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Ahead of 'Howdy', India for GSP

Modi, Trump may discuss reinstatement of duty-free entry on Indian goods to US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's week-long visit to the United States starting September 21, India on Thursday said it meets the criteria for the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status and Washington should take a call on reinstating it.

The US recently removed India from the GSP list of beneficiaries which allowed duty-free entry of Indian goods to that country. The contentious issue is likely to come up during Modi's talks with President Donald Trump.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said there will be two meetings between Modi and Trump and India is clear that despite the international focus on Kashmir, it will not be on the Prime Minister's agenda and any offer of mediation is not on the table.

Gokhale said, "Article 370 is an internal issue. Terrorism



→ The US recently removed India from the GSP list of beneficiaries which allowed duty-free entry of Indian goods to that country

→ There will be two meetings between Modi and Trump

→ India is clear that despite the international focus on Kashmir, it will not be on the Prime Minister's agenda and any offer of mediation is not on the table

→ Modi's packed schedule includes addressing the annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session, meeting Trump and 20 other global leaders in bilateral meetings besides addressing the mega 'Howdy Modi' event

is one among many issues. The focus will be on India's role at global stage, the Prime Minister will present his vision in this regard.

Modi's packed schedule includes addressing the annual UNGA session, meeting Trump and 20 other global leaders in bilateral meetings besides addressing the mega 'Howdy Modi' event. On

September 24, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be observed at the UN and Modi will be joined by his counterparts from Bangladesh, Singapore, Jamaica and New Zealand besides the Korean President and the UN Secretary General.

On the GSP status, Gokhale said India meets the criteria for trade concessions

that the United States ended in June. "GSP is a unilateral decision, given by countries to other countries based on certain criteria. We are a developing country, we meet those criteria," he said.

"I do not recall our ever stating that we are not interested in GSP," Gokhale said at the news conference.

Stressing on the impor-

ance of trade concessions for India, the Foreign Secretary said the US "unilaterally withdrew that concession; we believe that GSP is something which is important for our industry but ultimately it is a matter for the US to take a call on." Indian exports are worth over 6.3 billion dollars under the GSP and India was the largest beneficiary of the scheme. After the US decision in June, India reciprocated by increasing the tariffs on 28 products imported from the US, including high-value products like almonds and fresh apples.

The US has protested against it at the WTO.

In fact, tension over trade ties between the two countries was simmering for the last two years with the US last year increasing tariffs on its steel and aluminium imports.

Hug each Kashmiri, make J&K new paradise: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and newly appointed BJP member Udayanraje Bhosle during the Vijay Sankalp Rally in Nashik on Thursday

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Efforts on to bring out people from violence, terrorism, separatism, corruption, says PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he is aghast to see that at a time when the people of Jammu & Kashmir are embracing the "new possibilities" in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 and the entire country is standing with the Government, the Opposition parties are looking for "political benefits".

Castigating the Opposition parties, particularly the Congress and the NCP, for their "questionable" stand on the abrogation of Article 370, Modi said, "I am not getting to see senior Congress and NCP leaders cooperate with us and conduct themselves in a manner as they ought to be doing at this juncture."

Making no bones about the

BJP's intention that it would go whole hog Kashmir issue in the new context as a major issue in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the PM unveiled a new vision of making Kashmir a "paradise" once again.

Modi called for "hugging each Kashmiri and creating a 'new paradise' in the Valley. "Kal tak kahte the Kashmiri humaara hai, abhi har Hindustani kahega hume naya Kashmir banana hain, wahan phir se ek swarg banana hain (We used to say till recently Kashmir is part of India. Now every Indian will say we will create a new Kashmir and we will build a paradise once again there). Har Kashmiri ko gale

lagana hain (We should embrace every Kashmiri)," Modi said. Speaking at a huge rally marking the conclusion of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis' 4,000-km long "Mahajanadesh Yatra" at Nashik, Modi singled out the Congress and the NCP for a vicious attack and said, "The Government has taken such a big decision (on Article 370). This decision was taken to bring out people of J&K and Ladakh from violence, terrorism, separatism and corruption. We are trying to implement the decision with minimum inconvenience to people."

Didi meets Shah, flags NRC flaws



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee meets Home Minister Amit Shah at his office, at North Block in New Delhi on Thursday

Says 19L genuine people left out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flagging the issue of exclusions in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam in her meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday pointed out many genuine Indians have been left out of the register, which has excluded 19 lakh people who now face an uncertain fate.

Mamata, who handed an official letter in this regard to Shah, however, said the issue of NRC in West Bengal was not discussed but reiterated her stance that it was not needed in the State. Shah had on Wednesday announced yet again the Government's intention of carrying out the exercise in the entire country.

While the TMC supremo maintained that her meetings with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister were not political, it has led to speculation that the once-ardent critic of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is softening her stand. Mamata had called on the PM a day earlier.

"I met the Home Minister to discuss about the NRC in Assam and told him that many genuine Indians were excluded from the list. I have requested him to do the needful so that they can be included in the NRC as they are in distress," she told reporters after the meeting with Shah.

Mamata reportedly conveyed the Home Minister that genuine Indians belonging to Bengali, Bihari, Gorkha and Assamese communities were excluded from the NRC in Assam and sought his intervention to alleviate their miseries. This was her first meeting with Shah, who assumed the office about three months ago following a Lok

Sabha election campaign that saw the two sides launch a no-holds-barred attack on each other.

"I have requested him to examine their cases and resolve the issues. The Home Minister has assured that he would look into it," said the TMC chief.

The final NRC, a list of Assam's residents and published on August 31, excluded the names of 19 lakh people.

The BJP is on the back foot on the NRC as the exclusions have been far less in areas believed to have the maximum illegal migrants.

"Even Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that the NRC was not required in his State," she said.

BJP general secretary party affairs in-charge in West Bengal Kailash Vijayvargiya tweeted, "Ab aya oont pahar ke niche" (now she has realised where she stands.) A couple of days ago, Vijayvargiya had said that Mamata was meeting Modi as a "last-ditch bid" to save Kolkata former police chief Rajeev Kumar, who has gone traceless and the CBI has launched a manhunt to nab him.

The Chief Minister said she has come to New Delhi after a long time and after she was given an appointment by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a meeting. "Meeting the Prime Minister and the Home Minister is a constitutional obligation. Besides we have international border issues with Bangladesh and Bhutan and State borders with Bihar and Jharkhand. We also have the sensitive 'chicken's neck' (corridor connecting Northeastern States with the rest of the country). So meeting with the Home Minister is in that context necessary," she said.

Mamata also met Congress leader Ahmed Patel and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal later in the day.

Babul heckled at Jadavpur varsity, Guv rushes with cops to save him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Union Minister Babul Supriyo was on Thursday shown black flags and heckled by a section of students at Jadavpur University, who also stopped him from leaving the campus prompting West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to rush to JU along with a large police force.

The Governor, who is the chancellor of the university, too faced demonstrations by the students belonging to SFI, Left leaning AFSU and FETSU and AISA, a Naxalite students wing, university sources said.

They blocked the Union Minister's way and thumped the bonnet of his vehicle as the policemen kept requesting them to withdraw while the West Bengal Governor was seen helping Babul Supriyo to the vehicle.

Dhankhar and Babul Supriyo finally left the campus late in the evening after university teachers stepped in and persuaded the agitating students to lift their blockade, a spokesman of Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) said.

Detailed report on P7

Delhi Govt to open 140 new Mohalla Clinics by Sep end

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

Eyeing the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is leaving no stone unturned to extend its flagship Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinic project in Delhi. Around 140 Mohalla Clinics will be set up by end of this month.

The AAP Government has set a target to construct around 800 Mohalla Clinics before the Assembly election process begins in Delhi.

The construction 1,000 Mohalla Clinics was one of the AAP's top promises before the last Assembly polls, but so far 199 clinics are operational.

First Defence Minister in Tejas cockpit



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first Defence Minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft

IN PICS:

1) Rajnath Singh waves from atop Tejas at HAL airport in Bengaluru

2) Rajnath Singh waves as he sits inside the cockpit of Tejas

Your stolen car may be parked on OLX for sale

Man held for selling over dozen expensive cars on site

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

If your car is stolen, do check if it is being sold on OLX app. The Delhi Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a man involved in selling more than a dozen luxury cars stolen from various localities in the national Capital. Police said an FIR will be registered against the OLX management.

Active since 2014, the accused had succeeded in selling high-end cars by posting their advertisements on OLX app. However, he ran out of his luck a few days ago. Suspecting

something fishy after the accused asked for a nominal price of an expensive car, a buyer informed police which swung into action.

East Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Jasmeet Singh said complainant Ravi Saxena approached us on July 8 stating that he saw an advertisement related to sale of Volkswagen Polo at a very nominal price, to which he responded and purchased the car for ₹1,70,000 from one Ankit Pruthi, the accused.

"Ankit provided the complainant with photocopies of

registration certificate (RC) and insurance and assured him to deliver the original after transfer of the registration in the name of the complainant. But despite repeated requests from the complainant, Ankit did not provide him with the original documents.

"Suspecting something was amiss, Saxena approached the State Transport Authority (STA) and he was befuddled to know that the said car registration number belonged to another car model 'Skoda Laura'," said the DCP.

"Having realised that he had bought a stolen car, Saxena asked Ankit to return his money and take the car but Ankit tried to convince the complainant that it was genuine. After a few months, the



Ankit Pruthi



The stolen cars

Pioneer photo

cheap price on OLX platform," said the DCP. "A police team was tasked to collect tip-off about the gang-members which led to the hideout of kingpin Ankit. On September 14, a trap was laid and Ankit was arrested in Jaipur. He had changed his name from Ankit Pruthi to Ankit Arora to hide his identity. Originally from Delhi, he had acquired a Jaipur address," said the DCP.

CAPSULE

SENSEX TANKS 470 PTS
Mumbai: Market benchmark BSE Sensex plunged 470 points on Thursday, dragged by a heavy sell-off in banking and energy stocks amid incessant foreign fund outflows. P11

CHIDAMBARAM'S CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL OCT 3
New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday extended till October 3 the judicial custody of former finance minister P Chidambaram in connection with the INX Media corruption case. Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar also allowed medical examination of Chidambaram.

RKS BHADOURIA TO BE NEXT IAF CHIEF
New Delhi: Air Marshal RKS Bhadouria will be the next Chief of Air Staff after the superannuation of incumbent B S Dhanoa, the Government announced on Thursday.

Honey-trapping syndicate busted in State

Bhopal: Creating flutters into the political circles of Madhya Pradesh, a high-profile racket has been busted by police in Madhya Pradesh on charges of honey-trapping several senior bureaucrats and politicians for extorting money.

Official sources said that besides at least ten IAS officers, the alleged list of victims of the

gang includes a former Chief Minister as well. Three women and a man has been arrested from Bhopal on Wednesday while two women were picked up by police in Indore the same day in a covert operation, details of the same were leaked only on Wednesday midnight. The matter has come to light after a complaint was lodged

with Indore police recently. A senior police officer from Indore claimed that a well-known person had approached the police recently with the complaint that a woman befriended him and shot his videos and pictures in compromising position. Later, the woman started blackmailing him with her friends and start-

ing demanding money. The Bhopal police had acted on the tip off of the Indore police. One of the women picked up in Bhopal's Rivera Town had rented out a house of a former BJP MLA and the minister. To add, in a joint action, police teams from Govindpura, Kamla Nagar and Ayodhya Nagar had raided three

places picking up three women and a man, who is said to be husband of one of the women, identified as Congress IT Cell member. The man was also with the IT Cell and was on Thursday expelled from the party. A senior engineer from Indore Municipal Corporation had approached the police against one of the members of

the gang in Indore. Trainee City SP Govindpura Amit Kumar told the media another agency (ATS) has been interrogating the women. Though he confirmed the gadgets found with the women have stored some objectionable content. He however declined to reveal much on the case. SR

CM updates places to include in Bhopal-Indore Metro Project

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has directed to include Mandideep, Bhopal Airport and Pithampur Industrial Area of Indore in Bhopal and Indore Metro Project.

These directives were given by Nath in a meeting of the Board of Directors of Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Limited Company held at Mantralaya. The Minister for Public Works Department Sajjan Singh Verma and Minister for Urban Development and Housing Jaivardhan Singh were present at the meeting.

The Chief Minister said that the metro rail should be completed soon by reducing its stipulated time frame. He instructed to re-examine the period of construction process in this regard. Nath said that the construction work should be carried out simultaneously, so that the project is completed soon and the people of Indore and Bhopal could avail its benefit at the earliest.

The Chief Minister said to take benefit of Metro project experience and the procedure adopted in Delhi in the Bhopal-Indore project. Use the technique adopted there. This will accelerate speed of our work and we will be able to come up with solutions in

NATH SAID THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WORK SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY, SO THAT THE PROJECT IS COMPLETED SOON AND THE PEOPLE OF INDORE AND BHOPAL COULD AVAIL ITS BENEFIT AT THE EARLIEST

advance of the obstacles that came up at the time of construction of the Delhi Metro.

The Chief Secretary SR Mohanty, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Anurag Jain, Additional Chief Secretary Public Works Malay Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary Energy Mohammad Suleman, Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Sanjay Dubey, Commissioner Urban Development P Narhari, Managing Director Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Company Swatantra Kumar Singh and concerned officials were present at the meeting.



Chief Minister Kamal Nath chairs a meeting of the board of directors of Madhya Pradesh Metro Rail Company Limited, at State Mantralaya in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

1st Croma store opens at DB Mall

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Croma, India's first and only Omni-channel electronics retailer from the Tata Group has opened its store at DB City Mall, MP Nagar. This large format retail store will fulfill all the needs of today's customers with over 9000+ products and more than 300 world class brands to choose from.

The new store is spread over 10,000 sqft and is designed to empower customers looking for the latest in electronics products on display. Tech-savvy staff at the store will guide customers and answer their queries to help them make the right choice for their needs.

Speaking on media persons at the launch, Ritesh Ghosal, CMO, Croma- Infiniti Retail Ltd said, "The people of Bhopal can now get the Croma experience in their very own city! Since 2006, Croma has been at the forefront to give every customer a fulfilling experience through access to the latest and the best gadgets. Our vast range of gadgets coupled with great affordability schemes and assured lifetime service are designed to help people access their aspirational lifestyle today. We are sure that Bhopal will appreciate the experience of shopping at Croma."

The Croma Privileges programme gives customers the assurance of life-time service, rewards members with Loyalty Discounts and attractive upgrade benefits; it even offers help with E-Waste Disposal.

Ritesh Ghosal, CMO, Croma- Infiniti Retail Ltd added, "Ten Million Croma customers are already enjoying the privileges of being loyal; in our new cities, we are happy to invite new customers to join in for the token sum of Rs 101 and enjoy the same privileges."



Special Director General State Cyber Police, Purshottam Sharma leads a bike rally during Cyber Safety and Security Awareness Week organised by traffic police and State cyber police cell in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Solar geyser plants to be installed in 1,008 places

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Solar geyser plants will be installed in 1,008 hostels and ashram schools this year in 15 special backward tribal-dominated districts of the State. A provision of ₹26 crore has been made in the budget of Tribal Welfare Department for this work. There are 56 junior hostels, 531 senior hostels, 39 collegiate hostels and 382 ashram schools in these areas.

Housing allowance is being provided to scheduled tribe students, who were not able to get accommodation in hostels in the state. As many as 65,304 students in the year 2017-18 and 28,470 students in 2018-19 were benefitted from this scheme.

Under the scheme, tribal students are being given hous-

ing allowance of Rs 2,000 for the divisional headquarters, Rs 1,250 for the district headquarters and Rs 1,000 per month for block or tehsil headquarters.

In order to increase the quality of education in remote tribal areas of the state, modern technology is being used in studies and teaching. This effort has also improved the education level of tribal students.

A satellite interactive terminal (SIT) center has been set up in 50 educational institutions of tribal areas. Direct education and training is being provided in these centers by subject experts through satellite. Action is being taken to merge the scheme with the Virtual Class Room of NIC this year.

Woman among 3 held for duping woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Koh-e-Fiza police have booked three persons including a woman for duping a woman to the tune of ₹43 lakh; victim was sold a property a house in Koh-e-Fiza using forged Power of Attorney.

According to the police, the accused Azam Mohammad Khan, his wife Farnaaz and Iftekhar had produced forged documents to sell a house and duped the victim Shabnam Jahan to the tune of Rs 43 lakh.

After the victim found that she was cheated she asked for refund but the accused refused and later the victim lodged a complaint with the police.

In her complaint the victim stated that she wanted to buy a house in her name and came into contact with the accused who assured that they would

facilitated her good house in Koh-e-Fiza area. After it was decided they showed her a house which was worth Rs 43 lakh. On April 26, 2018 the house was sold to the victim based on the power of attorney. Later when the victim went for the transfer of ownership it was found that document on which the house was sold was fake.

The victim found that the real owner of the house was Ravindra Agrawal and never provided the document to sell power of attorney to the accused.

After the preliminary investigation the police registered a case under sections 420, 467, 468 and 471 of the IPC and started further investigation. The documents of the property produced for selling would be investigated.

Status of Govt land, Govt ponds reviewed by Indore Commissioner

Mhow: Indore Commissioner Akash Tripathi visited Mhow tehsil and checked present status of Government land and Government ponds in Mhow tehsil.

Commissioner Akash Tripathi visited the Mhowgaon where new building of Tehsil is under construction worth Rs 28 crores. People of Mhow are continuously opposing the shifting of Mhow tehsil from centre of Mhow town to the present under construction site as it is at the extreme corner of Mhow and villagers will find it difficult to reach at this place also the congress leaders have opposed the construction of this tehsil and staged a protest march against the construction of the this tehsil new building and also the sale of premium government land of tehsil to the private people through housing board project.

Commissioner Akash Tripathi also visited the government pond known as

Kakadpura Talab which is located besides the Mhow-Pithampur four-lane and also enquired about the canal which originates from this pond. Locals told that this pond which is spread in more than 70 acres of land can be used by Indore district tourism department for picnic spot and boating and also the government can give this pond for fishing to the self help groups.

The Commissioner later visited the Rasalspura church land which is now the government property after the high court order. Indore jila panchayat CEO Neha Meena told The Pioneer that very soon we will visit the kakadpura pond besides Mhow-Pithampur four-lane.

Indore Housing Board Commissioner Yashwant Kumar Dohare, SDM Mhow Anshul Gupta and tehsildar Mhow Dharendra Parashar accompanied Indore Commissioner.

PNS

2 held for kidnapping, sexually assaulting 17-year-old girl

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Nazeerabad police has arrested two miscreants for keeping a 17-year-old girl in captivity, followed by sexually assault on September 13. The alleged incident had taken place after taking away the girl to Guna.

Police have nabbed two accused identified as Hari Om and Santosh who kidnapped the victim on motorbike and later Hari's friend Rahul Giri came with an auto rickshaw and dropped Hari and victim where she was raped by the accused for the past six days.

The victim managed to escape on Wednesday and reached at her relatives in Guna and informed about the incident and later approached police. Based on the complaint

Police have nabbed two accused identified as Hari Om and Santosh who kidnapped the victim on motorbike and later Hari's friend Rahul Giri came with an auto rickshaw and dropped Hari and victim where she was raped by the accused for the past six days

she was held captive would be searched. Police have started search for the accused who went missing after the incident.

Meanwhile, a 33-year-old married woman was sexually assaulted by her neighbor at Rajvaidh colony under Kolar police station area; victim was sexually assaulted and exploited for the past one month.

According to the police, the victim lodged a complaint on Wednesday regarding sexual assault by her Prakash Singh.

In her complaint, victim has stated that the accused sexually assaulted her on August 14 when she was alone at her house and later sexually exploited her by threatening her of life. The police registered a case under section 376 and 506 of the IPC and nabbed the accused.



An artist busy giving touches to idols of Goddess Durga ahead of Navratri festival in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

New info, skill development training for faculty of Madhyanchal varsity

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The faculty members of Madhyanchal Professional University received special training under Faculty Development Programme. The second session was held on Thursday.

A two weeks training has been organised for the faculty members of Madhyanchal Professional University for new information and skill development.

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

Under the training session practical knowledge is being imparted to the faculty members from practical and regional approach through different activities

programme is being organized in Madhyanchal University.

Under the training session practical knowledge is being imparted to the faculty members from practical and regional approach through different activities. This training is held under N.S.T.E.B.D, and under Department of Signs and Technology (DST) sponsored by the Government of India.

The programme began from Monday and will continue for two weeks. In which dif-

ferent types of innovative methods will be practiced for faculty members. By joining such training sessions, faculty members return with knowledge of the difficulties in setting up the industry and how to face them.

The programme will conclude on September 28. Madhyanchal Professional University Prof. Chancellor Ajit Singh Patel said that the university is taking initiative to provide good jobs to the students by sending their faculty members in similar training and guiding them in the direction of setting up their own business.

Vice Chancellor of Madhyanchal Professional University, NK Tiwari said that faculty members were informed about various aspects related to innovation and technical and statutory aspects.

₹70K valuables burgled from nurse's house

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

House of a nurse was targeted by miscreants at Kunal apartments under Koh-e-Fiza police station area and valuables worth ₹70,000 were burgled in the night on Wednesday.

The victim Sagratna Pawar found that the door was open lock was broken when she returned in the morning on Thursday from her mother's house in Old Subhash Nagar.

On entering the house victim found that the belongings were lying on the floor and valuables were missing. The almirah having the valuables was targeted by the miscreants.

The victim approached the police and lodged a complaint stating that she had gone to

The victim Sagratna Pawar found that the door was open lock was broken when she returned in the morning on Thursday from her mother's house in Old Subhash Nagar

meet her mother in Old Subhash Nagar in the night on Wednesday and when she returned in the morning at around 8 locks were found broken and valuables were missing.

Victim left the house around 10 pm on Wednesday

and stayed at her mother's house in the night. On the next morning she returned in the morning only to find that the valuables are burgled.

Among the valuables five gold finger rings, one gold chain, one pair gold ear rings and one pair silver anklets were burgled claimed the victim.

