OPINION 8

MISSING OUT ON

DELIVERABLES

WORLD 12

GERMANY URGES TURKEY TO

IMMEDIATELY END SYRIA OFFENSIVE

SPORT 15

RAMOS SETS SPAIN

RECORD WITH 168TH CAP

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GREAT TIME

TO BE AN ACTOR: LARA 13 VIVACITY

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Modi dares Opp to bring back Art 370 Delhi air sinks

Rahul says PM, Shah diverting attention from real issues

The hither-to somewhat drab electioneering for the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly polls picked up the pace on Sunday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit the campaign trail and exchanged barbs on the annulment of Articles 370 and 35A on one hand and farmer-unemployment issues on the

other, respectively.
Without naming Rahul,
the Prime Minister dared the Opposition parties to declare in their respective manifestos that they would restore Articles 370 and 35A in the Constitution which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

On the other hand, Rahul hit out at Modi and BJP national president Amit Shah for diverting the attention of the people from the real issues like the farmers' distress and unemployment which had reached highest-ever level during the 40 years. "What Modi and Shah are doing is to divert the attention of the people from the real issues and focus on Corbett Park, Moon, China Pakistan, Japan, Korea and all other places," he said.

Addressing an election rally at Jalgaon in north Maharashtra, Modi picked up from where he had left at a



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of Maharashtra Assembly election at Sakoli village of Bhandara on Sunday

Devendra Fadnavis' 4.000-kms long 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' that he had addressed at Nashik on September 19, to harp the issue of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution.

Invoking the legacies of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji, architect of the Constitution late BR Ambedkar and social reformer Mahatma Ivotiba Phule, Modi said: "From the land of Babasaheb Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Chhatrapati Shivaji, I dare the Opposition parties that if they have the courage to take a clear stand (on the annulment of Article 370 and 35A). Those Opposition parties which are talking all kinds of bad things about Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh should declare in their manifesto of this election as well as the next elections that that they would restore Article 370 and 35A which the BJP-led NDA Government abrogated on

August 5."
Charging that the Opposition parties were merely shedding "crocodile tears" and in the process making fool of the people, Modi asked: "Do these people have courage "Do these people have courage to restore Articles 370 and 35A? Will the people of the country allow them to restore these Articles? Even if they try to do, will they survive? Will

WAR OF WORDS

- What Modi and Shah are doing is to divert the attention of the people from the real issues and focus on Corbett Park, Moon, China, Pakistan, Japan, Korea and all other places. Rahul said
- We have taken such a big decision. We will restore normalcy in Kashmir in the next four months, the PM said

their political fate remain intact? Will the country accept it? When they know that they can not have their way, why are the Opposition parties shed

ding crocodile tears?

Modi said the decision to abrogate Article 370 mirrored the cultural of the BIP: "Our decision on Jammu & Kashmir is firm. The question of our going back on our decision does not arise". Modi — who along with Shah have been meticulously

making the move to scrap the special status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate it into two Union Territories as one of the key themes - charged that the Opposition were speaking the same language as Pakistan on the issue of Article 370 abrogation. "We have taken such a big

decision. We will restore normalcy in Kashmir in the next four months," the Prime



Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi addresses a joint Congress-NCP rally at Dharavi Ground in Mumbai on Sunday PT

Minister said

Addressing an election rally at Ausa in Latur district, Rahul said: "When the youth ask for jobs, the Government tells them to watch the moon. The Government speaks about (scrapping special provisions of) Article 370 and moon, but is silent on the problems plagu-ing the country."

Rahul charged that unem-

ployment was at its highest level in the last 40 years. Auto sector, textile sector, diamond industry is finished but you don't see anything in media. Modi doesn't speak about this at all. This is highest unemployment in 40 years," the former Congress president said.

"The Government is talk ing about 'Make In India', but only Chinese industries have swamped India, which is killing jobs in this country... The worried youth have no hopes of the future," Rahul said.

Alluding to Modi's meet-ing with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Rahul wanted to know: "When they were hav-ing tea and snacks the other day, did the PM ask him about aggression in Doklam?

Rahul said that the current economic status of the nation is "just the beginning" and predicted dire consequences in the coming six-seven months for the economy.

Delhi-Meerut e-way limit at 120/100 kmph soon

to very poor

Stubble burning in neighbouring States of Punjab, Haryana sees upward trend

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

A fter cases of stubble burning in neighbouring States of Punjab and Haryana witnessed an upward trend, the overall 'Air Quality Index' (AQI) of the national Capital, deteriorated further and touched the 268 mark on Sunday, which falls in the 'poor category'.

Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, "All the gains achieved so far on pollution front will be nullified. Whereas, we need to do a lot in Delhi and we are trying, how-ever, all Governments and all agencies need to work to stop crop burning also (sic)."
On Saturday, Kejriwal had

said smoke from crop residue burning in neighbouring States has started reaching Delhi and the air quality has started deteriorating.
"It has been widely report-

ed that the smoke coming to Delhi is due to the burning of stubble in Karnal, Haryana," he had said.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Anand Vihar, Wazirpur, Vivek Vihar,



to Central Pollution Control Board data.

The air quality in neibhouring Ghaziabad (320) and Noida (310) in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana's Alipur Khalsa (351) and Panipat (339) also turned "very poor" by 4.30 pm. Faridabad, Greater Noida, Baghpat, Murthal recorded an AQI at 290, 233, 280, 259 and

245 respectively.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate, 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe.'

The Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research said smoke from stubble burning will make up six per cent of Delhis pollution by October 15, when GRAP comes into force in the Delhi-NCR region.

Bijepur by-election: Panigrahi to back BJD

PNS BARGARH

BIP leader and former MLA Ashok Panigrahi, who resigned from the primary membership of the saffron party on Saturday ahead of Bijepur Assembly by-election, said on Sunday that he would support the BID in the by-poll

support the BJD in the by-poll.
Panigrahi has denied joining any party after resigning from the BJP. "I had a meeting with my supporters today; and it was unanimously decided to extend our support to the BJD for the by-poll," he said .
In 2000, Panigrahi had

contested from Bijepur con-stituency on a BJP ticket and won the election. Later, he joined the BID, which he quit after he was denied ticket dur-ing the 2014 elections. Panigrahi again joined the BJP during Bijepur by-poll in 2018 and unsuccessfully contested the election being defeated by BJD candidate Rita Sahu. Sources said that Panigrahi is

BJP leaders make beeline to meet **RSS chief Bhagwat**

Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Sarasanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat is having an eventful time since his arrival here on Saturday. BJP leaders

are making a beeline to him.

Even at the airport here, the swayam sevaks were outnumbered by BJP workers when Bhagwat arrived. The BJP workers and leaders claimed that they were part of the RSS since their childhood. Ministers Union

Dharmendra Pradhan and Pratap Sarangi, BJP national vice-president Baijayant Panda, Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi, Rajya Sabha member Ashiwini Vaishnaw and almost Asimum vaisinaw and amiost all party MPs and MLAs were present at an intellectuals' meeting addressed by Bhagwat's at the SOA auditorium on Saturday.

As Bhagwat did not allow the DBL and we to show the Asimum to the Asimum to the state of the state of

the BIP leaders to share the dais with him, the latter occupied seats in the front row. The RSS likely to join the BJD formally chief also did not talk to any en AKIIII DIMITALIYA after the bv-poll.

BJP leader at the public place. Mandal in Odisha.



Bhagwat is scheduled to be in Odisha till October 20. BJP national working president JP Nadda would attend an RSS meeting and meet Bhagwat here this week

After praising Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary, the RSS has sought to erase public impression that it works only for Hindus.

"We want to remove the RSS label and let the society grow. We also want that RSS and society work together for the betterment of the country. the betterment of the country. Let all credit go to society," Bhawat said while addressing the intellectuals' meet here held ahead of the Sangh's maiden Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari | September 1. Accor Mandal in Odisha. | In reply to the traffic General

being issued e-challans for speed driving, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to write to the Delhi Police for raising the speed limits up to 120/100 kmph. Currently, the speed limit at the expressway is 70 kmph for Light Motor Vehicle and 40

kmph for goods carrier, according to the speed limit sign-boards. In view of the complaints being received from the general public, the traffic inspector of Kalyanpuri Circle, Delhi Police, wrote a letter to the NHAI for installation of speed limit signboards with the maximum speed of 60 kmph in September and sent a reminder after a few days, according to

an RTI reply by the NHAI.

The penalty for overspeeding has been raised from

NHAI to write to Delhi Police for raising speed limits

n a much needed relief for In a much needed relief for Meerut Expressway com-muters, who often complain of

₹400 to ₹5,000, according the new Motor Vehicles Act which came into effect from

Currently, the speed limit at the expressway is 70 kmph for Light Motor Vehicle and 40 kmph for goods carrier,



inspector's letter, the NHAI wrote a letter to the Delhi Police on September 13 for upgrading the 120/100 kmph. speed limit to

According to RP Singh,

(Tech)/Project Director at the NHAI Ghaziabad Project Implementation Unit (PIU) which looks after the express way, a letter suggesting to rade the speed limits to

BJP protests action

portion and 70/50 kmph for the National Highway on the Police Commissioner soon.

letter was taken during the inauguration of the Delhi-Meerut Expressway phase-3 last month," Singh told PTI.

"Currently, we have placed signboards limiting the maximum speed to 70/40. Since the stretch, which is 8.72 km long 6-lane expressway/8-lane NH 24 from Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Ghazipur border has already been completed in June 2018, the speed should be upgraded to 120/100 kmph on the expressway and 70/50 kmph on the NH as per Ministry of Road Trans and Highways (MoRT&H) guidelines," he said.

Previously, a letter to upgrade the speed on the expressway was sent to the Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) on September 13 by the NHAI, according to the RTI reply.
In the letter, the NHAI said

the Delhi-Meerut Expressway has been designed for a speed of 120/100 kmph as per the MoRT&H guidelines through gazette notification dated

S'garh CDMO axed, DM served notice

For dereliction in execution of Mo Sarkar in DHH

PNS SUNDARGARH

The State Government on Sunday suspended Sundargarh Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO)-in-Charge Dr Pankaj Patel and served a show-cause notice to district collector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan for lapses in execution of the Mo Sarkar programme in the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

Earlier on the day, a team of top bureaucrats comprising development commissioner-cum-additional chief secretary Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's 5T secretary VK Pandian and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) director Shalini Pandit visited



Government hospitals under the Mo Sarkar programme,

They first visited the Sundargarh District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). They moved to several wards. including the postnatal ward, and interacted with patients to know the quality of treatment and the behaviour for them at

the hospital. Sources said Pandian expressed displeasure over some lapses in healthcare ser-vices during the inspection.

Following his visit, the CDMO in-charge was placed under suspension on charges of not executing the Mo Sarkar initiative. Besides, district col-lector Nikhil Pavan Kalyan was issued a show-cause notice for lapses in implementing the Mo Sarkar programme in the DHH.

Later, the team went to the Rourkela Government Hospital (RGH) to review the health facilities and infrastructure available there.

Notably, Pandian along with other top bureaucrats is currently visiting DHHs and other Government hospitals following the launch of the Mo

Pandian along with other top bureaucrats is currently visiting **DHHs and other Govt hospitals** following the launch of the Mo **Sarkar initiative**

Sarkar initiative, which is meant to ensure good gover-nance to people. They are visiting several districts to oversee ground situations of healthcare facilities at hospitals and take prompt actions, both administrative and financial.

against CDMO, DM Calls Sundargarh

PNS SUNDARGARH

Hundreds of people staged a demonstration at DRDA Hospital.
The agitation was led joint-

Bandh

Square at Sundargarh on Sunday evening protesting sus-pension of CDMO-in-Charge Pankai Patel and issuance of a for lapses in execution of the Mo Sarkar programme in the District Headquarters

ly by the BJP and the Sundargarh Citizen Forum. The BIP called a six-hour Sundargarh Bandh on the issue

The protesters termed the action as inappropriate and demanded that it be revoked immediately.



from the Government. I have heard about the suspension of the CDMO-in-charge and issuance of show-cause to me from the media," said the col-

Meanwhile, the Odisha Medical Services Association nediately. (OMSA) too opposed the action against the CDMO.

CAPSULE

MAN BEATEN TO DEATH BY WIFE IN DELHI'S NARELA New Delhi: A 35-year-old man was beaten to death allegedly by his wife in outer Delhi's Narela following a quarrel over his

JAWAN KILLED AS PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE

Srinagar: An Army jawan was killed on Sunday when Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire along the LoC in Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir, an Army official said.

FORGET KASHMIR, FIGHT TERROR: RAJNATH TO PAK Chandigarh: Defence Ministe Rajnath Singh on Sunday told Pakistan to forget Kashmii and instead fight an "honest battle" against terrorism, warning that no power can stop its disintegration if it continued with its rant and did not mend its ways. He said India was ready to assist Pakistan in the fight against terrorism if it cannot do so on its own

Wanted criminal

in Choudwar

held in encounter

BBSR-N'garh Sewa Express from tomorrow

Timings of earlier trains revised

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Now, daily commuters between Nayagarh and Bhubaneswar have a reason to be happy as the Ministry of Railways has decided to intro-duce a daily Sewa Express train between Bhubaneswar and Nayagarh town from October 15 (Tuesday) in addition to the earlier trains

Inaugural run of the train will commence from Bhubaneswar. It will leave Bhubaneswar at 6.40 pm and reach Nayagarh town at 8.45 pm. In the return direction, the train will leave Nayagarh town at 6.30 am and arrive at Bhubaneswar at 9 am.
In view of introduction of

Sewa Express, the timings of earlier running passenger trains between Khurda Road and Navagarh town have been

bility.
The 58431 Khurda Road-Nayagarh Town Passenger will leave Khurda Road at 8.20 am instead of earlier timings at 7.15 am and will reach Nayagarh Town at 9.45 am instead of earlier timings at 8.55 am. In the return direction, the 58432 Nayagarh Town-Khurda Road Nayagarh Town-Khurda Road passenger will leave at Nayagarh Town at 10 am instead of earlier timings at 9.20 am and will reach Khurda Road at 11.45 am instead of earlier timing at 11.05 am. Similarly, the 58429 Khurda Road-Nayagarh Town Passenger will leave Khurda

Passenger will leave Khurda Road at 8.15 pm instead of ear-lier timings at 7.30 pm and will reach Navagarh Town at 9.40 pm instead of earlier timings at 9.10 pm. In the return direction, the timings of 58430



Nayagarh Town-Khurda Road passenger will remain unchanged. This train will leave Nayagarh Town at 5 am and will reach at Khurda Road at 6.45 am.

Union Minister of Railways Piyush Goval will inaugurate the Bhubaneswar-Nayagarh Town Sewa Express through videoconferencing from New Delhi on October 15 along with other nine Sewa Express trains in different parts of the coun-

Ministers Padmanabha Behera, Arun Kumar Sahoo and Ashok Chandra Panda, MPs Pinaki Misra and Aparajita Sarangi and MLAs Ananta Narayan Jena and Susant Kumar Rout will attend the opening function to be held at the Bhubaneswar railway sta-

State's backward dists to have medical colleges

Of 157 MCs to be set up in country in PPP mode, Odisha to get fair share

TATHYA BHUBANESWAR

The Union Government has agreed to provide 20 per cent of the capital cost of a medical college project to come up in public-private part-nership (PPP) mode and the State Government will have to bear another 20 per cent.

This will be helpful in set-ting up of new medical colleges in backward regions of the State, mostly in Aspirational Districts, said NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the Union Government has announced to set up 157 medical colleges in the country in three phases and Odisha will get its share in this

regard.
Odisha is eyeing more medical colleges as the State Government is making serious efforts to increase the availability of medical graduates in the State, which accounts for a relatively large share of country's disease burden.

So in the PPP medical college projects, 40 per cent share of capital cost will be borne by both the State and the Centre, said Kant, who has informed the State Government about the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for new medical colleges.

Bidding will be done in a transparent papers and it will

transparent manner and it will be a competitive bidding. Odisha has 10 Aspirational

Districts and the Union Government is harping on setting up medical colleges in

the Aspirational Districts in the first phase.

With such financial support for the new medical college projects, the Union Government is expecting that fees payable by students will be kept at a lower level as the Government is subsidizing the healthcare education project.

Fee matrix would be provided to the bidders before inviting bids for them to quote a financially viable bid, said

The PPP model for medical colleges has gained currency in Gujarat, Karnataka and the NITI Aayog has requested the Odisha Government for replicating the model the model.

In all, 75 new medical colleges will be set up through Centrally-sponsored schemes and nearly Rs 25,000 crore has been sanctioned to increase healthcare infrastructure up to

The new medical colleges would be set up in underserved areas having no medical college with at least a 200-bed District Headquarters Hospital (DHH). Preference will be given to Aspirational Districts and DHH having 300 beds. Out of the 494 medical

colleges in the country, 47 per cent are concentrated in five southern States, because there is not regulation to address the regional disparities.Looking at the scenario, the Union Government has decided to give preference to backward areas, said

seized PNS CUTTACK

Hardened criminal Ajay Sahu alias Jitu was nabbed in an encounter with police in the Choudwar area of Cuttack district on Sunday morning.

Acting on a tipoff about

the presence of Jitu at a forest near Choudwar, a joint team of the Choudwar police and the Special Squad raided the

place to apprehend him. Spotting the cops, Jitu, instead of surrendering, opened fire at them in a bid to escape.

In a retaliatory firing by

the police, he sustained gun-shot wounds in his right leg. Subsequently, he was nabbed and rushed to the SCB Medical College Hospital here for treatment.

A gun and a bullet were seized from Jitu's possession. Several cases of loot and extortion are pending against him at various police stations

Youth dead in city; kin allege murder

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Mystery shrouded the death of a youth, whose body was recovered from a house at VSS Nagar under the Saheed Nagar police station here on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Abakash Paikaray of the Sunakhala area in Nayagarh

As per reports, Abakash was working as a contractual employee at the Odisha State

As the body carried injury marks in head and eyes, family members lodged a complaint with the Saheed Nagar police alleging that Abakash was beaten to death over a love

Family members claimed that Abakash was into a rela-



worked with him in the muse-

filed by Abakash's family, police launched a probe into the inci-dent and said the cause of death can only be ascertained after they get the postmortem

party leaders. While Minister

Pratap Jena represents Mahanga to Assembly, his seeking proofs against allega-tions of PMAY irregularities is most unfortunate, alleged BJP Mahanga candidate for 2019 alaction Search Bradhan

and said that one Keshab Jena of Mahanga had got a house

under the Indira Awas Yojana

in 2002. Later, his son Fakir Jena got a house under PMAY

in 2014-15, which has been

election Sarada Pradhan. Addressing a Press meet here, Pradhan took an example

Baishnab Pani birth anniv celebrated in city

The Utkal Sammilani cele-brated the birth anniversary of Ganakabi Baishnab Pani paying floral tributes at his statute at the Utkal Sangeet Mahavidyalaya here on Sunday. Sammilani Mancheswar

branch president Dillip Dashsharma, presiding over the programme, said that renovation of the statues of the leg-endary leaders before their birth anniversaries is needed in the way that of Baishnab Pani was done.

Among others, sammilani VP Sital Chandra Mohanty, secretary Govind Chandra Subudhi and members Basanti Tripathy, joint secretary Ashok Kumar Paltasingh, Maheswar Biswal, Shiv Prasad Mishra, Ketra Mohan Nayak, Akhaya



Jethi, Prakash Samal and Lagnadeepa Mishra were pre-

Similarly, the All Odisha Roadside Vendors Association also celebrated Pani's birth anniversary paying him floral tributes in a programme under chairman-ship of association founder

president Pratap Sahu. The Pujyapuja Sanskruti Suraksha Abhiyan also organ-

ised a meeting to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Ganakabi under leadership of Abhiyan chairman Pradyumna Satpathy. Satpathy said the efforts of Pani for making Odisha liquor-free were commendable.

Pani was born on the Kumar Purnima day in year 1882 at Kothapada village in the Mahanga area of Cuttack

BMC's holding tax hike move opposed the residents staying on rent. The house rent would go up manifold; so also the other rents, he added.

SP to hold meeting of residents' assns

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has strongly opposed the proposed holding tax hike by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) by 3 to 4

While the BMC has failed to provide satisfactory services to the residents of the Smart City in sanitation, lighting, drinking water, road repair and renovation of drainage system, etc., it has no justifica-tion to hike the holding tax, He called upon the residents of all the 67 wards of the

city to oppose the move to increase the holding tax.

The BMC must be taken

into task for its lethargic civic amenities and sanitation services, Behera demanded. The proposed hike in hold-ing tax would severely affect the livelihoods of small shopkeep-ers, middleclass and lower middleclass people as well as

nove. Notably, the BMC has proposed to hike the holding tax after the revision of benchmark value of land cost in the capital city by the General Administration Department. Due to this, the house owners who are paying Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000 as holding tax per annum would have to shell out Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000 as holding

The Samajwadi Party is planning to hold a conference

of different associations of res-

idents under the BMC and would submit a memorandum

to the authorities opposing the

'PMAY irregularities rampant in Mahanga'

It's BJP's false allegations to avenge poll debacle: Jena

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Sunday brought allegations of massive irreg-ularities in distribution of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana houses in the Mahanga Assembly constituency, the home turf of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Pratap Jena.

"Many affluent persons in

Mahanga have got PMAY houses. Officers have distributed such houses to rich people who have links with ruling termed as illegal in the district Collector's report. The report has noted that Fakir had built his house on the first floor of his father's IAY

Pradhan said more than 5,000 PMAY houses have been

distributed illegally in the Mahanga Assembly con-stituency. He said many eligible beneficiaries have been deprived of houses under the Central scheme. He too alleged that there have been irregularities in distribution of ration cards and a

scam of Rs 67 crore in the Mahanga works department. Pradhan demanded that Minister Jena should make it clear in the public as to what

action his Government has



taken against those involved in the irregularities. Alleging that Jena has complicity in irregularities and scams, he demanded that Chief Minister oust Jena from his Ministry soon.

In his reaction, Jena said

the BIP and Pradhan are making false allegations only to avenge their unsuccessfulness in the last elections.

LETTER

Kalinga Vihar cries for basic amenities

Kalinga Vihar Housing Colonies are a dream project of ex-Chief Minister Late Biju Patnaik, but after 25 long years, the basic amenities like road, park and market complex have not been put in place here.

Two roads connect Kalinga Vihar Housing Colonies, one from NH-16 to Sector 58 4 and another from Sector 6 to Sector-4. Since construction of the project, the two roads were repaired only once. As a result, the roads have been extensively damaged having potholes and blacktop surface having worn off. The Residential Welfare Association has requested the Bhubaneswar

Development Authority to repair and maintain the two connecting roads or, alternatively, to transfer to the books

of Works Department. This may please be considered.

There is a big park in Sector-6. There are two small parks in K-5 which are now defunct due to want of regular maintenance. Both parks may be maintained and an open air gym may be installed in one of them. Though there are many

open spaces, another vacant space may be developed for a big park so that senior citizens use it for morning and evening Considering the demand of

residents, the Bhubaneswar Development Authority has constructed a market complex in Sector-6 a few years back. But due to want of electrification, it has not been made operational

There should be electrification of the place and shops may be allotted to eligible ben-

Sixteen Mo Buses are going from Kalinga Vihar to Siridisai Mandir. As there is no busstand, the vehicles are parked on the roads. So, a bus-stand may be constructed from NH-16 so that one can enter Kalinga Vihar Housing Colonies. But the junction is dangerous for two- and four-

wheelers from accident point of view since after opening of the mega DN Regalla Shopping Mall on the roadside the junction has become very much crowded. Residents have also requested the Police Commissioner for establishment of a traffic post, but it is

yet to materialise.

To sum up, the
Bhubaneswar Development Authority, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and the Commissionrate of Police are requested to consider the genuine grievances of the res-

Rabi Narayan Pani, HIG-26,Kalinga Vihar,

Cuttack girl wins Charming IN BALIPATNA Face Odisha title

Nagaja Niranjana (21) from Cuttack has emerged the winner of India's Charming Face Odisha 2019 during a grand finale of the beauty pageant held here.

Niranjana was crowned by

Lavanya Das, Brand Ambassador of India's Charming Face 2019. Also she won the Miss Talented Subtitle. While JanhaviPathak from Bhubaneswar was crowned 1st

Runner-up, Ipshita Das from Rourkela won the 2nd Runnerup and Miss Beautiful Body. Besides, Priya Roy from uttack won the Miss Diva Odisha 2019 and Miss Photogenic and Lipsha Mohapatra from Puri won the Tourism Ambassador India's Charming Face Odisha 2019



title and Miss Confidence subtitle Babita Sabar from Rayagada won the Miss Style Icon, Smruti Rekha Khuntia from Puri won the Miss Peace and Humanity and Miss People's Choice, Bismita Chand from Jajpur won the Miss Popular and Anwesha Bhanja Deo from Khordha won the Miss Iconic Eyes subtitle.

The star studded judges

panel included renowned names such as international-ly reputed choreographer and dancer Saswat Ioshi. Ollywood actress Divyadisha Mohanty and Ollywood actress and Opera Mrs India Global 2018 Pupul Bhuyan, Mrs India 2019 crown winner Satarupa Dash and Ollywood actor and Mr Global India 2016 Abhisshek

Refused new



PNS KHORDHA

minor girl committed sui-Aminor girl committed sui-cide after her parents refused to buy her a new dress on the occasion of Kumar Purnima in Panikata village under the Balipatna police station in the district on Sunday. Reportedly, Chandini Sahoo (15) asked her family for

a new dress to celebrate the fes-

tival. But as the family members did not fulfil her demand, Chandini consumed insecti-

She was rushed to the near by hospital in a critical condi-tion. Later, she was shifted to the Capital Hospital in Bhubaneswar after her condition deteriorated. The doctors at the hospital declared her

IN GANJAM

'Dead' man wakes dress, girl ends life up before cremation

PNS BRAHMAPUR

High drama was witnessed at Laukhala village under the Surada police station in Ganjam district on Sunday when an elderly man, who was presumed to be dead, woke up before his 'cremation'

While villagers were shocked over the incident, joy knew no bounds among the family members of the person.

Reports said that one Simanchal Mallick of the village had gone to a nearby forest two days ago and fell unconscious On Sunday morning, locals found him lying in a static condition in the forest and informed his family members



Instead of taking the man to a hospital, villagers and his relatives themselves examined

his condition and presumed him as dead. And when Simanchal was being taken to the village cremation ground, he suddenly woke up. His pallbearers were panicked and ran away in fear. Later, Simanchal's family

members took him to the Surada Community Health Centre. He was released from the hospital after primary treat-ment; and his condition was stated to be stable.

"I was suffering from fever and fell unconscious in the for-est.While the villagers were taking me to the cremation ground, I gained ground, I gained consciousness and woke up," said Simanchal.

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IN BRAHMPUR

95 gamblers arrested; ₹4L, 25 mobiles seized

and six mobile phones were recovered from their posses-

sion. In another raid at Shanti

Nagar under the Bada Bazar police station, 11 gamblers were arrested and ₹11,000 was

Several businessmen

contractors and stu-

arrestees.

□ 300 nabbed in a month in Ganjam dist □12 arrested in Gunupur with ₹1.30 lakh

cash, 9 mobile phones

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR/

n a major crackdown on In a major crackdown on gambling dens in Brahmapur on the eve of Kumar Purnima, police on Saturday night arrested 95 persons following raids at var-ious locations.

The crackdown comes in

the wake of spurt in illegal activities at such gambling units in the district.

Sources said police seized over ₹4.25 lakh cash and 25 mobile phones during the raids conducted which were conducted at several places under the jurisdiction of eight police stations in the city.
As many as 12 gamblers

In similar raids in

many as 12 persons were arrested after police raided a gambling den at Gunupur area on Saturday night.

Reports said the cops conwere arrested during a raid at Shastri Nagar by the Goshani Nuagaon police while ₹70,000

ducted the surprise raid in Gunupur area on the basis of specific information about the illegal activity and managed to nab the gamblers.

Cash amounting to \$\frac{1}{29,540}\$, one car, nine motorcycles, 12 mobile phones, and other gambling articles were seized during the raid .



Now, efforts to upgrade Jeypore airport intensifies

State Govt urges infrastructure would be need-

PNS
BHUBANESWAR

With an eye for setting up of a full-fledged airport at Jeypore in Koraput district, the State Government has approached the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR).

the While Government has written to the AAI for preparation of a DPR, sources said the AAI has o agreed for the same.

After Jharsuguda, the State

Government is making serious effort to turn the Jeypore airstrip to a full-fledged airport. Upgrading the Jeypore airstrip needs expansion of its runway up to 5,000 feet so that

to fly from the airport. While its runway expansion is going ahead with a time bound manner, other required ed to upgrade it to an airport, said officials.

The State Government has allocated Rs 100 crore during 2019-20 for development of the Jeypore Airport along with development of Birasal, Utkela, Sativata and Rangeilunda

Airstrips.

While Ude Desh Ke
Nagarik (UDAN) promotes
such types of airport under
regional connectivity programme, Jeypore stands on a
better footing as it will connect
southern States like Andhra
Pradesh Tamil Nadu and oth. Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and others due to its geographical advantage.

Connecting Jeypore with RCS-UDAN Programme has been discussed at length in the State Government.

Requirement of personnel was discussed and it came to the fore that over 40 fire and security personnel are needed commercial flights will be able

for the purpose.

