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CAPSULE

SYRIA WELCOMES INDIA'S
STATEMENT ON TURKEY

New Delhi: Syrian Ambassador Riad Kamel Abbas on Monday welcomed India's statement on Turkey for its "unilateral military offensive" in northeastern Syria, saying New Delhi has a "strong voice" in the international community and Damascus looks forward to joining hands with it for further cooperation.

CBI BUSTS CHILD PORN
RACKET, 7 BOOKED

New Delhi: The CBI has booked seven persons for allegedly being part of international WhatsApp groups in which child porn images were being shared, officials said on Monday.

RETAIL INFLATION RISES
TO 3.99% IN SEPTEMBER

New Delhi: Retail inflation spiked to 3.99 per cent in September mainly due to higher prices of food items, Govt data showed on Monday.

13 DEAD, 15 INJURED IN
CYLINDER BLAST IN MAU

Mau: At least 13 people died and 15 were injured in an explosion caused by a leakage in a cooking gas cylinder at a house here on Monday, officials said. The house in Walidpur area collapsed while two adjoining ones were extensively damaged due to the impact of the explosion which occurred around 7 am.

FOUR HOCKEY PLAYERS
KILLED IN MP ACCIDENT

Hoshangabad: Four hockey players, heading for a Dhyan Chand Trophy match, were killed and three others injured on Monday when their car overturned after hitting a tree in Madhya Pradesh's Hoshangabad district, police said.

Terror funding probe corners Pak

Doval: NIA's investigation, FATF meet building up pressure on neighbour

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA probe into funding of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir has put the pressure at the right places on foreign agencies that are sponsoring terror in the Valley, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval said at a conference to top police officers on Monday.

Stressing on a comprehensive approach to counter terrorism, Doval said to squeeze terrorism curbing terror financing through meticulous investigation is a must. The NSA quoted the examples of NIA crackdown against terror funding in Jammu & Kashmir and action by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to choke such funds.

"NIA has been able to make tremendous contribution in its terror funding probe in Jammu & Kashmir. This action put the pressure at the right place in foreign agencies which were running this," he further said.

Pakistan is under a lot of pressure at the FATF meeting, currently under way in Paris, to rein in terror groups operating from its soil, he said in his address at the meeting of the chiefs of the Anti Terrorism Squads (ATS) held by the NIA here.

"One of the biggest pressures that are coming on Pakistan today is because of the procedure of the FATF, I guess. The FATF has put so much of pressure on them that no other



National Security Adviser Ajit Doval during the NIA's national conference in New Delhi on Monday

STRATEGY TO COUNTER
PAK-SPONSORED TERROR

- To squeeze terrorism, curbing terror financing through meticulous investigation is a must, said Ajit Doval
- Everybody knows that Pakistan is supporting terrorism, Pakistan is financing terrorism, but it must be kept in mind that it is the evidence that is required: Doval
- NSA called upon the counter-terror bodies' heads to collect sustainable information against Pakistan and preserve it for effective use nationally and internationally
- Pakistan is under a lot of pressure at the FATF meeting, currently under way in Paris, to rein in terror groups operating from its soil

action could have been so," he said.

In the present context, no country can afford to go for a war as the financial and human costs are huge and no one is sure about the victory, he further said.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terror financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Pakistan was placed on

the grey list by the Paris-based watchdog in June, 2018 and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019, or face the risk of being placed on the black list with Iran and North Korea.

At the ongoing plenary of the FATF, chances are high that Pakistan will be retained on the 'grey list' as it has complied with just one of the 40 recommendations set by the global anti-money laundering watchdog at the time of its inclusion in the list. If Pakistan continues with the 'grey list', it would be very difficult for the country to get financial aid from the IMF, the World Bank and the European Union, making its financial condition more precarious.

If the investigating agencies could collect correct, sustainable and quotable information, which could be put before the international forums effectively that how Pakistan is supporting and financing terrorism, it would expose the country, the NSA stressed.

On Pakistan's terror sponsorship, the NSA said terrorism is a low-cost sustainable option which may damage the perceived enemies to a great extent.

"A state is supporting a criminal and some states have mastered in this act. Pakistan has made terrorism as an instrument of State policy. That has made it a very great challenge (for Indian security agencies)," he said.

Doval said war has become

increasingly a cost ineffective instrument in achieving political and strategic objectives and nobody can afford it these days because of the cost involved with it.

"Not only is it a matter of money but in terms of lives that would be lost. But more important thing is you are not sure of victory. In spite of the superiority in terms of resources and technology, the Americans could not achieve their objectives in Vietnam and the Soviets in Afghanistan.

"So increasingly, the reliance on war is on the instrument of covert actions. And in the instrument of covert actions, terrorism is one of the manifestations of covert actions that adversarial powers are using it. It is a low cost sustainable option and it bleeds the enemy much more than probably in the war, and that it can be done for a long period," he said.

As the world has become more complex and as strategic and geopolitical relations become complex, a war is no longer an option and that is why the terrorism has increasingly been used, he said.

Doval also underscored that terrorism in India and many other parts of the world is state-sponsored.

"When I say it is state sponsored terrorism, they not only provide training to the recruits, they provide weapons, they provide ideology, they fix targets.

Graded response
to begin today to
combat pollution

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

As the air quality turned "very poor" with the overall Average Air Quality Index (AQI) touching 301 micro grams per cubic (µg-m³), the Graded Action Rapid Programme (GRAP) will come into force on Tuesday to tackle air pollution in Delhi.

When the air quality turns "very poor", GRAP measures include ban on diesel gen-sets and entry of trucks into the Capital, increase in bus and metro services, and hike in parking fees.

When it turns "severe", GRAP recommends closure of brick kilns, stone crushers and hot mix plants, and prescribes sprinkling of water, frequent mechanised cleaning of roads and maximising power generation from natural gas.

The measures to be followed in "emergency" situation include ban on civil construction and introduction of the odd-even car rationing scheme.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said stricter measures under GRAP will come into force in Delhi-NCR on Tuesday, as per Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority direction (EPCA). "The odd-even scheme will come into force on November

Ban on diesel
gen-sets, trucks
entry, parking
fee hike in Delhi

4 and will last till November 15. Pollution levels in Delhi reduced slightly on Monday, a day after air quality in several parts of the city plunged to the 'very poor', Kejriwal said.

Considering NCR as contributor to the rising pollutants in and around Delhi, the EPCA has asked neighbouring States to put a ban on the use of diesel generator sets.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) is the nodal agency to implement the GRAP in Delhi region.

Center run pollution monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR) has put the AQI 'Dark Red' (highly noxious). Significantly, Dwarka Sector-18 recorded highest in Delhi-NCR with 315 µg-m³.

Abhijit Banerjee wins Nobel
for pioneering war on povertyHis wife & fellow
economist is joint
winner; Prez, PM
extend greetings

PTI ■ STOCKHOLM/NEW DELHI

Indian-American innovative MIT economist Abhijit Banerjee, his wife Esther Duflo and Harvard professor Michael Kremer jointly won the 2019 Nobel Economics Prize on Monday "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty".

Banerjee and French-American Duflo both work at the US-based Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) while Kremer is at Harvard University.

President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Sonia Gandhi and a host of other leaders congratulated Banerjee on winning the coveted prize.



Abhijit Banerjee speaks during a news conference at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Monday

"Their research has helped economists better understand how to fight poverty in India and the world," Kovind said.

Prime Minister Modi said, "Congratulations to Abhijit Banerjee on being conferred the 2019 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel."

Congratulating Banerjee, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said he had helped the party conceptualise its "Nyay" scheme to help remonetise the economy.

Banerjee was educated at

the University of Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Harvard University, where he received his PhD in 1988. He is the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the MIT.

In 2003, Banerjee founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), along with Duflo and Sendhil Mullainathan, and he remains one of its directors.

In Kolkata, his mother Nirmala Banerjee said it was a proud moment for her.

Elected as BCCI chief,
Ganguly says conflict
of interest a concern

PTI ■ MUMBAI

BCCI president-elect Sourav Ganguly on Monday said 'conflict of interest' is one of the biggest issues facing Indian cricket since the contentious clause is discouraging the best of the cricketers from getting into the game's administration.

Ganguly himself faced the heat after allegations of conflict of interest were levelled against him for his dual role as the president of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and mentor of IPL franchise Delhi Capitals.

While he has left Delhi Capitals mentorship already, he will relinquish his post as CAB president on October 23 after officially taking charge as BCCI chief.

"Conflict of interest is an issue. And I am not sure whether we will get the services of the best cricketers in the system, because they will have other options to avail," Ganguly told reporters after filing his nomination with veter-



Sourav Ganguly arrives to file nomination for the post of BCCI president at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai on Monday

an officials like N Srinivasan, Rajeev Shukla and Niranjan Shah by his side. Ganguly made it clear that the present rule of 'one person one post' will prevent most of the former greats to get into cricket administration as they also need to earn their livelihood.

Cesu fines its
2 staffers for
stealing power

Penalty of ₹45,200 slapped

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Central Electricity Supply Utility (Cesu) conducted a special drive in the quarters of its own staff at Power House Colony here on Monday.

A squad led by Cesu Chief Vigilance Officer Brahmananda Dandpat conducted checking of the meters in the quarters.

The Additional Vigilance Officer along with Junior Engineers and MRT Squad of BCDD-I participated in the exercise.

During the operation, meters of 20 official quarters and two office premises were checked.

Tampering of meters was detected in two cases. In one case, the consumer was using energy more than its contract

demand. After the operation, penalty amount of ₹45,200 was imposed on defaulting customers. 10 KW extra load was also enhanced.

Departmental action would be taken against them, said an official release.

It said the Cesu is incurring huge losses due to power theft which is above national average. It has enhanced its efforts to curb such power theft and reduce losses.

The Cesu has requested citizens to help in its anti theft drive and pass information on mobile number-9437158670 by SMS and WhatsApp. The Utility has adopted a scheme to reward the informers by sharing of 10 per cent realized penalty amount.

Recently, 10 informers were rewarded with a total amount of ₹ 28,400 on a day here.

For 0.27-acre
land, MCL
gives jobs to 11
family membersAlso 1.1 acre land
for resettlement

PNS ■ TALCHER

The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is going to give permanent employment to 11 members of a family along with 1.1 acre land at resettlement site/ cash in lieu of plot for acquiring just 0.27 acre coal bearing land at Talcher coalfields in Angul district.

A family of late Sridhar Pradhan, son of Chinta Pradhan of Hiloi village under Jagannath Area is being given 11 jobs along with 1.1 acre resettlement plot/ cash in lieu of plot for acquiring 0.27 acre land.

It is pertinent to mention here that now they are demanding ₹16 lakh for each in lieu of resettlement plot of 10 decimal each, which would come to ₹1.76 crore.

Continued on page 4

Mom, sis, girlfriend
helped Jitu in crimeThey were held
after looter's
revelation during
interrogation

PNS ■ CUTTACK



him.

A day after hardened criminal Ajay Sahu alias Jitu was nabbed during an encounter by the Choudhary police and the Special Squad, police on Monday arrested three more persons—Jitu's mother, sister and girlfriend—for being active partners in his crimes.

After Jitu was arrested, he revealed during his interrogation that his mother, sister and girlfriend helped him carry out his criminal plans. He said that these three used to help him sell the items looted by

Based on the revelations, a team of Commissionerate police immediately swung into action and arrested the trio. "During the course of investigation, it was found that Jitu's mother, sister and girlfriend were actively involved in the crimes. They used to guide him, harboured him apart from helping in selling the looted items. We have seized stolen Mangalsutras, gold chains and rings from their possession," said Cuttack DCP Akhileshvar Singh.

Continued on page 4

HC lawyers up against
selection of new judge

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Protesting against the recent resolution passed by the Supreme Court Collegium endorsing a recommendation of the Orissa High Court Collegium for elevation of advocate Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi as a judge of the High Court, the members of the High Court Bar Association here on Monday decided to boycott the court activities.

"The general body of the association unanimously resolved to abstain from the court activities indefinitely; and on Wednesday afternoon, the general body will meet again to decide the next course of action," informed association secretary Sanjay Kumar Das, adding that the lawyers of Cuttack city have also been

Memorandum
submitted to
the HC Chief
Justice

requested to abstain from lower court activities.

In a memorandum submitted to the HC Chief Justice, copies of which have also been sent to the Prime Minister and the Union Law Minister, the association pointed out that Panigrahi has a very limited practice in the High Court and his elevation to the Bench of the court is contrary to the Constitutional provisions of HC Judges' appointments.

Notably, the Orissa High Court Collegium in May this

year had recommended the names of four judicial officers and seven advocates for their elevation as HC Judges. The SC Collegium on October 3, however, endorsed only the appointments of advocate Panigrahi and judicial officer Bibhu Prasad Routray and remitted back the other recommendations.

As the High Court opened on Monday after a fortnight-long Puja vacation, the lawyers met to vent their ire against the appointment of Panigrahi, who resides in New Delhi. The lawyers also condemned the collegiums system of appointment of judges and resolved to initiate a nationwide debate on introduction of a National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) for the purpose.

MO SARKAR INITIATIVE

CM announces infra boost for
M'giri, K'put, N-rangpur hosps

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

After launching the Mo SARKAR initiative on October 2, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday reviewed the progress of the programme and announced infrastructure development activities for hospitals in Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Koraput districts.

For the Malkangiri District Headquarters Hospital (DHH), he announced construction of doctor accommodations and a transit home, a rest sheds for attendants of patients. He also said the hospital's bed capacity would be increased to 200. Bus services from Motu to Malkangiri would be provided



daily for the benefit to people visiting the hospital.

For the Koraput DHH, the Chief Minister stated its bed strength would be increased to 250. This apart, a new ward would be constructed besides the exiting hospital building.

Staff quarters and a rest shed for attendants of patients would be built.

Two new ambulances fitted with lifesaving equipments would also be provided to the hospital.

Continued on page 4

Wanted criminal held in Choudwar encounter

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A criminal wanted in the robbery and murder case in the Gurudijhatia area was nabbed in a police encounter in the Choudwar area of Cuttack district on Monday.

The arrestee was identified as Muna Dehury. He is a resident of Gundichapur village under the Sadar police station in Dhenkanal district.

In the morning, the Choudwar police received a tipoff about movement of Muna in the Choudwar area and conducted a raid to nab him. After spotting the police team, Muna opened fire at the cops.

In self-defence, the police team led by the Choudwar PS IIC retaliated. In the gunfight, accused Muna sustained bullet wounds on his left leg while Sub-Inspector Partha Beura also sustained injuries.

Later, Muna was taken to



the SCB Medical College Hospital here.

One 9 mm pistol, live ammunitions, two empty cartridges and motorcycle without number plate were seized from his possession. Police sources said, Muna was part of a gang of robbers, who had recently shot one Lala Lalit Singh near Nuapatna rice mill while looting cash and gold from him. Singh, who was on his way to Dhenkanal from Puri with his family when the incident took

place, succumbed to the bullet injuries at the SCB Hospital. There are as many as 11 different cases of crime pending against Muna at various police stations in Cuttack and Dhenkanal districts.

This was the second encounter by the Choudwar police in the last 24 hours.

On Sunday, another hardcore criminal, Ajay Sahu alias Jitu, had been nabbed near the Tangi-Kapilash road following an encounter.

‘Govt suppressed Veden gang-rape case for 3 yrs’ Cong seeks stringent action against culprits

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Monday alleged that the State Government had suppressed the incident of gang-rape of three Dalit women of Rupapali village by police and goons under the Veden police station in Bargarh district in May 2016 and demanded that action be taken against all accused and neglecting police officers soon.

State Congress chief spokesperson Satya Prakash Nayak told a Press meet here, “Police personnel raped three Dalit women while taking them to the Veden police station where their husbands and relatives were detained earlier on May 22, 2016 in a caste conflict. On the way they raped the women in the nearby Deogaon

jungle and then handed over them to goons. The goons then raped the women for 10 days in captivity. Though an elder brother-in-law of one of the victims informed the Veden police, Bargarh SP and the Home Secretary, no action was taken. Then the man approached the State Human Rights Commission. Considering the petition, the SHRC directed the Bargarh SP to register a case and conduct investigation. Accordingly, a case has been registered against eight persons, including two police personnel, on September 23, 2019.”

Wanting to know why the case was suppressed for the last three years, another Congress leader Nishikant Mishra demanded that the Chief



Minister make a clarification in this regard soon. He also wanted to know why the police have not yet nabbed those accused person even as two weeks have passed since an FIR was lodged.

“The Government is preaching 5T Mantras much. It should take stringent action against all culprits and the SP and the DG for trying to suppress the case again,” demanded Mishra.

Among others, MLA Suresh Kumar Routray, Jinesh Das, Chinmay Sundar Das and Deepak Mohapatra were present.

B'deshi terrorist group increasing activities in Odisha

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Activities of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), a Bangladeshi terrorist organisation, have increased in Odisha, Assam and Jharkhand in recent past, said National Investigation Agency (NIA) Director General Jogesh Chandra Modi in New Delhi on Monday.

The JMB operatives are carrying out their activities in disguise as Bangladeshi immigrants, said Modi at a two-day NIA national conference of chiefs of Anti-Terrorism Squad and Special Task Force (STF) that began on Monday.

The terror outfit has increased its area of operations in India and expanded its activities to Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, Modi



The NIA has identified 125 suspicious JMB operatives

said.

The NIA has identified 125 suspicious JMB operatives and shared the information with other agencies, he said. The NIA has done an excellent work in curbing terror funding and Maoist activities, he added.

Fast-swimming Marlin fish caught off Dhamra coast

PNS ■ BHADRAK

A 4.5-foot Marlin fish, a rare species considered as fast swimmer, was caught by fishermen from deep sea off the Dhamra coast on Monday.

After catching the long-nosed marine fish, the fishers returned to the Chandanipal fishing base here and exported it to West Bengal.

According to fisheries experts, the rare fish, usually found in the Pacific Ocean, might have migrated to the Odisha coast in search of food due to inclement weather in the ocean.

Marlin, which has about 10 subspecies, has an elongated body, a spear-like snout and a



long, rigid dorsal fin which extends forward to form a crest. Black Marlin is the known as the fastest animal in the sea with a recorded speed of 129 km per hour (80 mph).

Notably, last month, a whale shark weighing 107 kg had been caught by fishermen off the Dhamra coast. They sold the fish to a Chennai-based pharmaceutical company at ₹7.49 lakh.

‘Adopt legal, safe methods to drive away jumbos’

PCCF also asks Angul DFO to follow WSO suggestions

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has directed the Angul Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) to stop villagers of Talcher range from using cruel and harmful methods to drive away elephants and, instead, follow suggestions of Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO) secretary Bishwajit Mohanty for the purpose.

Acting on a complaint lodged by Mohanty, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha also asked the DFO to ensure that

Supreme Court orders are implemented strictly while driving away the wild jumbos.

In his petition, Mohanty had apprised the PCCF that villages like Tumugola, Gurujang and Belapada, bordering the Mahabirod Range of Dhenkanal division, are using hand held tube launchers to fire crackers directly at elephants. Thus, the herds panic and flee towards Dhenkanal area. There are reports of such rockets hitting the elephants singeing their skin, and at least one elephant was found to be limping badly after one such attack on them in September 2018.



“Such crude and illegal methods of driving have not been prevented by the Talcher Range staff though they are well aware of this illegal practice,” Mohanty had written.

He had too mentioned that such methods of driving elephants are against the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Supreme Court orders as well.

To drive away elephants, Mohanty suggested that a coor-

dination meeting between the DFOs of Angul and Dhenkanal along with their local Range Officers be held at the earliest.

Joint public meetings should be held to make people of three villages aware about the illegality and the consequences of such harmful acts.

People's grievances on compassionate payments should be looked into and if dues are there they should be cleared soon.

Government should provide high beam torches to villages affected by raids for use as alternative safe methods of driving away elephants.

The department, if feasible, may consider permanent methods of keeping elephants away from their farmlands by putting elephant proof trenches or solar powered fences, suggested Mohanty.

BBSR's first largest int'l IT convention on Jan 16-18

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Computer Society of India (CSI), the first and largest body of computer professionals in India, held a curtain raising programme of its 53rd Annual Convention 2020 to be held at the KIIT University here from January 16 to 18.

Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Tusharkanti Behera, Kandhmal MP Dr Achyuta Samanta, CSI president Prof AK Nayak and National Board of Accreditation Chairman Prof KK Aggarwal were present at the meeting chaired by CSI 2020 Convention mentor Prof Sasmita Samanta. CSI 2020 Convention convener Manas



Pattnaik briefed about CSI. Organising secretary Sanjay Mohapatra was also present.

The three-day Annual International Convention CSI 2020 is the first largest and prestigious IT convention to be held in Bhubaneswar. The convention under the theme 'Digital Democracy: IT for Change' holds greater significance in the context of the Government of India's effort to improve digital connectivity and taking technology to every stratum of the society.

Further, the convention also aims at highlighting the 5T initiative launched by the Government of Odisha since it is an important component of digital democracy.

More than 1,000 computer professionals and students from all over India and abroad will participate in this convention. Delegates from different sectors including industry experts, educationists, government officials and students will also take part in the event. The programme will have sessions on general speeches of interest, paper presentations and panel discussions in multiple/track sessions. There will be exhibition stalls showcasing emerging products and services of the industry.

Multispecialty hosp to come up in R'kela

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In another step towards the Mo Sankar initiative, Chief Secretary Asit Tripathy held a discussion with members of Rourkela Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) on the issues of trade, commerce and industry at the Lokseva Bhawan here on Monday.

Tripathy advised RCCI to promote diversification in industrial sector, especially non-mineral and downstream industries for creation of more self-employment and job opportunities.

It was revealed that the State's initiative to invite private sector investments in high quality tertiary healthcare has led to



establishment of a multi-specialty hospital at Rourkela. The 300-bed hospital named as 'Jayaprakash Hospital and Research Center' is being constructed expeditiously on 3 acres of land in the city. It will come up at a total investment of Rs 100 crore. Around 750 persons, including doctors and paramedics, would be employed in the hospital.

Hospital Director Sanjay Bansal informed that the hospital would start operation within two months with focus to be

given on cardiac and neuro care. The need for development of a new wholesale market at outskirts of the city; establishment of a smart industrial park near the city; development of Transport Nagaras along Rourkela-Lathikata NH, Rourkela-Rajgangpur State Highway and Rourkela-Biramitrapur NH; creation of more entry points to the city by construction on bridges over the rivers Bramhani, Koel and Sankh; lowering of power tariff for MSMEs and extensions of the running of Hatia-Gorakhpur Maurya Express and Garib Ratha Express to Rourkela were also discussed. RCC president Prabin Garg and former Aditya Mohapatra were present among others.

Cuttack locals oppose polythene raid

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Tension prevailed at Nuabazaar Chhak in the city when locals opposed officials of the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) during a crackdown on polythene use on Monday.

Sources said that a CMC enforcement team was conducting raids at shops against illegal use of polythene in the market in the afternoon when some residents created a ruckus.

The CMC officials seized a truckload of polythene in the area, which irritated the locals



and they locked up an official in a shop here.

On being informed, the Chauliganj police reached the spot and rescued the civic body's officer and began an investigation into the matter.

Japanese centre at Puri academy inaugurated



PNS ■ PURI

An IT and Japanese Language Centre was inaugurated in the premises of CSA at Puri-Konark Marine Drive Road, Balighai, Puri.

Japan Consul General Masayuki Taga attended as the chief guest of the function and interpreted bright future of its students after completion of the IT course with exposure to Japanese language and there by prospect of a global career

especially in Japanese companies in India and Japan.

Puri MLA Jayanta Kumar Sarangi emphasized on the transformation of skill and youth empowerment.

Junichi Sato and Hiroaki Kanauchi of KCCS Career Tech promised the students present to take them as interns soon after completion of the course. Chief of IT KCCS Shinya Kubo inspired the students to support them all through the course.

Left parties slam Centre for economic crisis, privatisation

Hold demo in State capital

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation and the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) jointly staged a demonstration here on Monday over the economic crisis and the privatisation spree in the country.

The parties' leaders said the economy of the country is in a bad shape. The unbridled privatisation of public sector companies by the Modi Government has not only destroyed the economy but has led to massive job losses.

They also said that the Government has accelerated



privatisation of public sector undertakings, which include the ordinance factories, railways, thermal power corporations and the Air India.

CPI State secretary Ashish Kanungo said the Central Government, instead of taking corrective measures for the economy, is dishing out misinformation. The Modi Government is also not ready to accept that the unprecedented economic crisis in the country is due to the demonetisation and the GST, he added.

CPI(M) State secretary Ali Kishore Patnaik said that almost all sectors of the econ-

omy are now collapsing. The economic slowdown has led to unprecedented job losses, with women being the worst victims.

Among others, CPI national body members Ram Krushna Panda, Sura Jena, CPI(M) State committee members Suresh Panigrahi, Rabindra Tudu, CPI (ML) Liberation State secretary Yudhistir Mahapatra, central committee member and former MLA Ramakant Sethi, State committee member Ashok Pradhan, AIFB State secretary Jyotiranjana Panigrahi, Narayan Daluka and Mahendra Parida were present.

Gopalpur port receives first capesize vessel

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Gopalpur Port has received its first ever capesize vessel carrying 105,000 tonnes of limestone. With this, Gopalpur has now joined the list of select Indian ports that can handle such large ships.

The JSPL, one of the Gopalpur Port's major customers, imported 105,000 tonnes of steel-grade limestone from the Middle East in the ship owned by the Essar Shipping.

Notably, the Gopalpur Port has now undertaken an expansion programme, which includes dredging of its channel to enable it to receive large ships. With the completion of dredging, the port is capable of receiving modern, large-size ships that can cater to the



needs of its customers.

“We are very proud to have successfully handled a vessel carting 105,000 tonnes on October 12. In a short time, the Shapoorji Pallonji Group has made significant progress in making the Gopalpur Port a world-class port,” said

Shapoorji Pallonji Port Maintenance Pvt Ltd Managing Director Amit Saboo.

The Gopalpur Port, which now handles cargo with three berths, has a target to increase its capacity to 55-million-tonne-per-annum by 2025, according to port sources.

70-yr-old thrashed by son, daughter-in-law

At dispute over maintenance money

PNS ■ PHULBANI

A 70-year-old woman was assaulted by her son and daughter-in-law over a sum of money here.

Being tortured and humiliated by children, the victim approached police seeking justice at old age.

According to reports, the elderly couple Utsab Nayak and Kuntala Nayak of Amalapada has three sons and one daughter. However, they are staying with daughter as their sons expressed disinterest to keep parents with them. As part of their responsibility towards parents, the sons were

paying some money to them every month.

While elder and second sons were giving ₹1,500 each per month, the youngest son was paying only ₹1,000.

Sources said that the second son Ramesh Nayak had not paid his part of money in past two months for which Kuntala had visited his home to know the reason. When she asked his son for money, the latter along with his wife started assaulting her physically in front of the home. Later, the duo dragged the old woman into the house and beat her up without mercy for demanding money.

Following the incident, Kuntala approached the Phulbani Town Police and narrated the torture meted out to her by her son and daughter-in-law. She also showed



the injury marks on her body caused by the physical assault.

Acting swiftly, police asked the accused son and daughter-in-law to appear before the police station.

Strong action will be taken against the accused persons for torturing the elderly woman, assured IIC Naresh Kumar Sahoo.

Meanwhile, the victim's daughter-in-law has absconded from home after getting police notice asking her to depose before police.

‘India not safe in hands of capitalists, fascists’

Manav Adhikar Manch holds seminar

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Manav Adhikar Suraksha Manch organised a seminar titled “How much safe is Indians’ freedom in the hands of capitalists and fascists” here on Friday on the occasion of death anniversary of the youngest martyr Bajji Rout.

Green Nobel Award winner eminent environmentalist Prafulla Samantra, former Ganjam Bar Association president Bhagwan Sahu and Mohansingari attended as guests at the seminar presided over by manch convenor Abani Kumar Gaya.

They alleged that the



Central Government is neglecting the public sector companies like LIC, Coal India, BSNL, MTNL, Air India and Jet Airway and, instead, promoting the private companies. They severely criticized the Government for waiving of loan of Rs 5.55 lakh crore taken by various capitalists and for planning to hand over 50 railway stations and 150 trains to private firms.

“An unannounced Emergency like situation has now emerged in the country. The current Union Government’s fascist attitude has come to the core. The

freedom availed by people has weakened instead of getting stronger. In view of these, a second freedom struggle is felt inevitable,” viewed the speakers.

Among others, Mohammad Suku, Subash Chandra Sahu, Rabindra Nayak, Nihar Ranjan Mishra, Prafulla Pashupalak, Gagan Chandra Mallick, A Ratna Malrao, Saiphun Nisha, Banshidhar Bhuyan, Maguni Nahak, Maheswar Badatya, Purna Chandra Maharana, Kailash Chandra Panigrahi, S Shambasiba Rao and Jagannath Patnaik were present.

INBRIEF

62 GAMBLERS HELD; RS 44K CASH SEIZED
Baripada: The Mayurbhanj police on the direction of the district SP conducted raids on the gambling dens at different places in the district on Sunday night and arrested 62 persons. The police seized cash of Rs 43,960 and 28 mobile phones from their possession during the raids. As many as 16 cases were registered in this connection out of which five were registered in Baripada Sadar subdivision, one each in Betnoti subdivision and Udala subdivision and nine cases in Rairangpur subdivision.



LEOPARD SPOTTED IN BADMAL AGAIN
Balangir: After a gap of a few months, a leopard was spotted again in the Badmal area in Balangir district, leading to panic among the locals. The Badmal area is spread over the Barni and Thikhal Reserve Forest areas. “The sighting of a leopard again in the area is a sign of healthy wildlife population. We are keeping an eye on the situation and have requested the villagers not to harm the leopard,” said DFO Sameer Satpathy.

