

MONEY 6
INCOME TAX CUT UNDER CONSIDERATION: FM

WORLD 7
WH WON'T PARTICIPATE IN PROCEEDINGS

SPORT 8
INDIA TO FACE WEST INDIES IN SECOND T20 TODAY

RAIPUR, SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2019; PAGES 8-4 73



USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

CAB not regressive, it'll heal Partition wounds

One of the more interesting features of modern society – at least since the advent of instant, global communications – is the fleeting collective attention span of people. The tendency to jump from subject to subject or, rather, controversy to controversy, has distorted public discourse immeasurably and made it extremely difficult for policy makers to get a fix on public opinion.

At one time, it was imagined that social media would constitute a great democratic input by providing a visible and public platform to those whose voices were suppressed in the past. It is not that this project has been completely derailed. However, increasingly, social media appears to have been taken over by precisely those individuals and groups whose voices dominated the old media. This is particularly so as far as Twitter is concerned and less so in Facebook. But the dilution of the original aims of democratic opinion-building is painfully obvious.

Ideally, the coming week should have been dominated by a detailed dissection of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill that is due to be presented to Parliament this week. If all goes according to plan, the Bill will be passed in both Houses and will trigger profound changes in determining who is regarded as an Indian and who is not.

The codification of India's citizenship norms have become overdue for a number of reasons. First, unlike the past when only a handful of Indians bothered to acquire passports for themselves, overseas travel has become routine. The biggest entrant has been the Indian middle classes that travel overseas quite frequently for both work and leisure. Secondly, the past decade has witnessed the increasing attempts by State and Central Governments to roll out effective welfare programmes. Though there is nothing unique about this, technology has ensured that benefits are actually being received by those who have been targeted. Thirdly, the need to bring about a change in the welfare state zone has made it necessary to be clear that the recipients of Government schemes are actually citizens and not those who have no right to be in India.

Citizenship guidelines have existed in this country since the 1950s. However, the whole process of acquiring documentation was lax and lacked rigour. Today, particularly in the context of an unsettled neighbourhood and organised migration, the need to have codified citizenship has assumed major importance. Yet, the question is more than just that of law. India is not a 'treaty State' born out of international negotiations. Although the borders were broadly defined in 1947, following Partition, India has also been a civilisational construct. There was an idea of India that predated the Constitution of 1950 and needs to be somehow incorporated into modern legislation. The present CAB is a modest endeavour in that direction.

The horrific incidents in Hyderabad and Unnao have, unfortunately, diverted some attention from CAB. The Bill will be presented, debated and probably passed in Parliament. However, consideration of the CAB needs much more than the articulation of views by MPs who, in any case, will follow their party lines. The wider discussion in civil society will probably happen to some extent in eastern India – notably in West Bengal, Assam and the North-eastern States. However, the other discussion will be dominated by a small handful of people who seem determined to paint India in wholly unappetising colours.

I think the biggest casualty of the controlled discussion on the CAB is rigour. Thanks to the Government proffering the Bill to the public at a very late stage, there have been willful distortions that have crept in. The report on the website of the Financial Times is indicative: 'India's Cabinet has approved a draft law to make non-Muslims who have fled religious persecution in neighbouring countries automatically eligible for Indian citizenship. It is a big step in the ruling Bharatiya Janata party's vision of transforming India from a secular democracy into an explicitly Hindu State.'

The misreading of the Bill is a number of counts. The most important of these is the failure to recognise that one of the main purposes of the CAB is to address some of the issues that have followed the Partition of India in 1947. India may have declared itself a non-denominational, secular republic, but the others did not. The nature of the refugees who crossed over into India after 1947 fleeing Islamic oppression was determined by the type of societies created in Pakistan and Bangladesh. The overwhelming number of the refugees were Hindu, Sikhs and Buddhists. A very small number were Christians. They were turned out not on account of their politics but on account of their faith. They were also turned out permanently and the chances of their returning are zero. To them India is the defunct home. Should the nature of this exodus not be acknowledged? Should it be concealed in a wave of political correctness and called a secular exodus when it was quite categorically a religious exodus? Should they not be given Indian citizenship, especially after their departure is permanent? And most important, should these refugees not be distinguished from those who were not pushed out but came to India for economic reasons, albeit illegally?

It is because the CAB tries to answer these questions forthrightly, without taking recourse to intellectual subterfuge, that it is being painted as regressive. The critics seem to be suggesting two things. First, that Partition was a function of secular politics. It clearly wasn't. And second that those who fled religious persecution must be put on par with those whose entry into India were dictated by other considerations. One lot was pushed out; the other lot walked out.

Politics takes centre stage on Unnao

Villagers heckle Mins; Priyanka meets rape-immolation victim's kin, Akhilesh sits on dharna



Mortal remains of the rape victim who succumbed to severe burns reaches her native village in Unnao district on Saturday. PTI

PNS ■ UNNAO

Politics took the centre stage on Saturday as anger mounted over the death of the Unnao rape-immolation victim at Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi on Friday night. With family members of the victim and people at large calling for speedy justice, the situation was so tense that people heckled Uttar Pradesh Ministers Swami Prasad Maurya and Kamal Rani Varan, who along with local BJP MP Sakshi Maharaj, reached the village of the Unnao victim to meet their family members.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi met the family members of the victim and Akhilesh Yadav sat on a dharna outside the Vidhan Bhavan here on Saturday. The Yogi Government announced ₹25 lakh compensation and a house to the family of the victim. A number of protesters, including some local Congress leaders, sustained injuries as police used force to disperse the crowd which gathered outside the residence of the victim. They shouted "Vaapas Jao, Vaapas Jao" (go back) and raised slogans against the State Government and Sakshi Maharaj.

The sloganeering continued for 15 minutes. Police used force against the protesters after which the two Ministers and the MP could be taken to the victim's home, villagers said. The 23-year-old rape victim who was airlifted to Delhi and admitted to Safdarjung Hospital with 90 per cent burns after being set ablaze by the accused, including two rapists, died following a cardiac arrest at 11.40 pm on Friday.

Meanwhile, Priyanka alleged that the BJP Government had created such circumstances that there was no fear in the minds of criminals in the State, she urged the Government and the administration to take seriously the issue of violence against women.

"They (the BJP Government) are saying that there is no place for criminals in UP. But the way in which anarchy has spread and violence against women is taking place in the State, I wonder if in Uttar Pradesh there is any place for women," she told reporters after meeting the deceased woman's family members at their house.

Priyanka told reporters that during the meeting the victim's family members narrated their ordeal of being harassed for a long time by their daughter's perpetrators. A young girl (from the victim's family) was threatened that her name will be struck off from school, so she did not dare to go to school. (The girl child's) father was beaten up, and their agriculture field set ablaze in June. The family was tortured in every possible way. After that, all these things happened," Congress leaders said.

The Congress general secretary went on to say there were rumours that the pradhan of the village has links with the BJP, asking reporters to find out the truth behind it. "There are possibilities that he may be given patronage. In the past, we have seen that there were prominent accused persons who were protected. Such type of incidents are happening on a daily basis," she said, adding that the issue should not be turned into a political one and that the Government should find out why such incidents happen in the State on a regular basis.

"Today, there is no fear among criminals in Uttar Pradesh. If someone can barge into their home, beat her (the girl child's) father, threaten the children and women, and also set the agricultural field ablaze, obviously, there is no fear in their (criminals') minds. The Government must take seriously why such circumstances exist in UP," she told reporters.

In Lucknow, police lathi-charged Congress workers who staged a protest against the Government in Hazratganj. Meanwhile, BSP chief Mayawati urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognisance of the growing incidents of crime against women and direct the Centre to take prompt steps for effectively checking them.

Turn to Page 4

UP Govt announces setting up of fast-track court, ₹25 lakh for victim's family
Victim's father demands justice on the lines the Hyderabad encounter

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav stages a dharna in front of Vidhan Bhawan in protest over Unnao rape victim's death on Saturday. PTI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visits Sindurpur village, the home of the rape victim who succumbed to burns, on Saturday. PTI

accepted the responsibility of providing justice to all," he said. He added Mahatma Gandhi was concerned about the expenditure incurred in the process of justice. For him, the welfare of the poorest of poor (daridra narayan) was always paramount, he said.

"If we keep in mind Gandhi's famous criterion, if we remember the face of the poorest and the weakest, then we will see the right path," Kovind said.

Turn to Page 4

CJ: Justice can't be instant, it must not take form of revenge

PTI ■ JODHPUR

Against the backdrop of the Hyderabad rape-murder incident and gunning down of the four accused in an alleged encounter, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde on Saturday said justice can never be instant and loses its character when it becomes revenge.

At the same time, he admitted that the recent events in the country have sparked off an old debate with new vigour, where there is no doubt that the criminal justice system must consider its position and attitude towards the time it takes to dispose of a case.

"But I don't think justice can ever be or ought to be instant, and justice must never ever take the form of revenge. I believe justice loses its character of justice if it becomes revenge," the CJ said during the inauguration of a new building of the Rajasthan High Court here.

63% turnout in J'khand polls, 1 killed in scuffle with police

SAURAV ROY ■ RANCHI

The second phase of election for the Assembly in Jharkhand that drew 63.36 per cent turnout saw death of one of the assailants on a polling booth in Gumla district's Sisai constituency on Saturday. Two others sustained bullet injuries in the firing.

The villagers pelted stones at the security personnel and stabbed them with sharp objects causing serious injuries after the first accidental gunshot hit one of the assailants on his thigh, police said.

The security personnel had to take the extreme step in a bid to protect themselves from an enraged group who tried to snatch their guns during a scuffle. The first gunshot hit thigh of one of the assailant, when he tried to snatch a cop's gun. The second gunshot killed another assailant.

In another incident, Maoists torched a bus used for ferrying voters in Chaibasa. However, no casualties were reported in the incident. Later in the day, Maoists attacked poll parties in Khuntis Arki block leading to an encounter with security forces. With prompt reinforcement, the security personnel forced them to flee, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinay Kumar Choubey.

50% income of 25 parties comes from electoral bonds

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Three national parties and 22 regional parties generated more than 50 per cent of their income through the electoral bonds in 2018-19. A total of ₹587.87 crore of the income declared by these parties to the Election Commission (EC) came through electoral bonds which are anonymous and the identity of their donors are not disclosed to the public.

Access to justice beyond reach of poor: President

PTI ■ JODHPUR

President Ram Nath Kovind here on Saturday expressed concern over access to justice, saying the judicial process has gone beyond the reach of the common man.

"The judicial process has become expensive, even beyond the reach of common man due to many reasons, especially in the high court and the Supreme Court where it has become impossible for common litigants," the President said during the inauguration of the newly constructed Rajasthan High Court building.

"Today, can any poor or deprived person come here with his complaint? This question is the most important because in the Preamble to the Constitution, we all have

Turn to Page 4

MAOISTS ATTACK POLL PARTIES, TORCH BUS

SAURAV ROY ■ RANCHI

The second phase of election for the Assembly in Jharkhand that drew 63.36 per cent turnout saw death of one of the assailants on a polling booth in Gumla district's Sisai constituency on Saturday. Two others sustained bullet injuries in the firing.

The villagers pelted stones at the security personnel and stabbed them with sharp objects causing serious injuries after the first accidental gunshot hit one of the assailants on his thigh, police said.

The security personnel had to take the extreme step in a bid to protect themselves from an enraged group who tried to snatch their guns during a scuffle. The first gunshot hit thigh of one of the assailant, when he tried to snatch a cop's gun. The second gunshot killed another assailant.

In another incident, Maoists torched a bus used for ferrying voters in Chaibasa. However, no casualties were reported in the incident. Later in the day, Maoists attacked poll parties in Khuntis Arki block leading to an encounter with security forces. With prompt reinforcement, the security personnel forced them to flee, said Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Vinay Kumar Choubey.

CAPSULE

I-T DEPT RAIDS BSE BROKERS, TRADERS

New Delhi: The income-tax (I-T) department has conducted searches at 39 locations to check tax evasion by brokers and traders operating at the Bombay Stock Exchange in transactions worth about ₹3,500 crore.

DEAD FISH FOUND IN GANGA CANAL, PROBE ON MUZAFFARNAGAR

Thousands of dead fish were found floating in the Ganga canal in Hastinapur area of Muzaffarnagar district. An investigation is underway.

MAN THROWS CHEMICAL ON WOMAN IN DELHI

New Delhi: A 30-year-old woman was injured after a man threw a chemical on her near the New Delhi Railway Station.

50% income of 25 parties comes from electoral bonds

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The audit reports of the remaining five national parties, including the BJP and the Congress, and 30 regional parties were not available on the website of the Commission till the presentation of the report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The last date for submission of annual audited accounts for the parties was October 31, 2019. It is estimated that electoral bonds worth ₹2,540 crore were redeemed by parties in 2018-19, indicating that it is likely that the remaining ₹1,952 crore worth electoral bonds were encashed by parties whose audit reports are not available on the EC website.

The ruling BJP has been the biggest beneficiary of electoral bonds garnering 94.5 per cent of the bonds worth around ₹210 crore in 2018.

The issue of electoral bonds came under the spotlight after a report indicated earlier this week that the RBI had repeatedly warned the Government that the electoral bond scheme would lead to money laundering. However, the Government ignored the warnings and went ahead with the scheme.

The issue was rocked in the ongoing Parliament Winter Session this week as the Opposition, including the Congress, alleged the ruling BJP as a biggest beneficiary of the scheme.

As per an analysis of the parties' audit reports carried out by ADR, under voluntary contributions, the parties collected 50.54 per cent or ₹587.87 crore of their income from donations through electoral bonds while other donations and contributions amounted to ₹305.73 crore or 26.28 per cent in 2018-19. The three national parties that submitted their details are Trinamool Congress, CPI(M) and Bahujan Samaj Party.

However, of the three national parties analysed, only Trinamool Congress declared receiving donations through electoral bonds, amounting to ₹97.28 crore. Only five of the 22 regional parties that were analysed declared donations through bonds, the amount being ₹490.59 crore.

Turn to Page 4

'I am not playing Sita but living it'

MUSBA HASHMI chats up SHIVYA PATHANIA about what made her choose Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush, preparations for the role and if she would like to be a part of a reality show

■ What prompted you to play Sita in Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush?

First, the character of course. We have seen so many versions of the Ramayana but never heard its story from Luv-Kush's perspective. This was another reason that I chose to take up this project. Also mythology is a genre that will never become out dated. The audience loves to see the stories that represents our culture and history. As for the younger generations, they just know about the stories but not what it taught us. These shows are a wonderful medium to teach the younger generations about the values and our culture.

■ What research did you do for the role?

I didn't do anything at all. I didn't refer to any book either I haven't seen any previously made series on Ramayana because I didn't want to resemble anybody or portray the role like somebody else did before. We all know what the story is, it has been told since decades. I wanted to showcase the less-told story which our narrators wanted to tell through the show.

■ How hard was it for you to carry off such heavy costumes?

My costume weighs 15 kilogram, but I never feel the heaviness. I am not just playing the character, I am living it. And when you do something with utmost dedication and love you don't feel any challenges in it, it becomes a part of you. I am wearing the costume from morning to evening, but I feel so comfortable that I don't realise its weight. When I am shooting, I don't even remove my jewellery, not even during the breaks.

■ How has your journey been thus far?

My journey started from a contest — Miss Shimla and I won it. Then I gave an audition for a show and fortunately I cleared it. I was called to Mumbai for a look test. Back then, I thought I am going to Mumbai for only a couple of days as I would not be able to clear the next round. I was with the wardrobe stylist without much clothes, but

the city had no plans of leaving me. I was selected for the show — *Humsafars* and since then there is no looking back. I have seen both ups and downs in my journey and have enjoyed being a part of this industry.

■ You have played a bahu and then went on playing a mythological character. Was it hard to do this transition?

I don't know. I have never think about these transitions because at the end of the day it is all about doing good work. The only thing I would say that I have been lucky enough to have been getting such good projects. Be it *Ek Rishta Saathidaar*, *Ka or RadhaKrishn* or *Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush*, I have been fortunate to have got the opportunity to explore different genres and play such beautiful roles.

■ What kind of roles are you looking forward to?

My father tells me one thing '*teri gaadi toh bhagwaan hi chala raha hai*' which means God is taking care of me. I don't plan anything. I take up projects that come my way and I feel that they are good. Whatever God has in store for me, I know it will be for my good. I believe in going with the flow.

■ How is Shivia in real life?

