunday.

Sindhu became the first Indian to win World Championships Gold by thrashing familiar rival Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-7, 21-7 in one of the most lop-sided finals ever.

Two years after being robbed of the Gold by Okuhara in an epic 110-minute final that went down as one of the greatest battles in badminton history, Sindhu finally exorcised the ghost of that heart-wrenching loss with a dominating win over the same opponent.

"I am really very happy. I have waited for this victory and finally I have become a world champion," Sindhu told reporters.

"I have no words to express, because I have been waiting for so long. Last time, it was Silver, before that it was Silver and finally I am a world champion so I am really really happy. I have been expecting this for a very long time. So I got it finally and I want to enjoy it, feel it."

It was Sindhu's fifth World Championships medal — most by a female singles player alongside former Olympic and world champion Zhang Ning of China — to go with the two successive Silvers and a couple of Bronze medals.

Sindhu has also won an Olympic Silver in 2016 Rio Games, a Silver at Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, an Asian Games Silver at Jakarta and the BWF World Tour Finals last year.

Sindhu credited her coaches for the performance and dedicated the win to her mother P Vijaya.

"A lot of credit to my coaches, Gopi Sir and Kim (Ji Hyun) and also to my parents, my support staff and sponsors who believed in me," she said.

"I dedicate this win to my mom, its her birthday today. I thought I will gift her something and finally I gift her this Gold medal. It is because of my parents that I am here today."

As the Indian national anthem reverberated across the St Jakobshalle stadium here, Sindhu stood at the podium with moist eyes.

"It was really special when the flag went up and national anthem was playing and I had goosebumps, I have no words to express because you play for your country and it is definitely a proud moment for me," she said.

The Olympic Silver medalist said



she approached the finals like any other match and it took the pressure off her as she could produce her best.

"I think I just focused on my match and didn't think it was a final. I just thought it was just another match like I played the semifinals and quarterfinals. I just went in that way and gave my 100 percent."

"Winning and losing is secondary for me just going to the court and giving my 100 percent is very important."

Talking about the final, Sindhu said, "Usually the Japanese girls play a lot of rallies, so there were long rallies and then I was dominating all of them and from the starting I maintained the

lead and finished it off. "I was very confident even though I was giving one or two points, then I was getting those points back and finally I did it."

Crestfallen after the devastating loss, Okuhara, the 2017 champion, said she just couldn't match up to the pace of Sindhu.

"Amazing performance! Congratulations on becoming the 1st ever to win the BWF World Championships! You have made India proud, yet again," —SACHIN TENDULKAR

"PV Sindhu creates history by becoming the first-ever Indian to claim gold in BWF World Badminton Championships! India is proud of @Pvsindhu1. My hearty congratulations! Govt will continue to provide best support & facilities to produce champions," —KIREN RIJU

"Congratulations to @Pvsindhu1 for the first ever world championships gold medal from India." —SAINA NEHWAL

"What a champion you are girl! @Pvsindhu1 congratulations. Enjoy the moment." —SANIA MIRZA

"Congratulations @Pvsindhu1 for winning the BWF World Championship. This is a proud moment for the entire country. Your magic on the court, hardwork and perseverance enthralled and inspires millions. Best wishes World Champion for all your future battles." —RAM NATH KOVIND

"Congratulations, Sindhu, on becoming the first Indian to win the gold medal at the BWF World Championships. (You) dominated right from the start and finished like a true champion." —Y S JAGAN MOHAN REDDY

"The stupendously talented @Pvsindhu1 makes India proud again! Congratulations to her for winning the Gold at the BWF World Championships. The passion and dedication with which she's pursued badminton is inspiring. PV Sindhu's success will inspire generations of players." —NARENDRA MODI

"BAI President @himantabiswa announces cash award of ₹ 20 lakh for World Champion @Pvsindhu1 and ₹ 1 lakh for @sajimeeth92 for their historic performance at the #bwworldchampionships2019." —BAI

"Sindhu played very speedy returns and I couldn't move fast enough. I couldn't defend. It can happen in sports, this time it didn't work out," said the World No 4 Japanese.

"I have lost matches in other competitions so I know I will have to improve my physical and mental fitness to be prepared for next time."