OMDC likely to resume ops by April 2020

- Headquarters shifted to Bhubaneswar from Kolkata
- Employees, residents of Barbil rejoice

RAJENDRA K SAHU ■ CHAMPU

The Odisha Mineral Development Company Ltd (OMDC), a Central Government-owned mining company under the Joda mining circle of Keonjhar district, will resume its operations by April 2020.

The OMDC, which is a subsidiary of Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd, had expired its lease since 1995 but the company was managing its operation by controversial deemed extension scheme of the State Government which was said to be a cause of the multi crore

mining scam in the State. However, the company could have resumed its operation by paying the required fine imposed by the Justice Saha Commission, but this was pending since last one and a half years for alleged inefficiency and conspiracy of some senior officers of the public sector company sitting at its headquarters in Kolkata.

After the closure of mines for a very long period, about 900 direct and indirect employees and many other stakeholders depending on the mines were passing through uncertainty since 2009. In the



past, many initiatives taken to resolve the issues and start operation were not successful. However, this time, after Dharmendra Pradhan took over charge as of the Union Steel Minister in NDA-2, a group comprising Mohan Majhi, Sadar MLA (BJP), Ananta Nayak, former MP,

Keonjhar, Dilip Mishra former Chairman, Barbil Municipality, Radhakanta Mahanta, president, BJP, and Chandragupta Prasad, secretary, MATOA, Barbil had met him and appraised the situation how people are leading a miserable life for the closure of a profitable mines.

Last time, during his visit to Bolani iron ore mines of SAIL, some two months back, Dharmendra had a meeting with the officials of the OMDC and SAIL along with the local BJP leaders. Then, he took up the issues with the State Government officials at Bhubaneswar.

Now, the OMDC headquarters which was at Kolkata for the last 100 years since the inception of Bird Company has been shifted to Bhubaneswar from August 17.

The OMDC has deposited the requisite amount and if other formalities are completed by March 31, 2020, the company will resume its operations from April 2020 for which the Union Steel Secretary has also written a letter to the Chief Secretary of Odisha to look in to the matter.

PNS ■ CHAMPUPA

The Mo Sarkar team being led by 5-T Secretary VK Pandian visited the Keonjhar District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) on Sunday.

The team visited different wards and Pandian interacted personally with the patients and their relatives. He asked the patients whether they are getting medicine free of costs or purchasing from outside, how the doctors, nurses and others staffs are behaving, since how many days their treatment is going on, with whose assistance they took admission in the hospital and is the medical kept cleaned or regular basis and other questions.

Then he attended a review meeting and explained the mission of ‘Mo Sarkar’ programme of Chief Minister

Naveen Patnaik, who has put utmost importance on health-care sector to provide best services to the patients.

He also advised the DHH authorities to work in the proper direction to provide best services to patients for whom the programme has been launched.

Among others, Additional

Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mahapatra, National Health Mission Director Shalini Pandit, Keonjhar Collector Ashish Thakre, SP Umakanta Mahapatra, CDMO Dr Ashok Dash and ADMO Dr GC Mishra were present.



Baleswar SP turns good samaritan

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Setting an example by going beyond the call of his duty, Baleswar Superintendent of Police (SP) Jugal Kishor Kumar Banoth on Monday helped a man and his daughter reach a hospital after the duo sustained critical injuries in a road accident.

Banoth was heading towards Oupada by an SUV for a public hearing when he spotted the victims, identified as

Kailash Chandra Sahu and his daughter of Achyutipur village under the Soro police station, in critical conditions on NH-16 near Begunia in Baleswar district. The duo was seriously injured when an unidentified vehicle had hit them and fled from the spot.

The police official took them to the Soro Community Health Centre in his

vehicle and facilitated their treatment at the hospital. His Good Samaritan act has earned praise from the locals.



Cattle smuggling: 2 tollgate staffs held

1 held in Nilgiri bus loot; 3 for running illegal cracker unit

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Two staff members of the tollgate at Sergad have been arrested and further forwarded to court by Khantapada police in connection with the Saturday incident in which it was alleged that cattle smuggling

through this gate was done in connivance with the staff of the gate.

They were identified as, Panchanan Behera), manager of toll plaza, and Sashikanta Behera (61), a duty staff.

On Saturday, two cattle-laden containers had been seized near the gate and cattle were rescued.

The incident while triggered commotion among the locals, it further aggravated after it was learnt that three other containers too passed through the gate without checking and paying the toll tax. Following report of the incident, the Khantapada

police while arrested eight cattle smugglers, these two staffs were apprehended by them after learning about their mischief.

Five containers from Khordha were going to West Bengal when two of them besides an escorting Bolero make vehicle were intercepted near the tollgate by the locals. The police investigation revealed connivance of toll gate staff.

Meanwhile, in connection with an incident of armed loot from a passenger bus in Nilgiri on Saturday night, the local police arrested one of the accused while three others

are at large. The arrestee was identified as Lambodhar Biswal alias Lambu of Gudisolo village under Nilgiri police station limits. The absconding accused persons were identified as Biju Mahakud of Baunsanal village, Japura Singh of Badabil and Madhia Baug villages, Sajanagad. According to reports, these accused persons not only looted the conductor of Bhubaneswar bound night bus from Sarat (Mayurbhanj) on Saturday night by flaunting guns and choppers, they also misbehaved with the passengers.

The conductor, Gobinda

Behera, alleged that they had looted Rs 20,000 cash and his gold chain. Regarding the incident, he immediately lodged an FIR with the police.

In another development, the district police intensifying raids on illegal cracker manufacturing units arrested three persons. The raids were conducted in Oupada, Nilgiri and Rupsa area. They seized a huge quantity of materials from them.

The accused persons were identified as Rabindra Sahu of village Hirapur (Rupsa), Sanjib Barik, Berhampur (Nilgiri) and Mir Mukundpur (Tentulipada, Oupda).

Truck driver falls into river; rescue op on

PNS ■ PARADIP

A truck driver fell into river Mahanadi from the Bhutamundai bridge near Paradip on Sunday evening when he was hit by a vehicle and went missing.

Family members of the driver, identified as Alekha Naik of Khamar village in Angul district, have lodged an FIR in this regard at the Paradip police station.

“He parked the truck on

the bridge and told me that he was going out for attending nature’s call. As soon as he alighted from the truck, a speeding SUV hit him, following which he fell into the river,” said the conductor of the truck who has been detained by police for questioning.

An ODRF team and Fire Services personnel have launched a rescue operation to trace the driver, who was still missing till last reports were received.

One dead, seven injured in group clash in B’swar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Tension prevailed in Katramahal village under the Baliaal police limits in Baleswar district when a person died and seven others were injured following a group clash over a land dispute on Monday.

The injured were admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

One Bhanu Charan Dalei of the village had illegally taken possession of a primary school land and wanted to construct



a house of his own there. When he was going to the spot to start construction work, a group of

locals opposed his act. This led to a scuffle when Dalei’s family members reached the place and threw chili powder and water at the locals. They also allegedly attacked the villagers with sharp weapons.

Eight persons sustained injuries in the clash and then taken to the DHH, where one Rama Chandra Giri succumbed to his injuries.

However, no police complaint had been lodged in connection with the incident till last reports came in.

Kendrapada youth held for iPhone theft in Hyderabad

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Telangana police on Monday arrested a youth of Chandiagadi village under the Aul police station on the charge of stealing 18 costly mobile phones from a shop in Hyderabad.

The accused was identified as Rabindra Mallick.

Reports said a team of Telangana police assisted by their Aul counterparts conducted a raid in the village and

arrested Rabindra after seizing 18 mobile phones.

The mobile phones are of iPhone brand and cost over 6 lakh, said police.

Rabindra who worked as a pipe fitter in Ramgopalpet area in Hyderabad and frequented a mobile shop located in the area had stolen the iPhones from there before fleeing to Odisha.

Based on the CCTV footage of the looted shop, the Telangana cops started an



investigation and reached Aul on Sunday. Later, they carried out a raid with the help of Aul PS IIC Salil Pradhan.

The team later returned to Hyderabad after taking custody of the accused.

Corporate tax cut impetus to solar sector

SWAYAM PRAKASH BARAL

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman slashed down the corporate tax rates, from 30 per cent to 22 per cent. Such major step just before the keenly-awaited festive season can be considered as a game changer for the Indian companies. This tax deduction can be expected to be an analgesic for companies. The decision could make companies more competitive by bringing corporate tax rates on par with prevailing rates in other countries.

The solar industry has termed the announcement, as a ‘big’ positive move. The tax

cut would boost investor sentiment and confidence. The foreign inflows into the equities would rise and there would also outflows from the debt segment.

With the new directives, the companies availing no exceptions will need to pay only 22 per cent. And it will encourage start-ups, companies in the manufacturing space as those registered after October 1 this year and start their operation before March 31, 2023, will need to pay only 15 per cent taxes.

The tax cut would leave corporates with enough money holding in their hand, and the

move in turn could be used in three ways by the companies. Companies could utilise the surplus amount into their businesses, may expand its manpower or there is a possibility that they will be reluctant to make fresh investments in capacity building and so on. Commercial organisations are entitled to claim accelerated depreciation on the capital expenditure made in installing solar systems.

Due to the tax cut, companies will have additional cash in hand which they could invest in solar systems. On the other hand, investing in roof top solar systems could prove

to be double profit for the companies. Commercial solar system would decrease the business expenses.

Lower electricity bills increase the profitability of the company. In this way, a commercial solar system would prove to maximize the full potential of the lower tax rate.

Many corporations demanded earlier this year to slash the corporate tax to be at par with the tax of other south Asian countries. Hence the reform has been widely welcomed by the solar industry as the lower corporate tax rate could positively impact the

financing of commercial solar systems and also encourage investment.

The critics have called it a downturn. But such policy moves are in the positive direction to boost speedy execution of projects and enable Government to achieve its ambitious infrastructure growth target, including renewable energy sector.

The reduction in tax to 15 per cent for new manufacturers will influence entrepreneurs to invest in start-ups and infuse innovation in manufacturing and R&D in the solar sector. This can minimize the gap between rising demands and

domestic supply of solar equipment as the current manufacturing capacity in India will be scaled up.

Further, the corporations could also pass on the benefits to the end consumers.

The manufacturers and marketers will try to attract consumers with pleasing schemes. This in result will convince the consumer and positively impact the buyers sentiments.

As the demand for solar will grow, it will have a direct impact on the GDP growth of the country.

(The writer is an entrepreneur)

Man kills friend in Ganjam; detained

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A man allegedly bludgeoned his friend to death with an iron rod over a dispute at Kaniari village under the Kabisuryanagar police station in Ganjam district on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Kartik Pradhan. A brawl had erupted between Kartik and his friend two days ago over a dispute.

While Kartik was sleeping at the verandah of his house at night, his friend hit him with



an iron rod leading to his death on the spot, alleged the deceased’s family members.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by them, police have detained the accused for questioning and investigation is underway. The body was been sent for postmortem.

IN JHARSUGUDA

Mines closure hits coal output, supply

OPGC units shut

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

A dispute with land owners in the Mahanadi Coalfields (MCL) area has given rise to closure of mines one after another and some mines with less production are going to be closed soon.

Similarly, Lajkura and Samleshwary opencast mines of Ib Valley Area and Lakhanpur opencast under Lakhanpur Area of MCL are counting their days for closure due to no land for mines further.

Production in some open cast mines under Ib Coal Fields Ltd has been seriously affected

due to long standing dispute with the land owners.

Lakhanpur Area mines need to supply coal to Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) to keep it functioning. But, due to decrease in production regularly, OPGC is going to close its two units shortly. Second power generation unit of OPGC on Sunday night was shut down due to shortage of coal.OPGC sources said that out of its four running units, two are old and two new.

According to Deputy General Manager(HR and Admn, OPGC Dilip Kumar Panda said the MCL is supplying only 14,000 tonne of coal per day against actual requirements of 24,000 tonne of coal from Lakhanpur Area of MCL. Due to short supply of coal, it has become impossible to run all four power generation units of OPGC.

Besides, the existing earli-



er stock of coal has also been exhausted by running these units.

Due to shortage of coal, Unit 2 has been closed from 12.17 am on Sunday. If this trend continues, more units may be closed in the coming days,Panda said.

Requesting anonymity, one OPGC officer said that OCPL Manoharpur Coal block in

Sundargarh district is not able to supply coal to OPGC through MCL due to no rail route to the destination. It is said that rail route has been almost completed leaving aside only 1.7 km, which will also be completed, after it is handed over to OPGC for railway line by MCL authorities.

Ubuda villagers of Lakhanpur are not allowing

over -burden (OB) removal since last few days due to non-fulfillment of their demands like job guarantee for their future generations. That apart, demands like job opportunities for those not sacrificing land cannot be fulfilled by MCL authorities.

Due to non-production of required quantity of coal, daily production of mines in Lakhanpur area has come down to 30,000 tonne per day as against 65,000 tonnes of coal as earlier. If the land is not handed over soon to MCL authorities, production will be drastically affected.

MCL PRO Vinayak Jamwal said that as regards 1.7 km land of Manoharpur coal block under Sundargarh district, the acquisition process is in full swing and as soon as possible after necessary clearance, MCL would be transferred the land for railway line.

State sees 9% growth in tourist arrival: CM

Inaugurates 3rd Odisha Travel Bazaar

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a three-day third edition of Odisha Travel Bazaar here on Monday organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Tourism Department.

Patnaik said, “Endowed with some of India’s finest ecotourism hotspots such as Chilika lagoon, Similipal, Bhitarkanika, Satksoia and Debrigarh, the State has witnessed a nine-per cent growth in tourist arrival which is more than the global tourist growth



of four per cent.”

“The Tourism Department is going to organise a month-long mega event titled ‘The Konark Sun City Festival’ with an objective to convert Konark from a day hopping destination to a destination for 2 to 3 days,” he added.

The CM also said that the Shamuka Special Tourism project, a flagship tourism project, is expected to see development shortly. Considering the State’s rich Buddhist heritage, efforts are being taken to position Odisha among international Buddhist destinations. he

added.

Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi said to increase the visibility of tourism potential of the State the Government is participating in many national, international events and road shows.

Tourism Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, FICCI past president Dr Jyotsna Suri, Chief Secretary Asit Kumar Tripathy, Tourism Director Sachin Jadav, FICCI National Tourism Committee co-chairman JK Mohanty and Eastern Region Tourism Committee chairman Souvagya Mohapatra were present.

As many as 26 foreign tour operators from across 16 countries, 60 leading domestic tour operators from across 19 cities, international airline and travel writers, 50 tour operators and hoteliers from Odisha are participating in the programme.

COURT BUILDING ON RIVER FLOOD PLAIN NGT asks for ATR from Bhadrak admin, PCB

PNS ■ BHADRAK

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Delhi Bench, has asked the Odisha State Pollution Board (OSPCB) and the Bhadrak District Magistrate to submit an action-taken report (ATR) on removal of structure on the flood plain of Kapali river at Nalang village near Bhadrak Municipality.

A four- member NGT bench headed by Justice Adars Kumar Goel, issued a direction on September 27 to this effect on the basis of a petition filed by social worker Kalpana Malik ,who has alleged that illegal structures have been raised on the flood plain of the river.

The PSPCB and the Bhadrak Collector have been asked to furnish a report within a month. The NGT has appointed the OPSCB as the nodal agency for coordination and compliance to its order.



Notably, the district has constructed a new building at Nalang where it plans to shift the District and Sessions Court. However, alleging that the construction is illegal, the petitioner had moved the NGT seeking enforcement of its earlier order issued on October 23, 2017 to remove the structures within the buffer and green areas of the river.

The fact reveals that the 14th Finance Commission sanction above Rs 10 crore proposed District and Sessions Judge building within or near-by Municipal area.

Though the administration has made efforts at that relevant period to lease out the required Government land but it was not possible due to scarcity of land within municipal area. However, at last the administration decided to start the construction over gochar land which is situated near the river Kapali in mauza-Nalang.

The local Bar and some social workers, intellectual persons protested the move to shift the court to a country side area, which is near about 10 km from its old court complex.

Naveen greets Habisialis in Puri



PNS ■ PURI

Inaugurating a Habisha Kendra here through a videoconferencing from Bhubaneswar, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday greeted Habisiali women who came to Puri from different parts of the State to observe Kartika vrata for a month from Monday.

The CM wished the elderly women good health and

smooth passage of month till Kartika Purnima.

“Maa Mane Namaskar. Apana Mananku Puri Re Pai Mu Khushi

Anubhaba Karuchi (I am saluting the mothers and feeling happy getting them in Puri for Habisha)” the Chief Minister said in Odia.Getting Naveen live on silver screen in the center, the excited women chanted Hulahuli (a ceremonial sound of Odia women).

Teacher held for raping girl on marriage pretext

PNS ■ BARIPADA

A high school teacher was arrested on Monday from the Sharat police station area in Mayurbhanj district for allegedly impregnating a girl on the pretext of marriage and then betraying her. The accused teacher was identified as Suresh Chandra Marandi of the same locality.

Sources said the accused had developed physical relationship with a girl, who hails from a nearby village, on the promise of marrying her. But when the girl became pregnant, Marandi refused to marry her. Following this, the girl, who is now two months pregnant, lodged a complaint against Marandi at the Sharat police station. Acting on the complaint, the police have arrested the accused.

The medical examination of both the victim and the accused was conducted on the day. The accused was forwarded to court, police said.

BJP holds bandh over Sundargarh CDMO suspension

PNS ■ SUNDARGARH

The district BJP on Monday observed a six-hour bandh in the town opposing the suspension of Sundargarh CDMO Pankaj Patel.During the bandh from 6 am to 12 noon, shops, business establishments and Government offices remained closed.While vehicular movement was normal in the town, educational institutions and emergency services were excluded from the ambit of the bandh.

BJP leader and Sundargarh Sadar MLA Kusum Tete, in a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik appealed to withdraw the suspension of CDMO

Tete in her letter demanded that huge vacancy of doctors and paramedical staffs in the district should be filled up immediately, which she claimed, would pave the way for successful implementation

of 5T in the district.

The BJP workers also took out a motorcycle rally in the town in the morning as a part of the shutdown.Notably, the State Government on Sunday had suspended Patel for negligence in duty. He was placed under suspension on charges of not executing the ‘Mo Sarkar’ initiative of the Government at the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

The move came after Secretary to the Chief Minister (Transformation and Initiative), VK Pandian visited the DHH to review healthcare services.

During the visit, some patients complained that they were being asked to get medical tests done in private facilities outside the hospital. It was also alleged that patients were being provided only breakfast whereas there is provision for meals at the hospital.

IN PURI

Posing as cops, miscreants loot jewellery from women

PNS ■ PURI

Two persons posing as police personnel allegedly looted gold ornaments from two women at CS College Square here on Monday.

The victims were identified as Vinodini Nayak and Urmila Nayak.

Sources said the women were walking along the college road when the motorbike-borne miscreants intercepted them. Claiming themselves as cops, they asked the women to take off their gold chain and

other ornaments, warning them of the presence of looters in the area.

Believing the youths to be policemen, the women removed their gold chains, bangles and wrapped the ornaments in a paper. After returning home they realised that the gold ornaments were missing and subsequently they informed the matter to the Town police.

Police have registered a case regarding the incident and started an investigation.

BBSR revenue asst held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday caught Bhubaneswar Tehsil office Record Room Senior Revenue Assistant Debadatta Mishra red-handed for demanding and accepting illegal gratification of Rs 5,000.

He was caught taking bribe in his office room from complainant Suryakanta Sahoo of Jayapurpatna village under Dhauli PS in Khordha district to process his five mutation case files.

Later, Mishra’s house at



native village Dulani Sasan under Banapur PS and house at Bhubaneswar were searched. He was arrested and forwarded to the court and remanded to judicial custody till October 26.

CBSE ATHLETIC MEET IN RAIPUR

DAV CSpur champion in U-17 category

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The DAV Public School, Chandrasekharapur emerged as champion in Under-17 category in the recently concluded CBSE Cluster-2 Athletic Meet at Allons Public School in Raipur.

All the five athletes were selected for national meet to be held at the same venue in November.

Abhinab Mohanty of Class-X bagged gold medal in 100m and 200m, Sandeep Sahoo of Class-XI won silver



medal in shot put.

The relay team comprising Abhinab Mohanty, Saibab Kumar of Class-IX and Vivekananda Nayak and Aurojit Patnaik of Class-XI

bagged gold medal in 4×100m and silver medal in 4×400m relays.

By virtue of scoring maximum points the school was declared champion in the meet

in the Under-17 category. The school authorities congratulated the athletes and teacher Anand Chandra Das for bringing laurels for the school and the State.

CM announces infra boost for M’giri,...

From Page 1

Patnaik also said a detailed planning has been approved for a composite hospital with 500 beds at the Saheed Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital in Koraput. “In 24 months, the bed capacity will be enhanced to 700,” he added. A rest shed for attendants of patients would come up at the

present campus as an interim measure whereas staff quarters and a transit home would be constructed in the composite campus, he said. Five ambulances and three Mahaprayana (hearse) vehicles would also be provided to the medical college and hospital.

For the Nabarangpur DHH, the CM said the bed

strength would be increased to 200. Besides, a new 200-bed hospital building would be constructed. A rest shed for patients’ attendants would also come up in the hospital premises. The Government has also decided to provide three ambulances and three Mahaprayana vehicles to the hospital.

“Based on the feedback from people and discussion with doctors, the Government has approved the infrastructure support for these hospitals,” Patnaik said.

He also said Government officials have been asked to cover at least 15 districts and take stock of the situations in the healthcare sector.

For 0.27-acre, MCL gives jobs to 11...

From Page 1

With Rs 3.16 lakh to each as building assistance, the total compensation for resettlement will be Rs 2.1 crore for acquisition of 0.27 acre.

Further, if the family opts for cash in lieu of employment, the company would have to pay at the rate of Rs 16 lakh each, which would come to Rs 1.76

crore. In view of this, total compensation for acquiring a land of 0.27 acre will cost MCL more than Rs 3.87 crore.

On an average during the current fiscal, the company is providing one job for 0.35 acre of land it is acquiring in the coal bearing area.

While one job is entitled to a family against acquisition

of two acre land in coal bearing area in other States of the country, MCL, which follows the liberal policy of Odisha State, offers employment to each major member of the family, including grand-son, grand-daughter and unmarried sister, for acquiring their homestead, irrespective of area, with all compensation.

Will do ‘Kaam Ki Baat’, not ‘Mann Ki Baat’: Rahul

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/NUH

Former Congress President and party’s star campaigner Rahul Gandhi on Monday mocked Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s pep talk “Mann Ki Baat” by saying he will do “Kaam Ki Baat”.Addressing his first political rally ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections in Nuh, he said, “We will fight corruption, two crore youths will get jobs, farmers will get remunerative prices,” Rahul said, adding, “I am not here to make false promises. This is Kaam Ki Baat. The Congress party is everyone’s party and we believe in uniting people. And the BJP is doing what the British India was doing -divide”.Slamming the BJP government over the economic slowdown, the senior Congress leader hit out at the ruling party for doing nothing to tackle rising unemployment and farmers’ distress. Speaking in Muslim-dominated Marora in Nuh district, he charged Prime Minister Narendra Modi with only working for the corporates, not the common man.

Mom, sis, girlfriend ..

From Page 1

It might be mentioned here that Jitu was involved in the September 24 loot and murder case of one Lala Lalit Singh near Nuapatana rice mill case. Another accused in the case and close associate of Jitu, Muna Dehury was nabbed in an encounter by the Choudwar police on Monday.

Notably, both Jitu and Muna are involved in robberies, dacoity, firing incidents and have as many as 16-17 cases pending against each of them at several police stations in Cuttack and Dhenkanal district.

Will Cong bring back Art 370 if it comes to power? Modi asks

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH/BALLABGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday challenged the Congress party over Article 370 and asked whether the party would bring it back if they come back to power.


In an election rally in Ballabhgarh, Modi said that when he comes to Haryana, he feels as if he has come home. He said that development in the State was his priority. “Haryana has taught me a lot and so whenever I come here, I feel that I have come to my house,” Modi said. The prime minister also

said, “Development in Haryana and change in the lives of the people has always been my priority. Haryana has got a strong captain and a strong team. Opposition is disintegrating.” He said, “Haryana is the land of the brave.

The state has given many sports heroes.”Modi said the state has helped him grow. Talking about the decisions taken by his newly formed government, Modi said, “You have given me five years. But I have been taking steps and not even five months have passed. I am working towards fulfilling all my promises.”Talking about India’s stand internationally, he said, “World

leaders are standing with India today.” Modi also mentioned Article 370 and said that India was taking bold decisions now. “India is taking decisions which could not be imagined before. India is taking bold decisions today.”

He said, “Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are on the way to development and trust. All Indians wanted Kashmir to be integrated.” He gave the credit for abrogation of Article 370 to the people of India and said, “It is not because of Modi, but the people of India. You clicked the Kamal button and gave me the ppower to take these decisions for you.”



NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Tel. No.06752222092, e-mail id-eerwpuri@gmail.com
No:-Online- 03 Date.10.10.2019.

The Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate tenders through e-procurement for 23 Nos of works for the year 2019-20 in the district of Puri.

- Total no. of works : 23 Nos
- Tender cost of packages : Varies from Rs.8.60 lakhs to Rs.44.19 lakhs
- Class of contractor : As per DTCN.
- Period of completion : 3 (Three) calendar months.
- Period of availability of tenders on-line/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date of opening of tender papers.

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date, time & venue of opening of tender
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Puri.	Online- 03	22.10.2019 at 11.00 A.M.	01.11.2019 up to 3.00 P.M	31.10.2019 up to 1.00 P.M	04.11.2019 at 11.00 A.M. Office of the E.E., R.W.Division, Puri.

6. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in website "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R.W. Division, Puri.

25065/11/0005/1920

127 ISIS-linked radicals held by NIA, TN tops list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 127 persons connected to the global terror group ISIS have been arrested in India so far. Most of the ISIS-linked persons were arrested from Tamil Nadu, where 33 radicals were nabbed, followed by 19 from Uttar Pradesh, 17 from Kerala and 14 from Telangana, the NIA said on Monday.

The NIA has registered a total of 287 cases till September this year and a bulk of it is related to terrorism. The number of terror related probe under NIA probe is 110.

Of the 177 remaining cases, the agency has registered 50 cases for probing insurgency in the Northeast, 48 instances of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), 28 for investigating Naxal-related incidents, 15 for Khalistani terrorism, one case involves human trafficking besides 35 in miscellaneous category.

Terror-related cases under NIA probe, 32 instances are from Jammu and Kashmir, 22 are connected to the ISIS terror group 50 have been put in



"others" category.

In three of these ISIS cases from Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the accused have admitted that they were radicalised by Colombo suicide bomber Zahran Hashim's videos.

The NIA had swung into action only after the Colomobo bombings that took a toll of over 250 persons including 12 Indians in a serial suicide bombings incident.

The Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was trying to spread its tentacles across India and a list of 125 suspects have been shared with different states, National Investigation Agency (NIA) Chief, YC Modi said.

Modi was addressing a meeting of chiefs of the Anti

Terrorism Squads (ATS), Modi said the JMB has spread its activities in States like Jharkhand, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala in the guise of Bangladeshi immigrants.

"The NIA has shared with states concerned a list of 125 suspected activists who have close links with the JMB leadership," he said.

NIA Inspector General Alok Mittal said from 2014 to 2018, the JMB has set up 20-22 hideouts in Bengaluru and tried to spread its bases in South India.

"The JMB even conducted a trial of rocket launchers in the Krishnagiri hills along the Karnataka border," Mittal added.

Common e-toll system across country from December 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Several States on Monday Sjoined hands to pave the way for a common electronic toll system across the country as mandated by the Road Transport and Highways Ministry beginning December 1. States signed an MoU for an integrated FASTag with e-way bill system and also a NHAI prepaid wallet system to enable commuters for a hassle free ride on tolled roads and expressways throughout the country.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said the integrated tolling system will provide seamless movement for road users and check revenues leakage at toll plazas. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Gen. (Retd.) V.K Singh and transport ministers and senior officials from several states were also in attendance.

The Ministry is encouraging States to come onboard FASTag, so that seamless movement of transport can be assured across the nation. For this, Scheme Guidelines for Inclusion of State/ City Toll Plaza under NETC programme (FASTag) was circulated to all

states by Indian Highways Management Corp Ltd (IHMCL).

The Scheme offers participating State authorities/agencies shorter turnaround time by allowing them to be a part of the robust FASTag solution architecture which already supports approx. 6 million tags with approximately daily 10 lakh transactions. Another MoU was also signed between IHMCL and GST Network (GSTN) for integrating E-Way Bill system with FASTag.

"The move assumes special significance due to the fact that from 1st of December this year, toll collections on all National Highways will mandatorily be done through FASTag only," said Gadkari inaugurating a conference on 'One Nation One Tag - FASTag' in the national Capital to roll out the process for having a unified electronic system across the country.

The Minister said that the FASTag is being positioned as the 'Aadhaar' for a vehicle and in future efforts are being carried out to enable usage of FASTag for making various vehicle related payments apart from toll payments, such as fuel

payment, parking charges, etc.

Under the National Electronic Toll Collection programme of the Ministry, toll collection at national highways toll plazas is done through RFID based FASTags. However, collection at State highways toll plazas is done either manually or through other tags. This leads to inconvenience for the road users.

FASTag is acceptable across over 490 National Highways toll plazas and selected 39+ State highways toll plazas. More than 6 Million FASTag were issued till last month, with overall cumulative ETC collection of over ₹12,850 Crore since inception. The total cumulative number of successful ETC transactions carried out is over 5540.67 lakhs as in September 2019.

IHMCL and NHAI have developed the 'My FASTag mobile App' to provide a single one-stop solution to FASTag customers. The App helps linking of bank neutral FASTag to bank account of customer's choice.

An NHAI Prepaid Wallet was also launched giving customers the choice of not linking their FASTag to their bank accounts.