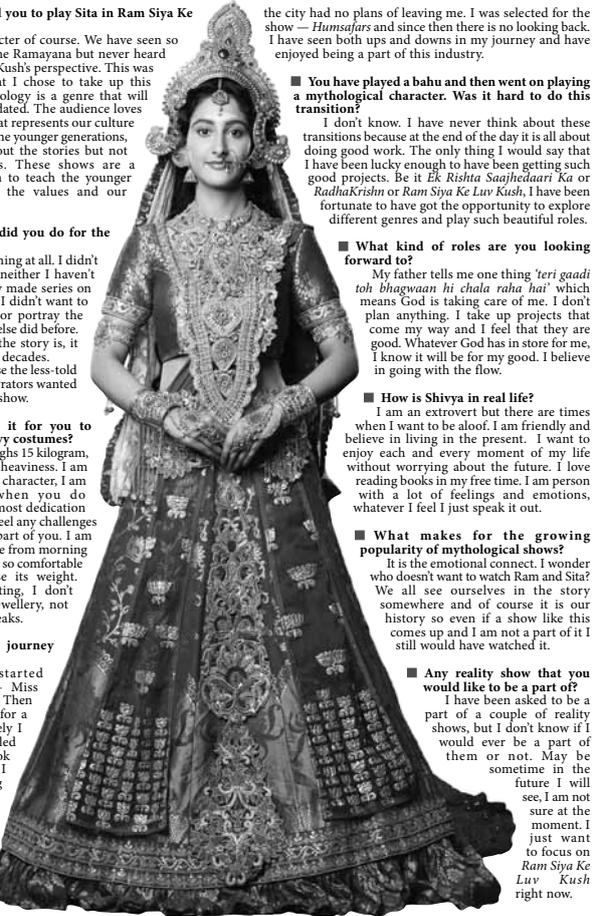
I am an extrovert but there are times when I want to be aloof. I am friendly and believe in living in the present. I want to enjoy each and every moment of my life without worrying about the future. I love reading books in my free time. I am person with a lot of feelings and emotions, whatever I feel I just speak it out.

■ What makes for the growing popularity of mythological shows?

It is the emotional connect. I wonder who doesn't want to watch Ram and Sita? We all see ourselves in the story somewhere and of course it is our history so even if a show like this comes up and I am not a part of it I still would have watched it.

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

I have been asked to be a part of a couple of reality shows, but I don't know if I would ever be a part of them or not. May be sometime in the future I will see, I am not sure at the moment. I just want to focus on *Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush* right now.



'Directing films is more challenging'

One of the most entertaining persons in the industry, a super talented filmmaker and choreographer Farah Khan is all set to make an appearance on the latest episode of *Not Just Super Stars* on Zee Café, available as part of Zee Prime English Pack. This is your chance to get the inside scoop as she shares nuggets about her journey in the industry with host Gunjan Utreja. Joining Farah on the show for the first time ever is her friend and celebrity hair stylist, Kanta Motwani.

Speaking about her experience as she dabbles the dual role of a choreographer and film-maker, Farah Khan says: "Directing a film has been more challenging because of the process. One must not only build everything from scratch, but also bring it alive. Choreographing is a job much easier as it's like a five-minute film with actors and lyrics. The song is readily available, and your scene is also set."

The episode sees Gunjan Utreja and Farah Khan in conversation about her career. She quotes: "A lot of research goes behind choreographing a song. Based on the requirement of the scene, we pick up steps from various dance forms. I prefer visiting musicals, catch some local dance performances that help in gaining inspiration to do justice to the song and the scene."

When asked about her relationship with her kids, she says: "Our holidays have always been about spending extensive time with



my kids which is my most favourite part. We usually have at least 3 holidays a year and when work takes over, the come and pay visit on my set."

While Farah revealed nuggets from her personal and professional journey, her friend Kanta joined the party with some interesting bits to share. Speaking about their 20-year long friendship, Kanta jokingly revealed how Farah and her family are almost entirely responsible for taking care of Kanta's domestic bills. Speaking about Farah, she says: "She lights up the whole place. She is never in a bad mood."

Talking about how the salon is her go-

to place, Farah says, "I love going to the parlour. It's my social place. I'll bump into Shilpa Shetty, Sonali Bendre, Shweta Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit, Kriti Sanon and sometimes even my mother. She goes on to say, "I live in Kanta's parlour more than I live in my own house. I know the names of everybody from the boy who serves tea, to the colourist. That really is proof that you've been going there a long time."

When asked if they ever call each other at odd hours for random requests Farah retorts: "All my friends know that at 9:30 pm my phone is put off, whenever my children and husband are at home."

Alia is very comfortable sharing her personal life with her parents and that's what every kid hopes for. As her mother supports her for acting, Roshi Walia revealed that her mother has no problems with her dating somebody. She says: "I am comfortable sharing my personal life with my parents as they have been extremely supportive. I am currently not dating anyone but my mother has set some clauses for me if I date someone in the future. My focus is

New twist in Alia's life

The bubbly Alia (Anusha Mishra) of Sony SAB will soon be seen in a fierce avatar. The romantic comedy, *Tera Kya Hoga Alia* has taken a rather serious turn where Alia is on a mission to win back her husband, Alok (Harshad Arora). The show is set to take an unexpected turn as Alia learns about Tara (Priyanka Purohit) faking her own accident to be close to Alok. Earlier, Tara's accident had led to memory gain, where Tara starts living in her own future and starts calling Alok as her husband. The doctor had warned Alok of her sensitive state of mind, and also suggesting that she needs special care. Alok, a true

gentleman, brings Tara home and pretends to be her husband.

Alia is disturbed as she is forced to move in with her mother while Tara takes over Alia's place in Alok's life. Things take a shocking turn when Alia while peeping inside Alok's room sees wheelchair bound Tara walking on her own. Alia realises that Tara was faking her own accident and she is now bent on exposing Tara in front of Alok.

In an attempt to expose Tara's facade in front of everyone, Alia joins hands with Kunal (Neil Motwani). Tara's ex-boyfriend, to put an end to Tara's act, Will Alia be able to expose Tara? Tune in to know more.

Gold medal on Saisha's cards

Sony Entertainment Television's *Patiela Babes* has been a trend setter when it comes to clutter breaking content. While initially it started with a beautiful depiction of mother-daughter relationship, with the leap, the viewers are witnessing an interesting take on sisters and their bitter-sweet bond. While Ashnoor plays the part of a mature and gymnastic skills. Now that we have moved to Mumbai, I am looking for a gymnastics teacher here. Apart from this, I also love to experiment with singing," Bajaj says.

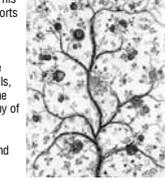
Bajaj, who is from New Delhi, has already taken a year's training in Kathak. She is also undergoing training in gymnastics since the last six months. "I want to get Gold medal for India in gymnastics. I am a huge Tiger Shroff fan. I love his dancing and gymnastic skills. Now that we have moved to Mumbai, I am looking for a gymnastics teacher here. Apart from this, I also love to experiment with singing," Bajaj says.

Kanaat by Ritu Kumar

Venue: Ritu Kumar store, M4, South Extension - Part II
When: December 12 and December 13, 2019
Time: 11 am to 5 pm

For over five decades, textile revivalist and fashion designer Ritu Kumar has travelled around the world studying historical Indian textile collections and contemporary traditions of hand-making. Ritu Kumar presents Kanaat, a brief history of painted and printed Indian Textiles; an exhibition which presents historical pieces, archival images and collages around the diverse traditions of hand painting and hand printing on cloth. This showcase also highlights Kumar's efforts to recreate their timeless appeal in contemporary collections for her eponymous label Ritu Kumar Home.

The word *Kanaat* refers to textile panels which were used to create walls, screens and lentils over centuries in the Indian subcontinent. Historically, many of these were meant for furnishings, interiors and architecture. Forming travelling pavilions, garden pavilions and sacred spaces, they reflected the outstanding genius of Indian dyers, artists and printers which developed in the Indian subcontinent over centuries. They captured ordinary words of flora and fauna with the use of exceptional colours, fabrics, techniques and skills, producing masterpieces which remain unparalleled. Made in both local markets and for export, such patterned textiles — made for India — further inspired the growth of printed fabric in other parts of Asia and Europe.



Peking Duck & Flavours Of Sichuan

Venue: The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi
When: Till December 22, 2019
Time: 11 am to 7 pm
Cost: ₹2,500 plus taxes (for two)

The Westin Gurgaon announces the launch of Peking Duck at EEST, its exquisitely designed Pan Asian specialty dining outlet, introducing savours from the Imperial era in the menu.

That's not it though! The hotel also brings forth Flavours of Sichuan at EEST, an authentic menu inspired by Sichuan cuisine originating from the Sichuan Province in China. This festival curating the most popular cuisine of China — the indulgent Sichuan also marks the launch of the Sichuan Special Menu at EEST, upgrading its expansive Pan Asian menu to offering Sichuan specialties now.

The carefully curated menu showcases a myriad of taste profiles the comfort dining for gatherings through its bespoke traditional presentation in a sophisticated ambience.



Ramen Festival

Venue: Youmea, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi
When: Till December 8, 2019
Time: 11 am to 11:30 pm

With the onset of winter, Universal is all set to pay an ode to the delicious soup art made with crafted noodles, savory broths, and perfectly melded toppings with a ten day Ramen Festival. The special menu will be offering different varieties of ramen to try and slurp to your heart's delight.

With exciting options for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians, the ramen bowls will be a delight for people who love the convenience and warmth of one-bowl meals. The menu will cater to the palate of the adventurous foodies as well as the ones who like more tried-and-tested popular options.

The mouth-watering vegetarian options include vegan dreams, a delicious ramen meal bowl with tofu, broccoli, pork choy, mushroom, lettuce in miso broth and Veggie Delight, blend of mushroom, pork choy, chinese cabbage, bean sprouts in garlic sesame flavoured broth. The non-vegetarian can enjoy Teriyaki Chicken Ramen-A Chef's special teriyaki glazed chicken ramen with a healthy miso broth, wakame & nori and many others.



7th edition of Vh1 Supersonic

Venue: Mahalakshmi Lawns, Pune
When: February 7 to February 9, 2020
Cost: ₹3,000 per ticket

ThereBeFree! step up music fanatics and get ready to groove to the Bumping beats of India's biggest multi-genre festival - Vh1 Supersonic 2020. Known for diverse music, extravagant stage, breakthrough artist lineup, and wholesome festival experience Vh1 Supersonic 2020 returns to its three-day original format and promises to set you free with its theme — The Rabbit Hole. The theme is a place of infinite possibilities, a place that resonates with the beat of Supersonic- #BeThereBeFree.

Taking the festival to its crescendo will be the all-time favourite — Anand DJ and musician Illegium, rock band Chon, Indian rapper Divine and world's biggest techno brand Awakenings!



TELLYTALE

JENNIFER'S NEW AVATAR



Sony Entertainment Television's much-talented daily show *Beyhadh-2* has captured the cumulative attention of the Indian audience. Jennifer Winget, who played a psychotic lover in the first season, is back to say, "I live in Kanta's parlour more than I live in my own house. I know the names of everybody from the boy who serves tea, to the colourist. That really is proof that you've been going there a long time."

When asked if they ever call each other at odd hours for random requests Farah retorts: "All my friends know that at 9:30 pm my phone is put off, whenever my children and husband are at home."

Alia is very comfortable sharing her personal life with her parents and that's what every kid hopes for. As her mother supports her for acting, Roshi Walia revealed that her mother has no problems with her dating somebody. She says: "I am comfortable sharing my personal life with my parents as they have been extremely supportive. I am currently not dating anyone but my mother has set some clauses for me if I date someone in the future. My focus is

'TURNING 18 CAME WITH CLAUSES'

Roshi Walia, also known as Tara from the most loved show of Sony Entertainment Television's *Tara From Sarita* reveals about her dating life. Roshi Walia who recently turned eighteen says how her mother has set some dating clauses for her. Roshi Walia is very comfortable sharing her personal life with her parents and that's what every kid hopes for. As her mother supports her for acting, Roshi Walia revealed that her mother has no problems with her dating somebody. She says: "I am comfortable sharing my personal life with my parents as they have been extremely supportive. I am currently not dating anyone but my mother has set some clauses for me if I date someone in the future. My focus is



to concentrate on my acting and on my show". When asked about what kind of a guy she wanted she said: "The guy should be as responsible as I am. Currently I am focusing on my career and I expect the guy to do the same. Looks do matter to me, but the guy should focus on building up his own career and support me in what I do. It is okay for me to date a guy who is outside of the industry, as all my friends do not belong to television sector. This keeps me updated of the on-gings in the outside world as most of my time goes in shooting for my show."

Currently, the most famous dramaly show will witness the second round of *Dancer No 1* where Radhika (Urvashi Pardeshi) will be seen setting the stage on fire through her Bollywood dance and how Tara innocently tries to save her sister from her father's anger.

KAIKALA TO BE CROWNED AS NEW KING

Things are all set to take a dramatic turn of events in Sony SAB's periodic drama *Tenali Rama* as Pandit Rama Krishna's (Krishna Bharadwaj) biggest nemesis, Kalkala (Vishvajit Pradhan) is all set to be crowned as the new King of Vijayanagar.

Before being crowned as the King of Vijayanagar, Kalkala threatens Rama that he will kill King Balakumara and then make sure he ends Rama's life as well. Determined Kalkala, starts scheming to put Balakumara's (Shakti Anand) life in danger but Rama saves his life by figuring Kalkala's plan with his wit and intelligence.

Despite Rama's effort to keep Balakumara safe, he gets terrified after an unknown man tries to feed him a poisoned betel leaf. Balakumara is afraid of the looming threat on his life and decides to step down as the King of Vijayanagar by declaring Kalkala as the new King.

Dark times are about to befall on Rama as he is crowned as the King of Vijayanagar, how will Rama save himself from his murderous intents? What will Pandit Rama Krishna do next, save himself or Vijayanagar?

Krishna Bharadwaj, playing the role of Pandit Rama Krishna said: "A big challenge lies ahead of Pandit Rama as his biggest enemy is crowned as the King. The upcoming episodes will showcase Rama's

journey to keep himself and Balakumara safe from Kalkala's threat and at the same time save Vijayanagar from their ultimate doom. It will be interesting for our viewers to watch the episodes further as they are full of thrilling and unexpected twists."

SEQUEL OF Y.J.HJK IN MAKING?

Star Plus' popular fiction show, *Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka* (YJHJK) has been entertaining the audience's week on week with its interesting storyline and twists and turns in the plot. The mysterious tale of a Nawab and his transformation into a



different entity altogether has heightened interest amongst the viewers. While the show has been ruling the TRP charts, there have been rumors that the show would go off air soon. Is the producer of the show planning to make a sequel of the show *Yehh Jadu Hai Jinn Ka*.

As per the sources: "The makers have finalised the story which further heightens the experience of the audiences. While the original show featured graphics, the second installment is bound to take it a notch higher. The makers of the show have hired specialists from Mumbai, who has started working on some grandiose ideas."

REYHNA LOVES BELLY DANCING

After playing the lead role for the most part of season one, Reyhna Pandit is back for *Mannohri Season 2*. While most of the cast is pretty new, Reyhna has been retained, but for a new part. She is playing the passive and deceiving Sandhya, who wants to get her evil powers back. However, she is completely different in real life. The happy-go-lucky and bubbly Reyhna Pandit loves to try new things and we hear that she has taken up belly dancing recently.

Reyhna Pandit confirmed the same and revealed: "I absolutely love dancing and I want to learn different dance forms. In fact, I have even joined a belly dancing class in Andheri (Mumbai) recently and have completed a few sessions already. The shooting schedule obviously doesn't allow me to completely focus on it, but whenever I get a chance, I try and attend the class. I want to be a pro at it. I want to prepare a full belly dance performance on *Mannohri*'s title track and will record a video soon."

C'garh ranked 6th in MGNREGA works to differently abled

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh has been placed in sixth position in providing employment to differently abled persons under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA).

In 2019-20 fiscal from April to November around 22,97,66 differently abled people were provided jobs. During this period 5.3 lakh man-days of work was created.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhanupratap Singh visited Deendra Kumar Singhdeo, mother of Health and Family Welfare Minister T. S. Singhdeo, at Medanta Hospital, Gurugram on Saturday and enquired about her health and wished her speedy recovery.

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal were placed in first, second, third, fourth and fifth position respectively.

Panchayat and rural development minister T. S. Singhdeo has patted the department officials and employees for the achievement and hoped that with adequate chances of employment, it would boost morale and confidence of the differently abled in state.

In 2018-19 fiscal around 30,702 differently abled persons were provided job while 8.90 lakh man-days of employment was created.

According to officials of the department under MGNREGA based on the capacity of differently abled they work given works like drinking water arrangement, taking care of children, plantation, irrigation canal, filling of pits, filling sand in trolley or throwing, preparing the building construction materials, shifting of concrete or other construction materials from one place to other, loading cement and bricks, water spraying, among others.

IMA sets 72-hour ultimatum, threatens to go on strike

Seeks action against relatives of a deceased patient

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A delegation of Indian Medical Association, Raipur Unit submitted a memorandum addressed to Chhattisgarh governor Anusuya Uikey on Saturday seeking protection of hospitals.



Hospital Board Raipur chairman Dr Rakesh Gupta said that on Friday at Santa Colony's Dr S. K. Goel Nursing Hospital, relatives of a deceased patient used abusive language and caused extensive damage to the hospital and created ruckus.

