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PSA slapped on Farooq for detention

SC to hear Viako's plea against NC leader's house arrest on Sep 30; court allows Azad to visit Valley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir administration on Sunday invoked the stringent Public Safety Act against former State Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah to detain him, a day before the Supreme Court took up a petition against his "illegal detention".

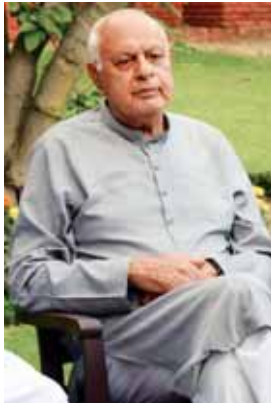
At 81, Abdullah has been charged with "disturbing public order" under the law, which means shorter detention of three months.

On Monday, the SC asked the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to respond to a plea seeking that Abdullah, allegedly under detention following the scrapping of the State's special status, be produced before the court.

Meanwhile, the SC allowed Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to visit Kashmir but barred him from holding rallies or public meeting there.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer issued notice to the Centre and the J&K administration, and fixed Rajya Sabha MP and MDMK leader Vaiko's plea for hearing on September 30.

Vaiko, who said he has been a close friend of Abdullah for the past four decades, has contended that the National Conference leader has been deprived of constitutional rights on account of "illegal detention without any authority of law".



Father's Act hounds son

Never would Sheikh Abdullah have imagined that his son Farooq would one day be arrested under the PSA which he, as the chief minister of J&K in 1978, enacted to fight timber smugglers in the State

The National Conference said the party would take legal course to challenge the detention of its president Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act in J&K

"Is he (Abdullah) under detention?" the Bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for J&K. Without going into the issue of whether Abdullah has been kept under detention, Mehta said, "I do not have a copy of the petition. I have to take instruction on this."

There was no word by the lawyers from any side during the hearing that the Jammu & Kashmir administration has slapped the Public Safety Act to detain Farooq under the stringent law. After the Bench issued notice on Vaiko's petition, Mehta questioned his locus in filing a "habeas corpus" petition — a writ requiring a person under detention or arrest to be produced before a court. "He (Vaiko) has no locus.

How can he file a habeas corpus petition? He is not his relative. His (Abdullah) relatives have approached the High Court there," Mehta said. The Bench, however, asked the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to file their responses on Vaiko's plea.

In his plea, Vaiko had said authorities should allow Abdullah to attend a "peaceful and democratic" annual conference, being organised in Chennai on September 15, on the occasion of birthday of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister CN Annadurai.

"The actions of the respondents (Centre and J&K) are completely illegal and arbitrary and violative of the right to protection of life and personal liberty, right to protection



CRPF personnel stand guard near the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Monday PTI

from arrest and detention and also against right to free speech and expression which is the cornerstone of a democratic nation," the plea said.

"The right to free speech and expression is considered to have paramount importance in a democracy as it allows its cit-

izens to effectively take part in the governance of the country," it said.

Vaiko said he had written a letter to the authorities on August 29 to allow Abdullah to travel to Chennai to attend the conference but they have not responded.

SC seeks J&K CJ's report on claims of inaccessible court

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Terming as "very very serious" the claim that people are finding it difficult to approach the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, the Supreme Court on Monday decided to verify it by asking the Chief Justice there to "forthwith" submit a report in this regard.

"If you are saying so, we are bound to take serious note of it. We will verify this," the apex court said.

Restore normalcy in J&K within ambit of national interest: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir administration was directed by the Supreme Court on Monday to make "all endeavours" to ensure restoration of normalcy in the valley while keeping in mind "national interest and internal security".

The apex court, which also asked the Centre to ensure restoration of services and normalcy in Kashmir "as soon as possible", said efforts should be made to ensure that people have access to medical facilities, education, public transport and communication.

"The State of Jammu & Kashmir, keeping in mind the national interest and internal security, shall make all endeavours to ensure that normal life is restored in Kashmir; people have access to healthcare facilities and schools, colleges and other educational institutions and public transport functions and operates normally," a Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said in its order.

"All forms of communication, subject to overriding consideration of national security, shall be normalised, if required on a selective basis, particularly for healthcare facilities," said the Bench, which also comprised justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer.

Attorney General KK Venugopal, representing the Centre, and Solicitor General



Tushar Mehta, appearing for Jammu & Kashmir, informed the Bench about steps taken by the authorities to restore normalcy in the State and also the Valley.

The top court, which posted the matter for hearing on September 30, asked the Centre and Jammu & Kashmir to file their affidavits indicating their responses on the plea and applications which raises the issue of shutdown of mobile and Internet services in the valley and lack of health care facilities there.

While Venugopal apprised the Bench about medical and other facilities being provided to the people, Mehta said that "not a single bullet has been fired" in the State since August 5, the day when Article 370 was abrogated.

Venugopal said that since 1990 till date, 41,866 persons have lost their lives in 71,038 incidents of terrorist violence in the state which includes 14,038 civilians, 5,292 personnel of security forces and 22,536 terrorists.

Cong, NCP to fight 125 seats each in Maha polls

Keep aside 38 seats for allies to take on BJP-Sena

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

After going separately in 2014, the Congress and NCP have come together to contest the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly election together. Both the parties will contest 125 seats each and keep aside 38 seats for prospective allies in an attempt to form a broad-based alliance to take on the BJP-Shiv Sena combine.

In 2014, the NCP had then ended the 15-year alliance after the two parties had been unable to reach a seat-sharing arrangement ahead of Assembly elections. The Congress had won 42 seats while the NCP had won 41 seats then. The BJP had emerged as the single-largest party in the State with 122 seats.



The finalisation of the seat-sharing pact between the Congress and the NCP comes after many high-profile leaders from both the parties deserted them to join the BJP and the Shiv Sena. Sharad Pawar had called on Sonia Gandhi in Delhi last week where the two gave final shape to the alliance.

Announcing the deal, Pawar said the seat-sharing pact between the grand old party and the NCP has been finalised and his party will give opportunity to new faces this time. Pawar also said both

the parties are yet to decide on the specific seats they will contest.

The smaller parties, which will contest the remaining 38 seats include Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana led by Raju Shetty and Bahujan Vikas Aghadi led by Prakash Ambedkar.

Both the parties had contested as allies in the Lok Sabha this year where the Congress won only one seat and the NCP bagged four. In 2014 general elections, the Congress had won two seats from the State while the NCP won four. The NCP had contested on 21 seats while its partner Congress fielded candidates on 26 seat in the last Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress and the NCP have been in an alliance since 1999 except for the last Assembly elections and they have formed Government thrice.

In the 2004 Assembly polls, the NCP had won more seats than the Congress, but the latter bagged the Chief Minister's post.

Rape survivor deposes in Shahjahanpur court against Chinmayanand

PNS/PTI ■ LUCKNOW/ SHAHJAHANPUR

The law student who levelled rape charges against BJP leader and former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand recorded her statement before a magistrate in Shahjahanpur on Monday.

The 23-year old woman was brought to the court of Judicial Magistrate Geetika Singh under heavy security cover by the special investigation team (SIT).

She remained in the court for around four hours and told PTI that the magistrate recorded her statement in 10 to 12 pages. She said, "I have told the magistrate about the rape complaint I gave in New Delhi, my missing spectacles and a chip



from the hostel room. I also informed about the bedding and liquor bottles, which were removed from the Chinmayanand's room."

The victim's friends who were examined included the one who was with her when she was located in Rajasthan after having gone missing last month. The SIT had also examined principals of the two colleges where the girl studied.

MP RECEIVES 30% EXCESS RAINFALL

Ready to handle emergency situation, says Chief Secy

PNS ■ INDORE

Madhya Pradesh Chief Secretary SR Mohanty on Monday claimed that the State is well-prepared to tackle any situation arising out of the heavy rainfall in the State. However, he admitted that the situation went out of control due to excessive rain in the last two weeks.

Against the average of 889 mm rainfall, the State received 1183.9mm, 33 per cent more than normal.

"West MP received more rainfall while some areas in Eastern State were rain deficient, so average 30 per cent more rain was received in the State this season," said Mohanty.

Explaining the trouble at Gandhi Sagar Dam (GSD) in Mandsaur, Mohanty said the

dam had reached the mark of 1,318 feet around six feet above the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) on Saturday and against inflow of 16 lakh cusec of water, the outflow was just 6.6 lakh cusec.

The Union Cabinet Secretary had convened a video conference meeting with Chief Secretaries of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on Sunday on the grim situation due to flooding of Gandhi Sagar dam.

"As water reached the level of 1,318 ft on Saturday at GSD, we in consultation with Rajasthan officials released water into three downstream dams of neighbouring State with prior information of relief and rescue measures there, said the senior officer.

Due to GSD backwaters, over 80 villages were marooned in Neemuch and rescue efforts

GANDHI SAGAR DAM SAFE



were started to save locals in Rampura basti.

The officer claimed that GSD as per latest reports has receded to 1,315 ft level and if there are no unusual rains in next few days, the dam is

absolutely safe. To add, with water going beyond FRL, there were strong rumours that the dam was showing cracks. Earlier, Mandsaur collector Manoj Pushp had also warned those who were spreading 'lies'

and claiming that dam was completely safe.

In Mandsaur, the official said 955 villages are affected due to torrential rains in five tehsils and on Sunday there were 21,000 people in relief

camps and as the situation normalised, the number reduced to 15,000 by Monday.

In Manasa tehsil of Neemuch, a dozen villages with the population of 30,000 are effected and 2,500 were evacuated to safety while crops have been damaged in 75,000 hectare area, said the officer. In Ratlam, 700 have been evacuated to safety. In Bhind, 3,500 families are being helped by Army, home guards and State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) while at Morena, 3,000 people in 35 villages of five tehsils are affected and relief and rescue operations were underway.

Situation under control in Mandsaur, Neemuch, Ratlam and Agar Malwa while we are keeping a watch on things at Bhind, Morena and Sheopur, said the top bureaucrat.

CAPSULE

7 CHINESE WARSHIPS SEEN IN INDIAN OCEAN

New Delhi: As many as seven Chinese Navy warships are operating in and around the Indian Ocean Region, including an over 27,000 tonnes amphibious vessel, which have been tracked closely by the Indian Navy using its American-origin P-81 anti-submarine warfare spy planes.

2 AUTO DRIVERS KILLED IN DELHI ROAD ACCIDENT

New Delhi: Two auto-rickshaw drivers were killed after a speeding car collided with their autos in North Delhi's Swaroop Nagar area on Monday.

EX-AP SPEAKER'S SUICIDE SPARKS POL SLUGFEST

Amaravati: The suspected suicide of former Andhra Pradesh Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao triggered a political slugfest in the State with the TDP holding the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Govt responsible.

NO OIL SHORTAGE DESPITE SAUDI DRAWDOWN: MIN

New Delhi: India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, will not face any supply disruption after a reduction in production at its No. 2 supplier Saudi Arabia, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

Minister to hold Road Safety Council meet

Bhopal: Home Minister Bala Bachchan will hold a meeting of the State Road Safety Council at Vallabh Bhavan on Tuesday at 12 noon. Discussion will be held on the implementation of Section 215 (2) of the Motor Vehicles Act-1988.

The meeting will be attended by Transport, Rural Development, Urban Development and Environment, Public Works, Public Health and Family Welfare and School Education Ministers along with Mayors of Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior and Jabalpur Municipal Corporations, Director General of Police, Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Principal Secretaries of School Education, Rural Development, Transport, Public Works, Urban

Administration and Development, Public Health and Family Welfare and Public Relations Department, Officer on Special Duty of Home Minister, Transport Commissioner, Commissioner Urban Administration and Development, Managing Director of Road Development Corporation, Chief Executive Officer of Rural Road Development Authority and regional officers of National Highways Authority of India.

Principal Secretary Home SN Mishra will hold a meeting of the State Road Safety Implementation Committee on September 18 at 12 noon. Among those who will attend the meeting are Director General of Police and

Additional Chief Secretary / Principal Secretary / Secretary of the departments of Panchayat and Rural Development, Medical Education, School Education, Transport, Public Works, Urban Development and Environment, Finance, Commercial Taxes, Public Relations, Public Health and Family Welfare, Special Director General of Police PTRI, Transport Commissioner, Regional Officer of National Highways Authority of India, Managing Director of MP Road Development Corporation, Chief Executive Officer of Rural Road Development Authority and the Municipal Corporation Commissioners of Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur. **SR**

Notorious dacoit gunned down in Satna district

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After the encounter, bodies of Babli and his aide Lavlesh have been found this morning in the forests areas of Ledri in Satna district

A notorious dacoit Babli Kol who was synonym of terror in the bordering areas of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for the past few years was gunned down by Madhya Pradesh police following an encounter in the forests of Satna district on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday.

After the encounter, bodies of Babli and his aide Lavlesh have been found this morning in the forests areas of Ledri in Satna district.

Babli carried a reward of Rs seven lakh on his head while Lavlesh Kol aka Loli also was killed in the encounter and was carrying Rs 1.80 lakh on his head.

After the termination of

dacoits from Chambal region, Babli Kol led gang was the only recognised dacoit gang which was giving sleepless nights to the locals in Vindhya region and also adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh.

Recently the gang had abducted a farmer and later released him allegedly in return for Rs six lakh.

However, this incident is being linked to the elimination of the dreaded dacoit as locals claimed that the head of the

gang had a dispute with Lavlesh over distribution of ransom money which led to an internal fight and their killing. Lavlesh had recently joined the gang.

Babli Kol had remained elusive for the police in MP and UP as well for the past eight years when he emerged in the region in 2011.

While talking to media persons on Monday, IG Police Satna Chanchal Shekhar claimed that the dacoit had been utilising the difficult terrain of the region and was giving them a slip every time they went in the forests to nab him. The Ledri forest area where the bodies of the dacoits were said to be recovered after an encounter by the police is spread over 40 km with bordering hillocks, said the officer.

House burgled, valuables worth ₹ 3 lakh looted

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Miscreants assaulted a 70-year-old man and escaped with valuables worth ₹3 lakh including ₹22,000 cash from his house at Housing Board Colony under Nishatpura police station area late in the night on Sunday.

According to the police, Salim Ahmed, who had gone to visit her brother on his return from pilgrimage on his return found that the valuables were burgled.

In the complaint the victim has claimed that gold and silver jewelry worth over ₹2.7 lakh were burgled when they returned at around 3 in the night.

After they returned, lock was found broken and when they entered, they found two persons hiding behind the curtain and one of them tried to escape and was chased by victim's son Shahnawaz while Saleem who tried to nab the other miscreant was assaulted

and escaped the spot.

The miscreants escape leaving their bike parked near the house.

The vehicle bearing registration number MP04DM4035 was seized by the police and based on the details miscreants would be nabbed.

The victim operates Maharashtra-Gujarat transport company.

The victim along with his family had gone to receive his brother Idris at around 12 in the night.

The police have registered a case under section 457 and 380 of the IPC and started further investigation.

In the burglary a gold necklace, one pair of gold ear rings, five gold finger rings, gold pendant and silver jewelry and ₹23000 cash were burgled.

The total loss would be over ₹3 lakh.

Police suspect that miscreants were aware of the whereabouts of the victim and his family.

After they returned, lock was found broken and when they entered, they found two persons hiding behind the curtain and one of them tried to escape and was chased by victim's son Shahnawaz while Saleem who tried to nab the other miscreant was assaulted

Flood relief spurs war of words between Cong, BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have found flood relief as the fresh issue on which war of words is on. Public Relations Minister PC Sharma has accused former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of doing nautanki (drama) on flood relief accusing him of getting MP funds blocked from the Centre.

Since, Mandsaur and Neemuch towns are facing worst-ever floods, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reached Malhargarh town in Mandsaur on Monday as early as 3 am. The state gov-

The State Government has deputed Water Resources Minister Hukum Singh Karada to Neemcuh to take stock of damages and submit a report to the State Government

ernment has deputed Water Resources minister Hukum Singh Karada to Neemcuh to take stock of damages and submit a report to the State Government.

Chouhan met the flood victims of several villages in Mandsaur-Neemuch on Monday.

Meanwhile, as always the accusations are flying around

yet again on the issue of flood relief. Chouhan among other things, had on Sunday accused Congress government of not doing enough for flood victims and threatened an agitation from Sep 22. He said he has donated one-month salary as MLA to flood relief.

Prompt came the reply from Public Relations minister PC Sharma who claimed that



Chouhan was doing nautanki on flood relief while it was him who had got funds for MP blocked from the Centre.

The BJP-led central government has reduced the funds allocation by Rs 310 crore for last year and this year by altering the centre-state share of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) from 90:10 to 75:25 and this was the fund we badly



needed at the time of ongoing flood crisis, Sharma told the media in Bhopal on Monday.

Chouhan who was in Mandsaur replied with folded hands that he begs of PC Sharma CM Kamal Nath to rather focus on relief and not waste time in allegations as people have been devastated by the flood.

"Not a time to abuse

Shivraj," We should stop abusing each other and concentrate on offering succor to the public, he added.

Asked what the Centre was doing amid all this, Chouhan claimed Rs 850 cr lying unused in SDRF are given by the centre and should be utilised as immediate relief.

Commenting on Congress allegations, senior BJP MLA and the ex-minister Narottam Mishra claimed that Centre always offer support on the basis of survey report from state at the time of calamity and till date, MP has not send any report. "No survey has been done so how can they send it," alleged Mishra.



मध्यप्रदेश शासन

अध्यात्म विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

संत सम्मेलन

का आयोजन

मंगलवार, 17 सितम्बर, 2019 ♦ समय : प्रातः 10.00 बजे ♦ मिंटो हॉल, भोपाल

मुख्य आतिथ्य
श्री कमल नाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

अध्यक्षता
श्री दिग्विजय सिंह
पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

विशेष आतिथ्य
आचार्य
प्रमोद कृष्णम् जी

गिरिमामयी उपस्थिति

श्री पी.सी. शर्मा
मंत्री, विधि एवं विधायी कार्य, जनसम्पर्क
विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, विमानन,
धार्मिक न्याय और धर्मत्व विभाग

राष्ट्रीय संत
महामण्डलेश्वर कम्यूटर बाबा
अध्यक्ष, माँ नर्मदा, माँ शिवा, माँ मंदाकिनी
नदी न्यास, मध्यप्रदेश शासन

ब्रह्मचारी
श्री सुबुद्धानंद जी महाराज
अध्यक्ष, मठ् मंदिर सत्सङ्गकार समिति

आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं।

कमल नाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

01102/आस्था.न.न. महाराज

13-11180/19 मध्यप्रदेश जनसम्पर्क द्वारा जारी

Need to prepare new education policy: Guv

Bhopal: Governor Lalji Tandon told the Vice Chancellors of the Universities that there is a need for preparations for the new education policy from now itself. Prepare an annual and monthly target based roadmap for long term objectives. Tandon was addressing the concluding session of NAAC grading workshop at Raj Bhavan on last Sunday evening. The Chairman of NAAC Prof BS Chouhan was also present on the occasion.

Tandon further said that the Vice Chancellors are the architects of the new education system. He said that duties should be discharged with authority. Set an example of research and employment oriented education. The educa-

tional quality, attendance of students, library and laboratory arrangements should be improved. Focus on the availability of basic facilities. Make university activities digital and online. This will make the system transparent and increase the responsibility towards the work. Tandon said he himself would visit universities and review the arrangements.

The Governor said that the practical experience of the knowledge that the universities are imparting, should also be given to the students during the study period. He said that earlier there were different ideologies and theories of education. Today, nationalism and realism are the basis of education. The new education poli-

cy is an effort to change the system of education. The universities should create an ideal arrangement on their own. For their cooperation, projects of the UGC, RUSA and the World Bank are available. The Governor said that in the first phase, universities should focus on the main points. Make yourself self-sufficient. Conserve water and get the water harvesting done to conserve rain water. He said that the state and the country today face a big challenge to double the farmers' income. To meet this challenge, universities have to project zero budget farming by implementing it in villages. Motivate the villagers towards zero budget farming through students, he added. **SR**

'Organise Tourism Fest on Babu's 150th birth anniv'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Secretary Tourism Faiz Ahmed Kidwai has issued instructions to the District Tourism Promotion Councils to organise Tourism Fest in the districts on October 2 on the theme of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary.

While reviewing the Councils through video conference of Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, he told to collect information of various places, institutions and individuals to connect Gandhiji's way of life with tourism. Kidwai told to hand over land and heritage property to Tourism Department before the Swachhata Abhiyan from October 2 to 27 and the investors meet in state on October 18 on the instructions of Government of India. Additional Managing

Director Madhya Pradesh Tourism Bhavna Valimbe issued instructions to change District Tourism Promotion Councils to District Archaeology and Tourism Councils. Valimbe directed to send utility certificates of the assistance allotted to all councils immediately.

A power point presentation of the activities and work-plan of the Madhya Pradesh Policy 2016, Water Tourism Policy and Camping Policy was presented at the video-conference for the District Tourism Promotion Councils. Secretary Kidwai laid stress on the tourism work-plan of each district.

Additional Managing Director of State Tourism Development Corporation Sonia Meena and officials of Tourism Board were present at the video conference.



Spiritual saint and Chairman of Maa Narmada, Kshipra and Mandakini river trust Namdeo Das Tyagi, well known as Computer Baba, addresses a co-ordination committee of Sadhu-Sant Community at Minto hall in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo



Sadhavana Adhikar Manch activists shout slogans against Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan protesting against attack on temples of Hindu in Sindh province of Pakistan over allegations of blasphemy, in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

Four-day Vigyan Mela ends with great zeal



Visitors going through a stall of Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC) on the last day of Vigyan Mela at BHEL Dussehra ground in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The four-day eighth Bhopal Vigyan Mela, organised at BHEL Dussehra Ground, concluded on Monday with a grand closing ceremony. The Mela which was organised with an objective to make common man aware of science and technology innovation witnessed great footfall.

Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development Kamleshwar Patel and Former Governor of Haryana Kaptan Singh Solanki were chief guest on this occasion.

Speaking on this concluding ceremony Minister Kamleshwar Patel expressed happiness over the advancements in the science and technology field in the country. He

Speaking on this concluding ceremony Minister Kamleshwar Patel expressed happiness over the advancements in the science and technology field in the country

said that Science is associated with every aspect of human life. Scientific developments are making our lives better.

Kaptan Singh Solanki said that India's recent progress in the field of science and technology make us feel proud and whole world convinced with it.

He congratulated Bhopal Vigyan Mela organisers for the successful event.

Different scientific talents associated with innovation and researches were also honoured during this ceremony. Minister Kamleshwar Patel and Former Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki presented appreciation letter to the persons associated with their unique and innovative research in the field of science and technology.

The Bhopal Vigyan Mela was jointly organised by Vigyan Bharti Bhopal, CSIR-Ampti Bhopal, Vigyan Prasar New Delhi and All India Council for Technical Education.

This year Bhopal Vigyan Mela presented different theme based pavilions like Technology Demonstration, Handicraft, Healthcare, Agri-Tech as well as pavilions related to the planning and progress of upcoming projects of the government.

Sculpture exhibition held at Bhopal's art gallery

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An exhibition of beautiful sculptures 'Aseem' by Amit Kumar is being put up at Alliance Francaise de Bhopal's art gallery.

The ceramist has presented the sculptures, installations, forms of clay and pots before the viewers that portray his hidden outlook about the things they see in the surroundings. Amit has used earthen clay and used traditional as well as advanced methods to create the beautiful piece which made his work look even more pleasing to the eyes.

"My parents used to say 'be on your own' and this is what I have showcased through my sculptures," says a young sculpture artist Amit Kumar from Banaras.

He has created something

The ceramist has presented the sculptures, installations, forms of clay and pots before the viewers that portray his hidden outlook about the things they see in the surroundings

really unusual and that is 'Legs'. His all the works are in the leg form. He comes up with an idea that people usually say to be on your own. Other than that he has showcased human connection with the earth through his sculptures. "I have seen things around and this could be the best of my imaginations."

He further said, "For me, clay is the strongest medium to express our emotions and so for my work I make sculptures in

ceramic medium. Through my art work, I attempt to express my thoughts and impressions on contemporary society. Legs are just not body part for me, it is a subject a metaphor of my interdependency that contains various good and bad experiences of my life."