Syria welcomes India's statement on Turkey offensive

New Delhi: Syrian Ambassador Riad Kamel Abbas on Monday welcomed India's statement on Turkey for its "unilateral military offensive" in northeastern Syria, saying New Delhi has a "strong voice" in the international community and Damascus looks forward to joining hands with it for further cooperation.

The envoy also said, "Turkey supports terror and all countries who support Turkey, support terror". He said this in response to a question on Pakistan extending support to Turkey's military offensive in Syria.

Pakistan has offered backing to Turkey in its offensive against Kurdish forces in Syria.

Turkey last week launched an offensive in northern Syria targeting the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces.

India had said it was "deeply concerned" over the "unilateral military offensive" by Turkey in northeastern Syria and asserted that the action can undermine stability in the region as well as the fight against terrorism. **PTI**

INSHORT

PROVIDE SECURITY TO UP WAQF CHIEF: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to provide security 'forthwith' to the UP Waqf Board Chairperson Zafar Ahmed Farooqui. A 5-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, took note of the communication addressed to it by the mediation committee that Farooqui apprehended threat and directed the State Government to take immediate steps to provide him security.

NO AADHAAR LINKING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a petition seeking a direction to the Centre to take steps for linking social media accounts with Aadhaar to check the menace of "fake and paid news". The apex court granted liberty to the petitioner to approach the high court. Advocate and BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, the petitioner in the case, withdrew his plea.

DATAGAMI LAUNCHES SMARTREE IN MUMBAI

New Delhi: System integrator in the Artificial Intelligence (AI), ERP and Cyber Security space, Datagami, launched its IT Education arm, Smartree, in Mumbai. Datagami is a new-age digital technology, consulting and effective business process management service company helping customers align their business with AI, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Big Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Robotics Process Automation and Blockchain.

GOVT'S RESPONSE ON MARITAL PLEA SOUGHT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking directions for formulating a uniform format for disclosing information by husband and wife before the family court for granting maintenance in matrimonial disputes.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Min asked to file status report on crop fires

New Delhi: With the air quality plunging to "very poor" category in Delhi, the Supreme Court on Monday asked the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF) to file a status report on the recommendations of a high level task force on prevention of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

The overall Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi touched the 301 mark by 10 pm on Sunday and during night, the air quality had plunged to the "very poor" category in all the parts of the national capital.

The issue cropped up before a bench of justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta when senior advocate Aparajita Singh, assisting the top court as an amicus curiae in the pollution matter, said that MoEF should be asked to file a status report on this.

Singh told the bench that on January 29 last year, the apex court has passed an order on the issue after the Centre had said that report of a sub-committee of the high level task force on prevention of stubble burning in these three States was accepted. She said that as long time has gone by since the top court's last year order, MoEF should be asked to file a status report about the implementation of the directions as well as the report

of the committee. The bench asked the MoEF, which is the nodal ministry for implementation of the report of the sub-committee on stubble burning, to file a status report within two weeks. On November 23, 2017, a high level task force for management of air pollution in Delhi and the national capital region (NCR) **PTI**



ONLINE RTI PORTAL

Centre, 25 States get four more weeks to file replies

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday gave four more weeks to the Centre and 25 States to file responses on a plea seeking directions for setting up online RTI portals, enabling people to apply electronically for the information required instead of filing applications

physically.

A bench of justices N V Ramana, Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murari expressed displeasure that though the apex court had issued notice to the Centre and States on the petition on August 26, they have not filed their responses yet.

The top court, while giving four more weeks for filing response, made it clear that

no further adjournment would be given in the matter.

The bench was hearing a PIL, filed by Delhi-based NGO 'Pravasi Legal Cell', which has said the Right to Information (RTI) Act is a "powerful tool" and its true objective could be achieved only by timely response to citizens' request. **PTI**

Why alternate methods not being used to settle legal disputes involving Govt, asks Parl Panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As county's High Courts have estimated to have piled up around three lakh cases and lower courts having two to three crore pending cases, members of a parliamentary panel on Monday sought to know from top law Ministry officials as to why alternate methods are not being used to resolve legal disputes, particularly those involving Government as a litigant.

Members also asked about the number of cases in which the government is the litigant and sought detailed response from the Department of Legal Affairs in the form of a questionnaire to be sent to the department. Government is reportedly the largest litigant in the courts.

Law Secretary (Department of Legal Affairs) Alok Shrivastava made presentations on functioning of the department and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in a meeting on Monday before the Parliament's standing committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

The 30-member parliamentary standing committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, which has MPs from across the party lines is headed by BJP's Rajya Sabha member Bhupender Yadav. Sources quoted a member asking the secretary Legal Affairs that if it is true that the Government is the major litigant, then why not alternate methods of resolving disputes involving the Government to dent huge pendency of case were being taken.

Seven booked for sharing child porn on WhatsApp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked seven persons for allegedly being part of international WhatsApp groups in which child porn images were being shared.

The case was registered after a Preliminary Enquiry on the basis of an a note verbale (diplomatic communication) received from the German Embassy here to the the International Police Cooperation Cell (IPCC) of the CBI on January 31, 2019.

Germany had informed the CBI about child porn convict Sasche Treppke, who was sentenced to five years in prison in that country for involvement in sexual abuse of children and distributing child pornography.

The PE revealed that he was part of 29 WhatsApp groups where child porn was being shared. These groups have

seven Indian mobile numbers and all the seven persons having these numbers have been booked by the CBI, officials said. In early 2018, the agency had launched a worldwide probe into a child pornography case with help from Interpol.

The agency had approached 40 countries in probing details of mobile phone owners who were part of a WhatsApp group, in which certain inappropriate images and videos were being shared.

As many as 234 members were there in the "child pornography group" comprising 66 Indian numbers, 56 Pakistanis, 29 from the US and the remaining from 37 other countries.

The agency had sent a reference to these countries through Interpol and some of them have been sharing information related to the users.

PM Modi holds talks with King, Queen of Netherlands

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 14 held talks with King of the Netherlands Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima with a focus on enhancing bilateral, cultural, and economic ties between the two countries.

The royal couple, accompanied by a large delegation of ministers, officials and top Dutch business honchos, arrived on October 13 on a five-day visit. It is King Alexander's first State visit to India, following his ascension to the throne in 2013.

In their talks, the Prime Minister and the royal couple broadly reviewed the overall bilateral ties and touched upon possible areas of deepening cooperation between the two nations, officials said.

Earlier in the day, the King and the Queen were accorded



a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The royal couple will also visit Mumbai and Kochi.

The ties between India and the Netherlands have been on an upswing in the last few years. India and the Netherlands have a bilateral trade turnover of \$12.87 billion in 2018-19. The Netherlands is the fifth largest investor in India with a cumulative investment of \$23 billion for the period 2000 to 2017. **PTI**

Five Punjab cops in jail for militancy-era crimes to be freed

New Delhi: Five police personnel, undergoing life sentence for offences committed during militancy in Punjab, will be released from jails after the Centre approved a proposal of the State Government in this effect, officials said.

The decision came a fortnight after the Union Home Ministry decided to release eight Sikh prisoners, lodged in different jails in the country for committing crimes during the militancy in Punjab.

"The government of India has accepted the request of the government of Punjab for grant of special remission and release of five Punjab Police personnel undergoing sentence in different jails in Punjab for offences committed during militancy period in Punjab," a Home Ministry official said. **PTI**

Concession soon in fares for students, senior citizens in Delhi Metro: Min

New Delhi: The Central Government will soon announce concession in Delhi Metro fares for students and senior citizens as a technology-based solution has been found to implement the same, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

In an interview to PTI, the Union housing and urban affairs Minister said that the relief can also be extended to passengers of other categories, but it would be need-based. Currently, no discount on fares is offered for any category of passengers on the Delhi Metro. "We are ready with technology-based solution to provide relief to students and senior citizens travelling on metro trains. The Central Government will implement it appropriately," Puri said. **PTI**

Govt finalises members of NMC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Monday finalised the much-awaited names of 25 members of the National Medical Commission (NMC) that will replace the Medical Council of India (MCI), through a draw of lots from the nominations sent by the State Governments, Union territories and State medical councils.

Once the NMC comes into being, the MCI will automatically get dissolved and the nearly 63-year-old Indian Medical Council Act will stand abolished.

The exercise of selecting the 25 members took place in the presence mediapersons, who participated in the entire process, which was video-graphed.

"Today, 25 part-time members, including 10 vice-chancellors (VCs) from different states, nine representatives from the State Medical Councils (SMCs) and four members for the four autonomous boards, were selected," Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said. "We had nine months to

select the members of the NMC and within a short span of two months, we have framed the rules, notified those and also carried out the process of selection of the part-time members. To ensure probity and integrity of the highest order, a compact body is being selected through a transparent mechanism and representation of the states and state councils in rotation. This will facilitate faster decision making also," he added.

He said the inclusion of members from a diverse background for balanced policy prescriptions was also being ensured.

The four boards to be set up under the NMC Act are the Under-Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB), the Post-Graduate Medical Education Board (PGMEB), the Medical Assessment and Rating Board and the Ethics and Medical Registration Board.

During the lottery, 10 VCs from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Punjab and Haryana were selected.

Those selected include Professor Rajendra Pandey, VC of the West Bengal University of Health Sciences, Himanshu A Pandya, VC of the Gujarat University, Professor Mahesh Verma, VC of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi, Rajababu Panwar, VC of the Rajasthan University of Health Sciences and Raj Bahadur, VC of the Baba Farid University of Health Sciences in Punjab's Faridkot among others.

Following the same procedure, nine representatives from the SMCs of Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Kerala, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Manipur were selected.

In the third segment of the draw of lots, four members from Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland and Madhya Pradesh, who will serve as part-time members for the autonomous boards, were selected.

Bihar to pay medical bills of babu soon

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bihar Government submitted before the Delhi High Court early this month that the process for payment of Jitendra Gupta, the 2013-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, is underway and in consideration at PMCH and will be paid to Gupta before the next hearing, which is November 11, 2019.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet is yet to decide about his posting despite the Delhi High Court's August 4 deadline.

Gupta had to go to multiple hospitalisation, including at AIIMS. The Supreme Court, Delhi High Court and CAT have simultaneously exonerated the officer of all charges framed against him and directed the Nitish Kumar Government to pay the entire backlog salary and foot the medical bill expenses.

Fearing his postings in Bihar, Gupta plead to judiciary, Centre and the State requesting a care transfer.

The Delhi High Court had rebuked the Nitish Kumar Government for "humiliating, harassing" Gupta.

BSF protests non-inclusion of marching contingent in Republic Day parade 2020

New Delhi: The Border Security Force (BSF), that guards important Indian borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, has protested non-inclusion of its marching contingent in the Republic Day parade to be held at the Rajpath in January next year, official sources said on Monday.

An official order issued by the Union home ministry early this month has been accessed by PTI and it said that only the marching and band contingents of the Central Reserve Police Force, Central Industrial Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Delhi Police will be part of the Republic Day parade-2020 to be held on January 26.

The BSF has been asked to only send its camel contingent and camel-mounted band team.

"The BSF has taken up the issue with the home ministry. It is being considered," a senior home ministry official said on the condition of anonymity.

Official sources in the force said the BSF marching contingent was not given a slot in the parade that was held this year in January and despite representation made by the border



guarding force, the contingent was not included.

The Republic Day parade is an esteemed event and troops and officers of various uniformed forces take pride in showcasing their ceremonial best at the event that showcases the defence, security, development and cultural prowess of the country.

The about 2.5 lakh personnel strong BSF is tasked to guard India's terror and infiltration prone border with Pakistan, the crime-sensitive frontier with Bangladesh and is also deployed to render a number of tasks in the internal security domain of the country.

Last year, amongst the

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), both CISF and CRPF were kept out of the January 26 event while the contingents of ITBP, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and BSF participated in the parade.

These squads, dressed in their best official and ceremonial regalia, march down the citadel of power at Raisina Hills in central Delhi to the 17th century-built monument Red Fort as per tradition.

The Government, in April 2017, had told Parliament that this random exclusion of the CAPF contingents was being done due to "time constraints" during the annual parade. **PTI**

BSF seeks modern anti-drone system



New Delhi: The Border Security Force (BSF) has sought a modern "anti-drone system" that could detect and destroy a lone or swarm of suspicious aerial platforms in the operations areas, in the wake of recent spurt of UAVs being spotted across the India-Pakistan international border. A full drone detection system will have radars, radio frequency receivers, jammers and system controllers to neutralise all Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). **PTI**

Mobile phone services restored in Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Peaceful precincts across Kashmir valley Monday reverberated with buzzing sounds of different 'ringtones' after a gap of 71 long days, bringing back smiles on the faces of common people, including businessmen, students and tour operators.

Large number of people, staying away from Kashmir, especially those who had failed to get connected with their loved ones in the absence of land line facilities, finally heard their parents speak, children 'giggle' after a long gap.

Rough estimates suggested around 40 lakh post paid subscribers across Kashmir valley were connected to the outside world.

Mobile calling facility was suspended across all the net-

works since August 5 when Home Minister Amit Shah announced the Government's decision to nullify Article 370 to strip Jammu & Kashmir of its special status, and also bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

Since morning, every one was seen hooked on to their mobile phones and struggling to get connected as the authorities had announced that the services would be restored around 12.00 p.m. Initially the network was slow but as the day progressed people started talking to each other freely and exchanged greetings.

Despite shutdown, most of the streets, wore a festive look across different parts of Srinagar and other district headquarters following restoration of mobile calling facilities.

Tour operators in Kashmir valley are looking forward to fresh arrival of tourists in the coming days following restora-



A woman talks to her son, in Srinagar on Monday

PTI

tion of mobile calling facility. Security forces are also expecting to intensify their counter terrorist operations across Kashmir valley on receipt of real time information from different 'sources'.

Since August 5, total incidents of militant related violence had come down drastically.

Students, staying away from their classes and gearing up for their competitive exams,

are also expected to resume their studies with a positive frame of mind to make up for the loss of two months of class room studies. Health care providers also heaved a sigh of relief as they were facing lot of hardships in the absence of communication facilities in providing best facilities to their patients.

In Kathua, Governor Satya Pal Malik defended the communication blockade in the

Valley saying safety of Kashmiris was more important than mobile services which the terrorists use for their activities and mobilisation.

"People used to make noise that there is no telephone. We stopped telephone services because terrorists were using them for their activities, mobilisation and indoctrination," Malik said at a police function here.

"For us, the life of a Kashmiri was important and not telephone. People were living without telephones earlier also," he added.

Asserting that mobile phone services were restored now, he said people can go about their normal lives and claimed that tourists had begun arriving in the Valley.

He also ensured that internet services will soon be restored.

"Young boys and girls were having difficulties earlier but

now they can speak to each other. Now, there are no issues. Very soon, we will restore internet services," he remarked.

The Governor said that the situation in Kashmir was normal and there had been no violence in the last more than two months.

He said in the last two months, "not a single bullet" was fired in the Valley and no protests had taken place as he credited the security forces for their strict vigil.

"The Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) had congratulated me for this. I said that I am not worthy of the praise and you should thank the Kashmiri people and the police forces for taking steps to ensure that law and order is maintained," Malik said.

He termed the J&K Police as one of the best police force in the country and promised to increase the compensation amount offered to them.

Prohibitory orders clamped in Ayodhya

PTI ■ AYODHYA

Prohibitory orders under section 144 have been clamped in Ayodhya as the Supreme Court's revised deadline for wrapping up the proceedings in the sensitive Ram Janmabhoomi—Babri Masjid land dispute case approaches.

The prohibitory orders will continue till December 10, officials said.

Posting the order on his official Twitter account, District Magistrate Anuj Kumar Jha said, "The order has been issued considering safety and security of Ayodhya and those visiting here as Govt's paramount concerns."

He added, "I must add that already there is another order in force since 31.08.2019 covering aspects of unlawful assemblies and undesirable activities. The order dated



12.10.2019 has been issued to cover a couple of points which were not there in the earlier order."

The administration has also demanded a large number of security forces to maintain law and order and communal harmony.

Jha told PTI that the order also restricts drones, unmanned aerial vehicle for filming and shooting inside Ayodhya. The sale and purchase of crackers will not be allowed on the occasion of Diwali without permission of the magistrate.

13 dead, 15 hurt in cooking gas cylinder blast

PTI ■ MAU (UP)

At least 13 people died and 15 were injured in an explosion caused by a leakage in a cooking gas cylinder at a house here on Monday, officials said.

The house in Walidpur area collapsed while two adjoining ones were extensively damaged due to the impact of the explosion which occurred around 7 am, police said.

The loud bang shook the neighbourhood, prompting people to rush out of their homes in panic.

The blast took place at the house of Chhotu Vishwakarma, who died around ten years ago. His widow and five daughters were staying in the house, the police said.

Chhotu's three daughters — Mona (20), Mamta (18) and Sanjana (15) — died while the remaining family members are missing, they said.

Prima facie, the blast was triggered by a possible leakage in the cooking



gas cylinder, Inspector General (Law and Order) Praveen Kumar said in Lucknow.

Due to the intensity of the blast, the roof of the house collapsed. Two adjacent houses were also badly damaged, he said, citing the initial report by Mau superintendent of police (SP) Anurag Arya. Four family members of Kanhaiya Vishwakarma, whose house stood next to Chhotu's, also died in the blast, the police said.

They said it was not immediately known how the deceased — Reena, Sarita, Sonam and Simpi — were related to Kanhaiya.

Another neighbour Surendra

Vishwakarma and his daughter Nidhi (10) also died in the explosion, the police said.

Four passers-by — Imtiyaz (25), Zeeshan (15) and Yasir (13) and Shivam — also died in the blast, they said. The injured are undergoing treatment at district hospitals in Mau and adjoining Azamgarh, they added.

Immediately after getting news about the blast, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the Mau district magistrate and SP to rush all help to the injured, Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said.

Adityanath also expressed his condolences to the family of the deceased, he said. Speaking to reporters outside the Mau district hospital, cabinet minister Anil Rajbhar said, "It is a sad incident. A house has been completely destroyed. The State Government is with the aggrieved family. Every possible medical help will be given to the injured."

Murshidabad triple murder: Cops probe chit fund angle

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The police started investigating the chit fund angle in Jiaganj triple-murder case with investigators picking up a number of people who had invested money with Bondhu Paul an alleged RSS worker and a cheater who along with his wife Beauty and eight-year-old son was brutally stabbed to death on the Vijay Dushmi Day.

"We have come to know that the victim was involved in chit fund businesses and had taken money from various people with assurances of hefty returns. We are trying to see whether these people have any hand in killing him or not," a senior officer said.

Meanwhile in separate development angry mob set a police station afire in Malda district after a 50-year-

old person arrested of gambling died in police custody.

Police said at least three men in khaki were injured in the attack. Incidentally it is the same district where angry mob of drug alleged peddlers burnt down the Kaliachak Police Station.

"Drastic action is being taken. 15 people have been arrested and the hunt is on for the other miscreants," Alok Rajori, District Superintendent of Police, later said adding eight people including one Ainul Khan, were arrested on Sunday night from gambling dens in the area. Ainul Khan who was unwell and was taken to a Primary Health Centre located near the Milki Police Station died subsequently of heart attack. Later an angry mob torched the police station and beat up the policemen.

Wishes pour in for Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee became the second Indian economist to win the prestigious Nobel Prize the City of Joy and particularly his alma maters South Point High School and Presidency College erupted in joy with the Kolkata civil society congratulating the new Nobel Laureate for "taking the cause of the poor to Stockholm at a time when inclusive development has fallen prey to market forces."

While his soft spoken mother Nirmala Bandopadhyay, herself an economist said, "More than being my son Abhijeet belongs to the whole nation I have nothing to say separately. The credit belongs to India."

She said "I came to know about this only late in the afternoon when my younger son called me up." In his reaction the Nobel Laureate economist said, "I can't believe that I will get the Prize so early. I am happy. ... There are a number of scholars who are yet to get the recognition and so I fell from the sky to know about me getting the prize ahead of them. I hope their work too will be acknowledged



soon."

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "Hearty congratulations to Abhijeet Banerjee, alumnus of South Point School & Presidency College Kolkata, for winning the Nobel Prize in Economics. Another Bengali has done the nation proud. We are overjoyed."

Registrar of Presidency College (now University) Debjyoti Konar said, "we are planning a grand welcome for him. It is the same Department of Economics that gave us a Nobel Laureate in Amartya Sen. Today his student has bagged it. We are overjoyed."

Abhijeet Pathak a close friend of college days remembered Banerjee as a "shy, meritorious boy who always impressed the teachers with his skills. We used to know him more as Jhima rather than Abhijeet. Though I used to come second

he used to be a topper and was way ahead.

He was equally adept in English, Mathematics and History." He is agood cook as well, his friends said.

Incidentally "he got 232 out of 400 and I got 235 in Honours course and some other students got much more than us. However in Part II he got so much marks that he broke all the records. This proves the determination in him."

Bangla writer Sirshendu Mukherjee said "once again we have been able to prove that India and Indians and more so the Bengalis can do it in international arena."

Former Bengal Finance Minister and himself an alumnus of the historic Presidency University Dr Ashim Dasgupta said, "The subject of Amitava Banerjee is almost akin to what we as Marxist say. His works are a reflection of the fact that no development can achieve the target without targeting inequality."

Another writer remembered how Banerjee had in a public function in Kolkata asked his audience to read his book which is "not impregnable as people think economics to be.

Indian economy on shaky ground, says Nobel Prize awardee

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Indian-American Abhijit Banerjee, who on Monday won the 2019 Nobel for Economics, said Indian economy is on a shaky ground.

The data currently available do not hold any assurance for the country's economic revival anytime soon, he stated.

"The condition of Indian economy is on a shaky ground. After witnessing the present (growth) data, just can't be sure about it (revival of economy in near future)."

"In the last five-six years, at least we could witness some growth, but now that assurance is also gone," Banerjee told a news channel from the US.

The 58-year-old economist, who bagged the coveted prize jointly with his wife Esther Duflo and another economist Michael Kremer for his "experimental approach to alleviating global poverty", said he never thought he would get a Nobel so early in his career.

Didi congratulates Sourav Ganguly for BCCI 'captaincy'

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday heaped praise on former India captain Sourav Ganguly for being tipped to be the president of Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Banerjee said, "heartiest congratulations to Sourav Ganguly for being unanimously elected as the BCCI President. Wish you all the best for your term. You have made India and Bangla proud. We were proud of your tenure as CAB President. Looking forward to a great new innings."

Bengal Minister Partho Chattopadhyay said "we enjoy great cordial relation ... I have seen him closely as to how he learnt the art of administration from his onetime mentor Jagmohan Dalmiya. I wish him all the best and hope he will take Indian cricket to new heights"

Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said "we have always known Sourav Ganguly as a great captain. Now we will see his new inning as captain of the BCCI where he will start his new Dadagiri."



KVIC bags ₹5.8 crore order from GAIL

GAIL to gift khadi coupons to its employees

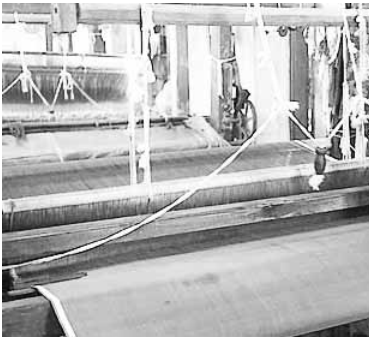
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has bagged an order worth ₹5.88 crore from the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), in the form of Khadi gift coupons for its 23,504 employees.

GAIL agreed to gift Khadi coupons of ₹2,500 to each of its 23,504 employees in all its units across the Nation. The employees, however, would be able to purchase Khadi and products of Village Industries worth ₹3,250 from the coupon of ₹2,500. The coupons could be redeemed throughout the year at all Departmental Sales Outlets of KVIC.

To give easy access to the employees of GAIL to redeem their coupons, KVIC will organize 3 special exhibitions also, at Pata, District Etawah, Vijaypur, District Guna and Jhabua, in Madhya Pradesh where the GAIL have their maximum employees. The MOU has been signed between KVIC and GAIL on 10th October 2019. KVIC will deliver the coupon this week.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said that such huge orders from government and PSUs not only increase the income of the artisans — pivotal in the growth of Khadi sector, but also inspires new entrepreneurs to associate with Khadi with better job avenues. "Orders in recent past from GAIL,



ONGC, REC, IOC, MRPL, OIL, JK Cement and BEE have been implemental in making a compounding effect on the livelihood of Khadi artisans and have been creating more jobs by adding thousands of new artisans in KVIC's kitty," he said, adding, "These orders will certainly create more employment and subsequently raise the income of the existing artisans. It would also pave way for KVIC for more convergence with different Ministries and Public Sector Units."

For the first time. The KVIC launched gift coupon scheme in 2017 and till date gift coupons of face value worth ₹89.29 Crores have been sold which is a record in itself and also an indication that the people have started adopting Khadi in place of other international brands.

India-China talks help Mahabalipuram regain lost glory

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

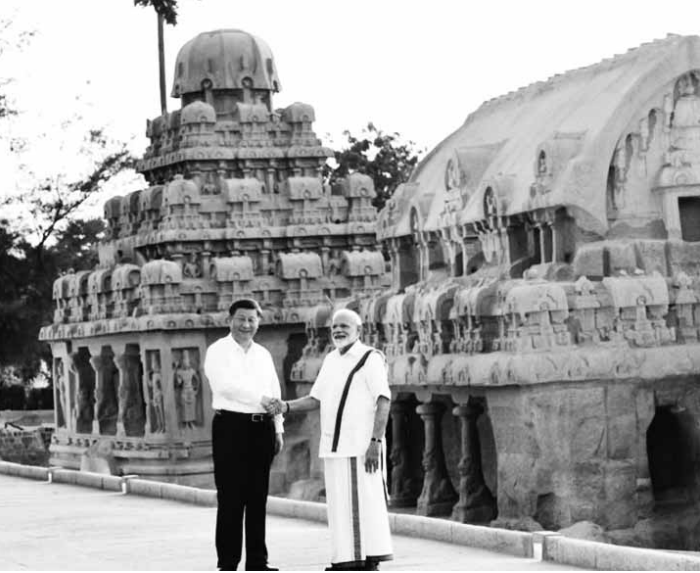
An unprecedented increase in the number of visitors to the sea shore town of Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram in Tamil) has been the balance sheet of the summit level informal talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held here on Friday and Saturday.

The media build up to the event and the discussions held by the leaders of Asia's two military powers and that too in front of the global media has increased the stature of this ancient town as well as Tamil Nadu, according to Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami.

"The informal summit between leaders of India and China held at Mahabalipuram has made Tamil Nadu a centre of attention among global powers. This has increased the stature of the State," said Palaniswami in a statement released on Monday.

Sunday and Monday saw unprecedented crowd making it to the sea shore town and watching with amazement the sculptures carved out during the Pallava and Chola periods of rule. Mahabalipuram has been described by archaeologists and historians as Tamil Nadu's 'Gateway to China'.

K Pandiarajan, Tamil Nadu Minister for official language said



that the decision to establish a connect between Tamil Nadu and the Fujian province of China was a recognition for Tamil and Tamil Nadu's rich cultural heritage. This is the first official reaction from the Tamil Nadu Government about the establishment of Tamil Nadu-Fujian link by the two heads of States. The increase in number of tourists to Mahabalipuram during the last two days prove that the summit talks have helped the heritage town to

boost its main economy —tourism. "People in Tamil Nadu itself were not aware of the significance of Mahabalipuram and the patronage of the seaside resort was limited to business barons and industrialists who have built farm houses and villas along the sea shore town. Hereafter the town would see many tourists from India and abroad flocking to Mahabalipuram," said T Ramakrishnan, author and columnist.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



OM PARKASH YADAV

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely** : Om Parkash Yadav S/o Ram Parkash Yadav R/o H.No. Y-540/8, Prem Nagar-II, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 25.09.2019 from the area of PS Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 57-A dated 28.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under :-

Age : 40 years, **Height**: 5'5", **Complexion** : Shallow, **Face** : Oval, **Wearing** : Black colour pant & white colour shirt. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped person, may inform SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>.

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/3353/RD/19
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Rohini Distt. Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25489080

राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय National School of Drama Third Year Students Present

As Bees in Honey Drown (In Hindi)

Playwright: Douglas Carter Beane
Hindi Translation : Himanshu B. Joshi
Direction: Mariana Wainstein
15, 16 October, 2019 at 6.15 pm
17 October 2019 at 3.15 pm
18 October 2019 at 6.15 pm
19 October 2019 at 3.15 pm & 6.15 pm

Chahumukh

NSD Campus, Bahawalpur House
Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi - 110001
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Limited seats, Please collect your entry card for the performance which will be available two hour before the show on first come first served basis at the NSD Reception.

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Davp-09130/11/0034/1920

MAHARASHTRA POLLS

Scrapping of Art 370 final nail in terror coffin: Yogi

PTI ■ PUNE

Campaigning for the BJP for the October 21 Maharashtra assembly elections, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for removing special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, a move he described as the “final nail in the coffin of terrorism”.

Addressing a public rally in Lonavla in Pune district in support of BJP candidate Sanjay Bhegde, Adityanath said that by nullifying Article 370 Modi turned the idea of “One nation, great nation” into reality.

“Kashmir, which is called as paradise on the Earth, turned into hell under Article 370. Terrorists used to kill innocent civilians and Indian soldiers,” he said, adding that the withdrawn provision was a major impediment in development of Jammu & Kashmir.

The chief minister also said that it was Syama Prasad Mukherjee, the founder of the BJP’s forerunner Jana Sangha, who had staunchly opposed the



idea of “two Prime Ministers, two signs, and two Constitutions” under Article 370.

“The idea of ‘one nation, great nation’ became a reality thanks to Narendra Modiji and (Union Home Minister) Amit Shah. With this decision, the final nail was put in the coffin of terrorism. The move has sent the message that terrorism has no place on the Indian soil,” he said.

Adityanath also praised Modi Government for working for the cause of the empowerment of women, which he said was previously restricted only to “slogans.” He listed schemes

like ‘Beti Bachav, Beti Padhao’,

‘Ujjwala Yojana’, and the law to criminalise triple talaq to make his point.