The valuables burgled were worth Rs 70000. The victim is posted as staff nurse at Kamla Nehru hospital. The CCTV cameras would be investigated to establish the identity of the miscreants.

Based on the complaint after the preliminary investigation the police have registered a case under sections 457 and 380 of the IPC and started further investigation.

13th edition of BAJA series launched

PNS ■ INDORE

SaeIndia, a professional Society of Automotive Engineers under the Title sponsorship of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, on Thursday launched 13th edition of the much awaited BAJA series. The finale will be held at the NATRIP, Pithampur near Indore from January 23 to 26, 2020 and at Chitkara University, Chandigarh from March 6 to 8, 2020.

Nearly 282 entries from 24 states were received for BAJA SAEINDIA 2020 from colleges across India, out of which 200 teams were shortlisted for conventional BAJA and 56 teams were shortlisted for e-BAJA in the virtual round. KC Vora, Sr

Deputy Director of ARAI is the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, with S Balraj as Convener for Pithampur and Shoab Sadiq as Convener for Chandigarh. Eminent personalities from the automotive and engineering industry will serve in the panel for the latest edition of Baja SaeIndia.

Eight colleges from Indore are among the 16 entries from Madhya Pradesh that have qualified to the finale. For the last few editions of BAJA series, the maximum number of entries from Madhya Pradesh has been from the city of Indore. Colleges from Indore have won more awards in the finale since the last few years, including the Pride of Indore Award.

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MPSD students learn new styles of theatre

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The students of Madhya Pradesh School of Drama (MPSD) learn new styles of theatre presentations in every new session. This time, the students are preparing the play 'Bali'. This play will be presented in Folk Oriya Style.

Expert Dal Govind Rath is here to teach the students of MPSD about Oriya Style. The special lectures by began from September 1. On the first day, he just gave an introductory lecture on folk theatre.

Notably, this play is based on a story by Govind Nath Mohanti 'Tatv'. The students are all set to stage the play on September 20 i.e. Friday.

During the classes, he told

EXPERT DAL GOVIND RATH IS HERE TO TEACH THE STUDENTS OF MPSD ABOUT ORIYA STYLE. THE SPECIAL LECTURES BY BEGAN FROM SEPTEMBER 1. ON THE FIRST DAY, HE JUST GAVE AN INTRODUCTORY LECTURE ON FOLK THEATRE

the students that this play will be performed on Folk Oriya theatre style. He said that during the entire presentation the art of 'Abhinaya' will play the vital role.

Through the eyes and the body movements just like the folk tales, will be presented. It is to be noted that the workshop conducted by Dal Govind Rath is much ben-

eficial for students. During the entire workshop, the students were taught about the folk tradition and how to present the character on stage with efficiency. Not only this, but during the workshop, the students will be given information on Oriya dance form.

The MPSD students will present the on September 20 at MPSD Auditorium.

Daylong seminar on Fiber Optic Technology held

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A daylong seminar on Fiber Optic Technology was held at Radharaman Group of Institutions here on Thursday. Professor Indranil Ghosal, Dean of STL Academy was present as the speaker on the seminar.

Fiber optic technology is making significant progress for use in many aerial and space platforms. Many of these applications involve integration into systems that make extensive use of optical fibers for high-bandwidth signal transmission. Many current air and space platforms that use fiber optic systems include commercial and military aircraft, unmanned aircraft, the International Space Station and several NASA and international space exploration sys-

Fiber optic technology is making significant progress for use in many aerial and space platforms

tems. This information was given by Professor Indranil Ghosal, Dean of STL Academy, who has more than two decades of experience in a seminar organized for students of Engineering Second Year in Radharaman Group.

He said Fiber optics (optical fibres) are long, thin strands of very pure glass about the diameter of a human hair. They are arranged in bun-

dles called optical cables and used to transmit light signals over long distances. Cladding - Outer optical material surrounding the core that reflects the light back into the core.

He said that there are huge career possibilities in the field of fiber optics. If the students go towards in-depth study of this subject, they can not only get good package jobs in various fields from research to development but can also make a good career in the field of self-employment.

Radharaman Group Chairman RR Saxena said that compared to the past, there are many employment options available to today's youth.

Therefore, they should choose such subjects according to their choice and interest in which they can show their best talent.

Musical event organised on 84th death anniv of Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande

Bhopal: On the occasion of the 84th death anniversary of the great musician Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, a musical event was organised at Ravindra Bhavan on Thursday.

Pandit Srinivasa Joshi, son of Bhimsen Joshi performed Panchnad under the musical context.

He began with Ragin Bihag, Bhajan singing (Tum bin Mori...) and Thumri (Bhairavi) were prominent among Srinivasa Joshi's singing. He later also presented devotional compositions. His singing commemorates the rites and traditions of a great musician and his father. Srinivasa Joshi seemed very relaxed and always well aware and conscious of his expression.

He was accompanied by Manoj Patidar with him on tabla, Majid Khan on harmonium.

After this mesmerising performance, Panchnad was performed. The presentation of five women artists of the country was a melodious and unique experience for the music lovers. Shruti Adhikari of Bhopal on Panchnad Santoor, Shrawani Vishwas of Banaras on Sitar, Anuttama Murali of Violin Chennai, Mithali Vinchurkar of Mumbai on Tabla and Ranjani Siddhanti Venkatesh of Bangalore on Mridangam performed with classical harmony with both rhythm and string Created a mesmerizing environment.

The maestros performed Alap in Raga Charukeshi, Gat in Rupak Taal, Madhyalaya in Tirthal, and Drii Lai Gat for their performance.

The audience enjoyed alot and were left totally enthralled with the outstanding performance of the artists. SR



Sardar Sarovar dam oostees along with Narmada Bachao Andolan activists demonstrate after the water level of river Narmada risen that cause floods in the villages in Barwani, on Thursday. The activists were demanding compensation and proper rehabilitation

Pioneer photo

Woman among four nabbed for blackmailing via fake marriage video

Bhopal: Kamla Nagar police have booked four persons including a woman for blackmailing a 23-year-old girl on the pretext of making her fake marriage video public.

The victim was blackmailing by her cousins in the name of making her fake marriage video viral.

In her complaint victim stated that her cousin Pooja Sharma came to her and told that marriage scene for web serial has to be shot and she had to play role of bride for which she agreed and later they took her to Arya Samaj temple where she met Prakash Sharma, Rajendra Sharma and Satyaprakash Sharma who sedated her and later shot the scene of marriage.

The victim remained unaware of the whole incident as the marriage was recorded. Incharge of Kamla Nagar

police Vijay Sisodia said that the marriage was shot in the month of March but accused have not demanded anything from the victim and few days ago they started to blackmail her after which she lodged a complaint with the police and started investigation.

The accused belong to Rewa and Sidhi. The accused Pooja is real sister of Satyaprakash while Prakash and Rajendra are cousins he added.

With the intent to defame her the accused have shared video and photographs with the families which visited the victim's house with marriage proposal and among their relatives. The police have registered a case under sections 420, 328, 384, 506 and 120 B of the IPC against the four accused and started search for the accused. SR

Diggly's 'saffron clad rapists' remark evokes strong criticism

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Rajya Sabha member Diggvijay Singh is receiving strong criticism over his statement that bhagava clad people are raping women inside temples. Some posters came up in Bhopal in the night calling for preventing Diggvijay Singh's entry into the temples.

However, unfazed over the controversy, Singh shared an article on his Twitter handle with the header 'the saffron clad rapists', on Thursday morning.

It started when Singh while attending a conclave of saints in Bhopal on Tuesday head remarked that some bhagava clad men are disrespecting Sanatan Dharma adding that some clad in bhagava robes were raping women in temples. BJP and RSS had reacted

It started when Singh while attending a conclave of saints in Bhopal on Tuesday head remarked that some bhagava clad men are disrespecting Sanatan Dharma adding that some clad in bhagava robes were raping women in temples

sharply to the statement and one of the MLAs Vishwas Sarang had called for banning Diggvijay Singh from entering temples claiming that he has disrespected saints.

Incidentally, the posters calling for ban on Diggvijay's entry into appeared in the City mysteriously on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. Interestingly those putting up posters did not identify them in the publicity material.

Meanwhile not holding back after his bhagava remark, Singh shared and article 'the saffron clad rapists' on his Twitter handle on Thursday and the article when clicked offers a link to Indian National Congress website and was perhaps uploaded in August last year.

The article has a detailed data on BJP leaders facing sexual assault allegations in last few years. Singh had also shared another link of a YouTube channel 'Online news India' in which a social activist Bhupendra Rawat is speaking on sexual assault charges on former BJP minister Swami Chinmayanand.

Nath asks to spread Bapu's ideology on 150th anniversary

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Kamal Nath has said that Gandhiji's views, philosophy and principles have to be spread from house to house. Our basic goal should be to make the younger generation understand and adopt Gandhiji's personality and accomplishments. Nath was addressing the committee constituted for various activities being organized by the

Madhya Pradesh Government on the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation at Mantralaya today.

The Chief Minister, Kamal Nath said that Gandhiji's views have always been relevant to our country and will continue to be relevant even today and in future too. He said, in the era through which India is passing today, it is most important that we should spread Gandhi Ji's principles and the values

established by him among the people and make sure that people adopt it. He said that we cannot cover Gandhi Ji's personality in one year, but our efforts will always be to spread Gandhi Ji's views among the people. For this permanent programmes have to be prepared.

Nath mentioned that on the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi Ji, all our activities should not be limited only to television and publication in newspapers. We have to pay special attention that his views and its relevance to the present time should reach younger generation, he added.

Nath said that in today's meeting, we should work out a comprehensive draft as to how can we implement our ideas devoted to Gandhi Ji. A meeting will be held again in the last week of October to present the outline on conducting permanent programme on Gandhi Ji's philosophy, religious harmony and his particular thoughts on secularism and national unity. On this basis, we will work to spread Mahatma Gandhi's views and principles among the people of Madhya Pradesh.

During the meeting, the members of the Committee gave important suggestions on how Gandhi Ji's values of communal harmony, national unity, views towards the welfare of all classes and religions, philosophy, principles and values should be spread in cities as well as villages.

All the Members said in one voice that Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts and principles are the most needed in today's era.

Former Chief Minister Diggvijay Singh suggested for spreading main tools of Gandhi Ji used by him in the freedom,

through which he generated new conscience in youth, women, tribals and scheduled castes along with his philosophy for Khadi among the people on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary.

He suggested to conduct padyatra focusing Jungle Satyagrah in forest areas, padyatra in rural areas on the concept of Gram Swaraj, to name schools after the name of Mahatma Gandhi and to use logo of 150th anniversary of Gandhi Ji in all newsletters and advertisement of the government and to inscribe his quotations in schools.

Besides, he gave suggestions to impose ban on people spreading hatred in the society, to play Ramdhun and famous prayer 'Ishwar Allah Tere Naam-Sabko Sanmati De Bhagwan' of Gandhi Ji, prayer of Gandhi Ji in all government's programme and to give special promotion of Khadi production. He told to make special efforts to free youth from intoxication on the basis of Gandhi Ji's thoughts. Shri Singh also told to publicize Gandhi Ji's thoughts through social media and to include lesson of Gandhi Ji in text books of high school syllabus.



Children participate in a music workshop at Jawahar Bal Bhawan in Bhopal on Thursday

Pioneer photo

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E-TENDER NOTICE
1.NIT No: SECL/SG/ISO(E&M)/e-Tender/15/19-20/94, date 13.09.2019, Tender ID: 2019_SECL_149952_1, Location of work: Amlai OCM of Sohagpur Area, Estimated Cost: 15,48,724 Description of Work: Boring of 01 One No. Diesel jeep (LMV) (cabin type) hard top covered Boler with AC or equivalent vehicle on rental basis, with one driver 12 hrs. (including staggered rest) (General Shift) for a period of 03 (three) months (i.e. 1095 days) for operating with day to day activities of Sub Area Pool Duty (Mining Deptt.) of Amlai OCM of SECL Sohagpur Area. As per following details: Hours of Engagement of per vehicle per day 12 hrs with One driver (including staggered rest) (General Shift/day) and availability of Vehicle 24 hrs. fuel efficiency 10 Km/litre, Average running 4500. km per month/vehicle/vehicle. Start date & time for submission of bid: 17.09.2019 at 10 AM, Last date & time for submission of bid: 28.09.2019 at 05 PM, Date & time for opening of bid: 30.09.2019 at 11 AM.

SO(E&M),Sohagpur Area
Note: For details and submission of bid please visit website www.eprocure.gov.in, and e-procurement portal of CIL https://coalindiatenders.nic.in & www.secl.in. In Case of any Misprinting/ Error, details as per website document will be considered as final.

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EXAMINATION SECTION
Admission Notice No. 35/2019

Ref No. F AIMS Exam.Sec/Adv/14-11/(SR/SD-JAN-20)2019 20.09.2019

Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents/ Senior Demonstrators for the January 2020 Session at AIIMS, New Delhi

Online applications are invited from Indian citizens as per Govt of India Residency Scheme for the tenure posts of Senior Residents/ Senior Demonstrator for a maximum period upto 3 years. These posts include existing vacant posts backlog vacancies of SC, ST, OBC and the posts which are likely to fall vacant (Stage-I) between 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2020. Details of posts can be seen on website The Examination will be conducted in online (CBT) mode only followed by Interview (Stage-II) of eligible candidate.

Online Registration for applications

Opens on	Closes on	
25 th September, 2019 (Wednesday)	15 th October, 2019 at 5:00 pm (Tuesday)	

Date of Entrance Examination

Date of Exam	Duration of Exam	Exam, City
24 th November, 2019 (Sunday)	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	4 Metro cities in India (Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai)

Admit cards of eligible candidates will only be uploaded to the website. If the, status of Registration Form or Admit Card is not available on website, applicant should immediately write an email through Registered email to the Assistant Controller (Examinations), AIIMS Nov Delhi- 110608 on aiims.srsdexams@gmail.com along with mention candidate name, exam/test, subject applied, candidate ID and specific query/clarification.

Important For Prospectus, number of post, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc please visit the website www.aiimsexams.org. All applicants are required to visit website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded in the website only.

davp 17112/11/0048/1920 **ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)**

HDFC BANK Head Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013
Regional Office: HDFC Bank Ltd ; Dept For Special Operations, Peninsula Business Park, B-Wing, 4th Floor, Dawn Mills Compound, Ganpat Rao Kadam Marg, Lowerparel, Mumbai : 400 013.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS: AS MENTIONED IN THE TABLE BELOW

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Mortgagors/Guarantors that the Authorized Officer of HDFC BANK LTD. HAD TAKEN PHYSICAL POSSESSION OF THE FOLLOWING PROPERTY/IES pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on "as is where is, as is what is, as is what is, whatever is there is and without recourse basis" for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website.

Name of the Branch & Account	Name of the Mortgagor & Guarantors of the Property	Details of common Mortgaged property	Amount as per Demand Notice	Inspection Date and Time	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of e-Auction	Last Date for Receipt of Bids	Name of Authorised Officer/Phone No./Email Id
HDFC Bank Ltd, Chhatarpur, M.P. A/c- Jai Shiv Enterprises, Through its proprietor Mr. Shankar Lal Agrawal, Ward No. 11, House No. 295, Vill - Gulgunj, Tehsil Bijawer, Dist. Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh - 471001	Mortgagors: Mr. Azad Kumar Agrawal. Guarantors: Mr. Shankar Lal Agrawal & Mr. Azad Kumar Agrawal.	Residential property situated at Ward No. 08, House No. 295, . Constructed on Ground & First Floor, Plot Area admeasuring 4100 sq.ft., Constructed Area 2000 sq.ft., Vill Gulgunj, Tehsil Bijawer, Dist. Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh 471001, owned by Mr. Azad Kumar Agrawal.	Rs. 12,86,160.90 13.05.2016 Dues as on 30/04/2016 with further interest along with the costs and expenses till the date of full and final payment under the overdraft against property loan account	10/10/2019 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM	₹ 25,65,000/- ₹ 2,56,500/- ₹ 25,000/-	30.10.2019 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM With Unlimited extension of 5 Minutes each.	25.10.2019 up to 4.00 PM	Mr. Damodar Shenoy Mobile : 9322157592 Damodar.shenoy@hdfcbank.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ effecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The E-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/ rights/ dues. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property statutory dues like property taxes, society dues etc. The Bank however shall not be responsible for any outstanding statutory dues/encumbrances/tax arrears, if any. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies & to inspect & satisfy themselves. Properties can be inspected strictly on the above mentioned dates and time.
- The interested bidders shall submit their EMD details and documents through Web Portal: <https://www.bankeuctions.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://www.bankeuctions.com>) through Login ID & Password. The EMD shall be payable EITHER through NEFT / RTGS in the following Account: 02400930000063, Name of the Account : FUNDS TO BE CLEARED : DOC SERV, Name of the Beneficiary : HDFC BANK LTD., IFSC Code : HDFC0000240. Please note that the Cheques / Demand Drafts shall not be accepted as EMD amount.
- The intended bidders who have deposited the EMD and require assistance in creating Login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting bid, training on e-bidding process etc., may contact M/s. C1 India Pvt. Ltd., Plot No 301, Gulf Petro Chem Building, Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Gurgaon . Helpline Nos : 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, Mr. Hareesh Gowda Mobile : 09594597555. Help Line e-mail ID: support@bankeuctions.com and for any property related query may contact the concerned Authorised Officer Damodar Shenoy (Mobile-09322157592), E Mail- damodar.shenoy@hdfcbank.com or Mr. Anantharaman Ramanathan (Mobile-09323138635) E Mail- anantharaman.ramanathan@hdfcbank.com at address as mentioned above in office hours during the working days. (10 AM to 5 PM)
- The highest bid shall be subject to approval of HDFC Bank Limited. Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept/ reject all or any of the offers/ bids so received without assigning any reasons whatsoever. His decision shall be final & binding.

For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.hdfcbank.com and www.bankeuctions.com

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrowers/ guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/ sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 20, September -2019, Place : Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh **Authorised Officer - HDFC Bank Limited**

Sexual harassment of minor

Court orders police to file case against three BJP members

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

On the complaint of physical abuse and sexual harassment with a minor, special judge, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO), Rama Pandey, has ordered the Dalanwala police station in-charge to file a case against three Bharatiya Janata Party members.

Pleader for the victim, advocate Amit Tomar said, "The victim minor was made vice president of district Yuva Prakosht in Tehri Garhwal. Due to some minor argument with these self-proclaimed leaders of the party, he was subjected to physical abuse and sexual harassment at the party's Mahanagar office in Dehradun. He was also threatened by them. Despite this, the police did not register the case of this juvenile immediately. From May 11 till this date, the case has not been registered due to which we had to knock the doors of court."

According to the minor complainant, on April 28, during the Lok Sabha elections, he went to the BJP State president Ajay Bhatt's home, where his personal secretary Om Prakash verbally abused him, snatched his phone and told him to get out of the premises.

On May 11, complainant's neighbour Saurabh Kapur told him that he has been called to Mahanagar office to return his phone, but on reaching the office, Om Prakash, Surabh Yadav and Mahanagar president Shyam Pant started thrashing him.

More PUC centres will be opened soon: RTO



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

amidst the increasing restlessness in common people regarding the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Dinesh Pathoi said that the rules have not been made to harass public or to generate revenue, but to ensure the safety of all citizens whether they are driving, riding or simply walking down the road.

He also said that as per his knowledge, about 100 applications for starting Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres are going through the process in State Transport Authority's office, so people do not need to panic.

Pathoi said, "There is a message we want to convey to the common people that the rules are not made to harass them. Some people also think

that authorities and officers are getting relaxation and the public are being forced to follow the rules.

To those people, I want to clarify that if any officer or person responsible for enforcing the traffic law and road safety measures is found violating the law, there is provision in the new MV Act that they will be penalised double the amount that is being charged from the general public. For example, in case a common man is found in drunken state while driving or riding he will be charged with ₹10,000 penalty but if the same offence was done by an RTO, he or she will be liable to pay ₹20,000.

So, the penalties might look heavy to some people, but for transport and police officials who are responsible to impose MV Act, it is heavier." When asked about the lim-

ited number of PUC centres, he said, "Earlier there were only 15 or 16 PUC centres because only 10 per cent of the people were actually following rules. So there was no requirement for more centres.

Now, that the Government has increased the penalty, people are rushing to these centres. We agree that the number of PUC centres operational at present is not enough, but we are working on it.

The work to complete the application procedure is being done as soon as possible." It is pertinent to mention here that RTO Pathoi will be issuing an order to all enforcement officers of the office for strictly abiding by the traffic rules like wearing helmet and putting on seat-belt, while checking. Failing to do so will result in them paying double the penalty.

RTO strict on juvenile riders, public awareness required

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Since the imposition of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 from September 1, citizens in Dehradun have been running towards Pollution Under Control (PUC) centres, Regional Transport Office and insurance companies to get the paperwork done. The sales of helmets have also increased rapidly but at the same time, a lot of parents are still giving their juvenile children two-wheelers to ride.

These students can be seen riding two wheelers without wearing helmet to and from school. When asked about the issue Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Dinesh Pathoi said that they have sent a letter to education secretary regarding the matter and have requested to inculcate the road safety measures in the education of school children.

He also said that the regional transport office will also be taking strict measures from their end soon.

Pathoi said, "A letter has been sent to the education secretary regarding this issue. We are hopeful, that the schools will start conducting special classes or teaching students about road safety measures during the morning assembly. It is essential for our future generation to understand that road safety mea-



asures should not be ignored but inculcated in our daily routines. These measures should become a part of our habit. Parents also need to understand that by giving their juvenile a vehicle to drive or ride, you are not only putting life of your child at risk, but also of those who are operating on the road or just walking.

One of the commuters on Mohini Road said, "The students of the school situated nearby park their vehicles not 10 paces from the school premises. So, one can assume that the school authorities know that these underage children are riding two wheelers. School authorities should also be liable for this issue.

The problem is that until there is a big accident where

the issue will get highlighted, authorities and parents both will never realise the importance of road safety measures."

It is pertinent to mention here that, according to the information provided by traffic directorate, about 1,866 challans have been issued so far to the minors riding or driving in the State from the month of January to August this year, while one accident case has been reported in the same offence resulting in the death of one person.

