

**MONEY 6**  
PM MODI LAUNCHES  
RUPAY CARD IN UAE

**WORLD 7**  
BOLSONARO SENDS ARMY  
TO FIGHT AMAZON FIRES

**SPORT 8**  
SINDHU ENTERS  
WORLD C'SHIP FINAL

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**USUAL SUSPECTS**  
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

## PM Modi's global outreach holds key

Howdy Modi" may seem an exceptionally strange way of addressing India's Prime Minister, except perhaps in Texas. Fortunately, it was an event in Houston, Texas, that billed a diaspora outreach programme of Narendra Modi in this fashion.

The labelling, however, is secondary. What is more relevant is that, having done a spectacular programme at New York's Madison Square Garden shortly after his election victory in 2014, Modi chose another major American city to connect with the Indian diaspora this Sunday. The event having been fully subscribed, it is certain that the capacity crowd of 50,000 members of the Indian diaspora will greet him enthusiastically, just as they did at the UNESCO building auditorium in Paris on Friday. It is also certain that in his speech, the Prime Minister will spend some time explaining the rationale behind the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The careful cultivation of the Indian diaspora by Modi is often seen by cynics as a needless indulgence. In the past, visiting Indian Prime Ministers had met select notables from the overseas Indian community but no one had bothered to reach out to those who were not regarded as important to India's diplomatic or commercial needs. Modi has broken this social and class barrier and reached out to every social category. Moreover, he has reoriented the work of Indian missions overseas. Whereas the diaspora was earlier seen as an irritant to the more pressing business of evolving grand strategy, Modi has added service to the diaspora (and trade) to the functions of Indian missions overseas. When she was External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj went out of her way to make overseas Indians and Indians travelling abroad feel that they could approach Indian missions for help in case of difficulties.

Why is this outreach important in today's context? Since the beginning of August, following the Government's moves to ensure the full integration of Jammu & Kashmir in the Indian Constitution, India has been subjected to relentless attacks. Some of this was predictable since it was unlikely that a political shift of this magnitude wouldn't evoke spirited protests. However, there is an additional dimension.

The point about Imran Khan's speech to the Joint Session of Pakistan's Parliament earlier this month that caught media attention was his near-categorical disavowal of retaliatory war which, in his view, was unaffordable given the nuclear dimension.

However, does this mean that Pakistan has no other option but to surreptitiously sponsor a proxy war that will be conducted by either home-grown jihadis in India or non-state players from Pakistan?

The answer may lie in the larger thrust of Imran's speech which appeared to many angry Pakistanis as being needlessly ponderous. In a sense it was. Imran claimed that India had reneged on its own Gandhian and Nehruvian inheritance by abandoning secularism in Kashmir and paving the way for a Hindu majoritarian state. To him, the full incorporation of a Muslim majority state was tantamount to India flaunting its 'racist' credentials with brazenness.

All that is familiar stuff. However, the subsequent two points are interesting. First, Imran argued that enlightened citizenship was identified by Jinnah in his August 11, 1947 speech. In other words, having spelt out the two-nation theory as the inescapable way out for Indian Muslims in the face of Hindu intolerance. However, having established a homeland for India's Muslims — that naturally included Kashmir — he wanted to ensure the complete freedom of religious beliefs. That, he said, invoking Islamic history and the experience of the Medina settlement in the 7th century, is the basis of Pakistan. With somewhat twisted logic he sought to reconcile an Islamic state that is Pakistan with liberal notions of citizenship.

Second, he sought a massive outreach programme aimed at persuading the West, not merely of the righteousness of the Kashmir bid for self-determination, but the venality of the Indian state. In his view this was best done using liberal arguments that would appeal there.

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## BJP loses key strategist

Jaitley's cremation today at Nigambodh Ghat in afternoon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Arun Jaitley, who as Finance Minister ushered in India's biggest tax reforms and was the chief troubleshooter of the BJP and the Narendra Modi Government, passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Saturday after battling multiple health issues for the last several months. He was 66.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is away on a foreign visit, is not to cut short his tour as suggested by the bereaved family whom Modi spoke to from Bahrain.

In a brief statement, the hospital said Jaitley breathed his last at 12.07 pm. He was admitted to the hospital on August 9 following complaint of breathing difficulty. The cremation will be on Sunday afternoon at the Nigambodh Ghat.

Known as a consensus builder, Jaitley was the BJP's man for all seasons and acted as the key strategist for the Modi Government in its first



Family members of former Finance Minister and BJP leader Arun Jaitley look on as leaders pay their respects, at his residence in Greater Kailash on Saturday PTI

term. He headed the Finance, Defence, Corporate Affairs and Information and Broadcasting Ministries. Leaders across the political spectrum paid rich tributes to Jaitley, a quintessential moderate who was never associated with the hard edges of Hindutva politics.

He became a trusted friend of Modi as he smoothed the path for the Gujarat leader's rise

in the BJP by helping him win key allies. Jaitley played an instrumental role in implementation of Modi's various ambitious schemes and programmes after the BJP came to power in May 2014. His most important legacy was rolling out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in 2017, the biggest tax reforms after Independence.

Modi, who is on a three-nation tour, said he had lost a valued friend and conveyed his condolences to Jaitley's wife and son. "With the demise of Arun Jaitleyji, I have lost a valued friend, whom I have had the honour of knowing for decades. His insight on issues and nuanced understanding

of matters had very few parallels. He lived well, leaving us all with innumerable happy memories. We will miss him!" the Prime Minister said.

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## Cops raid Maoists hideout, five ultras killed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NARAYANPUR

At least five Maoists were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, police said.

Two jawans of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) were also injured in the gun-battle.

The exchange of fire took place around 6 am in the forest near Dhurbeda village, located around 20 km away from Orcha police station in the district. It occurred when a DRG team was out on a counter-insurgency operation," Director General of Police (DGP) D M Awasthi informed.

Acting on a specific intelligence input about the location

of a Maoist training camp in the interior forest of Orcha, about 350 km from Raipur, a team of DRG raided the place, he said.

The gunfight lasted for about 90 minutes, following which the ultras disappeared into the dense forest, he added.

"During search operations, bodies of five Naxals were recovered from the spot. Besides, a huge cache of weapons was also seized from there," the officer said.

Two DRG personnel sustained injuries in the gunfight, he said, adding that efforts were on to move them from the forest.

Further details will be known once the patrolling team returns to its camp, he added.

## Jaitley's demise marks end of Delhi-4 clout in BJP politics

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

The untimely passing away of Arun Jaitley, 66, at AIIMS in Delhi on Saturday after prolonged illness days after the death of former Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj, 67, and months following the demise of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar, 59, has

almost ended the frontline of BJP group of leaders, described as D-4 — the Delhi-centric leadership that dominated the BJP politics for almost three-decades.

Unlike Swaraj and Kumar, it was Jaitley who remained the ears and eyes of the Modi Government and the party, presently held in a tight grip by

Modi and party president Amit Shah and in fact made a "trimurti" deciding important decisions at all levels.

So much so that even after Jaitley lost his maiden Lok Sabha elections in 2014 to Captain Amrinder Singh from Amritsar, Modi retained him at the heart of his dispensation.

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## Leaders throng ex-FM's residence to pay homage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Political leaders in Delhi offered floral tributes to former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at his Kailash Colony residence in South Delhi. From President Ram Nath Kovind to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and leaders of Delhi BJP unit thronged Jaitley's residence.

Recalling college days, BJP leader Vijay Goel said, "We both fought students' union election in Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC). He became president and I became the secretary. Since then, I have shared a great relationship with him."

A Delhi BJP leader said during the period of Emergency (1975-77), Jaitley was placed under preventive detention first in the Ambala Jail and then in the Tihar Jail, Delhi.

Party leaders from across the political spectrum, BJP workers and his admirers filed past the body, which was kept in a glass casket, offering flowers and wreaths. Union Ministers Shah, Harsh Vardhan, Jitendra Singh, S Jaishankar and BJP working president JP Nadda were seen paying last respects to Jaitley at his residence. CM Kejriwal, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also paid homage to departure soul.

Turn to Page 4

With the demise of Arun Jaitley Ji, I have lost a valued friend, whom I have had the honour of knowing for decades. His insight on issues and nuanced understanding of matters had very few parallels. He lived well, leaving us all with innumerable happy memories

Narendra Modi

His demise was a "huge loss" not only to the BJP and the entire Sangh Parivar, but also to the nation

LK Advani

Arun Jaitley Ji's contributions to public life will be remembered forever

Sonia Gandhi

Deeply saddened at the untimely passing away of Shri #ArunJaitley. Visited him just day before & prayed for his speedy recovery. He was a leader with deep intellect & knowledge, and a voice of reason. He will be dearly missed. My prayers with his family, friends & admirers

Pranab Mukherjee

## A Titan goes away too soon

By Chandan Mitra

Arun Jaitley and I became friends well before we met each other in Delhi University in 1977. Quite surprisingly I got a postcard, checked and stamped by Tihar Jail authorities from the president of Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU). The contents were brief and only requested me to raise the issue of permission to the interned DUSU president to take his MA Final Exams in Law, permission which required clearance from the University's Academic Council of which I was then a Student Member. Although I did not personally know Jaitley then and our college, namely, St Stephen's, was not remotely involved in University politics, I thought it to be my democratic duty to help an unfairly interned opposition leader to be allowed to sit for his examination.

Despite some opposition in the Academic Council, Jaitley's plea was granted and I shortly received another postcard conveying his thanks. Mercifully the Emergency too was gasping



28 Dec 1952 - 24 Aug 2019

for breath by then and in mid-January that year, it was formally relaxed and many friends were released from custody.

We became good friends thereafter, especially as I was a University Coffee House aficionado and progressively he too became one. This was despite our political differences (I was a Leftist those days, the Calcutta effect had not worn off) but this did not come in the way of our deepening friendship. I have changed political persuasions several times since, but Jaitley

and I have been steadfast friends regardless.

A multi-talented, multi-tasking person, he was equally fluent in English, Hindi and Punjabi which probably gave him the confidence to contest the Lok Sabha poll from Amritsar in 2014 which unfortunately he lost to Captain Amarinder Singh, current Chief Minister of Punjab. But unfazed as always, Jaitley rose up the political ranks, becoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi's confidant and India's second most important political personality, at least till the rise of Amit Shah. He was adept at managing party affairs across the country and combined affability and authority in equal measure. His one weakness was food, especially Punjabi cuisine, a passion he was forced to abandon due to mounting diabetes some years ago. A friend of friends, he meticulously kept in touch with them no matter how busy he might have been.

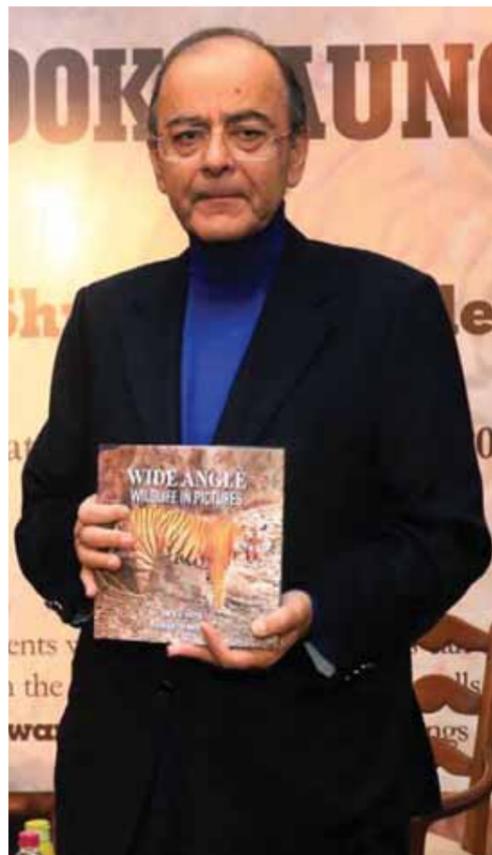
A crusader against corruption, Jaitley would be burning the midnight oil with officials like Bhure Lal who was VP Singh's self-appointed anti-corruption bulldog.

In 1977 when the Janata Party came to power, he was named as the nascent party's National Executive member, a rare honour for such a young man. But the next day's newspapers frontpaged the headline that he had turned the offer down. Many friends were astonished. Bewildered, I asked Jaitley why he spurned the honour. He called me aside on the Coffee House courtyard and said, "Remember, you should get involved in politics only on your own resources, otherwise there will always be the temptation to accumulate easy money and you may go down the slippery slope and lose the respect you enjoy."

These are nuggets of the wisdom that the ever articulate Jaitley always bequeathed to his friends over time. That is why he is incomparable and unforgettable.

# ADIEU SIR

## FRIEND & MENTOR



ARUN JAITLEY  
(28 December 1952 — 24 August 2019)

IN GRIEF FACULTY MEMBERS, STUDENTS & STAFF

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Every season Big Boss has something new to offer to it's viewers to keep them interested in the show. Speculation has it that this time the show makers have roped in a few TikTok stars. MUSBA HASHMI tells you more



## The Boss is back

Come September and all the Big Boss fanatics start dreaming about their favourite celebrities that will grace the show in the new season. The show has endeared itself among the audience. So much so that they wait for a new season. Ugly fights, lots of drama, fun tasks with a bit of romance has been the show's USP since it's advent.

Now, it's time for Big Boss 13 and the fans have already started predicting the contestants. The show comes up with a unique theme every time, be it the Commoners VS Celebrities or the Double Trouble or for that matter Heaven-Hell. This year there are speculations about that the makers have decided to go an extra mile and introduce the TikTok stars in the show. However, there is no confirmation on the same but if this is the case then it will definitely make for an interesting watch.

Here are a few TikTok stars that people will love to watch on the show along with their favourite celebrities.

**Mr Faisu aka Faisal Shaikh.** A 24-year-old boy from Mumbai is making waves on social media because of his videos. He is seen lip syncing dialogues or just doing random moves. Unfortunately or shall we say fortunately, Mr Faisu has surrounded himself with a lot of controversies recently. His TikTok account was suspended because of a video that according to the app's developers was beyond the permissible limit. In the video, he was seen criticising the lynching of Tabrez Ansari. So, if we go by the saying that all publicity is good publicity, Mr Faisu has done it right for himself. This will make him a good option for the Big Boss house since the house is all about controversies. Apart from that, Mr Faisu will prove to be an active participant in the tasks as well because of his well-build physique. We can also get to see the aggressive side of Shaikh in the tasks. And not to mention that charming looks and a chocolate boy image



will be a part and parcel of Shaikh's personality.

**Onaiza Rana.** The girl along with three others went viral in 2018 because of a video in which all of them were seen doing raunchy moves on the song *Isme Tera Ghata*. Though, Rana had received much criticism for the moves but the video took the app (then called Musically) by storm. Rana could be seen flaunting a bold avatar in the show. Her presence will definitely increase the glamour and fashion quotient in the show. We can also expect some cat-fights or a love triangle.

**Vishnupriya.** This 19-year-old girl from Aurangabad has become an internet sensation overnight. The reason being her lip syncing videos on various songs. The girl goes by the name of Shizuka on the app and has successfully managed to grab 5.4 million followers.

Vishnupriya will make for an exciting contestant on the show. Her cute smile and confidence will be an add on. We can hope

some good performance from her in the tasks because of the competitive nature that she possess. Vishnupriya's presence will add the much needed desi touch because of her simplicity, exactly like Urvashi Vani did in the last season.

**Aashika Bhatia.** This 19-year-old is not only a TikTok star but an actor as well. Bhatia has appeared on shows like *Meera*, *Parvarish* and many more. She is an avid TikTok user. Bhatia will be a treat to watch in the Big Boss house. She can add all the drama and glamour. Her take on different things and all the fights in the house will be a thing to look out for. Her friendships in the house and her performance in tasks will also make for an interesting watch. She will prove to be a tough competition for all the others in the show.

And last but not the least — **Manjul Khattar.** This Gurugram-based 21-year-old boy is both cute and handsome. Khattar has a colossal amount of followers on the app — 12.1 million. If Khattar is to grace the show, then we can expect this season to be full of cuteness. He will be one of the heartthrobs in the show. We can also expect a couple of fights in the house with this charming soul. And a lot of jealousy among other boys.

The final list of the contestants is yet to be released but the makers will definitely make this season much better than the previous one, which turned out to be below the expectations. Now who all will make for the shortlisted contestants, only time will tell.

## Priyanka to star in Netflix's new offering

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has joined the Netflix action fantasy feature *We Can Be Heroes*, written, directed and produced by Robert Rodriguez.

The story revolves around when alien invaders kidnap Earth's superheroes, their children must team up and learn to work together if they want to save their parents and the world.

Up next, Chopra Jonas will appear in *The Sky Is Pink*, based on the motivational speaker Aisha Chaudhary, which will premiere at The Toronto International Film Festival in September. The *Gala Presentation* film, which she additionally co-produced is the official selection from Asia at the festival this year.

On the film side, she will also produce and star in an untitled wedding

comedy set in India, co-produced by Mindy Kaling and Dan Goor for Universal.

Most recently, Chopra Jonas appeared in the romantic comedy *Isn't It Romantic* opposite Rebel Wilson, Liam Hemsworth and Adam DeVine.

Additionally, she starred in the family drama *A Kid Like Jake* with Claire Danes, Jim Parsons and Octavia Spencer.

Under her Purple Pebble Pictures banner, Chopra Jonas has produced several acclaimed features including *Paani*, *Ventilator*, *Pahuna: The Little Visitors* and *Firebrand*, the latter released earlier this year on Netflix.

In television, Chopra Jonas is widely known for her starring role as Alex Parrish on the hit ABC drama *Quantico* for three seasons.

## Aniruddh shares similarities with Hanuman

World is full of either extroverts or introverts. Extroverts find it easy to express themselves but introverts usually struggle to put forward their feelings and thoughts. In Sony Entertainment Television's show *Patiala Babes*, Hanuman Singh played by Aniruddh Dave, although an outspoken instructor, is struggling to express his feelings to Babita played by Paridhi Sharma. The *dabang* officer, is seen trying hard to gather courage and express how he feels about Babita. Mini (Ashnoor Kaur) along with her friends is helping Hanuman to learn the tricks to impress and charm Babita, but still he is unable to confront her because of his shy nature.

Aniruddh Dave's wife — Shubhi Ahuja has drawn huge similarity between his reel character and real life personality. According to Shubhi, Aniruddh is an extremely shy person when it comes to expressing his feelings. He took very long to confess his feelings and propose to Shubhi to marry him. Now that she is seeing the same personality in his character Hanuman Singh. She is continuously telling Aniruddh, that it is high time for Hanuman to confess his feelings towards Babita and propose her to marry him. She is quite bothered about the time that



Hanuman is taking to express his feelings. Every time there is a romantic track on, between the two, Ahuja is able to relate to it.

When asked Aniruddh Dave about this, he said: "Shubhi has shared my real personality and it is true that I am an extremely shy person. I do not share my feelings easily neither did I confess my love for her at once. It took me a couple of months to gather the courage to express my feelings to her. My character, and I definitely share this trait and hence Shubhi is constantly asking me, 'when is Hanuman Singh going to propose to Babita in the show?' And I reply to her saying if I took so long to confess my feelings, Hanuman Singh is only going to take longer."

## Plan Your Day

### The Irish Sunday Brunch

Venue: The Irish House, DLF Mall of India, Noida  
When: Every Sunday  
Time: 12 pm to 4 pm  
Cost: ₹795 plus taxes (per person)

There's nothing better than a laid back and fun filled tipsy Sunday brunch and the Irish brunch that well. Your favourite neighbourhood pub has the perfect solution for your Sunday morning woes with their hearty Sunday brunch. Noida peeps, gear up for an afternoon full of unlimited delicious food, chilled beers and sangrias topped with loads of crazy board games. Indulge in a range of soups, salads, main courses and desserts from their buffet section and ask for the day's special pizzas.

There's a special kids menu with all-time favourites like mac n cheese, mini pizzas, fries and a bunch of fun games to be busy with!



