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LUCKNOW, TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 2019; PAGES 16-33



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Schools deserted as Valley edgy

Only 10 students mark attendance in 196 schools in Srinagar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Majority of primary schools reported 'zero' to very thin attendance on Monday after the authorities decided to re-open 196 schools across Srinagar following two weeks of clampdown in the State in the wake of abrogation of Article 370. In most cases, parents refused to drop their children to schools citing strict security restrictions. Other districts in the Valley too registered zero attendance of students.



A Kashmiri school staff member cleans a deserted classroom in Srinagar on Monday

The only saving grace was the presence of schoolteachers and other staff who made it to the schools despite facing many hardships en route.

Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary told *The Pioneer* that out of 196 schools, staff and teachers reported on duty in around 170 schools in Srinagar on Monday, but less than 10 students marked their presence on day one.

The Government also decided to re-open all middle level schools across Kashmir valley from Wednesday. Meanwhile, after his two week stay in the Kashmir for monitoring the situation, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval returned to Delhi on Monday and briefed Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Union Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, Intelligence Bureau chief Arvind Kumar and other top officials attended the meeting that reviewed the steps taken to maintain the law and order situation in the

State. The issues related to restrictions imposed in various parts of Jammu & Kashmir also figured in the meeting. At several places in Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam, Kupwara, schools reported zero attendance and efforts are being made to motivate people to send their children to schools to restore normalcy. Meanwhile, some of the State Government offices too started normal functioning in Srinagar, but most of the market places in down town Srinagar and other vulnerable

areas were a deserted look. The communication blockade continued with only landline services being restored partially. Mobile phone services remained suspended for the 15th day in succession in different parts of Kashmir valley. In the wake of repeated incidents of stone pelting and token protests, security forces remained deployed in large numbers while barricades and concertina wires prevented smooth movement of traffic in several parts of Srinagar. Central Kashmir DIG VK

Birdi on Monday claimed minor incidents of stone pelting were reported from some areas in Srinagar but situation largely remained peaceful. No major incident of violence was reported from anywhere in the area, he added. Addressing a joint press conference, Director, Information and Public Relations, Syed Seehish Asgar, Deputy Inspector General of Police (CKR) VK Birdi and School Education Director Muhammad Younis Malik said the presence of staff at all the primary level schools on Monday was an encouraging sign and the administration has decided to re-open all the middle schools across Kashmir on Wednesday.

Regarding the availability of supply stock in the Valley, it was informed that the essential services like PHE, PDD, Food & Civil Services, etc, are working smoothly.

It was also informed that Srinagar Civil Secretariat recorded 98 per cent attendance, and it is picking up rapidly in other Government offices.

They said the relaxations are being given by the Deputy Commissioners in their respective areas, adding no report of any untoward incident was received today during the relaxation period. They said that there was no law and order incident reported from Jammu region while urging people not to pay heed to rumours.

Bhagwat's quota debate call fires Opp with anger

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for debate on reservation has set off a major political row with several Opposition parties condemning any attempt to dilute the provisions of caste-based quota in Government jobs and educational institutions.

While RSS dismissed as "needless" the row over Bhagwat's remarks, asserting that he merely stressed on the need for talks in harmony within society to address any issue, the Congress, the BJP and the RID alleged that the "anti Dalit-backward face" of the RSS-BJP has been exposed.

"A needless controversy is being sought to be created over RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's address at a programme in Delhi. He merely stressed on the importance of addressing issues in society through mutual talks in harmony and called for considering a sensitive issue like reservation in a similar manner," RSS "prachar pramukh" (publicity head) Arun Kumar said in a tweet.

He also said that organisation has made it clear time and again that it fully supports reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBC and those getting it on to eco-



nomie grounds. Bhagwat had said on Sunday that there should be conversation in harmonious atmosphere between those in favour of reservation and those against it.

"Attack on the rights of the poor, trampling on constitutional rights, snatching the rights of Dalits-backwards. This is the real BJP agenda. The anti Dalit-backward face of the RSS-BJP has been exposed. The conspiracy to end reservation for the poor and the policy of changing the Constitution have been uncovered," Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said.

BJP chief Mayawati asked the RSS to shed its "anti-reservation mindset", saying reservation was a constitutional provision and disturbing it would be an injustice.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

UNNAO: SC ASKS CBI TO FINISH PROBE BY SEPT 6
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday granted the CBI time till September 6 to complete the investigation into the rape incident in which the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts killed.

CELLPHONE OF SOLICITOR GEN'S WIFE SNATCHED
New Delhi: Two bike-borne men allegedly snatched the mobile phone of Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta's wife in front of the PCCI auditorium in Mandi House, police said on Monday.

SHEKHAR ELECTED TO RS UNOPPOSED
Lucknow (PNS): Neeraj Shekhar, son of former prime minister Chandra Shekhar, was on Monday elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh, a senior official declared here. No other nomination had been filed for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from UP for which bypoll was held.

Shekhar had filed his nomination papers on August 14 as Bharatiya Janata Party candidate in the presence of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and party state chief Sutantra Dey Singh. Monday was the last day for withdrawal of nomination. The bypoll was necessitated due to Shekhar's resignation from the membership of the Rajya Sabha and the Samajwadi Party. He later joined the BJP. The term of the seat ends on November 25, 2020. UP sends 31 members to the Rajya Sabha.

Bihar's last Congress CM Jagannath Mishra dies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra, 82, passed away in Delhi on Tuesday after a prolonged illness. Mishra was one of the tallest political leaders of Bihar before Lalu Prasad became the face of the State politics.

Apart from holding the post of Chief Minister thrice as a Congress stalwart, Mishra served as a Union Cabinet Minister. Mishra was convicted along with 44 others in the infamous fodder scam in 2013.

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Ex-MPs asked to vacate bungalows within week

Advani, Joshi to retain residences due to security reasons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday asked all former Members of Parliament (MPs) to vacate Government bungalows within a week. Majority of such Government bungalows are located in the posh Lutyens' zone in the national Capital.

A high-level meeting convened by the Housing Committee of the Lok Sabha on Monday decided that if these "squatters" failed to vacate the bungalows, their power, water and gas connections will be cut within three days and heavy penalty will be imposed on them.



Senior BJP leaders and former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani and Murlidhar Joshi will retain their bungalow

due to security reasons. The committee had earlier directed several senior Congress leaders, including Jyotiraditya Scindia and Mallikarjun Kharge, to vacate their Government bungalows since they have lost the Lok Sabha elections last month.

Normally, leaders who lose elections to Parliament are supposed to vacate their bungalows, but over the years there has been a trend among several leaders, including former Ministers, refusing to vacate their bungalows citing various reasons.

Continued on Page 4

UP govt hikes VAT; petrol to cost ₹ 2.35/ltr & diesel 98 p more

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With an aim to tap financial resources, the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has increased Value Added Tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel with immediate effect. With the hike in VAT, price of diesel will increase by 98 paise per litre and of petrol by ₹ 2.35 per litre.

In Lucknow, the petrol will now cost ₹ 73.65 per litre and diesel ₹ 65.34 per litre. Earlier, petrol was being sold at ₹ 71.30 per litre and diesel at ₹ 64.36 per litre.

A senior government official said that with this decision, the state exchequer will get additional ₹ 3,000 crore and this money would be used in development projects.

The notification for hike in VAT on petrol and diesel was issued on Monday night. Additional Chief Secretary (Trade Tax) Akshay Sinha said that VAT on petrol would now be 26.80 per cent or ₹ 16.74 per litre and that on diesel, 17.48 per cent or ₹ 9.41 per litre.

"The increase in prices will come into effect from midnight," Sinha said. Governor Anandiben has signed the notification. This is the second time in less than two months that additional taxes have been imposed on petrol and diesel. Earlier, the Union government had levied a cess on purchase of crude oil which resulted in increase in petrol prices by ₹ 2 per litre.

PM dials Trump, evokes Imran's hard rhetoric

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

New Delhi: In the first highest-level interaction after the Yogi Adityanath government's announcement on Jammu & Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday held a telephonic conversation with US President Donald Trump, and conveyed that extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence by certain leaders in the region was not conducive to peace.

Modi's comments on extreme rhetoric by some regional leaders was an obvious reference to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been making provocative comments against Modi Government and Indian action in the last few days.

The 30-minute conversation between Modi and Trump covered bilateral and regional matters, and was marked by the "warmth and cordiality which characterises the relations between the two leaders", a Prime Minister's Office (PMO) release said.

In the context of the regional situation, the Prime Minister stated that extreme rhetoric and incitement to anti-India violence by certain leaders in the region was not conducive to peace, it said. The conversation between Modi and Trump took place two days after the US President asked Khan to resolve the



Kashmir issue with India bilaterally during a telephonic conversation. Continuing with his tirade against India over the Kashmir issue, Khan on Sunday had called the Indian Government "fascist" and "supremacist", alleging that a safety threat to Pakistan as well as to the minorities in India.

He also said the world must also seriously consider the safety and security of India's nuclear arsenal as it impacts not just the region but the world.

Earlier this month, India abrogated Article 370 in the Constitution to withdraw Jammu & Kashmir's special status and bifurcated it into two Union Territories, evoking strong reactions from Pakistan. In his telephonic conversation, Modi also highlighted the importance of creating an environment free from terror and violence and eschewing cross-border terrorism without

exception, the statement added. The Prime Minister reiterated India's commitment to cooperate with anyone who followed this path, in fighting poverty, illiteracy and disease. Noting that today marked the 100th year of the Independence of Afghanistan, Modi emphasised India's "long-standing and unwavering commitment to work for a united, secure, democratic and truly independent Afghanistan".

During the conversation, Modi also referred to his meeting with Trump in Osaka on the margins of G-20 summit in June.

"Referring to their bilateral discussions in Osaka, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the Government of India and the US Trade Representative would meet at an early date to discuss bilateral trade prospects for mutual benefit," Government said.

IndiGo, SpiceJet's T2 flights to shift to T3 from Sept 5

After infrastructure boost, IndiGo and GoAir to resume op from IGIA's T2

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has initiated (DIAL) has initiated work to enhance Terminal-II infrastructure, two major airlines — SpiceJet and IndiGo — will shift to Terminal-III of the IGIA from September 5.

On Monday, DIAL in its official statement said the shift is to pave way for infra enhancement of T-II, after which its capacity will increase from 15 million passengers

per annum (MPPA) to 18MPPA. "This will enhance the passenger experience at T-II terminal after the movement. GoAir and IndiGo will be the two major airlines operating from T-II," DIAL notification reads.

Notably, IndiGo will operate partially from T-III also. IndiGo flights of 5,000 series will shift from T2 to T3 and but flight operations of IndiGo and SpiceJet at T1 will remain unaffected.



The Yamuna in spate as seen from the Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as Lohka-Puli, in Delhi on Monday

Yamuna breaches danger mark

10,000 people in low-lying areas moved to safety

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Heavy rain in northern Haryana and the release of 828 lakh cuses water from the Hathnikund barrage by Haryana on Monday caused flood-like situation in the low-lying areas of the national Capital with the river Yamuna flowing at 205.36 metres, breaching the danger mark of 203.33 metres.



The Yamuna in spate as seen from the Old Yamuna Bridge, also known as Lohka-Puli, in Delhi on Monday

According to official sources here, SSP (STF) Satyarthi

Prayagraj SSP suspended over murders in city

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Under attack from opposition parties over "deteriorating law and order" in the state, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday took a serious note of a series of killings in Prayagraj and shunted out Senior Superintendent of Police Anil Sharma in the morning and later suspended him.

The action came after three people were killed in Dhumanganj, one in Allahpur and a double-murder took place in Tharwal area of Prayagraj on Sunday. According to official sources here, SSP (STF) Satyarthi

Anirudh Pankaj has been made the new SSP of Prayagraj. The Chief Minister took the decision to shift Anil Sharma after summoning DGP OP Singh to his residence on Monday morning and seeking clarification from him on the rising crime in the state.

Sharma was initially shifted from Prayagraj to Meerut and then to the DGP office and later suspended.

Earlier, in Prayagraj, two policemen, including an SHO, were suspended for dereliction of duties after the murders in three police station areas. The government's action also reportedly came as the

opposition targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over law and order.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati launched a scathing attack on Yogi Adityanath and blamed him for the prevailing law and order situation in the state.

She said due to the 'jungle raj' in the state everyone was feeling insecure. Her remarks come in light of the murder of a journalist and his brother, who were shot dead in broad daylight in Saharanpur district on Sunday following a dispute over the dumping of cow dung. Reacting to the murders, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav tweeted, "After the murder

of two brothers in Saharanpur, 6 murders in 12 hours in Prayagraj; Uttar Pradesh has become a 'Hata Pradesh'."

On Sunday, Congress general secretary Bhupendra Kanwar Vadra also criticised the Yogi Adityanath government and said, "What will you call a situation where murders are the new common thing. People responsible for controlling crime are busy hiding their failures and above all UP is crime free."

SC dismisses Tejpal's plea to quash sexual assault charges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by Tejpal magazine's founder Tarun Tejpal seeking quashing of charges framed against him in a sexual assault case filed by a former woman colleague. A Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked GoA's lower court to complete the trial preferably within six months in the case against Tejpal.

Continued on Page 4

Govt developing textile park in Farrukhabad

PNs | LUCKNOW

With the aim to promote textile industry in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to set up a textile park in Farrukhabad for which land has been acquired and investment has been arranged.

Principal Secretary (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) Navneet Sehgal said that the proposed park would be spread over 14 hectare area. He said the land had been arranged and the textiles units in Farrukhabad would be shifted there one by one.

"We are expecting an investment of ₹200 crore which would not only give a boost to the textile sector but also help in generating jobs for local youth at their doorsteps. This will end the exodus of educated youth from small cities to

'At present there are 104 textile units in Farrukhabad and 80 of them are in position to shift to the park'

bigger cities," he said.

At present there are 104 textile units in Farrukhabad and 80 of them are in position to shift to the park.

"The process to shift the remaining units to the park has been initiated," Sehgal said.

The dusty town of Farrukhabad in western UP is famous for potato as well as textile printing and for over last 200 years textile sector has been a source of livelihood for local craftsman.

The issue of setting up of textile park in Farrukhabad was raised almost a decade back. A series of meetings had taken place but nothing happened.

The local traders have been demanding a textile park as it will provide tax benefits and power subsidy to handloom/powerloom units.

Sehgal said that in view of the increasing pollution, the Central Pollution Control Board had asked the textile units to shift out of city limit. He said in view of that, the Union Textile Ministry had given permission to set up a textile park.

"This park will be developed in collaboration with the Central government in Uttar Pradesh," Sehgal said.

The park will be maintained and developed by private players under Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

PGV to reach out to youths on Rajiv's birth anniversary

PNs | LUCKNOW

To give the party a new lease of life after its humiliating defeat in the last parliamentary election, the Congress has chalked out several programmes to mark the 75th birth anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Congress general secretary in charge UP East, Priyanka Vadra Gandhi, also plans to use the occasion to reach out to the young students of Uttar Pradesh by conducting a general awareness test in all the cells of UPCC on behalf of party state president Raj Babbar, disclosed that a general awareness test having 60 questions for students from class 10 to 12 would be conducted in all the 80 parliamentary constituencies of UP on August 25. He said the winners would be given prizes including laptops, tablets, watches etc.

According to sources, through this test, Priyanka wants to reach out to those youngsters who will vote for the first time in 2022 or in 2024.

Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party, which ended its alliance with the SP after the general elections, has tied up with Janmujana Party-led by OP Chaturvedi's grandson Dushyant for the upcoming Haryana polls.

Both SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supremo Mayawati had formed an alliance against the 2019 Lok Sabha polls forgetting the old rivalry, but failed to stop the BJP juggernaut in UP.

SP faced the biggest setback in UP after the party lost its strongholds Kannauj, Budaun and Ferozabad to the BJP. The party could only manage to win five Lok Sabha seats from UP. It is currently grappling with problems like a weak organisational structure, infighting and its prominent leaders joining the BJP.

Congress will try to find out what the youngsters feel on issues vital for them — whether the present government led by Narendra Modi can fulfil their dreams, whether they will get a job in the existing scenario in the country.

Talking to 'The Pioneer' here on Monday, Virendra Madan, who is monitoring all the cells of UPCC on behalf of party state president Raj Babbar, disclosed that a general awareness test having 60 questions for students from class 10 to 12 would be conducted in all the 80 parliamentary constituencies of UP on August 25. He said the winners would be given prizes including laptops, tablets, watches etc.

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It may be mentioned that Congress will also hold a big programme in Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi in which party leaders from across the country will listen to the views of senior party leaders and some international leaders on August 22.

Madan said that besides garlanding statues of Rajiv Gandhi in Lucknow, the party leaders will start a free medical clinic at Amberganj in Thakurganj. Free medicines

will be given to poor patients in this clinic.

He said that fruits would be distributed to patients in all government hospitals of the state capital and a seminar highlighting achievements and contribution of Rajiv Gandhi would be held at UPCC headquarters.

A blood donation camp at the state white force will be distributed at Women Protection Home in Moti Nagar and in some other orphanages.

Rajiv Sandesh Yatra will be also taken out from Allahabad to UPCC office on Tuesday evening. Madan said similar programmes would be held in all districts of UP on Tuesday to remember Rajiv Gandhi.

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 In the matter of Section 13(2) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 305(A) of Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
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 In the matter of VATIN TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, having its registered office at J-203, Sector-12, Pratap Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201009
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 Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office may deliver a written objection to the Registrar of Companies (RoC) at the following address: (By being investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of insurer objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of the objection to the Registrar of Companies, Vatinsol, GGO Complex, New Delhi-110003 before the expiry of the time limit of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office address VATIN TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED, SECTOR 12 (DIRECTION) PIN: 201009.

Swatantra Dev resigns from Yogi ministry

Lucknow (PNs): Bharatiya Janata Party's Uttar Pradesh unit president Swatantra Dev Singh has resigned from Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led Council of Ministers, officials sources disclosed on Monday.

Singh resigned from the ministry as he was appointed BJP's UP unit president in July and the party follows the principle of one man one post. He was Transport minister of UP. His resignation was accepted by the Chief Minister immediately.

With his resignation, the Uttar Pradesh Council of Ministers has 42 ministers, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. UP can have 60 ministers as per the quota.

Singh has been a two-time MLC from UP and was in-

charge of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rallies during 2017 Assembly elections in the state. He was also in-charge of Shakti Booth during Gujarat Assembly elections. Before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, he was appointed in-charge of Allahabad constituency by appointing Singh as president of UP unit of the BJP, the ruling party is trying to consolidate the OBC vote bank as he comes from the Kurmi community.

Singh belongs to Mirzapur but has earned name as a political leader by working in Bundelkhand region of the state. In the 2012 Assembly election, Singh had contested from Orai Assembly seat in Jaunpur district but was defeated.

SP set to overhaul organisation

PNs | LUCKNOW

Nearly three months after the drubbing in the Lok Sabha elections, Samajwadi Party has started the process for overhauling the party organisation.

Officially, the SP leadership has initiated this exercise in view of the upcoming by-election to 13 UP Assembly seats. The objective is to weed out the dead wood, and particularly those owing allegiance to party parliamentarians and other leaders who recently defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

According to sources in the SP, party president Akhilesh Yadav has been nudged by his father Mulayam Singh Yadav to convene the national executive meeting at the earliest to discuss all

issues.

The sources said the meeting of the highest forum of the party would facilitate the process for revamping the organisation. They said the party was likely to bring new faces as party spokesmen.

The sources said the party had also decided against contesting the upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana and would focus completely on strengthening the organisation in UP and prepare for the bypolls to 13 UP assembly seats.

The SP, however, may offer support to any like-minded party in Haryana.

A senior leader said on condition of anonymity that the top leadership was completely focusing on restructuring the organisation after the disastrous performance in the

recent Lok Sabha polls. "Our focus is to outflank the BJP in upcoming by-elections and 2022 UP Assembly polls. Party leaders and workers have already been told to reach out to the people and highlight the failures of the Yogi Adityanath government, including deteriorating law and order," they said.

Meanwhile, Bahujan Samaj Party, which ended its alliance with the SP after the general elections, has tied up with Janmujana Party-led by OP Chaturvedi's grandson Dushyant for the upcoming Haryana polls.

Both SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supremo Mayawati had formed an alliance against the 2019 Lok Sabha polls forgetting the old rivalry, but failed to stop the BJP juggernaut in UP.

SP faced the biggest setback in UP after the party lost its strongholds Kannauj, Budaun and Ferozabad to the BJP. The party could only manage to win five Lok Sabha seats from UP. It is currently grappling with problems like a weak organisational structure, infighting and its prominent leaders joining the BJP.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
 TENDER NOTICE
 Tender No. SIG/PT/IBS/LKO/05-19 Dated: 17.08.2019
 For Chief Signal & Telecom, Engineer's Project, Northern Railway, Lucknow, for and on behalf of President of India invites E-tender from established and reliable contractors on the prescribed form as per the following particulars:
 1. Name of work with its location: Provision of IBS at 03 Location (Dilwar Nagar/Rahimabad, Bait - Karna, Kaurah - Bahitpurg) between Lucknow - Bahitpurg section of Northern Railway. (Tender No. SIG/PT/IBS/LKO/05-19)
 2. Approx. Cost of the Work: Rs. 4,73,84,350/- (Rs. Four Crore Seventy Three Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Only)
 3. Earned Money to be deposited: (Rs. Three Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Only)
 4. Closing date & Time of Tender: 11.00 hrs. on 22.09.2019
 5. Tender Document exhibited from date & Time: 21.08.2019 - 11.00 hrs.
 6. Tender Document exhibited upto date & Time: 12.09.2019 - 11.00 hrs.
 7. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: www.reps.gov.in Notice Board of Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer's Project Northern Railway, Moradabad.
 • The tenderer must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.reps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
 • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
 • No manual offers are acceptable.
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RLD to speed up membership drive

Lucknow (PNs): Rashtriya Lok Dal vice-president Jayant Chaudhary has asked party's state unit to speed up the membership drive.

Giving this information, RLD media incharge (Lucknow) Javed Ahmad said the decision came after a meeting with senior RLD leaders on Monday. Jayant Chaudhary held a meeting and asked the office-bearers to prepare plan to speed up the membership drive in UP. In the meeting, senior RLD leaders including party's UP chief Masood Ahmad and national general secretary Trilok Tyagi were also present, Ahmad informed.

Chaudhary called upon the leaders to work in sync with party's frontal wings and spread party's ideology among people.

Law against triple talaq non deterrent

PNs | LUCKNOW

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 which criminalises instant triple talaq, so far, failed to act as a deterrent in Uttar Pradesh. In recent weeks, there has been a case rise in such cases in the state.

The law, which provides for a jail term of three years for the husband who gives instant triple talaq, came into effect on August 10. Since then over three dozen cases of violations have been reported from across the state.

A member of the All-India Muslim Women Personal Law Board said that a woman from Shamli district alleged that her husband gave her triple talaq over phone earlier this month.

"My husband gave me triple talaq over the phone. I have his call recording to prove this. I want justice. If justice is not given to me I will immolate myself," the victim said.