Students can be seen riding two wheelers without wearing helmet to and from school

Two die in separate road accidents

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Two people died in two separate road accidents late night on Wednesday. The first accident happened near Maharana Pratap Sports college and the other accident happened at Niranjanpur Mandi.

In the first accident, the deceased has been identified as Sandeep Maithani (30), a native of Chamoli. He was a soldier in Border Security Force (BSF) and had come on holiday to visit his in-laws in Raipur. According to the information provided by the police, this was a classic hit and run case. Late night, Raipur police received information about an unidentified vehicle hitting a man near sports college.

He was taken to the community health centre at Raipur from where due to his critical condition, he was referred to Mahant Indresh Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries.

In the second accident, the deceased has been identified as Asgar (65), a resident of Haridwar. He reportedly came to visit his daughter and was in an e-rickshaw with his son-in-law at the time of accident.

As per the information provided by local police, Patelnagar police station received information that a private car hit an e-rickshaw at Niranjanpur Mandi. Due to the impact of the collision, the e-rickshaw flipped over, causing one passenger severe injuries.

He was taken to the nearest hospital, where he was declared dead. The car and the driver are in police custody.



Minister for Science and Technology PC Sharma addresses the inaugural session of 'Brainstorming on safe and sustainable water including sanitation' jointly organised by the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) and Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (MPCOST) in Bhopal on Thursday

Capt inspects work on Kartarpur corridor

PNS ■ DERA BABA NANAK/CHANDIGARH

With less than two months to go for historic 550th prakash purb of Guru Nanak Dev, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday took stock of ongoing construction work for Kartarpur corridor, while sanctioning ₹75.23 crores for widening and strengthening of the major roads leading to this iconic town.

The Chief Minister also approved Rs 3.70 crores for the construction of a Heritage Street and Food Street for the mega event, while issuing a series of directives to various departments for ensuring timely completion of all development works for the celebration.

At the same time, the Shiromani Akhali Dal ridiculed the Chief Minister for "forcibly" making "on-the-spot and fake announcement" of projects worth ₹75 crore. "The announcements were made without realising that the completion of these projects in just about seven weeks, including the construction of quality roads leading to the main site befitting the sanctity and significance of the occasion, would be impossible and non-practicable," said SAD MLA

At the same time, the Shiromani Akhali Dal ridiculed the Chief Minister for "forcibly" making "on-the-spot and fake announcement" of projects worth ₹75 crore

and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia.

Accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues, the Chief Minister inspected the Kartarpur Corridor construction works at the Indo-Pak border, including the Integrated Check Post (ICP) construction project, where he interacted with the construction workers.

He was apprised about the upcoming passenger terminal at ICP, which would have total capacity of 5000-10000 and would be fully equipped with ultra-modern facilities.

Chairing the third meeting of Dera Baba Nanak Development Authority (DBNDA), constituted to ensure holistic development of historic town associated with the first Sikh Guru, the Chief Minister directed all top officials to ensure timely completion of the various projects related to the 550th prakash

purb celebrations. Capt Amarinder asked the Principal Secretary Civil Aviation to take up the issue of special chartered flights from London and other European countries to Amritsar for facilitation of the devotees settled abroad.

He also asked the concerned officials to take up with the Indian Railways the issue of increase in frequency of special trains to the city during the historic occasion.

Reviewing the status of the work connected with the requisite basic amenities, logistics and infrastructure works in the adjoining 12 villages, Capt Amarinder directed the officials to ensure timely arrangements to facilitate the millions of devotees expected to converge at the historic city for the historic event.

During the meeting, the Chief Principal Secretary to CM Suresh Kumar said that though works to the tune of ₹450 crores had been initiated at Sultanpur Lodhi, Batala and Gurdaspur, it was necessary to keep in place a contingency plan to ensure that the devotees experience no problems during their visit. The official programme for the main event should also be released soon, he suggested.

'Install CCTV cameras in pandals'

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Jamshedpur Durga Puja Kendriya Samiti (JDPKS), the apex body which monitors Durga Puja, has asked puja committees to ensure installation of CCTV cameras in puja pandals for strict vigil. "We have asked all puja committees for ensuring incident free Durga Puja.

The Puja organisers have been also asked to make proper provisions for meeting any fire mishap," said Ram Babu Singh, general secretary of JDPKS.

He said that all community pujas irrespective of their budget will have to install CCTV cameras and constantly monitor and record the movements of the public. Notably, JDPKS which is monitoring the Pujas in steel city for many years now earlier used to ask only prominent pandals

that drew massive crowds to install CCTV cameras, but since last year the body is asking even modest puja committees for installing the safety gadget.

The city for last several years has been witnessing the swell in the strength of the puja revellers and at the same time many of the puja pandals have been installing CCTV's for obvious purpose without any intervention of the law enforcing agencies.

Most big-budget pandals, such as the ones by Thakur Pyara Singh Dhurender Singh Club and Sonari Central Durga Puja Committee, already use CCTV's.

However, Sabuj Kalyan Sangh and Jamshedpur Sarbojanin Durga Puja Committee (Bengal Club), which also attract people in large numbers, are not well-monitored.

Poor treatment of parents, senior citizens on rise

People unaware of Maintenance Act: Secretary DLSA

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

Cases of either ill maintenance or no maintenance of parents and senior citizens are on the rise in poverty stricken Palamu.

Officer in charge of a remote police station Manatu 60 Kms away from Daltonganj Santosh Kumar Singh said, "There is hardly any day here when aggrieved parents & senior citizens do not come to our police station for our intervention in matter of their (read parents/senior citizens) being neglected and humiliated and are mercilessly left to their fate."

The grievances of parents are that their sons do not care for their food, medicine, comfort and basic dignity of their normal living said police officer Singh. "We have an ASI of police Kamlesh

Pd Sinha who acts as a counselor and tries hard to conciliate between the children (read sons & daughters) and the parents.

There are hard nut sons, who do not yield to conciliation and for such hardened souls we have some threatening tones to tame them," said Singh.

Sources said complaints of this nature from parents & senior citizens used to reach the Kangaroo courts of the CPI Maoists called Jan Adalats in the past but with a sharp decline of Maoists' influence and control over rural masses these complaints of suffering parents and senior citizens now reach police stations in the left wing extremist hit district Palamu.

Secretary of Palamu district legal services authority (DLSA) Ashok Kumar said, "There is Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 for such parents and senior citizens, who are meted out raw dealing and treatment." Kumar said, "Not many parents and senior citizens know about this legal protection for them.

There is an utter lack of awareness about this Act and its provisions which safeguard their right to lead a normal life." He agreed there would be done legal awareness camps on this vital issue. Kumar said if a parent has no son and adult daughter or daughters then it enjoins upon the daughter to maintain her parent and she cannot shirk this moral and legal obligation to parent.

The DLSA Secretary said that aggrieved parents senior citizens can seek legal protection for their maintenance from sub divisional magistrate (read SDO) but this is not known to large number of people.

The Act has defined parent as father or mother whether biological, adoptive, step father/ step mother and senior citizen as one who has attained the age of sixty years and above.

Ill maintenance or denial of maintenance of parents and senior citizens is a cognizable offence and punishable too but the SDM empowered to issue warrant against the offending children who neglect their parents etc.

Kendrapada locals involved in bird, tree conservation

SUDHANWA DASH ■ BHUBANESWAR

A very unique conservation exercise has been put in practice in Kendrapada district involving weaverbirds, humans and palm trees. Much enthusiastic response has been shown by people from many villages which in the coming years will address many problems.

For these, functions were organised in various villages located in Kendrapada, Patamundi and Mahakalpada blocks. Certificates were also distributed among participants in the programme 'Weaverbirds Odisha Count 2019'. The Wild Orissa organised them, specially launched for conservation of weaverbirds and their habitats.

As part of the programme, the people were sensitised about the requirements of weaverbird species and their conservation.

It may be recalled that in an unprecedented mobilisation of human resources for the cause of wildlife conservation in the Indian context, 560 persons participated voluntarily in surveying and counting weaverbirds in the just-concluded Odisha Weaverbird Count 2019 conducted by the Wild Orissa along with the Odisha Chapter of Indian Bird Conservation Network. Three species of weaverbirds, belonging to

the family Ploceidae, are found in Odisha, viz., Baya Weaver Ploceus philippinus, Streaked Weaver Ploceus Manyar and Black-Breasted Weaver or Black-Throated Weaver Ploceus Benghalensis.

The number of birds found is Baya Weaver Ploceus philippinus (15,331), Streaked Weaver Ploceus manyar (3,000), Black-Breasted Weaver Ploceus benghalensis (35).

The total weaver birds counted during 2019 in Odisha was 18,366, an increase of 6,690 over 2018, which is an all time record for the State as well as the highest for any State in the country this year!

Kendrapada reported only 300 Baya Weaver birds and 140 nests this year. The census showed as to how damaging cyclone Fani has been on the breeding habitats of weaver species. Cutting of palm trees and date palm trees and toddy extraction from date palm trees by people was a reason as to why weavers faced problems in nest building.

Urban and semiurban areas in Odisha are becoming devoid of such trees due to which weaverbirds are finding it difficult to nest due to non-availability of proper trees.

Being a species which predominantly inhabits human-dominated landscapes, it is extremely important to have local peo-

ple's support for their conservation. With these findings what was attempted in Kendrapada district by the Wild Orissa was unique: To engage and mobilize people in a similar manner as during the counting exercise and to plant and adopt palm trees. Planting palm trees was a traditional practice in villages in Odisha, but now discontinued over years due to emphasis on urbanisation and development.

The important question of palm trees being able to mitigate against an ever increasing human deaths by lightning strikes gained credence. 1,256 human deaths due to lightning have taken place in Odisha in the last three years, most of them (about 85%) in the May-September period, accounting for about 27 per cent of the total number of 'disaster deaths'.

Serious discussions, communication and sincerity in efforts witnessed people from all walks of life, viz., elected representatives, teachers, students, agriculturists, small business, small entrepreneurs, fishermen, homemakers, etc., to involve themselves with the story of palm trees, humans and weaverbirds. People were explained the interconnectivity and linkages between weaverbirds, human beings and palm trees and the need for survival for each of them.

Army Air Defence to get Prez's Colours

BRAHMAPUR: President of India and Armed Forces Supreme Commander Ram Nath Kovind would award President's Colours to the Army Air Defence Corps during a ceremonial parade to held at the Gopalpur Military Station here on September 28.

The President's Colours is the highest military honour for armed forces organisation. Selection for the award is based on corps' performance and achievements during both peace and hostilities. The selected organisation is honoured for meritorious services rendered by them for a period of 25 officers. General Bipin Rawat, Lt General Ashwani Kumar, Lt General AP Singh and other high ranking officers will witness the ceremony.

Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik are likely to grace the occasion. PNS

Rajnath becomes 1st Def Min to fly Tejas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Rajnath Singh on Thursday became the first Defence Minister to fly in the indigenously designed and built Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. A "thrilled" Singh described the 30-minute experience as "one of the most memorable events my life." He even controlled and flew the aircraft for full two minutes in the two-seater jet which undertook the sortie at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport in Bengaluru.

Incidentally, his predecessors George Fernandes and Nirmala Sitharaman had flown in MIG-21 and SU-30 respectively. But no Defence Minister so far had flown in the Tejas which is now in the process of induction in the IAF with a batch of 40 jets. The induction will boost the air defence capabilities of the force.

After the sortie, Singh said he chose the aircraft because it was built indigenously and described the flying experience as thrilling. "Flight very smooth, comfortable, I was thrilled. It was one of the most memorable events of my life," said the 68-year-old Singh after alighting from the aircraft.

"This is an indigenous plane. So, it came naturally to me to fly in Tejas and experience the flying. It was also to check under what conditions do our fighter pilots fly these



orders. "But those two minutes were memorable," he said. In a tweet, Singh said: "The 'G-Suit' and 'Tejas': It was a memorable experience. Thank you @IAF_MCC @HALHQBLR & @DRDO_India for this proud moment."

"Special thanks to AVM, N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) for the sortie," he said. Air Vice Marshal Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru, flew the aircraft.

Talking about his experience of flying with the Defence Minister, Tiwari said, "Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) was flying the aircraft in the air (for 2 minutes), and he liked it. We went all the way up to 2 to 2.5g. But I was showing him more avionics and sophisticated systems that we have on board like laser designation pod, using which you can pick up targets even from 20-25 km away."

When a person is standing still on earth, the amount of force exerted by earth's gravitational field is 'one g'. Fighter pilots have to bear higher number of g's as they fly at high speed and altitude. Tiwari said the Minister was very happy with the flying quality, "the smoothness, the controls, and the way the aircraft was flying".

Ending the suspense over the appointment of the new IAF Chief days before incumbent BS Dhanoa retires on September 30, the Government on Thursday announced that present Vice Chief Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria will be the next Air force Chief. He is the senior most officer after Dhanoa. However, he was set to retire the same day as Dhanoa after attaining the age of 60. Bhadauria will now head the IAF for two years.

An experienced fighter pilot, Bhadauria had led the negotiations with France regarding the Rafale fighter jet deal. It is a Government to government contract for buying 36 jets worth over ₹ 60,000 crores. The first plane will be handed over to IAF in France on October 8 and the entire fleet of jets will be inducted by 2022.

As the Deputy Chief of IAF, Air Marshal Bhadauria played an important role during the contract negotiations for 36 Rafale jets. Due to his role in the negotiations, the first Rafale built by Dassault Aviation for the IAF, a two-seater variant, which made its maiden flight last year in France is designated with his name as RB-008. The RB-008 is an instrumented aircraft and will be used to incorporate, test and validate the 13 Indian Specific Modifications (ISE). It will also be the 36th aircraft to be delivered to the in 2022, 67 months

RKS Bhadauria to be next Air Force Chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



after the contract was signed. Bhadauria was commissioned into the fighter stream of IAF in June 1980, and has held various Command, Staff and Instructional appointments at various levels including the present one as Vice Chief of Air Staff.

He has over 4,250 hours of experience on twenty six types of fighters and transport aircraft with the unique distinction of being an Experimental Test Pilot, a Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and a Pilot Attack Instructor. During his nearly four-decade career, Bhadauria commanded a Jaguar squadron and a premier Air Force Station. He was also the Chief Test Pilot and Project Director of the National Flight Test Centre on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. He was extensively involved in the initial prototype flight tests on the LCA.

Present IAF Chief and Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CCSC) Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa will pass on the CCSC baton to Army Chief General Bipin Rawat who would then be the senior most Service Chief. General Rawat retires in December.

Digvijay's rape remark, brother Lakshman asking RaGa to apologise put Cong in spot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Singh brothers, Digvijay and Lakshman, on Thursday put the Congress in a spot with their statements. While Digvijay alleged that "people donning saffron robes were committing rapes", a remark from which the Congress distanced itself, his brother Lakshman asked former party chief Rahul Gandhi to apologise to the farmers as the promised loan waiver to them has not materialised so far.

However, the Congress was more embarrassed due to the remark of Lakshman, a party MLA. "Farm loans were not waived even after eight months, let alone ten days," Lakshman Singh said.

Rahul Gandhi, speaking at a farmers' rally at Mandausar in June 2018, had promised loan waiver within 10 days of the Congress coming to power in the then BJP-ruled state. In November 2018 assembly elections, the Congress ousted the BJP from power and formed government after 15 years.

"Farmers are going to banks with waiver certificates issued by the state government. But the banks are refusing to waive the loans, saying they haven't received money from the government. Rahul Gandhi should return to the same platform where he had promised to implement loan waiver within ten days if elected to power, and apologise to the people," said Lakshman, a five-time MP and currently MLA from Chanchoda.. "This (apology) would make his (Rahul's)

stature taller. He should also clarify how long it will take to waive all farm loans, as promised," added Lakshman. The Kamal Nath government in the state needs to arrange Rs 45,000 crore to fulfill the promise of loan waiver and it may take up to two years, he claimed.

His elder brother, Digvijay kicked up a row by saying that people donning "saffron robes" are committing rapes which are taking place in "temples", and thus defaming the Sanatan Dharma (ancient religion). Some anonymous posters have also come up in Bhopal against him, demanding a ban on his entry to Hindu religious places. He said that such acts are "unforgivable".

Though Singh did not take names, his comments come close on the heels of a Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing allegations of rape levelled against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand by a law student in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress said a criminal should be penalised on the basis of the crime committed and should not be judged by the clothes worn or the religion followed.

"We heard about the comment. I don't know in what context it was made. But, the party thinks that criminals do not get affected by the robes they don. Criminals are independent of what they wear, what their beliefs are." "A criminal is a criminal and should be seen by the crime committed and not by the clothes worn or religion one belongs to," Congress Secretary Pranav Jha told the reporters.

Agriculture Ministry hopes for Parliament nod to 2 pending Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Agriculture Ministry hopes to get the Parliament's nod to two long-pending Bills on pesticide management and seeds in the next session. The Pesticide Management Bill that will replace the Insecticides Act, 1968 seeks to regulate the

pesticide sector by fixing prices and setting up of a regulatory authority while the Seeds Bill, which will replace the Seeds Act 1966, seeks to regulate the production, distribution and sale of seeds. The Bill was put on hold in 2015 after it drew flak on enabling provision for genetically modified crops.

Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala on Thursday said that the government is pursuing them very seriously. I hope they will be passed in the next session of Parliament. The government is concerned about sale of spurious seeds and pesticides. These Bills aim to address this issue

as well, he said at an event.

On the draft of the Pesticide Management Bill, officials in the agriculture ministry said, the government would constitute an authority which shall fix the price at which notified pesticides are to be sold. Currently, there is no mechanism to regulate the pricing and farmers

are at the mercy of companies. The new law will be in line with the international norms being practised by global leaders.

As per the proposed law, pesticide companies will have to pay a huge penalty of Rs 25,000 to Rs 50 lakh - up to a whopping 70 times than the existing provision of Rs 50-

Article 370: BJP plans to hold 10 meetings in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its bid to create awareness across the country on the "positive impact" on stripping Jammu & Kashmir of its autonomy accorded to it by Article 370, the BJP has planned 10 meetings of its senior leaders and Union Ministers in the State, including a large gathering in Srinagar, the State Capital.

The Modi-Government has done away with Article 370 and Article 35-A, pertaining to the exclusive residency rights of the Kashmiri natives, by a vote of Parliament on August 05. The 'Jan-Jagran Abhiyan'

(public awareness campaign) launched for the purpose would take National party leaders, MPs, MLAs and Ministers to different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir. Under the programme, the party has decided to organise 370 small indoor meetings and 35 big meetings, signifying Article 350 and Article 35 A, across the country, including six in Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP President Amit Shah would lead party campaign in Mumbai on September 22. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other Union Ministers will take part in the

party's rally on the eve of Maharaja Hari Singh's 125th birthday on Sunday at Jammu.

Besides the general public, these meetings will target opinion-makers and influential personalities from different walks of life. Two meetings have been held in Udhampur and Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir and going by the response, it has been decided to organise four more such meetings, party leaders said. Union Minister Jitendra Singh had addressed the meetings in Kathua and Udhampur, the source said, adding that three more meetings are scheduled for this month.

INSHORT

PRESIDENT CLEARS E-CIGARETTES BAN

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday gave his assent for promulgation of the ordinance to ban e-cigarettes. The ordinance was approved by the Union Cabinet yesterday, which bans production, import, distribution and sale of electronic cigarettes.

₹25K CR IN FIVE YEARS FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

New Delhi: The Modi Government plans an investment of ₹ 25,000 crore in the next five years to revamp the fisheries infrastructure sector in the country. Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Minister Giriraj Singh on Thursday released the 13th edition of 'The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018'. As per latest data, the country's fish production was 12.59 million tonnes during 2017-18 fiscal, with a contribution of 8.90 million tonnes from inland sector and 3.69 metric tonnes from marine sector.

MUSLIM PARTIES ADVOCATE LOSES COOL

New Delhi: Losing his cool, a senior advocate for Muslim parties in the Ram Jambhoomi-Babri masjid land dispute case in the Supreme Court, told a curious judge Thursday that he was seeing "some kind of aggression" in his tone. A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which was hearing the decades-old politically sensitive case on 27th day, did not re-assemble after the lunch break and a source said that the CJ was not feeling well.

SC SLAMS UP FOR ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh Government and said it was "sleeping" for the past 26 years on the illegal settlement of claims in favour of industries and third parties in the reserved forest areas of Mirzapur district.

2 MORE COURTROOMS FOR HEARING CASES: SC

New Delhi: With the Centre clearing the names of four new judges recommended by the Supreme Court collegium, the top court Thursday said that it has created two additional courtrooms for hearing of cases.

No financial crisis in country: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday claimed there is no financial crisis in India and the Government has taken all necessary steps and fundamentals of economy are strong.

"To make the economy stronger, the Government has taken all measures and I want to say that the fundamentals of the country's economy are strong. We are not in any crisis. Some reactions from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are there. But we are addressing all issues," he told a press conference at his residence here.

As to the Congress's attack on the Government for having the upcoming event 'Howdy Modi' in Houston, USA despite an economic slowdown, Javadekar said the Congress would never get such an opportunity like Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The stadium is already houseful for the 'Howdy Modi' event. Congress has never got this much popularity and will never get. I can only say that grapes are sour," said Javadekar, who is the minister of infor-



mation and broadcasting and environment and climate change.

The Minister also took a swipe at former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh for his "saffron-clad rapists" remark, saying even the Congress does not take him seriously.

"Even Congress does not give importance to him. Why should we react? We have seen his mentality after the Mumbai terror attacks. Since then he has been making such statements," he said.

Singh on Tuesday made a controversial remark at an event in Bhopal that people in saffron clothes were committing rapes, even in temples. A case has reportedly been lodged against the Congress leader for making such an allegation.

SC summons UP Home Secretary for failure to respond to minor's plea

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday summoned the Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh after taking a serious view of the State Government's failure to respond to a plea by a "minor" Muslim girl, who has challenged the Allahabad High Court order by which her marriage was found to be void.

The 16-year-old girl has challenged the high court order, saying that as per the Mohammedan Law, once a female attains the age of puberty, that is 15 years, she is independent to take decisions for her life and is competent to marry any one of her own choice.