With such situation becoming a regular occurrence in hospitals, normal functioning has become difficult, the delegation said in a memorandum submitted to Governor's secretary.

Pained by such incidents, the IMA handed

over the memorandum of demands to Governor, Dr Gupta said. Governor has been urged to ensure immediate action against the family members of deceased patient. If within 72 hours no action is taken the private hospitals across the state will go on a strike, by not treating patients, the association said.

Meanwhile, IMA called a meeting of doctors and private hospital owners. A decision was taken in favour of the private hospitals and

unanimously decided that action should be taken against the family members of the deceased woman.

As per reports, Mominpara resident Roshan Bano has been undergoing treatment since few months at Santa Colony based Goel Nursing Home and she was a heart patient. On Friday morning, after administration of an injection, she passed away. The family members then created commotion inside the hospital leading to damages.

BJP confident of victory in civic polls

RAIPUR: Former minister and BJP senior leader Brijmohan Agrawal said Congress fears loss in civic bodies' election that is why it has introduced the ballot paper and indirect election.

In Raipur, BJP always had more corporators than Congress even though the Mayor was from the Congress. It will open path for BJP getting mayoral post in the capital city.

Interacting with media, he said anger on denial of tickets is a normal reaction of the party workers and lower cadres during civic body elections. Civic body election is of party workers, so it is natural that denial of tickets leads to rebellion, he said, adding the rebellion will be dealt through amicable solution.

The electors have been urged to register their anger against the Congress government for taking state backward, he said.

He said that even in the state assembly during winter session the issue of denial of rights of people to vote has been raised. Earlier, people were casting two-votes which have been now withdrawn and indirect election has been brought, he said.

When everyone is using EVM, the Congress government has adopted the ballot, the BJP leader mocked.

The farmers are not happy with the developments in state. It will reflect in the upcoming election, he added.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhanupratap Singh visited Deendra Kumar Singhdeo, mother of Health and Family Welfare Minister T. S. Singhdeo, at Medanta Hospital, Gurugram on Saturday and enquired about her health and wished her speedy recovery.

Brijmohan alleges paddy procurement yet to begin



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Former agriculture minister and BJP leader Brijmohan Agrawal said the Congress-led state government has failed to procure paddy from farmers as till date in more than 100 primary societies across the state no procurement has begun.

There is a shortage of gunny sacks and technical fault in software due to which tokens are not being given for more than a week.

Addressing the media at BJP divisional headquarters on Saturday, he said, during the BJP's tenure, the token after measurement was given

to farmers and by evening the payment was being cleared. But in present scenario farmers are facing economic crisis with rabi season looming large. With no money left and government is yet to release funds, they are forced to take loan from market. Again, they are falling in trap of loan sharks.

Agrawal alleged that still loan waiver scheme benefit had not reached farmers, particularly those who took credit from nationalised banks.

Citing a tweet of Chief Minister Bhanupratap Singh, Agrawal said in year 2016 while in Opposition

Congress had demanded procurement from November 1 instead of November 15 but now that the party is in power, there is already one-month delay in procurement and delay in payment.

It was BJP which has introduced zero-interest loan for farmers in the country, now even the irrigation pumps distribution has also affected, he claimed.

The mills which do value addition of paddy have also stopped production as local farmers' produce are being seized by officials, thus denying them their right to sell their produce, he alleged.

Dancing traffic cop wins CM Baghel's heart

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In a rare gesture, Chief Minister Bhanupratap Singh on Saturday lauded a traffic cop posted in Raipur for controlling traffic in his unique way.

Probably for the first time, any Chief Minister in Chhattisgarh has taken social media to praise a traffic cop.

In a tweet posted from his handle, Bhanupratap Singh wrote "very innovative and inspiring Mohsin ji".

The 21-second-long video that was originally posted by a news agency was well received by twitterati and it had gathered 16.6K views by Saturday evening after getting posted by the Chief Minister's handle.

In the video Mohammad Mohsin Sheikh was seen controlling traffic, displaying his dancing skills.

According to Sheikh, he drew inspiration of controlling traffic with dance moves from a video of a traffic cop in Madhya Pradesh, who used to control traffic while skillfully using dancing steps.

Country can't run on emotive issues: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhanupratap Singh on Saturday said that it is not a good sign that people in the land of Gautam Buddha, Mahavir, Gandhi and Guru Nanak are living in fear and are not allowed to express their views.

Commenting on the Indian economy, the chief minister said that the country cannot function on emotional grounds, for this economy needs to be

strengthened.

He was speaking at the 17th edition of the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit in New Delhi. He further stated that Chhattisgarh is not affected by the economic slowdown because the state government has put more money in the citizen's pocket through loan waiver of farmers, procuring paddy at MSP ₹2500.

The money ultimately came back to the market. Expressing his views on

the Telangana encounter, Baghel said, "Judicial proceedings take time. People forget about it by the time judgments come. In Delhi rape murder case, mercy petition is still going on..."

Answering the question on NRC, the chief minister said, "On border areas, this could be a problem. This is just a way to deflect attention from real issues."

On the question about GST compensation to states, he stated that the demand for compensation

has reached ₹6500 crore in 2018-19. He added that development works in the state are being affected and the state is witnessing revenue loss as the state has not yet received GST compensation from the Centre.

He said not releasing GST compensation of states is a clear violation of Constitutional Amendment Act enacted to pare the GST was implemented.

Mentioning the achievements of his 11-month-old government, the chief minister

said that rate of unemployment in Chhattisgarh has registered a decrease of 6 per cent whereas sectors like automobile and real estate have witnessed a jump of over 70 per cent and 35 per cent respectively.

He further said that the government has adopted the model based on Mahatma Gandhi's ideology.

Narwa-Garwa-Ghurva-Bari is not just a government scheme but an alternative model for development of people, he added.

IAS Assn to provide financial assistance to Uike's family

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh IAS Association has decided to provide financial assistance to son of late Chandrakant Uike for higher studies.

The association has also urged Chief Minister Bhanupratap Singh to provide compassionate appointment to nearest kin of late Uike as gazetted officer. As per the decision, the assistance amount will be in name of late Uike's son as fixed deposit so that when needed he can withdraw it.

The IAS Association during its general body meeting held on Saturday paid rich tributes to their colleague late Chandrakant Uike and prayed for the family to bear the loss and overcome the crisis. C. K. Khetan chaired the meeting while R. P. Mandal, Amitabh Jain, Subrat Sahoo, Niharika Barik, Subodh Singh, D. D. Singh, Kamalpreet Singh and others were present.

The members raised concern over private foreign

tours of IAS officers as facts were not reported properly.

It caused damage to reputation among the public that a few officers are fond of foreign trips. But the fact is that all have the right of taking leave and go for trip on personal expenditure.

It is also clear if any IAS officer had gone for private trip then legally permission has been taken. Family members of few officers are working in foreign countries and on their personal expense they are going to meet their family members, which is their individual right, the association said.

Association hoped that media before detailing about any officer would cross check the facts with the concerned officials, so his side of the story should reflect before people. IAS officers of the state are always ready for administrative review or probe. Media is urged to take care not to malign image of any IAS officer and his integrity, the association said.

Pillai gets charge of ADG Jail

RAIPUR: In a late-night reshuffle in police department, three senior IPS officers were given fresh responsibilities on Saturday. As per official information, the Additional Director General (ADG) of Police Sanjay Pillai who was Director Public Prosecution and Director State Forensic Science Laboratory, Raipur has been appointed as ADG Jail. Likewise, ADG Ashok Juneja who was holding the charge of ADG training, STF/admin, recruitment/selection has been given additional charge of ADG home guard and public safety. The 1994 batch IPS officer GP Singh who is currently posted as ADG EOW, ACB has been given the charge of Director Public Prosecution and Director State Forensic Science Laboratory, Raipur.

Jilted lover on bail, attacks woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ KORBA

A 35-year-old woman was seriously injured when a man, arrested earlier for shooting an obscene video of her, allegedly attacked her with a sickle in Korba district, the police said.

Indrapal Tonde (40), the accused, had recently obtained bail, a police official said on Saturday.

Tonde attacked the woman on Friday near Budhwari Bajrang chowk when she was on her way to work," said Durgesh Sharma, Station House Officer (SHO), Kotwali police station.

The woman lived in residence in Budhwari area here after separating from her husband and worked at a private firm, he said.

Tonde, who lived in the same area, was in love with her but she rejected his proposal, the official said.

A few months ago, the woman shifted to another house after Tonde allegedly began to pressure her to accept his proposal, the SHO said.

He then moved into a house near the woman's rented accommodation, and started harassing her. In October he allegedly filmed her secretly when she was taking bath and circulated the video on social media,

the police officer said. The woman lodged a complaint and he was arrested, but got bail some days ago.

"On Friday, he attacked her brutally with a sickle in an attempt to kill her. Some passers-by came to her rescue and thrashed him before handing him over to police," Sharma said.

An onlooker shot a video of the incident where a man is seen slashing at the woman with a sickle, and uploaded it on social media. "The woman has been admitted to the district hospital. Her condition is stable," SHO Sharma said.



Artists performing 'Panhi' dance during the Youth Festival organised at capital city, Raipur on Saturday.

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN

Rahul, Priyanka slam Modi Govt

PM's political career based on hatred, division and violence: Rahul in Wayanad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday launched multi-pronged attack on the Modi Government for increasing stances of rape and crime against women.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi gives a speech as a student translates it at Vakkali Higher Secondary School at Batheri in Wayanad on Friday

Winding up a three-day tour in the Wayanad constituency, the Congress MP also lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said his (Modi's) entire political career was based on hatred and division and violence.

alleged that the Prime Minister had failed to react when the victim's car was hit by a truck.

believes in the ideology of hatred and violence. His entire political career is based on hatred and division and violence.

"UP BJP MLA is involved in rape and PM hasn't said a word about it. He is a truck and PM doesn't say a word... Foreign nations are asking this question why the nation can't take care of its daughters," Gandhi said.

Our people live in fear and discomfort," Gandhi said and urged the people of the country not to "underestimate" their (peoples) strength to change the narrative of the nation.

Directly attacking the Prime Minister, Gandhi said Modi represents the worst aspects of the country.

"We have a PM who

over the death of the Unnao rape victim who was set ablaze, alleging that law-and-order situation has completely collapsed in the State which is becoming the country's 'rape capital'.

Uttar Pradesh Government needs to strengthen the law-and-order in the State. Our question is to the State police is why FIR was not registered in four months and why the accused were left out on bail," Shrinete told reporters.

"He is the father, I can understand his pain and his disappointment. I empathise with the family and we solidly stand with them in this hour of grief... But law and order is the basis of any civil society. Law and order needs to be strengthened to an extent where perpetrators of crime against women don't have the courage to do anything. Police needs to be sensitised to first make it safe for women, and in case of a crime lodge FIRs and offer protection to the victim and the accused," she said.

She was responding to a statement of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who gave the assurance that the case would be pleaded in a fast-track court to provide speedy justice to the deceased woman's family.

Hitting out at the State Government, Shrinete said that it is "not the first and this will not indeed be the last case if you (UP Government) don't wake up. The State Government seems to be in a drying hurry to become the rape capital."

"How do accused get away by committing such heinous crimes? What gives them the courage to do so? The answer is, it is due to complete collapse of law and order in the state. They somehow find political protection and that is why they have the courage to go ahead and do this against our Parliament," she said.

"We can't turn a blind eye. Why are the prime minister, all those ministers, why talk to streets earlier now silent. Why is there a conspicuous silence in the matter?" she posed.

'TAX EVASION' BY BSE BROKERS, TRADERS I-I department conducts searches at 39 locations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The income-tax (I-T) department has conducted searches at 39 locations to check alleged tax evasion by brokers and traders operating at the Bombay Stock Exchange in transactions worth about ₹3,500 crore.

in equity derivative segment and also currency derivative segment on the BSE, the CBDT said in a statement.

penny stocks listed on the BSE, where the manipulated profits utilised by the beneficiaries aggregate to around ₹2,000 crore, it said, adding that unaccounted cash of ₹1.20 crore was also seized after the raids.

"The action has unraveled the entire modus operandi which has been adopted by share brokers and traders to trade into the liquid stock options in equity derivative segment and thereby generate artificial losses/profit by executing reversal trades in a very short span of time," it said.

Vadra is facing probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, following allegations of money laundering related to purchase of a property in London at 12, Bryanston Square, worth 1.9 million pounds.

"By this contrived methodology, the unscrupulous entities have secured desired profits/losses, which is estimated to be more than ₹3,500 crore," the CBDT said.

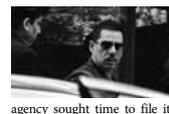
Senior advocate K T S Tuls, appearing for Vadra, told Special Judge Arvind Kumar that his client wanted to travel to Spain for two weeks from Dec 9.

The action also resulted into identification of the wrongful long-term capital gains taken in at least three

Vadra seeks Delhi court's permission to travel abroad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Robert Vadra, the son-in-law of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, on Saturday moved a Delhi court, seeking its permission to travel abroad for medical treatment and business purposes.



Agency sought time to file its response.

Vadra is facing probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, following allegations of money laundering related to purchase of a property in London at 12, Bryanston Square, worth 1.9 million pounds.

In June, the court allowed Vadra to travel to the US and the Netherlands for six weeks on account of health reasons. It, however, asked him to go to the United Kingdom.

The ED had expressed apprehension that the accused may destroy evidence if allowed to go to the UK. Vadra was directed on April 1 to not leave the country without prior permission by a court here which had granted him conditional anticipatory bail.

According to the NIA, Azadulla was instrumental in the propagation of the ideology of the proscribed terrorist organization ISIS/Daish on social media with

BJP MP seeks law for MPs to make details of foreign visits mandatory

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP has called for a law to make it mandatory for Members of Parliament to place any invitations from foreign countries, Governments or organisations to be routed through the Ministry of External Affairs. The invitation will be sent to the FCRA division of Ministry of Home Affairs ten clear days in advance of the date from which the 'foreign hospitality' is proposed to be accepted.

THOUGH PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS ARE RARELY PASSED, A DISCUSSION ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION MAY ALLOW BJP MEMBERS TO GET BACK AT CONGRESS AS THE BJP GOVERNMENT HAS IN THE RECENT PAST ATTACKED CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI FOR HIS 'SECRET FOREIGN TRIPS

The prior permission will be required to be obtained and "mere sending" the application would not automatically grant the go ahead for the foreign visit, according to a private member bill introduced in the upper house by BJP's Rajya Sabha member GVL Narasimha Rao.

The bill intends to make all the details mandatory for obtaining permission from the Government.

Seeking to make foreign tours of members of Parliament 'transparent', the bill requires a copy of the application should also be sent to Ministry of Parliament Affairs.

"Application with complete details in the prescribed form (FC-2) along with the invitation letter from the host, sent to the Ministry of home affairs, FCRA division," the bill says. This is after all the applications are routed through the Foreign Ministry.

The new stringent format for the application to obtain the permission for foreign visits makes it mandatory for the visiting MP to provide all details of the foreign host including his/her name, nationality, passport number, profession, address, e-mail address and mobile number. This is besides, providing

the "nature of hospitality-cash or kind", purpose, duration of stay and approximate expenditure.

ISIS Kerala, TN module case: NIA chargesheets 2

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday filed a chargesheet against two ISIS suspects arrested by the agency in connection with its probe into the ISIS Kerala module case.



June 12 this year.

An NIA spokesperson on Saturday said the anti-terror probe agency filed the chargesheet against Mohammed Azadulla and the other suspect including the group mastermind.

The NIA had arrested both the suspects in the wake of the probe. According to NIA officials, Azadulla was the leader of the module and was also maintaining a Facebook page named 'KhilafahGFX', through which he had been propagating the ideology of ISIS/Daish.

The ED had expressed apprehension that the accused may destroy evidence if allowed to go to the UK. Vadra was directed on April 1 to not leave the country without prior permission by a court here which had granted him conditional anticipatory bail.

The Central probe agency registered a case on May 30 this year, taking suo motu action against six accused from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, based on information that the accused and their associates were propagating the ideology of the proscribed terrorist organization ISIS/Daish on social media with

HYDERABAD ENCOUNTER KILLINGS

Two PILs seeking SIT probe filed in SC

New Delhi: Two petitions were filed on Saturday in the Supreme Court seeking an SIT probe into the killings of three people, arrested on charge of gangrape and murder of a veterinarian in Telangana, by police in an alleged encounter and compensation for their families.

The PIL filed by Mani and Yadav claimed that the alleged encounter was "fake" and FIR should be lodged against police officials who were involved in the incident.

high level like Commissioner of Police taking the law into their hand and conducting a fake encounter and killing alleged rape accused... Without bringing them before the court for punishment is very unfortunate," the plea said.

"The incident is a clear violation of Article 21 (right to life and fair trial) of the Constitution of India. A persons 'Innocent till guilt is proved,'" Sharma said in his PIL.

