

OPINION 6
A HIMALAYAN
THREAT

WORLD 11
US OFFICIAL SAYS IRAN BEHIND SAUDI
ATTACK, PENCE WARNS OF STRIKES

VIVACITY 13
IMPORTANCE
OF FOOD SAFETY

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Ayodhya verdict by mid Nov

SC: Let us conclude hearing by Oct 18 so that we get 4 weeks to write order

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set an October 18 deadline for completion of all arguments in the protracted Ram-Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute, a move that has raised the possibility of a verdict in the politically sensitive case in the middle of November.

"Let us make a joint effort to conclude the hearing by October 18 so that we get four weeks time to write," the Supreme Court said.

As it offered to hear the case on Saturdays as well, the SC at the same time said the parties to the dispute are free to find an amicable solution through mediation and place the settlement before it.

However, the top court told lawyers from both the Hindu and Muslim sides in the Ayodhya case that it wanted to conclude the day-to-day hearings by October 18 so that the judges get almost four weeks time to write the judgment.

The target date for completion of arguments assumes significance since Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, who is heading the five-judge



Constitution bench hearing the case, is due to demit office on November 17.

"The hearing of the appeals, which is at a very advanced stage, will continue without any interruption. If, in the meantime, the parties desire to settle the matter(s), including, by resort to mediation by the earlier constituted mediation panel, they may do so and place the settlement before the court, if reached," the Bench said in its order.

The court on Tuesday had asked the counsels for the Hindu and Muslim parties to inform it about a tentative "time schedule" for concluding

their arguments. The Constitution Bench, which also comprised Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer, has so far heard the Ayodhya land dispute case for 26 days after it commenced the day-to-day hearing on August 6 following the failure of mediation proceedings initiated to find the amicable resolution.

As per the apex court's calendar, the Bench now has 15 working days remaining to conclude the lengthy hearing by October 18. So far, Hindu parties have argued for 16 days and senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, representing the

No more procrastination

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Muslim sides, had advanced submissions for 10 days.

Dhavan said he and his colleagues would take eight more days to conclude their submissions and two senior counsel — K Parasaran and CS Vaidyanathan — appearing for a Hindu party would need two days to rebut his arguments.

"We are open to hearing on Saturdays, if required," the Bench said, adding a tentative schedule can also be worked out. After dealing with the time schedule, the Bench then said it has received a letter from former apex court judge F M I Kalifulla, who was heading the three-member mediation panel, in which it was stated that some parties have written to him for resumption of the mediation process.

"There is an ancillary issue.

We have received a letter that some parties want to settle the matter by way of mediation," the Bench said, adding they may do so and the proceedings before the mediation panel can remain confidential.

Referring to its earlier order, it said, "We also make it clear that the terms and the process of settlement including mediation, if resorted to, will abide by our earlier order dated March 8, 2019, with regard to confidentiality."

While ordering the day-to-day proceedings, the court had taken note of the report of the three-member panel, also comprising spiritual guru and founder of the Art of Living foundation Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate and renowned mediator Sriram Panchu, that mediation pro-

ceedings, which went on for about four months, did not result in any final settlement and it had to decide the matter pending before it.

The court, which on March 8 referred the matter for mediation, had asked for in-camera proceedings to be completed within eight weeks, but later granted time till August 15 after the panel's earlier report said the mediators were "optimistic" about an amicable solution. The SC fixed the seat for mediation process in Faizabad, around 7 km from Ayodhya, and said adequate arrangements, including the venue of the mediation, place of stay of the mediators, their security, travel should be arranged by the State Government.

It had perused a report about the progress of mediation process till July 18 and said its contents will remain confidential. Fourteen appeals have been filed in the apex court against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties — the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

SC fumes at no safety net for sewer cleaners

Nowhere in world people sent to gas chambers to die, says apex court



New Delhi: Nowhere in the world people are sent to "gas chambers to die," fumed the Supreme Court on Wednesday while expressing serious concern over deaths during manual scavenging and manhole cleaning across the country.

Slamming the Government authorities for not providing protective gear like masks and oxygen cylinders to people engaged in manual scavenging and manhole cleaning, the apex court said this is the "most inhuman" way to treat a human being.

The SC said that although over 70 years have passed since India got Independence, caste discrimination still persists in the country and the society is not treating all human beings equally despite the Constitutional mandate.

"Why are you not provid-

ing them masks and oxygen cylinders? In no country in the world, people are sent to gas chambers to die. Four to five people are dying due to this every month," a Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked Attorney General KK Venugopal.

Venugopal, while conceding that people involved in such works are dying in the country day-after-day, said deaths have also happened due to potholes on the roads but no action has been taken against the authorities concerned.

CAPSULE

RAMSAY OF 'DO GAZ ZAMEEN KE NEECHE' DIES
Mumbai: Shyam Ramsay, one of the seven Ramsay Brothers known for cult horror films such as "Puraani Haveli" and "Tahkhaana", died in a hospital here on Wednesday, his family said. He was 67. Shyam Ramsay died of pneumonia on Wednesday morning.

PAK REFUSES TO OPEN ITS AIRSPACE FOR MODI
New Delhi: Pakistan has turned down an overflight request by India for Prime Minister Modi's upcoming US trip. This request, according to officials, is as per protocol, since Air India One is not a commercial flight but a VIP one. The longer route that AI One will now take will increase the flying time for the Delhi-Frankfurt (fueling halt for onward flight to Houston) leg of AI One by 45-50 minutes.

CHINMAYANAND'S VICTIM THREATENS SUICIDE
Shahjahanpur: The student who has levelled rape charges against Swami Chinmayanand threatened on Wednesday to set herself on fire if the BJP leader is not arrested immediately.

E-cigarette stubbed out; violators to face 3-year jail, ₹5L fine

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

It's the end for ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems) in India. The Union Cabinet on Wednesday decided to ban electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and other vaping products, making India one of the few countries that have done so.

The Government is of the view that e-cigarettes pose health risks similar to those caused by combustible cigarettes. The prohibition will entail penal provisions also with a jail term up to three years and a fine up to ₹5 lakh.

The Union Cabinet approved the Prohibition of E-cigarettes Ordinance, 2019. The Ordinance has been sent to the President for clearance.

"The ban means prohibition on the production, manufacturing, import/export, sale,



Countries where vaping is banned

- US (New York & Michigan), Argentina, Brazil, Brunel, Cambodia, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Lebanon, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Uruguay, Vietnam, Venezuela

storage and advertising of e-cigarettes.

This is keeping in mind the impact it is having on the youth today, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters here after the Cabinet meeting.

Transport stir against MVA defers exams in Delhi, NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Unhappy over the amended Motor Vehicles Act (MVA) and an exorbitant hike in fines, the United Front of Transport Associations (UFTA), an umbrella unit of about 41 transport associations in Delhi-NCR, including cabs, autorickshaws and cluster bus services, will go on a day strike on Thursday in Delhi and NCR.

The announcement by the UFTA has caused the authorities to defer half yearly examinations in Delhi-NCR schools scheduled for Thursday.

Unions affiliated to UFTA, including those of trucks, private school/tourist buses, chartered buses, tempo, taxi, auto rickshaws had held a mega protest against steep hike in traffic violation fines at Janatar Mantar on Monday.

Dead heat in Israel: Bibi trails by 1

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party trailed its main rival Blue and White by 31 to 32 seats on Wednesday after an unprecedented repeat election, putting the country's longest serving premier on a shaky ground and raising the possibility of a unity government.

Israelis voted on Tuesday in their country's second general election in five months after 69-year-old Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition with a viable majority following April's vote.

The Central Election Committee said that Blue and White party seemed to be taking a lead over Likud after 91 per cent votes were counted.

The centre-left bloc now has 56 seats compared to Netanyahu-led bloc, comprised of right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties, which is at 55 seats in the 120-member Parliament.

Mamata discusses 'Bangla' with Modi, gives NRC a miss

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed among others issues like the State Assembly's decision to rename West Bengal as "Bangla". The controversial NRC (National Register of Citizens) process that has added to the bitterness between Mamata and the Centre, however, did not figure during their discussion which focussed on developmental issues.

The meeting at the Prime Minister's residence that lasted for about half an hour also had Mamata extending an invite to Modi to inaugurate the world's second-largest coal block Deocha Pachami in Birbhum district after Navratri puja.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

This was the first time that Mamata, who has been among the harshest critics of Modi and the BJP, met him after the Visva Bharati University convocation at Shantiniketan in May 2018. She did not attend Modi's swearing-in in May when he took charge for the second time and had stayed away from the Niti Aayog meeting in June.

EU MPs lambast Pakistan for terror drive in 'greatest democracy' India

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

European parliamentarians Eryszard Czarnecki and Fulvio Martusciello have slammed Pakistan for harbouring militants, with one of them saying terrorists who carried out attacks in India did not come from the Moon.

During a special debate of the plenary of the European Parliament on the situation in Kashmir on Tuesday, Czarnecki, the member of EU Parliament and European Conservatives and Reformists Group in

"India is the greatest democracy of the world. We need to look at terrorist acts that took place in India, Jammu & Kashmir. These terrorists didn't land from the Moon. They were coming from the neighbouring country. We should support India," said Czarnecki.

War of words still rages over floods in MP

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The war of words still continues between the ruling Congress and opposition BJP over the flood situation in Madhya Pradesh.

The ruling Congress claimed that a central team that visited Mandsaur has lauded the flood management of the State at Gandhi Sagar Dam. Congress has alleged that former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was running a malicious campaign to defame the Kamal Nath Government.

Chouhan hit back saying the government is sleeping and if we fight for the public, then it is called drama. MPCC media cell in charge Shobha Oza told media persons that Chouhan was alleging that excess water wasn't released from Gandhi Sagar Dam by government officials which led to flood in Mandsaur and Neemuch.

However, a central team comprising officers of Central Water Commission inspected the dam on Wednesday and lauded state's Water Resources Dept's endeavours of managing the situation at the dam after heavy rains, said Oza.

"This has exposed the conspiracy from Chouhan," she added.

The party also presented estimates of damage in heavy rains claiming 36 out of the 52 districts have been affected by



Public Relations Minister PC Sharma, along with State Congress media in-charge Shobha Oza, talks to mediapersons at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

the rains and 22 lakh farmers have suffered losses upto ₹1566 crore and over 54,000 houses have been damaged and the loss incurred is about ₹540 crore.

Other infrastructure including government schools, aganwadis, hospitals and others has suffered a loss upto ₹155 crore, claimed the party leaders.

Claiming that over 18,000 affected people were living in relief camps, the party demanded that BJP leaders instead of politicising the crisis should ask their party at the Centre to clear relief package

of ₹11, 861 crore. Stung by allegations against him, Chouhan claimed that he has been to Mandsaur, Neemuch, Sheopur, Morena, Bhind other areas and surprisingly the administration is yet to reach out these places. "I am aware the ministers addicted to statements are calling my acts as drama," he added.

Border chronicle within 2 yrs to raise awareness: Rajnath

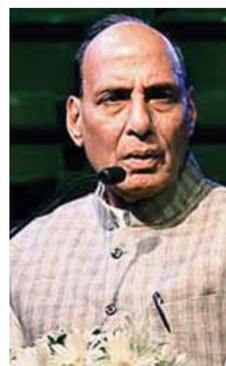
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the first endeavour of its kind, India will have in place a written history of its borders in the next two years with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approving the project. The documented history will help provide the masses and the Government officials a better understanding of the borders.

At present, India has a disputed over 4000-km border, known as Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, and the volatile 750-km long Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

While the LoC is "hot" at present witnessing relentless ceasefire violations by Pakistan following the abrogation of special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370, the LAC has not seen a single shot fired in anger for the last 45 years by either India or China.

However, the LAC spreading from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east often sees transgressions due to differing perceptions about the border. Moreover, Indian Parliament had passed a unanimous resolution saying even Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is part of



India and the NDA Government maintains that it will make all efforts to retrieve POK. Pakistan occupied that part during the 1947 war with India after raiders from across accompanied by the Pakistan Army intruded into Kashmir.

The written history will cover various aspects, including the tracing, making, unmaking and shifting of borders, the role of the security forces, of the borderland people, encompassing their ethnicity, culture and the socio-economic aspects of their lives. Giving details of the pro-



ject, Defence Ministry officials said here on Wednesday the Defence Minister on Tuesday approved initiating work of writing the history after holding deliberations with eminent personalities of Indian Council of Historical Research and officials of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Directorate General of Archives, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and Defence Ministry. The project is expected to be completed within two years, they added.

Singh emphasised the importance of writing history

Defence Minister approves project

of Indian borders reiterating that it would provide better understanding of the borders to the public in general and officials in particular. Welcoming various suggestions, he also directed officials to consult experts on source material, broad contours, methodology and action plan required for completing this project expeditiously.

Besides, the nearly 15,000-km long land borders shared with Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar, India also has a 7,000-km long coast line covering nine Littoral States.

Min talks on students exchange programme

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Minister for Higher Education Jitu Patwari on Wednesday held a detailed discussion on the possibilities of the Students Exchange Programme with Head of the Curriculum Development Hayley Holuj and Lewis Hall of the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education at the Centre for Mathematics at Cambridge University in London.

Patwari spoke to the academicians from different countries about the possibilities of digital learning and teaching, professional proficiency in assessment can be used to improve teaching in classrooms and better use of technology in teaching and learning process.

PATWARI SPOKE TO THE ACADEMICIANS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF DIGITAL LEARNING AND TEACHING, PROFESSIONAL PROFICIENCY IN ASSESSMENT CAN BE USED TO IMPROVE TEACHING IN CLASSROOMS AND BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS

Lewis Hall of the United Arab Emirates said that both the countries will benefit with the implementation of the Student

Exchange Programme with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

During the discussion, Minister Patwari said that all possible innovations will be made to promote qualitative and employment oriented education in Madhya Pradesh and to strengthen teaching work in educational institutions. He said that this programme will not only introduce students to the rich culture of the country but will also help in strengthening national unity and brotherhood.

On this occasion, Commissioner Higher Education Raghavendra Singh and Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Private University Regulatory Commission MS Parihar were present.

Crime Branch arrests 2 with 20kg deer meat

Bhopal: Crime Branch Bhopal nabbed two miscreants and recovered 20 kg of flesh of deer from two miscreants who were carrying the flesh on a scooter at Shahjehanabad on Wednesday.

Two youth were nabbed near Tajmahal area of Shahjehanabad while they were carrying flesh of deer. The two were nabbed after receiving a tip off regarding selling of flesh of wild animals and they used to bring the flesh on alternate days in the State capital.

Police said that the nabbed accused persons were identified as Adil Siddiqui (23) and Maaz Siddiqui (25) of Sehore.

During the investigation police found that the two hold crime record. The accused are involved in furniture making which was meant to evade suspicion and arrest.

The accused used to visit the state capital on alternate days and would bring flesh of poached wild animal which would be mostly Deer. They revealed that the selling of flesh makes good money without much efforts and only risk was of forest department and police.

The two used to venture in the morning for poaching and would use trap for Deer and after it traps they would poach and would supply flesh to the state capital and nearby areas.

Poaching is on-demand and flesh was supplied and sold to selected people who would be investigated in the further investigation.

After the two were nabbed action under sections of 9, 39, 48 A, 49 B of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 was taken.



Medical students of Career Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital demonstrate to oppose farewell of their faculty member, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Mins pledge to make Boat Club plastic free

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Boat Club of Bhopal will be made plastic free. Cloth bags will be given for use. The Minister for Public Relations PC Sharma, Minister for Urban Development and Housing Jaivardhan Singh and Mayor Alok Sharma inaugurated a Bag Stitching Kiosk at Boat Club. They also flagged off Alto Car to be given to the Zonal Officers. Singh himself drove the car. They administered oath of cleanliness to the people present at the programme.

The Minister for Public Relations Sharma said that not littering but now only cleanliness will prevail. The Zonal officer ensures that not a single polythene should be seen on this road. He said that officers of all the departments should be linked with the ongoing Cleanliness Campaign in Bhopal. He further mentioned that the Shahjehani Park should be developed according to its name. There is a proposal to ply metro train upto Mandideep and Sehore, he added.

The Minister for Urban Development and Housing Singh told



Minister for Urban Development and Housing, Minister for Public Relations PC Sharma and Mayor Alok Sharma flagging off BMC vehicles during launching of polythene-free campaign at Boat Club, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

that along with making the boat club plastic free, project for the boat club development should also be made. Tourists must get better facilities here. He mentioned that this step of today will prove to be significant in making Bhopal plastic free completely. Including Ice cream packing, we will have to think solutions to get rid of single use plastic

of other products. Singh said that ranking will be given to remove stray cattle, street dogs, pigs from big cities similar to the Swachhata Sarvekshan. In big cities, 40 points will be given for removal of stray cattle, 40 points for street dogs and 20 points for removal of pigs. Similarly for smaller cities, the ranking will be determined by

deciding the points. He said, zonal officers should listen to public representatives seriously and take appropriate action. Connect self-help groups of every ward to make cloth bags.

Mayor Alok Sharma said that a planned action plan will be formulated to make the city clean. He told the officials that there should not be any contradiction in what they say and what they do. A clean city will be handed over to the next generation. Sharma said, the life-line Upper Lake of Bhopal will be made plastic free.

The Mahashakti Seva Kendra, Lions Club, Akriti Eco City and Sakaratmak Soch Sanstha were honoured on the occasion. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Bhopal Vijay Dutta informed about the campaign. The Leader of Opposition of Municipal Corporation Mohammed Sagheer Ahmed also addressed the programme. He said that the visitors here will be given a cloth bag for ₹5, which can also be returned. Bags of used cloth will also be made in the kiosk. Local public representatives were present during the programme.

Diggly bro wants Rahul's apology for fake promise

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

FAKE 10-DAY FARM LOAN WAIVER PROMISE

Days after infighting within the Congress party, peace was restored by the party high command but discontent still continues with party MLA Laxman Singh, brother of senior leader Digvijay Singh, claiming that then party chief Rahul Gandhi should not have made 10-day farm loan waiver promise during Assembly polls.

While talking to media persons, Singh said he said so because the promise was not fulfilled.

"I guess waiving off ₹45,000 crore in 10 days was not possible but still if he (Rahul) made a promise, we should apologise to the public," claimed Chachoda MLA Laxman Singh adding he is of the view that if more

promises are made to suppress this fact, it could have an adverse impact.

If we could not fulfill our promise, we should simply apologise to the public, he added urging the state government to clarify when the farm loans could actually be waived off.

Singh who in the past had deserted to the BJP, claimed that farmers armed with loan waiver certificates are told by the banks that they have no information on loan waiver and still charging 18% interest in waived off sums.

Though he claimed that loan has been waived off and numbers specified by the government are true but the farm-

ers are getting turned away by the banks and they are approaching public representatives like him for help.

When I contact collector and the banks concerned, they simply reply that they are yet to receive the waived off sums and the situation is more or less the same everywhere, he claimed.

Notably, it is the first such admission from the ruling party as till now the BJP was on the offensive on the issue on Kamal Nath government. The MLA often lands his own party in trouble with his remarks, as he has been sidelined within the party since his return to Congress folds and his hopes of a ministerial berth were also dashed.

'Police officers should learn at every stage'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A good intelligence officer is made by taking experience from challenges and continuous study and thoughtfulness about related subjects. Therefore, police officers should always keep in mind the tendency to learn. Director General of Police Vijay Kumar Singh expressed his views to this effect.

DGP Singh was addressing the convocation ceremony of trainee sub-inspectors of 10th batch of special branch cadre of Madhya Pradesh Police as the chief guest. He emphasized on constantly conducting refresher courses to meet new challenges faced day by day.

In this batch, a total of 35 sub-inspectors including 13 women trainee sub-inspectors have undergone a year of rigorous basic training and which includes internal and external

DGP Singh was addressing the convocation ceremony of trainee sub-inspectors of 10th batch of special branch cadre of Madhya Pradesh Police as the chief guest

training. DGP Singh said that the urge to learn something should remain in mind till the last day of government service. Training is a continuous process. Only by having strong will power to learn, we can become efficient officers. Basic training introduces the department. Continuous training is required to become a skilled officer.

Apart from this ADG Makwana elaborated on the basic elements which were pro-

vided during the training and termed the special branch as the backbone of the police department and called upon the trainee officers to discharge their duties with dedication and professional acumen.

On the basis of the outstanding performance during the training session, Sub Inspector Rupali Raghuvanshi was awarded with trophy who topped in the group while Akash Bhaduria and Renu Panwar were second and third in training.

'Dhikkar Diwas' observed on Modi's 69th birthday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated his 69th birthday on Tuesday with much fanfare in his home State, hundreds of Sardar Sarovar Dam Project Affected Persons (PAF) were on a dharna near Kasrawad bridge on river Narmada in Barwani district observing 'D h i k k a r

Diwas'. The protest started with a rally led by the Narmada Bachao Andolan activists in the afternoon and continued till late in the evening from Khandwa-Baroda Road.

Many protesters got their heads tonsured to mourn the submergence of large parts of Madhya Pradesh calling it a betrayal by the state's last Shivraj Chouhan Government.

While talking to media persons, NBA leader Medha

Patkar told reporters, "The Gujarat government raised the level of water in the dam to 139 metre height only for the sake of celebrating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday. We damn this birthday celebration. Wish him a long life."

But he should understand his duty and responsibility to let people live."

The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) is spearheading the protest demanding the gates of the SSD, built on the Narmada river, be opened immediately.

"The backwater has partially or fully flooded 192 villages in Barwani, Dhar, Alirajpur and Khargone districts and one township in MP. We want the sluice gates to be closed only after total rehabilitation of residents in these areas," said Himshi Singh, an activist of the National Alliance for People's

Movement. Madhya Pradesh is witnessing an unusually long and heavy spell of rain this year - one which has exposed the administrative and political perceptions.

The first casualty was Madhya Pradesh government's credibility.

The previous government led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan had, under pressure from Gujarat government, agreed to raising the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam to its full reservoir level.

The water level of famous Sardar Sarovar Dam at Kevadia in Narmada district of Gujarat surged to its highest capacity at 138.67 meter on Sunday evening, but before that the areas earmarked for rehabilitation are have gone under following incessant rain. This happened for the first time since the dam's height was raised in 2017.

'Juvenile crime should be determined carefully'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The age of children related to criminal cases should be determined carefully and under the prescribed criteria. Also, the behavior of the police with destitute children should be such that the child will have a positive effect on the mind and the children are motivated to move forward on the right path said ADG CID Rajiv Tandon at the inaugural session of the one-day training program organized on "Children and crime against children and other legal provisions related to children" at State Police Headquarters on Wednesday.

The training was organized by the CID in collaboration with the Bachpan Bachao Andolan Organisation. In the training police officers of the rank inspector, sub-inspector and assistant sub-inspector level working in special juvenile police units and child support cell of various districts par-

ticipated. ADG Tandon gave detailed regarding the age determination of children and destitute children.

Chief Executive Officer of Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation and retired Director General of Police of Haryana, SC Sinha gave useful information related to keeping children away from criminal tendencies and child protection and interacted with the participants and pacified queries.

On this occasion, IG CID IP Kulshresth and colleagues of Bachpan Bachao Andolan Organisation also shared useful information. The details of the legal provisions of child labor including the Juvenile Justice Act-2015 and POCSO Act-2012 were explained in detail in the training program. Apart from methods and process which help in resolving the problems faced in the implementation of various legal provisions related to children were also explained.

Government of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development

National Institutional Ranking Framework

nirf

INDIA RANKINGS 2020

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in the higher educational institutions. NIRF now invites applications for India Rankings 2020, the Fifth edition of this annual exercise.

All the institutions which have participated in the previous India Rankings exercise have been pre-registered. A mail in this regard has already been sent to the Heads of the respective institutions to confirm institution details for India Rankings 2020.

In case, your institution is not pre-registered in the above manner, and wishes to participate in India Rankings 2020, you are requested to visit our website i.e. www.nirfindia.org and register your institution by clicking the registration button. In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation at helpdesk@nirfindia.org or call at 011-40159583/87/89.

The registration has been extended till 30th September, 2019.

Member Secretary

Crime Branch nabs 1 with 10k bounty on head

6.4 kg of cannabis recovered from his possession

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Crime branch Bhopal nabbed wanted criminal carrying a cash reward of ₹10,000 near Slaughter House and recovered 6.4 kg of Cannabis from his possession.

Notorious criminal Yaseen alias Magistrate wanted in attempt to murder case was nabbed on Wednesday. Police said that Yaseen and his brother opened fire at Shoab of Talaiya area and went absconding after the incident.

During the time he remained absconding he started



History-sheeter and absconding accused Laeeque, carrying a cash reward of ₹10,000, were paraded by police in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

to sell drugs illegally as he run out of money. He was on his way to deliver drugs near Slaughter house but was nabbed

by crime branch. Arrested accused has been booked for around a dozen crimes in different police sta-

tions of the state capital. He has been booked for assault, robbery, attacking with sharp edged weapons.

Meanwhile absconding accused carrying a cash reward of ₹10,000 was nabbed by Talaiya police; accused attacked a sales manager of liquor shop with sharp edged razor at Koh-e-Fiza on September 16 after victim failed to extort ₹10,000.

On receiving tip off regarding the accused Laeeq Pehalwan police team rushed to the spot and nabbed him. The accused was wanted in several cases in Hanumanganj and Koh-e-Fiza police station.

In the latest crime Laeeq attacked a sales manager of liquor shop at Koh-e-Fiza after he failed to extort ₹10,000 and escaped the spot. Police declared a cash reward of ₹10,000 for providing the whereabouts of the accused. The police registered a case under sections 34 and 394 of the IPC and started further investigation.

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Exhibition-cum-sale on silk fab concludes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A cotton handloom and handicraft National Crafts Expo Silk Fab Handloom Exhibition cum Sale organised in city and evoked a good response by the art lovers of the city.

The exhibition concluded with a lot of fervour. The exhibition was all about handicraft and handloom material, as many as 35 artisans from across the country displayed the speciality of their region before the Bhopalites.

The Bhopalites are enjoyed having a look at the colourful and fizzy shades of the different states of the country. A huge collection of handloom materials made up of jute, and wood materials were also at display.

The Bhopalites are enjoyed having a look at the colourful and fizzy shades of the different states of the country

Besides, ladies' stuff was a major part of this exotic shopping fair. The mela also shared a major collection of dress materials, enthralling the ladies. The stalls of household decoration captivated a big crowd at the spot on the concluding day. Dress materials embedded with lucknowi chicken, mulberry silk, Khadi and more was also available.

A wonderful collection been designed in different patterns and prints were available. There were printed materials

beautifully embroidered with Batik Print, Dabu Print, Hand-Block Print and one of the most renowned and loved in all seasons, Bagh Print

From Kolkata's handcraft magic to Banaras's Chanderi cotton suit material all was available under roof at affordable prizes. Stuff from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jaipur, Panipat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajkot, Kashmir, Punjab, and furniture from Saharanpur was available at the fair. Interestingly, the national handloom award winners from Kolkata and Punjab had also displayed their talent. A wonderful range of saree was the eye catching stuff and most in demand. Further, another stall having amazing rare decorative items made of wood capturing the attention of the buyers.