When the matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices NV Ramana and Ajay Rastogi, the counsel appearing for the State, sought time to file a response on the petition.

"Let the chief secretary appear (in court). Then he will understand the seriousness of the matter," the bench said in an oral observation.

Later, the bench summoned the home secretary

WHEN THE MATTER CAME UP FOR HEARING BEFORE A BENCH OF JUSTICES NV RAMANA AND AJAY RASTOGI, THE COUNSEL APPEARING FOR THE STATE, SOUGHT TIME TO FILE A RESPONSE ON THE PETITION

of Uttar Pradesh and directed him to personally appear before it on September 23.

The top court noted in its order that despite granting time to the state's counsel for filing reply on the plea, the lawyer has not received proper instruction from the department concerned.

"We are forced to compel the appearance of Secretary Home (of Uttar Pradesh) to appear personally before us on Monday (September 23)," the bench said. PTI

SC refuses to keep in abeyance NBW issued against jail superintendent

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to keep in abeyance the non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued against the superintendent of district jail of Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh for releasing an accused from prison despite the apex court order cancelling his bail. The matter was mentioned

before a bench comprising Justices N V Ramana and Ajay Rastogi and the counsel appearing for the jail superintendent said the officer would appear before the court on September 23 as directed by the top court, but the NBW should be kept in abeyance till then. "Let him come (before the court)," the bench said.

The lawyer, while saying that the superintendent had committed a mistake, again urged that the NBW be kept in abeyance.

"No. Let him appear. Nothing will happen till then. You are admitting that you have violated the order. I am not going to change my order," Justice Ramana said. PTI



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee comes out after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah at North Block in New Delhi on Tuesday

Over 260 troops killed or hurt in Naxal IED blasts: Official

Forces launch ops

New Delhi: Security forces deployed in the anti-Naxal combat grid have launched a massive operation to find out and defuse IEDs as over 260 troops have either been killed or injured in these blasts in the last about three years, officials said Thursday.

They said the decision has been taken after it was seen that Maoists were increasingly relying on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to target security force personnel deployed in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) combat grid.

As per the latest data accessed by PTI, over 73 security personnel have been killed in IED blasts in various states over the last three years while more than 179 have been injured. The data pertains to the

period between 2017 and August this year.

The maximum such fatal and non-fatal casualties have taken place in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh that is stated to be the worst-Naxal violence-affected state by security forces, owing to the high casualty rate of forces.

"A massive operation is being conducted to seek and destroy IEDs in various LWE affected states. The CRPF, other central armed police forces (CAPFs) and state police forces have been sensitized about the threat posed by these concealed bombs," a senior security official based here said.

The number of IED blast incidents has also been more-or-less the same over the last three years' time period, he said.

The data shows that while a total of 43 such incidents took place in 2017, they rose to 79



last year and over 51 have been recorded till August this year.

Similarly, 6 civilians were killed in these Naxal triggered blasts in 2017, 8 last year and three have lost their lives this year.

"The Naxals are now not getting into one-to-one battle with forces as their combat strength has depleted along

with their weaponry and ammunition. The sustained operations by the CRPF and other forces have surely taken a huge toll on them.

"They are hence looking to hit the security forces through IEDs which ensures that they do not have to face the forces," CRPF Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Moses Dhinakaran said.

Centre considers to give insurance cover to J&K panch, sarpanch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is considering providing insurance cover of ₹ 4 lakh each to over 40,000 panch and sarpanch in Jammu & Kashmir due to their vulnerability to terror threats. The Union Home Ministry is also planning to educate the leaders of the lowest level of the elected bodies on the central laws and other facilities to be applicable and available in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

"We are examining the proposal to provide insurance cover of ₹ 4 lakh to all Panch and Sarpanch in Jammu & Kashmir," a senior Home

Ministry official said.

The move comes after a delegation of panch and sarpanch of Jammu & Kashmir met Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently and requested him for the insurance cover due to the terror threats to them.

The delegation had sought an insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh each to the Panch and Sarpanch, but the central government is planning to give them the cover of Rs 4 lakh each, the officials said. The panchayat elections in Jammu & Kashmir were held last year in which over 40,000 Panch and Sarpanch were elected to these local bodies.

Missing woods for trees

Banning electronic cigarettes might send a message but will only drive usage underground



Decades of action by advocacy groups and the anti-tobacco lobby had finally made smoking uncool, to a degree at least, among younger people. This was a big change considering smoking was, for almost a century, one of the ultimate hallmarks of confidence for teenagers and a sign of having arrived. Films, brands and advertisements had reinforced that image till the time research didn't link life-threatening diseases to a costly indulgence. Sustained campaigning might not have got many smokers to kick the butt but

they looked for alternatives. And then vaping came along as an option. Born through the burgeoning marijuana industry in the US, it involves taking a liquid concentrate and "vapourising" it by heating it to extreme temperatures thanks to an electric arc. It is a cleaner way of inhaling active ingredients and the US tobacco industry, wary of losing customers to the burgeoning competition, quickly adopted vaping or electronic cigarettes as a method of consumption. But much like hookahs in India, where "flavoured" mixes made the habit popular among a younger audience, flavoured vapes became a hot-seller. For kids, smoking bubblegum flavoured e-cigarette concentrates and exchanging their capsules became the "new cool." But then many experts claimed that vaping innocuous flavoured mixes could be a gateway to ultimate nicotine addiction. Vaping was also claimed to tax our lungs in much the same way. So banning e-cigarettes was, some argued, the need of the hour. Of course, nobody is considering that the stricture could also push more smokers to conventional tobacco. Besides, is the Government being truly altruistic, considering that it appears to be playing into the hands of the tobacco lobby? Banning e-cigarettes definitely makes it look more interested in protecting cigarette companies and raises questions if there is a vested interest involved. The ghoulish advisories in multiplexes and on cigarette packets look hypocritical too.

As for the target audience, the ban will have little impact. Rebellious teenagers will continue to smoke e-cigarettes. Going by past experiences, banning substances has no impact on usage. Psychotropic drugs are a strict no-no but go to any party with college students and you will find a plethora of substances, including LSD, being bandied about. The fact is that the Government has succumbed to the tobacco lobby again, which was fearful of losing its high-end customers who bought expensive cigarettes. After all, vaping is not something for those with limited purchasing power; only the rich can afford it. These are not the individuals who will be hurt by this ban which, therefore, will end up being pointless. Instead, the curbs will drive the market for concentrates and e-cigarettes underground, which will be dangerous. Therefore, regulation and taxation are the need of the hour. Most citizens are actually not interested in breaking the law and would have been happy to pay the taxes and smoke lower concentrations of nicotine in their liquids. This is also another example of India becoming a "nanny state" and "maximum Government, minimum governance." Trotting out the Finance Minister to announce the ban when the economy is in the doldrums is just another sign that the Government is not taking up real matters seriously. Ingenuous Indians will find a way to work around it and others will make a living breaking it, much like the joke that prohibition was in Gujarat until it was relaxed.

Howdy NRIs

UN report lists Indian diaspora to be the largest at 17.5 million, a number we should harvest as a strategic asset



There's no doubt that Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have been assets to host countries. But now they can be the nation's valued spokespersons, lobbyists and ambassadors and project our face to the world as the UN's International Migrant Stock report has declared the Indian diaspora to be the biggest with a total strength of 17.5 million. Through we have been topping the diaspora chart in recent times, what is commendable is that we have been able to maintain our spot despite stringent visa norms by some nations.

This pool represents a little over six per cent of the total global migrant population. The latest report comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Howdy" event in Houston where he is expected to address a 50,000-strong congregation of NRIs, a constituency that even US President Donald Trump cannot ignore as he hopes to cultivate numbers for his re-election campaign. With the US imposing strict migration norms, the number of Indians migrating to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) outnumbered those of the US, clearly pointing out that you cannot put down an enterprising Indian. This despite a 21 per cent decline in the number of emigration clearances to the UAE.

For some time now, Asian nations have sought to tap into their diaspora to present their case to the Western majors, convince them of their growth potential, procure funding and improve technical knowhow. It is the intense engagement with the diaspora that has helped us score many points in both international and soft diplomacy, strengthened our brand and reshaped perceptions. India is among the largest remittance-receiving countries in the world with NRIs ploughing back \$80 billion back home. These have had a multiplier effect on our economy, particularly in the social sectors that encompass a slew of educational and healthcare projects. They have also been instrumental in bringing back international domain expertise, the reason why Bengaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad have today become technological hubs with the existence of multinational companies like Google, Amazon, IKEA and Facebook among others. The Government could immediately formalise a rotation exchange programme at all levels for top NRI scientists, engineers, doctors, managers and professionals to serve in their home country for a brief period. The Indian diaspora consists of some accomplished individuals, who have made the country proud. Many of them are visible in electoral politics and even hold key positions within administrations in other nations. With their increasing prominence, the Government, too, has been reaching out to them to keep them invested in the cause of furthering India's interests. Besides, with countries like Canada and Australia relaxing rules for work permits based on competence and even Germany encouraging flow of skilled workers and service professionals, there's an exodus of middle classes. We need to keep them connected. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has emerged as a solid cross-flow platform while the Government has been walking the extra mile to rescue Indians from crisis situations, be it in Iraq, Syria or Libya. Yet much more needs to be done to ensure big-ticket investments and NRI inclusion in the domestic discourse. The Government needs to work on a policy outreach consistently as NRIs clearly are our "strategic asset."

Pakistan's hypocrisy

Our neighbour can keep raging over the revocation of Article 370 but J&K will undergo a massive transformation if even half of what has been promised is implemented



DEEPAK SINHA

It's almost been two months since Prime Minister Narendra Modi upset the Pakistani appeacart by amending Article 370 of the Constitution and dividing the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories. To suggest that the Pakistani leadership has gone ballistic, as it finds itself scrambling to come up with a coherent policy to counter Modi's initiative, would be an understatement. Of course, within the Valley, stringent security measures that have been in place since August 5, have not just prevented any display of collective anger but have also made it extremely difficult to assess how the average Kashmiri will respond once restrictions are lifted.

There is little doubt that the biggest impediment to the integration of the State into the Indian Union has been Article 370, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, when the Constituent Assembly approved and promulgated the Constitution. In effect, the Article kept the question of J&K joining the Union of India ambivalent. This despite the fact that the Maharaja of J&K had signed the Document of Accession unconditionally and had willingly accepted the State's integration into the Indian Union, as was his right to do. This ambivalence, along with the manner in which the Central and State Governments have acted over the years, has confused and strained the loyalties of Kashmiris towards the country.

The irony is that while Pakistan is now objecting to the abrogation of Article 370 and calling it illegal, its position on this issue was diametrically opposite in 1951. This can be inferred from the Pakistan Government's letters No S/2119 and S/2145, addressed to the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which though not available in the public domain, implies just that. The statement of the then UNSC President to the Security Council made at that time read: "Members of the Security Council, at its 548th meeting held on May 29, 1951, have heard with satisfaction the assurances of the representative of India that any Constituent Assembly that may be established in Srinagar is not intended to prejudice the issues before the Security Council or come in its way. On the other hand, the two communications to me, as President of the Council, from the representatives of Pakistan, set forth in documents S/2119 and S/2145, contain reports which, if they are correct, indicate that steps are being taken by the Yuwaraja of J&K to convoke a Constituent Assembly, one function of which, according to Sheikh Abdullah, would be a decision on the further shape and affiliation of Kashmir. It is the sense of the Security Council that these reports, if correct, would involve procedures which are in conflict with the commitments of the parties to determine the future accession of the State by a fair and impartial plebiscite conducted under United Nations auspices."

If the contents of the letters do confirm what is suggested, then Pakistan must certainly be asked to justify the change in its stance. What this will prove is that Pakistan's actions are lacking in consistency and are hypocritical, to say the least. Not that the issue of hypocrisy is in doubt given its blatant disregard for UN resolutions. One may recall that both India and Pakistan had accepted the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) No 80 of March 14, 1950, that called for plebiscite. This was conditional as the first step in that process was the withdrawal of Pakistani forces within five months. That Pakistan refused to withdraw from the territories it had illegally occupied and continues to subjugate till date is not disputed.

Moreover, it went further in this regard by taking unilateral steps to cede territories to China, separated Gilgit and Baltistan administratively from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and carried out extensive and widespread demographic changes in this region, thus reducing the Kashmiri population to a minority. In these circumstances, the validity of the resolution is in question.

Not surprisingly, Pakistan is not the only one left tongue-tied and confused by recent events. Opposition parties back home, both at the national and State level, such as the Congress and its allies along with the Left, the National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), too, found themselves in a similar predicament. Of course, one can sympathise with the



confusion within the Kashmiri parties given the fact that their first-rung leadership remains in detention or "protective custody", whichever way one may like to term it. Yet, their confusion appears to have been born out of a sense of apathy, tunnel vision and a refusal to undertake any change in status quo, despite being fully aware that substantive political steps needed to be taken if the cycle of violence was to be broken and insurgency stamped out. Their inaction clearly showed that not only did they accrue benefits from the "business of insurgency" but were also apathetic to the consequences of their actions on the local population, the Army, the CRPF and local police, who continued to pay in blood.

The parties also ignored the fact that the BJP had included the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in its election manifesto and that these issues were finding increasing prominence in the public discourse. Given the Prime Minister's track record in such matters during his first tenure, they cannot be fully blamed for being lulled into a sense of complacency. Opposition parties have subsequently also had to deal with the overwhelming support this action received within the country, leaving aside some elements in the Kashmir Valley, who in any case will never be pleased with whatever the Central Government does.

"Mainlanders", as Indians from outside the Valley are

referred to by the locals, are mostly at a loss to understand the angst of the average Kashmiri. The air of entitlement and superiority that pervades the Valley is utterly incomprehensible, given the fact that it is the taxpayers' money that has been utilised over the decades to feed their egos and lifestyles.

Facts will speak for themselves: With just one per cent of India's population, the State received 10 per cent of all Central grants between 2000 and 2016. In comparison, Uttar Pradesh, that accommodates 13 per cent of the population, received just 8.5 per cent of these grants within the same period. Not that this infusion of funds has done anything for the average Kashmiri, especially when one sees that the net per capita State GDP increased from approximately ₹40,000 to only around ₹60,000 during 2012-17.

In comparison, in a hill State of similar size, Himachal Pradesh, the per capita net GDP grew from ₹80,000 to ₹1,20,000 within the same period. Therefore, the average taxpayer is certainly entitled to ask where has all the money gone? Who is to be held accountable and why wasn't this step taken three decades ago, if not earlier? Many have expressed doubts that the abrogation of Article 370 has played into the hands of the separatists. By destroying the credibility of the leadership of the mainline political parties within the State, it will be the militants who will fill the

vacuum left behind. That support would be contingent on the belief that the Central Government will usher in demographic changes that will impinge on their culture, language and the way of life.

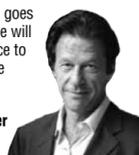
This need not be so if the region is given a special status under Article 471, as has been done for other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some in the North-East. However, what is undeniable is that every Kashmiri, whether he/she admits it or not, is fully cognisant that status quo over these past decades has only held them hostage to unending violence and a scramble to eke out a living. They also know that over the years, the only ones to have benefitted were the politicians, the separatists and those running the administration as they were all complicit in ensuring that required checks and balances could be avoided.

Well, if Prime Minister Modi can implement even half of what he has promised, there is little doubt that J&K will undergo a massive transformation for the better. Therefore, the choice before the people is crystal clear. The only thing one can no longer do is to sit astride both boats and blame the consequences on circumstance or fate.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)

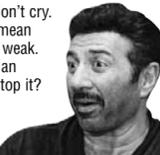
SOUNDBITE

If anyone from Pakistan goes to India to fight jihad...he will be the first to do injustice to Kashmiris, he will be the enemy of Kashmiris.



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

They say men don't cry. Crying doesn't mean being strong or weak. It's a release of an emotion. Why stop it?



Actor —Sunny Deol

Human rights must be fully respected in the territory and dialogue between India and Pakistan is an essential element for a solution to the problem.



UN chief —Antonio Guterres

Earlier the slogan was Kashmir Humara Hai (Kashmir is ours). Now we must work towards a new one, Naya Kashmir banana hai (We must make a new Kashmir).



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discriminatory provision

Sir — Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath deserves commendation for doing away with the four-decade-old illogical practice of paying income tax of Ministers from the public exchequer. One wonders why and how the anti-public policy was adopted and why it is still prevalent in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These States must also abolish the practice.

At the very least, the Prime Minister can advise the BJP-ruled States to do so and hope that the remaining would follow out of a sense of shame. Salaries, perks, privileges and post-retirement benefits, including pension to all those in the legislature, should be taken up by the Centre, rather than leaving them at the discretion of State Governments.

SC Agrawal
Delhi

Progressive step

Sir — India has done well to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes.

Do what's right for the Valley

This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). The turn of events in Jammu & Kashmir has been disconcerting. Former Chief Minister and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah did not deserve to be booked under the Public Safety Act and arrested and jailed in his own house. Like many of his compatriots, he has only exercised his right to an opinion. Booking a leader, who has served as a "bridge" between the Valley and mainland India for several decades, is a clear indication of the trust deficit between those in power in New Delhi and the Kashmiri leaders.

The treatment now being meted out to the three-time Chief Minister is blatant ingratitude because he has openly advocated the Valley's continued existence as an integral part of India. The worst part is that the country's top court has not come to his rescue and objected to his detention in lieu of his Constitutionally guaranteed rights. Moves like the detention of leaders like Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti do not help dispel the concerns about attitude regard-

ing the Valley's integration with the rest of India. The world's largest democracy that it is, India must ease restrictions, allow freedom and dissent and enable the people to breathe easy.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

number of people smoking worldwide is seeing a decline. As expected, the Association of Vapers India, which represents e-cigarette users, attacked the Government's decision, saying it would deprive millions of smokers of a safer solution to cut back on smoking. They say vaping is far less harmful than smoking tobacco. But many tobacco-control

activists are of the view that the usage of such devices could lead to nicotine addiction and push the people towards the consumption of tobacco. With this ban, much more holistic work is needed to bring down the overall tobacco use in India. Clearly much more needs to be done for a smoke-free nation.

J Akshay
Bengaluru

Creating unrest

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). It is unfortunate that former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was arrested and his home turned into jail under the draconian Public Safety Act, which entails detention of up to two years for "posing a threat to State security and territorial integrity." His arrest speaks more about the Government than about a man who, until now, was the face of the moderate Kashmiri.

He and his son, Omar Abdullah, may have much answering to do about their record of governance in Jammu & Kashmir but none can question their fealty to the Constitution. It is known that this 82-year-old man is no threat to Indian territorial integrity or State security. It is astonishing that the court has accepted it without even questioning the Centre for using a draconian Act against a key political leader.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The Modi-Trump bromance show

India and the US will have to draw a roadmap of engagements and discussions to serve as each other's natural strategic allies



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Leaders of two of the world's oldest and largest democracies will jointly face one of the biggest national minority influencer/voter groups in Houston, in what could be one of the "greatest shows around the globe" highlighting close cultural and economic ties between India and the US. The venue for this show has been carefully chosen, with attention to detail, beginning with the theme "Howdy Modi," a play on the popular Texan greeting. The state of Texas, also referred to as the "Lone Star", to signify its former status as an independent republic post its freedom struggle against Mexico and subsequent accession to the US, has been carefully chosen at an opportune time when Pakistan-led forces are trying to draw international attention to Kashmir. Widely used images of the Wild West, a fearless, trigger happy cowboy, riding a horse and ready to protect his cattle, fit in well with the "tough men" image of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

But there is more. With the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slightly short of the \$2-trillion mark, Texas is America's second-largest economy. In fact, if it were still a sovereign state it would have been the world's tenth-largest economy. Houston, the largest metropolis in Texas, is India's fourth-largest trading partner with bilateral trade in excess of \$7 billion in 2018. This state is high on energy with crude oil productions and oil refineries fuelling many economies around the globe. Clearly India, with a \$2.7 trillion economy racing towards the \$5 trillion mark, needs vast energy sources to arrive early!

Those heady numbers apart, the foundation of a long-term relationship lies in creating long-term "optical frameworks" for a strategically chosen target audience. Texas is home to nearly 2.5 lakh Indian-Americans, historically conservative in their political beliefs and wealthier than other such national groups. This fits in well with both the Modi and Trump brand of politics, given their emphasis on projecting "strong men" images, saviours of culture and the clarion call to make the homeland "Great Again," in front of a large audience.

Statistically, this would be the largest Indian diaspora (50,000-strong) both Modi and Trump will be facing in the US for the first time. This would be Trump's brush with Indian-style election campaigning, with song, dance and promises. Promises to be made and kept, to put India-US bilateral trade talks back on the track. The world's largest democracies hit a rough patch in the last one year with trade and tariff restrictions souring traditional relationships more than impacting the actual trade. India and the US will be eager to announce trade deals, keeping in mind domestic constituencies. The event will also see participation from American leadership cutting across party lines. Apart from Republican and Democratic Congressmen and Senators, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the second-ranking member of the Democratic leadership, is also going to address the 'Howdy Modi' event. This reflects the strong bipartisan support for India-US relations.

Not surprisingly, US and Indian trade ministers have been busy in preparatory talks in the run-up to the show, with as many as ten phone calls between them. India is saddled with a not-so-official slowing economy and Trump needs a big trade victory ahead of 2020. The restrictions on benefits under generalised trade preferences may be first on the agenda from the Indian perspective, while higher tariffs on high-end medical devices and tech products will be the go-to agenda from the US side. There may be a softening of stance by either economies and a turn of phrase or a change in verbiage may ease "ready to roll" big ticket investment and partnership announcements.