### Parampara Series 2019

Venue: Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi  
Date: August 30 to September 1, 2019  
Time: 7 pm onwards

The 23rd edition of this festival of dance and music will be a three-day celebration of Indian classical performing arts. Not just the young generation of artists but even the veterans will be performing at this event. The artists include Raja Radha Reddy & Troupe, Shubha Mudgal, Sujata Mohapatra, Trichur Brothers, Kumudini Lakhia & Group and Jayateerth Muvundi.



## 'Focus on becoming a performer'

He started off as a contestant and now have come a long way. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with choreographer TUSHAR KALIA about his journey to becoming a judge of a reality show

From a contestant to now a judge, how has your journey been?

It has been an incredible and overwhelming one. I have learnt a lot. I was a part of *Jhalak Dikhla Jaa* Season 1 and 2, both went well for me. I feel fortunate that the panel of judges were great — Karan Johar, Remo D'Souza and Madhuri Dixit. I was also a stage director of *India's Got Talent* and then eventually *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* happened. I feel great when I look back at my journey. And, now I am judging *Dance Deewane*, it feels great.

How did you come on board as a choreographer for *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*?

All thanks to Karan Johar who gave me this opportunity. He saw my work in both the reality shows — *Jhalak Dikhla Jaa* and *IGT* and liked it. That is how I was offered my first Bollywood — *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil*.

How was the experience with the film?

It was a wonderful experience. I choreographed all the eight songs for the film. I was travelling with the team for two months and it was a great learning experience. I had never done a movie before, I was more involved in the stage work, so I didn't know how the industry works. I remember that throughout the shooting, I was learning too.

What is the USP of this season?

The talent. We have brilliant performers on the show. The first season worked because the format was unique and it still is. This season audience is getting to see the bonding between four of us — Madhuri Dixit, Shashank Khaitan, Arjun Bijlani (who is the host) and I. This season the contestants are better than the previous one.

What qualities do you look out for in the contestants?

In the show we have three generations who are competing with each other. But, the moment the contestants come on the stage, they are equal for us. They all are performers. They have to perform to their full capability. The performance should touch our heart and soul. It has to be a good performance. That is all what we look out for in the show.

How is the environment on the sets?

It is fun to work with the whole team.



We all bond so well. It is a very light environment on the sets. We crack jokes. We all gossip together and do lots of masti. Any favourite contestant in the show? All the contestants are good and

talented. There are no favourites. As a judge, it is important to keep your emotions aside and give your judgement without any bias.

When did you first realise your passion for dance?

It happened when I was in school. My mother was a dancer and she was a teacher in the same school as mine. You know how it is like to have your mother as a teacher in your school. *Beta chalo annual function hai perform karo, beta ab yeh funtion hai school mein chalo perform karo*. And, you can't say no. That is how I got interested in dance. Then, it was my mother who insisted me that I should make a career in dance. She asked me if I would be interested in learning kathak and since I didn't know much about dance that time, I said no to it. I thought it was too feminine. Then, she asked me to go and see a stage performance in Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. The moment I saw the performance, I made up my mind that this is what I want to pursue.

How do you define dance?

In just three words — it's my life. That is all. I don't know anything but dancing. That's what I have been doing from the last 15 years.

One thing that goes in your mind while you are performing on stage?

*Step na bhul jaun kahin*. I still have this fear. I still feel nervous whenever I am on stage. I still get butterflies in my tummy as soon as I step on to the stage. And, it is very important to have this fear. It helps in bringing out the best in you.

What advice would you like to give out to the aspiring dancers?

I would just say that go and dance your heart out. It is the most important thing. Your soul should be visible while dancing, it is not just about the physical moves. We should be able to connect to you. Most of the times, aspirers lack this quality. Earlier, it was missing in my performance too. Back then, I was a technically correct dancer, but not a performer. Now, people look for complete performers. So imbibe the quality of an overall performer in yourself and you are good to go.

## TELLYTALE

### FAST FORWARD



StarPlus' show *Yeh Rishyeh Hai Pyar Ke*, is marching towards a leap. Recently, the audience is witnessing high end drama with Kunal — Kuhu's wedding preparations as well as Abir and Mishy confessing their love for each other. But as per the new promo, their lives are going to turn a drastic turn. The question is, will Kuhu and Kunal get married to each other?

In order to increase the curiosity and build on the drama, we hear that the makers are planning to take a one year leap on the show. With Meenakshi forcing Kunal to marry Kuhu, and Mishy learning this truth, will she confront Meenakshi and save her sister or will this remain a mystery as the show is heading towards a leap? Only time will tell.

### BALLERS RETURNS

After a successful four season run, Comedy series *Ballers* returns with its fifth season! Starring Dwayne Johnson (Spenser Strasmore) and Created by Stephen



Levinson, *Ballers* explores the glamorous and often cutthroat world of pro football through a group of past and present players striving to stay in the game.

This season finds Spencer (Dwayne Johnson) settling into retirement and reflecting on his past, when an offer that's too good to refuse comes his way and sends him back into the lion's den, this time as a team owner. In the wake of his split with Spencer, an ambitious Joe (Rob Corddry) gambles aggressively to make Sports X greater than ever with the help of his new partner, Lance (Russell Brand).

### MEN IN DISGUISE

In a constant effort to make peace between the Gokhales and Thakkaras and bringing the newly-weds Abhishek (Akshay Kalkar) and Gayatri (Akshita Mudgal) together, Sony SAB's *Bhakarwadi* has witnessed various twists and turns. This slice of life show continues to keep the

viewers hooked with its light hearted storyline.

The show is witnessing a major tussle between the Gokhales and Thakkaras where Abhishek as a dutiful son-in-law is supporting Mahendra (Paresh Ganatra) and Urmila (Bhakti Rathod) while Gayatri is assisting Anna (Deven Bhojani). While Abhishek is still barred from entering his own house, Mahendra has finally figured out a way to reunite his beloved daughter, Gayatri and his son-in-law, Abhishek.

Anna decides to hire some helpers for Gayatri and on the other hand, Abhishek



announces that he is leaving for Bangalore without taking Anna's permission or informing anyone. Learning about Anna's search for two female helpers, Abhishek and Mahendra disguise themselves as Chandramukhi and Sulakshana. These two 'ladies' make their way to Anna's house while impressing the onlookers on the street.

Will Anna appoint Chandramukhi and Sulakshana as helpers? Will Abhishek and Mahendra be successful in their plan?

### BAHUBALI IMITATES BHALAJAN

Star Plus's popular dance reality show *Nach Baliye 9* has been entertaining audiences week-on-week with some blockbuster performances by the star-studded couples of television industry. As the competition gets more and more intense, the top contestants are pulling out all the stops to present pathbreaking performances and impress everyone with their scintillating moves. This weekend the viewers can look forward to a special treat as Prabhas along with his gorgeous co-star Shradha Kapoor grace the stage of *Nach Baliye 9* to promote their upcoming movie *Saaho*.

Amidst number of fun moments on stage, the quirky host of the show Manish Paul revealed that: "While the entire nation is crazy about the superstar's Swag, personality and style, Prabhas is crazy about the beauty and elegance of the diva of the



Bollywood — Raveena Tondon." Upon hearing this, ace choreographer and judge of the show Ahmed Khan took the opportunity and requested the superstar to imitate the *bhaijaan* of Bollywood — Salman Khan. He gleefully accepted the proposal and requested Raveena Tondon to shake a leg with him. Prabhas effortlessly imitated the signature step of Salman Khan's song *Jummain Ki Raat Hai*.

Apart from shaking a leg with the gorgeous actor Raveena Tondon, the viewers will witness some jaw-dropping performances by the power couple Vishal and Madhurima to *Tip Tip Barsa Pani* and by Urvashi Dholakia and Anuj Sachdeva to *Kate Nahin Katte*.

### NEW SHOWS

ALTBalaji and ZEE5, the two OTT industry giants recently announced a content alliance, where they will co-create 60+ originals. Following the announcement, the OTT platforms launched the trailer of two originals — *Cold Lassi Aur Chicken Masala* and *Mission Over Mars* (M-O-M). These co-created originals will be available on both platforms, from September 3 and September 10, respectively.

Starring heartthrob Rajeev Khandelwal and the reigning queen of television Divyanka Tripathi, *Cold Lassi aur Chicken Masala* is a story of two aspiring Chefs-Nitya and Vikram. The trailer gives a sneak peek into their lives as they fall in love but get separated due to circumstances. Their cracking chemistry sure promises a delicious treat but leaves a thousand questions unanswered. Why do they fall apart? Will they be able to resist the



conspicuous attraction?

*Mission Over Mars* (M-O-M) is a fictional adaptation of real-life heroes at ISRO who worked on Mangalyaan and played pivotal roles in making the mission a success against all odds. The web-series charts out the journey of M-O-M from inception to execution and will be a moving story of the faith and determination of four lady-scientists who aid ISA (Indian Space Agency) to overcome insurmountable technical and financial challenges as well as time pressures to mount the successful mission over mars. They not just make the whole nation proud, but also place India ahead of many other countries on the map. In the process, they conquer their own inward imperfections, making for an inspirational story. This series is certain to inspire people across the globe that 'Nothing is impossible.'

# CM seeks central aid for road infrastructure network

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel dedicated Gondwara-Gudihyari Railway over-bridge (ROB) on Urkura-Sarona by-pass railway line on Saturday in capital city Raipur. It has been constructed at a cost of ₹51.62 lakh.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister said the old demand of the people of the area for an over bridge on this busiest railway route has been fulfilled. It would facilitate around 2 lakh people. State government would do everything possible for the development of Raipur city, he said, adding his government would ensure that roads, bridges and buildings were constructed

## Dedicates Gondwara railway over bridge



within the time-frame without compromising on quality. He urged all public repre-

sentatives to extend active cooperation in development of the state as geographically it is

the 9th biggest in the country. It needs National Highway, state highways and other roads espe-

cially in Naxal areas, he said.

He urged Member of Parliament Sunil Soni and Rajya Sabha member Chhaya Verma to take up with the Centre to provide cent percent aid for construction of roads in Naxal areas as against present norms of 60:40 contribution between central and state governments.

Presiding over the event, PWD minister Tamradwaj Sahu said the state government is making all efforts to provide better transportation facilities to people.

It was informed that the total length of bridge is 475 metre and width is 13 metres while the approach road to Gudihyari is 130 metres and towards Gondwara is 141 metres.



A large number of devotees thronged the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple on the outskirts of the capital city. Celebrations begin here at mid-night. Devotional songs and classical dances were also organised here to celebrate Krishna Janmashtami. Pioneer Photo

# Police detains BJP leaders for obstructing function at Gondwara

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP leaders, including Chairman Municipal Corporation Raipur Prafull Vishwakarma and Satyam Dua, were on Saturday detained by Saraswati Nagar police for obstructing the public dedication function of a railway over-bridge (RoB) at Gondwara in the state capital.

Stating that the credit for the construction of the RoB goes to former BJP government and that it was the efforts of former chief minister Raman Singh and PWD minister Rajesh Munat, the BJP workers led by Vishwakarma were raising slogans in favour of the party.

To avert deterioration of law-and-order situation and nuisance at the function chaired by the Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel,



the Saraswati Nagar police detained the BJP leaders and

activists. They were released only after the function was over.

## Health minister to review CIMS hospital's status today

RAIPUR: Health and family welfare, medical education minister T. S. Singhdeo will hold a review meeting on status of Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur and Medical College at 1.00 PM on Sunday.

He will also hold meeting with all chief medical and health officers, block medical officers to review facilities and other activities at sub-health centres, primary health centres, community health centres and district hospital in Bilaspur division.

As per the programme, health minister will leave for Bilaspur through road from Raipur and attend an event organised by Pragatisheel Brahman Samaj at Bilaspur. He will reach CIMS at 1.00 PM and hold meeting of Ayushman Scheme with health department officials and private doctors. At 5.00 PM he will hold the meeting with all CMHOs and BMOs.

# BJP pays tributes, recalls contribution of Jaitley

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh BJP unit has expressed deep shock over the demise of former union finance and defence minister Arun Jaitley. Party has said the demise of Jaitley is a massive loss to the BJP and also an irreparable loss to Indian politics and the country as a whole.

BJP state president Vikram Usendi said party leaders and workers have lost a guide. On different aspects of Indian politics, he was an astute, outspoken, logical and eloquent speaker and a guiding force for all.

BJP national vice president and former CM Raman Singh said it is a personal loss for him. He was an embodiment of an ideal person. In parliament he established highest standard through his logical articulacy, dignity in use of language and knowledge, which can be followed by one and all.



## C'garh BJP leaders to participate in funeral

Chhattisgarh BJP state president Vikram Usendi, national VP Raman Singh and Leader of Opposition state assembly Dharamlal Kaushik will leave for New Delhi through regular flight on Sunday to attend the funeral ceremony of late Arun Jaitley.

BJP national general secretary Saroj Pandey paying tributes to Jaitley said party and country has lost a political scholar, able administrator and intelligent speaker.

The BJP's Scheduled Tribe Cell national president and Rajya Sabha member Ramvihar Netam said it is an irreversible loss for the party as he was a crises manager. His intellect and knowledge of laws had assisted the party to

emerge out of the crises. The gap cannot be filled. Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik said an able administrator, a guide and a legal luminary has been taken away. He was not an individual but an institution and the loss cannot be filled. The MLAs, MPs, office bearers of different front organizations of BJP also paid rich tributes and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



Taking a cue from Mumbai, 'Dahi Handi' is now becoming a popular celebration in the capital city of Raipur during Janmashtami festival. 'Govinda Mandals' across the city visit spots where 'handis' (pots) are strung up along the way and form pyramids to break the pot. In the picture Govinda Mandals are seen attempting to break a 'Dahi Handi' at a function held at Sapre School Ground in Raipur. Photo Santosh Sahu

# Singhdeo visits Rajasthan to study health services

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh health and family welfare minister T S Singhdeo along with senior officials of his department is on a study tour to Rajasthan. They studied the health services and innovative schemes run by government of Rajasthan in health sector.

They also met Rajasthan medical and health, medical education minister Dr Raghu Sharma. Appreciating the health services of Rajasthan, Singhdeo also briefed Dr Sharma on Universal Health Care preparation being undertaken in Chhattisgarh.



Health secretary Niharika Barik Singh, Director Health Services Neeraj Bansode and National Health Mission Director Dr Priyanka Shukla accompanied the minister. The study concentrated on Chief Minister Free Medicine Scheme, CM Free Test Scheme, SNCU,

Anchal Mother Milk Bank, crèche and tele-medicine scheme. They also visited Tonk district hospital, mother and child hospital as part of the study.

The departmental team also visited community health centre, primary health centre and sub-health centre. They also studied Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation works and working system.

The delegation, as part of Chief Minister Free Medicine Scheme, visited State Medical Storage centre, Rukmani Devi Beni Prasad Jaipuria Hospital and Kiranpath based Urban Primary Health Centre.

# Tribal students protest in front of minister's bungalow

**They were demanding release of pending payment of Veer Narayan Singh Martyrs' Day function**

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Angry over delay in release of outstanding payment of Veer Narayan Singh Martyr's day function, students of tribal hostel, Pension Bada in the state capital on Saturday gheraoed tribal welfare minister Preme Sai Singh's bungalow. However, the minister himself came out and pacified the students by instructing the concerned officials for immediate release of pending payment.

Assistant Commissioner Tribal Welfare P.R. Paraste after getting the news of the siege rushed to the

minister's bungalow and assured the students that the pending payment would be released on Monday.

A leader of Tribal students Yogesh Thakur informed that despite assurance of the minister two months ago, the payment of a function which was organised in December 18 was pending till date. The outstanding amount is Rs 6.38 lakh, he informed.

The students' leader further warned that they will be compelled to go for an indefinite agitation from Tuesday in case the payment was not released on Monday.

# Quality circle convention held at Sipat



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Project-level quality circle convention held at Sipat on August 23. In this convention 14 quality circle teams from different departments highlighted problems they faced while delivering their official duty and revealed how they resolved them.

Based on the presentation, team Nidan was adjudged as the winner of the project-level quality circle convention and team Jigyasa and Udan was the first and second runner up respectively.

Padmakumar Rajasekharan, CGM (NTPC-Sipat), Anil Kumar Choudhury, GM (O&M), JSS Murty, GM (Maintenance),

Sampat Kumar Ramu, AGM (FQA & BE), NK Detha, External Assessor and AK Coube, AGM (TAD) presented trophy and certificates to the winners.

In his address Padmakumar congratulated the winners and all participants for finding solution to problems by themselves in a very innovative way.

# Chakradhar Samaroh 2019 to be held at 'Ramleela Maidan'

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

In a unanimous decision Raigarh residents and media representatives decided to host annual Chakradhar Samaroh at Ramleela Maidan, Raigarh.

In a meeting held in presence of Raigarh Collector Yashwant Kumar on Saturday, Raigarh MLA Prakash Nayak said it is a nation-wide renowned event but people are concerned that after holding the event the ground would become unsuitable for sporting activities.

Nayak assured to give financial assistance from his constituency MLA fund for developing the ground for sporting activities.

Collector Yashwant Kumar said as Governor, Chief Minister

and other dignitaries are likely to participate in the event along with nationally renowned artists, the ground is the best possible venue. The existing auditorium's technical structure is such that it cannot be temporarily expanded.

He assured that after the event, district administration will expedite the restoration of ground. Raigarh Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh said during cultural events law and order will have to be maintained as there will be rush of people at the venue.

Corporators and media personnel had raised concern that the ground would be damaged by hosting of the event.

Generally, the Chakradhar Samaroh is held during Ganesh Chaturthi period every year.

THE PIONEER INTERVIEW: KANWAR PAL GUJJAR

'Emphasis on redressing concerns of farmers, traders, youths in 5 yrs'

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

**Kanwar Pal Gujjar**, Speaker of the Haryana Legislative Assembly says all round development has been taken place at a rapid pace in five years of BJP-led government in the State with focus and emphasis on redressing concerns of all the sections of society. "The party will go to the people under the visionary leader Manohar Lal Khattar with only agenda of development in the upcoming Assembly election," he says.

Senior BJP leader and two-time Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Jagadhari Vidhan Sabha Constituency, Kanwar Pal was unanimously elected as a speaker of 13th Haryana assembly on November 3, 2014.

Cutting across party lines, Speaker Kanwar Pal was appreciated for his smooth conduct in the House by leaders of ruling and opposition parties on the last day of the Haryana Assembly session. Senior Congress leader and former speaker Raghuraj Singh Kadian said, "Speaker Kanwar Pal's conduct in all the Assembly sessions in five years was remarkable and appreciable. He was very humble and honest in his work during the session. He has given equal change to all legislators including opposition to raise public issues during session. New legislators were also given equal chance to raise public issues."

Kanwar Pal says that it was BJP's manifesto to scrap Article 370 and 35A in Jammu and Kashmir. Party got the majority at the Centre and Article 370 and 35A were

scrapped from Jammu and Kashmir. This decision was nothing to do with the Assembly election in Haryana and other states of the country.

Speaker has special love for children and always keens to promoter of education specially the girls. He always used to say that if girl gets education they will educate the two families (Her father and her in-laws families). He stress on quality education that can make the nation great and fulfill the requirement of our society.

In an exclusive interview with *The Pioneer*, Kanwar Pal reveals his political journey, his experience as a Speaker as well as his strategy for the upcoming Assembly polls. Excerpts from the interview:

**Have you been associated with RSS before joining BJP? When did you think of joining politics? How has been your political journey so far?**

Since school days, I was interested in politics. I was student leader and also contested election of students' union in Maharaja Aggarsain College, Jagadhri. I had done my graduation from Kurukshetra University. I was also a very keen sportsman in college days. I was elected as a president of students union in Maharaja Aggarsain College, Jagadhri.

Initially, my family was associated with Congress party. An incident changed my life forever. There was a programme of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) firebrand leader Sadhu Rithambara in my district Jagadhri in 1990 and I had attended her programme. Her

speech was patriotic and motivational. I got motivated from her speech and took membership of RSS and later joined BJP.