Haryana Steelers will continue to build momentum

Every season of the Pro Kabaddi League is a roller coaster ride and this season has not been any different for the Haryana Steelers. It has been an honour for me to lead an inspiring bunch of players on the mat throughout the season so far. We were in major trouble when we lost three matches in a row at the start of the tournament, but the way the side has fought back has been incredible. Grit and determination is far more important than talent in sport and the players in the



Dharmaraj Cheralatha

Haryana team have shown their mettle in this competition. It was magnificent to defeat Patna Pirates, Bengaluru Bulls and UP Yoddha in consecutive matches. The side gained a lot of confidence after triumphing in tough contests.

After performing well in the first match against Purneri Paltan, we couldn't play to our potential in the next three matches. And then we changed our strategy. Our fortunes changed from thereon. We had issues in our defense unit. The coaches and the team management thought about which player will be most suitable in which position. Thereafter, we had our strategies in place for the raiders of the opposition team. The better the defense does, the better the team will perform.

Haryana's raider Vikash Kandola has been a big boost for the team. We missed him terribly in the first three matches. The team's spirits were uplifted after his return. He has been in tremendous form and he will continue to contribute to the side's victories in the upcoming matches. Vikash has been our top raider with 58 points in 6 matches.

Along with Vikash, it has been brilliant to see the way our youngsters and especially Vinay (raider) perform in this season. The 19-year-old Sunil has also made vital contributions for the team in the defense set-up.

However, the Haryana Steelers' main advantage this season has been our coach Rakesh Kumar. Our coach is also young, who was playing until last year. He has a good knowledge about how much a certain player should practice and how far to push a certain athlete. He decides the amount of practice for each player. Rakesh knows what is best for each athlete to perform at his best.

The Haryana Steelers are in a good position in the standings, but we have to keep believing in ourselves to win games. The most important aspect in a league format is momentum. Therefore, once we win a match, we should ensure that our performance doesn't drop in the next game. Mistakes happened, but the team is prepared to correct each of its mistakes and move forward in the tournament. The team dissects its performance after each game to play even better in the upcoming matches.

The team has put up a great performance in the season so far. The management isn't looking too far ahead as yet. We are aiming to qualify for the knockout stages at the moment and then we'll think about the semi-finals of the tournament.

(The writer is captain of Pro Kabaddi League side Haryana Steelers)



David Silva taps Sergio Aguero's back after the forward scores his second goal AP

David Silva sparkles as Aguero double fires City

AFP ■ LONDON

Sergio Aguero bagged a brace and David Silva marked his 400th appearance for Manchester City by playing a role in all three goals as the champions won 3-1 at Bournemouth on Sunday.

First half efforts from Aguero and Raheem Sterling ensured Pep Guardiola's side led at the interval despite a stunning free-kick reply from Bournemouth's Harry Wilson.

Argentinian striker Aguero wrapped up City's second Premier League victory of the season with his second goal of the game after half-time.

It was Silva, though, who was the architect of the win and having already announced this will be his last season at the Etihad Stadium, this display only underlined how much he will be missed.

The Spanish midfielder remains an integral part of Guardiola's team, with his contribution to City's goals demonstrating exactly why he is so valued by his manager.

For the 15th minute opening goal, it was Silva who operated as the fulcrum towards the

start of the move with the midfielder finding Aleksandr Zinchenko on the left, allowing the left-back to drill in the low cross that eventually led to Aguero's finish.

Silva's contribution to the second was even more eye-catching, with his superbly weighted ball picking out Sterling's darting run into the box before the England attacker struck past keeper Aaron Ramsdale.

Then a positive surge into the Bournemouth area caused confusion among the home backline before Aguero pounced for the third.

Those moments helped City maintain control of a game that could easily have slipped from their grasp had Eddie Howe's side enjoyed better fortune.

Aguero's predatory finishing was the perfect tonic for City after Brazil striker Gabriel Jesus was withdrawn from the squad with a hamstring problem sustained in training.

City said Jesus will be back to full fitness after next month's international break, meaning he should miss only next weekend's clash with Brighton.