The 27-year-old woman was allegedly beaten by her husband and in-laws and the case was reported to police on Monday. Her family alleged she was killed because she had refused to accept talaq given to her on the

phone. The incident was reported on Friday from Gadhra village near the India-Nepal border.

In another incident, a woman alleged that her husband gave her triple talaq in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Etah district earlier this month. The couple had come to the court in connection with a case.

Similarly, in Hapur district, a woman has alleged that her husband gave her triple talaq as she was unable to fulfill his dowry demands.

The AIMWPLB member said that "there has, undoubtedly, been a spurt in triple talaq cases and this is baffling because the law on this issue is already in place. We see no reason for this except a kind of retaliation from the men in the community."

In the case reported to the police, action has been slow.

"In some cases, the families (especially, the women's) ask us not to take action since they hope for a rapprochement between the couple. In other cases, the men simply deny having given triple talaq to escape action," said a police official.

A Muslim woman activist, however, said that the spurt in cases of triple talaq was a

Woman beaten to death for refusing to accept triple talaq

Shravasti (PTI): A 22-year-old woman was allegedly beaten to death and the body set on fire by her husband and in-laws here, police said on Monday, claiming it was a case of dowry death.

The victim Saeeda's family and her husband and father-in-law had refused to accept triple talaq given to her on phone.

According to Superintendent of Police Ashish Srivastava, the incident was reported on Friday from Gadhra village near the India-Nepal border. He said a case of dowry death had been registered against eight persons on the basis of the complaint of the victim Saeeda's family and her husband and father-in-law had been arrested. "So far no talaq name has emerged. If it emerges, action will be taken accordingly."

Saeeda and Nafees, both residents of the same village, married about six years ago. Nafees works in Mumbai and they have two children. Saeeda's father Kamran reported on Saturday that his daughter was often beaten up by her husband and in-laws. On August 6, Nafees divorced Saeeda on phone, he said.

The father said Nafees had returned home for Eid-ul-Adha and they had approached police for a compromise. This Friday, both sides reached an agreement and Nafees took Saeeda home. "Saeeda's husband and her father-in-law were arrested," SP Srivastava said, adding action against others will be taken based on investigation.

Police, however, denied Saeeda's family had approached them for any compromise and said it was a case of dowry death. "Saeeda's husband and her father-in-law were arrested," SP Srivastava said, adding action against others will be taken based on investigation.

"If the police take quick action, this law will serve as a deterrent in the future," she said.

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 Branch Office: DHFL, Dreams Mall, First Floor, L.B.S Marg, Bandrup West, Mumbai - 400 078

DEMAND NOTICE
 Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Enforcement Rules, 2002) The Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) Under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act), in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act and Rule 3 of the Securitisation And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Rules), the Authorized Officer has issued the following Demand Notice to the Borrower(s) in terms of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts mentioned below together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below by the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/contracts, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for the repayment of the loan, the following assets have been pledged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s), respectively:

Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date	Description of secured asset (inseparable property)
(LC No. 00001567 of Meerut Branch) Jagesh Kumar Sharma (Borrower)	27-03-2019 / ₹ 23,65,99,594/- (₹ Twenty Three Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Nine) NPA (01-02-2019)	House Having NMC No. 378/1 in Khazra No. 24/20 Mohalla, Indira Nagar, Allahabad (U.P.) Uttar Pradesh 225002
(LC No. 00000004 of Delhi - Jampura Branch) Deepak Choubhan (Borrower) Rajesh Kumar (Co-Borrower)	27-03-2019 / ₹ 96,50,10,471/- (₹ Nine Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Ten) NPA (01-02-2019)	Lit Flat No. 128 Third Floor Pocket-c Sector, Omron-1A, Greater Noida, U.P. (Gated Community) Greater Noida - 201308
(LC No. 00000206 of Agra Branch) F.R. Narain (Borrower) Ram Viji (Co-Borrower)	27-03-2019 / ₹ 56,78,65,785/- (₹ Five Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Eight) NPA (01-01-2019)	Plot No. 21 Khazra No. 21, Greater Noida, U.P. (Gated Community) Greater Noida - 201308
(LC No. 00000150 of Lucknow Branch) Mohd Shauk Khan (Borrower) Nurash Begum (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 26,69,69,478/- (₹ Two Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine) NPA (01-06-2008)	Plot No. 8, Khazra No. 57, Gram-nagar, Lucknow - 226020
(LC No. 00002203 of Lucknow Branch) Nitesh Agrawal (Borrower) Pragya Agrawal (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 4,09,31,618/- (₹ Forty Two Lakhs Nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen) NPA (01-12-2018)	Plot No. 1502 Block L, Sector 13, Vihar Khand Gram, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00005243 of Lucknow Branch) Mohammed Parwez Siddiqui (Borrower) Maimoona Khatoun (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 1,20,73,47,194/- (₹ Twelve Lakhs Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen) NPA (01-01-2019)	Plot No. P-01 Gram Dasauli Khazra No 232, Pargana Mahona, Taluka Bakshi Ko Talab, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00001483 of Haldwani Branch) Sandeep Kumar (Borrower) Sonali Jain (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 10,03,54,171/- (₹ One Lakh Three Thousand Five Hundred Fourty) NPA (01-02-2019)	Plot No. 862 Bhogpur, Mohalla, Khas, Sitrukul, Aliganj, East Ward Fazlunagar, Lucknow-226020
(LC No. 00003263 of Haldwani Branch) Dinash Kumar (Borrower) Sneha (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 22,38,10,471/- (₹ Twenty Two Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand One Hundred Fourteen) NPA (01-01-2019)	House No. 1602/044, Mukarrupur, Etah, Moradabad-244001
(LC No. 00043419 of Delhi - Safdarjung Branch) Sandeep Kumar (Borrower) Akansha (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 39,68,32,471/- (₹ Thirty Nine Lakhs Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (01-01-2019)	Flat No-7032 7 th Floor, Plot No-7 Crossing Reputable Dunderahera, Ghaziabad-201001
(LC No. 00042369 of Noida - sector 2 Branch) Sanjeev Singh (Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 15,83,314/- (₹ Fifteen Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Fourteen) NPA (01-03-2019)	Flat No-5-GF Block Rhs Plot No 223, Sector 4, Vasthal, Ghaziabad-201010
(LC No. 00001459 of Agra Branch) Sorabh Singh (Borrower) Sneha (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 1,58,61,128/- (₹ Fifteen Lakhs Sixty One Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight) NPA (01-03-2019)	Gata No. 42, Kuldip Nagar Colony Gali No. 8, Aashup Kayamgarh & Co. Greater Noida, Sector 13, Vihar Khand, Aligarh Road, Aligarh-202001
(LC No. 00001006 of Kanpur Branch) Niraj, Sagar (Borrower) Sneha (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 7,62,99,272/- (₹ Seven Lakhs Two Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine) NPA (01-12-2018)	House On Part Of Area No. 332, Ambikapuram, Shukla Ganj, Ghaziabad-201001
(LC No. 00000703 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Ashish Kamra (Borrower) Namita Kamra (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 28,56,61,518/- (₹ Twenty Eight Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen) NPA (01-01-2019)	Flat No. A-4, Ground Floor, Rear R H S Plot No. 6, Shakti Khand-A, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201012
(LC No. 00001163 of Delhi Rajouri Branch) Sanjay Singh (Borrower) Aditya Malik (Borrower) Pankaj Malik (Co-Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 15,14,07,518/- (₹ Fifteen Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty One) NPA (01-02-2019)	Plot No-811, Upper Ground Floor, Lakshmi Nagar, Sector 13, Bagh Colony, Village Pargana Pargana, Lot, Ghaziabad-201005
(LC No. 00001173 of Greater Noida Branch) Vipul Singh Bhatnara (Borrower)	23-04-2019 / ₹ 53,187,518/- (₹ Five Lakhs Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five) NPA (01-03-2019)	Flat No-309 FF, Block - E of F Sector-13, Greater Noida, Gautambudh Nagar-201305

If the said Borrower(s) fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under the said Act and the applicable Rules, in order to satisfy the claims of the said Borrower(s) as to the cost and consequences. The said Borrower(s) are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or fine as provided in the said Act.

Place: Lucknow Date: 20.08.2019
 (Authorized Officer)
 Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Cop assaults dhaba owner over payment

PNs | LUCKNOW

Close on the heels of a police officer beating a petrol shop owner to death for demanding payment for a gukta (pan masala) sachet he took from his shop, a similar incident was reported from Bijnoor where a police constable assaulted a dhaba owner for having the temerity to demand payment from the men in khaki.

Sources said that when the incident came to the knowledge of the district police chief, he summoned out the accused constable and ordered an enquiry into the matter for initiating further action.

In reports said that constable Ankur, posted at Nankhaur police station in Bijnoor, went to a dhaba on the highway to have dinner on Sunday night. After eating the food, Ankur tried to leave the dhaba without making payment. When the dhaba owner stopped the constable and asked him to make payment, he pulled him from the road and brutally assaulted him. Later he left the place, threatening the dhaba owner

Cop assaults dhaba owner over payment

with dire consequences if he dared to ask for payment in the future. The dhaba owner met the district police chief on Monday morning and narrated the entire incident after which the constable was sent to Reserve Police Lines.

Meanwhile, the Special Task Force on Monday arrested two wanted criminals who carried a reward of ₹20,000 each on their arrest from Bareilly district. Following a tip-off, Dinesh and Premver were arrested from near Transit Hotel in Bareilly, the STF said in a release issued

here. Both were wanted in a number of criminal cases under the Gangsters Act and the Arms Act.

In Bahraich, a man allegedly hacked his brother's 10-year-old grandson to death by tying up a goat outside his house.

The incident took place on Sunday evening in Bahraich village of Rupaidaha area when Anul Hasan was allegedly tying up a goat outside the house of his grandfather's brother, Ishapal, who tried to stop him from doing so, leading to an argument between them.

Hit-and-run case may be a fallout of old rivalry

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Police suspect that the Indira Nagar's hit-and-run case may be a fallout of longstanding hostilities. The aggrieved families had earlier alleged that the victims were crushed to death following an old enmity. On Monday, the police detained two persons in this connection and they were being interrogated. Sources said the police had also identified the SUV owner.

Pawan Singh (22) and Tushar Singh (23) — both residents of Indira Nagar — were killed while their companion Himanshu Singh (24) injured after being hit by a speeding SUV, suspected to be owned by one of their opponents, near Aurobindo Park in Indira Nagar late on Thursday night.

"It has been revealed in the investigation made till date that both the groups were at loggerheads for a long time and had indulged in scuffles on several occasions in the past," SP (Traffic) Purnendra Singh, who also holds the charge as SP (trans-Gomti) at present, said. Singh said he had not interrogated anyone in this case as yet.

Indira Nagar SHO Amarnath Vishwakarma said both the groups (victims and the accused) had a tussle over supremacy in the locality and it might have resulted in the incident.

Three persons were arrested in this connection late in the evening while efforts were on to track down two others.

"We are conducting raids to search for the miscreants," he said. The SHO said the police were identifying the SUV which was seen in a CCTV

Brother duo, father booked for abetment after girl ends life

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A case of abetment to suicide was registered in connection with the incident involving a 23-year-old girl who had ended her life at her house in Jankipuram on Sunday night. Police also booked the accused for rioting, trespassing, threatening, thrashing and abusive behaviour towards the girl and her family.

The police arrested the accused stalker, identified as Rajat Tiwari of Matiyari in Chinhat, his brother Rupam and their father Rajesh Tiwari. The trio, along with their unidentified supporters, had barged the house of the girl hours before she ended her life. The police are identifying other attackers," Jankipuram SHO Mohammed Ashraf said.

It surfaced during investigations that Rajat was harassing the girl for a long time and she had lodged a complaint with the Women Powerline

footage. "A murder case has been registered on the complaint of the victims' families. Prima facie, it appears that the incident was a fallout of the dispute over ascertaining supremacy in the locality," he said. A CCTV footage showed three youths without helmets riding a scooter in the wrong lane and the SUV approaching knocking them. Passers-by



(1090) sometime back. The victim's father had told the police that Rajat somehow got her number and started making her calls at odd hours. "On Sunday night, Rajat, along with his family members, including his mother and some unidentified persons, had stormed our house and thrashed all of us for lodging a complaint. My daughter got upset after all of us were thrashed and abused by Rajat and his men. She bolted the door of her room from inside and later hanged herself.

were also seen flocking to the scene and victims being taken to hospital.

Pawan's family told the police that they suspected murder because four men, including one of their neighbours identified as Sandeep Singh, had attacked Pawan with an iron rod few days ago following a dispute over a girl's picture on Facebook. Sources said Pawan had earlier lodged an FIR against Sandeep and his supporters.

Before we could rush her to hospital, she had succumbed," victim's father said. The girl was found hanging from the ceiling with a dupatta tied around her neck on Sunday night. She took the step when Rajat, his family members and supporters, left her house after attacking and abusing her parents and brother.

Meanwhile, the Bazaarkhala police registered a case of eve-teasing against a youth on Monday. Reports said the girl had accused the youth of stopping her on the way and tearing her dress. As the issue went viral in social media groups, the police swung into action and registered a case. "A case under section 354 of IPC has been registered," the Bazaarkhala SHO said. It surfaced during preliminary investigation that the families of both the accused and the girl, who are next-door neighbours, were at loggerheads for a long time.

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Commen posing as cops dupe woman of ornaments

Lucknow (PNS): Two miscreants masquerading as policemen duped a woman professor in Gumbaba on Monday morning. However, they were caught in the act by a CCTV camera and police said they would be nabbed soon.

As per reports, Seema Azim of Diamond Apartment in the locality and her husband Imranur Rehman are professors at a private medical college. Rehman was out of city and Seema, along with her 4-year-old son, left for the college on foot. "When I reached near Shukla marbles shop on Ring Road, two bike-borne men gave me a call and asked me to stop. They introduced themselves as policemen and asked me why I was wearing ornaments when there was a ban on the same. I argued with them and moved ahead ignoring their advice to keep my jewellery in the purse. Annoyed over this, they bowled at me and my son started crying out of fear," the woman said in her complaint.

She said she hurriedly took her gold chain and two pairs of gold bangles off after which one of the youths came closer and snatched his ornaments. He kept something in my purse and both of them sped off. After reaching the college, I opened the purse and found plastic bangles in the wrapper," she told the police.

The police said a team was sent to the place immediately after the complaint was lodged. "The team checked CCTV footages and the miscreants were spotted in one of them. The complainant also identified them. We are making efforts to track down the miscreants," the police said.



An artisan giving shape to Lord Ganesh idols ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, in Lucknow on Monday

Industrialist duped of ₹1.50 cr by LDA clerk; FIR lodged

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

An FIR was lodged at Gomti Nagar police station on Monday by the Lucknow Development Authority administration against an upper divisional clerk for cheating an industrialist by taking Rs 1.50 crore from him to register a residential plot in Vibhuti Khand (Gomti Nagar) in 2017.

The clerk later managed to get the plot registered in the name of his daughter-in-law instead of the industrialist.

Meanwhile, a criminal case was registered against the clerk after the industrialist alleged that the former threatened him with dire consequences if he tried to approach the police or LDA officials. Gomti Nagar inspector Ram Surat Sonkar registered the LDA head office in the afternoon after the FIR was registered to hold discussions with Vice-Chairman PN Singh.

The Vice-Chairman said action would be taken against the clerk in accordance with the service rules and regulations after the police findings. The industrialist was said to have come across the clerk in question in 2016 while searching for a plot for construction of a villa in a posh locality. He liked a plot in Vibhuti Khand and the clerk asked him to pay Rs 1.50 crore so that registration could be done at the earliest. The industrialist gave him a little more than Rs 1 crore was cash and the rest of the amount through cheque. The land was originally allotted to a senior telecom officer who recently retired and was confused over its status. He had also met the LDA Vice-Chairman four months ago.

Meanwhile, the industrialist got restless having been unable to secure the original registry documents. He alleged in his complaint that the clerk would make lame excuses when he used to contact him to demand the same. Sonkar said action would also be taken against the industrialist for adopting unfair means to try to buy the plot in an unauthorised way. A criminal case can also be registered against him if he was found guilty in the investigation, he added.

Fast food vendor fatally knocked down by train

Lucknow (PNS): A fast food seller was knocked down by a train in Chinhat on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. He was rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

Police said Ashok Kumar Dixit (35) of Viraj Khand was in an inebriated state when he was hit by a train at Chhota Bharwar railway level crossing in Chinhat. RML Hospital's emergency medical officer Dr Shashikant Verma sent a memo to the Chinhat police informing them about Ashok's death. A police team visited the hospital and also the crime scene.

Police spokesman said the case was assigned to sub-inspector Hazzrat Ali. He said Ashok was a native of Gonda and ran a stall selling chowmein in Viraj Khand locality. "After Ashok suffered injuries, passersby flocked to the scene and informed his family on a number told by him. Thereafter, Ashok's neighbour Sandeep Pandey got Ashok admitted to RML Hospital," the spokesman said.

Ruling out the possibility of foul play, he said the body had been sent for autopsy. "If anything fishy comes to the fore, the police will carry out investigations," he added. The S-1 was ruled out the possibility of foul play. "He was hit by a train and sustained grievous injuries. Details of will be available after the autopsy report is out," the said. He added that Ashok was with his friends and they were consuming liquor alongside railway tracks in Chhota



A car got stuck after a road caved in following rains, in Vikasnagar on Monday. (Right) Commuters wading through a waterlogged road in a residential colony in Ailiganj waterlogged in Ailiganj

LMRC receives tenders for Kanpur Metro construction

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation on Monday advanced communication-based train control system just like Lucknow Metro with an integrated system and optical fibre transmission system. The estimated cost for the IIT-Kanpur-Naubasta corridor was Rs 9,840 crore at August 2015 prices with taxes and duties while that for the Agriculture University-Barra-8 corridor is Rs 3,881 crore at August 2015 prices. The Economic Internal Rate of

Return (EIRR) works out to be 19.85% for the proposed corridor.

A total of 22 Metro stations have been planned (14 elevated and eight underground) for the IIT-Kanpur-Naubasta corridor while nine stations have been proposed for the Agriculture University-Barra-8 corridor. Apart from this, it has also been proposed there will be parking spaces at all the stations. There would be feeder bus services for the commuters besides public bicycle sharing and pedestrian facilities.

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Sub-inspector saves girl from drowning in river

Lucknow (PNS): Setting an example for his colleagues, a sub-inspector on Monday evening saved the life of a girl who had jumped into Gomti river due to poor financial condition. S-1 Sanjay Gupta is posted as incharge of Ambedkar Udayan police outpost in Gomti Nagar. Around 5 pm, Gupta was on patrol when some commuters told him that a girl had jumped into the river at Gomti riverfront.

He, along with a team, swamped over this, she reached into action. "We took a boat and went to the place (in the middle of the river) where the girl had reached. The divers rescued her and she was rushed to a hospital," Gupta said, adding that the girl, a resident of Rajajipuram, was pursuing MCom and attending coaching classes in Alambagh.

"She had not deposited the coaching fee and she was being asked to make the payment.

Upset over this, she reached into action. "We took a boat and went to the place (in the middle of the river) where the girl had reached. The divers rescued her and she was rushed to a hospital," Gupta said, adding that the girl, a resident of Rajajipuram, was pursuing MCom and attending coaching classes in Alambagh.

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DM reviews preparations for Moharram

Lucknow (PNS): District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma on Monday reviewed preparations for Moharram at Thakurganj police station in the presence of SSP Kalanidhi Naithani. He directed departments like Nagar Nigam, LESA, LDA, Jal Sansthan and Medical Health to complete preparations for the processions to be taken out. He said the procession routes should be surveyed as it was important to keep an eye on mischief-mongers to maintain law and order during the month. He asked the officials to ensure no posters and banners were put up. He also asked them to remove construction material on the routes of processions. The DM said roads should be cleaned, damaged roads repaired and street checked ahead of Moharram.

Diploma in 'Vastu Shastra' in the offing at Lucknow University

SHARNILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

The Jyotirvigyan department at Lucknow University is mulling to introduce a diploma course on 'Vastu Shastra'. According to coordinator of the department BK Shukla, the plan to introduce a one-year diploma course is at a preliminary stage. He said the course was not being offered by any other university in the state. "We are mulling the idea as this course has a lot of scope in terms of being taken up as a profession. 'Vastu Shastra' is an part of construction," he said. Shukla insisted that the interest in Jyotirvigyan studies had increased as against the general perception that it had decreased. "This year, 17 students who have secured admission at PG level and 22 at UG level," he said. About the seats

which have been left over, he said most of the candidates were unaware when the admissions were taking place and approached the department when the admission process was over. Amongst the students is a retired medical doctor, engineer and an advocate. "People from scientific background being interested in the subject

only goes to show how seriously it's taken," Shukla pointed out. The male-female student ratio is 70:30 per cent, which was just opposite last year. Shukla said the primary aim amongst the students was to learn astrology and take it up as a profession. "Most of the students are aspiring astrologer and some of the candidates who have completed the course

are practising astrologers," he said. Commenting on the perception that the subject is regressive in nature, Shukla said it was not. "A lot can be told about future as one cannot deny the influences of planets. Today, many people want to know their future and there are several political leaders among them," he added. Shukla said it was a comprehensive course including 'hashta-rekha', 'panchang', 'sidhant' and 'grahant'. "Most of the universities in the state only teach 'sidhant', and not 'hashta-rekha', he pointed out. He said the department also had an observatory for practicals. Asked about foreign students, he said they had one student from abroad in the past and there had been many queries from foreigners.

Bid to ease traffic snarls at 2 points

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Traffic snarls near tri-crossing at Shani temple and near Hanuman temple in Telibagh may ease in time to come as traffic officials and local traders held a meeting in this regard on Monday. SP (Traffic) Purnendra Singh said it was informed by the traders that a land on which a fish market was proposed by Nagar Nigam could be taken up for parking. "The traders also said that they would play an active role in clearing the encroachments on roads by making groups and meeting them. They also said if the encroachments existed even after that, the authorities could take any action. They also proposed to hire security guards for the purpose," SP (Traffic) said. He said looking into the mood of the public, it could be expected that they would offer support and snarls would ease. He added that the traders had asked them to stop towing of vehicles and issuance of challans for some time.



Traffic officials' meeting with members of traders' organisation on Monday

"We will stop this exercise for a month and then see the results," Singh said. President of Adarsh Vyapar Mandal Sanjay Gupta said people had stopped visiting markets due to traffic snarls and it was affecting their business. "When people visit the markets, they can be seen having arguments over parking issue. Therefore, traffic management is the need of the hour," he added.

CONG-LED UPA ERA DEAL

ED summons PC in ₹70,000 cr AI scam

PNS | NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram for questioning in connection with its money-laundering probe into the purchase of 111 aircraft for Air India during the Congress-led UPA Government. The deal, made more than a decade ago, saddled the struggling national carrier with mounting losses.



Chidambaram is being summoned by ED in connection with the purchase of 111 aircraft for Air India during the Congress-led UPA Government.

Sources said, Chidambaram has been asked to depose before the investigating officer of the case on August 23 at an Enforcement Directorate office here to record his statement.

Chidambaram's grilling has been sought in the cases which relate to losses suffered by Air India due to an alleged multi-core aviation scam and irregularities in fixing air slots for international airlines. The senior Congress leader is likely to be questioned regarding the purchase of 111 aircraft,

then worth nearly ₹70,000 crore, for Air India. Finance Ministry is responsible for fiscal prudence in expenditure of Government funds.