I was very much concern about farmers' distress and I also led agitation several times at various levels. Later I was elected as the president of Jagadhari district Kisan union.

In 1991, I contested the election first time as BJP candidate and lost the election by 4000 votes. In 1996, I again lost the election by 520 votes. But in 2000, I secured victory in Assembly election.

Haryana and Punjab have been fighting over water over many decades. He along six other BJP MLAs had resigned in 2004 after Punjab State Legislature brought the Punjab Termination Agreement Act scrapping all water-sharing agreements with neighbouring states including Haryana. In 2009, I lost the election. In 2014, I won the election by 40,000 votes from Jagadhari.

**How was your experience as a Speaker in Haryana Assembly?**

I express special thanks to Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar who had helped me in conducting the Assembly session smoothly. CM agreed whenever I told him to extend the sittings or timings of the Session. I tried my best to give equal opportunity to all the House members to raise public concerns in the assembly.

**Would you like to become Speaker of the Haryana Assembly again if BJP forms the next government in the State in 2019?**

I am sure and certain that



my party will form the government in the state with full majority. As a discipline member of the party, I will obey party's decision. Whatsoever responsibility will be given to me, I would execute the work with dedication and honesty.

**Being a Speaker and MLA of Jagadhari, how do you assess your five-year-old government under Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar?**

I have known CM Khattar for the last 25 years. When he was named in the race of CM

of Haryana in 2014, I had my own opinion and firm believe that he would be the best CM of the State. After becoming CM, he has shown his capability and dedication through public works in the last five years. Whosoever (may be the leaders of ruling party or opposition party), meet CM, he only talks about work. Genuine work put before him by leaders are addressed swiftly. He has capacity to work for the people through day and night. He is known for his quick and impartial decision making capability.

**BJP has set the target of 75+ for the upcoming assembly election-2019. How would you achieve it? Would you seek help of central leadership in the coming election?**

Unfortunately, opposition leaders are fighting themselves over leadership issue. Opposition parties are completely divided. It is not a healthy sign of democracy. Moreover, frustrated with this, many leaders of INLD, Independent and others have wished to work on BJP's agenda and later joined BJP. It is the responsibility of the opposition party to fight unitedly to give strong contest in the Assembly election. Moreover, our party has focused on development only in five years. We would definitely seek help of centre leadership. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is moving fast in all terms. Image of the country has enhanced at World level. Now world leaders are following India. Our party has set the target of winning 75+ seats in the upcoming election. I am confident of winning 75+ seats in the upcoming election.

**It is said that politics is a 24 hours job. Are you able to give sufficient time to your family?**

I regret that I have not given enough time to my family. It is true that politics is a 24 hours job. I have given maximum time to public life. I believe that if your intention is good and work unbiased, people will support you and send you in the Assembly.

**What are the works you have done for your constituency?**

To provide quality education to girl students, our government has given worth Rs three crore to Gujjar Kanya Vidya Mandir for its upgradation. I live with the people of the constituency and am always available for them. All round development has been taken place in my constituency.

**Are you satisfied with the works done by your government in five years?**

Yes, I am satisfied with works done by the BJP-led government in five years. Most of the Party's election manifesto of 2014 has been completed. Schemes like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' empowerment of panchayats finally, 'Padha Likha Panchayat' among others have been effectively executed. Issues which will be included BJP's vision document will also be implemented transparently and effectively after forming next government.

**Opposition parties say your government has failed to provide job to unemployed youth. Was the condition of farmers improved in five years?**

I will not comment on what opposition leaders say. The leaders of opposition parties are divided and are fighting themselves over leadership issue. They have failed to raise a single issue concerning to the people of the state. Moreover, if you study the data of the last five years then you will find that our government has succeeded in providing job to the youths. In com-

parison to previous government, the condition of farmers has improved in the state. Farmers are stress free and are receiving benefits from government welfare scheme.

89171 farmers filed their claims under the localised calamity of PMFBY during kharif 2017 to Kharif 2018. An amount of Rs 133.6 crore was settled as claim of 58463 farmers. The remaining applications were rejected as the reasons were not covered under the localized category for which they were staking their claim.

BJP has started a vision document drive. We will make Haryana exactly as the people of the state want. The vision document is a roadmap of the development for the next five years in the state. The objective of vision document was to seek suggestions from people about 'Hamare Sapna ka Haryana' which will be incorporated in the Vision. The party will prepare its manifesto for the assembly elections on the basis of people's expectations.

**You have directed four rebel MLAs of INLD to reply to their disqualification notice move by the party by August 20. When final decision will be taken?**

I have given sufficient time to the four rebel MLAs of INLD, named Naina Chautala from Dabwali, Anoop Dhanak from Uklana, Rajdeep Fogat from Dadri and Pirathi Singh Numberdar from Narwana and asked to reply to their disqualification notice move by the party. Decision under this issue will be taken soon. All have been asked to present at the hearing on August 27.

Jaitley's demise marks end of Delhi-4 clout...

From Page 1

A suave and modern face who won the saffron party new allies and remained a bridge between the so-called hard and soft ideologues, the late BJP leader never fancied himself to be charmed by the 'extreme-line' of politics in the BJP even as he took logical road to defend party's ideological convictions at all forum as its senior leader and main spokesperson.

Soon after party's defeat in 2004 when party held its National Executive in Mumbai with the talk of 'succession' in the air and party leaders articulating themselves as who would be Atal Bihari's 'Laxman' or 'Hanuman', Jaitley used to give a broad smile when asked as in what role he sees himself in the ongoing 'Ramayan' "I am not into it...", he said wryly with a smile on his face.

Despite being one of the most powerful decision maker in the BJP Governments, he was a happy and good natured man with nice manners. And he had a very good sense of humour that he would appreciate in others.

Jaitley, known for his deft strategic moves and ready articulation, all through his political journey tread a middle-path and as to his own admission was not a given to take "extreme positions" in political and ideological battles.

"I have friends in all political parties and have good relations with...", he said one of his umpteenth 'de-briefing-

gs' in his room number 27 at Parliament house where scribes would go to get the pulse of the government which was turning difficult to 'feel' with a kind of 'iron curtain' around the working of the party and government in the post-Vajpayee era.

Jaitley held his sway as party saw many ups and downs in its fortune, particularly after the surprise defeat at the hustings in 2004 and power struggle that followed with Narendra Modi seen to be the main challenger to the throne at Delhi. An experienced lawyer, the late leader, had by the time emerged as a close confidante and advisor to Modi and was one of the first to back his candidature as BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate.

His closeness to Modi was all too visible as he was given the key portfolio of finance minister along with that of the Defence, leaving the conjectures open whether he would be the number two after the Prime Minister or Rajnath Singh.

Last year, while releasing one of Jaitley's edited books at BJP headquarters, Amit Shah recollected party's struggle during the emergency days and in the process also pointed out that Jaitley was also arrested on June 10, 1976, and spent 19 months in Delhi's Tihar Jail.

Shah, however, digressed from the main topic and wondered as to how Jaitley gained weight during his incarceration in Tihar when other party leaders turned slim by shedding many kilos. As Shah looked at Jaitley, he demurely smiled and allowed everyone in the hall to have a good laugh at his expense. An affable man, more than a politician, gone too early.

Leaders throng ex-FM's residence to pay homage...

From Page 1

"Jaitley was one of the finest politicians in the country. He was a great human being and an excellent orator. I shared very good relations with him. Nothing will be able to make up for this loss. Delhi will miss him," Kejriwal said. Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari also paid homage to Jaitley. He said the nation has lost a great economist and an advocate. Jaitley had great affection for the people of Delhi. He had been guiding Delhi BJP from time to time."

A number of Delhi BJP leaders, party MPs Gautam Gambhir, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Parvash Sahib Singh Verma paid floral tributes to the senior BJP leader.

SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and his wife and Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal were also present at the former Union finance minister's residence.

Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee's foster daughter Namita Kaul also laid wreath on Jaitley's body.

Jaitley was a leader of both eras from former Prime Minister of India Ataj Bihari Vajpayi to Modi-Shah. Jaitley's demise is a huge loss for BJP leaders.

"In 1977, being the convener of the Loktantrik Yuva Morcha at a time when the Congress suffered a humiliating defeat in the General Elections, I (Jaitley) was appointed the president of the Delhi ABVP and All India Secretary of the ABVP. Later, I headed the youth wing of the BJP as its president," a few lines from Jaitley's blog quoted.

West Delhi MP Parvash Sahib Singh Verma said, "I cannot believe we have lost him. It is a massive loss to the nation and to me personally.

Amarinder seeks Punjab's inclusion in flood-hit States for Central grant

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday demanded immediate inclusion of Punjab among the states identified for on-the-spot assessment of the flood situation by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

The Centre has listed 11 states that for IMCT review of the flood damage but Punjab does not find mention in it, even though the state has witnessed large-scale flooding in many areas following unprecedented rains.

The Chief Minister expressed surprise over Punjab's non-inclusion, and has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to immediately rectify the situation.

"Surprised on the exclusion of Punjab from the list of States to be visited by the Inter-Ministerial Central Team to assess losses in flood-affected areas in different States. Request HM @AmitShah ji to direct the Central Team to visit Punjab to assess the huge losses," Capt Amarinder tweeted.

The IMCT was constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in pursuance of a decision taken at a high level committee meeting on August 19. The committee had decided to break away from the past practice of waiting for the affected state to submit a memorandum seeking central assistance.

The IMCT has been mandated to visit the flood affected states of Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Uttarakhand,



Himachal Pradesh, Gujrat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala, for making final recommendations to the Central Government for allocation of flood assistance to the flood ravaged states.

Capt Amarinder pointed out that he had already written to the Prime Minister to seek a special flood relief package of Rs 1000 crore to address the losses resulting from floods in Punjab. It is estimated, as per initial calculations, that the state has suffered damage worth Rs 1700 crore due to the floods.

It may be recalled that flooding in river Sutlej due to the discharge of water from Bhakra Dam, the heaviest since 1988, had caused extensive damage to the standing crops and inundation of residential areas in the villages.

MINISTERS SUPERVISE RELIEF AND RESCUE

In the wake of flood in Doaba and Malwa, Punjab Ministers as well as the Speaker of Punjab Vidhan Sabha visited the affected areas on Saturday to supervise the relief work.

Rural Development and Panchayats Minister, Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Health Minister, Balbir Singh Sidhu, Water Resources Minister, Sukhbir Singh Sarkaria, Revenue Minister Gurpreet Singh Kangar, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu as well as Speaker Punjab Vidhan Sabha Rana KP Singh spent the entire day overseeing the relief and rescue operations.

The Health Minister visited Medical Camps at various places in Kapurthala and Jalandhar including worst affected Lohian area.

PM Modi's global outreach holds key...

From Page 1

Without being explicit, he sought an unspoken alliance between the jihadis, the Islamists and the Muslim nationalists on the one hand and the human rights industry, the wet liberals and the campus radicals looking for a cause. Above all, he sought to draw in anyone who was pathological-ly opposed to the Modi Government. All these divergent strands would be united in a grand alliance to undermine the moral backbone of Indian democracy. Meanwhile, presumably, the ISI would continue its covert backing of terrorism all over India, and not merely in the Kashmir Valley.

It is astonishing that this speech of Imran Khan — which no doubt has the endorsement of the 'deep' Pakistan state — hasn't received greater attention in India. It is by far the most explicit elaboration of how Pakistan, from a position of weakness, is seeking to regain the upper hand. I know it is thought to be crude to join the shrill nationalist out-

INDIA'S LIBERALS THINK THEY ARE VIRTUOUS AND BRAVE BY RESISTING THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY

Study finds Haryana jails overcrowded flags problems faced by women inmates

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

A study has found that 11 of the 19 prisons in Haryana are overcrowded, with the Rewari district jail coping with nearly twice the number of inmates it should hold.

The study by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) under the aegis of Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA) also flagged problems faced by women prisoners, including "humiliation" during search operations.

However, it made clear the state's prisons were not the "dingy, dirty and dilapidated hell-holes".

It found basic infrastructure, maintenance and cleanliness in place. The study, 'Inside Haryana Prisons', found that overcrowding ranged from 22.8 per cent in the Panipat jail to 170 per cent in the Rewari prison.

The team interviewed 475 prisoners, representatives of legal services institutions and prison officials between December 2017 and May 2018 for the study.

Ninety-three of the prisoners interviewed were women, 192 undertrials, 122 male convicts, 39 juveniles and 29 foreign nationals.

The state has 19,000 inmates in 19 jails, including three central prisons — one in Ambala and two in Hisar.

The other 16 are district jails. The team inspected all of them. It found overcrowding at Ambala and Hisar (I), Rewari, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Sirsa, Jind, Panipat,

Narnaul and Bhiwani prisons.

The study said there were no guidelines in place to safeguard the dignity of prisoners during body searches.

In one of the prisons, some women inmates told the team about their discomfort during surprise checks conducted to seize contraband and mobile phones.

It said prisoners from the Gurugram jail complained to the team about the "humiliation" they suffered during one such operation.

"They said in November 2017, they were strip searched by women constables in a humiliating and harsh manner as part of an operation for the recovery of mobile phones and contraband."

"Several women cry a lot after such a humiliation," an inmate told the team.

The team found staff shortages. According to the data from 18 jails, there was an overall vacancy of 20 per cent against 3,193 sanctioned posts.

There is no exclusive prison for women in Haryana.

Of the 19 prisons, only 15 had women enclosures with 659 women inmates lodged there as of December 2017.

Their wards, toilets and barracks were found to be clean and spacious, but there was no permanent woman doctor in any of the prisons.

The women largely depended on medical examination by male doctors, with whom they were not always comfortable, especially with regard to reproductive or

menstrual health issues. Except the Karnal district jail, all jails provided sanitary napkins to women. "In the Karnal jail, women had to buy sanitary pads from the canteen," the study said.

Visitors who do not have Aadhaar cards cannot meet their relatives lodged in jail as the card has been made mandatory for their identification, the study said.

Consular access to foreign nationals is also an issue. The report said of the 48 foreign nationals in 10 prisons who are predominantly from Bangladesh, Nepal and African countries, only six were provided with consular access. Only 20 in five jails were in contact with their families.

"Despite the prison inmate calling system (PICS), they are not permitted to make international calls to their relatives," it said. Some of the foreign nationals also complained of discrimination and racism at the hands of other prisoners.

On a positive note, it found, "Prisons are not the dingy, dirty, dilapidated hell-holes that one might visualise them to be."

"The team found sound infrastructure, regular maintenance and basic cleanliness almost everywhere. They also found no complaints of sub-standard conditions or unhygienic food during our interactions with the prisoners," the study said.

"Infrastructure in all jails was adequate with no dilapidated or ill-maintained buildings found during the inspections. However, we did find deficiencies in the management structure within these buildings," it said.

BJP loses key strategist...

From Page 1

His death is another jolt to the BJP after the demise of Sushma Swaraj, a contemporary of Jaitley and one of its prominent faces, on August 6. Party leaders mourned Jaitley's loss, remembering him as a dear colleague, mentor and guide and hailing his contribution to the growth of the party and the nation.

Jaitley, an urbane and media-savvy leader and a legal luminary, was one of the sharpest political minds not only within the BJP but also in the larger political spectrum where he made lifelong allies cutting across the ideological divide. Paying homage to Jaitley, Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and other Opposition leaders said his contribution to public life will be remembered forever.

A gifted raconteur whose interest spanned from politics to Bollywood to sports, his informal gatherings were always a full house as journalists, friends and politicians enjoyed his wit, sarcasm -- which singed his colleagues and adversaries alike -- and grasp of issues that he delivered in his ever relaxed and warm demeanour.

Jaitley was the bridge that

the BJP used to win over new allies, and also its warm, affable and persuasive face to bring Opposition parties around on key issues. JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was his personal friend for decades after he played a key role in ensuring that he is projected as the chief ministerial candidate of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

Jaitley had undergone a renal transplant on May 14 last year at AIIMS, and his health condition gradually worsened, forcing him to take frequent breaks from his work. He was also diagnosed with soft tissue cancer. He opted out of the second term of the BJP-led NDA Government as Modi led the saffron party to a landslide win in May this year.

Jaitley, who had lost the 2014 general elections, did not contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, because of his ill-health. He was serving his fourth straight term in the Rajya Sabha, where he entered in 2000 and went on to become the Leader of the Opposition and then the Leader of the House as the BJP came to power in 2014.

He stopped attending office since early April last year, but was back in the Finance Ministry on August 23, 2018. In September 2014, he had undergone bariatric surgery to shed weight he had gained because of a chronic diabetic condition.

# Leaders across party lines pay tributes to Jaitley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Transcending ideological divide, top leaders from the political spectrum paid rich tributes to former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley who died at the AIIMS here on Saturday. The senior BJP leader breathed his last at AIIMS, where he was admitted on August 9 and was treated by a multidisciplinary team of senior officers. He was 66.

In his condolence message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he has lost a valued friend, whom he had known for decades. "His insight on issues and nuanced understanding of matters had very few parallels. He lived well, leaving us all with innumerable happy memories. We will miss him!" Modi said in a series of tweets.

Stating that Jaitley and the BJP had an unbreakable bond, Modi said "As a fiery student leader, he was at forefront of protecting our democracy during the Emergency. He became a much liked face of our Party, who could articulate the Party programmes and ideology to a wide spectrum of society."

President Ram Nath Kovind also condoled the death and said he was extremely saddened. "A brilliant lawyer, a seasoned parliamentarian, and a distinguished Minister, he contributed immensely to nation building," the President said.

"Shri Arun Jaitley possessed a unique ability of discharging the most onerous responsibility with poise, passion and studied understanding. His passing leaves a huge void in our public life and our intellectual ecosystem. Condolences to his family and associates," Kovind said.



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad consoles family members of former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at Greater Kailash in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

Stating that Jaitley as "a long time dear friend and one of my closest associates", Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said he was deeply shocked to learn about his demise. "His death is an irreparable loss to the nation and a personal loss to me. I have no words to express my grief," he said.

BJP chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Jaitley's death was a personal loss for him. "I am deeply saddened by the death of Arun Jaitley. His untimely demise is a personal loss for me. I have lost not only a senior leader of the organization but also an integral member of the family whose support and guidance I have been receiving for years," Shah tweeted.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "Jaitleyji will always be remembered for pulling the economy out of the gloom and putting it back on the right track. The BJP will miss Arunji's presence. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family."

BJP veteran L K Advani fondly remembered Jaitley as a man with a deeply analytical mind who the party depended on for finding solutions to complex issues. "A dedicated party worker for decades, he was someone who was inducted into the BJP core team when I was Party President and he soon rose to become one of the most prominent leaders of the party," Advani said in a statement.

BJP's working president JP Nadda recalled Jaitley's fiery speeches in Parliament and said that the senior leader's smiling face as he dealt with tough situations will always remain with the party.

"His beliefs will always be our guide. The demise of Arun Jaitley has created a vacuum in Indian politics which can never be filled. With responsibilities of both the party and the government, Arunji has always been dedicated to the service of the nation. Be it strengthening the Indian economy or its defence, his role in placing India in the front row in the world is incomparable," said Nadda.

BJP ally and Union minister Ramvilas Paswan remem-

bered him as one of the tallest leaders and also a fine human being. Jaitley was also a reliable troubleshooter for the BJP, he said, recalling his contribution during the first BJP-led NDA government headed by Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Congress said, "We are deeply saddened to hear the passing of Shri Arun Jaitley. Our condolences to his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this time of grief. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described him as an eminent lawyer, an excellent orator, a very good administrator and an outstanding parliamentarian."

Congress President Sonia Gandhi expressed deep pain

## Legal experts condole demise, call BJP leader crusader

New Delhi: Eminent jurists on Saturday said that with the passing away of senior BJP leader Arun Jaitley, the country has lost a legal luminary, an outstanding politician and a crusader who came to the help of all and never succumbed to any provocations.

Former solicitor general Ranjit Kumar and senior advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and Ajit Sinha described him as a person without any "malice" and a man with "intelligent brain".