The way the ceramist has treated his work is commendable and the perception only has given his pots and sculptures a beautiful and enchanting look. Moreover, the feedbacks of the art enthusiasts have been very encouraging for the ceramic artist.

The ceramic exhibition was crowded with city art lovers on the concluding day. They were influenced by the wonderful works of ceramic art as the spectators walk through the gallery they find themselves in the colourful world of creativity and clay.

11 gamblers arrested; ₹24,600 cash seized

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ratibad police have nabbed 11 gamblers from a farm house at Gora village and recovered ₹24,600 cash from their possession on Sunday.

Acting on a tip off Roshan farm house was raided by police and found around a dozen gamblers gambling at the farm house.

The gamblers were identified as Ranjeet Pandey, Jitendra Singh, Yashwant Singh, Bhaiyalal, Yogesh Bhojwani, Surendra Kumar, Vitthal Patil, Kuldeep Naamdev, Jagdish Suryavanshi and Manoj Suryavanshi.

Police said that the gamblers tried to escape but were chased and nabbed by the police team which went to raid the place. The police have registered a case under section 13 A of the Gambling Act and

The gamblers were identified as Ranjeet Pandey, Jitendra Singh, Yashwant Singh, Bhaiyalal, Yogesh Bhojwani, Surendra Kumar, Vitthal Patil, Kuldeep Naamdev, Jagdish Suryavanshi and Manoj Suryavanshi

started further investigation. Crime record of the gamblers would be investigated, said police.

Meanwhile, seven persons including five women were nabbed gambling at Moti Quarter under Teelajamalpur police station area late night on

Sunday.

In the night on Sunday after receiving information of gambling at Moti Quarter a team was rushed to the spot and found 7 persons including women gambling.

The gambling women were identified as Jaishree, Meena Mojhani, Kavita, Satvinder Kaur and Nirmala Sabnani. The nabbed men were identified as Suresh Sabnani and Bhiman Ahuja.

After the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under 13 A of the Gambling Act and started further investigation.

The police have recovered playing card and Rs 17000 cash from their possession. Police are yet to confirm that the nabbed gamblers are involved in gambling for long and are women gamblers active in gambling.

Minister unveils 11th Int'l Course, Workshop

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The 11th International Course and Workshop was inaugurated by PC Sharma, Minister of Law & Legal Affairs here on Sunday at Hotel

Courtyard Marriott, Bhopal. He said that participating in this International Course is a golden opportunity for physicians who can sharpen their skills and enable them to treat their patients in a better way.

He further said that doctors should not only treat their patients but also be very sympathetic with them.

Presiding over the inaugural ceremony, Minister PC Sharma said that every person should pay attention to his health and only when population is healthy, the country will make progress.

He further said that such programmes should be organized from time to time so that the physician increase their knowledge and impart better services to the patients.

Organising Chairman Dr PC Manoria said that Echocardiography is the most widely used imaging technology in the world and the magic of echocardiography continues unabated.

With this technique one can directly visualize any part of the heart and pick up diseases easily and therefore echocardiography has become the third eye of the cardiologist.

Dr PC Manoria further said that Echocardiography is a patient friendly test and no preparation is required for it.

Organising Secretary Dr

Pankaj Manoria said that live demonstration of echocardiography was exhibited on patients with different types of heart disease which immensely benefited the delegates. Several interesting cases of echocardiography were also demonstrated.

He further said that in future it is likely we may be using echocardiography in place of stethoscope.

CHANGE OF NAME

I am Avirishu Sharma s/o Late Mr. Jeetendra Sharma, residing at Ward no.6, Hatwara Mohalla near Ganesh Medical, Chhatrapur (M.P.). My mother name has changed from Priya Sharma to Rangila Sharma and shall hereafter be known as Rangila Sharma. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Undertrial prisoner escapes from Hamidia hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 30-year-old central jail prisoner who came for treatment at Hamidia hospital fled from police custody late in the night on Sunday.

The prisoner Anil Kirar was serving jail on the charges of involvement of drug peddling. He escaped in the name of going to toilet by fooling the on duty police personnel. Police said that he was hospitalized at Hamidia hospital for treatment.

According to SHO of Koh-e-Fiza Amrish Bohre Kirar is a native of Sultanganj (Raisen district) and was arrested for drug peddling and later was sent to judicial custody after producing in court.

Few days ago, he fell ill and was taken to prisoner ward of Hamidia hospital for treatment after orders were issued by Magistrate but the prisoner tricked the police at the hospital and escaped on the pretext of going to the toilet. The policemen allowed the accused and taking advantage the accused escaped.

After some time when he failed to return policemen started search for him at hospital premises as well as nearby areas but he was not found

Few days ago, he fell ill and was taken to prisoner ward of Hamidia hospital for treatment after orders were issued by Magistrate but the prisoner tricked the police at the hospital and escaped on the pretext of going to the toilet

and they approached Koh-e-Fiza police station to report the incident and based on the complaint police have registered a case.

Police have started search for the absconding prisoner.

Apart from searching from all areas of the state capital a police team has been also sent to Sultanganj in Raisen district where the accused belongs. The police have started checking the CCTV footages of bus stands and railway stations.

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E-TENDER NOTICE

1. NIT NO : SECL/JHL/S.O.(C)/ENIT-19/19-20/694, Date 09.09.2019, Tender ID: 2019_SECL_149515_1, Location of work: Johilla Area, Estimated Cost: 1036178.00/-, Description of Work: Annual cleaning and upkeeping of different colony at Nowrozabad sub Area of Johilla Area. Date & Time for Submission of bid: 12.09.2019 at 10:00 AM to 25.09.2019 at 05:00 PM, Date & Time for Opening of bid: 27.09.2019 at 10:00 AM. **SO(Civil) Johilla Area**

2. NIT NO : SECL/SGP/MMW/OWT-066, Date 07.09.2019, Tender ID: 2019_SECL_149355_3, Location of work: Sohagpur Area, Estimated Cost: 584459.00/-, Description of Work: Filters for Tata 300/ pay loader TWL 3036. Date & Time for Submission of bid: 07.09.2019 at 06:00 PM to 09.10.2019 at 04:00 PM, Date & Time for Opening of bid: 10.10.2019 at 04:00 PM. **SO(MM) Sohagpur Area**

Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www.eprocure.gov.in and e-procurement portal of CIL <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and www.secl-cil.in. In case of any Misprinting/Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

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Corp. Office: "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122 001
Website : www.powergridindia.com CIN : L40101DL1989G01038121

NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 for (i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and (ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for **Petition-1 125 MVAr Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Rajgarh Substation alongwith associated bays at Rajgarh Substation in WR** **Petition-2 400/220 kV, 1X315 MVA Autotransformer (ICT-III) at 400/220 kV substation at Vapi under installation of 1X315 MVA 400/220 kV Transformer at Vapi (POWERGRID) substation in WR.**

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) Madhya Pradesh Power Management Corporation Ltd, (b) Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu, Daman, (c) Gujarat Ujja Vikas Nigam Ltd., Vadodara, (d) Electricity Department, Government of Goa, Panaji, (e) Electricity Department, Administration of Dadra Nagar Haveli, Silvassa, (f) Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., Mumbai, (g) Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board, Raipur, (h) Madhya Pradesh Auyogik Kandra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd, Indore

3. Tariff details:

Petition	True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19					Tariff for 2019-24 block				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	171.79	172.79	176.63	178.52	177.48					
Petition-2	402.48	398.11	392.40	386.39	381.81					

a) 2019-24 Block

Petition	DOCO	Line Length (KM)	No of Bays	Cost admitted by CERC -20	Tariff for 2019-24 block				
					2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	01.06.2012	-	1 no. 400kV bay	601.67	134.25	129.03	127.15	125.32	123.41
Petition-2	01.03.2013	-	1 no. 400kV bay 1 no. 220kV bay	1750.36	423.19	421.19	419.24	417.74	416.14

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandrakol Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office "Saudamini", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon-122 001, Haryana within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Sd./
Place: Gurgaon
Date: 12.09.2019
Dy. General Manager (Commercial)

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WEST ZONE FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP MP players bag several medals

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the West Zone Fencing Championship, the players of Madhya Pradesh performed brilliantly, winning one gold medal, one silver medal and three bronze medals on the second and final day. The championship concluded here on Monday.

With this, Madhya Pradesh captured a total of 10 medals, including four gold, two silver and four bronze in the championship.

On this achievement earned by the swordsmen of Madhya Pradesh, the Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare, Jeetu Patwari and Director Sports and Youth Welfare S. L. Thousen has expressed happiness and congratulated the medal winning players.

ACADEMY PLAYER T SAI SANKET WON BRONZE MEDAL IN FOIL BALAK INDIVIDUAL, SOHAN GAVAI IN SABER BALAK INDIVIDUAL, PURNA SINGH IN SABLE GIRLS INDIVIDUAL AND KHUSHI DABHADE WON BRONZE IN EP GIRL INDIVIDUAL

On the second day of the championship played in Nashik (Maharashtra), the academy's international player Amit Singh Gusai won the gold medal after performing brilliantly in the EP individual.

Academy player T. Sai Sanket won bronze medal in Foil Balak Individual, Sohan Gavai in Saber Balak Individual, Purna Singh in Sable Girls Individual and Khushi Dabhade won bronze in EP Girl Individual.

It is noteworthy that out of 24 players in the MP team, 17 players are from MP State Fencing Academy, who are undergoing training in fencing from Bhupendra Singh Chauhan, Chief Instructor of Fencing Academy.

Meanwhile, in RGPV State Level Karate Championship-2019 Karate Academy player Riddhi Chabe won gold medal.

At the Rajiv Gandhi Technological University State Level Karate

Championship held in Vidisha last day, Riddhi Chaubey of Madhya Pradesh State Karate Academy won the gold medal in the individual women's kumite competition of Senior Women - 66 kg weight category.

Riddhi Chabe won this medal by defeating Vidisha's player 8-0 in the final. Riddhi has been selected for the upcoming All India University Karate Championship.

Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare Jeetu Patwari and Director of Sports S. L. Thousen has congratulated and congratulated Riddhi Chaubey.

Riddhi Chaubey is training under the guidance of Shihan Jayadev Sharma, chief instructor of Karate Academy.

Man held for smuggling ₹27L gold at IGIA

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Customs officials have arrested an Indian for allegedly smuggling gold worth over ₹27 lakh by concealing it in speakers and bucket handle.

The arrest was made on Sunday when the man arrived from Saudi Arabia at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport.

According to a senior Customs official, the passenger, who landed at Terminal-3 of the IGI airport on Sunday from Saudi Arabia's Jeddah city via Bahrain, was intercepted by the customs officers after he had crossed the green channel.

"The man was stopped by the Customs officials. A personal and baggage search resulted in the recovery of two gold rods and two circular gold disks, weighing 780 gm, concealed inside bucket



handle and speakers," said the senior Customs official.

"The value of the gold is approximately ₹27.71 lakh. The gold has been seized and the person arrested under relevant provisions of the Customs Act," the senior Customs official added.

For the purpose of customs clearance of arriving passengers, a two-channel system has been adopted under which the green channel is for passengers not having any dutiable goods, while the red channel for those having dutiable goods.

Gang operating from Raj busted for making illegal gun

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major crackdown, the sleuths of Crime Branch have busted an illegal gun manufacturing unit operating in Bharatpur district in Rajasthan. Police said they have arrested four persons and they have also seized 10 country-made weapons and huge amount of material used in making weapons.

The accused have been identified as Talim Khan (25), Najar Hussain (33), Juber Khan (32), residents of Bharatpur in Rajasthan and Nauman (35), a resident of Nuh in Haryana.

According to Dr Ajit Kumar Singla, the Additional Commissioner of Police (DCP), Crime Branch, on September 13 specific inputs were received that members of an illegal firearms syndicate would come to Chhawla village for delivery of a huge consignment of illegal firearms to someone in Najafgarh area.

"Acting on the inputs, a trap was laid and four members of the gang were apprehended on Dwarka-Chhawla Road while they were travelling in their Swift car. On Spot police also recovered 10 good quality .315 bore country-made pistols

along with 10 live rounds from the possession of the accused. A case under appropriate sections of law was registered and all four were arrested," said Dr Singla.

"During interrogation, the arrested accused persons disclosed that they have been supplying illegal firearms to various criminal gangs in Delhi and NCR region since the past four years," said Dr Singla.

"At the instance of the accused persons, raid was conducted by Crime Branch team on the top of 'Ghadijaan Pahadi' in district Bharatpur where an entire illegal arms manufacturing unit was unearthed. The unit was located on the top of the Ghadijaan Pahadi, where anyone approaching the place could be seen from almost three kilometres away.

The unit itself was well hidden inside a clump of trees and shrubs," said Dr Singla adding that the unit was kept locked at all times and was opened only when the gang members assembled to manufacture weapons.

The criminals who had procured the firearms from the gang are being identified. Further investigation is on, the Additional CP added.

The accused have been identified as Talim Khan (25), Najar Hussain (33), Juber Khan (32), residents of Bharatpur in Rajasthan and Nauman (35), a resident of Nuh in Haryana

Rash driving kills 4 in Delhi, 1 arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Reckless drivers took lives of four people, including a woman and two auto-rickshaw drivers, in the last 24 hours.

Two fatal accidents were reported from North west and Outer-north districts of the national Capital, in which four lives were lost, police said.

In the first incident, two auto-rickshaw drivers were killed after a speeding car collided with their autos in Outer North Delhi's Swaroop Nagar area on the early hours of Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Sanjay Sareen (40) and Jaikishan Gupta (36), residents of Swaroop Nagar. Police said that during investigation, it was found that the car was being driven by one Mohit (23), a resident of Bhairon Enclave in Palam

According to Gaurav Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police

The deceased have been identified as Sanjay Sareen (40) and Jaikishan Gupta (36), residents of Swaroop Nagar. Police said that during investigation, it was found that the car was being driven by one Mohit (23), a resident of Bhairon Enclave in Palam

(DCP), Outer-North district, Mohit was returning home from Muralth after having dinner with his friends when they reached near Swaroop Nagar Bus stand, GT Karnal road at around 1.40 am, the car hit the auto-rickshaw drivers from behind, who were waiting for passengers at the bus stand.

"Both the injured persons were rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital who referred the injured to Lok Nayak hospital.

Around 8.30 am on Monday, both drivers succumbed during treatment,"

while those injured were taken to the hospital," he said.

"Jaikishan was the sole breadwinner for his family of five members. He had been driving auto for 15 years and used to live in Swaroop Nagar area on rented accommodation with his wife and three children," said Radha Krishna Gupta (55), the elder brother of Jaikishan who deals in cosmetics.

In second incident of rash and negligent driving causing death, reported from Delhi's North West area, a 64-year-old motor mechanic and his wife were mowed down by dumper.

The incident occurred on the early hours of Monday in Jahangirpuri area. The deceased were identified as Hukum Chand and Beena Devi (55), a residents of Karan Vihar in Kirari area. Chand was a motor mechanic and his wife was a housewife. The couple are survived by their five children — two sons

and three daughters.

"Chand and his wife were returning Delhi from Himachal Pradesh along with their two children. They de-boarded the bus at prepaid booth Outer Ring Road. When they were crossing the road, a Haryana number dumper truck hit them," said Vijayanta Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North West district.

"Beena died on the spot and Hukum Chand succumbed in LNJP hospital. The truck driver fled the spot leaving the vehicle behind," said the DCP adding that a case under section 279 (Rash driving) and 304 A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Jahangirpuri Police Station. Rakesh Kumar (33), the elder son of Chand said that after the truck hit his parents and fled away, the auto drivers, who were present in the area helped them.

64th CPC starts in Uganda from September 22

Bhopal: Speaker of Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Narmada Prasad Pajapati and Principal Secretary of State Assembly SP Singh would participate in 64th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) at Kampala in Uganda which is scheduled from September 22 to 29, 2019.

The CPC would witness heads of legislative assemblies of different countries.

The main conference theme is 'Adaption, engagement, and evolution of parliaments in a rapidly changing Commonwealth'.

At the conference climate change, innovation in Parliament, the role of Parliament in facilitating per-



sons with disabilities as electors, candidates and legislators, strategies to deal with Youth Unemployment, Combating rapid urbanisation and rural decline, The Role of Parliament in the doctrine of the Separation of Powers: Enhancing Transparency and Accountability and other important factors would be discussed. SR

Revenue status of all 8 districts reviewed

PNS ■ INDORE

Chief Secretary SR Mohanty here on Monday reviewed the revenue status of all the 8 districts of Indore division. He instructed the collectors to organize the camp at village level under the project Aapki Sarkar Aapke Dwar.

He also told the officers to carry on the government task against adulteration and the people involved in the adulteration should be punished also the common man should get pure food and vegetables. In the coming days of rabi season the support and help to the farmers should be made readily available with the supply of seeds and manure. And the fields of farmers should be

In the coming days of rabi season the support and help to the farmers should be made readily available with the supply of seeds and manure

surveyed on time so that the government help can be provided to them.

The chief secretary reviewed the action against the adulteration, illegal mining, resolving the van Adhikar Patta. He instructed that the cases of Namantran, Batwara and Seemankan should be timely completed.

The health department

should work to fight against the disease resulting in rainy season.

The chief secretary told that 90 percent of the roads of Madhya Pradesh will be repaired between 20 September and 30 September and rest 10 percent roads including the bridges which have suffered a major loss will be repaired till November 30.

He told that Madhya Pradesh has suffered a total loss of around ten thousand crores due to the flood and heavy rain. When The Pioneer brought in his notice that the online details of the ponds with their location area survey number of Indore district and Indore division is not available for the information of general public so that the people will be aware of the ponds before purchasing lands for their personal use.

He told that it will be checked. Principal Secretaries SN Mishra, Ajit Kesari, Pallavi Jain Gohil, Manish Rastogi, Neelam Sami Rao, SN Parmar, Indore commissioner Akash Tripathi and Indore collector Lokesh Jatav and collectors of other 7 districts were present.

Relief & rescue ops carried out in flood-hit districts

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Relief and rescue operations have been started rapidly by the district administration in flood affected districts of the state. Due to this there has been no loss of life. The Chief Minister again contacted the collectors of the flood-affected districts today and inquired about the flood situation and steps taken for the safety of the people. He directed that people should be protected from floods in every situation and told to assess the loss of crops and other losses at the earliest so that farmers can be compensated on time.

The flood situation in Mandasaur is now completely under control. Commissioner of Ujjain Division Ajit Kumar and IG Rajiv Gupta toured the flood affected areas of Mandasaur districts and met the affected people and inquired about the relief work. The Gandhi Sagar dam has 1.24 lakh cusecs of water and 6.52 lakh cusecs of water is being released from the dam. Presently the dam has 1316.04 feet of water.

The flood affected people are being provided with facilities like lodging, night stay, food and daily clothes at the relief camps. Instructions have been given to

submit immediate survey report of those people whose houses have been completely damaged and to give 50 kg of wheat to the families immediately. In view of the relief and rescue operations for the flood affected people, leave of all officer-employees has been canceled and they have been asked to remain present at their place of posting. Health camps have been set up at various places to prevent water-borne diseases where people are being provided basic medicines for first aid. People are being examined and are being advised on what precautions should be taken to prevent diseases like swine flu, dengue and chikungunya.

All Primary Health Centers have been kept open for 24 hours. ASHA, anganwadi workers have been provided with first aid medicines for treatment. Public Health Engineering Department is distributing free chlorine tablets and block-wise teams have been formed to examine the water. Purity of ponds, wells, tubewell water sources is being investigated.

Necessary measures have been taken to protect animals from diseases. Vaccination is being done and all the doctors of the Animal Husbandry

Department have been deployed to treat the animals. Separate teams have been formed to treat animals in each block. Survey work has been started to assess the damage caused by excess rainfall. The survey team has started assessing the damage done to crops, houses etc. Commissioner Ujjain division has directed to distribute compensation to the flood affected people within seven days. All sub-divisional officers, tehsildars have been instructed to monitor the survey.

Collector Mandasaur has asked to inspect the anganwadi and School buildings and if found damaged, the schools and anganwadis will be shifted to safer buildings.

Survey work of damaged roads has started. The work of repairing roads will start as soon as the survey is completed. Local residents along with the district administration have also come forward to help the flood affected people.

The villagers of Nahargarh village have made arrangements to stay in a Dharamshala for people whose houses have been completely destroyed. Villagers of Khajuri Chandrawar village have made similar arrangements.



Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly NP Prajapati and Minister for Public Relations PC Sharma with the students pose for a group photo with the students during prize distribution ceremony of Pt Kunjilal Dubey Rashtriya Sansadiya Vidyaapeeth at State Assembly auditorium in Bhopal on Monday

Pioneer photo

RMNH holds street play on International Ozone day

Bhopal: Regional Museum of Natural History, Bhopal (A Regional Centre of National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi) organised Street Play on the occasion of International Ozone day on Monday to create awareness among the people towards the importance of Ozone Layer, ozone depleting substance and the harmful effects of Ozone Hole. The Street Play on "Save Ozone Layer" was performed at Bhopal Vigyan Mela-2019 by Child Artists of Jawahar Bal Bhawan, Bhopal under the direction of KG Trivedi During the street play child artist informed about the harmful effects of chemicals used in air conditioner, refrigerator, deo, snow spray, fire extinguisher and pesticides

Vishwakarma Puja celebrated at BHEL Society

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Vishwakarma Puja was celebrated the other day at BHEL Skill Development & Welfare Society with traditional zeal & fervor.

On this occasion, Pratibha Thakur President BHEL Ladies Club was pre-

sent as the Chief Guest.

During the programme Vice-President Pushplata Mishra, Savita Kinra, Nikita Mathur, Punet Minocha, Navita Nigam, Secretary Anija Majumdar; Treasurer Ritu Arya and members of ladies' club were also present.

Cyber Security Awareness Week inaugurated

Bhopal: Cyber Security Awareness Week, a new initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, was inaugurated by Special Director General of Police, Cyber & STF Purushottam Sharma.

While addressing the students present in the program, Chief Guest Purushottam Sharma made them aware about the cyber crime and ways to avoid them and also requested to participate in Cyber Awareness Week in a big way and gave message to the students to spread cyber awareness in the society.

State Cyber Police Headquarters, Bhopal in coordination with CDAC Hyderabad (CDAC), Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology University (RGPV) and Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) organizing this programme in Bhopal from September 16 to 20, 2019. Cyber Awareness Week is being organized till 2019, in which cyber vigilance programs are organized in 60 educational institutes, industrial and financial institutions of Bhopal city. A qualify. The State Cyber Police Bhopal will be the first police agency in India to conduct such programs. SR

Plea against Admiral pick rejected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Armed Forces Tribunal on Monday dismissed Vice Admiral Bimal Verma's petition challenging the appointment of Karambir Singh as the Navy chief on the grounds that the former was the senior most officer for the top job. Verma had filed the petition days after the Government announced Singh as the new Chief after then chief Sunil Lanba was to retire on May 31. Singh took charge the next day.

In his petition in May, Verma, now heading the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar tri-service command, contended that the tribunal should call for his service records besides that of the then incoming chief and see if any "extraneous or irrelevant considerations" were placed before the competent authority to reject his case while the Navy Chief appointment was being made.

Verma also contended that he was the senior most officer after Lanba to be considered for the top job. He was overlooked by the Government and Singh was made the chief. Verma is set to retire in November.

The NDA Government in its 2014-2019 tenure set aside the convention of selecting the senior most officer as the chief and named Bipin Rawat as the Army Chief though he was junior to Lt General P Bakshi. Similarly, Karambir Singh was appointed the Navy chief.

Verma filed the petition in May after the Defence Ministry rejected his statutory complaint challenging Singh's



appointment.

The first plea by Verma was filed in April after the Government announced its decision about Singh.

While rejecting his plea, the Defence Ministry had then clarified that though seniority is an important criterion while appointing services chiefs but it is not the "sole" criterion and has been dispensed with the past too while appointing Navy chiefs.

"The Central Government after careful examination of the matter is of the opinion that this statutory petition dated April 10, 2019, from Vice Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma regarding his non-selection as the chief of naval staff is devoid of merit and be rejected," the Defence Ministry had said while rejecting the officer's plea.