Engineers' Day at Madhyanchal varsity

Bhopal: Engineers' Day was observed at Madhyanchal Professional University on Wednesday.

Vijay Kumar Founder and CEO was present as Chief Guest and Speaker. Arun Sharma Telecom Officer, Director Dinesh Patel, Advisor Madhyanchal Professional University Gyanendra Singh, Vice Chancellor Nk Tiwari, Dean Engineering Rajneesh Karan and Vikrant Jain were also present.

While addressing the event Vijay Kumar said that young students should set up self-employment so that they can provide employment to other people as well. Arun Sharma said that skill development should be done in such a way that students can establish harmony in their own industry.

Engineers Day is observed every year on 15 September to commemorate the birthday of Bharat Ratna Visvesvaraya. The students said that engineering education will be truly meaningful only when students

improve the standard of living of the common people.

India has achieved in the field of software, we have to come forward in other areas including machinery, automobiles. Chancellor of Patel Group of Institutions and Madhyanchal Professional University, Preeti Patel said that the institute is doing better under the leadership of Ajit Singh Patel.

Vice Chancellor of Madhyanchal Professional University, NK Tiwari welcomed all the chief guests, Tiwari said that the engineer also has social responsibility. He said that when one work to make all the people of the society happy will be considered successful.

Advisor Madhyanchal Professional University Gyanendra Singh gave vote of thanks. Guests were honored by giving mementoes. All directors, principals, teachers and students of Madhyanchal University and Patel Group were present in the programme. SR

'Road construction agency should repair damages due to heavy rains'

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Principal Secretary Home PSN Mishra has directed that the road construction agency should initiate the repair of roads, bridges and culverts damaged by the heavy rains in the State.

From the safety point of view, the bridges and culverts should also be checked thoroughly to verify damage.

Necessary repair works should be carried out immediately in case of damage or cracks in bridges. Mishra gave these directives at a meeting of the State Road Safety Implementation Committee held at Mantralaya on Wednesday. Mishra said that entire list consisting of license numbers should be provided to the Transport Department to take action to suspend driving

From the safety point of view, the bridges and culverts should also be checked thoroughly to verify damage

licences if traffic rules are violated.

This action should be taken throughout the State. It was informed that about 5726 driving licenses have been suspended so far this year.

In the first 6 months, 306 fitness certificates have been suspended and action has been taken against 408 over loading vehicles. Mishra said that Collectors, Superintendents of Police, District Transport Officers and Officers of the Public Works Department must conduct site inspection, in case of two or more accidents

at the same place.

It was informed that a school bus policy has also been formulated for the safety of school children. The Principal Secretary directed that special efforts should be made in districts with 20 to 25 percent accidents to prevent accidents.

Mishra asked to ensure presence of Nodal Officers in Lead Agencies.

It was informed that trauma centers at 44 places have been made in the State.

The District Hospitals are also being used as trauma centers. The Principal Secretary instructed to make ambulances integrated/centralized in two phases. The Special Director General of Police Mahan Bharat Sagar and Transport Commissioner Shailendra Shrivastava were presented at the meeting.



Under the aegis of BHEL Ladies Club Pratibha Thakur, President (BHEL Ladies Club), Navita Nigam, Vice-President (BHEL Ladies Educational Welfare Wing), Manisha Sharma, Secretary and Satupa Bhowmick, Treasurer distributed register, pencil box, bag and water tank to the students of Jamunia Kalan Government High School. Pioneer photo

Faculty development event to be held on Sep 23

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A Faculty Development Programme will be held at Radharaman Group of Institutions from September 23 to 27.

The programme will be held for three days from September 23 to 27. The training programme is organised by RGPV under TEQIP-III (Techup-III).

Teaching skills also change according to the time and demand of the industry. Students of institutes who keep their faculty members updated with these skills not only brighten the name of the institute during their studies, but also gain fame by setting up excellent placements or own businesses. In view of this, a week-long faculty development programme is being organized in Radharaman Group.

The topic of the faculty development is the Role of Infrastructure Engineering in the Development of Indian



Economy.

Group Chairman RR Saxena said that his group has been organising various programs throughout the year to keep students updated with latest knowledge from their faculty members.

The objective of these programs is to spread the light of world-class knowledge to the group, so that both faculty and students can benefit. Such programs elevate the level of knowledge and help to keep

The programme will be held for three days till September 27

The programme can be attended by civil engineers, infrastructure engineers, government officials working in infrastructure development, academics, faculty of engineering colleges, researchers working on the infrastructure growth of India, civil engineering students.

Candidates participating in this can send the form at apsmact@gmail.com, or fdp@radharamanbhopal.com. For more information related to this, the Radharaman Group's website can be contacted.

3-day conf on 'Safe and sustainable water & sanitation' to be organised

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

To mark the 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, three-day conference 'Safe and sustainable water and sanitation' would be organised from September 19 to 21, 2019 by Bhopal chapter of National Academy of Sciences, India.

While talking to media persons, Prof KJ Nath said, the conference would be organised with the support of MP Council of Science & Technology, Bhopal, National Mission for Cleaning Ganga and Hindustan Lever. In the

While talking to media persons, Prof KJ Nath said, the conference would be organised with the support of MP Council of Science & Technology, Bhopal, National Mission for Cleaning Ganga and Hindustan Lever

conference scientist and experts across the country would participate. The conference would be inaugurated on September 19, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan in Nehru Nagar at around 4 pm. The inauguration would be done by Minister of Science and Technology Department

PC Sharma. DG National Mission for Cleaning Ganga, Jal Shakti Ministry GOI Rajeev Ranjan Mishra would be the Chief Guest. The conference would be presided by President IPHI and former Director AIHH and PH Prof KJ Nath.

State Capital witnesses highest rainfall in 38 years

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

After witnessing heavy rainfall in the season State Capital recorded highest rainfall of the past 38 years by recording 1688.9 cm on Wednesday, it was only 8.4 mm rainfall which was required to gain the status of highest rainfall in a season on Tuesday.

The east Madhya Pradesh region of the state is receiving good rainfall while west Madhya Pradesh regions are receiving less relief.

Pattern of heavy rainfall has reduced to few places in the state according to the warning issued by Met department. Only Panna, Sagar, Chhatarpur, Damoh, Vidisha, Rajgarh, Raisen, Rewa, Satna, Narsinghpur, Harda, Hoshangabad and Khandwa districts are likely to receive heavy rainfall.

Weatherman said that in the next 24 hours more rainfall are likely to occur over eastern, central and northern districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Heavy rainfall would fade away gradually after September 19. The rainfall would be light to moderate across the state.

In the past 24 hours most of the areas of Sagar divisions witnessed rainfall while several



Girls run to cover themselves amidst rain in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

areas of Bhopal, Indore, Rewa, Hoshangabad and Jabalpur divisions recorded rainfall.

Under the prevalent weather conditions night and early morning hours are cold.

Rainfall was recorded at Umariya and Badi at 8 cm of

rainfall each which was the highest rainfall of the state, Kareli and Rampur recorded 7 cm of rainfall each, Gairatganj and Rajnagar recorded 6 cm of rainfall each and Khandwa and Neemuch recorded 5 cm of rainfall.

Daylong programme Aapki Sarkar Aapke Dwar organised

PNS ■ MHOW

In the guidance and presence of Indore collector Lokesh Jatav the district administration is regularly organising the program Aapki Sarkar Aapke Dwar in villages of different tehsils of Indore district.

On Wednesday, the program was organised at village Jamli of mhow tehsil. The villagers of many villages of mhow attended the day long programme.

Indore jila panchayat CEO Neha Meena and Mhow SDM Anshul Gupta met the villagers and listened to their problems. Different stalls of all the department of government

were present in the function and the information letters of all the schemes of government for the betterment of the common man was distributed to the villagers.

The officers resolved the complaints of the villagers on the spot and many complaints were taken into consideration for examination and resolving in coming days. Mhow tehsildar Dharendra Parashar, tehsildar Sunil Jaiswal, CEO Mhow Janpad Hemant Singh Chouhan SDOP Mhow Vinod Sharma, TI Badgonda Robert ex MLA Mhow Antarsingh Darbar and Janpad Panchayat president Mhow Leela Santosh Patidar were present.

Flood relief assistance given in Bhind

Bhopal: Sudarshan Chakra Troops comprising of Infantry and Engineer Columns were inducted for flood relief assistance in Bhind, Morena and Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh during early hours of September 16, 2019 in response to the inundation caused by Chambal River and water overflow from Gandhi Sagar Dam in Mandasaur.

Working in close coordination with the district administration, the Indian Army disaster relief columns have been inducted into the worst affect-



ed areas of Ambah, Sarai, Cholla and Chinoni Tehsils of Sheopur, Morena and Bhind districts. Overall 8 villages in Sheopur, 13 villages in Morena

and 7 villages in Bhind district and over 3000 persons are affected due to flash floods in the areas. Seven rescue columns are working round the clock to rescue marooned people.

Evacuated persons are being provided with essential amenities like food, water and medical assistance at designated shelters. So far more than 1054 locals have been rescued by the fearless teams of the Indian Army. Relief operations shall continue with equal vigour till the last person is brought to safety. SR

Hindi play 'Shah: Shankar Raghunath' staged

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

To observe Balidan Diwas on Wednesday, a Hindi play 'Shah: Shankar Raghunath' was staged at Shaheed Bhavan auditorium.

The programme was held under Directorate of Swaraj Sansthan, Bhopal. Directed by KG Trivedi, the play was staged by the artists of Trikarshi Theatre Troupe, Bhopal.



A scene from the play 'Shah: Shankar Raghunath' staged at Shaheed Bhavan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

The baseline of the play presented the time of British rule in India. It illustrated the life span of Shankar Shah, the ruler of a small kingdom at Jabalpur and his son Raghunath Shah. Both fought against the British rule and tried to captivate more and more people in their struggle. Even the children of their kingdom were a part of this fight.

The curtains were opened with the song by King Shanakar Shah, with which he used to gather people and participate in his freedom struggle. Later this song was banned by the

Play was all about a particular incident happened during the time of British rule

British Government. The struggle and assassination of father and son formed rest of the story.

Notably, this was the first incident ever happened in Indian history, when father and son were assassinated at the same time. This unpleasant incident is rarely known to people.

The audiences were totally enthralled by the performance. The costumes, light and stage craft was commendable and the acting skills of the artists made the audience to watch the play with rapt attention.

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
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E-TENDER NOTICE

1. NIT No: SECL/GM/JOH/Survey/eTender/19-20/40, date 14.09.2019, Tender ID: 2019_SECL_150070_1, Location of work: Pali Colliery, Estimated Cost: 17,01,180 Description of Work: Transportation and laying of belt conveyors in proposed 13 DW of Main Dip development district of Johilla Top Seam at Pali Colliery, Pali Sub Area of Johilla Area. Start date & time for submission of bid: 17.09.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 09.10.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 11.10.2019 at 11 AM. ASO, Johilla Area

2. NIT No: SECL/GM/JOH/Survey/eTender/19-20/41, date 14.09.2019, Tender ID: 2019_SECL_150076_1, Location of work: Vindhya UG Mine, Estimated Cost: 4,44,858 Description of Work: Construction of 06 Nos of old ventilation stoppings in eastern part at Vindhya UG mine, Pinoura Sub Area of Johilla Area. Start date & time for submission of bid: 17.09.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 03.10.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 05.10.2019 at 11 AM. ASO, Johilla 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 & www.secl-cil.in. In case of any Misprinting/ Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

COAL : PRIME SOURCE OF ENERGY

'BJP raising nt'l issues as poll plank to divert attention from its failure'

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The BJP leaders are using the scrapping of the special status of Jammu & Kashmir and National Register of Citizens (NRC) issue as a poll plank in Haryana to divert the attention from its failures, Haryana Congress chief Selja said on Wednesday.

She said in the last five years, the BJP-led government has failed to perform on many fronts, claiming that Congress would form the government in the state as the people know that this is the party which is the real alternative.

Addressing a news conference here, she said that the people will confront this government on real issues like rising crime against women, poor law and order, economic slowdown, unemployment, job loss,



farmers' distress among others. People will question them as this government has failed to perform on many fronts, she said, adding the issues raised by the Congress Party would resonate with people.

Accusing the Haryana government of non-performance, the state Congress chief said

BJP can't hide behind the issues raked up in the Lok Sabha polls. "Their mask is off. Now, they cannot hide behind the issues raked up during the Lok Sabha polls. BJP will have to answer to the people what have they done for the past five years."

Selja said that the Congress party will raise the issues which are concerned to people of the State. There is lack of employment, farmers are in distress, employees are on warpath, traders are suffering, youth and women are suffering, law and order situation is bad, all sections of society are affected with their lopsided policies and now economic slowdown has dealt a double whammy, the Congress leader

ACCUSING THE HARYANA GOVERNMENT OF NON-PERFORMANCE, THE STATE CONGRESS CHIEF SAID BJP CAN'T HIDE BEHIND THE ISSUES RAKED UP IN THE LOK SABHA POLLS

adding the BJP-led State government had done nothing except making tall promises. "Now, ahead of the elections, they have unleashed an advertisement blitzkrieg, but people are not going to believe them now. They will oust them in the next month's elections," Selja said, claiming that people know that the Congress was the only alternative before them. "In the recent weeks, we have seen a change in mood," the state Congress chief claimed.

When asked about factionalism in the party, Selja asserted that Congress workers are united and will fight the elections as a single unit.

HOODA SAYS DIRECT CONTEST OF CONGRESS AND BJP

Addressing a separate press conference, former CM and Congress Legislative Party leader (CLP) Bhupinder Singh Hooda admitted that the party leaders and workers were dis-

appointed after party's debacle in the parliamentary election but now they are united and energetic.

"The atmosphere of the state is completely against the BJP government. We are now together and form the Congress government in the State," he said.

Hooda said, "We have successfully completed meeting with party workers during Congress Workers' Conference in six parliamentary seats in Faridabad, Gurugram, Karnal, Sonapat, Kurukshetra, Ambala. In the next two days, such meeting will be held in Hissar, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Mahendragarh, Rohtak, he added. He claimed that party leaders are united.

"Former CLP leader Kiran Choudhary will also attend the workers' conference in

Mahendragarh. All the leaders are working for the party in their respective areas. All the sitting MLAs will get ticket from their respective constituency", he added.

Hooda said that there will be no alliance with any political party in the state. He claimed that he never met with BSP supremo Mayawati to get an alliance with the party in the State. "There is a direct fight between Congress Party and BJP. There is no political existence of any regional parties like INLD, JJP," he added.

The senior Congress leader said people from all sections of society are dissatisfied with BJP government. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar should carry out 'Jan Pashyap Yatra' in place of 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra'.

Asked about BJP's claims that it would win more than 75

of the 90 assembly seats, Hooda replied, "It does not matter whatever claims they make. But people have made up their mind to throw them out." The issues in Lok Sabha polls and Vidhan Sabha polls are different. In the Vidhan Sabha election, people will cast their votes based on regional issues, he said.

Hooda said that the promises made at his 'Pariwatan rally' in Rohtak will be included in Congress party manifesto for the election. Four deputy chief ministers, 75 per cent reservation in jobs for Haryana's residents, free travel for women in roadways buses, free electricity upto 300 units, farm loan waiver, increased monthly honorariums and pensions among others will be included in Congress manifesto, he added.

Elephant calf dies of electrocution in Bero

Second death in 15 days

SAURAV ROY ■ RANCHI

An elephant calf died of electrocution in Bero block's Khuratoli village, about 35 Kilometers West of Ranchi district headquarters on Wednesday — the second such incident reported from the



Carcass of an elephant calf, which died of electrocution in Bero block's Khuratoli village on Wednesday

block in less than a fortnight, forest officials said. The frequency of elephant deaths by electrocution in the area has prompted forest officials to probe into the trend and see if the deaths were accidents or planned killings, they added.

On Wednesday, villagers found the carcass of a two-year-old female elephant from a farm field in the village. The elephant, forest officials said, was moving along with her herd when she possibly came in contact with a naked wire and died of electrocution. "Prima facie, it is confirmed that the calf died of electrocution. We have initiated a thorough investigation in the matter," said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Saba Alam.

Another elephant calf died of electrocution in Bero on September 3. The Department of Forest, Environment and Climate Change has charged two residents of the block of forest offense under the Wildlife Protection Act in connection with the death. The final prosecution report, officials said, will be sent to the

court soon. "Many times villagers use electrical wirings to fetch water from wells and ponds. There is a possibility that the elephant was electrocuted by one such naked wire," Alam said.

It is, however, unclear why the voltage in the wire was so high that it killed an animal as big as an elephant. Usually, the voltage in wired fencing is only enough to scare away elephants. "Only further investi-

gation will reveal if the wires were deliberately placed at a strategic location," said the DFO. The man-animal conflict in Jharkhand has taken ugly turns on several occasions in the past. At least 50 deaths were caused in man-elephant conflict in Jharkhand every year in the past one decade. In 2018, a total of 53 such deaths were reported, while 78 people were killed in 2017. Almost all of them were trampled to death by tuskers in rural areas of the State. Incidents of irate mobs pelting stones at elephants and elephants rampaging settlements are common in several districts here. The State also has the oldest elephant sanctuary in India in form of Dalma Elephant Reserve in East Singhbhum. The fact that the Government here has decided to provide free education to all the children whose parents are killed in elephant attacks proves the extent to which the conflict affects rural Jharkhand.

Shah pats CM for development works in 5 yrs

State has seen development under Das Govt, says Shah

PNS ■ RANCHI

Union Home Minister cum BJP National President Amit Shah on Wednesday gave full marks to Chief Minister Raghuraj Das appreciating his works giving ample indication that he will be face of BJP in year-end Assembly election. Shah, while attending a summit organised by vernacular daily at city-based hotel said, "Under the regime of Raghuraj Das, the State has witnessed development in various areas and we are confident that BJP will once again come to power in year-end election on the basis of State Government work."

Highlighting the work carried out by Raghuraj Das Government in last four and half years, Shah said, "Before 2014, the State was lagging behind in various social and infrastructural parameters. However, in last four and half years a lot of works has been



BJP National President cum Union Home Minister Amit Shah being greeted by Chief Minister Raghuraj Das during the launch of 'Johar Jan Ashirwad Yatra' ahead of the State Assembly elections in Jamtara on Wednesday

done which is easily visible."

Shah claimed that in Raghuraj Das regime, around 30 lakh houses have been provided with electricity connections, more than 35 lakh toilets has been constructed, around 57 lakh families are being covered under the world's biggest health insurance scheme- Ayushman Bharat Yojana among others. Shah said,

"Raghuraj Das government is a government which believes in works." The BJP national president exuded confidence that BJP will form government in all three states including Jharkhand going to poll this year.

Shah spoke for more than 45 minutes at the summit on various national issues ranging from Ram Mandir, abrogation

of Article 370, National Register of Citizenship (NRC), cyber crime and others. On the issue of construction of Ram Temple, he said, "The Government is well prepared to handle any situation arising out after Supreme Court verdict."

On the issue of abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir

he said that BJP's stand on removing Article 370 is very much clear since Jan Sangh era. The Home Minister said that after the removal of Article 370 from J&K there are no restrictions leaving aside at few areas. On the question that still many areas in Kashmir don't have Internet and mobile phone connectivity in Kashmir, he



BJP National President cum Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a programme on 'Poorvodaya' in Ranchi on Wednesday

said, "Internet reached Kashmir 16 years after it was introduced in rest of the country. Mobile phones connectivity was provided to Kashmiri people after 17 years it was introduced in rest of the country." He said, Congress party, human right activists and some journalist are concerned with snapping of

Internet and mobile phones connections in Kashmir, but they never question on killing of 41,000 people in terrorist activities. On the issue of National Register of Citizens, he said that NRC should be carried out in entire country as it is the duty of Governments to have the record of citizens.

Governor inaugurates national bamboo artisan fair

PNS ■ RANCHI

On the occasion of World Bamboo Day, National Bamboo Artisan Fair is being organized on September 18 and 19 in Dumka. A total of 500 businessmen from 6 countries and 10 states are participating in this fair. Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the fair organised by the Small and Cottage Industries Development Board and the Department of Industries in Dumka on Wednesday.

Inaugurating the fair the Governor said that there is immense possibility for bamboo production in the State which can provide employment to a large number of people. "A large number of things can be made by bamboo. It is giving immense pleasure to me to announce that for the development of entrepreneurship among bamboo producers the State Government will establish Bamboo, 'Centre for Design' in Dumka. Small and Cottage Industry Development Board in collaboration with Jharcraft is running training programmes for artisans in various centers in the State," he added.

"The Government has started 'Jharkhand State Bamboo Drive' to improve economic conditions of traditional artisans. Around six lakhs artisans live in the State. Government of India has kept Bamboo from the list of forest's tree. It is called about

Bamboo that it improves fertility of land. The State Government has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with online marketing company Flipcart to market bamboo products. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise, Government of India is planning to organise entrepreneur conference at each district through which in all districts of the State to boost regional and local industry," said Murmu.

The Governor said that the Centre and the State Government are running many welfare programmes for the betterment of artisans of the State. At the closing ceremony, Chief Minister Raghuraj Das will inform the artisans about the Government's future plans and incentive policy. On this occasion, a new policy made by the Jharkhand Government regarding bamboo artisans will also be launched.



Carcass of an elephant calf, which died of electrocution in Bero block's Khuratoli village on Wednesday

The fair is being organized for the purpose of green economy. The number of bamboo artisans in Jharkhand is around 6 lakhs, out of which there are two lakh artisans in Dumka. There is a huge demand in the country and abroad for goods made by the hands of these skilled craftsmen.

Kits have also been distributed to 5000 artisans during the fair. The exhibition of bamboo processing plant is being also organised in the fair, in which 20 types of bamboo will be displayed. Artisans have also been informed about the modern way of production.

JCI gears up to host 24th Expo Utsav 2019

PNS ■ RANCHI

The 24th edition of JCI Ranchi's mega consumer trade fair 'Expo Utsav 2019' will be held from September 20 to September 24 at Morabadi Maidan. The fair will be inaugurated by the Director General of Police Kamal Nayan Chhaubey at 1 pm on September 20.

The visiting hours for the trade fair will be from 11 am to 9pm. For an entry fee of Rs. 10, the visitors will receive discount booklets from various establishments based in Ranchi.

At the Expo more than 250 stalls from India and abroad including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Afghanistan and Thailand will display an array of products. Items including furnishings, vehicles, electronics, kitchen ware, clothes and much more will be available under one roof. A total of 50 hoarding have been installed across the city where as information is also being provided through radio and cinema.

A competition called 'the pride of Ranchi' will be organised to honour the old businessmen of the city. Various other competitions will

also be held like healthy baby show, top chef, dance competition, dog show, fancy dress, voice of Expo among others.

Interacting with the media on Wednesday, Expo Convener Nikhil Modi said that this time the trade fair will be bigger and better than before. "This year the centre of attraction will be an AC German hanger. There will also be a special hanger for Jharkhand tourism and a pink hanger especially for women entrepreneurs," said Modi. Midnight bazaar, haat bazaar, food zone and an amusement park for children will be other attractions.

Co-convener Prateek said that the fair will be spread over an area of two lakh square feet. "To ensure maximum safety CCTV cameras will be installed everywhere while 125 security personnel will also be deployed. Many big brands like Maruti, Tata Motors, Hyundai, Nexa, Bajaj, Haldiram, Jindal, Hero Electric and many others will have their stalls," said Prateek.

Chairman Rakesh Jain, secretary Saurabh Shah, Deepaak Aggarwal, Varun Jalan, Avikal Makara and others were present on the occasion.

Centre urged to boost infra, save foreign exchange

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO) on Wednesday urged the Union Government to boost tourism infrastructure and hotel industry so that people become interested to move as tourists within the country and, thereby, the outgo of foreign exchange can be contained.

Addressing the 4th Odisha Tourism Conclave, inaugurated by Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal, HRAO chairman JK Mohanty made this suggestion to the Government in the presence of Union Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Tourism Minister Jyoti Prakash Panigrahi and Ministry of Tourism Additional DG Rupinder Brar, among others

"All countries are trying to take more Indian tourists. Last year, Thailand had 22 per cent growth in Indian tourists, Maldives achieved 96.4 per cent growth, Dubai 13 per cent, Japan 14.6 per cent and Australia witness 12 per cent growth in its tourism inflow from India. India has been in the top 10 source markets of major tourist destinations of South East Asia," said Mohanty.

He suggested that in order to give a faster boost to the growth of tourism industry and infra-

structure every department of the Government must be involved in allocating funds.

Further, GST of 28 per cent charged on rooms above Rs 7,500 fails India to compete in the international tourism market specially in South East Asia where the taxes are low and hotels are cheaper in places like Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong etc, he said.

Mohanty said although Odisha has a huge tourism potential, compared with its neighbouring States, it has the lowest tourist traffic in eastern India with the lowest number of star category hotels.

"We urge the Union Minister for air connectivity with Jeypore under the UDAN Scheme, to include Sun Temple, Konark and the Buddhist circuit under the Iconic destination list and to construct 480-km coastal highway and a ring road around the Chilika Lake," demanded Mohanty.

He suggested to establish a Tourism Development Board for monitoring continuous tourism infrastructure development, including game parks, water sports in lines with the Disney World or Essel World.

He said there should be direct flights to-and-fro Biju Patnaik International Airport and Kuala Lumpur.

Nalco declares record 115% dividend at ₹1,073 cr

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco) has once again brought cheer in the stock market by declaring record dividend payout of Rs 1,072.73 crore which is an increase from 114 per cent in 2017-18 to 115 per cent in 2018-19, which works out to Rs 5.75 per equity share of Rs 5 each.

This is the highest dividend payout since the incep-

tion of the company in 1981. Till 2018-19, a total of Rs 32,886 crore towards taxes, duties, royalties, dividend etc was given to the Central Government (Rs 25,917 crore) and the State Government (Rs 6,969 crore).

Speaking on the sidelines of the 38th AGM on Wednesday, Nalco CMD Dr Tapan Kumar Chand attributed the success to team work, strong cost focus and strategic planning.

Between 1990-2017 Malnutrition deaths fell by two-thirds, says study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Death rate attributable to malnutrition in under-5 children in India has dropped by two-thirds from 1990 to 2017, but it still accounts for 68 per cent of deaths in under-five children, says a study published in The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health on Wednesday.

According to comprehensive estimates of disease burden due to child and maternal malnutrition released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the disease burden rate due to malnutrition in children varies seven-fold across states. It is highest in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam, followed by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Nagaland, and Tripura.

Among malnutrition indicators, low birth weight is the biggest contributor to disease burden followed by child growth failure which includes stunting, underweight, and wasting.

The study was conducted by the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative - a joint initiative of the ICMR, Public Health Foundation of India, and Institute for Health Metrics

and Evaluation in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry. "Efforts are needed in each state to control malnutrition. State governments are being encouraged to intensify efforts to reduce malnutrition and undertake robust monitoring to track the progress," said Vinod K Paul, member NITI Aayog.

Balram Bhargava, secretary in the department of health research in the ministry of health, and also director general ICMR said the government in its commitment to the Poshan Abhiyaan (nutrition mission) is taking important steps to augment monitoring of malnutrition indicators across the country.