"He never used to get angry whatsoever by the provocation," Kumar, who had worked closely with Jaitley, told PTI.

While Dwivedi said the former Union minister was an "eminent lawyer", Sinha said he always worked for the "welfare and upliftment of the bar". Jaitley, who was a senior advocate, had a thumping practice as a lawyer in the courts, especially Delhi High Court, before he was made minister in the BJP government. Kumar said that Jaitley's demise is "a great loss to the nation and a most outstanding person one can think of has passed away".

He said that Jaitley was a person without any malice and was available for everyone without any discrimination and whosoever reached out to him was heard.

"First of all, Arun Jaitley was a good friend

of mine and he was an eminent lawyer as long as he was practising both in the Supreme Court and the high court," Dwivedi said, adding, "he had the intelligent brain and was an articulate speaker".

He said usually people can think but cannot articulate. However, Jaitley who was very soft spoken and friendly had a "rare combination" of both, he added. Sinha, who is also a former high court judge, described Jaitley as a "crusader" who was first in the family to become a legal luminary.

Apart from that, Jaitley always worked for the welfare and upliftment of the bar and was ready to help those who use to come before him for genuine cause, Sinha said.

"He was an excellent thinker, orator, strategist and was the think-tank of the BJP government," Sinha said, adding that Jaitley used to keep the choicest watches and pens.

Dwivedi said that Jaitley was one of the finest finance ministers ever.

"We have lost a good friend, a good lawyer and good politician," he said, adding, "The government will be missing him because he was an important speaker. Though the prime minister and other important ministers like home ministers are themselves good speakers, but Arun Jaitley had his own place".

PTI

## Soli Sorabjee remembers Jaitley as easily accessible lawyer, Minister

New Delhi: Former attorney general Soli Sorabjee on Saturday mourned the death of former Union minister Arun Jaitley, and described him as a very honourable as well as easily accessible lawyer and minister.

Sorabjee, a senior advocate, remembered Jaitley as a rare kind of politician who was a combination of integrity and ability.

"He always thought of consensus and made efforts to win over the people across the spectrum. He was a rare kind of politician. He never had any bitterness for anybody," Sorabjee said.

Jaitley, who was a senior advocate, had a thumping practice as a lawyer in the courts, especially the Delhi High Court, before he was made minister in the BJP government.

## Rupani lauds people of Gujarat for relief efforts in Bihar floods

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has lauded the efforts of the people of the State in contributing towards flood relief in Bihar led by a team of social workers Rishikesh Singh and Rampal under the banner of Bihar Flood Relief Material Committee.

In his appreciation note issued on Wednesday, Rupani said, "Flood has affected many areas of Bihar rendering a number of them homeless. In this difficult hour, items like clothing, food materials and other household items have been dispatched from Gujarat to Bihar," Rupani said, adding charity is a noble cause of humanity.

A train wagon load (25 tonnes) of relief material comprising rice flakes, jiggery, biscuits, water bottles garments,

sarees, rice, pulses, candles, packaged milk, medicines and sanitary napkins were collected from donors and dispatched from Ahmedabad to Darbhanga earlier this month.

The reserved railway wagon was flagged off by Ahmedabad District Collector Vikrant Pandey.

Apart from contributions from private individuals and entities especially Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Gandhinagar, a number of bureaucrats serving in Gujarat and Delhi also contributed with relief materials, said Convener of Bihar Flood Relief Material Committee Rishikesh Singh. Voluntary organizations like Saral Foundation and Chinmaya Welfare Trust also contributed in the welfare initiative where contribution was only received in kind and not money, Singh added.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and other dignitaries pose for a photograph after paying tribute to the former Lok Sabha speaker Balram Jakhar on his birth anniversary at Parliament House in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

## People in Gujarat villages adopted by Jaitley mourn his death

Vadodara: People of a group of villages in Dabhoi taluka of Vadodara district on Saturday mourned the demise of BJP leader Arun Jaitley by downing shutters of shops and holding condolence meetings.

Jaitley, a three time Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat, had adopted Karnali, Pipaliya, Vadia and Baglipura, all part of Karnali group panchayat, in December 2014 under the Centre's Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Jaitley died at AIIMS in Delhi on Saturday afternoon after prolonged illness. He was 66.

"People of Karnali and Pipaliya, Vadia and Baglipura expressed grief by closing shops and attending condolence meetings. Jaitley had rolled out a plan to modernise Karnali village, situated on the banks of Narmada river," Rajni Pandya, chief priest of a famous Lord Shiva temple here told PTI.

"Jaitley helped develop various facilities in Karnali where lakhs of Lord Shiva devotees visit the Kuber Bhandari temple every year," Pandya said.

Jaitley had spent a day in his adopted village on June 1, 2015, and had also laid the foundation stone of a water tank and modern post office.

## OFB workers call off nation-wide strike

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/PTI ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The nation-wide strike by more than one lakh workers of 41 Ordnance Factories all over the country against proposed corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was called off on Saturday after the Government assured that no final decision was taken on the matter. The production is likely to resume from Monday after the strike began on August 20.

Giving this information here on Saturday, defence ministry officials said the agitation was called off following talks with representatives of four recognized unions on Friday. While reaffirming that the proposed corporatisation of OFB is under examination of the Government, Secretary, Defence Production listened to the concerns expressed by the Employees Federations regarding how the benefits/interests of employees in terms of wages, health facilities and other service matters may be affected due to corporatisation of OFB.

The Employees Federations inter-alia suggested that their views should be considered while preparing the roadmap for increasing the turnover of the proposed entity from the current levels. After detailed deliberations, it was agreed to recommend to the government, the setting up

**Defence production at the ordnance factories was affected with the 82,000-strong work force going on a strike from August 20 to protest the Centre's plan to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board**

of a high level official committee to interact with employees federations to examine their concerns and other aspects of the proposed new entity. The Federations on their part have agreed to withdraw the ongoing strike and continue with the process of dialogue. With this, employees will now be resuming their duties with effect from Monday, officials said.

A joint statement by the three recognised federations said they have taken a decision to "postpone" the ongoing strike from Monday (August 26), claiming that they have been assured by the government that no final decision has been taken to corporatise the ordnance factories, reported PTI from Kolkata.

The three recognized federations are All India Defence Employees Federation, the Indian National Defence Workers Federation and the Bharathiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh.

They claimed that they decided to postpone the ongoing strike, "considering the statement made by the Secretary, Defence Production,

such plans.

Continuing the process of dialogue which had started from 14 August 2019, the fourth meeting was held yesterday with the office bearers of AIDF, INDWF, BPMS and CDRA under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DDP. While reaffirming that the proposed corporatisation of OFB is under examination of the Government, Secretary, DDP patiently listened to the concerns expressed by the Employees Federations regarding how the benefits/interests of employees in terms of wages, health facilities and other service matters may be affected due to corporatisation of OFB. The Employees Federations inter-alia suggested that their views should be considered while preparing the roadmap for increasing the turnover of the proposed entity from the current levels. After detailed deliberations, it was agreed to recommend to the Government, the setting up of a High Level Official Committee to interact with Employees Federations to examine their concerns and other aspects of the proposed new entity. The Federations on their part have agreed to withdraw the ongoing strike and continue with the process of dialogue. With this, employees will now be resuming their duties with effect from Monday, 26th August, 2019.

Defence production at the ordnance factories, which manufacture sophisticated weapons and equipments from tanks and artillery guns to specialised vehicles and ammunition, was affected with the 82,000-strong work force going on a strike from August 20 to protest the Centre's plan to corporatise the Ordnance Factory Board.

The unions claimed that the government's motive was to ultimately privatise the defence production facilities of OFB, which is under the Defence ministry, while the government asserted that it has no

## ISI likely to recruit J&K youths for suicide bombings via internet

**Pak's intel agency already has gained expertise in hoodwinking a number of security forces' personnel through honey trapping**

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Amid a strong security grid and controlled communications network in Jammu and Kashmir post-abrogation of Article 370, Pakistan's covert agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) is likely to exploit the services of online terror motivators to radicalize and recruit gullible youth for suicide bombings in the Indian hinterland and the Valley.

With the recent scrapping of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir State into two Union Territories and a significant presence of security forces on the ground in the Valley, the Pakistan-sponsored terror groups are rattled according to Intelligence chatters and unwilling to cross over into the Indian side as of now, sources said.

According to the inputs, a number of Pakistani terror cadres are reluctant in entering the Valley to carry out subversive activities and been articu-

lating that the so called jihad is a responsibility of the Kashmiris themselves.

In this backdrop, ISI could resort to online radicalization of people in the Indian hinterland amid a lockdown in the Valley. When the telecommunication and Internet restrictions are eased in Jammu and Kashmir in due course, the ISI would seek radicalization and recruitment of youth in the Valley to carry out terror attacks to register Pakistan's presence in Kashmir post scrapping of Article 370.

The ISI has been working 24 x 7 to gather content to malign India and Indian security forces by falsely projecting and propagating that normal law and order duties by the security forces in the Valley as excesses against the Kashmiris.

The ISI has already gathered data through social media platforms wherein a number of citizens have expressed their views against the scrapping of Article 370 and the restrictions on telecommunication networks in Jammu and Kashmir.

ISI already has gained expertise in hoodwinking a number of security forces' personnel through honey trapping initiatives to gather Intelligence.

"The ISI would now trans-

fer the knowhow to exploit the social media platforms and one to one communication apps like WhatsApp and Messenger to the terror groups for radicalizing and recruiting people in the Indian mainland as well as in Jammu and Kashmir," an official said, adding that recruiting people through online mode in the Valley is relatively easy as a section of the population is already radicalized due to the propaganda of terror banned groups like JKLF as also from the Hurriyat.

Since physical entry of terror recruiters is virtually next to impossible in J&K in the wake of strengthened security apparatus, the ISI is most likely to exploit the technological tools to further its terror agenda in the Valley. Such a shift in terror tactic by the Pakistani forces is also likely as Islamabad has been squeezed in terms of operational manoeuvrability after scrapping of the special status in the border State that has been victim of the arc of terror attacks for the last three decades by the Pakistani ISI-Army combine, said a counter-terrorism expert and added that the telecom restrictions should continue for some time till the time J&K police and counterparts in other States are fully geared to monitor the social media platforms.

# PM Modi launches RuPay card in UAE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi walks with Khaldoon Khalifa al-Mubarak, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Executive Affairs Authority, after arriving in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Friday.

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the RuPay card here, making the UAE the first country in the Middle East to launch the Indian indigenous system of electronic payment.

RuPay card scheme was launched in 2012 to fulfil the Reserve Bank of India's vision to have a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments. RuPay facilitates electronic payment at all Indian banks and financial institutions.

India has already launched the RuPay card in Singapore and Bhutan.

"Bringing economies of India & UAE together

@RuPay\_npc card was officially launched in UAE in presence of PM @narendramodi. UAE is the first country in the Gulf where Indian RuPay card has been launched.

Many business groups from the UAE have pledged to accept RuPay payment," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Earlier this week, Navdeep Singh Suri, the Indian Ambassador to the UAE, said, "The UAE is the largest and most vibrant business hub in the region. It hosts the largest Indian community, receives the largest number of Indian tourists and has the largest trade with India. By becoming the first country in the region to introduce the RuPay card, we

expect that each of these elements of tourism, trade and the Indian diaspora will benefit."

The India-UAE bilateral trade touched almost USD 60 billion in 2018 with a fairly balanced profile of about USD 30 billion of exports and USD 30 billion of imports.

There has also been a sizeable inflow of investment from India to the UAE in free zones like Jebel Ali in Dubai, Hamriyah free in Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah and also in sectors ranging from manufacturing and real estate to trade and services.

Modi reached UAE capital Abu Dhabi from Paris on Friday on the second leg of his three-nation tour to France, UAE and Bahrain.

# Over 100 investors consultations on proposed RCEP: Comm Ministry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Commerce Ministry on Saturday said over 100 stakeholder consultations have been held on the mega free trade agreement RCEP in the last 6 years.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement being negotiated by 16 countries.

The members include ten member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam - and China, Japan, India, South

Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

"More than 100 stakeholders' consultations have been held by the Department of Commerce and other lead ministries and departments seeking industry inputs for formulating India's interests, covering a wide spectrum of the economy including agri, chemicals, petrochemicals, pharma, plastics, textiles, metals, auto and machinery," it said in a statement.

The Department of Commerce also received industry feedback in the area of rules of origin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), antidumping, countervailing duties, safeguards mea-

asures and Intellectual Property Rights as well, it said.

Further, several industry consultations were also organised by Ficci, PHD Chamber of Commerce and CII.

Recognising the importance of states, the commerce secretary has led delegations to various states and held regular engagements with Chief Secretaries and officials on the various aspects of RCEP to make them aware of the developments.

In the various working groups/ sub-working groups, senior representatives of other departments have been leading the negotiations such as Revenue, Central Board for Indirect Taxes and Customs, Economic Affairs, Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology, Financial Services, and Telecommunication.

RCEP negotiations began in November 2012, in Cambodia. The meetings are held at various levels - Prime Minister of India participates in the RCEP Summits, while Commerce and Industry Minister leads the Indian delegation at the RCEP Ministerial Meetings, it said.

Besides, the commerce ministry has entrusted three autonomous think tanks - Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), IIM Bangalore and Centre for Regional Trade (CRT), New Delhi for making independent studies on RCEP with exhaus-

ive consultations with stakeholders across the country.

In 2017, prospective RCEP member states accounted for a population of 3.4 billion with a Gross Domestic Product (at PPP) of USD 49.5 trillion, about 39 per cent of the world's GDP, with the combined GDPs of India and China making up more than half that amount, it added.

"RCEP is the world's largest economic bloc, covering nearly half of the global economy and is estimated that by 2050 the GDP of RCEP member states is likely to amount to nearly USD 250 trillion with the combined GDPs of India and China making up more than 75 per cent of the amount," it said.

# Unlocking entrepreneurial energy for growth: RBI Gov

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

The RBI will continue to unlock entrepreneurial energies and set the country firmly on track to become \$5 trillion economy in the next five years, Governor Shaktikanta Das said in here on Friday.

The RBI chief said the slight slowdown in the last quarter was a temporary one and the economy is likely to end the fiscal with higher growth rate of close to 7 per cent.

"The policy focus will continue to be on unlocking...Entrepreneurial energies and set India firmly on the trajectory towards its aspirations of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy within the next five years," he said at a dialogue with Indian business community.

As the financial sector repairs and emerge out of the

balance sheet stress, a speedy revival of demand in the economy assumes vital importance in order to reinvigorate, he told over 200 business executives from leading corporations.

"Stimulating demand is currently the overriding priority of both the Government and RBI (Reserve Bank of India)."

"Some structural reforms are also required, and I am happy to note that some structural reforms are on the anvil," Das said.

He noted that with the budget for the remaining part of the fiscal announced, government spending would see a boost, which will have salutary impact on the economy.

Das was on a two-day visit to Singapore during which he met Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, and his counterpart Monetary Authority of Singapore Managing Director Ravi Menon. He also met top

leaders of financial sector and global financial companies.

In India, the household savings are the principle livable resources in the economy, said Das, pointing out that of the total household savings of 17.2 per cent of GDP in 2017-18, only 6.6 per cent were in the form of net financial savings.

"Greater financializing of the savings can increase the pool of domestic resources and it can substantially ease financial pressure on the balance of payment of the country," he said.

The financial system, comprising institutions and markets, has a key role in bringing these resources towards the productive sector, he pointed out.

Elaborating on the RBI's 35 bps repo rate cut on August 7, he said the banks have reduced lending rates for new loans by about 29 bps as a follow up since then.

# No enhanced surcharge on FPIs for capital gains in equities, derivatives: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday clarified that enhanced surcharge has been withdrawn for foreign portfolio investors on capital gains in both the equity and derivatives segments.

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

The derivatives (futures and options) are not treated as capital asset and the income arising from the transfer of the derivatives is treated as business income and liable for normal rate of tax for domestic investors, an official statement said on Saturday, clarifying the stand of tax authorities on gains made from derivatives trading.

However, in the case of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), derivatives are treated as capital assets and the gains arising from the transfer of the same is treated as capital gains and subjected to a special rate of tax as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

"Therefore, it is also decided that the tax payable on gains arising from the transfer

of derivatives (Future & options) by FPI which are liable to special rate of tax under section 115AD of the (Income Tax) Act shall also be exempted from the levy of the enhanced surcharge," it said.

However, the tax payable at normal rate on business income arising from the transfer of derivatives to a person other than FPI shall be liable for the enhanced surcharge, it added.

In the 2019-20 Budget, the government had increased surcharge from 15 per cent to 25 per cent on taxable income between ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore, and from 15 per cent to 37 per cent for income above ₹5 crore.

Following the increase in surcharge, the effective income tax rate for individuals with taxable income of Rs 2-5 crore has gone up to 39 per cent from 35.88 per cent and for those above Rs 5 crore to 42.7 per cent.

The Government on Friday had announced a raft of measures to revive growth momentum, including exemption of startups from 'angel tax', a package to address distress in the auto sector and upfront infusion of ₹70,000 crore to public sector banks.

### UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found unconscious in front of main gate of Acharya Bhikshu Hospital, Moti Nagar, in the area of P. S. Moti Nagar, Delhi, during treatment doctors declared him dead and his body is preserved in Din Dayal Hospital, Hari Nagar mortuary. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 56-A, dated 22.08.2019** at P. S. Moti Nagar, Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- **Age: 35 years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'8", Hair: Black, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Colour T-Shirt, Black colour lower and bare footed.** If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

**SHO**  
**R.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi**  
**DP/8385/Wd/19 Ph: 011-25101150, 8750871125**

### Naresh Goyal created tax evading schemes: ED

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday alleged Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal "structured" a number of tax evading schemes and siphoned off huge funds in foreign jurisdictions.

The federal probe agency had carried out searches on Friday at a dozen locations of Goyal, his firms and partner agencies in Mumbai and Delhi on charges of alleged contravention of the foreign exchange law.

"The search resulted in the seizure of various incriminating documents and digital evidences. Further investigation and analysis of the seized documents is going on," the agency said in a statement.

It said preliminary probe "indicates that Goyal structured various tax evading schemes involving his domestic and foreign companies, thereby siphoning off huge amount in foreign jurisdictions through dubious or fictitious transactions."

The ED said Goyal "indirectly" controls various entities

abroad, some of which are in tax haven nations.

"Fictitious and inflated payments appear to have been made to some of these foreign entities under various airline lease agreements, aircraft maintenance agreements, among others."

"Huge amounts appear to have been sent abroad by way of inflated commission to its own group entity in Dubai which acted as airline's exclusive overseas general sales agent (GSA)," the ED alleged.

The agency said probe indi-

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### E-TENDER NOTICE

MSETCL SRM invites online RfX (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.

1] E-tender No./ RfX No. 7000013732 Name of Work "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of New C&R Panels and 22 kV GIS bays in New Control room along with dismantling of 22 kV AIS bays at 100/22 kV Vasai Sub-Station under EHV O&M Circle, Kalwa." Estimated Cost : Rs. 15,14,04,518.00, Tender Fees : Rs. 25,000/-+ GST.

The online tender sale and submission date is from 27.08.2019 @ 10:00 Hrs. to 11.09.2019 @ 11:00 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: <https://srmetender.mahatransco.in>. Also, the further notice regarding extension or amendment etc regarding the RfX number as above will be available at <https://mahatransco.in>

Sd/-  
(Jagannath G. Chude)  
**CHIEF ENGINEER (I/C),**  
EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Vashi

DGIPR/2019/2020/2221

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#### COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT OF MULTI SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER

Dy. CSTE/M, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tender against Open Tender due to open on **27.09.2019** at 15.30 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Elydne supplied Thales make Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) installed at stations of Metro Railway, Kolkata by OEM/Authorized dealers for 3 years. **Tender value:** ₹ 2,03,30,436/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,51,700/- **Cost of Tender Document:** ₹ 10,000/- **Completion Period :** 36 (Thirty six) months. The Tender can be viewed at website <https://www.irps.gov.in> The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender. **Tender Notice No.:** S&T/Work\_20-2019 **Dated:** 22.08.2019

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#### Tender Notice

The office of Executive Engineer (Test), MB-II, Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisaur (Uttarakashi) invites sealed tenders from interested firms for following work:

**NIT No.- 01/EE(TEST)/MB-II/19-20 :** Procurement & Application of Insulation Epoxy Coating & Anti-Acid Coating at Dharasu Power House (MB-II), Chinyalisaur.