In 2011, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had questioned the rationale behind the government's decision to order 111 aircraft, 48 from Airbus and 68 from Boeing, for Air India and Indian Airlines for over ₹70,000 crore in 2006.

The ED has already grilled former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel in connection with these decisions. The leads gathered from Patel's questioning have prompted the ED to summon Chidambaram in order to take the probe forward, the

sources said. Besides being at the helm of the Finance Ministry, Chidambaram was also heading an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) for these deals and his questioning is expected to help the agency in understanding the decision-making process undertaken by the government for the acquisition of the aircraft.

Chidambaram had earlier described the ED action in the Aircel-Maxis case as a "crazy mixture of falsehoods and conjectures".

The ED and CBI have sought custodial interrogation of Chidambaram in INX Media case. However, he has been granted protection from any adverse action by the Delhi High Court.

Govt prepares action plan to end manual scavenging

PNS | NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on Monday came out with a detailed action plan that included modernising the sewerage system and facilitating mechanical cleaning so as to prevent human entry into sewers and septic tanks. The action plan also suggested storm water drainage tax by the municipal bodies within the maximum capping for Municipal Tax. Manual scavenging takes many forms, from clearing local garbage to 'cleaning' toxic sewers.



Manual scavenging refers to the soiling Asian practice of humans cleaning dry toilets and sewage systems for mechanical cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

The number of deaths of sanitation workers, while cleaning septic tanks and sewers, has risen despite a ban on manual scavenging. 620 cases have been reported since 1993, of which 88 occurred in the past three years.

Of the 15 States and Union Territories that submitted details to the Ministry, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of sewer deaths with 144 cases, followed by Gujarat with 131. Of the 88 cases reported in 2017, 2018 and 2019, till June 14, compensation was given to 52 cases. It is despite the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their

Rehabilitation Act, 2013, banning anyone from employing people to clean sewers. Manual scavenging refers to the soiling Asian practice of humans cleaning dry toilets and sewage systems for mechanical cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

In a bid to prevent water logging during monsoon, the Ministry has also issued suggestions for regular monitoring at the exit and entry point of water for the presence of undesirable collection of rubbish, polythene/paper bags blocking the passage of water and in every way ensuring free unobstructed flow of rain water during monsoon. The plan also suggests that all storm water management facilities should be inspected by a qualified engineer after every six months. In many cases, it was observed that due to delay in silt collection, significant portion of the silt finds its way back in the drain. It is necessary that after cleaning of drains, silt should be lifted and transported to the disposal sites.

Addressing a workshop at Vigyan Bhawan, Union Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Thawar Chand Gehlot on Monday said that the action plan envisages identification of appropriate technological interventions in the field of mechanised cleaning so as to eliminate manual entry into sewers and septic tanks. 'Swachh Bharat is indeed the first step towards Swasth Bharat', Gehlot said.

Minister for Urban Development Hardeep Singh Puri said his Ministry has made efforts to devise systems, processes and technologies for mechanical cleaning of sewer and septic tanks.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan on Monday. He was declared elected unopposed as the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the bypoll ended at 3 pm. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot congratulated Singh on his election to the Upper House of Parliament.

Returning Officer and Assembly Secretary Pramil Kumar Mathur made the announcement. The government's chief whip, Mahesh Joshi, received the election certificate on behalf of Singh. The former PM was nominated by the Congress while the BJP did not field any candidate for the bypoll, necessitated due to the death of Rajya Sabha MP Madan Lal Saini.

The former PM had filed

SEWERAGE SYSTEM TO BE MODERNISED, SAYS MINISTRY

As far as action plan for drainage system is concerned, it said that all drains should be desilted thoroughly before onset of monsoon. According to action plan, the CCTV camera can be used for drainage pipes of diameter 100-900 mm.

Above 900 mm diameter (man entry and restricted also), there are limitations due to lighting problems and camera line angles. Continuous advances are being made in the quality and range of TV cameras, the British medical journal has no issue standing on the matter and has committed 'breach of propriety' by commenting on the political issue.

The agencies should ensure that all the drains are in good condition and works regarding reshaping or profile correction, wherever required is completed well before the onset of monsoon," the guidelines said.

A storm water drainage system consists either network of drains connected with junctions or underground conduits connected with manholes and related appurtenances such as gutters, detention tanks, detention basins, pumping stations and outfall structures. Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra, Social Justice and Empowerment Secretary Nilam Sawhney and Municipal Commissioners of 500 cities attended the workshop.

INSHORT

ALL CAPFS PERSONNEL TO RETIRE AT 60: GOVT

New Delhi: All Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) personnel will now retire at a uniform age of 60 years, instead of 57 years. The Union Home Ministry order, accessed by PTI, said all personnel of the forces — CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP will superannuate at the age of 60, instead of 57 years for certain rank of officials.

EDITORIAL ON J&K: IMA SLAMS LANCET

New Delhi: Reacting sharply to an editorial on Kashmir published in The Lancet recently, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) said the British medical journal has no issue standing on the matter and has committed 'breach of propriety' by commenting on the political issue.

INDIA RAISES WITH UK PAK AIR AT MISSION

New Delhi: India has conveyed its concerns to the UK over incidents of violence during a protest by Pakistani supporters outside the Indian High Commission in London on Independence Day. Violent clashes took place outside the Indian High Commission when thousands of people converged there for pre-planned protests and counter-demonstrations on Thursday.

OZ DELEGATION MEETS THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT



New Delhi: A five-member Australian delegation led by Duncan Maskell, VC, University of Melbourne on Monday met the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thawar Chand Gehlot here to discuss activities like curriculum designing of the community-based inclusive development programme, leadership training and research in disability sector.

Moin Qureshi's aide Satish Babu Sana granted bail

New Delhi: A court here on Monday granted bail to businessman Satish Babu Sana, a close aide of controversial meat exporter Moin Akhtar Qureshi, in a money laundering case.



Granting bail, special CBI Judge Anuradha Shukla Bhargava directed him to furnish a personal bond of ₹5 lakh and one surety of like amount.

The accused is, however, directed to co-operate in investigation and make himself available as and when called for by the investigating agency. He shall not leave the country without the permission of the court," the court said.

Allowing bail to Sana, the court observed that Qureshi, who is the main accused in the case, is already out on bail and Sana's role in the case is no greater than him.

During the course of hearing on Saturday, lawyers KTS Tulsii and Mohit Mathur, appearing for Sana, contended that his statements cannot lead to his arrest as he was a witness and there is immunity provided to a witness that no such answers that a witness is compelled to give can subject him to be arrested.

Tulsii argued that the entire case against Sana is based on his statements given in 2017 and 2019. He argued that ED victimised him for filing complaint against Asthana.

Opposing the submissions, Special Public Prosecutor DP Singh argued: "We made him accused from a witness as the investigation reveals many things against him... we don't want to go to a stage where he is not standing anything and still enjoying the immunity."

In October last year, on the basis of a complaint filed by Sana, CBI registered a case against the Special Director (Kashmir) Asthana on charges of accepting bribe to dilute the case. This incident led to the tussle in CBI between Asthana and Director Alok Verma. IANS

PM to embark on two-day visit to France from Aug 22

Defence, nuke energy key issues

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day State visit to France from August 22 during which he will hold talks with French President Emmanuel Macron to strengthen strategic ties in key sectors such as defence, nuclear energy, maritime cooperation and counter-terrorism.

From France, the prime minister will proceed for bilateral visits to the UAE and Bahrain, and will return to the French city of Biarritz on August 25 to attend the G7 Summit where India has been invited as a partner country.

Modi will arrive in France on Thursday evening and straightaway head for talks with Macron, who will also host a working dinner for the visiting leader.

The next day, he will meet French Prime Minister Edouard Charles Philippe, address an event of Indian

community at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and also inaugurate a memorial for Indian victims of two tragic air crashes of Air India flights in 1950 and 1966.

The discussions are expected to broadly focus on reaffirming France and India as the key strategic and like-minded partners, strengthening of defence partnership, including future defence acquisitions, progress on setting up of the joint nuclear power plant, convergent, strategic and political priorities in the Indo-Pacific and related operational needs, Secretary (Economic Relations) T S Tirumurti said.

Strengthening bilateral engagement in key areas of strategic cooperation such as defence, nuclear energy, space, counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber security, International Solar Alliance, and joint development projects will also be deliberated upon, he said at a media briefing.

The deliverables of the visit are expected to be in the sectors of skill development, space, information and technology and cyber. PTI

Green nod for real estate projects in 60 days soon, says Javadekar

PNS | NEW DELHI

Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Monday said the Government is planning to cut down the whole process of environmental clearance to real estate projects to 60 days in a few days to come.

"Environmental clearances used to be stumbling blocks before 2014. Average time taken to clear projects was 60 days. After we started strategic processes so easy that now it takes only 108 days for a project to get environmental clearance", he said at the 15th National Convention of NAREDCO held here. National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) was established as an autonomous self-regulatory body in 1998 under the aegis of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Javadekar emphasised that small procedural delays can be done away with, without compromising on environmental clearances. "Our priority is both environmental protection and development, only then our country can

become a five-billion dollar economy. That's why the suggestions of institutions like NAREDCO are very important", he said.

The Minister further added that his Ministry is in the process of issuing standard conditions for every project such as waste recycling and water harvesting as per the size of the real estate project. And these conditions will not be more than 10.

"We are bringing about a regime change. We will introduce fewer conditions, but ensure their fullest implementation. If need be, we will amend the law so that you get the ease of doing responsible business. Because freedom is never a one-way street", the minister said.

He further informed that the Union Environment Ministry is also in discussion with states to make the environmental process smoother and less time consuming. "The states must realize that the Centre has delegated environmental protection to them so that they do it with a sense of responsibility", he added.

Manmohan Singh elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha

PNS | NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan on Monday. He was declared elected unopposed as the deadline for the withdrawal of nominations for the bypoll ended at 3 pm. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot congratulated Singh on his election to the Upper House of Parliament.

Returning Officer and Assembly Secretary Pramil Kumar Mathur made the announcement. The government's chief whip, Mahesh Joshi, received the election certificate on behalf of Singh. The former PM was nominated by the Congress while the BJP did not field any candidate for the bypoll, necessitated due to the death of Rajya Sabha MP Madan Lal Saini.

The former PM had filed



Manmohan Singh was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan on Monday.

the nomination papers on August 13. Singh was a member of the Upper House of Parliament from Assam for almost three decades. He was a Rajya Sabha member for five consecutive terms from 1991 to 2019 and the country's prime minister for two consecutive terms between 2004 and 2014.

His tenure in the Rajya Sabha ended on June 14 this year and he could not be re-nominated as the Congress party did not have the strength to send him to the Upper House from Assam again and there was no other vacancy left. Rajasthan has 10 Rajya Sabha seats. Remaining nine seats of Rajya Sabha from the State are with the BJP.

FROM THE SUPREME COURT

CBI granted time till Sep 6 to complete Unnao probe

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday granted the CBI time till September 6 to complete the investigation into the road accident in which the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer were critically injured and two of her aunts killed.

The apex court, which had earlier given two weeks to the CBI to complete the probe, extended the time while noting that the probe agency has done 'extensive investigation' in the case so far.

"We have perused the report of the CBI. This court, vide order dated August 1, 2019, granted an outer limit of two weeks to complete the investigation. On perusal of the report, we find that the CBI has done extensive investigation but some loose ends need to be tied up," a bench of Justices Deepak Gupta and Anuradha Bose said.

"Some of the investigation relates to collating and analyzing the material already collected, especially the electronic records. Most importantly the statements of the victim and her counsel who was driving the car could not be recorded till date, as they are both not in a position to give a statement," the bench noted in its order.

While seeking for more weeks to complete the probe, CBI told the court that statements of rape survivor and her lawyer have not been recorded yet and it wants to analyse certain electronic evidence collected so far during the probe.

The court also directed the Uttar Pradesh government to pay ₹5 lakh to the lawyer who is in a critical condition and undergoing treatment. PTI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has demolished the temple pursuant to the orders of the apex court, which had on August 9 observed that 'serious breach' had been committed by Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samarth Samiti by not vacating the forest area as earlier ordered by the top court.

Following the demolition of the

Ravidas temple demolition orders can't be given political colour: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday said that its orders on the Guru Ravidas Temple in Tughlaqabad forest area here cannot be given a "political colour".

A bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and MR Shah asked the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to ensure that no law and order situation is created politically or otherwise during the protests over the demolition of temple.

"Everything cannot be political. Our orders can't be given a political colour by anybody on earth" the bench said.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had demolished the temple pursuant to the orders of the apex court, which had on August 9 observed that 'serious breach' had been committed by Guru Ravidas Jayanti Samarth Samiti by not vacating the forest area as earlier ordered by the top court.

Following the demolition of the

50-year-old temple, protests have been staged at several places in Punjab and Delhi by political parties and members of the Dalit community.

At the outset, Attorney General K K Venugopal, who was on August 13 asked by the top court to assist in the matter, said that demolition of the temple has been carried out by DDA in pursuance to the top court order and a total of 18 organisations are staging protests against it.

Venugopal told the bench that since a number of organisations have been agitating against the demolition it is very difficult to pinpoint a particular person behind the protests.

To this, the bench said in case the matter is settled, there is no difficulty but if the issue remains the court will take up the matter for hearing. Venugopal then told the bench that it should direct governments of Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to ensure that the law and order situation is maintained. PTI

Protection from criminal prosecution not available to PSU employees: SC

New Delhi: Protection from criminal prosecution is not available to those public servants who work in Government companies or undertakings, the Supreme Court held on Monday.

Under section 197 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), prior sanction from a competent officer is needed to prosecute a Government servant for alleged criminal act done in discharge of his official duty and 'no court shall take cognizance of such offence except with the previous sanction'.

A bench of Justices Navin Sinha and AS Bopanna dismissed the appeal of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) against the High Court's order

which had held that protection of sanction under CrPC was not available to the officers of public sector undertakings like BSNL even if they fall within the definition of state' under Article 12 of the Constitution.

BSNL and its officers, who were of the cadre of Indian Telecommunication Service and later shifted to the PSU, had challenged the order of a trial court initiating criminal prosecution against them in the case. PTI

Delhi CS asked to appear over policy on holding social functions in hotels

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Delhi government's counsel secretary of Delhi to be present before it on August 23 and apprise it of the policy on holding social functions and marriages in hotels, farm houses and low density residential area here.

A bench comprising Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta gave this direction after the counsel appearing for the Delhi Government told the court that they have finalised the policy and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) would have to notify it.

"Our policy is final. Now,

the DDA will have to notify it," the Delhi government's counsel told the bench.

The bench then asked the DDA's counsel, "How much time is required to notify this?" The DDA's counsel said she would have to seek instruction on the issue. She said the policy was not submitted to the DDA yet.

"As per my instructions, we (Delhi government) have sent it to the DDA," the Delhi government's lawyer said, adding, "Within two days, I will make sure that it (policy) is sent to the DDA". PTI

Army was ready for conventional war with Pak after Balakot: Sources

New Delhi: In the run up to Balakot strikes, Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat very categorically conveyed to the top brass of the Government that his force was fully ready to deal with any ground offensive by Pakistan and take the battle into the enemy territory, top military sources said.

The Indian Army was prepared for a conventional warfare with Pakistan which would have included going inside Pakistan, the sources told PTI.

The Army chief informed the government about preparedness of his force when it was considering various options, including carrying out an aerial raid, to punish Pakistan for the Pulwama terror attack.

Gen. Rawat, at a closed door interaction with a group of retiring Army officials on Monday, said the force was combat ready for any hostilities from Pakistan Army after the Balakot strikes, the sources said.

Explaining Gen. Rawat's comments, a military official said what the Army Chief meant was that Indian Army was ready to take the battle into Pakistan. PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates 36 duplex flats for MPs at North avenue in New Delhi on Monday. Modi said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha chairman M Venkaiah Naidu have called for a facility of the Parliament facilities and the complex must showcase the grandeur when India marks 75 years of Independence on 2022. PTI

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PAPER WITH PASSION

AIIMS needs fire lessons

Though lives were saved, poor compliance means years of precious research have been lost at the elite institution



The intensity of the massive blaze at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, and the leaping fury with which it engulfed its floors in a matter of moments can be gauged from the fact that it took nearly three dozen fire tenders over eight long hours to be doused. Had not AIIMS been a prized institution, perhaps the emergency response wouldn't have been activated with as much urgency and wilfulness but the fact remains that even the safety protocols at the most aware of places had not been reviewed

in three years, the last time being in 2016. AIIMS is one of the few hospitals in the city that has an interconnecting ramp to move patients in times of disasters. Perhaps this is why lives weren't lost in the country's premier hospital but imagine this in any other government facility and the mind adds to think what could be. Thankfully, the fire was confined to the pre-clinical and teaching blocks in the country's sought after facility but it did have all the hallmarks of a major disaster. And while AIIMS authorities are particular about top-notch research, they ought to be as sharp about protecting them. For though no human life has been lost, there has been immense loss of intellectual property in the long-term. Hundreds of blood samples at the micro-biology lab, rare viruses, crucial research, scholarly papers, case updates and expensive machines have been completely gutted. Findings are the basis of any medical breakthrough and the foundation for that is gone forever. And if administrators of such an evolved centre cannot be far-sighted about basic safety compliances or build efficiencies in awareness, then there is little to be expected of others. The Delhi Fire Department has said that some of the buildings, including the one that caught fire, did not have the requisite No Objection Certificate (NOC). The NOC is mandatory in the fire safety document, which is renewed every three years and certified annually.

Intriguingly, the general apathy to hospital and patient safety persists despite repeated outbreaks of fire at medical facilities across the country claiming scores of lives. Be it the AMRI episode in Kolkata, which claimed 92 lives, the ESIC Hospital in Mumbai or the SMU Hospital in Bhubaneswar, post-mortem has revealed how they blatantly ignored warnings and safety recommendations or pushed them out of the priority list in their greed to acquire more cutting-edge competitiveness in services. Yet patient care and safety in times of earthquakes, fire or floods do not even merit an intra-institution workshop. While the Delhi Police is waiting for the forensic report to deduce what led to this catastrophe, there are too many questions that demand answers. The hospital was not only ill-prepared but failed to adhere to the guidelines on hospital safety as mandated by the National Disaster Management Authority in 2016 and the National Building Code (NBC) 2005, which made the fire safety certificate mandatory for all buildings taller than 15 m. In fact, most Government buildings as also shop owners, restaurants, hotels, and other private buildings openly flout norms. Needless to say, the situation is all the more precarious in a hospital environment, which is home to those who are incapacitated and, thus, movement becomes challenging in case of a fire or any untoward incident. Even so, where building codes like alarms, sprinkler systems, hoses and insulation panels among others are in place, and where the builder claims to have used materials in line with the regulations, the actual turns out to be about fake compliance, the certificates usually got by greasing palms of local officials. In cases where NOC has been obtained, rarely are fire safety audits carried out. Most post-fire probes have revealed how encroachments and tweaks in open areas have made it really difficult for the firemen to even get into the core zone. They say no tragedy is dark enough that the gloom cannot be lifted. Two babies were born amid the raging fire. Which means going forward, beyond taking action against those responsible for the incident to ensure accountability, there needs to be a strict penal clause, including deregistration of the establishment concerned, if the prescribed safety norms are not met. Third-party audits, too, must be made mandatory to avoid conflict of interest between the municipal authorities and Government officials. Unless a system of checks and balances is put in place, we will never internalise the spirit of risk containment and expose ourselves to unimaginable dangers. And that would be foolhardy indeed.

Concussion protocols

Several sports are taking the risks of head injury seriously. It's time that such norms go to lower levels of cricket as well



The sight of Steve Smith lying low after a bouncer from English bowler Jofra Archer which have sent a chill down the spine of those not only sitting at Lord's but also millions of spectators across the world. It was heartening to see Smith get up, something his Australian companion Phillip Hughes could not when he was struck by a bouncer in a domestic Australian game five years ago. However, nowadays, the worry is not just about immediate injuries but also the long-term consequences of head injuries, particularly concussions. A concussion occurs when the brain bounces around inside the skull, leading to bruising of the brain tissue. This, as doctors and scientists discovered, particularly with players in America's National Football League (NFL), where there are regular head to head collisions, leads to a condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

CTE is dangerous as it leads to early onset of dementia and a much reduced quality of life given that brain matter decays after years of physical abuse. The NFL initially ignored the complaints that some players made but after some high-profile suicides and several studies, it quickly rectified its standards to deal with the issue. Soon after the issues with CTE were identified, several other sports — even ostensibly non-contact sports like cricket — took notice. New concussion protocols have been brought in that consider the short and long-term effects of brain injuries. A bruise on the brain takes a while to heal and the Lord's Test set an interesting new first with Marnus Labuschagne becoming the first 'Like for Like' substitution in the history of cricket. In India, cricketing legends Farokh Engineer and Nari Contractor, both Parsis, were one of the earliest to be injured. It was from here that wearing helmets during matches became a common protocol. Other sports like soccer have also brought in concussion norms that force substitutions of players who have had an incident that a doctor feels has them shaken up. These are all positive moves and must be commended. However, one must remember that facilities at the top levels of sport and those at lower levels are often dramatically different. Several of these concussion routines are poorly enforced at lower levels of sport. Sure, the top players in the top leagues and highest echelons of sport face bigger dangers in a more competitive space but that is no excuse to ignore the clear and present danger of head injuries.

Pak in a pincer attack

With the economy sinking and a failed bid at the UNSC, Islamabad is in no position to declare war or embrace peace. It will do well to focus on its internal problems



SANDHYA JAIN

Fortnight after the Modi Government defanged Article 370, scrapped its illegal appendage, Article 35A and split the northern State into the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, Islamabad is groping for a coherent response. In May 1998, when the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee stunned the world by testing five nuclear devices (Pokhran-II) and made India a full-fledged nuclear state, Islamabad swiftly showcased its own nuclear capability.

This time, most world capitals overcame their surprise and accepted the changes in Jammu & Kashmir as India's internal matter; Pakistan was supported by the colonial-minded Western media and China, which arranged "closed consultations" (unrecorded) in the UN Security Council. India's action was breathtaking in its simplicity and audacity: Operating within the Line of Control (LoC), it took long-suffering Ladakh to its bosom as a directly-administered Union Territory while Jammu & Kashmir provinces were declared a separate Union Territory with an elected legislature. The Union Home Ministry will have direct supervision of both.

Political parties and dynasties that missed Article 370 to nurture separatist sentiments in the Valley while neglecting Jammu and Ladakh regions have been downsized and separatist put on notice. A zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism was already in place. Caught between a perilous economic situation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) breathing down its neck on one side, and its jihadi groups on the other, Islamabad is in no position to declare war or embrace peace.

Prime Minister Modi's artful juggling has subtly avenged India's exclusion from the Afghanistan talks, making it difficult for Washington and Islamabad to put the Taliban in power in Kabul, with the acquiescence of Moscow and Beijing. This gives a breather to the Kabul regime that was also excluded from four-party negotiations. Washington is, thus, likely to remain trapped in the graveyard of empires because successive Presidents from George Bush Jr. Barack Obama and now Donald Trump would not consider gifting the impressive American arsenal to the Afghan Army, training it to use the same and making a dignified retreat.