Serena-Sharapova showdown seizes spotlight

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Serena Williams faces Maria Sharapova in a blockbuster first-round match today at the US Open, the feature showdown on the first day of the year's final Grand Slam tennis event.

Eighth-ranked Williams, who lost to Naomi Osaka in last year's US Open final and to Simona Halep in last month's Wimbledon final, is seeking her 24th career Grand Slam singles title to match Margaret Court's all-time record.

The 37-year-old American owns a 19-2 record against Russia's 87th-ranked Sharapova and has beaten her 18 consecutive times dating to 2005.

That lopsided rivalry, however, has not prevented the matchup from being the talk of the tournament since Thursday's draw announcement.

"Of course I'm going to watch it," Osaka said. "I think everyone in New York is going to watch it."

Williams owns a 3-1 record over Sharapova in Grand Slam matchups, having lost their first such meeting in 2004 at Wimbledon, but this will mark the first time they have met in a US Open.

Williams last won a Grand Slam at the 2017 Australian Open, while pregnant.

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova, 32, failed a drug test at the 2016 Australian Open and served a one-year ban. The 2006 US Open winner last won a Slam at the 2014 French Open. She has reached the fourth round at the past two US Opens.

Other first-day matches in Arthur Ashe Stadium send Swiss third seed Roger Federer against India's 190th-ranked Sumit Nagal, top-seeded defending champion Novak Djokovic against Spain's 76th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena and French Open champion Ashleigh Barty, the second seed from Australia, against 77th-ranked Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan.

Eighth-seeded Williams could



Serena vs Sharapova Live from 4:30am IST STAR SPORTS NETWORK

meet second-seeded French Open champion Ashleigh Barty of Australia in the quarter-finals.

Barty, Osaka, Halep and Czech third seed Karolina Pliskova, seeking her first Slam title, are among the foes trying to deny Williams yet again in a quest she insists doesn't dominate her thoughts.

She has not played since retiring from the WTA Toronto final with back spasms, handing Canada's Bianca Andreescu the title.

OSAKA 'VERY CONFIDENT'

Osaka won last year's final after Williams was given a game penalty by umpire Carlos Ramos, who US Open officials have decided will not work on any match with Serena or Venus Williams at this year's US Open.

This time, Osaka has had a better run-up to the Open despite a first-round Wimbledon crash out.

"This year I went to two quarter-finals back to back and I feel very confident about how I am right now."

While it's Osaka's first time defending a Slam, she had her first taste of defending a title this year at Indian Wells.

Meanwhile, Halep, who has crashed out of the US Open in the first round the past two years, enters with confidence after beating Williams at Wimbledon.

"It cannot be worse than the last two years, to lose in the first round," Halep said. "I'm really good. I'm feeling healthy. I'm feeling fresh."

"The pressure of doing something special, it's off. Now what comes, comes as a bonus. I'm still working. I'm still motivated to win titles. I've started to feel more and more that I'm capable to do that so my confidence is very high."

Barty says "nothing has really changed for me" since her title at Roland Garros.

Big 3 remain ones to beat

AFP ■ NEW YORK

While a host of young rivals hope to disrupt the dominance of the "Big Three" in men's tennis, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer remain the US Open favorites.

The year's final Grand Slam showdown starts today on the Flushing Meadows hardcourts with top-ranked Djokovic, 20-time Grand Slam champion Federer and Spanish superstar Nadal having combined to win the past 11 Grand Slam titles.

Federer, 38, doesn't see a problem with the dominance by the sport's elder statesmen, who together own 54 of the past 65 Slam titles.

"I don't think it's a problem, per se," Federer said. "Now that Novak, Rafa and me are healthy again, Andy (Murray) also slowly coming back again, has made it much harder for young guys to come through."

"They are definitely knocking on the door big-time now. I think that's very encouraging for those who want to see somebody else win. I think also Novak's domination, Rafa's domination is also not normal for the game of tennis."

"I think there's going to be chances moving forward, but it's not surprising with the type of tennis they've been playing in recent years."

Third-seeded Federer also throws in a chance for Swiss compatriot Stan Wawrinka, who like Britain's injured Murray has won three Slam crowns during the "Big Three" reign, but figures a familiar face will be lifting the US Open trophy.