**NIT No.- 02/EE(TEST)/MB-II/19-20 :** Up Keeping and Maintenance of GM(BV)/DGM(HGC) Offices, Officers Club, JE Club and 11kv/0.4kv Substation in Shakipuram Colony, Chinyalisaur.

**Estimate Cost :** Rs. 7,59,150/- + GST extra & Rs. 4,93,000/- + GST extra respectively.

**Earnest Money :** Rs. 22,800/- only & Rs. 19,750/- only respectively.

**Tender Document Fee :** Rs. 590/- only (Including GST) & Rs. 295/- only (including GST) respectively.

**Last date of downloading the tender :** 15-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs.

**Last date of submitting the tender :** 16-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs.

**Due date for opening the tender :** 18-09-2019 at 11:00 Hrs.

For eligibility criteria and fuller & further details kindly visit our website [www.uttarakhandjvalvidyut.com](http://www.uttarakhandjvalvidyut.com). Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for further details, subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc.

469/UJVNL/AdvT./Dated 24-08-2019 **Executive Engineer (Test)**  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

### Abolish income tax, hike FD interest, cut it on loans: Swamy

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

BJP MP Subramanian Swamy on Saturday batted for abolishing income tax, hiking interest rate on fixed deposits and lowering it on loans to spur economic growth.

"The main thing is that the income tax should be abolished. The rate on fixed deposits should be increased to nine per cent and the rate of interest on borrowings should be brought down to nine per cent as well. If these three steps are taken, things will improve," said Swamy, talking to reporters here.

He said he is also coming up next month with a book, suggesting steps to spur economic growth.

"A lot needs to be done for the economy. My book is coming out on September 5, in which I have explained what needs to be done," he added.

Swamy made the remarks when asked if the steps taken by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman would revive the growth.

In a bid to boost economy on a five-year low, the Centre on Friday announced a slew of measures, including the rollback of surcharge on foreign and domestic equity investors, a promise to review the super rich tax on high networth individuals, exempting startups from 'angel tax', a package to address distress in the auto sector and upfront infusion of ₹70,000 crore to public sector banks. To bolster consumption, the government has also persuaded banks to cut interest rates, a move that would lead to lower EMIs for home, auto and other loans.

### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

## ICICI Bank

ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra 390007  
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051  
Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, Videcon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi- 110055.

Whereas  
A housing loan facility was granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between ICICI Bank Limited ("Secured Creditor, which term shall include its successors and assigns) and the borrower & co-borrower, mentioned below ("Borrower(s)", which term shall include his/ its/ their respective (successors, assigns, heirs). The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Secured Creditor ("Authorized Officer") under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, ("Rules") has issued demand notices under Section 13(2) of the Act calling upon the borrowers / co borrowers mentioned below to repay the amount payable pursuant to the loan agreement and as specifically mentioned in the said respective demand notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrowers / co-borrower, having failed and neglected to repay the amount as claimed in the said demand notices, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules. The details including date of symbolic possession of the properties are as mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Joy Chatterjee/ Revati Iyer/ LBDEL0001532999	Flat No. 228, Dum Dum Park, Kolkata-700064, Kolkata/ August 21, 2019	January 31, 2012 Rs. 13,87,071/-	Delhi

The Borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers in particular and the public in general is/ are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Secured Property and any dealings with the Secured Property will be subject to the charge of the Secured Creditor for the amounts mentioned in the demand notices and further interest & cost thereon. Please note that no further notice will be issued.

Sd/-  
**Authorized Officer**  
**Secured Creditor**

Date: 23-08-2019  
Place: Delhi/ NCR

### WESTERN RAILWAY

#### CONSTRUCTION WORKS BETWEEN CHANDOD AND KEVADIA STATION

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodra-390 004, invites E-tender as per the details given below: 1. E-Tender No. Dy.CE/C/IBRC/DB-CDD-KEW/27, Name of the work: Construction of two Lane Road Over Bridges No. 37 (CH: 21803), 39 (CH: 23115) and 39 (CH: 30442) on village roads including approaches between Chandod station to Kevadia station in connection with "Dabholi-Chandod Gauge Conversion with extension upto Kevadia (49.75 Kms)". Approximate cost work: ₹2560.63 Lakhs. EMD: ₹14,30,400/-. 2. E-Tender No. Dy.CE/C/IBRC/DB-CDD-KEW/28, Name of the work: Construction of Four Lane Road Over Bridge No. 62 (CH: 31506) on State highways including approaches between Chandod station to Kevadia station in connection with "Dabholi-Chandod Gauge Conversion with extension upto Kevadia (49.75Kms)". Approximate cost work: ₹2188.98 Lakhs. EMD: ₹12,43,500/-. Availability of online Tender for bidding From 29.08.2019 at 11.00 Hrs. To 12.09.2019 up to 12.30 Hrs. Date of opening of Bids: 12.09.2019 at 12.30 Hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in). Manual offers will not be considered.

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### TEMPORARY CANCELLATION/DIVERSION/REGULATION OF TRAINS

In order to further strengthen the existing infrastructure, Northern Railway will undertake the Pre Non-Interlocking & Non-Interlocking work for provision of Electronic Interlocking and modification of Intermediate Block Signalling (IBS) at MILAK station on Shahjehanpur - Moradabad section. To execute this work a traffic block will be taken on 27 & 28.08.2019. Consequently the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
14257	Varanasi Jn. - New Delhi Kashi Vishwanath Express	27.08.2019
14258	New Delhi - Varanasi Jn. Kashi Vishwanath Express	28.08.2019

DIVERSION OF TRAIN		
Train No. & Train Name	Diverted Via	Dates (from originating station)
12204 Amritsar Jn. - Saharsa Jn. Garib Rath	Moradabad - Chandausi Jn. - Bareilly Cantt. - Shahjehanpur	28.08.2019

### REGULATION OF TRAINS

13151 Kolkata - Jammu Tawi Express will be regulated by 30 minutes en-route on 27.08.2019  
14618 Amritsar Jn. - Saharsa Jn. Jansewa Exp. will be regulated by 40 minutes en-route on 28.08.2019  
12392 New Delhi - Raigar Shramjevi Express will be regulated by 50 minutes en-route on 28.08.2019  
13258 Anand Vihar T. - Danapur Jan Sadharan Exp. will be regulated by 30 minutes en-route on 28.08.2019

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passenger Complaint Helpline No. 138

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# Bolsonaro sends army to fight Amazon fires

As EU threatens trade retaliation, the far-right leader announces he has authorised troops to help contain raging fires

AP ■ PORT VELHO (BRAZIL)

Under international pressure to contain fires sweeping parts of Brazil's Amazon, President Jair Bolsonaro has authorised use of the military to battle the huge blazes while thousands took to the streets to protest his environmental policies.

Brazilian forces will deploy starting Saturday to border areas, indigenous territories and other affected regions in the Amazon to assist in putting out fires for a month, according to a presidential decree authorising use of the Army on Friday.

The military will "act strongly" to control the wildfires, Bolsonaro promised as he signed the decree.

The armed forces will collaborate with public security and environmental protection agencies, the decree says.

"The protection of the forest is our duty," the President said.

"We are aware of that and will act to combat deforestation and criminal activities that put people at risk in the Amazon. We are a Government of zero tolerance for crime, and in the environmental field it will not be different."



Neri dos Santos Silva watches an encroaching fire threat after digging trenches to keep the flames from spreading to the farm he works on, in the Nova Santa Helena municipality, in the State of Mato Grosso, Brazil on Friday

Bolsonaro has previously described rainforest protections as an obstacle to Brazil's economic development, spurring with critics who note that the Amazon produces vast amounts of oxygen and is considered crucial for efforts to contain climate change.

As the president spoke, thousands of Brazilians

demonstrated in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and the capital of Brasilia demanding the government announce concrete actions to curb the fires. People also banged pots from their homes, a traditional mode of protest in South America.

An Associated Press journalist who travelled to the Amazon region Friday saw

many already deforested areas that had been burned.

Charred trees and fallen branches were seen around Porto Velho, the capital of Rondonia State, which borders Bolivia. In some instances, the burned fields were adjacent to intact livestock ranches and other farms, suggesting the fires had been managed as

part of a land-clearing policy.

A large column of smoke billowed from one fire, and smoke rose from a couple of nearby wooded areas. Life appeared normal in Porto Velho. However, visibility from the windows of an arriving airplane was poor because of smog enveloping the region.

Small numbers of demonstrators gathered outside Brazilian diplomatic missions in Paris, London, Geneva and Bogota, Colombia, to urge Brazil to do more to fight the fires. Larger protests were held in Uruguay and Argentina. Hundreds also protested in Chile, Ecuador and Peru.

Neighbouring Bolivia and Paraguay have also struggled to contain fires that swept through woods and fields, in many cases set to clear land for farming. About 7,500 square kilometers (2,900 square miles) of land has been affected in Bolivia, Defense Minister Javier Zavaleta said.

A B747-400 SuperTanker arrived in Bolivia and began flying over devastated areas to help put out the fires and protect forests. The US-based aircraft can carry nearly 76,000 liters (20,000 gallons) of retardant, a substance used to stop

Some 370 square kilometers (140 square miles) have burned in northern Paraguay, near the borders with Brazil and Bolivia, said Joaquin Roa, a Paraguayan state emergency official. He said the situation had stabilised.

Close to 20 per cent of the Amazon has already been deforested, said Thomas Lovejoy, a George Mason University environmental scientist. "I worry that the current deforestation will push past the tipping point leading to massive loss of forest and biodiversity," Lovejoy wrote in an email to *The Associated Press*. He said Brazil is "turning its back" on past environmental achievements, including the 1992 Earth Summit, and has proposed infrastructure projects that will accelerate the challenge of climate change.

"Fires are directly burning into the Amazon rainforest and that releases the carbon stored in those trees," said Doug Morton, a NASA scientist. "The carbon then enters the atmosphere as carbon dioxide or methane, where it contributes to the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change, bringing us a warmer and a drier planet."

Morton said there is now "an uptick in the pressure against the remaining Amazon forest, to expand agriculture production in areas that are the leading edge in the deforestation frontier." Fires are common in Brazil in the annual dry season, but they are much more widespread this year. Brazilian state experts reported nearly 77,000 wildfires across the country so far this year, up 85 per cent over the same period in 2018. Just over half of those fires have occurred in the Amazon region. Brazil contains about 60 per cent of the Amazon rainforest.

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that he spoke with Bolsonaro. "Our future Trade prospects are very exciting and our relationship is strong, perhaps stronger than ever before," Trump tweeted.

"I told him if the United States can help with the Amazon Rainforest fires, we stand ready to assist!" In escalating tension over the fires, France accused Bolsonaro of having lied to French leader Emmanuel Macron and threatened to block a European Union trade deal with several South American States, including Brazil. Ireland joined in the threat.

## GLOBE TROTTER

**TROPICAL STORM TRAPS 18 IN TAIWAN**  
Taipei (Taiwan): A landslide triggered by a tropical storm stranded 18 people in Taiwan on Saturday as the storm headed for China's southeastern coast.

**12 DEAD IN NIGER BOKO HARAM VILLAGE ATTACK**  
Niamey: A night raid blamed on Boko Haram has left a dozen villagers dead in southeastern Niger on the frontier with Nigeria, a local official said on Saturday.

**UK 'DISAPPOINTED' BY N KOREA MISSILE LAUNCH**  
London: Britain on Saturday said it was "disappointed" after North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea after vowing to remain the biggest "threat" to the United States.

**US, SE ASIA TO HOLD JOINT MARITIME DRILL**  
Bangkok: The US and 10 Southeast Asian States will hold their first-ever joint maritime exercises in September, aimed at preventing "wrongdoing" as Washington and Beijing jostle for influence in the region. Washington has traditionally been the dominant naval power in Southeast Asia and its re-engagement with the area comes as a deteriorating trade war with China threatens to engulf the global economy.

## Macron, Trump break ice with surprise pre-G7 lunch

AFP ■ BIARRITZ (FRANCE)

French President Emmanuel Macron hosted his US counterpart Donald Trump for a previously unscheduled lunch Saturday ahead of the official opening of the G7 summit in southwest France.

The two leaders sat on a terrace at the ornate Hotel du Palais in the Atlantic resort of Biarritz, the G7 venue, just a day after Trump reiterated his threat of tariffs against French wine in retaliation for a new tax on major US tech companies.

The surprise lunch appeared to be an attempt by Macron to get the summit off on a good footing after a tense build-up in which Trump and EU leaders traded threats of trade war.

Speaking to reporters in fluent English, Macron called Trump "a very special guest."

He said that they would be discussing a raft of pressing international issues, including the standoff with Iran over its alleged nuclear weapon ambitions, and stressed that "strong



US President Donald Trump sits for lunch with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Hotel du Palais in Biarritz, south-west France on Saturday

coordination" was needed. Trump met that appeal for unity with a somewhat softer approach of his own, having left the United States on Friday with a dire warning about taxing French wines "like they've never seen before."

"We actually have a lot in common," Trump said across the table to Macron, adding that they had "been friends for a long time."

Trump said that at times they "go at each other a little bit" but had a "special relationship".

The setting for the G7 summit in the French seaside resort clearly pleased the US president.

"So far so good. The weather is perfect. Everybody's getting along. I think we will accomplish a lot this weekend," he said.

## Boris, EU chief in Brexit blame game

AFP ■ BIARRITZ (FRANCE)

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Saturday that the European Union needed to drop its insistence on the so-called Irish backstop to avoid a "no deal" Brexit.

"I don't want a 'no deal' Brexit. I say to our friends in the EU, if they don't want a 'no deal' Brexit then we have got to get rid of the backstop from the treaty," Johnson told reporters on the way to the G7 summit in Biarritz, southwest France.

He also responded to EU Council President Donald Tusk, who earlier urged Johnson not to go down in history as "Mr No Deal".

"If Donald Tusk does not want to go down as Mr 'No Deal' Brexit then that point should be borne in mind too," Johnson said.

During a press conference in Biarritz, Tusk had warned: "One thing I will not cooperate on is a 'no deal', and I still hope that Prime Minister Johnson will not like to go down in history as Mr No Deal."



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks at a press conference in Biarritz, southwest France on Saturday

"We are willing to listen to ideas that are operational, realistic and acceptable to all member states, including Ireland. If and when the UK government is ready to put them on the table," he added.

At stake is the "backstop", a provision guaranteeing that border checks will not return between Ireland, an EU member, and Britain's Northern Ireland.

Johnson has called it "anti-democratic" because it would require London to keep its regulations aligned with those of the EU during a transitional period when the country is no longer a member of the bloc.

## Hong Kong Police fire tear gas as protests take violent turn again

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong protesters threw bricks and gasoline bombs at police, who responded with tear gas, as chaotic scenes returned to the summer-long anti-government protests on Saturday for the first time in nearly two weeks.

Hundreds of black-clad protesters armed with bamboo poles and baseball bats fought with police officers wielding batons on a main road following a march against "smart lampposts" that was sparked by surveillance fears.

The chaotic scenes unfolded outside a police station and a nearby shopping mall as officers in riot gear faced off with protesters who set up makeshift street barricades.

The violence interrupted nearly two weeks of calm in Hong Kong, which has been gripped by a turbulent pro-democracy movement since June.

Police fired tear gas to disperse the crowd after repeated warnings "went futile," the government said in a statement.



Clouds of smoke rise from tear gas canisters as police and demonstrators clash during a protest in Hong Kong on Saturday

By early evening, most of the protesters had melted away. Earlier in the day, some protesters used an electric saw to slice through the bottom of a smart lamppost, while others pulled ropes tied around it to send it toppling and cheered as it crashed to the ground.

The protest march started peacefully as supporters took to the streets to demand the removal of the lampposts over worries that they could contain high-tech cameras and facial recognition software used for

surveillance by Chinese authorities. They chanted slogans calling for the government to answer the movement's demands.

The protests began in June with calls to drop a now-suspended extradition Bill that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to China to stand trial, then widened to include free elections for the city's top leader and an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality.

## Pak Foreign Min Qureshi dials UN chief over Kashmir

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday called UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to apprise him about the "evolving and delicate situation" in Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the media here to provide details of his conversation with Guterres, Qureshi said it was responsibility of the international community to play a role in addressing the Kashmir situation.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi abrogated provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution to withdraw Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcated the State into two Union Territories on August 5.

India has categorically told the international community that the scrapping of Article 370 to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was an internal matter and also advised Pakistan to accept the reality.

"I highlighted the delicate situation that exist at the moment in Jammu and Kashmir during my conversation," he said.

Guterres said he was ready today as he was before to defuse the tension and will also probably meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tomorrow in France on the sidelines of the G7 Summit to discuss the issue, he said.

## US, Taliban resume push for peace at Doha talks: US source

Doha: The US and the Taliban met in Doha on Saturday, an American source close to the negotiations said, resuming potentially decisive talks to allow Washington to draw down militarily in Afghanistan.

"Talks resumed this afternoon," the US source said. The second day of the two sides' ninth round of dialogue had been due to begin Friday but "both sides decided to postpone it until Saturday", the Taliban's Doha spokesman Suhail Shaheen said, citing "other engagements".

"We have made progress and are now discussing the implementation mechanism and some technical points," he told AFP on Saturday, referring to discussions that took place on Thursday.

"The agreement will be completed after we agree on these points," he said.

Any deal would be announced before the media as well as representatives from neighbouring countries and China, Russia, and the United Nations, he added. The US, which invaded Afghanistan and toppled the Taliban from power in 2001, wants to withdraw thousands of troops but only in return for the insurgent group renouncing Al-Qaeda and curbing attacks.

American officials said the agreement would be completed after we agree on these points, he said.

Russian flight controllers had told the ISS crew it appeared the problem that prevented automated docking was in the station and not the Soyuz spacecraft, NASA added.

Moscow news agencies

## Blast in Iraq near mosque kills three, wounds dozens

AP ■ BAGHDAD

A motorcycle rigged with explosives went off near a Shiite mosque south of the capital Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 34, Iraqi security officials said Saturday.

The officials said the blast happened the previous evening on a commercial street in the village of Mussayyib.

They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it targeted "gatherings of Shiites" near a Shiite mosque.



Iraq declared victory against IS in late 2017, but the group continues to carry out attacks through sleeper cells, particularly in the country's north. Iraq's military announced it started a new operation early Saturday targeting IS hideouts and sleeper cells in western Anbar province.

The military said the operation aims to "search and clear" wide desert areas in the province that borders Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria.

## Docking aborted for Russia's first humanoid robot in space

AFP ■ MOSCOW

An unmanned spacecraft carrying Russia's first humanoid robot to be sent into orbit failed to dock automatically at the International Space Station on Saturday, in a new setback for Moscow.

"Russian cosmonauts issued a command to abort the automated approach of an uncrewed Russian Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space Station," the US space agency NASA said in a statement.

"The craft was unable to lock onto its target at the station," and "backed a safe distance away from the orbital complex while the Russian flight controllers assess the next steps," NASA said.



Russian flight controllers had told the ISS crew it appeared the problem that prevented automated docking was in the station and not the Soyuz spacecraft, NASA added. Moscow news agencies quoted the flight centre control as saying the Soyuz craft had to retreat to a "secure distance" from the ISS.

The docking had been scheduled for 0530 GMT but a live broadcast of the event on

equipment would be replaced and another attempt at docking made between 0500 GMT and 0600 GMT on Monday.

"There is no threat to the station and its crew," a Roscosmos statement said. Russia's space industry has suffered a series of setbacks from accidents and corruption scandals in recent years.