Washington is unconcerned about the fate of President Ashraf Ghani, former President Hamid Karzai, their colleagues and supporters, should Taliban return to Kabul. But for India, this is a matter of deep concern. New Delhi's checkmate has put Islamabad in a bind: It cannot clinch the Taliban deal for Washington: It cannot compensate its jihadi mercenaries with escalated action in Jammu, Kashmir or



Ladakh. Its position is unenviable: To exit a *cul-de-sac* one must go back the way one entered but this route is not open to Pakistan. In the *Mahabharata*, Abhimanyu did not know how to escape the *chakravyuh*; Iran does but it is just not possible.

Scholars Asma Khalid and Mobein Jafar Mir of the think tank, Islamabad Policy Institute, blame Pakistan for failing to anticipate and challenge India's hollowing of Article 370 despite clear signals. In a report, *Abrogation of Article 370: Implications & Policy Choices for Pakistan*, they urge Islamabad to launch a diplomatic blitzkrieg against India by emphasising the "disputed status of Kashmir", highlighting India's alleged human rights excesses and the threats to regional stability.

In a clear sign of Islamabad's political bankruptcy and lack of choices, Khalid and Mir urged their Government to work for convening an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation; at the "closed meeting" the four other permanent members said changing Jammu & Kashmir's Constitutional status is India's

internal matter. Islamabad is unlikely to accept the suggestion to move the International Court of Justice (ICJ) after its resounding defeat in the matter of consular access to Indian citizen Kulbhushan Jadhav.

Khalid and Mir bemoan the loss of Jammu & Kashmir's separate Constitution, flag and autonomy in all matters barring foreign affairs, defence and communications. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), they say, always proclaimed its intentions in its election manifestoes and in 2019, reiterated its determination to annul the Kashmir-specific Articles 370 and 35A.

Article 35A, introduced via Presidential order under Article 370 in 1954, empowered the State Legislature to define permanent residents and barred Indians from outside the state from permanently settling, buying land, holding local Government jobs or winning education scholarships there. It also barred female residents (and their children) from property rights in the event of marriage outside Kashmir. The spirit behind this legislation was to protect the identity and culture of Kashmiris and preserve

Kashmir's demographic character. Interestingly, the scholars allege that the BJP's agenda is to secure demographic change in the Valley through resettlement of refugees from West Pakistan, Azad Kashmir and Chhamb. It is true that the BJP has been concerned about justice for the refugees, who entered Jammu & Kashmir during Partition and after, and the Scheduled Castes invited by Sheikh Abdullah to clean the city on promise of citizenship.

However, Abdullah, supported by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, later denied them State subject status and its accompanying benefits. The issue is now redundant with the extension of the Constitution of India in its entirety to the new Union Territory.

Azad Kashmir is a sliver of Jammu Province, where pro-Pakistan radicals created trouble for Maharaja Hari Singh in 1946. Pakistan dubbed it as Azad Kashmir when it seized the area in 1947-48. Chhamb in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh was an area of conflict in the 1965 and 1971 wars. Khalid and Mir charge that India will try to enhance Hindu representation in the Valley to

reduce the influence of Kashmiri (read Muslim) political parties in the event of a plebiscite under UN auspices, an idea scotched by Kofi Annan in 2001.

Moreover, the Security Council Resolution of 1948 is explicit that Pakistan must withdraw all military and civilian personnel from the occupied territory who were not there before August 14, 1947; India is to retain its military in Srinagar to administer the plebiscite. Hence, the Pakistani scholars' attempt to project India as an occupying power in the kingdom of Maharaja Hari Singh is a non-starter.

Pakistan fears that India's action of August 5, 2019, may impact the Indus Water Treaty as premature as India can achieve much by merely utilising its legitimate share of the Indus waters. As for the occupied territories, Home Minister Amit Shah has reiterated India's claim to the undivided kingdom, including Azad Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, and Aksai Chin. Pakistan would do well to focus on its internal problems. (The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

We have heard that if any ship sinks, the captain makes efforts to save it till the last breath. But the Congress captain took the first plunge.

BJP leader —Shivraj Singh Chauhan

I'm not against the people of Pakistan. I love and respect all who love me. I'm against terrorism and against the Pakistan Army.

Actor —Adnan Sami

Any such statements that link the evolving situation in Kashmir to the Afghan peace efforts are reckless, unwarranted and irresponsible.

Alghan diplomat —Roya Rahmani

Government's absolute silence is dangerous. People are being removed from jobs. The BJP Government is mump.

Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Girl next door

Sir — This refers to the report, "Pati, Pati aur Woh actress no more" (August 16) by TN Raghunatha. In the death of Vidya Sinha, the Hindi film world has lost a talented artiste of yesteryear. Producer-director Basu Chatterjee, who has a number of light comedies to his credit, ventured upon to portray Vidya in middle class love stories through his *Rainignandha*, followed by *Chhoti Si Baat*. Both were big successes.

However, it was difficult for her to get ranked in big budget films as her contemporaries like Rekha, Mumtaz, Zeenat Aman, Hema Malini, Shabana Azmi, Jaya Bachchan, Parveen Babi, Smita Patil, Tanuja, Sridevi and Jaya Pradha, were crowding the field. As a result, she managed to get meagre big film like *Inkar* (Vinod Khanna), *Mukti* (Shashi Kapoor), *Karm* (Rajesh Khanna), *Tumhare Lye* (Sanjeev Kumar) and *Atmaram* (Shatrughna Sinha). These circumstances compelled her to switch over to television.

Anil R Torne
 Maharashtra

The Damocles sword over Kashmir

This refers to the editorial, "India wins at UNSC" (August 19). It seems Pakistan's gambit of approaching the UN Security Council (UNSC) with the Chinese fronting for it has predictably ended in a whimper. Nothing came out from the closed door meeting at the UNSC. The panel talked out the special item without any clarity emerging on the collective position of the powerful body for it to be a diplomatic or a public opinion set-back for India. The speech by Syed Akbaruddin, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, broke no new ground except helping the nationalist crowd feel good.

Sill, 14 of the 15 members of the UN body were of the view that the changes resulting from the suspension of Article 370 were a matter internal to India and that issues arising between India and Pakistan must be resolved bilaterally. India succeeded in securing the support of Governments but this shouldn't mean it can rest on its diplomatic laurels. What is amazing is Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Jun, sullied his tongue with human rights. The world knows as to what is happening to the Uighur Muslims — more than a million people are



locked away in anonymous prisons without any rights to food, water and visits to family members and friends. It is the modern-day version of the Soviet-era *Gulag*. For better or for worse, India has chosen to walk a course where the Kashmir file will be a Damocles' sword, one that will constantly demand a price for unheating it.

JS Acharya
 Hyderabad

For the sake of peace

Sir — More than 63 people have been killed in yet another suicide bomb attack at a wedding hall in Afghanistan. Terrorism has once raised its ugly head there. Given past records and going by the worst of suffering that the civilians have suffered at the hands of

many actors, including the Taliban and the Islamic State (IS), there seems to be no end to terrorism. Against this scenario, strong political measures and well-planned strategies are required to tackle the menace. Simultaneously, it has been reported that peace talks have been going on between the US

and the Taliban. Let such interesting developments take place. Any attempt at subverting the peace process should be stopped forthwith and nipped in the bud. America has been of great help in this direction and should be so till peace returns in Afghanistan. A peace deal for Afghanistan must include a long-term strate-

gy to protect it from evil forces and for that to happen, the world community must get its act together.

P Senthil
 Via email

Integrate the Valley

Sir — This refers to the article, "Educational reforms must" (August 19) by CB Sharma. The actual scenario in the Valley will be visible only when restrictions are fully done with. Nevertheless, mainstreaming the youth will go a long way in restoring normalcy in the Valley. The process of counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation must begin from schools. Nationalism and secularism should form an essential part of school syllabus and parents, too, must be counselled well about the bright future of their wards. And for that to happen, investment must start gradually. There should be job quotas so that the youth can see the positive change.

Bal Govind
 Noida

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Creating micro entrepreneurs

The direct selling industry is a major contributor to the economy. Misinterpreting legislation to harass firms amounts to killing the goose that lays the golden egg



HEM PANDEY

Direct selling is the business of peer-to-peer sale, in which people earn a commission on goods sold. It is the marketing, distribution and sale of goods and services as part of a network of direct sellers, other than under a pyramid scheme. This industry, which is a major contributor to the economy, is expected to grow at a rate of nearly five per cent every year and be worth ₹15,930 crore by 2021. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, direct selling creates employment. As of now, direct selling firms employ over 50 lakh people in India, a number that is set to grow to 1.8 crore by 2025. And India needs these jobs. Facilitating job creation, inter alia, is one of the top priorities of the government.

This industry actively encourages the employment of women in large numbers and is a way to empower them by making them economically independent. Over 53 per cent of entrepreneurs engaged in direct selling in India are women. Stand Up India is a government scheme that incentivises female entrepreneurship by facilitating bank loans ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore. Direct selling is not only helping create women entrepreneurs, it's also helping the government meet yet another of its stated priorities.

All that India's direct selling industry needs is an enabling ecosystem, one that enables companies to conduct business in an atmosphere free of prejudice and fear. As things stand, there are very few regulations in place for direct selling companies in India. The Model Framework for Guidelines on Direct Selling, issued in September 2016 by the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, remains the definitive document, guiding regulation of the direct selling industry.

The guidelines address every aspect of the direct selling business. They include detailed conditions for setting up and conducting a direct selling business, rules for protection of consumers, provisions for prohibition of pyramid and money circulation schemes, and for the appointment of a monitoring authority for direct sellers and direct selling companies. The guidelines are advisory in nature and though 12 states have adopted them, all states must do this and frame laws that govern direct selling in a just manner.

The guidelines clearly state that direct sellers and firms shall be guided by provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. There are law enforcement agencies that look at direct selling companies through the lens of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes (PCMC) Banning Act, 1978. This Act seeks action against any scheme that involves making easy money or getting money as the consideration for a promise to pay money based on enrolment of members to the scheme.

The Act goes on to say that no person shall promote or conduct any prize chit or money circulation scheme, or enroll members to any such scheme or participate in it or receive or remit any money in pursuance of such chit or scheme.

Classifying direct selling companies under this Act is erroneous, as they are not engaged in the business of seeking deposits from people and they do not guarantee returns. Direct selling companies provide people with the opportunity and the skill set to sell products and make a commission on sales.

The business model involves a product that needs to be sold, for any money to be made. Direct sellers have to work hard to make these sales. They have to use skill and intellect to make people buy their products, and they have to make sales continuously, in order for them to keep receiving commissions. Direct selling is by no means a deposit taking scheme and there is no guarantee whatsoever of returns. It is, therefore, incorrect to see direct selling companies as falling under the purview of the PCMC (Banning) Act, 1978.

There have been instances in some states where law enforcement agencies have harassed and even jailed representatives of direct selling firms by resorting to such misinterpretation. This is downright unacceptable and must stop. Misinterpreting legislation to harass direct selling companies (and their representatives) amounts to killing the goose that lays the golden egg. This industry can play a vital role in creating large scale employment opportunities to make India a nation of micro-entrepreneurs, a nation that is able to reap its demographic dividend to the full. The Model Framework for Guidelines on Direct Selling was designed because there was no law to regulate the direct selling industry, and in some states, the Act was being wrongly used to regulate direct selling. Direct selling is an industry that is growing fast with the emergence of new players and the guidelines lay a foundation for the industry to function properly. The guidelines are there to protect legitimate direct selling businesses and penalise those businesses that try to circumvent established industry norms.

(The writer is former Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, and was responsible for formulating direct selling guidelines in 2016)

TODAY IS WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY. HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY VIOLATED IN #KASHMIR. LET US PRAY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE IN #KASHMIR. —WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER

MAMATA BANERJEE



IT SEEMS SHE (MAMATA) IS BUSY APPEASING THE MINORITY COMMUNITY. SHE HAS STARTED SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN. —BJP STATE GENERAL SECRETARY

SAYANTAN BASU

This isn't blending in

The decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken amid high tension, lockdown, rumour-mongering and the echo of jackboots in Jammu and Kashmir



PANKAJ SARMA



POPIMONI SHARMA

The process of abrogation of Article 370 has been as controversial as the provisions of the Article itself. In its bid to reshape the political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, the Modi Government, buoyed by the massive mandate it received to return to the seat of power for a second term, scrapped the special status granted to the volatile state by the Constitution of India.

As is the case with most decisions taken in a democracy, unavouree or otherwise, in a matter of minutes a political slugfest ensued, following the announcement. While some, mostly those occupying the Treasury benches in the House, saw it as a "glorious day" for India, others called it a "dark day" for parliamentary democracy.

Nonetheless, the decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken amidst high tension, lockdown, rumour mongering and the echo of jackboots in J&K. The Centre restricted public movement by imposing Section 144 of CrPc and several important political leaders of the state were detained and put under house arrest. The Amarnath Yatra was suspended early, tourists were asked to leave and all forms of communication channels were paralysed, isolating the state from the rest of the country, ironically, all in the name of promoting better integration.

Article 370, which granted special status to J&K and their special rights and privileges, has long been under the shadow of controversy. It has been a contested constitutional question whether the provisions of Article 370 were that of a temporary nature and was the Parliament ever empowered to abrogate it. If we revisit history, it becomes evident from clause 7 of the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh that the state could not be compelled to accept any future Constitution of India. Furthermore, J&K was well within its rights to draft its own constitution and to decide for itself what additional powers were to be granted to the Central Government. Article 370 was designed to protect these special rights agreed upon under the Instrument of Accession.

Though Article 370 of the Constitution states that the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify, however, provision to Article 370 clearly states that recommendation of the constituent Assembly of the state referred to in clause 2 of Article 370 shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification. But, since the J&K constituent Assembly later created the State's constitution and dissolved itself without recommending the abrogation of Article 370, the Article was deemed to have become a permanent feature of the Indian Constitution.

The Supreme Court (SC) as well as High Courts of states on several occasions have specifically stated that Article 370 of the Constitution is not a temporary provision. In Kunjuri Vijayalakshmi Jha vs. Union of India (2017), the Delhi High Court rejected a petition claiming that Article 370 was temporary. In 2018, the SC stated that Article 370 is not a temporary pro-

LOOKING AT THE LOCKDOWN IN THE VALLEY AND THE VIRTUAL IMPRISONMENT OF ITS PEOPLE IN BLATANT DISREGARD OF THEIR RIGHTS IN THE NAME OF GREATER INTEGRATION AND THE SO-CALLED DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION, ONE IS PROMPTED TO ASK WHETHER WE HAVE PUSHED KASHMIR TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN



vision. Similarly the apex court in SBI vs. Zaffar Ullah Nehru (2016) held that J&K has a special status and that Article 370 is not temporary.

On the other hand, Article 3(1) of the Indian Constitution empowers the Parliament to amend the Constitution by a simple majority to change or alter the boundaries of a state but only when the Bill concerning the same is first referred to the state Assembly concerned for its opinion. But, the decision to create two new Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh, was taken by Parliament without referring the same to J&K Assembly.

As the Assembly was dissolved by an order under Article 356, there was no constitutional body to make the recommendations either under Article 370 (3) or under Article 3.

In such a context, a shortcut was found in the provision of Article 356 (1) (b) that allowed the President to declare that the powers of the state legislature shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the President while President's Rule was in operation in a state.

In the process, perhaps for the first time in the history of state reorganisation in India, a state was converted into two Union Territories, reversing the hitherto existing trend.

Needless to say that Indian federalism became the biggest casualty of our political leaders' desire to create history in one stroke. With the Valley being under lockdown and an unprecedented number of boots on the

ground to maintain peace, one is tempted to question the hurried need for abrogating Article 370 without taking the people and the political leaders of J&K into confidence. Can the Centre justify the manner in which all this was done? In law, especially in Constitutional law, procedure is as important as the outcome. It may be recalled that the 1971 election of Indira Gandhi was declared null and void by the Allahabad High Court on grounds of a procedural illegality.

More than the act itself, what is worrisome, is the manner in which it has been dealt with and the subsequent lockdown of the Valley that put curbs on the liberty of citizens of the state. Such a sensitive matter certainly needed political maturity on the part of the powers that be, who, would have done well to focus on confidence building measure, by way of discussion with key stakeholders.

Unfortunately, neither was the spirit of a deliberative democracy respected, nor was any consensus building attempt made in the frenzied hurry to abrogate Article 370.

The whole episode, therefore, not only undermined the very spirit of democratic functioning but also demonstrated the centralising tendency compromising the framework of asymmetrical federalism that the Constitution of India envisaged.

When the democratic State starts behaving and functioning like a majoritarian and authoritarian one, not only does the constitutional promise get

shattered, the future prospects of unity and integrity look bleak.

This, therefore, should be a moment of introspection and not that of celebration. Looking at the lockdown in the Valley and the virtual imprisonment of its people in blatant disregard of their rights in the name of greater integration and the so-called development of the region, one is prompted to ask whether India has pushed Kashmir to the point of no return.

The answer is probably blowing in the wind in the bleeding Valley.

Unfortunately, we have no access to read the writing on the wall of the Valley, with the region being virtually cut off from the rest of the country and both the free movement of the fact finding teams to the state and reporting from the Valley being restricted to a great extent.

However, one can safely assume that in yet another bid to write history in one stroke, the country is going to learn the historic lesson that the project of national integration promoting greater unity and integrity calls for moving beyond the desire of over-centralisation and the idea of forced integration by focussing more on sharing of political power and simultaneous pursuing policies of greater accommodation.

(Pankaj Sharma is an Assistant Professor of political science at Kiri Mal College, University of Delhi, and Popimoni Sharma is a former Guest Lecturer of GB Law College, Guwahati)

The curious Orientalist paradox

According to the Jamaat-e-Islami chief, late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, there's nothing wrong in looking religious because the West is more appreciative of this. This was Orientalism imposing Orientalism but still looking towards the West for validation



NADEEM PARACHA

Pakistani and Indian cricket fans are some of the loudest and most colourful, especially when faced with TV cameras where they often like to scream with reckless abandon and make the most curious faces. They will tell you they are very passionate about cricket. This comes from how they proudly explain themselves as belonging to a 'very emotional nation' (*jabzabi qaum*). This is an entirely subjective claim. There is no science behind it, which proves that South Asians as a people are very emotional. Therefore, it is largely a perception. So, where did this perception originate? Most likely, in Britain which ruled India as a colony for nearly 200 years.

Take for instance the famous 1924 novel *A Passage to India*, by British author EM Forster. Dr Aziz, one of the Indian characters in it, is a Muslim and portrayed as an intelligent but emotional man. Most 19th Century British authors, such as James Mill and Charles Grant, repeatedly describe Indians as being overly religious, irrational and emotional. The celebrated author and intellectual, the late Edward Said, would have denounced this as being stereotypical stereotypes invented by Europeans to make Eastern societies seem backward.

Said was the founder of "post-colonial studies", the study of the cultural legacy of colonialism and imperialism. In 1978, he wrote the hugely influential book *Orientalism*, in which he demonstrated how Western writers have been concocting distorted views of Eastern cultures, especially ever since the 18th Century. According to Said, this 'Orientalism' was enacted as a deceptive tool which was closely related to and formed by the West's imperial politics and ambitions.

Said wrote *Orientalism* when the US had already lost a devastating war in Vietnam and when Britain was facing a series of political, social and economic crises. The predicament in the US, further compounded by the 1973 Oil Crisis, generated an academic onslaught within Europe and the US that fervently attacked the modernist narratives of progress on which European imperialism and then the postcolonial dominance of the US were supposedly built. Such modernism was often critiqued in the context of how the West had distorted the image of Eastern cultures to facilitate political and economic exploitation. But, ironically, almost all of these critiques emerged in the West, even though Said was a Palestinian. However, he wrote his book while he was a professor at an American university. This idea of Orientalism generated great excitement among young 'post-modernist' academics. Nevertheless, when it did leave the confines of American and European academia and reach non-Western regions, mainly through Asian, African and Arab students

studying in American and European universities, the idea began to be rapidly adopted by certain segments, who used it to justify violent attacks on anything they deemed 'Western'. The attacks were first intellectual and political in nature, in countries such as India, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, China, Thailand, South Korea, Turkey, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc. Western civilisations were explained as being devoid of spirituality, morals, roots and values and solely driven by sensual pleasures, profit and exploitation. This was underpinned by the West soon being to discolour the rhetoric of Hindu nationalists, 'Islamists' and intransigent dictators. This is when some of the first poignant critiques of Said's Orientalism emerged. The most vociferous critiques of Orientalism came from British historian Albert Hourani, British author RG Irwin, American scholar Nikki Keddie and, especially, the British-American historian Bernard Lewis. Lewis in 1993's *Islam and the West* and Irwin in *Dangerous Knowledge*, argue that Said treated the West the same way

he accused the West of treating the East.

They lamented that he saw the West as a monolith and in an entirely generalised manner, thus ignoring the different cultures and races which reside there. They also argued that Said cherry-picked his way to present his thesis, disregarding the fact that many Eastern cultures willingly adopt a variety of political, economic and social ideas introduced by the West. According to them, Said also ignored some strictly objective studies of Eastern societies by Western authors that had no 'imperial agendas'. In 2004, the philosopher Avishai Margalit and Dutch author Ian Buruma published *Occidentalism: The West in the Eyes of its Enemies*. They positioned it as an antithesis of Orientalism. They wrote that Orientalism's roots lay in the manner in which conservative and religious nationalists opposed the emergence of secularism, liberalism and capitalism during the colonial era. The Western responses were then appropriated as Orientalism by the 'progressive' intelligentsia in the

West as a retort against modernisation.

Occidentalism decries Orientalism as a myopic and reductive attack on Western modernity. Orientalism's academic glorification soon paved the way for it to be adopted by reactionary forces.

Then there is also the case of 'Self-Orientalism'. This, too, can be seen as a critique of Orientalism because it sees cultures that have allegedly been 'Orientalised' or imagined by the West, becoming equal participants in the process. Tony Mitchell in the anthology *Rogue Flows* and WG Feighery in *Critical Discourse Studies* write that the most baffling way to explore Self-Orientalism is to study tourism industries in various Asian and African countries.

To attract Western tourists, these countries gladly appropriate stereotypes supposedly constructed by the West. For example, in Sri Lanka and Thailand, the image of Buddhism as perceived by the West is recreated at specific tourist spots.

In India, the region's 'legendary

exotic spirituality', revolving around gurus and pundits, has for long been moulded for a Western audience.

Self-Orientalism can also include the example of the 'passionate' way Pakistani and Indian cricket fans behave, a 'passion' constantly defined and reinforced by both South Asian and Western cricket commentators. Ultimately, Self-Orientalism actually exposes Orientalism as an idea, which eventually ends up doing what it accuses others of doing.

Take for instance a 2003 interview that former chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, the late Qazi Hussain Ahmad, gave to *Nawa-i-Waqt*. To critique Musharraf's "enlightened moderation", he said there was nothing wrong in behaving or looking religious because the West is more appreciative of this than by those behaving like Westerners.