Fire and safety equipment is to be deployed as and when

Ministry of Civil Aviation allows flight operations from

The Jeypore airstrip was built in the 1960s; and in the early 1980s, flight service was introduced. However due to a crash, services were stopped.
In addition to Jeypore,
Birasal in Dhenkanal, Utkela in

Kalahandi, Satibhata in Bargarh and Rangeilunda airstrip in Ganjam are being developed. While Rourkela has a full-

fledged airstrip and it has been already connected under RCS-UDAN. However, delay in operation of flights from the airstrip is a cause of concern, officials admit. In fact, Rourkela has been already awarded routes under third phase RCS-UDAN, but flight operations are yet to be start-ed. It has been decided to bring the matter to the attention of the Joint Secretary Civil Aviation so that any hassle can be sorted out while facilitating beginning of flight oper-

INBRIEF

MISSING YOUNG WOMAN FOUND HANGING IN KHORDHA hanging from a tree in a farmland at Saradhapur village in Khordha district on Sunday. Locals spotted the body of the woman, who had heen missing from her home in the Begunia area. A missing complain had been lodged with police on Saturday. It was still not known whether the death was a case of murder or suicide. Till filing of the last report, police were yet to reach the spot to recover the body

17 HURT IN BUS-TRUCK COLLISION IN KEONJHAR

Keonjhar: As many as 17 passengers were injured, two of them seriously, when a bus had a head-on collision with a truck near the Kanjipani Girls' High School in the Telkoi area in the district on Sunday The bus was going from Angul to Rairangpur. The injured were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here.

5 OF WB FAMILY CRITICAL IN ROAD MISHAP IN BHADRAK



Bhadrak: Five members of a family sustained critical injuries when a potato-laden truck hit the car, by which they were travelling on NH-16. near the Bhandaripokhari Fire Station in the district late on Saturday night. The victims, hailing from West Bengal, were returning home after having darshan of the deities at the Jagannath Temple in Puri

PHOTOGRAPHER SAVES WOMAN FROM DROWNING

Puri: A photographer saved a woman from drowning in sea at Chandrabhaga near Konark on Sunday. The woman from Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh was bathing in the sea with her family members in the morning when she was swept away by strong water current. Showing courage, the photographer, who was present near the spot, rescued an, who was admitted to the Konark Government hospital for

'PASA KHELA' TOURNEY HELD IN BHAPUR



Bhapur (Nayagarh): The annual 'Pasa Khela' tournament concluded at Nimani village under Bhapur block in Navagarh district on Friday. The tournament was held with an aim to uphold the tradition of the Pasa (dice) Khela in the villages. The final match was held between Nimani and Khuntupada villages being enjoyed by more than 400 locals. The

BCC BANK STAFF MOURN SECY'S DEMISE

Brahmapur: Employees of the Bramhapur Central Cooperative (BCC) Bank mourned the death of the bank's Secretary-cum-CEO Chitaranjan Panigrahi at a commemorative neeting held in the bank premise here recently. President Alekh Choudhury and all employees. including Sanjay Kumar Sethi and Santosh Kumar Patro, gave tributes to Panigrahi by offering flowers at his



photo. Panigrahi passed away on Tuesday at the age of 59. The body was later cremated at the Swargadwar in Puri.

VANMAHOTSAVA HELD AT MCL HQ

Sambalpu: MCL CMD BN Shukla, along with Director (Technical/Operations) OP Singh, Director (Finance/Personnel) KR Vasudevan and Director (Technical/Projects & Planning) KK Mishra participated in Vanmahotsava-2019 activity at the company headquarters by planting saplings. Speaking on the occasion, the CMD emphasised on using new technology for plantation to increase the reen cover on the earth.



Rayagada SP's pro-people gesture hailed

Ever ready for 5Ts execution

BADAL TAH ■ RAYAGADA

It is almost 10 pm on the eve of Dussehra. Dr Sarvana Vivek M, SP, Rayagada called a Press meet. He was worried about law and order situation in the district.

Hatred got spread through a viral video posting in social media by a few youths led by one Agasti Garada from Panchali village of Kashipur block. The video depicted burning of photographs of Hindu deities terming them to have reached expiry date. Those youths shouted slogans Jai Bhim and were seen worshipping a photograph of Dr BR Ambedkar at the same spot where Hindu deity photos vere set ablazed using kerosene and dried twigs.

Getting a tipoff from a complainant, Sarvana called a Press conference in his office spread a message through dif-



ferent media including social media not to forward the video, which might provoke communal disharmony. The culprit Garada was arrested and forwarded to court. And the matter ended there.

"The culprit neither understands the ethics of Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar nor the spiritual and religious essence behind deity worship by Hindus. Ambedkar was an epitome of secular values and an adorer of mutual respect. It was an emotional upsurge of a perverted mindset to disrespect Ambedkar through this heinous act. It could be the projection need of that person having a vested interest. The SP has taken a right decision at a right time to contain the hatred," said Bidulata Huika, a

tribal woman leader of the

As a part of Mo Sarkar and 5Ts promulgated by the State Government, Sarvana has personally inspected the local RTO office, which seemed infested with a number of bro-kers, and interacted with the clients regarding their woes and difficulties. A few brokers along with a clerk having nexus with the brokers got arrested after

their attendants at the District Headquarters Hospital and had a dialogue with the patients and the medical staff as well.

"Schemes will crop up dur-ing regimes of various Governments and may be forgotten with passage of time. But using these opportunities as means to people's end by bureaucrats like Sarvana will certainly go a long way. Sarvana seems to be the most befitting person to grab these opportunities to behave pro-poor and pro-people," opined Gobinda Rath, a renowned educationist

and entrepreneur of Rayagada. Sarvana does not wait for his driver to come if it is an

He drives on his own to reach the spot for delivering the service. The State has decentralised the grievance redressal mechanism from district level to block and GP level. After the grievances are heard and disposed of, he does not mind posing a photo among the aggrieved. He has become a true public-police interface in

Gloom in B'swar as artist Khatua dies in accident

PNS BALESWAR

People from all walks of life Propre from an wars of the mourned the untimely demise of well-known painter Debendra Khatua of Baleswar He died on the spot after run over by a passenger bus near Remuna Ĝolai on Friday

Khatua was associated with several organizations of the district including art schools, colleges and literary circle. He was an amiable person.

Around 12 pm on Saturday when he was returning to his home at Bhimpura in his scooty he was hit by a Scorpio jeep. As he skidded off, a passing bus ran over him, killing him there.A pall of gloom descended in all circles after the news spread fast . Everyone rushed to the DHH to pay tribute. His mortal remains were consigned to flames later.Khatua was the only son

burning tyres . The agitators besides stating that accidents have become order of the day due to reckless driving and traffic congestion and encroachments, demanded shifting of bus stand and a malgodown from their present

Everyone rushed

to the DHH to

pay tribute

dent occurred when his wife

Following the accident enraged residents of Bhimpura

staged a road blockade by

and son were in Chennai.

Similarly, there have been demands for shifting of good shed from the railway station.
In the meanwhile, IIC Sahadevkhunta, Jayant Behera

informed that the driver of the bus which caused accident was apprehended and the bus was seized.

Bus driver robbed at gunpoint in Baleswar

PNS BALESWAR

rmed miscreants looted A about Rs 10,000 from the driver and conductor of a private bus after thrashing them near Iamudihi Chhack under the Nilgiri police station in the district on Saturday night.

As per reports, the bus was on its way to Bhubaneswar from Sarat in Mayurbhanj dis-

Sources said the bus driver had earlier entered into an argument with a few youths travelling by a car over the use of headlights. Later, two occupants of the car intercepted the bus and thrashed the driver and conductor at gunpoint.



"Initially, two youths came from the car and later four others barged into the bus and looted the money brandishing guns," said the bus driver.

Acting on a complaint lodged by the conductor, police have started investigation into

Various cultural events held by

Madhumaya **Foundation**

he Madhumaya Panigrahi Foundation celebrated 'Kumar Punei Inha Lo" amid here on Sunday.

DIG of Police Satyabrata Bhoi, IISER Brahmapur Director KVR Chary and Utkal Sanskrutik Samaj, Visakhapatnam president JK

Nayak graced as guests.

The function began with
"Atithi Devo Bhava" and a presentation on the festival.

World Skill gold medalist Aswatha Narayan, Common Wealth weightlifting gold medalist Bhaktaram Desti and Mission Dreams India Finalist Shakti Swarupa Dash were

felicitated.

Besides, College of Pharmaceutical Science PET Bijay Adhikari for his decade long service to the rural women

sports competition organised by the "Kumar Punei Jahnlo" While Traditional Sankha Nada was presented by Rajendra Patro and team, "Devi" Abhani dance was per-formed by Sushree Samhita

with choreography by Archana

Patro, Y Sridevi and troupe.

Sudipta Panigrahi welcomed Kuchipudi dance was presented by noted dancer Thadepalli Gudam and Odishi dance by Aotravee Dutta from Kolkata. A skating dance was presented by the Brahmapur Skaing

Academy. Besides, an Andra Pradesh folk dance was performed by Y Vijava Kumar and team and Thia Punchi Narang was choreographed by Rinarani Sahu.

Prafulla Jagannath Padhy Dr Mihir Kumar Tripathy, A Tripati Balaji Patro, Dillip Choudhury, Manoj Kumar Samal, Dr Bishwanath Panigrahi, Dr Rajendra Padhy,



Chandra Sahu, Dharitri Sahu, Krupasindhu Sahu, Nalinikant Gauda and

Rashmita Dalei coordinated



India Post still highly relevant to country's growth

Kumar Punei fest celebrated in Brahmapur

The World Post Day is celebrated on October 9, the foundation day of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Being a member of UPU, India Post celebrates the National Postal Week starting from World Post Day to October 15 with a view to creating awareness on postal services and its contribution to the social and economic devel-

opment of the country.

The India Post is the largest postal network in world having 1,55,531 Post Offices (POs) out of which 15,649 urban On an average, 8,770 people are served by a PO in the country as a whole. In rural area a PO serves 6,455 people where as in urban area a PO serves 29,458 people on an average area of 21.14 sqkm.

If we go back to the history, the first PO was setup at Kolkata in the year 1727. There after three GPOs were also set up in presidencies of Kolkata

Mumbai (1793). The present postal system came into operation with the IPO Act of 1854; and since October 1854, it is playing a key role in the socioeconomic development of the country and connecting its parts. Due to use of internet, smart phone and social media. postal communication is reducing day by day through-out the world. So India Post has introduced new services to meet the expectations of its customers.

Under IT modernization

(1774). Chennai (1786) and

project, the India Post has een transformed into a technology enabled and self reliant market leader. The primary objective is to improve and automate postal services and its business activities by reengineering and creating efficient operational systems

Under Rural ICT Project DARPAN (Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India) 129,089 Branch POs have been supplied charging devices and network connectivity. The India Post operates

savings schemes like Savings Bank Accounts, RD, TD, MIS, PPF NSC KVP SCSS and SSA through all its 1,55,531 branches and disbursing wages for MGNREGS beneficiaries through Savings Bank Accounts since 2005 on behalf of Panchayati Raj Ministry. Mobile banking, internet banking and ATM facilities are provided to customers under Core Banking Solutions (CBS) in POs. As on March 31, CBS has been made operational in 23,686 PO and 996 ATMs have been inter-linked which are also interoperable with other

The India Post being a customer friendly organization emphasizes on specific customer requirements and introduced several premium services like Speed Post, Express Parcel, Business Parcel, Retail



Post, e-Post, e-Payment, Logistic Post and Business Post to meet the present-day requirements. Due to growth in the e- commerce market in recent years, the India Post has established a separate market-ing division in April in parcel Directorate. The India Post has earned a revenue of Rs 98.45 crore in 2018-19(upto February 19) from business and

express parcel services.

To improve the delivery service, the India Post has established Automated Mail Processing Centers in Delhi and Kolkata where letter sorting machine and a Mixed Mail Sorter having a sorting capacity of 35,000 and 18,000 items per hour respectively have been

Speed Post was started by

India Post in August, 1986 for providing time-bound services between specified locations. During the 33 years, it became the market leader and handling above 4 crore consignments per month with facility of booking/delivery in maximum POs. Speed Post became the first choice of people for sending their Rakhi. The India Post provides

Aadhaar update and enrol-ment facility through 13,352 POs till March Above 12.08 lakh enrolments and 39.22 lakh updates have been done from January 1, 2018 to March earned revenue of Rs 2.971.18 crore (provisional) during the financial year 2018-19.

Both Ministry of External

Affairs and India Post have agreed to provide Passport services through selected Head Post Offices in various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) since 2017. 412 POPSKs have been opened upto March. During the peri-

March, 2019, around 22.02 lakh, respectively.

The India Post Payments processed in these POPSKs. The India Post is providing Retail Post services which

include collection of electricity bills, telephone bills, taxes and fees. Railway reservation tickets for all classes are being issued at selected Post Offices as per MOU with the Ministry of Railways. The service is available at 335 Post Offices as on March 31.

The oldest life insurance schemes for benefit of G o v e r n m e n t / S e m i Government employees is PLI which was introduced in 1884 and now it has widened its ser-vice area to recognized schools, registered professionals like doctors, engineers, consultants, CAs, architects, lawyers, bankers and employees of list-ed companies. The RPLI was introduced in 1995 for the benefit of rural people. As on March 31, aggregate number of active policies in PLI and

Bank(IPPB) is a public limited company under the control of Department Post with a target to become most accessible where banking facilities are not available. Till March 31, 2018, the IPPB is offering payments bank services through 650 branches and 135,496 access points(POs).

Though volume of indireduced, the business mails, Speed Post articles and services rendered by India Post on behalf of third party is on an increasing trend, which proves that still people are in need of India Post for communication and socio -economic development of the country.

(The writer is organising secretary P&T Accounts & Finance Officers' Association (CHQ), Postal Accounts Office, Cuttack, Mob: 9437160036)

IN SUBARNAPUR ———

Cop felicitated for doing social work

Previous Inspector In-Charge of Tarbha police station Surubabu Chhatria was feliciated by Chudakhai Gangar Lokatsav-2019 for his social service and free coaching for Navodaya admission to poor

Several organisations wel-comed Chhatria from Durga Mandap towards Krusnarjun Kala Mandap. Chief guest Transport Minister Padmanav Behera felicitated Chaatria.

Chhatria had joined in the Tarbha police station in 2017 when people had lost faith on police. He started a free Navodaya coaching centre. From this, 13 students qualified for the Navodaya examination and 43 students got chance to study in Aadarsha Vidyalaya. He was associated with several social activities.



water tanker during the recent

Previously also the Quality Council of Índia (QCI) was entrusted to carry out a survey for grading the police stations across the country and selected Tarbha police station as one of the 10 best in the country in the Annual Ranking of

Chhatria also provided a Police Stations for 2018.

Jagdish Barik, a guardian of a student said, "I am very thankful to IIC Surubabu Chhatria for his innovative idea of free coaching. We never a Navodaya, but because of the coaching, our son was selected for admission in entrance

fair by-poll in Bijepur

B'garh DM reviews

arrangements with officials

PNS SAMBALPUR

¬he district administration I in Bargarh is all

set to ensure a free and fair by-election in the Bijepur Assembly constituency on October 21.

In a preparatory cum coordination meeting of all the line officials connected to election, Bargarh district Collector Jyoti Ranjan Pradhan, in the sub divisional headquarters at Padmapur, asked the officers of all departments to see that the election passes off peacefully strictly adhering to the model code of conduct (MCC) as prescribed by the Election Commission. "Our first and foremost

duty is to conduct the election

without fear and favour so that voters can exercise their franchise fearlessly. All officers connected to the process must work sincerely so that no one

can point fingers towards us," Pradhan said to the officials present in a coordination meeting.
Padmapur SDPO Pradeep

Sahu cast light on the police arrangements in view of the election.

He narrated the systems in place like CCTV cameras in crucial points, video surveillance team and all other precautionary measures including deployment of fly-ing squads in detail. "No one can get chance to breach peace during the election and police are on high alert for it," Sahu said. Sub Collector cum Returning Officer Tanmay Darwan appealed the people to come to polling booths in good numbers and exercise their franchise freely. He also told about the necessary documents to be carried to the polling booths as mark of identification.

-|Admn all set for free, $|Biswal's\ Bollywood|$ movie trailer goes viral



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

month ahead of a pan-AIndia release of Odishaborn director Debamitra Biswal Hasan's debut Bollywood film 'Motichoor Chaknachoor, the trailer of the movie has created a lot of buzz as it has gone viral on online platform.

The 2.21-minute trailer

released on YouTube on Friday

has already amassed over 60 lakh views by the time of fil-ing this story and it promises to be a good watch. The overwhelming response has come in less than a day's time.

The romcom featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Athiya Shetty is all set to hit the silver screens on November 15.

desperately wants to get mar ried while Athiya, whose only aspiration is to get married to an NRI. Nawazuddin and Athiya get hooked and the laugh riot begins.

Debamitra hailing from

Bhubaneswar is the writer-director of the movie, which has been produced by the Woodpecker Movies Pvt Ltd In the movie, in association with the Nawazuddin, approaching 40, Viacom18 Studios.

HOLY KARTIKA MONTH BEGINS

25K women in Puri to observe Habisha from today

All arrangements made at Govt-run centres

With the holy Kartika month beginning from Monday, more than 25,000 widows have reached Puri by Sunday evening to partici-pate the month-long Habisha fast in the city of Lord Jagannath.

Since arrival of women from remote parts still continues, it is expected their numbers will be much more. All the lodgings and Dharmasalas in the pilgrim town have been packed by women who would stay there end of Kartiaka

Besides, many have taken shelter on rent in private houses with some turning to relatives' houses for stay. Women from 18 districts of Odisha have enrolled so far.

Apart from personal

arrangements, nearly 2,500 women have booked accommodation in Habisha centres of Government opened in the city. While a majority have arrived and occupied seats, arrival of others will continue throughout the night as many trains were to reach Puri station in the midnight. Besides



seen booking on the spot in the Habisha centres. The Government has arranged stay home at Mochisahi, railway station and Narendra Kona for free accommodation of women. They will also be offered Mahaprasad for free towards evening one time a day till the end of Kartika. A

dispensary will be working round the corner. Arrangement of 24x7 drinking water supply has been made. Women needing warm water can avail it free of cost. To assist very old women,

a team of men and women will be in place round the cor-ner. There is also facility of

free to and fro transportation of women between different holy ponds and the Jagannath Temple. For entertainment of women, Pala and Daskathia will be organised with appointment of Purana Panda (myth reader) at each Habisha centre for singing holy myths before the fasting women.

LSS celebrates JP, Nanaji birth anniv



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The All India organisation of Emergency (1975-77) detainees, Loktantra Senani Sangh (LSS), observed the Sangh (LSS), observed the 117th birth anniversary of Loknayak Jayaprakash (JP) Narayan and 103rd birth anniversary of Nanaji Deshmukh here on Friday.

Sangh national secretary Subas Ğantayat lauded the courageous role of emergency detainees in fighting the tyranny of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the role model leadership of Jayaprakash and

India during the crucial peri-od of emergency. Among others, emergency detainees Bhubananand Tripathy, Brajbandhu Mohapatra and Pramod Patnaik, Shreedhar Dash and Surendra Nayak were

Inter-State CBSE Kabaddi JSPL promotes industrial safety in Angul tournament finals today



The second day of the Inter-State CBSE Kabaddi rnament at the Vyasanagar Public School ground here on Sunday saw six teams qualifying for finals. As many as 25

matches were played on the day. In Under-17 Girls group, the finals will be played between the Shree Dadaji Mandir Trust School and the Shivam Bidyapith.

played between the DAV Public School and the Vikas Residential Group. Similarly, the Sankar International and Loyal School will meet each other in Under-17 Boys finals. While in Under-19 Girls The final matches will be held

Joins 'Safety Buddies' initiative by factories directorate

PNS ANGUL

Supporting the 'Safety Buddies' Initiative by Directorate of Factories and Boilers, Odisha, Iindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) organised safety awareness programme at Ganesh Sponge Private Limited, Angul under the guidance of Assistant

Director of Factories and Boiler, Angul Umakant Samantray. Safety experts from JSPL Ravi Kant Somani (Corporate Head -Occupational Health and Safety), NavinvGautam (GM - Safety) and David

Samantray (AGM - Fire andSafety) visited the local factory and shared different methods and techniques of industrial safety.

Workers, officers and managers of Ganesh Sponge participated in the programme.

Ravi Kant Somani shared his vast experience among the employees of Ganesh Sponge and explained about various safety practices. Samantray explained section wise hazards and risks involved in sponge iron manufacturing and also shared control mea-



venting such accidents. Ashok Kumar Singh (Whole Time Director) of Ganesh Sponge Team for conducting such a thanked the Safety Buddies useful programme.

HARYANA ASSEMBLY POLL: BJP releases manifesto

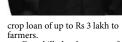
PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday released its election manifesto for the October 21 Haryana Assembly polls, making a host of promises including interest-free crop loan of up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers and providing skill development training to 25 lakh

The manifesto titled 'Mhare Sapne Ka Harvana'. which the party described as 'Sankalp Patra', was released in the presence of BJP working President JP Nadda, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, state party president Subhash Barala and other senior party leaders here.

"It is a commitment paper and it is a serious and studied document. This is a pragmatic and practical paper that represents all sections of the soci ety," said JP Nadda while talk-

ety, said JP Nadda while talk-ing to the mediapersons here. The BJP has promised to give collateral free loan of up to Rs 3 lakh to people belonging to the scheduled caste community, if voted to power again. The saffron party has also pledged to give interest-free



For skill development of youth, the party has said that it will form a Ministry of Youth Development and Self Employment in Haryana. Along with this, the govern-ment will also impart skills to 25 lakh youths by spending Rs

JP Nadda said that this commitment paper focuses on addressing a person sitting on the last pedestal. There will be old age pension of Rs 3,000. Haryana will be made tuberculosis free and farmers income will be doubled by 2022, he said. He said 1,000 'khel' (sports)

nurseries will also be set up in the state.

The focus will also be on comprehensive healthcare, said Nadda, adding that 2,000 health and wellness centre will be set up in the state. The manifesto said, the

party will make a legal provision to ensure farmers don't have to mortgage more than 1.25 times land of the loan amount. It promised to make women and children anaemiafree in the next five years.

The saffron party has pledged that it will ensure free education in government educational institutes up to postgraduate level for two girls per family having income less than

Rs 1.80 lakh per annum or land holdings up to five acres. The party has also mentioned the starting of pink bus service for girl students

Along with this, selfdefence training will be given to the students and special centres to help women will be established in the state.

In its manifesto, the BJP has also promised a task force to clean Yamuna, Ghaggar and other rivers. It also said, it will try to make Haryana the first state in the country to be free

of single-use plastic. The party has further promised to remove the salary discrepancies of all the employees of the state.

Other promises included farmers coming to sell produce to get Rs 10 Kisan Thali' in every 'Mandi' and sugar mill, Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran to be set up with Rs 1,000 crore budget, alternative Crop Mission to be established, livestock to be tagged and collection centres to be set up for cow dung and urine, a Rs 500-crore fund will be kept for agri mar-keting, branding and packaging.

EMPHASIS ON YOUTH, FARMERS AND POOR: CM

Releasing the manifesto, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said that the BIP's 'Sankalp Patra' is based on the principles of 'Ram Rajva'.

He said, "We have delivered on our promise of zero tolerance for corruption and transparency and would continue to do so."

The resolution paper has taken care of every class. Special importance has been given to sportspersons, youth, farmers and poor class, he said.

The Chief Minister said that the DC rate will be strict-ly enforced in all outsourcing

jobs in Haryana. Special benefits will be given to industries providing more than 95 per cent employment to the local people of Haryana, he announced

"We have promised to make a provision to increase the amount of all pensions according to annual inflation," he The Chief Minister claimed

the manifesto of the Congress with focus on loan waiver to farmers and job reservations to women was unrealistic as it needed Rs 1,26,000 crore to fulfill the poll promise. "It is totally unrealistic with

no budgetary provisions. Our manifesto needs a budget allo-cation of Rs 32,000 crore that can be easily meted out through state funds," he said.

Manohar Lal added, his government would give benefits to farmers in the form of better prices for their produce.

Manifesto committee chief OP Dhankar informed that the party has given attention to every section in the 32-page resolution. 1.70 lakh suggestions were received for preparing the party's resolution letter, he added.

Open Athletics: Dutee wins another gold



PNS BHIIBANESWAR

ce Odisha-born sprinter A ce Odisha-born sprinter
Dutee Chand on Sunday
won gold in women's 200
metre event at the 59th National Open Athletics Championships 2019 held in Ranchi She clocked 23.17 seconds to cross the finish line in the event.

On Friday, she had broken the national record in 100m event, which was earlier set by

her, and created a new one at the championship.
The Odia sprinter clocked

11.22 seconds in the semi-final of women's 100m event surpassing her previous national record of 11.26 sec-onds, which she had achieved at the Asian Athletics Championships-2019 in Doha, Oatar, She went on to with a timing of 11.25 seconds in the final.

Cong on talent hunt in UP Netherlands King, to revitalise organisation

With the change in organ-isational structure in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress is looking forward to rope in 'fresh talents' to revitalise the organisation.

Based on the suggestions by party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, who had been travelling across the Hindi heartland at regular intervals, the party will initiative talent hunt at block initiative talent hunt at block level and give opportunity to people who could not make it into politics due to family background or financial constraints.

Congress appointed Ajay Kumar Lallu as its Uttar Pradesh president, replacing Raj Babbar, and revamped the state unit, bringing in four vice presidents, 12 general sec-retaries and 24 secretaries. The party has set up an advisory council to the general secretary comprising senior leaders such as Mohsina Kidwai, P L Punia and R P N Singh. It also named an an eight-member working group for strategy and planning.

Lallu on Sunday said he is

banking on 'Sampark' (contact), 'Samvaad' (dialogue) and 'Sangharsh' (struggle) to strengthen his party and exuded confidence that it will form



alternative to the BJP. For this, we have to infuse enthusiasm and self-confidence among the party workers, and work closely with them. For emerging as the only alternative to the BJP, the path is struggle. If we stand up to the expectations of the people and win their trust, we will not only become the only alternative to the BJP, but also form the Government in the state," Lallu stated.

state," Lallu stated.
Senior Congress leader
Jitin Prasada said the road
ahead for the Congress in UP
was very "long and tough", but
the party would remain
unfazed by "short-term" setbacks as it was confident of winning back the people's con-

after linking more students and youth with itself. "The biggest challenge is to make the Congress the only however also mentioned the revamp of the State unit will be a "mix of the old and new"

Prasada, who was named as a member of the working group for strategy and plan-ning, said Priyanka Gandhi as General Secretary is giving direction to the party cadre which is determined to expose people's support due to a false narrative.

This has already begun "This has already begun and the Congress has gone ahead with the change in its Uttar Pradesh president and a new team that has been put in place," Prasad said. As part of the strategy under Priyanka Gandhi, the grand old party's platform will be for the people who have not been given a who have not been given a chance -be it in decision-mak-

Queen on five-day India visit from Sun

PNS I NEW DELHI

Netherlands King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima will arrive here on Sunday for a five-day visit dur-ing which they will hold meetings with the top Indian lead-ership to boost bilateral eco-nomic and political coopera-

King Willem-Alexander's trip would be his first State visit to India, following his ascension to the throne in 2013. King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima will arrive here on Sunday night for the visit at the invitation of President Ram Nath Kovind, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The King and Queen will visit New Delhi, Mumbai, and Kerala during their visit. On Monday, the Dutch royals will meet President Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while External Affairs Minister S Jasihankar will call on them. The King and Queen will be accompanied on their visit by a senior ministerial delegation. After the official pro-gramme in Delhi, King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima will also visit Mumbai from Wednesday and reach Kerala on Thursday. The royal couple will head home on Friday.

have a bilateral trade turnover of USD 12.87 billion (2018-2019). The Netherlands is the fifth largest investor in India with a cumulative investment of USD 23 billion for the period 2000 to Dec 2017, the MEA

. The Dutch Royal couple will also attend the Inaugural Session of 25th Technology Summit in New Delhi on Tuesday. The Netherlands is the partner country for this

The Royal couple would be accompanied by about 140 business houses for this technology and innovation fair, representing various sectors, including agriculture, water, health-care and climate change. The visit is expected to boost economic and political cooperation between India and the Netherlands, the MEA

17, they will visit Mattancherry palace and Dutch company Ned Spice in Kochi in Kerala. Kerala Chief Minister Pinaravi Vijayan will host a dinner for the royal couple. On October 18, the Royal

couple will enjoy a boat ride at Alappuzha and address the media before their return in the

RAJIV GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION CASE

TN Cong: We will oppose moves to release convicts

he Tamil Nadu unit of the The Tamil Nadu unit of the Congress on Sunday said it would strongly oppose any move to release any of the seven convicts, held guilty in former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case.

"There are so many prisoners including convicts in prisons of Tamil Nadu. Why is there a motivated demand for there a motivated demand for releasing Rajiv's killers only?"
Tamil Nadu Congress
Committee president K S
Alagiri said. He said any decision to release the convicts
would set a "bad precedent"
and "highly disturb the social order and peace in Tamil Nadu".

Alagiri was reacting to a recent meeting that NDA-ally PMK's founder president S Ramadoss and his son and Rajya Sabha member R Anbumani had with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here for his intervention for the release of Rajiv Gandhi's killers.

Questioning the bids of

"intervention in the justice system", Alagiri said the law of the land should be allowed take its own course. It is for the court to decide the matter, he added.

Rajiiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991 during an election meeting at



Sriperumbudur near Chennai a suicide bomber of the banned LTTE. In a memoran dum to Prime Minister Modi Ramadoss had argued that the Supreme Court last year had allowed the Tamil Nadu Government to decide on the release of seven convicts — Murugan, Santhan, Perarivalan, Robert Payas, Ravichandran, Jayakumar and Nalini.