According to the study, the prevalence of low birth weight was 21% in India in 2017, ranging from 9% in Mizoram to 24% in Uttar Pradesh.

The study highlighted that the prevalence of child stunting was 39% in India in 2017. This ranged from 21% in Goa to 49% in Uttar Pradesh, and was generally highest in the EAG states. The prevalence of child underweight was 33% in India in 2017, ranging from 16% in Manipur to 42% in Jharkhand.

The prevalence of child anaemia was 60% in India in 2017, ranging from 21% in Mizoram to 74% in Haryana.

"While it is important to address the gaps in all malnutrition indicators, low birth weight needs particular policy attention in India as it is the biggest contributor to child death among all malnutrition indicators and its rate of decline is among the lowest," said Lalit Dandona, Director of the India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative.

The study found the prevalence of anaemia in women at 54% in India in 2017, ranging from 28% in Mizoram to 60% in Delhi while the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding was 53% in India in 2017, ranging from 34% in Meghalaya to 74% in Chhattisgarh.

"Malnutrition in children is an outcome of inadequate maternal nutrition, poor sanitation and hygiene and suboptimal infant feeding practices. Improvement in nutrition, therefore, is linked not only with food availability and access, but also with food safety and environment," said R. Hemalatha, director at National Institute of Nutrition, ICMR.

Cabinet okays productivity linked bonus of 11.5L rly staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved productivity-linked bonus equivalent to 78 days wages to over 11.52 lakh railway employees.

Addressing media Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said that this is for the sixth consecutive year that productivity-linked bonus is being given to railway employees.

The bonus for financial year 2018-19 would benefit 11 lakh employees and would cost the exchequer ₹2024.40 crore, Javadekar said.

"The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days wages to over 11.52 Lakh eligible non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) for the Financial Year (FY) 2018-19, for maintaining industrial peace and motivation of railwaymen.

This entails an expenditure of Rs. 2024.40 crores to the exchequer," said the statement issued by Govt.

Confidence of investors shaken: Priyanka

'Govt refuses to acknowledge truth'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing their attack over the state of the economy, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Wednesday said the confidence of investors is "shaken" but the Modi dispensation is refusing to acknowledge the truth. The siblings also took a swipe at Prime Minister Modi over about his Howdy event in Houston during his current

US visit.

Congress has been attacking the Modi government over the slowdown in the economy and has criticised it for its economic policies. Rahul took to Twitter to say take potshots by ahead of Modi's visit to the United States, where he will address Indian Americans at a function "Howdy Modi". US President Donald Trump will join Modi at the event in Houston. "Howdy' economy doin', Mr Modi? Ain't too good it seems," he said on Twitter, using the hashtag "HowdyEconomy".

Citing a media report, Priyanka claimed that after

pouring USD 45 billion into India's stock market over the past six years on hopes that Modi would unleash the country's economic potential, international money managers have sold USD 4.5 billion of Indian shares since June.

"By showing glitter, saying 5 trillion, 5 trillion, everyday or by doing media's headline management, economy cannot be improved. Investors do not come by sponsoring events abroad," Priyanka Gandhi said in an apparent dig at Prime Minister Modi's upcoming diaspora event in Houston.

The confidence of investors

is "shaken" and the foundation of economic investment has "cracked", she said in a tweet in Hindi with the hashtag 'BJP bad for business'. "But the BJP government is refusing to acknowledge this truth. This slowdown is a speed breaker in the direction of becoming an economic superpower. Without improving this situation, all other razzmatazz is useless," Priyanka Gandhi said in another tweet.

She has been relentlessly attacking the government over the issue of economy in the last few days and demanding answers from the government over the economic slowdown.

India, Belgium review bilateral trade at 16th BLEU

New Delhi: India and Belgium reviewed the bilateral trade relations and setting ambitious objectives during the 16th Session of India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission (JEC) here on Tuesday. The forum was established in 1997.

The European Union is India's largest trade partner. Among the 28 EU member States, Belgium has the third largest trade

with India with a total trade value worth ₹12,8 billion in 2018 consisting of diamonds, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food-stuff and machinery. These trade figures reflect the close economic partnership emphasizing bilateral relationship. Belgium is keen to further diversify trade relations and explore new sectors with India. About 170 Belgian companies are based in India, whereas around 80 Indian companies

have set up a plant or office in Belgium.

As a logistics and transport expert, Belgium works along with Luxembourg to ensure a smooth and swift trade access to Europe for Indian businesses through the Port of Antwerp, which is the second largest port in Europe and functions as 'the Gateway to Europe'. India is among the ten most important partners of the Port of Antwerp.



Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launches the Margadarshan, Model Curriculum for Diploma Courses & 360 Feedback of Faculty Schemes, at a function in New Delhi on Wednesday. The Secretary, Department of Higher Education, R Subrahmanyam and other dignitaries are also seen. PIB

INSHORT

SC ISSUES NBW AGAINST SP OF UP

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against superintendent of district jail of Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh after it was apprised that he had released an accused from prison despite the apex court order cancelling his bail.

GOVT IN SC ON 20-WEEK CEILING FOR ABORTION

New Delhi: The Centre has told the Supreme Court that the right to reproductive autonomy does not outweigh the state's interest in protecting the life of a foetus and therefore the ceiling of 20 weeks for abortion cannot be extended in a blanket manner. The government said that an unborn child cannot protect itself from the harm designed by his/her own mother.

ARMY HOLDS MILITARY EXERCISE IN LADAKH

New Delhi: A military exercise in the high altitude area in eastern Ladakh was carried out on Wednesday, the Army said in a statement. The exercise, encompassing the use of mechanised forces with high technology platforms, was witnessed by Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command.

JAIRAM CRITICISES BAN ON E-CIGARETTES

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday took a swipe at the Government's decision banning production, import and sale of e-cigarettes, saying the governance motto now is "a headline a day keeps news of the worsening slowdown away".

JITIN FOR POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES

New Delhi: Congress leader Jitin Prasada on Wednesday said the party workers should "mobilise" 10 families each to adopt population control measures, stressing on the need to maintain the two-child norm in the country. He also reminded the party of its Pachmarhi resolution of 1998, in which it had stressed on maintaining the norm in India.

Govt considering construction of new Parliament building: Hardeep Singh Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Urban Housing and Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said a new Parliament building having offices of ministers and MPs that may be constructed next to the over 90-year-old structure is one of the options being considered by the government. The minister said the final decision will be taken only after designs are submitted by architecture firms.

One of the options that is being considered is the chambers of the two Houses of Parliament will be revamped to accommodate more MPs. According to an official, the strength of Parliament may increase after a possible delimitation exercise. The government will soon constitute a core team of CPWD officers to execute the ambitious redevelopment plan for Central Vista, the

over three-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, in Lutyens' Delhi.

The Narendra Modi government had last week unveiled its mega plan to redevelop the over 3-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi. The government on September 2 floated a request for proposal for the "development or redevelopment of Parliament building, Common Central Secretariat and Central Vista."

On Monday, the CPWD reduced the earnest money from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 25 lakh for submitting the bid for development plan for Central Vista and Parliament building owing to concerns raised by architects who participated in a pre-bid meeting last week.

Addressing the event on the theme of 'Emerging trends in public architecture', Puri said a reputed architect recently wrote to him, alleging that the gov-

ernment is going to "destroy" the Parliament building.

"Who said we will destroy Parliament?" the minister asked and explained the government has reached a stage of just inviting ideas from architecture firms for the ambitious project.

He said the British ruled India for 190 years and they had good architects who built buildings which is now part of the country's cultural heritage.

"North and South Blocks should be made museums that reflect 190 years (of British rule)...What will happen to the Parliament building? We will construct a new building which will connect Parliament through an underground pathway," Puri said. At event, Puri said 70 per cent of India has to be rebuilt by 2030.

He said that the CPWD was set up in the 1850s and the buildings constructed along the Central Vista reflected the colonial ethos.

Mother Dairy to recycle 832 tonnes plastic by March 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy, a leading milk supplier in Delhi-NCR, on Wednesday said it will recycle 832 tonnes of plastic by March next year as part of its efforts to protect environment.

"To tackle with the burgeoning menace of post-consumer plastic waste, Mother Dairy debuted its plastic waste collection and recycling initiative in Maharashtra in June 2018 by rolling out the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programme," it said in a statement. "Mother Dairy, through leading PROs, will collect and recycle plastic waste across 25 key states of its operations and is targeting to recycle around 60

per cent of the total multi layered packaging used, i.e., about 832 tonnes by March 2020," it added.

Mother Dairy, with the help of a Producer Responsibility Organisation (PRO), has collected and recycled around 1,073 tonnes of plastic waste till May 2019. This quantity includes around 183 tonnes of multi-layered packaging (MLP) and 890 tonnes of non-multi-layered packaging. Mother Dairy was commissioned in 1974 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). The company sells edible oils under the Dhara brand while fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen vegetables and snacks, range of unpolished pulses, honey, pulps and concentrates are marketed under the Safal brand.

Five rivers flowing above danger mark: MET dept calls it 'unique'

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Three weeks into September as the monsoon shows no signs of withdrawal, rivers in as many as five States are flowing above the danger mark — a feature which the MET says is 'unique'. Rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra, Yamuna, Mahananda, Bagmati, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi, Sone, Jiabharali, Chambal etc in Bihar, Assam, UP, Bengal and Rajasthan are above the danger mark causing flood-like situations in many areas in these States. The IMD rainfall data till September 18 showed India received an average of 861 mm as against the normal of 823.9mm, which is 5 per cent above normal.

According to IMD officials, the weather phenomenon is 'unique' at the time of withdrawal of southwest monsoon in the third week of September. "Due to climate change, August and September witnessed excessive rainfall this monsoon. It is usually in July and August. Due to delayed arrival, the withdrawal is also delayed

by almost a fortnight. Data recorded close to 1,900 extreme rainfall events this monsoon, more than half of which were in August and September, underlining the expanding impact of climate change in the June-September monsoon," IMD officials said.

As many as one crore people are affected and 1400 people have died in rain-related tragedies across the country and damages to property runs into thousands of crores in 14 States. The damage to properties, infrastructures, crops, animals due to rain related mayhem is still being estimated.

According to IMD, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya have recorded excessive and continuous rainfall in the last six days (September 12 to 18). The IMD said that he first was July 10 to 15, leading to flooding in eastern Uttar Pradesh and northern Bihar; the second between July 25 and 31, causing floods in Assam; and the

third between August 5 and 12, when coastal states such as Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala experienced floods.

As per flood assessment report prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs, all rivers - Ganga, Yamuna, Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Mahanand, Kamalabalan are flowing over danger marks, causing flood like situation in Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Kishanganj, Katihar, Patna, Buxar, Gopal Ganj, Bhagalpur, Khagaria districts in Bihar. Bihar recorded 774.5mm rainfall as against the normal of 941.4 mm, a deficit of 18 per cent. The situation report says that several low lying areas on the river banks in the state are under flood.

Similarly, rivers in UP flowing over danger marks and causing floods in Ballia, Banda, Faizabad, Gazipur, Auraiya, Hamirpur, Bara Banki, Prayagraj, Jalaun districts are facing flood like situation. Low lying area in Prayagraj and Varansi are under water. UP recorded 581 mm of rain as against the normal of 749 mm, a deficit of 22 per cent.

Will forcefully present J&K issue at UN: Imran Khan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday that he will forcefully present the Kashmir issue like never before at the UN General Assembly session next week.

Speaking after inaugurating the Torkham Terminal at Pak-Afghan border, Khan ruled out talks with India unless New Delhi lifts curfew in Kashmir and revoke the abrogation of Article 370, state-run Radio Pakistan reported.

"The Prime Minister assured the nation that he will forcefully present the Kashmir case like never before at the UN General Assembly session," it said.

Tension between India and Pakistan escalated after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5. Reacting to India's move on Kashmir, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

Asserting that abrogation of Article 370 was its internal matter, India has strongly criticised Pakistan for making "irresponsible statements" and provocative anti-India rhetoric over issues internal to it.

Khan also said that Pakistan will make its utmost effort for the resumption of the stalled peace process in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister said he will insist for resumption of peace talks during his meeting with US President Donald Trump on Monday in New York.

He said it will be tragedy if the talks do not resume and the Taliban do not participate in the Afghan elections. Khan's comments came days after President Trump said that the peace talks with the Taliban are "dead".

The president had stunned the world on Saturday when he announced the cancellation of a secret meeting with the Taliban and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani at Camp David near Washington. It came after the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack in Kabul early this month, in which an American soldier were among the dead.

'Howdy Modi!' will be a sneak peak into contributions of Indian-Americans to the US'

PTI ■ HOUSTON

The mega "Howdy Modi!" diaspora event here on Sunday to greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump would provide the world a glimpse of the contributions of Indian-Americans to the cultural, intellectual and social landscape of the US, the organisers say.

For the first time, Modi and Trump would share the stage to address the 50,000-strong Indian diaspora during the September 22 event titled "Shared Dreams, Bright Future" that would focus on the success of Indian-Americans as well as the strength of the US-India relationship.

Describing the joint appearance of the two leaders as "unconventional and unique", Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian Ambassador to the US said, "the event will reflect the strong bipartisan support there has been for US-India relations."

"Indian-Americans are an 'organic bridge' between the world's two largest democracies," he said.

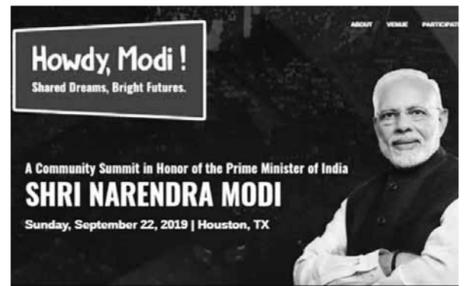
Modi will be visiting the US from September 21-27 for the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). It is his first US trip after winning a second term as prime minister in May. He will also have a meeting with CEO's of energy companies in Houston, world's energy capital, before heading to New York for the UNGA.

"This will be the largest gathering for an invited foreign leader visiting the United States other than the Pope," Jugal Malini, member of the Texas India Forum (TIF), which is the main organiser of the event, said.

The event is the third meeting between Trump and Modi in three months, after the G-20 summit in Japan in June and the G-7 summit in France last month.

The organisers hope to keep the event non-partisan, and has invited speakers including Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 Democrat in the House of Representatives.

Jagdeep Ahluwalia, founding secretary and currently executive director of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH), told PTI there are 90 organi-



sations in town participating in the event. IACCGH has created a special billboard to welcome Modi.

Houston is the energy capital of the world and the most diverse city in America. The news of President Trump joining this is a sign of the growing importance of the US-India relationship, he said.

Hundreds of volunteers, TIF, the Indian Consulate in Houston, city officials, governor's office are all working together to make the event a success.

TIF said the event will start with a 90-minute cultural programme- "Woven: The Indian-American Story" that is a celebration of Indian-Americans and their contributions to the cultural, intellectual and social landscape of the US.

Over 50,000 attendees and those watching at home will experience the vibrant expressions of people empowered by their identity and driven to enrich the communities around them, it said.

Rishi Bhutada, public relations and media coordinator for the event, said, "Out of 50,000 people expected, 8,000 are coming from outside Texas state.

There will be a cultural programme, followed by the Prime Minister Modi's address, he said.

Welcome messages, personalised billboards across the city, special video from various organisations and prominent people are seen throughout the city.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in his message said, "I'm deeply appreciative of Prime Minister Modi's commitment to Digital India...For India to keep making progress, India needs to be a leader online."

Satya Nadella, Microsoft CEO, said, "India has world class entrepreneurs and human capital. The Prime Minister's vision is spot on; he knows how tech is a powerful tool to enable human ingenuity."

Durga Agrawal, President and CEO of Piping Tech and Products, extended a warm welcome to the prime ministers on behalf of the Indian-American community in Houston.

Bhavesh Patel, CEO of LyondellBasell, described the business relations between India and Texas while sharing an enthusiastic message to welcome the prime minister.

Paul Jacobs, former executive chairman, Qualcomm, said "We share Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy."

David Leeborn, President of Rice University, is pleased that the prime minister has decided to come to Houston and proudly zooms in on the Indian-American community on campus while highlighting their contribution towards diversity.

Meanwhile, many are praying for the rain to stop as a trio of tropical storm systems brewing in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday may dump heavy rain in parts of Texas and Louisiana in the coming days.

Threats from the storm include heavy rainfall and flooding in the Houston area, said Jeff Lindner, a meteorologist for the Harris County Flood Control District.

Tropical depression Imelda could bring up to 18 inches of rain to parts of southeastern parts of the state.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has placed resources on standby across the state.

No need for Opposition

As federalism gives way to legitimacy of national parties, regional ones look at extinction



If the Lok Sabha verdict is considered a benchmark in resetting the grammar of politics as swatting the Opposition, then its impact on regional politics has been such as to eliminate the relevance of federal parties. Once the backbone of powerful coalition governments at the Centre, State parties are now much like tribal chieftains, good enough for lordship over their flocks but too tiny to stall the juggernaut of national parties gobbling them up. In such a scenario, they have just two options, either withdraw to their pocketboroughs or sign up with the big players if they want to stay in the game. So it is that in Maharashtra, there has been a mass migration from the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to the BJP-Shiv Sena combine, almost wiping off the Opposition space. And in Rajasthan, the ruling Congress government has followed the same pattern of accretion to its ranks by coopting six Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) MLAs, grinding the theory of Dalit consolidation to the dust.

Given the current scenario, Maharashtra really doesn't need an election, considering that the only tussle will be between coalition partners, the BJP and the Sena, over seat percentage and power-sharing, much like a fraternal war of carving out the spoils. Twenty-six MLAs from the Opposition camp, including its leader in the Assembly, joined the ruling party, creating a political vacuum. The worst hit has been NCP founder Sharad Pawar, no longer appearing to be the Maratha strongman. Such is his condition that except his core team, every other party member is looking to jump ship. And though NCP is tying up with the Congress to avoid total dissipation, fact is the rump that both parties have become may just get them 30 plus seats in a House of 288. The Congress is at its worst level of preparedness given the dissension within its ranks and the Young Turks, led by Miliind Deora, stepping aside and themselves not averse to charting out an independent course. Yes it has a new State chief but the will to fight back is simply missing at the unit level. The party would be just about happy with whatever it gets courtesy the standing of some of its individual leaders. Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray, who at least injected some drama into proceedings by questioning the establishment, is nowhere to be seen what with the BJP taming him with a slew of Enforcement Directorate (ED) cases. The fringe players, who could be vote cutters, like Prakash Ambedkar and Asaduddin Owaisi, have been torn asunder and chasing their own kitties. As for the BJP-Sena duel, the former is now claiming its pound of flesh, considering it can go alone and has for years stepped back to accommodate the sensitivities of the Sena. The latter may want a 50-50 distribution of seats, and maybe even a shot at deputy chief minister for Aaditya Thackeray, son of Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, but it has no negotiating edge. And while its conscience calls in the form of criticising the Modi government and functioning like an Opposition worked in 2014, it certainly isn't attractive anymore. Besides, the Sena must understand that though the Modi charisma works, BJP Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis has quietly developed his own stock. If the Sena has so far peddled the local versus outsider logic, the BJP has several Maratha leaders now, courtesy the migration of senior leaders from the Congress, and has even roped in Shivaji's descendant Udayanraje Bhosale. So the Sena may engage in posturing, yet has no option but to acquiesce to the BJP's grand design. The ruling Congress in Rajasthan, too, has just gone by the old formula of buying support with promised doles, something which has become part of the BJP's playbook. In fact, it was to counter the BJP's poaching attempts in Rajasthan and create a Karnataka-like scenario that prompted the Ashok Gehlot-led government to scoop up allies. Sadly, such rampant horse-trading is just eroding the idea of a federal union and overlaying a new text of unionised federalism. A throwback to the chaos that we had hoped to clean up.

Who is a woman?

An online campaign on sexist interpretations in the Oxford dictionary is resetting conversations

DEFINITION OF WOMAN
 i-nin-i-ty \fe-mə-
 ale sex 2 : EFFE-
 i-nise Brit var of
 i-nism \fē-mə-
 i-om, and socia
 alf of women's ri-
 i-nis-tic \fe-mi-
 in-i-tv \fe-mi-na-

The Oxford Dictionary is considered no less a Bible when it comes to semantics. Such is its credibility that seldom does one question whether its makers need to question internal wisdom rather than deciding what a word should mean to the world. Clearly it's time for some soul-searching as its editors have managed to offend, enrage and alienate women around the world through their insensitivity and failure to keep up with the times. An online petition is gathering steam to redefine the word "woman" which the dictionary still considers synonymous with "bitch, besom, piece, bit, mare, filly" and so on. As if this was not enough, the sentences that explain the usage of the word or their application add insult to injury as they objectify and portray women as subordinate to men. "Ms September will embody the professional, intelligent yet sexy career woman" and "I told you to be home when I get home, little woman," are some of the offensive examples given, clearly out of sync with not just gender sensitivities but also the fluidities of modern contexts. This stands out all the more because the Oxford Dictionary is very quick to absorb contemporary idioms and even legitimise a lot of fusion words as part of the mainstream English lexicon.

Signatories of the petition, that was started by UK-based women's rights activist Maria Beatrice Giovanardi in July, are calling on editors to "eliminate all phrases and definitions that discriminate against and patronise women and/or connote men's ownership of women." This is not the first time that the compilers of the dictionary have given a misogynistic explanation to a word. Check out "rabid" and up pops "feminist" next to it, search for "nagging" and it is followed by "wife." This should encourage a larger conversation on whether the English language is sexist and needs to modify itself, considering it is a common thread of communication across the world and, therefore, needs to be politically correct. Have we ever wondered why words like "mistress" and "madam", that actually meant women of authority, have over the decades, undergone degeneration? Pejoration of words related to women is a sad reflection on the way society views their place in it. In a rather weak response, Oxford has said that the content referred to in the petition by Giovanardi is not from the scholarly Oxford English Dictionary, but from the Oxford Thesaurus of English and the Oxford Dictionary of English, which are drawn from "real-life use" of language. However, other popular online dictionaries like Cambridge and Merriam-Webster, which also give examples of "real-life" use of the word, are more respectful and gender sensitive. While Cambridge describes "woman" simply as an "adult female human being," Merriam-Webster adds the words "female" and "lady" to the same description given by Cambridge. Given that Merriam-Webster even released an additional dictionary definition of the word "they" to refer "to a single person whose gender identity is non-binary," isn't it time that the world's most trusted lexicon changes the way it refers to women?

A Himalayan threat

Fires that engulfed the Amazon rainforests should awaken us to the threat closer home. Shivaliks and lower Himalayas, too, witness the same risk almost every year



KK PAUL

Recent fires that have ravaged the Amazon rainforest in Brazil have not only generated sufficient heat to light up the scene for a fresh debate on development and environment but are also responsible, to some extent, for overheating the world of diplomacy, which was much evidenced at the G7 summit held in France last month. It is obvious that major forest fires like the ones around the Amazon rainforest and the Indonesian blaze can no longer remain a localised affair. They tend to assume international dimensions in view of the overall impact on the environment and in the long run, on climate change. The temperature spikes in carbon sinks across the world end up melting our glaciers.

The allegation that the fires had been lit intentionally to make way for developmental projects being undertaken by the Brazilian Government in collaboration with private entrepreneurs may or may not be true but the damage to the environment has already been done. Imagine, Brazil was host to the earth summit in 1992, where the concept of sustainable development was initiated and a long term strategy to deal with climate change was formulated for the first time.

Back home, we have similar problems in our forested areas, except for those where rainfall is heavy and trees are able to retain sufficient moisture. The coastal areas and forests of the North-East as well as the Andamans are a case in point. Fires in the forests of Shivaliks and lower Himalayas are well-known. In fact, they have become a regular feature, except that they keep varying in intensity. Experience shows that forest fires in hill areas are more difficult to tackle due to the problem of accessibility as is noticed in several districts of Uttarakhand.

The year 2016 almost created history, both in the number of fires as well as their spread with at least seven casualties being reported. On account of a virtual absence of winter rain, signs of a difficult impending summer were quite visible even in mid-February during that time. During my journey from Dehradun to Nainital, while my helicopter was overflying the forests of Tehri and Pauri, a few isolated cases of smoke rising from deep inside the forests were visible. The absence of any rainfall through the months of March and April, along with an unusual rise in temperatures, compounded the situation.

Despite sufficient warning time being available, necessary steps were not taken. Mobilisation of volunteers and other personnel on the ground remained inadequate. By the end of March, almost a crisis situation had developed when the fires appeared to threaten settlements and peripheral areas of some of the towns. By then, the State had come under President's Rule and as the then Governor, containing the damage done to forest wealth besides saving life and property became one of my top priorities. It was strange to see that the forest department was neither



adequately prepared nor committed to fighting the fires. It was considering them to be a normal and an annual feature.

Given the gravity of the situation, the State disaster response force along with personnel from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in large numbers were inducted into the operation. Simultaneously, the police personnel, who were accompanied by the district revenue authorities, were also mobilised. As the fires became more menacing and life-threatening, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was approached, who with the personal intervention of the then Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, responded almost instantaneously.

Choppers with Bambi buckets were available at the Sarsawa airbase, not far from Dehradun, which flew to Pauri and Nainital without any loss of time. They were immediately operationalised with the lake at Nainital and the reservoir at the Tehri Dam providing adequate supply of water. The only problem faced was the supply of fuel for the choppers as the tankers moved at a very slow pace on the winding hilly roads. The ordeal was finally over after a few showers towards the end of April, breaking one of the longest dry spells of more than 50 days at a stretch.

While only a certain amount of damage by fires can be quantified, the adverse impact on biodiversity and ecosystem remains immense and unquantifiable. Suffice to

“ WHILE ONLY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DAMAGE BY FIRES CAN BE QUANTIFIED, THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON BIO-DIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM REMAINS IMMENSE AND UNQUANTIFIABLE. SUFFICE TO SAY THAT HUGE VOLUMES OF CARBON DIOXIDE SO RELEASED LEAD TO SERIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ”

SOUNDBITE

I too come from a non-Hindi speaking State. One has to listen to my speech carefully. If someone wants to do politics, it is their choice.



Union Minister —Amit Shah

I always heard stories about how the film industry ran on connections and *jugaad* but they never worked in my favour when I was starting out.



Actor —Rajkumar Rao

It was Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, America, certain European countries and the Zionist regime (Israel) which started the war in this region.



Iran's President —Hassan Rouhani

By showing glitter, saying 5 trillion, 5 trillion, everyday, the economy cannot improve. Investors don't come by sponsoring events abroad.



Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shocking development

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). That former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) exposes the true intention of the ruling Government. Ever since it abrogated the Valley's special status, there has been a complete lockdown there. More than 40 days have passed but things have remained the same. Instead of engaging with the people or taking steps to restore normalcy, the Government is imposing laws that go against the spirit of the Constitution.