"No one including the investigating agency like police has right to punish any accused without due process of law. The court alone after applying all the procedure and law and affording an opportunity a life of free and fair trial and hearing can impose punishment of imprisonment or death sentence," Mani and Yadav said in their PIL.

While the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by advocate M.L. Sharma said that the SIT probe should be monitored by former apex court judges, a separate petition filed by lawyers G S Mani and Pradeep Kumar Yadav said that independent investigation against concerned police officials should be conducted.

In his plea, Sharma said it is a killing in police custody and "therefore all the police officers involved" must be arrested and prosecuted in accordance with law after an

Sharma alleged that it was a case of "extra-judicial killings" and sought prosecution of policemen involved in the incident.

SIT probe by CBI.

Besides seeking court-monitored SIT probe, the PIL filed by Sharma also seeks action against Samajwadi Party lawmaker and Bollywood actress Jaya Bachchan and Chairperson of Women's Welfare Commission for Women Swati Malviya for alleged "provocation" and "pressing police for extrajudicial killing of arrested persons in police custody without trial."

No space for Opposition in BJP's model of democracy: J&K Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Jammu: The Congress Jammu & Kashmir unit on Saturday criticised the BJP-led Centre Government of suppressing all opposition voices through use of police authority to "crush all sorts of genuine dissent" in the Union Territory.

ED attaches ₹34-crore assets of Gujarat company for 'money laundering'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹34 crore of a Gujarat-based firm under the anti-money laundering law in connection with an anti-bank fraud case.

According to the administration approval of the day-long 'Jammu bandh' to protest internet shutdown failed to evoke any response here as JKNPP leader Harsh Dev Singh was put under house arrest and several others were detained.

The ED probe pertains to Biotour Industries Limited and its managing director, Rajesh M Kapadia, and others, which is also being investigated by the Gujarat police and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

"It (BJP) had already given slogan of Congress-mukh Bharat (India) to Congress" where as it has been attempting to crush all Opposition forces. All those against the BJP are dubbed as threats to peace and against the national interests and detained," Sharma said in a statement filed here. This is a replica of a sick thinking which goes against the

The probe revealed that the accused had "misappropriated" funds to the tune of about ₹250 crore by preparing bogus bills and invoices during 2007-2009, the ED said in a statement.

2019 saw record 11 cyclonic disturbances over Indian Ocean after 127 yrs

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As cyclonic storm 'Pawan' crossed over the Somalia coast on Saturday and weakened into a deep depression, the calendar year 2019 has witnessed 11 cyclonic disturbances developed over the Indian Ocean, a phenomenon recorded after 127 years. Such development was last recorded in 1893.



havoc and affected weather pattern in Indian Sub Continent. The maximum number of 10 cyclones developed over north Indian Ocean during 1893, 1926, 1930 and 1976. The maximum number of five cyclones with

four severe cyclones developed over Arabian Sea during 1902," the India Meteorological Department said.

The Arabian Sea has been more active during 2019 with the formation of seven cyclonic disturbances against the normal of 1.7 cyclonic disturbances per year. Of them, five have developed into severe or extensive intensity cyclones against the normal of 1 per year.

western side remains relatively quiet with only three cyclones-Pabuk, Fani and Bulbul this year.

Kyarr and Maha simultaneously in end-October was considered to be an unusual occurrence observed last in 1965. While, cyclone Maha turned 'extremely severe,' cyclone Kyarr was considered to be a super cyclone and dissipated near the coast of Somalia. The last such occurrence (five cyclones) was observed in 1902.

According to scientists, warming of oceans is fuelling stronger cyclones in the North Indian Ocean, with increasing potential energy available to these cyclonic disturbances. The systems also seem to have intensified rapidly, most probably due to higher sea-surface temperatures, which lead to an increase in cyclonic wind speeds. Studies show that with a rapidly warming Indian Ocean, the frequency of severe cyclones is expected to increase.

According to the IMD, cyclone Pabuk over Andaman Sea came during January 04 and 08 this year, the extremely severe cyclonic storm FANI came over the Bengal during April 26-May 04. Very severe cyclonic storm Vayu came over Very severe cyclonic storm VAYU over the Arabian Sea during 10-17 June. Very severe cyclone Bulbul over the Bay of Bengal came between November 5 and 11.

The cyclonic activity brought post-monsoon rain, hitting agriculture in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Karnataka. Of the seven cyclonic disturbances over the Arabian Sea this year, four were recorded post-monsoon.

TRUMP IMPEACHMENT WH won't participate in proceedings

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The White House on Friday informed the House Democrats that it would not participate in the impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump.

In a letter to House Judiciary Committee, Jerrold Nadler, White House Counsel Pat Cipollone said that it would be a "reckless abuse of power" for them to adopt the articles of impeachment.

This "would constitute the most unjust, highly partisan, and unconstitutional attempt at impeachment in our Nation's history," he said in a one-page letter.

"As the President has recently stated: 'if you are going to impeach me, do it now, fast, or you can have a fair trial in the Senate,'" he wrote and slammed the ongoing impeachment inquiry as "completely baseless."

It violates "basic principles of due process and fundamental fairness," the White House Counsel said.

Expressing disappointment over the White House response, Nadler said that American people deserve answers from Trump.

"The House invited, and then subpoenaed, his top advi-



sors. The President ordered them not to show and continued to block key evidence from Congress. We are disappointed that the President has once again failed to provide those answers here," he said.

"We gave President Trump a fair opportunity to question witnesses and present his own evidence before us. After listening to him complain about the impeachment process, we had hoped that he might accept our invitation," Nadler added.

"If the President has no good response to the allegations, then he would not want to appear before the Committee. Having declined this opportunity, he cannot claim that the process is unfair. The President's failure will not prevent us from carrying out our solemn constitutional

duty," Nadler said.

Nadler has scheduled a Monday morning hearing at which members will hear "presentations of evidence" from attorneys for the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committee.

Last week, Nadler had asked White House to participate in the impeachment hearing. In his letter, Cipollone said House Democrats had wasted enough of America's time with this "charade."

"You should end this inquiry now and not waste even more time with additional hearings. Adopting articles of impeachment would be a reckless abuse of power by House Democrats, and would constitute the most unjust, highly partisan, and unconstitutional attempt at impeach-

ment in our Nation's history," he said.

US resumes talks with Taliban in Doha: US source

AFP ■ DOHA

Washington resumed talks with the Taliban in Qatar Saturday, a US source said, three months after President Donald Trump abruptly halted diplomatic efforts that could end America's longest war.

In September, the United States and the Taliban had agreed in the verge of signing a deal that would have seen Washington begin withdrawing thousands of troops in return for security guarantees.

It was also expected to pave the way towards direct talks between the Taliban and the Government in Kabul and, ultimately, a possible peace agreement after more than 18 years of war.

But that same month, Trump abruptly called the year-long talks a "ceasefire" and an invitation to the insurgents to join secret talks at his US retreat at Camp David after the killing of an American soldier.

"The US rejoined talks today in Doha. The focus of talks is on the cessation of violence that leads to intra-Afghan negotiations and a ceasefire," said the US source.

Washington had sought to seal a political deal with the Taliban ahead of September's elections in Afghanistan.

During a surprise visit to a US military base in Afghanistan last week, Trump said the Taliban "wants to make a deal." Even during the stall in talks, US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad has in recent weeks made a whistle-stop tour of nations with a stake in Afghan peace, including Pakistan.

He recently arranged a captive swap in which the Taliban released an American and an Australian Islamic cleric whom they had held hostage for three years. The Taliban have until now refused to negotiate with the Afghan government, which they consider an illegitimate regime.

In a nod to concerns raised by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, the State Department voiced support for a ceasefire - a key priority for Kabul before it enters negotiations with the Islamist insurgents.

But the Taliban and Khalilzad will rejoin talks with the Taliban to discuss steps that could lead to intra-Afghan negotiations and a peaceful settlement of the war, specifically a reduction in violence to a "ceasefire," the State Department said on Wednesday as it announced the resumption of efforts to end the conflict.

Washington had sought to seal a political deal with the Taliban ahead of September's elections in Afghanistan.

Drone hits Iraq cleric's home as tensions rise after Baghdad attack

AFP ■ BAGHDAD

An armed drone targeted the home of Iraqi cleric Al-Qadafia Sadr on Saturday, hours after his supporters deployed in Baghdad in response to an attack that left 17 protesters dead.

The developments marked a worrying turn for the anti-government protests rocking Iraq since October, the country's largest and deadliest grassroots movement in decades.

The mostly young protesters in the capital's iconic Tahrir Square had long feared a violent escalation, and on Friday it appeared their apprehensions were well-placed.

After nightfall, armed men on pick-up trucks attacked a large building where protesters had been camped out for weeks in the capital's Al-Sinek bridge.

Security forces deployed on the bridge itself did not intervene, witnesses said, as the attackers ousted protesters from the building in a volley of gunfire.

At least 17 people were killed and dozens more wounded, medics told AFP, with ambulances shuttling teenagers suffering gunshot and stab wounds to nearby field clinics.

Panicked demonstrators rushed out into the street,

sending out calls through social media for people to come to their main gathering place in Tahrir Square.

By Saturday morning, hundreds had arrived. "I came after the incident and there were tons of people in Tahrir and by Al-Sinek," one demonstrator told AFP.

Many of the new arrivals were expected to be members of Saraya al-Salam (Peace Brigades), the paramilitary group headed by Sadr.

They are nicknamed "blue helmets" for the headgear they typically wear, and witnesses said they were visible in large numbers in Tahrir before dawn on Saturday.

A source within Saraya told AFP one of its own members had died in the overnight clash, and that the group was still being seen to Tahrir "to protect protesters."

Sadr has backed the protests, but demonstrators have been wary of his support as they feared it could pave the way for negotiations with pro-government forces.

Early Saturday, a drone dropped a bomb on his home in the shrine city of Najaf, damaging the exterior wall, sources within his party told AFP.

Sadr, a notoriously versatile figure, is currently in Iran,

London bridge terrorist buried in ancestral village in Pok

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Utsman Khan, the convicted terrorist of Pakistani origin who was shot dead during last week's terror attack in London, has been buried in his family's ancestral village in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, according to a media report on Saturday.

Talking to Dawn News, the General Manager, public relations, of Pakistan International Airlines Abdul Hafeez said Khan's body was flown to Islamabad from London and then handed over to his family on Friday.

He had been buried in Kotli in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the daily reported. Funeral was held and Khan was buried in the evening, the daily said.

Khan, 28, stabbed and killed two people in London on Saturday. He was later identified as a convicted terrorist who was jailed seven years ago over a plot to bomb the London Stock Exchange and build a terrorist training camp on land owned by his family in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

He had discussed staging a Mumbai-style attack on the UK Parliament, and was described by the UK judge who sentenced him for terrorism offences in 2012 as an ongoing risk to the public with a "serious, long term venture in terrorism".

UK election rivals face off for final time ahead of poll



Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, left, shakes hands with Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson, centre, with debate moderator TV presenter Nick Robinson, right, during a head to head live Election Debate at the BBC TV studios in Maidstone, England on Friday. Britain's Brexit is one of the main issues for political parties and for voters, as the UK prepares for a General Election on December 12.

AFP ■ LONDON

The two men vying to be British Prime Minister in next week's election exchanged trademark blows Friday over the familiar faultlines of Brexit and healthcare in the final head-to-head TV debate of

the month-old campaign.

In a lacklustre hour-long battle largely devoid of stand-out moments, Prime Minister Boris Johnson repeatedly criticised Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's failure to say if he supports Britain leaving the EU while talking up his agenda.

"We have a fantastic plan to get Brexit done," Johnson said, referring to a divorce deal he finalised with EU leaders in October.

"How can you get a new deal from Brussels for Brexit, if you don't actually believe in it," he added, referring to Corbyn's vow to remain neutral in a second EU referendum he wants to hold within six months.

The Labour leader is proposing to negotiate a softer form of Brexit to put up against remaining in the bloc in the vote. He said Johnson's vow to strike trade deals with both the European

Union and the United States next year were unrealistic, and that Britain's cherished national health service (NHS) was under threat. "What he will do is walk out of a relationship with the EU into a relationship with nobody," Corbyn said.

Johnson has spent the campaign lagging in the polls and

was in need of a breakthrough moment, but often found himself on the defensive on Brexit and other issues.

A snap poll by YouGov found the debate, the second head-to-head between the pair, was the most watched in television history.

Johnson called the snap election -- the third in Britain in nearly five years -- last month to try to get a parliamentary majority which would enable him to secure backing for his divorce deal.

Voting takes place next Thursday. The Britain Elects poll aggregator puts the Conservatives on 42 per cent, Labour on 33 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 13 per-

629 Pakistani girls sold as brides to China

AP ■ LAHORE

629 girls and women from across Pakistan who were sold as brides to Chinese men and taken to China.

The networks that trafficked Pakistani investigators determined to break up trafficking networks exploiting the country's poor and vulnerable.

The list gives the most concrete figures yet for the number of women caught up in the trafficking schemes since 2018.

But since the time it was put together in June, investigators' aggressive drive against the networks has largely ground to a halt. Officials with

knowledge of the investigations say that is because of pressure from Government officials fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing.

The biggest case against traffickers has fallen apart. In October, a court in Faisalabad acquitted 31 Chinese nationals charged in connection with trafficking.

Several of the women who had initially been interviewed by police refused to testify because they were either threatened or bribed into silence, according to a court official and a police investigator familiar with the case. The two spoke on condition of an anonymity because they feared retribution for speaking out.

Thousands in Myanmar rally behind Suu Kyi ahead of Hague court date

AFP ■ NAYPIDAW (MYANMAR)

Thousands rallied in support of Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar Saturday, on the eve of her departure for the UN's top court to defend Myanmar against charges of genocide against Rohingya Muslims.

The massive rally in the capital Naypyidaw came as China's Foreign Minister arrived for a visit at Suu Kyi's invitation.

Analysts say Beijing's permanent seat on the UN Security Council and its veto

power makes it a valuable asset as Myanmar faces intensifying scrutiny over its treatment of the Rohingya.

Once-lauded democracy champion Suu Kyi's shock decision to face the International Court of Justice (ICJ) next week to defend Myanmar

against charges it committed genocide against the Muslim Rohingya has further damaged her already tattered overseas reputation.

But domestically "The Lady" remains revered, and the resolve of her supporters has only hardened in the lead-up to the ICJ hearing scheduled for December 10-12.

"We are proud of her taking accountability. By going to The Hague to protect the nation's image," shouted prominent writer Htin Lin Oo into a microphone in front of a banner emblazoned with the words "We stand with our leader."

"Our blood shall come together and unite us when it is important," he shouted to a cheering crowd, who hoisted colourful artwork of Suu Kyi in the air.

Trump pulls back on designating Mexico cartels as 'terror' groups

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said Friday he would not proceed with his stated plans to designate Mexican drug cartels as terror groups following a request from his counterpart Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

Mormon community.

The case brought fresh attention to cartel violence in Mexico and leftist president Lopez Obrador's struggles to rein in bloodshed, but south of the border the US plans were seen as unwanted meddling.

Mexican officials asked for clarification on Trump's plans, and said they wanted to make progress on efforts to stem the flow of weapons and money

from the United States to criminal gangs in Mexico.

Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard had reacted more forcefully, saying "Mexico will never allow any action that means a violation of its national sovereignty," while Trump said in a tweet Friday evening that "all necessary force has been committed to declare Mexican Cartels terrorist organizations," he said.

UN PEACEKEEPING No substitute for professional competence: India

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

India told a high-level event on peacekeeping that working in partnerships is key to successful peacekeeping, underlining that professional competence of those engaged in all aspects of this global enterprise cannot be substituted or compromised," he said.

India along with Portugal, Senegal, Uruguay and Vietnam co-hosted the high-level event "Improving peacekeeping performance: A year since UNSCR 2436" initiated by the US here Friday.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres thanked the US and the event's co-hosts, India, Portugal, Senegal, Uruguay and Vietnam, for convening the event and for their support to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

"India believes that even while broad participation in peacekeeping is important to enhance global solidarity, there can be no substitute for professional competence of those engaged in all aspects of this global enterprise," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said in his address at the event. "Working in partnerships is key to successful peacekeeping."

He stressed that guidelines require that the Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System

Saudis distance themselves from US naval base shooter

AFP ■ RIYADH

Saudi Arabia sought to distance itself Saturday from a student who carried out a fatal shooting at an American naval base, as it seeks to repair its image of being an exporter of Islamic extremists.

The Saudi military student reportedly condemned the US as a "nation of evil" before going on a rampage Friday at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida, killing three people and wounding eight.

The shooting marks a setback in the kingdom's efforts to shrug off its longstanding reputation for promoting religious extremism after the September 11, 2001 attacks in which 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudis.

The hashtag "Saudis stand with America" gained traction on social media after King Salman telephoned President Donald Trump to denounce the shooting as "heinous" and pledge cooperation with American officials to investigate the incident.

The king added in the phone call on Friday that the shooter, who was gunned down by police, "does not represent the Saudi people," a sentiment echoed by other officials.