He said his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis, who is seeking a second term, has “transformed” the lives of people by implementing several welfare projects.

“Gone are the days when thousands of farmers used to commit suicide. The Fadnavis Government has not only stopped suicides by launching pro-farmer schemes, but also generated employment opportunities for people,” he added.

Munde cousins Pankaja, Dhananjay lock horns again in Parli seat

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Parli Assembly seat in Beed district, brought to prominence on Maharashtra’s political map by BJP veteran late Gopinath Munde, will again see his daughter Pankaja Munde and nephew Dhananjay Munde lock horns for supremacy in the upcoming State Assembly polls.

BJP leader Pankaja Munde, a minister in the Devendra Fadnavis-led state Cabinet, defeated her cousin and NCP leader by a margin of 25,000 votes in the 2014 polls from Parli, a rural pocket located about 470 km from Mumbai.

The BJP is aiming to retain the seat this time by highlighting the developmental works carried in the area, including fast-tracking of the rail route network.

The saffron party is confident that people from the segment will vote for Pankaja Munde, who is the Minister for rural development and women and child welfare, and also Beed’s guardian Minister.

However, Dhananjay Munde, who is Leader of the

Opposition in State Legislative Council, is banking on the “poor performance” of his cousin sister to usher in the “change that’s imminent”.

While the BJP says people of the segment, dominated by Vanjari and Maratha communities, have experienced development, the NCP leader claims his cousin sister could not ensure growth of Parli, despite holding four portfolios in the state Cabinet and her party in controlling position at the Centre.

“Not a single irrigation project was developed over past five years in the constituency,” Dhananjay Munde said.

He said work on the Parli-Beed-Nagar railway project remains derailed, while road projects have also hit road-blocks.

“There is not a single good road approaching Parli,” he alleged.

The opposition leader also feels that Parli’s development was “fettered” as the local civic body and 65 per cent of the gram panchayats were being led by the NCP.

Why BJP, Modi not talking about slowdown, price rise: Congress

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Congress on Monday hit out at the BJP for harping on scrapping of Article 370 in poll rallies, saying the ruling party and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were deflecting attention from issues concerning common people like economic slowdown, price rise and unemployment.

Top BJP leaders, including Modi and party president Amit Shah, have been repeatedly speaking about abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in their rallies in poll-bound Maharashtra and Haryana.

Modi has challenged the Congress to publicly state it will restore the controversial constitutional provision, which granted special status to Jammu & Kashmir, if voted to power.

Addressing a press meet here, AICC spokesman Jaiveer Shergill said instead of asking the Congress whether it will restore the now scrapped Article 370, Modi should talk about reducing the prices of petrol, diesel, onion and tomato to whose rate has crossed ₹70 a kg in retail market.

Shergill said the prime minister should come to the

The Congress spokesman accused the Prime Minister of always being in campaign mode instead of focusing on governance

rescue of harried depositors of scam-hit PMC Bank and also took a jibe at Modi over his 56-inch chest remark.

“The Congress will speak about Article 370 during the Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir.

“But, if the Prime Minister really has a 56-inch chest, he should work to reduce the prices of petrol, diesel, onion and tomato, and also hand over the money of lakhs of depositors of PMC Bank,” he said.

The Congress spokesman accused the Prime Minister of always being in campaign mode instead of focusing on governance.

Speaking at the press meet, AICC general secretary R P N Singh said for the Government to find solutions to the economic slowdown and growing unemployment, it has to first acknowledge these problems.

“Accept the problem before you find solutions. Instead a senior Minister like

Ravishankar Prasad says three Hindi movies had become blockbusters and hence there was no recession,” he said.

Singh said industrial output, manufacturing growth rate and investment have seen a decline while unemployment was at all-time high.

In BJP-ruled Maharashtra, between 2014 and 2018-19, 220 factories had shutdown. Thousands of industrial units in Pune, an automobile hub, were on verge of closure, the former Congress Minister said.

But, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Modi have no answers to these problems, Singh said.

“PMC Bank directors have BJP links and hence Fadnavis has not uttered a word about the bank’s collapse. If the Modi Government can take ₹1.76 lakh crore from RBI (reserves) using its majority, can’t it ask the RBI to return money to PMC Bank depositors?” the Congress leader asked.

Singh said the BJP Governments at the Centre and in Maharashtra have weakened Mumbai’s position as the economic capital by shifting the proposed International Finance Centre, conceived by the UPA Government, to another State.

NCP targets BJP Govt’s ‘insensitivity’ on farmers’ issue

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Making an issue of a suicide by a distressed farmer clad in BJP poll T-shirt ahead of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ‘public rally in Buldhana district of eastern Maharashtra, the Opposition on Monday slammed Fadnavis for lack of “insensitivity” and failure to visit the family members of the deceased farmers.

A day after 38-year old Raju Talware was found hanging from a tree branch in his native village in Buldhana district on Sunday morning near the venue of the Chief Minister’s rally venue, former deputy chief minister and senior NCP leader Ajit Pawar said in Pune on Monday: “The farmers’ suicides are continuing unabated. Yesterday, a distressed farmer committed suicide the chief minister’s rally venue. He was wearing B-T-shirt. Despite such an unfortunate incidents having taken place near the CM’s rally venue, he did not bother to visit the family of deceased farmer”.

The farmer’s body was found hanging to a tree branch

in native Khatked village at 8.30 am. He was sporting a colourful T-shirt with the BJP symbol ‘Lotus’ embossed on it along with the campaign slogan, “Punha Aanuya Aaple Sarkar” (Let’s Re-elect Our Government). The T-shirts had been distributed by the BJP to activists ahead of the October 21 Assembly elections. The incident happened on a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah were in Maharashtra to address election rallies.

Dubbing the incident as “extremely serious”, Shiv Sena farmers’ leader Kishore Tiwari asked the various political parties to cognisance of the agrarian crisis and consequent farmers’ distress in the State. “ This kind of incidents turn focus on the gravity of the agrarian crisis in the State. The Government should take concrete measures to prevent the situation from going out of hand,” Tiwari said.

Ajit Pawar’s attack against Fadnavis over farmer suicides comes on the heels of the chief minister’s charge that the con-



tinued farmers’ suicides in the state were a fallout of the “sins” committed by former Union Agriculture Minister and NCP president Sharad Pawar and his policies.

At their election rallies, the NCP and Congress leaders have been slamming the Devendra Fadnavis Government for its failure to arrest the farmers’ suicides and initiative concrete measures to resolve the agrarian distress in the state. They have also been targeting the ruling BJP for its failure to implement the farmer loan waiver scheme.

The severity of the agrarian crisis in Maharashtra should be seen in the context of the unabated farmers’ suicides and

the 34,022 crore loan waiver scheme “Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Krishi Samman Yojana” which it announced on June 4 2017.

Seeking to blunt the criticism of the Opposition parties, Fadnavis had lashed out at Sr Pawar an election in Akot taluka of the epi-centre of farmer suicide belt— Akola district in Vidarbha region on Saturday. “Farmer suicides are the sins of Sharad Pawar and his Government in Maharashtra. It started and increased during your regime,” Fadnavis had said

“Pawar is talking about farmer suicides in his rallies in Vidarbha. I want to ask him, who was in power in Maharashtra when farmers started committing suicides,” Fadnavis had pointed out.

Fadnavis had charged that Pawar had stopped irrigation water supply to eastern Maharashtra and said the latter’s “corrupt policies” had deprived the farmers of Vidarbha region of flow of funds from the earlier DF government in the state and UPA government at the Centre

Bihar Dy CM denies ignoring commoners during rain havoc

PTI ■ PATNA

A day after a group of people gheraoed Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi’s residence in Rajendra Nagar area over problem of waterlogging, his close aide said despite waiting for an hour neither any delegation of the protestors came to meet him on Monday nor any memorandum was submitted on their behalf.

Angry over problem of waterlogging and accumulation of trash, some people of Rajendra Nagar had on Sunday gheraoed Modi’s residence located in the same area.

The BJP leader, however, was not present at the house



during the protest. He waited on Monday to hear them.

The statement said that the Government had been sensitive towards both the VIPs and the commoners during the disaster arising on account of incessant rains for three consecutive days at the end of September.

A total of 59,000 affected people of Rajendra Nagar were rescued at that time, a release issued by the Dy CM office

said.

“Despite waiting for an hour for victims of water-logged Rajendra Nagar area today, neither any delegation came to meet him nor any memorandum was submitted to him by the people,” Modi’s private secretary Shailendra Kumar Ojha said in the release.

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 house.

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

CPI withdraws support to TRS in Huzurnagar bypoll

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The CPI in Telangana on Monday withdrew support to the ruling TRS for the October 21 bypoll to Huzurnagar Assembly constituency for ‘failing’ to address the issues of agitating State Government transport employees.

CPI state secretary Chada Venkat Reddy, while announcing this as the reason for withdrawal of support, said it would decide in a day or two on which party it would support in the bypolls.

Nearly 48,000 employees of different unions of TSRTC, are on a state wide indefinite strike since October 5 on a call given by theJoint Action Committee employees’ unions to accede to their demands.

These include merger of the RTC with the government, pay revision, recruitment to various posts, among others.

On October 9, the CPI’s State unit had

said it would rethink its support to TRS for the October 21 bypoll if Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao continued with his ‘oppressive’ stand against the striking transport corporation employees.

The term “self-dismissal” of employees used by Rao will boomerang on him and he will be self-dismissed, Venkat Reddy had said, adding he should immediately withdraw such remarks.

On October 1, Venkat Reddy hadannounced CPIs support to TRS. He had stated that the party discussed the issue at its state executive meeting and decided to support the TRS candidate “in the prevailing political situation.”

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee President N Uttam Kumar Reddy had earlier said the CPI should reconsider their support to TRS for the bypoll “in view of TRS government’s attempts to crush RTC employees”.

Wish India possessed Rafale jets during Balakot strike: Rajnath



PTI ■ THANE

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said had India possessed Rafale fighter jets earlier the IAF would not have needed to enter Balakot in Pakistan to hit the terror camps.

Addressing a poll rally for BJP’s Mira Bhayander nominee Narendra Mehta in Maharashtra’s Thane district neighbouring Mumbai, Singh defended performing ‘shastra puja’ while taking delivery of the first Rafale jet in France recently.

“Had we possessed Rafale fighter jets we would not have required to enter Balakot and launch a strike. We could have struck at Balakot while sitting in India,” he said.

Singh reiterated that the fighter planes were meant only for self-defence and not for aggression.

On a controversy surrounding the “shastra puja”, Singh said, “I wrote ‘Om’ on

the plane, broke a coconut (as per tradition). Om depicts never-ending Universe”.

“I acted as per my faith. Even other communities like the Christian, Muslim, Sikh etc worship with words like Amen, Omkar etc. Even when I was performing ‘shastra puja’, people from communities like Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists were present at the event,” he said.

At a ceremony in France on Tuesday, Singh formally took the delivery of the first of the 36 long-awaited French-made aircraft acquired by the Indian Air Force. He also took a sortie in the two-seater jet.

The Congress has accused Singh of “drama” over performing “shastra puja”.

On his Rafale sortie, Singh said he had asked the flight captain to fly at supersonic speed.

“Only I and the captain, who was from Paris, were there inside the plane. I wanted to experience the supersonic speed,” he said.



A view of a damaged bridge due to landslide following rain in Chikmagalur

PTI

Terrorists kill truck driver, assault orchard owner in Kashmir: Police

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Two terrorists, including a suspected Pakistani national, shot dead the driver of a Rajasthan truck and assaulted an orchard owner in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sharief Khan, they said, adding that the terrorists carried out the attack in Shirmal village in desperation as fruit transportation has picked up in the Valley.

The incident came on a day post-paid cellular services resumed in Kashmir after a 72-day communication clamp-down following abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

Police said “there was a resentment among the locals over the Monday incidents”.

14 Pakistan migrants given Indian citizenship

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Fourteen Pakistani migrants living in Rajasthan’s Jaipur district for past several years were on Monday given certificates of Indian citizenship.

District Collector Jagroop Singh Yadav said apart from 14 Pakistani migrants, who were given the citizenship certificates

on Monday, 42 others are also being considered for the grant of citizenship.

A total of 108 Pakistani migrants were given Indian citizenship in the last few years, he said, adding Jaipur is a pioneer district in providing Indian citizenship to Pak migrants through online process. In Rajasthan, district collectors of Jaipur,

Jodhpur and Jaisalmer have the powers to provide Indian citizenship to Pak migrants after complete verification.

Pakistani migrants expressed their happiness raising “Bharat Mata ki jai” slogan and saying that getting Indian citizenship after “so many years is an old dream coming true” for them.

PAPER WITH PASSION

Haze threatens Delhi

The time for debates is over. There is no option but to get into the action mode if we do not want a toxic winter ahead



Now that the late burst of rains and high winds have petered out, the illusion of a clear blue sky has been shattered with the rude reality of smoggy mornings and the autumnal haze. Clearly even predictive models and estimates have not been enough to prepare for a toxic winter. Citizens woke up to a dull Monday morning with the Air Quality Index (AQI) breaching the 200-mark danger of “very poor” environs across Delhi and NCR. It looks like we may have to jump from mission mode to action mode swiftly as data analytics are simply not making sense. Just last week, the Government had claimed how stubble burning, which releases a complex set of aerosols and gases, had declined in the neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. Anecdotal ground evidence and satellite data, however, point to the contrary. Images released by NASA, too, confirm sporadic crop burning in North India since October 13, five days after Dussehra. Around 350 stubble-burning incidents have been reported through satellite mapping in the last 15 days itself, according to Haryana State Pollution Control Board. The smoke from crop residue is expected to make up six per cent of the city’s pollutant load. This even before Diwali. Beyond the immediate repercussions of burning paddy, other sources include pollution from vehicles, industries, diesel gen-sets, open waste burning and above all, soil and road dust — all of which contribute in small and greater proportions to exacerbate particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx) sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide levels in the air.

It’s not that solutions have not been offered by successive Governments, both at the Centre and the State, but they are still piecemeal. A holistic recovery plan means that we have to rise above the political impacts of restrictive moves, and most importantly, our existing behavioural patterns and conveniences. The late 1990s saw the release of a White Paper, which called for a multi-sectoral action plan for five years. But apart from the vehicular shift to using compressed natural gas (CNG) for fuel and the relocation of brick kilns to the outskirts of the city, nothing else was followed up on. Next came the National Green Tribunal (NGT)’s order on banning crop waste burning but this is half-hearted at best. That’s because the ban has been patchy, the complaints have been few (only 58 FIRs have been registered in Haryana this season) without retributive action and there has been too much passing the buck on who should own its implementation. Although the ban has been in force for almost three years now, farmers violate it routinely, agreeing to pay up the ₹2,500 fine per two hectares instead of costly weeding or conversion processes. Churning the stubble, which includes rent for the machine, cost of diesel and labour charges, lands anywhere close to ₹6,000-7,000 per acre. Besides, the equipment itself remains beyond the reach of small and marginal farmers, forget about the lengthy bureaucratic process they have to go through to rent it. So without incentives, no logic would work for them. Finally, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) released a graded action plan with an incremental response, depending upon the air quality. However, with this necessitating a multi-pronged approach to tackle pollution, controlling agencies remained pitted against one another, unable to divide responsibilities among themselves. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government led by Arvind Kejriwal, too, has been doing its bit at the individual level with the pyrrhic odd-even scheme. But even that has never been holistic, with a host of exemptions, the more polluting two-wheelers being among them. Similar odd-even plans in other cities like Paris were complemented by making public transport system free for all during the operable time period, which led to its resounding success. It’s another matter that Delhi lacks the advantage of a robust transport system. Its current fleet of buses and other forms of transport like the Metro are inadequate for the commuting traffic. Besides, Delhi still has a problem of proximity to industrial units that have to be shut down should the situation get out of hand. There is no dearth of good intention but pollution should now be treated as a permanent rather than a seasonal problem and a unified protocol set in motion. Planning, monitoring, action and evaluation sum up a good policy measure and Delhi cannot do with spurts of conscience anymore.

Bangla pride

In a historic day for Bengalis, Abhijit Banerjee and Sourav Ganguly seal their achievements with a top prize and job



Yet another Bengali has won a Nobel Prize for Economics. Abhijit Banerjee, alongside Ester Duflo and Michael Kremer, won the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in memory of Alfred Nobel. This news followed another development where Sourav Ganguly, the legendary Indian cricket team captain, got the top job at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Banerjee’s work in the field of poverty alleviation is path-breaking. His ideas have helped successive Governments plan policy interventions, particularly in education. The Nobel prize is the second for an economist, who started his educational career at Kolkata’s famed Presidency College after Amartya Sen. As for Ganguly, almost every Indian cricket fan will tell you that today’s dominating Indian cricket team is a direct result of the leadership style and aggressive nature honed by him and his team. However, while Banerjee is unlikely to rest on his laurels, commenting extensively on the state of the Indian economy, he has previously been critical of the policies followed by the Modi Government. On the other hand, Ganguly’s real big job starts now. While Indian cricket is in a position of might, the latest Test series win against South Africa makes it amply clear that the Indian cricket administration has been in a state of turmoil since the Supreme Court-monitored Committee of Administrators (CoA) took over. Ganguly’s appointment as the BCCI president is evidence that the cricket bureaucracy wants to release itself from the shackles of the CoA. His reputation might be able to convince the top court of the sheer ridiculousness of some “conflict of interest” cases raised by the CoA, particularly a laughable one against Ganguly’s erstwhile batting colleague, Rahul Dravid. It is not as if politics has stayed away from Indian cricket; Home Minister Amit Shah’s son Jay Shah and Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur, too, have held executive positions. Banerjee might, however, find celebrations muted back home as he was one of the signatories to a letter criticising the manipulation of statistics by the Government. His signature will carry much more heft now. But the Government should not miss this chance to involve Banerjee in its policy interventions, despite past criticism. India is in a challenging place with poverty and poor educational results being intertwined. Methods to achieve poverty alleviation and better educational results are a must if we have to take advantage of the demographic dividend. The opportunities are many and the results could be immense.

What of primordial faith?

Indian courts are increasingly wading into theology, challenging Hindu dharma and are deciding the essential in an interventionist manner



SANDHYA JAIN

In Tripura, the Molsom tribesmen celebrate the Sangkrak puja during *maagh* (January-February). Sangkrak is their *kula devata* (clan deity) and goats, chicken and pigs (sometimes buffaloes) are sacrificed by the priest. At least 14 animals are sacrificed as *chaudha devata* (14 gods) puja is part of the ritual. More animals are offered if the community wishes, after which the meat is cooked and distributed as prasad (sacred offering).

The sacrifice of life — for sharing one’s good fortune (harvest) with the divine — is conducted with utmost sobriety and piety in temples or open altars. There is nothing voyeuristic about it: Life is returned to its source for renewal. The hoary traditions of India’s diverse communities are sanctified by tradition and sometimes mentioned in sacred texts. The *Yajur Veda* mentions animal sacrifice, which is today mostly linked with *Shakta* (Devi) traditions, widely prevalent in West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Odisha, where Durga puja during Navratri is accompanied by animal sacrifice to commemorate the slaying of the *asura*, Mahisha, who took the form of a buffalo.

Hindu dharma is not a canonical faith like the Abrahamic creeds. It is not codified as the immutable word of a particular god as conveyed through a messenger. The tradition is sacred in itself; changes are sanctified as desired by age. The existence of a text does not prevent change; absence of one does not negate hoary beliefs and practices.

Flawed equivalence led the Tripura High Court to ban sacrifice of animals in State-run temples on the eve of Durga *ash-tami*. The shocked State Government is considering an appeal before the Supreme Court, while a scion of the erstwhile royal family said the court cannot overrule promises made at Accession (September 9, 1947) whereby the State Government would continue sponsorship (including sacrifice of animals) of several traditional tribal pujas in 14 temples, including Mata Tripureswari temple and Durga Bari.

Responding to a writ petition (C)(PIL) No.2/2018 by Subhas Bhattacharjee (who is unlikely to use the Tripura precedent to force the issue in West Bengal), the Tripura High Court on September 27, 2019, declared *bali* (sacrifice) a “social evil” and “against the Constitutional mandate and spirit.”

At a time when more and more State Governments are taking over the management of cash-rich Hindu temples and diverting monies offered by devotees to their deities to non-religious purposes, the court ruled that the State can regulate or restrict any economic, financial, political or secular activity associated with a religious practice. The Government may participate in religious activities, “which are secular in nature” (whatever that means) but the “act of the State of offering one goat every day, for a sacrifice in the Mata Tripureswari temple and other temples on certain occasions, lacks the



essence of economic, commercial, political or secular character and, hence, the action of the State in offering such an animal for sacrifice is neither permissible under the Indian Constitution nor any statute.”

The court asserted that the “right of offering an animal for sacrifice is not an integral and essential part of the religion, protected under Article 25(1) of the Constitution.” Declaring that the “State has no religion other than constitutionalism and the expression ‘person’ under Article 25 has to be in reference to natural person”, as in the case of the Supreme Court’s verdict in Sabarimala, it ruled that the “withdrawal of such practice would not tantamount to any change, fundamental in character of the religion.”

Pointing out that human sacrifice was stopped (by King Gobinda Manikya, 1660-1667, 1671-78), the court ruled that the 500-year-old tradition of sacrificing animals in Tripureswari Devi Temple, either by the State or by an individual, is not an essential part of the religion and is not protected under Article 25(1) and held it to be against the principle/doctrine of morality and health, and also against the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960. It called the practice violative of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Though constitutional provisions are subject to legislative

“THE COURT ISSUED A BLANKET BAN ON SACRIFICE WITHIN ANY TEMPLE IN TRIPURA AND ORDERED THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE/ COLLECTOR AND SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE OF ALL DISTRICTS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE BY INSTALLING CCTV CAMERAS IN THE TEMPLES. IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF THE CONSTITUTION PERMITS COURTS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH TRACKING

amendment and to varying interpretations by courts at various times, the Tripura High Court declared, “Constitutional values are to be embraced and not to be superseded by personal beliefs.” This means that non-canonical traditions of non-monotheistic faiths are subordinate to judicially determined “constitutional values” that are not mentioned or defined in any law.

The court issued a blanket ban on sacrifice within any temple in Tripura and ordered the district magistrate/collector and superintendent of police of all districts to ensure compliance by installing CCTV cameras in the temples and placing the video recording before the court every month. It is questionable if the Constitution permits courts to undertake such tracking. The Tripura judgement approvingly cites the Supreme Court’s verdict on Sabarimala (2018) that trampled the religious sensitivities of devotees in pursuit of a reformist agenda of giving equality to women of a particular age group, who did not want this “liberation.”

The issue of *locus standi* is relevant. The Tripura bench hailed the petitioner as a retired judicial officer but there is nothing on record to show that he was a believer. Yet, he has ensured codification of “essential” religious practices in Hindu temples and tampered with the very nature of the faith.

Indian courts are increasingly wading into theology to the detriment of the Hindu dharma. In the Shirur Mutt case (1954), the Supreme Court enunciated a doctrine of essential religious practice and ruled that the “essential part of a religion” should be ascertained with reference to the doctrines of that religion itself. But now courts are deciding the “essential” in an interventionist manner.

Five centuries of sacrifice in Tripura temples makes the ritual “settled usage and custom.” The fact that the State Government shouldered this responsibility in 1947 means the deity(s) should have been treated as a juristic entity(s) with the right to its special *puja-paddhati*. Indeed, the diversity of Hindu tradition entitles all deities with distinct rituals to be treated as denominations under Article 26 of the Constitution.

Finally, the most distressing part of the judgement was the comment that sacrifice cannot be permitted as Tripureswari temple is being promoted as an “international tourist destination” for people of all beliefs and faiths. Henceforth, the imagined tastes of tourists will dictate the worship of the Devi. Is this an essential part of secularism and constitutionalism?

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Modi is the loudspeaker of big businessmen. He has been taking money from the pockets of the poor to give it away to his rich friends.

Congress leader
—Rahul Gandhi

I have never walked out of a film due to pay disparity but I hope to get paid as much as my male co-stars in films.

Actor
—Kareena Kapoor Khan

The victims of LeT’s vicious attacks deserve to see these individuals (terrorists) prosecuted now, along with LeT leader Hafiz Saeed.

US diplomat
—Alice Wells

Pakistan is under a lot of pressure at the FATF meeting, currently under way in Paris, to rein in terror groups operating from its soil.

National Security Advisor
—Ajit Doval

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accept reality

Sir — Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Singh Bhagwat recently said that “lynching” is a foreign concept and it is for this reason that it is irrelevant for our purposes. However, reality — good or bad — cannot be ignored simply because of its foreign origin. We cannot overlook the fact that instances of mob violence, many of which happen to those belonging to minority communities, have increased manifold. The Aryans were of foreign origin, too, but can we ignore their assimilation into Indian society for that reason?

On the other hand, lynching is a shame wherever it happens across the world. In his play *Romeo and Juliet*, William Shakespeare wrote, “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose/ By any other word would smell as sweet...” Indeed, rose will smell as sweet even if it is called *golap* in Bengali or *gulab* in Hindi. Following this we can also say, “What’s in a name? That which we call lynching/ By any other word would carry equal shame.”
Sujit De
Kolkata

Barriers to a digital economy

Stressing on the need to go digital, the Government has spared no efforts to ensure that the message is spread loud and clear. India is today rushing headlong to become “digital-compliant.” But how well has the Government performed since? It would not be wrong to contend that despite the haste shown in ushering in the latest IT technologies, we lag far behind the corporate world in harnessing the power of digital. The ease of doing business has been all the more profound with most private firms embracing the initiative to enhance rapport with customers by providing them faultless services. The Government’s “creativity” has, on the other hand, spelt misery for the common man.

At a time when people have come to expect public services to be as personalised and responsive as the services they get from the private sector, the failure to keep abreast of the changing technologies has invited public ire over the Government’s lackadaisical attitude. Banking services are the worst hit due to frequent system failures, which make it impossible for normal day-to-day transactions to be carried out. Aadhaar card, which has today assumed importance as an important document for linking the member with various social service schemes, is beset with so many problems that it has primarily become the stumbling block, deterring the *aam*

Strange claims

Sir — Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Singh Bhagwat’s claims on “lynchings” stand out for their clear denial of

the brutal reality of the crime in India. He is not bothered by the crime itself; he seems to only be concerned with how it is “defaming” Hindu society. Whether or not lynching is a Western con-

struct is up for discussion but perhaps Bhagwat and the RSS need to be reminded that the last public “lynching” in the West took place decades ago, when a White supremacist group brutally



aadmi from availing the benefits. Likewise, with the erratic manner in which the EPFO web portal has been functioning, members of the Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation find it extremely difficult to get their claims processed ever since its offices stopped accepting physical forms submitted and has made online submission of PF claims mandatory. No doubt, in keeping with the rapidly evolving technology, online operations appear to be the new mantra for effective governance. But the Government needs to improve its service quality.
Pachu Menon
Margao

lynched some members of the black community.

Bhagwat’s take on the economy is also disquieting. There is no denying that the vision of a nation in which one majority religion reigns supreme lives on. Bhagwat would like all citizens to live in denial of the gross violations of the rights of minority communities that occur daily.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

RTI needs a revisit

Sir — The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, is, perhaps, one of the best legislations the country has. It empowers the citizens to take a critical look into the workings of the Government. As against Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s claim that there has been a reduction in RTI queries because the Government has turned “transparent”, reality is that the filing of RTIs in itself is risky. There is a need to revisit the provisions of the RTI Act.

Rashmi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Consolidate the financial system

Q2 may be worse than Q1 but economic growth is likely to recover from Q3 onwards despite the downside risks emerging in the banking sector



KARAN BHASIN

The fact that the world is witnessing an economic slowdown is not a surprise. Growth has slowed down across the world and it has even contracted in countries such as Germany. Leading Central bankers and Government officials have expressed concerns over the last couple of months with respect to addressing the global downturn.

Central bankers have further expressed the need to reduce trade-induced uncertainties and called for fiscal measures to address the current economic crisis. The very fact that we're discussing a calibrated response to a global slowdown may ensure that the deceleration is short-lived, and we're back to a decent growth level.

Back in India, we see high frequency economic data for the month of August which further reveals that the downtrend continued throughout the quarter. Be it the data on Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, automobile sales or the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the second quarter (Q2) of the financial year (FY) 2019-20 is unlikely to be better than the first quarter (Q1), if not worse.

The extent of the slowdown further points to the fact that we are likely to hit the bottom in Q2. This means that very likely we will see economic recovery from Q3 but there are fresh challenges that have emerged over the last couple of weeks. The slump in the real estate space has only created further concerns with respect to the Non-Performing Asset (NPA) crisis.

It is important to recognise that not all NPAs are cases of fraud or money laundering. Most of them were caused due to genuine business failures — they may have been because of flawed business plans or the severe economic downturn that India experienced from 2012 onwards. The instances of real business failures must definitely be penalised — and there have been honest efforts by bankers and investigative agencies on that front.

To solve instances of genuine business failures, the Government has already enacted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), that has been instrumental in putting in place a resolution mechanism through which banks could recover their money. The process has also facilitated a change in management for many companies. There's no doubt that the IBC reform is extremely instrumental in addressing the problem over the long run. However, unfortunately, it may not offer much help in addressing the current challenges faced by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), particularly housing finance companies, builders and many home-owners.

Financial stability is built around trust and confidence in the system. It is this credence that allows firms to borrow and lend at cheaper rates of interests. Lack of trust pushes up the cost of capital and dries up the supply of credit as lenders are extremely risk-averse in nature. Something similar seems to have happened in India post the NBFC crisis, as domestic credit is choked but Indian firms raised record levels of high debt through external commercial borrowings. This shows that there's definite demand for credit but our lenders are unable to service it.

This has severe implications for the real estate sector which is sitting on accumulated inventories worth trillions at a time when growth has slowed down. The real estate business has not witnessed a boom, except for the affordable housing segment, for a long time and this has further depleted the sector's ability to absorb an economic shock. A part of this distress is already being felt by NBFCs and it is spreading over to the banking space.