Farooq's detention comes close on the heels of MDMK leader Vaiko moving a *habeas corpus* petition in the Supreme Court, seeking the J&K Government to set him free. It must also be remembered that Farooq was already under house arrest for more than 40 days, as have two other former Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah. If Abdullah's arrest was inevitable, the Government must give appropriate reasons for the same. It's

Come to terms with air pollution

This refers to the editorial, "Odd-even blues" (September 16). Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal believes that the odd-even scheme will reduce pollution levels though past experiments have proved to the contrary. But it is also true that the Government was able to decongest the roads to a large extent when the rule was first introduced. With the onset of winter, especially when the farmers start preparing for harvest, air quality becomes twice as polluted than during the spring and summer. As the Supreme Court had said, Delhi resembles a "gas chamber." The capital city's image took a massive beating when a 2016 report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) described it as the "world's most polluted." The odd-even scheme may not achieve what is needed. Instead, the Kejriwal Government should take parallel and reasonable measures like ensuring vehicles are run on clean fuel. It may as well order the closure of thermal emission plants.

The second time when the "odd-even" rule was implemented, people turned on the heat by buying additional cars so that they could use it on a daily basis, thus negating the cardinal principle of the rule. Most importantly, Kejriwal was right when he declared that his Government would be in close touch with the



Governments in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to reduce crop residue burning. Planting of trees, identification of pollution hot spots in Delhi, too, have been steps in the right direction. But the rampant bursting of crackers during Diwali needs a solution. Despite a Supreme Court ban on the sale and use of conventional firecrackers, Delhi records worst air quality every year a day after Diwali. Kejriwal has claimed that air pollution in Delhi dropped 25 per cent in four years. Only a post-November study will vindicate his stand.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

beyond imagination that a very senior politician and one of the most prominent faces in the country is being considered as a threat to security.

Tharcus S Fernando Chennai

Gandhian philosophy

Sir — Responding to the call of Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish climate activist, various Indian cities, including Delhi,

Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Kochi, Allahabad and Calicut will be hosting "climate strikes" between September 20 and September 27. Thousands of students from across the nation will skip schools to be part of the

"climate strike."

Thunberg's movement has had its impact in India and the country became a witness to some of its first school strikes with students demanding more action from authorities regarding global warming and climate change. The May 24 climate strike saw a great turnout in cities like Mumbai, Bengaluru and Delhi. Though skipping schools and colleges won't make a difference, certainly it can help create awareness.

However, the best way to combat pollution, which has been one of the most pressing environmental threats to human health, is to listen to Mahatma Gandhi's message. The issues that the world community is faced with today were envisioned by him decades ago. His idea of *swaraj* in terms of clean air and water is more relevant in our times than it was when India was under foreign rule. Most importantly, his suggestion was that school and college students must be educated about the value of clean air.

Srishti Mathur Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The mystery of drone strikes

Though Pompeo blamed Iran for the attacks on Saudi oil, Trump doesn't want a full-scale war with it and neither does the kingdom



GWYNNE DYER

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo dismissed the Houthi claim that the Yemeni rebel group had carried out Saturday's strike on two huge Saudi Arabian oil processing facilities. There was "no evidence" that the drones belonged to the Houthis, he said. Instead, he blamed Iran. No surprise there. The way things are at the moment, if an incoming asteroid were about to strike the Earth, the US would blame Iran. But there's "no evidence" that the drones came from Iran either. Pompeo is simply trading on the assumption that Yemenis are too ignorant to manage that sort of technology, so it must be Iran. Saudi Arabia and the alliance of other autocratic Arab States that have been bombing Yemen since 2015 push the same line all the time. It goes down fairly well in the kingdom, where most people look down on Yemenis for being poor and less well educated, but it isn't actually true.

Within a year of the war's start, the Yemenis began launching a few small ballistic missiles (with conventional warheads) back at Saudi Arabia, but the Saudis refused to believe they were doing it themselves. The Houthis, they implied, were too backward to upgrade the Yemeni air force's old Soviet-made Scud missiles themselves. Iran must have helped them. In fact, the Yemeni air force had Scud missiles for decades before the Government collapsed in 2015, and technicians to service them. Some, maybe most of those technicians threw in their lot with the Houthis and upgraded those Scuds by cutting them in half and inserting a larger fuel tank. It changed their flight characteristic and made them very inaccurate but it did extend their range enough to hit targets all over southern and eastern Saudi Arabia. And by mid-2017 the Houthis, who controlled most of Yemen, were making their own improved copies known as Burkan missiles. The 'Super-Scuds' were more a morale booster than a war-winner for the Houthis, who live under a merciless daily bombardment from the air (7,290 documented civilian deaths so far). The current attacks, if the Houthis' claim is true, would just be another morale-booster, even though it has temporarily cut world oil production by around five per cent.

But was it really the Houthis? At this point there is no clear evidence, but it could have been. They certainly have the motive and they may have the technology. They have used small drones in previous air strikes and there are bigger drones available commercially that could do the damage seen at the Saudi facilities. The biggest currently available is the Guardian, a monster that can carry a payload of 200 kilos. It's made by Griff Aviation, a Norwegian company whose Lakeland factory in Florida is producing one Guardian a day and selling them to industrial, agricultural and military clients.

It would be quite a trick for the Houthis to acquire ten of them but stranger things have happened. Or maybe they did get their hands on some military drones, which would certainly be up to the job. Or maybe it was Iran but nobody really knows yet.

One apparent flaw in the Houthi theory is that there are no civilian drones capable of flying the almost 800 km from Yemen to the Saudi targets but that's not really necessary. Most of the land around the Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities is open desert and launching the drones for 25-50 km away would escape detection unless the Saudis were actively anticipating such an attack.

Who would launch them? There are a million Yemenis resident in Saudi Arabia, plus two to three million Saudi citizens, who suffer severe discrimination because they follow the Shia version of Islam. There are even Sunni Saudi citizens (mostly Islamists) who are sufficiently disaffected to attack the regime directly. That's a pretty large pool to fish in if you're looking for local collaborators to smuggle the drones in and launch them - which is what the Houthis themselves say happened. In their statement claiming credit for the attacks, they express thanks for "co-operation with the honourable people inside the kingdom." None of this proves that it was the Houthis or that it wasn't the Iranians. It does leave the identity of the attackers up in the air, where it will remain until conclusive proof emerges one way or another (if it ever does). Mike Pompeo's confident attribution of blame to Iran, later echoed by Energy Secretary Rick Perry, is just politics, not proof. As Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif tweeted on Sunday, "having failed at max pressure (anti-Iran trade sanctions), Sec Pompeo's turning to max deceit." Fair comment, really. And we should be grateful that Donald Trump, for all his faults, is the grown-up in the house this time. On Sunday Trump tweeted: "There is reason to believe that we know the culprit, are locked and loaded depending on verification but are waiting to hear from the Kingdom as to who they believe was the cause of attack, and under what terms we would proceed!" Trump doesn't want a full-scale war with Iran, and neither does Saudi Arabia. It probably won't happen.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is *Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work*)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

INSTEAD OF WEAKENING COMMUNAL FORCES, THE CONGRESS IS ENGAGED MOSTLY IN WEAKENING THE FORCES THAT RAISE VOICES AGAINST IT.

—BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY CHIEF MAYAWATI



NO ONE CAN SAY THAT CONGRESS FAILED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF OPPOSITION. OUR LEADERS FOUGHT IN LEGISLATURES, PARLIAMENT AND ON STREETS.

— CONGRESS LEADER AJAY MAKEN

Free the land to save Earth

Degraded tracts can be used for orchards and agro-forestry to help store more carbon in the soil. This will help mitigate the effects of climate change



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

The fire of humanity's end has started to burn the Amazon rainforests. Our hunger for destruction of forests is older than the Roman Empire's greed for wood or Amazonian farmers' need for more land. In India, we are victims of rampant logging and deforestation, too. The mighty Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh are stripped for lumber and in the plains trees are chopped to make way for real estate or farmland. Badland use means degraded land of 26 million hectares (ha) while excessive use of chemicals in industrial agriculture is resulting in more fertile tracts being destroyed each day. But time is up, and "any wrong step towards Earth's degradation by anyone, any government around the world affects each one of us." This was made clear at the recently-concluded United Nations' Convention to Combat Desertification Conference of Parties (UNCCD COP14) held in India.

India tops the charts as "the most climate-affected country of the world." This means that we may see temperatures hitting 55 °C, agriculture production failing and water wars in the next decade. We need to swerve towards healing the Earth and adopt realistic policies to address environmental degradation with a mass mitigation movement, otherwise climate change will destroy India. And city dwellers can't do it alone. India needs its farmers to save not just the country but perhaps, the world. And this time cultivators need help from our policy-makers too.

India is well stocked in cereals and is in fact heading towards over-production in rice and wheat, which is destabilising market prices and not allowing for farming of other crops. The culprit is the state policy of the limited scope of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. The Government needs to extend MSP beyond wheat and rice, and given the newer challenges of water scarcity and climate chaos, we need to innovate to expand the scope of farmers' support system. A direct way is to include more crops under MSP, but the other can be to introduce relaxations to land ceilings as advised by the Economic Survey of India. This can be strictly done for growers who are willing to devote over 80 per cent of their land to orchards, agro-forestry using ecological practices like inter-cropping, natural composting and so on. The Government needs to come out in support of cultivators who can become the vanguard of India's climate mitigation campaign. We need a policy, which incentivises carbon sequestration by growers and Farmer Producers' Organisations (FPOs) using carbon credits matched by water efficiency scores. Carbon sequestration is the process by which carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere is absorbed by trees, plants and crops through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass such as tree trunks, branches, foliage, roots and soils.

We don't need all of the Indian farmland for cereal production and should promote orchards and agro-forestry, which are good for the cultivators and the Earth. As per a study conducted by the Environmental Defence Fund (EDF) in India, methane and nitrous oxide emissions from rice farms could have the same long-term warming impact as about 600 coal plants. Compare this to a research on mango orchards by ICAR-NICRA (Indian Council of Agricultural Research- National Initiative on Climate Resilient

“ IF LAND CEILINGS ARE RELAXED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS, WHY NOT FOR CLIMATE MITIGATION THROUGH BIO-DIVERSITY? INDIAN FARMERS, MUCH LIKE THE SOLAR INDUSTRIALISTS, ARE FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE; THEY ONLY DIFFER IN THEIR APPROACH. ONE USES SHINY SOLAR PANELS WHILE THE CULTIVATORS ARE ARMED WITH THEIR SAPLINGS AND SEEDS. THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO INDIA'S CLIMATE MITIGATION BECAUSE THE THREAT IS VERY REAL AND AFFECTS THE FARMERS AND RURAL INDIA MORE



Agriculture) published in 2019. The study stated that the, "country as a whole has sequestered 285.005 million tonnes of carbon in its mango orchards. Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Telangana put together, having a maximum area under mango cultivation, sequestered 69.98 million tonnes of carbon. This is followed by Uttar Pradesh (35.58 million tonnes) Karnataka (29.57315 million tonnes), Odisha (21.07 million tonnes) and Bihar (20.09 million tonnes)."

This figure can grow if agro-ecological practices such as inter-cropping with pulses, other fruit trees, organic composting and fertilisers are used. Most degraded land can also be used for orchards, hence adding incomes for the farmers/FPOs and helping store more carbon in the soil.

In Ladakh, Nubra Valley produced about 4,650 metric tonnes (MT) of apricot, apple, walnut, mulberry, grape and plum and sequestered 22,300 MT of carbon. The cultivation of such temperate fruits can be used for carbon sequestration and rejuvenating degraded land, cold-arid regions by improving Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) contents and bringing more prosperity to farmers.

After achieving food sovereignty, we should diversify and not only meet climate targets, by planting trees and agro-forestry, we save water, clean the air and bring higher economic returns for farmers. To free the land to heal and repair the Earth, we have to address the issue of degraded areas. The burden of cereal production has been rapacious for bio-diversity. We need to rejuvenate bio-diversity of the hinterland, especially along the Gangetic plains and river plains of the south with trees. Let the big farmers grow forests, so the small and medium cultivators can grow cereals, lentils and oilseeds. Once the bigger

farmers shift out of cereal production, small growers can get better prices for their produce through the Government and grain traders. FPOs can play a very big role in this.

Take for example Lucknow or Kanpur, both of which are high on the air pollution index. The State Government can identify clusters of degraded or wastelands and convert them exclusively into agro-forests or mixed orchards. If a cluster decides to use agro-ecological methods of farming, it should be incentivised by allowing each individual farmer to own more than the prescribed limit in the Land Ceiling Act of UP.

Instead of the Government bearing all burden of degraded land restoration, through policy decisions facilitate farmers/FPOs to buy it. The Government can assist by providing region-wise bio-diversity-based plans. Inter-cropping, natural composting, organic farming should be encouraged within the orchards and agro-forests.

Farmers/FPOs should be exempted from the Land Ceiling Act if they purchase degraded land and bring 90 per cent of it under tree cover/orchards based on local biodiversity in the next two or three years. This should be over and above the land ceiling limits within State laws. This would ensure that the project is economically viable and reduces the pressure on the land and the Government. State laws can be amended to include this new category of farmlands and a limit should be imposed to ensure that they stay under tree cover for the next 60 years.

The next step would be to create a national kisan carbon credit programme, linking it to the global carbon credit system. Then FPOs/clusters can earn carbon credits for the country. This will also

encourage developed nations and progressive states like California to make an investment into rural communities directly. Global companies too could buy carbon credits to reduce their emissions. The farmers will earn more and we clean the air of surrounding cities while earning investments straight into rural and semi-rural India.

If land ceilings are relaxed for renewable energy projects, why not for climate mitigation through bio-diversity? Indian farmers, much like the solar industrialists, are fighting climate change; they only differ in their approach. One uses shiny solar panels while the cultivators are armed with their saplings and seeds. They should be given every opportunity to contribute to India's climate mitigation because the threat is very real and affects the farmers and rural India more. We need integration of old wisdom and new farming technologies.

The size of the land-holding is too small and is ever-shrinking, while the degradation and depletion of land fertility are at an all-time high. We have to free the land and free the farmers to help restore the ecosystem. Days of bullock carts are long gone, we need to embrace technology and steer it for the protection of the Earth and our nation.

We need to embrace new science and the forest together, to save our civilisation from the negative effects of climate change. Reconnect with the Earth and act now unitedly for the benefit of our *Vasudeva kutumbakam* (global family) or else as best articulated by James Baldwin, "Instead of ending the world with water, God will end it with fire next time."

(The writer is Programme Director for Policy and Outreach at the National Seed Association of India)

Ship-breaking poisoning the environment

The pipes and steel body of a vessel hold an average of 1,40,000 PPM mercury, that is released into the air during the dismantling process. This puts labourers and technical staff at risk



KOTA SRIRAJ

The ship-breaking business in India is booming as many nations across the world have completely banned dismantling of vessels on their soil, owing to public pressure over environmental concerns. However, the ship-breaking business in India is gaining notoriety thanks largely to the anti-environmental policies followed at the yards and the tremendous health risks involved.

A recent Dutch documentary has highlighted how environmental and safety norms are being flouted in Gujarat's Alang ship-breaking yard. The documentary titled, 'Het gischip van SBM' was aired on Zeebla, a Dutch television documentary pro-

gramme on September 12, 2019. The documentary shows how the Dutch company, SBM Offshore, concealed that a gas tanker it owned, which was to be scrapped in Alang, was contaminated with mercury. SBM Offshore provides floating production solutions to the offshore energy industry.

Many ships are contaminated with mercury, especially the ones converted to Floating Storage and Offloading (FSO) vessels. Stationed at gas fields, these vessels accumulate high levels of mercury, which gets attached to the steel walls of the tanker. In addition, mercury also contaminates ballast water. Some studies show that its presence is as high as 300 points per million (PPM) of mercury in 4,500 tonnes of ballast water. Furthermore the pipes and steel body hold an average of 1,40,000 PPM mercury, that is released into the air during the dismantling process. This puts labourers and technical staff at risk as mercury exposure can damage the central nervous system, kidney and cause liver impairment, reproductive and devel-



opment disorders, defects in foetuses and learning deficits. Yet in spite of these conditions, the ships keep arriving at these yards and breaking continues round-the-clock. How these workers protect themselves against the health threats and what the Indian Government will do to take care of its people and the environment is anybody's guess.

The work at the yards is largely still being done by hand. As such the risks and exposures attached to the business by way of accidents and chemical reactions are very high. This raises a pertinent question as to how the Government has not fully automated the breaking process as the heavy industry technology has made major progress over the last

few decades. Big industrial corporations like Hitachi, Siemens and Hyundai specialise in heavy industry machinery. So why is the ship-breaking industry still hand driven? The Government must step in and increase automation at these yards. Not only will this benefit the workers, it will also be easy to adhere to international ship-breaking guidelines.

Further, public awareness about this business and its impact on people's health and the environment is low. This needs to change because with awareness comes safety.

The Government, which is always on the back foot on this subject as it's a business fraught with risks, can use technology as a way out of this conundrum.

It can begin an online portal, which deals with scrapping of any harmful object, be it as small as white goods and e-waste to as large as ships. The portal, under different heads, can give information and live feed of the various dismantling and waste processing facilities. This information will bring transparency on

adherence to norms concerning health and environment safeguards. This will also earn the Government the respect of the common man.

While the ship-breaking business has been the focus of many researches and studies, the lot of the people on the ground and the immediate environment, whether it is the sea or the ambient air quality, has more or less remained unchanged. With such glaring examples of pollution in front of us, it seems that the authorities in India, both executive and judicial, seem to have trained their guns elsewhere and on smaller sources of pollution. This seems particularly true when one examines the fact that ship-breaking possibly is the only activity that has the dubious capability of polluting the air, sea water and harming human health all in one go and under one activity.

Surely this cannot be ignored and allowed to continue as it has thrived long enough and consumed enough human lives and environmental assets.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



TACKLING DISPARITIES

Tackling disparities in power and capital has become the leitmotif of the Left globally. France's President Emmanuel Macron has just pushed through a law for mandatory profit-sharing schemes for employees. In the US, Democratic presidential hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren propose to tackle soaring wealth inequality by giving employees a stake in their companies. This would be welcome indeed. (The Guardian editorial)

Row futile, I said promote Hindi as 2nd language: Shah



PNS ■ NEW DELHI/RANCHI

BJP national president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a rally in Jamtara on Wednesday

Against the backdrop of a raging controversy over his 'one nation, one language' proposition, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday sought to put the issue to rest saying he never asked for imposing Hindi over other regional languages and had only requested for learning Hindi as the second language after one's mother tongue.

"I myself come from a non-Hindi State of Gujarat. If some people want to do politics, it's their choice," he said. Parties, mostly from Tamil Nadu, have vociferously opposed Shah's pitch.

Hours after Shah clarified, DMK president M K Stalin said the party's proposed protest on September 20 on the issue has been postponed.

Citing Shah's assertion that he has never asked for imposi-

I myself come from a non-Hindi State of Gujarat. If some people want to do politics, it's their choice

AMIT SHAH

tion of Hindi anywhere in the country, Stalin said the protest slated for September 20 has been postponed temporarily. The DMK chief said Shah has also opined that his view had been "wrongly understood".

Speaking at an event in Ranchi, Jharkhand, Shah said he has never asked for imposition of Hindi anywhere in the country but advocated its use as the second language. Shah said he has been repeatedly pitching for strengthening regional languages.

The Home Minister said to end the confusion, people should listen to his speech carefully where he repeatedly said Indian languages should

be strengthened and people should realise the necessity of the Indian languages.

"A child can perform, a child's proper mental growth is possible only when the child studies in mother tongue. Mother tongue does not mean Hindi. It is the language of a particular State, like Gujarati in my State. But there should be one language in the country, if someone wants to learn another language, it should be Hindi. I have just made the request. I have failed to understand what is wrong in that," he said.

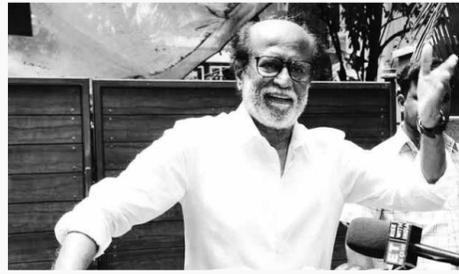
Shah had created a flutter on the occasion of 'Hindi Diwas' last week as he pitched for 'one nation, one language'

Rajinikanth against Amit Shah's Hindi drive

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The anti-Hindi agitation in Tamil Nadu received a major boost on Wednesday with film actor Rajinikanth, who is expected to launch a political party soon, declaring that the move to 'impose' Hindi would not work in the State.

Amidst reports that all political parties barring the BJP would launch State-wide agitations against the statement made by union home minister Amit Shah on Hindi Diwas that Hindi was the only language which could unite India, Rajinikanth who is considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that though it was good to have a common language for the development and unity of the country, the same may not work in Tamil Nadu. "If Hindi is imposed, none of the southern States would accept it," said



the actor.

In another development, the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee decided to 'greet' Home Minister Amit Shah with black flags as a mark of protest against the latter's statement that Hindi was the only language which could unite India. The Home Minister would be the second person after Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be shown black flags by the DMK and

other Tamil fringe elements.

The executive committee of the TNCC which met at Chennai on Tuesday decided to 'greet' the Home Minister with black flags when he visits the State. This was stated by K S Alagiri, the TNCC chief who is a loyalist of former union finance minister and Congress strongman P Chidambaram.

"Amit Shah's statement is against the legal guarantee and protection provided by for-

mer Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to languages other than Hindi," said Alagiri while speaking to reporters after the meeting. On Wednesday, the Congress cadre staged marches all over the State to condemn the home minister's statement. But a speech delivered by Chidambaram on the occasion of Hindi Diwas while he was the union home minister has come as an embarrassment to the Congress. Chidambaram is heard telling in the speech that only Hindi could be the national and official language of the country.

"These are all part of politics and one need not give any importance to such statements and agitations. In another couple of days, this issue would be forgotten by the people as well as the same leaders," said a senior TNCC leader when asked about the statement by Chidambaram which has gone viral in the social media.

Maha Mantralaya Drama 2 teachers survive suicide bid, land on safety net

They were demanding recognition for 300 handicapped schools in State

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two teachers on Wednesday survived a suicide attempt at Mantralaya (State Secretariat) in south Mumbai on Wednesday, as they leaped from the second floor of the state secretariat directly onto the safety net erected to prevent frequent suicides. The two teachers attempted to commit suicide, to demand recognition for 300 schools for specially-abled children in the State.

Identifying the two as Hemant Patil and Arun Netore, who attempted suicide, police said they were teachers in a school for the handicapped Akkalkot taluka of Solapur district. After the incident, police took the two teachers to a nearby police station.

A delegation of teachers had come to meet ministers concerned to Press for the acceptance of their demand.

However, the delegation could not meet the Ministers concerned. Upset with their failure to voice their demand with the ministers concerned, two teachers leaped from a second floor window of the State Secretariat only onto fall on the safety net put up at the Secretariat to prevent recurring suicides.

Wednesday's suicide attempt was foiled because of the presence of a safety nylon net that the State Government had put up in the lobby of Mantralaya in February last year to ensure safety landing for persons taking a plunge from the terrace of the State Secretariat in south Mumbai.

Protests make BJP swear by Kannada over Hindi in Karnataka

IAN S ■ BENGALURU

Vociferous protests by opposition parties and activists in Karnataka made the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government give primacy to Kannada over its national president Amit Shah favoured Hindi as one language across the country that sparked a controversy in the southern State.

"All official languages,

including Kannada and Hindi are equal. In Karnataka, as Kannada is the principle language, we will never compromise on its importance. We are committed to promoting it (Kannada)," said Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa in a series of tweets in Kannada and English, clarifying the party's and Government's views on the language row.

Celebrating September 14 as the Hindi Diwas, Shah had

tweeted and reiterated at a function later in New Delhi that "India is a nation of many languages and every language has its own importance. But it is absolutely necessary to have one language for the country, which becomes India's identity globally. If there is any one language that connects the entire nation in a common thread of unity, it is Hindi, which is spoken the maximum."

Pak Rangers again target posts along Border in Kathua

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Pakistan Rangers on Wednesday again targeted Border out Posts (BoPs) along the International Border in Kathua district.

The Rangers fired from small arms on BoPs in Rajbagh area in the wee hours of Wednesday.

BSF troops retaliated the fire in equal measure.

According to official sources, "no loss of life and damage to property was reported from anywhere in the forward area".

This is the second consecutive day that Pakistan Rangers have resorted to firing on BoPs along the IB across Jammu frontier.

Local reports suggested, Pakistani rangers were raising objections to ongoing developmental works in the forward villages and desperately trying to target the workers engaged in the work on ground zero.

Meanwhile, situation along the line of control remained peaceful with no fresh exchange of firing reported



from any one of the twin bordering districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

According to ground reports, jaws of the Indian army defused nine mortar shells fired by the Pakistan army from across the Line of Control (LoC) while targeting civilian areas.

Nine mortar shells of 120 mm and 81 mm have been safely defused in the Balakote, Sandote and Basoni forward areas in the Mendhar sector, the officials said.

In another related development, a video clip surfaced on the social media on Wednesday which clearly indicated presence of elite commandos of Pakistan army helping infiltrators sneak inside the Indian territory along LoC in Poonch sector.

UP's Rajni won't come down to earth unless ISRO 'recovers' Vikram!

IAN S ■ PRAYAGRAJ

A video doing the rounds on social media since Tuesday shows a man standing on a pillar of New Yamuna Bridge in Prayagraj. He climbed with the Indian flag and refused to get down unless ISRO manages to 'recover' the Vikram lander.

The man has been identified as Rajnikant. Although he claims to be a namesake of the Tamil superstar, his action-packed drama did not quite manage to achieve the impossible.

Vikram is still believed to be out there, somewhere on the lunar surface.

The man has been identified as a native of Manda in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, according to an "indiatoday.in" report. He climbed up on Monday night.

It's been 11 days now that ISRO's prestigious moon mission went awry, when the space research organisation lost contact with Vikram lander of Chandrayaan 2 owing to a last-minute snag that developed after the operation went off smoothly all along.

On September 7, Vikram, while on its descent to soft land

on the Moon's south polar region, apparently lost control and crash-landed there, snapping the communication links.

ISRO thanks all Indians for support after it lost contact with Vikram

Bengaluru: ISRO has expressed gratitude to Indians in the country and abroad for the support it received after the space agency lost contact with the lander of Chandrayaan-2, minutes before touchdown on the Moon recently.

The space agency had got support from the entire nation, despite it losing communication with the lander 'Vikram' ahead of the touchdown on September 7, with people from all walks of life praising ISRO and its scientists for the achievement.

"Thank you for standing by us. We will continue to keep going forward propelled by the hopes and dreams of Indians across the world!" ISRO tweeted on Tuesday. PTI

More CBI sleuths in Kolkata as Rajeev Kumar moves court again

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Even as the Central Bureau of Investigation roped in more officials from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi to "locate and fetch un-communicable and un-connectable" former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar the senior IPS officer on Wednesday moved the Alipore district court with a petition seeking to be heard before passing any order relating to a non-bailable arrest warrant.

The CBI reportedly was preparing to move the court seeking a non-bailable warrant against Kumar who is currently the Additional Director General of CID.

The former Kolkata top cop continued to remain under-



Police personnel in plain clothes seen outside the official residence of former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar, in Kolkata on Wednesday

ground even as a desperate posse of CBI sleuths tired to locate his whereabouts.