"Like many other Saudi military personnel, I was trained in a US military base and we used that valuable training to fight side by side with our American allies against terrorism and other threats,"

WESTERN RAILWAY BULK ADVERTISING RIGHTS AT VARIOUS STATIONS

S. No.	Tender No. & Station	Work and Location	Approx. Tender Value (in ₹)	EMD (in ₹)
1	CA 11 Bulk Station BCT/M 2819 dtd. 25/12/2019	Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for Display of Advertisements at Mumbai Central (Main) & FOB for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	59,37,415/-	1,78,000/-
2	CA 11 Bulk Station DDR, FOB, 2919 dtd. 24/12/2019	Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for Display of Advertisements at Dadar FOB for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	3,19,51,448/-	6,39,100/-
3	CA 11 Bulk Station DIC, PF, 2919 dtd. 23/12/2019	Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for Display of Advertisements at Dadar FOB for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	21,24,137/-	42,100/-
4	CA 11 Bulk Station DIC, PF, 2919 dtd. 23/12/2019	Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for Display of Advertisements at Dadar FOB for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	63,15,583/-	1,26,000/-
5	CA 11 Bulk Station JOS, FOB, 2919 dtd. 25/12/2019	Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for Display of Advertisements at Jogeshwar FOB for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	48,24,457/-	97,500/-
6	CA 11 Bulk Station DHR, PF, 2916 dtd. 25/12/2019	Tender for Bulk Advertising Rights for Display of Advertisements at Dadar FOB for a period of 5 years over Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	52,21,398/-	1,04,100/-

For above Tenders - Date and Time of Submission & Opening of Tender: Up to 15:00 hrs. on 02/12/2019 and Opening at 15:30 hrs. on the Same Day. Website Where Tender and Bidding details Available: www.westernrail.gov.in

Like us on [Facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail) Follow us on [Twitter.com/WesternRail](https://twitter.com/WesternRail)

The Empowered Officer, TRRDA, PWD(PMGSY), 7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agaralta, Tripura Involes sealed tender(s) against serial No: 29/EOP/TRRDA/2019-20 dated: 29.11.2019.

For Construction/Upgradation of Road & CDs including LS Bridges of PMGSY Works,

1. Package No: TR-04-213; With Estimated cost (a) Construction: ₹ 525.73 Lakh (b) Maintenance: ₹ 19.08 Lakh (c) Earnest money: ₹ 10.90 lakh. 2. Package No: TR-04-224; With Estimated cost: (a) Construction: ₹ 249.10 Lakh (b) Maintenance: ₹ 12.26 Lakh (c) Earnest money: ₹ 5.23 lakh. 3. Package No: TR-03-177; With Estimated cost: (a) Construction: ₹ 701.20 Lakh (b) Maintenance: ₹ 35.84 Lakh (c) Earnest money: ₹ 14.74 lakh

Time of completion-12 (twelve) months. Last Date of dropping of tenders 19th December, 2019 up to 15:00 hrs. (the time settings fixed on the server & displayed at the top of the tender site).

For details please visit: www.pmgstyendersrtp.gov.in

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 8th December, 2019 at 11:00 hrs. in the office of the Empowered Officer, TRRDA, PWD (PMGSY), 7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agaralta, Tripura.

Empowered Officer, Tripura RRDA, PWD (PMGSY) 7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat Building, Agaralta

ICA/C-1857/2019-20

HIMURJA (H.P. GOVT. ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY) SHIMLA-171009

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the M/NRE approved manufacturers / System Integrators under NSM of SPV Street Lights for the supply and installation of SPV Street Lights of different wattage ranges / mode of operation in Gram Panchayats, Govt. departments/ institutions and other beneficiaries of any kinds in H.P. on full cost basis. The tender documents No. HIMURJA (F-7) SPV/LS/19-20, will be available for sale from 16-12-2019 to 01-01-2020 up to 5.00 PM and shall be received up to 2 PM on 02-01-2020 which will be opened on the same date at 3.00 PM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who may like to be present. The cost of tender document is Rs. 15,000/- only. The tender documents can also be downloaded from the website of HIMURJA i.e. himurja.hp.gov.in. The cost of the documents in that case can be deposited along with the tender in the shape of demand draft in favour of Director, HIMURJA, Shimla Separately.

Document No.	Description	Tentative Qty.	Earnest Money
No. HIMURJA (F-7) SPV/LS-19-20.	SPV Street Lighting Systems (LED type)	10,000 Nos. (Tentatively)	36,00,000/-

Terms and Conditions:-

- (i) Tenders not submitted on prescribed format & in prescribed manner shall not be considered and will be rejected outrightly.
- (ii) Tenders without Earnest Money Deposit will not be considered.
- (iii) The above quantity is tentative, which may increase. The earnest money is based upon the tentative quantity and in case the quantity is increased the firms will have to deposit the EMD accordingly.
- (iv) HIMURJA reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason. Conditional/ telegraphic tenders will not be accepted.
- (v) The tenderers should be manufacturer / System Integrator approved by M/NRE under NSM who must have designed, manufactured, supplied, and tested SPV Lighting System in M/NRE Programme to other Nodal Agencies/ Govt. Agencies/ Govt. departments for at least last three years and should have experience of installing 3000 Nos. LED Non SPV Street Lighting Systems (LED type).
- (vi) The bidder should have income tax / GST clearance. GST registration etc. as required under the rules.
- (vii) Other terms and conditions shall be as per tender documents.

Executive Engineer (E)
HIMURJA, Urja Bhawan,
Kasumpti, Shimla-171009

India look to seal series

Men in Blue will be eager to rectify bowling and fielding issues and wrap another series triumph

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India will look for an improved show in the bowling and fielding departments to match their stupendous batting performance when they face the West Indies in the second game, eyeing to wrap up yet another T20 series here today.

In the last 13 months, India have played the West Indies in six T20s with the hosts coming up trumps every single time.

A win today will not only help India seal their second series in the shortest format after beating Bangladesh 2-1 last month but also give them a chance to tests the fringe players as they continue their preparation for the T20 World Cup.

India pulled off their highest successful run chase in a T20I on Friday night as they chased down a challenging 207 for 5, posted by the Windies, in 18.4 overs.

If KL Rahul set the platform with a 40-ball 62, skipper Virat Kohli finished the job with a career-best 94 not out.

Rahul looked in sublime touch as he made a case for himself with his well-compiled half-century after being promoted to open the absence of the injured Shikhar Dhawan.

The Karnataka batsman became the third fastest man to complete 1,000 runs in T20 internationals in 29 innings on way to his half-century and he will look to continue his good run.

Underfire Rishabh Pant too produced two big sixes before being



Indian skipper Virat Kohli, right, and his West Indian counterpart Kieron Pollard react during loss in 1st Twenty 20 game in Hyderabad. ICC/Twitter

holled out at long off and the wicket-keeper batsman Iyer has come under the scanner for his inconsistent form with the bat and poor glove work, will look to grab such opportunities more often.

While the batting led by Kohli put up a good show, the bowlers found themselves at the receiving end of some power-hitting by Evin Lewis,

Shimron Hetmyer and captain Kieron Pollard.

Despak Chahar, who was impressive in the preceding series against South Africa and Bangladesh, found the going tough as the West Indian batsman went after him. He took one wicket but gave away 54 runs and he will look to execute things better today.

Returning to the side's T20 setup, Bhuvneshwar Kumar went wicketless, bleeding 36 runs in his four overs but the weakest link in India's bowling seems to be Washington Sundar, who has failed to provide the breakthroughs, claiming just two wickets in his last six games.

The 20-year-old from Chennai got the stick from the Windies batsmen

and it remains to be seen if India sticks to the same bowling unit or brings in wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav.

In the fielding department too, India were far from impressive with Sundar and Rohit Sharma dropping a few catches apart from numerous misfields and the hosts will look to quickly pull up their socks.

The Windies, on the other hand, will be desperate to bounce back and keep the series alive but for that they will have to find a way to stop the Indian batsmen, led by Kohli.

The visiting team's bowlers appeared clueless as Kohli went on the overdrive in Hyderabad.

Pacer Kesrick Williams conceded 60 runs from 3.4 overs and would be lucky to keep a place in the playing XI on Sunday.

Skipper Kieron Pollard would want the experienced Jason Holder (46/0) and Sheldon Cottrell (1/24) to provide wickets in the initial overs to stymie a formidable Indian batting unit.

The visitors also gave away 23 runs in extras, an area which needs immediate attention if they have to put India under pressure.

The Windies captain admitted that his side failed to execute its plans properly and would hope for an improved performance if they have to take the series to the decider and avenge their 0-3 loss to the same opponent in their own backyard in August.



KL Rahul bats during India's nets session. BCCI/Twitter

Relaxed KL wants to make most of opportunities

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Having a chance to open the innings for India in the T20I series against the West Indies, star player KL Rahul said he is looking to make the most of the opportunities but doesn't want to worry about sealing his T20 World Cup berth.

The India team is continuing its preparations for next year's T20 World Cup and many players, whose places are not yet secured, are trying to impress the selectors with their performances against the West Indies.

Rahul, who was promoted as an opener in the absence of injured Shikhar Dhawan, grasped the chance with both hands by scoring a 40-ball 62 to help India record their highest successful run chase on Friday.

"It's (T20 World Cup) a long way honestly. I have got the opportunity to bat top of the order again after a couple of series, so looking forward to just making the best use of it," Rahul said at the post-match press conference.

"Today was a good outing, good hit in the middle and hopefully I can continue the same thing without worrying about the next game. There are a lot of games before that."

The 27-year-old stylish batsman from Karnataka said despite both the teams scoring 200 plus runs, the wicket-off in their opening match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here wasn't the easiest wicket to bat.

"The wicket wasn't bad, both teams scored 200 plus and we chased it in 19 overs but it was the easiest wicket to bat on," he said.

India won the game by six wickets but they were far from impressive on the field with Rohit Sharma and Washington Sundar dropping a few catches.

Rahul said for a fielder it

Bowlers lacked discipline & execution: Pollard

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

West Indies captain Kieron Pollard lauded his batsmen for putting up a good show but came down hard on the bowlers for failing to defend 200-plus score against India in the first T20I.

"I think we batted pretty well. We scored about 200 runs which more often than not you take that, those were extra balls and extra overs. When you give a class team like India these many extra deliveries, you are destined for trouble."

"No balls are something we stress on in terms of non-negotiable and we bowled a couple of them tonight. It's something we need to look on."

wasn't easy to pick the ball with low flood lights at the ground here.

"I don't think it's the dimensions of the ground, I think the lights are pretty low and sometimes you lose the ball in that light and what happened a couple of times," he said.

"We have played here before, we have played here for years so we knew what to expect. As a team we don't complain about things like these, it's not our control."



Rahul said for a fielder it

SINGLES

TRAILBLAZER'S SATNAM FAILS DOPE TEST

NEW DELHI: Satnam Singh Bhamara, the first Indian player to be drafted into an NBA team in 2015, has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency after he failed a dope test last month. The 23-year-old Punjab cager has failed an out-of-competition test conducted in Bangalore by NADA during the preparatory camp for the South Asian Games. He was provisionally suspended on November 19. The prohibited substance found from Bhamara's 'A' sample of his urine is not known. Bhamara, however, disputed the charge levelled against him and said that he "was and remains a clean" athlete. In a statement issued on Saturday, the 23-year-old Bhamara said he has requested the NADA for a hearing by its Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel and to decide his case within three months.

LAUNCH OF NEW WC VENUE POSTPONED

Doha: Qatar has postponed the launch of the opening of Education City stadium, its second new built venue for the 2022 football World Cup. FIFA said on Saturday. The venue was due to be inaugurated when it hosted the semi-final of the Club World Cup between Liverpool and an as yet undetermined side on December 18. But delays to the certification of the stadium by the authorities will mean that the fixture will instead be played at Khalifa International Stadium which was already due to host several Club World Cup fixtures. Education City will now be opened in 2020 although the world football governing body did not give an exact date.

FAWAD RECALLED AFTER 10 YEARS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has recalled 34-year-old middle-order batsman Fawad Alam for the first time in 10 years for the Test series against Sri Lanka. Chief selector and head coach Misbah-ul-Haq said on Saturday that the left-handed batsman was selected to head the two-Test matches against Australia. Alam has replaced Ifkhar Ahmed while left arm fast bowler Usman Shinwari comes in place of young fast bowler Mohammad Musa.

PLAY CANCELLED IN DANGEROUS PITCH

MELBOURNE: Play was abandoned on Saturday during a domestic game due to a dangerous pitch at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, just weeks before it is due to host the traditional Boxing Day Test. A decision to call off play was made on day one of the Sheffield Shield clash between Victoria and Western Australia after several batsmen were hit by rising deliveries. It followed talks between the umpires and captains Peter Handscomb and Shaun Marsh. Marsh was among those to be battered multiple times by balls from fast bowlers that rose sharply and unexpectedly on the lively pitch. One that caught Marcus Stoinis in the ribs proved the final straw.

ATK END NORTHEASTS UNBEATEN RUN

GUWAHATI: ATK reclaimed the top spot in the Indian Super League with an impressive 3-0 win over NorthEast United FC on Saturday. An early strike from David Williams (11th) and a brace from Roy Krishna (55th, 80+4) were the goals for Antonio Habas' team to hand NorthEast their first defeat of the season. With Saturday's double strike, Krishna took his goal tally to six to become the leading goal scorer this season. With their fourth win of the campaign, ATK have now 14 points from seven matches while NorthEast, who have 10 points, are at fourth spot. Today's three wins will be the top priority for a Hyderabad FC when they host FC Goa at the GMC Bhalayogi Athletic Stadium, Hyderabad with just four points from six games, can laptrap a couple of teams if they manage to upset the Gaurs. **AGENCIES**

The good work has just started: Stimac



Igor Stimac instructs during India's practice session. IFT

NEW DELHI: It was in May earlier this year that Igor Stimac was appointed as the head coach of the Indian National Team and on Friday, he assessed his time in India till now and looked back at his tenure so far with the Blue Tigers in a live Q&A session on Facebook.

Stimac stated that "he already feels like home" in the country and stated that there is already a marked difference in the quality of football played by his side.

"We have just started our work in the last six months," he said. "There is a great difference now in the quality of our game and one can look at the statistics and facts to see it. For example, we now have seven players who can cover over 12,000 metres in a match, including 1,000 metres of sprints."

"We have had a great few games and some tough ones as well. The toughest games are where you are considered favourites and now I can easily say that India has become a team that is difficult to beat. We need to mature our game and continue putting in quality work in order to keep moving forward."

AFP ■ LONDON



Lewis Hamilton celebrates win. AP

Six-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton rates the 2019 season as "the best" of his decorated career, on and off the circuit.

The 34-year-old Mercedes driver reflected on his stunning triumph in Abu Dhabi before Friday's FIA awards ceremony.

"It has been the best year I would say of my career. I am really proud of what we have achieved as a team," said Hamilton, who is now just one title shy of the record seven world championships held by Michael Schumacher.

The season concluded in Abu Dhabi last Sunday with Hamilton winning his 11th race of the campaign and the 84th of his career. Despite his repeated brilliance behind the wheel he said it was his life off the track that had made 2019 all that more special.

The Head Coach pointed out the improved defensive record of the Blue Tigers, citing the number of goals conceded in the first five FIFA World Cup 2022 qualifiers.

Stimac's tenure has seen a number of players take their senior team bows, with a significant portion of them establishing themselves as regular names on the Indian team sheet. The Croat shared his point of view on team selection and stressed on the importance of consistency in a player's performance.

"I do not see if a player is young or old — for me, it's either good or not good enough. The door is open to everyone. There are 11 players in the starting line-up & 23 on the team-sheet. The best performers will get a chance but they have to be consistent. The good performance needs to be maintained for the whole season and there needs to be a degree of continuity."

The Head Coach also shed light on the work being done off the pitch as well and spoke about the plans for the near future, including friendly matches for the national team in Europe. "Not many people know what we are working on when there are no games. I have dedicated myself a million percent into the job. It's not just about choosing 23 players and having training sessions," he said.

"A lot of work has been done in the last six months and so many meetings have taken place with everyone involved in the Indian football family. Preparing players is a long process. We are doing good work and it goes at a certain speed. However, other countries are also working and we need to speed up and all push together in the same direction. With our efforts, we can get there," PNS

War has erupted in the All India Chess Federation (AICF) after its President PR Venketraja Raja on Saturday served a showcause notice on the Federation's all-powerful secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan for committing some technical irregularity in decision-making. Obviously, the Raja faction has hit back on Chauhan for siding with Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua in his crusade to clean up the affairs of West Bengal chess.

Barua had accused West Bengal chess association secretary Atrian Lahiri of engaging in corruption and diverting state fund for chess promotion in his (Lahiri's) company Global Chess. Barua had also accused Lahiri of banning several top players for criticizing his handling of the chess affairs.