This was Orientalism imposing Orientalism but still looking towards the West for validation. This was a Self-Orientalist idea of how the West appreciates a Muslim. The Orientalist paradox.

(Courtesies: *The Dawn*)



SweatSensor

Scientists have developed a kind of wearable skin sensors that can detect what is in wearers' sweat that may provide real-time updates on their health problems like dehydration or fatigue. The sensor design can monitor sweat rate, electrolytes and metabolites in sweat



DOCYARD

DR RAVI GAUR

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ONCQUEST LABORATORIES LIMITED,
NEW DELHI



Super foods for monsoon woes

Monsoon brings with it a lot of diseases and issues that children may face because of the hygiene problem during the season. To keep kids hale and hearty, one should know what are the common problems that they face during monsoon so that the right food for them can be decided. Some of the common infectious diseases are cough and cold, diarrhoea, typhoid, influenza/flu, cholera, and jaundice. Then we have dengue and malaria that happens because of mosquito bites. But other diseases have more to do with the immunity of the body. And immunity can be enhanced by taking the proper food during the season so that body is capable enough to fight the germs.

These days we always hear about the super foods, which are a common marketing term, but basically mean foods that are rich in nutrients and boost immunity. Most of these foods are plant-based and then we have foods such as egg. All kinds of citrus fruits should be utilised during the season as they improve the immune system because of the presence of Vitamin C and create alkaline environment in the body that helps in taking care of the inflammation. Lemon and oranges are full of Vitamin C and easily available during the season and is beneficial for the digestive system also.

Then we have Guava — it has high Vitamin A content and good for kids' vision. Then it is also rich in Vitamin C and prevents kids from developing scurvy apart from providing good resistance to cold and congestion. It has antioxidants such as Vitamins A, C and E.

For lunch, one can think of giving children khichdi as pulses and legumes have got everything in them which helps boost immunity

Parents should try to give as much raw green vegetables to kids as possible. Develop a taste of green vegetable salads in kids because after cooking a lot of nutrients get lost. It will have tremendous effect on their immunity and give them energy to perform their tasks well. One should properly wash them and clean before giving it to the kids. Banana can also be given during the season but one should not over do it as it can cause cold.

It is an alternate to burger of these fast foods, it gives much better ingredients like potassium, magnesium and it is anti-inflammatory. In rainy season, you can find everywhere. Nature's way of giving food and if you are having seasonal food then you are with nature. Coconut water and coconut is also suggested. Because you get wet and humidity is there. Coconut helps in improvement of pH in skin. Then we have tomatoes that give Vitamin E. These are available in raw form and good for kids.

Vitamin C, Vitamin E, B complex and some minerals (Calcium, magnesium, and zinc) are very important. If someone can eat eggs then nothing better than that. Equally important is cooked food. Vegetable soup has got all important ingredients and should be given regularly to the kids. Then we have chicken, garlic, ginger and corn. Ginger and garlic is good as it take care of inflammation of the throat. It is good for cold and cough. Children also love to have fruit pancake in their tiffin and you can add jaggery to give them a complete solution for all the necessary vitamins and carbohydrates. For lunch you can also think of giving them khichdi as pulses and legumes have got everything in them which helps boost the immunity. You can also give them sprouts with onion to boost their strength.

Most important during the season is to take care of the hygiene near you that means the body, in the surrounding and inside digestive hygiene through these super foods.

SUMMERCoolERS

BLACK CUMIN. Black Cumin seeds or *kalonji* are black coloured spices that is widely used in most of the Indian dishes. They are rich in thymoquinone and anti-oxidants which help keep many diseases at bay.

They are also rich in Omega 3 and Omega 6 which helps to smooth blood circulation to the brain and maximise brain function. It helps in improved memory and concentration.

Saponin found in black cumin can cleanse and neutralise toxins in the body to maximise the performance of organs. It can also reduce symptoms of diarrhoea and respiratory problems.

Studies also suggest that black cumin seeds are also effective in preventing cancer as they increase the growth of T-cells which destroy the infected cancer causing cells.

Regular intake of black cumin seeds also helps to lower blood pressure levels.

DONATE LIFE

India has the lowest organ donation rate in the world. Hence, there has to be more awareness around the need to donate, says DR ABHIDEEP CHAUDHARY

In India, due to several socio-cultural reasons, organ donation is not encouraged at any level. Hence, organ donation rate in the country is the lowest in the world. The perpetual problem of shortage of organs has led to a growing demand-supply gap. We need to be more aware and extend full support to organ donation programme. It is high time to overcome the challenge.

Every organ donated gives new life to those who need it badly to survive. There are eight organs that can be donated — kidneys, heart, liver, lungs, pancreas and the small bowel. Tissues of your body can be donated to improve the life of a needy person. In tissues, you can donate your skin, corneas, bone tissue including tendons and cartilage, heart valves and blood vessels.

Major factors about organ donation

Anyone — young and old — people can donate their organs to save the life of a needy person. People ageing 18 and above can resist to become an organ donor. People who are ill or on medication can also donate their organ. An illness or medication would render a particular organ unsuitable for donation there will often still be others that could be good candidates for a transplant.

Organ donation is about giving new life which means after death you can donate your organ. It is never too late to donate there is always a chance that you can donate an organ or tissue, whatever your age even after death.



But always remember that any organ should be transplanted within six to 12 hours after removal from the donor's body. The sooner any organ is transplanted, the greater the chances of functioning of that organ. The liver should be transplanted within 6 hours of evacuation and the kidney within 12 hours. The eyes should be applied to the other person within 3 days.

Which part of body can be donated? Eyes/corneas, heart and heart valves, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, intestines, femoral & saphenous veins, bone and tendons in tissues you can donate skin, corneas, bone tissue including tendons

and cartilage, heart valves and blood vessels. Mostly organs and tissues donation occurs after the death of donor. If person has registered him/herself as an organ donor. As deceased donor that can donate two kidney, liver, two lungs, heart, pancreas, and intestines.

Clarity to be an organ donor or not If patient has died in the hospital, doctor can consult relatives to decide for donating the organ of dead body. For organ donation doctor will give registration form and there is box of 'yes' or 'no' this registration form makes everything clearer for all concerned to become a donor or not.

Truth be told

Myth 1: Organ donation cannot be done in any disease.

Fact: It is not like this, you only need to meet certain medical criteria. If you fulfill those medical conditions then you can donate organs. Sometimes some organs are not suitable for transplantation, but other organs can be donated.

Myth 2: Organ donation makes the body unformed.

Fact: Often people feel that the body spoils by donating organs. But this is not true as it is like a routine surgery and the organs are removed in a similar way removing the limbs is done with utmost dignity and respect and the scars of the surgery

are well covered.

Myth 3: People of old age cannot donate organs

Fact: Contrary to popular belief, elderly people can also be good donors. Age is only number one! Yes, you are never too old to donate, nor is anyone's age tested. If you meet medical conditions, you can donate organs.

Myth 4: You or your family can charge for organ donation

Fact: Organ donation is a great work. You or your family members cannot charge for organ donation. Even the cost to remove the organ is in most cases borne by the transplant recipient.



Know the difference

There is difference between organ donation and tissues donation. Organ donation is when an organ heart, lung, kidney, liver and pancreas is removed from one person and transplanted into another person. Tissue donation is when tissues in the body like eyes, bone, skin, tendons, Heart tissue are removed from one person and transplanted into another person.

Most organ donation happens when a person dies, but some organs and tissue can be donated even when the person is alive. Kidney is the most common organ donated by living people, because the person donating can live a normal life with only one kidney. Anyway, the kidney which is transplanted from a living person, its working capacity is more than that of a kidney, which is taken from a dead body. Most of the kidney transplant cases in India are by alive donor.

The living person can also donate parts of the lung and liver. Apart from this, all other organs including eyes are donated only after death. In case of normal death at home, only eyes can be donated. No other organs can be taken. Any other organ can be taken when a person has brain death and is taken on a ventilator or life support system.

Tissues donation can be used in surgical applications to repairing musculoskeletal structures such as teeth, skin, and spinal components. Also, it can benefit the patients in a life-threatening medical situations which includes saving patients with severe burns, torn ligaments or tendons to heal and regain strength, restoring hope and mobility of men and women who have been injured.

People should be encouraged to become a voluntary donor in our society. One should pledge for organ donation during his/her lifetime, because we have the power to bring back life and smile to someone's face through our donation when we are gone.

The writer is Director & HOD, HPH Surgery & Liver Transplantation, BLK Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi

TEA THAT HEALS

Sipping a hot cup of tea is popular. RAZI KHAN tells you how switching to herbal is beneficial for one's health

Herbal tea is a popular option amongst individuals who want to upkeep a naturally healthy lifestyle. Whether you want to warm-up in winters or you want to cool down in summers, herbal tea can be consumed all over the year to enjoy the medicinal benefits. Relaxations, pain reduction, improvement of immune system are some of the benefits that one can extract from herbal tea.

Helps to unwind Tea is a popular choice when it comes to calming effects and has been enjoyed for centuries to deal with a long tiring day. Due to pressure and stress of everyday people have started taking medicinal supplements to cope.

Instead one can go for herbal blend to relax and rejuvenate their inner self and can enjoy the natural alternative to deal with stress and anxiety. Peppermint & chamomile tea will be a go to option to provide a holistic benefit to mind and body.

Boost the immune system It's a traditional thing to do — to sip a piping hot cup of tea when one is under the weather. Tulsi tea has been used in Ayurveda to boost the immune system, fight cough and cold and relieve body ache.

Herbal teas with the goodness of natural herbs fight infections as they are rich in vitamins and antioxidants as well as assist in strengthening immunity.

Improve the digestive system Herbal teas with blends of digestion boost-



ing herbs assist in gastro issues and fight indigestion. The warm blend breaks down fat into simple molecules and speeds up the process of digestion. One can have dandelion, chamomile, cinnamon, peppermint and ginger tea, if they want to prevent or cure bloating, vomiting or indigestion.

Anti-Ageing We drink tea when we wake up, when we're sick or even when curling up to a good book. A cup of tea is known for its relaxing effects, but it is also one of the best natural way for anti-ageing remedy.

Herbal tea contains high amount of antioxidants, which helps in delaying the process of ageing. In fact, daily consumption of these concoctions can make your skin flawless and healthy.

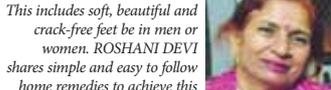
Help in releasing stress and anxiety

When ever we are stressed out, the first thing that comes to our mind is tea like chamomile as this tea helps soothe the mind by making it calm and relaxed. It can also act as a mild anti-depressant for those who suffer from depression. It stimulates the brain to relieve stress and anxiety.

The writer is Tea Sommelier and Director, Sales & Marketing, Apeejay Tea Ltd

DadiKaKehna

Real beauty lies in detailing. This includes soft, beautiful and crack-free feet be in men or women. ROSHANI DEVI shares simple and easy to follow home remedies to achieve this



Unkempt feet say a lot about a person. Of course, it is not always possible to take time out from one's busy schedule to visit a salon for a mani or a pedi.

One can't ignore the fact that it is expensive as well. However, this doesn't mean that one can have beautiful, soft and crack-free feet.

Lemon, salt, glycerine, rose water foot mask: You need a tablespoon of raw salt, 1/2 a cup of lemon juice, 2 tablespoons of

glycerine, 2 teaspoons of rose-water, warm water and a scrubber. What to do: Dip your feet in warm water and leave it for 10-15 minutes. Then make a paste of glycerine, rose water

and lemon juice. Apply it on the feet. Wash the next morning. Do this every night.

To remove dead skin: Make a scrub using oatmeal. Mix equal parts oatmeal with rose water or milk to make a paste. Apply the scrub to your feet and let set for up to 20 to 30 minutes. Use a foot brush to exfoliate your feet.

Rinse with cold water and let your feet dry. Apply a foot cream.

To make feet soft: Add two tablespoons of baking soda in warm water. Soak the feet for half-an-hour. One can put bath salt which is available in the market. It helps to soften the skin. Repeat daily.

TIPTOP

Researchers have developed a new voice assistant that allows people with visual impairments to get web content quickly and effortlessly from smart speakers and similar devices. The research team from University of Waterloo found a way to merge the best elements of voice assistants with screen readers to create a tool called Voice Exploration, Retrieval and Search (VERSE) that makes web searches easier.

The primary input method for VERSE is voice, so users can say 'next', 'previous', 'go back' or 'go forward'. VERSE can also be paired with an app, which runs on a smartphone or a smartwatch.

The prototype adds screen reader-like capabilities to virtual assistants and allows other devices, such as smartwatches to serve as input accelerators to smart speakers," said study researcher Alexandra Vtyurina.

According to the team, virtual assistants are convenient and accessible but lack the ability to deeply engage with content such as read beyond the first few sentences of an article, list alternative search results and suggestions.

These devices can serve as input accelerators, similar to keyboard shortcuts. For example, rotating the crown on a smartwatch advances VERSE to the next search result section or paragraph, depending on the navigation mode.

"At the outset, VERSE resembles other virtual assistants as the tool allows people to ask a question and have it answered verbally with a word, phrase or passage," Vtyurina said.

— IANS

STUDYCENTRE

Women with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)

appear to be at an elevated risk of getting cancer than men with the condition, warn researchers. The study, published in the *European Respiratory Journal*, is based on analyses of registry data, collected in the European database ESADA, on a total of some 20,000 adult patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). About 2 per cent of them also had a cancer diagnosis.

"It's reasonable to assume that sleep apnea is a risk factor for cancer or that both conditions have common risk factors, such as overweight. On the other hand, it is less likely that cancer leads to sleep apnea," said Ludger Grote, Professor at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

According to the researchers, advanced age was associated with elevated cancer risk, but adjusting the data for age, gender, body mass index (BMI), smoking and alcohol consumption nevertheless showed a possible link between intermittent hypoxia at night and higher cancer prevalence.

"Our results indicate a cancer risk that's elevated two- to three-fold among women with pronounced sleep apnea," wrote said. The condition of sleep apnea is well known to the general public and associated with snoring, daytime fatigue, and elevated risk of cardiovascular disease, especially in men, said the study.

This research paves the way for a new view — that sleep apnea may possibly be connected with increased cancer risk, especially in women.

— IANS

SLIMLINE

New research from the Scotland-based University of Dundee has revealed that the worldwide tuberculosis (TB) epidemic is leaving a legacy of chronic lung disease.

Scientists from the University, in partnership with the Respiratory Research Network of India, have reported results from a study of more than 2000 Indian patients with evidence of permanent lung damage.

Researchers have found that more than

1/3 of patients who are successfully cured of TB with antibiotics developed permanent lung damage which, in the worst cases, results in large holes in the lungs called cavities and widening of the airways called bronchiectasis.

TB survivors and patients with a history of severe infections such as childhood pneumonia made up the majority of patients with lung damage in India. Patients required further hospitalisations for treatment of their lung conditions in nearly 40% of cases.

Everything isn't doomed and gloom is not the economy's Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Admitting that the economy is slowing down and facing a major challenge both from within and outside, Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das Monday urged everyone to look at the opportunities ahead and stop being the proponents of gloom and doom.

The statement comes amid reports that an increasing number of corporate hon-

chos are livid with the Narendra Modi government, especially after a slew of initiatives in the recent budget, including hikes on the rich and foreign portfolio investors.

This had FPIs dumping domestic equities and debt like a hot potato, pulling down the benchmarks by over 13 percent July 5.

Continuing their selling spree that began with the

budget and amidst the rising uncertainty over the FPI tax and global trade worries, foreign portfolio investors, as per a survey, have sold equities worth Rs 10,416.25 crore between August 1 and 16 and debt worth Rs 2,096.4 crore. This also comes continuing southward movement of all key macroeconomic data-points be it the IIP or exports or automobile sales, which hit a 19-year low in July plunging

over 31 percent and ending away from 3.5 lakh jobs.

Barring inflation numbers there has not made any positive coming in from any quarters and the Reserve Bank's four successive rate cuts to the tune of 150 bps to a nine-year low of 5.4 percent since February has not made any positive impact on the ground level.

All these negative news comes on the back of a four-year GDP print in March when

the economy grew at low 5.8 percent, pulling down from the full year growth to a low 6.8 percent. Rajan and CNBC TV18 June quarter growth to print in lower than the March numbers.

Addressing the national banking summit here, Das averred that "when I read newspapers and every analyst sees the mood is not so sufficient positive and optimistic. One does realise that there are challenges and difficulties coming from external and domestic sources but one has to look at the opportunities

and capitalise on that."

He, however, was quick to add that he was not asking for anyone to maintain a Panglossian countenance.

"I am not saying we maintain a Panglossian countenance and smile away very difficult. But, in any real economy the mood is very important. There are several opportunities amid the challenges we face today and together with the financial sector, the business commu-

ty, the policymakers and the regulators we should address the challenges and look ahead with great confidence," Das said. It can be noted that every economist, including those at the RBI have lowered their GDP forecast to 7 or under 7 percent. Within two months, the RBI at the last policy review lowered its GDP outlook by 10 bps to 6.9 percent, while the general consensus is between 6.6 and 6.8 percent for FY20.

Sensex, Nifty end marginally higher: bank, auto stocks restrict gains

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty saw their gains restricted on Monday after financial and auto stocks came under selling pressure towards the day-end of the session.

A sense of caution still prevails among investors who are awaiting some measures from the government to arrest demand slowdown in various sectors which has been pulling down the economy. Further, lingering concerns over the health of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) made markets jittery, leading to sell-offs in financial stocks.

After rallying 369 points during the day amid positive

cues from global markets, the 30-share Sensex settled 52.16 points, or 0.14 per cent, higher at 37,402.49. It hit an intraday high of 37,718.88 and a low of 37,358.49.

The broader NSE Nifty too settled 6.10 points, or 0.06 per cent, up at 11,053.90. During the day, it hit a high of 11,149.00 and a low of 11,037.85.

Top gainers in the Sensex pack included Sun Pharma, TechM, Axis Bank, L&T, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank, which rose up to 2.66 per cent.

On the other hand, Yes Bank, PowerGrid, ONGC, SBI, Mahindra and Mahindra, Hero MotoCorp, Tata Steel, Asian

Paints and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards — losing as much as 3.46 per cent.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das ruled out reviewing an asset quality report of the systemically important shadow banks for now.

During the day, the market rallied tracking positive cues from other Asian markets. However, losses in banking and auto stocks capped the gains.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Hang Seng, Koshi and Nikkei ended significantly higher on rising hopes of stimulus by global central banks to counter economic slowdown.

New set of reforms needed: Rajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan has called slowdown in the economy "very worrisome" and said the government should address "immediate problems in power and non-bank financial sectors and come out with a new set of reforms to energise private sector to invest."

While the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 2013 to 2016 but was denied a second term, also called for a fresh look at the way GDP in India is calculated and the role of the Narendra Modi government's former chief economist Arvind Subramanian about overstimulation of growth rate.

"There are a variety of growth projections from the

private sector analysts, many of which are perhaps significantly below government projections and I think certainly the slowdown in the economy is something that is very worrisome," Rajan told CNBC TV18.

India's economic growth has slowed to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 - the slowest pace since 2014-15, and various projections by private experts for the centre for global growth that the GDP growth in the current year will be less than government estimate of 7 per cent. In ominous signs that the slowdown may be deep, the equity sector is facing its worst crisis in two decades with reports suggesting thousands of job losses in the automobile and ancillary industry, real estate sector has huge unsold inventory, while fast-moving

consumer goods (FMCG) companies have reported a decline in volume growth.

"You can hear businesses all around worrying and complaining out loud that they are facing problems," Rajan said. Rajan said "a fresh set of reforms" are now needed to boost the economy and growth rate.

"We need a fresh set of reforms informed by view of what we want India to be and I would love for that view to be articulated at the very top (that) here is the kind of economy that we want. One-off programs here and there don't amount to a comprehensive reform agenda for the economy," he said, adding borrowing in international markets is not really a reform but a "tactical action."

"What we really need is an understanding of how we are going to propel this country by the two or three percentage points greater growth that it needs and that needs fixing the immediate problems in the power sector, such as in the non-bank financial sector and those need to be done yesterday, not in the next six months. It is very important that those reforms be implemented," he said. Rajan advocated for a new set of reforms to get the private sector to invest.

"We need a new set of reforms, which energise the private sector investment, stimulus of one kind or the other are not going to be useful in the longer-term especially given the very tight fiscal situation that we have. Instead of reforms, well

thought of, not jumping off the cliff, but really seriously thought out reforms in a variety of areas which energise the Indian people, energise the Indian markets and energise Indian growth," he said.

"This is what we need today and I really hope we put our best minds to think about this because absent that my sense is that we are in for so-called 'reform fatigue'."

The former governor also drew attention to former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian's research that GDP growth was overestimated by 2.5 per cent during 2011-12 and 2016-17.

On the ongoing global economic slowdown, Rajan said that in comparison to the 2008 financial crisis, the banks are better levered across the globe.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	LEP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10998.40	11166.80	11078.85	11053.90	6.10
SUNPHARMA	425.75	432.00	421.00	428.00	11.50
TECHM	6230.00	6280.00	6190.00	6240.00	10.00
AXISBANK	678.00	689.00	676.50	682.50	9.55
INFRAEAT	251.50	259.00	250.50	253.00	3.00
RELIANCE	1164.70	1182.00	1160.15	1169.10	13.50
HINDALCO	181.50	182.50	177.50	182.00	2.00
WIPRO	253.00	253.00	250.00	252.50	3.05
ICICI	139.00	139.00	138.00	139.00	15.25
KCIBANK	421.00	427.00	420.00	424.50	4.50
RELIANCE	1261.00	1268.00	1260.00	1268.00	12.00
NTPC	118.35	120.15	117.00	118.80	1.00
DREDDY	258.00	258.00	249.00	253.50	20.95
HDFC	2114.00	2155.00	2100.00	2130.00	10.90
MARUTI	5990.00	6080.00	5910.00	6000.00	27.00
INFY	775.00	783.00	773.00	784.00	3.45
ZEE	363.50	381.85	342.65	347.50	1.15
CIPLA	647.50	655.50	647.00	657.00	0.90
ADANIPOWER	57.00	58.00	56.00	57.00	0.25
HITCECH	106.00	107.75	105.75	106.45	0.70
TCS	2188.00	2190.00	2157.00	2166.00	9.00
INDUSIND	144.20	145.70	143.50	143.90	0.10
TATACOMM	121.20	121.20	121.00	121.00	0.10
KOTAKBANK	150.00	151.00	149.50	150.00	-1.95
VEDL	14.00	14.15	14.25	14.20	-0.20
IOC	126.50	127.00	125.00	126.00	-0.25
BRATHEALTH	54.50	54.50	53.50	54.00	0.20
BAFINANCE	384.00	379.00	381.00	372.00	-10.20
HINDUNIVERT	183.15	185.00	181.00	183.00	-5.65
ITC	253.00	257.00	250.50	251.00	-1.40
KANBANK	225.00	225.00	224.00	225.00	0.00
BALAJI AUTO	274.75	277.00	273.00	273.00	-20.95
POWERGRID	291.50	291.00	286.50	291.00	-1.60
ASIANPAINT	169.00	169.50	168.20	168.50	-12.45
BAHNSHREY	746.50	750.00	746.50	746.50	-0.10
BRITANNIA	283.00	283.00	271.00	287.00	-22.15
SWSTEL	22.00	22.00	21.75	22.05	-2.10
TATATEL	36.00	36.00	35.75	35.90	-3.35
ULTRACEM	425.00	432.00	412.00	416.00	-12.00
ONGC	128.00	128.00	126.50	126.50	-1.35
M&M	57.00	57.50	57.00	57.00	-8.50
BPL	32.00	32.40	34.00	34.10	-4.10
HERO MOTOCORP	1670.00	1699.00	1662.00	1670.00	-32.00
COALINDIA	51.00	54.00	53.50	54.00	0.00
ECHERHOT	168.00	168.00	162.50	163.70	-22.45
SBIN	292.00	292.00	286.00	285.35	-3.30
COALINDIA	29.20	29.20	19.85	19.85	-3.05
ICDL	184.00	184.00	182.00	182.00	-2.15
BHUSHENG	54.70	57.25	53.00	53.00	-6.10
GRASIM	78.50	79.00	73.00	73.00	-19.25
YESBANK	7.95	8.075	7.80	7.80	-2.65

BSE 500

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Private sector analysts

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India's economic growth has slowed to 6.8 per cent in 2018-19 - the slowest pace since 2014-15, and various projections by private experts for the centre for global growth that the GDP growth in the current year will be less than government estimate of 7 per cent. In ominous signs that the slowdown may be deep, the equity sector is facing its worst crisis in two decades with reports suggesting thousands of job losses in the automobile and ancillary industry, real estate sector has huge unsold inventory, while fast-moving

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"We need a fresh set of reforms informed by view of what we want India to be and I would love for that view to be articulated at the very top (that) here is the kind of economy that we want. One-off programs here and there don't amount to a comprehensive reform agenda for the economy," he said, adding borrowing in international markets is not really a reform but a "tactical action."