Sources said a team of 12 officers including two SPs and an Additional SP from UP and Delhi had arrived at Kolkata to assist fetching Kumar who

remained "un-communicable and un-connectable" for the fifth day on Wednesday since the Calcutta High Court removed his shield against arrest.

Kumar was earlier summoned by the CBI to reportedly interrogate him regarding his role in the investigation of the multi-crore Sharada chit

CBI reportedly was preparing to move the court seeking a non-bailable warrant against Kumar who is currently Additional Director General of CID

fund scam as the head of the Special Investigating Team constituted by the State Government in 2013, months before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI following allegations that SIT was tampering with evidence and mishandling the case allegedly to protect the influential people.

Earlier on Tuesday the Barasat district court had transferred the case to Alipore citing lack of jurisdiction. The Barasat court which is conducting the trial of the chit fund case heard petitions for non-bailable warrant of CBI and that of anticipatory bail of Rajeev Kumar before refusing to pass any order and sending it to the Alipore ACJM's Court.

J&K showing signs of improvement

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the week-long trip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States from September 21 to September 27, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir is showing signs of partial improvement.

In the recent days, no major incident of law and order situation was reported from anywhere across Kashmir Valley.

The security restrictions too have been lifted from most parts of Srinagar to allow smooth movement of local residents. Large number of private vehicles can be seen moving around in different parts of Srinagar and other district headquarters while public transport continue to remain off from the streets.

Major market places remain open for few hours between 6 to 9.00 am in Srinagar but as the day progresses the shopkeepers down their shutters but remain present in the area. Majority of schools, despite remaining open, continue to wait for the children to occupy their class



rooms and board school buses. At present, the security personnel remain deployed only in certain areas to prevent any untoward incident.

Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh, told reporters on the sidelines of a function in Police headquarters Jammu on Wednesday, "after receiving reports related to militants threatening businessmen against opening their shops, patrolling has been intensified and various other measures initiated to instil confidence among locals.

DGP said, policemen are conscious of these threats and over the past month, a couple of terrorists were neutralised and over two dozen others, including their sympathisers, arrested in the Valley. He said

the people have not responded to the Pakistani propaganda and foiled Islamabad's designs to create unrest.

Another major worry among the local residents remain suspension of mobile and internet services.

While landline telephony services have been restored across the Valley, mobile telephone services in most parts of Kashmir and all internet services continue to remain suspended since 5 August.

The Government offices have been made operational but recording thin attendance owing to absence of public transport facilities.

Referring to the issue of militants threatening orchardists, shopkeepers and setting a car ablaze in north

Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday, the top cop said, "Two militants, who burnt down a car after beating its driver in Sopore yesterday, have been identified as Sajjad and Muzaffar of the Lashker-e-Toiba (LeT). We will take care of them very soon." Strong security measures have been put in place to foil any ill design being organised by Pakistan across the border, and with public support all forces are working tirelessly for peace in Jammu & Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the authorities didn't allow the Chairman of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), Syed Ali Gilani, to address a press conference at his residence in Srinagar, on Wednesday. Due to suspension of communications means, Syed Ali Gilani had dispatched letters to local journalists, asking them to attend the press conference. As media men started trickling in policemen deployed there barred them from moving towards his residence. Police cited imposition of Section 144 in the area and requested journalists to disperse.

UP CM asks Allahabad, Varanasi to remain vigilant as rivers swell due to rain

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday directed officials in Allahabad and Varanasi districts to remain vigilant as the water levels in Ganga and Yamuna rivers neared the danger mark.

Heavy rain over the past few days have caused the rivers to swell. A senior official said authorities in Allahabad and Varanasi have been asked to make all necessary arrangements to deal with the situation and flood 'chowkis', to monitor the water levels in the rivers, have been activated.

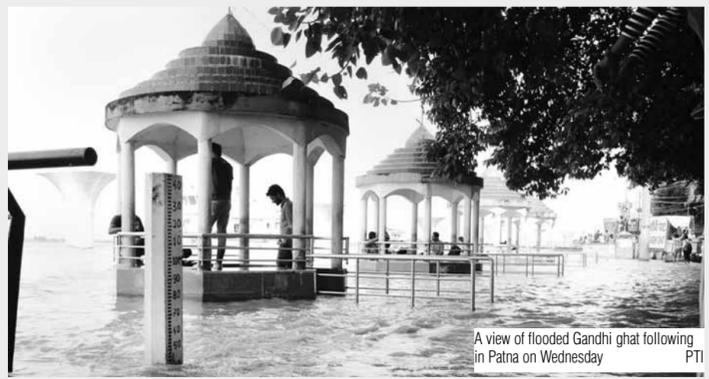
A report from Banda district said continued rainfall in the Bundelkhand region and release of water in Yamuna had led to flooding in many areas in Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot districts.

Yamuna, Ken and Betwa rivers are in spate and several acres of agricultural land has been submerged, it said. Banda District Magistrate Hiralal said incessant rains over the past four days have hit normal life, with water entering villages and damaging roads.

People of the affected areas are being shifted to safer places in boats, he said. Adityanath had conducted an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Ballia on Tuesday and distributed relief material.



A resident uses a ladder to shift from one house to another in Prayagraj on Wednesday



A view of flooded Gandhi ghat following in Patna on Wednesday

IN BRIEF

TRIPLE TALAQ LAW IN LLB, LLM SYLLABUS IN UP

Bareilly: The Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University here has included the new triple talaq law in its syllabus for the LLB and LLM courses. The university's Board of Studies of the Law Department has revised the syllabus and included the newly passed law in its curriculum, head of the law department of the university, Amit Singh told PTI.

UP TO UPGRADE EXAM SYSTEM WITH AI-BOTS

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government is planning to use Artificial Intelligence AI-bots to upgrade the examination system for secondary school education and make education free from corruption and negligence. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already partnered with Microsoft India to conduct capacity building programmes for high school teachers with the aim to integrate cloud-powered technology from kindergarten to Class XII.

COURT ORDERS FIR AGAINST BABRI LITIGANT

Ayodhya: A local court here in Uttar Pradesh has ordered the police to register an FIR against Ram Janambhoomi case litigant Iqbal Ansari for using foul language against Hindus. Hearing on a petition filed by international shooter Vartika Singh, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, on Tuesday, directed the Ram Janambhoomi police station to file a case against Ansari and inform the court within three days.

CHINMAYANANDCASE

Student threatens self-immolation

Accused BJP leader hospitalised

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

The student who has levelled rape charges against Swami Chinmayanand threatened self-immolation on Wednesday if he is not arrested even as the BJP leader was admitted to a local hospital complaining of uneasiness.

"Even two days after I recorded my statement before a magistrate, Chinmayanand has not been arrested. If the government is waiting for me to die, I will sprinkle kerosene on my body and immolate myself," the student told



Special Investigation Team briefs the media on Chinmayanand case during a Press conference in Shahjahanpur on Wednesday

PTI

reporters here. The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing her allegations had on Monday taken the woman before Judicial Magistrate Geetika Singh to record her statement.

The same day, doctors were called at Chinmayanand's home when he complained of loose motions, weakness and

uneasiness. When asked about the progress in the SIT probe led by him, Inspector General-rank IPS officer Naveen Arora said it was to complete the investigation by September 23 and submit a report in the Allahabad High Court.

"No arrest has so far been made," he said, answering a question. He said all angles in

the case are being probed, and a mobile phone and a pen drive sent for forensic examination.

The woman's father claimed that the SIT, set up on the orders of the Supreme Court, has not told him why an FIR has not been registered against Chinmayanand following the rape complaint filed by her. "We will consult our lawyers on this," he said.

Police had earlier registered a case of abduction and criminal intimidation on a complaint initially lodged by the father. Late, student accused the BJP leader of rape and "physical exploitation" over a year.

Chinmayanand, 72, was admitted at a state-run hospital on Wednesday following medical advice.

"After his condition became bad, he was shifted to the medical college hospital

and admitted in ward number 8," Chief Medical Superintendent Dr MP Gangwar said.

He said a team of doctors was being set up to keep him under observation as he complained of uneasiness, weakness and loose motions. He has also complained of fluctuating blood sugar levels.

Earlier, the SIT has questioned the principals and staff members at two colleges where the woman has studied in recent years.

The student had on Saturday given a pen drive containing 43 videos to the SIT to back her accusation against Chinmayanand, whose lawyer has alleged an extortion attempt.

The SIT has examined her hostel room and Chinmayanand's home to collect evidence.



An artist gives finishing touches to an idol of Goddess Durga at Kumartuli in Kolkata on Wednesday

PTI

Gehlot Govt plans 75% job quota for locals in Rajasthan

Jaipur: After Andhra Pradesh, the Ashok Gehlot Government in Rajasthan is also planning to grant 75 per cent reservations for locals in private sector jobs.

The Gehlot Government is contemplating providing job reservations for people of the state in big industries who have been given certain benefits by the State Government in terms of financial package.

Also, projects running under public private partnership and small industries will employ the local residents under the scheme, confirmed official sources.

Speaking in this context, State Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said that "when other States are doing the same, why can't we take a decision for the benefit of our youth."

"In Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal, the competi-



State Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena

tive exams have one paper in local language which benefits the local residents. Here, we never discriminate among people on basis of where they have come, but at the same time, we are also planning to provide reservations in private sector to benefit our youth. However, the final decision shall be taken after discussion with other members."

A high-level meeting has been called at the secretariat on September 19 to discuss the issue. The representatives of industries have also been called for the meeting.

UP BJP MLA makes derogatory remark on Nehru

Muzaffarnagar: BJP MLA Vikram Singh Saini, who represents the Khatauli Assembly seat, has made an outrageous statement on India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, calling him "aiyaash" (immoral or philanderer).

He added Nehru divided the country after being fooled by the British.

The BJP lawmaker, known for his controversial statements, said that the Nehru-Gandhi family was "aiyaash".

He commented on former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's marriage with Sonia Gandhi in Italy and added that "the whole family has been indulging in such activities."

The BJP legislator also shared a snapshot of an old photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with other world leaders on Facebook. In the grab, Norway Prime Minister Erna Solberg appears to be looking at Modi.

Uddhav: Pak wouldn't have come into existence, had Savarkar been PM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Rooting for bestowing Bharat Ratna on Veer Damodar Savarkar posthumously, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray has said that Pakistan would not have come into existence, had Savarkar been the Prime Minister of India.

Launching a biography in English titled "Savarkar: Echoes From A Forgotten Past" at the Swatantraaveer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak at Shivaji Park on Tuesday evening, Uddhav said, "Savarkar deserves to be honoured with Bharat Ratna in recognition of his sacrifices to the country."

"Today it is the both birthday of (my grandfather) Prabhodhankar Thackeray and liberation day of Marathwada region. It was late Vallabhbhai Patel who liberated Marathwada from the Nizam rule. We call Vallabhbhai Patel as the iron man. Kashmir would not have become an issue as it is today, had he been the Prime Minister. Similarly, Pakistan would not have come into existence, had Veer Savarkar been the Prime Minister of India," Uddhav said.

"Savarkar is an ideology. The Congress may have treated Savarkar like an enemy but it would not finish the ideology named Savarkar," Uddhav added.

"Savarkar must be awarded the Bharat Ratna for the sacrifices made by him to the country. We don't deny the work done by (Mahatma) Gandhi and (first PM) Jawaharlal) Nehru, but the country saw more than two families being born on the

political scene," he said.

"Savarkar suffered an unbearable ordeal inside the Andaman prison for securing freedom to the country. But the period after he was released from the prison in 1924 was more intolerable for Savarkar. He was ostracised and disallowed to participating in freedom struggle. He was restricted to one place. Still he had engaged himself in the activity of eliminating untouchability in the society," the Sena president said.

"They say Nehru also underwent imprisonment during freedom struggle. I would have called Nehru as 'Veer Jawaharlal Nehru', had survived jail for 14 minutes of the imprisonment of the kind Savarkar underwent in Andaman prison (where Savarkar stayed for 14 long years)," Uddhav said.

Maintaining that it was his fortune that he was releasing a biography of Savarkar, Uddhav said: "Veer Savarkar was a role model in the history of armed revolution in the country. I cannot describe him in few words," Uddhav said.

Dwelling upon his book, author of the book Vikram Sampath said that "Savarkar: Echoes From A Forgotten Past" was the first of two volumes and covered the period between 1883 to 1924, from Savarkar's birth at Bhagar in Nashik district to his days as a firebrand student leader in Pune's Ferguson College, as well as his fight for freedom that ended in a life sentence in the infamous Cellular Jail. Savarkar was conditionally released from jail in 1924.

Opp questions timing of Mamata-Modi meet

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Opposition parties on Wednesday raised a hue a cry doubting the "real agenda" of the meeting between Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Moments after Banerjee emerged from the parley claiming it was a "Government-to-Government meeting and not a political one" which was held congenially Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury wondered "why such Government-to-Government meeting did not take place at Mamata Banerjee's initiative on earlier occasions when she was invited to join the Niti Aayog or Chief Ministers' meeting in Delhi."

"The timing of the meeting itself evokes suspicion," Chowdhury said wondering "why if it was a Government-to-Government meeting and not a political one as claimed by her then no senior Government official was pre-



Minister has redirected her to the Home Minister? Are we to assume that the agenda of talks that she is claiming pegged around something else? Was it related to the stepped up activities of the CBI against former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar whose statements could be crucial for pinning down some big person in her Government?" he said.

Left Legislature Party leader and CPI(M) central committee member Sujana Chakrabarty too aired his doubts about the "real content of the talks" even as he said "the propriety of things demands senior officers to remain present in such meetings with all kinds of data if at all the Chief Minister goes to a see the Prime Minister with demands of her Government."

More than "20 lakh people have been affected by the Sharada, Rose Valley and other chit funds scams that went a distance in catapulting the Trinamool Congress to power in Bengal.

Eight-month-old boy kidnapped in Andhra

Vijayawada: An eight-month-old boy was kidnapped as his parents allegedly failed to repay the debt, at Atkuru village in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday.

Parents of the boy approached the Atkuru police and lodged a complaint stating that miscreant had demanded that they repay the entire debt amount in exchange for the release of the boy. They further stated that they were asked to meet him at Jaipur in Rajasthan with the amount. However, they did not mention the amount of debt they owe the kidnapper. A case was registered.

1st case of human trafficking lodged under new NIA Act

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has registered its first human trafficking case under recently approved NIA Act against three people for their alleged involvement in the trafficking and sexually exploitation of Bangladeshi women, an official said on Wednesday. Mohammad Yousof Khan, his wife Bithi Begum and Sojib, native of West Bengal living in Hyderabad, were arrested in April by Hyderabad police for trafficking and sexually exploiting Bangladeshi women, he said. Yousof and Bithi were running a prostitution racket at a premises in Uppuguda, Hyderabad, he said.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is here by informed that an unidentified person (depicted in the photo) name: **unknown**, residence and family is **unknown** about 35 years of age was found dead at GTK. Road, Footpath Near Ismail Khan Park, P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi on 09.09.2019 at 03:15. In this regard a FIR/DD No. 04A dated 09.09.2019 has been registered at Police Station Bharat Nagar, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'7" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue & White T-Shirt and Black & White Pajama.

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

SHO P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi Ph. No.- 011-27301200 Mob. No.- 8750870222

DP/9377/NW/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is here by informed that one Female **Namely:** Pooja, **W/o:** Santosh Kesari, **R/o:** H.No. 42/5, Street No. 5 in front of Kamal Vatika, Munge Ram Park, Delhi, Delhi, **Age:** 37 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Black colour suit Salwar & sandal, has been missing since 18.08.2019 from the area of P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 72-A U/s 363 dated 19.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Female kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-27052772, 27052773 DP/3218/RD/19 E-Mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in Website: http://cbl.nic.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T.No.	20/19-20 dated 18.09.2019
1	Name of work with its location: Repair to courtyard, Boundary wall, plaster work and additional room Type-IV (B.No. 7 to 16) at TKJ railway colony in the S/o SSE/WB, House under ADEN/E-I
2	Approx. Cost of work: 7821022.02
3	Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016).
4	Completion period of Work: 6 Months
5	Cost of tender on cash/by post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016).
6	Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 11.10.2019 Opening of tender at 15:00hrs. On 11.10.2019
7	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/269/OET/19-20/WE/NIT 20 Dated: 18.09.2019 2999/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Sub:- Tender for "ISO 14001:2015 Certification of 29 Listed Stations over Delhi Division, Northern Railway, for three years as per scope of work"

Corrigendum-1 Date of opening of tender is rescheduled and will open on 11.10.2019 at 15:00. All terms and conditions will remain same. No. 221-S/42/ISO-29 STN/DLI-Divn/ML-IV/2019-20 Dated: 18.09.2019 3002/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGG. (ELECT)/WZ OLD ZONAL BUILDING, RAJOURI GARDEN, ND-27

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT NO. EE/Electrical/WestZone/2019-20/14, Line no. 01, Dated 17/09/2019, NOW:- Providing and GI Octagonal poles alongwith LED Street light fitting in various Mpl parks & dark spots of Madipur Assembly Constituency in AC-26 under Westzone.

The tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER.

Ro No. 65/DPI/S/19-20 Ex. Engineer (E)/WZ

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M) W&S C/N KANHIYA NAGAR, DELHI-110035

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Tender Processing Fee	Earnest Money	Tender ID No. & Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender e-procurement solution
1.	Deployment of skilled, semi skilled and unskilled labour for E and M installations at Burari & Badli Constituency.	Item Rate	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 54,000/-	2019_DJB_180267_17-Sep-2019 11:30 AM	27-Sep-2019 11:30 AM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V 366/2019-20 EX. ENGINEER (E&M) W&S C/N

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi TENDER NOTICE

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/19-20/RS/PG/809	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF SINGLE PHASE METER WITH BOX	33.00 Crs	33,00,000/-	11.10.2019 1600 HRS	11.10.2019 1630 HRS
CMC/BR/19-20/RS/KM/817	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 4CX150 SQ.MM	3.00 Crs	6,00,000/-	11.10.2019 1500 HRS.	11.10.2019 1530 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials) Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527 Telephone No.: +91 11 3999 9444 | E-mail: brpl.auction@retelnicada.com | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender 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.

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac
A	1	04/GM(R)/SM (WC-3)/2019-20 M/o Road (Beautification of Vilopit Koodaghar at various locations in the Area of Work Circle-3), Noida.	₹ 34.39
	2	05/GM(R)/SM (WC-3)/2019-20 M/o Building (C/o Urinal block (10 Nos.) in the Area of Work Circle-3), Noida.	₹ 46.50
B	3	03/GM(R)/SM (WC-4)/2019-20 M/o Road (Beautification of Vilopit Koodaghar at various locations in the Area of Work Circle-4), Noida.	₹ 52.95

Which can be uploaded by date 25-09-2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 26-09-2019 at 11.00 AM.

General Manager (R) Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कुरुक्षेत्र NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KURUKSHETRA

(Under the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India) KURUKSHETRA-136119 (HARYANA)

Advt. No. 30/2019

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF UNDER THE PROJECT SMDP - C2SD

National Institute of Technology Kurukshetra invites applications from the Indian Nationals for the recruitment to the posts of (i) Temporary Faculty (ii) Lab Engineer (iii) Research Associate on contract basis on a consolidated salary under the project SMDP - C2SD of Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Govt. of India in the Institute. Interested candidates may apply in the prescribed application form along with self attested photo copies of certificates. The last date of submission of application form is 07.10.2019. Applications received after the last date due to postal delay or any other reasons will not be considered.

For further details, please visit Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in.

Sd/- Registrar Incharge

Plastic ban: India Inc seeks exemptions

Follow structured approach to ban single-use plastic: India Inc to Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the Government looking to ban single-use plastic, Indian industry has suggested to follow a structured approach on the move and sought exemption for certain items.

"CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) supports the phase-out of single-use plastics in a structured manner. In addition, the priority items of single-use plastics identified for the phase-out need to be decided through an inclusive consultative process," industry body CII said in a draft note on single-use plastic.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has suggested the control on the use of plastics while addressing the CoP (Conference of Parties) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) here.

In his speech on August 15, Modi urged people to shun sin-



gle-use plastic and encouraged usage of jute and cloth bags to protect the environment.

In the draft note, the chamber suggested that certain items may not be considered for immediate action.

Certain items include plastic or MLP (multi-layered plastic) packaging which is integral to manufacturing or packaging process or such plastic which is either made of recycled material or is completely recyclable.

It also sought exemption for plastic/MLP packaging which does not have any technically-commercially proven sustainable alternative.

It has suggested that plastic packaging/bottles used for pharma/health products, with capacities of lesser than 200 ml, designed to offer required dose

of medicine/health supplement thereby minimising potential contamination should not be banned.

To follow a structured approach, it has recommended prioritising single-use plastic items; identifying policy/voluntary actions to address the priority single-use plastics; awareness creation to make it a public movement against these plastics; promotion of alternatives; and adequate monitoring and policy review.

The chamber has suggested for a baseline assessment to identify the single-use plastics with substantial impact on natural environment, along with the current causes, extent and impacts of their mismanagement.

"Targeted set of incentives needs to be identified in order to promote alternatives to single-use plastics," the note said.

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to put an end to single-use plastic, Environment Secretary C K Mishra on Wednesday said the ministry has issued guidelines to states and union territories in the past and has been urging them to take the necessary steps to curb the use of single-use plastic.

Govt proposes to corporatise EPFO, ESIC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to corporatise social security agencies, the Government on Wednesday released a draft code that seeks to revamp the structure of EPFO and ESIC, which would get CEOs for the first time.

The draft provides for change in the constitution of Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), saying the two bodies would be "body corporate".

At present, EPFO and ESIC work more like autonomous bodies run by trustees and board, respectively under the administrative control of Ministry of Labour & Employment. Both bodies were created by an Act of Parliament.

Besides, it has been a precedent that the labour minister is appointed as chairman of EPFO central board of trustees as well as ESIC board. Most of the time, the labour secretary has been vice-chairman of EPFO as well as ESIC in the absence of Minister of State for Labour.

The draft code provides

that the Centre would appoint chairman and vice chairman of the two bodies. Thus, the appointees could be other than the labour minister and labour secretary.

The draft code also provides for appointment of CEOs for the first time, who would be executive heads of EPFO and ESIC. At present, a Central Provident Fund Commissioner and Director General run EPFO and ESIC, respectively. Now, CEOs can be appointed from Indian Administrative Service as well as other services after consultation with the Union Public Service Commission.

Ministry of Labour & Employment has circulated a draft of the Code on Social Security, 2019 and sought stakeholder and public comments till October 25.

Govt doing everything to bring India back on high growth path: Niti CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is doing everything possible to turn around the Indian economy and bring it back to a high trajectory growth path, Niti Aagoy CEO Amitabh Kant said on Wednesday.

"If you look at the last five years, India's growth on an average was of about 7.5 per cent...The growth story has dipped to 5 per cent in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2019-20. Both the RBI and the government of India are active on this."

"We need to think what kind of innovation we need to undertake to attain a high trajectory growth," Kant said while delivering keynote address on 'Fostering a Culture of Innovation' at an All India Management Association event here.

Whereas the Reserve Bank has brought down the repo rate by 110 basis points, the government took a series of measures and gave three economic boosters, he said, adding it will continue to do so.

"The government is active, the fundamentals of Indian economy is intact and we will

The CEO also said that there are several measures in the offing to boost the Indian economy and there will be more public sector asset monetisation as well as disinvestment

continue to do whatever it required to take India back to high trajectory growth rate," Kant said.

The CEO also said that there are several measures in the offing to boost the Indian economy and there will be more public sector asset monetisation as well as disinvestment.

Kant also said that there will be more reforms in the mining and coal sector.

"The government is active, the fundamentals of Indian economy is intact and we will continue to do whatever it requires to take India back to high trajectory growth rate. To my mind we will do everything possible," he said.

Economic slowdown impacts coal import cargo in H1 FY20: Icra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Economic slowdown has impacted coal import cargo in the first half of this fiscal, as overall cargo growth at major ports registered a marginal growth of 1.9 per cent to 294 million tonnes, rating agency Icra said on Wednesday.

Healthy volume growth in container, crude and iron ore segments was offset by the decline in coal and some other bulk cargo volumes, it said.

"The volume growth at major ports has been impacted by 4 per cent fall in coal volumes - 63.6 MT vs 66.3 MT - and some decline in fertiliser and liquid volumes," Icra said in a statement.

Coal volumes at major ports grew 11 per cent in FY2019.

"The decline in imports is despite the fact that Coal India Ltd's dispatches have also fallen by 3 per cent during this period to 247 MT from 241 MT. Thus, the slowdown in coal imports is most likely attributable to the economic slowdown in recent months which has brought down the overall demand and is likely to impact the domestic port sector," K Ravichandran, Senior Vice President and Group Head — Corporate Ratings, Icra said.

MTDC upgrades 23 resorts to promote tourist destinations

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) on Wednesday said it has upgraded 23 of its resorts in the state with an investment of around Rs 1 crore to encourage tourists and promote tourist destinations.

"The revamping of 23 resorts in the state took around six months and was done in a budget of around Rs 1 crore,"

MTDC managing director Abhimanyu Kale told PTI here.

He said, there is a surge in the number of visitors including locals, travellers from other states as well as from foreign tourists, who are keen to visit the various destinations across Maharashtra.

"MTDC puts a lot of impetus to manage and improve the infrastructure to meet global standards and hence we have taken the initiative to upgrade these properties."

Trair invites public comments to review mobile call termination rate deadline

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator Trair on Wednesday invited public views to review the January 1, 2020 deadline for service providers to end interconnect usage charges.

A telecom operator pays for connecting calls of its subscribers to the company on whose network a call is made. Currently, an operator is required to pay 6 paise per minute as mobile call termination charges, called interconnect usage charges (IUC), which is proposed to be made nil from January 1, 2020.

Telecom operators with large number of subscribers gain from IUC as most of the calls are made within their network while net payout for service providers with lower subscriber base is higher.

At present, Reliance Jio leads mobile market with 339.7

million subscribers followed by Bharti Airtel with 328 million customers. Vodafone Idea in July reported decline in customer base to 320 million in the first quarter of 2019-20. BSNL has mobile customer base of 116 million.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trair) said it has seen rapid adoption of modern technology in the country's mobile networks since the time it lowered ICU from 14 paise to 6 paise from October 1, 2017 onwards.

"Though the imbalance in the inter-operator off-net traffic is reducing over a period, it still exists," Trair said.

The regulator said it has proposed a bill and keep (BAK) regime in which no operator raises bill for IUC, after analysing that the regime will reduce the inter-operator off-net traffic imbalance.

44 US lawmakers urge Trump admin to reinstate GSP status for India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US, a bipartisan group of 44 influential lawmakers has urged the Trump administration to reinstate India's designation as a beneficiary developing nation under the key GSP trade programme as part of a potential trade deal between the two countries.

The Trump administration terminated India's designation as a beneficiary developing nation under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) on June 5.

The GSP is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme and is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.

In a letter to US Trade

The Trump administration terminated India's designation as a beneficiary developing nation under the GSP on June 5

Representative Robert Lighthizer, the House of Representatives members suggested an "early harvest" approach that "would ensure that long-sought market access gains for US industries are not held up by negotiations over remaining issues".