On the platter also would be the great divide between India and US on definition and movement of data across boundaries. India is in the middle of framing rules and guidelines around personal and non-personal data usage, storage, monetisation and accessibility. The US and many "countries of origin of big data-using companies" are watching this space with keenness as any restrictions imposed here may lead to huge consequences for the future of investment flows. Even though data may not feature prominently in Indo-US trade talks on September 22, somewhere, the two sides ought to make it a bilateral dialogue as it will be beneficial for both countries in the long run. For now, besides a compelling three-hour broadcast on Sunday, keenly watched by many across the globe, with many more searches being generated for Houston on Google, India and the US will have to draw a roadmap of engagements and discussions to arrive at a balance for constituencies and economy on bilateral trade issues as well as serve as each other's natural strategic allies.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IT IS A MISPLACED FACT THAT PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN ARE UNHAPPY. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SPREADING LIES FOR POLITICAL BENEFITS.
 —NCP LEADER SHARAD PAWAR



I FEEL BAD WHEN A LEADER LIKE PAWAR MAKES WRONG STATEMENTS FOR VOTES. EVERYONE KNOWS WHERE THE TERROR FACTORY IS.
 — PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Focus on making history

There is a lesson to be learnt from the coverage of the Chandrayaan-2 mission and that is there is a difference between witnessing an epic feat unfold and achieving it



VV SUNDAR

There is a performance zone in which we all thrive. When handling critical projects, teams not only require resources but also need to work in an environment free from distractions and disturbances so that they can achieve their objectives. It is always the last lap, "minutes of terror" rather, that defines the difference between success and failure.

A calm, sedate environment and resolute attention to micro-details are not only required but also expected. After investing so much effort in planning, if things go wrong, the team has to take all the negative consequences in their stride. Particularly when it is something as critical as a space mission that is on the global radar, apart from being a matter of immense national pride.

Something similar happened recently with the Chandrayaan-2 mission at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), an institution the country takes immense pride in. After the space agency lost communication with the Vikram lander ahead of the touchdown, the visuals on television sets were of bewildered and disappointed faces in the mission control room, which was crowded with clunky cameras and peering eyes.

A frustrated look here, a distracted countenance there, the devastation and tension was palpable and writ large on the faces of the staff, desperately trying to make contact with the Vikram during the final act. In their hearts, they were probably also praying to be left alone to do their jobs since a complication had arisen. It was not as if they didn't know failures, the success of their launches has come through them. And perhaps, they are best equipped to handle their lows but not at the expense of being panned by the world.

The price of encroaching upon mental and physical spaces — no matter how slightly or reverently — comes at the cost of the team's optimal functioning. It can handicap its focus on the crucial work at hand.

The sanctity of the operation control room cannot be violated. No external gadgetry or personnel should ever make way into the sanctum sanctorum. What if a short circuit happened due to faulty equipment brought in? There's always the possibility of a camera battery catching fire or some such mishap. Where would that lead us? It was surprising to see such a risky act playing out freely in front of our eyes in the mission control room itself. The operation control centre is kept out of bounds to non-essential staff, personnel and gadgets. In the entire scheme of things, mission control rooms occupy a highly sanitised, secure, safe and secluded space, be it airports, ports or railway networks. And here we are talking about a space mission! Second, the world can wait. There is a difference between witnessing history and history being "made." The witnessing part can wait. Let's first focus on making the history. Let's get the job done first. Successful execution should be the only priority, as compared to the rituals of receiving visitors and posing for the cameras.

There should be a provision for deferred live broadcast of such major events once the mission has been accomplished. It is not a soccer match for the public to enjoy; it is a highly



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 LET US HOPE RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS DO NOT FALL PREY TO OR ARE SMITTEN BY MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH DELIVERING FEATS THAT OPEN UP THE NEXT FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE WHICH CHANDRAYAAN-2 WAS DESTINED TO DO. LET US LEAVE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ALONE, THEY KNOW THEIR JOB AND THEY CAN DELIVER WITHOUT FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF MAKING EVERYTHING INTO A TELEVISED SPECTACLE

nerve-racking scientific operation being played out at the far end of the galaxy. What is the point of adding to the pressure in an already highly-charged environment while our scientists are still remotely choreographing and delicately manoeuvring a space mission in the vast expanses of outer space?

The media circus surrounding the coverage of the event was as usual clichéd. But what came as a new low was some media personnel haranguing the scientists to bring none other than the ISRO chief to face their queries during a press conference. That was when the mission was still under way and operational issues were still being sorted! It also clearly shows how the space organisation has been left wanting in handling their communications protocols.

Barring a few exceptions, science journalism died long ago in the country. No wonder television channels thought it fit to send "political reporters" in droves to cover this specific event. The media's wall-to-wall coverage was as usual clichéd. The core competencies of our television anchors to take on character-acting and dramatisation with ease comes quite naturally to them, just like a fish takes to the water.

It would have saved the day if the media and invitees were only allowed after the operations were definitively complete and a recorded minute-by-minute account was relayed to them, sans nail biting suspense, which only

a handful of staff should be privileged to access and witness first, in a studied controlled environment setting. It would also have saved the technicians and scientists a lot of unwanted attention and pressure.

Also, in the light of the partial failure of the mission and the subsequent emotional breakdown of the chief, it would have saved ISRO a lot of embarrassment and heartbreak too.

The presence of top bosses, be it political or executive, might lift up the team's spirit but it can also add undue pressure and divert attention and time. When there is a delicate and expensive mission waiting to be executed, a few milliseconds are all that it takes to make a difference between success and failure. Had India successfully landed the craft, it would have been the fourth nation in the world to land a vessel on the Moon's surface, and only the third to operate a robotic rover there. The Chandrayaan-2 mission, which cost roughly \$140 million, was intended to study the permanently shadowed moon craters, thought to contain water deposits, confirmed by the Chandrayaan-1 mission 11 years ago. However, that was not to be.

Whatever the loss, national pride or monetary, let us not patronise scientists by thumping their backs or wiping their tears. They need none of that. Perhaps none other than the scientific community knows it better and is accustomed to accepting failures with grace and humility before they hit

upon success. That this is so was very evident from the encouraging and gracious responses of space scientists from countries, who have been part of failures and successes of missions like this. It is part and parcel of their daily routine and high stakes space missions. We just need to maintain a measured, respectful and dispassionate distance from those who are executing their work. It is their sole and primary responsibility to the nation to perform and maintain the integrity of the process without fixating on results. Nothing should come in their way. We should leave them to their devices and let their work speak eloquently.

Lastly, with such high stakes, it is also unseemly to see a lack of well-trained professional communication apparatus to handle such events. ISRO could have handled the media in a more nuanced manner. It is time that communications become a key component for the organisation in all its future endeavours.

Let us hope research organisations do not fall prey to or are smitten by media coverage but are only concerned with delivering feats that open up the next frontiers of science which Chandrayaan-2 was destined to do. Let us leave the scientific community alone; they know their job and they can deliver without falling into the trap of making everything into a televised spectacle.

(The writer is a seasoned communications professional and management consultant based in New Delhi)

A time of reckoning for babus at last

To change the growing perception that there is a lack of accountability regarding performance and misdeeds of civil servants, the Modi Government has brought in reforms that are expected to foster professionalism and competence, says **Devesh Chaturvedi**

The civil services have contributed immensely to nation-building since India's Independence, yet they are criticised for resisting changes, stifling innovation and being oblivious to external realities. There is also a growing perception that there's a lack of performance accountability and that misdeeds of civil servants often go unpunished. To address these challenges, the Government, in the last five years, has initiated a series of reforms that have impacted almost all sections of the bureaucracy.

Keeping the sanctity of the recruitment process in the civil services is a must to ensure that freshers do not develop a cynical attitude. The Government realised that personality tests or interviews did not add any value to the recruitment process at the lower levels of bureaucracy. Instead, they only created a subjectivity which often led to corruption and nepotism. Hence, it decided to discontinue with the interviews in the recruit-

ments for Group C and Group B non-gazetted posts. Many State Governments also followed suit. The results have been quite encouraging as the candidates have been pleasantly surprised for having been selected on merit without resorting to payment of bribes or using undue influence.

The Fundamental Rule 56-J and All-India Death-Cum-Retirement Benefit rules provide that the Government can prematurely retire any civil servant after giving three months' notice. However, for years, these provisions for screening of deadwood were not being implemented. These rules are now being implemented and a thorough screening of service records of officials by a committee is helping identify non-performers. This exercise has sent a message that there is a premium attached to both performance and probity.

It was also noticed that the cadre-allotment policies were weakening the all-India character of the services and were detrimental to the

spirit of cooperative federalism. The officers were being allotted cadres based on choice. This resulted in officers landing either in their home or adjoining cadre, thus fostering inertia and a hesitation to serve on central deputation in the Government. In fact, the services were slowly being converted into glorified State services.

The Government brought a reformed cadre allotment policy in 2017, based on a roster for five regions in which all the cadres were clubbed, thus ensuring that the all-India character of the services was restored. It also encouraged officers who have served in cadres other than their domicile, to opt for central deputation.

It was also noticed that freshly-recruited IAS officers got important field-level posts like that of District Magistrate, Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishads and Municipal Corporations for the first 10 to 12 years of their service. However, they often lacked the national perspective while serving

at the grassroots and this hampered their effectiveness. To address this issue, since 2015, freshly-recruited IAS officers are being deputed as Assistant Secretaries in the Government of India for three months immediately after their academy training and just before they go back to their respective State cadres for field postings. Experience has shown that this innovation helped young officers imbibe a national perspective that helped them address local issues holistically and with confidence.

Further, the performance of civil servants was measured primarily through the elaborate system of Performance Appraisal Reports (PARs). It was realised that due to the complete disclosure of PARs to the officers assessed, there was widespread grade inflation. Officers were being over-assessed and rated outstanding, notwithstanding their performance. PAR had become a public relations exercise with supervisory officers reluctant to give lower rating for fear of strained rela-

tions at the workplace. This had an adverse impact on the empanelment of officers at the Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary or equivalent levels. It became difficult to distinguish high performers from others. The Government, therefore, implemented the process of Multi Source Feedback (MSF) or 360 degree appraisal, which is used along with the PARs to assess the suitability of officers for higher positions in the Government. This was also recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, as well as the Surendranath Committee on Performance Appraisal Reforms.

This intervention created ripples in bureaucratic circles as the feedback about officers was obtained from peers, subordinates and seniors on various personality attributes. The success of this intervention will, however, be judged by the resulting inclusion of errors in the reformed empanelment process, since the exclusion errors can be corrected by subsequent reviews.

There was also a demand for lateral infusion of talent from outside to enrich Government policy processes. The high echelons of policy-making are primarily manned by officers from three sources. The Indian Administrative Services (IAS), other participating All India and Central services and the Central Secretariat Services (CSS). The Government decided to bring in talent from outside through lateral recruitment at the Joint Secretary Level. Ten such positions were thrown open and recruitment were done through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). It will be interesting to watch their contributions and amalgamation in the working of the Government. This reform is likely to generate a healthy competition among peers, fostering professionalism, efficiency and competencies in the policy-making process.

While these reforms were aimed at bringing in accountability in performance and conduct, the Government also addressed rising concerns related to the policy paralysis resulting from risk averseness among the civil services. Significantly, the risk awareness was brought on by multiple investigations by anti-corruption agencies in various cases. The amendments in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 passed in 2018 has provisions that are aimed at protecting honest and well-meaning civil servants. The provision of prior approval for initiating any investigation and deletion of Section 13 (1) (d)(iii) of the Act were a result of the Government's resolve to send a message that bonafide commercial decision will be defended and civil servants may go ahead with bold decision making in public interest. These reforms are expected to bring in the desired accountability, professionalism and competencies in the civil services to meet modern day challenges.

(The writer is Principal Secretary, Medical, Health & Family Welfare Department, in Uttar Pradesh Govt.)

Modi's anonymous attack on Sena over Ram Mandir

Says loudmouths must have faith in judicial system

Nashik: In a jibe without naming ally Shiv Sena, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Supreme Court is hearing the Ram Mandir case and asked "some loudmouths" to refrain from making statements on the issue.

"I am amazed at the 'bayan bahadurs and badbole' (loudmouths) on the Ram Mandir issue. Every one in the country respects the Supreme Court. The apex court is hearing the case. I want to tell these people with folded hands to have faith in the judicial system," Modi said at a rally here.

Shiv Sena has been demanding construction of the Ram temple and asking the Modi Government to take steps in that direction like it did on Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday demanded that the Centre take a "courageous decision" to bring in a law to build a Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

"It has been our demand from last year that a special law must be brought in and Ram



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and BJP Maharashtra president Chandrakant Patil being garlanded by supporters during the Vijay Sankalp Rally in Nashik on Thursday

Mandir should be built... The issue has been going on since 1992. How many years should we wait? We are hearing that the issue is in the final stages in the court. We appeal to the courts to give it decision on the issue.

"However, beyond that we expect that Centre should not wait for court order and use its powers. The Centre took a courageous step in abrogating Article 370. It is our request that the Centre would do the same for Ram Mandir issue," the Sena chief had told reporters here.

Modi said the first 100-day tenure in his second innings as the PM focussed on promise, performance and delivery. "There is a push for develop-

ment, a message of India's global power, welfare of people and efforts for employment opportunities," he said.

"₹20,000 crore were put in farmers' accounts so far out of which ₹1,500 crore was in accounts of farmers in Maharashtra," he said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis thanked Modi for the trust reposed in him in 2014 when he was made the CM.

On the Mahajanadesh Yatra undertaken by him to reach out to masses ahead of the Assembly polls, Fadnavis said, "In the yatra, I have put forward my report card to the people. There is no corruption allegation (against me) in the last five years."

PTI

Hope PM respects SC ruling on Ram temple, says NCP

Mumbai: Latching onto Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that "some loudmouths" should have faith in the Supreme Court over the Ram temple issue, the NCP on Thursday hoped he will stick to his words and respect verdict the court will deliver on the sensitive matter.

NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said his party has always been of the view that the apex court's verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute matter should be respected and accepted by all.

Addressing a rally in Nashik, around 200km from here, on Thursday, Modi, without naming BJP's ally, the Shiv Sena, said the court is hearing the temple case and asked "some loudmouths" to refrain from making statements on the issue.

"I am amazed at the 'bayan bahadurs and badbole' (loudmouths) on the Ram Mandir issue. Everyone in the country respects the Supreme Court. The apex court is hearing the case. I want to tell these people with folded hands to have faith in the judicial system," the prime minister said.



Reacting to the PM's remarks, Malik said, "We are also saying that the SC's decision should be respected and accepted. Hope the prime minister will stick to his words and implement and respect the decision the Supreme Court will give."

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday demanded that the Centre take a "courageous decision" to bring in a law to build a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

The SC on Wednesday said parties to the Ayodhya land dispute case can amicably resolve the matter through mediation if they want to and added it wants day-to-day hearings in the case to be concluded by October 18.

PM attacks Pawar over Pak remarks, lauds Fadnavis for stable Government

Nashik: Donning headgear presented by a descendant of Shivaji Maharaj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday targeted NCP chief Sharad Pawar over the latter's remarks on Pakistan.

Launching the BJP's campaign for next month's Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Modi also said the State suffered due to political instability in the past and lauded Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for providing a "stable Government" in the last five years, despite BJP not having a complete majority on its own.

On the decision of revoking provisions of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, Modi said this was the wish of 130 crore Indians.

"The decision has been taken to save the Kashmiris from the cycle of violence, terror and separatism. They suffered for 40 years due to Delhi's (previous Congress-led Governments) wrong policies and 42,000 people were killed," he said.

Instead of supporting the Government on the decision taken in national interest, Opposition leaders are making comments for their selfish political interests, Modi said.

"When the country is united over the decision on

Kashmir, Congress and NCP leaders have not cooperated," he said.

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Modi said the Congress leaders are making comments which are being used by other countries and terror outfits against India.

"I can understand the confusion of the Congress. But Sharad Pawar? I feel bad when an experienced leader like him

makes wrong statements for votes. He said he likes the neighbouring country. But every one knows where the terror factory is," Modi said.

Addressing a rally here as part of the conclusion of the 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' undertaken by Fadnavis to reach out to masses ahead of the Assembly polls, Modi said Maharashtra had not progressed as it should have.

PTI

Modi twisted Pawar's comments, showed PM can lie, says NCP

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi distorted NCP chief Sharad Pawar's comments about Pakistan, the party said on Thursday.

Modi should either prove that Pawar praised the rulers of the neighbouring country or apologise, Nationalist Congress Party spokesperson Nawab Malik said here.

Hours before, Modi, addressing a rally in Nashik in Maharashtra, targeted Pawar.

Alleging that Congress leaders' comments were being used by other countries and terror outfits against India, Modi said, "I can understand the confusion of the Congress. But Sharad Pawar? I feel bad

when an experienced leader like him makes wrong statements for votes.

"He said he likes the neighbouring country. But everyone knows where the terror factory is," the PM said.

Hitting back, Malik said that Modi twisted Pawar's remark.

"Modi has shown that the country's Prime Minister can be a liar. He said Pawar likes the rulers of Pakistan. But Pawar had clearly said in his speech that the rulers, army officers in Pakistan are anti-India, but the people there are not anti-India," Malik told reporters.

PTI

Bulletproof jackets made in India sent to 100 countries: Modi

Nashik: Accusing the UPA Government of not being serious on national security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Congress-led regime had in 2009 ignored the demand of 1.86 lakh bullet proof jackets for security personnel.

In the BJP-led regime, not only have the requirements of our forces been met but bulletproof jackets made in India are now being exported to 100 countries, Modi said.

Addressing a public rally here, Modi said, "Today, we are manufacturing our own bulletproof jackets and these jackets made in India are now being exported to over 100 countries."

"Two mighty helicopters have recently been inducted. Very soon the Rafale fighter jets

will join the IAF. We have taken the long pending decision to have a chief of defence staff for better co-ordination between the three forces," he said.

The attitude of the previous (Congress-led) Government was never good when it came to security preparedness and this has to be remembered again and again, Modi said.

"In 2009, a demand for 1.86 lakh bulletproof jackets was made. Till 2014, our jawans were fighting on the borders without bulletproof jackets. Time passed and the Congress Government supported by NCP never paid attention to this demand. But when the BJP-led NDA came to power, we revived the process and made sure that the jackets are manufactured in India," he said.

PTI

DAY 46 Normal life remains disrupted in Kashmir

Reports of shopkeepers being threatened

Srinagar: Incidents of miscreants threatening shopkeepers and vandalising private vehicles have been reported from many places in Kashmir Valley where normal life remained disrupted for the 46th day on Thursday following abrogation of Article 370, officials said.

They said private cars have come under stone-pelting at many places as the miscreants want to enforce shutdown.

Authorities have taken note of these incidents and follow up action has been taken, the officials added.

Markets remained closed in the Valley and public transport off the roads, they said.

They said some of the shops open for few hours early in the



morning and late in the evening, but remain shut during the day.

Public transport was off the roads, but private cars were plying in many areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley, they said.

Few autorickshaws and inter-district cabs were also seen plying in some areas in civil lines of the city, they added.

The officials said Internet services remained suspended across all platforms.

While landlines across the valley were functional, voice calls on mobile devices were working only in Kupwara and Handwara police districts of north Kashmir, they added.

The efforts of the state government to open schools have

not borne any fruit as parents continued to keep children at home due to apprehensions about their safety.

Most areas of the valley were restrictions-free, but the deployment of security forces continued on the ground to maintain law and order, the officials said.

Restrictions were first imposed across Kashmir on August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the state into two Union territories. The restrictions were lifted in phases from many parts of the valley as the situation improved with the passage of time.

Authorities have been imposing restrictions in vulnerable areas of the valley every Friday, apprehending that vested interests might exploit the large gatherings at big mosques and shrines to fuel protests.

PTI

Pak targets workers to halt BSF's wall of defence project

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Several kilometre long 'wall of defence' (protective sand bundh) being constructed by the Border Security Force (BSF) between forward villages of Samba and Kathua, to plug the 'active' infiltration routes along the International border across Jammu frontier, is giving sleepless nights to Pakistani rangers on the other side of the border.

As the work on the ambitious project was gathering momentum and taking shape, perturbed Pakistani rangers decided to target the workers engaged in the construction work on the Indian side of the border fence.

So far, no loss of life and property has been reported from any where in the region.

To instil confidence among the local residents in the area, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua Dr Raghav Langer on Thursday visited Manyari village along with the team of senior Government officials and took stock of the ground realities.

He directed the executing agencies, engaged in the task of bunker construction, to expedite work on 'war footing' and install motors to clear the water logging from inside completed bunkers.

Senior BSF officials of Jammu frontier also visited the forward border outposts in the area to review the ground situation.

Deputy Commissioner directed the police officers to station bullet proof mobile bunkers in the area to safely evacuate local residents in case of any exigency. Local villagers also appealed to the senior officers to ensure safety and security of border residents in case of fresh escalation in the coming days.

Deputy Commissioner assured them that the entire district administration has been sanitised and activated to respond to the emerging situation in the

border areas. Senior BSF officers on their part claimed repeated attempts were being made, for last three days, by the Pakistani rangers to escalate the tensions along the International border as well in the run up to the United National General Assembly Session.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan are scheduled to address the world leaders on September 27.

Apparently, the recent incidents of 'unprovoked' ceasefire violations by the Pakistani rangers in Hiranagar sector is also seen as a direct fall out of the progress made to execute the project on ground zero.

According to BSF authorities, the area which is being covered under the 'protective bundh' is often used by the infiltrators in the past to sneak inside the Indian territory preferably via water bodies and rivulets in the area.

The same route, according to NIA report submitted to the Union Home Minister in October 2018, was exploited by the over ground workers of the Pakistani based terror outfits to smuggle arms and ammunition along with small batches of infiltrators via road link to Kashmir valley.

A local villager who attended the meeting with the senior officers said, "the protective bundh is being constructed inside the Indian territory, well short of barbed wire fencing close to the International border, even then the Pakistani rangers are trying to provoke BSF authorities to retaliate strongly and not allowing them to live peacefully in the area". The villagers claimed they were living under constant fear of fresh escalation in the area and demanded safety of their live stock and homes and hearts.

Five of family die inside sewage well in Gujarat

Ahmedabad: Five members of a family died of suffocation inside a well where sewage collected in Patan district of Gujarat, the police said on Thursday.