"Yeah, it seems like the same guys are the favorites again this time around," Federer said. "It will be a surprise if anybody else won."

Defending champion Djokovic, seeking a 17th career Grand Slam title, has won four of the past five Slams, denied only by Nadal's French Open win in June. The 32-year-old Serbian says he has adjusted to the extra pressure of defending over the years.

"It's a paramount challenge to defend a Grand Slam title," he said. "These are the tournaments you want to win the most. This is where you want to shine."



ed over Federer and Djokovic both being in the opposite half of the draw.

Russia's Daniil Medvedev has enjoyed a stellar US Open run-up with a win at Cincinnati and runner-up efforts at Washington and Montreal.

Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem lost to Nadal in the Roland Garros final and will be a threat.

Germany's sixth-ranked Alexander Zverev warns not to ignore other lower seeds such as Japan's seventh-seeded Kei Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up, and Greece's eighth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas.

ANDERSON OUT

Two-time Grand Slam finalist Kevin Anderson withdrew from the tournament on Saturday due to a right knee injury.

The 33-year-old South African lost the 2017 final at Flushing Meadows to Rafael Nadal and finished runner-up to Novak Djokovic last year at Wimbledon.

Anderson's place in the draw will go to Italian lucky loser Paolo Lorenzi, the US Tennis Association announced.

World number 17 Anderson has not played since his third-round exit at Wimbledon last month. Injury ruled him out of the recent hardcourt events at Washington, Montreal and Cincinnati.

Stokes keeps Ashes alive

Ben's historic innings help hosts chase 359 with 1 wicket remaining to beat Aus in Headingley Test



AFF ■ HEADINGLEY (LEEDS)

Ben Stokes was the hero yet again as his incredible unbeaten century saw England to a thrilling one-wicket win in the third Ashes Test at Headingley on Sunday.

England — all out for a woeful 67 in their first innings — were 286-9, still needing 73 more runs to reach a victory target of 359 when bespectacled No 11 Jack Leach walked out to bat to join Stokes at the crease.

Leach, however, held firm with World Cup final winning batting star Stokes' astonishing 135 not out seeing England complete their highest successful fourth innings chase as they squared the five-match series at 1-1.

"There's nothing like being out there in the end and getting your team over the line. I didn't get nervous till we needed single figures, I didn't know what to do then," admitted Stokes.

Australia, who would have retained the Ashes had they won, missed a clear chance to run Leach out when Nathan Lyon failed to gather a throw and then paid dearly for squandering a review.

All-rounder Stokes eventually played fast bowler Pat Cummins for four to seal a famous victory arguably even more

improbable than England's celebrated 1981 Ashes Test success at Headingley when they won after following-on.

This was only the fourth time a team had made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley.

"It was a very special feeling. Stokesy was unbelievable. It was like nothing I've ever seen before. And the crowd was insane," admitted Leach.

Australia captain Tim Paine said: "It's hard to take, losing that from that position but you tip your hat sometimes."

"Ben Stokes played an unbelievable innings and in the end he was too good for us."

As Leach looked on, all-rounder Stokes went into one-day mode by driving off-spinner Lyon for two straight sixes and then produced a stunning reverse against him that sailed high over deep point.

Stokes' extravagant scooped six off Cummins reduced the target to 40.

Despite Australia captain Tim Paine having scattered all his fielders to the boundary, Stokes pulled Josh Hazlewood for four to complete a remarkable 199 ball-century — his second in a row after his 115 not out in the drawn second Test at Lord's — featuring eight fours and five sixes.



Smith set for tour match return

AFF ■ LONDON

Steve Smith is set to make his return to action in a tour match against Derbyshire after the Australia star batted against bowlers for the first time on Sunday since being concussed.

He is expected to return to action in a three-day tour match at Derby starting Thursday with a view to being available for selection for the fourth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, that begins on September 4.

"Steve Smith batted against bowlers for the first time today (Sunday)," said an Australia team spokesman.

"The session lasted 25 minutes. He also did some high intensity running."

The spokesman added: "He will continue to be assessed but is expected to play in the tour match at Derby."