US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet on September 22 in Houston and the two sides hope to announce a potential deal on longstanding trade issues, including the GSP, a media report said.

BUSINESS CORNER



Mumbai: Union Bank of India on Wednesday announced Signing of MOU with M/s Capital India Finance Ltd. (CIFL), a professionally managed NBFC under Co-origination Model for Lending to Priority Sector as per RBI defined model. This arrangement will entail joint contribution of Credit at the facility level, by both the Lending Partners viz. Union Bank of India and CIFL. It is envisaged that the benefit of low cost funds from Banks and lower cost of operations of NBFC would be passed on to the Borrower through adoption of the blended products to suit the requirements of Borrowers. This arrangement will also entail increase in the Credit off-take in respective market and offer timely delivery of Credit at significantly lower cost.

Mother Dairy to recycle 832 tonnes of plastic by March 2020

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy, a leading milk supplier in Delhi-NCR, on Wednesday said it will recycle 832 tonnes of plastic by March next year as part of its efforts to protect environment.

"To tackle with the burgeoning menace of post-consumer plastic waste, Mother Dairy debuted its plastic waste collection and recycling initiative in Maharashtra in June 2018 by rolling out the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programme," it said in a statement.

Mother Dairy, with the help of a Producer Responsibility Organisation, has collected and recycled around 1,073 tonnes of plastic waste till May 2019. This quantity includes around 183 tonnes of multi-layered packaging and 890 tonnes of non-multi-layered packaging.

The company said it is implementing 100 EPR in Maharashtra and now wants to replicate the success of EPR by spearheading the programme on a pan-India basis.

Fitment panel rejects GST rate cut for auto, biscuits; favours relief for hotel industry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the crucial GST Council meeting on Friday, a committee of officials has rejected demands for a cut in tax rate on items ranging from biscuits to car owing to tight revenue position as any reduction will dent Centre and State collections.

The Council's Fitment Committee which comprises revenue officials of both Centre and States has looked into the demands for reduction in GST rate on automobiles to beat the slowdown in the sector for the past three quarters.

Automobile industry has long been demanding reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate from the present 28 per cent to 18 per cent.

However, the Committee was of the view that the rate cut would hurt the collection as auto sales contribute almost Rs 50,000-60,000 crore to the total GST kitty.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2008)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016
Phone No. 011-26542189, 011-26542170

Extension in Tender Submission Date
Date for invitation of tenders for sale of used vehicle No. DL 3C BM 1984 (2009) has been extended upto 03 October, 2019 by 10:30 hours. Tender will be opened on the same day at 11:00 hours. The terms and conditions of advertisement published on 27th August, 2019 in Pioneer remains same.
For more details visit NIFT's website <https://www.nift.ac.in/tenders>
Director (Admin), NIFT HO

AXIS BANK
Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Controlling office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

Public notice for Sale/Auction of Immovable properties (Under SARFAESI Act read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 10-10-2019 on 12 Noon at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128 Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 17,02,168/- due as on 22-08-2016 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Devendra Pal Singh. The reserve price will be Rs. 25,43,138/- (Rupees Twenty five lakh forty three thousand and one hundred thirty eight only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 2,54,314/- Last Date, Time And Venue For Submission Of Bids With Sealed Offer/ Tender With EMD on 09-10-2019 at the above mentioned address.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
Home Loan No - PHR012600335239	A Residential Flat Having Super area 1244.59 Sq.Ft. (ie 115.56 Sq.Mtr) and built up area 965.50 Sq. Ft. (ie 92.45 Sq. Mtrs) bearing Flat No CO20203 on 2nd Floor (Without roof Rights) in Building C-02 situated in Group Housing Project namely "Ebony Greens" being part of Residential Township Crescent Park C situated at Village Shahpur Bametha, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh along with usage right of one open parking space.	NO

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/aucaon-notices/>
Date : 19-09-2019
Place : Noida, UP
Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,

Sale Notice
Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited
(In Liquidation)
Reg. Off.: 191, Nangli Sakrawati, PP No-NJF-B-373, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, India
Place where Books of Account & papers are Maintained: A-33/21, Vishwakarma Compound, Site-4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh, India
Liquidator : Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator Address: G-41, Ground Floor West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008
Email: nazim@mknassociates.com, Contact No.-9818156340

E-Auction
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Date and Time of Auction:
25th September, 2019 from 11:00 am to 05:00 p.m.
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Sale of Vehicle namely Mahindra & Mahindra- CB Bolero Maxi Truck owned by Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited (In Liquidation) forming part of Liquidation Estate of Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited in possession of the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal New Delhi Bench III at New Delhi vide order dated 03.04.2019. The sale of properties will be done by the undersigned through the e-auction platform <https://ncit.auction.auctiontigger.net>.

ASSET	ITEMS	RESERVE PRICE (Rs. In)	Earnest Money Amount (Rs. In)
Mahindra & Mahindra CB Bolero Matrix Truck Reg No. DL1LX3477 Vehicle parked at: A-33/21, Vishwakarma Compound, Site-4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh, India	1	130,000	13,000

Terms and Condition of the E-auction are as under
1. E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" through approved service provider M/S e-procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tigger).
2. The Complete E-Auction process document containing details of the Assets, online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration and Undertaking Form, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available on website <https://ncit.auction.auctiontigger.net>. Contact: Mr. Tink Maratha & Mr. Pushpit Manu at +91-6251898634 / 079 61200 580/ 55415941598 E-mail : Tlik@auctontigger.net / Pushpit@auctontigger.net / Support@auctontigger.net

Sd/-
Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator
IBBI/PA-002/IN-00076/2017-18/10207

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely **Gajander Singh**, S/O Omprakash, R/o H. No. C-600, Dakshin Puri, New Delhi, has been missing since 09.07.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 74-A, Dated 13.07.2019 has been lodged at Police Station - Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 40 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'8", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Fat, **Clothing:** Wearing white colour Shirt, white colour Pant and Shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.No.: 011-24368639
Fax: 011-24368639, 24368641
P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi
DP/5630/SD/19 Ph.: 011-29052304, 29051917

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Israwati**, W/o Ram Jeevan R/o D-40, Vijay Vihar Phase II, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 31.08.2019 from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 72-A, dated 01.09.2019 u/s 363 IPC, has been registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped female but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under:

Name: Israwati, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Blue colour Saree and Slippers in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped female, kindly inform SHO/Vijay Vihar, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27282350, 27280435
DP/3257/RD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age:** About 45 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Sallow, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Normal, wearing blue colour shirt and blue colour jeans, was found injured in road accident on 14.09.2019 at IP Bus Stand, Near Subway opp. WHO Building, Ring Road, Delhi. He was admitted in LNJP Hospital, Delhi, during the treatment he died on 15.09.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 212/19 dated 15.09.2019 u/s 279/337/304-A IPC has been registered at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of MAMC Hospital, 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. I.P. Estate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23370928, 8750870426

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

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If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped female, kindly inform SHO/Vijay Vihar, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27282350, 27280435
DP/3257/RD/19

US official says Iran behind Saudi attack, Pence warns of strikes

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States has concluded that an attack on Saudi oil facilities was launched from Iran, a US official said Tuesday as Vice President Mike Pence again warned that the US military is "locked and loaded" for a possible response.

The official, speaking to AFP on condition of anonymity, said the strike involved cruise missiles and that evidence would be presented at the UN General Assembly next week.

Pence announced that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was on his way to Saudi Arabia to "discuss our response."

"As the president said, we don't want war with anybody but the United States is prepared," Pence said in a speech to the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington. "We're locked and loaded and we're ready to defend our interests and allies in the region, make no mistake about it," he said, echoing President Donald Trump's words on Monday.

The apparent hardening of the US position came as Iran's supreme leader ruled out negotiations with Washington "at any level."

However, continuing days of mixed messaging from the White House, spokesman Hogan Gidley refused to rule out a possible -- albeit now highly unlikely -- encounter between Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the United Nations next week. Trump is "obligated to try and find peace," he said. Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for Saturday's oil installation attacks, which halved output from the petro-state, the world's biggest crude producer and a close ally of Washington.

The Houthis are at war with Saudi-backed forces in Yemen, turning the impoverished nation into a proxy battlefield for bitter regional rivals Tehran and Riyadh.

The increasingly complex conflict dovetails with the Trump administration's attempt to curb Iranian power through a "maximum pressure" campaign of crippling economic sanctions.

Trump began that campaign after unilaterally pulling out of a 2015 international deal meant to reward Iran for allowing restrictions on its nuclear industry. He says that Tehran is secretly cheating and

Rouhani says Yemenis attacked Saudi oil sites as 'warning'

Tehran: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Wednesday Yemenis targeted Saudi oil facilities as a "warning" about a possible wider war in response to the kingdom's US-backed intervention in their conflict-ravaged country.

"The Yemenis... Haven't hit a hospital, they haven't hit a school, they haven't hit Sanaa bazaar. They just hit an industrial centre... To warn you," Rouhani said after a cabinet meeting. "Learn lessons from this warning and consider that there could be a war in the region," he said, in a likely address to the rulers of Saudi Arabia which has spent billions of dollars on US weapons. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the strikes but a US official said Tuesday that the administration of President Donald Trump concluded the attacks involved cruise missiles from Iran. Saudi Arabia, which has been bogged down in a five-year war in Yemen, has said the weapons used in the attacks were Iranian-made but has not directly blamed its regional arch-rival. Tehran has repeatedly denied accusations from Washington and Riyadh that it arms the Houthis.

trying to build nuclear weapons and must be stopped.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Washington's real goal was to bring his country to its knees.

"The policy of 'maximum pressure' against the Iranian nation is worthless and all Islamic Republic of Iran officials unanimously believe there will be no negotiations with the US at any level," he said in a televised address.

Khamenei also said that as long as sanctions are in place, direct talks are impossible, including a meeting at the UN.

"Without this, no negotiations will happen at any level between the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials and the Americans, not during the visit to New York or any other visit," he said.

Whether the new stage of the long-running US-Iranian standoff leads to a shooting war

US 'IN DENIAL' OVER SAUDI ATTACKS: ZARIF

Tehran: The US is "in denial" over attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia, Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday, after Washington blamed weekend strikes on Tehran despite Yemeni rebels claiming responsibility. "US is in denial if it thinks that Yemeni victims of 4.5 yrs of the worst war crimes wouldn't do all to strike back," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter. American ally Saudi Arabia leads a military coalition that has been battling the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels since 2015.

as the big unknown. Saudi Arabia, which has bought huge quantities of US weaponry, is considered a strategic ally in the region, second to Israel, another bitter foe of Iran.

Trump called off a retaliatory US missile attack on Iran in June after the Iranians shot down a spy drone. He said he did not want to kill what generals told him could be up to 150 people. He has indicated that he

Substantially increase Iran sanctions, orders Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced what he said would be substantial new sanctions against Iran in the first response to what US officials say was likely Iranian involvement in an attack on Saudi oil facilities. "I have just instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to substantially increase Sanctions on the country of Iran!" Trump said in a tweet. The United States already enforces widespread sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy, including attempting to shut down its major oil export industry.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is due shortly in Saudi Arabia to meet with the petro-state's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to discuss a response.

may no longer feel that restraint. "I'm not looking to get into new conflict, but sometimes you have to," he said Monday.

"That was a very large attack, and it could be met by an attack many, many times larger."

US Secretary of Defense Mark Esper labelled Iran a destabilizing force in the region, but stopped short of directly accusing Tehran over the strikes. The US military, he said, was working with its part-

ners to "address this unprecedented attack."

In Congress, Republican Senator Mitt Romney told reporters that the United States should not be drawn into war.

"Saudi Arabia is fully capable, with the weapons we've sold them, to respond in a way they think is appropriate," he said.

Another Republican, Senator John Thune, said that if Iran were proven to be behind the Saudi attack, that "crosses a

line that hasn't been crossed before and, yeah, I think it'd be certainly appropriate for the US and allies to respond."

The contested strikes hit Abqaiq, the world's largest oil processing facility, and the Khurais oil field in eastern Saudi Arabia. Oil markets continued to eye the situation carefully. Prices receded five per cent on Tuesday, reversing some of the previous day's gains as analysts said they were expecting Saudi output to recover sooner than expected after the weekend's attacks.

As aftershocks continued to ripple across financial markets on Tuesday, energy specialists S&P Platt said around three million barrels per day of Saudi crude would remain offline for at least a month.

Britain and Germany on Tuesday urged the international community to forge a "collective response" to the attacks.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, visiting Cairo, said it was "imperative to put all our efforts together to achieve this de-escalation."

China condemned the attacks and appealed to all sides to "refrain from taking actions that lead to an escalation of tensions in the region."

NYT ENDS SEPARATE SPANISH-LANGUAGE OP

New York: The New York Times is shutting down its Spanish-language service called NYT en Espanol, saying it was not "financially successful." The service launched in 2016 had included around 10 "high-quality original and translated" New York Times stories a day in Spanish. "We launched NYT en Espanol as part of an experiment to reach and engage more international readers by extending our coverage to different languages," the newspaper said in a statement.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt.-Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail: constructionunitn@gmail.com
Letter No. 1468/ NVIDA / 304 Date: 18.09.2019

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL FOR 12 MEDICAL OFFICERS AT CIVIL HOSPITAL, KHATIMA (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 199.08 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 06 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 19.09.2019 (17.00 hrs)
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhm Singh Nagar)
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 21.09.2019 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt.-Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail: constructionunitn@gmail.com
Letter No. 1468/ NVIDA / 305 Date: 18.09.2019

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE-II BUILDING FOR AASHRAM PADIHATI SCHOOL, KHATIMA (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 92.15 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 09 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 19.09.2019 (17.00 hrs)
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)
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Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt.-Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail: constructionunitn@gmail.com
Letter No. 1467/ NVIDA / 303 Date: 18.09.2019

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF REMAINING WORKS AT ISBT SITARGANJ (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 114.16 Lakh
3. Period of Completion:- 04 Month
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 19.09.2019 (17.00 hrs)
5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhm Singh Nagar)
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 21.09.2019 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

Sale Notice
(In Liquidation)
Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited
Reg. Off.: 191, Nangli Sakrawati, PP No-NJF B-379, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, India
Place where Books of Account & papers are Maintained: A-33/21, Vishwakarma Compound, Site-4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh, India
Liquidator: Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator Address : G-41, Ground Floor West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008
Email: nazim@mknassociates.com, Contact No-9818156340

E-Auction
Sale of Assets under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Date and Time of Auction:
25th September, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 05:00 p.m.
(With unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

Sale of Plant And Machinery owned by Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited (In Liquidation) forming part of Liquidation Estate of Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited in possession of the Liquidator, appointed by the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal New Delhi Bench III at New Delhi vide order dated 03.04.2019. The sale of properties will be done by the undersigned through the e-auction platform <https://ncltauction.auctiontigger.net>.

ASSET	ITEMS	RESERVE PRICE (Rs. In)	Earnest Money Amount (Rs. In)
Core Cutting Machinery	1		
Design & Cylinder	Lot		
Heat Converter	1		
Hot Air System	2		
Hydraulic Stackers	2		
Printing Machine (Masko)	1		
Solvent Less Lamination Machine (Masko)	1	3,500,000	350,000
Air Compressor	2		
Sitting Machine	2		
Inspection Machine	1		
Pouch Making Machine	1		
Weighing Machine	3		
Sealing Machine	1		
Pressure Roller	Lot		
Rubber Roller	Lot		

Terms and Condition of the E-auction are as under

1. E-Auction will be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" through approved service provider M/S e-procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tigger).
2. The Complete E-Auction process document containing details of the Assets, online e-auction Bid Form, Declaration and Undertaking Form, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available on website <https://ncltauction.auctiontigger.net>. Contact: Mr. Tilak Maratha & Mr. Pushpit Maru at +91-6351896834 / 079 61200 580/ 554/594/598 E-mail : Tilak@auctiontigger.net/ Pushpit@auctiontigger.net/ Support@auctiontigger.net.

Sd/-
Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator
Date : 17.09.2019
Place : New Delhi
IBBI/PA-002/JP-N00076/2017-18/10207

Trump names US hostage negotiator as new NSA

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday named his chief hostage negotiator Robert O'Brien as the new National Security Adviser to replace John Bolton, who was fired last week. O'Brien, who has been serving as the special envoy for hostage affairs at the Department of State, has been chosen for the role, Trump tweeted.

"I am pleased to announce that I will name Robert C. O'Brien, currently serving as the very successful Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department, as our new National Security Adviser."

"I have worked long &

hard with Robert. He will do a great job!" he said.

In his role as special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, O'Brien works with families of American hostages and advises on related issues, including recovery policies.

In choosing O'Brien to replace Bolton, the president tapped a longtime lawyer who has impressed him with his work to extricate Americans detained by countries like North Korea and Turkey, The New York Times reported.

O'Brien would be Trump's fourth national security adviser of his presidency.

On Tuesday, the White House said President Trump has shortlisted five people for the NSA's position.

Pak authorities order probe into Hindu girl student's death after family claims murder

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistani authorities on Wednesday ordered a judicial probe within 30 days into the death of a Hindu dental college student in Sindh province after her family claimed that the girl was murdered, according to a media report.

Namrita Chandni, a final-year student of Bibi Asifa Dental College in Larkana district and a social activist, was found lying on a cot by her friends on Monday with a rope tied to her neck. Her room was locked from inside.

Police is yet to ascertain whether the girl committed suicide or was murdered.

The Sindh government on Wednesday asked the sessions court of Larkana to hold a judicial probe into the death of Chandni, the Dawn News reported.

"Section Officer Aijaz Ali Bhatti wrote a letter to the district and sessions judge of Larkana, requesting that a judicial inquiry be held in the matter and submit a report to the home department within 30 days so that further action can be taken," it said.

New UNGA bats for settlement of conflicts peacefully

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The President of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, has said he would "collaborate and coordinate" with the Security Council, and the UN Secretariat to ensure that greater attention is paid to prevention rather than reaction to full blown conflict.

"I will also advocate for effective early detection and warning systems, as well as mediation, negotiation and peaceful settlement of ongoing conflicts," Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria said in his inaugural address as UN General Assembly President on Tuesday. "I will work to engender cooperation that will address drivers of conflicts such as poverty, exclusion and illiteracy."

He stressed that he would "collaborate and coordinate" with the Security Council, and the Secretariat "to ensure that greater attention is paid to prevention rather than reaction to full blown conflict."

In June, the General Assembly elected Muhammad Bande, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, President of its 74th session. He served as Vice-President of the Assembly's 71st session and was active in several other forums, including as Chair of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, member of the Advisory Board of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre and Chair of the Economic Community of West African States Group.

Bolsonaro gives 'green light' to Amazon illegal loggers, says Human Rights Watch

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Human Rights Watch has accused Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro of giving a "green light" to illegal loggers to destroy the Amazon and failing to protect those defending the world's largest rain forest.

Bolsonaro, whose anti-environment rhetoric and policies have been widely blamed for a spike in fires and land clearing in the Amazon this year, has promised to open up the remote region to more development even as he faces growing international criticism.

Official figures show Amazon deforestation nearly doubled in the first eight months of this year, compared with the same period in 2018, to 6,404 square kilometers (2,472 square miles) -- more than twice the size of Luxembourg.

The acceleration in deforestation has been blamed for the sharp increase in fires this year, which official figures show have reached nearly 124,000, as land is cleared and burned to make way for cattle grazing or crops. A decrease in precipitation and a recent heat wave together with strong winds are also factors in the blazes.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
No. 128-W/260/Tender Notice/62/19-20/W-IV Dated: 18.09.2019
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender on prescribed form for the following work:
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

1. Name of work with its location	Provision of "Divyang friendly Toilets" along with septic tank and soakpit at 113 nos. (NSG-5 & NSG-6) railway stations in Delhi division (Sr. DEN I-30 Nos., Sr. DEN II-26 Nos., Sr. DEN III-8 Nos., Sr. DEN IV-36 Nos., Sr. DEN V-13 Nos.) (57-W-IV-19-20)
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 2,08,04,940.25
3. Earnest Money	Rs. 2,54,000.00
4. Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date Up to 15:00 hrs. on 27.09.2019 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 11.10.2019
5. Website particulars published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

3001/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Hare Krishna S/o Avtar Prashad R/o B-41 gali No.2, Inder Enclave Ph-1, Prem Nagar, Delhi** has been missing from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi since 07.06.2019. In this regard, a case **DD No. 49A dated 09.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.** The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under:

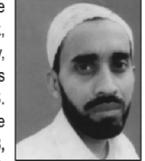


HARE KRISHNA

Age: 34 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5' 3", **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Brown colour shirt and blue colour pant and choklate colour shoes. 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. Prem Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in and Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph. 011-25489080
DP/3246/RD/19

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Sarik, S/o: Fasiyudeen, R/o: H. No. C-74, J.J. Colony, Sector-25, Rohini, Delhi, Aged: 27 years,** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Outer North District, Delhi since 21.01.2018 vide **DD No. 11-A, Dated 24.01.2018, has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:



Sarik

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5' Feet, **Face:** Round, **Physique/Build:** Medium, **Clothing:** White Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and White Colour Shoes in Feet.
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi at **E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in or website : <http://cbl.nic.in> Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641**
S.H.O.
P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi
Ph. 011-27821047, 27822207
DP/576/ON/19.

INDIAN ROADS CONGRESS
80th Annual Session, Patna
12th - 15th December, 2019
Local Organizing Committee

Doc. No.-BRPNL/80th IRC/PAT/70
(Through e-procurement mode only- www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
SHORT-TERM RE-TENDER INVITATION OF PROPOSALS FOR PROCUREMENT OF ALL SERVICES OF EVENT CONSULTANTS

Local Organizing Committee, Indian Road Congress 80th IRC Annual Session Patna (Bihar) invites following proposals for procurement of services of qualified Event Consultants for "80th IRC Annual Session -2019 at Patna (Bihar)" to be held between 12th-15th December 2019.

The Bid would be followed by submission of Technical Bid with Bid Security money cost of EoI -cum-RFP document fee, Earnest money and Financial Bid as per Bid Document, and then followed by short listing of Technically Qualified Bidders.

Sl. No.	State	Name of Project	Bid Security (In Rs.)	Cost of EoI-cum-RFP Document (In Rs.)	Bid Processing Fee (Online Payment) (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	Bihar	Appointment of Event Consultants for Conceptualization, Planning, Co-ordination, Management, Monitoring and supervision of entire Event of 80 th IRC Annual Session-2019 at Patna, Bihar.	1,00,000/-	10,000/-	5,900/-	05 (Five Months) (4+1)

The Eligibility Criteria and detailed Scope of Work etc. can be seen and downloaded from website: www.eproc.bihar.gov.in / www.brpn.bih.nic.in

1. A firm may apply individually or in Joint Venture/Consortium/Association. In case of Joint Venture/ Association/Consortium, a maximum of 2(two) are permitted.
2. The two parts of the Proposal (Part 1: Technical Proposal: Part 2 : Financial Proposal must be uploaded with all pages numbered serially, along with an index of submission. In the event, any of the instructions mentioned herein have not been adhered to Local Organizing Secretary will reject the proposal.
3. Local Organizing Secretary will not be responsible for any delay, loss or non-downloading of RFP document. Further Local Organizing Secretary shall not be responsible for any delay in downloading the Proposal and reserves the right to accept/reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

SCHEDULE:

Sl. No.	Activity	Duration
1.	Download Date of EoI Documents	From 24.09.2019 (10:00 Hrs.) To 27.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.) (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
2.	Pre-bid Meeting	25.09.2019 at 11.00 Hrs. (HQ, LOS office, BRPNL 7, Sardar Patel Marg, Patna -15)
3.	Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	28.09.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
4.	Last Date of Submission of Bank Draft, Bid Security and Hard Copies of Document in original in sealed envelope.	30.09.2019 at 15:00 Hrs.
5.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	30.09.2019 at 15: 30 Hrs. (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
6.	Date, time and place of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed later to technically qualified bidder. (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

- Bid Validity – 120 days
- The Cost of RFP Document is **Rs.10,000/-** payable in the form of Demand Draft, Bid Security/ Earnest Money of **Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh) only in the favour of " LOS, 80th IRC Annual Session, Patna Payable at Patna and Bid Security in original will have to be deposited in the office of the Local Organizing Secretary, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., 7, Sardar Patel Marg, Patna-15 upto 15:00 hrs. (IST) on 16.09.2019
- The selection of Consultants shall be on QCB5=80:20
- The applicants may download the EoI-cum-RFP document from e-procurement website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
- For participating in e-tendering process, the consultant shall have to get themselves registered to get user ID, Password and digital signature. This will enable them to access the website www.eproc.bihar.gov.in and download/participate in e-tender. Those who are not registered in e-tendering systems, they may contact "e-Procurement HELP DESK, First Floor, Plot No. - M/22, Road No. - 25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna - 800 001, Contact no. - 0612 - 2523006, 9939035696" for registration for support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address "e Procurement HELP DESK, First Floor, Plot No.- M/22, Road No.-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna-800001, Contact No: 0612-2523006; 9939035696". Vendor may visit the link "Vendor Info" at www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
- Detailed EoI-cum-RFP can be seen on website: www.brpn.bih.nic.in or www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

Address for Communication

Local Organizing Secretary,
80th IRC Annual Session Patna,
Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Limited,
7, Sardar Patel Marg Patna-800015
Mob.- 9431821539

Contact Person
Mob. No.9431821557/9471005297
E-mail- 80ircpatna@gmail.com or Website: www.80ircpatna.in or los@80ircpatna.in Local Organizing Secretary, -cum- Managing Director
Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Patna

PR No. 008018(Ni.Ni.) 2019-20
Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Patna
अथैव शरत्क एवं नादक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत टैल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें

Penalty of drama

Mertens scores from spot to surprise holders; Ter Stegen wins point against Dortmund

AFP ■ NAPLES/LONDON

Holdes Liverpool began their defence of the Champions League trophy with a defeat against Napoli on Tuesday, while one missed spot-kick condemned Chelsea to defeat against Valencia and another came to Barcelona's rescue.

Liverpool survived a 1-0 defeat in Naples in the group stage last season to go on and win their sixth European Cup, and this time a 2-0 reverse at the San Paolo made them the first reigning champions to lose their opening game in the competition since 1994.

Both sides had chances in the Group E clash before the hosts won a late penalty with barely 10 minutes remaining when Jose Callejon went down under an Andy Robertson challenge.

Dries Mertens beat Adrian from 12 yards and substitute Fernando Lorente — who played for Tottenham Hotspur against Liverpool in last season's final — then took advantage of a rare defensive lapse by Virgil van Dijk to make it 2-0 in stoppage time.

HAT-TRICK HERO HAALAND

Liverpool must now bounce back in two weeks when they host Austrian champions Salzburg, who made a stunning return to the group stage as teenage forward Erling Braut Haaland netted a hat-trick in a 6-2 demolition of Genk.

Salzburg had fallen in the qualifying rounds in the last seven campaigns but finally progressed this season to the group stage for the first time since 1994-95.

Haaland, the teenage English-born Norwegian striker whose father Alf-Inge played for Manchester City, gave Salzburg a second-minute lead and netted twice more before half-time.