Financial systems are fragile and, therefore, there's an urgent need for intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government to address some of these concerns before they develop into a financial market crisis. India's banking system is indeed robust and strong. However, at a time when growth is slow and credit is choked, it is imperative that we shed morality and intervene on the basis of economic rationality.

Growth will revive from Q3 onwards but we need to ensure that we systematically strengthen our financial system during the process. It is important to recognise that post the Lehman Bankruptcy in 2008, the US Government realised the extent of worthless assets that had accumulated in their banking system. They announced a Troubled Asset Relief Programme to address the problem which entailed infusion of fresh capital into their banks. The Indian Government has already done the same and the Finance Minister has already front-loaded the fresh plan for recapitalisation of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). There have been other measures to help some struggling NBFCs as well.

But the key difference is that in India, a lot of these stressed assets continue to be concentrated on the books of banks. There's a genuine need to re-explore the possibility of taking them off their books, into a bad bank, which could then auction the same to asset reconstruction companies. We must forget the issue of moral hazard at the moment and approach the problem in a pragmatic manner. The Government did announce a policy to give finance to unfinished projects in the affordable real estate space on September 14. However, a bulk of the value is stuck in projects in the luxury housing space and so there's a need to simultaneously extend the scheme to cover these projects.

The other important lesson from the 2008 experience is how the Federal Reserve System proactively merged investment banks with some commercial ones. This was done to strengthen and stabilise the financial system. We've seen a great consolidation of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) through mergers over the last couple of years but we're yet to see further consolidation of NBFCs with some of the bigger banks. Doing so may make some of these merged entities bigger, but then, as of today also, they're too big to fail.

Therefore, there's no sound justification for not moving in that direction. The current troubles at Lakshmi Vilas Bank would have largely been resolved had the RBI facilitated its acquisition by Indiabulls. But of course, the RBI denied it and asked NBFCs to seek banking licence through the normal route. It is imperative that our regulators realise the importance of second and third order impact of their decisions. More so, in the financial space where their decisions have implications for systemic risks.

Over the next couple of months, we will have to take a decision with respect to the kind of financial system we want in India, specifically with respect to the degree of integration between banks, NBFCs and other depository institutions. It is important to keep in mind the objective of having a financial system that's conducive for growth and can facilitate a \$5-trillion economy.

While there may be downside risks to our growth but very likely the worst is over. There are some challenges that continue but we've seen the Finance Minister play a proactive role in addressing them. Most of the measures announced by the ministry are definitely in the right direction. However, we may need a few more steps to get there.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy researcher)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE COURAGE TO RESTORE ARTICLES 370 AND 35A? WILL THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION ALLOW THEM TO RESTORE THESE ARTICLES? —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



WHEN THE YOUTH ASK FOR JOBS, GOVERNMENT SPEAKS ABOUT ARTICLE 370 AND THE MOON BUT IS SILENT ON PROBLEMS IN THE COUNTRY. —FORMER CONGRESS PRESIDENT RAHUL GANDHI

Friendly leaders, secure ties

The recently-concluded second informal summit at Mamallapuram underlined the importance of the leadership discourse in India-China relations



ABHISHEK PRATAP SINGH

After more than a year since the April 2018 Wuhan summit between India and China, the leadership from both countries met again for the second informal summit at the historic town Mamallapuram in the southern State of Tamil Nadu. As both the nations consistently endorse the geo-civilisational framework of their bilateral relations, the coastal city formed the right setting for the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, given its historical significance for both the neighbours. The place boasts strong trade and commerce links going way back to the second century BC between the Pallava kingdom and imperial China. In fact, Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai had also visited the place for a short tour during his trip to India in 1956. In the post-colonial era, the narrative for India-China relations has been built around the expression of Asian-African solidarity at Bandung (1955), Indo-China rapprochement and pragmatism (1989), shared vision for the 21st century (2008) and the objective of the Asian dream (2015). The Wuhan Summit, which took place last year post the Doklam standoff, was an attempt to restore the equilibrium in bilateral relations. It underlined the role of "strategic guidance" to the two militaries from the leadership to maintain peace and tranquility at the border between the neighbours.

In the post-Wuhan timeline, both Modi and Xi have maintained close high-level exchanges with each other, having met at different multilateral platforms and through various meetings. At the global level, both India and China are members of multilateral forums like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, G20 and Russia-India-China Summit (RIC) sharing common interests in promoting globalisation and opposing trade protectionism. In the bilateral context, the sixth Strategic Economic Dialogue (SED) 2019 reached a "new consensus" on cooperation in policy coordination, infrastructure, energy conservation and environmental protection, high technology, energy and medicine between both. Moreover, at the ninth Financial Dialogue (2019), both the countries aimed to strengthen the framework for macro-economic cooperation and investment. These developments reflect a desire from both sides towards greater alignment in their development strategies for the future.

On defence cooperation, both the countries resumed their Annual Defence Joint Military Exercise 'Hand-in-Hand', 2018, in the city of Chengdu, China and will hold it again in December this year in Umroi, Meghalaya. Moreover, two Indian ships visited the Chinese port of Qingdao in April this year to mark the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy in China.

After the Pulwama terror attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, China had backed the UN Security

“THE MAIN TASK BEFORE BILATERAL RELATIONS IS HOW TO REMAIN MORE PRUDENT WHILE STRENGTHENING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION ON A RANGE OF ISSUES. AT A TIME, WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION IS WITNESSING ADJUSTMENTS, THE SUMMIT HELD SIGNIFICANCE, PROPELLING BOTH NATIONS TO LOOK FOR MUTUAL STABILITY AND COOPERATION IN BILATERAL RELATIONS”



Council resolution condemning the "heinous and cowardly terror attacks" against India, even though initially, its lone opposition in the 15-member Council to any mention of terrorism resulted in a delay of nearly one week in the issuance of the statement. At the RIC Summit, China endorsed the proposal for a "closer policy coordination to eradicate the breeding grounds of terrorism." On the issue of listing Masood Azhar as global terrorist under UNSC resolution 1267, China finally shifted its position after 10 years, a key breakthrough in bilateral relations, much to the satisfaction of the domestic constituency in India. Despite remaining apart on tactical and strategic issues, these developments do suggest a positive side of bilateral relations.

In the context of bilateral relations, Xi's recent visit to India holds importance for many reasons. First, it underscores the centrality of the leadership discourse and its importance in bilateral relations under the present regime. In countries as vast as India and China, the leaders derive their strength from their domestic constituencies, which also propels them to keep assuring each other in order to avoid any crisis in the region. Second, the developments in South Asia and China's inroads in the Indian periphery, including the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), remain a source of concern for New Delhi. This kind of summit allows for better understanding of each other's intentions in a positive and open manner from the highest leadership, while also making a way forward to a more agreeable framework for a peaceful geo-political space in the region. This also sets a better direction for bilateral relations in the future. And third, the summit holds significance for economic relations between India and

China. This forms the biggest strategic asset in bilateral relations. The decision to set up a new high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism between both will help address India's concerns on trade deficit and to promote better market access to Chinese markets. Quite notably, both the nations also agreed to deepen the fight against terror financing and reiterated their resolve to deepen exchanges at all levels, including legislatures, cultural and youth organisations.

Global politics remains at the crossroads, with rising protectionism and unilateralism affecting stability. To this, add the rise of Asia and other regional disruptions, which have come with their own set of challenges for both. These uncertainties at the international and regional level do pose a common concern to both China and India. Thus, it is imperative to boost the idea of "developmental partnership" between both and to strive for greater consultation on all matters of common interest, right from the economy to security.

The summit was an important opportunity to deepen dialogue and to promote mutual understanding. The main task before bilateral relations is how to remain more prudent while strengthening channels of communication and coordination on a range of issues. At a time, when the international situation is witnessing re-adjustments, the summit held significance, propelling both nations to look for mutual stability and cooperation in bilateral relations. As was aptly put by Modi at the summit, the "Wuhan spirit had given a new momentum and trust to our ties. A new era of cooperation will begin today through the Chennai Connect."

(The writer is a PhD in East Asian Studies and teaches at Delhi University.)



INDIA AND CHINA FACE SIMILAR CHALLENGES

China and India, both developing countries with a population of over one billion, face common development opportunities and realistic challenges. Both intend to make use of positive factors to follow the trends of the times. At the same time, unilateralism and protectionism are mounting and the risks and challenges for developing countries have risen. The cooperation between China and India not only contributes to each other's national development, but also helps safeguard the common interests of developing countries and promote the process of multi-polarisation and economic globalisation.

(People's Daily, editorial)

Riding out the slowdown storm

Amid fears of a worsening economic crisis, the Government should be willing to take further action to repair the damage and propose a concrete roadmap to build fiscal resilience and sustainability



NITHIN AUGUSTINE

Undoubtedly, India is going through a bad phase in its economic growth history. Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Statistical Office (NSO) indicate the likelihood of a prolonged period of slow growth, while Moody's Investors Service cut our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for 2019-20 to 5.8 per cent from the earlier estimate of 6.2 per cent. Further, the macroeconomic data shows that factory output figures fell by 1.1 per cent in August, recording the poorest production rates in seven years.

These and several other factors that have led to the fiscal slowdown don't augur well for a country that for nearly two years enjoyed the tag of "the fastest growing major economy in the world." Moreover, the deceleration struck when the

world was looking to India for its ability to sustain and attract foreign investments and the radical reforms it initiated in the past. Globally, economies, both in developed and developing countries, are grappling with a similar crisis where growth rates have seen a major slowdown and this is expected to continue.

In a consumption-led economy like India, the revival of growth will largely depend on how much people spend. Therefore, the Government's challenge is to put cash in their hands, provide relief to labour-intensive sectors, rationalise Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates, create jobs and revive demand for goods and services. But such measures are not meant to produce a long-term impact but work well in the shorter term.

According to the *UN Trade and Development Report 2019* in Geneva, global growth is expected to witness a decline from three per cent in 2018 to a projected 2.3 per cent in 2019-20. With increasing debt levels, subdued growth and escalation in trade tensions, global economic growth momentum has suffered badly. Rising trends of hyper-nationalism manifested in the form of inward looking trade policies, de-globalisation

and political unwillingness to address issues such as climate change and terrorism could potentially trigger a full-blown economic crisis. Caroline Anstey, Senior Adviser, Sustainable Markets, World Economic Forum, in a recent article, titled "We need an economic model that works for people and the planet" highlights that "an increasing number of millennial business leaders and women in particular are calling for a new kind of market: A sustainable market, an inclusive, equitable, green and profitable market where sustainable principles drive growth, generating long-term value through the integration and balance of natural, social, human and financial capital." Tough times call for flexible, sustainable and resilient policy action that will lay a roadmap for securing the future, drawing lessons from the present crisis.

As a result, vulnerabilities in the current economic policies and periodic slowdowns have become subjects of intense debate and scrutiny globally, raising questions on the economic models that financial markets are following. This is particularly true as the impact of the 2008 global economic meltdown continues to haunt many

economies even today. Joseph Stiglitz, noted American Economist in his book *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy* points out that "during the Great Depression of the 1930s, the economics profession, especially in America, was having a hard time. The reigning paradigm then, as now, held that markets were efficient and self-correcting. As the economy plunged into recession and then depression, many gave some simple advice: Do nothing. Just wait and the economy will quickly recover." It was around this time that John Maynard Keynes, a British economist of the time, proposed a remedial action in the form of increasing expenditure and creating more jobs to tackle a prolonged period of slowdown. For a demographically vast India, this may seem incredibly challenging but consumption and job creation hold the key to economic revival. Evidently, many would agree that it was President Franklin D Roosevelt's New Deal Programme that pulled America out of the Great Depression that focussed a lot of its attention on expenditure and job creation.

The immediate steps to revive the economy should, therefore, take into considera-

tion — reviving demand, increasing expenditure and creating jobs.

Reviving the weakening demand for goods and services is one of the foremost steps to boost growth and provide an immediate relief to a sagging economy. A fillip to private consumption will do wonders in ensuring that people spend money, thereby triggering a gradual rise in demand and thus, production of goods and services. But spending will happen only when there is money in the hands of the people. Usually, during slowdowns or recession, people prefer to hoard money or deposit it in banks for future use. And it seems that is exactly what is happening here at the moment. Therefore, the Government should announce more festive bonuses and incentives so that higher expenditure may result in revival of goods and services. Another way that the Government can boost growth and revive demand is by way of offering tax cuts. The recent announcement of corporate tax cuts is a welcome step in this direction.

Though the recent measures that the Government has announced aim to increase spending, very few of them will serve the intended purpose.

One of the reasons is that consumer confidence is at an all-time low. As per the RBI's latest Consumer Confidence Survey, people's feelings around employment, income and discretionary spending are at a six-year low. Therefore, the challenge at hand is to restore consumer confidence so that instead of holding back, people may loosen their purse strings a bit.

The rising employment rate has added to the current slowdown and will further escalate it if this is not contained. As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate in India stands at a 45 year high. Employment generation is a key component of a stable economy. When there are enough jobs for people, credit availability and discretionary spending will naturally go up, resulting in increased economic activity. Amid fears of a worsening economic crisis, the Government should be willing to take further action to fix the damage and propose a long-term roadmap to build economic resilience, sustainability and flexibility and secure the future of the world's second-most populous country.

(The writer is a communications professional and a graduate in Economics)

Retail inflation scales 14-month high

Rises to 3.99% but still remained within the RBI's comfort zone

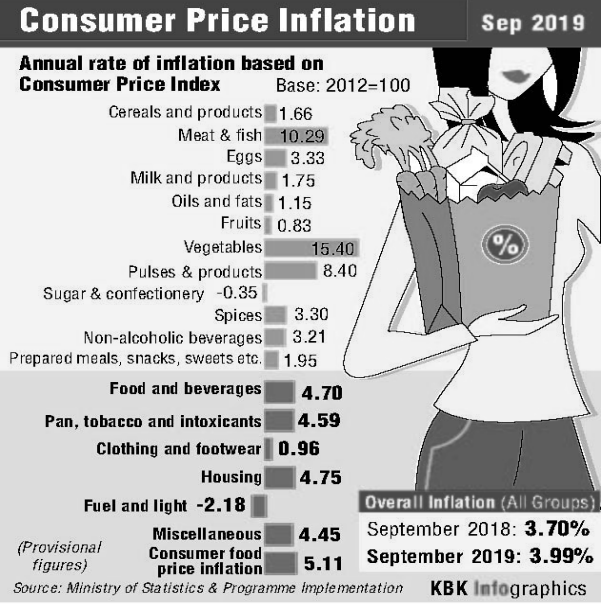
PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation climbed to a 14-month high of 3.99 per cent in September due to costlier vegetables and pulses but still remained within the RBI's comfort zone, government data showed on Monday.

The Consumer Price Index-based inflation stood at 3.28 per cent in August and 3.70 per cent in the September 2018. The previous high was 4.17 per cent in July 2018.

However, the wholesale inflation in September slipped to an over three-year low of 0.33 per cent.

The CPI data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed that the rate of price rise in the food basket in September 2019 was 5.11 per cent as against 2.99 per cent in



the preceding month.

The inflation print for vegetables shot up to 15.40 per cent during the month from 6.9 per cent. Besides, price rise in pulses and meat and fish baskets for the reported month was higher over August.

However, there was a decline in inflation in the fuel and light segment.

The Reserve Bank of India, which has been slashing the key interest rate (repo) since January 2019, mainly factors in CPI while arriving at its bi-monthly monetary policy.

India Ratings and Research (Fitch Group) Principal Economist Sunil Sinha said the central bank will continue with its accommodative policy stance and may go for further rate cut in the policy review of

December 2019.

However, Emkay Wealth Management Head Research Joseph Thomas said the persistence of prices at higher levels beyond the ameliorating influence of the rains may alone would invite a policy shift by the RBI to neutrality.

Principal Economist with ICRA Aditi Nayar said while food inflation did record a broad-based increase in September 2019, the primary driver of the uptick was vegetables, a fallout of the flooding in various states.

As vegetable prices normalise over the next two months, particularly with the seasonal arrival of winter supplies, food inflation may recede below 4 per cent by the end of this quarter, she said.

Wholesale inflation eases to over 3-year low in Sep on cheaper fuel, food items

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wholesale inflation eased to more than three-year low of 0.33 per cent in September mainly due to falling prices of fuel and certain food articles, according to official data.

The wholesale price index-based inflation was 1.08 per cent in August this year and 5.22 per cent in September 2018.

The previous low was recorded in June 2016 when wholesale inflation was in negative at 0.1 per cent.

Inflation print for food articles, as a basket, remained nearly flat at 7.47 per cent during the month. Prices of potato fell by a further 22.50 per cent as against a decline of 21.28 per cent in August, the Commerce and Industry Ministry data showed.

For third time, RBI hikes withdrawals to ₹40K at PMC Bank

PTI ■ MUMBAI

For the third time since its punitive actions, the Reserve Bank on Monday increased withdrawal limits at the crippled cooperative PMC Bank to ₹40,000 from the present ₹25,000 per account holder.

The move follows the weekend assurance by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to urge the Reserve Bank to look into the woes of the depositors of the cooperative bank with urgency, after irate depositors met her.

Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank, which is among the top 10 urban cooperative banks, was placed under an RBI administrator on September 23 for six months due to massive under-reporting

of dud loans. The regulator also capped deposit withdrawals first at ₹1,000, which was subsequently increased to ₹10,000 and ₹25,000.

"The financial position of the bank has been substantially impaired due to fraud perpetrated on it by certain persons. As soon as the matter came to the notice of the Reserve Bank, action was taken in appointing an administrator and ensuring that the bank's available resources are protected and not misused or diverted," the RBI said.

In a press statement, the central bank also said the move to increase the withdrawal cap to ₹40,000 has been taken "after reviewing the bank's liquidity position and its ability to pay its depositors".

IRCTC zooms on market debut, to develop budget hotels

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In a boost to the divestment process, the shares of Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on Monday made a stellar debut on the bourses, zooming 127 percent to close at ₹728.60 over the issue price of ₹320.

This is the first listing of a government-owned entity this fiscal and the IPO received 112 times oversubscription for an issue of ₹645 crore-the second best in decades.

The mini-ratna firm, a subsidiary of the Railways, made a dream stock market debut listing at ₹644, a jump of 101.25 percent, rallied to ₹743.80 to close at ₹728.60 the BSE. The stock did not below ₹625 during the trade. On the NSE, it skyrocketed 95.62 percent to ₹626 in opening trade.

Rupee drops 21 paise to 3-week low on fading US-China deal optimism

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 21 paise to close at a three-week low of 71.23 against the US currency on Monday as investors rushed to safe haven bets on fading hopes of an initial trade deal between the US and China.

Weak Chinese trade data also weighed on the domestic currency, analysts said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened higher at 70.83 and touched an intra-day high of 70.74 against the American currency.

However, later the local unit pared initial gains and finally settled at 71.23 against the US dollar, down 21 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the domestic unit had closed at 71.02 against the US dollar.

Indian equities finish higher, join Asian markets in trade deal rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty managed to close with gains after a volatile session on Monday as positive sentiment reflected on domestic bourses after a breakthrough in US-China trade talks.

After swinging 448 points during the day, the 30-share Sensex ended 87.39 points, or 0.23 per cent, higher at 38,214.47. It hit an intra-day high of 38,513.69 and a low of 38,066.13.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty moved up 36.10 points, or 0.32 per cent, to 11,341.15.

Gains on the benchmark gauges were restricted by cautious participants awaiting retail inflation data due after market hours.

Meanwhile, wholesale inflation eased to more than three-year low of 0.33 per cent in September, official data showed.

On the Sensex chart, Tata Motors was the top gainer rallying 5.32 per cent.

Asian markets rally after China, US reach partial trade deal

AFF ■ HONG KONG

Asian investors on Monday cheered a partial trade deal between China and the United States, sending regional markets rallying, though observers were sceptical about the overall significance of the agreement.

Dealers took their lead from a strong performance on Wall Street after top-level negotiators ended two days of talks saying US tariffs due to take effect this week would be put off and China would ramp up its purchases of US farm products.

They also agreed on other issues including intellectual property, financial services and currencies.

The news provided some much-needed support to Asian markets, with Hong Kong up 0.8 per cent and Shanghai jumping more than one percent despite data showing Chinese imports and exports fell more than forecast in September.

BUSINESS CORNER

NEW DIRECTOR ASSUMES CHARGE AT DTL

New Delhi: Mukesh Kumar Sharma has recently assumed the charge of Director (Operations) in Delhi Transco Limited. Sharma has been promoted from the post of General Manager (Technical). An alumnus of Agra University Sharma started his career in 1987 with Central Electricity Authority where he was associated with gas turbine power station consultancy and real time monitoring and operation of Northern Grid etc. He has also worked with Water and Power Consultancy Services. In 1992 he joined erstwhile DESU as Assistant Executive Engineer and since then has worked in various capacities. Having vast experience of over 32 years in the field of electrical engineering, Shri Sharma has handled different departments such as Commercial and Regulatory Affairs, Bulk Supply, Turnkey Projects, Planning, Information Technology, Projects Execution, Operations & Maintenance, Corporate Monitoring, Protection, Metering, Human Resources and Disaster Management etc.



BFSI EXCELLENCE AWARD 2019



New Delhi: The recently concluded ET BFSI Awards 2019, Muthoot Finance's 45-day mega activation effort at the Prayagraj Kumbh 2019 called "Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori" bagged a special award for Mass Consumer Outreach. Abhinav Iyer, General Manager (Marketing & Strategy) accepted the award on behalf of the brand, by Shweta Shalini, Advisor to Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra at Taj Santa Cruz, Mumbai. The Award covered over 132 applications and 79 finalists. "Muthoot Vishwaas Ki Tijori" was a technology-enabled, free locker service offered to crores of devotees who had assembled at the recently concluded Prayagraj Kumbh 2019. This was for the first time in the history of Kumbh that locker services were offered to all visitors to keep their personal belongings safe before they proceeded to have their holy dip.

SCOPE AND IOE, GENEVA TO WORK TOGETHER



New Delhi: Director General, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), Atul Sobti welcomed Roberto Suarez Santos, the Secretary General of International Organisation of Employers (IOE), Geneva at SCOPE Headquarters. IOE is the representative of global employers in ILO, across the UN, G20 and other emerging forums advocating in the areas of business in social and employment policy. During the meeting, which was attended by senior representatives from Public Sector Enterprises, fruitful discussions were held on various employment and policy issues. SCOPE and IOE have mutually agreed to work in future on areas of common interests.

THE ULTIMA PH-2: DLF CLOCKS OVER ₹700 CRORES

Gurgaon: The long-awaited launch of The Ultima phase-2 by DLF became a grand success. More than 1,000 channel partners participated in the launch. DLF took bookings worth more than ₹700 crores on the first day itself. 376 units were allotted which accounts to more than 75 per cent of the total 504 units.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **Bhadur, S/o Unknown** R/o Block No. 4, Moti Nagar, New Delhi about 50 years of age was found dead at Block 04, Near Moti Nagar Park on **27.09.2019**. In this regard a DD No. **29-A** dated **27.09.2019** has been registered at **Police Station Moti Nagar, New Delhi**.

The Dead body has been preserved at Safdarjang Hospital Mortuary for Post Mortem.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 50 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Grey Check Shirt & Grey Pant. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or Telephone Numbers.

SHO
P.S. Moti Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25101150
Mob.No.: 8750871125

DP/8463/WD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Pardeep Srivastava S/o Rajender Srivastava R/o A-107, Gali No. 7, Prem Nagar-III, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 725/16 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Pardeep Srivastava** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Pardeep Srivastava** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Pardeep Srivastava of FIR No. 725/16 u/s 498-A/406/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Sultan Puri, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on **14.11.2019**.

By order

Ms. Shilpi Jain, M.M.,
Mahila Court-02(North-West),
Room No. 18, Ground Floor,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/2781/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Anchal, D/o: Sh. Vimal Mandal, R/o: Gali No. 10, near Hari Om Property Dealer, Sangam Vihar, Jharoda, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **30.09.2019**. In this regard **FIR No. 459/19** dated **01.10.2019, u/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Anchal, **Age:** 14 Years, **Height:** 4'7", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Grey Suit, **White Salwar and White shoes in feet.**

If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station, Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 011- 27654674, 27654675

DP/9460/NW/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Dharti @ Pooja W/o Mahendra, R/o K-1/246, Prem Nagar-II, Rohini, Delhi, Age: 26 yrs., Height: 5 ft., Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Pink Colour Suit-Salwar and Chappal in Feet,** has been missing / kidnapped since **09.09.2019** from the area of **PS. Prem Nagar**. In this regard a case **DD No. 41-A dated 10.09.2019** has been lodged at **PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped female but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped female please inform undersigned

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in, **Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639**

SHO
PS. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25489080, 8750870322

DP/3348/RD/19.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW "SEWA" SERVICE TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI - SHAMLI

In order to provide additional rail connectivity between Delhi and Shamli, Northern Railway has decided to introduce a new "Sewa" Service Train No. 51917/51918 to run as per the following timing and stoppages :-

51917/51918 Delhi-Shamli-Delhi (Daily) Sewa Service Train					
TRAIN No. 51917		STATIONS	TRAIN No. 51918		
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.	
--	08.40	Delhi	17.10	--	
08.55	08.57	Delhi Shahdara	16.45	16.47	
09.03	09.04	Gokulpur Saboli Halt	16.30	16.31	
09.18	09.28	Noli	16.10	16.12	
09.43	09.45	Khekra	15.48	15.50	
09.58	10.00	Baghat Road	15.28	15.30	
10.26	10.28	Baraut	15.08	15.10	
10.50	11.00	Qasimpur Kheri	14.45	14.56	
11.25	11.27	Kandhla	14.20	14.22	
11.50	--	Shamli	--	14.00	

Days of Run :- 51917 Ex. Delhi & 51918 Ex. Shamli from 16.10.2019 (Daily).

Accommodation :- General Seating

Note :- The inaugural run of Train No. 04031 New Delhi to Shamli will commence on 15.10.2019 at 14.00 hrs. from New Delhi Railway Station. Thereafter this will pick its regular services from 16.10.2019 between Delhi Jn. and Shamli Railway Station.

Beware of Touts Always Buy Train Tickets from Railway Counters/Authorised Railway Travel Agents only

Note :- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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

Please Join US on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** Always at your service Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const/SERD-II, Northern Railway, 2nd floor, NDCR Building, State Entry Road, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:-

1	Name of work and location	Hiring of 02 (Two) no. Vehicle i.e. (Jeep, Gypsy, Tata Sumo or equivalent type) on monthly basis, one for a period of 36 (Thirty Six) months for the use of Dy. Chief Engineer/ Construction, and another vehicle for a period of 24 (Twenty Four) months for the use of AXEN/ Construction, under Dy.CE/C/SERD-II, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-55.
2.	Completion period of the work	36 (Thirty Six) months
3.	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 26.76 lakhs
4.	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 53500.00 only
5.	Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11.30 hrs on 05.11.2019 on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the Technical cum Commercial cum financial Bids of which will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 05.11.2019.
6.	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in from 15.10.2019 to 05.11.2019. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No. 49-Acs/HV/03Y/02Y/Dy.SERD-II Dated: 14.10.2019 3286/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl **Anchal, D/o Ramjiyavan R/o RZP 2/225 Gali No. 8, Dayal park, Sagarpur, New Delhi** has been missing since 26.08.2019. In this regard, **FIR No. 393/19 dated 27.08.2019 P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:

Name: Anchal, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 16 years 6 months, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Identification Mark:** A black mole on chest. **Wearing:** Yellow colour t-shirt and black colour pant.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing female, kindly inform SHO/ Sagarpur, Delhi.

E-mail :- cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax :- 011-24368639

DP/7089/SW/19



Anchal

SHO
P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011- 24368638, 24368641

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a man **Namely: Vikas, S/o Sh. Kiran Pal, R/o: KH No. 71/13, Gali No. 2, Block-A, 60 Foota Road, Kaushik Enclave, Burari, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **17.02.2019**. from the area of **P.S. Burari, Delhi** In this regard a case vide **DD No. 65-A dated 01.06.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Burari, Delhi**. The description of the missing/ kidnapped man is as under: **Age:** 26 years, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue colour jacket, black colour pant & black colour leather shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the man but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this man kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Burari, Delhi
DP/169/N/19
Ph.: 011- 27616844, 8750870130

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Kavita, W/o Sh. Joginder Singh, R/o: 3/24, Meerdard Road, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from her house alongwith her child **Namely Rishu, Age 10 months** since **21.09.2019** from the area of **P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi** In this regard a case vide **DD No. 53-A, dated 24.09.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. I.P. Estate, New Delhi**. The description of the missing/ kidnapped female is as under: **Age:** 26 yrs, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Strong, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Red color suit & salwar & plastic hawai slippers. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.


Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. I. P. Estate, Delhi
DP/6642/CD/19

DOCYARD
DR AJAY RANA



Founder & Director

ILAMED, NEW DELHI



No more bad hair days

Hair fall is very common in today's hectic and unhealthy lifestyle. Whether men or women, hair fall is a problem that everyone is facing. The most likely cause of scalp hair loss is Androgenetic Alopecia (AGA). The underlying cause of woman's AGA is believed to be related to production of androgenetic (male) hormones and their effect on the hair follicle — the same underlying cause responsible for male androgenetic alopecia (male pattern baldness).

However, hair loss in women can occur for reasons other than female pattern baldness like breaking of hair from treatments and twisting or pulling of hair, certain skin diseases that lead to scarring of the hair follicles; hormonal abnormalities, iron deficiency or vitamin deficiency, medications such as chemotherapy and beta blockers; temporary shedding of hair after a major illness, surgery, or pregnancy.

Hair thinning in women is different from that of male pattern of baldness. In female hair thins mainly on the top and crown of the scalp. The hair loss rarely progresses to baldness in women and develop the cue-ball appearance often seen in male-pattern androgenetic alopecia. Female pattern baldness does not mean that a woman has a medical disorder.