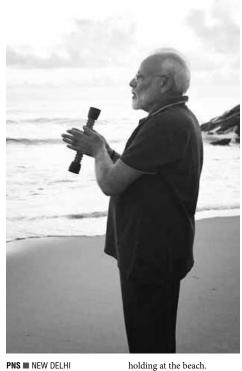
Nadu The Tamil Novernment later Government later on September 9, 2018 had passed a Cabinet resolution recommending to Governor Banwarilal Purohit for the release of convicts, but his office has been delaying the matter, he said

"Tamils all over the world expected that the Governor

But even after one year and one month after receiving the letter, the office of Tamil Nadu Governor has not taken any decision and is procrastinating this matter. This has disappointed and distressed milions of Tamils all over the world," Ramadoss said.

"It is rather unfair," he said, adding the seven convicts were in prison for the last 28 years and keeping them in jail any further without any strong reason would be a serious violation of the human rights. Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia and son Rahul have "categorically said they have no objections to the release of seven Tamils," the PMK had said.

Was carrying acupressure roller while plogging at Mamallapuram beach: PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 $E_{\text{ple over the stick-like object}}^{\text{nding the curiosity of peo-}}$ he was holding while plogging on the Mamallapuram beach, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it was an acu-pressure roller that he often uses. "Since vesterday, many of you have been asking - what is it that I was carrying in my hands when I went plogging at a beach in Mamallapuram. It is an acupressure roller that I often use. I have found it to be very helpful," Modi tweeted.

He also posted pictures of the acupressure roller he was

address ATS officials today PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will on Monday address top officials of the Anti Terrorism Squads (ATS) from various States. The con-ference, also to be addressed by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, is expected to formulate a comprehensive counter-terrorism action plan and how to enhance coopera-tion among ATS of different

The Home Minister will deliver the inaugural address where he is likely to highlight the central government's outlines for the emerging terror threats," a Home Ministry official said. The top officials of ATS of the states will give presentation on their own anti-ter-ror strategies and the action plans put in place to deal with any kind of emergencies. The conference is

being organised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Amit Shah to | Prasad withdraws comments on economic slump after facing flak

Facing flak after he cited ₹120 crore business done by three movies on a single day to rebut suggestions of an eco-nomic slump in the country, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Sunday withdrew his

Prasad's comments in Mumbai on Saturday coupled with his criticism of an NSSO report on high unemploy-ment rate and IMF's report of a slowdown in India had attracted flak and the senior BJP leader was also trolled

In a statement issued on Sunday, Prasad claimed that one part of his statement had been "completely twisted out of context", and said "being a sensitive person, I withdraw this comment". "My comments made ves-

terday in Mumbai about three films making ₹120 crore in a single day- the highest ever, was a factually correct statement. I had stated this as I was in Mumbai— the film capital of India. We are very proud of our



film industry which provided employment to lakhs of people and contributes significantly by

I had also explained in detail about the various measures the Government has taken as pro-people move to strengthen our economy. Government of PM Narendra Modi always cares for the sensitivity of common people. Entire video of my media interaction is available on my social media. Yet I regret to note that one part of my statement has been completely

a sensitive person, I with-draw this comment," Prasad Prasad on Saturday said three Bollywood movies gen-

erating business of ₹120 crore on the October 2 holiday suggested a "sound economy" ever as he dubbed "wrong" the NSSO report which had reportedly pegged unemploy-ment rate at 45-year high in

Days after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the economic slowdown is more pronounced this year in India and Brazil, Prasad said the measurement was incom-

Comment he alleged that some people were misleading people over the unemploy-ment scenario. "I was also told that on October 2, which is observed as one of the national holidays, three Hindi movies garnered ₹120 crore business. Unless the economy is sound in the country how can three movies alone collect so much business in a single day? Prasad asked, while speaking to

Ayodhya case to enter crucial final leg as SC to resume hearings today



New Delhi: The protracted hearing in the politically sen-sitive Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute at Ayodhya will enter into the crucial final leg on Monday when the Supreme Court resumes proceedings on the 38th day after the week-long Dussehra break.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, which started the day-to-day pro-ceedings on August 6 after mediation proceedings failed to find an amicable solution to the vexatious dispute, has revised the deadline for wrapping up the proceedings and has fixed it on October 17.

Fourteen appeals have been filed in the apex court against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties—the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

Initially, as many as five

lawsuits were filed in the lower court. The first one was filed by Gopal Singh Visharad, a devotee of 'Ram Lalla', in 1950 to seek enforcement of the right to worship of Hindus at the disputed site

Paramahansa Ramachandra Das had also filed the lawsuit for continuation of worship and keeping the idols under the central dome of the now-demolished disputed structure.

The plea was later withdrawn.Later, the Nirmohi Akahara also moved the trial court in 1959 seeking management and 'shebaiti' (devotee) rights over the 2.77 acre disputed land.

Then came the lawsuit of the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Wakf Board which moved the court in 1961, claiming title right over the dis-

puted property.

The deity, 'Ram Lalla Virajman' through next friend and former Allahabad High Court judge Deoki Nandan Agrawal, and the Janambhoomi (the birthplace) moved the lawsuit in 1989,

seeking title right over the entire disputed property on the key ground that the land itself has the character of the deity and of a 'Juristic entity'.

Later, all the lawsuit

transferred to the Allahabad High Court for adjudication following the demolition of the disputed Ram Janambhoomi-Babri masjid structure on December 6, 1992, sparking communal riots in the

country.

Earlier, the bench, also comprising justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer, had said it would wrap up the hearing by October 17, a day sooner than the earlier

Fixing the schedule for the final leg of the lengthy arguments, it had said that the Muslim side would complete the arguments on October 14 and thereafter, two days would be granted to the Hindu parties to sum up their rejoinders by October 16.

October 17 would be the last day for wrapping up the hearing when the parties will have to make the final arguments about the relief they are seeking, the court had said. The bench had earlier fixed the

clude the hearing. The judgment in the matter is to be pronounced by November 17, the day the Chief Justice of India will demit the office.

The apex court had on August 6 commenced day-to-day proceedings in the case as the mediation proceedings ini-tiated to find the amicable resolution had failed.

It had taken note of the report of the three-member panel, comprising Justice FMI Kallifulla, spiritual guru and founder of the Art of Living foundation Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate and renowned mediator Sriram Panchu, that mediation proceedings, which went on for about four months, did not result in any final settlement and it had to decide the mat-ter pending before it. *PTI*



Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday

Sena free to express views but Assembly polls under Fadnavis' leadership: Bhupender Yadav

New Delhi: Shiv Sena is free to express its views and the desire of having its own Chief Minister but Maharashtra election is being fought under the leadership of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and it has been conveyed to the allies, BJP General Secretary and in-charge for the Assembly

polls Bhupender Yadav said.

Responding to questions about Shiv Sena leaders' remarks that there will be a Maharashtra Chief Minister from their party in the future, Yadav said political parties are free to talk about their desires.

"Every party can talk about its future and express its desires. But this election is being fought

under the leadership of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadanavis. It has been cleared to the entire alliance," Yaday told PTI.

Modi was in the coastal town for a two-day informal summit with Chinese President

Xi Jinping. On Saturday, the last day of the summit, the prime

minister was seen cleaning up

a beach by picking up plastic litter and other waste during his

of his plog on the beach where

that public places are clean

and tidy. Picking litter while

jogging is referred to as

On the issue of seat sharing, he said the BJP believes in a politics "where there is role is visible in the Government at the Centre where despite getting a thumping majority, the BJP has given representation to its allies, Yadav said underlining that Shiv Sena is a very old and natural ally of the party.

He expressed confidence that the BJP-led alliance which includes Shiv Sena and some small parties will come back to power with a thumping



The BIP-led alliance in Maharashtra is in a very strong position and will get three-fourths majority in the State

mbly elections," he said. Talking about Maratha reservation, Yadav said the party believes in all round development of the society,

orted reservation under the

of society or region.

ambit of the Constitution. The reservation was required as there was inequality in the State, which happened as the state was ruled by the Congress for so many years," Yadav said. On the question of leaders

unlike the opposition parties in the State which aimed for

growth of one specific segment

"The BIP has always sup

of the question of readers from other parties joining the BJP, Yadav said those who come into the party without compromising its ideology help in "social and geographical expansion" of the organisa-

He claimed that continuing

the full term, which is rare in case of Maharashtra, is also working in favour of the party and there is a "wave" in favour of the BJP-led alliance.

Yadav, a key strategist of the party, has been its in-charge in various assembly elections which the party won including in Rajasthan in 2013 and Gujarat and Jharkhand in

He had also played a role in party's massive victory in Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls. However, in Bihar the party lost the 2015 Assembly elections to the alliance of JD(U), RJD and the Congress when he was the in-charge. in-charge.



MAHARASHTRA POLLS

Shah: PM Modi united Our schemes are for **J&K** with mainstream

 $F_{\text{narrative for Maharashtra}}^{\text{urther sharpening the BJP's}}$ Assembly polls on nationalism, BJP president Amit Shah on Sunday praised the "man with 56-inch chest" in Prime Minister Narendra Modi for nullifying Article 370 and inte-grating Jammu & Kashmir with the mainstream.

Addressing an election rally in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district, he said the previous Governments never had the courage shown by Modi.

He appealed to people to ask Congress and NCP leaders, when they come to seek votes, whether they support the NDA Government's decision to abrogate the provisions that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

He targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and NCP chief Sharad Pawar for questioning the Government's move ogate Article 370.

"After people of the country and Maharashtra voted



Modiji did something for which the entire country was waiting for 70 years...He abrogated Article 370 on August 5 and joined Jammu & Kashmir with the country's mainstream," Shah said.

Shah said since the days of Jan Sangh, they have been hearing that there cannot be two prime ministers, there cannot be two symbols and two constitutions, but "it was the Congress which, by impos-ing Article 370, stopped the process of integrating Jammu & Kashmir with India for sever-

"As a result, thousands of our people lost their lives due of any party to remove Article 370," he said.

"Several Governments came and went, several prime ministers came and went, no one had the courage to abrogate Article 370. But, the man with the 56-inch chest

scrapped it in one go," Shah He said during the UPA rule, terrorists from Pakistan used to infiltrate and kill Indian

soldiers.

"They used to decapitate our soldiers, but the then Prime Minister 'Mouni baba' Manmohan Singh never used to utter a single word. But after the Uri and Pulwama attacks, Modiji showed the courage of killing terrorists in their den through surgical strike and air strikes," he said.

He further hit out at the opposition over the Government's decision to ban the practice of triple talaq.

people's welfare: Yogi

Initiatives of BJP-Shiv Sena Government in Maharashtra are about people's welfare while those of previous Governments were about grabbing public money for the benefit of a few, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said at a poll rally in Maharashtra's Hingoli district on

Sunday.

Maharashtra Assembly polls are slated for October 21 and results will be announced on October 24.

"Funds allocated for schemes and farmers were grabbed. Deals were cut while providing jobs. Development was limited to development of a fam-ily," Addityanath said attacking the opposition.

Speaking on the revocation of provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, he said the move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was a tribute to icons like Babasaheb Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji who fought for justice.
"The Congress included Article

370 in the Constitution in 1952 despite opposition from Dr Ambedkar. Its abrogation is a tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji



'Funds allocated for schemes and farmers were grabbed. Deals were cut while providing jobs. Development was limited to development of a family, Adityanath said attacking the opposition

Maharaj who always fought for justice," he said.

Adityanath praised the Devendra Fadnavis Government over the state's law and order situation and said it along with the Centre, had taken strong steps to curb terrorism.

The UP CM was campaigning for BJP's Tanaji Mutkule who is seeking a election, from Hippoli Accombler

re-election from Hingoli Assembly

PM, Shah roaming in Maha as BJP senses defeat: Pawar

NCP president Sharad Pawar on Sunday asked why Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis were holding a large number of rallies if they saw "no fight" from the Opposition in the Assembly poll.

Addressing a poll rally in Chalisgaon, Pawar said the BJP has lost sleep as the youngsters were gearing up to defeat the

Pawar congratulated the BJP-led Central Government for abrogating Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir, but also asked whether it had the courage to scrap Article 371 which gives special rights to some north-eastern states. 'The Chief Minister said he could

not see an opponent for the BJP's wrestler in this poll battle. I am the president of Maharashtra grapplers association. Our grappler fights with another grappler and not others," Pawar said at a poll rally in Jamner.
"Why is the Prime Minister holding

9 rallies, Union Home Minister 20 rallies and Chief Minister 50 rallies if they think there is no fight? They have lost sleep as youngsters are up for defeating them. Hence, they are roaming in Maharashtra," he asked.

On Shah asking him to list what he



has done for Maharashtra, Pawar said he strived to make the State number one in all areas, and took steps for growth of

industries and, thereby, employment.
"I was Chief Minister when the employment guarantee scheme was implemented in Maharashtra in 1978,"

Among others, Pawar also said the women were given reservation in local governing bodies when he led the State.

Pawar reiterated he was named in a money laundering case by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the alleged Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam despite not

being a member of the bank.
Pawar alleged that factories and business have shut down on the BJP's watch. The former Union agriculture minister claimed 16,000 farmers committed suicide during the BJP-Shiv

Raj targets BJP for not raising 'relevant' issues

PTI ■ THANE

Criticising BJP leaders for highlighting abrogation of Article 370 during their campaigns for the upcoming Maharashtra polls, MNS chief Raj Thackeray has questioned the saffron party's silence on issues like farmer suicides and bad condition of roads in the State.

Addressing election rallies on Saturday night in Thane district's Bhiwandi and Kalyan towns for the MNS candidates, he said leaders of the ruling BJP have been raising issues that have no relevance to the State

The BJP leaders, specially Union Home Minister Amit Shah, repeatedly highlighted the scrapping of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, in their rallies in Maharashtra, he noted. "When Maharashtra is facing problems

like farmer suicides and bad condition of roads, they are highlighting issues that have no relevance to the state polls...They conveniently divert the attention of people,"

Thackeray said.

He said this was the right time for voters to show such leaders their place and make non-performers sit at home.

Urging people to vote for a strong opposition, he said, "There is no strong Opposition in the State to challenge the BJP-led Government, hence the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) is the right choice for it." Treathern in it." Further criticising the Devendra Fadnavis-led state Government, he sought to know why the memorial of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, proposed at an island in the Arabian Sea off Mumbai

Polls being held because Cong saved democracy, says Kharge

PTI ■ AURANGABAD

Senior Congress leader and former Lok Sabha MP Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday claimed people were able to vote and fight polls because his party saved democracy.

Poils occause his party saved democracy. Addressing a rally in Ausa in Latur, he lashed out at the ruling BJP for questioning the contribution of the Congress in the country's progress. "The BJP is asking what has Congress done till now. We can answer it. We saved democracy. Hence people are contesting elections today. And we can see Prime ing elections today. And we can see Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah campaigning in Maharashtra," he

said.
"We have saved the country and Constitution. The BJP should tell the country what it has done in the past five years and we will tell them what we did in five decades.

Hitting out at the Maharashtra government, Kharge said it promised to waive off Rs 35,000 crore loans of 90 lakh farmers but had not managed to reach even half the target. He said the BJP was projecting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and asking votes in the name of national issues as it had nothing to show by way of performance in Maharashtra.

Farmer hangs self wearing BJP poll t-shirt in Maha's Buldhana

PTI ■ BUI DHANA

In an incident that is likely to embarrass the Devendra Fadnavis Government, a farmer allegedly committed suicide on Sunday norning in Maharashtra's Buldhana district while wearing a BJP promotional T-shirt.

Incidentally, Fadnavis is in the east Maharashtra city where he is scheduled to address three rallies during the day for the October 21

Assembly polls.
Police said 38-year-old farmer,
Raju Talware, was found hanging at

Janata Party (BJP) compared

to just two seats that it bagged in the state in the 2014 Lok

Sabha polls.
"We have started the process of identifying four

members of our party from each constituency for the talent pool. The chosen partymen will be groomed as future organisational leaders and probable candidates for the 2021 Accembly poll." West

2021 Assembly polls," West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh told PTI.

The exercise is aimed at grooming party cadre as both

organisational and mass lead-

ers and making them the party's face in their respective

areas, said a senior party leader who did not wish to be named.

round 11 am at his residence in Khatkhed in Shegaon taluka, part of Jalgaon (Jamod) Assembly seat.

Jalgaon (Jamod) Assembly seat.
"He was wearing a BJP T-shirt
with the caption 'punha aaluya aaple
sarkar' (let's bring our government
to power again)," said an official.
Maharashtra labour minister

Sanjay Kutte is the BJP candidate and sitting MLA from Jalgaon (Jamod) Assembly seat.

"It is believed that Talware had run up debts. The truth will be known after a detailed probe. We have registered a case," said an official from Shegaon rural police station.

DMK claims 30

shifted suddenly

The DMK on Sunday alleged 30 Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) meant for the October 21 Nanguneri

Assembly bypoll in Tamil Nadu have been "suddenly shifted" for "unknown reasons."

DMK Organisation Secretary and party's Rajya Sabha member RS Bharathi

wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral

Officer Satyabrata Sahoo seeking an enquiry into the matter.

EVMs for

PTI ■ CHENNAI

bypoll in TN

BJP to launch Gandhi Sankalp Yatra in Bengal

In sync with its shifting tack on Gandhism and apparently with a view to expand base ahead of the next year's civic elections the Bengal BJP on Sunday announced a 12-day yatra christened after Mahatma Gandhi even as the ruling Trinamool Congress pooh-poohed the saffron out-fit for its "hypocritical" ways.

The march called "Gandhi Sankalp Yatra" is also projected as a protest against rising violence in Bengal, State BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

"Keeping in view the rising violence and falling law and order situation in the State we have decided to conduct a 12-day Gandhi Sankalp Yatra so as to hammer home the basic tenets of Gandhism that hinges on non-violence and not what the TMC does in Bengal,"



condition in Bengal Gandhi's non-violence has become all the more relevant. Not only the peo-ple, but the State Government will also get a message through the Yatra about its duties," he said. The Yatra will commence

on October 15 and continue till October 26, he said adding, "we will cover all the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies and almost all the villages and blocks in all the 12 days. Every day we will cover 15 km in each district and every such daily yatra will culminate into a public meeting. In this way we will cover more than 7,000 km."

The Yatra will be held also Ghosh said. as a part of 150 anniversary cel-ebrations of Mahatma Gandhi,

Pooh-poohing BJP's Yatra named after Mahatma Gandhi senior Trinamool leader and State Minister Tapas Roy said, "This Yatra or whatever they call it marks height of BJP's hypocrisy because it is the same saffron party that worships Gandhi's killer Nathuram Godse."

On the one hand "they worship Godse and on the who are they worshipGandhi ... who are they trying to make fool of ... the people ofBengal are politically conscious enough to read through theirpolitical cunning and hypocrisy," Roy said asking the BJP to "first condemn Godse and then adopt

Godse and then adopt Gandhism." Reminding how "their senior leader and Home Minister had once calledGandhiji a cunning businessman," Roy said "the people of Bengal will never accept their political duplicity."

MURSHIDABAD MURDER CASE BJP wants probe by Central agency

PNS M KOLKATA

he Bengal police is working on the "personal grudge angle behind the brutal murder of Bandhu Paul and his family members even as the State BJP on Sunday demanded investigation by a central agency to crack themurder case in which they find a polit-

ical angle.

The killers of the alleged RSS worker and his family members were still at large while the police were questioning one of his close associates on suspicion "some kind financial transaction as the mainreason behind the

A 35-year-old school teacher Bondhu Paul, his wife Beauty and an eight-year-old son Arya were found dead on Vijaya Dushmi Day inside-their house at Jiaganj in Murshidabad some 250 km 'It is the question of three persons of a family including a small child getting brutally killed by some assassins'

north of Kolkata. Soon the RSS claimed that Paul was one of their workers who had joined the organisation about a year ago. All the three victims were repeatedly stabbed, sources said.
Once again demanding

probe by some central agency State BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Sunday said "it is not the question whether it is apolitical or non-political murder. It is the question of three persons of a family including a small child getting brutally killed by some assassins. The State police already has proved its worthlessness. So now we want the Government to get the probe be conducted by some central agency."

BJP creating 'talent pool' for 2021 Bengal polls

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Looking to consolidate the gains made in West Bengal in the Lok Sabha polls earlier this year, the BJP's State unit is creating a "talent pool" to identify the state of the s

creating a talent pool to identify candidates from among its cadre for the crucial 2021 Assembly polls.

According to party sources, the exercise is aimed at grooming BJP cadre as strong ground layer leaders and is ground-level leaders and is expected to be completed by year end or early 2020.

The saffron party won 18 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal in the April-May West Bengal in the April-May parliamentary polls, only four less than the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress's (TMC) 22. This was a significant

Irked over the problems of waterlogging and accumulation of trash in some areas of the city, a group of people on Sunday gheraoed Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi's res-idence here.

The State capital was pounded by heavy rain late last month leading to waterlogging in areas such as Rajendra Nagar, Kankar Bagh and Pataliputra Colony.

Pataiiputra Colony.

Even after a fortnight, water has not fully receded in some low-lying localities and garbage has not been cleared in some pockets.

"Around 50-60 people took out a march to Sushil Modi's house (in Rajendra Nagar area) and

returned after some time," City Superintendent of Police (Central) Vinay Tiwari told PTI. On September 30, Modi and his family members were rescued by an SDRF team from his flooded residence in Rajendra Nagar.

However, they returned later to the The BJP leader, however, was not present during the protest, official sources said adding

Modi could not be contacted for his com-

He urged the EC that the EVMs be restored back to their original place and be kept under adequate protection without giving room "for any suspicious activities. 'Message politics' won't | Angry with waterlogging, | Modi has time to campaign for US President but not for flood-hit Karnataka: Sidda

Senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging he had time to campaign for US President Donald Trump, seeking a second term in the general elections there in 2020, but not to visit flood-ravaged Karnataka

Terming the BJP as "fascist" and "dictatorial," the former Chief Minister accused the state government of 'colluding' with the Assembly Speaker in restrict-ing the media from covering the proceedings of the House.

"This time it was unprece-This time it was unprecedented floods in the state along with drought in some parts. Central Government gave aid only after 60 days that too ₹1,200 crore. According to me damage suffered is more than ₹1 lakh crore," Siddaramaiah said.

Speaking to reporters in Chikkamagaluru, he said, "Modi did not visit Karnataka, he instead was touring foreign



countries and had gone to campaign for US President Donald Trump." "Narendra Modi tweets as

soon as there were floods in Bihar, expressing sympathy. In Karnataka when there

were about 90 deaths and four to five people are still missing due to floods, he did not express sympathy," he added. As many as 2,798 villages

in 103 taluks of 22 districts in the state were affected by floods, in which around seven lakh people were shifted to safe

About 3400 cattles and 91 people died during rains and floods in August.

Restoring postpaid services | Security to help return of normalcy in Kashmir: Guv advisor

With the postpaid mobile telephony set to be restored in Kashmir from Monday, Jammu & Kashmir administration has expressed hope that it would help achieve normalisation in the Valley.

Normal day-to-day activi-ties has been disrupted across Kashmir since August 5, the day the Centre revoked the states special status after negating the Article 370 of the Constitution and providing for reorganisation of the State into two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh from October

The State administration The State administration announced on Saturday that about 40 lakh postpaid mobile phones will become operational from Monday noon.

Over 20 lakh prepaid mobile phones, besides the mobile and other internet services however, will remain.

vices, however, will remain suspended for now. "When the curbs on the



away, we are expecting large number of tourists to come there (Kashmir). We are also expecting that people, if they are somehow not able to do normal activities, have no more excuse not to do that, Governor Satya Pal Malik advisor Farooq Khan told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

Asserting that radicalisa-tion does not have any place in Jammu & Kashmir, he said the Valley youths have given a go-by to the radicalisation despite the best possible efforts by Pakistan which has left no stone unturned to destroy the beautiful State.

beeted up in Srinagar after grenade attack

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Security was beefed up in several areas of Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir - on Sunday follow ing a grenade attack by suspected militants in a city mar-ket that left seven people injured, police said.

More security personnel, along with the flying squad, were deployed in Lal Chowk, Jehangir Chowk, Hari Singh High Street, Regal Chowk, TRC Chowk, Polo View and the areas around the city conthe areas around the city cen-tre, a police official said.

He said random checking

of vehicles and frisking of peo ple was being done as part of the security drill. The deployment of more security personnel was done in

the wake of a grenade attack in Hari Singh High Street market a few hundred metres from the city centre - on Saturday in which seven people were injured, the official said.

last for long: Ashok Gehlot's swipe at Modi

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said people were too sensi-ble to fall for the "message politics" of Prime
Minister Narendra Modi whom he accused of "trampling democracy", a day after his party claimed AICC employees were targeted in Income Tax raids.

Gehlot also reacted to PM Modi plogging a beach in Tamil Nadu's Mamallapuram.

He said there is no problem if Modi wants to give a message through plogging. "Everybody is inspired if someone does a good job. But under the garb of all this, if you tram-

Gehlot told reporters in Jodhpur.
Plogging means picking up trash such as used plastic bottles while jogging or running.
Modi had released a video in which he was seen collecting the waste at the beach as he walked barefoot on the sand, and urged the people to

ple democracy through 'message politics', then the people of the country are sensible enough."

ensure that public places are clean and tidy.
The Congress leader said "such kind of politics" does not last for long. He alleged that AICC employees were being targeted through IT raids and government agencies are under pressure today

people gherao Deputy CM Sushil Modi's house

that security has been beefed up at Modi's res-

ment despite several attempts. Angry people, carrying placards, shouted anti-Modi slogans and demanded action against officials who failed to flush out water fully in Rajendra Nagar area, making their lives difficult.

'DMK banks on false promises for survival'

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on Sunday accused the DMK of banking on false promises for its survival and remembering about people's problems only at the time of elections.

Addressing a campaign meeting at nearby Reddiarpatti village in Nanguneri Assembly constituency which goes to byelection on October 21, he also attacked DMK's ally Congress and said its leaders let down people for their "selfish ends'

Palainiswami, who is the ruling AIADMK's joint coordinator, alleged the DMK always banked on false promises for its political survival.

In the last parliamentary elections, DMK president MK



Stalin falsely assured the peo ple that all jewellery loans will be written off once their party won the mandate. But it was not fulfilled as their alliance lost to BJP at the Centre.

Now in the by-election campaign also, Stalin is cheat-ing the voters by holding 'thinnai' (porch) meetings in every village and receiving petitions. Only when polls come, Stalin remembers 'thinnai" he said. Stalin should handover the

for redressal, but he would not do so and instead "dump them in garbage bin", the chief

minister alleged.

Targeting the Congress, he said the bypoll was thrust on the people by its "power hun-gry" H N Vasanthkumar, elected from the segment in 2016 but resigned after becoming a Lok Sabha member from Kanvakumari.

"Vasanthakumar wanted to become an MP because he is power hungry. Congressmen never bother about people. For their selfish ends, they let down the people who elected them," he charged. Listing out the welfare measures implemented by the AIADMK government, he asked the people to vote for the party nominee V the party nominee Narayanan in the byelection.



Buddhist devotees from Thailand participate in a candlelight procession on the occasion of Sharad Poornima at Mahabodhi PTI

Jammu-Srinagar highway reopens for traffic after two days

rhe strategic Jammu-Srinagar national highway reopened for traffic on Sunday after remaining closed for the past two days due to a massive landslide in Ramban district, traffic department officials

Light motor vehicles (LMVs) were allowed to ply on the highway from both Jammu and Srinagar around 9.30 am after getting clearance from the agencies responsible for its

maintenance, they said.

The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the

Thursday following the land slide, which was triggered dur-ing widening of the road at Nihard — two kms from Ramban Jammu.

Thousands of vehicles were left stranded on either side of the highway due to the block-ade. No passenger vehicle from Jammu or Srinagar was allowed on the highway on Friday and Saturday as the

focus was on clearing the stranded vehicles, mostly trucks, the officials said. Clearing the trucks took time due to continuous land-slides and shooting stones from hills overlooking the highway,

Debt-ridden farmer commits suicide over crop damage in UP

55-year-old debt-ridden farmer alleged Aly committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh's Mahoba district after his crops were damaged due to excessive rains, an official said

Sureshchandra Tiwari consumed a poisonous substance in his agricultural field in Kulpahar area on Saturday, Tehsildar Subodhmani Sharma said. Tiwari was rushed to a primary health

centre, where he was declared dead, the official said.

The farmer's family told officials that Tiwari took the extreme step as he could not repay the loans after his crops suffered damage due to excess rains, Sharma said. The body has been sent for post-mortem, the official added.

Gzb: Separate Magistrate appointed to ensure Hindon river cleaning

found from the spot where Ramesh's body was found hanging, read, "I am rattled with the I-T raids in my house

and have decided to commit

suicide to protect honour.

Anguished with the culture

that the poor should remain poor forever, I arrived at this decision." Police had said the

note appealed to I-T officials not to trouble his wife and chil-

dren. Speaking to reporters in

Chikkamagaluru, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said,

ed and those who harassed him, as claimed in the death

note should be brought to jus-

he Ghaziabad administra-The Ghaziavad administra-tion has appointed a separate Magistrate to ensure the cleaning of the Hindon river and supervise the ongoing renovation and beautification work of its banks, an official said on Sunday.

Additional City Magistrate Satyendra Kumar Singh has been designated as 'Hindon Magistrate' to ensure quick cleaning of water hyacinth from the river and renovation of its "dilapidated banks" before Chhath Puja, said Ghaziabad District

Magistrate Ajay Shankar Pandey. He said Singh will monitor the work of irrigation depart-

A stretch of the Hindon river between railway over-bridge and NH-58 has been clogged by water hyacinths and its banks, which had been renovated earlier, are in a dilapidated condition, the DM had said

ment, municipal corporation and the recently constituted Hindon sanitation force. A stretch of the Hindon river between railway over-bridge and NH-58 has been clogged by water hyacinths and its banks, which had been renovated earlier, are in a dilapidated condition, the DM had said. The 400 km-long Hindon, a tributary of Yamuna, originates in Saharanpur and passes through six districts in western Uttar

10 arrested for 'cow slaughter' in UP's Gonda

Police have arrested 10 people for alleged cow slaughter in Uttar Pradesh's Gonda district and seized around 50 kg

meat from their possession, an official said on Sunday. The accused were nabbed from agricultural fields in Sisai Joga village under Katra Bazar police station limits on Saturday night, said Superintendent of Police Raj Karan Nayyar.