The Defence Ministry also

- In his petition in May, Bimal Verma, now heading the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar tri-service command, contended that the tribunal should call for his service records besides that of the then incoming chief and see if any "extraneous or irrelevant considerations" were placed before the competent authority to reject his case while the Navy Chief appointment was being made
- The Central Government after careful examination of the matter is of the opinion that this statutory petition dated April 10, 2019, from Vice Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma regarding his non-selection as the chief of naval staff is devoid of merit and be rejected, the Defence Ministry had said while rejecting the officer's plea



made it clear that being the seniormost officer, Vice Admiral Verma was also considered for the appointment to the post of Navy Chief but was "found unsuitable" to the appointment of the Chief of Naval Staff.

"Upon examination, the Central Government is satisfied that the parameters for selection as evident from consistent practice were applied uniformly to all the officers in the zone of consideration and based on the assessment, Vice Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma being the senior most eligible officer was considered and found unsuitable to tenant the appointment of Chief of naval staff."

"The Central Government is also satisfied that no unsubstantiated frivolous, extraneous or irrelevant consideration has had a bearing on this said selection," the Defence Ministry had said.

In the order, the Defence Ministry also mentioned that the officer was not considered for being awarded the Param Vishisht Sewa Medal and was also not given the command of either the Eastern or the Western commands.

Wing Commander Anjali Singh first woman officer attaché posted abroad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wing Commander Anjali Singh has become the first woman officer has been appointed as an attaché in an Indian embassy abroad. The IAF officer has already taken charge as the Deputy Air attaché at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. So far, the three Services used to send male officers as Defence attachés in more than 95 countries around the world.

Breaking the glass ceiling, Singh, an officer in the aeronautical engineering wing of the IAF, will represent the country in military related matters to Russia. Moreover, the IAF has taken the lead in appointing the first ever woman officer as an envoy besides having at least eight woman pilots now in various stages of training as fighter pilots. The force has more than 1,800 woman officers and many of them are flying helicopters and transport planes besides perform the role of navigators.

With this path breaking appointment, Singh has opened the doors for her women col-



Wing Commander Anjali Singh joins as the Deputy Air Attaché in Embassy of India in Russia PTI

leagues in other forces also to become attaches thereby signifying growing role of women in the so far male dominated armed forces.

The Navy is also mulling picking women for such prestigious assignments and it was learnt the Service was in the process of suitable candidates for such appointments in foreign countries, sources said on Monday adding the women attaches will play a significant role in projecting India's military diplomacy.

Crackdown on wildlife online traffickers

Enforcement agencies join hands with internet firms to help stop wildlife crime based on 'click, pay and ship' policy

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With wildlife traffickers switching from physical market to virtual ones as India's internet user population reaches 500 million, enforcement agencies are joining hands, among others, with internet firms to help crack down on wildlife cybercrime based on 'click, pay and ship' policy.

Everything from turtles and tortoises to Red Sand Boa, monitor lizard, Red Sanders, body parts of elephants, tigers, leopards etc. are being traded on various websites and mobile applications, Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) under the Union Environment Ministry rings the alarm bell.

She added, therefore, it becomes imperative to involve internet companies and find solutions with them to curb online illegal wildlife trade.

In this connection, a meeting was held recently here at the Ministry with companies providing online platform like Google India, Quickr, Flipkart, IndiaMART besides representatives from business chambers such as FICCI and CII, Central Zoo Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IUCN and Wildlife Trust of India among others.

The meeting organised by TRAFFIC and WCCB, in collaboration with the US Embassy here and WWF-India enabled creation of a common platform for wildlife law enforcement agencies, internet-based companies, policy makers and market leaders to highlight and discuss problems and solutions for

Everything from turtles and tortoises to Red Sand Boa, monitor lizard, Red Sanders, body parts of elephants, tigers, leopards etc. are being traded on various websites and mobile applications



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curbing online wildlife crime.

Stressing on intensifying global efforts to end wildlife trafficking, Isabella Detwiler, acting Minister counselor for economic, environment, science and technology affairs, US Embassy, New Delhi added: "The web is the biggest marketplace for the illegal trade of wildlife. Wildlife is being trafficked from the comfort of people's homes."

Dr Saket Badola, head of TRAFFIC's India said illegal wildlife trade is a significant threat to wildlife conservation today and in recent years has increasingly moved into cyberspace. With India's internet user population reaching nearly 500 million, cybercrime has become a mounting concern. Large numbers of wildlife species and their parts and derivatives have been found on sale online, among them skins and body parts of tiger, leopard and snow leopard; elephant ivory; rhino horn; pangolin scales; marine species; birds, reptiles. Their timely detection and subsequent enforcement action are fast becoming con-

servation priorities, he added. Ravi Singh, CEO of WWF India emphasised on exploring "the possibilities of data mining, big data analysis and artificial intelligence" while MS Negi, Addl Director General (Wildlife) called the meeting need of the hour to solve the crisis.

According to IFAW's 'research into wildlife crime' last year, "the vast quantity of live animals and their body parts available for sale online and the threat this poses to the future survival of many species." The IFAW, in just six weeks in four countries had, identified advertisements for 11,772 endangered and threatened specimens worth more than \$3m.

To tackle wildlife crime, the Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, convened by WWF, TRAFFIC and IFAW was launched last year, bringing together e-commerce, technology and social media companies from across the world to reduce wildlife trafficking online. The Coalition aims to collectively reduce wildlife trafficking online by 80 per cent by 2020.

INSHORT

THREE-DAY NOTICE TO EVACUATE GOVT HOUSE

New Delhi: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has notified the 'Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Act, 2019 which has come into effect from Monday. As per the Amendment Act, the Estate officer will issue short show cause notice of three days before eviction of the unauthorised occupant from Government accommodation.

CEC TO VISIT MUMBAI FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS

New Delhi: A three-member delegation of the EC, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, will visit Mumbai for review meetings with stakeholders on Tuesday and Wednesday ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled to be held next month.

LEFT TO HOLD PROTEST AGAINST ECO POLICIES

New Delhi: The five Left parties will organise a joint protest against the economic policies of the Government. In a joint statement on Monday, leaders — Sitaram Yechury, General Secretary, CPI(M), D Raja, General Secretary, CPI, Dipankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary, CPI(ML) Liberation, Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary, AIFB and Kshitij Goswami, General Secretary, RSP said a protest will be organised to highlight growing misery on the people.

AI TO BE PART OF CLASS IX SYLLABUS

New Delhi: HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' instructed officials of his Ministry to develop syllabus on artificial intelligence introduced by the CBSE for Class IX students according to the needs of the industrial sector.

SC ALLOWS TARIGAMI TO GO BACK TO J&K

New Delhi: The SC on Monday allowed CPI (M) leader Mohd Yusuf Tarigami to go back to his home State Jammu & Kashmir. A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer said the former MLA does not need any permission to go home if doctors at AIIMS allow him.

COLLEGIUM TAKES DECISION ON KURESHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said the Collegium has taken a decision on the elevation of Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

NAVAL EXERCISE BEGINS AT PORT BLAIR

New Delhi: A trilateral maiden naval exercise involving India, Singapore and Thailand commenced at Port Blair on Monday, the Navy said in a statement.

Is live streaming of Ayodhya case possible? SC asks its Registry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked its Registry on Monday to inform it whether live streaming of the ongoing hearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri masjid land dispute case was possible.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi also asked the Registry to apprise it as to how much time it would take to do so, if possible. "Registry to inform if live streaming can be done and how much time it will take to do so," said the Bench also comprising justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for former RSS ideologue KN



Govindacharya, said the petitioners have faith in the apex court but many petitioners in this case cannot come to the court to take part in the hearing on daily basis.

Since they cannot watch proceedings here, live proceedings will help them to know about details of hearing, Singh said. After the Bench passed the order, Singh sought to know from the bench about the deadline of the report from Registry. The Bench, however, said it depends on Registry.

REMARK ON NORTH INDIANS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on Union Minister Santosh Gangwar for saying that recruiters complain of lack of "quality people" in north India, the Congress on Monday demanded an apology from him, while its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked him to provide figures for jobs given to people from that region in the last five years.

The Congress general secretary also posted a video of the interaction in Bareilly, held on Saturday, during which Gangwar said recruiters complain of paucity of "quality people" in north India for the posts they wish to fill. The Minister represents Bareilly constituency in the Lok Sabha. At the Congress briefing,

- Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked Union Minister Santosh Gangwar to provide figures for jobs given to people from that region in last five years
- Priyanka also a video of the interaction in Bareilly, held on Saturday, during which Gangwar said recruiters complain of paucity of "quality people" in north India for the posts they wish to fill. The Minister represents Bareilly constituency in the Lok Sabha

party leader Rajiv Shukla said the Minister's remarks that "youth of north India are not employable is a very big insult to them. The Government and the Minister concerned should clarify their position. The Minister should apologise or should say that this is the policy of the Government."

Clarifying his remarks, Gangwar said his statement "had different context". "What I said had different context that there was lack of skills and

SC to hear Patel's plea against petition challenging his RS election

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will hear on September 23 the plea of senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel seeking stay on further proceedings in the Gujarat High Court on his 2017 election to the Rajya Sabha that has been challenged by rival BJP candidate Balwantsinh Rajput.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer agreed to

hear the plea after senior advocate Abhishekh Manu Singhvi, appearing for Patel, submitted that the matter is scheduled for hearing in the high court on September 27.

Singhvi, along with senior advocate Dev Dutt Kamath, said there was a need for hearing the matter in the apex court before the high court goes in for further proceedings in which the arguments are at final stage.

Patel has challenged in the

apex court the maintainability of the election petition in the High Court, the advocates said.

Till the apex court decided the maintainability of the election petition, there was a need for stay of proceedings in the high court, they said.

Patel has challenged the order of the Gujarat High Court's by which it had dismissed his plea questioning the maintainability of Rajput's election petition.

Cong demands Min Gangwar's apology

Minister represents Bareilly constituency in the Lok Sabha

- Clarifying his remarks, Gangwar said his statement "had different context". "What I said had different context that there was lack of skills and the Government has opened Skill Development Ministry..." the Union Labour Minister added

of job losses are with the people," she added. "Mr Minister, it has been more than five years of your Government. There is no job creation. Whatever jobs were there, they have been snatched due to the economic slowdown brought by the Government. You want to escape by insulting north Indians," she added.

Shukla also urged the Government to take note of the serious problem of economy and unemployment and

address the issue seriously and not be in a denial mode, as it was currently.

Shukla said, "If the country's Labour Minister himself is saying that the youth of north India is not employable, is incompetent and are not worthy of jobs, then the Government's problem is over...This is a very serious issue."

He claimed that though the Government has initiated the Skill India campaign but only 30 per cent of those enrolled have got jobs. "The Government should admit that there is a serious economic slowdown. This Government is in a denial mode," he said.

Training his guns on the Government, Shukla said, "It is only about speeches, statements and advertisements, there is nothing else."

Varsity in UP develops nano-silica particle to beat air pollution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from the super-hydrophobic (water-repelling) nature of the lotus leaves, a team of scientists from UP-based Shiv Nadar University has developed a unique environment-friendly cost effective coating by extracting the nano-silica particle of rice husk to eliminate discoloration of the surface, physical damage or corrosion on a long-term basis.

It also has the potential to offer an alternative to crop residue burning by farmers, a major cause for air pollution in the northern part of the country. "The self-cleaning coating

is a cost-effective and eco-friendly substitute for the existing toxic paints and coatings available in the market," said Dr Harpreet Singh Grewal and Dr Harpreet Arora, Associate Professors who with their research team at the School of Engineering at Shiv Nadar University had developed the coating.

The research which has been published in the scientific journal, Progress in Organic Coatings has been sponsored by the Government's Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and has been tested under extreme weather conditions including rain and storms. Results of the research

indicate that the exposure to the outdoor conditions has no impact on the coating. Another important feature of the coating is that it is non-toxic and can be applied on all household appliances, buildings, automobiles and industrial components to help elongate their life.

Highlighting the importance of this invention coming out of agricultural waste, Dr Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor of the University said, "Dust and corrosion have a detrimental impact on the industrial and mechanical operations especially in regions that deal with the problem of heightened air pollution. Excessive

- It also has the potential to offer an alternative to crop residue burning by farmers, a major cause for air pollution in the northern part of the country
- The research which has been published in the scientific journal, Progress in Organic Coatings has been sponsored by the Government's CSIR, and has been tested under extreme weather conditions including rain and storms

corrosion leads to unnecessary wear-and-tear of machines and devices, reducing their efficacy and functional life."

Corrosion has a huge economic and environmental impact on virtually all facets of

the infrastructure, from highways, bridges, and buildings to oil and gas rigs to factories and industrial plants.

In addition to causing severe damage and being a potent threat to public safety, corrosion



disrupts operations and requires extensive repair and replacement of failed assets. Studies have indicated that global cost of corrosion is around US\$ 2.5 trillion, which is equivalent to 3.4 per cent of global GDP.

PMO defines work areas for PK Mishra, Doval and Sinha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Days after PK Mishra and PK Sinha were appointed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary and Principal Adviser respectively, the Prime Minister's Office has defined the work areas for the two officers, and also for National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

According to an order issued by the PMO, Principal Secretary Mishra will look into policy issues and matters relating to Ministries of Personnel, Law, Appointments Committee of Cabinet and other appointments.

He will also look into issues related to the Cabinet Secretariat, listing of items for the meeting of the Union Cabinet, anti-corruption unit, PMO's establishment and all important policy issues and matters, according to the order.

NSA Doval will look into all matters relating to national security and policy matters — except appointments. He will also oversee policy matters relating to ministries of External Affairs, Overseas Indians Affairs, Defence, Space, Atomic Energy and the country's external Intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing.

He will also be in charge of all policies and matters relating to National Security Council Secretariat and the National Authority for Chemical Weapons.

Doval has also been allocated the issue of talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) separatists. On the other hand, PM's Principal Adviser PK Sinha will oversee policy issues and matters relating to all ministries/departments/agencies/bodies except those specifically allocated to the Principal Secretary and the NSA, the order issued on September 13 said.

Mishra was the prime minister's additional principal secretary and was last week elevated as his Principal Secretary after Nripendra Misra stepped down. Sinha is a former Cabinet Secretary and was last month appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the PMO before being made Modi's Principal Adviser. Mishra and Doval hold the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Not Hindi *hain hum*

Amit Shah's proposal to make Hindi the unifying language is unworkable and threatens our federal plurality



Perhaps nobody could have articulated the difference between a transactional language and the tongue you are born with than the great Nelson Mandela himself, who was as rooted as global. "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his mother language that goes to his heart," he said. Our Constitutional fathers understood this and despite their attempt at breaking the colonial shadow with a pan-India language — something which could be argued better during a pure nationalist surge after Independence — couldn't make either Hindi or Sanskrit the preferred alternative. More than the political opposition that came from regional leaders, our predecessors, in their infinite wisdom, understood that language was more about culture, identity and one of the many concrete embodiments of "unity in diversity" than it was about a tool of communication. As a result, Hindi and all other languages were accorded official language status, a peerage of sorts. And may we say that this policy has neither affected inclusive development, nor changed the national narrative so far. So while English continued to be a link language of economic mobility and global engagement, each State, as is the nature of federal polity, conducted business in it as well as their own familiar words. Besides, language wars or the North versus South debates are well past their expiry date as even the UN has certified that mother languages are intrinsic to human development. These help establish our personalities and relationships with our families, society and the larger world outside, defining the way we express ourselves and establish our confidence. So Home Minister Amit Shah's bold claim that Hindi should be made the national unifier language and a voice to the world is not only ludicrously revisionist but defeats the civilisational idea of India, which functions as a beehive of plurality rather than as a smartcard monolith of "one India, one language." Of course, in the current swell of jingoism, nobody would want to listen to reason. Imagine if a Tamil-speaking farmer had to avail a Government scheme in the back of the beyond and is expected to not only read Hindi but understand the fine print and sign off, then it is all about unfair imposition, cultural dwarfism and centrist exclusivity over an empathetic embrace. The poor farmer will have no option but to rely on interlocutors and unnecessary bureaucratic inefficiencies. Similarly, howsoever much we may want to disown English, it has become our common connector, an asset for global empowerment, a social aspiration and the reason that the offshore business processing industry was one of the first to take off in India. How would one talk the language of science without peppering it with English? How would one change academic discipline in higher institutions where English is the accepted and entrenched medium of instruction? How would one score in the professional space of multinational companies where English is common currency? And rarely have Hindi-speaking people not chosen to pursue English.

By the same logic, the government machinery would be bound to use a single language as a working medium and that privilege would automatically be discriminatory to those officers whose mother tongue isn't Hindi. According to Article 343 of the Constitution of India, "the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script and (2) Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), for a period of 15 years from the commencement of this Constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all official purposes of the Union for which it was being used immediately before such commencement." Schedule 8 allows reviewing the progressive use of Hindi but doesn't run down English or takes away the State legislature's right to opt for the language of use. Besides, it clarifies that all authoritative texts must be done in English as well. If anybody thinks that enforcing a language code would foster national integration, then one just needs to look back at how language riots in southern India have at one time threatened it instead. In the words of CN Annadurai, "if we had to accept the principle of numerical superiority while selecting our national bird, the choice would have fallen not on the peacock but on the common crow." Bollywood, often cited as a mass catalyst of the Hindi-speaking market, has only 43 per cent of our total box office revenue. The rest of the pie belongs to regional films. Let's not tinker with the avoidable. Homogeneity isn't always an asset.

War clouds

A drone and missile attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility should send alarm bells ringing across the world



The shock of the drone and missile attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility should worry everyone. Not only did it take offline half of Saudi Arabian oil production, the development highlights how critical infrastructure facilities can be targeted by drones from an "unknown" entity. Of course, now the spectre of another conflagration in the Persian Gulf looms large, especially after US President Donald Trump said his nation is "locked and loaded" and attributed the explosions to Iran's nefarious designs on American interests. If this escalates, oil prices might rise dramatically even though the cooling global economy will possibly temper that. Although Saudi firms have affirmed that there would not be any shortage of supply, repairing reservoirs might take time and India would have to look for an alternative then. Early estimates show that around six per cent of global supplies could be hit. We have imported 19 per cent crude and disruptions could impact our volatile economy.

There are major lessons that India should take from all this. The first relates to protecting critical defence and infrastructural sites from drone attacks. As we learnt when the Gatwick Airport in London was shut down for almost a week, thanks to drones overflying the runways, precision strikes do not need to be fiery and violent to damage the economy. Nations will need to figure out how they will be able to combat drones which can do disproportionate economic damage. Analysing the images from Saudi Arabia, repairs will cost millions of dollars while the attack may have taken just a few thousand dollars to execute. It is also extremely puzzling why Saudi Arabia allowed one of its most critical infrastructure sites to be so poorly guarded and vulnerable. However, just as the Saudis will learn from this lapse, so should India. We must also be prepared for the worst possible outcome in the Middle-East, a war. The clinical nature of the attack makes it impossible to have been conducted by a "non-state" actor (to use Pakistan's favourite term). Any conflict in the region will send oil prices soaring, something the Indian economy, mismanaged to the point of disaster, does not need right now. However, citizens should be made aware of the consequences of such a possibility. This attack should also speed up development of alternative fuels and energy sources, which may not be a bad thing indeed. This is by far the worst shock to global supplies than when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990 and the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979.

Perils of GM farming

Global agricultural firms have been spreading the myth that GMOs are needed to feed India when actually, the country needs agro-ecological systems to preserve its biodiversity



SANDHYA JAIN

Seventeen scientists, who consistently advocated Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India, are anxious to revive GMs despite the Centre's growing emphasis on organic farming and native cattle breeds to boost nutritional standards nationwide. The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and the Rashtriya Gokul Mission are gaining popularity among farmers. Alarmed at the scale of soil degradation in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence day address, urged the farmers to reduce consumption of chemical fertilisers by at least 25 per cent.

Almost parallel to this plea, in *Current Science* (Vol 117, No 3, August 10, 2019), the scientists suggest that GM food crops, ie, Bt-Brinjal that was placed under a moratorium by the then Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh and GM-Mustard that was almost cleared for field trials when activists scuttled the attempt, be cleared for commercial cultivation. This activism seeks to reverse Dr MS Swaminathan's admission that green revolution technologies had harmed the environment and that Bt (*bacillus thuringiensis*) and Ht (herbicide tolerant) crops are highly unsustainable (*Current Science*, Vol 115, No 10, November 25, 2018). The article created outrage in pro-GM circles.

Claiming that Bt-cotton made India a cotton exporting country, the proponents say the virtual ban on Bt-brinjal and GM-mustard is hurting India's food and nutrition security that is challenged by population growth, availability of land, water and human resources. They point out that major Western science academies insist there are no genotoxic effects in Bt and Ht crops. In 2016, the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine published a 420-page report on GM crops and observed, "Bt in maize and cotton from 1996 to 2015 contributed to a reduction in the gap between actual yield and potential yield under circumstances in which targeted pests caused substantial damage to non-GE varieties and synthetic chemicals could not provide practical control."

This report, the GM champions assert, states that Bt crop actually increased insect biodiversity on farms compared to non-Bt crop farms on which insecticide was sprayed. The report said the emergence of secondary pests and resistant pink bollworm in India is due to the non-implementation of the refuge strategy. A 2010 report of the European Commission noted, "biotechnology, in particular Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), are not *per se* more risky than conventional plant breeding technologies."

GM backers claim that 147 original studies based on primary data from farm surveys anywhere in the world, reporting impact of GM soybean, maize or cotton on crop yields, pesticide use and farm profits



showed that on an average, GM technology reduced pesticide use by 37 per cent, increased crop yields by 22 per cent and increased farmer profits by 68 per cent. Regarding livestock, data from publicly available sources from 1997 to 2011, covering over 100 billion animals, did not reflect negative trends in livestock health and productivity from GM crop-feeds.

Pro-GM scientists doubt the finding of the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer that glyphosate is linked to cancer. The fact, however, is that Austria has already banned glyphosate and Germany has decided to ban it by the end of 2023 as part of an insect (bees, butterflies) conservation programme. Nearly 20 French mayors banned it from their municipalities in August 2019 in defiance of the national Government. Pro-GM scientists recommend GM technology in grains (golden rice) and vegetables, along with the risky gene editing technology. Ironically, they have been blocking the release of Bt-cotton hybrids/varieties developed by scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (which have safer toxic limits than Monsanto) in

the past three years and are trying to influence Government policy for Monsanto/Bayer profits.

The scientists deliberately ignore the fact that the department-related parliamentary standing committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests (August 25, 2017) had categorically asserted that no GM crop should be introduced in India until the bio-safety and long-term effects are evaluated by an independent and transparent process. The standing committee discovered that not a single Government agency had ever conducted studies to assess the impact of Bt-Cotton on the environment, bio-diversity, bio-safety, ecosystem (soil), human and animal health.

A former Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology admitted that his department had no independent research on the impact of GM crops and most research was from the seed and insecticide companies, which cannot be relied upon. The department of health research also admitted that it had not examined the impact of GM crops on human health.

Environmentalist Vandana Shiva points out that the green revolution, based on chemicals and hybrid crops, devastated

India in myriad ways — from loss of agro-biodiversity to degraded soils to water emergency. In 2002, the Government legalised the illegal planting of Bt-cotton. Despite energetic marketing, hard official data proves that Bt-cotton has failed, trapped farmers in debt and is implicated in farmer suicides. Worse, Monsanto's HT Roundup Cotton, which has been planted illegally for over a decade, might be legalised.

Illegal planting of Bt-brinjal in many States is extremely dangerous as India has the world's greatest genetic diversity in brinjal (over 2,500 varieties, including wild varieties), which could suffer irreversible contamination. The motive is to gain access to our incredible germplasm. Global agricultural corporations are keen to control our agriculture with their seeds, chemicals and monoculture farming and are spreading the myth that GMOs are needed to feed India.