Smith has made a spectacular return to Test cricket in what is the former Australia captain's first series since he completed a 12-month ban for his role in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

He made 144 and 142 in Australia's 251-run win in the first Test at Edgbaston and 92 at Lord's, having retired hurt on 80 when struck on his unprotected neck by Archer.

Stokes then hoisted the next two balls for six.

He rode his luck when a sliced two off Cummins was dropped by a diving Marcus Harris at third man.

Stokes, however, commandingly pulled and drove Cummins's next two balls for four to leave England just nine runs shy of victory.

RUN-OUT CHANCE

But a single left Leach on strike with two balls left in the over.

The first of those sailed over Leach's head and the next saw Australia waste a review for a ball that pitched outside leg stump.

England now needed eight — or two boundaries — as Stokes faced Leach. The third ball of the over saw Stokes



drive Lyon for a six that just cleared Marnus Labuschagne at long-on and England needed two to win.

A colossal mix-up between Stokes and Leach should have seen the No 11 run out but Lyon fumbled the return.

Lyon then had an lbw appeal against Stokes turned down by umpire Joel Wilson only for replays to suggest it would have been out.

But Australia had used up all their reviews.

England still needed two to win but Leach, who made a career best 92 as nightwatchman in a recent Test win over Ireland, was on strike to Cummins.

Leach though managed a single that tied the scores as he got off the mark after 59 minutes at the crease.

And Stokes then cut Cummins for a boundary to seal an astounding triumph.

"I have no sister but if I did I'd want her to marry Ben Stokes."
—GRAEME SWANN

"ARISE SIR BEN STOKES."
—ENGLAND'S BARMY ARMY SUPPORTERS GROUP.

"I've seen some remarkable cricket moments in my life but that is the best I've seen in over 50 years. @benstokes38 saved the Ashes and gave a magical inspirational innings. Even better than his World Cup performance."
—GEOFFREY BOYCOTT

"Hi, my name is Ben, Ben Stokes!"
—KEVIN PIETERSEN.

"That was special from Ben Stokes. Single handedly winning the test match. Great viewing."
—VIRENDER SEHWAG

"One of the best innings of test match cricket you will see, well played @benstokes38. What a game, what a test match. #ashesaliveandkicking. Both teams so close together. Go the Aussies for the next test."
—DARREN LEHMANN

"The greatest ever innings by an Englishman."
—ALASTAIR COOK

"You cannot do that Ben Stokes"
—NASSER HUSSAIN.

"Wow, just Wow. The Ashes is something else. England and Australia keeping test cricket alive. The rest of the world MUST come to the party now..."
—ALVIRO PETERSEN

SINGLES

IND BLUE CONCEDE LEAD TO INDIA RED

BENGALURU: Maharashtra batsman Ankit Bawne made an unbeaten 121 but could not prevent India Blue from conceding a 30-run lead to India Red on the third day of the Duleep Trophy match here on Sunday. After bowling out India Blue for 255 in 83.2 overs, India Red (285 in 1st innings) extended the advantage by moving to 93 for 2 at stumps, a lead of 123 runs. At stumps, Nair was batting on 43 (55 balls, 7 fours) while Kalsi was on 21 (34 balls, 3X4), looking to be a lot more positive than in his first-innings ton. India Red hit back after a wicketless first session with right-arm paceman Avesh Khan (4 for 58) and left-arm medium-pace Jaydev Unadkat (3 for 52) and Vidarbha spinner Akshay Wakhare (3 for 32) helping the team pull things back.

WAQAR APPLIES FOR BOWLING COACH JOB

KARACHI: Former Pakistan captain Waqar Younis has applied for the bowling coach role with the national team as he is not mentally prepared to take charge as head coach for the third time. Waqar, 47, who has twice worked as head coach of the Pakistan team in 2010 and in 2014-2016, applied for the bowling coach position with the PCB's application deadline ending on Sunday. "I have applied for the position of bowling coach because I think I can contribute a lot in this area. Frankly speaking, I am not averse to being the head coach but this time, to be honest, I am not mentally prepared for it," Waqar said from Australia. "Would prefer to work in the bowling department if the board shows faith in me," he said.