Acting on a tip-off, police reached the spot and arrested Hamid, Abdul Wajid, Abdul

Kolkata students learn

Kahlique, Abdul Majeed, Abdul Shahid, Raheen Ahmed, Qadir, Shabir Khan, Bihari Lal and Lallan Pandey, the SP

Around 50 kg meat, a knife, a weighing balance and mea-suring weights were also recov-ered from them, he said. Police suspect the seized meat includes beef.

A case has been registered against the 10 accused under the UP Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act and an investigation is underway, the SP said.

Expulsion of 6 Maha varsity students who wrote to PM revoked

The expulsion of six students of a Wardha-based university for organising a function without permission on campus and writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over contentious issues like mob-lynching and rape cases against political leaders was revoked on Sunday. The students, from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (MGAHV), were expelled on October 9 after varsity officials accused them of violating the code of conduct in force statewide for the October 21 Assembly polls.

The students had planned a gathering at Gandhi Hill in the university

campus on October 9 to mark BSP founder Kanshi Ram's death anniver-

programme despite being denied permission by university officials and were later that night given expulsion orders after being accused of violating the poll code, one of the six students said. In its order on Sunday, MGAHV Acting Registrar Kadar Nawaz Khan said the expulsion was cancelled due to "technical anomalies" and in the view of natural justice to students.
On October 10, a day after they

were expelled, the six posted a letter to PM Modi, one of the students



not be politicised: K'taka Minister

Suicide of Parameshwara's PA should

be politicised, because every-

thing has come in media. Parmeshwara also has said

everything.. There is no politics

in it.," Bommai told reporters

The Congress in Karnataka has described Ramesh's suicide as an outcome of "targeted

harassment" of their rank and

harassment of their rank and cadre to keep them away from the party. The I-T sleuths, who raided the residence, office and Siddharth Group of insti-

hanging from a tree here on Saturday, days after Income-Tax sleuths conducted raids tutions belonging to the suicide must be investigated and those who harassed had questioned Ramesh too, him, as claimed in the death

party sources have claimed.

in Hubballi.

about career in hospitality at edu expo PTI ■ KOLKATA

 Γ wenty-year-old Amartya Roy can't wait to fly to Switzerland, where he is all set to enrol in a hospiality course before trying his luck in the hotel indus A student of a hotel management institute here, Roy

nurtures a dream to own a restaurant chain some day.

Priyangi Ghosh, who is in her early 20s, is equally determined to make it in the baking industry, with out-lets of her own venture spread across the globe. The Sreerampore resident is keen on taking up a

course at an institute of international repute, which w prepare her for the "business of baking industry".

Coming to the aid of such young aspirants striving to make a mark in the sector, a Mumbai-based educa-tion consultant recently organised a global hospitality education expo in the city, which brought together top hotel management schools and industry leaders. Students keen to explore world-class hospitality edu

cation need quality, first-hand information and those undecided require the right exposure, said Mitali Rawool, Assistant Director, Zista Education, the expo

organisers.
"The hospitality industry has evolved over the years, giving rise to a wide spectrum of career options. If we can showcase the opportunities that are available in the broader hospitality domain, more students will be attract-

ed to join our dynamic industry," she said. Bela Brahmbhatt, the area manager of Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School in Australia, feels that acceptability of hospitality and tourism management as a career option has increased among parents in India. "Students not just get to learn about the culinary industry, its nitty-gritty, they also get to know about menu engineering, something that would help them turn their ventures profitable.

"Parents have also warmed up to the idea of sending their children to hotel management schools. I think counselling sessions and education expos play an important role in clearing misconceptions," she said.

Different view doesn't make me your adversary, says WB Guv

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said it is not essential that one should always agree to the point of view of another and that does not turn them into adversaries of each other.

The Governor's statement came three days after his comment that a triple murder in Murshidabad district reflects the 'worrisome' law and order situation of the state had not gone down well with the ruling Trinamool Congress. "It is not essential that I should agree to your views and that does not turn age as your adverand that does not turn me as your adver-sary, your opponent," Dhankhar said at a function held in Howrah district.

Two individuals have the right to

have different viewpoints on an issue, he said without naming anyone.

"I am entitled to my judgement, you "I am entitled to my judgement, you are entitled to yours. But we can cope with such differences of opinions," the governor said. A primary school teacher, his wife and 8-year-old son were hacked to death by unidentified miscreants inside their residence at Jiaganj in Murshidabad district on Tuesday. The RSS claimed that the teacher was its supporter. "The incident is a reflection of porter. "The incident is a reflection of intolerance and worrisome law and order situation," a Rai Bhavan statement had said on Thursday. Reacting to the statement, Trinamool Congress Secretary General and minister Partha Chatterjee had accused the governor of "making political statements every day" and reminded him of his "constitutional

Demand for making Sriramulu Deputy CM to be taken up with CM: Soamasekhar Reddy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

 $T^{\text{he demand for making}}_{\text{senior BJP leader and}}$ Karnataka Minister B Sriramulu a Deputy Chief Minister has resurfaced with kev Ballari MLA Somashekar Reddy on Sunday saying a delegation of party legislators from the mine-rich district would take up the matter with Chief Minister BS

Minister in the state cabinet, Sriramulu too expressed hope that the party leadership would "recognise" him in the days to

Reddy is the brother of mining baron and former state minister G Janardhan Reddy, who once had "complete hold" on Ballari district's politics, while Sriramulu is his close

confidant. (BJP President) Amit Shah had announced (ahead of assembly elections) that Sriramulu will be made Deputy Chief Minister once the party came to power, dont know why he did not become (DyCM). We are all pained Sriramulu did not become Deputy Chief Minister, Somashekar Reddy said in currently has three Deputy Ballari

Speaking to reporters, he said all BJP MLAs from the district planned to meet the Chief Savadi (Lingayat).

Minister and take up their plea for making Sriramulu the DyCM and also the district in-charge Minister of Ballari. Some Valmiki (a Scheduled

Tribe) community leaders and various seers had also voiced support for Sriramulu, who hails from the community. Sriramulu, who was also

Sriramulu, who was also present, said various seers, including the Valmiki community pontiff wanted him to be made deputy chief minister. "People and MLAs also have this feeling that I should get... In the days to come our government and leaders will recognise me he said

recognise me, he said. Sriramulu was seen as a possible DyCM candidate during the 2018 assembly poll campaign itself and the hopes were revived when the BJP came to power in July this year after the collapse of the JDS-Congress coalition govern-

ment. However, he was not chosen for the post though he had been inducted into the cabinet. To Sriramulus disappoint-

ment, he also did not get the district in-charge of Ballari, which had been given to Laxman Savadi.

The Yediyurappa Chief Ministers Govind Karjol (SC), Ashwath Narayan (Vokkaliga) and Laxman

Over 2,000 take literacy exam in Kerala captial

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

PTI ■ BENGALURU

rarnataka Home Minister Karnataka rione Managara Bommai on alleged suicide

Sunday said the alleged suicide

of senior Congress leader G Parameshwara's personal assistant should not be "politicised" and investigation is on into the

He also said a case of "unnatural death" has been

registered based on phone calls

and post mortem of Ramesh, the assistant, who was found

The DCP there will take

against Parameshwara.

Over 2,050 candidates, including five in their 80s, on Sunday appeared for the Aksharashree literacy exam conducted here, the State liter-

acy mission authority said. Sumathi Ammal and Dharani, both aged 85, were the senior-most candidates in the exam, conducted as part of the 'Aksharashree' project which is envisaged to find illiterates in the capital city and make them part of the Mission's continuing education programme or equivalency courses.

Five people above the age of 80 appeared for the exami-nation for the Aksharasree literacy programme, being implemented by the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority and the city Corporation.

Besides Sumathi Ammal from Punchakkari and Dharani, from Kulathur, Kamalamma from Thiruvallam Subhdramma Thrikkanapuram, both aged 83, and Sarada (82) of Aarannoor participated in the exam, the Literacy Literacy exam, the Literacy Mission Authority said in a



TSRTC driver succumbs to burns; strike enters ninth day

55-year-old TSRTC driver A 55-year-old TSRTC driver died on Sunday, a day after he set himself ablaze, even as the strike by the transport employees in Telangana entered the ninth day. D Srinivas Reddy, who was

part of the group of employees on a state-wide strike for the last nine days, died of burn injuries, hospital sources here told PTI.

The driver had doused himself with kerosene and set himself ablaze near his house in Khammam, about 190 km from here, reportedly in protest against the government not acceding to the demands of

striking employees. As news about Reddy's death spread, a large number of striking employees of TSRTC gathered near the hospital, but police at the spot whisked them away in police vehicles. Protests also broke out in

different parts of the city and other places, with employees raising slogans and holding the state government responsible for Reddy's death.

Meanwhile, another TSRTC driver doused himself with petrol at Narsampet depot in Warangal district on Sunday, however, police foiled his alleged self-immolation

The employees, who have been on strike since October 5, demanding merger of RTC with the government among others also organised 'Vanta Varpu' (mass cooking) besides forming human chains as part of the stir at many places in the

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Finding an old connect

Modi and Xi have settled down on a new grammar of negotiation despite trust issues over historical baggage



here were optics aplenty, of sipping coconut water, sightseeing tours of heritage sites, lavish local dinner, culture shows, long walks and an umbrella swamp of Indian hospitality. But Chinese President Xi Jinping, a hard-boiled supreme leader of his nation with aspirations to be the hegemonic anchor of an Asian century, is hardly expected to find India incredible enough. However, he does realise its materiality in the Chinese design and its bridge value with the rest of the world. Yes the informal summit in

Mamallapuram, as it did in Wuhan, did enable both him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to use their personal equation as a showpiece of neighbourhood understanding and co-existence. It did help in simmering down tension, then over Doklam and now Kashmir, but this relationship hereon will be one based on realism rather than expectation, need-based practicality rather than high-sounding hyperbole. To that extent, there's a new "connect" as Modi said and a "heart-to-heart" candour as Xi admitted. India cannot expect China to abandon Pakistan on its terms. Xi has to stand by his all-weather ally and cannot de-couple Kashmir to the extent that its changed status and talk of reoccupying lost territories in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) have left it worried about Shaksgam Valley, which Pakistan ceded, and Aksai Chin. But now that India has the larger world opinion on Kashmir as its internal matter, including that of the US, China realises its strategic heft. It further realises that pushing the People's Liberation Army (PLA) mischievously for border incursions won't work anymore. Which is why Modi, too, confidently announced that there would be no further escalation of disputes. India has now stared back at that threat to its territorial integrity and even resisted all attempts to be encircled by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Not only that. by engaging with multi-lateral fora like the Quad and even Southeast Asian nations bilaterally, India has subtly but determinedly challenged China's diplomatic sway in the region. Besides, Xi had watched the "Howdy Modi" event in the US closely and wanted a counter-optics, if not a counterweight. Given its trade tussle with the US, China also needs India's absorptive market to keep its momentum. Besides, it is itself under international scanner on its rights issues with the Uighur Muslims, Hong Kong and Tibet and does not want to face a counter-charge of violating UN resolutions, considering that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Gilgit-Baltistan is in disputed territory, too. No wonder Xi kept away from mentioning Kashmir. While China realises that Pakistan can only be Kashmircentric, forcing it into embarrassing posturing, he has figured out larger issues for the bilateral arc. Without mentioning Pakistan, Modi and Xi did discuss combatting terrorism and radicalisation. This is a small but forward-looking tweak.

Trade is the biggest takeaway despite China's simultaneous breakthrough with the US on the subject. The mutual deficit there is nearly \$400 billion and President Donald Trump would want to appear tough in an election year. So China would still need a big market like ours. Xi seems ready for sincere action to address our trade deficit, which stands at \$53.56 billion out of a two-way trade of \$87 billion. In its desperation to make India sign the mega free-trade pact, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), China has agreed to a high-level, trade-facilitator mechanism. From China, it will be led by the Vice Premier, Hu Chunhua, and from India it will be Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. At least now, there is a seriousness about a give-and-take rather than just a dump-yourgoods formula. There will also be an attempt to fatten up the import basket from India. Besides defence cooperation is what China is looking for as a lucrative option. Of course, New Delhi has to look into byproducts like a glut of Chinese goods in an open market scenario, issues of security and spying if allowing Huawei and so on. Much depends on the volume and nature of Indian goods and services that China allows in its home market. Still, there is a consensus on both sides that confrontation between the two economies could only harm both. Also, by citing historical trade routes, both nations feel that they can together command the world economy like they did in the past. What is good about Mamallapuram is that there is an open acceptance of wrinkles in the silk that Modi aifted and also a solution offered in the form of "strategic communication" which both sides want to continue. Of course, they must be implemented, too. Trust may not be easy to earn given the baggage of boundary issues but surely there is a new grammar of negotiation.

Superhuman feat

Kenya's Kipchoge broke a marathon record by running 42.195 km in less than two hours. This is remarkable



relatively healthy adult human can keep up a pace of around a kilometre every 10 minutes for half-an-hour. Those with a degree of physical training can go faster and for a longer duration. Yet, normal human beings tire out — the build-up of lactic acid in our muscles makes them ache and pain — but some, particularly long-distance runners, manage to fight this. A physically fit person, who can traverse 42.195 km of a marathon in around four hours, would be considered very fit indeed. Athletes, particularly those primed for long-dis-

tance running, usually complete marathons in just over two hours. Even the best long-distance runners from East Africa clock that time, which is why what the Kenyan runner Eliud Kipchoge has achieved in Vienna is the "four-minute mile" of our era — he ran the marathon in less than two hours. Sure, it was a race specifically designed for him to break the record. Kipchoge had no competitors to worry about and other runners in the field were there to ensure he kept his pace up. Even they melted away as the kilometres piled on but Kipchoge carried on and on, relentlessly, never seeming to run out of energy like a long-lasting human battery. This superhuman achievement was cheered on by the crowds in Vienna, who realised the magnitude of what was happening. This was indeed heartening to see. And thankfully, the organisers did not have plans for the event to happen behind closed doors with the public and a worldwide audience giving Kipchoge wings.

It was 75 years ago when Roger Bannister broke the four-minute barrier for running one mile. Kipchoge's pace was only slightly slower than Bannister's but he maintained it over 26 times the distance and still managed to crack a smile and give interviews afterwards. Several physiological experts believed that two hours were an unbreakable mark and many had predicted that Kipchoge would never achieve his vision. But through his willpower and sheer physical determination, he did break the record. May be one day, someone will shatter his mark of 1 hour 59 minutes and 40 seconds but until that day comes, all of humanity should celebrate this superhuman feat. One that will become as legendary as the breaking of the "four-minute mile." Kipchoge's name will be remembered much like Bannister's is to this day.

opānion

Missing out on deliverables

Despite informal summits like Mamallapuram, both India and China will have to live with certain realities, which are seemingly irrevocable even though they breed mistrust



t wasn't surprising that the just-conclud-ed informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping was high on optics and low on concrete deliverables, which is why it holds the potential to remarkably transform the bilateral relationship between both nations. Given the choice of the locale in the picturesque, the ancient heritage and coastal city of Mamallapuram, India's historical connect with China, together with the UNESCO recognition to the southern city provided a fitting landscape for overwhelming optics. On the other hand, the meeting was expectedly low on deliverables, owing to the fraught nature of bilateral issues like trade. border dispute and now China's open support to Pakistan on the internal reorganisation of the former State of Jammu & Kashmir — all of which require more than a quick-paced

informal meeting to be resolved.

As such, the Mamallapuram summit builds on the tradition of informal engagements between the two countries after the Wuhan summit in 2018 and can be seen as an overarching framework to further Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs). The eased setting of such summits has the potential to create grounds for discussions on issues that could otherwise irk the other nation. The decision to issue separate statements on the summit defends its "informal" nature and, therefore, calls for both nations to not make every minute details of the meet public

Even though the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India, described the visit of the Chinese President as "highly productive", doubts remain regarding countable deliver-ables specific to this visit. In his brief to the media, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said that from the Wuhan summit in 2018 to the Mamallapuram summit in 2019, India and China have made "visible progress." If one were to deconstruct the ambiguous reference to "progress", the only visible stride appears in the area of trade through a "mechanism" proposed by President Xi. Joint assurances to Cabitine transitional and the line which were the control of the con fighting terrorism and radicalism, which were part of the discussion, have been referred to in the past, too, through forums such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Therefore, they do not necessarily qualify as "progress."

India's need for greater market access from China and lowering its trade deficit found traction in this summit mainly because the Middle Kingdom is already under pressure on the trade front, owing to its ongoing trade dispute with the US. The Trump administration in no mood to step back. As such, granting larger market access to India could be the prominent and possibly the only countable deliverable in the near term from this summit. Progress on issues such as India joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), 5G technology involving Huawei and Kashmir, even if

discussed, is hard to imagine. During the Wuhan summit, both nations

agreed to jointly cooperate on projects in third countries. Although cooperation between the two sides in Afghanistan has shown potential, little progress has been made. The lack of substantial progress in Afghanistan from the last agreement must have prevented any further disssion on this issue.

Resolution of disputes and

big-ticket outcomes were not expected in this summit as in matters concerning bilateral issues of Indian concern, China is either at an advantageous position vis-a-vis India or has a clearly different position than us. In trade, too, numbers are highly favourable to China, leaving Índia to seek balance. On the issue of border dispute, Beijing has little appetite for resolution, which was very much evident by the progress made in the talks held by the Special Representatives of both nations.

The lack of any joint communique also signals a con-scious projection of optics over substance. It is evident that China's projected intentions in Mamallapuram can be seen as distinct from an otherwise different Chinese State behaviour. This was on display hours even before the Modi-Xi meeting took place, especially apropos China's stand and steps on the Kashmir issue. This strand in the Chinese behaviour is also evident in the

nuanced dichotomy between its stated positions and actions on ground *vis-a-vis* India. For instance, there is a clear disjunc ture in its projections at the bor-der — in subtle ways through certain elements of the Chinese mil-itary — which is in variance with Beijing's stated position. This allows China to either deny or distance itself from the activities of such actors, with the State itself having tacitly approved such

While the Mamallapuram while the Mamanapuram summit gracefully displayed India's cultural diplomacy gird-ed up by elements of *Atithi Devo Bhava* (the guest is equivalent to god), it tacitly legitimised the acceptance of China's flip-flop-ping positions on issues sensitive to India, especially Kashmir. This is important both in the context of China's recent steps and rhetoric on Kashmir as well as from the point of view of current geopolitics, where diplomacy, to a great extent, is also about symbolism, optics and messaging. China's growing relations with Pakistan are increasingly dragging India in bilateral dynamics. The summit could have been used to send a subtle message to China vis-a-vis the latter's relations with Pakistan.

As such, when dealing with China, India should continue to assert the principles that it stands for and unflinchingly project its are of global concern. To be sure, for China, Pakistan is a strategic leverage point, bound as they are by economics and not an iron-clad alliance. That China had to finally relent on its move to block the listing for Masood Azhar as a terrorist at the UN shows that the China-Pakistan relationship has scope for tweaks when there is enough international pressure and criticism.

The short history of China's

relations with Pakistan has shown that when India puts its foot down on an issue, China is likely liberal in its relations with Pakistan, to the disadvantage of Islamabad. This is exactly how most relations of dependence between affluent and manipulative major powers and develop-ing economies have shaped themselves through history.

The pros and cons of such relationships get affected by the extent of separation between major powers' affluence and their manipulative intentions and the state of economic, polit ical and military clout of the dependent State. China's invest-ments in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and their consequences have blurred the line that separates strategic for China in Pakistan. For the lat ter, the state of its economy, which

Developed Economy and a developing economy — has made the terms of engagement with China more unfavourable for itself. Despite informal summits

like Mamallapuram, both India and China will have to live with certain realities, which are seem ngly irrevocable, even though hey breed mistrust. Just as India's decision to internally reorganise the former State of Jammu & Kashmir has become China's concern but cannot be rescinded, so have China's investments in the CPEC for India, parts of which pass through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) region. India's relations with China will have to factor in a continued ten-uous relationship on the one hand and sustained bilateral trade on the other. These dynamics will continue to have substantive scope of scepticism from either side. What has also come to the

fore is the need for an uplift in India's international diplomacy with regards to China. While Beijing has upped the ante against us and has taken unprecedented steps, India remains painstakingly accommodating of such criticism. It is time India's regional and global aspirations and role match its pitch in international

(The writer is Research Fellow Indian Council of World Affairs)

standard positions on issues that between that of a Least

UNDBITE

If you say anything to an estab establishment which, when criticised, feels happy about it.



Both streaming and cinema can happily co-exist. It's ultimately what the viewers want and what we know is



Pakistan has an important role to play in stabilising Afghanistan engaging in robust counter-terrorism efforts and strengthenin



India's meaningful engagement with China started with (forme Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit in 1988 and his dialogue

Congress spokesperson



TTERS EDITOR

Draining public money

Sir — That the State Bank of India (SBI) has written off bad loans amounting to ₹76,600 crore is not so welcoming for the simple reason that a sizeable amount of taxpayers' money has been pocket-ed by 220 defaulters. Likewise, there may be many other banks, which have their share of bad

Political meddling in the lending policy is one of the main causes of bad loans. How come banks lend money without adequate collateral security? A star-tling revelation is that 980 borrowers have been listed by the Reserve Bank of India, whose debts of more than ₹100 crore each have to be written off. Of these, 220 accounts — more than one-fifth of the total number —

belonged to the SBI. Taxpayers would feel cheated if the Government uses the tax collected for loan waivers and bad loan write-offs at a later date. The Government should use the taxpayers' money to create infrastructure and strengthen national security.

KV Seetharamaiah

The Kashmir conundrum is far from over

his refers to the editorial "Polls to what end?" (October 11). No doubt, our security forces have done well to maintain peace post the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir but the clampdown in the Valley, the arrest of political leaders and grassroot workers and the alleged rights violations have undermined the core values of Indian democracy. The moot point is not that the detention of top leaders in Kashmir discredits Indian democracy but that the Abdullahs and others of their ilk considered Jammu & Kashmir as their fiefdom with loyalty to India subject to enjoying power.

However, for the restoration of normalcy, the Centre should let political activism take wings and hold elections to the Assembly. But winning locals round to back New Delhi once again may now be difficult. Pakistan is all out to disturb India's hold on the Valley. Entrusting the task of restoration of tranquility to novices has its own pros and cons. Under such circumstances, usher-



ing competitive politics is indeed imperative to restore peace. Meanwhile, the common man can only pray that good sense prevails all around...hoping the Co the right track and the "change" will be tangible, paving the way for people's rule.

Low-key affair

The atmosphere for the Modi-Xi informal meet in Mamallapuram was far from ideal. China's support for Pakistan on the Kashmir issue has put a big strain on New Delhi-Beijing ties. The long shadow of Pakistan continues to disrupt India-China ties. Despite going ahead with the

second informal summit. Pakistan will be the elephant in the room. China and Pakistan have

been close strategic allies since independence. Now, with the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the centrepiece of Xi's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, and China's com-

ments on Jammu & Kashmir, the

relationship has grown even

stronger.
Unlike in Wuhan where the Modi-Xi meeting led to de-escalation in Doklam, this time nothing dramatic happened. At best, both Prime Minister Modi and Chinese Premier Xi Jinping remained focussed on improving ties in areas such as trade

K S Jayatheertha

Respect the elderly

Sir — President Ram Nath Kovind was right when he said that elderly citizens symbolise our legacy. Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Older Persons, Kovind said that only by respecting senior citizens can the younger generation and the nation progress.

The President's words provide

a valuable lesson. Whatever we are today is because of the love, care and sacrifices of our elders. It is, therefore, our duty to make

It is unfortunate that nowadays many old people have to find a place in old age homes owing to the nuclear family system and the lack of time among youngsters, who are busy chas ing greener pastures. Let the old Indian tradition of respecting the elderly not die out. Let us make them feel that their contributions to the family, the society and the nation have indeed been very useful.

M Pradyu

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

analysis

FIRSTCOLUMN

Fight professional fatigue

There is a dire need to restore the passion and purpose in jobs supporting strategy formulation for the country



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

ethods of calculation of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), developmental indicators and chartered accountancy are again in focus and suggestions on how to make them more reliable are few. Auditing itself often serves as a threat held out by the powerful in running an organisation. It is often used to keep the recalcitrant at bay rather than creating new organisational or developmental patterns. A discussion with policy analysts is in many ways enlight-ening on the differing psyche of finance and accounting experts. In an era where the corporate world feels extremely stressed, chartered accountancy breeds monotony. It is, therefore, understandable that a lot of chartered accountants feel depleted. In a dualism of the order enumerated above, it's very difficult to be a strategist with a role in driving business or development forward.

There is a need to restore the passion and purpose in professions supporting strategy formulation. How deep the tedium runs can be gauged by the fact that there is a three-day summit in Sri Lanka, starting today and ending on October 16, on the theme of "Finding your mojo: A journey of self-discovery." This is meant for chartered accountants. Mojo is widely understood to indicate inter-nal magic that translates to external success. Nothing would move without mojo. On October 18, the Institute of Internal Auditors, Delhi chapter, is holding a conference on strategic risk management and the topic is: "Enhancing strategy selection through risk management. The outcome will show the worth of the effort but the effort itself is worth it. Passion is the biggest source of energy but like everything else, it has a price. Those who are not passionate about their work deeply resent the style of those who are. Those who are passionate are often intolerant of the sluggishness of the routine approaches. The catch 22 here, of course, is how does one save oneself from becoming a victim of professional sluggishness?

At the end of the day, much of strategy formulation is a politi-cal process. Those who reject the approach of the leader (if not the chief himself) will resent the idea of the head being carried through. The ability to conspire to prevent is often higher than the ability to plan for strategic optimisation.

The times also call for unorthodox methodologies. Audit as a profession is known to work on algorithms to find the delicate balance between creating breakthroughs and pulling formula. This is a complicated one. It is heartening to see that sometimes people get together to create a passion for attempting it, nevertheless. The number of accountants and auditors is rising and so is the doubt, at times, in their ability to deliver.

It is obvious, that in the current context, financial analysts and chartered accountants are facing multiple challenges in performing their roles in and outside policy confabulations/board rooms. The need to update knowledge is universal and financial analysts and gatekeepers are no exception. At the end of the day, the individual often feels left out in observing the mandate of the so-called directives of the "institute."

It is obvious that business prosperity cannot be made surrogate to outdated principles. Similarly, reliability and conviction must continue to call the shots. The possible direction of the financial analysts and auditors is often far beyond the broadband of auditing principles. There are sectoral imperatives and nuances of functionality. Consider for example plantation management. The initiatives by top management dealing with the agro business must build into it, on behalf of the owners, considerations of climate. An assessment of internal and external productive environment — rooted in time tested principles of achieving of goals — has some strange touchstones of success. In an era where goals themselves become variable, the enunciation of strategy becomes sticky. It does not just remain a science but becomes an art. Business execution and administration become the wheels on which strategy rolls and would impact operations in marketing and finance.

This has to be leavened by competencies, which alone can formulate winning strategies. Among them, the prominent ones would include pattern recognition and isolation of exceptions using machine learning. This would include all relevant patterns to be examined for root cause; continuous elimination of root causes using continuous auditing; regular reporting of "unusual" transactions and in all things keeping the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) apprised of the developments. This is unlikely to happen unless preventive action, continuous monitoring, discipline and continuous forward planning are in sync. Not strangely, all this gets ensconced in the calculation and rollout of GDPs and strategy formulation at the national policy level. The impact of regional and national policy on specialised, sectoral performance is immense. The price of misguidance can be huge and it often becomes the cause of ill-founded doubts at the policy level.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

SANDEEP SENT ME A LETTER AND I FORWARDED IT TO THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT. THERE IS NOTHING PERSONAL. IT'S A POLITICAL CONVERSATION. -AICC IN-CHARGE





THIS IS A BETRAYAL OF FAITH. WE WERE AGHAST TO SEE THE LETTER BEING DISCUSSED. WE HAD ASKED HIM NOT TO PASS COMMENTS ON SHEILAJI. —DELHI CONGRESS LEADER

China's Himalayan ploy

Though the bonhomie between Nepal and China may seem minimal compared to India's age-old ties, the message to the global community is not in our favour



RISHI GUPTA

hinese President Xi Jinping's two-day trip to Nepal, coming on the heels of the informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India, reflects the priority Beijing accords to the little Himalayan kingdom. The visit, which was closely watched by New Delhi, too, was the first by a Chinese President in 23 years since ling Zemin landed in in 23 years since Jiang Zemin landed in Kathmandu in 1996. Nestled between India and China, Nepal is

a strategically critical neighbour for the two big nations and in the last 60 years, New Delhi and Beijing have interacted with it differently.

Geographically, Nepal has worked as a safeguard for India from any aggression that could possibly come from the north. During the could possibly come from the north. During the brutal expedition launched by China in Tibet in 1950, there were fears that Chinese aggression might reach Nepal, too. However, India asserted that any offensive against the Himalayan neighbour would be treated as an aggression against it. With Tibet falling into Chinese clutches, Nepal had approached India for help in training the Royal Nepal Army as well as for arms and ammunition. Though the two nations did not forge a formal defence relationship, an informal security umbrella from India to Nepal informal security umbrella from India to Nepa ras agreed upon with the signing of the Treaty f Peace and Friendship in 1950.