At a seminar, Beyond Corporate Driven Industrial Agriculture to Climate Resilient Agroecology (September 6, 2019), experts said India does not need genetic engineering as traditional plant breeding and

newer methods "outperform GE hands down." The world needs agro-ecology to overcome climate change and the vicious cycles of hunger, farming stress and poverty. Recent global scientific review (February 2019) warns that the steep decline in insect populations (40 per cent of insects could become extinct in the next few decades) could trigger the collapse of ecosystems worldwide. The main culprit is industrial scale, intensive agriculture with pesticides and fertilisers. Only agro-ecological systems preserve forests and sequester carbon by naturally removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, locking it in plants and, thus, mitigate climate change.

Way back in 1940, Albert Howard (*An Agricultural Testament*) noted that Indian peasants led the world in agro-ecology. India must recover this native wisdom by preserving its biodiversity and seed sovereignty so that future generations are free of hunger and in harmony with humanity and nature.

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

SOUNDBITE

Nationalist Muslims vote for BJP but those who are in favour of Pakistan and are traitors think twice before voting for the BJP.

Karnataka Minister —KS Eshwarappa



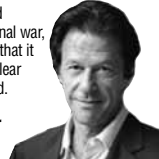
Everybody's always gonna comment about whatever seems intriguing and he's (Bradley Cooper) one of my best friends in the world.

Actor —Laura Dern



When two nuclear-armed nations fight a conventional war, there is every possibility that it could escalate into a nuclear war and impact the world.

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



Why does a former J&K CM (GN Azad) need to seek permission from SC to travel to J&K? It shows that there is no normalcy in Kashmir.

AIMM leader —Asaduddin Owaisi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Statements that divide

Sir — I love Hindi but imposing it as a national language and creating an unequal advantage for naturalised Hindi speakers is gross discrimination and cannot be a unifier. The Government, having no reform or development measures to boast of, is targeting people's sentiments. But this time, it has scored a self-goal that may cost it electorally in the future. The Congress' history in this regard should be instructive.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Raking controversy

Sir — The idea of "one nation, one language" mooted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has expectedly been met with resistance, especially from the southern States. Parties from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been more vocal against the proposal and have accused Shah of running a "divisive agenda" and foisting the "RSS agenda on the country."

While a large number of people in the south do not under-

Accommodation is the key, not imposition

What can be achieved through persuasion should not be imposed through force. Hindi and south India have a peculiar relationship. It is a fact that people in this part of the country are increasingly becoming conversant with this language through Bollywood films and interactions with Hindi-speaking people. Nevertheless, most of us still suffer from the "typical southern slang." Early in June, the Modi Government was caught in the middle of a language storm. The draft National Education Policy had created a perception that Hindi was being made compulsory in all non-Hindi-speaking States. Such was the intensity of the backlash that it was forced to tweak the draft to allay fears. This time, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has test-fired a "one-language" mission, projecting Hindi as the singular choice that can unite the country. Shah should remember that the Constitution does not declare any single language as "national." Hindi is one of the 22 scheduled languages in the country and one of its two official languages at the national level, the other being English.

Many States are more comfortable with English as a link language. The Government should endeavour to ensure that people get quality education and access to speaking skills instead of raising non-issues

stand Hindi, it is gradually penetrating this region due to a number of factors like migration. Yet another reason for the spread of Hindi culture is Bollywood, which is becoming far more popular over there.

Even without any imposition, by far, Hindi as a language has made its presence far and wide. In 1971, 36.9 per cent of Indians spoke Hindi as a first language. In 2011, this increased to 43.6 per cent. In the long run, Hindi may



like linking language to pride and culture. Using one's native language is no greater marker of tradition or culture, it is a choice. In this globalising world, English opens many doors to students and workers. In countries in the region, there is a thriving industry imparting spoken English to those trying to secure jobs abroad. In India, people prefer a sub-standard English medium school to a vernacular one.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Hindi States has remained unchallenged until now. The idea of imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people must be buried until people come forward to accept Hindi as the language of communication in lieu of English.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Diverting attention

Sir — At a time when the country is faced with an economic crisis, it is unfortunate that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has raked up the issue of nationalising the Hindi language. Maybe this is a tactic to deviate people's attention from some of the most pressing concerns pertaining to the economy.

Undoubtedly, the call for unity is noble but to think that it can come only out of uniformity is flawed. The BJP's landslide victory must not make it lose its head and cause it to become arrogant, autocratic and non-amenable to reasoning.

Ravi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The magic of 370 SUVs

I wonder whether the tax department is taking note of the huge amounts being spent by the candidates for the Assembly polls



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

The cavalcade seemed unending and 10 am on a Sunday morning is an unusual time to be stuck in a traffic jam. The reason, it turns out, is the huge number of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) blocking the road. Each vehicle is adorned with big posters informing us that this is a rally for one of the prospective candidates for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections due by the end of the year. The rally is to go to Rohtak to impress the party leader who has his own roadshow there. Young lumps wearing saffron T-shirts with the prospective candidate's photograph on it are energetically hanging out of the SUVs, a la Bollywood heroes. Going by the chaos and noise that is already being generated, I shudder to imagine what we are in for over the next few weeks.

I shouldn't have been surprised though. For the last couple of months, the whole of Delhi has been humming with election-related activity. The number of ticket seekers for the ruling party's nomination, since that seems a no-brainer, has been growing every day. And each of these prospects is outdoing the other by showering the electorate with incentives as well as plastering the whole city with their hoardings. T-shirts, clocks, badges, caps and saffron scarves are all the rage it seems. Each of these items helpfully has the benevolent donor's photograph along with of course our leader's picture — as if it was not enough to have his face ubiquitously staring at us from billboards publicising the Ujala Scheme, Ayushman Bharat and other sundry welfare programmes. It is the same story with hoardings — there is hardly an electricity pole, or a tree or even a fence left which does not carry multiple posters.

A novelty in this election is the use of the social media. Almost all of them have bought advertising space from Google and Facebook. Open a search page and there you have the smiling mug shot of one or more of these candidates promising to turn the dusty and dirty city into a paradise. Fortunately no one is promising to make the pot-holed roads as smooth as the cheeks of a baby as yet!

Incentives, hoardings and social media are not the only outlets being used to publicise and woo voters. Some candidates have found innovative methods of luring the electorate. Organising religious sermons and body-building contests seem passé—the latest one is religious tourism. One candidate organised an all-expenses paid trip to Vaishno Devi. Every day, for about a month, several air-conditioned Volvo busses would take people to the shrine. Their food, lodging and, of course, travel all taken care of. The buses carried huge banners with the suitably saffron-attired candidate's photograph. It remains to be seen whether those who earned some religious merit due to his benevolence would reciprocate on election day.

Then there is another candidate who is going about all this with a precision which would make a management guru proud. This gentleman started his campaign early—hoardings with his mustachioed face, suitably air-brushed to soften the obviously macho image have been all over the city for more than two months. The gentleman in question is the scion of an immensely wealthy family—his father, who incidentally has also unsuccessfully contested many elections, owns large swathes of property in and around the city.

The candidate has obviously hired an image consultant as well as a political strategist to appeal to different segments. Thus, for instance, a musical evening is organised with a popular singer to attract teenagers, while a programme honouring ex-servicemen with several mustachioed generals is held to buttress his patriotic credentials. Since one of the largest communities now in the city is from Poorvanchal, a gala extravaganza was organised recently with performances by all the leading lights of Bhojpuri cinema. This event was meticulously planned with camera cranes and mega sized projection screens to showcase the candidate while the audience of migrant Poorvanchalis waited patiently for their favourite stars to make an appearance. These and other events are then also advertised through ads in leading English dailies.

Needless to say, all this costs a large amount of money. Of course, the elections have not been announced and so the model code of conduct is not in force. But I wonder whether the sleuths of the tax department are taking note of tens of crores which are being so obviously spent by the candidates? The next time I get an Income Tax notice to explain an income of a few thousand, I shall be recalling the ubiquitous mustachioed face! I am pondering all this while sitting in the traffic jam while the SUV cavalcade inches along. I notice that the cars are all numbered sequentially and there is another number too on each of them-370. It turns out that the candidate was so enamoured by the recent heroic acts of the present dispensation that he decided to take a caravan of 370 SUVs to welcome the leader. I thanked our founding fathers for restricting the number of Articles in the Constitution to 448 only.

(The writer is a Professor, Department of Physics & Astrophysics, Delhi University)

I WANT TO APPEAL TO PEOPLE TO PROMOTE THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGES BUT ALSO USE HINDI TO MAKE THE DREAM OF BAPU AND PATEL COME TRUE.

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



IT'S PART OF THE SANGH PARIVAR'S PLAN TO LAUNCH A NEW BATTLEFIELD IN THE NAME OF LANGUAGE.

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Recovery will take time

The pace of economic reforms indicates that the FM has grasped the problem and we should see a fiscal revival but it may have an impact only from the third quarter



KARAN BHASIN



PRACHI JHAMB

There has been a lot of talk on the economic slowdown ever since we saw the first quarter growth results. The fact remains that the Finance Ministry has been working round-the-clock to address some of the critical concerns on the economic front both in the short and the long-term.

However, as is the case, most such measures are likely to have an impact only from the third quarter onwards. But the pace of reforms indicates that the Government has understood the different contours of the problem — and this should be a positive sign for economic revival.

As far as the second quarter is concerned, now is the time to look at the high frequency indicators and sit down to forecast economic growth. As with any forecasting exercise, it's important to keep in mind that most such exercises are subject to statistical errors and conditional on whatever information is made available at the time of the forecast. In all likelihood, we will update our forecast in the first week of October.

One of the authors had a forecast of 5.0-5.4 per cent of growth for the first quarter while another predicted 5.2-5.6 for the second quarter. Since then we've seen further weakening of consumption data, combined with less than encouraging automobile sales.

The automobiles industry makes up around seven per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but it has been in the news for slowing down tremendously, leading to loss of jobs and further impacting the slowdown in consumption. The data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on sale of all vehicles in India shows that the growth in sales fell the most post-2018. The data on private vehicles shows the same trend.

However, the data on commercial vehicles shows that growth was the slowest in 2016 and even though it recovered in 2017, growing at about 29 per cent, since then it has slowed down. The growth in sales of two-wheelers and three-wheelers has been falling since the first quarter of 2018. The fact that the automobiles sector is facing a slowdown shouldn't come as a surprise, given that it had a significantly higher growth in the preceding year. So, part of the slowdown is because of the high growth last year while the rest is explained by the Non-Banking Financial Companies' (NBFC) crisis, the shift to BS-VI emission norms and, of course, to the use of Ola/Ubers.

Consequently, there is a need to re-imagine the automobile business and many leaders of the industry have expressed this sentiment over the last couple of weeks. Further, the low consumption growth is well reflected in the monthly Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection numbers which have only witnessed a modest growth on a year-over-year basis. Therefore, in all probability, growth in the second quarter is likely to be muted— but, from the third quarter onwards, we may see a swift recovery aided by several measures by the Finance Ministry.

Our forecast for the second quarter has modified since then as recent data show that growth in the second quarter may well continue to be low. Consequently, given that the first quarter

“ WHILE GROWTH MAY BE LOW FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, ECONOMIC RECOVERY MAY START FROM THE THIRD QUARTER AND WE MAY BE BACK ON THE SEVEN PER CENT PLUS GROWTH TRACK BY THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR. IN FACT, IF WE CONTINUE WITH THE SAME TRAJECTORY, THEN VERY SOON WE MAY JUST MANAGE TO PUSH OUR POTENTIAL GROWTH TO 8.5 AND SUSTAIN AN EIGHT PLUS GROWTH RATE FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD ”



figures were more towards the lower bounds of the forecast, based on recent data, our forecast stands at 4.9-5.3 per cent of growth for the second quarter.

The silver lining is that the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown a very healthy growth and while it covers only a very narrow scope of economic activity, it is a definite signal of revival. Consequently, it is very likely that the forecast is reversed upwards and growth may well be towards the upper limit of the forecast in contrast with the first quarter. What this essentially means is that there are early signs of economic recovery, which are indeed encouraging, given that we had bottomed out at five per cent.

For the third quarter, growth may well be between 5.8 to 6.2, but this is just a preliminary forecast as we wait to see the impact of the current announcements that have been made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Some of these announcements have already been implemented and will have a definite positive impact on the economy. One of them relates to GST refunds for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which have been a concern since their introduction. The Government has recognised that there is a need to have a system for time-bound refunds and it has ordered that all existing ones be cleared within 30 days. Going forward, all refunds should be cleared within 60

days. This will have an immediate impact on addressing the working capital constraints in the MSME space which, in turn, will ensure that the system is infused with fresh liquidity. It is likely that this will have an impact as far as growth in this and the next quarter is concerned.

Similarly, the Government has tried to address concerns of the automobile industry by removing the ban on replacing current vehicles, which will try to absorb some of the accumulated inventories over the last couple of months. What is important is to also consider that the Government has committed to the expenditure as stated in the Union Budget and to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. This suggests that expenditure will continue as per plan and any revenue shortfall may be met through increased disinvestments. Both are again a positive sign for the economy — although one needs to further evaluate whether there's any difference between a 3.3-3.5 per cent of deficit, especially during a time when growth has been slow.

Similarly, consolidation of banks, combined with several governance reforms and aggressive moves on the relaxation of external commercial borrowings for NBFCs and now even for affordable housing projects, are both progressive decisions that reflect India's demand for foreign capital.

For the first time, there's a pragmatic realisation that India is a capital-deficit country and the only way to

meet our need for investment would be to seek foreign capital. Luckily, low and negative yields elsewhere make India a no-brainer as far as movement of capital is concerned. Harsh Gupta — a hedge fund manager and a financial columnist — has worked extensively on this area as he's documented the need to be progressive in our outlook towards foreign finance.

It is important to have a progressive and pragmatic outlook towards addressing the current crisis. We need to simultaneously focus on reevaluating some of our previous policy choices and think hard on whether they've helped us meet our growth aspirations. The Finance Minister is doing the same with a strong commitment towards reviving economic growth and towards deep structural reforms. The three press conferences have given us a signal that Sitharaman means business and this fact itself makes us extremely optimistic about India's economic prospects over the near term.

While growth may be low for the second quarter, economic recovery may start from the third quarter and we may be back on the seven per cent plus growth track by the next financial year. In fact, if we continue with the same trajectory, then very soon we may just manage to push our potential growth to 8.5 and sustain an eight plus growth rate for a prolonged period.

(Karan Bhasin is a New Delhi-based policy researcher and Prachi Jhamb is a research associate with the Reserve Bank of India)

Right to live happy in the sunset years

With a gradual slowdown in India's population growth, it's imperative to cultivate 'social prescribing' for the elderly to better address their medical and emotional needs. Promoting healthy ageing can help reduce burden on healthcare services



KEWAL KAPOOR

For all the political discourse about a "population explosion," the truth is that India is witnessing a slowdown in its population growth and is expected to start reversing its numbers over the next two to three decades. With the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) down to 2.3 per woman, we are inching closer to achieving replacement levels of population growth. A slowing population automatically implies a higher number of the elderly as against the young. According to the Economic Survey 2019, the country as a whole will continue to enjoy the "demographic dividend" for a few more decades but some States will start transitioning to an ageing society as early as the 2030s. With declining fertility, reduction

in mortality and increasing survival at older ages, the shift in age structure from young to the old is expected to give rise to a major public healthcare burden. Unfortunately, we do not seem prepared to meet the requirements of this shift with little emphasis on improving our elderly care structure, health structure or building a social support system to address this.

The need is not limited to improving healthcare infrastructure and availability of caregivers for the aged but also to create innovative social solutions to enable the elderly population live better, happier and more productive lives. "Social prescribing" is a strategy that ageing countries are now incorporating in their policy to address the physical and mental health needs of senior citizens and finding a way to address the problem of loneliness.

In 2018, the British Government initiated a new strategy to address the growing problem of loneliness among the country's elderly. As part of this strategy that is expected to be fully in



place by 2023, physicians will be allowed and encouraged to refer people to partake in social activities and social groups to combat loneliness. The strategy is aimed at reducing the burden on the British health service and improving patients' quality of life. This approach will be supplemented by investing in community projects such as creating cafes, art spaces or gardens that can become the focal point of the

social prescriptions for the elderly.

This approach originates from the realisation that additional and the medical needs of the elderly mean we give them a good quality of life, happiness and greater social involvement. Currently, society treats the elderly with a peculiar redundancy. However, changing this approach could help convert a large experienced and wise population into valuable social capital, rather than just a healthcare burden.

Promoting healthy ageing can help delay the onset of disease and allow us to have a more productive population in its sunset years. Healthy ageing is essentially a process through which the elderly are enabled to optimise their physical and mental health and are able to take an active part in society. Community referrals are a mechanism to create and utilise social support structures for the elderly. For example, an elderly couple living alone in a city away from their children can enjoy a much better quality of life if they are a regular part

of a community exercise that allows them to pursue their passions and hobbies. This community referral system must also become an intrinsic part of the healthcare structure so doctors are able to refer their elderly patients to the communities held suitable for them.

There is scientific evidence to believe that staying socially active and relevant not only helps fight depression but also improves cognitive function and helps slow down decline in health. Joining communities and interest groups helps the elderly indulge in fruitful discussions, volunteer for social work and gives them hope and passion to live. Community groups can also be effectively leveraged to educate people to adopt healthy lifestyles that can enable them stay healthier longer.

This strategy cannot be achieved singularly by the Government. Rather, it needs active participation of innovative start-ups, social groups and volunteers to create a medical-social network requisite for social prescribing. Efforts are needed on multiple fronts to make this happen by creating community groups and social support networks to work in cohesion with doc-

tors and hospitals. Next come integrated awareness and training programmes, to prepare a workforce that can act as a vital link between doctors and community groups and can play the role of counselors for the elderly. Guidelines would have to be framed to help doctors recommend and refer patients to social networks apart from laying grounds for coordinated and community-referral system at the levels of villages, towns and cities. Last but not the least, we would need to engage the local population, students and volunteers to spread the activities of community groups. According to a 2017 report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), around 12.5 per cent of India's population will be 60 years and older by 2030; by 2050 this will increase to one-fifth of the population. Integrating social prescription with the healthcare structure will not only result in a healthier ageing population but also have the potential to reduce the financial burden on healthcare services.

(The writer is director and creative strategist of an advertising and consulting agency)



FOREIGN EYE



CAMERON COST THE NATION DEAR

By the standards of everyday life, ex-British Prime Minister David Cameron seems an unremarkably decent man; by the standards of some of his colleagues, a kind and thoughtful one. But politicians should not be judged by the standards of everyday life. They should be held to higher ones, because it is in their power to make much more damaging mistakes than most people can.

(The Guardian editorial)

HC stays Yogi's move to shift 17 OBCs to SC list

Lucknow: In a major setback to the Yogi Adityanath Government, the Allahabad High Court on Monday stayed its decision to include 17 Other Backward Castes (OBC) in the Scheduled Castes (SC) list.

The court's decision came on a petition filed by social activist Gorakh Prasad.

On June 24, the state government had directed District Magistrates and Commissioners to issue Scheduled Caste certificates to 17 OBCs - Kashyap, Rajbhar, Dhivar, Bind, Kumhar, Kahar, Kewat, Nishad, Bhar, Mallah, Prajapati, Dhimar, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machua.

The Government's move was apparently aimed at wooing these communities ahead of by-elections to 12 Assembly seats.

The decision, incidentally, had been criticised even by the BJP-led Central Government, with Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot telling the Rajya Sabha on July 2 that the move was not in accordance with the Constitution.

Gehlot had said that if the UP Government wanted to go ahead with its proposal, it should follow procedure and send a proposal to the Centre.

BSP chief Mayawati had



also slammed the move as "unconstitutional" and called it "politically motivated".

"No Government can include or remove any caste from the Scheduled Caste list. Article 341 prevents a Government from doing so. Only the President and Parliament have the powers to do so," she had said.

Part 1 of Article 341 clearly states that the President can specify any group to the SC list through a public notification on the Governor's advice. Part 2 says that if a notification is released under part 1 of Article 341, it can only be changed by Parliament. Part 2 also states that Parliament can specify, include or exclude any group from the SC list.

She pointed out that the notification cannot be undone by any other notification.

"These castes will no longer get the benefits of quota under

the OBC category. They will be treated as general castes. It is clear that Yogi Government has issued this order to deceive these castes," Mayawati had said.

The BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh is not the first to move the 17 OBCs to the SC list.

In 2005, the then Mulayam Singh Yadav Government passed the first order to include 11 of these castes in the SC list but the order was stayed and the proposal sent to the Centre.

Subsequently, the BSP Government of Mayawati quashed the notification.

The BSP later said these castes could be included in the SC list provided the SC quota is increased.

The SP Government of Akhilesh Yadav again cleared the inclusion proposal ahead of the 2017 Assembly elections but it was challenged and is still in court.

PTI

UP honour killing: Dalit burnt alive

Hardoi (UP): A 20-year-old Dalit man was allegedly burnt alive over his relationship with a woman from another caste, a killing that his relatives said also led to his mother's death.



According to the police, the suspected case of honour killing occurred at Bhadasi area of Hardoi district on Saturday.

Abhishek alias Monu was beaten up, kept hostage in a house and set ablaze, Superintendent of Police Alok Priyadarshi said. Locals who rushed to the spot on hearing his cries and took him to a local hospital. He was referred to a Lucknow hospital but succumbed to injuries on the way on Sunday, the SP said.

A relative said Monu's mother died of shock after hearing the news.

According to the SP, locals said Monu was in a relationship with a girl and had gone to meet her when the incident took place.

Monu was returning after arranging Rs 25,000 for the treatment of his ailing mother, Ram Beti (60), his uncle Raju said. Monu was stopped and taken to a house by some people with whom the family had an enmity. They also snatched the money and set him ablaze, according to Raju.

An FIR has been filed against five people, including two family members and two neighbours of the girl, the SP said, adding that an investigation is on. **PTI**

Shah's Hindi remark: DMK to stage protests on Sept 20

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Upping the ante against "Hindi imposition," a high-level DMK meet on Monday announced protest demonstrations across Tamil Nadu on September 20 to condemn Home Minister Amit Shah's Hindi pitch.

The agitation was to nip in the bud the "adverse effects" of "Hindi imposition on 'mother Tamil' and the mother tongues of people of other (non-Hindi speaking) states," a resolution adopted at the meet said.

Briefing reporters, DMK chief MK Stalin said the agitation was the first phase of protest on Hindi issue and the further



course of action will be decided on the basis of Central Government's response and consultations with like-minded parties.

No love for Hindi as rashtra bhasha is no love for India, says Tripura CM

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Monday claimed that those who are opposing Hindi as the 'rashtra bhasha' (national language) do not love the country.

He, however, made it clear that he was not against English or was not trying to impose Hindi.

"The people who are opposing Hindi as the national language are those who have no love for the country... I am supporting Hindi as the national language as most of the people of our country speak Hindi," the chief minister said.

Had the Britishers not ruled India for 200 years, there would have been no use of English in official works in the country, he said.

According to the Official Languages Act, 1963, Hindi and English are the offi-

cial languages for the Union government and Parliament.

A total of 22 languages of the country are recognised under the Eight Schedule of the Constitution.

Supporting Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion on Saturday that Hindi as a language can unite the whole country, Deb said, "Due to loyalty to the colonial rule, English became a status symbol for many people."

"It is not that only English speaking nations progress. Had it been the case, countries such as Germany, China, Japan, Russia and Israel would have not developed," the chief minister said.

He also urged government officers to help people in official works, who does not understand English and can speak only regional languages. **PTI**

No 'Shah or Sultan' can alter India's diversity, says Haasan

Chennai: Taking a dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the Hindi language issue, Tamil actor-politician Kamal Haasan on Monday said no "Shah, Sultan or Saamraat" should renege on the promise of unity in diversity that was made when India became a republic.

Two days after major political parties in Tamil Nadu reacted strongly to Shah's comments in connection with the celebration of Hindi Diwas, MNM party founder Haasan joined the tribe through a video message and a tweet.

"The unity in diversity is a promise we made when we made India into a Republic. Now no 'Shah, Sultan or Saamraat' should renege on that promise. We respect all languages. But our mother language will always be Tamil," he said.

Continuing further he added: "Jallikattu was just a protest. The battle for our language will be exponentially bigger than that. India or Tamil Nadu does not need or deserve such a battle."