What we really need

What we really need is an understanding of how we are going to propel this country by the two or three percentage points greater growth that it needs and that needs fixing the immediate problems in the power sector, such as in the non-bank financial sector and those need to be done yesterday, not in the next six months. It is very important that those reforms be implemented," he said. Rajan advocated for a new set of reforms to get the private sector to invest.

"We need a new set of reforms, which energise the private sector investment, stimulus of one kind or the other are not going to be useful in the longer-term especially given the very tight fiscal situation that we have. Instead of reforms, well

BULLION (Last 7 Days)

SILVER (₹/kg)

41,150 41,000 40,850 40,700 40,550 40,400 40,250

40,100 40,000 39,900 39,800 39,700 39,600 39,500

39,400 39,300 39,200 39,100 39,000 38,900 38,800

38,700 38,600 38,500 38,400 38,300 38,200 38,100

38,000 37,900 37,800 37,700 37,600 37,500 37,400

37,300 37,200 37,100 37,000 36,900 36,800 36,700

36,600 36,500 36,400 36,300 36,200 36,100 36,000

35,900 35,800 35,700 35,600 35,500 35,400 35,300

35,200 35,100 35,000 34,900 34,800 34,700 34,600

34,500 34,400 34,300 34,200 34,100 34,000 33,900

33,800 33,700 33,600 33,500 33,400 33,300 33,200

33,100 33,000 32,900 32,800 32,700 32,600 32,500

32,400 32,300 32,200 32,100 32,000 31,900 31,800

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28,200 28,100 28,000 27,900 27,800 27,700 27,600

27,500

'Pak efforts to link Kashmir with Afghan peace process is reckless, irresponsible'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/KABUL

Pakistan's efforts to link the Kashmir with the US-led peace process in Afghanistan was "reckless, unwarranted and irresponsible", Kabul has asserted as it also slammed Islamabad's "sinister intention" to prolong the violence in the country.

Pakistan might redeploy troops from the Afghanistan border to the Kashmir frontier amidst fresh Indo-Pak tensions, Islamabad's ambassador to the US, Asad Majeed Khan told The New York Times last week which the newspaper said could complicate the ongoing peace talks between America and the Taliban.

Khan's statement came amidst Indo-Pak tensions after India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370. Reacting to India's decision, Pakistan expelled the Indian High Commissioner, after deciding to downgrade diplomatic ties with New Delhi.

Dismissing the Pakistani envoy's "misleading" statement, Afghanistan's ambassador to

the US Roya Rahmani asserted that, "Any such statements that link the evolving situation in Kashmir to the Afghan peace efforts are reckless, unwarranted and irresponsible." In a terse and lengthy statement issued by the Afghan embassy in Washington on Sunday, she said, "The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan strongly questions the assertion made by Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, Asad Majeed Khan, that the ongoing tensions in Kashmir could potentially affect Afghanistan's peace process."

Asserting that Kashmir is "a bilateral issue" between India and Pakistan, Rahmani said her country believes Pakistan's motive and insistence to purposely tie Afghanistan to the Kashmir issue is a deliberate attempt to prolong the violence happening on Afghan soil.

"It is a poor excuse used by Pakistan to justify its inaction against the Taliban and to avoid taking a decisive stance against the militant group," she asserted.

Rahmani said the assertion

by the Pakistani ambassador that the Kashmir issue could compel Pakistan to reposition its troops from its western frontier with Afghanistan to its eastern border with India is "a misleading statement which inaccurately suggests that Afghanistan poses a threat" to Pakistan. "There is no threat from Afghanistan to Pakistan. The Afghan government sees no credible reason for Pakistan to maintain tens of thousands of military troops on its western frontier," she said.

"On the contrary, Afghan stability is frequently threatened by Pakistan-based, sanctioned and supported militant and terrorist groups," Rahmani said.

These groups operate openly from Pakistan-governed spaces and regularly spill over into Afghanistan, she said. The Pakistani envoy's comments came as the US is keen to end its 18-year involvement in war-ravaged Afghanistan, where it has spent more than USD 1 trillion. President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he wants American troops

out from Afghanistan and has sought Pakistan's help.

"Pakistani authorities should address this problem by undertaking a sincere and forceful law and order measure through police actions inside Pakistan," she said.

Rahmani said the statement by her Pakistani counterpart runs contrary to the positive and constructive engagement Afghan President Ashraf Ghani had with Prime Minister Imran Khan and Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on his recent visit to the country.

In Kabul, the Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement, said, Pakistan's attempts to link the tensions in Kashmir to the peace process in Afghanistan shows the "sinister intention towards peace-making in Afghanistan."

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan deems irresponsible the assertion made by Pakistani Ambassador to the US that the ongoing tensions in Kashmir could potentially affect the peace process in Afghanistan, the statement

said. "The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan emphasising the good neighbourhood and resolving regional challenges through talks wants Pakistan's sincerity in its committed actions for helping in Afghanistan's peace process," it said.

The US and Taliban recently concluded secret talks apparently facilitated by Pakistan in Doha, Qatar on a possible deal between Washington and the Islamist extremist group that has set the Pentagon begin to withdraw its nearly 14,000 soldiers from the war-torn country.

Recent media reports suggested that an agreement could be imminent and the deal mainly relies on Taliban guarantees they will stop jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS from using Afghanistan as a safe haven.

"We must accelerate the Afghan Peace Process including intra-Afghan negotiations. Success here will put Afghans in a much stronger position to defeat ISIS," US peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad tweeted.

AP ■ KABUL

Afghanistan's president on Monday vowed to "eliminate" all safe havens of the Islamic State group as the country marked a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local IS affiliate.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments came as Afghanistan mourns at least 63 people, including children, killed in the Kabul bombing at a wedding hall late Saturday night. Close to 200 others were wounded.

Many outraged Afghans ask whether an approaching deal between the United States and the Taliban to end nearly 18 years of fighting — America's longest war — will bring peace to long-suffering civilians.

The bomber detonated his explosives in the middle of a dancing crowd, and the IS affiliate later said he had targeted a gathering of minority Shiites, whom it views as apostates deserving of death.

Both the bride and groom survived, and in an emotional

interview with local broadcaster TOLNews the distraught groom, Mirwais Alani, said their lives were devastated within seconds.

A sharply worded Taliban statement questioned why the US failed to identify the attackers in advance. Another Taliban statement marking the independence day said to "leave Afghanistan to the Afghans."

More than anything in its nearly year-long negotiations with the US, the Taliban want some 20,000 US and allied forces to withdraw from the country.

The US envoy in talks with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, on Sunday said the peace process should be accelerated to help Afghanistan defeat the IS affiliate.

But Ghani on Monday asserted that the Taliban, whom the US now hopes will help to curb the IS affiliate's rise, are just as much to blame.

His government is openly frustrated at being sidelined from the US talks with the insurgent group, which regards the Afghan government as a US puppet.

The Taliban "have created the platform for terrorists" with its own brutal assaults on schools, mosques and other public places over the years, the president said.

More than 32,000 civilians in Afghanistan have been killed in the past decade, the United Nations said earlier this year.

More children were killed last year — 927 — than in any other over the past decade by all actors, the UN said, including in operations against insurgent hideouts carried out internationally.

"We will take revenge for every civilian drop of blood," Ghani declared. "Our struggle will continue against (IS), we will take revenge and will root them out." He urged the international community to join those efforts.

He asserted that safe havens for militants are across the border in Pakistan, whose intelligence service has long been accused of supporting the Taliban. The IS affiliate's claim of the wedding attack said it was carried out by a Pakistani fighter seeking martyrdom.



In this photo released by the Afghan Presidential Palace, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani inspects the honor guard during Independence Day celebrations at Defense Ministry in Kabul on Monday.

Lithuania can be important tech partner for India: Naidu

PTI ■ VILNIUS

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has said Lithuania could be an important technology partner for India as he underlined the immense potential for growth in bilateral trade. Addressing the Indian community at the Lithuanian capital Vilnius on Sunday, Naidu also called upon the diaspora to serve as a bridge in strengthening economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

Noting that the bilateral trade between the two countries was below potential, he said Lithuania could be an important technology partner for India, especially in the fields of lasers, renewable energy, agro-food processing and life sciences.

Naidu, who arrived here on Saturday, is on a five-day three-nation tour to Lithuania, Latvia

and Estonia, the first ever high-level visit from India to the three Baltic countries.

Observing that India has become one of the fastest growing large economies in the world, the vice president said the business sentiment following the numerous initiatives implemented by the government was positive and upbeat. "The new India's mantra is 'Reform, Perform and Transform'," he said.

Naidu also stressed that India was one of the most open economies of the world and is placed now at the 77th rank among 190 countries in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' index.

The vice president said the 'Make in India' campaign was establishing India as the hub of manufacturing and investment.

Besides, 'Smart Cities', 'Digital India' and 'Skill India' initiatives are providing

immense opportunities to collaborate and work together.

"Our youth are driving the digital revolution, powering the start-up ecosystem and pioneering artificial intelligence," he said.

Naidu praised the Indian diaspora for acting as a bridge to integrate the cultures of India and Lithuania.

Appreciating the keen interest showed by Lithuania in Indian culture, philosophy, arts and spirituality, the vice president described the members of the diaspora as India's cultural ambassadors.

Applauding the Vilnius University for being at the forefront in promoting Indology studies, including Hindi, the vice president said interest in Indian philosophy, films and cuisine had risen phenomenally.

Referring to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma

Gandhi, Naidu said Lithuania held a special place of importance because Gandhi's closest friend and soul mate, Hermann Kallenbach, was from Lithuania.

Kallenbach was a Lithuanian born Jewish South African doctor who was one of the foremost friends and associates of Mahatma Gandhi. Naidu thanked the Lithuanian government for commemorating their friendship by installing a sculpture of Gandhi and Kallenbach in Ruse.

Earlier, the vice president visited the city of Kaunas and met with Mayor Visvaldas Matijosaitis, who hosted a lunch to Naidu and the Indian delegation. He also visited the Institute of Material Sciences and the Ultra Sound Research Institute at the Santaka Valley of the Kaunas University of Technology in Kaunas.

Naik to be quizzed by Malaysian authorities for hate speech

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Zakir Naik has been summoned for a second time by Malaysian authorities after his alleged racial remarks against Hindus and Chinese, hours after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told the controversial Indian televangelist that he is not allowed to participate in political activities in the country.

The official Bernama news agency reported on Monday that Naik, wanted by Indian authorities since 2016 for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches, has been called for the second time to have his statement recorded at Bukit Aman, The Royal Malaysia Police Headquarters here.

Zakir is scheduled to arrive at Bukit Aman to resume giving his statement under Section 504 of the Penal Code for

intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of the peace, according to CID director Huzir Mohamed.

The 53-year-old preacher, who is a permanent resident in Muslim-majority Malaysia, had his statement recorded for the first time on August 16, the report said.

Naik is alleged to have made controversial remarks against Malaysian Hindus and Malaysian Chinese during a talk in Kota Bharu on August 3, prompting calls for him to be deported to India.

Responding to calls for his deportation from Malaysia by suggesting Malaysian Chinese should leave the country first as they were "old guests," He also said that ethnic Hindus in Malaysia enjoyed "100 times more rights" than Muslims in India and that they believed in the Indian government more than the Malaysian one, media reports said.

Pak Army chief gets three-yr extension

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's term has been extended for another three years, a media report said on Monday.

"General Qamar Javed Bajwa is appointed Chief of Army Staff for another term of three years from the date of completion of current tenure," read the brief notification issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

"The decision has been taken in view of the regional security environment," the Dawn reported, citing the decision made by Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Gen Bajwa was appointed as the chief of Army staff by former jailed prime minister Nawaz Sharif in November 2016.

The 58-year-old general was expected to retire this year.

US talks secretly to Venezuela socialist boss Cabello

AP ■ BOGOTA

The US has made secret contact with Venezuela's socialist party boss as close allies of President Nicolas Maduro's inner circle seek guarantees they won't face prosecution for alleged abuses and crimes if they cede to growing demands to remove him, according to a senior Trump administration official.

Diosdado Cabello, who is considered the most powerful man in Venezuela after Maduro, met last month in Caracas with someone who is in close contact with the Trump administration, the official told The Associated Press. A second meeting is in the works but has not yet taken place.

The AP is withholding the intermediary's name and details of the encounter with Cabello out of concern the person could suffer reprisals. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the talks, which are still preliminary. It's not clear whether the talks have Maduro's approval or not.

Cabello, 56, is a major power broker inside Venezuela, who has seen his influence in the government and security forces expand as Maduro's grip on power has weakened. But he's also been accused by US officials of being behind massive corruption, drug trafficking and other death threats against a sitting US senator.

The administration official said that under no circumstances is the US looking to prop up Cabello or pave the way for him to substitute Maduro.

Instead, the goal of the outreach is to ratchet up pressure on the regime by contributing to the knife fight the US believes is taking place behind the scenes among competing circles of power within the ruling party.

Similar contacts exist with other top Venezuelan insiders, the official said, and the US is in a listening mode to hear what it would take for them to betray Maduro and support a transition plan.

Cabello did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But an aide said the US has been increasingly knocking on his door, desperately looking to establish contact.

The aide rejected the notion Cabello was somehow betraying Maduro, saying that Cabello would only meet with Americans with the president's permission and if it contributes to lifting sanctions he blames for crippling the oil-dependent economy. The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss political affairs publicly.

A person familiar with the July encounter said Cabello appeared savvy and arrived to the meeting with the US-backed envoy well prepared, with a clear understanding of Venezuela's political problems. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the matter.

As Venezuela's crisis grinds on, a predictable pattern has emerged where Juan Guaidó, who the US and dozens of other countries recognise as Venezuela's rightful leader, has been unable to woo the military and take power but Maduro lacks enough strength to approach his rival or rescue the collapsed economy amid ever-



Opposition leader and self-proclaimed interim president of Venezuela Juan Guaidó, greets supporters at a rally, as he visits his birthplace of La Guaira, Venezuela.

tightening US sanctions. This month, the US slapped a new round of sanctions that seizes all of the Maduro government's assets in the US and threatens to punish companies from three countries that continue to do business with him.

Talks sponsored by Norway between the opposition and government have been slow-going and were suspended this month by Maduro, who accused Guaidó of celebrating the US "brutal blockade."

Neither Cabello, the Venezuelan military or US government are a party to those talks. To break the stalemate, some conspirators are looking to the US to devise a plan to protect government insiders who turn against Maduro from future prosecution.

Judge postpones 2nd corruption trial of Malaysia's former PM

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

The second trial of Malaysian's ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak linked to the multimillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund was delayed Monday by a week to allow his first trial to end.

Najib faces a total 42 charges of corruption, abuse of power and money laundering in five separate criminal cases brought since his shocking election defeat last year. Najib, 65, denies wrongdoing and accuses the new government under Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of seeking political vengeance.

Chief prosecutor Gopal Sri Ram said the last witness in Najib's first trial is midway through testifying and the case should be closed by August 26.

The first trial began in April on seven charges of criminal breach of trust, corruption and money laundering related to 42 million ringgit (USD

10.1 million) that allegedly went into Najib's bank accounts from a former 1MDB subsidiary.

High Court Judge Collin Lawrence Sequerah agreed to postpone the second trial until August 26.

In the second trial, Najib faces four counts of abusing his power to receive a total of 2.3 billion ringgit (USD 551 million) from 2011 to 2014, and 21 other charges of receiving, using and transferring illicit funds linked to 1MDB.

Defense lawyers asked the judge to start the trial by Sept. 3 if the first trial cannot end this week and also to give them time to study lengthy witness statements they'd just received.

Sequerah insisted the trial, which should have started in August, should not be further delayed. He said he will review the date again on Thursday.

Najib set up 1MDB when he took power in 2009 to promote economic development,



US investigators say more than USD 4.5 billion was stolen from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014, including the money that landed in Najib's bank accounts.

They say the ill-gotten gains were laundered through layers of bank accounts in the US and other countries to finance Hollywood films and buy hotels, a luxury yacht, art works, jewelry and other extravaganzas.

Public anger over the scandal eventually led to the ouster of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May last year, ushering in the first change of power since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

The new government reopened investigations stifled under Najib and barred him and his wife from leaving the country. Police also seized jewelry and hundreds of handbags and other valuables estimated at more than 1.1 billion ringgit (USD 264 million) from properties linked to Najib.

US economists expect recession in 2020 or 2021: Survey

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

A majority of economists expect a US recession in the next two years, but have pushed back the onset amid Federal Reserve actions, according to a survey released Monday.

The survey came out after President Donald Trump pushed back against talk of a looming recession as a raft of US data reports last week showed a mixed picture on the economy.

"I'm prepared for every-

thing. I don't think we're having a recession. We're doing tremendously well. Our consumers are rich," Trump told reporters Sunday.

"I gave a tremendous tax cut, and they're loaded up with money. They're buying. I saw the Wal-Mart numbers, they were through the roof," he said.

"And most economists actually say that we're not going to have a recession. But the rest of the world is not doing well like we're doing," His chief economic advisor

Larry Kudlow also downplayed talk of a recession.

"I sure don't see a recession," he told NBC's Meet the Press. "Consumers are working at higher wages. They are spending at a rapid pace. They're actually saving also while they're spending... So I think actually the second half, the economy's going to be very good in 2019," he said.

"We're doing pretty darn well in my judgment. Let's not be afraid of optimism." The National Association for Business Economists (NABE)

found far fewer experts now think the next recession will start this year compared to a survey in February.

NABE conducted its policy poll as Trump put the Fed under constant attack, demanding more stimulus, but before the central bank cut the benchmark lending rate on July 31.

However, the Fed was already sending strong signals that it intended to pull back on the rate increases made in 2018 due to concerns starting to drop the economic outlook,

including the trade war with China. "Survey respondents indicate that the expansion will be extended by the shift in monetary policy," said NABE president Constance Hunter, who is chief economist at NABE. Only two per cent of the 226 respondents now see a recession this year, compared to 10 per cent in February's survey, NABE said.

However, "the panel is split regarding whether the downturn will hit in 2020 or 2021," Hunter said in a summary of the survey, which showed 38

per cent expect a contraction of growth next year, while 34 per cent don't see it until the following year.

More economists shifted their recession prediction to 2021, narrowing the gap from the prior report, which had many more expecting the change next year.

The results show 46 per cent expect at least one more rate cut this year from the Fed, while about a third see policy holding where it is now, with 2.25 per cent at the top end of the policy range. Economists

are skeptical about a resolution to Trump's trade wars, although 64 per cent said a "superficial agreement is possible," NABE said. But that was before Trump announced another round of tariffs of 10 per cent on the remaining USD 300 billion in goods not yet hit by US punitive duties. The new measures will take effect in two stages, on September 1 and December 15.

As Trump continues his vocal campaign against the Fed, the NABE survey found economists are concerned about the impact: 55 per cent

said his remarks do not influence Fed decisions but do undermine the public's trust in the central bank.

And over a quarter of respondents said the criticism will "cause the Fed to be more dovish than otherwise, thus threatening its independence."

The survey also asked about fiscal policy, and a majority of economists said Trump's tax cuts "had an overall negative impact on housing activity over the past 18 months," due to changes in deductions allowed for mortgage interest.

Iran tanker departs after Gibraltar rejects US demand

AFF ■ GIBRALTAR

The Iranian oil tanker at the centre of a diplomatic dispute has departed from Gibraltar after the British overseas territory rejected a US demand to seize the vessel.

According to the monitoring website Marine Traffic, the supertanker — which had been detained since July 4 off the coast of Gibraltar — lifted anchor Sunday evening and started sailing south.

Authorities in Gibraltar have not confirmed its departure.

Gibraltar seized the Grace 1 on July 4 on suspicion it was transporting oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions, triggering a sharp deterioration in relations between Tehran and London. Iran has repeatedly denied any violations.



Syria by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, listed as a terrorist group by Washington.

Gibraltar's government rejected that request, saying it could not seek a court order to detain the supertanker because US sanctions against Iran were not applicable in the European Union.

As of early Monday, the vessel had turned east, with Marine Traffic reporting its destination as Kalamata in Greece.

In its decision ordering the tanker, Gibraltar's government said it had received written assurances from Iran that the ship would not be headed for coun-

tries "subject to European Union sanctions".

Iran denied it had made any promises about the ship's destination to secure the release.

"Iran has given no assurances over the Grace 1 not going to Syria to secure its release," a state media website quoted foreign ministry

spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying. "The US State Department has threatened to issue a visa ban on anyone working on the ship."

The July 4 seizure by Gibraltar authorities and by British Royal Marines came amid surging tensions in the

Iran warns US

AFF ■ TEHRAN

TEhran said on Monday that it has warned Washington against making another attempt to seize an Iranian tanker that has departed Gibraltar despite a US bid to have it detained.

Iran has given necessary warnings to American officials through its official channels... not to make such a mistake because it would have grave consequences," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi told a news conference.

Iran had been locked in a high-seas standoff with US ally Britain since Royal Marines seized the tanker off the coast of UK territory Gibraltar on July 4 on suspicion it was shipping oil to Syria in breach of

EU sanctions.

Two weeks later, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps impounded a British-flagged tanker in strategic Gulf waters in what Britain called a tit-for-tat move. Speaking to reporters on Monday, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman dismissed the notion that there was a link between the two seizures.