The incident took place at Gujarvada village in Sami tehsil two days ago. The State Government announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the surviving members of the family. The deceased were identified as Ranjanaben Sindhav (40), Ratabhai Sindhav (58), Ratabhai Nadoda (58), Rajabhai Sindhav (65) and Ajabhai Sindhav (45). Ranjanaben fell into the well — which was being used as a kind of septic tank — when she accidentally stepped on its brick cover on the evening of September 17, a police official said.

PTI

Sabarimala back in focus as campaign peaks for Pala bypoll

Kottayam (Ker): The Sabarimala women's entry issue, a major plank of Opposition parties during the Lok Sabha election, is back in focus with the Congress and BJP raising it to target the ruling LDF in the campaign for the byelection to coming Pala Assembly constituency.

The two Opposition parties accused the LDF Government of implementing the Supreme Court verdict permitting women in menstrual age to offer prayers at the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala in a "hurried manner".

The September 23 bypoll in Pala is considered an acid test for the Left which faced humiliating defeat in the Lok Sabha polls with the Congress-led UDF sweeping 19 of the 20 seats.

Syrian Catholic community and Hindus account for most of the electorate in the segment, where the by-poll has been necessitated by the demise of



KC(M) founder leader and former Finance Minister KM Mani on April 9.

Senior Congress leader A K Antony, campaigning for UDF candidate Jose Tom Pulikkunnel on Wednesday, alleged Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan turned Sabarimala "a battle ground" in the guise of implementing the apex court verdict.

"The Chief Minister displayed his arrogance in Sabarimala and his immature actions turned it a battleground,"

the former union minister alleged.

He challenged Vijayan to declare his current stand on the issue in the wake of his party admitting its mistake in handling the women entry issue. Vijayan, currently touring the constituency campaigning for LDF candidate Mani C Kappen, did not respond to Antony's allegations. But his ministerial colleague and senior CPI(M) leader MM Mani attacked Antony, accusing

him of speaking in the tune of the BJP.

Mani on Thursday alleged it was the Congress and the BJP which turned Sabarimala a battle ground during the pilgrim season last year.

Targeting BJP also on the issue, Antony has asked whether the ruling party at the Centre was ready to protect the faith of Lord Ayyappa devotees as promised by it during the Parliament elections and bring an ordinance.

Responding to Antony's poser, BJP leader and Union Minister V Muraliedharan said the BJP will fulfil the poll promise made by the party in its manifesto on Sabarimala.

Talking to reporters in Pala on Thursday, the Minister of State for External Affairs, said the pleas seeking a review of the Supreme Court verdict, lifting the traditional ban on entry of women in the age group of 10-50 into the temple, was currently

under the consideration of the Supreme Court.

Similarly, the Ramajanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue is also being heard by the apex court, Muraliedharan, who is in Pala to campaign for BJP candidate N Hari, said.

"Let us wait for the court verdict...The promise we have made in our manifesto will be implemented," he said.

In its Lok Sabha poll manifesto, the BJP has said its government would make every effort to ensure that the subject of faith, tradition and worship rituals related to Sabarimala were adhered to.

A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court on September 28 last year by a 4:1 verdict allowed entry of women in Sabarimala temple, says banning their entry into the shrine was gender discrimination and the practice violates rights of Hindu women.

PTI

CHINMAYANAND CASE

Priyanka questions PM's silence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday accused the Yogi Adityanath Government of supporting rape accused former Minister Swami Chinmayanand and questioned the "silence" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior women leaders of the ruling party on the absence of any action against him.

Congress leader and General Secretary of UP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed the BJP Government and the police in Uttar Pradesh saying they were repeating the "negligence" shown and "protection" given to the accused in the Unnao rape case.

Her allegations came a day after the student, who has levelled rape charges against former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand, threatened to set herself on fire if the BJP leader was not arrested immediately. The student also asked if the Government was waiting for her to die even after her statement was recorded before a magistrate.

Congress alleged by taking no action against the accused in the rape case it has become clear that the BJP is standing with the Chinmayananda and is not inclined to provide justice to the victim, who has come out in the open with details of the crime. "This is a very serious issue.

It has become very clear that this Government has a very non-serious approach to tackle increasing crime against women. The Government has a completely blind eye towards crime against women and they are instead protecting their leaders," she told reporters, asking whether this case will also go the way the Unnao rape case has gone," said Congress spokesperson Sharmistha Mukherjee.

Mukherjee said Modi government is talking about 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' on one hand, while on the other hand it is "busy protecting those committing crimes against women".

Three booked for provocative speech in K'taka

Mangaluru: A case has been registered against three people including a Bajrang Dal leader on charges of delivering a "communally provocative" speech during a function at Puttur last month.

The case was registered against the trio following a complaint from a member of Puttur town committee of Popular Front of India (PFI).

The complainant alleged that the Bajrang Dal leader in his speech had said that not even a small piece of land



would be provided for Muslims to offer namaz in the country if they failed to chant 'Bharat Matha Ki Ja' and 'Jai Sree Ram.' Such a statement has been made in order to incite communal passions, he claimed.

110 IRS officers appointed as expenditure observers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has appointed 110 IRS (Indian Revenue Service) officers of the Income Tax department as expenditure observers for the forthcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana.

According to the EC, the observers will be tasked with checking the use of black money and other illegal inducements during the election process in these two states. These officials have been called for their first briefing by the EC on September 23. Haryana has 90 Assembly seats and

Maharashtra has 288.

The EC has asked the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to relieve the officers from their charge so that they can be put on poll duty, the sources said. The CBDT is the policy-making body for the tax department.

These officers of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) will be deployed in various Assembly constituencies of the two states as part of the EC's overall mechanism to ensure a level-playing field for the candidates and voters, the sources said. They will ensure that

stringent and effective enforcement action is undertaken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through their charge so that they can be put on poll duty, the sources said. The CBDT is the policy-making body for the tax department.

The EC has also directed the CBDT to ensure that its investigation wings in these poll-bound states, adjoining states and in Delhi be prepared to deploy extra measures to check physical and electronic movement of suspected funds.

Supriyo heckled, taken hostage

Guv rushes to Jadavpur campus along with cops, rescues him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a major security lapse, Union Minister Babul Supriyo was on Thursday heckled, pushed and clawed by students of Left wing parties protesting against his attending of a seminar organised by the right wing students' groups including the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad at Jadavpur University. While Vice-Chancellor Suranjana Das refused to call in police, a helpless police force stood as mute spectators for the want of "instructions from above" leaving Supriyo to his fate and protective hands of a few CRPF personnel who had a trying time to shield him from an aggressive crowd of several hundred slogan-shouting students.

The V-C showing his inability to call police on moral grounds and offered to resign instead took shelter in the hospital bed along with his pro-Vice Chancellor PK Ghosh.

Even as the melee continued for more than five hours, Governor Jagdeep Dhankar had



Union Minister of State Babul Supriyo heckled by Left-wing students at Jadavpur University in Kolkata on Thursday

to intervene by rushing into the university campus where he too was blocked for a good one hour even as he tried to rescue the Minister.

And it took some instant tact of DCP Praveen Tripathi who managed to hoodwink the students and get the Governor and the Minister out of the mess. Just as the drama threatened to continue overnight the convoy of the Governor who had by that time pulled Supriyo inside his car turned back and sped away taking advantage of an un-blockaded rear.

This even as a large number of ABVP and Durga Vahini supporters armed with rods and bamboos raided — JU premises ranked amongst one of the five best universities of the country, academically --- and

smashed the students' union, ransacked the interiors and torched things including computers, bicycles posters, and almirahs.

While the Left students gheraoed the Minister some of them pulling by his hair and even slapping him, demanded apology from Supriyo for abusing them and threatening them with dire consequences for shouting "go back slogan" and showing black flags the singer-turned politician shouted "if you will not achieve anything by this undemocratic show.

If you want to be a decent politician then follow your leader Buddhadhab Bhattacharjee."

He later alleged "they beat me, kicked me, scratched me... but for that I won't say scream.

Rather I will demand these students to be criminally booked or and rusticated."

Even as a furious Governor personally called up Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Chief Secretary Maloy Dey communicating his concern for Supriyo, a Press release issued by the Raj Bhavan, faulted the State for falling law and order situation.

If that alleged unlawful detention and assault on the Union Minister was a serious reflection of the law and order of the State and on the conduct of the law enforcing agencies.

The drama that continued for more than five hours started earlier on Thursday noon when Supriyo, accompanied by designer-turned-BJP leader Agnimitra Paul entered the University campus to address a seminar.

While swarms of Left students shouted "go back" slogans he entered into heated arguments with them provoking the students to reply back in equal measure. One of them complained "he not only abused us but also threatened us with dire consequences saying I can teach you all lessons within two days. There was no need for him to react to such slogans and simply gone ahead with his programme because such slogans are a regular affair Jadavpur."

Former Kolkata CP hiding like Dawood, CBI tells court

Claims State Govt not sharing any information regarding him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday compared senior IPS officer and former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim in the Alipore Court saying Kumar, the present Additional Director General of CID, was hiding from the Agency like the Pakistan-based don.

The CBI lawyers were arguing in the court to seek a non-bailable warrant against Kumar.

When the Court asked as to why they were seeking warrant when they had enough power to arrest him the CBI counsels said "he is fleeing like Dawood Ibrahim and the State Government is not sharing any information about him with the CBI."

Even as the Court reserved its order for a subsequent day in

a daylong Hindi film-like drama the CBI sleuths ran from one place to another in search of the former Kolkata top cop — himself one of the best cyber crime investigators in the country.

The CBI vainly searched him in the IPS quarters, the IPS officers' mess and even inside the kitchen of a renowned South Kolkata hotel entering most of these premises from backdoors.

Finally the Agency sleuths sent yet another notice to the top officer's official address asking him to report for interrogation on Friday.

Kumar has been evading the investigation since Friday when the Calcutta High Court withdrew protection from arrest granted to him in the case.

CBI wants to quiz Kumar regarding his role as the chief of the Special Investigation Team in the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case in 2013 before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI upon allegations of wayward investigation.

The central probe agency also sent a letter to West Bengal Director General of Police (DGP) Virendra, seeking his active contact number.

HINDI ROW Crack in Opportunity surfaces in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

As a party chief MK Stalin called off the proposed agitation against 'imposition of Hindi' late Wednesday following an assurance from Governor Banwarilal Purohit that there won't be any such move from the Centre, the facade of unity in the Opposition front has come under strain.

Stalin, who had a meeting with the Governor, told journalists that Purohit told him that Home Minister Amit Shah's speech has been misquoted and misunderstood. "Since the Governor told us that the Home Minister's speech had been misquoted, we thought it better not to go ahead with the agitation," said Stalin.

As per the earlier plan, the DMK and allies were to hold Statewide demonstrations all over Tamil Nadu on Friday against the move by the Centre to impose Hindi. The Congress, a trusted ally of the DMK, went one step ahead and declared that the party cadre

would show black flags against Amit Shah when he visits the State next time. But VCK, another alliance partner of the DMK, expressed the party's reservations over the move by Stalin to call off the agitation. "We stand by our decision to agitate against the communal Government at the Centre," said Thol Thirumavalavan, MP and founder of the party. This round of agitation has fizzled out as the DMK has understood the folly behind wasting time and resources over such issues, said Govindarajan Satyamurthy, political commentator based in Coimbatore. "All parties except the AIADMK and the DMK are non-entities in the State," he said.

A senior Congress leader had told The Pioneer on Wednesday itself that agitation against Hindi would be matter of past in a few days time. "Do you think the Congress would dare to show black flags at Amit Shah if the DMK is not around to help them," asked the leader who did not want the name to be quoted.

Aarey can't get forest tag just because it has greenery: Maha Govt

Mumbai: The Aarey area, at the centre of a raging protest over felling of trees for a Mumbai metro depot, cannot be given a forest tag "just because it has greenery", the Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Thursday.

Government counsels Ashutosh Kumbhakoni and Anil Sakhare made this submission while seeking dismissal of a petition filed by an NGO named Vanshakti, which demanded that the Aarey area in suburban Goregaon be declared a forest and an ecologically-sensitive zone.

Activists are opposing the proposed felling of over 2,600 trees in Aarey to make way for the metro car shed and demanding relocation of the depot, which is part of the Metro III project.

"Aarey cannot be declared as forest just because there is



greenery there. Aarey was formed in the past as a milk colony and to keep cattle and horse stables," Sakhare told a division bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre.

Kumbhakoni told the court that another bench of the high court had in October last year dismissed a similar petition filed by an activist, Zoru Bathena, seeking forest tag for Aarey.

In the petition, Bathena had challenged the proposed construction of a Metro car

shed at Aarey. "The high court bench, while rejecting that petition, noted that it was erroneous to term Aarey a forest," Kumbhakoni said.

An appeal against this order of the high court has been filed in the Supreme Court, where it is pending hearing, the government counsel said.

"Let the apex court decide the issue now. The high court has already given its verdict. When the matter has been already heard and concluded by the high court, it need not be entertained again," Kumbhakoni argued.

On a query made by the court earlier on whether the proposed Metro car shed could be constructed in suburban Kanjurmarg instead of Aarey, Kumbhakoni said the land being talked about was not available for the project due to "technical reasons".

Another government counsel, Shrihari Aney, told the court that even assuming the land at Kanjurmarg was available, it would "not be possible" to construct the proposed Metro car shed there.

"The said car shed is for the Metro III line connecting Colaba in south Mumbai to Seepz in the western suburbs," Aney said. "Hence, the car shed needs to be in Aarey. It is not feasible to have the car shed at Kanjurmarg which is located kilometers away (from Aarey)."

The Aarey colony, measuring 1,287 hectares and located adjoining the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, is known as a major green lung of the metropolis.

Several Bollywood personalities and politicians have also extended their support to the activists protesting against the felling of trees in Aarey. PTI

Students protest outside Jalsa against Big B's tweet, 22 held

Mumbai: Armed with banners and placards, a group of students from schools and colleges on Thursday staged a protest outside megastar Amitabh Bachchan's residence here over his tweet supporting the Mumbai Metro project.

As many as 22 students were detained when they squatted on a road near Bachchan's bungalow in suburban Juhu and engaged in slogan shouting, police said.

The 76-year-old Bollywood icon, himself a face of several environmental campaigns, is facing flak from certain quarters for coming out in support of the Metro project. His stand has not



gone down well with activists opposing the proposed felling of over 2,600 trees in Aarey Colony, a green belt, to make way for a Metro car shed.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bachchan in a tweet said, "Friend of mine had a medical emer-

gency, decided to take METRO instead of his car... Came back very impressed. Said was faster, convenient and most efficient..Solution for Pollution..Grow more trees..I did in my garden.. Have you." PTI

39 mob lynchings in two and a half months in Bihar

Patna: Despite its best efforts, the police has not been able to curb mob lynching incidents in the state.

According to data provided by the police headquarters, 14 people have been beaten to death, while 45 people have been injured in mob lynching incidents during the last two and a half months. During this time 39 incidents of mob lynching were registered in the state.

Bihar police headquarters is conducting awareness campaigns regarding such incidents in sensitive areas. Senior police officials have acknowledged that there have been no incidents of child abduction but people take to mob lynching due to rumours. However, the police are sensitising people about such incidents along with giving a stern warning to those involved in the lynchings.

Rumours about child abduction have increased so much that parents are now in a panic.

Locals in Madipur Chitragupta Nagar in Muzaffarpur thrashed two women on suspicion of child

abduction. By the time police reached the spot and saved them from the crowd, they had both suffered severe injuries.

A similar incident took place in Samastipur district, where a mentally disabled woman was beaten up on similar suspicion by a crowd. Some people from the crowd itself saved her from the mob.

Such cases have been reported from Patna as well as other areas of the state.

A man, identified as Shatrughan Sinha, a resident of Sitamarhi, was beaten to death on September 9 in West Champaran district.

On September 8, a 22-year-old man was beaten to death following rumours of child lifting.

Police has registered FIRs against 348 named accused and 4,000 unidentified persons.

"Police is taking strict action against those involved in mob lynching incidents. We identify the accused from the video footage of the incidents and take action against them," said Additional Director General (police headquarters) Jitendra Kumar. IANS

Abdullah has 'tremendous potential' to create public disorder: PSA order

Srinagar: Statements mobilising people against the state and "tremendous potential" to create public disorder in the Valley are among the charges listed against former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, who has been booked under the Public Safety Act.

The 81-year-old Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, under detention since August 5 when the Centre revoked the state's special status, has also been accused of making speeches glorifying terrorists and separatists.

The PSA order against Abdullah, accessed by PTI, cites

seven instances from 2016 onwards when he spoke in favour of the separatist Hurriyat Conference and terror groups.

Abdullah, the first chief minister to be booked under the stringent PSA, was arrested on Monday under the PSA and his Gupkar Road residence declared a jail.

The National Conference chairman and three-term Chief Minister has been booked under the 'public order' provision of the PSA under which a person can be kept in jail from three to six months without a trial, officials said. On repealing of Article 370

and 35-A of the Constitution, which provided special status for people of the state on jobs and residency, the PSA order accuses Abdullah of issuing statements aimed at mobilising people against the State.

It says he could have debated the issue rather than threaten the integrity of the country and glorify militancy.

The order also accuses him of propagating "secessionist ideology" besides posing a threat to life and liberty of the people.

Abdullah, the order states, "has tremendous potential for creating an environment of pub-

lic disorder within the district (Srinagar) and other parts of the Valley". It accuses him of being a person seen as fanning the emotions of general masses against the country.

The order, which states that Abdullah's residence "G-40 Gupkar Road" has been declared a subsidiary jail, has also been accused by the state administration of issuing statements in conflict with law that were aimed at disturbing public order.

The PSA has two sections - 'public order' and 'threat to security of the state'. The former allows detention without trial for

three to six months and the latter for two years.

The PSA is applicable only in Jammu & Kashmir. Elsewhere in the country, the equivalent law is the National Security Act (NSA).

Separatists and Abdullah's political opponents in the Valley have termed him a vehement supporter of state's accession with India.

He was also criticised last year for raising the slogan, 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', during a condolence meeting for former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. PTI

Can't treat displaced people as guinea pigs: Bombay HC

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government and the BMC cannot treat project-affected people as "guinea pigs" and make them stay in heavily polluted suburban Mahul on the assurance that air quality in the area may improve in the coming years, the Bombay High Court said on Thursday.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dangre made the strong observation while hearing the applications of a group of people displaced following the demolition of their "illegal" houses.

The bench noted that the pollution situation has not improved in Mahul since 2015. Some 15,000 families were displaced after their "unauthorised" houses near the Tansa pipeline were ordered to be demolished by the high court.

The HC had, while directing for the demolition, said encroachments on the Tansa water pipeline posed a risk to the lives of lakhs of residents if any untoward incident were to occur. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had shift-

ed the displaced people to a housing colony in Mahul, a polluted area that is home to refineries and chemical units. However, several families refused to move to Mahul, claiming that the air quality there was very poor and posed health risks.

The applications being heard by the bench were filed by such families. The court had then asked the BMC to provide alternate accommodation to those persons or pay them rent so that they can themselves find a place to stay.

The bench on Thursday, after perusing a chart of studies carried out by various expert bodies on the air quality in Mahul, noted that the situation has not improved in the recent past. "The situation does not appear to be very rosy. From 2015 till now, expert bodies have been monitoring but the air quality has not improved. "In such a situation, can we make these persons stay there? You cannot treat them as guinea pigs," Chief Justice Nandrajog said. PTI

WESTERN RAILWAY

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Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, RATILAM (MP) invites offer through E-tender portal www.reps.gov.in under two packet system for the following tender: Tender No: RTM/DINL/Dy.CE(C)/90 Name of work: Addition/alteration/modification/construction of various structures viz. platforms, covering shed, FCB, passenger amenities, construction of store buildings, staff quarters, extension of minor bridges, demolishing existing structures & other misc. works at Dahod station in connection with Dahod-Indore new BG line Project of Western Railway. NIT Cost Rs.: 303469.41 EMD: Rs. 1665300. Bid Submission Closing Date: 18.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Bid Opening Date: 18.10.2019 at 15.30 hrs. For detailed tender conditions, please visit www.reps.gov.in Like us on: Facebook.com/WesternRly 15

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT JAMMU
Phone No. : 0191-2430098, Email: ce-med@jammu.gov.in
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www.mechjma.com

CORRIGENDUM-2

In the interest of Govt. works and to promote healthy competition among the bidders, the e-Tender/Auction No. CE/MED/JTech/2019-20/04 Dated: 03-08-2019 Due on 02-09-2019 extended upto 14-09-2019 for the Disposal of Condemned vehicles/machinery lying in various Divisions of Mechanical Engineering Department, Jammu is hereby further extended upto 23-09-2019 and shall be opened on 25-09-2019. The revised critical dates can be seen / downloaded from the J&K Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in and departmental website www.mechjma.com.in, rest all other terms and conditions of e-NIT shall remain the same. Sd/- (Fr. Gagan Jyoti) No. DIPJ-6375/19 Chief Engineer Dated:- 18-09-2019

ICICI Home Finance

Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051
Corporate Office: RPG Tower, Andheri Kurla Road, J.B. Nagar, Andheri (East) Mumbai 400 059
Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan, New Delhi -110055

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

Notice for sale of immovable properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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 ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the brief particulars given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Guarantors / Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured assets with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding (IN ₹)	Reserve Price (IN ₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (IN ₹)	Date of Property Inspection and Time	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)
1.	Vir Pal Singh (Borrower) Sneha Lata (Co Borrower) NHRW/00000 844451	Mustil No- 40, Kila No- 22/1/2 (0-3), 23/1/1/1 (0-4) Dharuhera Tehsil Rewari, Dist- Rewari, Haryana. Measuring 7 Marla. It's 2/7th Share I.e. 2 Marla I.e. 53 Sq Yard	Rs. 16,59,466/- (As on Sep 5, 2019)	Rs. 18,70,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lacs Seventy Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,87,000/- (Rupees One Lacs and Eighty Seven Thousand Only)	Oct 4, 2019 from 02:00 P.M. to 03:00 P.M	Oct 29, 2019 from 11:30 AM onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of auction agency "Shriram Automall India Ltd" (URL Link- https://e.auctions.samil.in). The Mortgagors/ Noticee are given full autonomy to pay the total dues with further interest till October 28, 2019 before 05:00 P.M failing which, this/these secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit their offer along with aforesaid earnest money deposit (as referred in column No. (F) in a sealed envelope superscribed "offer for purchase of property" so as to reach at ICICI Bank Limited, 2nd Floor Videocon Tower, Block E-1, Jhandewalan Extension, Rani Jhansi Road, Delhi-110055 or our marketing agents "Shriram Automall India Ltd" having their office at Shriram Automall India Ltd, 2nd Floor, Best Sky Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034 on or before October 28, 2019 before 5:00 P.M. The marketing agency has also been engaged as auctioneer for proper conduct of auction. EMD DD / PO should be from a Nationalised / Scheduled Bank favouring "ICICI Home Finance Limited" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 9657549734 / 9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited and / or 9910453434 of Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Secured Creditor/e-auction vendor's official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons therefor. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit Secured Creditor's website at www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: September 20, 2019
Place: Delhi/ Ncr
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
(Established by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 078
Website: www.ipu.ac.in

TENDER NOTICE FOR INVESTMENT OF CPF FUNDS

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University intends to invest its funds of CPF Trust approx Rs. 9.08 Cr. in fixed deposit for the period from 01 year to 03 years and accordingly invites sealed quotations from the Nationalized Banks to reach the office of Finance & Accounts of the University at sector 16C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 by 23 September 2019 upto 1.00 PM. with the validity of interest rates upto 25 September 2019. The detailed notice can be seen on the University website "www.ipu.ac.in" under the Head "Tenders" in Events & Notices.