"Most of the nation happily sings the national anthem in Bengali with pride and will continue to do so. The reason is the poet who wrote the national anthem gave due respect to all languages and cultures within the anthem," he said. **IANIS**

2 injured in mob attack on family

AMU students protest, demand arrest

PTI ■ ALIGARH

At least two members of a family were injured in an alleged mob attack at a railway station here, triggering protests by Aligarh Muslim University students who said it was an attempt to lynch them.

The attack took place following an altercation Sunday as the family of Afsana Begum was getting off a train while some other passengers were trying to get into the same compartment, according to a complaint lodged with the railway police.

A little later, about 30 peo-

ple reached there and attacked Afsana Begum's family members, their complaint said. Police said two family members, Shafiq and Fahim, were admitted at AMU's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College. Afsana Begum told reporters that four others suffered minor injuries.

Before the complaint could be lodged with the railway police, the assailants had fled. AMU students said they were outsiders. As the news spread, several Aligarh Muslim University students gathered at the station, demanding the arrest of the unidentified assailants.

Afsana Begum's family had come from Kannauj for the medical treatment of her son Shafiq. The situation was defused after GRP inspector Yashpal Singh assured them that the culprits would be booked.

Ex-Andhra Speaker commits suicide

SEELAM AROZIE ■ VIJAYWADA/HYDERABAD



Former Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly and six-time TDP MLA from Narasaraopet, Dr. Kodela Siva Prasada Rao, allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Hyderabad on Monday.

Over the last few months, the former Speaker was in the midst of a major controversy as he was accused of diverting the Assembly furniture to his residence and his son's showroom, inviting sharp criticism from his own party as also the YSRCP Government.

However, mystery shrouds his death as authorities of the Basavatarakam Hospital, where he was shifted by his family members, said he died due to a massive heart attack. The exact reason that forced the ex-Speaker, who was also a qualified MBBS doctor, to take the drastic step is being ascertained

by the police, sources said. He is survived by wife Sasikala, daughter Vijayalakshmi and son Sivaramakrishna — both doctors. His family members said he was under tremendous stress and strain due to the allegations against him.

A case had been filed against him last month after he admitted to shifting Assembly furniture and computers from the premises to his residence in Guntur. Charges were filed under sections relating to criminal breach of trust by a public servant and dishonestly receiving stolen property at the Thullur police station in Guntur district. Assembly section officer Easwara Rao filed a complaint against the TDP leader.

The former Assembly Speaker had admitted to shifting the property. As Speaker, he claimed, he was the custodian of Assembly property so he kept the furniture in his 'safe custody' after it was 'retrieved' from the old Assembly in Hyderabad while the Capital was being shifted to Amaravati.

After his admission, officials from the Assembly had searched a showroom owned by Rao's family, last month and reportedly identified 32 chairs, four sofas, three tables, one teapoy and other items that belonged to the Assembly. Kodela justified moving the property saying if the furniture was left at the Speaker's chambers in Hyderabad, its maintenance would have been a problem.

The ruling YSR Congress, including its chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, pounced on Kodela and the TDP, accusing the former Speaker of 'stealing' the legislature property. Sattenapalli MLA

Ambati Rambabu said that only because Rao was 'exposed', he was willing to return the property. But even his own party workers lodged several criminal cases against him and his family members. Last month, a section of TDP workers protested at the party's State office in Guntur, demanding Rao's removal as in-charge of the Sattenapalli constituency. Sivaprasad moved the HC seeking directions to the Assembly to take back the furniture.

After speaking to the agitating leaders and workers, party president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu told reporters that the party won't hesitate to take action against top leaders. "We have already prepared a list of leaders who were involved in corrupt practices in the past five years when TDP was in power," he had said. On Monday, Naidu said he was "unable to digest" Sivaprasad's death.

Eminent personalities in West Bengal oppose Hindi imposition

Kolkata: Over 50 eminent Bengali personalities from different walks of life have called upon the people of West Bengal to give "due respect to all languages" and "resist attempt to impose just one".

Taking to Facebook, they issued a statement on Monday, urging people to register a strong protest against any bid to edge out Bengali language from their lives.

Among the signatories are poet Subodh Sarkar, poet-columnist Binaayak Bandyopadhyay, elocutionists Urmimala Basu and Jagannath Basu and independent filmmaker Pradipta Bhattacharya.

The social media statement was issued two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah pitched for a common

language in the country and said it was Hindi which is spoken the most and can unite the country.

Apprehending that "a day may come in foreseeable future when our own language, our mother tongue, our dearest Bengali language will become threatened", it said that "intimidatory tactics" from certain quarters to impose one language should be resisted.

Sarkar, in a separate statement, said, "I respect Hindi language. But I equally respect Malayali, Marathi, Konkani and all other languages spoken in this country."

No language can be greater or smaller, no language can be superior or inferior to another, he insisted. **PTI**

Unhappy with Maha CID's Pansare murder probe report: Bombay HC

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Monday said it was "unhappy" with the probe report submitted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Maharashtra CID on the killing of CPI leader Govind Pansare.

A bench of justices SC Dharmadhikari and GS Patel noted that the SIT report did not contain any "independent steps" it had taken during the course of its probe and said "things are not moving".

It was hearing petitions filed by the kin of Pansare and rationalist Narendra Dabholkar seeking a court-monitored probe in their killings.

The court said the only reason it was refraining from passing a more critical order was that it realised the officer concerned had failed to make any significant progress in the past few weeks due to floods in Kolhapur.



"The investigating officer has failed to list any independent steps in this report. Whatever you (SIT) have stated here is all resting on the probe in other cases (the probe into killings of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar and journalist Gauri Lankesh)," the bench said.

"We must convey our unhappiness. Things are not moving. We are refraining from passing critical order against the officer only in light of prevailing

conditions of continuous rains in the area. But we hope the SIT will submit a better and comprehensive report next time," the bench said.

Earlier, during the hearing, the CBI, which is investigating the Dabholkar case, also submitted a progress report on its probe.

CBI counsel, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, told the court the agency was working on tracing the weapons used in the case and the exercise would take another four weeks.

The HC accepted the CBI's submissions and adjourned the hearing to next month.

Dabholkar was shot dead on August 20, 2013 in Pune while on his morning walk. Pansare was shot at on February 16, 2015 in Kolhapur and succumbed to his injuries a few days later on February 20. **PTI**

Dengue vaccination in India from next year, says ICMR

Kolkata: Dengue vaccination will be introduced in India early next year on a demonstration basis in areas where the prevalence is high, a senior official of the Indian Council of Medical Research said here on Monday.

A serosurvey (a test of blood serum from a group of individuals) in this connection has been done recently in more than 15 states including West Bengal, and the report was published in the medical journal, Lancet Global Health, the official said.

"As soon as we get the approval (from the government), as soon as all permissions and documentations are done properly, we will launch the dengue vaccine in India, ICMR Director General Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava said.

"We are looking at the use of demonstration projects for the dengue vaccine for the future in areas of high prevalence," Bhargava said. **PTI**

MUZAFFARPUR GANGRAPE

Woman's medical report shows no injury: Police

NHRC seeks report, NCW team to visit Bihar

Bettiah/Patna: Efforts were on to nab the accused named by an 18-year-old former inmate of a Muzaffarpur shelter home who has alleged that she was gangraped inside a moving vehicle, the Bihar police said on Monday and noted it was "not ruling out anything" after a medical examination showed "no external or internal injury" to her.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar, seeking a detailed report

in four weeks in the matter while the National Commission for Women said it has formed a committee headed by chairperson Rekha Sharma which would travel to the state on September 19-20 to meet the victim.

The woman was admitted to a government medical college on Saturday evening and a medical examination was conducted by a team of doctors on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police, Bettiah, Jayantkant, said that injuries invariably found on the person of a victim of coerced sexual intercourse were absent in the medical tests reports of the complainant, who had alleged that she was sexually

assaulted by four men on Friday night.

"We are not ruling out anything at this point of time, though. The girl has named all the accused in her FIR who were, admittedly, known to her since before. We are on the look out for the accused persons as we need to examine as to whether any type of deception was involved," the SP told PTI over phone.

Asked about an audio clip that has surfaced in social media with the claim that it has voices of the four accused, besides the person driving the vehicle, while the girl was sexually assaulted close to her house, the SP said it sheds no fresh light on the case. **PTI**

Using drones, AI and big data, India to draw up digital map with 10 cms resolution

Bengaluru: India has initiated a project to digitally map the country with a resolution of 10 centimetres, using drones and technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and big data, a senior Government official said on Monday.

The herculean task was taken up by the Survey of India, part of the Department of Science and Technology, a few months ago and is planned to be completed in two years, the Department's Secretary, Prof Ashutosh Sharma said.

"...Now we are equipping them (Survey of India) with the latest technologies like drones, Artificial Intelligence, big data analytics, image processing and continuously operated reference system", he told



reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

Once the project is com-

pleted, the data will be available to citizens and to Gram Panchayats and local

bodies, empowering them to use it in decision making and planning process.

The survey is currently in progress in Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra and the Ganga basin.

"The entire Ganga basin from the beginning to the end, 25 km from either sides of the banks is being mapped with an accuracy of 10 cm," said Prof Sharma.

He stressed the need to have such a digital map.

"Even today we don't have a digital map of India of sufficient accuracy, but this (the new digital map being prepared) is (going to be) the basis for everything you do, whether we have to lay down train tracks, lay a road, put up a hospital, cleaning up Ganga, cleaning up Cauvery or any kind of development and planning," he said.

The official clarified to a question that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was not part of the programme.

"This is a different technology. Satellite produces image, but this one is based on drones.

This is based on two technologies because you get higher resolution with that. It is not just getting an image by flying the drone.

A map is different from an image. We have to produce a map which takes into account the curvature," Prof Sharma said.

Speaking about the continuously operated reference system, he said the Survey of India has a reference point at every 20 km.

"Now with the digital technology, each of these points you put actually a beacon...A stick...A digital station... with the help of these digital stations, whose coordinates are well-established, even using your smart phones you can do your mapping with an accuracy of 10 cm," according to him.

Digital map is different from GPS (Global Positioning System), he noted.

While the GPS may have an accuracy of a few metres, the planned digital map — with these reference points at every 20 km — increases the accuracy manifold. "So you can do mapping as you go up and down, walk around with a resolution of 10 cm or better," the official said. **PTI**

Maharashtra to deploy drones for emergency medical supplies

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In first of its kind partnership, the Maharashtra Government has tied up with a private operator Zipline to use its logistics network of drones for delivery of blood products and emergency medicines to people in remote areas in collaboration with Serum Institute of India (SII).

Being touted as world's first and only national-scale drone delivery service, the Maharashtra's Medical Drone Delivery Service (MMDDS) will be launched in early 2020.

The MMDDS, which is being undertaken as part of the Maharashtra Government's vision to use drone delivery, seeks to establish a universal seven-days-a-week access to life-saving and critical medicines for each of its 120 million citizens over the coming years.

Zipline drones will make on-demand and emergency deliveries of blood products, vaccines and life-saving medications.

Under the tie-up, Zipline will establish a total of 10 distribution centres across Maharashtra in phases in the coming years.

"The State Government's goal is to put almost all of its 120 million citizens within minutes of a lifesaving medical delivery by drone. In the first phase of operations, two distribution centres located near Pune and Nandurbar will be established to service public health facilities in those regions beginning in early 2020," an official spokesperson said.

Each of the two Zipline distribution centers in Maharashtra will cover a delivery area of more than 20,000 square km. They will collectively be capable of serving up to 20 million people.

MORTAR SHELLING BY PAK

7 jawans escape death

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

At least seven soldiers of the Indian Army had a close shave with death when at least two mortar shells, fired by the Pakistan Army from across the Line of Control, exploded in the close vicinity of an ambush party late Sunday night.

Considering nature of injuries, the injured soldiers were immediately airlifted to a nearby military hospital past midnight. At present, these soldiers were receiving specialised treatment to recoup at the earliest. Official sources claimed all the soldiers were stable in the military hospital.

According to ground reports, 'four jawans received splinter injuries while three others had received minor 'bruise' injuries after two mortars exploded nearby'.

Initially, 'unconfirmed' reports late Sunday night had claimed Border Action Team (BAT) of Pakistan army comprising Special Services Group (SSG) commandos' may have targeted one of the forward posts using rocket launcher to cause maximum fatal injuries to the Indian jawans. These



reports also claimed the rocket attack was carried out from a close range to maximise the impact.

However, early Monday morning, Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand in a statement said, "Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and intense shelling with mortars in Balakote, Mendhar sector around 10.30 p.m on Sunday evening. "Indian army retaliated befittingly", he added.

Defence PRO also denied reports of BAT attack on one of the forward Indian post in Balakote area of Mendhar. Defence PRO clarified, only four soldiers suffered minor splinter injuries during intense mortar shelling. He said, all the

soldiers are safe and under treatment in military hospital.

Meanwhile, fresh intelligence reports have also alerted the local formation commanders about regular activity of SSG commandos across some of the forward posts of Pakistan army. In the last few days, Indian agencies are observing hectic activity in areas opposite Mendhar sector.

Ground reports also indicated, several forward villages have been vacated by the Pakistan army to accommodate large number of terrorists across 'activated' launching pads in these villages. Top Indian army commanders are also keeping a close watch on the hectic activity of Pakistani army regulars in these forward areas.

CBI prepares to tighten noose as Bengal ex-top cop remains traceless

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Former Kolkata Commissioner of Police Rajiv Kumar could not be communicated as his mobile phone remained switched off. The mobile phone of his personal security officer was also traceless. The three top offices — Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police — of the Bengal Government had reportedly informed the Central Bureau of Investigation in response to a letter seeking his whereabouts.

The top offices, however, confirmed that the senior officer was on leave till September 25 and that the CBI's letter had been sent to his residential address. Kumar had earlier sought month's time from the CBI for appearance citing his wife's illness for which he was on leave.

The noose around the senior IPS officer and presently the Additional Director General of CID tightened further with the CBI preparing to oppose any move by him seeking anticipatory bail from a CBI

court in Kolkata.

The CBI had directed Kumar to appear before its officials on Friday within hours of his losing the judicial shield against arrest in Calcutta High Court. Kumar is being probed for his role as the chief of the Special Investigating Team former by the Mamata Banerjee Government in 2013 when the multi-crore Saradha chit fund scam became public.

According to sources certain crucial evidences including a red diary, a pen drive, lap top and several CDs and other documents referred to be other accused and witnesses had gone missing after they were reportedly seized by the SIT in 2013.

The Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014 following mass protest against the State police for insincere investigation and tampering of evidence.

The CBI had constantly been complaining of lack of cooperation by the State Police including Kumar who had repeatedly ignored its notice to appear before the Agency.

Didi to meet Modi on Wednesday

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will fly to Delhi on Tuesday where she will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday to discuss a whole lot of administrative issues, including the unfulfilled financial and other demands of the State Government, sources at State secretariat Nabanna said.

Mamata Banerjee's sudden visit to Delhi comes against the backdrop of ongoing battle between BJP and TMC over National Register for Citizens and mounting CBI pressure on former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar who reportedly remained "incommunicado" for the third day on Monday after losing the shield against arrest in Calcutta HC. Kumar is being investigated for his role in the preliminary round of investigations in the Sharada chit fund case.

The Prime Minister is likely to meet Banerjee at 4 pm on Wednesday, sources said whereafter she will return to Kolkata on Thursday. Nabanna sources said adding "an appointment was sought by the chief minister's office last week for a meeting with the Prime Minister ... it will take place in New Delhi on Wednesday", sources said adding among a "whole lot of

issues State's long pending demands" could be discussed.

With the Chief Minister being Modi's staunchest of critics the two leaders are likely to meet each other after a yawning gap of about 18 months. The last time they met for a few moments was at Vishwa Bharati (Shantiniketan) in 2018 where the Prime Minister had come to attend an official programme.

The Wednesday's meeting assumes significance not only against the backdrop of steadily deteriorating chemistry

between the two leaders but also against the CBI's tightening noose around senior IPS officer Rajiv Kumar who is currently functioning as the Additional Director General of CID.

On whether Banerjee would also raise the issue of NRC with the Prime Minister TMC sources said "there is nothing new in a Chief Minister of an opposition party meeting the Prime Minister. No politics should be seen in it. Didi will raise a range of issues including State's pending demands."

Mamata saving herself from CBI, mocks BJP

Kolkata: The BJP leadership Monday mocked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for seeking an appointment to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi calling it a "classic example of opportunistic politics" and "a desperate attempt to save herself from the clutches of CBI".

The appointment for the meeting was sought by the chief minister's office last week and Banerjee is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital on

Wednesday, state secretariat sources said on Monday.

She will be leaving for New Delhi on Tuesday, the sources said.

BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha said, "We all know the kind of language she (Banerjee) had used against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Lok Sabha elections and afterwards. She never had any regard for the federal structure and had even said she does not feel the need to respect Modiji as Prime Minister. **PTI**

Pawar terms deserters 'cowards' Guv sent Registers Bill to Prez, says Mizoram speaker

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar has termed those who left his party to join the ruling BJP as "cowards", and said people will show the deserters their place in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections.

In a setback for the NCP, several senior party leaders recently joined the BJP and the Shiv Sena.

"They are cowards...People of Maharashtra will take care of such people in the elections," Pawar said on Sunday, a day after senior leader Udayanraje Bhosale quit the NCP and his



Lok Sabha membership from Satara and joined the BJP.

"There are some people who have lost their self-respect and switched over to the BJP. I think people will show them their place in the Assembly polls," he said.

Pawar, who founded the

NCP in 1999 after walking out of the Congress, said he worked in opposition for 27 years.

"I managed to work in the opposition at times more effectively. But I don't feel like sitting with this kind of opposition (leaders)," he said.

Besides Bhosale, some of the other prominent leaders who quit the NCP recently include former ministers Jaidutta Kshirsagar, Ganesh Naik and Sachin Ahir, and former state unit president Bhaskar Jadhav.

The NCP chief also attacked the NDA government over the

condition of the economy.

"This government has left many people jobless. This time people will give them a strong message," he said.

Pawar also took a dig at state Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ahead of his scheduled visit to Sangli and Kolhapur districts, which were the worst hit by unprecedented floods last month.

"He (Fadnavis) went there (in flood-hit areas) only once just for few hours and never visited again," he said. **PTI**

Guv sent Registers Bill to Prez, says Mizoram speaker

Aizawl: Mizoram Assembly speaker Lalrinliana Sailo on Monday said the State Governor has informed him that he referred to President Ram Nath Kovind a Bill that seeks to detect foreigners illegally residing in the northeastern state.

The Mizoram Maintenance of Household Registers Bill, 2019, was unanimously passed by the Assembly on March 18.

Mizoram shares an over 700-km border with Bangladesh

and Myanmar and the measures proposed in the Bill are intended to provide a credible individual identification system and to prevent "usurpation" of benefits of developmental schemes by people who are not bona fide.

Sailo told PTI today that he met Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi on Friday at the Raj Bhavan here to inquire about the fate of the bill.

"The Governor told me that he has referred the Bill to the

President. However, he was yet to officially inform it to the chief minister or the assembly speaker," Sailo said.

According to the Article 200 of the Constitution, he said, if the governor has to return a Bill, it has to be done 'as soon as possible' after the bill was presented to him. Meanwhile, the speaker on Monday again urged President Ram Nath Kovind to appoint a regular governor for Mizoram expeditiously. **PTI**

Kin allege lack of ventilator in Sion Hospital killed man

Mumbai: A senior citizen died on Monday in civic-run Sion Hospital with family members alleging that he was not provided a ventilator and efforts to sustain him with an ambu pump proved futile.

Nabi Ahmed Ansari (65), a resident of Ambarnath in neighbouring Thane district, had suffered brain haemorrhage last week and was shifted from a private hospital there to Sion Hospital soon after, the deceased's brother-in-law Noor Ansari said. "For two days, we could not arrange a ventilator and were using an ambu pump every two hours as instructed by authorities. We had inquired about ventilators in other civic hospitals as well but in vain," Ansari said. Sion Hospital Dean Dr Mohan Joshi said he was unaware of the number of ventilators available at the medical facility, among the biggest in Mumbai, but added that the use of ambu pumps, to mimic the work of ventilators, in such cases was common practice. **PTI**

FORM A

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF M/S MAGIC INFO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1. Name of Corporate Debtor	M/s Magic Info Solutions Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of Corporate Debtor	21.05.2006
3. Authority under which Corporate Debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, (Delhi) under Companies Act, 1956/ 2013
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U70100DL2006PTC149035
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	D-13, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	05.09.2019, being date of order passed by Hon'ble NCLT (Order received by IRP on 14.09.2019).
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	03.03.2020
8. Name and Registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Gaurav Katkay IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409
9. Address and email of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the board	Add: D-32, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110065 Email: gauravkaykay@gmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Add: D-32, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110065 Email: magicinfo.crp@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	28.09.2019
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (8A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Allottee under real estate project
13. Names of insolvency professionals identified to act as authorised Representative of creditors in a class (three names for each class)	1. Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh IP Registration no.: IBBI/IPA-003/IP-N00050/2017-18/10443 Address: 203, 2nd Floor, 10 Sikka Complex Community Centre, Preet Vihar, New Delhi 110092 E-mail: cma.mnsingh@gmail.com 2. Mr. Mukul Kumar IP Registration no.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P01670/2019-2020/12642 Address: D-31/1304, The Legend, Sushant Lok Phase 3, Sector 57, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 E-mail: adv.mksingh@gmail.com 3. Mr. Shyam Arora IP Registration no.: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00546/2017-2018/11703 Address: 96, Aravali Apartment, Alaknanda, New Delhi, National Capital Territory of Delhi-110019 E-mail: arora.shyam@yahoo.com
14. (a) Relevant forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	Web link: https://ibi.gov.in/home/downloads https://ibi.gov.in/jsp/register/registered-ips The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) 7th Floor, Mayur Bhawan, Shankar Market, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the M/s Magic Info Solutions Private Limited on 05.09.2019.

The creditors of M/s Magic Info Solutions Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 28.09.2019 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class (Allottee under real estate project of the Corporate Debtor) in Form CA.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date : 16 September 2019
Place : New Delhi

Name and Signature of Interim Resolution Professional : Gaurav Katkay

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age: 40 years, Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Small and Black, Height: 5'4", was found unconscious condition in front of Shop No. F-162, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi at 12 Midnight. In this regard a DD NO. 36 A, dated 06.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24671281, 26882346

DP/7073/SW/19

Aarey metro car shed will meet Nanar refinery's fate: Uddhav

Mumbai: A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis batted for a metro rail car shed in the metropolis' Aarey area, principal ally Shiv Sena's chief Uddhav Thackeray has warned the plan could end up like the aborted Nanar refinery in the Konkan region.

Uddhav's assertion has the potential to further widen the chasm between the two saffron parties which are hassling over the number of seats to contest the assembly elections, due next month.

The car shed plan for Metro 3 (Colaba-Bandra-Seez) line is in the midst of an acrimonious debate as the work will see the felling of over 2600 trees in the Aarey area, considered among the city's prime green lungs.

Responding to a question

on the car shed, Thackeray said, "It will meet the fate of the Nanar oil refinery".

Incidentally, Thackeray's son and Yuva Sena head Aaditya Thackeray has been vocal in his opposition to the metro plan.

A proposed ₹3 lakh crore refinery in Nanar in the state's Ratnagiri district had to be scrapped after the Sena put up a stiff resistance.

In March this year, the State Government scrapped a notification issued in May 2017 to acquire 5,932 hectares of land across 14 villages in Ratnagiri district and two villages in Sindhudurg district for the refinery.

On Sunday, Fadnavis said the Supreme Court had clarified that the (Aarey) land did not come under forest or bio-diversity. **PTI**



Workers at the construction site of phase one of Pune Metro Rangehill Depot, Shivajinagar in Pune city on Monday PTI

JD(S) will contest elections alone, says Deve Gowda

Bengaluru: Days after indicating that his party was still open for continuing its alliance with the Congress, JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda on Monday spoke about going it alone, as he predicted mid-term polls in Karnataka.

"There are chances of mid-term polls in the State. If they come, let's contest independently without going for an alliance with anyone," Gowda was quoted as saying in a statement by his office.

"Will not still commit that mistake. Lets face all the elections independently," he said.