While Chauhan sided with Barua and chess players, Raja formed three-member committee to probe Barua's charges. Interestingly, he kept Chauhan outside the committee though as per AICF constitution Secretary has to be part of all such committees.

Barua has objected to the composition of the probe com-

Anderson, Bairstow back for SA tour

AFP ■ LONDON

James Anderson was recalled by England on Saturday for their upcoming tour of South Africa after recovering from a calf injury, while his fellow bowler Mark Wood and wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow also returned to the squad.

The 37-year-old Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, last played internationally in the first Ashes Test against Australia at Edgbaston in August before pulling up after bowling only four overs.

Bairstow, who has played 69 Tests, was left out of the recent Test tour of New Zealand but was named in the 17-man squad.

Fast bowler Wood is also back in the fold after sitting out of the 2-2 Ashes draw with a knee injury and side strain suffered during England's victorious World Cup campaign.

"It is not predicted that Mark (Wood) will be available for selection for the earliest matches," said England national selector Gideon Haslegrave.

"However, he will travel with the team and continue his rehab work with the medical staff on tour. There is no exact date given for his return, but the medical team is working towards him becoming fully available for selection during the tour."

Smith confirmed that off-spinner Moeen Ali remains unavailable after asking to take a break from Test cricket.

The opening match of the four-Test series starts on December 26 at Centurion.

Uncapped seamer Saqib Mahmood missed out after being part of the squad in New Zealand.

Squad: Roy Root (capt), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Jack Leach, Matthew Parkinson, Ollie Pope, Dominic Sibley, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

When contacted by *The Pioneer*, Chauhan said he would not comment on the development, but he can confirm that he has received a show cause letter from the President.

"At this stage I would not say anything. I've always stood by players and continue to do that. We should treat a player like Dibyendu Barua with a little more respect and gratitude," he said.

War erupts in AICF on Barua's charges

President show causes secretary

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

War has erupted in the All India Chess Federation (AICF) after its President PR Venketraja Raja on Saturday served a showcause notice on the Federation's all-powerful secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan for committing some technical irregularity in decision-making. Obviously, the Raja faction has hit back on Chauhan for siding with Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua in his crusade to clean up the affairs of West Bengal chess.

Barua had accused West Bengal chess association secretary Atrian Lahiri of engaging in corruption and diverting state fund for chess promotion in his (Lahiri's) company Global Chess. Barua had also accused Lahiri of banning several top players for criticizing his handling of the chess affairs.

While Chauhan sided with Barua and chess players, Raja formed three-member committee to probe Barua's charges. Interestingly, he kept Chauhan outside the committee though as per AICF constitution Secretary has to be part of all such committees.

Barua has objected to the composition of the probe com-

Mera's late strike saves East Bengal

LUDHIANA:

Last season runners-up East Bengal needed a late equaliser to earn a 1-1 draw against a Punjab side in the I-League match the Guru Nanak Stadium here on Saturday.

Danilo Augusto put the home side ahead in the 13th minute and it looked like Punjab FC would run away with all the three points from the match before Juan Mera saved the day for the Kolkata giants with an 84th minute equaliser.

Punjab FC coach Yan Law made a host of changes from his side that lost 0-3 to Churchill Brothers FC in their opening match of the season. Kiran Kumar Limbu started at the goal instead of Bhaskar Roy.

Samuel Shadap was slotted into the backline in place of the suspended Anwar Ali. Punjab captain Sanju Pradhan retained his place in the line-up with Bali Gagandeep getting the nod upfront, starting with Aser Dipanda Dicka.

East Bengal coach Alejandro Mendez Garcia named a largely unchanged line-up from his side that drew 1-1 on home against Real Kashmir FC, with the only change being Samad Ali Mallick starting in place of Kamalpreet

Singh in defence.

The Kolkata side had a golden opportunity to take the lead in the 13th minute when Pintu Mahaba delivered an in-chest cross into the box for Jaime Santos Colado, who was completely unmarked. The Spaniard triggered a shot from point-blank range, but it was kept out brilliantly by the Red and Gold's tried making inroads and pushed for an equaliser but the Punjab side were up to the task as they went in at half-time in goal front.

In the second half, Punjab kept defending in compact spaces as East Bengal struggled to penetrate through the final third, often finding it difficult to get out of their own half.

The equaliser, however, did arrive six minutes from regulation time when Juan Mera took a seemingly speculative attempt on goal from outside the box and the Spaniard was rewarded as his effort found the back of the net to make it 1-1.

PTI

the pioneer agenda

It's a very big deal to me to remain the same person because I know all of this is going to be gone one day and I'm just going to have myself
— Gina Carano



FROM THE INSIDE

The business of karma

Your every good deed not only benefits another being, but also benefits your own spirit

2



4

Be the one in control

Instead of seeking God's help for the fulfillment of your aspirations, it is better take charge of yourself



FOOD TRENDS 2020

MINDFUL EATING, ghar ka khaana continue to rule

With the rapid proliferation of the F&B business across the country, millions of dollars riding on food enterprises, and several million people dependent on it for their livelihood, finding one's way through the maze of taste is serious business, writes RUSHINA MUNSHAW-GHILDIYAL, as she maps the trends for an annual food trends report for 2020

The year 2019 was a year of unprecedented growth and digital disruption for the food industry. Digital technology drove how we ate all the time. It was the year in which more Indians ate more food "not" cooked in their homes than ever before! Whether you wanted Pizza, Biryani or Gobhi Manchurian, or a regional favourite such as Rajasthani Lal Maas, Naga Pork or the Gujarati Undhiyu, getting food from a home chef's kitchen was easier than it has ever been, thanks to digital technology!

Even the way we eat at home changed — the culture of passing down recipes from one generation to the next is being replaced by online recipe sharing, consumer facing apps, DIY videos, and more.

Therefore, in a country where Mumbai responds to regional pop-ups enthusiastically while Delhi is nonchalant about the idea, and Indore is expanding its culinary wings while Kolkata is looking back at its culinary traditions, it's quite a challenge for businesses to identify concepts that have potential to succeed across its inherent diversity.

In such a scenario, food businesses can benefit from a resource that monitors changes in business and consumer expectations, identifies underlying themes that drive these changes, and help separate the fads from the trends.

Over the past three years, I have found that putting together the annual Godrej Food Trends report requires everything from data analytics to pure intuition on the part of our core team. As a forecaster of trends, it is important that the report is able to differentiate fads from trends. The key distinction between the two is that while trends have the potential to exert long-term influence on the market, a fad is usually isolated, coming and going quickly.

Trends, therefore, don't exist in isolation. They are a sum of many things, often including altered classics, and can have much longer life cycles, sometimes being around for years, or even decades.

One of my favourite examples is our return to our roots. Over the last two iterations of the report, we described a growing movement of self-discovery in the Indian food industry. This desire to learn more about our diverse culinary culture and traditions began in 2018 with an initial exploration into Indian regional cuisines. In 2019, we went beyond the broad strokes of regional cuisines and took a deep dive into the micro-cuisines of India. We saw an explosion of conversations, events, products and dining experiences inspired by micro-cuisines from specific sub-regions, communities, and even family kitchens of India.

This inspired exploration into home kitchens brought the true custodians of Indian cuisine into the limelight as the food industry connected with *nanis*, *dadis*, mothers or home chefs as SMEs (Subject Matter Experts), or sources of inspiration and knowledge of our rich culinary diversity. This in turn drove a rediscovery of traditional ingredients, as ordinary vegetables became the new exotic and *gharelu* greens such as *kele ke phool*, *bathua*, *tendli*, *lauki* and *tinda* featured prominently on restaurant menus. Let me tell you, this trend has not shown no signs of ebbing. It continues to play in 2020.

That said, I must admit we don't always get it all right. While we are on target in a majority of cases, sometimes trends don't play out as anticipated. For instance, in 2019, we heard a lot of talk about millets driving a discovery of other indigenous grains, celebrated as a climate-smart choice for farmers and consumers, but

THIS DESIRE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR DIVERSE CULINARY CULTURE AND TRADITIONS BEGAN IN 2018 WITH AN INITIAL EXPLORATION INTO INDIAN REGIONAL CUISINES. IN 2019, WE WENT BEYOND THE BROAD STROKES OF REGIONAL CUISINES AND TOOK A DEEP DIVE INTO THE MICRO-CUISINES OF INDIA. THE TREND CONTINUES TO PLAY IN 2020

this trend did not map out as expected. The consumption of indigenous grains hasn't grown as significantly as the noise would suggest. What happened to all that hype? Do chefs and media influencers not put their money where their mouth is?

To answer all those questions, as we usher in the report's third year, the 2020 edition points at some interesting big trends (organised alphabetically) for the coming year:

Continued commitment to provenance and mindful eating. Powered by the growing demand for sustainable practices, consumers will continue to make active choices that help minimise their carbon footprint by supporting local/artisanal producers and eating seasonally.

Deeper exploration of South-East Asian flavours. In 2020, the restaurant industry will offer diners a greater variety of South-East Asian flavours through deeper explorations of the popular cuisines, along with specialist menus from previously unexplored regional and ethnic cuisines from the region.

Emergence of the neighbourhood 'food-preneur'. The growing demand for fresh, healthy, hygienic and familiar *ghar ka khaana*, combined with the convenience of digital communications and payment platforms, will encourage many more traditional, regional and community cooks to start mini-enterprises from their home kitchens, offering limited daily specials to small communities of their fans.

Keeping it real. Fuelled by an ever-growing consumer demand for authenticity, 2020 will see a growth of dining experiences designed around real issues, real people, real ingredients, and real stories!

Longing for ghar-ka-khana. The decline in daily cooking at home, because of changing social dynamics and attitudes towards cooking, will see nostalgic diners ordering food that reminds them of their own *ghar-ka-khana*, more often than ever before!

No-compromise convenience cooking. A discerning consumer of 2020, experimenting with the latest health fads and lifestyle diets, can look forward to many more options for quickly and conveniently assembling personalised meals at home, with little or no compromises to their choices.

Proliferation of desi flavours. As an outcome of the persistent demand for all things indigenous, consumers should expect

to see a proliferation of *desi* flavours in everything from small plates to cocktails, and even desserts in 2020!

Return to traditional fats. The growing appreciation of the significance of our choice of cooking medium will inspire more consumers in 2020 to go with *desi ghee* and cold-pressed local seed oils over other options.

Rise of the culinary explorer. An evolving sense of social, financial and cultural independence among young people will drive a greater demand for aspirational, novel, and even exotic travel and dining experiences. These experiences will be inspired by exciting new cuisines from within and outside the country.

Revival of culinary traditions. Riding the ongoing wave of deeper exploration and discovery of our culinary heritage, food businesses and restaurants will find exciting new ways of packaging traditional food wisdom, knowledge, cookware, cooking techniques and food preparation methods to make it suitable for the demands of the modern dining experience.

"When it comes to food, Indians have always preferred *ghar-ka-khana*," says Sujit Patil, Vice President and Head, Corporate Brand and Communications, Godrej Industries Limited and associate companies, reviewing the key findings. "The growth of technology is also shaping what we eat. It is not only giving a big boost to the food processing industry, but also enabling home chefs to become 'food-preneurs'."

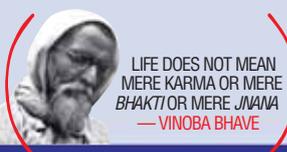
For Patil, as he says it, what is "heart-warming" about the findings is that they point to "the emergence of the neighbourhood food-preneur" in 2020, parallel to the revival of culinary traditions and a proliferation of *desi* flavours in everything, from small plates to cocktails, and even desserts. The emerging future happily rides on the past.

In fact, as you delve deeper, you will find that 2020 will continue to be the year of discovery and it will see us immersing deeper into our culinary diversity than ever before! The food industry will continue to draw inspiration from the home kitchen. Indian ingredients and flavours will dominate conversations, menus, beverages and even our desserts.

The year ahead will continue to reveal newer facets of the power of digital disruption. Every aspect of the industry will galvanise to deliver what consumers want and work to meet their needs. In an era of consumer hyper choice, the food producer will have to do more to stand out and seamlessly deliver exceptional service while at the same time ensuring food variety, quality and integrity, transparency and sustainability.

— The author is a food writer and Managing Director, A Perfect Bite Consulting LLP. She has authored the Godrej Food Trends Report since its inception in 2018





THE BUSINESS OF KARMA

The business of karma is viewed differently by different people, showing a change in attitude as you walk through each successive door of realisation, writes HINGORI



There's one form of wealth we don't often talk about, the one that follows you to the other side of the light — karma.

You know you have tuned into the concept of karma when the realisation dawns upon you that you owe a debt to every life form that served you in any way: plants, animals, your parents, your teachers, everyone. Our karmic record is analogous to a balance sheet, where every positive deed accounts for credit and every negative deed we perform adds to our debt. These debts and credits fructify in our present life or future ones determining the quality of our lives, allowing us to repay debts and savour the credits.

When you delve deeper into the concept, really start performing good deeds, you feel good about it. The spirit within finds it easier to connect with the physical-self because it finally sees itself being benefited as all the accrued positive karma overshadows the negative. That would result in the physical-self experiencing many more, good times than tough ones in the fructification of that accumulated karma in this life and future ones.

Deeper still into this concept, you stop seeing it as generosity on your part or a profit venture for yourself. You consider it to be more of an opportunity you were given, something to be grateful for. Yes, show gratitude for the chance to be kind and generous.

Finally, when you have fully understood this business, you begin to view karma objectively. Say for example, you feed a hundred homeless one day, you will realise it was in their destiny to eat that meal and some way or the other it would have been provided for. If it hadn't been you, someone else would have fed them, making you just the medium through which their destiny was fulfilled and nothing more. At this point you realise that the credit for this karma is not yours for the taking. It works the same way for negative karma as well, that is, the guilt too is not yours to shoulder, destiny has a plan to play out, and in that, you are only a pawn.

The question arises then, are acts of positive karma really acts of selfishness? Well, the answer is yes. Your every good deed benefits another but also benefits your own spirit. And yet, this

YOUR EVERY GOOD DEED BENEFITS ANOTHER BUT ALSO BENEFITS YOUR OWN SPIRIT. AND YET, THIS IS ONE ACT OF SELFISHNESS YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE AND PROPAGATE. BECAUSE WITHIN THIS SELFISHNESS IS SELFLESSNESS AND VICE VERSA

is one act of selfishness you should encourage and propagate. Because within this selfishness is selflessness and the selflessness is selfishness.

And just when you feel you have reached the very core of this concept and understood the business, you realise that it was all a facade under the veil of *maya*, the physical world. When you lift that veil and look at karma, you now see it not as acts of generosity but as an act of necessity. It stops being an act of selfishness and becomes just a plain habit. And that habitual karma though helps others as designed to, stops affecting the spirit, it becomes an unselfish act so to say, and such an act in Hindi is called *Niswarth Seva*. You are no longer the doer, you have risen above karma.

This also brings us to a poignant question — is there an easier formula for diluting doer-ship?

Do not take ownership of any of your actions! Since, they were acts of destiny (even though they were a fructification of our earlier deeds), you do not need to hold yourself responsible for what has been programmed to happen. It is the fruit, not the root. You need to take the 'I' away from the

deeds. Be detached from it as it is not your initiation. You are only a witness to the act, so why become the owner? Most evolved souls have stated that what they do, they do in the name of the Supreme Consciousness. Some may have called it 'Father', others used the term 'God', but none of them claimed that they as individuals were the doers. At an advanced thought process, they identified with the Supreme and their 'I' became the 'I' of oneness with the whole. "In the name of the Father..." Krishna used the 'I' in context to *aham brahmasmi* or 'I am that'. The eternal truth is that in every form lies the same God particle and each of you is the God above (God knows why above). Realising divinity within yourself is enlightenment. Or at least a giant step towards it!

But the toughest task of all is to get detached from one's own body, identity, personality and *jivatma*. This is the second stage after having detached from one's desires, pleasures, family and commercial attachments.

Achieving the above requires the kind of purpose and perseverance displayed by Buddha and other saints of that stature. This can be achieved in parts, over a period of several lives. The effort must be a sustained one.

It is a common thought that anything impossible to achieve is unproductive to try. But the lives of great people and their experiences prove this to be redundant.

We need not compete with the prophets and saints, but even they evolved in stages and took several lives to step outside the circle of *maya*.

Most of the spiritual teachings are easy to listen, and to some extent understand, but difficult to accomplish. So, if you can give up taking ownership of all your actions, including the good ones, you have a chance to step outside the circle of *maya*.

To conclude, if you can give up ownership of karma, do it. If you can't, take the easier path and just plaster your negative karmas with an overload of positive ones, so that in relative comparison they are much less and you can have a better life or lives in the future. This is solely because our destiny is created by our previously accumulated karmas. The form of storage is called *samskars*.

If you don't care for either of these methods you can carry on and be as usual. You can have a better life or lives in the future. This is solely because our destiny is created by our previously accumulated karmas. The form of storage is called *samskars*.

If you see reason that good karma is worth your investment of time, money and inclination, then several life forms will be benefited.