Last October, a Soyuz rocket carrying an American and a Russian had to make an emergency landing shortly after lift-off -- it was the first failure in the history of manned Russian flights.

The life-size robot named Fedor, short for Final Experimental Demonstration Object Research, is the first ever sent up by Russia.

## B'desh Police shoot dead two Rohingyas in refugee camp

AFP ■ TEKNAF (BANGLADESH)

Bangladesh police said they had shot dead two Rohingya refugees during a gunfight in a refugee camp on Saturday after the pair were accused of killing a ruling party official.

Nearly a million Rohingya live in squalid camps in south-east Bangladesh, 740,000 of whom fled a 2017 military offensive against the Muslim minority in Myanmar.

Rights activists, who asked not to be named, said they believe the two Rohingya men were killed by police in what appeared to be a staged encounter.

The incident comes two days after a second failed attempt to repatriate the refugees, which saw not a single Rohingya turn up to return across the border to conflict-ridden Rakhine state.

"Both men died as they were rushed to a hospital," local police inspector Rasel Ahmad told AFP, adding that the incident took place in Jadimura refugee camp in Cox's Bazar district.

Ahmad said the two Rohingyas were shot and critically injured during a manhunt for suspects after a youth wing official of the ruling Awami League party was killed, allegedly by armed refugees.

Awami League official Omar Faruk was shot in the head on Thursday, at a settle-

ment near the border town of Teknaf, Ahmad said.

His murder had sparked anger among the local population, with hundreds of furious people blocking a key highway leading to the camps for hours, burning tyres and vandalising shops visited by refugees.

Ahmad said the two men killed on Saturday had been identified as key suspects in Faruk's killing and added that they had been shot while the officers were ambushed by the suspected criminals.

"It was wrong of the refugees to agitate the locals. We want justice in the quickest possible time," said Abdul Matin, a friend of the deceased politician.

Refugees said the recent bloodshed has created an atmosphere of fear in the camps, where security has been tightened.

The killings came as the Rohingya are set to commemorate the second anniversary of their mass influx into Bangladesh from Rakhine after the brutal military campaign.

UN investigators have said the 2017 violence warrants the prosecution of top Myanmar generals for "genocide".

On Thursday Bangladesh's second attempt to start repatriation of Rohingyas back to Myanmar faltered after the refugees said they won't return unless their security is ensured and they were granted citizenship in their homeland.

# Third-time lucky?

Sindhu to face Okuhara in repeat of 2017 final, Praneeth settles for Bronze

PTI ■ BASEL

PV Sindhu stood one win away from an elusive World Championships Gold after entering a third successive final but B Sai Praneeth settled for Bronze following his defeat to Kento Momota here on Saturday.

Sindhu, who had claimed successive Silver in the last two editions of the prestigious tournament beside two Bronze, was a picture of perfection as she outclassed World No 3 and All England Champion Chen Yu Fei of China 21-7, 21-14 in a 40-minute semifinal.

The 24-year-old Olympic Silver medalist will take on Japan's World No 4 Nozomi Okuhara in the summit showdown today. Two years ago, Okuhara had robbed off the Indian the title after an epic battle that went down as one of the greatest contests in badminton history.

The third seeded Okuhara outlasted former world champion Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon, seeded 7th, 17-21, 21-18, 21-15 in the other semifinal.

Overall, Sindhu enjoys a slender 8-7 advantage against Okuhara in 15 career meetings. The Indian will fancy her chances of a win, having beaten the Japanese on her way to the Indonesia Open final last month.

"I was well prepared and from the start I was in the lead and then finished it off," Sindhu said.

"In the second game, I made some unforced errors and then I was leading again and it gave me my confidence. Overall, the game went well and I hope it goes well tomorrow (on Sunday)."

However, Praneeth's impressive run ended after his attacking game couldn't dent the



PV Sindhu attempts to return a shot against Chen Yu Fei during BWF World Championships semifinal match



N Okuhara vs PV Sindhu  
Live from 3:30pm IST  
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

defence of in-form defending champion Momota, going down to the Japanese World No 1 13-21, 8-21 in 41 minutes.

On Friday though, Praneeth achieved a rare distinction of becoming the first Indian male shuttler in 36 years to win a medal in the tournament.

Prakash Padukone was the first to win a men's singles World Championships medal — a Bronze — in the 1983 edition.

After his dream run ending with Bronze, Praneeth described the feat as one of the best of his international career.

The 27-year-old from Hyderabad, who was conferred with the Arjuna Award this year said, "This was one of my best tournaments that I ever had in my career. There are lots of learning and positives to take. I think the recent performances have been good," Praneeth told reporters.

Praneeth, who had finished runners-up at Swiss Open early this year, admitted he just couldn't find the wherewithal to put pressure on Momota during the semi-final contest.

"Momota was varying the strokes. I was pushing the pace but I wasn't getting the result. I was getting tired. I didn't know what to do. I was blank. I was attacking but a few strokes went out," he said.

"I couldn't think anything except hitting the strokes and he was taking all the shots and I was hitting the net too often."

**It is important to keep yourself focused. It is not over yet for me. Yeah, I am happy but not satisfied yet. There is one more match to go and I would want to get the Gold. It is not going to be easy. I have to be focused, patient and give my best in the final**

The world No 19 Indian lavished praise on the world No 1 Japanese, terming him a "complete player".

"He has got an all-round game and he can vary his game according to the opponent and that is a big plus point," said Praneeth, the 2017 Singapore Open champion.

"If you see, Momota is a completely different player. You can't go blindly and play him. You have to be fit and keep him in play and change the strategy all the time. The main thing is you have to be mentally fit."

"He has a lot of patience and variation. He can read his opponent. He has something different from others which is making everything tough to beat him. But we will figure it out and yeah, someday I will definitely beat him."

## SINGLES

### MALINGA TO LEAD IN NZ T20S

COLOMBO: Veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga, who recently retired from ODI cricket, will lead Sri Lanka in the three-match T20 series against New Zealand, beginning September 1 in Pallekele. Sri Lanka dropped former captain Angelo Mathews and all-rounder Thisara Perera from the team's squad. Niroshan Dickwella, the left-handed wicket-keeper batsman, has been named as Malinga's deputy in the 15-member squad for the home series. All-rounders Angelo Perera, Dhananjaya de Silva and Priyamal Perera, wicket-keeper batsman Sadeera Samarawickrama and bowlers Suranga Lakmal, Jefferrey Vandersay, Asitha Fernando and Kamindu Mendis, all of whom had toured South Africa, have been sidelined.

### NAIR MISSES TON BY RUN

BENGALURU: Out-of-favour India batsman Karun Nair missed out on a century by one run but Himachal Pradesh's Ankit Kalsi made 106 before India Red were all out for 285 in their Duleep Trophy match against India Blue here on Saturday. India Red fought back to reduce their opponents to 74 for 3 in 24 overs at stumps, getting the key wickets of the highly-rated Shubman Gill (9) and in-form Ruturaj Gaikwad (37). Earlier, Nair's hopes of scoring a hundred were dashed when he was stumped by Snell Patel off left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar. Pathania was the best bowler for Blue with a haul of 4 for 57 from 32 overs, while Saxena took 3 for 55 and Aniket Chaudhary captured two wickets.

### LILLE CONFIRM SANCHES TRANSFER

MUNICH: Bayern Munich's unsettled Portuguese midfielder Renato Sanches has signed a four-year contract with Ligue 1 side Lille, both clubs confirmed on Friday. The 22-year-old arrived in northern France on Friday to undergo a medical before closing the deal with a club who will compete in the Champions League group stage after finishing second in Ligue 1 last season. "We are very happy to have completed the signing of Renato Sanches, who is an exceptional player. He has an interesting profile which suits our project," said Lille director general Marc Ingla in a statement on the club website. According to a source close to the club, Lille will pay in the region of 20 million euros (\$22.1 million) to sign the former Benfica player.

### GOKULAM KERALA LIFT DURAND CUP

KOLKATA: Trinidadian forward Marcus Joseph led by example with a brace to inspire Gokulam Kerala FC to Durand Cup title in their debut campaign with a 2-1 win over 16-time champions Mohun Bagan at the Salt Lake Stadium on Saturday. Joseph converted a penalty in the 45+1st minute and doubled the lead with his menacing left-footer in the 51st minute. Terribly let down by their defence especially in the first-half, the Mariners stepped up the attack after the changeover and pulled one back through Salva Chamorro header from a Joseba Beitia free-kick in the 64th minute.



Tom Latham, left, celebrates after scoring 100

## Latham ton drives NZ reply

AFP ■ COLOMBO

A sparkling century by Tom Latham powered New Zealand's first innings reply after Sri Lanka posted 244 on day three of the rain-hit second Test in Colombo on Saturday.

Latham, on 111, put together an unbeaten 70-run stand with BJ Watling, on 25, to thwart the Sri Lankan bowling attack that had made early inroads into the Kiwi batting.

The tourists were 196 for four at stumps, still trailing Sri Lanka by 48 runs.

Earlier Dhananjaya de Silva made 109 to lift Sri Lanka after they resumed the day on 144 for six following their decision to bat first.

But Latham made the day his own as he registered his 10th Test hundred — fourth against Sri Lanka — to hold the New Zealand innings after they lost key wickets including skipper Kane Williamson for 20.

Latham combined the right dose of caution and aggression as he hit 10 boundaries in his 184-ball stay at the wicket so far.

"Tom is getting better and better every season. He had a great summer back home," New Zealand paceman Tim Southee, who claimed four wickets in the Sri Lankan innings, told reporters.

"Great to see him kick on and continue that form overseas especially to come here and play the way he has played on conditions that are tough."

In the morning session, De Silva moved from his overnight 32 to complete his fifth Test century.

Southee returned figures of 4-63 while pace partner Trent Boult got three wickets.

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

India maintain their stranglehold over the West Indies with a healthy 75-run first innings lead, which swelled to 89 by lunch time on the third day of the opening cricket Test here on Saturday.

India bowled out West Indies for 222 in 74.2 overs in their first innings in reply to 297 with Ishant Sharma returning with best figures of 5 for 43.

Besides Ishant, Mohammed Shami (2/48) and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja (2/64) scalped two wickets a piece.

For West Indies, Roston Chase top-scored with 48, while skipper Jason Holder played a fighting 39-run knock as the hosts failed to build up partnerships.

At the opening break of the third day, India were 14 for no loss in their second innings with Mayank Agarwal batting on 8 and K L Rahul on 6.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 189 for eight, Holder and Miguel Cummins stuck together for 103 balls, forging a crucial 41-run partnership for the ninth wicket to take West Indies close to the Indian total.

Holder kept a calm head and guided his younger partner Cummins brilliantly to get as close as possible to the Indian total.

While Holder made 39 off 65 balls with the help of five boundaries, Cummins gave his skipper the right support from the other end by just staying at the crease although he couldn't open his account.

Cummins' determination to stay at the crease and give his skipper

# India fold WI for 222



Ishant Sharma celebrates with Virat Kohli after the dismissal of Kemar Roach

## FASTEST INDIAN TO 50 TEST WICKETS

Bowler	Tests	Inn	Time
R Ashwin	9	16	1 year & 10 days
Anil Kumble	10	20	2 years & 220 days
Narendra Hirwani	11	19	2 years & 200 days
Harbhajan Singh	11	21	2 years & 361 days
Jasprit Bumrah	11	21	1 year & 230 days

FAISEL FEATURES

company can be gauged from the fact that he played 45 balls for no runs.

The Indian bowlers found it difficult to break the stubborn partnership between Holder and Cummins as they needed 85 balls in the opening session of the third day to dislodge the stand.

The partnership was finally broken when Holder edged a Mohammed Shami delivery to wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant behind the stumps in the 74th over.

Left-arm spinner Jadeja finally drew curtains on West Indies innings when he cleaned up Cummins an over later.

### TRY CROSS-SEAM!

Ishant Sharma's late burst broke the back of West Indies batting and the senior India pacer attributed the good show to pace bowling partner Jasprit Bumrah's advice of trying cross-seam stuff.

Ishant took three wickets from

his final three overs to complete his ninth five-wicket haul in Tests on Friday.

"There was rain and after that the ball became wet and there was nothing happening (with the ball). So, we thought we can bowl with a cross seam. There was bounce. Actually Bumrah told me that we can try cross seam since there is nothing happening," Ishant, who returned with figures of 5/42, said.

"The attempt was, if you bowl out the opposition as soon as possible, it is good for your team. We tried that we were able to do that," he told fielding coach R Sridhar who interviewed him for bcci.Tv.

It was a special day for the lanky Ishant, who struck 19 runs and shared a crucial 60 runs with Ravindra Jadeja (58) for the eighth wicket stand during India's innings earlier in the day.

"To be honest, when I was out during our innings, I was not feeling good at all. The more I scored

## Black armband in Jaitley's memory

PTI ■ NORTH SOUND

The Indian cricket team wore black armbands as a mark of respect for former union minister and veteran cricket administrator Arun Jaitley, who passed away on Saturday after prolonged illness.

Jaitley was one of the towering figures in Indian cricket administration.

A former president of Delhi & Districts Cricket Association, Jaitley was one of the most influential figures in the Indian Cricket Board, whose advice was sought for any decision on policy matters.

It was during his time as the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) president that the state team saw the emergence of stalwarts like Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and in later years Ishant Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan.

runs with Jaddu (Jadeja), the better it would be for the team. From 25 for 3, the kind of comeback we had, I wanted to have a long partnership with Jadeja," said the 30-year-old pacer who is playing in his 91st Test.

His five victims included two brilliant caught and bowled efforts, including the fourth scalp of Shimron Hetmyer in the penultimate over of the day.

# Root, Denly come to Eng rescue

AFP ■ LEEDS

England captain Joe Root and Denly 30 not out with their third-wicket stand so far worth 75 runs.

England still needed a further 269 runs to reach an unlikely target of 359 and with 39 overs left in the day there was time for them to be bowled out before stumps.

But they were at least making Australia work for a win that would see them retain the Ashes at 2-0 up with two to play in a five-match series.

Surrey openers Rory Burns and Jason Roy both fell cheaply shortly after lunch.

Left-hander Burns (seven) edged a lifting Pat Cummins delivery to David Warner at first slip before Roy, yet to convince as a Test match opener, played down the wrong line to Josh

Hazlewood, who took 5-30 in the first innings, and was bowled.

Root, on in a pair, got off the mark with a three off fast bowler Hazlewood to the delight of his home Yorkshire fans in a capacity, sun-drenched crowd.

Denly, the only England batsman to reach double figures in the first innings with 12, repeatedly played and missed either side of being hit on the head by a Cummins bouncer.

But both he and Root applied themselves on an increasingly slow pitch that was making life tough for Australia's pace attack.

And there was a huge cheer from the crowd when Root's controlled hook off Hazlewood raised a fifty-part-

nership with Denly.

The odds were still hugely in Australia's favour, given only three sides have made more than 300 to win in the fourth innings of a Test at Headingley — Australia (404-3 in 1948), England (315-4 against Australia, 2001) and the West Indies with 322-5 two years ago.

Earlier, Marnus Labuschagne missed out on a maiden Test hundred as he top-scored with 80 in Australia's second-innings 246.

Labuschagne was 74 not out when Cummins's dismissal left Australia 226-8.

But rather than being denied a century in his seventh Test by a lack of partners, the South Africa-born batsman ran himself out.

## Labuschagne joins elite club

AFP ■ LEEDS

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne joined an exclusive club while making 80 against England in the second innings of the third Ashes Test on Saturday.

In the process, Labuschagne became just the fifth batsman and fourth Australian — a list that includes head coach Justin Langer — in Test history to make two scores in a match higher than a total posted by

an opposing team in one innings.

Labuschagne made 74 in the first innings. England were dismissed for just 67, their lowest Ashes total in 71 years.

The only batsman from outside Australia to achieve the feat is outstanding West Indies opener Gordon Greenidge, who hit two hundreds in a 1976 Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, where England collapsed to 71 all out in their first innings.

Labuschagne ignored the old rule of 'never run on a misfield' when Denly fumbled at third man and then failed

to beat a throw to Bairstow as his valuable 187-ball innings featuring eight fours came to an end.

# the pioneer agenda

FROM THE INSIDE



**Between fact and fiction**  
Lt Col K Gopinathan (Retd)'s new book is a satire on the current state of affairs in the country

2

SUCCESS

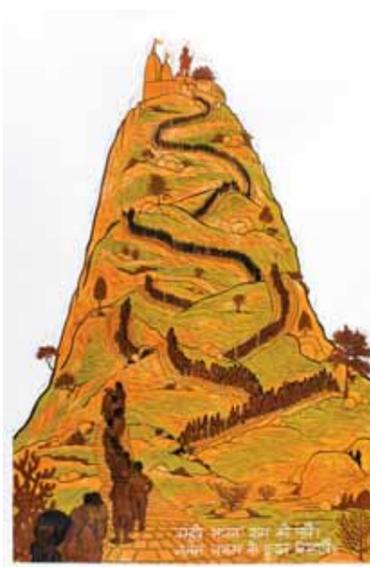
4

**Be practical to succeed**  
Instead of trying to find out the reasons underlying your ordeal, better work upon your fault lines

I always try to do my best to inspire people to be good and do the right thing, but I just can't live my life always trying to be a good role model  
— Kylie Jenner



Suman Chandra; Art Alive Gallery



Champa Mohan; Blueprint12: DCAW



Ayesha Singh; Shrine Empire

# WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY?

As the new season of art opens in Delhi with shows highlighting works by contemporary artists, NAVNEET MENDIRATTA looks at the new narratives and prominent trends emerging in the current scenario

The contemporary voices in the Indian art scene are emerging stronger and clearer with more galleries backing up younger artists. As the new season of art opens in Delhi, it is interesting to see new names emerge with a diverse body of work and compelling narrative to their credit.

**THE NARRATIVE**

"The current generation of artists is responding to ecological developments and the shift can be seen worldwide. Even internationally, the focus is on the ecology around them. That is what makes their art relevant to the times," opens Sunaina Anand of Art Alive Gallery. The gallery recently opened the season with 'What is Contemporary...', their first show in Contemporary Idioms series.

"Our focus was to look at the art institutions that the younger artists are coming from. The idea was to pick talent from diverse institutes across the country," she elaborates on the new series. Interestingly, all three artists currently showing at the gallery are in their 20s, come from different institutes and yet reflect a distinct synergy.

Agrees Debasish Mukherjee, whose solo exhibition, 'River Song' opened at Aakar Prakar Gallery recently: "Contemporary artists are a part of the same society after all. It's just the language which is different here. The current generation is certainly more open to experiments with their medium or the language."

Since 2016, Mukherjee has been working on a body of work, which explores the 'concept' of home, spaces or place of origin through sensorial and emotional memory. This includes a series of mix media works, which are more like textile sculptures and installations. "I have often wondered, what makes us yearn for an era lost? What triggers memories, and how we comprehend moments as we had experienced them, even though we no longer exist in that place or time. Is it possible to manifest the architecture of our memories into fabric, texture and impressions within the format of an exhibition? I have tried mapping all of these in to my current body of work," he shares of his current exhibition.

**MAPPING THE MARKET**

Even though the artists tend to voice the concerns of their times. The question is whether the market is ready to put their money on the shift?

"The contemporary market is slowly and steadily growing in India. Experimental art forms with strong concepts are definitely finding greater demand. Now there is more focus on South Asian artists," says Mandira Lamba of Blueprint12.

Blueprint 12 has collaborated with Vadehra Art Gallery to open a solo show with Youdhisthir Maharjan and Kingsley Gunatillake last Thursday. The gallery is also a part of a larger collective, titled Delhi Contemporary Art Week (DCAW) featuring seven galleries, the other six being Gallery Espace, Exhibit 320, Latitude 28, Nature Morte, Shrine Empire and Vadehra Art Gallery, that starts at India Habitat Centre from August 1.