CONTROLLER OF FINANCE

FM: Banks to hold public meets with NBFCs in 400 dists to give credit



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addresses a press conference after a review meeting as MoS Finance Anurag Thakur looks on in New Delhi, Thursday PTI

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said public sector banks will hold meetings with NBFCs and retail borrowers in 400 districts beginning next week to provide credit to borrowers, including homebuyers and farmers.

The public meetings will be held in two tranches. The first will be held between October 3 and 7 in 200 districts, while the remaining 200 will be covered October 11 onwards, a finance ministry official said.

Sitharaman said the idea is to ensure maximum credit disbursal during the festive season. Diwali, which falls in October this year, is considered as the biggest shopping season of the country.

During the public meetings, credit will be provided for retail, agriculture, MSME and housing sector, among others.

Govt: No stressed MSME loan to be declared NPA till March 2020

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday asked banks not to declare any stressed loan account of MSMEs as NPA till March 2020 and work on recasting their debt.

At a press conference after meeting PSU bank heads, Finance Minister

Nirmala Sitharaman said there already exists a circular from the Reserve Bank that provides for stressed loan accounts of MSMEs not being declared non-performing assets (NPAs).

She said banks have been asked to follow that circular and not declare

any stressed MSME loan as NPA till March 2020 and look at recasting their debt.

This would help the MSME sector, she said.

Also, banks have identified some NBFCs that they can lend to so that liquidity and credit is made available to those seeking money, she said.

The Minister also announced that stressed MSME loan as non-performing assets (NPA) till March 31, 2020. banks have been asked not to declare any

CONSIDER STEPS TO REDUCE TRANSACTION COST: COMMODITY MARKET PLAYERS TO FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commodity market participants on Thursday asked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to consider steps to reduce transaction cost to make Indian markets internationally competitive and improve ease of doing business.

The participants sought reduction in overall cost of transaction for equity as well as commodity markets and also flagged issues related to Long Term Capital Gains Tax (LTCG), shrinking trading volume, increased regulatory compliance and closing down of several brokerage houses, Commodity Participants Association of India (CPAI) President Narinder Wadhwa told PTI after their meeting with the minister.

Sitharaman has been holding similar meetings since last month with representatives of various sectors, including banking, automobile and realty in order to assess the problems faced by them as the government looks to undertake steps to arrest the slowdown in the economy.

CPAI is the apex pan-India association of participants in commodity exchanges and commodity derivative segments.

Wadhwa said Sitharaman assured them that whatever steps can be taken, would be looked into by the government.

He said the commodity market volume has shrunk drastically from ₹90,000 crore per day a year ago on an average basis to ₹35,000 crore per day now.

"So we have asked the minister to take steps to reduce cost of transaction for commodity and equity market," Wadhwa said.

GST Council meet to take call on tax rate cut on Friday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid clamour for rate cut by various industries, the all powerful GST Council will hold a crucial meeting on Friday to decide on tax moderation, keeping in mind the revenue position and the need to boost sagging economic growth.

The GST Council, headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising representatives of all states and Union Territories (UTs), will have its 37th meeting in Goa in the backdrop of economic growth hitting a six-year low of 5 per cent for the first quarter of the current fiscal.

There have been demands pouring in from various sectors - from biscuits to automobiles and FMCG to hotels - to reduce tax rates in the wake of economic slowdown.

The argument propagated has been to boost the consumption and domestic demand by reducing Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates further.

However, many of the states are of the view that it would not be tax prudent to allow GST rate reduction at this stage, as the compensation cess fund, which is utilised to compensate the states under the GST Act in case the revenue is below the targeted growth rate, has turned negative.

Meanwhile, according to sources, the GST Council's Fitment Committee, which comprises revenue officials of both Centre and States, has rejected demands for a cut in tax rate on items ranging from biscuits to car, owing to tight revenue position.

BUSINESS CORNER

MMTC WINS CAPEXIL EXCELLENCE IN EXPORT AWARD

MMTC has been awarded the CAPEXIL Excellence in Export Award in Minerals & Ores Sector (Canalized Agency) for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17. CMD Shri Ved Prakash and Director (Marketing) Shri Ashwani Sondhi received the trophy from Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industries and Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal, at a Vigyan Bhawan ceremony on Wednesday. The Company has won twenty-four CAPEXIL awards in the past for its export performance, and continues its glorious winning streak with two more. It exported various minerals like iron ore, chrome ore and concentrates earning total foreign exchange of ₹ 1,715 crore during 2015-17.



NORTHERN RAILWAY GM MEETS LS, RS LAWMAKERS

Sh. T.P. Singh, General Manager, Northern Railway held a meeting with the Hon'ble Ministers/Members of Parliament of constituencies that come under the jurisdiction of Delhi Divisions in New Delhi today i.e. on 18.09.2019. This is in accordance with the directives given by Hon'ble Minister of Railways Sh. Piyush Goyal, advising General Managers of Zonal Railways to increase public outreach to get feedbacks for providing better service to the nation. Railway related issues in each constituency falling under northern railway were discussed with the public representatives to find solutions for the benefit of the passengers.



DELHI TOURISM WINS AWARD

Delhi Tourism has been conferred with the prestigious Excellence in Customer Experience Award by The Indian Express Group at the Infocomm 2019 Conference hosted in Mumbai on 18 September 2019. Representing Delhi Tourism at the event, Sh. Sudhir Sobti, Chief Manager (PR & Publicity) received the award. The business award is in recognition of the path-breaking achievements by Delhi Tourism in establishing its presence through robust digital initiatives. Delhi Tourism was selected for this award by a team of Editors of Express Computer magazine, India's leading IT business magazine from The Indian Express Group.



IOCL LAUNCHES SOCIAL CAMPAIGN THROUGH DTC

Today Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) launched a social campaign on Pre-delivery check of LPG cylinder and safe handling by its customers at their premises through display of advertisements on 100 low floor CNG buses of DTC. The programme was flagged off by Sh. Manoj Kumar-IAS, Managing Director, DTC in the presence of Sh. Shyam Bohra, Executive Director, Delhi State Office, IOCL near Indraprastha IOC filling station in the presence of senior officers of both the organizations. Sh. Manoj Kumar appreciated the above campaign of IOCL and assured that DTC and IOCL will jointly collaborate in future in furtherance of social and educative campaigns in public interest.



NLCIL SIGNS MOU WITH INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

An MoU was signed between NLCIL India Limited and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, to set up an Innovation and Incubation Centre for helping the young innovators in specific focus areas aimed to develop the core business activities of NLCIL at Bengaluru recently. Yesterday (18.09.19), the MoU was exchanged in the presence of Shri Rakesh Kumar, CMD, Shri R. Vikraman, Director/HR, Shri N.M.N. Rao, Director/P&P, Shri Shaji John, Director/Power and Senior officials of NLCIL at Neyveli.



OBC LAUNCHES REPO RATE LINKED LOANS

Oriental Bank of Commerce has launched new variant of Retail and Micro & Small Enterprise Loan products linked to Reserve Bank of India's repo rate. The new Loan products will directly link interest rate to an external benchmark, which in this case is the Repo Rate and thereby build a direct link to ensure fair and transparent transmission of the monetary policy rate immediately to the customers.

Room for more rate cuts as govt hands tied, inflation under Check & slump deepens: Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

After surprising everyone with four successive rate cuts this year, Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das Thursday said "there is more room" to do so given the growth deceleration and stable inflation that is likely to stay below target for a year or so.

However, the governor was quick to add that there is little fiscal space for the government to unveil any countercyclical measures to boost the sagging growth and the only way to revive the growth engine is to front-load the budgeted capex, hinting that only an easy money policy can help salvage the situation.

Since assuming charge mid-December, the Das-led rate-setting panel has delivered four successive rates cuts, with the fourth one last month being the most surprising and uncon-

RBI Guv: Oil crisis to have limited impact on inflation, fisc nos

Mumbai: Reserve Bank governor Shaktikanta Das Thursday expressed the hope that the ongoing crisis in Saudi Arabia that has spiked crude prices to multi-year highs will have limited impact on inflation and fiscal numbers. Drone attacks on the world's largest oil refinery in Saudi Arabia, alleged to have been carried out by Iran over the past weekend, has led to a massive 20 percent surge in crude prices.

ventional one as he chose to deliver a 35 bps repo cut.

With that the RBI has delivered a cumulative 110 bps repo reduction since February, yanking down the key benchmark rate to a nine-year low of 5.40 percent.

Pradhan dials Saudi Oil Min; Kingdom assures supply will be met

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: Saudi Oil Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman on Thursday assured his Indian counterpart Dharmendra Pradhan of meeting all oil supply commitments to India as the Kingdom looks to restore production from its facilities to pre-strike levels very soon.

Pradhan spoke to his Saudi counterpart on phone and discussed in details supply plan in the aftermath of a massive attack on the Kingdom's crude oil facilities that wiped out as much as 5 million barrels per day of output.

"They have again assured that all supply commitments to India will be met," said Sanjiv Singh, chairman of Indian Oil Corp (IOC).

Saudi Arabia, which is India's second-largest oil supplier, sells close to 2 million tonnes of crude every month.

TAKE DEFINITIVE DECISION ON GST RATE FOR AUTOMOBILES, FADA URGES TO GST COUNCIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Automobile dealers' body FADA on Thursday urged the GST Council to take a definitive decision on GST rate in its meeting scheduled to be held on Friday.

In a letter written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, FADA President Ashish Harsharaj Kale said customers have deferred their buying decisions in anticipation of GST rate cut.

"In anticipation of GST rate cuts on automobiles, customers who were willing to buy automobiles at this juncture have put their purchase decisions on hold, which is but natural, in anticipation of a price reduction.

"Our concern is that the festive season, which is just around the corner, should not be missed, as it is for a very limited period wherein maximum amount of auto sales happen," Kale said in the letter.

Factory investment at 3-year low of ₹3.31 lakh cr in 2017-18: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Factory investment in 2017-18 hit a three-year low of Rs 3.31 lakh crore in actual terms, according to the annual survey of industries by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry.

Factory investment measured in terms of gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) was Rs 3.79 lakh crore and Rs 3.69 lakh crore in 2015-16 and 2016-17, respectively, provisional estimates of the survey for 2017-18 showed.

The previous low of GFCF in actual terms was recorded at Rs 3.23 lakh crore in 2014-15.

The Gross Fixed Capital Formation is a barometer of investment in any sector or segment. However, the survey showed that the number of factories increased to 2,37,684 in 2017-18 from 2,34,865 a year ago.

₹ slips 10 paise to 71.34 against \$

Mumbai: The rupee dropped 10 paise to close at 71.34 against the US dollar on Thursday as heavy selling in domestic equities, unabated foreign fund outflows and rising crude oil prices kept investors edgy.

Forex traders said investors also turned cautious after the US Federal Reserve dimmed hopes of further rate cuts.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened on a strong note at 71.36 and settled between a high of 71.06 and a low of 71.37. It finally finished at 71.34, lower by 10 paise over its previous close of 71.24.

"Since the morning, rupee has been tracking the move in crude. Overnight drop in oil led rupee to appreciate. However, the escalating tensions in Middle East limited the gains in rupee," said Rahul Gupta, Currency Research Head, Emkay Global Financial Services Limited.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Saloni, D/o Rajender, R/o: H.No.-125, PKT-4/5, Sec.-23, Rohini, Delhi, Age: 20 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, wearing Black & White colour Suit, Black colour Legging, has been missing/kidnapped from the Area of P.S. Begumpur, since 01.09.2019. In this regard a DD No. 47-A, dated 04.09.2019 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3259/RD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



It is publically informed that, one male dead body namely **Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age about 65 years, Height 5'7", Complexion Wheatish, Having burn mark on chest, Wearing dark grey colour half pajama was found dead at BSA Hospital, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi on 09.09.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 33A, Dated 09.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the dead body but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this male dead body please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi
DP/3282/RD/19 Ph.: 011-27052772, 27052773

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an **unidentified body of a person namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was admitted on 11.09.2019 at RML Hospital, when found near Fire Station, SPM Marg, Lahori Gate, Delhi.**

In this regard proceeding DD No. 23-B dated 11.09.2019 has been lodged at Police Station, Lahori Gate, Delhi. During the treatment doctors declared him dead. Identification of unidentified dead body of a male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Hospital Outfits.

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

SHO
Police Station Lahori Gate, Delhi.
DP/438/N/19 Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an unknown male person was found dead on **Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi on Dated 11.09.2019 about Time 15:32 PM. In this regard DD No. 37A, Dated 11.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.**

The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Unknown S/o: Unknown R/o Unknown Age: 40 years Height: 5'5" Complexion: Sallow, Face:Oval, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.**

SHO
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi
DP/7075/SW/19 Ph.: 011-24106345/46 8750870834

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one Lady namely **Aasha W/o Santosh R/o. F-125, Inder Enclave Ph-II, Kirari Sulelady Nagar Delhi. Age-21 years, Height-5'3", Face-Round, Complexion-sallow, Wearing-Red Suit and White Plazo has been missing/Kidnapped since dated 04.09.2019 from the Area of P.S. Prem Nagar Delhi. In this regard a case vides DD No. 68-A Dated 05.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3266/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one Lady namely **Manisha W/o Sh. Hrish R/o.-25A Partap Vihar Part-II, Gali No. 1, Kirari, Delhi. Age-22 years, Height-5'2", Face-Round, Complexion-Fair, Wearing-Orange Colour suit & Salwar and Chappal in her feet has been missing/ kidnapped since dated 28.07.2019 from the area of P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vides DD No. 73-A Dated 28.07.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Lady but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this Lady please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3238/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON



General public is hereby informed that this person namely **Shivam S/o Manoj Kumar R/o C-57, Pravesh Nagar, Mubarakpur, Near Radha Krishan Mandir, Delhi Age : 21 years, Height : 5'5", Face : Oval, Complexion : Shallow, wearing mahroom colour shirt, grey colour pant and black colour shoes in feet, has been missing/ kidnapped since 18.07.2019 from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 66-A dated 19.07.2019 IPC has been lodged at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/Kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph. : 011-24368639, 24368641
DP/3247/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Shivam, S/o Naresh Poddar, R/o A-17/05, Haji Thok Chandan Park, Agar Nagar, Prem Nagar, Rohini, Delhi, has been missing since 17.08.2019. In this regard a FIR No. 449/19, Dated 23.08.2019 has been registered at Police Station - Prem Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-**

Age: 15 years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 4'0", Face: Oval, Clothing: Wearing blue colour check'd Shirt and blue Jeans.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3265/RD/19

Gantz for PM post in Israel's unity Govt

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu's main challenger Benny Gantz on Thursday presented himself as the next prime minister, hours after the embattled Israeli premier urged the Blue and White leader to join him in forming a unity Government to avoid a third election.

With nearly 97 per cent of the votes counted on Thursday, Gantz's Blue and White party won 33 seats while Netanyahu's Likud secured 31 seats in Israel's 120-member Parliament.

Gantz, 60, said he intends to form and lead a "broad, liberal, unity government."

"After an election that was forced on Israel, (people) voted and made a clear choice. The people voted for unity and Kahol Lavan won the election. It's the biggest party," he added.

He said the Israeli people wanted a unity government after the last election too and vowed to form a "broad, liberal unity government."

"In order to form a unity government, one can't come with political blocs and spins," Gantz said, referring to the right-wing religious bloc's move to recommend Netanyahu as the next prime minister after no clear winner emerged in the unprecedented repeat polls.

"You come with responsibility and seriousness. I attend to act accordingly," Gantz was quoted as saying by the Haaretz. Gantz said he will not accept any dictats. "There will be no shortcuts."

His comments came after 69-year-old Netanyahu said he wanted to form a right-wing government, but the results showed it was not possible. He called on Gantz to meet him "at any hour today" in order to hold discussions for a unity government.

"Benny, it's on us to establish a wide unity government today. The nation expects us, the both of us, to work together. Let's meet today."

Iran diplomat warns of 'all-out war' if hit for Saudi attack

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran's foreign minister warned Thursday that any attack on his country over a drone-and-missile strike on Saudi Arabia's oil industry will result in "all-out war," further pushing up tensions across the Persian Gulf.

The comments by Mohammad Javad Zarif represent the starkest warning offered yet by Iran in a long summer of mysterious attacks and incidents following the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, over a year after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord.

Zarif's comments also appeared to be in response to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who a day earlier while travelling to Saudi Arabia referred to the attack as an "act

of war." Asked by CNN what would be the consequence of a US or Saudi strike, Zarif said: "All-out war."

"We won't blink to defend our territory," he said.

Pompeo wrote a tweet early Thursday after his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah over Saturday's drone and cruise missile attack on a crucial oil processing facility and oil field.

Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have claimed the attack, but the US alleges Iran carried out the assault.

Pompeo called the attacks "unprecedented."

"The US stands with #SaudiArabia and supports its right to defend itself," Pompeo said.

"The Iranian regime's threatening behaviour will not

be tolerated." Pompeo did not elaborate. President Donald Trump has been noncommittal on whether he would order US military

retaliation. He separately said Wednesday he is moving to increase financial sanctions on Tehran over the attack, without

elaborating. Iran already is subject to a crushing American sanctions program targeting its crucial oil industry.

Pompeo favours 'peaceful resolution'

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday said he preferred a "peaceful resolution" to a crisis sparked by attacks on Saudi oil infrastructure, as Iran warned against "all-out war".

Pompeo has blamed Iran for the weekend assault on two facilities which wiped out half of Saudi oil production, dismissing its denials and condemning the "act of war".

The rhetoric has raised the risk of an unpredictable escalation in the tinderbox region where Saudi Arabia and Iran are locked in a decades-old struggle for dominance.

Visiting the United Arab Emirates, Pompeo however said his country would prefer a "peaceful" solution to the crisis.

"We'd like a peaceful resolution," he said.

"I hope the Islamic Republic of Iran sees it the

same way," he told reporters after talks with the leaders of the United Arab Emirates.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif earlier warned any US or Saudi military strike on Iran could cause "all-out war".

"We don't want war, we don't want to engage in a military confrontation," he told CNN in an interview aired Thursday. "But we won't blink to defend our territory."

Ex-PM Cameron says asked Queen's help in Scottish vote

AFP ■ LONDON

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron revealed Thursday that he asked Queen Elizabeth II to intervene in the Scottish independence referendum, risking the irritation of the nominally neutral head of state.

Cameron, who led the successful campaign for Scotland to stay in the United Kingdom in the 2014 referendum, said he asked if she could offer even a "raising of the eyebrow" to indicate her opposition to independence.

He told the BBC he spoke with the queen's private secretary, "not asking for anything that would be in any way improper or unconstitutional, but just a raising of the eyebrow, even, you know, a quarter of an inch — we thought

would make a difference."

A few days before the vote, the queen told a member of the public in Scotland that she hoped "people would think very carefully about the future" — comments that made headlines. Scotland voted by 55 per cent to stay in the UK.

In a BBC documentary to mark the publication of his memoirs, Cameron said that "although the words were very limited, I think it helped to put a slightly different perception on things."

Buckingham Palace told AFP it would not comment on his remarks, but a royal source told the BBC they had caused some displeasure.

"It serves no one's interests" for conversations between the monarch and her prime ministers to be made public, the source was quoted as saying.

Johnson faces Brexit flak from EU lawmakers, top UK court

AP ■ STRASBOURG (FRANCE)

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been accused by European Union officials of failing to negotiate seriously and branded the "father of lies" by a lawyer in the UK Supreme Court, as his plan to leave the EU in just over six weeks faced hurdles on both sides of the Channel.

In Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament said on Wednesday it would be the fault of Britain, not the bloc, if the UK crashed out of the EU without a divorce deal on the scheduled October 31 departure day.

In London, Johnson's government battled to convince the UK's top court that the prime minister's decision to suspend Parliament for five weeks with Brexit looming was neither illegal nor improper. The government's opponents claim Johnson illegally shut down the legislature to prevent lawmakers from scrutinising his Brexit plans.

Government lawyer James Eadie told 11 Supreme Court justices that the decision to send lawmakers home until October 14 was "inherently and fundamentally political in nature," and not a matter for the judiciary. He said that if the court intervened it would violate the "fundamental constitutional principle" of the separation of powers.

But a lawyer for lawmakers challenging the shutdown accused the government of being "unworthy of our trust." "We've got here the mother of parliaments being shut down by the father of lies," said attorney Aidan O'Neill.

He urged the judges to "stand up for truth, stand up for reason, stand up for diversity, stand up for Parliament, stand up for democracy."

The judges, for their part, wondered why Johnson had refused to provide a sworn statement to the court about his reasons for the suspension. "Isn't it odd that nobody has signed a witness statement to

say: 'This is true. These are the true reasons for what was done?'" said one of the judges, Nicholas Wilson.