After engaging in a blame game over the collapse of their coalition government, Gowda on Thursday indicated his party was still open for continuing its alliance with the Congress.

He had hinted that he was open for an alliance with the Congress in 17 assembly constituencies, where bypolls have been necessitated following the disqualification of rebel MLAs, but said it all depended on the decision of the national party's interim president Sonia Gandhi.

Gowda and Congress strongman in the state

Siddaramaiah had recently blamed each other for the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy led coalition Government in July after it was rocked by dissidence.

Both Congress and JD(S) leaders have also been non-committal over the continuation of the alliance after the fall of the coalition government.

Congress leaders, including state party chief Dinesh Gundu Rao and Siddaramaiah, the Congress legislature party leader, have maintained that continuation of the alliance will be decided by the high command.

However, several top party leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity, had recently said that the entire rank and file of the party were happy to end the partnership with JD(S).

Amid speculations that several JD(S) legislators may quit the party, the former Prime Minister said he was not worried about it and knows how to organise the party. Gowda has also asked party workers to take the message of the 'good work' done by H D Kumaraswamy as Chief Minister in the previous coalition government, to every household.

"Those who have grown

from the party have spoken against it. I have organized the party, believing in party workers. Let anyone quit.. Will not feel disheartened," he added.

Recently former Minister G T Devegowda and S R Srinivas had openly commented against the party leadership, especially Kumaraswamy. Predicting the assembly elections in January or February, Gowda said he and Kumaraswamy would undertake a state-wide tour to strengthen the party.

"The good work done by HDK during the coalition Government will help us," he said, as he called on the party workers to strengthen the organisation, setting aside minor differences. Also repeatedly predicting mid-term polls, Siddaramaiah has said that the BJP Govt cannot survive for long as it has come to power with the help of 17 Congress-JD(S) disqualified MLAs.

The absence and resignation of 17 Congress-JD(S) MLAs during the trust vote had led to the collapse of the HD Kumaraswamy headed coalition government in July and helped the BJP come to power. **PTI**

noida

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)

Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac
A 1	05/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	Emergency work (Beautification of Vilopit Koodaghar at various locations in the Area of Work Circle-5), Noida	₹ 55.81
B 2	13/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	M/o Road (Micero Simulation Analysis and Improvement of Traffice Circulation near upcoming under ground car parking at Film City Sector-16A), Noida	₹ 36.39

Which can be uploaded by Date **23.09.2019** upto **5.00 PM**.

Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date : **24.09.2019** at **11.00AM**.

S.No	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac
C 3	05/GM(R)/SM(WC-4)/2019-20	Other Maintenance work (P/F Gril work on Central verge between Sector-62-63 at road No.-6), Noida	₹52.53

Which can be uploaded by Date **30.09.2019** upto **5.00 PM**.

Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on Date : **01.10.2019** at **11.00AM**.

General Manager (R)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Rate cut alone can't arrest slump, boost rural demand: SBI report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Loss-monetary policy alone cannot arrest the deepening slump, instead government must take demand-boosting measures, especially in rural areas, by front-loading expenditure primarily through the national rural employment scheme, says a report.

Economists at State Bank Research Monday also warned that any attempt to trim government spending to maintain the fiscal numbers will be severely detrimental to growth.

"The current slowdown cannot be tackled by monetary policy in isolation. The government must address demand weakness by continuing to meaningfully front-load expenditure say through Mgnrega and PM-Kisan," the report said.

The PM-Kisan portal shows the number of beneficiaries under the scheme is only 6.89 crore against the target of 14.6 crore due to slow validation in farmer data. This has to be speeded up to boost rural demand, the report said.

Data from the Mgnrega website show that against total release from the Centre of ₹45,903 crore (till September 13), total spend is around 73 percent only or ₹33,420 crore.

The budget has estimated capital expenditure of ₹3,38,085 crore but till July, it has spent only 31.8 percent of the allotted amount as against 37.1 percent a year ago. Private investment share has declined significantly from 50 percent in value terms during 2007-14 to 30 percent during 2015-19.

"In such a case, the Government should clearly state upfront that the additional fiscal spending is specifically for infra spending to boost demand and not for any unproductive purposes," the report said.

The headline fiscal deficit should stay at 3.3 percent, while the additional fiscal impulse for infra spending could over and above this.

It said the RBI could also frontload large rate cuts in the October policy and also start doing open market operations that will keep the Government bond yields in check.

"The Government should go ahead with the overseas sale of sovereign bonds. It could partly hedge the borrowings and thereby decide to not bring back the dollar proceeds into the country," it said adding this will take care of the problem of RBI sterilisation and could also solve the problem of hedging.

The report also called for allowing FPIs to acquire stressed assets through the bankruptcy process instead of going through asset reconstruction companies.

Govt to cut insurance premium rates for small exporters: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry will soon approach the Cabinet for reduction in insurance premium rates to 0.6 per cent for small exporters having an outstanding limit of less than Rs 80 crore, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. The commerce and industry minister said the premium rate is 0.72 per cent.

Further, premium rates for exporters having outstanding limit of over ₹80 crore will be streamlined with a view to help them.

Such exporters will be divided into categories such as non-gold, jewellery and diamond, among others. This is being done as insurance claim ratio for gold, jewellery and diamond players are high and that impacts banks' lending ability.

"For accounts with limits below ₹80 crore, the premium rates will be moderated to 0.60 per annum and for those exceeding ₹80 crore, it will be 0.72 per annum for the same enhanced cover," Goyal told reporters here.

He said that ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India) has launched a new scheme NIRVIK (Nirvat Rin Vikas Yojna).

This will provide more comfort to banks to lend to exporters.

The minister said the scope of cover has been enlarged to include not only the principal outstanding but also for the unpaid interest for a maximum of two quarters or the

NPA date, whichever is earlier.

The cover percentage has been enhanced to 90 per cent from the present average of 60 per cent for both principal and interest.

Goyal also said that the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) envisages simplified procedure for settlement of claim and also for provisional payment up to 50 per cent within 30 days on production of proof of end-use of the advances in default by the insured bank.

The ECIS support will be in force for a period of five-years and on conclusion, the standard ECGC covers will be available for banks with its regular features.

Goyal said that under the scheme, inspection of bank documents and records by ECGC officials will be mandatory for losses exceeding ₹10 crore as against the present ₹1 crore.

"The proposed cover will bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims and will ensure timely and adequate working capital to the export sector," he added.

Further, the minister said that after getting an insurance coverage of 90 per cent, small exporters will get loans at competitive rate at about 7.6 per cent.

"If borrowers' track record will be good, they will get easy loans at affordable rates. And on this, there would not be any interest subvention," he said.

5% Q1 growth surprise; economy will look up with measures taken: Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday termed the low GDP growth of 5 per cent as a "surprise" but expressed confidence that the economy will look up with a host of measures taken by the government.

He further said that the RBI has been cutting rates to give a boost to the economy as slowdown was visible for past few months.

The RBI slashed benchmark interest rate four times consecutively since January 2019. The central bank reduced the repo (short term lending) rate by 1.10 percentage points during the year.

"I think with right measures taken, things should improve. It's a positive trend that the Government is responding very fast and I don't think we have heard the last from the Government with regard to dealing with the current economic situation... My expectation is that it will be a continuous process and they would definitely be dealing with other challenges," he told news channels.

The Government announced a slew of measures in three dosages which include a special window for real estate, export incentives, bank consolidation and sops

for MSMEs and the automobile sector.

With regard to structural reforms, he said the RBI has already pointed out in its annual report.

"I think one major thing would be agriculture marketing. Definitely, I would expect some action from the government with regard to reforms in agricultural marketing," he said.

Expressing concern over the first quarter GDP numbers, the RBI Governor said the numbers definitely looked much worse because the RBI had projected 5.8 per cent.

"I think almost everybody had projected not below 5.5 per cent or so, but the number 5 per cent is a surprise," he said.

He also said the second quarter growth of all advanced economies was lower than the first quarter so there is a deceleration.

"But again I am not trying to justify our slowdown through the prism of the global slowdown although global slowdown does impact growth and results in slowdown we have domestic issues also," he said.

Asked when will the economy see revival, Das said it is difficult to make an estimate as there are many things which are still playing out.

Business Corner



NMDA received "Rajbhasha Kirti Awards" Second Prize amongst Undertakings in "C" region. The award was given by Honorable Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah on the occasion of "Hindi Day" in presence of Ministers of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and G. Kishan Reddy and other distinguished guests. Sumit Deb, Director (Per) received the award on behalf of NMDA



M Ravi Kanth, CMD HUDCO inaugurated, the Hindi Pakhwada being observed by HUDCO from 13th - 27th September, 2019. He emphasised the need to use Hindi in official work with full dedication and commitment. Several competitions including recitation, public speaking, kavysammelan and essay writing, will be organised during the fortnight to promote Hindi language



As per the direction received from Railway Board, Swachhata Pakhwara is being organised at various locations in CLW premises from 16th to 30th Sept., 2019. Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager read out the 'Swachhata Pledge' to the Sr. Officers, Supervisors, Staff and Safai Karmacharis in the Administrative Office premises on 16-9-2019. The 'Swachhata Pledge' were also organised on Monday in Steel Foundry, Works office, ELAAU/ Dankuni and Kolkata office premises by reading the Swachhata pledge by Sr. Officers, Supervisors, Staff and Safai Karmacharis



In a major women empowerment initiative, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in association with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched 'Network of Champions'. Atul Sobti, Director General SCOPE along with Dagmar Walter, Director-India, ILO awarded Certificates to twelve Champions from various sectors of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) thereby entrusting them with the responsibility of being 'change agents' to encourage gender diversity and address gender issues in their respective organisations

Jet Airways lenders make presentation to Synergy Group

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The lenders to the bankrupt Jet Airways Monday made a presentation to the South American conglomerate Synergy Group, which has reportedly emerged as sole potential buyer of the airline, according to a source.

After the August 10 deadline, Synergy Group Corp, which owns majority stake in Colombian carrier Avianca Holdings, had reportedly evinced interest in the airline, which had already received expressions of interest (EoIs) (which were subsequently withdrawn) from energy baron Anil Agarwal's family trust-backed Vulcan Investments, Russian Fund Treasury RA Partners and the Panama-based Avantulo Group.

No Deal: Auto workers strike against GM in contract dispute

AP ■ DETROIT

More than 49,000 members of the United Auto Workers walked off General Motors factory floors or set up picket lines early Monday as contract talks with the company deteriorated into a strike.

Workers shut down 33 manufacturing plants in nine states across the U.S., as well as 22 parts distribution warehouses. It wasn't clear how long the walkout would last, with the union saying GM has budged little in months of talks while GM said it made substantial offers including higher wages and factory investments.

It's the first national strike by the union since a two-day walkout in 2007 that had little impact on the company.

China's economy strains under disappointing data

AFP ■ BEIJING

China's economy showed more signs of strain Monday as the country published weak data for industrial output, investment and retail sales, amid a lingering trade war with the United States.

Industrial output grew by 4.4 per cent year-on-year throughout August, falling to its lowest level in 17 years and down from 4.8 per cent in July. The figure was well below analyst expectations, with a Bloomberg survey of analysts predicting heartier growth of 5.2 per cent.

"We must be aware that international instabilities and uncertainties are increasing significantly, and that at home economic structural issues are still prominent and the down-

ward pressures on (the) economy are mounting," said Fu Linghui, a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, which released the data.

Retail sales also slipped to post growth of 7.5 per cent — 0.1 per cent down on the previous month and a knock to Beijing's aims to boost domestic consumption.

Investment in fixed assets saw year-on-year growth of 5.5 percent in the first eight months of the year, 0.2 per cent less than the first seven months, including a slight dip in crucial real estate investment.

All three sets of data fell short of analyst expectations, with Bloomberg predicting 7.9 per cent growth in retail sales and 5.7 per cent growth in investments.

₹ tumbles 68 paise against US dollar on crude oil woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Logging its first fall in eight sessions, the Indian rupee on Monday plunged by 68 paise to 71.60 against the US dollar amid concerns over soaring crude prices following drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

Surging crude oil prices have emerged as major fears for India — the world's third largest oil importer — in form of fiscal slippage and inflationary pressure.

The drone attacks on Saturday targeted Abqaiq, the site of the largest oil processing plant run by the Saudi state oil company, Aramco, and the Khurais oilfield.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened lower at 71.54, then fell to a low of 71.63 during the day. The rupee finally closed at 71.60, down 68 paise over its previous close.

The Indian currency had settled at 70.92 against the US dollar on Friday.

Crude oil benchmark,

Brent Futures, surged by almost 20 per cent to \$71.95 per barrel (intra-day) on Monday after twin drone attacks on Saturday wiped out more than half of Saudi Arabia's crude supply. It was also the biggest gain in Brent in dollar terms since futures started trading in 1988.

However, Brent Futures saw some moderation and was trading at \$66.63 per barrel, still up 10.59 per cent over the previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.13 per cent to 98.38.

"The INR and other emerging currencies that rely on huge Crude imports have been spooked by this turn of events as the ripple effects on currency are two-fold: 1) an increase in imported inflation



i.e. Rising CPI and 2) a hit on the trade deficit," said Rajesh Cheruvu, Chief Investment Officer, Validus Wealth.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday unveiled over ₹70,000 crore of measures for exporters and the real estate sector, including about ₹30,000 crore new spending in plans such as setting up of a stressed asset fund, as part of efforts to boost economic growth from a six-year low.

"Nirmala Sitharaman announced new measures for boosting economy on Saturday but positive impact on rupee was negated by the negative development of spike in Brent

Govt proposes to significantly reduce fees for IPRs for MSMEs, startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has proposed to reduce fees for various intellectual property rights like patents and designs for micro, small and medium enterprises and startups to promote innovation, Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Monday. An individual, group or industry has to pay fees at different levels of intellectual property rights (IPR) application filings.

As per the proposal, fees for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups for filing of patent appli-

cations will be reduced to ₹1,600 or ₹1,750 from ₹4,000 or ₹4,400.

For expedited examination, it will be reduced to ₹8,000 from ₹25,000 currently. Similarly, for renewal of patents, the fees will be reduced. For design applications filing, fees for MSMEs and startups will be reduced to ₹1,000 from ₹2,000, the ministry said.

For Geographical Indications (GI), fees was proposed to cut to nil for filing of application, issuance of certificate and renewal of GI from the current ₹500, ₹100 and ₹1,000, respectively.

IL&FS puts 494 acre land parcels on block

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Debt-ridden IL&FS Group has put on block nearly 494 acres of land parcels across three states including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, held by its subsidiary Hill County Properties (HCPL).

IL&FS, through its group firms IL&FS Township and Urban Assets and IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company holds a total of 80 per cent equity stake in HCPL.

While IL&FS holds nine per cent, the other two firms hold 40 per cent and 31 per cent stake, respectively in HCPL.

The company has appointed Jones Lang LaSalle Property Consultants to assist the potential transaction.

Hill County Properties houses various land parcels and development rights for properties aggregating to 494 acres spread across six sites including three in Hyderabad (437 acres) and one each in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam and Meerut.

The company has invited expressions of interest from interested parties for a potential equity stake divestment.

The Group's fund-based outstanding debt was ₹94,216 crore as of October 8, 2018.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh W/o Sh. Dev Mann R/o H. No. 97, Street No. 5, Krishna Nagar, S J Enclave, New Delhi & H. No. 352, IITC Munirka Village, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 41/18 u/s 376 IPC & 4 & 6 Pocco Act, P.S. S J Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh** has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh** of **FIR No. 41/18 u/s 376 IPC & 4 & 6 Pocco Act, P.S. S J Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **18.10.2019**.

By Order,
Dr. Saurabh Kulshreshtha
Additional Sessions Judge-01 (South), Court No. 302,
DP/7074/SW/19 - (Court Matter) Saket Courts, New Delhi

WANTED/SUSPECTED



General public is hereby informed that these suspected persons **Age** : About 25-30 years, **Complexion**: Wheatish, **Face**: Oval, wearing one person white colour shirt and 2nd person checkdar shirt and wearing helmet. Both are sitting on two wheeler. They are suspected to have stolen two cars batteries and one mobile phone nearby **H.No. 689, Gali No. 20, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi** on 21.08.2019. They are suspected/wanted in case **e-FIR No. CD-DBG-000478/19** dated 21.08.2019 u/s 379 IPC, P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi has been registered.

Any person having any information or clue about these suspected persons kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23537374, 23613252
DP/1567/CD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Shivam Chola S/o Kamal Chola R/o RZA-7, Nihal Vihar, Delhi**, has been missing from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 20.07.2019. In this regard, a case **DD No. 36A dated 21.07.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**. The description of the missing boy is as under.



Age: 23 Years, **Complexion**: Shallow, **Height**: 5'4", **Face**: Round, **Wearing**: Black & white dotted shirt blue Jeans and red shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/2662/OD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Chavani Lal**, S/o: **Bhangheru, R/o: footpath, Harijan Basti, Masoodpur Village, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi**, died during treatment on **04.09.2019 at 11:33 AM in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi**. In this regard proceeding **DD No. 12A dated 04.09.2019** has been lodged at Police Station Vasant Kunj North, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Chavani Lal, Age: 57 Years, Height: 57" **Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Colour Lower and White Shirt.**

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station Vasant Kunj North, Delhi.
DP/7072/SW/19 Ph.: 011-26892530, 7065036224

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER/ METERING
C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, Punjab-147001
Tel. No. 0175-2218871, Fax: 0175-2200284,
e-mail: se-hq-metering@pspcl.in
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Registration Number: 33813
Website: www.pspcl.in
E-tendering Portal: https://pspcl.abcpocure.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Enquiry No.	MQP-1522019-20(PQM)
Short Description	Procurement of 70,000 No. "ISI" marked, DLMS compliant LT AC 3 -Phase, 4-wire, Whole Current Static Intelligent Energy Meters (Category -C2) with Optical Port & RS-232 port of rating 10 -60 Amps, 50 Hz, 415 volts (3x240 volts) of accuracy class -1
Last date and time for downloading of tender documents	04-11-2019 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for Bid submission	05-11-2019 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Date and time of opening of tender	05-11-2019 up to 11:30 Hrs.

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website https://pspcl.abcpocure.com
Note: Corrigendum, if any after the publication of this tender enquiry shall only be uploaded on website https://pspcl.abcpocure.com and will not be published in newspapers.

C-367/19 DPR/16SEP19/C7135 Dt. 16-09-2019
Dy CE/HMC
PSPCL, Patiala

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

World champion P V Sindhu will look to reassert her supremacy when she spearheads the Indian campaign at the USD 1,000,000 China Open World Tour Super 1000 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

The World No.5 Sindhu ended India's long wait for a world championship gold at Basel, Switzerland last month.

She achieved the historic feat after her third successive final appearance. The performance also turned around her erratic season during which she had reached the finals at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event.

Life after that historic gold has been all about felicitations and the Indian will now have to quickly turn her focus back on badminton as she remains the country's best bet at the China Open, a title she had won in 2016.

The 24-year-old from Hyderabad will begin her campaign against China's Li Xuerui, a former Olympic gold medalist and World No.1.

Interestingly, Sindhu had announced her arrival on the international scene when she had stunned the then Olympic champion Li at the China Masters in 2012.

Since then, Sindhu has reached the highest echelons of international badminton, while Li has been dealing with a career-threatening knee injury that she suffered at the Rio Olympics.

The Chinese is currently ranked 20th but has a 3-3 record against Sindhu.

Sindhu had beaten Li at the Indonesia Masters earlier this year and if she can cross the opening hurdle, she is likely to face Canadian Michelle Li, who hasn't beaten the Indian since 2014.

If everything goes well, then she might be up against China's third seed and All England

Sindhu eyes China Open



PV Sindhu reacts after getting a point

File photo/Twitter

champion Chen Yufei in the quarter-final.

World No.8 Saina Nehwal, who had won the Indonesia Masters this year, will also look to put up a good show following her recovery from injuries which bogged her down this season.

The former World No.1 looked good at the world championships before a few controversial umpiring decisions ended her run when she lost to Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark in second

THE 24-YEAR-OLD FROM HYDERABAD WILL BEGIN HER CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHINA'S LI XUERUI, A FORMER OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST AND WORLD NO.1 SINDHU HAD ANNOUNCED HER ARRIVAL ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE WHEN SHE HAD STUNNED THE THEN OLYMPIC CHAMPION LI AT THE CHINA MASTERS IN 2012

round. Saina will face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in the opening round and is expected to clash with former world no.1 and her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals.

China Open, the last Super 1000 event of the World Tour season, will also see the return of two superstars -- Olympic champion and three-time world champion Carolina Marin and 2017 World Champion Viktor

Axelsen. Both the bigwigs will be back after recovering from their respective injuries.

The Indian campaign lost a bit of sheen with the withdrawal of Kidambi Srikanth and H S Prannoy.

While Srikanth's knee injury flared up during the world championships, Prannoy is down with dengue.

All eyes will be on B Sai Praneeth, who ended India's 36-year wait to become the first Indian male shuttler to claim a medal at the World Championships.

The talented shuttler will open against Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon and is likely to face China's third seed Shi Yu Qi in the second round.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap too will be in the fray, taking on France's Brice Leverdez in the first round.

Returning to action after an injury lay-off will be the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who became the first men's pair from the country to win a super 500 event at Thailand Open last month.

The duo, who had broken into the top 10, will open against Canadian combination of Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura.

In mixed doubles, Satwik will pair up with Ashwini Ponnappa and meet Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti, the Indonesian sixth seeds.

The other men's pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeth Reddy will square off against the second-seeded Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

Ashwini and N Sikki Reddy, the Commonwealth Game bronze-medallists, will fight it out against the Taiwanese combination of Cheng Chi Ya and Lee Chih Chen in women's doubles, while Sikki and Pranaav Jerry Chopra will lock horns with Germany's Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Herttrich.

My hunger, passion hasn't diminished at all: Pankaj

IANIS ■ NEW DELHI

Ace cueist Pankaj Advani, who just registered his 22nd world title, insists he is not done yet and is motivated enough to win more titles and bring laurels to the country in the future.

"To be honest, I feel as hungry and motivated to win as I was when I won my first world title. The hunger and passion hasn't diminished at all. It feels special to be able to maintain that position consistently and win title after title over the last one and half decade. I am glad that it's happening more often than not," Pankaj told IANS.

On Sunday, Pankaj won a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship. In a repeat of last year's final against local favourite Nay Thway Oo, he re-enacted the one-sided match with the same eventual outcome as well as identical scorelines of 6-2.

In the short format of billiards, this was Pankaj's fifth title in the last six years.

"This 150-format, which is a shorter format in billiards, is very unpredictable. To maintain consistency in this format especially is an incredible feeling and winning the title for four years in a row," he said while talking about the challenge he faced throughout the tournament.

The 34-year-old

has brought home a world trophy every year ever since returning from a professional stint in the UK in 2014. The ace Indian cueist has been awarded with both Padma Bhushan (2018) and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (2005-06) and has proven to be the most consistent Indian athlete, prevailing in world championships since 2003.

He has won more world titles in cue sports than anyone in the world making him the greatest cueist of all time.

"I think this sport is very psychological in nature and it really helped that I started winning at an early age. That instilled tremendous amount of self belief in me because when you start winning early in your life, it just gives you the confidence to go forward from strength to strength," said Pankaj.

The ace cueist is expecting tough challenge in the years to come and acknowledges that it will remain a huge task for him to maintain the position at the top spot. "That excites me a lot and I am looking forward to the upcoming challenges."



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

In her quest for World title, Vinesh gets toughest possible draw

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Tension was palpable in the Indian camp after the country's biggest medal hope Vinesh Phogat was pitted against Olympic bronze medallist Sofia Mattsson in the "toughest possible" draw for the World Championships here on Monday.

Vinesh had recently beaten Sofia, a six-time World Championship medal winner, on way to the Poland Open title-win last month, but facing the formidable Swede in the very first round is a different proposition.

The 29-year-old Sofia won the last of her fourth European Championship gold medal in 2016 and the seasoned campaigner will surely be a threat to India's hopes.

She is ranked five in the world in 55kg, which is a non-Olympic category.