Aged just 19 years and 58 days, Haaland is the third-youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick behind Wayne Rooney and Raul.

The South Korean Hwang Hee-Chan and Dominik Szoboszlai also struck before the break for Salzburg, while captain Andreas Ulmer completed the rout in the second half.

Jhon Lucumi and Tanzanian striker Mbwana Samatta scored for the Belgian champions.



Barcelona's goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen saves a shot by Marco Reus during the Group F match in Dortmund



Fernando Lorente holds Dries Mertens after he scores from spot against Liverpool

Last season's Europa League winners Chelsea ensured it was two defeats out of two on the night for English sides as they lost 1-0 at home to Valencia.

The Spaniards scored in the 74th minute when a Dani Parejo

free-kick was converted by Rodrigo Moreno. Chelsea were given a chance to rescue a draw when Daniel Wass was penalised for handball in the box, but Ross Barkley's 87th-minute penalty hit the bar and went over.

FIGURATIVELY

1 Napoli are the first Italian side to win against the European reigning champions in the CL group stages since Juventus, against Chelsea in 2012 (3-0).

19 Erling Haaland, aged 19 years and 58 days, is the third youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick, behind Raul (18y 113d in 1995) and Wayne Rooney (18y 340d in 2004).

1 Frank Lampard is the first Chelsea manager to lose his first Champions League match in charge, 10 of the previous 11 had won, while Gianluca Vialli drew with Milan in 1999.

12 Lille remain on 12 matches without success in European competition (6 draws, 6 defeats — preliminary rounds included), the worst series of its history.

4 Marc-Andre ter Stegen has stopped four of the six penalties he has received in the Champions League and is the goalkeeper who has stopped the most in the competition since at least 03/04 alongside Andriy Pyatov

1 Ansu Fati (16 years and 321 days) becomes the youngest player in CL history to play for Barcelona, breaking the record of Bojan (17 years and 22 days).

"You want to have at least a point and we didn't get that because of the penalty. When the player jumps before there is contact it cannot be a penalty. We cannot change that any more, so now we carry on. That's it."
—Jurgen Klopp (Liverpool manager)

"It was just one victory, but yes it has given us confidence, being able to match Liverpool is impressive as for me they are the best team in Europe at the moment."
—Carlo Ancelotti (Napoli manager)

"Given the performances last season, the bar was set high, and people were asking if we could do it again this season. I think a 3-0 victory shows that we can."
—Quincy Promes (Ajax forward)

"It was a difficult game today and I think the result is fair considering what happened."
—Marc Andre Ter Stegen (Barcelona goalkeeper)

"Without a doubt (we deserved more). Probably a win, but at least a draw. We conceded with one shot on target. It's a harsh lesson of Champions League football, a game we've played pretty well in and we lose it."
—Frank Lampard (Chelsea manager)

"We had four or five chances, and if we had taken one of them, we would have won. We said after the draw that we wanted to qualify for the knockout stages. If we continue to play like we did today then there shouldn't be a problem."
—Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund captain)

"Slavia Prague attacked us with intensity and showed a ruthless streak. We didn't do well in terms of finding the right solutions and struggled too much."
—Antonio Conte (Inter Milan coach)

"Everything is possible. We all saw Ajax last year, it would be nice to be the new Ajax. But we know there are a lot of good teams. It's hard, but everything is possible."
—Erling Braut Haaland (Salzburg striker)

AIJAX IMPRESS

Also in Group H, last season's semi-finalists Ajax claimed an impressive 3-0 home win over Lille with two of their newest signings among the goals.

Quincy Promes headed the Dutch champions in front and the Mexican Edson Alvarez doubled their lead early in the second half before Nicolas Tagliafico sealed the win.

After a patchy start to the season, Barcelona will be relieved to escape from their trip to Borussia Dortmund with a 0-0 draw as Lionel Messi returned from injury as a second-half substitute.

The home side will feel they should have won, but Marco Reus had a second-half penalty saved before Julian Brandt hit the bar late on.

"We played brilliantly in the second half, and it feels a bit like we have lost two points," Mats Hummels told Sky.

Those two appear well placed already to progress from Group F after Inter Milan needed a stoppage-time Nicolò Barella goal to rescue a 1-1 draw against rank outsiders Slavia Prague.

Nigerian forward Peter Olayinka put Slavia ahead in the 63rd minute, only for Barella to level in the second minute of stoppage time after a Stefano Sensi free-kick hit the bar.

In Group G, RB Leipzig won 2-1 at Benfica with Timo Werner bagging a brace before Haris Seferovic pulled one back.

Earlier, Memphis Depay's penalty gave Lyon a 1-1 draw at home to Zenit Saint-Petersburg after Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun opened the scoring.



Marcus Rashford, Matic & Juan Mata during training

Man Utd, Arsenal carry English hopes

AFP ■ PARIS

Manchester United and Arsenal headline an English trio that also features Europa League newcomers Wolves while record five-time champions Sevilla figure to be among the primary contenders as the group stage begins today.

Scottish rivals Celtic and Rangers face testing paths to the knockout rounds as bitter foes Roma and Lazio bid to end Italy's two-decade wait for the title.

Porto, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord are the other former European Cup winners in a competition that will welcome the eight third-place finishers from the Champions League groups for the knockout phase.

United, Europa League winners in 2017, will host Astana in Group L as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side face opponents from Kazakhstan for the first time in club history.

They will expect to progress with relative ease from a group that also includes Partizan Belgrade and former finalists AZ Alkmaar of the Netherlands.

Unai Emery's Arsenal return to the competition after last season's 4-1 defeat by Chelsea in the final in Baku.

The Gunners visit Eintracht Frankfurt to kick off their campaign, with 10-time Belgian champions Standard Liege and Portugal's Vitoria Guimaraes also in Group F.

Wolves, in their first European campaign since 1980, will meet Portuguese club Braga in their opening game at Molineux.

Scottish champions Celtic travel to French Cup holders Rennes in Group E, with Italian Cup holders Lazio and CFR Cluj, the Romanian side to whom they lost in Champions League qualifying, completing a tricky section.

Steven Gerrard's Rangers are at home to Jaap Stam's Feyenoord and will do well to navigate a group with Porto and Young Boys.

Roma will take on Istanbul Basaksehir in their first game while Moenchengladbach host Austria's Wolfsberg.

Austria boast two representatives with LASK Linz among the six debutants — alongside Espanyol, Wolves, Wolfsburg, Olexandriya and Ferencvaros — in the tournament.



Amit Panghal celebrates after winning his last 8 bout against Filipino Carlo Paalam

Panghal, Kaushik assure 2 medals

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

India were assured of an unprecedented two medals at the World Men's Boxing Championships after Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) entered the semi-finals of the marquee event with impressive victories here on Wednesday.

While Asian Games and championship Gold-medallist Panghal defeated Filipino Carlo Paalam 4-1, Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Kaushik got the better of Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira 5-0.

Both the boxers sealed their maiden world medals.

Before this year, India had never won more than one Bronze medal in a single edition of the world championship.

The overall medal count for the country stood at four Bronze medals claimed by Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

While Sanjeet went down 1-4 to Ecuador's seventh-seeded Julio Castillo Torres, a Pan-American Games Silver-medallist, Bisht was beaten by the reigning Commonwealth Games champion Peter McGrail of England 0-5.

The second-seeded Panghal, who had earlier defeated Paalam in the Asian Games semifinals last year, wasn't off to the best of starts and was trailing Paalam at the end of the opening round.

But the Army man from Rohtak didn't take long to get his act together and become the more aggressive one in the next two rounds.

In the last-four stage, the Haryana-pugilist will be up against Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, who stunned Armenia's European Gold-medallist and sixth seed Artur Hovhannysyan in his quarter-final showdown.

"He is a southpaw and has a long reach, I will work out a strategy for him," the 23-year-old Panghal said.

While next up for Kaushik is Cuban top seed Andy Gomez Cruz, who out-punched Russia's eighth-seeded Ilya Popov.

Cruz was the light welterweight (64kg) category Gold-medallist in the 2017 edition.

Vinesh locks Olympic quota with Bronze

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Indian wrestling had a lot to celebrate on Wednesday as Vinesh Phogat secured Tokyo Olympics qualification and won a Bronze, while Pooja Dhanda put herself one win away from her second medal at the World Championships.

Having endured a medal-less run in three World Championships before, Vinesh finally ended the drought by pinning wrestler Maria Prevolaraki by fall in the Bronze-medal bout.

"It is my first World Championship medal and it is a big thing to win a medal at the Worlds," Vinesh told reporters.

"I had changed my weight category and in just 10 months, I got this medal. It is a thing of great happiness for me. It is the biggest medal of my career till now."

She is only the fifth Indian woman wrestler to win a Worlds medal after Alka Tomar (2006), Geeta Phogat



Vinesh Phogat in action against Yulia Khvaladzhly Blahinya

(2012), Babita Phogat (2012) and Pooja Dhanda (2018).

Earlier in the day, she had held off world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt with some superlative defense in her second repechage round to qualify for the 2020 Olympics.

Vinesh is now one of

India's most successful wrestlers with Gold medals at the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, already in her cupboard.

Adding to the elation of the Indian camp was a gritty show by Pooja in the 59kg, a non-Olympic category. Pooja reached the semi-

nals with a remarkable come-from-behind 11-8 win over Japan's Yuzuka Inagaki before losing the semifinal by technical superiority to Russia's Liubov Ovcharova, the 2017 European champion.

She will now fight for her second Bronze medal at the Worlds, having won one in 57kg at the 2018 Budapest edition.

Pooja can now become the first female wrestler and only second Indian to win two World medals. Only Bajrang Punia has achieved the feat. He won a Bronze in 2013 and a Silver in 2018.

Seema Bisla though missed Olympic qualification in the 50kg after losing her second repechage round 3-11 to Russia's Ekaterina Poleshchuk.

Much was expected from Sarita Mor after her shock victory over Pooja Dhanda in the trials but she was far from her usual aggressive self.

In the 76kg, Kiran had rattled her German opponent

Aline Rotter Focken to lead 4-0 but lost five points in a row in the second period to lose the opening bout 4-5.

She paid the price for being over-defensive. Since the

German lost her semifinal, Kiran's campaign is over.

Navjot Kaur was also ousted from 65kg after losing her opening bout to Alis Manolova, who later lost her semifinal.

SINGLES

HIMA DAS RULED OUT OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW DELHI: World junior champion Hima Das has been ruled out of the upcoming World Championship due to a nagging back problem. "Unfortunately Hima will not be able to compete at the World Championships in Doha due to her back injury," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adille Sumariwalla said. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had on September 9 named seven women, including Hima, for the 4x400m relay and 4x400m mixed relay races at the World Championships to be held from September 27 to October 6 in Doha. Hima has been suffering from a lower back pain after competing at the Asian Games last year. She pulled out of the individual 400m heats during the Asian Championships in Doha in April midway through the race.

PANT, SAINI NAMED IN DELHI SQUAD

NEW DELHI: Wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant and pacer Navdeep Saini were on Wednesday named in the 16-member strong Delhi squad, led by top-order batsman Dhruv Shorey, for the first four games of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, starting September 24. Delhi start their campaign on the opening day against Vidarbha and it is expected that both the players will be available for the initial matches. Saini, who is not in the squad for the Test matches, is expected to be available for the better part of the National one-day championship, while opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan has opted out of the current squad.

FEDEX, POTRO TO PLAY IN BUENOS AIRES

PARIS: Roger Federer and Juan Martin del Potro, who is set to return next month from a knee injury, announced Tuesday they will play an exhibition match in Buenos Aires on November 20. "I just wanted to tell you I'm so excited to come back to Argentina to play my good friend Juan Martin del Potro at Parque Roca," Federer said in a video on Del Potro's Twitter account. The Parque Roca stadium has a capacity of around 15,500 and is primarily used for Davis Cup ties. Del Potro has not played since fracturing his right knee in the Wimbledon tune-up at Queen's in June. He is expected to make his comeback at the ATP tournament in Stockholm, which runs from October 14 to 20, and is also scheduled to compete in Vienna the following week.

MOODY NAMED AS COACH OF OVAL TEAM

LONDON: Former Australia all-rounder Tom Moody and England World Cup winner Lydia Greenway have been appointed as head coaches of the Oval-based men's and women's teams for the new Hundred competition, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Wednesday. The 53-year-old's appointment is the final one among the eight men's outfits in The Hundred following the announcements of Stephen Fleming (Nottingham), Mahela Jayawardena (Southampton), Simon Katich (Manchester), Gary Kirsten (Cardiff), Darren Lehmann (Leeds), Andrew McDonald (Birmingham) and Shane Warne (Lord's).



Naomi Osaka celebrates after beating Viktoriya Tomova in straight sets on Wednesday to reach Pan Pacific Open quarters



Aiden Markram of South Africa plays a shot during India A vs South Africa A 2nd Test match in Mysore on Wednesday

vivacity

I LIKE FLAWED CHARACTERS:
SONAM AHUJA

-P 14



Diseases like diarrhoea and meningitis can make people very sick or even be life threatening. When people are sick, they are weak and would have difficulty working or concentrating at school. Some of these infections also make it difficult for our bodies to absorb the nutrients they need to get healthy. Unsafe or stale foods also deteriorate and be of poor quality, which means they lose nutrients and so we do not get enough of what we need for a healthy diet. So unsafe food can also lead to poor nutrition.

Contaminated and adulterated foods are major causes for several food-borne illnesses safe and good-quality foods are essential for maintaining good health. Naturally-occurring toxins, environmental contaminants and adulterants in foods constitute a health hazard.

Consumption of unsafe foods can lead to food-borne diseases. Buy food items from reliable sources after careful examination. Wash vegetables and fruits thoroughly before use. Store the raw and cooked foods properly and prevent microbial, rodent and insect invasion. Refrigerate perishable food items. Maintain good personal hygiene and keep the cooking and food storage areas clean and safe. Always use thoroughly cleaned utensils for cooking/ eating.

Microbes (bacteria and moulds) and their products are responsible for food spoilage. Natural enzymes present in food also lead to its deterioration. Besides, insects, rodents, adulterants, natural toxins and various chemical residues beyond permissible levels, make the food unwholesome. In addition to moisture and environmental conditions like temperature, storage time also influence the quality of the food.

Selection of the right food is the first step to ensure safe and good quality diet.

IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SAFETY

Food safety is about handling, storing and preparing food to prevent infection and help to make sure that our food keeps enough nutrients for us to have a healthy diet. Unsafe food and water means that it has been exposed to dirt and germs, or may even be rotten, which can cause infections or diseases such as diarrhoea, meningitis, etc, says **Team Viva**

Food items purchased from reliable sources having a high turnover ensure their freshness. Some foods carry certification mark assuring good quality. For example AGMARK for honey and ghee; FPO (Fruit Products Order) for fruit and vegetable products (jams, squashes, etc); ISI (Bureau of Indian Standards) for food colours and essences. While purchasing packaged food always look for 'best before' or 'date of expiry'.

Food grains purchased should be free from infestation and foreign matter (rodent

excreta and insect remains). They should be of uniform size and should not be shrivelled, shrunken or mouldy. Foodstuffs should be free from artificial colors. There is a risk of adulteration when fats/oils are purchased loose from unsealed containers. Therefore, it is always safer to purchase reputed brand products in sealed sachets/containers. It is necessary to buy pasteurized milk in sachets from a reputed dairy or a reliable vendor to avoid the risk of adulteration and contamination. Milk products such as butter, ghee and



Food-borne infections and toxicities are common particularly with consumption of susceptible foods such as milk products like khoa, meat, poultry and even cooked foods like rice

khoa should also be purchased from reliable sources. Whole spices, uniform in color, size and shape should be preferred. Since powdered spices are more likely to be adulterated, always buy certified products. Fruits and vegetables that show patches, physical damage with bruises or wilted and decayed with visible evidence of insects and moulds, should be avoided. Eggs should be fresh and free from cracks. Meat or poultry must be examined for characteristic color, odor and texture and should be purchased fresh or frozen. Freshness of fresh-water fish is indicated by a stiff body, bright, clear and bulging eyes, reddish gills, tight scales and absence of stale odor or discoloration. Fresh fish will not show any pitting on finger pressure.

Agricultural commodities should be dried and adequately in a safe storage structure, to protect them from moisture and to prevent the damage from microbes like bacteria and mould producing toxins (eg. aflatoxins). Rodent attacks, and the presence of insects and microbes, not only reduce the availability of nutrients but render the foods harmful. Frequent and careful disinfection of the storage premises using rodenticides like aluminium phosphide is essential. Some traditional

household practices such as application of edible oils to grains, placing dried neem leaves in storage bins etc., are known to prevent infestations.

Food-borne infections and toxicities are common particularly with consumption of susceptible foods such as milk products like khoa, meat, poultry and even cooked foods like rice. Improper processing, handling and cooking, and keeping cooked foods in warm conditions for several hours before eating, promote bacterial growth and toxin production.

Perishable foods like milk, meat, vegetables and cooked foods, are prone to spoilage due to microbes. These foods should be stored under refrigeration, preferably at a temperature of 10oc or less, which retards multiplication of microorganisms. However, even refrigerated foods, if stored for long, can get spoilt. Cross contamination can be avoided by keeping cooked and raw foods separately.

In case of food which is cooked, if not consumed immediately has to be stored for some time, it should be kept either hot (more than 60oc) or be cooled quickly (below 10oc). Most micro-organisms multiply at temperatures between 10 and 60oc. Refrigerated cooked food should be heated before consumption.

Use of spoons and ladles should be encouraged to avoid contamination. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap before starting the preparation of food and after every interruption. Household pets like cats and dogs often harbour dangerous pathogens. They should be kept away from places where food is cooked, stored or served.

Foods may be adulterated with non-food material or inferior quality product. Spoilt, stale or poor quality food is made attractive and fresh by adding harmful colors or other chemicals. Frequently adulterated food items are milk and milk products, cereals, pulses and their products, edible oils and spices. The different classes of adulterants include non-permitted colors like metanil yellow; non-edible oils like castor oil; cheaper agricultural produce like various starches in milk powder; extraneous matter like husk, sand and sawdust; and metal contaminants like aluminum or iron filings. Consumption of adulterated foods could lead to disease outbreaks of epidemic proportions. Buying from a reliable and reputed source, careful checking of foods before purchase and insisting on certified brands will all minimize the risk of food adulteration.

Trend Slazer

Flawed characters are relatable: Sonam

Actor **SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA**, who plays the lead role in the forthcoming film, *The Zoya Factor*, says that she finds imperfect and flawed characters more real than those inspirational picture-perfect characters that have been projected in Bollywood for a long time.

Whether it is *Aisha*, *Khoobsurat*, *Dolly Ki Dolly*, or *Veere Di Weeding*, Sonam's characters are typified as flawed.

"I think young boys and girls were not rightly represented in our films for the longest time. When a character is imperfect, it becomes more relatable because, in real life, we are not perfect. Most of the characters I've portrayed are imperfect because they represent us."



'A common language is very important for any country for its development, growth and integrity but unfortunately, such a thing cannot be done in India. Talking about Hindi, so not only Tamil Nadu, but no Southern state will accept the imposition of Hindi. Even some North Indian states wouldn't.'

—Rajnikanth

Actor **DIA MIRZA**, who also serves as UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, will be attending UNGA as a UN advocate for sustainable development.



Apart from being a speaker at The Climate Action Summit, Dia will also spend time with the Secretary General of the UN to highlight issues in India. She will interact with the Queen of Belgium and young leaders like Greta Thunberg.

"The Summit hopes to ignite immediate action on the goals set for 2030. With the superiors of global organisations under one roof, this summit could be the much-needed turning point we need," said Dia.

Moore returns to music in 10 years

Singer-actor **MANDY MOORE** has released her first song in a decade. Titled *When I wasn't watching*, the number is from her new album. Its name is yet to be declared. The album is slated for release early next year.

"The idea of diving back into music after so much time and personal change was really intimidating to me for a while," said Moore.

"But then I finally realised: I'm the only person who can make this move. It all has to start with me," she added.

The actress, who is looking forward to the premiere of her show *This Is Us*, began recording her forthcoming album earlier this year. She wrote the album's lyrics and recorded each song live.



Pregnancy pressure might take a toll on a woman's mental health.

Ovulation predictor kits are offering an easier option to people who have difficulty in conceiving, discovers

AYUSHI SHARMA

Battling infertility, you thought that all roads lead to IVF or surrogacy? But things do not have to always end up at an intensive treatment route. For there are ways to do this in a natural way. The advancement in medical technology means that a clinical device can help you identify and track your fertile window in the comfort of your home.

The need for these arose as the attempt to conceive can be stressful due to rising societal pressure, a ticking biological clock, which, in turn, often leads to repeated clinic visits, blood-drawing and ultrasounds — things, which are not just time-consuming but also expensive.

According to State of World Population Report 2019, the fertility rate per woman was 5.6 in 1969, it dropped to 3.7 in 1994, and is 2.3 in 2019. The changed statistics can be attributed to a variety of reasons, which include lifestyle and behavioural changes. With almost one in six couples facing problems in conceiving and one in two couples tracking their cycles incorrectly, there is a need for proactive measures. With changing lifestyles and associated issues, getting pregnant is not as easy as it used to be which in turn has led to the dip in fertility rates considerably.

These devices are doing away with overwhelming trips to clinics for invasive tests that make you feel like you have a huge fertility problem, even when you don't. Fertility monitors can act as personal assistants that help you understand your body and hormones better. While most women believe that their chances of getting pregnant are highest on the 14th day of their cycle, the truth is that ovulation varies from woman to woman and cycle to cycle. What's more, fertility monitors can help in case of issues like irregular cycles, PCOS, PCOD, thyroid as well, thereby helping you take total control of your fertility, proactively. Taking the guesswork out of the process of conception, it measures estrogen and luteinising hormone levels in your urine to detect peak fertile days in your menstrual cycle.

"The best time to conceive is right before a person ovulates or releases an egg because the internal body temperature fluctuates during the menstrual cycle. But it is possible to get pregnant in the days leading up to ovulation, as sperm can survive for several days inside the female body," says Dr Neena Bahl, director, obstetrics and gynaecology, Fortis



Time the stork's visit

LaFemme, Greater Kailash II. She adds that testing through fertility monitors is just like doing the pregnancy test. An ovulation kit tests your urine sample to detect a surge in LH (luteinising hormone) levels. While the LH is always present in your urine, it increases 34–36 hours before ovulation, which is five times the regular amount. These tests help you find out those days that act as an invaluable tool in your baby-making arsenal. This time is your most fertile window. Having intercourse on those particular days increases your chance of a successful conception.

There are various ways in which one can track fertility. Some ways are as simple as tracking your temperature in the morning as the day your fertile period starts, the temperature goes up by half a degree. Second, to get an ultrasound on any of the 10 days from the ninth day of your period to 19th day, which shows the exact size of the follicle or the egg and once it ruptures, it is the most fertile period to conceive. Third, there are commercially available sticks that tell about the changes in the hormones. It's an indirect way of letting one know that ovulation is going to take place, explains Dr Bahl and tells us that in most cases, ovulation predictor kits provide an accurate forecast of your LH surge and subsequent ovulation. They can be most effective when used together with other monitoring methods. Along with the kits, doctors usually suggest examining the cervical mucus and charting the basal body temperature which is tested the first

thing in the morning. These methods, when combined, can greatly increase your chances of getting pregnant.

As there are advantages and disadvantages of everything, Dr Bahl says, "The pros are that it is a simpler way of knowing the best possible chance of conceiving. Instead of going to the doctor and getting an ultrasound done, you can choose this method but the con is that it is not as sensitive as the latter. Everytime you are testing yourself, your mind is preoccupied and it's obvious when you are trying too hard for something, you get stressed. You do not release happy hormones which in turn affects your ability to conceive. Moreover, your sexual life is timed according to the device and becomes mechanical. It becomes something solely devoted to reproduction. So yes, it can be a rough method but then it's obviously a convenient option."

One of the users of the ovulation predictor kits shares her experience. Shweta Verma, 32, a software engineer from Bengaluru, says that they started their fam-

ily planning after two years of marriage. She was, later in the same year, diagnosed with PCOD and was prescribed a medication for six months. After which, they were advised by the doctors to try conception naturally. The doctor recommended the use of the monitor to ease the journey. "I used it for three cycles after which it was discovered that my husband had a low sperm count. I continued using it and even cross-checked the results with ultrasound scans. They turned out to be identical. This strengthened my faith and I finally got the good news," she says and adds that the monitor eases the journey of a woman.

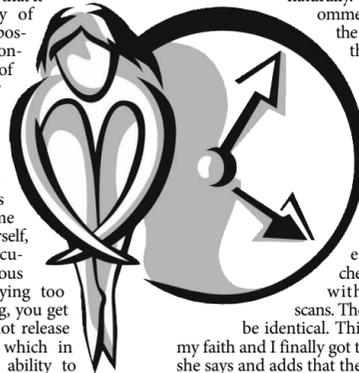
However, these kits do have limitations as they do not work when fertility drugs are present in the system. Moreover, they do not work consistently on women over 40. Some women in their 40s, especially those approaching menopause, have increased levels of LH in their systems at all times, rendering the tests invalid.

But coming to surrogacy or for that matter IVF, these are for people who are

infertile or have medical conditions which do not allow them to conceive naturally. Alisha Mathur, 36, a housewife, feels that the device helps women conceive but "I don't think it can ever replace doctors or labs or even procedures like surrogacy. It works even for irregular cycles and notifies when there is a probability of a fertility condition or issue which requires clinical support. Surrogacy is a different thing altogether. In the rarest of the rare cases, doctors suggest it."

Dr Bahl explains it better when she says, "You can't jump from class one to class 10. Similarly nobody jumps from tracking ovulation to surrogacy. What would a normal healthy couple do? They would try conceiving without any contraception for one year. And 90 per cent of the couples will conceive within one year of married life. So when you don't, you start tracking the fertility manually. But most of the times you would visit a doctor and ask for his/her help. The doctor will then guide the couple about the various methods. Only when they have tried everything and failed does the doctor advise surrogacy. It might be a marketing gimmick that you can avoid surrogacy if you buy this device. However, the trackers just help women conceive quickly."

Using the ovulation predictor kits or so-called fertility monitors provides more privacy as issues like fertility are things that women don't prefer to discuss in public, feel both the users of Inito fertility monitor.



Middle-class hero

Director **KRISHNA DK** and actor **MANOJ BAJPAI** tell **CHAHAK MITTAL** that the web series, *The Family Man* aims to highlight how intelligence officials are never appreciated for their successes but are heaped with blame for their failures



that something that we all think? We think that they're an inefficient organisation and don't really work. Government employees are negligent towards their jobs is an idea that is in-built in our consciousness. Their departments take so much time in processing everything. This idea is rampant. And Srikant's daughter also believes that." However, the series aims to show the efficiency of the intelligence department and how "they work hard to create a safer nation without the common people ever becoming aware of it." DK adds that there is a contrast between the public perception and the nature of their jobs. It is also an answer for "why do these officers risk their lives for the nation when they can easily opt for any other profession or job. Why do they do this after all?"