To stop hair fall many people opt for expensive cosmetics, conditioners and shampoos. But they don't understand that the effect of these might harm the scalp and hair roots

In most cases, hair loss is mild or moderate. For a permanent and more complete solution you may want to consider hair transplantation. In most of the cases doctors even use both the manual and the most advanced Robotic System for hair transplantation with no downtime.


To stop hair fall problem many people use expensive cosmetics, conditioners and shampoos available in the market. But they don't understand that the effect of these cosmetics might harm the scalp and hair roots. A better understanding of what shampoo and conditioner does may help with this question. Shampoo is a cleaner, it's supposed to get all the dirt and grime out of your hair. Hair products are extensively used because hair is that aspect of your appearance which completes your look. Shampoos, conditioners, gels and serums may make your hair look perfect for the day, but in the long run they are doing nothing but damaging your hair. Such cosmetics effect the hair quantity and quality leading to excessive dandruff, thinning of hair or redness of scalp.

Hairsprays are even more dangerous as they can result in scalp damage and permanent discoloration of hair. Hair colours and hair dyes are next to toxic as allergic reactions can cause burning, redness, itchy scalp, breathing difficulties and facial swelling. The chemicals in hair dyes are toxic and can cause diseases like cancer, reproductive failure and damage to lungs.

Today, many people use modern technologies like laser to get rid of hair fall problem. But, many people have some misconceptions that laser and aesthetic medicine treatment causes hair reduction that will be harmful to health, can damage internal organs. But the fact is the depth of laser penetration is 1-4 mm, it reaches only the hair follicles and is then completely dissipated and does not penetrate deeper. Therefore, weak lasers like low level laser therapy helps to grow hair on the scalp without causing much damage.

SUMMER COOLERS

FENNEL SEEDS:
Fennel seeds are highly aromatic and flavourful herbs used in cookery. They are used to treat some common digestive ailments including heartburn, intestinal gas and bloating.



Some people eat fennel seeds as mouth fresheners. Chewing fennel seeds can also help in getting rid of bad breath as they increase the production of saliva thereby washing out the bacteria. They also help to relieve morning sickness.

The antioxidants and other antimicrobial properties in fennel seeds help treat a host of hair ailments. Some of these include dandruff, scalp itchiness, hair breakage and hair fall.

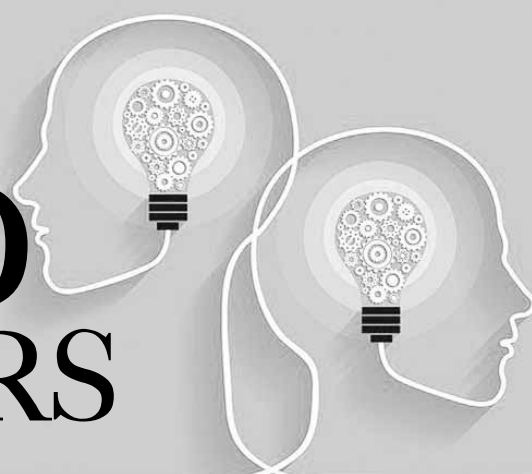
They also contain nitrites, compounds known to lower blood pressure levels. The fiber content in them also help in lowering the cholesterol levels.

There are different types of mental health diseases and it is important to differentiate between them. Listed below are the five types of mental disorders.

Major depressive disorder (depression): Depression is a very common mental illness that has negative effects on many aspects of life. It can also reduce your ability to think. A person suffering from this can feel sad and this sadness is unrelenting. If untreated it can last for months or years. Not being involved with anything, avoiding social contacts/ gatherings, a change in appetite, a change in sleep patterns, a lack of energy or an increase in fatigue, making yourself feel worthless and guilty. Friends and family of a depression patient play a huge role in its treatment. Not only can they help you to identify this disease but can also help one get over it.

Schizophrenia: It is a serious mental disorder in which a person can have a distorted sense of reality. He/she becomes irritable, can misinterpret actions or body language, and may stop taking care of hygiene. It is not very common, but it can cause serious symptoms. Diagnosing schizophrenia in adolescents can be difficult because symptoms can be quite vague like irritability, keeping to one self, mood swings, and change in sleep pattern. It can be cured only

EVERY MIND MATTERS



Nearly one in five young people globally say that they are not happy. DR MANISH JAIN tells you how one can tackle mental health disorders

with the help of medicine and psychologist.

Bipolar Disorder: It is a type of mental illness in which mood disturbance is the core issue. The changes in mood may last from a few weeks to a few months. A person suffering from bipolar disorder may experience either depression or a state known as mania. In Manic state self-esteem becomes inflated, energy levels are very high, one may not feel like sleeping or may feel fresh even after sleeping for only two-three hours, one may start spending recklessly, becomes overtalkative and others. This phase generally alternates with depressive

phases with normal periods in between the two. It can be cured only with the help of medicines

Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD): It is a type of anxiety disorder in which obsessive thoughts and images predominate. People with OCD see something from a perspective.

In this disease, it is necessary to wash hands continuously, check body parts, repeat regular activities, and count things repeatedly. It can be cured with help of medication, psychological therapy, ERP therapy, and self-help strategies.

Anxiety: Anxiety, restlessness, fear of the future based on real or

imaginary events all the time affects both body and mind. The major symptoms of anxiety are fatigue, headaches, and insomnia.

These symptoms may also vary for a particular person, but permanent fear and anxiety are seen in all. If these symptoms are not severe they may end with the passage of time, otherwise the anxiety disorder occurs and the ability to perform everyday life and work begins to be affected.

It can be treated by following healthy lifestyle, it is very important to improve our chaotic lifestyle. Eat at regular intervals and also make a fixed time to sleep and get up.

Things to watch out for



Take care of your body: To have a healthy body, you should take care of your health. For this, eat healthy food and drink plenty of water. Apart from this, exercise and get complete sleep. Especially keep away

from smoking.

Keep learning new things: To keep the mind healthy one should try to keep learning something new. Apart from this, take time for the work you like and do it. It will also give you fun

and a chance to learn more.

Take time for hobby: However busy you are, but take time out for your hobby. By doing this you also feel mentally refreshed. There is a secretion of feel-good hormone in the brain which has a positive effect on your mental health.

Keep stress away: In today's time, there is tension in everyone's life. Due to which we become physically and mentally ill. In such a situation, we should integrate exercise, play, and walk in our daily routine.

Set goals: Set goals for what you want to do in your life. For this, adopt a practical approach. By doing all this you will reach your goal easily. In such a situation, you will be mentally healthy.

Sweat it out



Swimming: Swimming can boost mental health and it is a great form of exercise. Swimming helps to reduce weight and promotes the growth of new brain cell which help to boost mental health.

Cycling: Cycling is also a great exercise for mental health. Cycling Reduces stress, reduce risk of depression, Helps you sleep better, Improves your memory, Improves creative thinking and helps you to feel good


Dance: Regularly dancing keeps a person physically and mentally healthy. There is protection against many diseases and solutions to existing diseases and physical problems. Dance can increase your memory.

Because of this, your chances of developing dementia (dementia, dementia) are also significantly reduced as you get older. Science suggests that aerobic exercise prevents damage to the part of the brain that controls memory. Also, Dance can help you to release stress.

The writer is Consultant, Psychiatry Department, BLK Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi

DadiKaKehna

Babies have the tendency to put everything in their mouth leading to stomach infection and causing diarrhoea. ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that can be beneficial



In most cases, if the diarrhoea is not severe, there are home remedies that one can follow to make the baby feel better. But diarrhoea becomes more severe and or the baby has fever, consult the pediatrician immediately as babies can quickly become dehydrated.

Because of loose motions, babies lose potassium. Bananas contain potassium, zinc, iron, calcium, magnesium, and Vitamin A and B6. Diarrhoea can sap the baby's energy making him cranky, this will help restore his strength.

Another fruit that can help is apple. They are full of pectin which helps in firming

up the baby's bowel movement. Wash an apple properly, peel and cut into pieces. Boil it in water to make a puree. This too will help the baby gain strength.

Rice water is a boon to a stomach especially in diarrhoea.

Give half a glass of coconut water to the baby to drink once in the morning.


One can give the baby a boiled potato to eat. It is not only easy to digest when the stomach is upset, but it is one of the easiest home remedies to stop diarrhoea in babies.

TIPTOP

Heart surgeries are complicated and when it comes to Bentall's procedure the risks go higher. Paras Hospital, Gurugram has come up with an effective solution, as they successfully cured a patient above maladies, without much need for an invasive approach. Using their invasive technology, Paras has done the difficult job as it provided a conclusive relief to this ongoing problem.

A 21-year-old man Amit Kumar, who hails from Haryana, had been suffering from chest pain, breathlessness on minimal exertion. Echocardiogram showed severe aortic regurgitation with dilated ascending aorta. CT aortogram showed dilatation of aorta over 5.9cms (normal range - 2.0-3.5cms). He was advised to undergo a complex heart surgery called as Bentall's operation.

"This was the first time we were treating such a patient. Through this surgery we replaced ascending aorta and aortic valve together. This operation is generally done through a full midline sternotomy wound around 25 cm in length. As he has to join college in Australia in a few months, we decided to do it through minimally invasive approach and did the same surgery through a 9 cm incision, by using latest minimally invasive technology. Due to this technique, we believe that he will be able to recover fast and be fully independent in a few days instead of taking a few weeks," said Dr Mahesh Wadhvani, MS, MCh, Head of Department, Cardiothoracic and vascular surgery, Paras Hospital, Gurugram.



SLIMLINE

People who smoke fewer than five cigarettes a day cause long-term damage to their lungs, according to a new research.

"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.

For the study published in *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, the researchers looked specifically at lung function — the amount of air a person can breathe in and out — in smokers, ex-smokers, and never-smokers. Lung function declines naturally with age (starting in one's 20s), and it's well-known that smoking accelerates the decline.

— IANS

HAVE A GOODNIGHT'S SLEEP

It is important to choose the right pillow and mattress for a proper sleep. ANIL GUPTA shares tips that may help you pick wisely



Sleeping on the wrong pillow may lead to neck and back pains. One of the key factors towards getting the benefits of your time in bed is having a pillow that fills the needs of the person. Many people don't consider, but pillows play a very specific role in their sleep. Since pillows serve an important role in your sleep, they will have a great impact on your better standard of rest and your overall health.

Sleeping on your pillow serves two basic functions. A pillow provides support to upper back and neck when they are resting, and they provide comfort than cannot be had without a pillow. When you are shopping for one, it is important to consider both of these factors, as they will both play a huge role in the betterment of your sleep. So selection of pillows in daily life plays a very important role. However, different kind of pillow support play different role.

■ If you had problem with your spine and back pain, opt for a classic Ortho pillow. Since this posture supported the neck and the head. These pillows come with unique round-shaped ridge at the front, and provide support to the neck. When the neck and shoulders are in stress free position, Also pillows come with unique Vario system for adjustable height, as per individual preference it reduces the chance of problems in the cervical region. Make sure your night sleep is the most comfortable one.

■ If you prefer sleeping on your back, snoring is more common in men, though many women also snore. The flapping of airway tissues against each other causes a loud snoring noise. Most of the doctors recommend sleeping on the side and using a comfortable body pillow. You should consider an anti-snoring pillow due to a specially designed, inflatable head-side-roller, it induces side sleep. Regular use of pillow provides a therapeutic and durable anti-snoring solution.

■ When you are in the office sometimes chair can be an unpleasant experience which can lead to lower back and spine problems. Make sure that your back problems are in check with the lumbar pillows. It's curved shape makes sure that the back is properly supported while sitting. It will relieve lower back issues, and also correct the spine anatomically.

■ Not, only that, after a heavy stressful day when you return to your home, driving becomes a huge task for working people. Orthopedic Wedge cushion will keep this problem in check. Sitting on it will stimulate the correct sitting posture on any surface. It can be used to sit in a car or on office chair. At home, you can use it to sit on normal chairs as well.

■ Many of the people who have a habit of falling asleep anywhere, this is a miracle. It will improve the neck posture and make sure napping anywhere becomes easier. While working on a desktop, people tend to slouch, this can cause unnecessary stress to the neck. For this neck pillow can be your best friend for having a nap under a little shorter break.

■ Not, only are pillows important for the role they play during our sleep, mattress also do the same job for us. One can go for Talalay Latex mattresses, research says that those mattresses which made from natural materials are the best for sleeping. Also 100 per cent natural latex will not cause allergies because of the way it is processed and the end product being open celled.

So give yourself the support you need throughout the day and night. Always remember pillows should be classy in style, guarantee best pressure relief and provide comfort. This will ensure a cuddle-some sleep setting.

The writer is Chairman, Thomsons Germany

STUDYCENTRE

Poor dietary habits, increased stress and harsh skincare routines were among the most significant factors associated with acne, according to a study.

The research was presented at the 28th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress in Madrid. "For the first time, this study allows us to identify the most important exposure factors relating to acne from patient questioning prior to any treatment prescription," said the study's lead researcher Brigitte Dreno from the University Hospital of Nantes in France.


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). The difference was also statistically significant for soda juices or syrups (35.6 per cent vs 31 per cent), pastries and chocolate (37 per cent vs 27.8 per cent) and sweets (29.7 per cent vs 19.1 per cent).

Surprisingly 11 per cent of acne sufferers consume whey proteins versus 7 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 compared to control participants.

The research also found that harsh skincare practices were more common in acne sufferers.

— IANS



Syria Govt steps in to halt Turkish assault on Kurds

Tall Tamr (Syria): The Syrian regime sent troops towards the Turkish border on Monday to contain Ankara's deadly offensive against the Kurds, stepping in for US forces due to begin a controversial withdrawal.

Outgunned and without US protection, the autonomous Kurds in northeastern Syria had few other options to stop the rapid advance of Turkish troops and their Syrian proxies.

Turkey wants to create a roughly 30-kilometre (20-mile) buffer zone along its border to keep Kurdish forces at bay and also to send back some of the 3.6 million Syrian refugees it hosts.

The United States and its partners, who spent years fighting alongside the Kurds against the Islamic State group in Syria before deserting them, have condemned the Turkish invasion, but their threats of sanctions have failed to stop it.

Washington says that it is planning to pull out 1,000 troops — almost the entire ground force — from Syria's north, in a move welcomed Monday by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as "a positive approach." The chaos in the areas targeted in the six-day-old Turkish assault has

already led to the escape of around 800 foreign women and children linked to IS from a Kurdish-run camp, Kurdish authorities said.

The Kurds had repeatedly warned of that scenario when Western countries refused to repatriate their IS-linked nationals and when US President Donald Trump made it clear he wanted to end the US military presence.

EU CONDEMNS TURKISH INVASION

Luxembourg: EU member states united on Monday to condemn Turkey's offensive in Syria but stopped short of imposing an arms embargo, while opening the way to sanctions over Ankara's controversial drilling off Cyprus.

"The EU condemns Turkey's military action which seriously undermines the stability and the security of the whole region," the bloc said in a joint statement at a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg.

The bloc noted the decision made by some members — including France and Germany — to halt weapons exports to Turkey but did not impose an EU-wide embargo.

But Trump on Monday said the Kurds "may be releasing" IS prisoners to keep the US involved in Syria.

Wasting no time to fill the void, Moscow — already the top broker in Syria — clinched a deal between the Kurds and Damascus, whose ties had been icy since the minority threw its lot with Washington and unilaterally declared self-rule.

Trump: Kurds 'may be releasing' ISIS prisoners in Syria to get US involved

Washington: President Donald Trump suggested on Monday that Kurdish fighters may be releasing imprisoned ISIS jihadists to bait the United States into remaining involved in northeastern Syria.

The Pentagon said on Sunday Trump had ordered the withdrawal of up to 1,000 troops from northern Syria — almost the entire ground force in the war-torn country — amid an intensifying Turkish assault on Kurdish forces.

Trump's decision last week to pull out of the area — clearing the way for the Turkish incursion — has been attacked at home as a betrayal of America's Kurdish allies, that risks triggering a resurgence of IS. "Europe had a chance to get their ISIS prisoners, but didn't want the cost. Let the USA pay," they said..." Trump tweeted, using an alternate acronym for the Islamic State group.

"Kurds may be releasing some to get us involved. Easily recaptured by Turkey or European Nations from where many came, but they should move quickly," Kurdish authorities said Sunday that 800 IS family members being held in a camp at Ain Issa in northern Syria had fled due to Turkish bombing.

Instead, the Ministers agreed that EU member countries should pay close regard to their existing common policy on arms exports, which includes a provision that they should not be approved where there they may "contribute to regional instability".

Separately, the ministers gave the go-ahead to creating the legal framework for sanctions over Turkey's exploratory drilling for oil and gas off the coast of Cyprus.

"In light of Turkey's continued illegal drilling activities in the eastern Mediterranean, the Council reaffirms its full solidarity with Cyprus," the EU Council said in a statement.

Brexit talks enter crucial week

Deal on Oct 31 a 'priority' for UK Govt: Queen

London: Prime Minister Boris Johnson repeated on Monday that Britain must leave the EU on October 31, as divorce talks resumed in Brussels in a pivotal week that could define how and when Brexit finally happens.

In an elaborate ceremony in parliament in London, Queen Elizabeth II set out Johnson's legislative programme for the coming year, with leaving the EU top of the agenda.

"My government's priority has always been to secure the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union on October 31," she said in a speech to robed peers from a gilded throne in the upper House of Lords.

"My government intends to work towards a new partnership with the European Union, based on free trade and friendly cooperation."

But this depends on the outcome of closed-door discussions in Brussels, where officials are racing to reach a deal on Britain's exit terms before a summit of EU leaders starting on Thursday.

If he cannot get a deal by Saturday, Johnson will fall foul of a British law demanding he ask the EU to delay Brexit for a third time rather than risk a potentially disastrous "no deal" departure.

"A deal is possible and it's



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II delivers the Queen's Speech during the official State Opening of Parliament in London on Monday

possible this month," Irish Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney said as he arrived for talks with EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

"It may even be possible this week but we're not there yet," Michel Barnier, the bloc's chief Brexit negotiator, briefed EU ambassadors late Sunday after a weekend of talks between officials described as "intense" and "constructive".

After weeks of gloom, the last few days have given a glimmer of hope that an agreement can be reached but there has so far been no decisive breakthrough.

Barnier warned on Sunday that "a lot of work remains to be done".

This message echoed by

Johnson's spokesman in London, who said on Monday: "The talks are constructive but there is a lot of work still to do."

More than three years after the 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU, divorce talks remain stuck on how to avoid customs checks between British Northern Ireland and Ireland.

After British MPs rejected a previous plan, Johnson put forward fresh proposals earlier this month -- but they have been met with a cool response in Brussels.

Johnson took over from his predecessor Theresa May in July vowing no more delays, after she postponed Brexit twice in a failed attempt to get her own divorce deal through the British parliament.

Hong Kong cops say they were attacked by explosive device

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police say a homemade remote-controlled explosive device intended to "kill or to harm" police officers was detonated during violent protests across the territory on Sunday.

No casualties were reported. But Chin-chiu Suryanto, an officer with the police force's bomb-disposal unit, told a news conference Monday that the device was concocted with a "highly effective" explosive.

Speaking through a translator, he said there was "a loud thud" from the detonation Sunday night on a usually busy thoroughfare in Kowloon.

He said the use of an explosive device marked an escalation in violence seen during the anti-government protests, which are in their fifth month. He likened the use of such a device to "terrorist events" seen elsewhere in the world.

US senator warns HK becoming 'police state' as thousands rally

Hong Kong: Hong Kong is sliding towards becoming a police state, US senator Josh Hawley warned on Monday, as tens of thousands filled the strife-torn city's streets waving American flags and calling on Washington to punish China over sliding freedoms. The international finance hub was battered by another weekend of unrest as hardcore pro-democracy protesters and police fought running battles with officers warning the violence had now reached "life-threatening levels". Protests pushing for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability have raged for the last 19 weeks and there is little end in sight as Beijing and local leaders refuse concessions.

Spanish SC convicts Catalan leaders for secession attempt

Madrid: Spain's Supreme Court on Monday convicted 12 former Catalan politicians and activists for their roles in a secession bid in 2017, a ruling likely to inflame independence supporters in the wealthy northeastern region.

The court sentenced ex-Catalan regional Vice President Oriol Junqueras to 13 years for sedition and misuse of public funds following one of Spain's most important trials since democracy was restored after the death of dictator Gen. Francisco Franco in 1975.

Eight received lengthy prison terms in Catalonia's attempt to break away from Spain following an illegal independence referendum, while three received lesser sentences.

Although prosecutors had requested convictions for the more severe crime of rebellion, which under Spanish law implies the use of violence to subvert the constitutional order, judges convicted nine of sedition, implying that they promoted public disorder to subvert the law.

Regional Parliament Speaker Carme Forcadell was given 11 and a half years in

prison; former Cabinet members Joaquim Forn and Josep Rull 10 and a half years each; and grassroots pro-independence activists Jordi Sánchez and Jordi Cuixart nine years.

Junqueras and three other former Cabinet members — Raül Romeva, Jordi Turull and Dolors Bassa, who were sentenced to 12 years — were also convicted for misuse of public funds. Three other former members of the Catalan Cabinet — Santiago Vila, Meritxell Borràs y Carles Mundó — were fined for disobedience. Grassroots pro-secession groups have said that if any of the defendants were found guilty they would organise protests and "peaceful civil disobedience."

Spanish authorities deployed hundreds of extra police to the region in anticipation of the ruling. The court's decision was another milestone in the long struggle for separatists who want Catalonia to break away from Spain and create a new European state. Spain insists it won't allow it. The Spanish constitution says the country is "indivisible."

Russia denies US news report it bombed four hospitals in Syria

Moscow: Russia on Monday denied a US newspaper report that its warplanes bombed four hospitals in rebel-held territory in Syria over a period of 12 hours this year.

The Russian Defence Ministry rubbished the claim in a report by The New York Times, saying "the alleged 'evidence' provided by the NYT is not worth even the paper it was printed on".

The May strikes — which the newspaper tied to Moscow through Russian radio recordings, plane spotter logs and accounts by witnesses — are part of a larger pattern of medical facilities targeted by forces supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the country's devastating civil war.

Nabad al Hayat Surgical Hospital — which staff had fled three days earlier in anticipation of the facility being bombed — was one of those struck during the 12-hour period beginning on May 5, according to the Times' investigation.

A Russian ground controller gave the exact coordinates of the hospital to the pilot, who reported having it in sight a few minutes later, the newspaper said.

The controller gave the go-ahead for the strike at the same time that a spotter who was tasked with warning civilians about impending strikes logged a Russian jet in the area. The pilot then reported releasing bombs, and local journalists filming the hospital recorded three bombs going through its roof and exploding.

SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED
CIN: L74900DL1994PLC062222
Registered Office: Unit No. 355, 3rd Floor, Aggarwal Kondli Plaza Plot No. 8, LSC-1, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar Delhi New Delhi -110096, IN, Email: sparklinglimited@gmail.com, Website: www.sparklingfinshares.com, Tel. No. + 91-9582178451

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING & CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of **Sparkling (India) Finshares Limited** is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 9th day of November, 2019 at 02.00 P.M. at the registered office of the Company situated at Unit No. 355, 3rd Floor, Aggarwal Kondli Plaza Plot No. 8, LSC-1, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar Delhi New Delhi DL 110096 IN.

The Annual Report for the financial year 2018-19 including Notice convening the AGM has been sent to the members to their registered address by courier, and electronically to those who have registered their e-mail address with Depositories/RTA/Company. The Annual Report is available on the Company's website (www.sparklingfinshares.com) and also available for inspection at the registered office of the company on all working days during the business hours upto the date of Meeting. The notice is also available on the Website of the Company(www.sparklingfinshares.com).

As per Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time and Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations 2015, the company is pleased to provide to its members the facility to cast their vote by Electronic means on all resolution set forth in Notice. The Company has engaged the services of Central Depository Services Limited to provide the E-Voting facility to the shareholders.

The Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from November 01, 2019 to November 09, 2019 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

Members may note that:

- the cut-off date for the purpose of determining shareholders for voting through Remote E-voting and at the venue of AGM is November 01, 2019 (close of Business hours) and Members holding shares either in physical or dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of November 01, 2019 (close of Business hours) may either cast their votes electronically through electronic voting system of Central Depository Services Limited from a place other than the venue of AGM ("Remote E-voting") or at AGM venue through Ballot Paper;
- the Remote E-voting shall commence from November 06, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. and will end at November 08, 2019 at 5:00 P.M.
- any person who have acquired shares and become member of the Company after the dispatch of the notice of AGM but before the cut-off date of November 01, 2019 (close of Business hours) may obtain their user ID and password for e-voting from the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent (RTA) by connecting to RTA at the following contacts:
RTA - Tel.: +91 11 -2681 2683, Email Id.: <info@skyllinert.a>
- the Remote E-voting facility shall be disabled by Central Depository Services Limited after November 08, 2019 at 05:00 P.M. and no voting shall be allowed beyond the said date and time;
- the facility of voting at the venue of AGM shall be provided through Ballot Paper to be provided at the venue;
- a Member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through Remote E-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the AGM;
- a person whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the general meeting through Ballot Paper;
- In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.com, under help section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com and call to CDSL at 1800225533.

In compliance of applicable provisions of Companies Act, 2013 and as a part of the Green Initiative, the Company encourages the Members to provide / update their e-mail address to enable the servicing of notice(s)/ documents(s)/ Annual Report(s) electronically. The request for updation of records for members holding shares in Physical mode should be sent to the Company or RTA and to the Depository Participant in case of members holding shares in dematerialized mode.

For Sparkling (India) Finshares Limited
Sd/-
(Cheruku Sagarika)
Director

Date: 14.10.2019
New Delhi

PRESS E-TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. VII, Irrigation & Flood Control Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi invites online Item rate E-tenders on behalf of the President of India from approved and eligible contractors of I&FC Deptt. The contractors who are registered with other Departments but granted provisional permission by the Chief Engineer (I&FC) are also eligible for participation of e-tendering for the following works:-

Sr. No	NIT No.	Name of Work	Head of Account	Estimate Cost (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Allowed	Tender ID No.	Last date & time for submission of Price Bid.
1.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2018-19/65	Development of Pond, Kh. No. 38/26 at village Prahladpur in Distt. North.	DVDB Works	74,98,626/-	1,49,973/-	03 Months	2019_IFC_181754_1	22.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs
2.	EE/CD-VII/NIT/2019-20/32	Construction of Streets at village Harevali in Distt. North, Delhi.	MLALAD Works	48,19,042/-	96,381/-	04 Months	2019_IFC_181756_1	22.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs
3.	EtyCD-VII/NIT/2019-20/65	Improvement of existing damaged road from Samaypur Chowk to Libaspur Shiv Mandir in Badli AC.	MLALAD Works	78,91,183/-	1,57,8247/-	03 Months	2019_IFC_181759_1	22.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs

- The enlistment of the contractors should be valid on the last date of opening of tenders. In case, the last date of opening of tender is extended, the enlistment of contractor should be valid on the original date of opening of tenders.
- Earnest money in physical form and self attested copy of Registration of enlistment & other documents (eg. ESI & EPF registration, copy of PAN card, Copy of GST documents) should be submitted in the Office of Executive Engineer, Civil Division- VII, I&FC Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110085 upto 3.00 PM on the last date of submission of technical bids for obtaining the deposition slip for uploading.
- The details of above mentioned work(s) can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- The agencies who do not fulfill eligibility criteria/ do not submit required documents upto the stipulated time, their tenders shall be rejected summarily at technical bid stage.
- Tenders submitted through e-procurement portal shall only be considered and no manual tender shall be accepted.
- Intending tenders participating in tendering process in EE CD- VII, I&FC shall furnish ESI & EPF registration along with other required documents and the same shall be uploaded while bidding. Moreover the ESI & EPF registration documents of all contractors shall be kept on records and ESI & EPF registration documents of lowest tenderer to whom the work awarded shall form the part of the agreement. (I&FC department office order No.1417-48 dated 29.01.2016).

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Civil Division-VII
Irr. & Flood Control Deptt
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/0836/19-20

**Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited**

4th floor State Building Construction Corporation Limited
Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna 800023,
Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287, + 91612 2283288
e-mail:- md-bmsicl-bih@nic.in or bmsicl.equipment@gmail.com, www.bmsicl.gov.in

(Short Notice Inviting E-Bids)

Short Notice Inviting Tenderfor establishing and operating Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) at Jan NayakKarpoori Thakur Medical College and Hospital Madhepura (JNKTMCH), in Madhepura district in the state of Bihar under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.

Short Notice TenderRef No.- BMSICL/2019-20/ME- 153
(Only through e- Tendering on website: - www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites tender for establishing and operating Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF) at Bihar State Institute of Mental Health & Allied Sciences (BIMHAS), at Koelwar, Bhojpur district in the state of Bihar under Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode.