The writer is the author of *Hingori Sutras* series of spiritual books



The strength of character



There is an old saying: when wealth is lost nothing is lost; when health is lost something is lost; when character is lost everything is lost. The saying needs some elaboration as the context has changed. It was coined when wealth was not the be all and end all of everything. But we are in a consumer age, where wealth is everything, gotten from whatever means. How to relate the relevance of the saying to the modern times is what would be baffling to many or may be most. But there is relevance, only one needs to probe a little deep. So, as the saying goes when wealth is lost nothing is lost because it can be regained by using health and character. But when health is lost something is lost because the weakening of the health will make things difficult for people to recover wealth. Yes, since character is there, sincere efforts can still help in getting back what is lost at least to some extent. But when character is lost, nothing will come back as it is the character that gives the drive. Let us look at the present political scenario. What is happening may leave even the most ardent of the optimists with serious doubts about the future of the country. Political scenario has left a lot to be desired. It is not just about the recent happenings in the elections to the few state assemblies that went to polls. We need not go back very far. Just remember what happened in Karnataka sometime back. You decide, but if one word that can aptly describe the entire story — it is character. It was conspicuously absent. More recently Maharashtra or even Haryana. And what is happening in Jharkhand. The incidents will put even the most shameless to shame. Shame, yes people in politics have thrown the very idea of shame to the winds. A politician in one party today does not find favour there, goes to another party, succeeds and may even change over to some other party to gain a position of power or may be for something in cash or kind. Where is the Indian politics heading for? Disaster? Chaos? Whatever, but portents are ominous. How to explain what is happening? Logic cannot explain. Reason has no answer with values and morality virtually becoming extinct in politics the scenario can only be described as a precursor to anarchy. There is a rather elaborate description of these times in the *Uttar Ramayana* section of *Ram Charit Manas*. All one needs to read the dialogue between Kagabhushundi and Garuda on how things will be in Kalyug. It is so vividly described that futurologists like Alvin Toffler may appear naïve. The dialogue has also been very neatly summed up in a starting paragraph from a Bollywood hit of the early seventies starring the thespian Dilip Kumar in the lead role. Relevant portion of the song is being paraphrased here. The song says that an era called Kalyug will come in which all undesirable things will happen. There will be black money and blackhearts. Thieves and pickpockets will be rich and respected whereas the righteous will be miserable. Those who will be greedy and sinful will be called saintly. And the real clincher is that there will be proclamation of righteousness and religiosity everywhere but there will be no shame. How vivid and accurate. There cannot be a better description of these times.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

I am because of Me

Personal accountability is the single most important driver of leadership. It is what sets apart great leaders from talented managers, says APURVA PUROHIT



When we began our journey of understanding the art of leadership viewed from the battlefield so to speak, we saw how much we could adapt from a role that many of us have already been playing for several years now, that of child readers. As parents, we dole out discipline and love in equal measure to help our children become better individuals and while doing so we also teach them to deal with the big, bad world with courage and fortitude. These are valuable leadership lessons to manage teams too. We learnt of the power that comes with listening to those around us, and how implementation can be facilitated and goals achieved by a truly clear mind that has its priorities set correctly. We discussed the importance of being curious and asking questions, of making hard choices and of persevering through the trying times that all of us have faced sometime or the other in our lives. We made note of some of the common biases that leaders fall for — pro-strategy bias and a negative skew against implementation, and the dangers of subjective measurement metrics. Lastly, we spoke

of clearly defining and sustaining values, promoting genuine trust amongst teams, unflinchingly keeping commitments and using all these as building blocks to create empowering and engaging cultures.

But, the single most important driver of leadership in my opinion is personal accountability, and I say this loudly because I have seen too many talented managers unable to evolve to great leaders, only because this particular characteristic was missing in their make-up.

When a child is very young, and while playing, loses her ball, she comes to her mother and happily says, 'Mama, the ball is lost. Note the use of words. The child believes that the ball lost itself all on its own. And consequently it doesn't upset her. She believes her mother will take care of the situation and indeed the doting parent rushes out to the play area, scrambling around for the lost ball. However, when this same child grows up a little bit and loses the same ball, this time she returns crying, 'Mama, I lost the ball.' It's a complete turnaround of both syntax and associated emotion. This time,

not only does the child feel terrible about losing the ball, but also for the first time in her life admits that it was her fault that the ball got lost. Several studies on developmental psychology indicate that this is the point in the child's growth (usually around the age of six) when the transition to adulthood truly begins. Because that's the behaviour that adults are expected to demonstrate, to take responsibility for their actions and the consequences thereof! To whit: personal accountability. 'I lost the ball.' The ball didn't lose itself of its own volition. Neither did some malignant universal force direct its disappearance. It was me and only me.

The reason I am highlighting this issue of accountability so vigorously is that most people struggle to accept ones, especially in negative situations. Despite being grown up, they morph back into that preschooler who happily says the ball disappeared through no fault of hers. This fundamental attribution error makes us prone to putting ourselves on our backs when things go right, but also just as swiftly blaming the external situation around us when things go wrong. Sales targets not met? Must be the bad economic conditions. Marriage falling apart because our *kundalis* didn't match. Child turning out to be a brat? Surely it's all the company he's been keeping at school. And before we know it, we start blaming everything but ourselves for the shortcomings and disappointments that our lives are inevitably littered with. For it is the easier route to take, and certainly far more preferable than seeing our own errors reflected in the mirror of our brightened circumstances.

I see this happen all the time. Inevitably people outsource their lives to their circumstances or to other people around them by refusing to take culpability for anything that happens to them. Essentially admitting that not they, but someone else is responsible for their successes and failures.

Apurva Purohit is the author of *Lady, You're the Boss*

What should a soul do?

Souls have in them a huge potential even while they are intrinsically small. This is the beauty of the cosmic design, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Lord Krishna describes us, souls, as His parts in the Geeta. (15.7) And we always remain so, that is, unchanged small souls. There is no mention anywhere in our scriptures that we, souls, ever become different or bigger. We eternally remain unchanged. (2.23-24)

The smallness of the soul is indicative of its very limited powers. All a soul can do is to desire, decide and enjoy or suffer as a consequence. Everything else is done by the material nature (3.27); our bodies are also parts of the material nature. If it wasn't so, no one will ever become sick or die for that matter; we will tell our bodies to follow our dictate. We can try to keep our bodies fit but the control over our bodies is not with us.

We in fact are quite helpless not only with regard to the state of our bodies but also in many other matters as well. Aren't we controlled by the results of our past deeds, which manifest periodically as good luck or bad luck? Or being small is part of the cosmic design. Imagine some soul becoming powerful somehow intrinsically. What chaos he or she is likely to cause; he or she may even challenge God. Therefore, this possibility does not exist.

However, this does not mean that we, souls, are helpless in the ultimate sense, because that will make the cosmic design defective. God is prepared to empower us in many ways. Souls have huge potential even while they are intrinsically small. This is the beauty of the cosmic design. God has mercifully empowered me to write spiritual texts; He provides the needed information to me. (15.15) Therefore, we are not to do the logical thing, that is to take shelter of God, who is open to such surrender. Rather, He encourages us to do so. (18.62) Then, our deficiency of being



small disappears. Small souls are able to perform the unbelievable.

So let us get started on taking full benefit of this facility of getting help from the omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent God, if not started already. I have managed to get started on getting God's guidance, help, various shaktis (strengths), protection, bliss, peace, support and forgiveness. We all can do so and will, then, never be handicapped by our inherent smallness."

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer & can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

passion and very little darkness. How that can be done is covered in the fourteenth chapter of the Geeta. There is another way, which Lord uses for those sincere souls, who are very keen on hearing from God; He finds many ways like a medium or He gives us a dream with the right information. Similarly, wise souls do spiritual activities while they are changing the relative proportions of the three modes. This endears us to God, who, then, takes the direct route of communication. By the way, God has no difficulty in receiving our messages; nothing can come in His way.

So let us get started on taking full benefit of this facility of getting help from the omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent God, if not started already. I have managed to get started on getting God's guidance, help, various shaktis (strengths), protection, bliss, peace, support and forgiveness. We all can do so and will, then, never be handicapped by our inherent smallness."

The idea of instant justice

It's time to fix the rot in the criminal justice system to stem the rising demand for wanton killing of rapists-killers. Further laxity will make Nov 6 Hyderabad encounter an epitome of a parallel justice delivery system

If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin.
— Charles Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle

The vagaries of the human mind seen in the binary of crime and punishment in the past fortnight — the rape-murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad and the immolation of a rape survivor in Unnao in one side, and the encounter killing of all the four accused on the same crime spot on the outskirts of Hyderabad on the other — are so complex that for a concerned citizen speaking up is difficult, but keeping silence is impossible.

Violence against women is not a new phenomenon; it is existent in varying intensity in all societies, patriarchal or matriarchal. In India, after every few years, we witness paroxysms of public outrage over ghastly rape incidents, triggering demands for an effective criminal justice system. The narratives always ensue in across-the-board support for amendments to make laws more stringent, but the sluggish implementation keeps drawing people's ire. Nevertheless, the public outrage has rarely precipitated into the redressal of grievances by trigger-happy policemen as was seen in Hyderabad.

However, rather than going into the veracity of the claims of "fake" or "genuine" encounter in which four men accused of raping and killing the vet were shot dead during

the recreation of the crime scene in the wee hours of November 6, it is more pertinent to study why the extrajudicial killings have gained so much traction among the common people. The assessment is warranted all the more so because many of those singing the praises of the police believe the cops had taken vengeance on the rapists-murders by shooting them in cold blood. The fortune of the Cyberabad Police, which had taken brickbats for initial delays in the filing FIR over the jurisdiction issue, has turned around with this "heroic" act in the eyes of the commoners.

Seen in this perspective, for those living in the ivory towers, it is imperative to acknowledge the reasons for the euphoria over the encounter deaths, rather than resting their case just by blaming the cops and the "mass hysteria". Whether genuine or fake, the encounter deaths reflect the rot in grievance redressal mechanism as the elation among people points to their belief that such encounter killings will serve the criminal justice system. The purported purposes of the criminal justice system: First, by punishing the wrongdoer; second, as deterrence for potential criminals; and third, by delivering speedy justice without the rigmarole of the unending procedure. The long seven years wait for the execution of Nirbhaya's rapists-killers is a case in point for them.

Therefore, terming the jubilation over the encounter killing of rapists-immolators the perversion is pregnant with the



SWARN KUMAR ANAND

possibilities of misunderstanding the ground situation. Social reality is not shaped by those legal codes which are divorced from the desires and demands of the people. It is vital for the lawmakers and enforcement agencies to understand that the perceptions of justice or injustice are always coloured by the values and interests of the particular society. The Cyberabad Police did what the irate people were looking from the criminal justice system that has failed to deliver to the satisfaction of the aggrieved.

It points to dangerous outlook. If people push for extra-judicial killings for swift justice, it means they have lost trust in the criminal justice system. Credible institutions are the foundations of a strong democracy. If one institution usurps the role of another, it will lead to anarchy and loss of accountability. Police can't be the end process in the criminal justice system; it rests with the court of law. But if justice is delayed or denied, it is natural, though unlawful, for the outraged mass to seek alternative methods.

It's high time we fixed the rot in the criminal justice system in order to stem the rising demand for wanton killing of rapists-killers, otherwise, the vacuum will be filled by unwanted and unaccountable elements. Any further laxity will make the Hyderabad encounter an epitome of a parallel justice delivery system.

(The writer is Associate Editor & Senior Editor, The Pioneer)

Ayodhya verdict: A way forward

The announcement of judgment went off peacefully without a single incident of communal tension or violence speaks volume about the administrative capacity of Indian state and astuteness of political class; however, one has to concede that this 'peace' has rested on the magnanimity of a section of the majoritarian community with 'its move forward approach' and 'fear-stricken tolerance' of the Muslim community

There are three crucial questions that has arisen following the November 9, 2019, Supreme Court verdict on clutches of writ petitions challenging the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment on 'land title of disputed structure of 2.77 acre' belonging to Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid (hereby Ayodhya matter). One, whether the unanimous decision of the SC on the Ayodhya matter strictly meets the test of legal jurisprudence, (i.e., whether verdict is based purely on the balance of evidence, which was produced in the court), constitutional morality and justice? Second, whether the judgment interfered with the matter of 'faith/religious belief' of people and thus compromised the principle of secular governance? Third, whether judgment, given the historicity of emotional contestation attached with the Ayodhya matter spanning over more than 400 years, has succeeded in securing "social peace" and in healing the "wounded self" of both Hindu and Muslim communities?

The critics have slammed the judgment on all three indexes and concluded that the SC verdict has legalised the "rule of majoritarianism" and paved the way for the construction of Ram Mandir despite the fact that the weight of evidence was in favour of Muslim party. However such conclusions are simplistic and extreme reading of the judgment arising primarily from the current political context of Hindutva. A reality of specific political context is one thing; however demonstrating that judgment has primarily flowed from this political reality is another thing. The critics fall short on the second option.

I believe that the judgment meets the test of all three criteria. The strength of judgment lies in its unanimity and its inclusive approach that combines the judicious balance of law, constitutional practice of secularism, legal history of case, constitutional notion of justice, practical wisdom and Indian tradition of providing

context specific solution with its inherent flexibility and ambiguity required to manage its enormous social diversities. It is misnomer to think that judgment is based on a priori consideration of majoritarian faith and has ignored the legal scrutiny of evidences.

What has been found puzzling is that while on the one hand (a) the court recognised the damage to the Babri mosque in 1934, placement of idols of Ram Lalla in 1949 in the Sanctum sanctorum of the mosque and its eventual demolition in 1992 as grave violation of law and rejected the contention of Hindu party and ASI's archaeological evidence that the mosque was built by destroying a temple, though the judgment mentioned that the mosque was built on the ruins of a temple-like structure; on the other (b) it handled over the possession of entire disputed structure of 2.77 acre to Bhagwan Sri Ram Lalla Virajman (BSRV). However for the court, (a) and (b) are not inter related; they are separate matter to be investigated separately. In this specific judgment, the SC was seized with matter of "title deeds of land" only. Its judgment has no implication on the ongoing criminal trials against people who were charged with vandalising and conspiracy to destroy Babri mosque.

While awarding the possession of entire disputed land to BSRV, the SC relied upon historically evolved legal tradition of considering deity/idol as "juristic person" on the basis of continuation of tradition of worship and offering prayer to such idea/form of divinity without necessarily

demonstrated that unlike the Hindu party, which demonstrated the continuation of worship and prayer in the outer courtyard of mosque and their assertion of right to offer worship mixed with a few incidents of offering prayer in the inner courtyard of the mosque, the Muslim party neither demonstrated the continuation of prayer between 1526 and 1858, nor succeeded in establishing their exclusive claim over inner courtyard of the mosque, nor contested the exclusive claim of Hindus in outer courtyard. Hence the Muslim party failed to qualify the principle of adverse possession.

The court, therefore, on the basis of "principle of preponderance of probability" awarded the entire disputed structure to BSRV with a consideration that iron bifurcation between inner courtyard and outer courtyard was merely an administrative arrangement by the Colonial power in 1857-1858 to maintain the amity and peace, which does not take away the fact that the entire disputed structure was essentially one compact piece of land. The court then invoke the Article 142 to instruct the Central/State Governments to grant 5 acre to Muslim party at prominent place in Ayodhya in order to do justice to the loss of structure of the mosque.

The judgment has been criticised from the point of view that it dilutes and compromises the principle of secularism to an extent that it has interfered with matter of faith as evident from its directives to the Central Government to constitute a trust for construction of temple and a grant of

land to construct mosque. It is said that it is not a business of secular state to construct a place of worship.

I think this criticism is not fair and merely reflects a "panic reading" of judgment within the context of perceived Hindutva threat to the secular edifice of Indian governing structure. Rather the judgment not only repeatedly upheld the principle of secularism in terms of its equal and just treatment of all religions with equal freedom to practice their religious belief but closely follows the specific tradition of secular governance in India where the state and the court has historically dealt with "secular" aspect of religious activities (such as regulating administrative management and finances of places of worship).

The court has in unmetten number of cases have reserved its right to define what it constitutes the "essential of religion". In this specific matter, the court has been confined to deliberate over secular aspect of faith: the issue of land titles.

Second, it has only given directives to Central Government to establish a "trust", the composition of which is yet to finalise, to facilitate the construction of temple over undisputed structure without stating or implying that expenditure for such construction would be borne out of the Government exchequer. It may be noted here that while the Central Government constituted a trust to reconstruct Somnath Mandir in early 1950s, the trust raised money from people to complete the reconstruction. On the other hand, the court directed the State Government to allot 5 acre of land to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board, the main litigant in the case, as "just compensation" to the loss of structure of Babri mosque without underlining that mosque will be reconstructed with public fund. Thus in both instances, the court merely upheld the secular tradition of governance.