While the series has a serious message, it also involves some day-to-day humour which reflect upon

our everyday struggles. "We tend to bring out everyday human through our writing. And this is what worked for *Stree* as well. Even when there was a terrorist involved, we wanted to show it in a satirical way. When you say something serious through humour, the audience might take that thing home. Otherwise, it might look like preaching in a classroom. They would ignore it. The audience always needs something that they can relate to," says he.

Actor Manoj Bajpai believes that after doing such a role, he has realised how "tricky" the lives of these officers are. "We don't even know how many attacks they have already stopped. They are not given an award or the credit for stopping that damage. However, they would always be criticised for even a single failure," says the actor.

He adds that the biggest thing is when terror attacks take place, peo-

ple always discuss it and blame the government for their inefficiency. Even the trailer has a scene where two men are talking to each other about the failure of the intelligence agencies, pointing out to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which were "not" stopped. "26/11 rokte toh baat hoti." However, here, Manoj and DK both believe that it is because we only know about the attacks that have happened because "they were missed. These people could actually be tracking a terrorist under your nose and you'd have no idea. This is the tragedy of their jobs. You never hear about their successes but failures are all over the news. They are brought up long after they actually take place."

The scenario is much like that of the country's cricket team. They are bashed for losing one match even though they might have won thousands of others. The only difference is that they are appreciated when they win the cup. This is not the case with intelligence officers, points DK.

For Manoj, he saw this role as a chance to make their jobs look real and believable to the common people. "When I read the synopsis, I found it quite unique. I realised that this is something that I have never done. Through this, people would actually come to know about the kind of sacrifices they make. They keep their families happy in their minuscule pay. But they also get the chance to prevent any kind of assault on the nation. I realised that there is a supreme sacrifice linked with an exalted sense of patriotism," says he.

The actor feels that a film wouldn't have done justice to what the series holds. Manoj says, "The only difference between the two is that here, there are a lot of episodes so you get a chance to work on the different facets of the character. Whereas, a two to 2.5 hour-long film does not really focus on the characters but more on the plot."

Recalling an incident in his life, Manoj narrates that he, as an actor, has always wanted to evolve. "When I was in college hostel, my roommates and friends would keep suggesting and forcing me to read their notes and study more. Some were even preparing for civil services exams and would tell me, 'Tu bhi karle yaar thodi si mehnat. Ban jayega kuch. Yeh actor banne ka bhoot utaar de.' And I wouldn't listen because my goals were fixed," he chuckles.

(The series releases on Amazon Prime Video on September 20.)

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



No more creaking doors

Filmmaker **Shyam Ramsay**, who made Bollywood horror a cult affair, passed away on Wednesday. He was 67. As per the reports, he was suffering from pneumonia.

Shyam, as part of the Ramsay brothers, made films like *Veerana*, *Purani Haveli* and *Andhera*. Ramsay brothers also consisted of Tulsi Kumar, Keshu, Arjun, Gangu and Karan. Apart from films, Shyam and Tulsi also gave the TV audience *Zee Horror Show*.

Netizens have poured in RIP messages for the director. "Rest in Peace #ShyamRamsay ji. You and your family's stories are inspirational, How your whole family come together to give Indian Cinema a new genre called 'horror' it inspired so many industry people how to work on something, which genuinely believes in," one wrote.

Another went back to her childhood days and wrote, "As a kid, I was always afraid of ghost and horror movies, while my sibling and cousin watched it without batting an eyelid."

Another wrote: "The genre of #horror is as tough as making people laugh, the #RamsayBrothers did it with their own unique ways. RIP #ShyamRamsay. I still remember watching that zee horror show and how that scared the hell out of me."

Filmmaker **Vikram Bhatt**, who has carved a name as a horror filmmaker in recent times, was also saddened by his demise. The *Raaz* director feels the late filmmaker was innovative, and regaled his audiences with fabulous spooky cinema from time to time.

"Ramsay carried the torch of horror films right through the '70s and '80s. Even amongst the Ramsay Brothers, he was considered to be the leader of the group. He was innovative and regaled his audiences with fabulous spooky cinema from time to time. His passing is indeed a sad and his contribution to the dark films will always be held in high esteem," said Bhatt.

—IANS

FROM HERAT TO TAJ

CD Foundation collaborates with the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on its 100th independence anniversary and will host a food and culture festival in the city

CD foundation collaborates with Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Charge d'affaires Tahir Qadiry announced a 15-day long Afghanistan food and culture festival with the foundation in October on the 100th independence anniversary of Afghanistan.

The food and culture festival is one of eight events which will take place during the anniversary celebration. Live Afghani band performance, ghazal performance, cricket match and many more performances will be there. There will be food stalls and live kitchen display of Afghanistani cuisines too. It will also display handicraft and textile exhibition, fashion walks, cultural performances, conferences, workshop, media interactions and meets for three days. Subsequently, the festival will also mark a meet between Afghanistan and Indian film makers.

The festival aims at enhancing the cultural relations between India and Afghanistan. Both the countries are bounded in cultural and historical relations. The age old cultural and civilisational ties and the deep-rooted linkages in the fields of music, art, architecture, lan-



guage and cuisine constitute an important bond of friendship between the countries. Therefore, events like this make us celebrate our values together.

Tahir appreciated the

founder director of CD Foundation Charu Das. She said that it is a privilege for her foundation to have the responsibility of this festival. She added that this initiative was mainly taken to meet the commit-

ments made by CD foundation in Kabul during a formal visit of the city by a group of Indian delegation in August.

Her aim for planning this festival is double. On one hand, it is a way to exhibit various

aspects of Afghanistan culture to Indians. On the other, it provides an opportunity for the participants (women entrepreneurs) to get trained in their respective fields by Indian experts and to create a network

for doing future business in India.

Dr Sandeep Marwah, chairman of Aaft and president of Marwah Studio was also present. He extended his support to the festival.

IN SHORT



SPMCIL has been awarded Best in Class for Training and Development in the 18th edition of the Asia Pacific HRM Congress held on Tuesday in Bengaluru. The award was received by B.J. Gupta, additional general manager (HR) and Durga A. Prasad, manager (HR).



Andhra Association celebrated Ganesha Puja festival at AAD building in the city. Arvind Kejriwal, chief minister and Sanjay Singh, MP (RS) attended the function.



Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has been awarded the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar for 2018-19 for implementation of official language policy of Government of India. Home minister Amit Shah presented the award to Santosh Kumar Mall, commissioner, KVS at Vigyan Bhawan on Saturday. KVS was selected for its excellent work in Hindi under the category of 'Boards/Autonomous Bodies/Societies of Govt' in region A by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The board meeting of city's Municipal Corporation was boycotted by municipal commissioner Dinesh Chandra as there was a uproar during it.

The dispute started when Municipal Corporation's executive vice president and BJP councillor Sunil Yadav, commented on the work style and behaviour of officials of Pawan Pandey, manager of CLC (urban livelihood development company). Chandra became so uncomfortable and angered by this indecisive behaviour of councillors, that he left the board meeting.

Later mayor Asha Sharma adjourned the meeting indefinitely,

Municipal commissioner boycotts board meeting

repeating all the proceedings. She then had a conversation with councillors of all parties and condemned the behaviour of the city commissioner. She even wrote a letter to the chief minister, contempting the house. In the letter, the chief minister has been demanded to be disciplined against the city commissioner and other officials.

On the other hand, Chandra told that the councillors in the house were using unparliamentary language against the former city commissioners which led them to leave the house



Councillors near the House table

silently. He added that he has not committed any contempt of the house but instead sent the additional municipal commissioner Pramod Kumar to continue the proceedings of the house. But, the councillors continued to create a ruckus even then.

In this sequence, the manager of CLC Pawan Pandey said that he has never behaved indecisively with any Municipal Corporation officials or councillors. He alleged that some councillors are angry as he had not facilitated their misleading work.

SRM students bag good jobs

At the first day of recruitment process at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, four major IT companies offered 4,749 jobs to students from the graduation batch of 2020.

TCS (Ninja) has made 1437 offers, Infosys 1315, CTS 1175 and Wipro 822. Apart from this, TCS has made 183 offers under digital track too (₹7 lakh per annum), said Sriram Padmanabhan, director, career centre at SRMIST. The highest paid offer



was ₹41.6 lakh per annum by Microsoft. More than 120 companies have visited the campus since the commencement of the placement session on July 22. They have made 6000 offers.

Top recruiters include Amazon (18 offers of ₹32 lakh per annum), Barclays (25 offers of ₹10 lakh per annum) and startup Udaan (four offers of ₹30 lakh per annum). Besides this, organisations like Veritas and Pay Pal have made internship offers

Municipal Corporation incorporates steelware-only model

With regard to environmental protection, municipal commissioner Dinesh Chandra has issued instructions to Municipal Corporation establishment heads that refreshments will be provided only in steel utensils at meetings held in all the establishments of the city's Municipal Corporation.

This model was first used in the kavay yatra and had positive results. Dinesh said that due to the use of banned plastics, the



Municipal Commissioner Dinesh Chandra

city used to get dirt piles during the bhandara and religious events. He added that he made it mandatory to use steel and other metal utensils for all such events.

"Inspired by us, the management committees of the gurdwaras and temples have abandoned steel crockery and made steel utensil banks for the distribution of langar and food offerings," said Dinesh. He added that they have also decided to put hoardings and stalls for publicity so that people are aware of it.

'Industry and academia need to come together'



IT Madras organised a Technology Conclave: Vision New India 2022 with the theme — development for all through technology.

Rakesh Kumar, chairman, Scope and CMD, NLC India Limited addressed the conclave. Arjun Ram Meghwal, MoS, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises inaugurated the conclave in the presence of Dr Madhukar Gupta, additional secretary, department of Public Enterprises.

Rakesh asserted the need for industry and academia to come together to bridge the skill gap of the talent required by the industry. He pointed out that the ambitious plan of creating a new India through "Strategy for New India @ 75" could only be achieved if the younger generation is equipped with the necessary skills required in the current volatile market environment.

The chief executives from various public sector enterprises and other organisations also participated in varied panel discussions such as role of CSR in technology, leveraging CSR funding for nation building and many others.

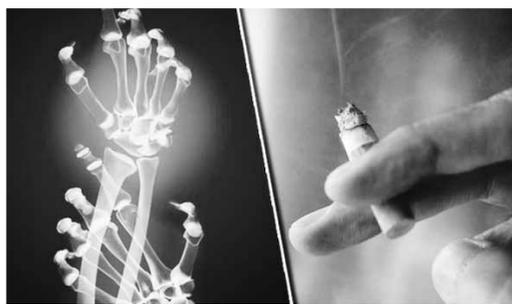
Smoking could lead to rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disorder that occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks the joints leading to pain and inflammation in the tissue surrounding the joints. Women are three times more likely to get diagnosed with RA than men and the disease can impact anyone within the age group of 20 to 50 years.

"Though, there are no exact numbers, we can safely say that RA impacts 0.5 per cent to one per cent of the population. Despite relatively high awareness levels on



RA, there are many myths and misconceptions surrounding the disease which could pose an impediment to the treatment. Some of the common myths like RA only affects people of old age



and that there is no treatment. It can have a negative impact on patients therefore it is important for them to come in for regular check-ups and follow the Rheumatologist's advice," says Dr Himanshu Agarwal, Consultant Rheumatologist

Max Superspecialty Hospital, Vaishali. "Smoking may contribute towards the increase in RA cases especially among younger population. People with genetic risk factors are also prone to developing the condition. RA causes pain and disability leading to loss of

daily functioning and missing of work schedules. Change in weather also leads to change in barometric pressure which could exacerbate the arthritis. Majority of the patients come in within three months of experiencing the first signs of RA. About 0.5 to 1 per cent of the Indian population is affected with the condition. Education and early detection are crucial to the effective management of RA," shares Dr Sonal Mehra, Consultant Rheumatologist at Jaypee Hospital, Noida.

NHPC INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) invites applications for the second batch of NHPC Sports Scholarship Scheme for Upcoming Sportspersons in five sports — football, kabaddi, boxing, wrestling and para sports. These scholarships are meant for young players of 14-19 years (14-24 years for para sports) with a view to encourage talent and create a pool of sportspersons during their formative years of education.

There is a maximum provision of 10 numbers of scholarships with two numbers in each of the five sports. The applications shall be considered for scholarships in two categories — elite scholar and scholar, based on the fulfillment of required criteria. The details regarding the scholarships are available in the career corner of NHPC website. The last date for receiving application forms has been extended till October 17.

God is the seer of past, present and future. He knows the intellect of all human beings. In this regard, god preaches in Rigved mantra that there are people who although sees the literal Vedvani yet ignores it due to lack of the literal knowledge. And then there are people who don't understand it. A few of so-called saints are unknown to the meaning of Ved mantras and Vedic knowledge, and then they misguide people. Whereas they must pay attention to the other mantras where god preaches that if an aspirant understand Vedas, he only receives benefit of it. People listen to Puranas, Bhagwad Geeta and other spiritual books as they are inspired to listen, in the name of faith. They are even explained the meaning of each word in Hindi language, whereas as far as the matter of Vedas, the said practice is not in vogue and hence the prob-

THE SUPREME KNOWLEDGE

lem. So it is clear that until people become aspirants and start understanding Ved mantras, the problem to follow Vedic path will always remain unsolved. Intellectuals should approach the government to do the needful because the most important knowledge to make the future bright is the knowledge of four Vedas, which emanate directly from god. It can't be compared to any other literal knowledge.

Today, Vedas have almost been intentionally disregarded instead of being followed by people. Above quoted matter concludes that illusion, corruption, dishonour to women, violence and several other types of problems exist in world because people are not aware of the Vedic knowl-



edge. Therefore, we will have to pay attention towards Vedas and its literature like Shastras, Upnishads. Kapil Muni states

in his Sankhya Shastra Sutra that there are three types of sorrows, whose total destruction enables a devotee to

attain salvation. First, AdhyatmikDukh, which is generated due to internal reasons. It has two kinds —

Shareerik, due to human body and Manas, due to mind/thought. Second, Adhibhautik, pain and afflic-

tion caused by snake and scorpion's bite due to physical violence and bitter words. Third, Adhidaivik, caused by non-living things like rain, fire, snowfall, lightening, earthquake and sorrows generated by cyclones.

Kapil Muni says that it is not possible to put an end to the sorrows until we follow the Vedas. Undoubtedly, today, most people do not believe in Vedic knowledge but truth prevails. He further adds that the said sorrows can't be separated from the soul. Yes, money should be earned with hard effort. So the learning of Vedas in all circumstances will help to attain salvation.

(The author is Swami Ram Swarup, chief editor of Ved Ishvareeya vani, a bi-annual magazine.)

India restrict South Africa to 149/5

Deepak Chahar picks two wickets for 22 runs in his four overs



India's captain Virat Kohli, right, congratulates teammate Deepak Chahar after he dismissed South Africa's Reeza Hendricks

HIGHEST SCORES ON DEBUT FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN T-20I				
Score	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Date
78	Rilee Rossouw	Australia	Adelaide	05-11-2014
61	Greame Smith	New Zealand	Johannesburg	21-10-2005
56	Rassie van der Dussen	Zimbabwe	East London	09-10-2018
49	Christiaan Jonker	India	Cape Town	24-02-2018
49	Temba Bavuma	India	Mohali	18-09-2019

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Skipper Quinton de Kock and debutant Temba Bavuma played impressive knocks but India were able to contain South Africa to 149 for five in the second T20 International here on Wednesday.

Newly appointed captain de Kock (52 off 37) led from the front, while Bavuma (49 off 43) too impressed in his first limited-overs appearance for South Africa in almost two years.

But South Africa did not get the final flourish they were looking for and ended up with a below-par total. India bowled well in the death overs, conceding only 24 runs in the final four. Pacer Deepak Chahar was pick of the bowler with two wickets for 22 runs from his four overs.

India captain Virat Kohli sent a new-look South Africa into bat with the visitors picking three debutants in Anrich Nortje, Bjorn Fortuin and Bavuma.

While Reeza Hendricks departed cheaply, de Kock looked in sublime touch from the word go.

De Kock cover drove spinner Washington Sundar on the first ball he faced before collecting three straight boundaries off pacer Navdeep Saini who was taken out of the attack after conceding 13 runs in his first over.

Bavuma, South Africa's Test specialist, joined de Kock after the fall of Hendricks in the fourth over and he too looked in fine touch. He made his intentions clear by pulling Hardik Pandya over deep square leg for a six.

South Africa made only 39 for one in six overs but their innings

INDIA CAPTAIN VIRAT KOHLI SENT A NEW-LOOK SOUTH AFRICA INTO BAT WITH THE VISITORS PICKING THREE DEBUTANTS IN ANRICH NORTJE, BJORN FORTUIN AND BAVUMA

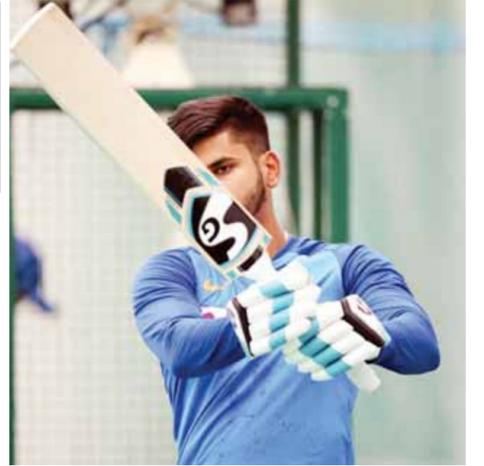
picked up momentum after that, taking them to 78 for one in 10 overs.

It took a brilliant catch from skipper Kohli to dismiss de Kock and shift the momentum in India's favour.

De Kock mistimed a hit off Saini and Kohli came running from mid-off to pounce on it, brining the crowd back to life. The stand between de Kock and Bavuma yielded 57 runs.

Vice-captain Rassie van der Dussen, South Africa's best batsman in the World Cup, followed de Kock in the dressing room quickly by offering a simple return catch to Ravindra Jadeja in the 13th over, leaving his team at 90 for three.

Runs dried up in the death overs but South Africa got a much-needed couple of sixes in the 20th over off Saini, which went for 16 runs.



Shreyas Iyer bats during practice session

BCCI/Twitter

Ganguly demands consistent run for youngsters

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly said that India need to look beyond the upcoming World T20 when it comes to finding young talent and give them consistent runs in the senior squad.

"The most important thing for India is to not look at the World T20 next year. Before the last World Cup there was too much noise about it and that sometimes is not good. What they need to do is pick the best possible players and give them consistent opportunities, as there is some serious talent in the domestic circuit," Ganguly wrote in a column for the *Times of India*.

Ganguly said that the bowling department in particular will be interesting to watch with the likes of Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed and

Navdeep Saini knocking at the doors. "These guys, with time and maturity, will see (Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar), (Mohammed) Shami as their role models and this will be a healthy sign for Indian fast bowling. Spinners like Rahul Chahar, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep (Yadav), (Yuzvendra) Chahal will also keep everyone on their toes," said Ganguly.

He said that K L Rahul will now be under pressure to keep his number four spot in limited overs after losing the Test opening slot. "With Rohit (Sharma) and Shikhar (Dhawan) at the top as the best possible opening pair, K L Rahul will be pushed. He has lost his place in Test cricket due to indifferent form and the likes of Shreyas and Manish Pandey will keep him on his toes if he wants to hold on to the No. 4 slot," he said.



Indian paddler Sharath Kamal in a file picture

Paddlers win Gold in 1st Div at Asian C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's team logged their best ever result at ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships, finishing fifth after beating Hong Kong 3-1 in the classification match here on Wednesday.

The Indian team also defeated Iran 3-0 to clinch the Gold medal in the champions division.

In the classification match, India tried out a new opening with Sharath Kamal, who after the initial struggle, managed to put it across Lam Siu Hang 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 11-7 to provide the lead.

In the second tie, Anthony Amalraj beat NG Pak Nam 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-7, while in the third singles, G Sathyan defeated Kwan Man Ho 11-5, 11-13, 11-7, 14-12.

In the second and fourth games, Sathyan won the last on his second match-point. He was the lone Indian who did not lose a single match in team event, having played all matches from 1st Division to finishing fifth in the Champions Division.

In the final of the 1st Division, Sharath opened again for India and downed Amin Ahmadi 11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6, while both Sathyan and Amalraj were stretched fully. Sathyan beat Air Hossein Hodaie 6-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-7, 12-10 while Amalraj accounted for Noshad Alamiyan 18-16, 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9 as India won the yellow metal.

Sindhu, Praneeth, Kashyap win in China

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion and title favourite P V Sindhu sailed into the pre-quarterfinals with a convincing straight-game win over former Olympic Gold-medallist Li Xuerui at the China Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday.

India's top shuttler Sindhu beat China's Li Xuerui 21-18 21-12 in just 34 minutes to set up a clash with Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Replicating her world championship form, the Olympic Silver-medallist produced another strong performance to get the better of the currently 20th-ranked Chinese, who entered the match with a 3-3 record against the Indian.

Men's singles players, Sai Praneeth and Parupalli Kashyap also progressed to the second round after notching up contrasting opening-round wins.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini



PV Sindhu attempts a return shot

BAI/Twitter File Picture

Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too found a place in the pre-quarterfinals after crossing the opening hurdle.

However, Saina made an early exit after losing to Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan in the women's singles.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist lost 10-21

17-21 at the hands of the World No.19 Ongbamrunghan in a match that lasted for 44 minutes at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

It was the former world number one's second successive loss to the Thai player.

The 29-year-old Saina has struggled for form following

her recovery from injuries.

The Indian started her season with a win at the Indonesia Masters but has failed to reach another final on the BWF circuit so far.

In men's singles, world championships bronze medallist Praneeth had to battle for an hour and 12 minutes to get past Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon 21-19 21-23 21-14.

while former top 10 player Kashyap beat France's Brice Leverdez 21-12 21-15 in 38 minutes.

Next world no 15 Praneeth will face China's Lu Guang Zu, while Kashyap lock horns with seventh seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

In women's doubles, Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too crossed the opening hurdle after their opponents Chinese Taipei's Cheng Chi Ya and Lee Chih Chen retired mid way in the second game after lagging 13-21 8-11.

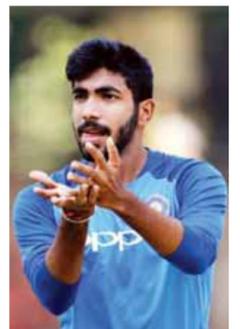
Bumrah equipped for Test success

NEW ■ (IANS)

Ever since making his Test debut in Cape Town in January 2018, Jasprit Bumrah has improved by leaps and bounds and has become an integral part of the Indian team across all formats, especially Test cricket. Bumrah has featured in 12 Test matches so far, in which he has scalped 62 wickets at an average of 19.24, thus becoming the linchpin of Indian bowling unit.

All these 12 Tests have been played on foreign soil (3 in South Africa, 3 in England, 4 in Australia and 2 in West Indies) where wickets naturally assist pacers. In all these places, the right-arm pacer from Mumbai has made a mark and performed brilliantly. However, the real test for him will come up when India take on South Africa in the three-match series at home.

Former Indian pacer Ajit Agarkar feels Bumrah will have an exceptional debut home Test series against the Proteas. "With experience, every-



Jasprit Bumrah in a file picture

PTI

IANS. (IPL) and has been instrumental in their success in the league.

"A lot of people tend to forget that Bumrah played quite a lot of first-class cricket before he played for India. He has bowled in these conditions with the SG ball. He knows what to do," said Agarkar.

Agarkar, 41, who played 26 Tests and 191 ODIs for India, also said that Bumrah will be fresh and raring to have the ball in his hand as he has not played much cricket ever since the World Cup. "Since the World Cup, he hasn't played a lot of cricket. He missed (rested) the T20Is and the ODIs and featured in the two Test matches. So, he must be relatively fresh and will be very keen to perform in India as well," he said.

Bumrah played two matches in the Caribbean Islands, in which he picked 13 wickets, including a hat-trick.

"I would not be surprised if he has an exceptional series," Agarkar signed off.

Belgian title will give me confidence: Lakshya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen is hoping to continue the consistency that fetched him the Belgian Open as he looks to break into top 50 in the world ranking, which will help him qualify for bigger tournaments next season.

The 18-year-old from Almora shocked second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch the men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge last Saturday.

"I think I played consistently well throughout the week and I'm happy with my performance," Lakshya, who didn't drop a single game throughout the tournament, told PTI.

"This win will give me lots of confidence to do well in the coming tournaments," he said.

"This year I can play more tournaments than last year in the senior circuit and I hope to prepare well for all the tournaments."

Playing his first full-fledged season in the senior circuit, Lakshya had broken into the top-100 in March this year. The Belgian Open win saw him jump 12 places to grab the World No 67th spot in the latest BWF ranking.

His father DK Sen, a SAI coach, who gave him the early lessons in badminton,



Lakshya Sen in a file picture

qBWF

THIS YEAR I CAN PLAY MORE TOURNAMENTS THAN LAST YEAR IN THE SENIOR CIRCUIT AND I HOPE TO PREPARE WELL FOR ALL THE TOURNAMENTS

said Lakshya will have to quickly get into the top 50 by the year end.

"The target now for him will be to break into the top 50 by end of the year so that he can qualify for bigger tournaments," he said.

Asked about his upcoming tournaments, Lakshya, the reigning Asian Junior Championship winner, said: "I'll be playing the Dutch and SaarLorLux Open next month and then in November, I have Irish and Scottish Open."

Lakshya, who also claimed a bronze at the World Junior Championship and silver at Youth Olympic Games last year,

is currently in Europe playing in the Danish League for Aarhus club.

"It's nice to be in Denmark and the league matches are exiting. It's a new experience for me," he said.

"We are going to be in Europe for 3 months, play the European circuit and the league matches."

"In the first team match, I won against Jan Jorgensen and got 1 point for the team. It was a big match for me," added the Indian, whose next outing in the country will be the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300.

Lakshya, who has been a trainee at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) since 2010, had decided to play in the season circuit after the high in juniors last year.

He began the year well with a semi-final finish at the China Masters Super 100 tournament before reaching the finals at Polish Open. After a few early exits, he suffered an ankle injury in July but recovered well to claim the Belgian Open.

"This year, I twisted my ankle in July. It was not very major but I took two weeks to get back on court. I'm just taking good care and rehab," Lakshya said.

"Mental strength is very important as in senior circuit every match is tough," he signed off.



Mahmudullah plays a shot during his 62 run innings

ICC/Twitter

Mahmudullah guides B'desh to 175-7

AFP ■ CHITTAGONG

Mahmudullah Riyad smashed 62 off 41 balls, with five sixes, as Bangladesh posted 175-7 in their tri-nation Twenty20 international match against Zimbabwe in Chittagong on Wednesday.

Liton Das gave Bangladesh a positive start with 38 off 22 balls before a mini collapse saw the home side reduced to 65-3 after

they were asked to bat first by Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza.

Mahmudullah put on 78 runs with Mushfiqur Rahim (32) for the fourth wicket before Zimbabwe snatched the momentum back with few quick strikes.

Kayle Jarvis claimed 3-32 while Chris Mpofu finished with 3-42 for Zimbabwe. Afghanistan are the third team in the tournament.