HURKACZ BEAT PAIRE, WIN 1ST ATP TITLE

LOS ANGELES: Poland's Hubert Hurkacz upset top seed Benoit Paire in three sets at the Winston-Salem ATP tournament to clinch his first career title. The towering 22-year-old became the first Polish player to win a tour singles event since Wojtek Fibak lifted the WCT Chicago crown in 1982, winning 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. Hurkacz recorded five service breaks en route to victory in 2hr 9min against the 30-year-old Frenchman. Hurkacz is the 14th player to become a first-time tournament winner on the ATP Tour in 2019. Saturday's win completed an impressive week for Hurkacz, who knocked off 16th seed Feliciano Lopez, 10th seed Frances Tiafoe and second seed Denis Shapovalov en route to his maiden title.

WERNER EXTENDS LEIPZIG CONTRACT

MUNICH: Bayern Munich transfer target Timo Werner has signed a four-year contract extension at RB Leipzig, the Bundesliga club confirmed on Sunday. The announcement, which was made just before Leipzig's first home game of the season against Eintracht Frankfurt, ends speculation that Bayern would sign Werner on a free transfer in 2020. "I am happy to have extended my contract. It was a long process, but I wanted to be completely sure that I could make the next steps in my development at this club," said Werner. The 23-year-old striker had previously held firm against all new contract offers, and openly hinted at his interest in a move to Munich last season.

DABANG DELHI BEAT UP YODDHA

NEW DELHI: Naveen Kumar was once again the star for home side Dabang Delhi as they beat UP Yodha 36-27 in a Pro Kabaddi League match here on Sunday. The 19-year-old raider picked up a Super 10 (16 points) for the seventh consecutive time this season as Dabang secured an important victory to keep their record of 100 per cent win at home intact and push them to the top of the Season 7 points table. Meraj Sheykh got a place in the starting seven for Dabang Delhi after his influential cameo in their win against Bengaluru Bulls in the previous outing while there was no Rishank Devadiga in the seven for UP Yodha who went in with Monu Goyat as their chief raider. Elsewhere, Rohit Kumar's impressive show helped defending champions Bengaluru Bulls beat league toppers Jaipur Pink Panthers 41-30.

INDIA FINISHES WITH 12 MEDALS

BASEL: India's Pramod Bhagat made a strong comeback to defeat England's Daniel Bethell and clinch his third title in the men's singles SL3 category at the BWF Para Badminton World Championships on Sunday. It was World No 1 Bhagat's second Gold in this World Championships having won his men's doubles SL3-4 title on the penultimate day of the competitions. Interestingly in that match, he and his partner Manoj Sarkar came from a game down to defeat compatriots Nitesh Kumar and Tarun Dhillion 14-21, 21-15, 21-16 in the final. Overall, India finished with 12 medals, including three Gold. Though the total number of medals is same as in 2015 Worlds, but back then India had four Gold, making it the best ever show.

AGENCIES

Rahane, Vihari take India ahead

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Ajinkya Rahane remained on course to score his first Test century in two years while Hanuma Vihari hit a fluent fifty as India tightened their grip over the West Indies in the series-opener, here on Sunday.

Vihari (57) and Rahane (90) raised an unbeaten 100-run partnership for the fifth wicket after India lost skipper Virat Kohli, taking India to 287 for four at lunch on the fourth day for an overall lead 362.

Rahane, who scored 81 in the first innings, has not scored a Test hundred since his 132 against Sri Lanka in August 2017.

For Vihari it's only his second Test fifty. Resuming at 185 for three, India lost Kohli (51) when his leading edge off Roston Chase flew to John Campbell, who took the catch on second attempt.

That ended the fourth-wicket partnership between Kohli and Rahane that yielded 106 runs for India. The other overnight batsman Rahane was joined by Vihari, who easily worked the ball around in gaps

to keep the scoreboard ticking. Holder now made it all-spin attack by introducing John Campbell from the other end.

As soon as the new ball was available, pacers Kumar Roach and Shannon Gabriel operated in tandem but before that West Indies part-timers had bowled 41 overs in this innings alone.

While Roach and Gabriel bowled a few testing deliveries, it largely remained an untroubled stay for both Rahane and Vihari.