"There is no connection whatsoever between these two vessels," said Mousavi.

"There have been two or three maritime violations made by that ship," he said, referring to the British-flagged Stena Impero held off the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

The court is looking into it. We hope the (investigation) is completed as soon as possible and the verdict is issued."

Gulf after several alleged Iranian attacks on smaller tankers.

The US — citing Tehran's threat to American allies — expanded its military presence in the region with a new aircraft carrier task force, missile batteries and strategic bombers.

Controversial commander is SL Army chief

PTI ■ COLOMBO

A controversial Sri Lankan commander, accused of grave human rights abuses during the country's 26-year civil war, has been appointed the new Army Commander, the President's office announced Monday.

Li Gen Shavendra Silva, 55, will take charge as incumbent Army chief Lt Gen Mahesh Senanayake's service was not extended. President Maithripala Sirisena's office announced that Li Gen Shavendra Silva has been named as the new army commander.

Silva headed the Army's 58th Division in the final battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels in the final stages of the civil war in 2009.

His brigade was accused of attacking civilians, hospitals and stopping humanitarian supplies to trapped Tamil civilians. Silva's name was mentioned in the res-

olution passed by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2013, alleging rights abuses by the Sri Lanka Army. The Sri Lanka Army has denied the alleged rights abuses.

Critics say Silva's appointment as the Army chief may strain Sri Lanka's cooperation in UN Peacekeeping operations and the defence cooperation between the US and Sri Lanka.

After the brutal civil war ended, Silva served in New York as Sri Lanka's Deputy Permanent Representative at the UN.

According to a United Nations report, some 45,000 Tamil civilians were killed in the last months of the war alone. The United Nations and human rights groups have urged the Sri Lanka government to establish a war crimes tribunal to investigate the allegations of crimes against humanity, both by the military and the Tamil militant groups.

Sudan's Bashir in court for graft trial

AFF ■ KHARTOUM

Sudan's deposed military leader Omar al-Bashir, who ruled the country for 30 years, arrived in court Monday in Khartoum for the start of his trial on corruption charges.

Bashir, 75, was forced from power on April 11, after months of protest against his regime and appeared before a prosecutor for the first time on June 16.

Now detained, the Islamist general was informed by the prosecutor's office that he faced charges of "possessing foreign currency, corruption and receiving gifts illegally."

An AFP reporter outside the Judicial and Legal Science Institute where the trial is taking place said Bashir arrived in a huge military convoy.

In April, Sudan's army ruler General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said more than \$113 million worth of cash in three currencies had been seized from Bashir's residence.

In May, the prosecutor general also said Bashir had been charged over killings during the anti-regime protests which eventually led to his ouster.

Protests against Bashir's rule erupted on December 19 after his government tripled the price of bread.

The most serious indictments facing Bashir, who ruled the country since seizing power in a 1989 coup, have been filed by the Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC).

They include war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide for his role in the war in Darfur, where a rebellion erupted in 2003.

The United Nations says the conflict has left more than 300,000 people dead and 2.5 million displaced, with hundreds of thousands still living in miserable and impoverished camps more than a decade and a half later. The ICC has for years demanded that Bashir stand trial, and has renewed its call since his fall.

Would be unwise for US to turn to Pak as strategic partner: Expert

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Amid the Indo-Pak tension on Kashmir and the ongoing Afghan peace talks, a top American foreign policy expert has cautioned the Trump administration against any strategic tilt towards Pakistan and moving away from India.

"The US would be unwise to turn to Pakistan as a strategic partner," Richard N Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote in an op-ed last week.

Pakistan sees a friendly government in Kabul as vital to its security and competition with arch-rival India, he wrote in his op-ed that was syndicated by Project Syndicate and thereafter, on the CFR website.

"There is little reason to believe that the military and intelligence services, which continue to run Pakistan, will rein in the Taliban or rule out terrorism," Haass said.

"Equally, the US would be unwise to alienate India. Yes, India has a tradition of protectionist trade policies and often frustrates US policymakers with its reluctance to

cooperate fully on strategic issues," he wrote.

But democratic India, which will soon surpass China as the world's most populous country and will boast the world's fifth-largest economy, is a good long-term bet, he added.

"It is a natural partner to help balance China. India has rejected participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative, whereas Pakistan, struggling economically, has embraced it," Haass said.

According to the top American scholar, the US would also be unwise to race for the exits from Afghanistan.

Peace talks with the Taliban mostly look like a means to extract US forces from the country, he claimed, adding that the process is reminiscent of Vietnam, where a 1973 agreement between the US and North Vietnam provided a pretext for American withdrawal from the South but not a basis for peace.

The notion of a coalition government, with power shared by the current government and the Taliban, is optimistic at best, fanciful at worst, Haass observed.

"Instead of embracing fantasy, the US should continue to keep a modest number of troops in Afghanistan to ensure the government survives, and the country does not again become a terrorist haven."

"What is required is an endurance strategy, not an exit strategy, based on local conditions, not political calendars. As has long been the case, South Asia is at best a region to be managed, not a problem to be solved," he said.

Trump warns Tiananmen-style HK crackdown would harm trade deal

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has warned China that carrying out a Tiananmen Square-style crackdown on Hong Kong pro-democracy protests would harm trade talks between the two countries, in comments that followed a huge, defiant march through the streets of the global finance hub.

Hong Kong has been rocked by more than two months of protests and clashes between police and hardcore activists who fear the semi-autonomous city's freedoms are under threat from Beijing.

On Sunday, rally organisers said some 1.7 million people turned out for a peaceful march under a sea of umbrellas, defying police orders and stark warnings from China to end the protests.

The American president cautioned that any "violent crackdown" would nullify unprecedented protests would damage trade negotiations.

"I think it'd be very hard to deal if they do violence, I mean, if it's another Tiananmen

Square," Trump told reporters in New Jersey on Sunday.

"I think it's a very hard thing to do if there's violence," Trump's comments came as Washington and Beijing look to revive pivotal high-level talks aimed at ending their trade war.

The trade dispute between the US and China has been blamed for setting world financial markets on edge amid signs of a possible global economic slowdown.

Phone calls between the deputies from two sides are planned for the next 10 days and, if those are successful, negotiations between more senior officials could resume, Trump's chief economic advisor Larry Kudlow said on Sunday.

The demonstrations in Hong Kong have tipped into violence with protesters paralyzing the city's airport last week and tarnishing a campaign that took pride in its peaceful intent.

China's Party-ruled mainland China has in turn sharpened its tone towards the dissidents, decrying the "terrorist-like" actions of a violent minority.

State media has broadcast images of military personnel and armored personnel carriers in Shenzhen, across the border from Hong Kong, Hong Kong as intimidation.

China deployed tanks to end student-led protests in the bloody 1989 crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, resulting in an estimated death toll between several hundred to over a thousand.

If such a situation was repeated in Hong Kong, "I think there'd be... tremendous political sentiment not to do something," Trump said, referring to the trade negotiations with China.

Under a deal signed with Britain, China agreed to allow Hong Kong to keep its unique freedoms when the former crown colony was handed back in 1997.

But many Hong Kongers feel those freedoms are being chipped away, especially since China's hardline president Xi Jinping came to power.

Trump stopped short of endorsing the protesters, saying, "I'd love to see it worked

out in a humane fashion," and calling on Xi to negotiate with the dissidents.

Last week, China's state-run daily the Global Times said there "won't be a repeat" of Tiananmen Square in a rare reference to the crackdown.

"China is much stronger and more mature, and its ability to manage complex situations has been greatly enhanced," the newspaper wrote in an editorial.

Analysts say any intervention in Hong Kong by Chinese security forces would be a disaster for China's reputation and economy.

The political turmoil was sparked by widespread opposition to a plan for allowing extraditions to the Chinese mainland, a move that has since morphed into a broader movement for democratic rights in the semi-autonomous city.

Sunday's march, billed as a return to the peaceful origins of the leader-led protest movement, was one of the largest rallies since the protests began about three months ago, according to organizers the Civil Human Rights Front.

Jaishankar to visit Nepal

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is scheduled to visit Nepal this week to participate in the fifth meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Commission to review the overall state of bilateral relations.

The meeting is taking place in Kathmandu from August 21 to 22, a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nepal has said.

Jaishankar will co-chair the meeting along with his Nepalese counterpart Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

The joint meeting will review "the overall state of bilateral relations, and various areas of cooperation such as connectivity and economic

Protesters torch parl building in Indonesia's Papua

AP ■ MANOKWARI

Thousands of protesters in Indonesia's West Papua province set fire to a local parliament building on Monday in a violent protest against the alleged insults and arrests of Papuan students in their dormitories in the East Java cities of Surabaya and Malang a day earlier.

Police stormed a dormitory in Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, on Sunday after Papuan students staying there refused to be questioned by police over allegations that they had intentionally damaged the national red-and-white flag in the dormitory's yard.

An amateur video showing police, backed by soldiers, clanking the Papuan students "monkeys" and "dogs" circulated

partnership, trade and transit, power and water resources sectors, culture, education and other matters of mutual interest," the statement said.

Established in 1987, the Nepal-India Joint Commission's meetings are being held alternately in Nepal and India. The last meeting of the Commission was held in New Delhi in October 2016.

During the visit, Jaishankar will pay courtesy calls on President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister KP Oli. Gyawali will host a dinner in honour of the External Affairs Minister of India, the statement said.

Jaishankar is scheduled to arrive in Kathmandu on August 21 and will return home on August 22, the statement said.

Television footage showed

Prince Andrew 'appalled' by Epstein abuse claims

AFF ■ LONDON

Britain's Prince Andrew has said he was "appalled" by allegations of sexual abuse surrounding Jeffrey Epstein after a video was released purporting to show him at the home of the convicted paedophile in 2010.

"His Royal Highness deplores the exploitation of any human being and the suggestion he would condone, participate in or encourage any such behaviour is abhorrent," Buckingham Palace said in a statement, reported the Press Association news agency on Sunday. The video published by the Mail on Sunday claims to show the prince saying goodbye to a woman as she departs Epstein's New York mansion in 2010. Epstein was found dead on August 10 in a federal jail in Manhattan as he awaited trial charged with one count of sex

trafficking of minors and one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors.

A coroner ruled that he committed suicide by hanging.

Over the years, the financier hobnobbed with politicians, socialites and celebrities, including Donald Trump before he was president and Bill Clinton.

Virginia Giuffrè — previously Virginia Roberts — one of Epstein's alleged victims, testified in 2016 that she had sex with Prince Andrew when she was underage, an allegation Buckingham Palace has repeatedly and strenuously denied.

Prince Andrew was Britain's special representative for international trade and investment for 10 years until 2011, when he gave up the post following intense scrutiny over his relationships with Epstein and other controversial figures.

widely on the internet, sparking anger in Indonesia's east-ermost provinces of Papua and West Papua.

East Java police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera said 43 students were detained but released hours later, after no evidence was found that they had damaged the flag.

Several thousand protesters also staged rallies in Jayapura, the capital city of the neighbouring province of Papua, with many in the crowd wearing headbands of a separatist flag.

An insurgency has simmered in Papua since the early 1960s, when Indonesia annexed the region, which is a former Dutch colony. It was formally incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a UN-sponsored ballot that was seen as a sham by many.

Prince Andrew was Britain's special representative for international trade and investment for 10 years until 2011, when he gave up the post following intense scrutiny over his relationships with Epstein and other controversial figures.

Trend
Slazer

KJo ridicules party accusations

Filmmaker **KARAN JOHAR** has broken his silence over allegations of hosting a drug party for a few A-list Bollywood stars at his residence last month.

He feels that all such charges are baseless and ridiculous. It was an easy night out, the filmmaker says, adding that his mother was also appalled reading about it.

"I toyed with the idea of giving out a statement. I toyed with giving out a thought on the social media. There were achieving members of the industry who were having an easy night out after a hard week of work, having a good time. I took that video with all the earnestness," says Karan.



'The era of the 90s had a charm of its own where sensuality was portrayed with utmost poise and dignity. Item numbers were made back then and even those were



termed as sexy but now we live in an era where sexy means revealing. I feel one does not need to be vulgar to be sensuous, look at the song, Ek do teen, it is also an item number but the lyrics, grace and the way it was shot has a recall value even today.'

—Alka Yagnik

Actress **MAHIE GILL**, who is known for her roles in films such as *Dev D*, *Sahib, Biwi Aur Gangster* and *Paan Singh Tomar*, says that she has been stereotyped for her sensual beauty for long, and adds that just looking good on-screen is boring.



Mahie returns in the hard-hitting digital film, *Posham Pa*, where she is cast as a Marathi sex worker. She says, "Looking sexy all the time is boring. I am more than my appearance. I am a dancer. I am a performer."

'All about creating balance'

Actor **TOM HOLLAND** doesn't feel trapped in his Spider-Man avatar, and says it is all about creating a balance in professional life.

He says, "It is a balance of doing other films while doing some big ones. I did *The Devil All the Time*, which was shot in Alabama. It is a dark film. I am also doing a film with Russo Brothers later this year called *Cherry*."

The actor ensures that he doesn't get trapped in his onscreen superhero avatar. For him, it is about fitting into schedule of new projects which are very character focused.



Make history come **ALIVE**

Museums are all set to embark upon a journey to make your visits more sensory and experiential, says **CHAHAK MITTAL**

Do not touch," "Stay away from the exhibit" — these are some of the signs that you are most likely to encounter at museums. But the idea that artefacts, repositories, specimens, sculptures and other objects which represent history should be encased in glass or placed behind frames in order to take care of the basic hygiene is changing. The thought that some of them even require environment-friendly conditions with suitable light and temperature to sustain certainly belongs to the past. As does the belief that if you are really curious to experience the artwork more intensely, you should put your hands behind your back or inside the pockets to ensure that they don't get damaged. It is time now that we take certain measures to throw light on experience than preservation and sustainability.

The idea is borne out of the belief that we can never be really moved by static objects to learn more about history associated to them. There might be descriptions, notes ahead of each illustration or visual. But they might not always provide the answers. This is one of the reasons why the concept of interactive museums is coming to fore. So how does it enhance a visitor's experience without taking away the natural, historic and cultural insights that museums work so hard to preserve? Saurav Bhaik, founder and CEO of Tagbin, an initiative to create experiential spaces, says, "It creates a tangible experience for the visitors whilst keeping

its preservation untouched. The idea followed after a few museums and art galleries around the world used the technology to create a more interactive and immersive experience." The debate on interactive museums triggered in the city when recently the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) installed the *Asafli Ke Diwane* Museum at the Red Fort, which celebrates unsung heroes of the country's freedom struggle. Through multi-sensor technology, the exhibition allows viewers to engage with the exhibits directly through informative and digital visuals.

The Centre for Indian Music Experience (CIME), Bengaluru, the first museum dedicated to music, has made sure it didn't give the audience some monotonous collection to observe and move ahead. It had to be more verbal and aural than just visual, and experiential than material. Suma Sushindra, director, had enabled and curated the museum through documentaries, interactive games, melodies combining the Western and classical Indian music, sing-along kiosks that explain niche music genres and traditional ghazals. It has touch-sensitive installations of chimes, gongs, bells and reeds that are set to twinkle musical notes. The museum allows the viewers to come, "create and experience their own tunes."



As Bhaik visited the British Museum Gallery in London, he felt that many visuals were hidden from the view. The "treasures" were displayed in the same manner. He says, "And with each passing object, people seemed disinterested, peering into their mobile screens or moving past the labelled descriptions since it did not make them curious to know more."

Based on his observations at the museum, he suggests, "It's important to improve its informative appeal more than its visual basics. Design a room where we can proactively connect with culture and history. A one-to-one interaction with the visitors could be very informative. Here, linking time and space, past and present with the dynamics of technology can present stories about the significance of history as well as future."

Nilofar Shamim Haja, ex-editor of an architectural magazine, writes in her blog about the future of augmented museums, "Visitors would have digital entry codes embedded in their mobile tickets and a mobile, AR, or holograph-based tour would guide them towards exhibits that match their interests (sports, art, textile, cuisines). A home-based audience can browse through a museum's digital collection and augment the exhibition by adding multimedia of significant events from their life that is relevant to the digital exhibi-

tion. This level of customisation looks at building multi-generational relationships with the audience." The 9/11 Memorial, New York, was designed using interactive techniques which walks people through the brutality of 9/11, stories of people, recreating an actual experience of the dark day. The Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History engages people by making them a part of the past. It welcomes people to write poetry and bottle their memories with a name. It tours an interactive story of objects, rather than standing clueless in front of ancient stones, sculptures or pre-historic rock-art.

The Jinsha Site Museum in China showcases more than 5,000 gold, jade and ivory artifacts. Its visitors can use an app to explore these relics, see how they look in 3D and learn more about what they were used for. Two particularly important examples on display are — a gold mask that appears to float up and spin in front of the visitor's face, and a gold foil totem with images of the sun and immortal birds.

However, while digitisation has reinvented museums in the West, turning them into vibrant cultural spaces, its presence in India is still limited. And because government-funded museums have gone out of funds, private ones are collaborating with industry experts to equip spaces to make it look more relevant. The Partition Museum in Amritsar showcases a range of everyday objects and memories of the trauma faced by millions of South Asians. The museum enables the viewers to launch a mobile application where they can access videos and text related to Partition. While latest technologies are enabling people to create something of their own and make space for imagination and thus, connect with human emotions in a myriad of ways to create an everlasting experience, the questions remains — whether Indian museums will ever be able to bring technological advancements, matching to the level of the West.

A perfect climax

Actor **OMARI HARDWICK** says that he was doing eight films and 200 songs while playing the ghost mode in his series, *Power*, and still couldn't really get out of that role. By **TEAM VIVA**



awesome, microscopic look of the female contingent of power and understand what it means to be a female with power, influence, vulnerability, insecurity and brokenness and how that can look. I think she nailed this role.

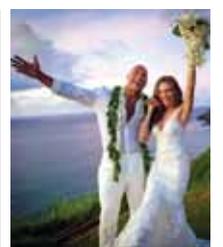
How hard it is for you both to shake off your characters when the show wraps for the day?
Omari is not good at it but Natari is better. She is a child star and knows what I mean. She has really helped me in many ways. When I used to take a deep breath, she used to suggest me not to do this in the grocery store as it's hard to shake ghost in glasses. Having her as a friend

of the series of actions that take place in our lives. In life, we often say lies unknowingly. We tend to think that because we didn't say red when it was green it is not a lie. It was a lie when Tosh and Ghost didn't say anything. So, withholding information was detrimental to the kid. Not only Ghost, but even Natari was interested to watch the teenager's face to make out what he was upto.

has really aided and she also shares a close bond with my actual wife. Ghost is extremely different. I did eight films while doing *Power*, 200 songs and I still couldn't really get out of the ghost mode. I was totally doing other things, but I was always allegiant to Courtney and to Starz. When I was around Natari, it was easy for me to go home to my actual family when I had scenes with them. If I had scenes with killers in the show, it was very difficult to go home. She probably helped the best with my methodical insertion as an actor playing ghost and helped me in getting rid of it.

Can you choose a stand-out moment from the past seasons?
Yes, the audacity, the arrogance to say you can't leave the body. As the guy that played ghost, I would try to represent all the people that were so integral. The powerful scene where Natari comes to visit me in the prison, and the family was behind her. And Raina, played by Donshea (Hopkins) who was no longer on the show at that point, but when she talks to me in the jail and then I tell Tommy to take care of my family, it was also too powerful.

What do you think that the fans will take away from this final chapter in the story?
For me, it is simple, it's to be satisfied. There are shows that have been indelibly placed into our psyche as parts of the cultural shift in Television history and yet at the end they leave fans with a feeling of drift. I hope that we make the fans feel like we climaxed perfectly. At the end we want them to say, "this is great." (The show's Season 6 releases on August 26 on SonyLIV.)



Dwayne marries Lauren Hashian

Hollywood actor Dwayne Johnson has exchanged vows with longtime girlfriend and singer Lauren Hashian in Hawaii.

The actor took to Instagram to share the news of his wedding with his fans and followers. He also shared two photographs of the couple against a romantic setting with the beautiful sunset.

"We do, August 18th, 2019. Hawaii," Johnson wrote alongside the series of the photographs. For the wedding, Johnson opted for a white shirt and white pants and his bride wore a long white lace gown with a low-cut neckline and long train. In one image, the actor is seen smiling beside his bride, and the second shows the couple kissing against the sunset backdrop with Hashian's veil blowing in the wind.

Johnson met Hashian in 2006 when the actor was filming *The Game Plan*. They started dating in 2007. The couple share daughters Jasmine and Tiana.

Keys locks up Cincy title

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Madison Keys came from a break down in both sets to defeat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) on Sunday to win the WTA Cincinnati crown.

The 2017 US Open finalist notched her first career title and second this season after a win in Charleston in April.

She'll return to the top 10 in the world rankings with the US Open a week away.

Kuznetsova, a two-time Grand Slam champion working her way back up the rankings after a series of injuries, was broken back in the 10th game of each set by 16th-seeded Keys, who fired 13 aces on the way to victory.

"If my team had told me a week ago that I would be here, I would have laughed in their face," admitted Keys, who had endured two opening-match defeats since a second-round exit at Wimbledon.

Keys belted a total of 43 winners with 35 unforced errors and broke Kuznetsova three times.

Kuznetsova was the fourth Grand Slam winner Keys beat during the week, a string that included Spain's Garbine Muguruza, reigning Wimbledon champion Simona Halep and Venus Williams.

"It was a tough draw from the very start," Keys said. "I definitely think I played some of my best tennis consistently this week."

"I'm obviously really happy and really proud of myself," she added, while stressing she won't let the performance put more pressure on her at the US Open.



Madison Keys holds the Rookwood Cup after defeating Svetlana Kuznetsova in the women's final.

"It's definitely more of a building block," she said.

Former world number two Kuznetsova, who received a wildcard into the draw, beat top seed Ashleigh Barty, world number three Ashleigh Barty and 2017 US Open champion Sloane Stephens on her way to

the final.

"I had a lot of matches where they could have gone either way, including this one," said Kuznetsova, who will jump from 118th to 31st in the rankings and said she'd had a "great week."

"I had chances but she hit

the ball well and was more aggressive. I'm happy with how I played. I'm feeling great," she said.

"It could give me more motivation in the future," Kuznetsova added. "I just want to rest and get ready for the Open."

Prajnesh advances in Winston Salem Open

PTI ■ NORTH CAROLINA

India's top singles player Prajnesh Gunneswaran advanced to the second round of the Winston Salem Open ATP 250 tournament with a straight set win over Cedric-Marcel Stebe here.

Prajnesh, ranked 89th in the world, beat his German rival 6-3, 6-4 in a match that lasted one hour and 13 minutes on Sunday night.

The Indian utilised two of the five breakpoints he earned while holding his serve throughout the match.

He will next face top seed Benoit Paire of France, who received a first round bye. Paire is ranked 30 in the world.

The Indian will fancy his chances in the next round as earlier this year, Prajnesh had stunned Paire at the Indian Wells ATP Masters event for one of the biggest wins of his career. In the doubles event, the Indian pair of Divij Sharan and Rohan Bopanna crashed out in the first round.

The Indian duo lost to American pair of Nicholas Monroe and Tennys Sandgren 3-6, 3-6.