Prior to the Tibet saga, the two century-long reign of the ruling Shah family was threatened by the control of the Rana Prime Minister. As by the control of the Rana Prime Minister. As a result, King Prithvi Narayan Shah had escaped to India and sought help. With India's assistance, a new political order was established in the Himalayan country. Though India was at the forefront of re-establishing the Shah dynasty, it had ensured respect for the sovereignty of Nepal, leading to the "special relationship" between the two nations

On the other hand, China from day one of On the other hand, China from day one of its arrival in Tibet, has been attempting to gain political and strategic clout in Nepal. While Prithvi Shah was wary of Chinese intentions, his successor King Mahendra began to change the course of Nepal's diplomatic ties and formalised relations with China in 1955. After the demise of King Mahendra, his son Birendra, too, had tried to alter Nepal's equation with India.

Advised by China to review the Treaty of Peace and Friendship with India, Birendra had invited global leaders to recognise Nepal as a "Zone of Peace" (ZoP). Despite it being endorsed by more than 50 countries, India had declined

by more than 50 countries, India had declined to accept the ZoP citing the 1950 treaty because an endorsement of the ZoP would have threatened India's security, especially from the north. Having battled for more than 15 years to bring India on board, Birendra had to shelve the plan. Again in 1988, China supplied arms to Nepal in complete violation of India's security concerns that had been accommodated in the 1950 treaty. During this time India-Nepal diplomatic ties touched a low and from 1955 to 1990, Chinese leaders intensified efforts to marginalise New Delh's "special relations" with ginalise New Delhi's "special relations" with

In the post-Cold War era, significant economic reforms were carried out in India and a broader regional economic integration also took place. After the South Asian Association



THE CHINESE APPROACH IN NEPAL HAS BEEN

BASED ON GAINING STRATEGIC DEPTH BY OPENING UP ITS DEEF POCKETS AND ALSO SUBVERTING INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH KATHMANDU. CLEARLY, THESE ACTS BY CHINA ARE INTENDED TO ENSURE ITS STRONG POSITION IN NEPAL PRECISELY TO KEEP A CLOSE VIGIL ON SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING INDIA





for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985, India reiterated its responsibilities towards the region. This was reflected in the "Gujral Doctrine" based on the principles of unconditional cooperation to ghbours without expecting reciproc-The doctrine considerably is one of the most significant milestones in India's approach towards its neigh-bours, which is being continued by the present Government in its "Neighbourhood First Policy." The deep India-Nepal relations have been based on close cultural, religious, peo-ple-to-people ties and respect for democratic values and non-aggression towards each other.

But over the last 30 years, political developments in Nepal have been marred by instability in governance. The introduction of the first democratic cuttom in Nepal is the 1000 had tic system in Nepal in the 1990s had opened the gateway for greater public participation. However, Maoist insur-gency from 1994 to 2006 led the country into more profound political instability. In 2008, Nepal emerged as a democratic country, marking a complete end of the monarchical system and India was one of the few countries to have played a crucial role in supporting this transition.

However, a chain of events in the

last five years damaged India's image in the Himalayan kingdom. While India was the first country to have provided help during the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, it was in the same year that a blockade at the Indo-Nepal border had

of a new Constitution. As soon as the draft of the Constitution was tabled in the Constituent Assembly, people belonging to Nepal's southern belt, the Madhesis, had led a violent movement against the Government on grounds of poor representation and alleged human rights violations. Fearing an exodus to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, due to the Madhesi movement, India had sent the then Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar to raise India's security concerns in Kathmandu. However, this did not go down well with the people of Nepal. Ever since then, Kathmandu has been attempting to shift from its "special relations" with India to "new relations" with China. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and joint military exercises between Chinese and the Nepal Army are the latest examples of

Though the recent bonhomie between Nepal and China may seem minimal compared to India's age-old ties, the message to the global community is not in our favour and New Delhi needs to be cautious in this regard. On the other hand, the Chinese approach in Nepal has been based on gaining strategic depth by opening up its deep pockets and also subverting India's rela-tions with Kathmandu. Clearly, these acts by China are intended to ensure its strong position in Nepal, precisely to keep a close vigil on South Asian countries, including India.

To do so, it has exploited every low hase in India-Nepal relations, includblockade at the Indo-Nepal border had also accused India of causing delay in the implementation

place in India-Nepal relations, including by supplying arms to Nepal in 1982 and providing \$1 million military assistance along with truckloads of weapons to King Gyanendra in 2005 for suppressing people's demand to introduce full democracy.

At present, amid global criticism of its alleged neo-colonist \$60 billion BRI, China is leaving no stone unturned to ensure its success globally and in the region. Other than India and Bhutan, every South Asian country has joined the BRI. In fact, India has made it amply clear that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is in complete violation of its sovereignty as it passes through disputed areas with Pakistan; hence, it cannot be part of any such initiatives.

In Nepal, the proposal to construct the trans-Himalayan corridor, connect-ing Kathmandu with Tibet has been in discussion for the last two years. However, considering the high terrain of the two countries, implementation of the project will be a litmus test for

the economy of Nepal.

The leadership in Nepal needs to carefully look at the Chinese master plan on its soil and consider the via-bility and mood of the people as Chinese assistance is a debt-trap rather

Chinese assistance is a debt-trap rather than being a grant-in-aid.

A key example of this strategy is the Hambantota Port that was built with Chinese assistance in Sri Lanka. The port is now under Chinese control after Sri Lanka failed to pay off loans that were taken from Beijing for building it.

Xi's recent visit to Nepal came at a critical hour to ensure the success of the BRI and its other strategic interests there. Hence, Nepal needs to put the aspirations and well-being of its peo-

aspirations and well-being of its peo-ple at the forefront instead of going by nterests of individuals and political parties. It also has a responsibility to ensure regional balance and harmony.

(The writer is doctoral candidate, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Pak must go beyond banter about extremism

Imran Khan's rhetoric against extremism abroad can only find traction if it is balanced by taking initiatives towards ending the harassment and violence that minority communities face at the hands of radicalised elements within the country's majority religious community



NADEEM PARACHA

any moons ago, when I was a kid living with my parents and grandparents in a house in Karachi's Bath Island area, we had a neighbour who everyone called "Kachra chacha" (Garbage uncle). Of course, no one called him that to his face but I am sure he knew. This middle-aged man had this curious habit of scolding every-one he would come across about the manner in which they disposed their garbage. It was actually an admirable trait but strangely enough, in his own house, he was not practising what he preached.

I remember when my cousins and I would visit his house to play with his nephews, there would be lit-

ter strewn all over his garden and piles of trash in the large round bal-cony which stood just above the garage. I have no idea why this was so but the memory of this gentleman came to mind immediately after watching Prime Minister Imran Khan's impassioned speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 27. I must admit, I was impressed by the way the Prime Minister addressed the issue of State repression being faced by Muslims living in Kashmir. But I'm afraid, a lot else about the same speech triggered that obscure memory of "Kachra Chacha."

It is rather easy to negate and contradict much of what Khan said in his speech and in the interviews he gave to the media in the US. His critics have already done that, questioning the current state of repression being faced by the Pakistani media and against Khan's political

opponents in the country. They have also called him out for doing precious little to address the harassment and violence that the country's various minority communities continue to face at the hands of radicalised elements within the country's majority religious commu

Therefore, his detractors believe that Khan's pleas against hate speech, racial and religious bigotry and especially, Islamophobia in Western

societies ring hollow.

They fear that such views will never be able to find any worthwhile traction in the West or from outside his excitable constituencies in Pakistan. How can one point at garbage outside his home when he cannot (or refuses to) do much about the garbage piled up inside his

Nevertheless, as I mentioned above, the way the Prime Minister sweepingly condemns issues such as Islamophobia in the West and repression on the basis of ideology and faith against Muslims outside Pakistan, it is rather easy to counter such condemnations by simply putting forth the many episodes of violence against members of minority groups in Pakistan and also between Muslim sects that have been reported for decades now.

It is a fact that even when a Pakistani Prime Minister or President was willing to actually do something about this, he or she could not (and cannot), because the nature of certain laws and clauses within the country's constitution mostly penned in the document between 1974 and 1986 — is such that initiating effective reform in this context is next to impossible.

This is why, even while one can argue that certain Western countries, infested with problems such as Islamophobia and racial bigotry, do not have the right to point fingers at Muslim countries such as Pakistan for failing to curb religious violence and harassment against minorities, one can always stress the fact that, unlike Pakistan, their constitutions do not have laws that can encourage and even shield acts and actors hell bent on inflicting violence in the

name of faith.

Khan has been diluting his oth-

erwise impactful narrative on Kashmir and the Narendra Modi regime's "fascism" by coupling it with rhetorical spiels about Islamophobia. Apart from being rid-dled by the inherent contradictions discussed above, this is largely woven from a hodgepodge under-standing of Edward Said's idea of post-colonialism, which is now struggling to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world.

More disconcerting is the possibility that the narrative being erected by Khan may as well be the result of either the complete failure and discarding of a narrative which the State and Government was trying to build (to counter radicalisa tion and the spread of extremism) through the National Action Plan (NAP); or Khan was never really on board when the plan was authored and approved by the military and political parties in January 2015.

Indeed, it is clear that the Modi regime's arrogance towards Pakistan has generated the need within the State and Government of Pakistan

to intensify their rhetoric on the issues of Kashmir and Hindu nationalism. But this can only be effective if it is balanced by initiatives which would show Pakistan as doing more to curb extremism in its own backyard compared to India. where Hindu extremism has been allowed to infiltrate mainstream politics and society.
Otherwise, it will only end up

being nothing more than a bantering game between two countries infested by extremism, with one labelling the other "a terrorist State," and the other responding by calling

It is surprising that, despite the fact that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) dedicated a lot of space to the NAP in its manifesto for the 2018 election, Khan has frequently negated the nature of reforms suggested in that document. First, by continuously claiming that the war which the Pakistan military fought against religious extremist groups was "not our war," Khan is under-mining the chaos and destruction created by the extremists. This sentiment is also dismissive of the manner in which the extremists were tackled by the military.

There is absolutely nothing new or insightful about lecturing the US about how it had helped Pakistan create Islamic militants in the 1980s (before dumping them). The US Government itself has repeatedly admitted this ever since former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Pakistan in 2011.

Most of Khan's ideas are still cemented in the many apologia that emerged from a muddled potpour-ri of anti-West narratives developed during the last three decades. These were narratives that aided those who were unwilling to recognise their own incompetence, complacencies and mistakes, by putting the blame on others regarding extremism. This can be a popular way of explaining things on Twitter, but it can certainly not — and should not become part of the State and

Government policy.
(Courtesy: The Dawn)

World Bank cuts India's growth projection to 6%

After a broad-based deceleration in the initial quarters of this fiscal year, Indian growth rate is projected to fall to 6 per cent, the World Bank said on Sunday. In 2018-19, the growth rate of the country stood at 6.9

However, the bank in its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus said the country was expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in 2021 and 7.2 per cent in 2022 as it assumed that the monetary stance would remain accommodative, given benign price

The report, which has been released ahead of the annual meeting of the World Bank with the International Monetary Fund, noted India's economic growth decelerated for the second consecutive

In 2018-19, it stood at 6.8 per cent, down from 7.2 per cent in the 2017-18 financial

While industrial output growth increased to 6.9 per cent due to a pick-up in manufacturing and construction activities, the growth in agriculture and the services sector moderated to 2.9 and 7.5 per cent, respectively.

In the first quarter of 2019-20, the economy experienced a significant and broad-based growth deceleration with a sharp decline in private con-sumption on the demand side

both industry and services on the supply side, the report

Reflecting on the below trend economic momentum and persistently low food prices, the headline inflation averaged 3.4 per cent in 2018-19 and remained well below the RBI's mid-range target of 4 per cent in the first half of 2019-2020. This allowed the RBI to ease monetary policy via a cumulative 135 basis point cut in the repo rate since January 2019 and shift the policy stance from "neutral" to "accommodative", it said.

The World Bank report also noted that the current account deficit had widened to 2.1 per cent of the GDP in 2018-19 from 1.8 per cent a year before, mostly reflecting a deteriorating trade balance. On the financing side, sig-

nificant capital outflows in the first half of the current year were followed by a sharp reversal from October 2018 onwards and a build-up of international reserves to USD 411.9 billion at the end of the fiscal year.

Likewise, while the rupe Likewise, while the rupee initially lost ground against the USD (12.1 per cent depreciation between March and October 2018), it appreciated by about seven per cent up to March 2019, the report said.

"The general Government

'The general Government deficit is estimated to have widened by 0.2 percentage points to 5.9 per cent of the GDP in 2018-19. This is despite



improving its balance by 0.2 percentage points over the pre-vious year. The general gov-ernment debt remained stable and sustainable — being largely domestic and long term-at around 67 per cent of GDP," the report said.

According to the World Bank, poverty has continued to decline, albeit possibly at a slower pace than earlier. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16, the poverty rate declined from 21.6 to 13.4 per cent (\$1.90 PPP/day).

The report, however, said disruptions brought about by the introduction of the GST and demonetisation, combined with the stress in the rural economy and a high youth unemployment rate in urban areas may have heightened the risks for the poorest house-

The significant slowdown in the first quarter of the fiscal year and high frequency indicators, thereafter, suggested that the output growth would not exceed 6 per cent for the full fiscal year, the bank said.

The report said the consumption was likely to remain depressed due to slow growth in rural income, domestic demand (as reflected in a sharp than it also for the shift). drop in sales of automobiles and credit from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). However the investment

would benefit from the recent cut in effective corporate tax rate for domestic companies in the medium term, but also will continue to reflect financial sector weaknesses, the report

"Growth is expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in 2020-21 and 7.2 per

bottoms-out, rural demand benefits from effects of income support schemes, investment responds to tax incentives and credit growth resumes However, exports growth is expected to remain modest, as trade wars and slow global growth depresses external demand," the report said.

The main policy challenge for India is to address the sources of softening private consumption and the structural factors behind weak invest ment, the bank said.

"This will require restoring the health of the financial sector through reforms of public sector banks' governance and a gradual strengthening of the regulatory framework for NBFCs, while ensuring that solvent NBFCs retain access to

"It will also require efforts to contain fiscal slippages, as higher-than-expected public borrowings could put upward pressure on interest rates and potentially crowd-out the pri-vate sector," it said.

According to the bank, the main sources of risk included external shocks that result in tighter global financing condi-tions, and new NBFC defaults triggering a fresh round of financial sector stress.

To mitigate these risks, the authorities would need to ensure that there was adequate liquidity in the financial system while strengthening the regulatory framework for the NBFCs, the bank added.

B'desh, Nepal ahead of India as growth in South Asia slows down: WB report

Bangladesh and Nepal are estimated to grow faster than India in 2019, according to the World Bank, which said that overall growth in South Asia is projected to slow down this fiscal in line with a glob-

al downward trend.

Pakistan's growth rate is projected to deteriorate further to a mere 2.4 per cent this fis-cal year, as monetary policy remains tight, and the planned fiscal consolidation will com-press domestic demand, it said.

Growth in South Asia is projected to fall to 5.9 per cent in 2019, down 1.1 percentage points from April 2019 estimates, casting uncertainty about a rebound in the short term, the World Bank said in its latest report.

The latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De)centralization Work, finds that strong domes-tic demand, which propped high growth in the past, has weakened, driving a slowdown across the region.

Imports have declined severely across South Asia, contracting between 15 and 20 per cent in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

In India, domestic demand has slipped, with private conand beef up investments," he

sumption growing 3.1 per cent in the last quarter from 7.3 per The report noted that South Asia's current econom cent a year ago, while manuic slowdown echoes the decel facturing growth plummeted to below 1 per cent in the secerating growth and trade slumps of 2008 and 2012. With that context in mind, ond quarter of 2019 compared to over 10 per cent a

the report remains cautiously optimistic that a slight rebound in investment and private consumption could jumpstart South Asia's growth up to 6.3 per cent in 2020, slightly above East Asia and the Pacific and 6.7 per cent in 2020. 6.7 per cent in 2021. In a focus section, the

report highlights how, as their economies become more sophisticated, South Asian countries have made decentralisation a priority to improve the delivery of public services.

FM to meet CEOs of PSU banks today

 $F_{\text{Sitharaman will hold a}}^{\text{inance Minister Nirmala}}$ review meeting with CEOs of public sector banks (PSBs) on Monday to discuss various issues, including progress on credit offtake, as part of efforts

to prop up the economy.

The meeting is expected to review fund flow to stressed NBFC and MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sectors, sources said.

Banks are expected to pre-sent report card on partial credit guarantee scheme and fund raising from market to enhance their capital base.

The Centre in August issued guidelines on operationalising Rs 1 lakh crore partial guarantee scheme under which PSBs can purchase highrated pooled assets of finan-

cially sound non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). NBFCs, including hous-ing finance companies (HFCs), came under stress following a series of defaults by the group companies of IL&FS in September last year.

Besides, the meeting will also assess the progress of first phase of outreach programme held across 226 districts across

the country.

This will be the second meeting of Sitharaman with CEOs of PSU banks in less than a month.

The first phase of 'Loan The first phase of 'Loan Mela' for providing credit to agriculture, vehicle, home, MSME, education and personal categories ended on

During the annual perfor-



month, PSBs decided to undertake outreach exercise in 400 identified districts. Later, the

willingness to join the initiative. The second phase will be held in 209 districts between October 21 and October 25, just before Diwali.
Additionally, the Centre

will also review loan delivery through 'psbloansin59minutes

The platform has helped reduce turnaround time for loan processes in such a way that MSMEs can get an eligi-bility letter and in-principle approval in 59 minutes and can ose the bank of their choice.

After the approval letter is received, the loan is expected to be disbursed in 7-8 working Touted as the country's

largest online lending plat-form, the portal was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2018 with an aim to make credit access and banking for MSMEs trans-parent and hassle-free.

The portal sanctioned loans worth over Rs 35,000 crore in less than four months from its launch.

As on March 31, 2019, more than 50,706 proposals had got in-principle approval and 27,893 proposals had been

Cooperative sector needs regulatory mechanism: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

eaders of cooperative sector L'should think of a self regulatory mechanism to strength en it and prevent recurrence of scams like Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank case, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on

He said that whistleblowers should come forward wher-ever such things are happening, as several people must have been involved in such a scam. "I do not think that such a

scam can happen without involvement of hundreds of peo-ple. Several accounts must have been opened, funds must have been diverted. Branches and some employees must have been involved in this," Goyal said. It would not be possible for

the government to look at every institution and issues, the minister said here at India International Cooperative India still fast-growing economy with lot of potential: Economist

ndia has been relatively hit hard by the recent global slowdown resulting in its projected growth dropping to 6.0 per cent in 2019, but it's still a fast-growing economy with a lot of potential, a top World Bank economist said on Sunday. "It's still a fast-growing

economy. So even with the recent slowdown, it has growth numbers that are higher than in most countries of the world. It's still a fast-growing economy with a lot of potential," World Bank's Chief Economist for South Asia Hans Timmer told PTI.

In its latest edition of the South Asia Economic Focus, the World Bank said that India's growth rate is projected to fall to 6 per cent this fiscal. However, it said the country was expected to gradually recover to 6.9 per cent in 2021

down in their investments in durable consumption. And so that means that they have to deal with severe problems, Timmer said in response to a question on India's economy, whose growth rate in 2016 was 8.2 per cent and in the next two years it dropped by 2.2 percentage points.

"No, it's not the biggest

(drop), but it is comparable to what we saw in 2012 where there was also a slowdown. It's somewhat less than what we saw in 2009. But it's a serious slowdown. That is true," Timmer said.

There are many signs of a sharp slowing of the Indian economy, recently, he noted. "We saw that with the last numbers on quarterly GDP, but GDP. If you look at the investment then the annual growth

it was a year ago. There was a sharp decline in consumption And so that's mainly durable consumption," he said.

"If you look at the growth of domestic demands that's slowing much faster than the growth of GDP because imports are slowing fast also. It's a typi-cal case where investors both in companies and in households are cautious to invest.

"In our view, that is very much in line with what is hap-pening in the world, because everywhere in the world you that investments very quickly are coming down and debt is driven by a sentiment that spreads across the world driven by uncertainty in glob-

al markets," he said.

Timmer said that, the World Bank in its estimates, has found that "80 per cent of the slowdown" in India could be coming from the internation-

India recognises need for environmentally sustainable development strategy: IMF

¬he International Monetary Fund looks at India as a country that recognizes the need for an environmentally sustainable development strategy as the global community gears up for a decisive fight

year ago.
"Declining industrial pro-

duction and imports, as well as tensions in the financial mar-

kets reveal a sharp economic slowdown in South Asia," said Hartwig Schafer, World Bank

Vice President for the South Asia Region.
"As global and domestic

uncertainties cloud the region's economic outlook, South

Asian countries should pursue

stimulating economic policies to boost private consumption

against climate change.

"If you look at India in the last generation...India has been undergoing development. India has been undergoing a trans-formation. India has become a major player in the world economy. India is a great power and we look at India as a country that recognizes the need for an environmentally sustainable development strategy," Vitor Gaspar, Director Gaspar, Director of the IMF's Fiscal Affairs

Department told PTI in an interview.

Noting that India is par-

ticularly concerned about prospects for the poorest segcontext of this process of development, he explained how does climate change fit into the framework.

"I would say that there are two perspectives that one can look at. One, given its status as a major economy in the world, India has a critical role to play at the global level. In this context it's important to recognize that India is especially vulnerable to climate change. So, India does have a strong interest in advocating for a global action," Gasper said.

From this viewpoint, India

is fully committed to the Paris nationally determined contribution pledges, and that implies reducing emissions of CO2 by a third below 2005 levels that is relative to the energy intensity of GDP and India seems to be on track to deliver on its

\$60 bn investment coming in gas infrastructure: Pradhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India is investing over \$60 billion in developing natural supply and distribution infrastructure as it chases the target of more than doubling the share of natural gas in its energy base to 15 per cent by 2030, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Sunday.

Natural gas currently con-utes 6.2 per cent of all energy consumption in the country. Stating that the government has laid emphasis on developing a gas-based economy, he said natural gas is gradually becoming a bridging fuel for low carbon economy in India.

The Government is giving special impetus to develop gas

infrastructure across the length necting north to south and east to west parts of India, he said.

"I am happy to inform you that as we speak, an estimated investment of 60 billion US dollars is underway in building gas pipeline and terminal infra-structure that are nearing or in advanced stages of completion," he said in his opening remarks at the third International Think Tank

Meeting (ITT) here.
City gas distribution network will soon cover 70 per
cent of India's population, he
said. "Our Government is exploring strategic partner-ships for overall development of oil & gas sector.

Iran discovers gas field near Gulf: State media

Tehran: Iran has discovered a gas field near the Gulf with enough reserves to supply the capital for 16 years, state media reported on Sunday. The Eram field contained 19 trillion cubic feet (538 billion cubic metres) of natural gas, the National Iranian Oil Company said, cited by official news agency IRNA.
The oil ministry's Shana

ite said the field was locat ed in Fars province, about 200 kilometres south of Shiraz.
"Given the volume of 19

trillion cubic feet reserves of insitu gas and 385 million barrels of gas condensate in Eram field, the revenue from this field will be \$40 billion," IRNA quoted an NIOC official as saying. *AFP*

NPCI sees WhatsApp meeting data localisation norms in two months

Pacebook-owned instant messaging giant WhatsApp will be compliant with data localisation norms over the next two months, post which it

Even after the launch of WhatsApp's payments service, it will take at least two years to reduce the cash dominance in the economy as the user base of digital payments must at least treble to 300 million to have any tangible impact on

WhatsApp has been running a beta version of its payments service since last year in the country, and its official launch is being keenly watched can roll out its much-delayed by stakeholders, including its payments service here, says the National Payments Corporation.

Even after the launch of any department of the payments with the National Payments corporation.

Even after the launch of any department of the payment and help achieve the cashl payments objectives.

"There are still a couple of intermediaries where work is in progress. One is Google, second is WhatsApp. We believe WhatsApp will be fully compliant in the next two months' time," Asbe said.
WhatsApp has capped the

Dilip Asbe told PTI in an number of payment service users at 1 million now as it is yet to fully meet RBI's data localisation norms which require foreign companies to store transaction and user data within the country and delete the same from foreign servers

> According to Asbe, a thirdparty audit by a firm empaneled by the RBI is currently underway to ascertain WhatsApp's compliance. "Once the auditors complete their probe, we will review the same and will see

> how to go ahead," he said.
>
> Abse also clarified that he did not meet the WhatsApp

California walnut growers hope US-India trade deal will reduce tariffs

PTI ■ TIBURON (US)

California walnut growers Care hopeful that the US and India will soon strike a trade deal that will reduce the retaliatory tariffs imposed by New Delhi on American walnuts, a top industry official said.

India imposed retaliatory tariffs on 28 US products, including walnuts, almonds and apples from June 5, after the Trump administration revoked its preferential trade privileges. California

Walnut Commission's (CWC) Senior Marketing Director, International, Pamela Graviet said that tariff change definitely made a difference and it's very

expensive for the importer. "Twenty per cent retaliatory tariff is an issue," she said.

We are hopeful that the two countries will come to some kind of a trade agreement and the 20 per cent retaliatory tariffs then goes away. Trade negotiations are still on," she

told *PTI* here.
"We are looking for fair trade and are not expecting all countries to drop their tariff rate to zero," she added.

The US terminated India's designation as beneficiary developing country under Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

India has been the single biggest beneficiary of the GSP programme, allowing the coun-

try to export \$5.7 billion worth of duty-free goods in 2017, according to figures from US Congress.
The US walnuts entered

Indian market nearly four years ago and the industry in India has grown ever since to meet the growing demand. With this current tariff, it's challenging to meet the demand,

The retaliatory tariffs imposed by India are causing deep concern among the nut growers in California, which produces 99 per cent of the

crop.
"Trade negotiations are complex process... We were hopeful of an announcement when Prime Minister Narendra



Modi was here (in the US in September) but they have not reached any agreement that is best for both the parties. So, we know they are still into dis-cussions that is very positive for both the countries," Graviet

There will be eventually some kind of agreement, it's just a matter of when and

what that trade agreement will look like," she added. The US is the second



largest producer of walnuts in India ranked 10th as an

export destination in 2016-17. However, it fell to 11th position in 2017-18 crop year when the tariff rate was increased to 100

per cent, she said.

But, during last crop year (2018-2019) India dropped to

16th position due to retaliatory tariffs, she added. Given the size of the pop ulation, and the love of nuts and dried fruit in India, the

California walnut growers anticipate that over the next few years, India would climb up and regain it's position.

The overall demand for

walnuts in India is growing steadily. The CWC has exported 10468.43 tonne in 2017-18. The top export markets for the CWC are Germany, Turkey, Spain, China and the UK, she

The California walnut industry, California Walnut Commission (CWC), is made up of over 4,800 walnut growers and 88 walnut handlers

The walnut crop year is from September-August India produces around 30,000-35,000 tonnes of walnuts in Jammu and Kashmir, according to offi cial data. For India, which has very

high proportion of vegetarian people, walnut is a good nutri-tional choice and also it helps in managing health issues like diabetes, hypertension, obesity among others, Graviet said.

Indian importers prefer in-shell walnuts. They hire people within India to remove the shells, which in a way creates jobs...So when imports drop, those people doing their jobs will also loose their source of income, she added.