If Vinesh, who is ranked sixth in 53kg, manages to get past Sofia, she will likely have to lock horns with world number two (in 55kg) and reigning world champion, Mayu Mukaida.

If that hurdle is crossed, world number one and last edition's silver medallist Sarah Ann Hildebrandt will await the Indian in the quarterfinals.

That she is a bit worried could be felt as Vinesh walked into the training area grim-faced. The coaches around her did their best to keep her cheerful.

"If you want to be World Champion, you will have to beat the best in business. Why fear?," said Vinesh's personal coach Woller Akos.

India's national coach Kuldeep Malik, too, looked a bit tense but remained hopeful.

"Whenever she has got a tough draw, she has ended up winning a medal. Lets see," he said.

India's foreign coach Andrew Cook was of the view that facing tough opponents early would enhance Vinesh's prospects to reach the medal round.

"One of those girls will surely be in final," said the American.

In the other Olympic category, Seema Bisla, the world number three, will clash straight in the 50kg pre-quarterfinals.

She will face the winner of Qualification match between Nigeria's Miesinnee Mercy Genesis and Azerbaijan's Mariya Stadnik.

Jordan free-kick fires Sevilla to top in La Liga

AFF ■ MADRID

Sevilla moved to the top of the Searly La Liga table on Sunday as Joan Jordan's brilliant free-kick helped them seal a 1-0 win at Alaves.

Julen Lopetegui's side continued their excellent start to the campaign, remaining unbeaten and moving a point clear of Atletico Madrid, who lost 2-0 at Real Sociedad on Saturday, at the summit. Sevilla host Real Madrid next Sunday in a meeting of two sides yet to taste defeat.

"That means nothing (being top)," said Sevilla coach Lopetegui, whose team next face a marathon trip to Baku to play Qarabag in their Europa League opener on Thursday.

"The only thing that (being top) tells me is that the team is doing things well. We have to keep improving before going to Baku, where they will make it very difficult for us."

It was a first defeat of the season for Alaves, who slipped to 11th in the standings. Lopetegui, who joined Sevilla for his first job



Joan Jordan celebrates after scoring a goal

Twitter

since being sacked in quick succession by both Spain and Real Madrid, saw one of his close-season signings produce the game's defining moment.

Midfielder Jordan, who arrived at Sevilla from Eibar for a reported 14 million euros (\$15.62 million), curled home a wonderful free-kick in the 37th minute which flew into the top corner to give him his second goal of the season.

The visitors comfortably saw out the match to claim their third league win this term, as Alaves failed to muster a shot on target.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Robert Ibanez's 81st-minute equaliser kept Osasuna unbeaten after a 1-1 draw at Valladolid, while Granada moved up to seventh with a 2-0 success at nine-man Celta Vigo and Espanyol won at Eibar.

Real Betis claimed a 1-1 draw with fellow strugglers Getafe despite also being reduced to nine men, as 38-year-old club stalwart Joaquin netted a 73rd-minute penalty at the Estadio Benito Villamarin.

Nagal reaches career-best ranking



Sumit Nagal returns a shot during a match

Twitter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his good run, India's Sumit Nagal jumped 15 places to achieve a career-high ranking of 159 in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday.

The 22-year-old from Haryana ended runners up in the Banja Luka ATP Challenger following a first round appearance at the US Open last month.

He had leapfrogged 16 places after his first-round exit in the US Open where he took a set off Swiss maestro Roger Federer before losing the match.

Meanwhile, Prajnesh Gunneswaran continued his run in the top-100. He rose three places to be world no. 82. Ramkumar Ramanathan slipped three spots to be 179th, rounding up the top-three Indians in the men's singles.

In doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan maintained their 43rd and 49th position, while Leander Paes moved one spot to be placed 78.

In the WTA rankings, Ankita Raina continues to be India's top-ranked player at 191 and is followed by Pranjala Yadlapalli, who is placed at 338.

Atalanta, Roma back winning as Lazio fall in Serie A

AFF ■ MILAN

Duvan Zapata struck late as Atalanta warmed up for their Champions League debut with a last-gasp 2-1 victory over Genoa in Serie A as Roma got their first win this season against Sassuolo, but city rivals Lazio fell at SPAL.

Colombian international Zapata rifled in the winner on 95 minutes in Genoa on Sunday to seal all three points for Atalanta who qualified for the Champions League by finishing third last season, but lost last week to Torino.

Colombian striker Muriel's 64th-minute penalty had put the Bergamo side ahead in western Italy but Genoa captain Domenico Criscito levelled from the spot after 91 minutes.

Zapata had the final say to give Gian Piero Gasperini's side, who are sixth, a confidence boost as they travel to Dinamo Zagreb for their first ever Champions League game next week.

AC Milan are just

behind Atalanta, also with six points, after Polish striker Krzysztof Piatek got back scoring with a 68th-minute penalty in a hard-fought 1-0 victory over 10-man Verona.

Roma are just behind in eighth after new coach Paulo Fonseca got his first win, a 4-2 defeat of Sassuolo, for the capital side.

The hosts were four goals up at the break after Bryan Cristante, Edin Dzeko, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Justin Kluivert all found the net in a 21-minute spell with Lorenzo Pellegrini providing three assists.

But Domenico Berardi's brace for Sassuolo on 53 and 72 minutes rattled the hosts who are back in the Stadio Olimpico during the week for Europa League action against Istanbul Basaksehir.

"I hope that this will be the first of a lot of victories," said Portuguese Fonseca.

"I realised that I had to



adapt to the dynamics of the Italian championship.

"Today we showed our ability to press high, and while we scored four goals it could have been seven or eight."

"Defensively it was our best performance so far."

Lazio suffered their first defeat this season as they paid for their complacency following a 1-0 win over Immobile's 17th-minute penalty against SPAL, losing 2-1.

An Andrea Petagna volley just after the hour mark in Ferrara and Jasmin Kurtic's late winner sealed all three points for SPAL.

The Romans are ninth with four points from three games.

- Bologna go second - Bologna moved second after a gutsy 4-3 comeback win over promoted Brescia, inspired by coach Sinisa Mihajlovic who gave instructions from hospital as he undergoes chemotherapy.

"At the end of the first half we heard Mihajlovic's

India men's team enter quarterfinals of Champions Division

PTI ■ YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team booked a quarterfinal berth in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with a 3-0 win over Thailand here on Monday.

After blanking out Kuwait and Sri Lanka with identical 3-0 wins in the group stages yesterday, India entered the knockout stage of the 1st Division.

In the knockout stage they defeated Saudi Arabia (3-1) and followed it up with a 3-0 triumph over Thailand to enter the final of the 1st Division.

In the main draw, where eight teams compete against each other, only the finalists of the 1st Division qualify for the Champions Division with top six teams drawn from the last championships held at Wuxi in 2017, directly making the grade.

In their match against Thailand, Sharath Kamal defeated Padasak Tanviriyavechakul 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-2 to put India up. It was quite a struggle for the world No. 41 as he, after going 2-1 up, made some

crucial errors which helped the Thai claw his way back. But the experienced Indian didn't yield any ground and sealed the game.

In the second tie, G Sathiyar consolidated India's position further beating Supanut Wisutmaythangkoon 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-1.

With a 2-0 cushion, it should have been easy for Harmeet Desai, but the Surat lad struggled before overcoming Yanapong Panagitgun 11-3, 9-11, 5-11, 13-11, 13-11 to put India in the final. But, most importantly, it earned India a quarterfinal berth in the Champions Division where they will run into either Japan or Chinese Taipei after the draw.

The Indian women, who did well to enter the 1st Division after winning their group stage matches yesterday against Lebanon and Jordan with 3-0 verdicts. They managed to register a 3-0 win against Uzbekistan before losing to Thailand 0-3. Now they will play Malaysia with the winner finishing at Position 9.

anger on the phone and this shook us," said Bologna forward Rodrigo Palacio.

"We talked to him before the game, for us it is very important and we miss him. We play like this thanks to his mentality."

Sunday's game was the first the 50-year-old Mihajlovic has missed despite his condition.

A quick-fire Alfredo Donnarumma double saw Brescia -- playing their first home match in eight years -- lead after 19 minutes.

Mattia Bani headed Bologna back into the game on 36 minutes, with the visitors trailing 3-1 before Brescia were hit by Daniele Dessena's sending off for a second yellow card just after the break.

Bologna came back with goals from Palacio on 56 minutes, Stefano Denswil four minutes later and a Riccardo Orsolini winner 10 minutes from time.

Mihajlovic's side, who finished 10th last season, are now two points behind Inter Milan and ahead of champions Juventus on goal difference after three games.



ALL ABOUT CHILD LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Human language is a remarkable way to communicate. No other form of communication in the natural world transfers so much information in such a short period of time, says TEAM VIVA

Learning language is natural and babies are born with the ability to learn it. All children, no matter which language their parents speak, learn a language in the same way.

In the early childhood classroom, silence is not golden. Spoken words are opportunities for learning that should take place throughout the day - especially during conversations between children and between teachers and children.

It is remarkable that in three short years a child can hear, mimic, explore, practice, and finally, learn language.

There is no genetic code that leads a child to speak English or Spanish or Japanese. Language is learned. We are born with the capacity to make 40 sounds and our genetics allows our brain to make associations between sounds and objects, actions, or ideas. The combination of these capabilities allows the creation of language. Sounds come to have meaning. The babbling sound "ma - ma - ma" of the infant becomes mama, and then mother. In the first years of life children listen, practice, and learn. The amusing sounds of a young toddler practicing language (in seemingly meaningless chatter) is really their modeling of the rhythm, tone, volume, and non-verbal expressions they see in us.

Language and communication skills are critical to a child's development. Good communication

makes them better able to engage in socialization as well as learn from formal classroom instruction and the environment around them. Communication involves both speech and language. Speech is the verbal means of communication, and language is using shared rules to put words together to express thoughts and feelings. Since parents are a child's first teacher, knowledge of language development in children improves a parent's ability to interact with their child to stimulate and guide them to understand and communicate with their environment.

From birth on, children are programmed to develop speech and language. The first five years are most critical, but language development continues throughout early childhood and into adolescence. During the first five years, stimulation of language development is essential as the brain is developing new nerve cells as well as multiple connections between these cells to serve the function of expressive and receptive language. Lack of stimulation during this time could result in a child making slower progress or end up with poor communication skills. Later, we provide some tips for parents on how to help with language development, but some simple suggestions are to spend lots of time talking, singing, and reading to your child. In the early stages of language development, the brain is

“WE ARE BORN WITH THE CAPACITY TO MAKE 40 SOUNDS AND OUR GENETICS ALLOWS OUR BRAIN TO MAKE ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN SOUNDS AND OBJECTS, ACTIONS, OR IDEAS.”



programmed to attend to speech sounds and begin to mimic them. Early on, babies like to make sounds up on their own. Later they attempt to repeat sounds and words they're exposed to from their environment.

Continue reading at <https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/child-development/language-development/#gs.3keosr>

Language - with all of its magnificent complexity - is one of the greatest gifts we give our children. Yet, we so often treat our verbal communication with children in a casual way. It is a misconception

that children learn language passively. Language acquisition is a product of active, repetitive, and complex learning. The child's brain is learning and changing more during language acquisition in the first six years of life than during any other cognitive ability he is working to acquire. How much easier this learning process can be for children when adults are active participants!

Adults help children learn language primarily by talking with them. It happens when a mother coos and baby-talks with her child. It happens when a father listens to the fractured, rambling, breathless

story of his 3-year-old. It happens when a teacher patiently repeats instructions to an inattentive student.

It is very common for teachers in early childhood classrooms to have children with speech and language delays. The process of learning language can be impaired in many ways. These can include difficulties in hearing, problems in making associations between sight and sound, attention deficits, and a limited background of experience. A child's language skills are directly related to the number of words and complex conversations they have with others. In order to learn the relationship between sounds and objects - a child must hear. And then make the association between the sound and what it symbolizes. If a child hears few words, if a child is rarely read to, sung to, or talked with, he will not have normal language development. Children growing up in verbally and cognitively impoverished settings have speech and language delays. In more extreme situations, children neglected by their caregivers and rarely spoken with can have completely undeveloped speech and language skills.

Fortunately, the parts of the brain responsible for language are very malleable. Given opportunities to hear, talk and have complex conversations, these children can catch up. The challenge for the early childhood teacher is to make

sure that these children have many developmentally appropriate language activities. It is important that concerns about delayed language skills are shared with the family and other school personnel in order to properly diagnose potential causes. Many parents are inexperienced and may not be aware of what is "normal" language development at any given age. Early childhood classrooms are one of most important settings for early identification of language problems.

Why is a horse a "horsie"? Have you ever wondered why adults tend to use "baby talk" or that sing-song type of intonation and exaggeration used when talking to children? This represents a universal tendency and is known as child-directed speech or motherese or parentese. It involves exaggerating the vowel and consonant sounds, using a high-pitched voice, and delivering the phrase with great facial expression. Why is this done? It may be in order to clearly articulate the sounds of a word so that the child can hear the sounds involved. Or it may be because when this type of speech is used, the infant pays more attention to the speaker and this sets up a pattern of interaction in which the speaker and listener are in tune with one another. When I demonstrate this in class, the students certainly pay attention and look my way. Amazing! It also works in the college classroom.

Trend Slazer

Ranveer reveals his fitness secrets

Actor **RANVEER SINGH** has been wooing the audience not only with his feisty screen presence and acting skills, but also with his look — particularly his toned, fit physique. For his forthcoming release *83*, the 34-year-old has undergone a massive workout and physical training to get into the character of former cricketer Kapil Dev.

But apart from intense workout, nutritional diet is one of his major "secrets" behind his chiseled physique. Ranveer's meticulous diet has been taken care of by Anmol Singhal and Mohit Savargaonkar, co-founders of Personal Optimised Diet (POD Supply) over the past five years.



'I tried to explore more with *Dream Girl* and tried my hand at doing a mass entertainer. I am happy that the audience across the country have accepted me as an entertaining hero. As an artiste, I have always tried to back projects that I felt had the potential to break out in their own genres and this response is a strong validation of that.'
—**Ayushmann Khurrana**

Actor **MAHESH SHETTY**, a known name in the telly world, will be playing **AJAY DEVGN's** younger brother in the forthcoming film *Bhuj: The Pride of India*.



Mahesh calls it a very special film. "I am grateful to be a part of such an incredible story. This film celebrates the bravery and dedication of the women of India. It was a pleasure working with Ajay Sir and the entire team of *Bhuj: The Pride of India*," he added.

According to sources, Mahesh will be playing the role of an Air Force pilot. The Abhishek Dudhaiya directorial is slated to release next year.

Downey Jr will be back as Iron Man

Actor **ROBERT DOWNEY JR** will be back as a superhero Iron Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe with *Black Widow* which will release in 2020.

Downey Jr, who won hearts all across the world as enigmatic superhero Iron Man, bid adieu to his superhero avatar with *Avengers: Endgame* this year. In fact, Scarlett

Johansson's *Black Widow* aka Natasha Romanoff also died in the film.

The characters will be back as *Black Widow* is a prequel taking place ahead of the events of *Endgame*. It is yet to be seen how big Downey Jr's role in the film will be.

The film will trace the story of Romanoff, who will confront her past.



At the *Lecture Series With Deepika* for the first edition of the Live, Love, Laugh foundation, Dr **SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE** speaks about how we need to address the stigma around mental health the same way we dealt with the taboo around cancer in the 1950s

You matter

There has been a long standing debate on mental health in our country and actor Deepika Padukone, who has been active in talking about her battle with depression at the peak of her career, believes that there is still a long road ahead in terms of creating more awareness on the issue. Though she is happy to see that a conversation on the topic has opened up. The 33-year-old actor, who was in the capital for the first edition of The Live, Love, Laugh foundation — *A Lecture Series With Deepika*, opened up about her struggles.

His talk was centered around

three forces, which he felt were needed to be addressed. The first force is political — for mental health to be recognised as a public health crisis, a national issue, there is a need to create national institutes for mental health. Stakeholders in the political domain must come together and work towards this common goal. The second force is social — this will entail advocacy and awareness around destigmatising mental health. The idea of 'you bring the disease to yourself' must be erased. The idea is to remould another disease with the learnings around destigmatising cancer. The third and final set of forces is biological, genetic or pharmaceutical, to an extent. This entails making efforts and carrying out research to understand the molecular mechanism so that people would not be victimised.

He shared an anecdote, "In 1950, Fanny Rosenau, a journalist, who was suffering from breast cancer, called up the



New York Times to place an advertisement to create a social support group for women with breast cancer. One of the editors said that we can't publish the word 'breast cancer'. How about we say social support group of women with chest diseases? So this is death by euphemism because it creates a culture where you become the victim of the disease. In the 50s, if you spoke to oncologists, they would remember the times when patients with cancer were pushed to the back of the hospital. Once a woman with ovarian cancer asked the medical establishments that 'will you throw me out if I don't get better?' because all you care about is the success of your therapy and not the empathy that you deliver to patients."

He added, "Today, biological insights are being extended to mental health. For instance, there are 100 gene variances that contribute to schizophrenia yet there is a clear environmental aspect to this. The same is true for other mental illnesses as well. The challenge for the next generation thus lies in understanding these two components. I call this the Yin/Yang puzzle. While the Yin — the genetic — part is solved, the Yang — or the environmental milieu — still needs to be addressed."

Dr Mukherjee noted that progress was being made and that there is more conversation, advocacy and philanthropy around mental health.

"There's not much stigma as there used to be four years ago. But we certainly have a long way to go in terms of creating more

awareness. I think that's where we need to keep the conversation alive," Deepika, who looked stunning in a pristine white ensemble paired with shimmering danglers and minimal make-up, said.

The *Piku* star described her journey and said, "It's been an incredible journey since we developed our foundation. I think media has had a huge role in opening up the conversation in various ways, whether through interviews, write-ups or articles but we certainly have a long way to go and that's why we have the lecture series today," she said and added, "Four years ago, we wouldn't even talk to our families about

Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, who said, "According to WHO, health is defined as a state of physical, mental, social and psychological well-being of an individual. It is not merely the absence of disease and infirmity. The definition itself makes it amply clear that mental health is an important component of the overall health spectrum. I wish to congratulate the foundation and Deepika Padukone, of course, for flagging this issue before the Indian society."

Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO of Ayushman Bharat pointed that the country's national health protection scheme covers all secondary and tertiary health states, including a large number of mental health condition. Anyone with those conditions is provided free treatment. It also covers the poverty-stricken population of the country, which is 40 per cent. This is the segment where mental health issues go unnoticed and the scheme is going to help those who may have not received treatment for mental health so far.

The lecture was attended by decision makers including Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat; Amitabh Kant, CEO, Niti Aayog; Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; Dr Balam Bhargava, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Professor Gagandeep Kang, Executive Director of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute; Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

The event was also graced by Deepika's parents Prakash Padukone and Ujjala, sister Anisha Padukone, actor Sharmila Tagore, key stakeholders and decision makers from different sectors.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

'MEDIA HAS HAD A HUGE ROLE IN INITIATING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH IN VARIOUS WAYS, WHETHER THROUGH INTERVIEWS, WRITE-UPS OR ARTICLES BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO'

how we felt emotionally. Four years on, we, as a nation, have come a long way in bringing that conversation to the fore. This lecture series is an initiative to learn from some of the greatest minds of the 21st century. It is important for people, who are passionate about mental health, to talk about their journey. Illnesses such as AIDS and cancer have successfully managed to break through the stigma and I believe there is a lot for us to learn from those examples."

The event also featured a video message by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for

Dreamy and confident

The London Fashion Week set the tone for an elegant collection that ran the gamut from poised sophistication to joyful exuberance and sensual femininity



cess of Naomi Campbell's Fashion for Relief gala the night before, which continued for hours after the late-night show with a dinner in the heart of the British Museum.

Campbell has become a master at organising big, complex events for her charity efforts, and this was no exception. She managed to procure one of the most prestigious sites in London and filled it with a glamorous crowd.

She even returned to the runway, proving without a doubt she can still model any time she chooses.

EMILIA WICKSTEAD PAYS TRIBUTE TO LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Emilia Wickstead paid homage to Louisa May Alcott's classic novel *Little Women* for spring 2020, a timely reference given a forthcoming film directed by Greta Gerwig which stars Emma Watson as Meg and Saoirse Ronan as the headstrong Jo March.

Debussy's soothing *Arabesque No 1 Andantino con moto* played as Wickstead's guests climbed the stairs of the Royal Albert Hall, setting the tone for an elegant collection that ran the gamut from poised sophistication to joyful exuberance and sensual femininity. There was a focus on volume, with bunches of fabric at the back of dresses echoing the bustles prevalent in Alcott's time.

One jumpsuit had a crisp collar and midriff cutout placed to accentuate a high waistband. Another dress had wide cuffed sleeves and panels reminiscent of 19th century shirt bibs. The palette of saccharine pinks, yellows, lavender, and tangerine was sharpened by red and black, while a print offering was comprised of delicate hand-painted blue roses imposed on a mint colour. Hats, a big motif in the novel, were used to give dramatic effect, especially one wide black visor-like piece that was perched and worn with a slim cap-sleeved black dress with a sternum-exposing cut-out.

Other moments of high drama appeared via a billowing cloud of black organza, fashioned into a balloon-sleeved gown. The closing look elicited raised eyebrows and naked admiration in equal measure — a full-length pink gown with copious bunches that could best be described as a boat-necked marshmallow.

—AP

SIMONE ROCHA SHOWS SERENE, OFFBEAT COLLECTION

Simone Rocha continues to impress and draw new admirers as her collections grow in sophistication without sacrificing the look that has made her unique. Her colour palette is simple. It blends white colour with blue, red, and black. But the embroidery and layering are remarkable.

The models hair seemed sculptural, adding texture and depth to the outfits, as did the elaborate braided straps to some of the handbags, which were similar to detailing on various outfits. Rocha also is improving her staging. With her designer father, John Rocha, watching from the front row, the show unspooled with a certain dignity and serenity, the models walking slowly in a circle on the stage of the Alexandra Palace, a 19th century landmark in north London.

Rocha continued what has become her tradition, employing some older models and some who were not rail-thin. Some of the models also broke with tradition by smiling at the audience, and one blew a kiss to a friend near the end of the show. It added to the celebratory feel.

STILL BUZZING ABOUT NAOMI CAMPBELL'S GALA

Much of the buzz focussed on the suc-



Sara to bring Saif, Amrita's hits at IIFA

Sara Ali Khan is excited but nervous about performing at the 20th edition of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards. She said that she will dance on hit songs of father Saif Ali Khan and mother Amrita Singh at the show.

"I have been watching IIFA Awards since childhood and have travelled with my father to watch it. She recalls an incident of two years ago when IIFA was held in New Jersey and she was in New York with Saif. She said, "I couldn't attend the function because my father said, 'why do you want to attend, you haven't been invited?' So, this year's IIFA is really special to me because I have been invited. And I will be performing too. So I feel I have become a part of this industry."

She will perform with Ranveer Singh and Madhuri Dixit Nene at the show. "I am rehearsing for my performance and simultaneously shooting for David (Dhawan) sir too. So, I don't get enough time to rehearse but whatever time I get I try to make the most of it. It is pretty obvious that I am nervous about performing at the awards because it is the first time and that too with such big stars," said she.

When questioned about the songs that were on her playlist for the performance, Sara said, "I will perform on my songs. Since it's my first performance, I will also perform on the songs of my father and mother."

Sara will be seen in *Coolie No 1* opposite to Varun Dhawan, and in *Imtiaz Ali's* next, in which she co-stars with Kartik Aaryan. When asked about the filmmakers she wants to work with, she said, "I am working with David sir and Imtiaz (Ali) sir as of now. But I would also like to work with other filmmakers. I wish them to consider me in their films."

Sara's last release, *Simmba* opposite to Ranveer Singh in December 2018, was a box-office success. —JANS



What can you say about a 23-year-old boy who died? Rather sacrificed his life for his nation's good? Even though school textbooks and various films and plays have created multiple images of legendary Shaheed Bhagat Singh as someone who put the nation first when it was under the control of the British, I see him as the model of a well-educated and responsible youth whose wisdom and understanding of the plight of India at the time was far beyond his age. He profusely apologised for killing superintendent John Saunders and killed him despite knowing its consequences. He did it because for him, 'it had to be done'. He fought for the cause, and later, gave himself to it, quite consciously. However, he made sure he kept the flame burning in people's conscience to fight for their rights.