Tender Schedule	
Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2019-20/ME-153
Time of downloading the tender	18 th October 2019 from 10:00 Hrs. to 14 th November 2019 till 15:00 Hrs. on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in / BELTRON)
Pre-bid meeting (Venue)	25 th October 2019 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL. 4 th Floor State Building Construction Corporation Limited, Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar.
Last date & time for submission (upload) of online bidding document	15 th November 2019 till 05:00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal(https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in / BELTRON)
Last date & time for submission of cost of the tender documents and EMD in Hard(Physical) Copies (Offline Mode)	18 th November 2019 by 02:00 PM, in the office of BMSICL
Time, Date of opening of Technical Bid	18 th November 2019 at 03:00 PM on the website of www.eproc.bihar.gov.in in the office of BMSICL
Time, Date of opening of Financial Bid	To be announced later on the e-Procurement Portal (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON)
Cost of the tender document	Rs. 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Rupees only) Non-refundable.
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 1180/-

- To participate in E-Tendering for tender, the tenderer/Agencies will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this help desk first floor, M/22, Bank of India building, Road no.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar Patna-800020, Tele Phone no.-0612-2523006, Mobile No. - 7542028164 can be approached.
- The cost of tender document is acceptable as Bank Draft issued by any nationalized bank in favour of Managing Director, Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna and payable at Patna and it is non-refundable.
- The required amount of Earnest Moneyis acceptable in the form of Bank Draft issued by nationalized and schedule bank in favour of Managing Director, Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna and payable at Patna. The Earnest Money deposited in any other form shall not be acceptable.
- The tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to extend the schedule of tender or to reject the tender without assigning any reason.
- The fee of tender processing is to be deposited by the tender Applicant/Agencies through net banking i.e. RTGS/NEFT/Debit Card. The tender Applicant must ensure the payment before schedule time otherwise the corporation will not be responsible for any delay.
- It is essential to deposit the original documents of tender Document, tender Document Fee and tenderApplication in sealed envelope at Bihar Medical Services Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna by 18th November 2019 at 14.00 Hrs.
- Note: Please number the documents with serial number on each and every page and do mention the total number of pages of tender Application. In tenderapplication, parallel assign the corresponding page numbers of supporting documents. Any discrepancy or misrepresentation in this aspect will not be entertained.
- Any queries and questions regarding the tender should be addressed to MD BMSICL (either through letter or through e-mail:- md-bmsicl-bih@nic.in and/or bmsicl.equipment@gmail.com orcontact no. 0612-2219634/35) and 8544402313/ 8544406251 up to 7 days before of closing of online tender submission.
- All communication, addendum/corrigendum related to this tender will be issued on the website of www.eproc.bihar.gov.in &www.bmsicl.gov.in.
- Managing Director, BMSICL reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason

GM (Procurement)
BMSICL Patna

PR.09120 (Ni Ni) 2019-20

बेटा-बेटी एक समान। दहेज-प्रथा करे सबका अपमान।।

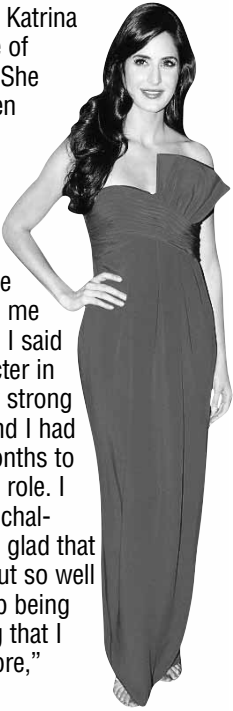
Trend Glazer

‘Bharat, a great learning experience’

Actor **KATRINA KAIF** says she took up *Bharat* as a challenge and is glad that it turned out to be a “great learning” experience for her.

In the Salman Khan-starrer *Bharat*, Katrina essays the role of Kumud Raina. She stepped in when actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas left the Ali Abbas Zafar project.

“The minute Ali approached me with the script, I said yes. My character in the film is very strong and unusual and I had exactly two months to prepare for the role. I took it up as a challenge and I am glad that it has turned out so well and it ended up being unlike anything that I have done before,” Katrina said.



‘Working with Ranbir (Kapoor) has been a very good experience for me. He is normal and humble in his approach. He doesn’t come on a film set thinking that he has been a part of many successful films and is a huge star. He doesn’t come with any of that baggage, so it is very easy to work with such actors. Working with him has helped me become a better actor.’
—Vaani Kapoor



Director IMTIAZ ALI tells SAIMI SATTAR that stories have a way of finding the raconteur

The moon shines brightly. As brightly as only a full one can. The air, the monuments and the stones lying around are laden with stories of people who passed by them. And the ruins are willing to whisper these in the ears of anyone who is willing to listen. The area is said to be rife with Jinns. And then there is the mausoleum a stone’s throw away, built unlike the one it inspired, by a queen for her beloved king. Across the road lies Amir Khusräu who wove an intricate and vivid web with his poetry that more than 700 years down the line continues to cast its mesmerising spell. Sunder Nursery, Delhi’s newest recovered monument, is just the appropriate setting to narrate *qissa, kahani* and *gapp*, says the original rockstar, director Imtiaz Ali.

Dressed in a black t-shirt embroidered with the word *sheer* (sweet) in the Arabic script, with a grey zipped sweatshirt that seemed to match his salt and pepper hair, Ali exudes a Sufi-like calmness despite being up for a discussion in the next hour at the IXth Kathakar—International Storytellers Festival. Ali is a part of the festival for the second consecutive year and he came back for a reason. “I was fascinated by the audience participation. The show extended for more than two hours beyond the designated time. You gain so much confidence when you realise that the subtleties of the work that you’ve done is being spoken about by people who you intended it to reach,” he says.

However, it isn’t just the pleasant memories that tugged him. “From my childhood I was and still am a people gazer. My biggest interest is to look at people and interact with them. It gives me the basis for stories. There are dreamers from whom I can borrow ideas and memories. The interactions aren’t one-sided and give me an insight for survival and growth while adding a bounce to my stories,” says he.

However, it is a common refrain that the art of story-telling is getting lost in the din of social media and digital devices. Ali makes a point: “Too much of something makes the reverse rise. So if there’s so much device-oriented communication, there’s going to be that need of people to speak orally and communicate with each other as some sort of a therapy in order to relieve the tension and anguish caused by devices.” He looks up at his bodyguard, tells him to relax and asks us to dig into the kebabs that have been neatly placed in front of us before resuming the conversation: “Having someone to talk to was not a big deal when I was growing up. But now, for a young guy it is a rarity, a luxury. It is easier to find someone to have sex with but more difficult to find someone to talk to. *Humzuban milna*

mushkil hai. (Someone who communicates and understands at the same level is difficult).” He gestures with his hand and it seems that the sounds emanating from the nearby stage too have paused to let that sink in.

He points out that oral storytelling was the oldest form of the art and even today, it is the most common. “When people narrate incidents, that is oral storytelling even though the listener doesn’t know if it is fact or fiction and doesn’t really care. Even when a husband and wife switch off the lights and talk about the day, that too is storytelling and fulfills a need which a device cannot. In Bangla, everyday talking is *katha*,” says the director whose first film *Socha Na Tha* released in 2005.

Through his films, Ali has been known to tell stories that are layered but at their heart lies a simple tale which can find a resonance in everyone. “I am on a quest for a good story but simplicity, not necessarily. I think in a certain way, I have seen life in a certain way and, because I am not a very cinema-literate person, I have no option but to present it in a certain manner. If that becomes simple so be it,” says Ali before asserting that he has to live with his films forever unlike the audience who might watch it once, twice or more. “This makes it imperative that the story should be engaging, meaningful and, in some way, transcending,” he says and one can’t help but nod in agreement, looking back at the journey of Ved from *Tamasha* or Geet from *Jab We Met*.

However, of all of Ali’s films, it is *Rockstar* (2011), the unusual tale of singer Janardhan aka Jordan with its Sufi core, which is often discussed to the bone at festivals and conclaves. The series of coincidences that occurred during its making are so surreal that they trigger goosebumps. “*Jab We Met* (2007), *Love Aaj Kal* (2009) and *Socha Na Tha* had tight scripts with cause and effect. But *Rockstar* was a loose cannon and things were moving with a certain emotion that had to be experienced in one scene in order for the next scene to happen. While shooting the first bit of *Naadan Parindey*, where Jordan is arrested by the police at the hospital and he goes wild, all that I had in mind was the sound of the drums composed by AR Rahman sir. A friend from Australia sent me poetry by Rumi which said, ‘the hunting falcon hears the sound of the drums, come home, come

Having someone to talk to was not a big deal when I was growing up. But now, for a young guy, it is a rarity, a luxury. It is easier to find someone to have sex with but more difficult to find someone to talk to



home. This turning towards what you love truly saves you. I didn’t understand it on the day but later it became the premise of *Naadan Parindey*. In the realistic realm of the world, coincidences do happen,” he says.

But that was not the end. It seemed that the 13th century poet was trying to insert himself in the film by being omnipresent. “We were nearing the end and another quote ‘Out beyond the ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there is a field and I will meet you there,’ was sent to me by another friend. It was at this moment that I realised that whoever this guy Rumi was, he knew more about the film than I did,” he says as the air around us is lulled into quiet as if paying its respect to the words of wisdom spoken long back and in a distant land. This, as we know, became the opening quotation with which Ali started the film.

Just like the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer, he believes that stories have a way of finding their tellers. “I didn’t have information or the knowledge to tell these stories. Stories have a way of finding me as I am sitting in front of a computer in a surrender mode. The best that I can do is not get in the way or impose my own ideas upon them,” he says.

Writing is often considered a lonely affair and Ali has written all the films that he has directed till date. “I don’t enjoy writing. I write the first draft feverishly. But then there is rewriting, fine tuning and outside influences like a Rumi quote till it is finalised. Filming is the next chapter of writing when there are hundreds of people on the set and issues like permissions not having come through, or fading light and more. You tell the story in the most concrete fashion at this time because it is recorded on the camera. It doesn’t matter what you have written before,” he says.

Ali says that a film usually starts when a writer imagines a scene or a character. “You imagine a girl missing a train and talking rudely to the station master but this imagination is incomplete,” he says as murmurs of Geet and *Jab We Met* go round the audience. “When an actor walks in flesh and blood and says it, that is when it becomes real. So, the interaction between the actor and director is a two-way street to tell the story effectively,” adds Ali.

However, the Jamshedpur boy prefers not to become a character in his films and says, “Sometimes when I am making a movie, I start to behave like some characters subconsciously and I have to stop myself because that is not sustainable in the reality of my world. These often predate the film when they simply existed in my head.” However, he does admit that he

enjoys when Jordan peeks out from his persona, “I believe I am not at all like him. He is stupid and I am intelligent. He can sing really well like Mohit Chauhan and I can’t sing at all. In his stupidity and naivety, there is a truth and lack of cunning. His ignorance is a path to a higher truth which I admire. When I am like that, I push my boundaries which I would have ignored if I was being myself,” he says.

Though Ali doesn’t want to be Ved or Jai (Saif in *Love Aaj Kal*) as the latter is so flummoxed by different thoughts that he can barely complete a sentence, this is a character that he sees often in himself and people around him. “I start a sentence and realise that it’s redundant and jump onto something else confusing the hell out of everybody,” he says.

However, there is a consistency in his films like the use of journey as a metaphor for life. “Journeys are important to me because they change the perspective. If you are at a new place, you feel new. The things you feel or experience are dramatically new as well. That is entertaining in life as well as movies,” he says.

Linked to the journey is also the element of the protagonists being a seeker in his films. Does Ali relate to the fact that the so-called millennials are more often found to be engaging in the quest for spirituality than the generations past? “There is so much invigoration in their brain that the absence of substance really hits them hard. They feel a little hollow. All of us would, if our lives centered around imaginary friends. If we are more device-oriented than human interaction oriented. They feel the sense of abyss and they seek a meaning. So they are seekers and drawn to spirituality,” he says nodding sagely.

When a person from the audience asks, the way to tell stories, Ali replies, “If there was only one answer to how, that would have been the end of pursuit in life. You are fortunately condemned to a life where you will constantly try to find it.”

A Hindu College alumnus, Ali loves to shoot in the capital as the old, the very old, the modern and the uber modern coexist. “It is unbelievable that we are sitting over here and just close by is Humayun’s tomb, Hazrat Nizamuddin *dargah*, a flyover, The Oberoi hotel and a metro station. When you see a frame in Delhi, you find various layers. I really feel proud that there is the presence of old heritage and culture along with the new. This is visually represented in every frame,” he says.

Since it is a storytelling festival, Ali decides to narrate one and asks the audience to huddle up close which they promptly do. He requests them to switch off their phones and not record it for there are a few tales which must remain a secret within the hearts of the stones, monuments and a few mortals that are present.

Photo: Md Meharban

Choose your tribe

The IFW finale saw four designers put together free-flowing ideas

Though rooted in ancient times, the idea of a tribe has been finding an echo in recent times. Models essayed this concept walking down the levelled-up digital runway designed especially for the grand finale of FDCI’s Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2020.

Designers Anamika Khanna, Rajesh Pratap Singh, Wendell Rodricks and Manish Arora showcased their collections in line of ‘My Fashion, My Tribe’.

Khanna opened the show with her collection to a cheering crowd that included actor Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, wearing a white sari with a colourful cut-work border, paired with a multi-colour shrug. Her collection comprised contemporary clothing like *dhoti* drapes, dresses and skirts in various colours — black, red, yellow and white. She used digital prints, a lot of feathers and patchwork to give her designs a cool, relaxed and summery look.

The second line-up by Singh opened with a live contemporary dance by four dancers which emerged from each corner of the runway. His all-white designs had huge polka dots and stripes in neon yellow, green and pink. Relaxed silhouettes of dresses, pant suits, jackets and body suits were accessorised with over-the-top headgears and chunky white shoes with neon polka dots.

Rodricks’ collection paid an ode to the island tribes and models sashayed on *Wakanda*, wearing free-falling silhouettes of skirts, capes, bralettes, skirts in mostly white and with a dash of sky blue, silver and grey. The highlight were eye-catching headgears.

Anamika Khanna



Wendell Rodricks



Manish Arora



Rajesh Pratap Singh

Models’ faces were painted white giving them a sea goddess look.

Known for his psychedelic colour palette, Arora showcased the last collection. He displayed his love for kitsch motifs with colourful shimmer dresses, jackets, skirts, gowns, blouses, skirts and trousers made the line-up. The ramp was set ablaze with quirky prints in multi colour, big bows on collars and waist of the outfits, accessories on the wrist, models with high pencil pony tails, exaggerated eyelashes and shiny high-heels with big bows. It ended on a high note with actor Kangana

Ranaut taking to the ramp. The actor decided not to don any designer’s outfit as it was difficult to select one. “My stylist told me to go with something simple and here I am wearing a white shirt and black tulle skirt, accessorised with multiple silver *kundan* necklaces,” she said and added that fashion is a way of life for her. “To enhance yourself is not a favour that you do to the world. Today, fashion weeks have set such high standards that we have models from all walks of life — from acid attack survivors, transgenders to people who are not zero size. Fashion is for everyone,” the actor said.

Her minimalistic make-up and centre-parted hair neatly tied at the back complemented the perfect look.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

He has a long powder-white hair, tired, blood-flecked eyes, a full white beard, bushy eyebrows and wrinkled blue-veined skin. One can notice his unsteady walk and faded smile with two weak teeth and feeble voice as he holds a cigarette between his crooked fingers and says, “I will just have a smoke and come back.” Meanwhile, I sit there on a rusted bench amid the trees and chirping birds wondering what this unusual style of interview has in store for me.

Uncle Larry Walsh, a local Aboriginal cultural leader, is one of the first indigenous storytellers at the Kathakar Storytelling festival. Inspired by his local community and Kulin ancestral blood connections, he is one of the only seniors in Melbourne who focusses on storytelling, ensuring the cultural continuity of his ancient oral traditions.

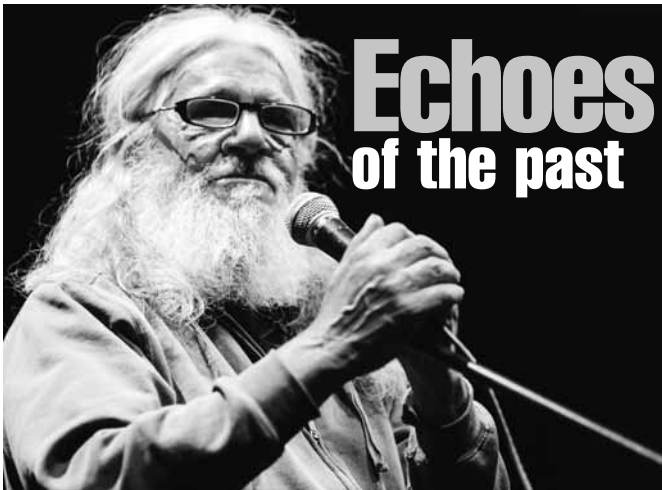
While performing 60,000-year-old stories honouring the oral traditions of the Kulin Nations Dreamtime (South Eastern Australia), Walsh presents them through a contemporary lens, illustrating the timeless quality and relevance of these ideas and knowledge to modern day life. Through his stories he wishes to display that Aboriginal people are connected to the modern world as intimately as they are connected to their past.

Talking about the festival, he says, “I hadn’t seen Indian storytellers performing before. It was great listening to them. Though I don’t know Hindi but the voice modulations, the comic timing and the reaction of the audience helped me understand the essence of the stories. We shared our puppetry too.” He adds that he was surprised by a woman who was telling stories in Hindi and English as well. As there was no language barrier, everyone in the hall, including him, understood her.

Storytelling is an art where the narration has to be in a way that the listeners feel connected. They should be able to picture the incidents while being transported to a different world altogether. Walsh says, “It is a tough but powerful medium of connecting with people. Everyone has stories to tell but not everyone has the right way or art of doing it. For me, it is more about having a rhythm. So, I judge a storyteller on this basis.”

The 65-year old storyteller was not allowed to share all the stories he wanted to. He could only share the stories from the areas that he

Storytellers UNCLE LARRY WALSH and RON MURRAY tell SAKSHI SHARMA that Aboriginal people are connected to the modern world as intimately as they are to their roots



Echoes of the past

had permission. He shares that even in ancient times, nobody was allowed to openly discuss Aboriginal tales. “My grandmother narrated some to her children. While doing so, she made sure that no one noticed this because she wasn’t allowed. Later, my uncle told me some that he remembered. When I travelled with him to the hilly areas, he told me stories of each area that we passed by. This helped to build a memory bank.”

Every narrator has a reason why they had come into this profession and stayed. Even Walsh has one. He says, “I loved talking about history and ancient things. So, one day while I was talking about it, my aunt said, ‘when you share your views and knowledge about any subject, it seems as if you are telling a story which one wants to hear more.’ He grins, pauses and adds, “I took that comment so seriously that even after 25 years, I am still telling stories.”

Walsh feels that because he was always interested in reviving the ancient traditions, he was seen as someone who would take it to the future generations. This made everyone share stories with him. Along with this, he also helped communities. So when it was anything around revival, he was asked to join in.

One can clearly see the lines of experience on his forehead. He has witnessed the technology and digital era taking over the world because of which the content and

storytelling have changed. And because of this, the essence of storytelling is getting diluted. Walsh agrees: “Earlier we used to tell stories in many folds. Each had many context which were important to the narration. But that is not the case now.”

It’s important to revive stories to keep them alive else the youth won’t be aware of their rich history. “We also describe the natural calamities that had occurred thousands of years ago and their aftermath. It is important for people to know this so that they are always prepared for them. They also need to know what and how their people have faced disasters,” he says.

Walsh particularly loves working with the younger generation as he sees them as the torch-bearers of the society. But it is important for the youth to be interested in the oral traditions. He says, “It gives a sense of pride to them that they know a story which is 20,000 or 60,000 year old. It also helps them to learn important places that are relevant to their history and culture.”

However, the audience wonders about the relevance of Aborigine tales in India. “Many Indian stories, for instance the one about a magician, were similar to our tales. Even your stories describe the forgotten history of India. So, this helped us exchange ideas and learn from each other. Now, I want to call some Indian storytellers to Australia as they were so good that they prompted me to exclaim in disbelief,” he



adds. Another storyteller, Ron is a cultural educator, musician, Didgeridoo maker and a wood sculptor. He is known for performing with Didgeridoo, which is made out of a hollow, native tree called Maali. It is one of the oldest musical instruments in the world which he says dates back to over 25,000 years. The instrument, incidentally burst into the collective Indian consciousness with *Dil Chahta Hai* (2001) and its popular duet *Jaane Kyun*.

He mimics the sound of the Kookaburra or the engine of a car. The traditional instrument lends his stories a lilting touch which, he says, enthralled the crowd. As I ask him a Aborigine tale, he immediately runs towards a tree where his Didgeridoo is lying and returns with it. He then plays the instrument and shares how his people formed circles around rocks and danced with the instrument.

Ron also performs around the fire. When I ask him about it, he says, “Fire is a very important subject. For me, it’s related to ghosts and spirits. In ancient times, when there were no matchsticks and people lived in forests, they rubbed stones to create friction and generated fire. A spark in the fire made people believe that the spirit of the forest was listening to the stories.”

A spark of love for stories from ancient times has certainly been lit and people will keep coming back for more.

A HISTORIAN'S TAKE

While writing a book on the East India Company, WILLIAM DALRYMPLE shot historical milestones and monuments on his cellphone, the striking black and white images conveying the immediacy and lack of pretension. By UMA NAIR

William Dalrymple's trail of his new book — the journey of the East India Company as it steadily laid claim to the Indian subcontinent — brought him up, close to all historical strongholds of major dynasties of the day. So he chose to photograph them on his Samsung Edge. Forty of the striking black and white images feature in the exhibition, *The Historian's Eye*, at Vadehra Contemporary studio. They convey the immediacy and lack of pretension that a cellphone offers in recording the world around us. For trigger-happy cellphone photographers all over the world, Dalrymple has said: "Photography should always be about the eye, not the equipment."

The grainy, haunting images depict places in Delhi as well as the East India Company's headquarters in Calcutta, the capital of the nawabs of Bengal in Murshidabad, Tipu Sultan's base

of Srirangapatnam and a few places in Pakistan.

Dalrymple's book is about small and larger truths, about exploitation and diatribes but his photographs at Vadehra are the stuff of nostalgia. In his photo book, published by Harper Collins, he writes, "I have travelled from the Red Fort and Jama Masjid of Delhi to the Company's headquarters in Calcutta," "...from the capital of the nawabs of Bengal in Murshidabad to as far south as Tipu Sultan's base of Srirangapatnam, a fortified island in the Cauvery river between Mysore and Bangalore."

The political dynamics at the time were tense, rife with family feuds and exiled rulers, Marathas and Mughals in a state of constant conflict, and all the while the shadow of the Company looming steadily larger.

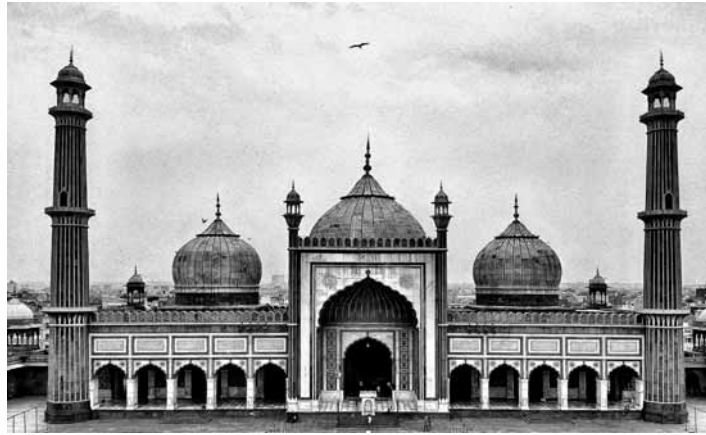
His travels to various historical sites become his subject. "I certainly find that when I'm writing, my view of an event is almost always completely changed by visiting the site," he explains. "Obviously, everything has changed in 250 years and,



what you see when you go somewhere today is not what Shah Alam saw in the early 1800s. For example, the Red Fort today is completely different; nonetheless, if you've never been to the Red Fort, you can't possibly imagine what his life had been like."

The blacks and whites have about them a surreal stillness. While each image has something to ponder, it is the Delhi series that grabs you by the eyeballs because it is steeped in the beauty of solitude. Jama Masjid is a panoramic flat linear image that distills the tide of time. Jantar Mantar has its geometric gravitas while Rajon ki baoli, Mehrauli, has an aura of antiquity. Among narratives that capture evocative experiences is *Monsoon afternoon at Safdarjung Tomb*.

Dalrymple surfaces as a concerned historian and pho-



tographer. While he photographs all these places, we can sense a certain brand of sensitivity. "The Mughal empire, which had been one super-centralised, hyper-organised empire, suddenly fragmented overnight — like a mirror dropped from a first-floor window," said Dalrymple about his work in an exclusive interview.

His images give an hour-glass definition to an area of photography that has a specific point of view. These images talk to us through the tapestry of faith and the veil of history. It unravels

Dalrymple as a photographer who is also a

committed humanist. Unlike a number of run-of-the-mill photojournalists as well as mundane, pedestrian documentary photographers, Dalrymple comes through as an observer who is far from neutral. Rather he comes through as a passionate historian who has a human pulse and a viewpoint about exploitation, atrocities and colonial hangovers. He is a champion of the narrative with an eye on integrity.

In more ways than one, you remember the words of the last Mughal, Bahadur Shah Zafar, just before his death: "Delhi was once a paradise/ Where Love held sway and reigned/ But its charm lies ravished now/ And only ruins remain."

The saxophone goes silent

An innovator, who put the instrument on the map of Carnatic music, KADRI GOPALNATH will be sorely missed by thousands of music lovers worldwide, says VEEJAY SAI

Last Friday, the world woke up to the news of the sudden demise of Carnatic saxophone maestro Kadri Gopalnath (1949-2019). He was 69, unexpected because he was in great health and has been regularly performing across venues. With his passing, the world of Indian classical music lost a pioneer and an innovator.

Gopalnath was born at Sajeepa Mooda in the Dakshina Kannada Taluk of Bantwal on December 6, 1949. He was the third among nine children of Nagaswaram artiste Taniyappa and Thangamma, a homemaker. He learnt to play the Nagaswaram and clarinet at an early age. It was during some Dussehra celebrations in Mysore that he heard the palace band. The saxophone highly attracted the eight-year-old. He began training in it under Gopalakrishna Iyer in Mangalore and later from Balakrishna Pillai in Kumbakonam. A priest heard him and invited him to perform during a puja in the Kadri temple, which was his official debut. He was only 15.



Growing up in a poor family was not easy for the budding musician. He even rolled *beedis* to earn some money. He went for various auditions at the AIR and was selected in the 'B High' category. After making a debut at the All-India Radio in 1978, there was no looking back. The Bombay Jazz Festival 1980 saw him as an instant hit when he performed with John Handy.

Later, he also went to train with Mridangam maestro and singer Sangita Kalanidhi T V Gopalakrishnan. Fondly addressed as "TVG," he was already a guru to stalwarts like film music director Ilaiyaraaja and several others. TVG taught

him further innovations on the instrument.

While the Nagaswaram has been integral to Carnatic instrumental music from ancient times, being played at temples and other festival ceremonies, the other instruments were fairly alien to the genre. The Mysore Palace was famous for kings who were great patrons of art and music. The palace had its own band, one which inspired Gopalnath. Though initially he performed on the existing saxophones, he eventually worked closely with a company in Hyderabad and engineered his own instrument to adapt it to Carnatic music.

Gopalnath's innovation on

the instrument was unique and original. Until then, nobody had dared to even try playing the complicated Carnatic music notes on it. There were already several artistes playing the clarinet. But the saxophone was unexplored. Well, it was a devil that needed to be tamed. And Gopalnath did it.

Initially, he also faced a lot of opposition from the conservative establishment that patronised the genre. However, eventually, it was through his own music that he was able to convince them that it was possible to have a Carnatic saxophone. Soon some of the biggest institutions invited him to perform — the prestigious Music Academy of Madras, Narada Gana Sabha, Krishna Gana Sabha and so forth. He had proved that the most complex of Carnatic pieces could be performed perfectly on a modern Western instrument. In one of his many concerts, the famous film director K Balachander and young music director A R Rahman were present. They invited him to perform for their films.

Gopalnath's music was hence heard in the famous song *Anjali Anjali Pushpanjali* in the film *Duet* (1994), starring Prabhu. The song was an astounding success and numerous offers followed post that. However, going by what music critic Subbudu had said, Gopalnath refused all film offers and stuck to performing only Carnatic music.

Gopalnath was invited regularly to perform at classical music festivals across the world, be it the Berlin Jazz Festival, International Cervantino

Festival in Mexico, the Music Hall Festival in Paris, USA, Canada, and so on. He was the first Carnatic musician to be invited to perform at the BBC promenade concert at the Royal Albert Hall in London in 1994. His name eventually became synonymous with the Carnatic saxophone much like Mandolin was associated with the prodigy stalwart U Shrinivas.

He was the *Asthana Vidwan* of prominent religious institutions like the Sringeri Sharada Peetham, Ahobila Mutt and Pillayarpatti temple. He recorded several noteworthy albums, some of which are *East-West* and *Southern Brothers* with American jazz and classical flautist James Newton. The 2008 album with American composer Rudresh Mahanthappa *Kinsmen* is his another notable album. He was also popular for his music *jugalbandis*. From pianist Adnan Sami to Hindustani flautist Praveen Godkhindi, he never hesitated to perform even if the other artistes were far younger in age than him. He was called the "Saxophone Chakravathy."

Several awards and recognitions came his way for his immense contribution to music. In 2008, the album *Blue Rhizome*, by the New Quartet, featured a title *Gopalnath* composed by Karl Seigfried. Apart of this, he was also awarded the Tamil Nadu state award *Kalaimamani*, the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2004), the Padma Shri (2004) and the Sangita Choodamani (2018).

One of Gopalnath's two sons, Manikanth Kadri, is a music composer.

Finding fresco

New wall art with gladiators discovered in Italy

Archaeologists excavating what may have been an ancient Roman drinking den, in the ruined city of Pompeii, they have unearthed a well-preserved wall painting of gladiators in action, complete with realistically gory wounds.

The three ft by 4.5ft fresco is located in the Regio V site, in the northern section of Pompeii's archaeological park, in an area not currently accessible to visitors. It was found on a wall beneath the stairwell of what was probably a tavern or a wine shop. "The fresco decorated a place used by gladiators, perhaps a watering hole also frequented by prostitutes," said Massimo Osanna, director general of the archaeological park. "Of particular interest in this fresco is the extremely realistic representation of the wounds," said Osanna, adding that the outcome of the fight is

unknown. The losing gladiator is holding up his finger to "implore for mercy," he noted. The gladiators' fresco is the latest finding in the Pompeii park, which has yielded dozens of impressive discoveries in the last two years. But the site in recent years has also received bad publicity due to decay and poor maintenance.