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Scheme DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	NAV 13.87	1Yr% 27.93	Kotak Equity Opp Fund(G) HDFC Nifty 50 ETF	116.37 1184.5	11.84	Consumption Fund(G) ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF		8.4	Fund-1-(G) ICICI Pru Large & Mid	310.65	4.48	ICICI Pru Global Stable Equity Fund(G)	15.87	-0.31
Tata Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)			Axis Nifty ETF DSP 3Y Close Ended Equity	1163.78 15.49	11.8 11.8	ICICI Pru NV20 ETF Canara Rob Infrastructure	55.17 42.82	8.39 8.38	Cap Fund(G) Nippon India India Opp	9.99	4.46	HDFC Equity Opp Fund-Sr 2-1126D-May 2017(1)-Reg(G)	9.87	-0.42
Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	42.71	23.81	Fund-Reg(G) Tata Value Fund-Sr-1-Reg(G)	9.84	11.74	Fund-Reg(G) IDBI Banking & Financial	10.17	8.31	Fund-Sr-A(G) JM Large Cap Fund(G)	66.21	4.38	L&T Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G) HDFC Infrastructure Fund(G)	14.86 14.49	-0.47 -0.52
Axis Bluechip Fund(G) BNP Paribas India Consumption	30.85	23.35 22.82	IDFC Nifty ETF Baroda Large Cap Fund(G)	116.84 14.36	11.67 11.66	Services Fund-Reg(G) SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr	15.73		Principal Dividend Yield Fund(G UTI-Nifty Next 50 ETF) 50.95 272.85	4.28 4.25	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	28.39	-0.8
Fund-Reg(G) Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	12.31	22.49	Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G) UTI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)		11.61	I-Reg(G) IDFC Multi Cap Fund-Reg(G)	91.73		L&T Large and Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	45.05	4.23	IDBI Long Term Value Fund-Reg(G)	9.86	-0.9
SBI Tax Advantage	25.97	22.2	OTT Willy Index 1 dild-Reg(O)	74.1	11.01	IDFC Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	31.89	8.14	Franklin India Equity	75.47	4.18	Sundaram Emerging Small	7.82	-1.09
Fund-III-Reg(G) JM Multicap Fund(G)	33.35	20.68	2019 as on JULY 1	264	9	Tata Ethical Fund-Reg(G) Edelweiss Tax Advantage	156.53 39.01	8.1 8.03	Advantage Fund(G) IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)		4.03	Cap-Sr-II-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure	28.3	-1.12
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)		20.45	2019 (P)	265	4	Fund-Reg(G) Franklin Build India Fund(G)	38.96		SBI PSU Fund-Reg(G) Nippon India Capital Builder	9.68 9.37	3.97 3.82	Fund(G) IDBI Small Cap Fund(G)	8.69	-1.14
BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	93.06	20.17			0.410	PGIM India Large Cap Fund-2-Reg(G)	12.13	7.99	Fund-IV-A(G) ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption	10.12	3.79	HDFC Capital Builder Value Fund(G)	267.9	-1.26
JM Tax Gain Fund(G) Canara Rob Consumer Trends	17.63 40.23	20.16 19.84	2018 22	243		Invesco India Tax Plan(G) Nippon India Growth Fund(G)	49.9 1059.37		Fund-3-(G) Baroda Mid-cap Fund(G)	8.57	3.75	IDBI Midcap Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-8(D)	9.89 9.89	-1.3 -1.4
Fund-Reg(G) Baroda Banking & Fin Serv	23.15	19.7	2017 1988	7		ICICI Pru S&P BSE 500 ETF Parag Parikh Long Term	148.16 24.93	7.89	ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G) ICICI Pru Growth Fund-3(DP)	277.75 9.84	3.75 3.69	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-I-Reg(G)	7.62	-1.4
Fund(G) DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)	40.31	19.49	2016 1663			Equity Fund-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Equity Fund(G)	698.2		ICICI Pru Value Fund-15(G) Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India	10.16	3.57 3.54	DSP Natural Res & New Energy Fund-Reg(G)	30.37	-1.5
Axis Long Term Equity Fund(G)	46.7	18.58				Sundaram TOP 100-Sr	12.2	7.77	Fund-5-Reg(G)			Sundaram Emerging Small	8.76	-1.57
Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	56.68	17.94	2015 1486			VI-Reg(G) Sundaram World Brand	15.93	7.75	ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50 ETF L&T India Value Fund-Reg(G)	26.81 33.68	3.52 3.52	Cap-Sr-IV-Reg(G) SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)	97.65	-1.57
Kotak World Gold Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL India GenNext	9.89 85.22	17.79 17.74	2014 1683	114	П	Fund-Sr II-Reg(G) Sundaram World Brand	16.12	7.7	Franklin India Equity Fund(G) UTI MNC Fund-Reg(G)	557.14 190.47	3.48 3.46	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series VIII-Reg(G)	12.09	-1.61
Fund(G) SBI Tax advantage Fund-II(G)	37.34	17.25			4	Fund-Sr III-Reg(G) SBI Magnum Comma	35.62	7.69	UTI LT Adv Fund-IV(G) Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(G)	9.6) 29.87	3.36 3.28	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-III-Reg(G)	8.44	-1.61
Motilal Oswal Focused 25 Fund-Reg(G)	22.48	17.17		omesi		Fund-Reg(G) Nippon India Quant Fund(G)	25.22	7.67	Aditya Birla SL Tax Relief '96(ELSS U/S 80C of IT ACT)(G	29.87 i)	3.28	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series IX-Reg(G)	12.02	-1.69
BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	38.99	17	2012 1387 GUS	stome	ers	UTI MEPUS Tata Resources & Energy	104.43 13.98	7.65	UTI Nifty Next 50 Index Fund-Reg(G)	9.47	3.15	Templeton India Value Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Discovery		3 -1.69 5 -1.77
Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	204.25 142.41		2011 1269	in Lak	(h)	Fund-Reg(G) ICICI Pru Growth Fund-2(DP)	11.85	7.63	ICICI Pru Value Fund-16(G) IDBI Nifty Junior Index Fund(G)	10.84	3.14 3.05	Fund(G) IDFC Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G		-1.8
SBI Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)			25	on Apr	STATISTICS.	Canara Rob Emerg Equities	88.93		SBI Magnum Midcap	66.92	2.99	Tata India Pharma &	8.63	-1.85
Axis Midcap Fund(G) SBI Magnum Equity ESG	37.83 106.4	16.54 16.45	2010 1103	200		Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)			Fund-Reg(G) ICICI Pru Nifty Next 50	23.58	2.98	Healthcare Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram Emerging Small	9.82	-1.94
Fund-Reg(G) JM Core 11 Fund(G)	9.09	16.45	- PTI GRAPHICS Petroleur	urce: Minist n & Natura	ry of I Gas	Nippon India Multi Cap Fund(G) Sundaram TOP 100-Sr	90.77 11.98	7.5 7.46	Index Fund(G) ICICI Pru Technology Fund(G)	59.29	2.97	Cap-Sr-VII-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)	258.9	-1.98
DSP Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G) Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	48.38 29.07	16.22 15.91	Axis Emerging Opp	12.21	11.61	VII-Reg(G) HDFC Top 100 Fund(G)	466.49	7.46	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-13(D)	89.42 10.34	2.89 2.89	Sundaram Value Fund-VIII-Reg(G)	10	-2.21
SBI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G) Canara Rob Bluechip Equity		15.83 15.59	Fund-1-Reg(G) Edelweiss Large & Mid Cap	31.09	11.51	UTI LT Equity Fund (Tax Saving)-Reg(G)	83.65		UTI LT Adv Fund-III(G) Franklin India Bluechip Fund(G)	12.62	2.84 2.83	DSP Small Cap Fund-Reg(G) Nippon India Tax Saver	49.41 49.19	-2.25 -2.81
Fund-Reg(G) Tata India Tax Savings	17.91	15.55	Fund-Reg(G) Mirae Asset Tax Saver	17.27	11.47	SBI Large & Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	213.03	7.36	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-3-Reg(G)	10.94	2.53	(ELSS) Fund(G) ICICI Pru Dividend Yield	15.35	-2.97
Fund-Reg(G) Nippon India Consumption	66.07	15.34	Fund-Reg(G) HDFC Index Fund-NIFTY	103.18	11.39	HDFC Equity Fund(G) UTI Focussed Equity Fund-IV(G)	625.38	7.2 7.17	Principal Multi Cap Growth Fund(G)	133.27	2.37	Equity Fund(G) Sundaram Select Micro	11.8	-3.04
Fund(G)			50 Plan(G) Motilal Oswal Midcap	25.12	11.27	Nippon India Large Cap	32.83	7.17	Principal Tax Savings Fund		2.26	Cap-Series X-Reg(G)		
ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)		15.18	30 Fund-Reg(G) IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	23.45	11.26	Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Frontline	216	7.1	ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G) HDFC TaxSaver(G)		2.26	Mirae Asset Healthcare Fund-Reg(G)	9.89	-3.07
DSP Focus Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram Multi Cap	23.37 10.23	15 14.94	Tata Index Fund-Nifty Plan(G) Invesco India Growth	68.52		Equity Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India	11.5	7.08	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-4-Reg(G)		2.14	DSP US Flexible Equity Fund-Reg(G)	25.62	-3.14
Fund-Sr II-Reg(G) Sundaram Services	11.53	14.94	Opp Fund(G) UTI Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)		11.18	Fund-2-Reg(G) Templeton India Equity	44.81	7.02	PGIM India Global Equity Opp Fund(G)	18.41	2.11	UTI LT Adv Fund-VII(G) DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	7.93) 8.17	-3.4 -3.87
Fund-Reg(G) SBI LT Advantage	10.11	14.9	ICICI Pru Nifty Index Fund(G)	109.55	11.11	Income Fund(G) ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	10.84	7.01	IDFC Equity Opportunity-5-Reg(G)	9.53	2.03	Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Off-shr Fund-Reg(G)	10.94	-3.95
Fund-V-Reg(G) Sundaram Multi Cap	10.25	14.78	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-4-(G)	10.04		Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Equity	735.46 391.13	6.98 6.84	Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity Fund-B(G)	17.6	2.03		8.9	-4.04
Fund-Sr I-Reg(G) Sundaram Select Small Cap	9.66	14.62	BNP Paribas Multi Cap Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF	356.49	11.04	Advantage Fund(G) Tata Equity P/E Fund(G)			Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G) UTI LT Adv Fund-V(G)	432.43 8.88	1.79 1.69	Franklin India Smaller Cos Fund(G)	48.15	-4.07
Series-VI-Reg(G)	24.37	14.57	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G) SBI Nifty Index Fund-Reg(G)	53.14 97.26		ICICI Pru Value Fund-9(G)	11.85	6.76	PGIM India Midcap Opp	16.87	1.69	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco	12.8	-4.12
IDBI India Top 100 Equity Fund(G)			Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	49.88	10.98	IDFC Equity Opportunity-6-Reg(G)	10.13	6.74	Fund-Reg(G)			Global Equity Income Fund(G) Sundaram Value	7.87	-4.37
SBI Magnum Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	48.97		Edelweiss Long Term Equity Fund (Tax Savings)-Reg(10.98	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-I(G) Franklin India Taxshield(G)	547.82	6.74 6.71	Consumption of 1	3		Fund-VII-Reg(G) Nippon India Small Cap Fund(G		-4.4
Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-III-Reg(G)		14.39	Franklin Asian Equity Fund(G) PGIM India Large Cap Fund(G)	22.07 166.87		Franklin India Feeder - Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)		6.7	AUG			IDFC Equity Opportunity-4-Reg(G)	7.12	-4.81
Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	34.7	14.26	Franklin India Focused Equity Fund(G)	38.89		Sundaram Infra Advantage Fund(G)	30.19	6.56	2019	- 6,1	16	IDFC Sterling Value Fund-Reg(G)	44.34	-4.93
DSP Top 100 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	207.14	14.09	Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund(G)	19.24	10.83	Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 5(G)	9.42	6.53	Jul 6,826			Sundaram Small Cap Fund(G) UTI LT Adv Fund-VI(G)	71.11 7.63	-5.55 -5.61
Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-V-Reg(G)	9.86	14.04	SBI Technology Opp Fund-Reg(G)	66.54	10.81	Nippon India Vision Fund(G) Principal Emerging Bluechip	502.82 100.15	6.5 6.46	Jun 7,446	,781		Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)	28.41	-5.64
Sundaram Select Small Cap Series-IV-Reg(G)	14.2	14.03	IDBI Nifty Index Fund(G)	20.88		Fund(G) Nippon India Banking Fund(G)	254.15	6.42		/01		HDFC Small Cap Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram LT Tax Adv	37.66 7.47	-6.28 -6.31
Tata Mid Cap Growth Fund(G) Axis Capital Builder	133.76 10.4	14 13.91	Axis Emerging Opp Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.75		Tata Digital India Fund-Reg(G) UTI Value Opp Fund-Reg(G)	15.01 58.95	6.35 6.32	Apr 7,314	7,4	51	Fund-Sr III-Reg(G) L&T Emerging Businesses	21.81	-6.83
Fund-1-Reg(G) Mirae Asset Great Consumer		13.79	IDBI Equity Advantage Fund-Reg(G)	26.81		Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	25.55	6.24	(in			Fund-Reg(G) DSP World Agriculture	16.28	-7.03
Fund-Reg(G) SBI BlueChip Fund-Reg(G)	39.15		Nippon India Index Fund - Nifty Plan(G)	18.94		SBI Small Cap Fund-Reg(G) Nippon India Focused Equity	50.86 43.68	6.22 6.18	'000	,069		Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram Value	8.44	-7.06
ICICI Pru FMCG Fund(G)	245.99	13.68	SBI LT Advantage Fund-I-Reg(G)	13.06	10.65	Fund(G)		6	Dec MT)		_	Fund-IX-Reg(G)	12.75	
Edelweiss ETF - Nifty Bank L&T India Large Cap	2858.42 27.29		Aditya Birla SL Index Fund-Reg(G)	111.07	10.64	(Tax Saving)(G)	358.65		N	7,37	2	Aditya Birla SL Global Emerging Opp Fund(G)		-7.18
Fund-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Banking &	28.01	13.63	SBI LT Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	13.09	10.52	Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)	70.38	5.95	0.	921 .988		Sundaram Value Fund-X-Reg(G Aditya Birla SL Resurgent	7.53	-7.23 -7.38
Financial Services Fund-Reg(G) JM Value Fund(G)		13.57	SBI Magnum Global Fund-Reg(G)	172.22	10.48	Kotak Global Emerging Mkt Fund(G)	15.83	5.89	Sep 6,030			India Fund-7-Reg(G) PGIM India Euro Equity Fund(G	3) 13.29	-7.52
Invesco India PSU Equity Fund(G)	17.28	13.53	Kotak India EQ Contra Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)		10.46 10.46	Franklin India Prima Fund(G) Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr	910.1 14.06	5.86 5.82	Aug 6,186	IIVL	7 8	Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Agri-Reg(G)	23.41	-7.63
HDFC Sensex ETF Sundaram Select Focus(G)	4009.07 180.37		Franklin India Index	89.62		II-Reg(G) HDFC Growth Opp Fund-Reg(G	107.55	5.77	2018 Source: Ministry of Petrolet	M & Natur		Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XII-Reg(G)	8.42	-7.95
BNP Paribas Focused 25 Equity Fund-Reg(G)		13.49	Fund-NSE Nifty(G) PGIM India Diversified	13.04	10.32	Sundaram Value Fund-III-Reg(G)	15.94	5.72	IDFC Tax Advt(ELSS)	51.43	1.6	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XI-Reg(G)	8.73	-8.32
SBI LT Advantage Fund-II-Reg(G)	13.52	13.48	Equity Fund-Reg(G) Tata Value Fund-Sr-2-Reg(G)		10.17	BNP Paribas Mid Cap Fund(G) Kotak India Growth	30.51 9.2	5.65 5.59	Fund-Reg(G) UTI Mid Cap Fund-Reg(G)	93.57	1.59	Nippon India Pharma Fund(G) Sundaram LT Tax Adv	138.89 8.65	-8.34 -8.46
Tata Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G) IDFC Sensex ETF	54.01 393.57		ICICI Pru Smallcap Fund(G) Invesco India Infrastructure	24.18 16.46	10.16 9.81	Fund-Sr 4(G) UTI Banking and Financial	90.08	5.59	Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)		1.58	Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G) Nippon India Capital Builder	6.98	-8.61
SBI LT Advantage Fund-IV-Reg(G)	13.25		Fund(G) Edelweiss ETF - Nifty 100	277.38	9.78	Services Fund-Reg(G) IDBI Focused 30 Equity	90.08	5.55	Principal Personal Tax saver Fund	181.26	1.58	Fund-IV-B(G) Sundaram Select Micro	7.72	-8.92
Canara Rob Equity Diver	132.65	13.28	30 Quality Nippon India Value Fund(G)	70.89	9.74	Fund-Reg(G)			ICICI Pru Value Fund-14(G) Aditya Birla SL Intl. Equity	10.21 21.86	1.49 1.45	Cap-Series XIV-Reg(G)		
Fund-Reg(G) Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	216.97		UTI India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	25.86	9.62	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G) Baroda ELSS 96(G)	12.02 42.6	5.53 5.39	Fund-A(G)			Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr III-Reg(G)	8.91	-9.13
Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip-Reg(G)	51.98	13	Edelweiss Multi-Cap Fund-Reg(G)	14.29	9.58	Edelweiss Emerging Markets Opp Eq. Offshore Fund-Reg(G)	12.7	5.39	Sundaram Smart NIFTY 100 Eq Weight Fund-Reg(G)	11.06	1.45	Aditya Birla SL Small Cap Fund(G)	29.38	-9.21
HDFC Index Fund-Sensex(G) Tata Index Fund-Sensex	339.09 94.17	12.99 12.97	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)		9.47	Invesco India Midcap Fund(G) L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)	46.71 78.58	5.3 5.27	L&T Tax Advt Fund-Reg(G) DSP Equal Nifty 50	51.3 9.26	1.41 0.99	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr IV-Reg(G)	7.59	-9.51
Plan(G) Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver	64.32		PGIM India LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)	14.06	9.33	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr I-Reg(G)	12.97	5.2	Fund-Reg(G) HDFC Mid-Cap Opportunities	49.96	0.96	Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr V-Reg(G)	7.37	-10.2
Fund-Reg(G) Motilal Oswal Long Term	17.35		Aditya Birla SL Focused Equity Fund(G)	58.25	9.31	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-V(G)	9 45.81	5.2 5.17	Fund(G) UTI Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	57.18	0.88	UTI Healthcare Fund-Reg(G) SBI Healthcare Opp		-10.23 1 -10.4
Equity Fund-Reg(G) Kotak Bluechip Fund(G)	232.69		ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G) Kotak Emerging Equity	41.67 37.14	9.28 9.12	HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G) Sundaram Value Fund-II-Reg(G)	74.08	5.15 5.14	SBI-ETF Sensex Next 50 IDFC Focused Equity	302.83 34.77	0.82 0.55	Fund-Reg(G) Aditya Birla SL Pure Value		-10.48
ICICI Pru LT Wealth		12.76	Scheme(G) L&T Business Cycle	14.7	9.09	ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)	47.47	5.14	Fund-Reg(G) DSP Global Allocation	12.72	0.32	Fund(G)		
Enhancement Fund(G) DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 2-Reg(G)	10.33		Fund-Reg(G) UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	119.46		Kotak Small Cap Fund(G) Tata India Consumer	68.51 16.9	5.12 5.07	Fund-Reg(G) L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	124.13		Sundaram LT Micro Cap Tax Adv Fund-Sr VI-Reg(G)		-10.58
Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	25.84	12.59	Kotak India Growth Fund-Sr 7(G)	10.34	9.05	Fund-Reg(G) UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)		0	Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity	124.13	0.24	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Pan European Equity Fund-Reg	g(G)	
Kotak Standard Multicap Fund(G)	34.81		Nippon India US Equity	15.91	8.91	Invesco India Multicap Fund(G) SBI Consumption Opp	45.93 113.1	4.98 4.89	Fund-Reg(G) Sundaram Global Advt(G)	16.69	0.13	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XV-Reg(G)	7.55	-10.64
ICICI Pru Sensex Index Fund(G DSP Equity Opportunities) 11.86 219.46		Opp Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Global Real	20.69	8.73	Fund-Reg(G) L&T Emerging Opp	9.63	4.87	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-2-(G)		0.1	Nippon India Capital Builder Fund-IV-D(G)	6.97	-10.64
Fund-Reg(G) Kotak Tax Saver Scheme(G)	43.2	12.26	Estate Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Digital India	54.44	8.71	Fund-II-Reg(D) Nippon India Power &	92	4.86	Kotak US Equity Fund(G) Aditya Birla SL Dividend	16.97 150.37	0.08 -0.08	Sundaram Select Micro Cap-Series XVI-Reg(G)	7.04	-10.67
SBI LT Advantage Fund-VI-Reg(G)		12.14	Fund(G) SBI Equity Opp Fund-Sr	15.21	8.64	Infra Fund(G) ICICI Pru Value Fund-17(G)	10.28		Yield Fund(G) L&T Emerging Opp		-0.11		86.41	-11.2
Nippon India Index Fund -	18.77	12.08	IV-Reg(G) ICICI Pru US Bluechip	28.95	8.55	Franklin India	159.89	0	Fund-I-Reg(D) Sundaram Emerging Small		-0.16	Sundaram Select Micro	6.64	-11.99
Sensex Plan(G) DSP India T.I.G.E.R			Equity Fund(G)		8.51	Technology Fund(G) UTI Focussed Equity	9.39	4.72	Cap-Sr-VI-Reg(G)			Cap-Series XVII-Reg(G) Nippon India Capital Builder	6.71	-12.37
	88.49	12.06	Baroda Multi Cap Fund(G)	94.97	0.01				Nippon India Japan Fauity	13 33	_0 17	E		
Fund-Reg(G) DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 1-Reg(G)	10.3	11.93	IDBI Diversified Equity Fund(G)	21.07	8.5	Fund-VI(G) SBI Magnum	134.21	4.64	Nippon India Japan Equity Fund(G)		-0.17	Fund-IV-C(G) DSP World Energy	12.67	-15.36
Fund-Reg(G)				21.07	8.5	Fund-VI(G) SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)		4.64 4.57			-0.17 -0.29		12.67	-15.36

Germany urges Turkey to immediately end Syria offensive

Angela Merkel on Sunday urged Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to halt Turkey's offensive in northern Syria immediately, warning it could spark further destabilisation of the region and a resurgence of the IS

and a resurgence of the IS jihadist group. In a phone call with Erdogan, Merkel "spoke in favour for an immediate end to the military operation", the chancellor's office said in a statement.

The operation threatens to drive large parts of the popula-tion from their homes, she said, noting that it would also risk "destabilisation of the region and lead to a resurgence of the Germany and France on

Saturday said they were suspending arms exports to Turkey over its offensive in Syria against the Kurdish People's Protection

Turkey sees the YPG as a terrorist off-shoot of Kurdish rebels in its own territory, but Western powers used the Kurds as the main ground force against as the main ground force against the ISIS group in Syria. *AFP*

Arms embargoes won't | Turkey and proxies advance deep into Syria stop Turkey's Syria operation: Erdogan

Istanbul: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday that threats of sanctions and arms embargoes by Western powers would not stop Turkey's military offensive against Kurdish militants in Syria.

"After we launched our operation, we have faced threats like economic sanc-tions and embargoes on weapons sales. Those who think they can make Turkey turn back with these threats are gravely mistaken," Erdogan said in a televised speech.

France and Germany said Saturday that they were suspending arms exports to Turkey over its offensive in Syria against the Kurdish People's Protection Units

Turkey sees the YPG as a



terrorist off-shoot of Kurdish rebels in its own territory, but Kurdish forces as the main ground force against the Islamic State group. Erdogan said the Turkish

military and its Syrian proxies now controlled the border town of Ras al-Ain while Tal Abyad was being besieged from



in northern Syria said that Turkish bombardment near a camp for the displaced led to nearly 800 relatives of IS members fleeing.

Fighting raged but Turkishbacked forces made significant progress along the border on the fifth day of an offensive that has provoked an international outcry and left dozens of civilians and fighters dead.

Kurdish authorities and for-

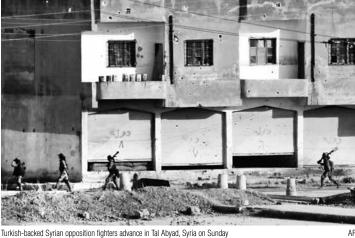
eign powers have warned repeatedly that the hostilities could undermine the fight against the Islamic State group (IS) and allow jihadists to break

out of captivity.
Fighting has engulfed the area since Wednesday when Ankara launched a long-threatened offensive against the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), who it considers "terrorists" linked to insurgents inside Turkey.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper said Sunday that President Donald Trump had ordered the withdrawal of up to 1,000 troops from northern

"I can't give a timeline because it changes hourly. We want to make sure that we do so in a very safe, deliberate man-ner," he told the CBS network.

Trump has been accused of abandoning a loyal ally in the fight against IS after ordering American troops to pull back from the border, which Ankara took as a green light to move in.
The Syrian Observatory for
Human Rights war monitor



reported on Sunday that 19 more civilians had been killed in fighting. More than 50 civilians have

now died on the Syrian side, with Turkish reports putting the number of civilians dead from Kurdish shelling inside Turkey

The Observatory said pro-Ankara fighters "executed" at least nine civilians on Saturday near the Syrian town of Tal Abyad. The Kurds said a female Kurdish party official and her driver were among those killed.

Aid groups have warned of another humanitarian disaster in Syria's eight-year-old war if the offensive is not halted.

The UN humanitarian agency OCHA said the exodus sparked by the fighting had grown to 1,30,000 people and it was preparing for that figure to more than triple.

"We have moved into a

4,00,000 people could be displaced within and across the affected areas," spokesman Jens Laerke told AFP.

Some 12,000 IS fighters — Syrians, Iraqis as well as foreigners from 54 countries — are detained in Kurdish prisons, according to official Kurdish statistics

Displacement camps mean-while host some 12,000 for-eigners — 8,000 children and 4,000 women.

"The brutal military assault led by Turkey and its merce-naries is now taking place near a camp in Ain Issa, where there are thousands (of people) from families of IS," a Kurdish administration statement said.

Some were able to escape after bombardments that targeted" the camp.

It said the Ain Issa camp

was "now without guards" and 785 relatives of IS jihadists had

Observatory reported that a convoy, which included journalists and civilians, was hit by ing organisation said.

Nine people were killed, five of them civilians, the monitor-

trol of a territory 120 kilometres

(75 miles) long and 30 kilome-

tres into Syria, up to the towns of Tal Abyad and Ras al-Ain.

Turkish forces and their proxies captured Tal Abyad on

Friday afternoon, which left Ras al-Ain, further east, as the

last major target in the offensive.

The fighting was intense in and around the town and the

Turkey announced it had seized the key M4 highway, which looks like it might mark the southern limit of its advance in this initial phase of the inner the southern limit of its advance. in this initial phase of the invasion.It lies 30 to 35 kilometres

sion.It lies 30 to 35 kilometres deep in Syrian territory. SDF fighters have taken mounting losses against the vastly superior military firepower of Turkey, which has defied mounting international protests and the threat of US sanctions in pressing on with its

unity in Lebanon hold their party flags, one with a portrait of the jailed Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan, as they chant slogans, during a demonstration against Turkev's military operation in northeastern Syria, at Martyrs' Square in downtown Beirut, Lebanon on Sunday

STABILISATION ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIA Washington: US President nic and religious minority vic

TRUMP RELEASES \$50 MILLION IN

Donald Trump on Saturday released \$50 million in stabilisation assistance for Syria to protect persecuted ethnic and religious minorities and advance human rights, the White House said.

The SDF, a coalition of Kurdish and Arab fighters, was the main partner on the ground

in the US-led campaign against IS. According to the Observatory, at least 104 of its

fighters have been killed since

the start of the Turkish offensive.

This funding will provide emergency financial assistance to Syrian human rights defenders, civil society organisations and reconciliation efforts directly supporting eth-

Britain's Johnson pushes

tims of the conflict, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said.

It will also go towards increasing accountability, removal of explosive remnants of war, community security, documenting human rights abuses and international and support for survivors of gender-based violence and torture, she said.

Trump backs Giuliani, but some aides wish he would cut ties

Washington: President Donald Trump on Saturday stood behind personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, one of his highest-pro-file and most vocal defenders, amid reports that federal pros ecutors in the city Giuliani led

as mayor are eyeing him for pos-sible lobbying violations. Behind the scenes, howev-er, many of Trump's closest aides and advisers, inside and outside the White House, quietly wish the president would cut ties with Giuliani, whose leader-ship of New York after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks earned him worldwide admiration and the moniker of "America's mayor."
Giuliani was a force in

Trump's defense during the lengthy Russia investigation by the special coursel.

Yet the effort to undermine special counsel Robert Mueller led Giuliani to Ukraine, which now entangles the former federal prosecutor and mayor in legal jeopardy and is central to the danger threatening the presi-dency he labored to protect. The New York Times

reported Friday, citing a pair of anonymous sources familiar with the matter, that the investigation is linked to Giuliani's efforts to undermine Marie Yovanovitch, formerly the US ambassador to Ukraine.
The US attorney's office in

Manhattan has declined to comment on the Times report.

Two Florida businessmen with ties to Giuliani were charged Thursday with federal campaign finance violations. Both played key roles in



Giuliani's efforts to get Ukraine to launch a corruption investigation into Democratic presi-dential contender Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who sat on the board of a gas company

On Saturday, Trump deployed in Giuliani's defense the same two-word phrase —
"Witch Hunt!" — he repeatedly used to attack the legitimacy of the special counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election and now the House impeachment inquiry against him. "So now they are after the legendary 'crime buster' and greatest Mayor in the history of NYC, Rudy Giuliani," Trump tweeted while on the way to his northern Virginia golf club.

"He may seem a little rough around the edges sometimes, but he is also a great guy and won-derful lawyer." Later Saturday, he told Jeanine Pirro during a tele-phone interview broadcast on her Fox News Channel program that Giuliani continues as his

"He's a great gentleman. He was a great mayor, one of the greatest, maybe the greatest mayor in the history of New cutor. I know nothing about him

being under investigation ... I can't imagine it." "He's a man that looks for corruption and whatever he does I really believe he's a totally, I mean, I know he's an hon-

orable man," Trump added.

A whistleblower complaint about Trump's dealings with Ukraine led Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to open an impeachment inquiry into the president.

Three House committees taking depositions in the impeachment probe heard Friday from Yovanovitch.

The former ambassador has said she was fired from her post in May after insisting that Giuliani's requests to Ukrainian officials for investigations be relayed through official chan-nels, according to a former diplomat who has spoken with her. The former diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversation. Trump seemed to try to create space between himself and Giuliani on Friday when reporters asked if Giuliani was still representing him.

"Well, I don't know. I haven't ken to Rudy," Trump said as to Louisiana, adding that the two spoke briefly on Thursday.

"He's a very good attorney. and he has been my attorney. Yeah, sure." Asked if he still represented Trump, Giuliani replied to The Associated Press with a one-word text message: "Yes."

Typhoon leaves 33 dead as Japan continues rescue

Tokyo: Helicopters, boats and thousands of troops were deployed across Japan to res-cue people stranded in flooded homes Sunday, as the death toll from a ferocious typhoon climbed to as high as 33.

One woman fell to her death as she was being placed

inside a rescue helicopter.

Typhoon Hagibis made landfall south of Tokyo on Saturday evening and battered central and northern Japan with torrents of rain and powerful gusts of wind. The typhoon was downgraded to a

tropical storm on Sunday.

Public broadcaster NHK said 14 rivers across the nation had flooded, some spilling out

Department said a woman in her 70s was accidentally dropped 40 meters (131 feet) to the ground while being transported into a rescue helicopter in Iwaki city in Fukushima prefecture, ern area devastated by the

for last-ditch Brexit deal Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to brief his Ministers on Sunday on progress in Britain's last-ditch efforts to strike a new

Brexit agreement with the EU.