Playwright and director Piyush Mishra's *Gagan Damama Bajyo*, which returns to the stage after 16 years, presents an idea of the legendary fighter as somebody who, as opposed to what Mahatma Gandhi and other Congressmen followed, fought through violence against the British Raj. He looked at armed struggle as the only way out and a means for direct action that could spur the quickest results. The title of the play, a phrase derived from the Guru Granth Sahib, translates to 'Tu aaj se hi bhid jaa, baaki dekh lenge' (Rush headlong into the battle, the rest will be looked at later). While I have imagined the martyr as a simple man adorning a white kurta-pyjama and a turban on his head, Mishra's Bhagat Singh and his troupe are dressed in crisp plain-white shirts and Cargo men's pants, more like modern-day crusaders.

The play begins with a mother scrutinising the British government's regulations as she had lost

Long live the revolution

Playwright PIYUSH MISHRA's *Gagan Damama Bajyo* returns to the stage after 16 years. CHAHAK MITTAL reviews the play, which has become even more relevant with time as it attempts to awaken a sense of responsibility among today's young people and inspire them with Shaheed Bhagat Singh's ideologies

her sons, who had fought relentlessly for the rights of the nation and given themselves to it when the need came. She is petrified of people who sleep soundly despite the dark days and questions, "Do you want to lose more?" Yes, the nation has stopped commemorating their martyrdom — March 23 — but the character's cry was more about lament that today's young people have forgotten the ideals of these revolutionaries and lost the power to protest.

The play's plot proceeds with two parallel events where Shiv Verma, one of the compatriots of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), is in a time zone of 1994 and recalls the series of events that had happened during 1928-1931. These include the Kakori robbery, bombings hurled at the Assembly, hunger strike in

Lahore prison, and Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev's hanging. It was an impressive non-linear shuffle between time and space, which seamlessly transitioned the audience from the past to the future and the present to the past. And the best part was that one couldn't really point out to one thing as it was very subtle and blended with the plot well.

Going as per what Mishra had said, "Our history textbooks have not done justice to the idea of Sardar Bhagat Singh Sandhu. From his ideology to his complete name, there are many things which our students still do not know about." While they might believe that he hurled bombs at an assembly, killed people and stood against Mahatma Gandhi, the play showcases how he only opposed the idea of Indian leaders collaborating with the

Whites. Such an approach, the young revolutionary had argued, could have ended the British rule in India but wouldn't have brought the "British rule" out of India. The ideologies would have remained the same — repressive — just the rulers would have changed. It was just a shoutout to make people stand up as well as a revolt against the Gandhi-Irwin pact. But it could very well apply to us, a call to think deeply about our systemic wrongs.

He talks about hunger prevailing in the society when he says, 'Bhookhe so rahe hain log aur party movement band kara rahi hai', (talking of the non-cooperation movement which was called off by Gandhi ji). Shiv Verma recalls how Bhagat Singh as a leader was not worried about independence but the India after the independence. "Azaadi zaroori nahi, azaadi ke



baad ka Bharat zaroori hai" says Singh as he was very well aware that independence was inevitable. After the Lahore conspiracy verdict, he says, "Humara inqilab aayega. Yeh alag baat hai hum usey zinda aankhon se dekh paate hain ya nahi."

Through modern-day humour, the play uses satirical comedy stitched amid serious scenes in the plot to make it more relatable. There is a scene where Singh's friends confront his father when he asks about his whereabouts. When they try to stall the question by answering that they had no information, he says in a loud tone, "Baap hain hum tumhaare" and grabs some laughs.

Even Singh's fiancée makes up for some giggles in her short-lived yet essential presence on the stage. It makes one wonder how even the smallest of characters play such an

important role in the plots.

At various moments throughout the 120-minutes run, the dialogue delivery of the actors made one get goosebumps. One of the dialogues that stands out for me is when Singh says, "Kal jab maine jamadaar ke aath (8) saal ke bete ko naara lagate dekha, toh mera maqsad poora hogaya" (Yesterday, when I saw an eight-year-old son of a ragpicker calling out slogans, I felt my objective had been accomplished).

The play is quite swift in representing a number of things within the span of just two hours. For instance, Lala Lajpat Rai's death is depicted in a very flowing manner, rather than stretching it out. And the musical elements embedded in between the plot vividly explain every emotion.

The play, produced by Question

Associates (Q&A), eloquently looks at the differences that have come about after their hanging. And commenting on the present, it comes to a final note when everyone is mourning Singh's hanging. Three heads are hung in the back-drop with blood red light, and Shiv Verma, in 1994, questions, "Kya yehi tha voh azaad Bharat ka sapna jisko paane ka tasawoor tumne liya tha, Bhagat?" Even though the play's timeline ends in 1994, it questions the audience even today about their idea of nationalism and how today's youth is growing to be ignorant about multiple events of corruption and injustice prevailing in society. After all, what does this generation's 23-year-old want? Certainly, he wouldn't choose to die for the nation as fearlessly as Singh did, nor would he sacrifice his love interest for the greater good.

Presenting a rare confluence of art and architecture, Chitracharya Upendra Maharathi presents a historic perspective through his paintings, drawings, murals, weaving, sculptures, and a stunning set of 24 chairs that talk about how the dynamism of design has evolved through the time.

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) celebrates the newly renovated Jaipur House by unveiling more than a thousand works by Maharathi. The fact that 95 per cent of his works were bequeathed to the NGMA is a lesson in the annals of history. The artist was also a rare example of an individual who had deep interest in Buddhism. His designs spanned *pagodas* and other important ventures in Japan too.

BLENDING COLONIAL AND CLASSIC

As one enters the Jaipur House, tucked in the corner is a chaise-lounge characterised by a Baroque aesthetic that features elaborate turnings, simple curves as well as case pieces with simple flat surfaces and architectural trim. Maharathi commonly used materials such as indigenous teak to balance ebonising, elaborate carving, and elegant detailing. The chaise-lounge chair epitomises an eclectic combination of motifs and the simplicity of materials which has been loaned from the Buddhist monastery at Rajghirand. It was used by the monks to sleep upon.

Curator Adwaita Gadanayak, DG NGMA, has designed special installations all through the historic show for this retrospective entitled — *Shashwat*. He says, "Looking at the number of chairs, we realised that Maharathi had a conviction in the aesthetic experiences as a fully autonomous and independent aspect of a human life. His deeper

Classic confluence

CHITRACHARYA UPENDRA MAHARATHI's artworks represent a historic perspective and how it can be re-interpreted by an artist. By UMA NAIR



unveiling Maharathi is about visiting Indian history. And his works gifted to the NGMA form a resident resonance of a genius who needs to be studied.

ENRICHED BY AN EPOCH

Inspired by the epoch of the art and design period of Bihar during the Mauryan Empire and enriched by the folk and tribal culture, the quaint collection of chairs evokes an understanding of tradition and modernity through a classic vein.

Each chair unravels like its custom made by the artist, architect and designer himself. The weight distribution on the woven rope seats, comfort of the backrest, and the low slung silhouette look add to its charm. The smallest details have been worked upon for aesthetic as well as graceful syncopated reasons. The traditional *jaali* is as intricate as the plant inspired foliate designs. The Magadha symbol stands regal and royal.

SYMPHONY OF CURVES

The chairs that belong to the Maharathi Museum and the Buddhist Monastery are characterised by a sophisticated fluidity. When we group them they have a very strong and stylistic identity. In the symphony of elegant curves, these 24 chairs are a walk between private and public space.

PAINTINGS AND WEAVES

Other than the chairs, there are

drawings, paintings portraits, woven shawl like sculptures and baskets woven with elan.

Among the portraits there is a frame designed by Maharathi himself which speaks of classic confluences. In his paintings he worked on canvas, paper, cloth and silk. Through his stunning Buddhist narratives, his deep understanding of spirituality comes to the fore. The softened contours show his passion.

FAMOUS ARCHITECTURAL ASSIGNMENTS

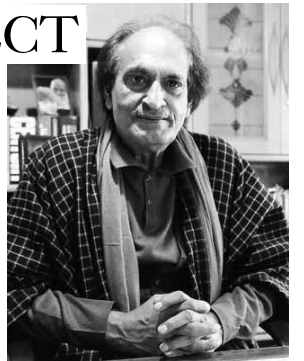
Maharathi designed pagodas not only in India but Japan as well. The Gotemba Peace Pagoda of Japan that enshrines holy relics of Buddha was gifted by India in 1963. The Sanchi Style Gate at Gotemba Peace Park is another masterpiece there. According to his daughter Mahashweta Maharathi, both the monuments are situated in the foothills of Mount Fuji and are the third most visited peace parks after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In India, Rajgir World Peace Pagoda, built atop Ratnagiri hill, facing Gridhakuta hill, where Buddha preached the *Saddharma Pundarika Sutra* (Lotus Sutra) for eight years is of great fame.

He also designed the New Venu Van Vihara Monastery, which is located opposite to the ancient site of first Buddhist monastery presented to Buddha by Bimbisara. It was inaugurated in 1981. Of great importance is the Nav Nalanda Mahavihar (now under Union Culture Ministry at Nalanda) inaugurated by Vice President Dr Radhakrishnan in 1956. It was built to commemorate the ancient Nalanda University. The show affirms the truth that vintage and antiquities are finite, but an artist's creativity is infinite.

THE PERFECT SHOT

Photographer RAGHU RAI becomes the first recipient of the inaugural edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award, William Klein, in India



Renowned Indian photographer Raghu Rai has been chosen as the first recipient of the inaugural edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award — William Klein. Established this year, the award is in honour of the celebrated American-born French photographer and filmmaker William Klein, best known for his unusual photography techniques.

"The jury of the 2019 edition named the photographer Raghu Rai, laureate of the first edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award — William Klein," Académie des Beaux-Arts said.

As a consecration award, the prize is intended to reward a photographer for their entire career and commitment towards photography. It rewards one photographer of all nationalities and ages. To be awarded every two years, alternating with the Photography Prize Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, it carries with it a monetary prize of 1,20,000 euros.

Rai, who started photography by chance in 1965, began to work for The Statesman as their chief photographer a year later. In 1969, he completed a Thomson fellowship in England and

worked for The Times for four weeks. After three half pages of his picture essays were published week after week, he was offered a job at The Times by Norman Hall. He returned to India to continue his unfinished creative explorations in the lanes, and won several accolades in the years that followed.

In 1972, impressed with Rai's exhibition at Gallery Delpire in Paris, Henri-Cartier Bresson nominated him to Magnum photos. In the same year, he was also awarded the Padma Shree, a first for any photographer, for his work on the Bangladesh War.

He was awarded the *Photographer of the Year* in 1992 in America for his story — *Human Management of Wildlife in India* for the National Geographic. In 2009, he was conferred Officer des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Government in 2016.

The William Klein Photography Award will be presented to Rai in the Palais de l'Institut de France on October 30. It will be closely followed by an exhibition retracing the career of the photographer in the institute in November.

WATCH OUT



IC presents *Wayside Flowers*, an exhibition of paintings in water colour by Chandrakanta Das from Lucknow. **WHEN:** September 18 to 26 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Art Gallery, India International Centre Annexe, Lodhi Estate.



Nav Shri Art & Culture Organisation presents *Art N Art*, a group exhibition of paintings, sculpture, photography, art and craft works by 52 artists from 16 states. **WHEN:** September 20 to 26 **TIME:** 11 am to 6.30 pm **WHERE:** Artizen Art Gallery, Peary Lal Bhawan.



Curated by Ashrafi CS Bhagat, Art Alive Gallery presents *Moments and Transformations: Finding Life in Materiality*, a group show that features artworks by seven artists from Chennai and Puducherry. **WHEN:** September 23 to October 5 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Art Alive Gallery, Panchsheel Park.

Curated by Akansha Rastogi, KNMA presents *Smell Assembly*, an artistic research project and exhibition, which is about the smells that surround us. **WHEN:** Till September 30 **TIME:** 10.30 am to 6.30 pm **WHERE:** Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket.



Lucid is an amalgamation of two series of works by photographer Abhishek Basu — *Labyrinth* and *The Rum Diary* — which explore his journey of self, intricacies of his mind, feeling of entrapment and mental struggle. **TIME:** 11 am to 6 pm **WHEN:** Till September 30 **WHERE:** Art Explore Gallery.

Aussie's mission accomplished



Australia's cricket team poses for photographers with the Ashes Urn

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia captain Tim Paine said it was mission accomplished even though his team lost the fifth and final Ashes Test against England to draw the series 2-2.

The tourists came into the match at the Oval seeking their first series victory in England since 2001 but came up short, losing by 135 runs on Sunday.

But Paine said Australia, who won at Edgbaston and Old Trafford but lost agonisingly to a Ben Stokes-inspired England at Headingley, had achieved their main objective in retaining the urn.

"We're taking the urn home so that's certainly what we came to

WE CAN BE REALLY PROUD OF THE WAY WE'VE COME OVER HERE, WHICH IS A CHALLENGING PLACE FOR AUSTRALIANS TO COME AND PLAY AND WIN WE'RE TAKING THE URN HOME

do," he said.

"We're thrilled by that, a little disappointed by this game obviously, puts a bit of a dampener on it."

"We can be really proud of the way we've come over here, which is a challenging place for Australians to come and play and win," he added. "To win two Test matches pretty convincingly, should have won a third (at Headingley) — let that slip no doubt."

Paine said winning the first Test at Edgbaston, where Australia triumphed by 251 runs, had been crucial for his side's confi-

dence.

"There was so much talk about that being a fortress and how difficult a place it was going to be for us to start the series, probably by design, so for us to come over and win that first Test, and win it, in the end, quite convincingly gave us the belief that we could do it," he said.

And the skipper said he still felt he had a role to play in taking the side forward.

"We've still got a way to go," he said. "Obviously Steve (Smith) had an unbelievably good series and won us a couple of Tests by himself so we've got some parts that we need to improve."

"But if we click them into gear while we've got Steve at the height of his powers and with the pace attack we've got, in the next few years we're going to be a very hard team to beat."

"There's plenty of improvement in this side," Paine added.

"I still feel I've got a little bit to give in that space and we're always trying to develop more leaders within our group as well."

Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, said he was exhausted after a long tour, which also included the World Cup.

The former captain, who returned to international cricket in June after a ban for ball-tampering, received a standing ovation from the crowd in south London when he was out.

"It was a nice reception as I walked off," he said.

"It would have been nice if I'd had a few more runs under my belt in this game."

"I've given it my all since I've been here for the last four-and-a-half-months in every Test match that we've played and I didn't have much left to give today."

"I'm pretty cooked to be honest, mentally and physically. I'm looking forward to a nice couple of weeks' rest now before getting into the Australian summer."



Steve Smith poses with Ashes trophy

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Smith proud after summer of Ashes redemption

LONDON ■ (AFP)

Steve Smith returned to international cricket to a chorus of boos but he walked off the pitch at the Oval to a standing ovation after a summer of Ashes redemption.

The former Australia captain enjoyed a remarkable series in England, scoring a total of 774 runs in just seven innings and played a pivotal role in his side's two victories in the drawn series.

The catch by Ben Stokes that sent Smith on his way on Sunday ended an astonishing run of scores — 144 and 142 at Edgbaston, 92 at Lords, 211 and 82 at Old Trafford, and 80 and 23 at the Oval.

The 30-year-old made his official return to international cricket in June at the World Cup after serving a year-long ban for ball-tampering and was booed by the crowd in Bristol.

Smith had a decent campaign in the 50-over showpiece but did not set the world alight as Australia reached the semi-finals, where they were beaten by eventual champions England.

But he changed gear when the Ashes started, seemingly hungry to make up for lost time as he dominated the England attack, making two centuries in Australia's comfortable win in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Asked when he felt he was back to his best, an exhausted but "proud" Smith said it was after his first innings at Edgbaston, when he rescued his side, who had stumbled to 122-8.

"That gave me a lot of confi-

dence," he said. "That was probably my favourite innings of the whole series that I played."

"The first Test match, as we know, is always incredibly important in an Ashes series and to sort of pull the team out of a bit of trouble at the time and give me that confidence straight up that I could slot back in and perform, that gave me a lot of confidence."

"It was a long 18 months out of the game and I've got a lot of people to thank, in particular my wife." Smith's series was interrupted after he was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer in the second Test at Lord's, forcing him to miss three innings.

WINNING RETURN

But he returned at Old Trafford to make a monumental double century in another victory for Australia.

His 80 in the first innings in the final Test at the Oval was his 10th consecutive fifty in Ashes Tests.

Australia were chasing 399 to win the series in London but it was always a tall order and Smith was unable to produce a miracle, falling for 23.

His run haul is fifth on the list of highest tallies in an Ashes series.

The man at the top of that list, inevitably, is his late compatriot Donald Bradman, who scored 974 in seven innings in 1930. But the fact that Smith is even in the same conversation as the man widely regarded as the greatest batsman in history is testament to his genius.

Smith, Cummins retain top position

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli has managed to hold on to his second position behind Australia's Steve Smith in the ICC Test Rankings for batsmen released on Monday.

Kohli, with 903 rating points, is 34 points behind Smith (937).

Besides former Australia captain Smith, compatriot Pat Cummins has also retained his one position in the ICC Test bowlers' rankings.

Both Smith and Cummins played key roles in helping Australia retain The Ashes.

The Ashes culminated with a 135-run victory for England in the fifth and final Test on Sunday. The series ended in a 2-2 draw with Australia retaining the Urn.

Smith's scores of 80 and 23 in the two innings in the final Test helped him remain at 937 rating points, an incredible effort since he



Pat Cummins and Steve Smith

Twitter

started the series in fourth position with 857 points before his surge that came courtesy 774 runs in four Tests.

Cummins too is well clear of other bowlers as he enjoys a lead of 57 points over second-placed Kagiso Rabada after finishing as the top wicket-taker with 29 scalps. India's Jasprit Bumrah is in third place.

Other players from Australia to make notable gains are Matthew Wade and Mitchell Marsh.

Broad got into Warner's head, says Justin Langer

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia's cricket coach Justin Langer said David Warner allowed England paceman Stuart Broad to "get into his head" during a miserable Ashes series for the opener.

Warner ended with the unwanted record of the fewest runs scored by a Test opener across 10 innings of a series.

The 32-year-old, who registered a cumulative total of just 95, was dismissed seven times by Broad during the drawn contest and encountered jeers from home crowds following his role in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

Langer plans to persist with the experienced batsman heading into the Australian summer but expressed some doubt that he would fully recover from a dismal Ashes display.

"I've learned over a long period you never write off champion players, it doesn't matter what sport, you never write off champion players," said Langer, whose side retained the urn following the 2-2 draw.

"He had this series, it didn't go to plan, but he's seen how successful he's

I'VE LEARNED OVER A LONG PERIOD YOU NEVER WRITE OFF CHAMPION PLAYERS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SPORT, YOU NEVER WRITE OFF CHAMPION PLAYERS

been and the impact he can have on Australian cricket teams winning, so I'm confident he'll come good."

"Actually, I'm hopeful he comes good. Talking frankly, I thought he let Stuart Broad get into his head and I think he thought way too much about it."

Langer feels Warner, who was the second-highest run scorer at the World Cup, will be pleased to be returning home.

"In this instance I don't think David solved the puzzle, and he'll be the first to admit that," said.

"He'll probably be very relieved (when) he gets on the Qantas flight knowing he doesn't have to face Stuart Broad for a while, I reckon."



Aus better team in Ashes: Ponting

LONDON ■ (IANS)

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes Tim Paine's men were the better side in the recently-concluded Ashes series against England which ended in a 2-2 stalemate.

Australia retained the Ashes with a comprehensive 185-run victory in the fourth Test but let slip a golden chance to win their first Ashes series in England since 2001 as they conceded a 135-run loss in the tour finale at The Oval on Sunday.

"Australia will look at it as a series of missed opportunities," Ponting told cricket.com.au.

"I think they've clearly been the better team. They've clearly played better cricket throughout the series. They should have won at Headingley."

He also said that the 2-2 result was not a clear reflection of how the series was

played and how the visitors performed in the five-match rubber.

Australia were knocked out of the World Cup in the semi-finals by eventual champions England and retained the urn in England for the first time in 18 years.

Ponting said the efforts of Paine's side should be congratulated even though they didn't manage to win the coveted series.

"We shouldn't undersell how well Australia have played, and on the back of a pretty successful World Cup campaign," he said.

"The boys have been on the road for five months. Making a World Cup semi-final and retaining the Ashes 2-2, it's been a good few months for Australian cricket."

Australia will next face Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series at home beginning October 27.

Sarfraz confident of good showing in World Test Championship



Pakistani batsmen walk into the ground

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PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan's captain Sarfraz Ahmed is confident that his team is ready to make an impact in the ICC World Test Championship after struggling for form in this format in the last two years.

"After in-and-out performances in the last two years since the retirements

of Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan, I think we are now ready to challenge other teams in the World Test Championship," he said.

Pakistan's first challenge will be a tour to Australia in November where they play two Tests followed by home Test series against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Pakistan is presently placed 7th among 12 Test teams in the ICC World Rankings and Sarfraz admitted his team had neither been consistent nor convincing in the longer format for a while now.

"We have struggled after losing Misbah and Younis and we are in a rebuilding process. But now I think our batsmen are ready to fill the gaps and take responsibility," he said.

"We have Shaan Masood, Imam-ul-Haq, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Harris Sohail and Babar Azam who have now gone through the grind and can do well at the Test level. There is also lot of experience now behind Azhar and Asad."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal — the famed 'KulCha' of Indian cricket — may not be the flavour of the season anymore but experts believe it is too early to write them off in the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

Both Kuldeep and Chahal, who had cemented their place in the two shorter formats with impressive performances over the past 24 months, have not been picked for two straight T20 series, including the ongoing home assignment against South Africa.

Ahead of the opening T20 in Dharamsala, captain Virat Kohli said the team is trying out the likes of Rahul Chahal and Washington Sundar as it is looking to bat deep and post 200 plus totals consistently.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra feels the decision to exclude Kuldeep and Chahal could be a double-edged sword.

"The idea is if you have that much depth in batting you bat a certain way. You can't bat conser-

'Too early to look beyond Kuldeep, Chahal'



Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal chats during practice session

Twitter

vatively if you have that kind of depth. That is what England did. They changed the template completely. They focused on batting deep as they wanted to score 400 (in ODIs) and they achieved it many times," Chopra told PTI.

"It looks India is wanting to take the same aggressive approach

in T20s and there is nothing wrong in that. Now, they need to start showing the intent of scoring 220 consistently."

"Batting till 8, 9 and 10 is still ambitious (as you don't need them at all in a 20 over game) but if you are trying to score 220 it is fine," he explained.

Chopra felt if the team decides to compromise on its wicket-taking ability, then it to score more.

However, he foresees Chahal making a T20 comeback very soon. Chahal, at the moment, is only part of the ODI team while Kuldeep is part of both the 50-over and Test squads though not a sure starter in the eleven.

"Chahal will be back. Rahul Chahal is more of a bowler and Washington Sundar's batting at number 8 may not be needed anyway," Chopra added.

Kuldeep and Chahal's inclusion has become a talking point just like finger spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who where shown the door in the shorter formats following the 2017 Champions Trophy. Jadeja made a comeback but Ashwin couldn't.

Former India spinner Sunil Joshi, who is now a well-known spin coach, welcomed the move to try out youngsters before caution-

ing against the confusion the situation might create in the mind of the spinners.

"I would suggest that Kuldeep and Chahal should go back to domestic cricket when they are not on national duty. Finger spinner or wrist spinner is not the question here. It is about having the tactics to outclass the batsman besides technique and temperament," Joshi told PTI.

"Let's see how the young spinners do and ample opportunities should be given to them but at the same time if Chahal and Kuldeep are playing only one format it could disturb their rhythm. White ball cricket is all about rhythm."

"The conditions will be different in Australia for the T20 World Cup with the bigger grounds. Overspin will come in handy. All the spinners who are in the hunt should be told about their roles clearly else it might cause confusion in their minds," Joshi added.