The announcement of judgment went off peacefully



ANWAR ALAM

without a single incident of communal tension or violence speaks volume about the administrative capacity of Indian state and astuteness of political class; however one has to concede that this "fragile peace" has rested on the magnanimity of a section of the majoritarian community with "its move forward approach" and "fear-stricken tolerance" of the Muslim community.

Nonetheless, the judgment has potential to achieve a durable "social peace" between the two communities if the following conditions are met: (a)

The Government must rein in the fringe extremist section of the majoritarian community to celebrate the day as 'victory day' in future; (b) the Muslim community must not file pleas for review of the judgment as it has potential to further vitiate the national atmosphere; (c) the Muslim community must not see this judgment as a part of bundle of Government's (perceived) anti-Muslim actions: incidence of lynching, cow politics, abolition and criminalisation of instant triple talaq, abolition of Article 370 and downgrading of Jammu & Kashmir to UT, the threat of NRC, threat of Uniform Civil Code, etc, rather a result of legal scrutiny with faith in Indian judicial system, and (d) the Government must build the conducive political climate in which minorities could live with sense of security, trust and liberty.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Policy Perspectives Foundation, New Delhi)

Let's fight for right to life & dignity of rape survivors

Considering the social stigma attached to rape, it needs great courage and determination for the victim to take legal recourse for justice. Therefore, if a rape survivor decides to fight it out despite all odds, she becomes a saviour for other victims. Such women should be given state protection, particularly a foolproof financial support in her pursuit of justice

Crime against women, particularly sexual assault, is on the upsurge. The recent appalling incidents testify that despite a mass protest against the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and the subsequent enforcement of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (Nirbhaya Act), nothing much has changed.

The audacity with which the accused executed the brutal rape and gruesome murder of a 26-year-old veterinary doctor on Hyderabad outskirts compels us to contemplate on what is wrong with us as a society. Implementation of stringent laws has failed to curb the barbarity. Reports show that a gruesome act of rape and murder, in most cases, is not the first offense of the perpetrators. As their crimes often go unregistered, they repeat it and their cruelty increases with each repetition of the act. A psychoanalyst has pointed out that those who repeat the crime, especially related to sexual assault, do it as an act of their right. And whenever a woman objects, they react as if their right is being curtailed by that woman.

Uber Cab driver, who was sentenced life-term for raping a 27-year-old woman executive in 2013, exemplifies how a perverser keeps on repeating his crime when it goes unregistered. Investigation into the case revealed that Yadav had tried to molest many women of his village but since no complaint was registered officially no action was taken against him. In 2012 he was arrested for allegedly raping a bar dancer, but was acquitted for lack of evidence. A little courage and prompt legal action could have saved innocent from falling prey to the predator.

Due to social stigma attached to rape, many women prefer to keep quiet and this silence is exploited by the perpetrators. In an incident in April 2019 in Alwara, a woman, travelling with her husband on a bike, was waylaid and gang-raped, while her husband was brutally tortured. The accused took multiple videos of their heinous act and uploaded it on social networking sites. It was only after the video went viral that the couple lodged a complaint on May 4. The audacity of the criminals shows that

there is no fear of law. But why is it so? Since majority of the sexual assault victims do not register their complaints, the rapists do not appear in news stories and thus go undetected. This is really important to register every rape case.

Registering the crime, however, doesn't put an end to the misery of a woman. In fact it initiates a life-long struggle. Even if a woman, overcoming all the social and psychological barriers, registers her complaint, she faces legal harassment. Apart from the traumatic and unsympathetic medical examinations, she has to face inappropriate questions and indecent remarks. Her character is brutally assassinated. She is often pressurised to withdraw her complaint and even receive life threats from the influential and powerful perpetrators and their accomplices. Some do succumb to the family pressure and popular Indian thinking "jo hona us so ho gaya".

But the way an 18-year-old girl showed exemplary courage by registering a case in Delhi Police station on April 16, 2019 against her parents, who had accepted a bribe from the

accused (two rich property dealers who abducted and raped her) to compel her to withdraw her statement in the court is praiseworthy. The girl claimed that the accused had offered a hefty amount of ₹20 lakh and had even paid an advance of ₹5 lakh (which she had even deposited in the police station) to her parents to withdraw the case. Despite being poor and struggling to arrange money to fight the case against the perpetrators, she chose to stand by her dignity.

It reminds us of another incident where a 17-year-old survivor of a gang-rape, in spite of receiving multiple threats, decided to file case against a powerful MLA of the ruling party in Uttar Pradesh. While acting on their threat, the brother of the MLA along with some goons, severely beat up her father and humiliated him in hospital, who later succumbed to his injuries. When her complaint went unnoticed, the Unnao girl tried to immolate herself in front of Uttar Pradesh Assembly, which drew public attention. She knew about the consequences when she decided to file an FIR against such a powerful MLA, but nevertheless

she decided to fight on.

Had these girls preferred to keep silence and not file case against the rapists, many others could have been a victim of their lust. And who knows how many victims have remained silent!

Thus fast-track court and legal reforms alone cannot help. What we desperately need at this moment is to get rape registered. The culprits need to be exposed. But this is not possible unless the stigma associated with rape is removed. The stigma is so ingrained in our culture that while we can easily identify ourselves as a victim of robbery or any other crime we do hesitate even to confide in our families about rape or sexual assault.

It does take immense courage to come out of the closet and expose the culprits while realising the consequences. Thus the courage a woman shows in registering a case of rape against her perpetrators should not be seen as just an urge to punish the culprits. It's her fight for her self-respect and dignity. In the process of exposing the perversers she saves innumerable women from being harmed by

them. Thus the perception of society needs to be changed. A rape survivor should not be looked down upon just as a helpless woman. Prying eyes and social exclusion is not what she deserves. Instead she should be seen as a warrior who has enough courage to fight against injustice and as a savior of modesty' of a lot other women.

While we acknowledge the physical courage exhibited by the brave hearts who save many lives from the clutches of death, a woman who has been courageous enough to conquer all psychological, social, economic and political barriers in exposing the perpetrators and thus protecting many lives from being harmed by the perversers also deserves to be honoured with bravery award for upholding moral courage. Recognition and respect alone can change our conditioned perceptions.

However besides moral support and encouragement what the survivors need is financial independence and security. The Government should ensure a policy to rehabilitate these women through respectable Government jobs according to their qualifications

and abilities to enable them to continue their fight. They should be given duty leave to attend the court proceedings and additional financial assistance to afford lawyer's fees. The Government must provide security to the survivors in case there is any threat.

True, unless society changes its perception, the stigma associated with rape will continue haunting the survivors and any financial assistance cannot compensate their ordeal. But a secure job can at least lighten their additional miseries related to career and finance. As the crime against women is not just a legal problem but a socio-political and psychological one, it becomes a collective responsibility of society to rehabilitate the survivors. However, it's the perpetrators who should be compelled to share the responsibility of generating financial aid for the survivors. Resources can be generated by confiscating the properties of the perpetrators once their guilt is proven.

(Anish Gupta and Aaleya Giri teach Economics and English respectively at the University of Delhi)



ANISH GUPTA



AALEYA GIRI



TO GO FROM MORTAL TO BUDDHA, YOU HAVE TO PUT AN END TO KARMA, NURTURE YOUR AWARENESS, AND ACCEPT WHAT LIFE BRINGS —BODHIDHARMA



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
The week looks good for you. Your health is likely to take a turn for the better. You will be in a cheerful and positive mood. Mostly, you are very conscious of health and devote a good time in looking after your well-being. There are things that you can actively do to groom yourself — taking a massage, going for spa and joining a gym is on the card. Career-wise, you are sparking with new ideas. Promotion or starting a new project/job is likely to happen. Your productive level will be very high and being efficient will pay off. Your submissive attitude will play a great role in enhancing your career this week. Your relationship with your family is going strong. You may need to do what it takes to find balance in your personal and professional life.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
Living in the moment and to listen to your body is the first condition to being in a state of good health. Temptations, confusions and disorganisation will disorder. You are overwhelmed and this energy carries the warning that you need to focus. On the career front, you have all the means and ability to achieve your goals. So aim high and you will go far. A new connection at the workplace could prove in your favour this week. Those looking for employment, you are going to find it very soon. You may expect a job call from a distant city, travel is likely. You need to be a little careful in money matters this week. Relationship wise, an existing relationship is going to take a turn for the better. Singles, a new relationship is likely to appear soon.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This week you will be all charged up and ready for action. Good news is in the offing. When you have a positive self-image, you are safe and respect your body. You will feel good about living a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Pamper yourself with spa and grooming. On the professional front, now is the time to go independent. Do your homework well. You have the resources and you can make your business work. Make sure to put in the time and effort it requires. Your determination, perseverance are your greatest assets which will take you ahead in your career. On the personal front, it is never too late to change any pattern of behaviour, and with enough effort, you can change the way you think, feel, and act.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
You need some quick changes in your routine as the situation has changed and you have to fulfill the needs of the present state that you are in. Expectant mothers may need to undergo a medical examination to clear some doubts for a stress-free time ahead. Be honest with yourselves and review what best action should be taken. On the career front, those seeking a job, know that you have the skill set to find your job. You are already employed, and there is room for upward mobility. Do not hesitate to negotiate for what you are worth. If there is no room for a raise then you should give serious thought to finding something with high scope. On the personal front, things will speed up in the relationship. There may be good news of childbirth, conception, marriage or engagement.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
You would be in the pink of your health this week. This will be a time of peace, joy, and prosperity for you and to deepen your spiritual growth. Celebrate these good feelings and share them with your friends and loved ones in whatever way you can. On the career front, if you are seeking employment, you will be hired into a new position that tests your skills and is demanding. Those who are already employed may be saddled with far more responsibility. Don't hesitate to request assistance from supervisors with prioritising. You have the knowledge, strength, and inspiration needed to meet your challenges. On a personal level, you are enthusiastic and very romantic in your relations. If you are single, it's very likely that a new romance is on the horizon.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week things are likely to go well. You will feel loved, cared for, and content. This is a good time to enjoy good health. Air, water, fire, earth, and ether (space) the balance of these five elements in life will make life worth living. You are likely to be a motivator and inspiring for many. You need a well-deserved rest and relaxation, after a hectic work schedule that has had you busy. On the career front, a sudden hike in salary or reputation is foreseen. There may be switch over of job, promotion in the existing job, transfer or some different portfolio is assigned which could turn out to be in your favour. On the personal front, you may plan a vacation with your partner to an exotic place. The time flies with happy note leaving you rejuvenated and rejoiced.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
Stress may cause health problems. Pay attention to diet, exercise and sleep. Stay positive. You will find depth and wisdom in solitude. You may look at a new belief system in search of the meaning of life. On the career front, you will share cordial relations with colleagues, friends and even seniors this week. For those in business, this is a good time to bring in desirable changes. Be a good listener, trust your instincts and connect with your innermost desires. This is also a good time to start a new venture/project. On the personal front, you will make new friends and a friendship may turn into a loving relationship. You will reach a good understanding with others. Make a deeper commitment in love to strengthen the bond.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
Hectic work schedule and day to day challenges could take a toll on your health. Take time out for yourself. You need to bring balance in your professional and personal life. Time management and discipline is the first bet to beat the fast pace of life. Professionally, anxiety, fear and tension could bring your efficiency down. There is a fear of lay off, office politics and survival in the rat race. Keep all your financial documents up to date. You may be questioned or interrogated in this week. A key decision will work as a foundation on which the rest of your life may be set. Relationship wise, you are working with your heart and not the mind. Those who are committed, there are chances that things are not moving smoothly. You will realise that it is better to move away from an unhealthy relationship.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
Those who are having physical problems, remember that things do not stay that way for the long time they are right now. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and make time for rest. A trusted health counselor can get you moving along the right course. Career-wise, this is the time when many projects are realised, especially those that are profitable to you. Business dealings will be fruitful. If you are in a self-made business or job, people will evaluate your work and accept your views and products. Those who are in export and import business are likely to engage in good networking this week. On the personal front, this is the time for completion. You have worked hard, and you deserve all the accolades that are coming your way.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22
You will put an end to certain bad habits that you may be harbouring. Expect some distress as you make this transition. Physical exercise is important, but do not overdo it. You will find some spiritual truths that hold promise and are beneficial for you. Professionally, you may be moving to a new position or a new set of responsibilities. You will be optimistic, upbeat, and hopeful about your future. You are likely to be able to pay off debts and perhaps, share your wealth with those less fortunate. On the personal front, it would be good to strike a balance with yourself. You are passionate and energetic and have a charming persona. Love is in the air. A fiery affair or new relationship is on the cards.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
Your health will be good this week and mood elevated. Your determination and will power will give you strength and put you in the right direction where you can live a disciplined life. Avoid alcohol, junk and spicy food. Routine exercises, morning walk and planned diet will work wonders for you. Career-wise, this is a rewarding week. It is the right time to get close to an influential person. You could establish your strength in your career. If you are in partnership business, there are fair chances that you will all work for selfless motives. People will listen to you and respect your views. On the personal front, some arguments, conflicts may cause bitterness in your existing relationship. Your aggression, anger will take a toll. You need to relax and think with a cool mind.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
This is a good week for your emotional and physical well-being. Your positive approach to things will be of great help. Those waiting for test results, know that the news will be good. You are getting ready to enter new realms in your spiritual exploration. This is a good week career-wise and with your charm and intelligence you will realise all your ambitions. You need a break and some perspective. Perhaps the time has come to start looking for another position. Your psychological insight is excellent and you can better understand what motivate others and what their needs are. However, this is not a good time for investments. You will find stability in existing relations. Those close to you are full of concern and love; it would be wise to enjoy the moment.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M. 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

God helps those who help themselves

I am God loving. I pray every morning before I set out for work, and again before I retire for the day. Yet, my life has gone through unwanted twists and turns every now and then. Why have my prayers gone un-responded so far? What am I lacking? Tell me, what corrections do I need to make. How does my life stabilise? With these questions in mind, someone recently sought my guidance. Well, God or no God, how does it matter? If at all there is a God, He would be involuntarily doing His rounds. He doesn't need our seeking or prompting for coming into play. He, in His own glory would be available in equal proportion to all and sundry. It, therefore, becomes difficult to digest that He would selectively listen to your prayers and grant wishes to your asking. Even if there is no God, how does it matter. For, life will still continue to move on. So, instead of looking for seeking God's help, somewhere out at a distance, for fulfillment of desires, better take charge of yourself, and consciously try to get better empowered. Having said that, let me make it clear that the relevance of the concept of

God still holds good. Even if He doesn't grant your wishes, pursuing the belief does certainly help firm up your own faith element. That helps you carry on the task in hand in all strength. Also, it keeps you centered. But all said and done, at the end of the day, you need to take charge of yourself, and consciously works towards the desired destination. Know it in clear terms that life as such doesn't have an easy go. In a world, where everyone is born unique, each manifesting varying mind-traits and desire-trends, it becomes a natural breeding ground for conflict of perceptions and interests. Evidently, therefore, you are bound to contend with competing interests and contrarian forces. Braving all such challenges ahead intelligently, you need to put in wholesome quality efforts to score success. That, however, would not come about, unless you consciously identify and acknowledge your inherent fault lines, address them, and also optimise your potential. But, for which, you will fail to put in your best foot forward. Also, you need to keep an eye on prevailing environmental conditions to intelligently sail through all odds com-



ing in the way. That makes it incumbent upon you to live consciously. You have so far gone ahead with the usual flow of life, carrying the hope that being a believer, God will help you sail through. So, you have gone through intermittent bouts of success and failures. It's time now to make you aware of your potential and weaknesses. Jupiter firmly placed in the *lagna* makes you a well-meaning and creative person. The *lagna* lord Mars in the 3rd house grants you with the courage necessary to spiritedly carry on the task in hand. Moon, well aligned to Uranus points to your innovative, inventive, and insightful mind, worth coming out with out of box independent ideas. Moon again, placed favourably to Mercury grants you with excellent communicative skills. Your habits and attitudes, however, often play spoil sport with your strength side. Your *lagna* sign Aries makes you aggressive, impulsive, impatient, intolerant, and domineering, who may not like to play a second fiddle to any. You carry the tendency to jump into action without applying proper forethoughts, and with obvious consequences. It's only when you land into problem that you are forced to apply your mind when you

may emerge as the best crisis manager also. Moon occupying Sagittarius sign makes you un diplomatic and tactless. Mars well aligned to Uranus makes you self-willed and overconfident, but its opposition to Moon, and also ill-disposed off to the Sun, makes you temperamental, angry and irritable person. You may flare up on the slightest provocation, when you may temporarily lose all sense of reasons and direction. The Sun opposite Saturn brings in a sense of fear and insecurity, which in turn, brings in a sense of inertia. So, often your initiatives as also response to a situation gets delayed, and with obvious consequences. If that would not be enough, the Sun placed adverse to Jupiter brings in a swaggering ego, which binds you to self-defined beliefs and perceptions, not open to look beyond for a reality check either. It becomes difficult for you to digest, if ever things don't move your expected lines, when you get unnerved beyond due. And the result is there to see. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com