Meanwhile, wild card entrants Leander Paes and his Israeli partner Jonathan Erlich, will take on the duo of Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury in the opening round.



Daniil Medvedev, left, meets with David Goffin after winning their men's final match during the Western & Southern Open.

Medvedev in top five

AFP ■ CINCINNATI

Daniil Medvedev, coming off back-to-back ATP finals defeats, held off David Goffin 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 on Sunday to win the ATP Cincinnati Masters.

The ninth-seeded Russian finished with an ace after saving break points in the final game, lifting a first Masters 1000 trophy after setting for runner-up finishes to Nick Kyrgios in Washington and Rafael Nadal in Montreal last weekend.

"These have been the best three weeks of my life," Medvedev said. "My mentality was the best, my serve was the best, my tennis has been really consistent."

"I didn't have one bad match, I hope to continue this way for next few weeks."

After his full-on Wimbledon schedule, the winner admitted: "I'm so exhausted, I almost can't talk now."

Medvedev, who only recently gained the ATP Top 10, now will find himself ranked fifth as a result of his three-week run of form.

"I don't check the rankings every two minutes, but I do look after I do well at a tournament," he said. "If I had lost I'd be seventh, now I'm fifth." Medvedev followed up his semi-final upset of defending champion Novak Djokovic as he controlled feisty Belgian Goffin to win an

ATP leading 31st hardcourt match.

He has the most match wins on any surface this year with 43.

Spanish superstar Nadal, who did not play this week — is second with 41, followed by Roger Federer on 39.

Medvedev stamped himself a contender for the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the season that starts in Flushing Meadows in a week.

Goffin was competing in his second final of 2019 after losing to Federer in Halle.

"Congratulations to your team," he told Medvedev. "Once again, an unbelievable week for you, fantastic."

"I think you are ready for New York."

SINGLES

HADDIN JOINS SRH AS ASST COACH

ZURICH: Indian Premier League (IPL) side Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Monday announced former Australian vice captain and wicketkeeper Brad Haddin as their assistant coach. The former IPL champion made the announcement via their social media handles. Haddin thus joins Trevor Bayliss in the SRH backroom staff. Bayliss was named the SRH head coach in July, replacing Tom Moody in the role. Haddin replaces Simon Hastings, who was assistant to Moody. Bayliss has previously led Kolkata Knight Riders to two IPL titles between 2012 and 2015, while Haddin was with KKR as a player in 2011. Haddin has prior coaching experience with Australia, having been appointed fielding coach of the side in 2017 after coaching Australia A that year.

33 PROBABLES ANNOUNCED FOR CAMP

NEW DELHI: Hockey India on Monday named the 33 core probables' list for the upcoming junior women's national coaching camp which will focus on preparing the team for a tri-national tournament involving Australia and New Zealand to be held Under later this year. The probables will undergo a training and conditioning camp till September 14 under the supervision of coach Baljit Singh Saini. "We have called up all the core probables for the national camp keeping an eye on the three-nation tournament that is scheduled for the end of this year," Saini said. "We will be focused on making sure that the players keep their fitness levels high, and are in the rhythm of playing intense hockey at the highest level. We will also have the chance to identify the key areas where we need to work on, and we have enough time together to make sure that we work on those areas before the tournament in Australia later this year," he added.

DANNI WYATT SCRIPTS WCSL HISTORY

LONDON: Danni Wyatt has scripted history as she became the first ever English player to score a ton in the Women's Cricket Super League (WCSL). Playing for Southern Vipers, Wyatt scored 110 off 60 balls. Meanwhile, her score is the second-highest of all time in the competition, after Suzie Bates' 119 in 2017. "It was a tricky wicket," Wyatt was quoted as saying after the game. "Me and Suzie (Bates) struggled a bit in the first few overs. It was one of those wickets where you have to just back yourself and slog it really. I came off the pitch thinking, 'Wow, how did I manage that?' 'Once I was in, I wasn't thinking and just wanted to hit boundaries. Anything up there and full I tried to get my hands through. I've not hit a 100 for about 15 months so it's nice to get another one!' she added.

DANI ALVES SCORES WINNER ON DEBUT

SAO PAULO: Brazil veteran Dani Alves scored the winning goal on his debut for Sao Paulo on Sunday, weeks after signing a three-year deal with the club. Alves, 36, found the back of the net in the 40th minute to score the only goal of the game against Ceara. Alves and Spanish international Juanfran, 34, are the stars for Sao Paulo, who snapped up both players after their contracts with European clubs expired. Alves' return to Brazil after 17 years playing for top clubs in Europe has had a big impact on his home country.

RAIN SPOILS DULEEP TROPHY OPENER

BENGALURU: Heavy overnight rain washed out the entire third day's play in the Duleep Trophy opener between India Blue and India Green here on Monday. The rain resulted in a wet outfield and the conditions didn't improve through the day, forcing the officials to call off play without a ball being bowled for the second straight day. The second day's proceedings on Sunday had been washed out due to wet ground conditions. With only 49 overs having been bowled so far and no innings completed, the match is headed for a stalemate. India Green had truncated India Blue to 112 for 6 in 49 overs on a reduced opening day on Saturday.

Trippier, Felix star on debut

AFP ■ MADRID

Alvaro Morata headed in a sumptuous Kieran Trippier cross to ensure a new-look Atletico Madrid beat Getafe 1-0 on Sunday and made a winning start in La Liga.

Trippier looked right at home at the Wanda Metropolitano when his bending ball was nodded in by Morata before two red cards in four minutes, one for each team, made it 10 against 10 before half-time.

Getafe striker Jorge Molina and Atletico left-back Renan Lodi were the players sent off and then Morata missed a penalty, earned after a mesmeric run from Joao Felix, Atletico's 12.6 million euro signing from Benfica.

It was enough for Felix to depart to a standing ovation and Atletico held on, even if this was perhaps not the statement opening to the season that Diego Simeone might have hoped for.

Getafe were stubborn opponents, showing again why they finished fifth last season, only narrowly missing out on a place in the Champions League to Valencia on the final day.

Felix, aside, Atletico's other debutants impressed, including Lodi, before he was sent off, and Trippier, the first Englishman to play for Atletico since the Spanish Civil War and 20th in the history of the Spanish top flight.

The former Tottenham defender's pin-point cross was the highlight of a confident performance that earned regular praise from the home fans. Getafe had struggled to find a way into the match but two red cards in four minutes threatened to shift the balance.

First, referee Cuadrado Fernandez turned a yellow card into a red for Molina after consulting VAR, the striker catching Thomas Partey late down the back of his heel. Then Lodi was handed a second yellow for planting his hand in the face of Damian Suarez.



Alvaro Morata celebrates with Kieran Trippier after he scoring against Getafe.



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Sai Praneeth and H S Prannoy in a file picture.

Sai Praneeth, Prannoy make winning start

PTI ■ BASEL

India's Sai Praneeth and H S Prannoy made convincing starts at the BWF World Championships to advance to the second round here on Monday.

Praneeth, ranked 19th, defeated 66th-ranked Jason Anthony Ho-Shue of Canada 21-17, 21-16 in a first round clash lasting 39 minutes.

In another men's singles first round match, world number 30 Prannoy fought back to beat 93rd-ranked Eetu Heino of Finland 17-21, 21-10, 21-11.

India got a favourable result in the women's doubles also with Meghana Jakkampudi and S Poojisha Ram getting past the Guatemala pairing of Diana Corleto Soto and Nikte Alejandra Sotomayor 21-10, 21-18 to enter the second round.

Tackles by Ravi Kumar and Chand Singh, along with a few errors in the Mumbai defence quickly widened the gap to 25-17 in favour of Haryana with seven minutes to the final whistle.

Sandeep Narwal's raid for Mumbai with six minutes left on the clock, taking out Dharmaraj Cheraltharan and Chand Singh, tilted the balance of the match once again and the subsequent all-out meant the gap was reduced to one point with less than three minutes remaining. But the push came a little too late for Mumbai as they succumbed to another defeat.

Praneeth led 16-8 at half-time. In the second half, the introduction of raider Abhishek Singh by U Mumba brought about a change in the proceedings as his raids helped the team reduce the lead to just two points 10 minutes into the half.

However, consecutive Super

Kandola shines in Steelers win

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Star raider Vikas Kandola did the Star turn as Haryana Steelers beat U Mumba 30-27 for an important win in a Pro Kabaddi League match at the Jawaharal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Monday.

The closely fought contest saw the Mumbai side match the Steelers till the very end, but Kandolas nine-point game and some uncharacteristic errors from the U Mumba defence handed Haryana victory.

Both sides went into the match with identical records (four wins and four losses in eight matches),

but Haryana Steelers started aggressively, with coach Rakesh Kumar recognising the lack of raiding quality in U Mumba's ranks.

The defence kept a high line, strangling U Mumba's opportunities to pick up Bonus Points, thereby forcing them to make mistakes while Vikas Kandola picked up the points with his raids in the other end.

His three-point Super Raid 12 minutes into the match set the tone



THE CLOSELY FOUGHT CONTEST SAW THE MUMBAI SIDE MATCH THE STEELERS TILL THE VERY END, BUT KANDOLAS NINE-POINT GAME & SOME UNCHARACTERISTIC ERRORS FROM THE U MUMBA DEFENCE HANDED HARYANA VICTORY

Coutinho joins Bayern on loan

AFP ■ MADRID

Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho has joined Bayern Munich on a one-year loan worth 8.5 million euros (\$9.5 million) with an option to buy, the Spanish club confirmed on Monday.

"The agreement provides for an option for Bayern to buy at a 120-million-euro fee," Barcelona said.

The 27-year-old Brazilian joined Barcelona from Liverpool in January 2018 for an initial 120 million euros in a deal that included another 40 million euros in potential add-ons.

But the midfielder's stint at Barcelona never worked out as hoped despite huge excitement

around his arrival at the Camp Nou.

Initially tried in midfield where he plays for Brazil, Coutinho was pushed into the front three by Ernesto Valverde last season but the switch never paid off.

"I'm very much looking forward to that. Like FC Bayern, I have big ambitions and I'm convinced that I can achieve them together with my new teammates."

The German club hope he will provide reinforcement in attack following the departure of veteran duo Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery at the end of last season. "With his creativity and outstanding skills, Philippe is a player who will immediately strengthen our attack," Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

"For me, this move means a new challenge in a new country with one of the best clubs in Europe," Coutinho said on Bayern's website.

"I'm very much looking forward to that. Like FC Bayern, I have big ambitions and I'm convinced that I can achieve them together with my new teammates."

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Champions Paris Saint-Germain slipped up in their second league game of the season losing 2-1 to Rennes on Sunday in a repeat of April's French Cup final with a 16-year-old playing a starring role.

Edinson Cavani scored after less than 15 minutes of play for the visitors in Brittany before Mbeye Niang, and Romain Del Castillo responded for the home side.

PSG were without forward Neymar for a third successive game this term.

Angolan-born 16-year-old Eduardo Camavinga starred in Rennes midfield, and proved to be key in his team's winning goal, along with experienced playmaker Clement Grenier.

Rennes boss Julien Stephan said Camavinga, the first player born since January

PSG suffer defeat at Rennes



Benjamin Bourigeaud is chased by Kylian Mbappe during Ligue 1 match.

2002 to feature in Europe's top five leagues, had continued to improve since making his first team debut in April.

"It's more than six months he's been training with the pro-

the right conditions.

"He started doing it at the end of last season and he's confirming all the talent we think he has at the start of this season," he added.

PSG skipper Thiago Silva admitted his side stepped off the gas after their good start through Cavani's effort.

"We started well but we eased off a bit. I don't know why, but loss concentration," he told Canal+. "It wasn't the real PSG. Rennes played well, they were solid defensively they were more careful than us," he added.

Elsewhere Saint-Etienne salvaged a late point at home against Brest with young signing Denis Bouanga's 83rd minute effort claiming a 1-1 draw and it finished goalless between Reims and Strasbourg.



Jofra Archer celebrates after taking the wicket of David Warner caught by Rory Burns during day 5 AP

Living up the hype

Root glad to see Archer 'shake up things' on Test debut

AFP ■ LONDON

England captain Joe Root said fast bowler Jofra Archer had "lived up to the hype" with a dramatic Test debut against Australia at Lord's.

Archer, who replaced the injured James Anderson in team for the second Ashes Test, took five wickets in the drawn match, including 3-32 in Australia's second innings on Sunday.

But Archer's display, which almost helped England achieve an unlikely and series-leveling win in a match severely affected by rain, was about much more than economical figures.

The 24-year-old quick's sheer speed gave England's attack a new cutting edge.

Archer hit several Australians, with a fearsome bouncer that slammed into Steve Smith's unprotected neck leading to a concussion that kept the star batsman off the field on the last day at Lord's and could rule him out of the third Test in Leeds starting on Thursday.

"He's come in and he really has made a massive impact, added a different dynamic to our bowling group and has given Australia something different to think about," said Root.

"It's really pleasing to see someone come in on Test debut and really shake up things and live up to the hype — even some of the hype that he put on himself."

"He makes things happen when not many others in world can. Such a unique action and way of bowling, and obviously natural pace, which is always going to be in the game on any surface."

Root added: "When you've got that and the skill of other guys around it, it makes for a tasty combination and I think that's one of the reasons why we always felt we were in the game."

"It makes for a very interesting last three games."

England unchanged for Headingley Test

AFP ■ LONDON

England named an unchanged third Test against Australia at Headingley.

The injured James Anderson, England's all-time leading Test wicket-taker, will continue his bid to return later in the series by playing in a county 2nd XI match starting from today.

England's selectors kept faith with the XI that drew the rain-affected second Ashes Test at Lord's, with the hosts having the better of an exciting last day before Australia held out to preserve their 1-0 lead.

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Surrey left-arm seamer Sam Curran, who did not play at Lord's, retained his place in a 12-man squad for the third Test, which starts at England captain Joe Root's Headingley home ground on Thursday.

With just a four-day turnaround between Tests in London and Leeds, major changes were always unlikely.

Now England will hope that is sufficient time for World Cup-winning fast bowler Jofra Archer to recover from the 44 overs he sent down at Lord's.

Anderson did not play in the second Test because of a calf injury will step his rehabilitation this week by playing for Lancashire 2nd XI against Leicestershire in a three-day friendly match in Liverpool.

Anderson's fitness will be assessed continually ahead of the fourth Test at his Old Trafford home ground starting on September 4.



Archer bowls during the second Ashes Test at Lord's.

Smith closes gap as Kohli maintains top spot

PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian batsman Steve Smith pipped New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson to second spot with only nine points separating him and the top-ranked Virat Kohli in the latest list for ICC Test list released on Monday.

The Indian captain, with 922 points, is on top of the list while Smith, after his twin Ashes hundreds in Birmingham and 92 at Lord's, is on 913 points.

The other Indian in the top-10 is Cheteshwar Pujara, who stayed put at his fourth position.

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne made rapid strides, entering the top-10 at eighth with a jump of four ranking places.

South Africa's Aiden Markram also improved upon his ranking to be positioned sixth while England captain Joe Root paid for his slight slump in form to be at ninth.

In the bowlers' list, Pat Cummins remained firmly entrenched on top of the table while Ravindra Jadeja improved from sixth place to fifth.

His spin bowling partner Ravichandran Ashwin remained 10th.

Jadeja also remained third in the all-rounder's list, led by West Indies' Jason Holder, with Shakib Al Hasan placed second.

Meanwhile, India could lose their pole position in the ICC Test Team rankings, as even a 1-0 defeat by the West Indies in their upcoming series will see them slip to 108 points.

India are on top of team table with 113 points followed by New Zealand (111 points) and South Africa (108 points).

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Rahane gets runs ahead of first Test



PTI ■ COOLIDGE

Indian vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane got much needed runs under his belt ahead of the first Test as the visitors reached 174 for five at lunch on the final day of the three-day warm-up game against the West Indies A here on Monday.

Rahane, who has not scored a hundred in more than two years, made a fighting 54 off 162 balls before a reverse sweep led to his dismissal. Rahane, who is the stand-in captain in this game, had come to open the innings after failing in the first essay.

The Mumbai batsman had looked horribly out of touch during his 35 overs at the crease on day two. His 20 not out on Sunday had three boundaries but he played more than 80 dot balls, a testimony to his struggles.

Rahane and Hanuma Vihari had resumed the innings at 84 for one and both batsmen managed to score half-centuries. Vihari, who was on 48 overnight, went on to make 64 off 125 balls in an innings comprising nine fours and a six with India extending their lead to 279 runs.

Off-spinner Akim Frazer removed both Rahane and Vihari while Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja were the other batsmen to be dismissed. Wriddhiman Saha (6) and R Ashwin (5) were in the middle when lunch was called.

On day two, Senior most pacer Ishant Sharma bowled a fiery opening spell while left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav promised to pose stiff competition for Ravichandran Ashwin as India dominated proceedings against West

Indies A.

Having declared on their overnight score of 297 for 5 at the end of the first day, India bowled out the home team for 181 in 56.1 overs with Ishant (3/21), Kuldeep (3/35) and Umesh Yadav (3/19) sharing the spoils.

Senior off-spinner Ashwin and speedster Mohammed Shami didn't bowl in the first innings but might bowl in the second.

The second day was about the Indian bowlers trying to find their groove after switching formats.

Ishant, India's red ball specialist, hit the right length straightaway in his first spell dismissing Jeremy Solozano (9) and Brandon King (4) with a hint of away movement.

For Jasprit Bumrah, it was more about getting overs under his belt and he bowled 11 of them.

Umesh, who hasn't been among the top three pacers in the starting line-up, also gave a good account of himself rocking the A team's middle-order.

However, with Bumrah, Shami and Ishant being the top-three choices, it will be difficult for him to break into the side unless Virat Kohli decides upon playing four specialist fast bowlers.

For Kuldeep, getting three wickets will keep him in a good headspace and if India happen to play five bowlers with two spinners, he is sure to play his part.

The first Test begins here on Thursday.

Saini stays as cover for Tests

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Impressed with his skill-set, the Indian team management has decided to keep speedster Navdeep Saini as a net bowler for the two-Test series against the West Indies, aiming to groom him for future red-ball assignments.

Saini, who plays domestic cricket for Delhi, made his T20 International debut against the West Indies in Florida and won the man of the match award in his maiden appearance.

He has earlier been the Indian team's net bowler and a cover for Bhuvneshwar Kumar during the ICC World

Cup in England as well.

"Yes, Navdeep saini has been asked to stay back by the team management for the Test series. He will stay back primarily as a net bowler, they want to groom him for the Test format keeping an eye on the future," a senior BCCI official said on Monday.

Saini, in fact, bowled six overs during the West Indies A first innings in the ongoing practice match to give relief to Ishant Sharma, Jasprit Bumrah and Umesh Yadav. Mohammed Shami and Bhuvneshwar Kumar didn't bowl in the first innings.

"Saini has been a performer in red ball cricket for



the past few years. He has the pace, and ability to hit the deck, move the ball both in air and off the pitch.

If he is groomed well, it will only increase our pool of fast bowlers for the top tier cricket. That's how the team management is looking at him," the official said.

It is believed that if Saini stays back, it will help bowling coach Bharath Arun to invest more time in the 26-year-old Karnal-lad, who has taken 120 wickets from 43 first-class games with three five-wicket hauls.

One can't ignore the effort that Arun has put in to make India's fast bowling unit

the best that has emerged from the country. Rather than playing domestic cricket, he now needs to be in and around the international scene and learn the tricks of the trade for the next level," he said.

India will play five Test matches at home this season with three against South Africa and two against Bangladesh in October and November.

It will not be a bad idea to blood Saini against Bangladesh since the management would be monitoring Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami's respective workloads.

Shastri names Iyer for No 4 spot

PTI ■ ST JOHNS

Head coach Ravi Shastri has for the time put an end to the debate over the No 4 spot in the Indian batting line-up by identifying Shreyas Iyer as the man for the job.

Impressed with the pool of talented youngsters coming up the ranks in Indian cricket, Shastri — while speaking to Times of India — said Iyer will continue to bat at No 4 in ODIs for India.

"One of the areas we concentrated on over the last two years was to blood as many youngsters as possible. Shreyas Iyer, for instance, he is going to stay at No 4," said Shastri who has been reappointed as the head coach till World 2021 T20.

Iyer batted at number five during the just-concluded ODI series against the West Indies and scored 71 and 65 in the two innings he played.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant was India's number four but he failed to grab the opportunities and scored 20 and 0 in the two ODIs.

Kohli, after the third ODI against the West Indies, said that 24-year-old Iyer has presented a strong case for himself to be a regular feature of the team in the limited-overs format.

Earlier, former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar also advocated for Iyer to bat at No 4. "In my view, Rishabh Pant is much better like MS Dhoni at 5 or 6 as a finisher because that's where his natural game and natural flair will come into play," Gavaskar had said.

"If it's a question of batting for 30-35 overs, then I think it should be Shreyas Iyer at No 4 and Pant at No 5," he had said.



Shreyas Iyer defends during third ODI of the three-match series against Windies AP

Support staff selection begins, announcement on Thursday

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Ignored for the head coach's position, Lalchand Rajput was among the aspirants appearing for interviews on Monday to pick the support staff of the Indian cricket team, joining heavyweights such as Venkatesh Prasad.

The senior selection committee, led by former stumper MSK Prasad, started an extensive process to pick the support staff.

The 57-year-old Rajput entering the fray means competition for the batting coach's position could only get tougher with former Test opener Vikram Rathour already emerging as a strong contender to replace incumbent Sanjay Bangar.

Among the incumbents, bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar have emerged favourites to retain their posts after head coach Ravi Shastri stressed on retaining the staff.

However, Bangar still faces a tough challenge with most of the applications received for the batting coach's post. The former India all-rounder has been with the team since 2014 during which India has played 50 Tests and 119 ODIs.

The process is expected to be completed only by Thursday after all the interviews for various positions including batting, bowling and fielding coach are done with.

Also eyeing the batting coach's job are Pravin Amre,

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Pandey, Iyer to share India A captaincy

The five one day matches against South Africa will be played at the Sports Hub in Thiruvananthapuram on August 29, 31 and Sept 2, 4 and 8

Manish Pandey was on Monday named India A captain for the first three one-dayers against the touring South Africa A, while Shreyas Iyer will lead in the last two matches of the series beginning August 29 in Thiruvananthapuram.

Rising talent Shubman Gill is there in both Pandey's and Iyer's teams and so are Vijay Shankar, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Nitish Rana.

Ishan Kishan was picked as wicketkeeper in the team led by Pandey, while the immensely talented Sanju Samson will do duty behind the stumps under Iyer's captaincy.

India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal is part of the team for the first three matches.

The matches will be played at The Sports Hub in Thiruvananthapuram on August 29, 31 and September 2, 4 and 8.

The All-India senior selection committee picked the teams here.

Team for first three one-day: Manish Pandey (Captain), Rituraj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Ishan Kishan (wicket-keeper), Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed, Nitish Rana.

Team for last two one-day: Shreyas Iyer (Captain), Shubman Gill, Prashant Chopra, Anmolpreet Singh, Ricky Bhui, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Nitish Rana, Vijay Shankar, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Rahul Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Tushar Deshpande, Ishan Porel.