"The current scenario is particularly interesting for the direction that the younger artists are taking in the country. Increasingly, they have been invested in sustained research, conceptual and material concerns that develop from one body of work to another, while until recently artists have been more willing to change conversations from one body of work to another," adds Shefali Somani of Shrine Empire. Shrine too opened with a solo exhibition by Ayesha Singh, titled, 'It was never concrete' on August 22.

"Like artists of every age, the concepts that today's generation of contemporary artists is engaging with have to do with realities — political, social, and so on — of our times. They are also exploring their own expressions and practices. However, there is no one trend that is more popular than the others," shares Renu Modi of Gallery Espace. Also a part of DCAW, the gallery is additionally showing works of five contemporary artists in an upcoming show at its gallery space, titled, 'Rooted' starting Monday.

**PROMISING YOUNG TALENT**

"The young artists have been borrowing elements from the world they live in and are commenting on the changing social, environmental and cultural perceptions. For instance, Ketaki Sarpotdar, a young printmaker from Baroda, anthropomorphises animals in her work to comment on the human nature and human society. Similarly, Yogesh Ramkrishna and Subrat Kumar Behera take inspiration from mythology to create works that gauge sociopolitical realities. Artist such as Anupama Alias through the use of anatomy creates works that revolve around the theme of woman-



CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS ARE A PART OF THE SAME SOCIETY AFTER ALL. IT'S JUST THE LANGUAGE WHICH IS DIFFERENT HERE. THE CURRENT GENERATION IS CERTAINLY MORE OPEN TO EXPERIMENTS WITH THEIR MEDIUM OR THE LANGUAGE

— Debasish Mukherjee, artist

Debasish Mukherjee; Aakar Prakar



hood. Apart from these, works by Sanket Viramgami, Rushabh Vishwakarma also looks promising," says Bhavna Kakar of Latitude 28. Kakar is one of the three art promoters who thought up the idea of DCAW as a common platform to promote young artists. For the upcoming show, the gallery is promoting artists such as Sudipta Das, Niyeti Chadha Kannal, Radhika Agarwala, Prajwal Choudhury, Yogesh Ramkrishna, Ketaki Sarpotdar, Sanket Viramgami, Waswo X Waswo. "What interests me about these artists the most is that though the practice is varied, the artists continue to experiment with concept or material and develop their

practice further," she says. "As a gallery, we are deeply interested in Sangita Maity's practice. She has been researching intensively on aspects of labour and tradition in the iron ore mining community in Orissa. The materiality of her serigraphs and canvases have been influenced by her original subject," says Somani. Maity's serigraphs are usually on iron sheets, and her canvases often use the soil from the mining areas as a medium. "Ayesha is another interesting upcoming artist. Though a sculptor by training, she has been really pushing the boundaries of various media, from drawing — which she does in space with her sculptural works also — and

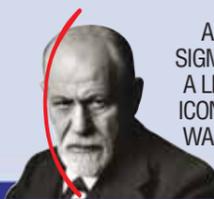
video as well as kinetic forms and performative gestures. Then she is able to tie together the possibilities of all these media to articulate her consistent preoccupation with architecture and how it defines identity," she adds. Anand is particularly impressed with the works coming from Suman Chandra. "What I really like about Suman's work is that he is not bound by media. He is as comfortable with canvas as he is with carving out a stone sculpture. Also the kind of research he has put in is impressive. In the last four years, Suman has spent a lot of time with the miners of Jharkhand. He has observed the shifts and changes that have taken place in the area. His art is about the lives affected. It's a deep study of people and the environment," she shares.

**FUTURE IS BRIGHT**

"If we were to compare the last five years, the future is only getting better!" says Lamba. "With India Art fair focusing on a special platform for South Asian Artists, Kochi Muziris Biennale getting international acclaim, Delhi Contemporary Art Week continuing into a 3rd edition, many more international residencies and show invitations for South Asian Artists, it's towards a rise," she says with great optimism. While most other art promoters agree that things are looking up, a slow economy notwithstanding, there are a few other factors that must be addressed.

"The biggest challenge that art faces in India is limited philanthropy," says Somani. "To push artists to make cutting edge work, it is important to invest in residencies, support production costs, and facilitate discourse around the arts. I feel that galleries become relevant to artists once they have already developed their own voice. Shrine Empire supports Prameya Art Foundation, our non-profit that tries to fill this lacunae through art education programs, by supporting residencies etc. But we need more institutions filling this role if we want India to be at the forefront of contemporary art globally," she points out.

While on the subject Lamba also calls for easier policies that would allow art exchanges between India and its neighbours. "While private initiatives are taking place in terms of contemporary museums, we definitely need government support for the same to push contemporary art to the next big level," she says.



AUSTRIAN PSYCHOANALYST SIGMUND FREUD ONCE ATTENDED A LECTURE GIVEN BY AMERICAN ICON MARK TWAIN. THE LECTURE WAS ABOUT A WATERMELON HE STOLE AS A CHILD!

# A FINE BALANCE BETWEEN FACT AND FICTION

Lt Col K Gopinathan (Retd)'s book is a satire on the state of affairs in the country today and presents the readers with an alternative India that is at once mesmerising yet unfamiliar, writes COL AJAY RAINA (SENA MEDAL)

In this political satire, the author, a veteran army colonel, discusses the country's myriad problems such as fall of ethics in public life, repugnant caste politics, communal machinations, all pervasive corruption, socioeconomic inequity and terrorism. The topic is universal in nature and touches the everyday-life of the people. It has the latent depth and an immediacy to draw all genders, age groups, and every category of readers.

The book can be divided into two parts — One: The political coup, which discusses the power of democracy to throw out the undesirables and install well-meaning and dedicated political workers in seats of power. And two: Building a prosperous and powerful India through wise use of statecraft.

Baba, a teacher by profession, social worker by choice and politician by circumstances is a saintly person, who understands the underlying psychodynamics of the people and relates effortlessly with them. His anticorruption agitations give a new meaning and direction to the Indian political system. The people take up the challenge thrown at Baba by mainstream political parties to enter the parliament to enact the anti-corruption legislation. They elect his newly formed political outfit, the Rashtriya Punarudhaan Sangh (RPS), to power.

Choice of Prof Krishna Moorthy, an intellectual and ruthless hard task master, as the Prime Minister shows that Baba means business. Lok pal is enacted, and the jails start filling up with convicted politicians, businessmen, bureaucrats and others. Tough decisions to tide over the sinking economy ruffle many in trade and industry. The evil nexus of deposed politicians, threatened bureaucrats and murky businessmen, whose heads are on the chopping block for corruption, nepotism and subversion of law, reacts. Trade unions call for nationwide strikes and traders shut shops; expecting to force Murthy to resign or put pressure on Baba to change him. Neither happen.

People suffer in the no-holds-barred political slugfest between adamant Murthy and his incorrigible adversaries. They react through the Bihar assembly



elections where RPS tastes its first electoral shock. Murthy decides to get back into the game. In a clandestine operation, four undertrial youths belonging to powerful Gurgaon families, accused of rape and murder, are kidnapped and castrated. This maverick act appeases the large discerning women voters in Tamil Nadu, Assam, Kerala and Puducherry, and RPS wins these assembly elections comfortably. The party is back into the hearts and minds of the people.

Gurgaon castrations and state assembly elections results take the wind out of the agitators' sails. Murthy decides to go after his opponents, but an unexpected bolt from the blue stalls him. The long-

awaited verdict on 2G telecom scam explodes on the political firmament. Those who played ducks and drakes with the exchequer escape the clutches of the law. The ever-active media swings into action and questions the government's inability to convict the high-profile culprits. The almost dead political agitations enliven and tear through the country's tranquillity. People become despondent; the country is back to square.

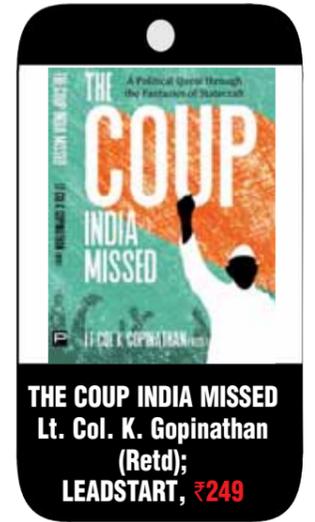
Unrelenting, Murthy looks out for a subterfuge to permanently silence his opponents so that he can concentrate on development of the country. His opportunity comes through a massive bomb blast in a shopping mall at Vijayawada

in which hundreds die and another few hundreds are seriously injured. Bhai, an Indian traitor holed up in Karachi, carried out terrorist activities in his motherland at the bidding of the ISI. Baba is very much pained and upset; he demands action. The daring kidnap of Bhai from Karachi by RAW and MARCOS is one of the best narrations in the book and thrills every reader. RPS's popularity soars.

Exploiting the kidnap euphoria for electoral gains borders political adventurism. With two-third majority in the new parliament, RPS embarks on the 'Executive President' form of government, an idea ardently discussed in many

public forums, the book further argues its necessity. Further dividing the states for administrative convenience is a Pandora's box, and is best left unopen. Electoral reforms to ensure the country suffered election fever only once in five years is worthy of wider political debate.

Emboldened with the massive mandate in the general elections held under the new Constitution, RPS embarks on its flagship project: education reforms, a point extensively discussed at many places in the book. Political parties have always fumbled to effectively get hold of this essential tool for socioeconomic development of the country. The idea to nationalise the entire school edu-



**THE COUP INDIA MISSED**  
Lt. Col. K. Gopinathan (Retd);  
LEADSTART, ₹249

cation is fraught with fissiparous tendencies and very strong political will and leadership is demanded. Free and compulsory education from 1st to 12th standard is part of the present government's National Education Policy on the anvil. The veteran author's suggestion of two years compulsory military service after school is not pragmatic, it drowns in the sea of sheer numbers. Having said so, the idea fits well into the storyline.

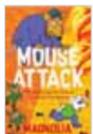
Exploiting the Baloch, Muhajir, and Pashtun unrest to create refugee crises and attract international attention is a reinvention of the Bangladesh saga. The military operations have been lucidly described. Keeping the United States, Russia and China in good humour, merges well with the plot.

The last chapter, Sannyasa, is a befitting epilogue to the story of the great Indian dream. In a country where political parties are considered family assets and genealogically passed on, the smooth transfer of power in RPS is enticing and refreshing.

The views expressed are the reviewer's own

## NEW ARRIVALS

**MOUSE ATTACK: THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF ARVEE THE MOUSE**  
Magnolia  
Hachette, ₹227



Arvee, a clever and scholarly mouse, is horrified to find that he must leave his laboratory to live as a house pet. His new home, Paradise Villa, is charming and comfortable but boring. And lonely. That changes when Arvee meets bright, feisty Ellie and her family of house mice. They tell him about Pasha, a fearsome rat who, along with his thugs, has taken over Paradise Villa, harassing and enslaving the mice. A small, brave band of rebels is ready to fight back. But how? Arvee brings his thinking skills to the struggle, pulling in the help of other house creatures. But Pasha has very different plans for him. Will Arvee succeed in helping Ellie and the other mice?



**THE ADVENTURES OF SHRILOK HOMELESS**  
Pika Nani  
Penguin, ₹150

No case is bizarre enough for detective Shrilok, a *chaiwala* with a penchant for deduction, disguises and drama, and his partner in crime, Rohan Doctor. Be it a hand turning up in a steel lunchbox, a stolen rose diamond reappearing in a *vada pav*, a self-scandal in Bollywood, the Red Signal League of blind beggars or the dogs of Bhaskarville disappearing into the fog, the duo is sure to nab the suspects. They crack ten thrilling cases, no problem, but will Shrilok be a match for his nemesis, Masterji, in his ultimate encounter?

**FLYAWAY BOY**  
Jane De Suza  
Penguin, ₹250



Kabir doesn't fit in. Not in the wintry hill town he lives in, and not in his school, where the lines are always straight. Backed into a corner with no way out, Kabir vanishes. With every adult's nightmare now coming true, finding this flyaway boy will mean understanding who he really is. Or is it too late? Spirited and powerfully imaginative, Flyaway Boy is a story about embracing everything that makes you uniquely you.

# A LETTER FROM HOME

SANTANU DAS' book *India, Empire and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs* examines the experiences of people from undivided India — both soldiers and civilians, men and women, sepoys, labourers, lascars, orderlies, doctors, politicians and intellectuals — in the First World War and the way such experiences were represented. An edited excerpt:



Artifacts of Private Jogen Sen, Dupleix House and Museum. Personal Photograph

It was on a chance visit one winter afternoon in 2005 to the quaint Dupleix House and Museum in Chandernagore — a former French colony by the Hoogly river and 33 kilometers from Kolkata — that I first saw the pair of glasses. They lay in a cabinet ringed with dust in a musty room. At the same time as noticing the glasses, my eyes fell on the label 'blood-stained' next to them, though all I could detect was a smudge on the right lens. Delicate, fragile yet seemingly intact they lay, with their arms gently curving around the photograph of their master wearing them, as if still trying to protect him from the violence. Above the glasses was another label: 'Broken and bloodstained glasses belonging to J. Sen, Private, West Yorkshire Regiment... he was the first Bengalee, a citizen of Chandernagore, to be killed in 1914-1918 War'. Jogen Sen was the only non-white member of the West Yorkshire regiment; he was gunned down on the night of 22 May, 1916.

It was two years later, in 2007, in a tiny room crammed with cabinets in the Humboldt Sound Archive in Berlin that I felt the same shiver down my spine as in Chandernagore. I was listening to a tremulous yet incantatory voice speaking largely in Punjabi:

*There was a man who would have butter back in India  
He would also have two sers of milk.  
He served for the British.  
That man joined the European War.  
That man was captured by the Germans.  
He wants to go back to India.  
If he goes back to India then he will get that same food.  
That man has spent three years already.*

This is the story of Mall Singh, an Indian prisoner of war in the 'Halfmoon Camp' at Wunsdorf outside Berlin. The recording was made on 11 December 1916. He was made to stand in front of a phonograph machine held before him by

his German captors and instructed to speak. Mall Singh's was among the 2677 audio recordings made by the Royal Prussian Phonographic Commission between 29 December 1915 and 19 December 1918, using the First World War Prisoners of War held in Germany. Desolate, homesick and hungry, he distills all the pain and longing into the images of *makhan* (butter) and the two sers [a form of measurement] of milk: home is remembered as taste.

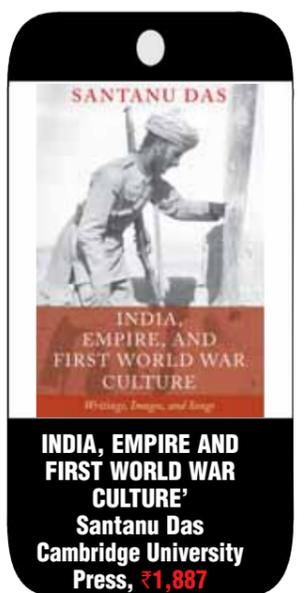
Mall Singh served on the Western Front. However, for me, his story resonates not with the homesick letters of his sepoy-brothers but with a letter written in Gurmukhi by a young girl called Kishan Devi from Punjab to her father Havildar Sewa Singh, of the 23rd Sikh Pioneers, serving in Egypt:

*Dear Father, best wishes to you. Here all is well. With god's grace, your letter has arrived. We came to know about your situation. With the sight of your letter, I felt*

*at peace. Mother says that you can write your inner thoughts to us. Father, all your letters will be read by me... I am like a living dead without you... Dear father please take leave and come to meet us. Please do come. We repeat again and again.*

A daughter's heart-breaking appeal, like the desolate voice of Mall Singh, 'repeats again and again' in the chamber of First World War memories, seeking to find an answer.

These moments have stayed with me and have shaped the book. Why do they matter so much? Jogen Sen's glasses, Mall Singh's voice and Kisan Devi's letter are not just tantalising sources but open up new ways of 'reading' — and writing — life in times of war; they force us to the weave together a narrative of fugitive fragments, the flotsam, jetsam and lagan of life wrecked by war. In a context where most of the colonial soldiers were non-literate, it is necessary, I argue, to go beyond only the textual to these material, visual and oral



**INDIA, EMPIRE AND FIRST WORLD WAR CULTURE'**  
Santanu Das  
Cambridge University Press, ₹1,887

sources to recreate the texture of the past. *India, Empire and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs* examines the experiences of people from undivided India — both soldiers and civilians, men and women, sepoys, labourers, lascars, orderlies, doctors, politicians and intellectuals — in the First World War and the way such experiences were represented. Between August 1914 and December 1919, India recruited one and half million men, including both combatants and non-combatants; of them, over a million served overseas, in places as diverse as Mesopotamia, France and Belgium, East Africa, Gallipoli, Egypt and Sinai, Salonika, Aden, East and West Persia, Tsingtao and Trans-Caspia. 'The state of things is indescribable. There is conflagration all around, and you must imagine it to be like a dry forest in a high wind in the hot weather, with abundance of dry grass and straw. No one can extinguish it but God himself - man can do nothing. What more can I write?' observed Sohan Singh, a sowar in the 9th Hodson's Horse, on 10 July 1915, as he lay convalescing at the Kitchener Indian Hospital at Brighton. Excerpted with permission from *India, Empire, and First World War Culture: Writings, Images, and Songs*, by Santanu Das, published by Cambridge University Press, ₹1,887

# US-China trade war: Beyond narrative

There is no agreement on an enforceable deal. While China wants the Trump Administration must lift punitive tariffs on Chinese products soon after they ink an agreement, the US desires to keep Beijing on a short leash



KRITHIKA SUBRAMANIAN

The US-China trade war that has grabbed the headlines for over a year now is set to escalate as US President Donald Trump on Friday retaliated to Beijing's announcement of new tariffs on American goods. Trump announced raising of tariffs on Chinese goods and ordered American companies to shift their business from China. Trump's announcement came a day after China's Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng, while reiterating Chinese threat of "corresponding countermeasures", on August 22 said, "We hope the United States and China can meet each other halfway and find a solution."

On August 23, hours after Beijing said it would hike tariffs on \$75 billion in US imports, Trump retorted by announcing hike in tariff on \$300 billion Chinese goods from 10 per cent to 15 per cent. The Office of the US Trade Representative said existing tariffs on another \$250 billion in Chinese imports would go from 25 per cent to 30 per cent on October 1 after receiving feedback from the public, according to a report by AP. "I have no choice. We're not going to lose close to a trillion dollars a year to China... Tariffs are working out very well for us. People don't understand that yet," Trump said.

Beijing has accused the Trump Administration of bullying tactics and economic intimidation. In fact, Trump's one of the first orders as the US President was to launch a full-scale investigation into Chinese



trade policies, China believes. Trump accused China of manipulating their currency and indulging in unfair trade practices. The bitter charge ensued into slapping of tariffs on Chinese goods entering America, and the resultant retaliation by China.

Till now twelve rounds of talks between the US and China have failed over how to enforce a deal. The next negotiation is scheduled for September in Washington, after the last round of talks in Shanghai in July ended in

deadlock. Although in a lopsided trade balance, China doesn't have much to retaliate in the form of tariffs. Beijing has tried to exert pressure on the US by not approving customs clearance for US companies in China.

Defending Beijing's action, the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China issued a White Paper — released by the official Xinhua New Agency after the Communist nation declined the US invitation to hold talks

to try to resolve the ongoing trade dispute —outlining the widening gap between China and the United States in light of the ongoing trade war. The paper argued that economic ties have been instrumental in improving the stability, peace and prosperity of both the nations. However, the current trade disruptions, solely initiated by the United States according to the Chinese Government, have a negative impact on the global economic order. It also hinted at the Chinese willingness in resum-

ing trade talks that are mutually beneficial and trustworthy upon the condition that the Chinese principles are not compromised.

The paper pointed out that China was also responsible for the growth in employment, and revenue generation in the United States. By highlighting that the trade war is responsible for having increased production costs, and that domestic price hikes in the United States was leading to a negative impact on the American economy, the Chinese Government

aims to convey that Sino-American trade and economic relations are mutually beneficial rather than being advantageous for America.