Opener Mayank Agarwal (16) was the first wicket to fall for India in the second innings, trapped by Chase in the 14th over although TV replays showed the ball was missing the leg stump but the batsman didn't go for review on Saturday.

After Agarwal's departure, KL Rahul (38) and Cheteshwar Pujara (25) added 43 runs for the second wicket to take India forward.

Rahul, however, gave away his wicket, bowled by Chase. He went across his stumps going for a sweep, only to expose all the three stumps and the West Indian spinner stuck as the batsman failed

to connect the ball. An over later, Roach went through Pujara's defence to reduce India to 81 for three.

Before that, India bowled out West Indies for 222 in 74.2 overs in their first

Holder 'extremely disappointed' with Windies top-order failure

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

Not standing up to a challenge has become a "common thing" for West Indies' top-order batsmen, lamented an "extremely disappointed" captain Jason Holder.

Holder expressed his disappointment after West Indies were bowled out for 222 in reply to India's first-innings total of 297 all out in their opening World Championship Test match.

"Extremely disappointed... It has been a common thing for our batsmen now. We have not been able to step up as a top-order, the middle and lower order have done an exceptional job," Holder said.

"We are behind the eight ball because we did not bat well in the first innings," he said during a media conference at the end of third day's play.

"The boys are fighting, the effort was exceptional, we have been in the match with the bowling effort. We kept toiling away, it is not a surface on which you can bowl out a side cheaply. We hope to restrict India and then

innings in reply to 297 with Ishant Sharma returning with best figures of 5 for 43. Besides Ishant, Mohammed Shami (2/48) and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/64) scalped two wickets a piece.

chase down the total," he added.

Holder spoke after Virat Kohli (51) and Ajinkya Rahane (53) propelled India to a commanding position with their unbroken 104-run partnership for the fourth wicket, extending the visitors' overall lead to 260.

He lauded his pace attack, especially Kumar Roach, for his consistency.

"Bowlers are doing an exceptional job. India is scoring at two and a half runs per over, we are fighting very hard. The body language has been right up there. We got early wickets and they built a partnership in the first innings. We just need to play smart cricket in the remaining match."

"Kemar has been brilliant. We, as a fast-bowling group, have done a good job. Kemar keeps you guessing, there is never a situation in which he gets predictable. It is a plus having Kemar in this side. He makes something happen with the ball."

"Yes, Ishant got five wickets in the first innings, but in my opinion, Kemar has been the standout bowler in this match," he added.

Watling, CDG put Kiwis on front



AFF ■ COLOMBO

Contrasting half-centuries from BJ Watling and Colin de Grandhomme helped New Zealand lead by 138 runs in their first innings against Sri Lanka on day four of the rain-hit second Test on Sunday.

Only 48 of the scheduled 98 overs were possible as New Zealand reached 382 for five at stumps. The tourists resumed the day on 196-4. The first session was washed out by rain and a wet outfield at Colombo's P Sara Oval.

De Grandhomme scored 83 in an unbeaten 113-run stand for the sixth wicket with Watling, who finished the day on 81.

Watling also played the supporting role in an earlier partnership of 143 with Tom Latham, who hit 154.

Off-spinner Dilruwan Perera broke the marathon stand after trapping Latham leg before on a delivery that pitched and hurried on to the batsman's pad.

Latham, who started the day on 111, registered his fifth 150-plus score in Tests. His career-best 264 not out also came against Sri Lanka in Wellington last year.

No 7 De Grandhomme attacked hitting the home bowlers around the ground, smashing five fours and five sixes.

Watling, who started the day on 25, played a patient knock during his 208-ball stay.

Sri Lanka were without captain and opening batsman Dimuth Karunaratne, who strained a muscle of his left leg and will be unable to bat until the fall of the fifth wicket, and wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella.

Angelo Mathews is the stand-in-captain and substitute Dinesh Chandimal is keeping wicket in the absence of Dickwella, who sustained a cut on the little finger of his left-hand on day three.

The Kane Williamson-led New Zealand will be looking to bat only once and then let their pace duo of Tim Southee and Trent Boult have a crack at the Sri Lankan batsmen in a bid to square the series.

Play will get under way at 9:45 am (04:15 GMT) today, the final day of the match, weather permitting.