Italy's Culture Minister, Dario Franceschini, hailed the discovery recently, noting that "a few years ago Pompeii was known around the world for its negative image... Today's story is one of redemption."

Pompeii was a flourishing city destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius

in 79 AD Last October, the finding of a charcoal inscription suggested that the eruption happened in October 79 AD rather than August of the same year, as was previously believed.

Franceschini stressed that the fresco finding "really shows that Pompeii is an inexhaustible source of research and knowledge for the archaeologist of today and for the future."

As part of a multi-million project founded by the European Union, Pompeii is currently undergoing its most extensive excavations since the 1950s, with archaeologists removing tons of debris from long-buried areas of the city.

—AP



WATCH OUT



Live Unbound, an art exhibition curated by Sugandha Chagti, is a contemporary art project showcasing the artists' true creativity and wholeness that make them who they are. **WHEN:** Till October 30 **TIME:** **WHERE:** Modern Art Gallery, Santushti Shopping Complex, Chanakyapuri.



Written by Danish Iqbal and directed by Mustajab Malik, Joker Theatre Group and BFTA presents *Daastan-e-Ram*, a play that recreates the *Ramayana* in Urdu. **WHEN:** October 16 **TIME:** 6 pm **WHERE:** Sri Ram Centre for Performing Arts.



Gallery Art Motif presents *Of Paper*, an exhibition featuring recent pieces by six artists who work with paper as the medium of their art. **WHEN:** Till November 2 **TIME:** 10 am to 6 pm **WHERE:** Gallery Art Motif.



Serendipity Arts Foundation, in collaboration with Foundation for Indian Contemporary Art, presents *Open Day*, which gives insight into how to view cities as an extended studio, mining various resources, individuals, and forming their own support structures. **WHEN:** Till October 20 **TIME:** 11 am to 6 pm (closed on Sunday) **WHERE:** C-340, Chetna Marg, Defence Colony.

Curated by Priyanka Banerjee, *Panorama-16* is a group art exhibition that delves deep into contemporary social issues like shrinking habitats of flora and fauna, global warming, spiritual harmony, feminism and more. **WHEN:** October 19 to 25 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Gallery 1, Lalit Kala Akademi.



SINGLES

DELHI BEAT PUNJAB BY 5 RUNS

VADODARA: Lalit Yadav led the lower middle-order fightback with an unbeaten half-century before spinners joined the party as Delhi managed to upstage Punjab by five runs in a group B match of the Vijay Hazare. Coming into bat at 115 for five, Yadav emerged as the top-scorer for Delhi with an unbeaten 53-ball 54 as he steered the team to a respectable 220 for 8 in their stipulated 50 overs. Chasing the total, Anmolpreet Singh (73) kept Punjab in the hunt but they failed to weave partnerships and eventually managed 215 for nine. Navdeep Saini rocked the top order before the spin trioka of Pawan Negi (2/40), Nitish Rana (2/34) and Lalit Yadav (2/22) produced regular breakthroughs to derail Punjab's chase.

PANCHAL SLAMS TON AGAINST J&K

JAIPUR: Opener Priyank Panchal starred with an unbeaten 135 (122 balls, 17 fours, 3 sixes) as Gujarat thrashed Jammu & Kashmir by eight wickets to notch up its eighth successive win in Group 'C' of the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The Parthiv Patel-led side overhauled J&K's score of 279 for 8 in the 38th over with the diminutive 'keeper making 63 while Bhargav Merai remained not out on 70 (56 balls, 6 fours, 1 six). Asked to bat by Gujarat, J&K rode on half-centuries by Abdul Samad (68, 53 balls, 7 sixes) and Shubham Khajuria (66, 64 balls, 6 fours, 3 sixes) and a knock of 49 by captain Parvez Rasool (49, 57 balls, 1 four, 1 six). For Gujarat, Rush Kalaria (2/34), C T Gaja (2/46) and A Nagwaswalla (2/74) took two wickets each.

VINAY, SAGAR SHINE FOR PUDUCHERRY

DEHRADUN: Veteran seamer R Vinay Kumar bagged a match-winning four-wicket haul as Puducherry thrashed Manipur by nine wickets to return to the top of the Plate Group table in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Vinay Kumar (4/21) rattled the top-order in a triple burst to reduce Manipur to 19/4 in 7.1 overs but skipper Priyjit Singh provided some resistance with an unbeaten 44. Singh, however, lacked support at the other end as they were bundled out for 109 in 30.1 overs with left-arm spinner Sagar Udeshi returning with three for 26. In reply, opener Arun Karthik steered the team home, slamming an unbeaten 67 from 43 balls with six fours and four sixes as Puducherry sealed the issue in 16.1 overs."

FOUAAD WINS GOLD AT OLY QUALIFIERS

BENGALURU: India's double Asian Games Silver medalist Fouaad Mirza bagged the top honours at the CCI3*S, an Olympic qualifying event, held in Strzegom, Poland. Fouaad is currently the highest ranked individual in Group G for Asia Pacific Zone with 34 points on one horse Fernhill Facetime, 30 points on the second horse Touchingwood and at present qualifying his third horse, Dajara. "I am very excited about our new horse Dajara, which has immense potential for success at the Olympics. Through the event CCI3*S, we were able to level up the horse rider combination to 4" and building up my points to qualify for the Olympics," Fouaad said on Sunday. Fouaad started the week with a solid dressage score of 26.8 which placed him second with a very close score to Germany's Antonia Baumgart, who was one penalty better at 25.8.

GAUFF CLIMBS TO 71 IN WTA RANKINGS

PARIS: American prodigy Coco Gauff continued her rise up the ranks of women's tennis on Monday when the WTA rankings showed a climb of 39 places to number 71 in the world. Gauff started last week in Linz at 110 and was originally set for an early departure from Austria after losing in the qualifying rounds before grabbing a lifeline as a lucky loser. She went on to beat 2017 Roland Garros winner Jelena Ostapenko in the final for her maiden title. It marks a meteoric rise for the young American — at the end of 2018, she was 686 in the world. Another good performance in Luxembourg this week could see her knocking on the door of the top 50. There was no movement in the top 20 with Ashleigh Barty retaining the number one spot for another week. AGENCIES



'MS still playing incredibly well'

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Former Australia cricketer and Chennai Super Kings all-rounder Shane Watson on Monday said it is up to the legendary Mahendra Singh Dhoni to take a call on his retirement though "he is still playing incredibly well".

"He has still got the skill. But it is down to him to decide. He still moves incredibly well, runs hard between the wickets and has beautiful hands. Whatever he does, it will be the right thing because he knows what lies ahead," Watson told reporters.

The burly Aussie all-rounder also praised Virat Kohli's captaincy and said he has done a great job with the Indian team.

"He (Kohli) has done a great job

Sindhu out to break title duck

PTI ■ ODENSE

World Champion P V Sindhu will look to shake off her indifferent form and regain touch when she competes at the \$775,000 Denmark Open from today.

After claiming the World title in August, Sindhu endured surprise first and second round exits at the China Open and Korea Open last month, respectively.

World number six Sindhu, who has not won a title in the BWF World Tour this season, will take on Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung in the first round of the World Tour Super 750 tournament.

Sindhu enjoys a 5-0 head-to-head record against the world number 16. World No 8 Saina Nehwal, on the other hand, has been going through a tough phase with fitness issues hindering her progress since claiming the Indonesia Masters in January.

The London Olympic Bronze medalist, who was diagnosed with agastroenteritis problem in March, made first-round exits at China and Korea and she aim to get deep into the draw.

A finalist at the last edition, Saina, seeded 8th, is up against World No 12 from Japan Sayaka Takahashi, who had defeated the Indian the last time they meet at the



PV Sindhu in action during BWF World Championship final match against Nozomi Okuhara

PTI/File Picture

Thailand Open in August.

Former champion Kidambi Srikanth, who had skipped the events in China and Korea due to a knee issue, too will be eager to make a positive start but he will have to get past Denmark's Anders Antonsen in the opening round.

While Srikanth had beaten

Antonsen at the 2017 World Championships, the Danish shuttler has come a long way since then, having reached the finals of the World Championships at Switzerland.

Currently ranked fourth, Antonsen has won the Indonesia Masters, Barcelona Spain Masters, European Games and made it to the

finals at Indonesia Open Super 1000 this year.

World Championships Bronze medalist B Sai Praneeth will be up against the legendary Lin Dan, who had entered the finals at Thailand Masters in January and won the Malaysia Open in April but have looked off-colour since then.



Hamilton in no hurry to win title

AFF ■ MEXICO CITY

Lewis Hamilton said he is in no hurry to win a sixth world championship after the title battle was reduced to a two-horse Mercedes race at the Japanese Grand Prix.

The Formula One circus moves on to Mexico in two weeks' time where Hamilton, enjoying a 64-point lead over Valtteri Bottas, can wrap up a third consecutive drivers' crown if he outscores his teammate by 14 points or more.

More likely is that the battle will be concluded at the subsequent race at the Grand Prix of the Americas in Austin, Texas.

Bottas' victory at Suzuka and Hamilton's third place clinched a sixth consecutive constructors' championship for Mercedes and left the Finn as the only driver who can catch Hamilton over the final four races of the campaign.

"I think for me it's never been a case of always wanting to rush things," Hamilton told reporters adding that he expected a tough battle from his teammate over the final few races.

"Valtteri's driven well all year long, he's done a great job today and he will most likely do a very, very solid job these next races, so we still have a battle, the fight continues," he added.

Spin web

Spinners help India complete 3-0 whitewash

PTI ■ VADODARA

Spinners helped India pull off a thrilling six-run win over South Africa in a low-scoring third women's ODI and complete a 3-0 series white-wash here on Monday.

India were able to defend a modest 146 by bowling out South Africa for 140 in 48 overs.

Spinners Ekta Bisht (3/32 in 10 overs), Deepti Sharma (2/24 in 10) and Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/22 in 10) were the architect of the win that reaffirmed India's supremacy over South Africa, who also lost the preceding six-game T20 series.

It seemed South Africa would get their first win of the series when they bundled out India in 45.5 overs but another disappointing batting performance denied them the opportunity.

India made a disastrous start after winning the toss, losing openers Priya Punia and Jemimah Rodrigues in the second over.

With the hosts reeling at 55 for five, T20 skipper Harmanpreet Singh steadied the innings with a 76-ball 38 with the other valuable contribution coming from Shikha Pandey (35 off 40).

Most of the batters, including captain Mithali Raj (11 off 46), failed



to shift gears after getting settled, resulting in India posting a below-par total.

In the end, even that proved to be enough against South Africa who were on course for a comfortable win at 103 for five in the 30th over.

However, India fought back through their spinners and even part timers Harmanpreet and Rodrigues did their bit.

Rodrigues took the final wicket of the game to spark celebrations. It was also her first scalp in international cricket.

Federer to play in Tokyo Olympics

AFF ■ PARIS

Roger Federer announced Monday he will compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics in a bid to claim the men's singles Gold medal, the only major prize he has yet to win.

"I've been debating with my team for a few weeks now, months actually, what I should do in the summer time (of 2020) after Wimbledon and before the US Open," he said at a promotional event.

"At the end of the day my heart decided to play the Olympic Games again."

Federer has won all four of the Grand Slam tournaments, as well as the ATP Tour Finals six times, but is still waiting to grab Olympic singles Gold.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion did win a doubles Gold alongside fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka at Beijing in 2008, but when he got to the



Roger Federer celebrates after win in Shanghai AP

London singles final in 2012 he was hampered 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 by an inspired Andy Murray.

Federer did not compete at Rio 2016, where Murray won again, but has since

Virat closes in on Smith

PTI ■ DUBAI

Virat Kohli reached within one point of top-ranked Steve Smith in the Test batsmen rankings after the India skipper scored an unbeaten 254 in the second Test against South Africa.

Opener Mayank Agarwal also rose in the rankings, breaking into the top 20. His innings of 108 in the second Test against South Africa helped him progress eight places to reach the 17th position.

Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, at



fourth and ninth places respectively, are the other two Indian batsmen in the top 10.

Ravichandran Ashwin also jumped three spots to number seven while Bumrah continued to remain third in the bowlers' rankings.

Among the all-rounders, Ravindra Jadeja is at number two behind West Indies skipper Jason Holder while Ashwin occupies the fifth place.

Kohli, who had dropped below 900 points after the first Test for the first time since January 2018, reached 936, a point less than his career-best rating achieved in August 2018.

ICC tweaks super over rule

PTI ■ DUBAI

The International Cricket Council on Monday tweaked the super over rule for all its major events following the uproar over the outcome of the men's World Cup final in July when England were declared winners against New Zealand on boundary count.

New Zealand and England had headed into the super over after scores in the World Cup final were tied at

241. Once the super over also ended in a tie with both teams making 15, the winner was decided on account of superior boundary count.

Following that nerve-wracking final, the ICC faced the wrath of fans and former players over the controversial rule.

Now it has finally made changes to the rule and in case a situation arise where both teams are tied even after the super over in a final or semifinal, the super over will be repeated until

there is a clear winner.

"Following on from a recommendation from the ICC Cricket Committee, the Chief Executives' Committee agreed that use of the Super Over as a way to decide results at ICC events will be retained. Both the Cricket Committee and CEC agreed it was an exciting and engaging conclusion to the game and will remain in place covering all games at both ODI and T20I World Cups," the ICC said after its board meeting here.

ICC readmits Zim & Nepal as members

PTI ■ DUBAI

The ICC on Monday decided to readmit Zimbabwe and Nepal as its members following the conclusion of the Board meetings here.

Zimbabwe and Nepal were suspended in July this year following government interference in the running of the Board.

Zimbabwe will now be able to take up their place in the ICC Men's U-19 World Cup in January and the ICC Super League later in 2020.

Nepal has also been reinstated on a conditional basis following their 2016 suspension for breach of the ICC regulations which prohibit government interference and require free and fair elections.

Ashwin to stay at KXIP

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kings XI Punjab co-owner Ness Wadia on Monday said the franchise decided not to trade Ravichandran Ashwin with the Delhi Capitals following a "rethink" by the Board.

It has been learnt that the newly-appointed head coach Anil Kumble was also keen to retain Ashwin, who captained the side in the previous two editions.

"The (KXIP) Board had a rethink and it realised that Ashwin is an integral part of the team. There were discus-

sions with Delhi Capitals but those discussions never came to fruition.

The way he plays his cricket and his per-

formances speak for him," Wadia said.

Under Ashwin's leadership, KXIP showed a lot of promise in the first half of the past two seasons before losing momentum in the second half. They finished seventh in 2018 and sixth in 2019.

K X I P reached the semifinals in the inaugural IPL edition before making the play-offs just once in 2014 when they finished runners-up. Now with Kumble on board, the franchise is aiming to end its title drought.



Gauff salutes Roger's words of wisdom

AFF ■ LINZ

Coco Gauff hailed Roger Federer for his words of wisdom as the 15-year-old US prodigy on Sunday became the youngest champion on the WTA Tour since 2004.

Gauff defeated 2017 Roland Garros winner Jelena Ostapenko 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 in the Linz final for her maiden title.

The teenager is managed by Federer's Team8 and even shares an Italian pasta sponsor with the 20-time major winner.

On Sunday, she revealed that a pep-talk by the Swiss superstar, after she suffered a heartbreaking defeat in the first round of the 2018 Australian Open junior event, has helped her on a path which this year saw her reach the last 16 at Wimbledon and US Open third round.

"He did give me some advice at the Australian Open in 2018 when I lost in the first round (after being amongst the favourites)," Gauff recalled.

"He told me not to focus too much on the pressure or the outside drama. He gave me some perspective."

"Now, I try to enjoy the tennis and I barely think of that first-round loss two years later."

Gauff, meanwhile, confirmed she is "100 percent" ready to play at this week's Luxembourg WTA event where she will enjoy a career-high ranking inside the top 70.

She started the week in Linz at 110 in the world and was originally set for an early departure from Austria after losing in

the qualifying rounds before grabbing a lifeline as a lucky loser.

"For sure, I'm 100 percent playing in Luxembourg," said Gauff whose rise has been meteoric — at the end of 2018, she was 686 in the world.

"I'm excited, it will be my last event for the year. I'm playing doubles there also (with regular partner Caty McNally)."

"This is the opportunity to see how I perform at back-to-back tournaments."

Gauff's career timetable has suddenly shifted into overdrive, with her breakthrough WTA trophy coming much more quickly than might have been expected.

"My goal was the top 100 and to get into the main draw of at least one Grand Slam," said the player, who has now earned a main draw spot for January's Australian Open.

"I've accomplished all of those goals this year, now I need to work on improving my game."

"I've gone through what was supposed to be my timeline for the next two years. It's been crazy."

"I didn't expect to be on the Tour in general right now," the 2018 French Open junior champion said.

Gauff, coached by her father, said she expects to start gaining confidence as she gets more accustomed to the WTA circuit. "I'm new to the Tour and I've not faced a lot of the players. I'm sure the more matches I play the more confident I'll get, along with the more experience I'll have."



Indian team led by captain Sunil Chhetri trains at Salt Lake stadium in Kolkata on Sunday ahead of FIFA World Cup qualifiers match against Bangladesh today

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Buoyed by their gallant goal-less draw against Asian champions Qatar, India would be looking to register their first win in the FIFA World Cup qualifiers when they take on Bangladesh in a group E second round match at the Saltlake Stadium, here today.

India put a gritty performance against an attacking Qatar, to hold the reigning Asian champions to a goalless draw and earn their first point of the qualifiers after suffering a heartbreaking loss in the opening match against Oman.

With the city set to host the senior national men's team after a gap of nine years, the euphoria around the match has been immense with a mad rush for tickets as the Saltlake Stadium is set to witness a packed house, giving the Igor Stimac-coached side a perfect stage to grab three points and keep their World Cup hopes alive.

The absence of defender, Sandesh Jhingan due to an ACL tear on his left knee is a big blow to the hosts. But the return of talismanic captain Sunil Chhetri after missing the last game will lift the team's spirit.

In his last appearance, Chhetri scored his 72nd international goal, the second most among active players, as India put up a dominating first-half display only to go down 1-2 after conceding late goals in their World Cup qualifier against Oman in Guwahati.

Goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu took the charge in Chhetri's absence and thwarted a barrage of attacks from Qatar, making 11 saves in a heroic display to snatch a point from the 2022 World Cup hosts.

While defence, tactical formation and discipline were the highlights of their match against Qatar, the focus against Bangladesh, who are ranked 83 places below India, would be on the strikers.

Chhetri will remain the go-to man in the attacking zone, but the onus will also be on the likes of Balwant Singh and Manvir Singh to make an impact.

The skipper will also have the

Full Points

Buoyant India target first win of FIFA WC qualifier against Bangladesh

India vs Bangladesh
Live from 7:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

support of his Bengaluru FC teammates Udanta Singh and Ashique Kuruniyan, while Mandar Rao Desai and Sahal Abdul Samad will be key in creating chances.

As for the back line, Stimac will be forced to rejig his central-defence with Anas Edathodika likely to pair up with Adil Khan in front of Sandhu.

Jhingan's injury gives Anas with a perfect opportunity to prove himself again, especially after returning from retirement.

India failed to keep up the intensity in the final minutes because of fitness concerns against Oman but Stimac addressed the issue against Qatar. And it will be interesting to see how the Blue Tigers cope up with the challenge against Bangladesh, who have eight under-23 players in their squad.

Bangladesh head to the match after two consecutive defeats. They lost narrowly to Afghanistan and in their last match before going down 0-2 to Qatar. But the Jamie Day-coached side has put up a strong fight and created many chances in the two games.

The Englishman may have conceded that India are firm favourites but Bangladesh will

"In this game, it's going to be a big test for the strikers. It's not the defence but the forward line will have to deliver."

—BHAICHUNG BHUTIA
(Former Indian captain)

"I told my players you might not get a chance to play again in front of such a crowd so make the most of it. I want them to be confident and play their natural game."

—JAMIE DAY
(Bangladesh coach)

"I wouldn't like any of you to underestimate Bangladesh. They have some very talented youngsters just like us. Don't make it worse and harder by underestimating them. Let's go into this game by being respectful to the Bangladeshi team."

—IGOR STIMAC
(Indian coach)

certainly look to make an impact with their forward duo of Nabib Newaz Ziban and Saad Uddin.

On paper, India enjoy a commanding 15-2 head-to-head record in 28 meetings but Bangladesh have managed to stay unbeaten in their last two fixtures (1-1 in SAFF Championships, 2013 and 2-2 in an International friendly, 2014).

There is no dependency on me: Chhetri

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Expectations are always high from India's record goalscorer Sunil Chhetri but ahead of Bangladesh game, the skipper said others players in the side are very much capable of outperforming him.

Having sat out of Qatar game, Chhetri will return to take charge of the team but he played down his presence in the side.

"It was never about me, it will be never about me. It's always about India versus Bangladesh. I'm just one of the 23 players. I definitely have been lucky to have a little bit more experience and that's about it. There's no dependency on me from my team mates. We are one and we are going to play like one," Chhetri said on the eve of group E fixture.

The Jamie Day-coached Bangladesh have made it clear that India will start as favourites with Chhetri being the main threat.

"I hope four people mark me. So me and four from the opposition are out and we are playing 10 versus six. I will be very happy then we will come to know about someone like Udanta (Singh), Ashique (Kuruniyan),



Sunil Chhetri trains with teammate ahead of World Cup qualifiers against Bangladesh

PTI (Abdul) Sahal, Manvir or Balwant"

"I will try to be as best that I can be. But if they want to mark,

then it's good because we have better players who are in better shape than me. You will see them tomorrow," the 35-year-old said.

Win against India will change B'desh football: Jamal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuyan on Monday said his team is relishing the challenge of producing an upset win against favourites India, something which will give a big boost to the sport in the cricket-crazy country.

"If we win something will change in Bangladesh football. India have big companies supporting the sport but we lack in investment. So it's a great opportunity to change that by showcasing what we have and attract big investments," he



Bhuyan said his team is ready to break the hearts of home fans in their World Cup group qualifier.

"No pressure on us, the pressure is on India as if they don't win the fans will be after them," he said.

"I am going to tell my boys to go there and give their best. But yes India are favourites. I am going to break the India hearts tomorrow," the Danish-born Bangladeshi captain said on the eve of the match.

Bhuyan, a defensive midfielder, said the contest will centre around the midfield.

"This a big game because we have a history between the two countries and all the players from both camps are eager to play this game. Whoever wins the midfield battle has the better chance to win the match," said the 29-year-old.

Bulls enter PKL semis

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Pawan Sehrawat did the star turn as defending champions Bengaluru Bulls outwitted UP Yoddha 48-45 in the first eliminator to qualify for the semi-finals of the Pro Kabaddi League season seven here on Monday.

Star raider Pawan secured 20 raid points as the Bulls fought their way back in front of a packed audience at the EKA Arena to set up a semifinal clash with Dabang Delhi.

The UP side dominated the early minutes of a fiercely-contested first-half as Bengaluru struggled to get a stranglehold.

UP had the advantage of momentum, with 23 All-Out in their last 11 matches (the best record in the league), and inflicted an All-Out on the Bulls in the 8th minute to open up a 7-point lead.

Nitesh produced stellar tackle in the first move after the All-Out to send Pawan once again to the dugout but the Bulls finally had success in the defence with a successful tackle on Surrender Gill with seven minutes remaining.

The tackle brought Pawan back on the mat and the High Flyer produced a stunning 3-point Super Raid to halt UP's dominance in the match.

Nitesh did produce a Super Tackle on Pawan with four minutes left to half time but the Bulls, buoyed by Rohit's presence on the mat, secured their first All-Out with a minute remaining for the break. The half ended 20-17 with UP on top.

Bulls dominated the starting minutes of the second half with Mahender Singh coming good in the defence.

With the defence scoring points the Bulls sniffer an All-Out and reduced the UP side to two on the mat.

But in Nitesh, UP had, arguably, the league's best defender, and the captain produced two Super Tackles (in the 10th and 11th minute of the half) on Pawan



Pawan Sehrawat in action during PKL match

PTI to keep his team in the match and pick up a High 5.

Bulls' Sumit and UP's Shrikant impressed with their raids as the match entered the final four minutes with UP leading by 8 points.

Pawan produced some important raids to clinch an All-Out with four points remaining. Bengaluru had a one point lead going into the final play of the match but Surrender made successful raid to level the points and push the point to extra time.

UP started the extra time on a high with a two-point raid by Rishank Devadiga that also sent Pawan to the bench but Sumit's raiding and a team tackle on UP's Shrikant meant at the half time in extra time there was only one point separating the sides.

Pawan produced a stunning 4-point raid to give the defending champions a three point lead but Monu Goyat immediately produced a 2-point raid to make it a one point.

But Pawan clinched an All-Out and that was enough to see the defending champions through to the semi-finals.

Poland, Russia reach Euro 2020

AFP ■ PARIS

Poland and Russia secured their places at Euro 2020 on Sunday with victories over North Macedonia and Cyprus respectively, while Germany and the Netherlands boosted their hopes of reaching the finals.

Russia eased to a 5-0 thrashing of 10-man Cyprus, with Poland joining them, Belgium and Italy in qualifying this week by seeing off North Macedonia 2-0.

Stanislav Cherchesov's Russia, only had to avoid defeat in Nicosia to follow Belgium in qualifying from Group I.

Valencia winger Denis Cheryshev fired in a ninth-minute opener for the visitors, before Magomed Ozdоеv made it two mid-way through the first half.

Striker Artem Dzyuba scored his third goal in two games in the 79th minute, before Aleksandr Golovin and Cheryshev's second completed the rout late on.

Russia will attempt to overtake Belgium, who beat Kazakhstan 2-0 earlier on Sunday, at the summit when they host the world's number one side on November 16.

Poland went into their game against North Macedonia knowing victory would punch their ticket for the Euros.

They were forced to be patient by the visitors, who could qualify through the playoffs after winning their Nations League group if they fail to do so automatically.

But Przemyslaw Frankowski prodded home less than 60 seconds after coming on as a substitute in the 74th minute, before Akardiusz Milik made the points safe.

Poland remain three points clear of Austria, who won 1-0 in Slovenia, at the top of Group G, with North Macedonia and Slovenia five points further adrift.

DUTCH SEE OFF BELARUS

Ronald Koeman's Netherlands remained at the top of Group C ahead of Germany on head-to-



Gareth Bale celebrates with Wales teammates after scoring equaliser against Croatia during Euro 2020 qualifiers

AP head record with a nervy 2-1 win over Belarus in Minsk.

The Dutch lead third-placed Northern Ireland by three points after beating Michael O'Neill's side 3-1 on Thursday.

Georginio Wijnaldum headed the away team in front in the 32nd minute, shortly after Denis Laptev had spurned a golden chance to give Belarus a shock lead.

The Liverpool midfielder doubled the advantage before the break with a wonderful 25-yard strike into the top corner, and although Stanislav Dragun gave Belarus hope early in the second half, the Netherlands held on with relative comfort.

Victory in Belfast over the Northern Irish next month would secure the Oranje a first appearance at a major tournament since finishing third at the 2014 World Cup.

Germany eased to a 3-0 victory in Estonia despite seeing Emre Can sent off in the 14th minute.

ISL to be India's top tier league

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



Indian Super League (ISL) will replace the I-League as the top-tier competition in the country after the stakeholders agreed to a proposal of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), ending the long-drawn and contentious restructuring process.

In a meeting at the AFC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, the I-League and ISL clubs agreed on a roadmap presented by the AFC on domestic football structure reforms in India.

As per the roadmap, the ISL will be the top league in the country from this season itself while I-League will continue as second tier league.

The ISL, which begins in Kochi on October 20, will not have promotion and relegation till 2023-24 by which time the League would have completed 10 seasons.

From the 2024-25 season onwards, performance-based promotion and relegation will be implemented and there will not be two parallel leagues.

The ISL champions would now be entitled to a play-off place in the AFC Champions League, the top-tier club competition in Asia, while I-League champions would compete in the second tier AFC Cup "as a special compensation to India".

Another key recommendation by the AFC is to open a pathway for two I-League clubs' entry into the ISL by the end of the 2020-21 season, subject to the licensing criteria being fulfilled.

There has been speculation for some time that Mohun Bagan and East Bengal may join the ISL but no agreement could be reached as the two Kolkata giants wanted a waiver of the ₹15 crore participation fee.

The AFC statement is not clear on the participation fee issue but AIFF General Secretary Kushal Das said the two clubs will have to pay the fee.

"Whichever two clubs (open for inclusion in the ISL) will have to pay the participation fee. This is also according to FIFA recommendation," Das said.

In addition to this, the AFC proposal said starting with the 2022-23 season, the winner of I-League will stand a chance to be promoted to the ISL with no participation fee, subject to fulfilling sporting merit and the national club licensing criteria to be set out by the AIFF.

"Everyone has to put the good of Indian football at the forefront and take the best decisions to develop Indian club football. The AFC will be very much involved to ensure the growth of the game to the next level with the pathway to a single league," AFC General Secretary 'Dato' Windsor John said.

Former I-League champions Minerva Punjab owner Ranjit Bajaj, who had earlier vociferously opposed the AIFF's move to grant ISL the top league status, said he is happy that main concerns of the I-League clubs have been addressed.

"Four clubs are being promoted (to ISL) by four years and then promotion and relegation (in ISL) will start. I consider this as a victory even at the cost of losing the AFC Champions League spot," he said.

WALES HOLD UP CROATIA

Croatia were made to wait to qualify, as Gareth Bale's strike in first-half injury time proved enough to grab a 1-1 draw for Wales in Cardiff.

Nikola Vlasic fired a low ninth-minute shot in off the post to put Croatia on course for qualification, before Bale's fine goal secured Wales a point in a bad-tempered affair.

Last year's World Cup runners-up Croatia will qualify if they avoid defeat against Slovakia in their final match on November 16, while Euro 2016 semi-finalists Wales could join them with two closing wins, as long as Slovakia do not beat the Croatians.