Providing a detailed perspective on the global impact of the trade war, the Chinese White Paper highlights instances where the United States back-tracked on its promises, proving to be an unreliable negotiator. It also quashes claims of intellectual property theft and underscores China's efforts at establishing credible communication and mutual benefit. This document serves the domestic purpose of stressing the need to respect "sovereign affairs" as a prerequisite for further talks, and a purpose of communicating the Chinese position internationally.

The White Paper states that the United States has been indulging in protectionist measures since 2017 and has been coercing countries into accepting their demands. With the onset of the trade war, from early 2018, the United States has damaged its reputation, investment and trade. Not only has it been responsible for the drop in Chinese exports to the US, it has also caused a global economic slowdown. The Chinese State Council repeatedly insisted that the tariffs levied on the United States are exclusively a retaliatory measure taken by the Government for protecting the dignity and interests of their people; and that they hope to resolve these issues via dialogue and negotiations. However, if its principles are disrespected, China is

prepared to go to war.

Incidentally, the United States has accused China of changing the text under negotiation after the latest round of dialogue. Chinese response to this allegation was that it was common to make adjustments and new proposals when talks are underway, and that this was not a new practice given that the United States has repeatedly indulged in the same. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and the introduction of market reforms in 1979, China's growth has seen an upward trajectory and historical records support their claims. The United States' observation of the country is purely negative, especially in terms of the theft of intellectual property rights (IPR) and technological innovation, leading to a back and forth relationship of levying tariffs and restrictions.

Highlighting the disadvantage the trade restrictions are posing to both the nations and the rest of the world, the People's Republic of China, in the White Paper, has called out the mistake the United States is making by equating the trade deficit with being taken advantage of. Beijing has also accused the United States of having undermined the authority of the multilateral trading institutions by breaching the fundamental World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, which in turn will threaten the global economic growth. According to the US Department of Commerce, in 2018 China was identified as America's largest trading part-

ner and source of imports, third largest export market, and a mutually beneficial ally in developing the spheres of tourism, culture and intellectual property rights.

Underscoring the instances throughout 2018 where the United States back-tracked on their commitments and levied sanctions, China strongly believes that the United States keeps changing its demands and wants more than what it is being offered. Beijing has also accused Washington of having used corruption and intimidation as tools to achieve their goals, which, according to China, will be responsible for the detrimental nature of their relationship. The Chinese Government has suggested that it is essential for both nations to mutually respect institutions and not cross the red line.

It is a well-known fact that China's development is not a smooth process. Having said that, the country has also been perceived to be optimistic and open to learning and has shown willingness in turning risks into opportunities.

In the post-Mao era, it has advocated for dialogue and negotiations as an effective method for solving the challenges at hand.

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## PERSPECTIVE

# Trump faces limits of go it alone

As Trump has started to realise that the US economy — the sturdy pillar undergirding his bid for a second term in office — is undeniably wobbly, he is shifting his position of hate for multilateralism in the hope to rally global leaders at G7 Summit to do more to promote economic growth

US President Donald Trump heads into a summit with global economic powers confronting the consequences of his preference for going it alone in a polarised nation and an interconnected world. The Group of Seven (G7) nations are gathering in a French beach resort town at one of the most unpredictable moments in Trump's tenure, with his public comments and decision-making increasingly erratic and acerbic of late.

Trump, growing more isolated in Washington over his pugnacious ways, faces an even icier reception on the world stage, where a laundry list of geopolitical challenges awaits. Anxiety is growing over a global slowdown and new points of tension with allies are opening on trade, Iran and Russia.

With fears of a financial downturn spreading, increasing the need for cooperation and collective response, Trump is attending the summit after having ridiculed Germany for its economic travails. But he may well need Angela Merkel and others to help blunt the force of China's newly aggressive tariffs on US goods.

Before leaving Washington on Friday, Trump added fresh fuel to the raging trade war with China by declaring that US businesses with dealings in China are "hereby ordered" to begin moving home. There was no immediate explanation of just what he expected or what authority he had to make it happen. He also slapped higher levels of tariffs on Chinese imports.

"Tariffs are working out very well for us," Trump told reporters as he departed the White House for France. "People don't understand that yet." The US President earlier on Friday made light of a sharp drop in the financial markets in reaction to his latest trade actions, with a tongue-in-cheek tweet speculating that the Dow's plunge could be tied to the departure of a lower-tier candidate in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In recent days, Trump has sent mixed signals on a number of policy fronts. At one point, he moved to de-escalate the trade conflict in order to ease the impact on consumers during the holiday shopping season. At another, he flipped on the need for tax cuts to stimulate an economy that Trump publicly insists is rocketing.

Feeding Trump's anxiety, aides say, is his realisation that the economy — the sturdy pillar undergirding his bid for a second term — is undeniably wobbly. Now Trump, who has long eschewed multilateralism, hopes to use his time in Biarritz to rally global leaders around the need to do more to promote economic growth. Before arriving in France, he engineered a late change to the summit agenda, requesting a working session on global economic issues.

For the world leaders, it was the latest example of unpredictability from Trump. After two-and-a-half years of Trump's turbulent presidency, traditional American allies have come to expect the unex-



US President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump board Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base on Friday to travel to Biarritz, France, for a G-7 Summit AP

pected and increasingly look elsewhere for leadership.

"They have figured out how to deal with this President," said Jon Alterman, a senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "I think what we're going to see out of this summit is, on the one hand, an effort by countries and the leaders to align with

the president, but also an understanding that we'll have to do more without the US President."

The annual G-7 summit has historically been used to highlight common ground among the world's leading democracies. But in a bid to work around Trump's impulsiveness, French President Emmanuel Macron has

eschewed plans for a formal joint communique from this gathering.

Last year's summit, hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, ended in acrimony after Trump thought the Prime Minister had slighted the President after he had departed. Trump then tweeted insults at Trudeau from aboard Air Force One as he flew to a sum-

mit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un and withdrew his signature from the statement of principles that all seven nations had agreed to.

At his first G-7 summit in 2017, Trump's strong feelings against climate change roiled the gathering in Italy.

Trump has made his "America first" priorities clear at every turn. At a recent cam-

paign rally in New Hampshire, the crowd roared with approval when Trump declared, "I'm the President of the United States of America. I'm not the president of the world."

Addressing the global slowdown isn't the only pressing challenge that Trump has discovered requires multilateral action. For more than a year, his administration has struggled with persuading European leaders to repatriate captured fighters from the ISIS. To date his entreaties have been met with deaf ears.

Alterman and Heather Conley, the Europe expert at CSIS, both said Macron appeared to be trying to fill the void left by Trump on the world stage, noting the French leader's recent efforts to try to reduce tensions between the US and Iran.

Many of the summit proceedings will take place behind closed doors, in intimate settings designed for the leaders to develop personal relationships with one another.

Trump, White House aides said, is especially looking forward to his sit-down with new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the similarly brash pro-Brexit leader whose election he'd backed. On the margins of the annual gathering, Trump has scheduled individual meetings with several of his counterparts, including Macron, Trudeau, Merkel, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Also on the agenda will be the clashes between police and pro-democracy protesters in

Hong Kong; Iran's renewed nuclear enrichment and interference with shipping in the Strait of Hormuz; and the Islamic State prisoners who are currently imprisoned by American-backed Kurdish forces in Syria.

Increasingly fearful of an economic slowdown's potential to diminish his 2020 electoral chances, Trump was expected to press his fellow leaders about what can be done to spur growth in the US and abroad, as well as to open European, Japanese and Canadian markets to American manufacturers and producers. Trump has imposed or threatened to impose tariffs on all three markets in his pursuit of free, fair and reciprocal trade.

It is unclear what substantive steps could be taken by the leaders to address the global slowdown, and much of that discussion stands to be dominated by disagreements on Trump's trade policies.

While on French soil, Trump also intends to raise with Macron and the other leaders the issue of a digital services tax that France has imposed on major technology companies like Google and Facebook despite Trump's threats to slap back with retaliatory tariffs on French wine.

The Trump Administration says the tax targets and discriminates against US businesses. As he headed for the France, Trump got in a dig at the host nation, saying of the tax, "It's very unfair. And if they do that, we'll be taxing their wine or doing something else." AP



JANE SEYMOUR PLAYS TAROT READER, SOLITAIRE, IN JAMES BOND'S LIVE AND LET DIE. THE CARDS USED IN THE FILM WERE DESIGNED BY FERGUS HALL



**YOUR WEEK AHEAD**



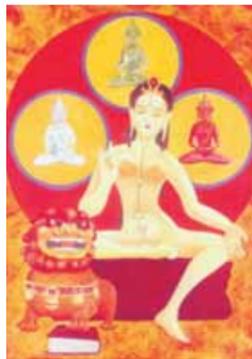
MADHU KOTIYA



**ARIES** March 21-April 19

This week you will be overburdened with work. Share your responsibilities with others to release the burden. A spiritual influence is needed to attain a balance in your life. Your casual attitude towards health may lead to seasonal infections. Be cautious of cold, cough, constipation, and gastric problems. Career-wise, you have been working hard but results are still awaited. You find it difficult to earn appreciation for a job well done because of rivalry and competition. This is the time for perseverance and patience. Recommendation of a senior will come your way. Relations will get back on track and you will feel much better. A news of pregnancy in the family, or child birth will please you. Affairs of the heart will find a new dimension.

**Lucky number** 11  
**Lucky colour** Pastel Blue  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**LEO** July 23-Aug 22

This week you will feel elevated both physically and mentally. Your body, mind and soul are in perfect harmony. You will be able to strike a balance between your professional and personal commitments and this would reflect in your work and attitude. Take out time for entertainment to bust stress. Those who have started a new business or joined a job recently, may face some tension. You may look for strategies to make your venture a success. Maintain a healthy communication and ask questions to make sure that you and your co-workers understand each other well. Patience is called for. On the love front, a new relationship is on the cards. This is a positive period for your love life. Pleasure trip to overseas and spending good time together is likely.

**Lucky number** 20  
**Lucky colour** Golden  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 12

You need to give a serious thought to your health. You may not be in the best of health this week. Be grateful for what you have. Pushing yourself when you are too tired can cause illness or injury. Slow down and take it easy. Take rest and spend some time alone. Meditation and yoga will work wonders for you. On the career front, your hard work and knowledge will be acknowledged by your seniors. A property or financial dispute may come to an end this week. Good news from overseas is expected. Sincere team work will bring good results. Unfinished projects are likely to get completed this week. Something may be troubling you with regard to your relationship. If you feel that something in your relationship is unhealthy, you are most likely to be proven correct.

**Lucky number** 8  
**Lucky colour** Camel Brown  
**Lucky day** Friday



**TAURUS** April 20-May 20

You will be full of energy this week. Overall health remains good. You will have the determination to move forward. Do not force things as it will affect your health. Some of the actions are in our own hands, so give your best and see where it lands. On the career front, you should invest your time in analysing and implementing some tough decisions. Avoid arguments, otherwise you might develop enmity at work place. You are ready to take on any challenge. Creativity will be in abundance. A travel is indicated which will act as a stress buster for you. Relationship-wise, don't play miser in expressing your feelings to someone you love. You need to balance your work with relationship. Married couples should also express their feelings.

**Lucky number** 1  
**Lucky colour** Indigo  
**Lucky day** Friday



**VIRGO** Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you need to bring balance in life. Your spiritual powers will prove to be a great booster. Take time out for your health. Take your diet, exercise, and relaxation time seriously. It is recommended that you take small breaks amidst busy schedules. This would increase your efficiency and get much better results. On the career front, a good news is in its way. Those in export-import business will soon strike a big deal. Networking with the people abroad and new association formed in this period will prove fruitful for you. In terms of love, you are ready to start something new, and if you're currently in a committed relationship, you will enjoy a strong bonding this week. Avoid being emotional about things you cannot change.

**Lucky number** 12  
**Lucky colour** Yellow  
**Lucky day** Wednesday



**CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Neglecting your health at this point is not advisable. You have to give up all the bad habits and be alert both physically and mentally. Nurture your body, care for it and feed it with healthy food. Avoid junk and oily diet. Such food may cause acidity and inflammation in the body. On the career front, stay focused. Your mind and thoughts should be in harmony. Don't apply too much logic. Be careful of your enemies, rivals, and don't disclose your working plans. Those in teaching, counselling and arts fields need to be a little alert this week. Affairs of the heart are much favoured so no need to go into a shell. There is someone in your life you need to pay attention to. Healthy and happy relations are on the cards.

**Lucky number** 9  
**Lucky colour** Red  
**Lucky day** Tuesday



**GEMINI** May 21-June 20

Your determination to stay fit and a balanced approach to life will make you an extra ordinary person. You are likely to get rid of negativity inside you, making you more comfortable and confident. Your presence of mind and wisdom is incomparable. You will feel the physical and mental strength. On the career front, do not challenge your seniors as it will backfire on you. Focus on building a good team. Those in media, finance, and mind work will do better this week. Don't delve on past mistakes, be proactive to get the desired results instead. On the relationship front, you are not getting the positive response from your partner. You may lose your cool at some point. For some of you, beginning of a new relationship is indicated.

**Lucky number** 16  
**Lucky colour** White  
**Lucky day** Sunday



**LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Health-wise this week is not a good time for you. You need to take some time off and look after you, both mentally and physically. If you evaluate your attitude in past few days, you will feel the negativity. Be careful while using electrical gadgets, driving or climbing stairs as you are prone to some painful injuries this week. Your career is moving in the right direction, so don't quit your job. If you spot money making opportunity this week, grab it. Your goodwill and reputation will pay you rich dividends. Financial hurdles will get clear soon and you may pursue and execute your projects. It looks like this is an excellent time for affairs of heart. If there is someone you have been admiring from afar, now is the time to confront them. Socialising may activate you and rejuvenate your relations.

**Lucky number** 7  
**Lucky colour** Brown  
**Lucky day** Thursday



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

Focus on your health this week. Make sure to eat healthy and look for ways to improve your wellbeing. Invest your time in exercise and pay attention to nutritional facts to attain good health. Revitalise yourself by taking a break from your hectic schedule. Professionally, this week will bring you good news. Money given might be paid back to you. No matter who you are, you have professional options. Life may change, and sometimes those changes are positive. If you're unhappy in your current work, know that you hold the key to changing it. This is a highly emotional time for those in love or a relationship. Things can quickly become heated and uncomfortable. Pick your battles and be sure to treat your lover like a friend.

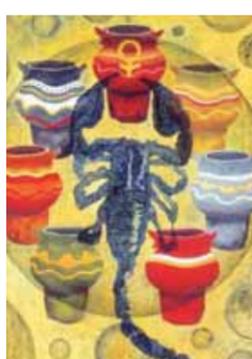
**Lucky number** 17  
**Lucky colour** Silver  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**CANCER** June 21-July 22

You will walk the path to good health. Your concern for well-being is paying you rich dividends. This week you will feel very vibrant, energetic and full of life. Your positive mind set will add charm to your personality. On the career front, be cautious in your verbal communication. Avoid being too direct with people, lest you might offend them. You will face all challenges with cool mind. Your logical and reasoning powers will give full benefits this week. Increase in salary, promotion or financial gains in business are on the cards. Investments made this week will pay rich dividends in future. In relationship, warmth, care and concern for each other is likely. This is the time to take your relationship to the next level.

**Lucky number** 10  
**Lucky colour** Off-white  
**Lucky day** Monday



**SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

A good message related to your health is indicated. Those awaiting test results may relax. You need a small course of medication to recover. Increase the intake of liquids, juices and fibrous food in your diet. On the career front, you will witness high creativity and positivity. You must not impose restrictions on yourself. You have to be careful in your communication. There are chances of getting into arguments and conflicts. Those in travel and tourism will do well. There is good news for those who aspiring for promotion/transfer. On the personal front, there is a need to liberate the mind and reconnect with the heart. For a peaceful mind, you need to start trusting and find a way of freeing yourself from suspicion, mistrust and jealousy.

**Lucky number** 3  
**Lucky colour** Peach  
**Lucky day** Saturday



**PISCES** Feb 19-March 20

Those awaiting test results will have a reason to celebrate. Consider spirituality as stress buster and a way to lead a healthy life. If there is something that has been bothering you in terms of health and you are unable to find a solution, go for yoga and meditation. You will see your negativity turn into positive vibes. Career-wise, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. Promotion, hike in salary or profit is on the cards. Your ability to accomplish work with ease will be admired. This is the time to finish pending work. In your love life, mild conflicts are indicated. Allow your partner to have his or her space and clear doubts by having healthy discussions. Singles, go out and mingle. Generation gap should be sorted with friendly talks.

**Lucky number** 13  
**Lucky colour** Rose Gold  
**Lucky day** Tuesday

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**ASTROTURF**  
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

# Success calls for addressing fault lines

Someone in late fifties going through a very difficult phase in life came with a host of questions: "Sir, I am a highly religious person and dedicate at least two hours every day in service of God. I follow a value system and have not intentionally hurt anybody in so far as I can remember. Yet, I have been put through unforeseen problems of such a dimension that it difficult to bear with. What bad Karma have I done to go through such an ordeal? How is it that my prayers have gone unheard? By what time shall I get relieved?"

At the outset, be assured that your situation may begin to ease out after August and start gaining grounds from November. Thereafter, you are expected to register sustained growth. Now, coming to your question, if you think that there is a God sitting in the heaven who would be selectively listening and responding to your prayers, you are simply mistaken. A divine *shakti* (power) does, however, keep playing within that keeps you alive, which when unavailable, you become a dead matter. But then, any *shakti* is a double-edged weapon, which you could use either ways — positively or negatively. How

intelligently you use that *shakti*, is your call, and which is guided by your individualistic mind traits. Please bear in mind; *puja* may help you in inculcating a value system and becoming a good human being. At the end of the day, however, you are to engage with a living world comprising of an assortment of good and bad people, each born unique, all carrying varied interests. In such a weird world, which remains the natural breeding ground for conflict of interest, it is just not enough to be a good Samaritan. You rather need to smartly conduct yourself without compromising with honesty of purpose.

Coming back to your Karma, you may be by and large aware of how you conducted during this life. But what about the implications of Karmic imprints carried over from the past life, which you are not aware of? If you have been beneficiary of good karma, you can't be spared of the vagaries of bad karma either. They play out concurrently. And the Karma cycle works almost in a self-automated mode, with no scope for any interference from any extra-terrestrial forces that can be appeased to one's asking. Also remember, Karma has



wide connotations. It is not just limited to your intent. It also includes how alert you have been against impending challenges posed by competing and contrarian forces, and how intelligently you attend to them.

You say that you have done no wrong in this life, but that is based on your self-defined standards, which may or may not be true to the callings of ground realities. Now, to figure out how good you have been so far in the game of life, calls for a look within. That may offer you an insight into your fault lines, which, in turn, may help you realise how realistic or delusional has been your approach to life. Perhaps astrological pointers to the basic fabric of your mind's making may help you in this respect.

You are born in Pisces *lagna* having exalted Venus there itself. The *lagna* lord Jupiter, well-fortified in its own sign over the head is full of promises. It also makes you a well-meaning person. The two put together, implies that you are a highly ambitious person expected to do well in life. That, however, will come about if the negative implications of planetary alignments in your chart get addressed. Jupiter ill-disposed off to Mercury, which is conjunct headless

Ketu, accounts for your vacillatory tendencies, insensible reasoning and judgment. Mercury again, placed adverse to Saturn speaks of a fixated one-track mind. If that would not be enough, the Sun locks horns with mischievous Neptune, Moon, and Uranus. That makes you a self-willed person, who, defying conventional wisdom would be tempted to go about with one's own delusional perceptions, often distanced from ground realities. You may not acknowledge truth at its first appearance. Instead, guided by the belief that when God is there with you, he will eventually lead you to success, you continue pursuing your line of thinking till pushed to the wall. And the result is there to see.

So, instead of trying to find out the reasons underlying your ordeal, better work upon your fault lines, develop practical sense, and be geared up to smartly take on the callings of life.

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