Negotiators went behind closed doors for intensive talks in Brussels after Johnson outlined a new set of divorce terms to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar on Thursday

But they have very little time to left succeed. EU leaders will meet in Brussels on Thursday and Friday for a summit held under the pressures of the October 31 Brexit deadline just two weeks

They would ideally like to have a full proposal to vote on

But the sides are trying to achieve in a few days what they had failed to in the more than three years since Britons first voted to leave the European Union after nearly 50 years.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel will discuss the available options with French President Emmanuel Macron late Sunday and Johnson is to

brief his cabinet at lunchtime. European officials said the bloc's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier will also brief EU

play on Sunday evening.
The few details that have leaked out suggest a compro-mise around the contentious Irish border issue that keeps Britain's Northern Ireland partially aligned with EU customs

rules.

Whether such a fudge suits both Brussels and the more ardent Brexit backers in parliament who must still approve a deal should become clearer in the coming days.

Johnson rose to power in July on a promise not to extend Brexit for a third time — even

XI JINPING WARNS DURING MAIDEN VISIT TO NEPAL

Any attempt to split China will be 'crushed'

Kathmandu: President Xi Jinping warned on Sunday that anyone attempting to "split" China will be "crushed" as he held wide-ranging talks with Nepal's top leadership here and the two countries elevated their bilateral ties to strategic part-nership and signed a slew of agreements, including a plan to build a trans-Himalayan railway

line.

During his meeting with Devi Bhandari on Saturday President Xi announced a support of 3.5 billion RMB equivalent to Nepalese Rs 56 billion to Nepal over the next two years AP to help the development pro-

Xi, the first Chinese presi-

dent to visit Nepal in 23 years, also pledged to upgrade the Arniko Highway linking Kathmandu with Tatopani transit point - which was shut down following the devastating earthquake of 2015 - and open more customs points facilitating connectivity

He said a feasibility study of trans-Himalayan railway will soon start and China will also support construction of the Kerung-Kathmandu tunnel

During his meeting with Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli on Sunday, Xi said



that "anyone attempting to split China will be crushed and any external force backing such attempts will be deemed by the Chinese people as pipe-dreaming," China's official Xinhua news agency reported.

Xi's comments came as

Kathmandu to rein-in pro-Dalai Lama Tibetans in Nepal. Nepal shares a long border with Tibet and is home to

around 20,000 Tibetan exiles Every year some 2,500 Tibetans illegally enter Nepal crossing Tibetan border on their way to Dharamshala to meet the 84year-old Dalai Lama.

Beijing views the India-based Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. as a separatist trying to split the Himalayan region from China. Oli said Nepal firmly sup-

ports China in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial traditional integrity and stands firm in unbreakable.

cy. Nepal, added Oli, will never allow any force to use its territory for separatist activities against China, the Xinhua report said. Xi stressed that his country appreciates Nepal for its firm adherence to the one China policy and its staunch support for China on issues concerning China's core interests.

Calling Nepal and China true friends and partners, Oli said the two countries have always respected each other, supported each other and never interfered in the internal affairs of the other, adding that their traditional friendship is

GLOBE TROTTING

9 KILLED, 10 INJURED IN GAS EXPLOSION IN CHINA Beijing: At least nine people were killed and 10 others injured on Sunday in a gas explosion at

eastern China, official media here 74 MIGRANTS RESCUED OFF LIBYAN COAST

a street food restaurant in

Rome: Humanitarian groups on Sunday said they have rescued 74 migrants on a rubber boat in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya while Tunisian authorities reported blocking a smuggling boat carrying 110 migrants from setting off for Italy. The groups said six children were among those rescued.

anti-government protesters across Hong Kong Sunday as masked activists vandalised businesses deemed sympathetic to Beijing in

financial hub. Rallies erupted in multiple neighourhoods, with some protesters blocking roads, sabotaging train tracks, and trashing pro-China busi-

Police said an officer was taken to hospital after his neck was slashed. Local television networks also broadcast footage of a man beaten bloody by protesters after they found a baton in his bag and suspected him of being an undercover officer.

Police have increasingly posed as protesters, scoring some tactical suc-

cesses and sparking widespread para-noia among frontline demonstra-

During cat-and-mouse encounters on Sunday officers made dozens of arrests, but there were fewer pro testers than have taken to the streets more recently during the four-month

long protest movement. In Mongkok, a bustling shopping district on the Kowloon peninsula officers burst from an unmarked van over a blockade of bamboo scaffolding and quickly chased down mul-

tiple protesters.

Later, an AFP reporter in the neighbourhood saw protesters beat a woman earlier accused of helping police clear barricades.

The woman was struck with fists and umbrellas, and also had her face

Protesters have increasingly turned on their ideological opponents in recent weeks, while Beijing loyalists have attacked democracy activists throughout the summer.

Online forums used to organise the largely leaderless movement advertised Sunday as a "blossom everywhere" day, encouraging activists to gather in malls across the city.

Protests and clashes were report

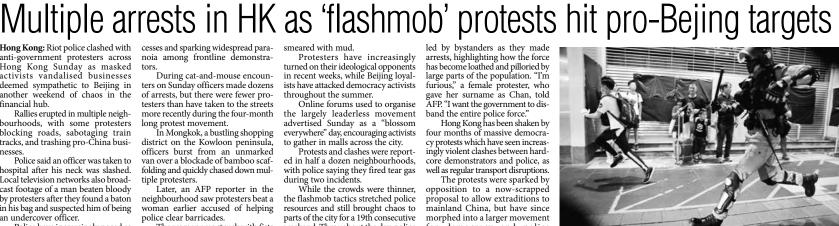
ed in half a dozen neighbourhoods, with police saying they fired tear gas during two incidents. While the crowds were thinner.

the flashmob tactics stretched police resources and still brought chaos to parts of the city for a 19th consecutive weekend. Throughout the day, police found themselves berated and heck-

led by bystanders as they made arrests, highlighting how the force has become loathed and pilloried by large parts of the population. "I'm furious," a female protester, who gave her surname as Chan, told AFP. "I want the government to dis-

band the entire police force."
Hong Kong has been shaken by four months of massive democracy protests which have seen increas-ingly violent clashes between hardcore demonstrators and police, as well as regular transport disruptions The protests were sparked by

opposition to a now-scrapped proposal to allow extraditions to mainland China, but have since morphed into a larger movement for democracy and police accountability. AFP



Police chase a protester in Hong Kong on Sunday



Exciting time to be an actor: Lara

Actor LARA DUTTA BHUPATHI is all set to make her OTT debut in an untitled web series and she feels right now is a very exciting time to be an actor because there are work offers in films as well as the digital platform.

"OTT platforms are providing great content to the audience. Now, all the mainstream actors are working in web series The lines are blurring and now an actor doesn't think in terms of whether he or she wants to concentrate only on films or on digital platform. There is so much content happening. It's a very exciting time to be in





to be told. When a film like Top Gun gets released in America, an entire generation there gets inspired seeing the strength of their Forces. I feel this is an opportunity for us and also a responsibility to show the amazing work the Indian Air Force has been doing.

-Vivek Oberoi

The season 13 of the reality show Bigg Boss has been

mired in controversies right from its launch. Many organisations, including Confederation Of All India Traders (CAIT) have sought ban on the show, raising objection over the concept of "Bed Friends

Forever." Many have alleged the show is obscene and it maligns Indian culture. In the wake of the complaint,

the Mumbai police has tightened the security outside the show host Salman Khan's house.

According to online portal Bollywood Hungama, 20 people were arrested for protesting outside **SALMAN KHAN**'s house.

Being Cruella was fun: Emma

Actor **EMMA STONE** says her take on the infamous villain in the forthcoming Cruella film will be very

distinctive. Set in 1970, Disney's forthcoming live-action Cruella will delve into the backstory of 101 Dalmatians villain Cruella de Vil, and try to find an answer to the auestion. "How did she

aet here?" There will be comparisons with Glenn Close's avatar as the

iconic Cruella de Vil in 1996's 101 Dalmatians, but Stone says the time-line of both the films is different. She says, "It comes long before her

UK-based storyteller EMILY HENNESSEY's narration of the goddess was a joyfully told tale of a powerful woman and her journey of transformation, transcendence and rebirth, says CHAHAK MITTAL

he is naked and intoxicated — dark and dishevelled yet terrifyingly beautiful — wearing nothing but a garland and a waistband of demon heads and a girdle of human hands, holding several weapons. With her tongue rolled out, she stomps on the prostrate body of Shiva, who is also her husband. She is the redeemer of both nature band. She is the redeemer of both nature and humankind. And amid all this, even though goddess Kali's image, with skulls and corpses, represents all symbols of death and destruction, her femininity is incomparable. She presents an answer to the question — what happens when a woman says enough to all the injustice around her? When UK-based storyteller Emily

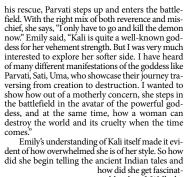
Hennessey single-handedly began narrating Kali's story and her victory against demon Raktabija on the stage at the Kathakar Storytelling Festival, there was a surge of electric energy around, swaving across the Sunder Nursery. It touched each one present in the audience and had them in awe of the goddess' grotesque vet subdued aura. It looked as though she was very much present. She made sure all the eyes were glued to her bewitching narration till she was done. And when I tell Emily that the performance was electri-fying, she exclaimed, "Well, it's Kali! Isn't it?"

She began her act by questioning — How is it possible for a mother to both create and destroy? When she watches young Kartikeya fighting alone in the battlefield against Raktabija, who doesn't seem to be getting easily defeated as his name translates to 'blood-seed', she questions the gods above — Brahma, Vishnu, Indra and Shiva. And they all seem to have been "too busy" in their respective chores as Emily passes a contemporary joke at the right moment. Her story, though drawn from the colourful and ancient Hindu mythology, presented a melange of modern humour and took digs at the contemporary lifestyle

She also showcased the demon ask ing the gods to make him more pow erful by saying, "The world needs demons just like feast needs hunger." And hence, a new demon emerges with every drop of blood that falls off Raktabija's body after Kartikeya finally slits his throat. At last, when nobody comes to

The Kali trance





ed by them? Well, she was 18 when she went to Nepal for a few months to work as a volunteer. "I sold the images of all the gods and goddesses for the first time then. And

somehow, these stayed with

me. I was curious to know what are their stories," she said and added that it grew further when she started working with storyteller Dr Vayu Naidu, who narrated stories from Indian epics. She said, "I saw her tell the *Ramayana*, the birth of Ganesh, and a lot of epics and stories about different Indian gods and goddesses. And that really fed my fascination. Then there were a lot of trips to India too.

She said that her fascination with Indian mythology also grew when she looked at the number of gods and goddesses present. "There are over a million of them. It's extraordinary! And they all have different manifestations of each other. They are very three-dimensional and human because even we have all these different energies with in us. I found these stories so colourful, bright and cosmic and yet full of universal truths. Some of these are even love stories, which are so beautiful. These stories are very close to my heart because they are full of love and colour," said she.

Even as though Kali triumphs over Raktabija, the gods and Shiva ponder that Parvati has drank a demon's blood, which is making her energy omnipresent and she trembles with outrage. Shiva, after a number of tricks to bring back her warmth, finally lies beneath her feet to reduce her angst.

Seeing her consort beneath her foot, Kali realises that she had gone too far. To showcase this, Emily, hitting the right note, uttered, "Oh! What happened to you husband? Why are you lying there?" and acted like nothing had happened. She also questioned the destruction around and when she asked Shiva, he said, "Oh honey! It's a long story."

So how, is it that she brings such intricate emo-

So how is it that she brings such intricate emo-tions so deeply and aptly? Emily said, "Before the performance, giving space for the story to be alive is very important. By not learning the script, the story would come out differently every time. For me, it just has to be alive within me. Hence, I need some time and space before bubbling over. Then, the story takes over and I don't know what's happening. It is the story that's in charge

The storyteller said that she reads as many versions of the same folktale as possible to gain a broader perspective. She said, "Apart from reading various versions, I also ask from people on my visits to India, especially in the temples of Kolkata. I go around asking people to tell me their versions of the same stories and then, piece together the bits of stories that I like the most to make my own ver

Emily recalled the Kathakar festival in 2016, when she saw a performance based on Kali for the first time, which immensely inspired her. "I got instantly interested in the performer's amazing energy. When the goddess Kali came to life on stage, she was absolutely present! There was a huge and powerful fire that they lit up. The performer had seemed to completely go into a trance. His eyes were shaking as though he was completely possessed with the goddess. It was so powerful. I wanted to know what is this power that she has?" she told us.

As her narration ended, after Kali goes back

to being Parvati again, Emily questioned, "And Kali? What happened to her? Where is she?" Later, she answered, "Kali is omnipresent. Time and again, she will come when the moment is right and fight off a thousand Raktabija-like demons in the world."

There are various versions of the same epics but they have all been told through a general perspective or mostly by the men in it. However, recently, there have been authors who have penned the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* through the perspectives of Draupadi and Kunti, and Sita. However, Kali seems new. She has often been misunderstood and not been explored much. Emily said, "It is always important to tell the story of a woman and be aware of the gender inequality that we have had for centuries. Telling the story through a woman's perspective also fights this very patriarchal way of collecting, writing or telling stories. So this is a challenge. I just open my heart and do it. I just let them speak for them-selves as humans and as women."

Well, Emily's performance certainly seemed like a joyfully told tale of a woman and her journey of transformation, transcendence and rebirth.



Runway of the millennials

Young Guns, an initiative to empower the young designers, enabled them to showcase their diverse collection at IFW day 4

gets often last longer than their relationships. Whatever you say about the millennials, the opposite is also equally true. And it is this band of people and their spirit of achieving a sense of balance in their lives that formed the inspira-tion for FDCI's India Fashion Week 2019 day 4. 'Young Guns' an initiative to encourage young designers gave them a free run of

child, drawn to the comfortable fabrics and functionality of menswear silhouettes. Her label, Notebook, gave con-temporary update by reengineering shirting fabrics and tailoring techniques into a line of polished urban uni-forms. Her workwear and casuals were inspired by Indian and Middle-East.

The collection was a balance of sophis-ticated formal cuts and utilitarian details with pops of colour and com-Whereas fashion designer Sameer Madan's collection encapsulated or rather

entraped a periodic transition. He said, "This spring/summer, we make the old meet the new, concocting a melange of renaissance with the cosmopolitan. An emotion as timeless as each individual design. The renegade of fusion folklore as we embark upon this reminiscent journey and contribute our a lit-

 $T^{\text{hey are young yet old in the}} \\ \text{experiences that they shoulder.} \\ \text{They are technologically savvy} \\ \text{yet emotionally distant. Their gadinos ophisticated.} \\ \text{It to ken to the time capsule." His collection aimed to metamorphosise basic into boisterous, simple into sophisticated.} \\ \text{Madan's agen-} \\ \text{They are young yet old in the experiences that they shoulder.} \\ \text{They are technologically savvy} \\ \text{They$ da was to transform beauty into simplicity by engulfing complexity in a way which looks subtle.

From using handwoven fabrics to natural dyes, right down to circular textiles derived from recycled PET bottles, designer Aman Singh fused Indian craft techniques with sustainable materials to create modern wardrobe mainstays. Singh's Bareek amalgamated two distinct craft elements, namely Jamdhani from West Bengal and raided her brother's wardrobe as a Ikat from Telangana. The zany yet sharp collection propelled itself straight out of a self-written

graphic sci-fi novel titled

Intergalactic Luum. Inspired by the motifs reminiscent of old-

school arcade games, the collection featured distant star clusters, exacting aerial battles, mysterious neb-ulas and a certain lone ranger named LUUM, all of which find place in this space saga. He said "Intergalactic Luum will be a prêt-à-porter line that is a distinct sub-label and will be placed in a segment above the label's 'Bareek Essentials' line that focusses on

menswear quality basics,

made of natural fabrics

ranging from Khadi to GOTSTM certified organic cotton." His team works with under-utilised craft clusters, valueadding to their dead stock and joins hands with societies/groups that are known for mastering a particular craft.

Another collection, Beyond the Clouds by Countrymade drew inspiration from nature in the

designs and motifs.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar





MODERN LOVE

An unlikely friendship. A lost love resurfaced. A marriage at its turning point. An uncertain date. An unconventional new family. These are unique stories about joys and tribulations of love, each inspired by a real-life personal essay from the beloved New York Times column. Starring Anne



LIVING WITH YOURSELF

Burned out on life, Miles undergoes a strange procedure at a strip mall spa and wakes to find he's been replaced by a better version of himself. Created by Timothy Greenberg and starring Paul Rudd, Aisling Bea and Desmin Borges, the series will release on October 18 on Netflix



JUST ADD MAGIC

When Kelly and her two best friends stumble upon a mysterious cookbook, they discover that the book's recipes are far from ordinary — magical. Starring Olivia Sanabia, Abby Donnelly, the series releases on October 25 on Amazon Prime Video.



nboo huts with thatched roofs. pen areas with cots and trees in Bopen areas with cois and uses in backyard, walls covered with a mixture of cow dung, dirt and grass, *rangolis* at the entrance, hospitable people with a shine and curiosity in their eyes... all this, and more are noticeable in the sweep of an eye when one enters Mirzapur, recently made famous by a web series.

But while that is the reel, there are But while that is the reel, there are stories of hope, development and progress, which form the warp and weft of the real in the area, which remains ignored as it is imagined, falsely, of course, that the rural sector lacks in entrepreneurship because the majority of the populace is illiterate. However, delving deeper reveals that there are a number of innovative minds who can do wonders when provided the right guidance. And specially given the fact that there is an increase in the number of unemployed youth each year and if there is an emphasis on changing the outlook from a job-seeker to a creator, it can transform the area. Development Alternatives, a social enterprise, is working towards the same goal through its Work 4 Progress programme, which is a platform for encouraging entrepreneur-ship.

The programme commenced in 2017 and since then, it has impacted several lives. We were here to witness that change and ensure that other people could see the transformation in Mirzapur, which is far-removed from the gun and mafia culture perpetuated by the eponymous series.

The journey began from a school in Kantit Gramin village. From afar, we could hear girls laughing, giggling and clapping among themselves. When we

A community programme in Mirzapur has made palpable difference in empowering anyone who has a workable idea to become an entrepreneur, discovers SAKSHI SHARMA

entered, they were so excited to take this entered, they were so excited to take this forward that they all shouted, "Sister, we will first sing a song." This was followed by details of how the programme had empowered them. Manta Yaday, an 18-year-old, said, "We now understand the role education plays in shaping a child's future. Not only this, we are also aware about child marriage and child rights." She recalled an incident where she, along with a group of girls, stood for the right of an underage girl from a nearby village, who was being forced to get married. As she shared this, the classroom echoed with claps from every corner. Another girl, Kavita Patel, a student of BA first year, said, "The programme has empowered us and we feel more confi-dent now. Earlier, we fumbled for words even when we discussed our basic

needs." However, when asked about their parents' reaction to all this, a girl from the corner of the class promptly answered, "Mere papa ab mere dost ban gaye hai (My father is my friend now)." She explained that earlier their parents didn't allow them to study and wanted them to invest their time in household

To solve this issue, an inclusive pro-gramme was conducted for fatherdaughter and mother-daughter separately to make the parents understand the importance of education. Though initially rigid for about six months to a year. they finally understood the need to adapt to the changing times. The transition from the programme was such that the girls who could barely speak for them-selves began fighting for the rights of



others. The ones who had been confined within the four walls were now saying out loud that they wanted to become an IAS officer, a teacher, a doctor or a singer

We then headed towards a clo room in the narrow lanes of the village filled with mud and cow dung. It was Tara Mani and his wife, Malti Devi's home, which was more like a home cum-shop, as it had a bed on one side and machines on the other. They had a small business where they sold vermilion. Tara said, "Earlier, I only made sindoor boxes but the programme has made us aware about the Startup Village Enterprise Programme (SVEP), which provides loan to the rural women to motivate them for small-scale business-es." So Malti took a loan and set up a machine to make vermilion too. She

added, "Our vermilion and its box has a special shine. People from far away come to buy it." As she said this, her head became a tad more alert, her shoulders straightened up and there was no mis-

taking the hint of pride in her statement.

Another entrepreneur was Asha
Devi, a strong-headed middle-aged
woman, whose success clearly reflected
in her personality. Her idea had come to fruitation, which also added revenue to her family earnings. In March 2018, she decided to set up a vermicompost enterprise, which now runs successfulenterprise, which now runs successful-ly and was supported by the pro-gramme during ideation. Today, she even makes profit out of her business and runs it without debts. She said, "A lot of effort has gone into bringing this business to the level where it is today," and made sure that we were made aware about her online presence before we took

her leave.

While the assistance from the programme helped, the people themselves were not lacking in enterprise. The way to Mamta Devi's ice-cream manufacturing unit of Dhannipatti village might not have a proper road as there were was a smattering of bricks on the wet mud to ensure that people did not soil their footwear or their feet but the petite woman had expanded her business to employ seven people. "I am not stopping here. I also want to set-up a chips packaging machine," she said as we all looked at her in wonder. The day also saw a village entrepre-

neurship fair — *Taragram Mela* in the National Convent Public School — where people from all walks of life who had started something of their own were present. Clearly, there is no stopping of ideas.

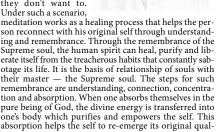
The eternal connection

Meditation and yoga can lead to such a level of remembrance that the soul can relate to god silently and personally without needing any physical image or idol, says Rajyogi Brahmakumar

n spirituality, rememberance is said to be the highest Lstate of connection, wherein an individual recollects their divine self which is the supreme soul. This releases a transformative energy, thereby, empowering the individual for a spiritual consciousness. Most of the people vidual for a spiritual consciousness. Most of the people recognise this need when they want to be more peaceful, respectful and happier in life. However, the human consciousness is so overloaded with negative energies such as anger, fear, arrogance, possessiveness that from time to time this negativity explodes in emotional, verbal and physical violence.

We are so used to the violence in the world nowadays, that we have accepted it as a norm of life. But, there is also an instinct for harmony and peace, deep within the human spirit. That's the reason many people consistently strive for peace and mutual respect.

However, fears and grievances hijack a per-son into a state of turmoil and stress even if they don't want to. Under such a scenario,



To remember the one who is eternally loving, truth ful and peaceful, is called the art of Rajyoga. Traditionally, it has been said that Rajyoga is the most difficult yoga but it is probably the easiest wherein the self, soul and God are understood as a form of light. Though they have separate forms but are united through thought and feel-

This connection with God is based on subtle love and not on anything visual or physical. There is no discrimination on the basis of nationality, culture and religion because it is a connection of pure feeling. For inner liberation, such kind of remembrance is paramount. It is regarded as the truest form of spirituality for cleaning and fulfilling the soul. One should not forget that God is available and accessible to all. You don't need any nosition able and accessible to all. You don't need any position. role or nationality to connect with him instead the only thing that matters is a clean motive.

Yoga has become a very common word today. However, the word remembrance pinpoints the relation-ship with the Divine. A relationship that includes the feeling of a companion. After the soul connects with God, one is able to concentrate on the eternal friend's divine qualities and absorb them within themselves. So, beyond meditation and yoga is such remembrance where the soul is able to relate to God silently, personally and constantly, beyond any physical or subtle image, and feels fully connected and empowered.



Why train your dog with food rewards? A growing body of research says it's the easiest and most effective way

to train.
"Using treats during training is the best way to guarantee that your dog will repeat the behavior you want," says the

American Kennel Club. Other methods don't work as well, experts say, and can even harm your dog and the pet-owner relationship.

Erica Feuerbacher, an assis tant professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at Virginia Tech, did a study that compared a food reward to the reward of petting and praise. Dogs were clear about what they pre-ferred: "They'll work harder and respond faster for food than for social interaction," she

Dogs do love to be with us, but our monkey chatter doesn't mean that much to them: reuerbacher has found that dogs will stay near a person who's praising them for the same amount of time as if they're being ignored.

And if you want your dog obey just because they love

you, get real.
"If only it was like that!" says Zazie Todd, author of the forthcoming Wag: The Science of Making Your Dog Happy (Greystone Books, 2020). "If

Feed a little more

Using treats during training is the best way to guarantee that vour dog will repeat the behaviour you want, suggest experts



your boss stopped paying you, you'd probably stop going to work pretty quickly. You need to motivate your dog too.

Dog trainers also talk about life rewards like getting to play or go for a walk. These can be useful, especially to maintain

behaviours you've already trained, but are more complicated and take longer.

"For most everyday behav-

iours that ordinary people want to teach, food is quicker and easier," says Todd.

"You want to find a train er who's using modern reward-based methods, and that means they'll be using food to train a dog," she says.

Consider the alternatives

that don't involve rewards. Punishment also works to change behaviour. After all, in nature, animals that don't avoid painful experiences aren't going

However, research has shown that using punishment in dog training has serious side effects. "The risks include for a winter and the serious side effects." fear, anxiety and stress," says Todd, "and they include an increased risk of aggression, because the dog may react badly to punishment or the threat of punishment."

It also affects the humananimal bond. One study found that dogs trained with aversive methods looked at their owners less frequently than dogs trained with positive reinforcement. That's the opposite of what you want when you're training. "They associate you with bad things, and become fearful of you" save fearful of you, says Feuerbacher.

Although some trainers use language that obscures this, Feuerbacher says that if you look closely, you'll see that what's actually getting their results is something aversive, like a leash jerk. "Often their 'energy' is a looming physical threat that bad things will hap-pen if you don't comply," she

By contrast, giving a dog food has good side effects. "If you have a fearful dog,

using food is especially impor-tant because it builds a positive association through Pavlovian conditioning with the person providing it, Feuerbacher says Translation: The way to a dog's heart really is through its stom

Some pet owners say their dog won't work for food; Feuerbacher says those dogs might be overfed. Food used for training should be part of their ration of calories, not an addition. So feed a little less to make sure your dog isn't too stuffed to want more.

While some dogs will work for just a portion of their kibble, for most, you have to offer something better. Feuerbacher says, "Break out the spray cheese or liverwurst — people may need to be creative." Research has shown that even dogs get tired of the same flavour all the time.

Also, it's possible for a dog

to be too frightened to eat, so if you have a fearful dog, avoid training in a situation where he's overwhelmed by unfamiliar sights and sounds.

We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world. -Gautama Buddha

EYE DROPS TREAT EYE DISEASES

esearchers have identified the presence of a specific type Researchers have identified the presence of a specific type of antibody, called anti-citrullinated protein autoantibodies or ACPAs, in human tear fluid.

They also demonstrated that patients with dry eve disease experienced reduced signs and symptoms of the condition in response to a new eye drop treatment from pooled human antibodies — that targets ACPAs, said the study published in the journal The Ocular Surface.

"The hurden of autoimmune dry eye is much greater than just having an occasional feeling of dryness, it can severely compromise quality of



life to the point of disability and can compromise a person's said Indian-origin researcher and study's autho Sandeep Jain, Professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago In the study, the researchers identified ACPAs as another cause of eve inflammation that also contributes to the development of these webs, which Jain calls "a vicious cycle of inflammation." The new eye drops treat dry eye disease by knocking the immune system out of this cycle

INCREASED STRESS LINKED WITH ACNE

poor dietary habits, increased stress and harsh skincare routines were among the most acne, according to a study. The research presented at the 28th

European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress in Madrid evaluated the exposure to differe worsening factors on acne on more than 6,700 participants across six countries.

"For the first time, this study allows us to identify the most important exposome factors relating to acne from patier questioning prior to any treatment prescription," said the study's lead researcher Brigitte Dreno from the University

The results showed that significantly more individuals with acne (48.2 per cent) consumed dairy products daily compared to individuals who did not (38.8 per cent).

Surprisingly 11 per cent of acne sufferers consume whey proteins vs seven per cent without acne and 11.9 per cent of acne sufferers consume anabolic steroids versus 3.2 per cent without acne. Exposure to pollution or stress was also more frequently observed in participants with acne.

WATCH YOUR WEIGHT OR FACE CANCER RISK

Researchers have found that being overweight before the age of 40 could increase the risk of various cancers in "Obesity is an established risk factor for several

ncers. In this study, we have focussed on the degree timing and duration of overweight and obesity in relation to cancer risk," said study author Tone Bjorge, Professor at University of Bergen in Norway.

The researchers used data for 2,20,000 individuals from the Me-Can study, with participants from Norway. Sweden and Austria Around 27,881 individuals were diagnosed with cancer during follow-up, of which 9,761 (35 per cent) were obesity-related

The study showed that if you were overweight before age 40, the risk of developing cancer increases by: 70 per cent for endometrial cancer, 58 per cent for male renal-cell cancer. 29 ner cent for male colon cancer and 15 per cent all obesity-related cancers (both sexes).

LIGHT SMOKING TOO DAMAGES LUNGS

People who smoke fewer than five cigarettes a day cause long-term damage to their lungs, according to a search. "Many people assume that

smoking a few cigarettes a day isn't so bad but it turns out that the difference in loss of lung function between someone who smokes five cigarettes a day versus two packs a day is relatively small." said study lead author Elizabeth Oelsner, Assistant Professor at Columbia

University Vagelos College in the US. The researchers could see differences in lung function among light smokers (less than five cigarettes per day) and heavy smokers (more than 30 per day).

Their analysis found that lung function in light smokers declines at a rate much closer to that of heavy smokers, as compared to non-smokers. This means that a light smoker could lose about the same amount of lung function in one year as a heavy smoker might lose in nine months.

According to the researchers, light smokers may have a greater risk of developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

PHYSICAL HEALTH SEEN AS MORE IMPORTANT

Amajority of Indians, at 75 per cent, are preoccupied about their physical well-being, over mental at 62 per cent, a survey by global market research agency Ipsos has

The survey, conducted to coincide with the World Mental Health Day, found 64 per cent Indians believe that is equally important to have both, physical and mental

Indians want a clear shift in the handling and perception of mental illness. As many as 64 per cent Indians want the stigma attached with me health issues to go and they would prefer if it was treated like any other illness. Further 74

attitude towards those with mental illness in the society

The survey also shows a more positive and empathetic change coming about towards those with signs of mental health conditions with 64 per cent urban Indians believe seeing a mental health specialist or therapist, as a sign of strength.



PTI ULAN-UDE

ndian boxer Manju Rani's stupendous debut run at the Women's World Championships ended with a Silver medal on Sunday after she lost the light flyweight (48kg) final to Russia's Ekaterina Paltceva here.

The Haryana-boxer, who was seeded sixth, went down 1-4 to the second-seeded local favourite in the first final of the day. Rani, who turns 20 on Saturday,

was the lone Indian to make the

Manju's run ends with Silver

finals after six-time champion M C Mary Kom (51kg), Jamuna Boro (54kg) and Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) settled for Bronze medals. In

case of Borgohain, it was her sec-ond successive third-place finish. There was very little separating Rani and her rival, both of whom looked to attack in the first round. The Russian stood out for her near

perfect left hooks in the opening three minutes.

In the second round, the Indian connected some good straights and seemed to have the upperhand over the crowd favourite.

The proceedings slowed down in the final three minutes when both the boxers adopted a cautious approach. There was quite a bit of

holding, requiring the referee's

intervention quite a few times.

However, at the end of it the Russian emerged victorious perhaps for her a shade sharper reflexes. The Indian contingent was however visibly upset after the Paltceva's hand was raised as the victor.

camp only this year by winning the

national crown for Punjab after not getting the selection nod in Haryana.

Earlier this year, she won a Silver medal on debut at the pres-tigious Strandja Memorial Tournament, one of Europe's oldest and most competitive boxing

Rani hails from Rithal Phogat village in the Rohtak district of Haryana. The youngster lost her father, a Border Security Force officer, to cancer in 2010.

SINGLES



Joginder Narwal (Dabang Delhi), Fazel Atrachali (U Mumba), Pawan Sehrawat (B'luru Bulls), Nitesh Kumar (UP Yoddha), Dharmaraj Cherlathan (Haryana Steelers), Esmaeil Nabibakhsh (Bengal Warriors) pose with the PKL-7 trophy before the start of knockouts

SANJAY FINDS BRACE IN INDIA'S WIN

JOHOR BARRU: Sanjay struck twice in Indian junior hockey team's dominating 8-2 win over New Zealand in Sultan of Johor Cup, here on Sunday. Apart from Sanjay (17', 22'), Dilpreet Singh (6'), Shilanand Lakra (14'), Mandeep Mor (22'), Suman Beck (45'), Pratap Lakra (50') and Sudeen Chirmank (51') scornet for India while Sudeep Chirmako (51') scored for India while Dylan Thomas (28', 44') notched two goals for New Zealand. It was India's second win in the tournament and they face Japan in their next round robin league-stage match on Tuesday.

UK ROUT SIKKIM BY 253 RUNS

DEHRADUN: Medium pacer Sunny Rana returned with a career-best 5/26 as Uttarakhand bowlers bundled out Sikkim for just 52 to script a massive 253-run victory in their Plate Group Vijay Hazare Trophy fixture here on Sunday. A target of 306 proved too big for the Sikkim batsmen who tumbled like a pack of cards to fold their innings in 21.1 overs with Rana being the wrecker-in-chief and was well-supported by Mayank Mishra (2/2) and Pradeep Chamoli (2/15). Uttarakhand (26 points) jumped to the top of the Plate Group standings with a two-point lead over Pondicherry, who however have

MAHARASHTRA BEAT HP BY 3 WICKETS VADOBARA: Azim Kazi produced a timely half century to guide Maharashtra to a thrilling three-wicket win over Himachal Pradesh in a Group B match of the Vijay Hazare. After Maharashtra suffered a top-order batting collapse while chasing a modest 202, Azim scored 84 off 82 balls to take side past the finish line. After his dismissal, Nikhil Naik (32 not out) and Shamshuzama Kazi (21 not out) played a late cameo to took the side home with eight balls to spare at the Guiarat State Fertilizer Corporation spare at the Guiarat State Fertilizer Corporation Ground. Arpit Guleria (2/24) was the pick of the bowlers for Himachal Pradesh.

22 PALYERS NAMED FOR NAT'L CAMP New Delhi: Hockey India on Sunday named 22 players for the national coaching camp ahead of the crucial FIH Olympic Qualifiers to be held on November 1 and 2 in Bhubaneswar. The players will report to chief coach Graham Reid for the camp that commences from today at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The team is coming from a successful Belgium Tour where they beat the hosts thrice (2-0, 2-1, 5-1) and also emerged victorious twice against Spain (6-1, 5-1). They will take on Russia in the crucial two-match Tokyo (Nympic Qualifiers perty month). Tokyo Olympic Qualifiers next month.

JAPAN FLOOR SCOTS TO REACH WC Q/F YOKOHAMA: Japan's "Ferraris" hit top gear on Sunday as the hosts beat Scotland 28-21 in a barnstorming Rugby World Cup clash to create history by reaching the quarter-finals. Rampaging wingers Kotaro Matsushima and Kenki Fukuoka did the damage for Japan, who survived a late fightback to advance as Pool A winners along with Ireland. The Brave Blossoms will face two-time world champions South Africa in Tokyo next weekend after making it a perfect four wins out of four, roared on by a crowd of

Italy book Euro space

Jorginho, Bernardeschi score in Azzurri's seventh consecutive qualifiers win; Norway extend La Roja's wait

AFP ■ ROME/OSLO

taly became the second team to qualify for Euro 2020 after a 2-0 win over Greece on Saturday, while three-time champions Spain edged closer to the finals despite conceding a stoppage-time equaliser away to Norway.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho dispatched a second-half penalty as Italy, wearing green kits for just the second time in history, regis-tered a seventh straight win in

Group J.

The Azzurri, who failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, added a second in Rome on 78 minutes through a deflected strike from Juventus forward Federico Bernardeschi.

Roberto Mancini's side joined Belgium in the draw for next year's finals, where Italy will play their first two group games at the

Stadio Olimpico.

"We managed to create a team in a short period of time. It wasn't easy but you have to thank the players, who have quickly developed an understanding between themselves," said Mancini, who took over as Italy coach 18 months

"It's a team with character that fights and plays with the ball but one that must also improve. Now we have a year to try and get bet-

"We have a lot of work but we're not very far from the best European teams. I'm happy and proud to have helped the national team come through a tough

patch.
Spain dropped their first points in Group F as Joshua King converted a 94th-minute spot-kick to rescue a 1-1 draw for Norway following a foul by Kepa Arrizabalaga on Omar



Italy teammates Marco Verratti and Lorenzo Insigne stare each other before the start of second half of play during Euro 2020 qaulifiers AP Elabdellaoui

The visitors led when Saul Niguez slammed home from 20 vards moments after half-time but Spain were denied a seventh win in a row as King's equaliser kept

Norway in the running.

"It's a real pain to lose points in the final seconds. It's complicated to play against a team who knew that if they lost they were pretty three games to play. Sebastian Larsson netted two much out," said Spain captain

Norway last qualified for a major tournament at the 2000 European Championship and are fourth in the group, four points adrift of neighbours Sweden with

spot-kicks as Sweden cruised to a 4-0 rout of Malta to reclaim second place behind Spain. Marcus Danielson broke the deadlock on 11 minutes in Ta' Qali and home skipper Andrei Agius also scored an

Ramos sets Spain record

Sergio Ramos broke the Spanish international appearances record on Saturday as he won his 168th cap in a I-draw against Norway to over-1 draw against Norway to overtake Iker Casillas.

The Spain captain was named in the starting line-up in Oslo for the Euro 2020 qualifier by coach Robert Moreno, 14 years since making his debut in

a 3-0 friendly win over China. The 33-year-old was part of the Spain sides which lifted the 2010 World Cup, Euro 2008 and Euro 2012 titles.

He took over the Spain captaincy in 2016 after goal-keeper Casillas' final match. The centre-back equalled Casillas' mark of 167 games last month against the Faroe

"All that is personal is a little secondary," said Ramos after

the game.
"I would have happily traded this 168th cap for a victory. It was not the case. But this record is a great reward after so many years and it's a great source of huge pride. "I am emotional every time

I put on this shirt. That will not change and I hope to continue doing so for many years.

Ramos is now only eight caps short of the European record held by Italian stopper Gianluigi Buffon (176) and 16 adrift of Egyptian Ahmed Hassan's world record of 184.

Romania remain a point behind Sweden following a 3-0 win in the Faroe Islands

SCHMEICHEL STARS

Kasper Schmeichel produced a series of excellent saves as Denmark defeated Switzerland 1-0 to climb level with the Republic of Ireland

ievei with the kepublic of freiand in Group D.

Leicester City goalkeeper Schmeichel pulled off superb stops to deny Granit Xhaka, Admir Mehmedi and Ricardo Rodriguez before Yussuf Poulsen grabbed an 84th-minute winner.

The Danes moved up to 12

four points off the pace but with a game in hand.

Mick McCarthy's Ireland

secured by second-half goals from George Puscas, Ionut Mitrita and Claudiu Keseru. EURO222 Thillies and were left frustrated by wayward finishing from their few opportunities to break the deadlock.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reignited their qualification hopes in Italy's group with a 4-1 win over second-placed Finland.

A brace from Juventus midfielder Miralem Pjanic and goals from Izet Hajrovic and Armin Hodzic pushed Bosnia to within

two points of Finland.
Armenia blew the chance to move level with the Finns as

points alongside group leaders Ireland, who drew 0-0 away to Georgia, while Switzerland are

Liechtenstein substitute Yanik Frick
cancelled out Tigran Barseghyan's
effort in a 1-1 draw in Vaduz.

Neymar limps off in friendly draw

Neymar's return to Champions League action may be delayed after the Paris Saint-Germain forward limped off after just 12 minutes of Brazil's friendly against Nigeria on

The 27-year-old, who played the The 27-year-old, who played the full 90 minutes against Senegal on Thursday, clutched his hamstring after eight minutes and was replaced by Philippe Coutinho shortly after.

Neymar, who was playing his 101st international, is now a doubt for PSG's Champions League meeting with Club Brugge on October 22. He has missed the first two rounds



He was injured while on national duty back in June when he hurt an ankle in a friendly against Qatar. It ruled him out of the Copa America which Brazil went on to win.

If the injury was bad for Neymar

then the result was disappointing for Brazil — it is their fourth successive match without a win.

Their previous three outings since winning the Copa America had yielded draws against Colombia and Senegal and a defeat by Peru.

Even when Neymar was on the

pitch, the Nigerians were causing problems with Brazil goalkeeper Ederson at full stretch to keep out

Gabriel Jesus went close for Brazil but it was the Super Eagles who took the lead in the 35th minute when Moses Simon slipped the ball to Joe Aribo who got the better of Marquinhos before firing

Brazil showed more invention in the second half and levelled three minutes after the break. Marquinhos' header came back off the bar but Casemiro was on hand to stab the ball across the line.

Jesus and Coutinho both had

chances to wrap up the win for Brazil but Nigeria held firm for the

Player coordination will be key in playoffs

The experience of playing with Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League season seven has been simply incred ible and we are very excited to play against U Mumba in the playoffs in Ahmedabad today. The team has gelled very well throughout the season and our hard work has paid rich dividends. We have gone through ups and downs, but the important thing is that all players have always believed in their ability.

We had hopes of finishing

in the first two spots when the team had a long winning streak during the league, but unfortu-nately, we couldn't achieve direct qualification for the semi-finals. However, it doesn't make a big difference for us as we can win the quarter-finals and reach the last four stage. All teams are equal in this competition, so it doesn't matter which opponent we face at whichever stage of the tournament. We will try to do our best in every match we play.

There is certainly a differ-

ent feel to a playoff match. We have to be mentally ready for the fact that we can be out of the tournament after a single loss. We cannot afford to make too many mistakes in the knockouts. These are crucial matches. So, we have to be very careful with the way we approach each and every move during the matches. We will work out our strategies and fol-

low them properly.

There will be a slight change in our training regime for the playoff matches. We have played exceedingly well during the tournament, so we don't need to change much in our game. We will just focus on what we have been doing right throughout this edition and we are confident that we will pull through in all tough situations.

Our captain Dharmaraj Cheralathan keeps talking and motivating us during tight



-PRASHANTH KUMAR RAI

matches. The players of the team have also gained experience as the season has pro-gressed, so all of them have also become equipped to thrive in

pressure situations.

Our offense and defense has been terrific throughout the season. We will rectify our mistakes after every match. However, if I have to point out one aspect which should work on is coordination between the players. I feel coordination on the mat will be the key in the playoffs. The team which coordinates well with each other has been triumphant most times in PKL-7. So, we will focus on talking to each other during the playoff match-

I was in the Haryana team in the fifth season. I have played with Vikash Kandola and Dharmaraj Cheralathan for a few years, so I have a great understanding with them on the mat. All of us complement each other very well. We will try our best to reach the final. After working so hard throughout the tournament, we shouldn't stumble in the last stage. The team has made multiple comebacks in this edition and therefore we are aware that a match is never over until the final whistle.

(The writer represents Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League season 7)

Dutee closes season with 200m Gold

PTI RANCHI

Dutee Chand completed a sprint double in the season-ending 59th National Open Athletics Championships, clocking the fastest time in 200m by an Indian this year with a 23.17 second burst here on Sunday. Having set a national record in the 100m on Friday, Dutee added the half-lapper Gold to her collection, showing

her challenger Archana Suseendran (23.41) a clean pair of heels. The Odisha athlete not only topped Archana's time of 23.18 seconds clocked in the AFI Grand Prix in Patiala on August 16 but also came up with her

own second fastest time behind the 23.00 timed in the Asian Games last Dutee was also adjudged the best female athlete while shot putter Tajinderpal Singh Toor, who broke his own national record on Saturday, was named best athlete in the men's catego-

There was intense competition at the triple jump pit, even in Asian Games Gold medallist Arprinder Singh's absence. Abdulla Aboobacker challenged his Services team-mate Karthik Unnikrishnan till the very last jump in an event that saw the top six competitors cross the 16m mark

Karthik Unnikrishnan, who took the lead with a 16.61m in the third



round, leapt 16.78m on his final try to

Chinta Yadav emerged a surprise winner of the women's 3000m steeplechase, outsprinting her Railways teammate Parul Chaudhary in a time of 10

minutes 11.70 seconds. Railways' PU Chitra was another athlete who completed the double, adding the women's 800m crown to the 1500m title she won earlier this week.

With Lili Das dropping out, Chitra did not have to worry much in winning the two-lap race in 2 minutes 04.59 sec-

Valtteri Bottas jumped from third to first with an electric start to win the Japanese Grand Prix on Sunday ahead of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton.
With only Bottas now able to

overtake Hamilton in the standings Mercedes clinched an unprecedent-ed sixth successive drivers'-constructors' world championship dou-"I'm happy, very happy," said fly-

ing Finn Bottas, who ended a six-month wait for his third victory of 2019 after winning the seasonopener in Australia and the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in April.

"Starting third isn't easy. I had a really nice start, managed to get the lead and then the pace was super good, I could really control the race," he added. "I'm really proud to be part of

the team. A sixth title is really impressive." "Firstly congratulations to the team," said Hamilton, who now leads the drivers' standings by 64 points from Bottas, "That's the main point. I just wanted to bring home good points for the team."
Emotional Mercedes team prin-

cipal Toto Wolff dedicated his team's

achievement to Formula One legend

Niki Lauda, who died earlier this

year.
"We want to dedicate this to Niki because he's just been such an important part from the beginning of the journey," said Wolff.

Victorious Valtteri

Bottas wins Japanese Grand Prix as Mercedes clinch record sixth constructors' title



Winner Valtteri Bottas, right in white cap, and third placed Lewis Hamilton, left, celebrate with Mercedes crew at their garage after the Japanese F1 Grand Prix at Suzuka Circuit in Suzuka

Ferrari had enjoyed a front row lock-out in the morning qualifying session caused by Typhoon Hagibis but that was as good as "Super Sunday" got for them as their race unravelled right from the start.

Vettel twitched before the lights

went out and his hesitation enabled the fast starting Bottas to leapfrog from third into the lead.

Vettel who escaped a penalty for his false start. "It was worse than a poor start. It was a really poor start. With the lack of pace today, second place today was probably the maximum." Meanwhile Leclerc's miserable day was completed by being relegated from sixth place to seventh behind Daniel Ricciardo's Renault.

"It was my mistake," admitted

2-0! India win series

Virat & Co crush South Africa by an innings and 137 runs to seal record consecutive 11th series at home

The Indian juggernaut continued to roll as the hosts humiliated South Africa by an innings and 137 runs in the second Test to clinch a record 11th consecutive series victory at home, here on

The struggling South Africa batsmen surrendered yet again against the Indian bowlers, who asserted their supremacy in all

The comprehensive victory, coming on the fourth day, has consolidated India's top position in the World Test Championship table. India now have 200 points in their kitty, a handsome 140 points away from nearest-rival New Zealand.

Competing in his 50th Test as captain, Virat Kohli has now led India to their 11th consecutive series at home, a world record.

After being asked to follow-on,

South Africa were all-out for 189 in 67.2 overs just after the tea break. Following a superb effort from

the batsmen, it was an all-round effort from India's five-pronged bowling unit with comeback man Umesh Yadav claiming 3 for 22. Ravindra Jadeja (3/52), Ravichandran Ashwin (2/45),

Mohammed Shami (1/34) and Ishant Sharma (1/17) played their part in the comprehensive victory Like in the first innings, Vernon Philander (37) and Maharaj (22)

again came together to delay the inevitable adding 56 runs in 21.2 Once Philander was caught

down the leg-side by Wriddhiman Saha, the resistance was over in a

Insn.
In the morning, the stodgy
Dean Elgar (48 off 72 balls) put up
some stiff resistance before
Ravichandran Ashwin (2/45) snuffed him out, in what was a deci sive blow to the Proteas, just before

After going wicket-less in the first innings, Ishant Sharma (1/17 struck with the very second delivery of the morning, a full-length in-dipper that struck Aiden Markram's pads (0) and umpire Nigel Llong had no hesitation in raising his fin-

The opener had the ignominy of bagging a 'pair' in this Test. However it was Wriddhiman

Saha's superb keeping skills that had everyone on the edge of their seats. He showed why he is so highlyrated in world cricket.

On the third morning during South African first innings, poor Theunis de Bruyn (8) had suffered trying to play an expansive cover drive off Umesh Yadav (1/14 off 5



Indian captain Virat Kohli, center, celebrates with teammates after winning the second Test against South Africa in Pune on Sunda

stunner that left everyone stunned.

Elgar and skipper Faf du Plessis (5 off 54 balls) added 49 runs and

were ready to show patience, especially the skipper, who was present-

However, the ultra defensive tactic didn't work for a lengthy period as Du Plessis got out trying to drive an Ashwin off-break. The batpad inside edge kept low but Saha's

sharp reflexes meant that he pouched it on the fourth attempt.
Elgar, who lost a bit of concen-

tration, tried to play a lofted shot but didn't get his timing right as

Umesh ran back from his mid-off

position to take a fine running catch as India got the decisive

ing dead bat.

MOST CONSECUTIVE TEST SERIES WINS AT HOME							
Team	Series	Period					
India	11	Feb2013-Oct 2019					
Australia	10	Nov 1994-Nov 2000					
Australia	10	July 2004-Nov 2008					
West Indies	8	March 1976-Feb 1986					
England	7	May 2009-May 2012					
South Africa	7	March 1998-Nov 2001					
	make the second district the second second	ALCOHOL TO THE STATE OF					

MOST V	VINS A	s skipper	in firs	t so te:	STS
Skipper	Р	W	L	D	Success%
Steve Waugh (AUS)	50	37	8	5	79.00
Ricky Ponting (AUS)	50	35	6	9	79.00
Virat Kohli (IND)	50	30	10	10	70.00
					Egipal Egyturge

VIRAT KOHLI BECAME THE FIRST INDIAN CAPTAIN TO **ENFORCE A FOLLOW-ON** AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. ENGLAND WERE THE

LAST SIDE THAT HAD ENFORCED A FOLLOW-ON AGAINST THE PROTEAS IN JULY 2008 AT LORD'S

overs) that Saha had plucked from

thin air in-front of the first slip.
On the fourth morning, De Bruyn tried playing a delicate glance after Umesh had drifted on the pads. To his horror, he saw an airborne Saha pull off an acrobatic

Linde in for Maharaj

PTI ■ PUNE

Left-arm spinner George Linde Lwill replace an injured Keshav Maharaj in South Africa's squad for the third Test in Ranchi, starting on Saturday. According to a CSA media

release, Maharaj sustained an injury to his right shoulder while fielding on day two of the second match and MRI results revealed that he will not be fit in time to

play in the final Test match. "An MRI scan revealed that Keshav has sustained an injury to a muscle in his right shoulder. He was re-assessed this morning, particularly with regards to bowling, and he showed significant discomfort in this latter discipline," team doctor Ramjee

Hashendra commented.

"Based on this morning's assessment and the findings of the scan, the medical team feels, he will not be fit in time for the next Test match in six days time. The nature and extent of the injury would mean that he will probably return to play in 14 to 21 days based on his progress during the rehabilitation phase

WE'LL GO FOR 3-0 SERIES WIN: KOHLI



Virat Kohli, right, celebrates with teammates after India win the second Test

PTI PLINE

Sounding a warning to the rivals, India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday said they will not "take their feet off the gas" and will aim for a whitewash when the final Test begins in Ranchi.

"Looking at the larger picture of the Test championship, every game has value, whether it is at home or away, that is the format. So, we're not going to take our foot off the gas in the third Test," Kohli said at the post-match presenta-

tion.

"No one is going to relax at any stage, we are going to go for a result in the third Test and hopefully make it 3-0, that's a guaran

tee," he said. South African captain Faf du

Plessis conceded that India are deserving series winners and his side was found wanting in the con-

"They are very tough to beat at home, their record speaks for itself. We know in the subcontinent your first innings is really important. The runs you put on the board gives you a chance," he

said. "But the way India batted, especially Virat with 250, it takes a lot of mental toughness. Two days in the field can wear you down. Especially that second evening, the batsmen were a bit weak in the mindset. From then it's playing catch-up.

He said Kohli was too good and his hunger for runs stood He was not satisfied with 100, 150.

Umesh Yadav celebrates after taking wicket of Kagiso Rabada during fourth day play

I owe Saha treat for stunning catches: Umesh

Paceman Umesh Yadav said he Powed Wriddhiman Saha a "treat" since the wicketkeeper plucked catches out of thin air when his leg-side deliveries could have gone to the boundary line, in the second Test.

Umesh returned figures of 3 for 22 in South Africa's second innings and the pacer admitted that the credit for his first two wickets entirely goes to Saha for his brilliant display behind the

stumps.
"I think I should treat him for those wickets down leg-side and that first catch, and I think those two wickets are Wriddhi bhai's wickets," Umesh said after the match.

Saha's superb keeping skills once again stole the show. On the third morning during South African first innings, poor Theunis de Bruyn (8) tried playing an expansive cover drive off Umesh but a diving Saha held a sen-sational catch in-front of the first slip. And on the fourth day again, Saha

pulled off two stunners down the leg-side off Umesh's bowling in South

Africa's second innings to dismiss De Bruyn and Vernon Philander. "When you put the ball outside leg stump you think it'll be a boundary, but if there is a little bit chance to convert a catch, we know he will take it," Umesh said of Saha.

Meanwhile Saha, who was mak-ing a comeback in the Test playing XI after being sidelined for more than a year, said keeping against quality pac-ers at nets makes life easy for him dur-

ing match situations.

"The ball wobbles for all three —
Umesh, Ishant, Shami. We practice for that. But ultimately you have to come into the match and do it," he said.

"Our trainers help us out with stretches, ice-baths, and we are trained for the match-day really well, so credit to them for my fitness as well as my wicket-keeping performance," added

Youngsters need to be better than us'

PUNE: There is no dearth of talent in India but the youngsters have a fair idea that they have to be better than the existing bunch of seasoned campaigners to break into the national side, reckons Umesh Yadav. The Vidarbha speedster feels that the current lot has gained rich experience over the years and is setting the benchmark for the next batch of players.

"Most of the boys in this set-up, at least 7-8 have played 40 plus Tests. So when the youngsters, who are coming up, see the kind of hard yards seniors are putting in, it's not easy for them. They know that they need to get better than us to be in the side,"

Can't replace AB & Amla overnight: Faf

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis on Sunday acknowledged that the dif-ference between his team and India in the ongoing Test series has been the "inexpe-rience" of the Proteas as it's not possible to replace world class players like Hashim

Amla and AB de Villiers overnight.
"I think, it's purely

breakthrough.

case of inexperience. I said before this Test series, your best Test teams are the teams with the most experience. When it comes to this Indian team, there's a lot of experience in that dressing room, there's a lot of Test matches

AFP SHANGHAI

6-1 victory over

Victory for the 23-year-

Shanghai Masters final on

behind their names," a dejected Du Plessis said after losing the series and Gandhi-Mandela Trophy.

"We are at this stage where we have lost almost all of our experience. Dale Steyn, Morne Morkel, Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers, all of them were seadon't replace those guys overnight.

"And now it's a new

group of guys, who have played 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 15 Test matches. That will take time. If you take the best players out of any team, they would find the same challenges," Du Plessis explained.

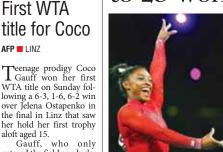
said that as captain he needs to show the way along with Quinton de Kock and Dean

"For us, it is important as a senior player group to make sure that we put in performances ourselves. Myself, Deano (Elgar), Quinny (De Kock), we can't expect other guys to make

runs.

"We need to make sure we make the runs first and the others guys to chip in with us. In a time like this, it is important that your big guys really, really take con-trol and make sure that they put in the bulk of the work," said Du Plessis, putting across his point clearly.

to 25 world medals



Simone Biles performs during Worlds AF

AFP ■ STUTTGART

 $A_{\text{gymnast Simone Biles won} \atop \text{her fifth Gold, her second of the} }$ day, at the world championships on Sunday in the women's floor final to extend her own all-time record to 25 worlds medals.

Having earlier won the beam

final, the 22-year-old also extended her own record of 19 world championships Golds after success earlier this week in Stuttgart in the team, all-round and vault events with the USA.

Biles was crowned world floor champion for the fifth time in her career after winning the final by a full point from team-mate Sunisa Lee, who earned Silver with Russia's Angelina Melnikova taking Bronze.

Her double Gold success

two-hour spell came within a two-hour spell after earlier winning the beam final with China's Liu Tingting,

19, taking Silver with 16-year-old team-mate Li Shijia in Bronze place.

Her victories on the beam and floor makes Biles the most decorated gymnast in history, surpassing the previous all-time record of 23 world medals won

by men's star Vitaly Scherbo of Belarus in the 1990s. This is the first time Biles has finished a world champi-onships with five Gold medals

having said she is "99 percent"sure Stuttgart will be the fifth and final worlds of her The only blot on Biles'near-

perfect record in south-west Germany came in Saturday's uneven bars final when she finished fifth.

Lakshya wins | Medvedev seals Shanghai Masters | Biles extends record Dutch tourney

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen on Sunday clinched his maiden BWF World Tour title by winning the Dutch Open men's singles title after beating Yusuke Onodera of Japan in the summit clash here on Sunday. The 18-year-old Indian rallied

from a game deficit to defeat his world No 160 opponent 15-21, 21-14, 21-15 in a final that lasted

The Dutch Open is a BWF World Tour Super 100 tourna-

In the opening game, Lakshya fell behind early on and could not erase the deficit, despite coming as close as 10-11 and 13-14. Onodera managed to keep his nose ahead and pocketed the opening game to earn the bragging rights.

ging rights.

The second game started on a competitive note with the pair trying to outwit each other. The Indian grabbed a 8-5 lead at one stage but the Japanese clawed his

Lakhsya again managed to move to 12-8 with four straight points. Onodera narrowed it



Lakshya Sen in a file picture BWF/Fansite down to 11-12 but Lakshya jumped to 18-11 and then roared back into the contest.

In the decider, Lakshya came up with a clear strategy and managed to keep his rival at a distance. He led 9-4 before making it 11-8

at the break. After the interval, Lakshya continued to move ahead and slowly marched ahead to shut the

door on Onodera. Lakshya, currently ranked 72nd, had won the Belgian Open last month and reached the finals of Polish Open this year.





The US Open finalist is also able to say that he has finally beaten the German Zverev, another young contender at 22, at the fifth attempt.

Sunday.

This was an emphatic statement from the world number four, needing just 74 minutes to seal the

Roger Federer.

"I think the stadium was full today and you guys are amazing support, starting from my first match," Medvedev told the crowd. "You gave me good

energy to win this tourna-ment. Thank you very much, Shanghai will always be a



has stamped its authority on

quarter-finals. Medvedev said that he is was error-prone, but had a better player than he was no complaints. "As I said yesterday, you at the start of the year, but

are probably the best player in the world right now," the summer. world number six told "How you are playing is unbelievable." The next generation

the Russian has reached six finals on the spin — including the US Open — winning

three of them.

Shanghai with Djokovic and Federer — beaten by Zverey both going out in the

has really sparkled since the Starting with Washington, DC, in July,

Teenage prodigy Coco Gauff won her first WTA title on Sunday fol-lowing a 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 win over Jelena Ostapenko in the final in Linz that saw

aloft aged 15.

Gauff, who only entered the field as a lucky loser after failing to quali-fy, completed a dream week in Linz in front of a sup portive crowd to become the youngest player to win a WTA event since Czech Nicole Vaidisova, who tri-

umphed in Vancouver and

Tashkent two months apart

in 2004. "I'll remember this day for the rest of my life," the delighted Gauff said after receiving a minutes-long standing ovation from

3,000 spectators. "I had an amazing week and I hope to be back in the future.