The developments were the latest in a rocky week for Johnson, who pulled out of a news conference with the prime minister of Luxembourg on Monday because of noisy protesters nearby. On Wednesday he was berated by the father of a sick child over funding cuts to Britain's health service as he visited a London hospital.

Johnson took power in July with a vow that Britain will leave the EU on Oct. 31 "come what may." He promised to break a stalemate that saw the Brexit agreement struck between the EU and Johnson's predecessor Theresa May rejected three times by Britain's Parliament, prompting May to resign.

Many lawmakers believe a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilising, and have put obstacles in Johnson's path, including legal challenges to the Parliament shutdown.

China rebukes Washington after HK activists make Congress plea

AFP ■ BEIJING

Beijing on Thursday accused Washington of "adding fuel to the fire" of Hong Kong unrest after leaders of the city's pro-democracy movement appealed directly to US lawmakers to exert pressure on China.

Activists from the semi-autonomous city testified before a congressional commission in support of US legislation aimed at defending civil rights in Hong Kong, which has been convulsed by weeks of huge, sometimes violent rallies.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a press briefing Thursday that the US should "stop supporting violent radical forces and Hong Kong independence separatists, and stop adding fuel to the fire to the words and deeds that damage the prosperity and stability of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region."

Taliban car bomb flattens hospital as Afghan violence surges ahead of vote

AFP ■ KABUL

War-weary Afghanistan was hit with its third straight day of bloody carnage Thursday, as a Taliban car bomb flattened a hospital and killed 20 people in the south, while nine others died in a drone strike in the east.

The surge in violence, with civilians paying the heaviest price, has come after US President Donald Trump called off talks with the Taliban that could have seen Washington begin withdrawing troops, and as the country gears up for a presidential election.

The insurgents responded to Trump's declaration that the talks were "dead" earlier this month by promising to continue fighting, and have vowed to target the September 28 polls, Afghanistan's fourth presidential election since the headline Islamist group was ousted from power in 2001.

Thursday's bloodshed began near dawn, when the Taliban killed at least 20 people and wounded 90 after a car

bomb destroyed a hospital in the southern Afghan city of Qalat.

Hours later, reports emerged of an overnight drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province said to have killed at least nine civilians who had been camping in the mountainous region as they collected pine nuts.

The US is the only member of the international coalition in Afghanistan that provides air support in the conflict, but there was no immediate statement from its forces in Afghanistan, the United Nations or NATO.

The strike came just hours after four people were killed on Wednesday when unknown gunmen and a suicide bomber stormed a government building in nearby Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province. On Tuesday, the Taliban killed nearly 50 people in two separate attacks — one on a campaign rally for President Ashraf Ghani in the central province of Parwan, and the other in Kabul.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found near Mayapuri Theka in Unconscious Condition and admitted in DDU Hospital Harinagar, Delhi. During Treatment He Died on 14.09.2019. In this regard a DD No. 13-A Dated 14.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Maya Puri, Delhi. Dead Body had been preserved in DDU Hospital Mortuary. The description of the dead body is given as under:



Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 45-50 years, Height: 5'8" Feet, Face: Long, Built: Thin Complexion: Brownish Black, Wearing: White Pajama. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Maya Puri, Delhi.
DP/8424/WD/19 Ph. No. 011-28117644, 28116097, 8750871121

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Namely : Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 47 years approx, Height: 5' 7", Wearing: Pink colour T-shirt, who was found at Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sec. 13, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 25-A. dated 20.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.



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

Sd/- SHO
P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-27571162
DP/3281/RD/19

Banning e-cigarettes 'historic' move, says US-based advocacy group

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India has become a leader in the global fight against a youth e-cigarette epidemic by taking a "historic" decision to ban such nicotine and tobacco products, a US-based top advocacy group has said.

The Government on Wednesday banned production, import and sale of e-cigarettes and similar products, citing health risk to people, especially youth. An ordinance will be brought in to make it an offence, entailing jail term of up to three years as well as fine.

The decision was taken by the Union cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

President of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Matthew L Myers said India's decision to ban the sale, manufacture, import and advertising of e-cigarettes nationwide was a "bold effort" to protect youth from the risk of nicotine addiction.

He praised the Government for taking such decisive action to prevent a youth e-cigarette epidemic in India.

Pak police detain two classmates in Hindu dental student's mysterious death

PTI ■ KARACHI

Two classmates of a Hindu dental student have been detained by the police in Pakistan's Sindh province after she was found dead in her hostel room, a media report said on Thursday.

Nimrita 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.

The two suspects, both classmates of Chandni, were taken into the custody by the police after tracing the call data from the deceased's cell phone, Geo News reported.

Her room was locked from inside. Police have not yet ascertained whether she committed suicide or was murdered.

The girl hailed from Ghotki district, which recently witnessed riots after a school principal from the minority Hindu community was booked on charges of alleged blasphemy.

Philippines declares new polio outbreak after 19 years

AP ■ MANILA

Philippine health officials declared a polio outbreak in the country on Thursday, nearly two decades after the World Health Organisation declared it to be free of the highly contagious and potentially deadly disease.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said at a news conference that authorities have confirmed at least one case of polio in a 3-year-old girl in southern Lanao del Sur province and detected the polio virus in sewage in Manila and in waterways in the southern Davao region.

Those findings are enough to declare an outbreak of the crippling disease in a previously polio-free country like the Philippines, he said.

The World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund expressed deep concern over polio's reemergence in the country and said they would support the government in immunizing children, who are the most susceptible, and strengthening surveillance.

"As long as one single child remains infected, children across the country and even beyond are at risk of contracting polio," UNICEF Philippines representative Oyan Dendevnorov said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
N.I.T. No.: 07/19-20 dated 18.09.2019 Name of work with its location: Proposal for establishing operating, managing & maintaining CT/MRI centre in already built up space in Northern Railway Central Hospital (NRCH), New Delhi. Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 10,000 Earnest Money: Rs. 6,50,600 (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/51 dated 31.08.2016) Completion period of Work: 120 Months. Cost of tender on cash/bank post: Rs. 29,500 (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/51 dated 31.08.2016) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: upto 15:00 hrs on 11.10.2019 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs On 11.10.2019 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen : Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 08 Dated : 18.09.2019
Serving Customers With A Smile 3015/19

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE TALAB TILLO, JAMMU. J&K
Phone No. 0194-2505201, 2552145, www.diragrjmu.nic.in
ABBREVIATED OF e-TENDER NOTICE
For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from the Manufacturers/ Duly Authorized Dealers, Government undertakings for supply of the Plant Protection Chemicals required for fixing the Rate Contract for the year 2019-20 as per specification laid down in the Tender form.
S.No.1, Particulars :- Supply of Plant Protection Chemicals.
Earnest Money :- a) Rs. 20,000/-, b) For SSI units Rs.5000/- as per Government Policy.
Cost of Tender document :- a) General Rs. 500/-, b) For SSI Units as per Government Policy.
Date of Publishing of Tender Notice :- 18/09/2019 at 1:00 PM
Period of downloading of documents :- From 18/09/2019 to 28/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM
Date of submission of online documents:- From 19/09/2019 to 30/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM
Date of submission of Hard Copy :- From 19/09/2019 to 30/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM
Date of Opening Technical bid :- 03/10/2019 at 01.00 P.M or subsequent convenient date
The tender documents along with Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the State e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The tender shall be uploaded in the electronic format on the State e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in.
Sd/- Accounts Officer, Member Secretary, SLPC Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.
No. DIP/J-6436/18 Dated :- 19-09-2019

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that M/S S.A. Propon Private Limited "owner" in collaboration with Signature Infrabuild Private Limited "Developer" had obtained a license bearing No. 73 of 2019 Dated 04/07/2019 from the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana (DTPC) to develop an affordable group housing colony on the land measuring 40 kanal 18 marla (5.1125 acres) situated in the revenue estate of village Dhorka, Sector-95, District Gurugram.
We now propose to transfer the license in favour of Signature Infrabuild Private Limited having its registered office at 1310, 13th floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 and have obtained permission from Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana Vide Memo No. LC-3714-Asstt.(AK)/2019/23116 Dated 16.09.2019.
Any entity/person including any Government Authority, Bank or Financial Institution having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, demand or interest with respect to the licence or has any objection to the intended above referred matter, such person/entity may inform in writing to o/o STP Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Total land measuring 40 Kanal and 18 Marla or 5.1125 Acres comprised in rect. No-3, Killa No-18/2(2-0), 19/2(2-0), 20/1(2(1-18), 21/2(7-12), 22(8-0), 23(8-0), Rect. No-11, Killa No-3(8-0), 8 Min(3-8), Situated in the revenue Estate of Village Dhorka, Sector 95, Gurugram.
SD/- Authorised Signatory Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd U70100DL2013PTC247676 & 1310 at 13th floor Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan 28, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001.
SD/- Authorised Signatory S.A. Propon Private Limited U70109HR2006PTC064522 Plot No 144, Sector-44, Gurugram - 122002
Place: Gurugram Dated: 18.09.2019

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
OA No. 1351/18 Date: 16.09.2019
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK APPLICANT
MUKESH GOSWAMI & ORS. VERSUS RESPONDENT
To, Defendant
1. Mukesh Goswami S/o Kamal Kishore Giri, C-157/3, C-Block West Karawal Nagar, Delhi-94
2. Narendra Pal S/o Ramvir Singh Pal, R-12/56, Sect.-9, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad-201002
3. Manoj Kumar S/o Suresh Chand, F-112, Udai Nagar, Mukund Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001
Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 1,02,18,535/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 20.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
By order of the Tribunal
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING
Name of Area: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dep't/ECL Hqrs. Tender No. & Date: ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51913052/Rubber belting/055 Date: 13.09.2019.
Name of Work: Domestic open e-tender for procurement of Rubber Conveyor Belting. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 63,23,856.00. Document Download Start Date: 25.09.2019 from 11.00 hrs IST. Document Download End Date: 23.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Tender Opening Date & Time: 25.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Name of Area: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dep't/ECL Hqrs. Tender No. & Date: ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51983053-RC/DRILL_ROD/056 Date: 13.09.2019. Name of Work: Domestic open e-tender for conclusion of Rate Contract for supply of Underground Drill Rod (6 feet long) for 3 years. Estimated Tender Value: ₹ 64,28,253.00. Document Download Start Date: 25.09.2019 from 11.00 hrs IST. Document Download End Date: 23.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. Tender Opening Date & Time: 25.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST.
For Further details & Submission of Tender Please visit the website https://coalindiatenders.gov.in
VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

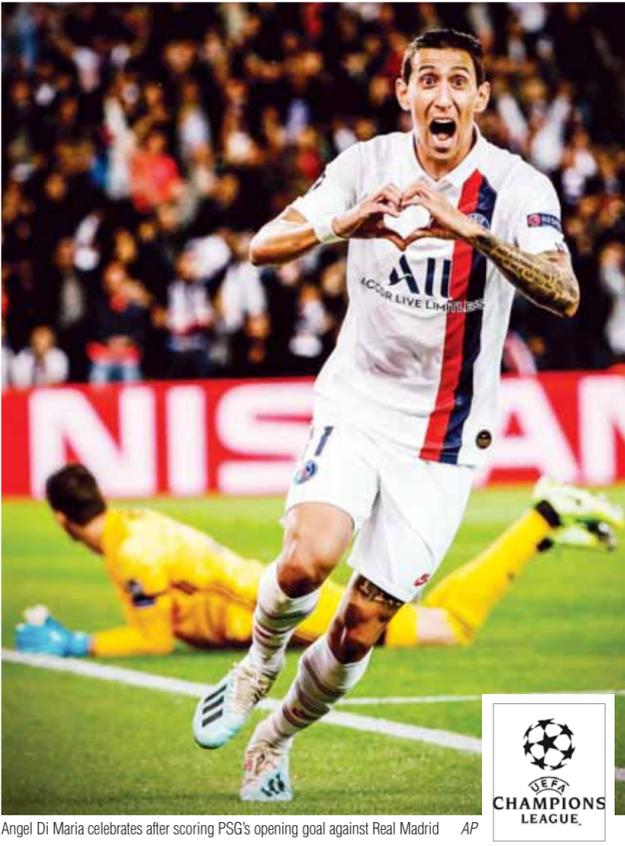
PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Bank ICICI Bank Limited
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Abha Jain/ Raj Kumar Jain/ Aditya Jain LBDL00002080406	Unit No. DPT 340, Parking No. 2254 In DLF Prime Towers, Okhla, New Delhi And/ Or Flat No-DPT 340, 3rd Floor, Prime Tower, Plot No-79 And 80, Block- F, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, Delhi/ 16. Sep.2019	September 29, 2018 RS. 61,90,412/-	NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s) guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : 20-09-2019
Place: Delhi/ NCR

Evening in Paris

Angel's brace helps PSG thrash Real 3-0; Herrera snatches late point against Juve



Angel Di Maria celebrates after scoring PSG's opening goal against Real Madrid AP

AFP ■ PARIS
Paris Saint-Germain launched their latest quest for Champions League success with a statement win over Real Madrid on Wednesday, while a late Atletico Madrid comeback foiled Juventus as Manchester City eased to victory in Ukraine.
French giants PSG have failed to make their mark in Europe, crashing out of the Champions League in the last 16 each of the past three years despite the huge sums of money spent by their Qatari owners.
With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di Maria stepped up in their absence by grabbing two first-half goals in a 3-0 triumph at the Parc des Princes.
Thomas Meunier added the third late on as Madrid, who beat PSG on the way to lifting the trophy in 2016

and 2018, were soundly beaten in their Group A opener with Eden Hazard kept quiet on his full debut.
"There's no message sent, but we dominated this game very well," PSG captain Thiago Silva told RMC Sport.
"We have to play like this all the time, in the league as well, with character and hunger."
Real, the 13-time European champions, are still favourites to advance from a section that includes Club Brugge and Galatasaray, who drew 0-0 in Belgium, but the nature of the loss underscored the work that lies ahead for coach Zinedine Zidane.
Diego Simeone's Atletico clawed their way back from two goals down in the final 20 minutes to rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Juventus in Group D.
The anticipated clash between Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix, the teenager



Atletico Madrid's Hector Herrera scores his side's second goal during Group D match against Juventus AP

touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, took a backseat to a Atletico rousing comeback after second-half goals from Juan Cuadrado and Blaise Matuidi put Juve in control.
Stefan Savic nodded home from point-blank range to give Atletico hope

FIGURATIVELY

- 1 Paris-Real Madrid is the first game in the history of the UCL where both teams have more players of the nationality of the opposing team than of their own in their starting 11 (3 in Real, 1 in Paris — 2 in Paris, 1 in Real).
- 2 Real Madrid failed to have a single shot on target against PSG tonight, the first time they have failed to do so in the UCL since 2003-04 (in 167 games).
- 3 Angel Di Maria is only the 3rd player to score at least 2 goals in a match against Real Madrid and Barcelona in the history of the CL after Mario Jardel and Andriy Shevchenko.
- 4 Angel Di Maria has been involved in 4 of Paris' last 6 goals in the CL (1 goal, 3 assists).
- 7 Kieran Trippier created seven chances for Atletico Madrid against Juventus, the most by any player on MD1 of this season's tournament.
- 2 Atletico de Madrid has conceded two or more goals in three straight matches in all competitions for the second time in the Simeone era, the first was in February 2014.
- 4 Juan Cuadrado has scored each of his four CL goals in away games.
- 1 The 2019-20 CL season is the first campaign to see two different players score a hat-trick on their debut (Mislav Orsic and Erling Haaland).
- 16 The Bayern Munich wins for the 16th time in a row his opening match in the CL and thus expands the record in this competition.
- 2011 It's the first time since Barca and Man Utd in 2011 when both CL winners and runners up did not win their first game in the following season.
- 82 Rodrigo completed all 82 passes that he attempted in Manchester City's win against Shakhtar; the most passes with a 100% success rate in USL since Oct 2017 (Barzagli for Juventus v Sporting CP — 96/96).

"We can't be too surprised because he (Di Maria) has been showing for more than a year now that he is capable of performances like that. He was exceptional tonight. He is always dangerous."
—THOMAS TUCHEL (PSG coach)

"PSG are a good team and created lots of chances but what worries me is that my team played without any intensity. We didn't really ever get going. We usually create lots of chances and today, well we scored two goals but both were disallowed. Apart from that there was nothing."
—ZINEDINE ZIDANE (Real Madrid coach)

"I'm happy to have made my first appearance and to have helped the team. This side is known for how it always fights to the end. A draw against a team like Juventus isn't bad at all. We wanted to win the match but a draw is a good result given the quality of the opposition."
—HECTOR HERRERA (Atletico de Madrid midfielder)

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands. We need more attention and focus on set-pieces. We will work on that."
—MAURIZIO SARRI (Juventus manager)

"We put ourselves in a great position. But conceding a goal before half-time changed the momentum."
—HARRY KANE (Tottenham Hotspur striker)

"I believe we can be very satisfied, the team concentrated very hard on the job at hand. We scored three goals, that's standard for us."
—NIKO KOVAC (Bayern Munich manager)

"Three points away are so important. Now it's in our hands. If we can close the games at home then we will be in the last 16."
—PEP GUARDIOLA (Manchester City boss)

SINGLES

DANANJAYA BANNED FOR ILLEGAL ACTION

DUBAI: Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was on Thursday handed a 12 month ban by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment of his action. The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his bowling action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle from August 14th to 18th. He subsequently underwent the independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he employed an illegal bowling action.

INDIA SLIPS IN FIFA RANKING

ZURICH: The Indian football team on Thursday slipped a place to 104th position in the latest FIFA rankings. The Indian team, coached by Igor Stimac, have been regularly playing since the 2019 Intercontinental Cup in July. Earlier this month, India had held Asian champions Qatar to a goalless draw in Doha to gain their first point in the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers. Qatar held on to their ranking of 62nd position, despite not being able to beat India. Oman, however, gained three places to 84th spot, following their 2-1 win over India. Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France have surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot.

MARKRAM, MULDER LED FIGHTBACK

MYSRUR: Skipper Aiden Markram and allrounder Wiaan Mulder hit superb hundreds as South Africa 'A' fought their way to 400 all out against India 'A' on day three of the second unofficial Test on Thursday. Markram geared up for the three-Test series against India with a superb 161, while Mulder produced an unbeaten 131 — as the visitors came within 17 runs of India A's first innings of 417. The duo added 155 runs for the sixth wicket stand to resurrect the South Africa A's innings after they were struggling at 142 for 5 at one stage. The home team were 14 for no loss in six overs before bad light resulted in play being called off with over 25 overs still to be bowled.

DIBABA OUT OF WORLDS WITH INJURY

PARIS: Genzebe Dibaba, the 2015 champion and world record holder in the women's 1,500 metres, will miss the World Championships due to a foot injury, the Ethiopian said on Instagram. Dibaba, 28, who won the world title in Beijing in 2015 and set the global best of 3min 50.07sec over the distance the same year, is suffering from a partial rupture to a ligament in her right heel which she suffered during the Zurich Diamond League meeting last month. "Unfortunately I am not able to be at Doha World Championship. I am already working to come back stronger!" she posted alongside a photo.

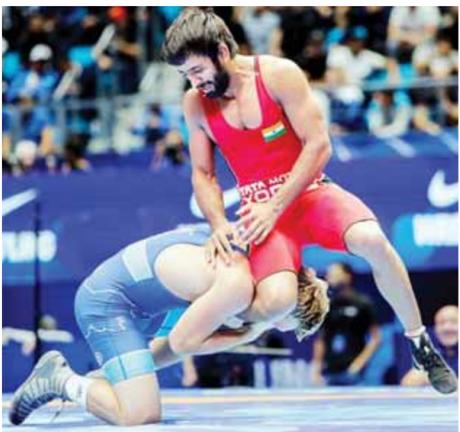
TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR ASIAN SHOOTING

NEW DELHI: A 41-member strong Indian shooting squad will look to secure the maximum possible Olympic quotas in the 14th Asian Championship, which begins in Doha on November 3. Thirty-eight Olympic quota places will be up for grabs in the continental tournament in the Qatari capital. The selection committee of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), announced the team consisting of shooters across the 15 Olympic events, including six entries only for the non-competition Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) section. A notable selection was the fielding of seasoned rifle shooter Sanjeev Rajput in the MQS section of the men's 10m Air Rifle event. There are also some new faces who will be seen for the first time in senior India colours in the Olympic events.

BENGAL BEAT HARYANA STEELERS IN PKL

PUNE: Maninder Singh was the star for Bengal Warriors as they beat Haryana Steelers 48-36 in their Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) match here on Thursday. The victory helped Bengal Warriors consolidate their stay in the second place of the points table. Bengal Warriors dominated the first half of the match with their raiding trio of Maninder Singh, K Prapanjan and Mohammad Nabibakhsh picking points with ease against a Haryana defence that evidently lacked leadership. Bengal's dominance wasn't limited to their raids though as their aggressive approach in defence paid rich dividends. AGENCIES

Bajrang loses in semis after qualifying for 2020 Olympics



Bajrang Punia in action against David Habat during the pre-quarter round PTI

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN
Bajrang Punia lost his semi-final bout against home wrestler Daulet Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances after sealing his Tokyo Olympics quota along with Ravi Dahiya, who made his presence felt in a star-studded field at the World Wrestling Championships, here on Thursday.
Bajrang's frustrated coach Shako Benitidis kicked the coach's block in anger after the 65kg bout ended 9-9 following a nerve-wracking six minutes.
Since Niyazbekov was given a bigger throw of four points in the bout, he was

declared the winner.
In the fiercely-fought bout, the referee gave ample time to tiring Niyazbekov to catch his breath and he was not given caution at least thrice.
Instead Niyazbekov was awarded four points when it was Bajrang who effected a throw at the edge of the circle.
"I challenged it and they should have given at least two points to Bajrang for that hold," said coach Benitidis.
Several times, Bajrang raised his hands in frustration but to no avail.
The last edition Silver medalist Indian will now fight for the Bronze today.
"It was clear that the mat chairman favoured the home

Kamal-Sathiyan storm into quarters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Indian men's doubles pair of G Sathiyan and Achanta Sharath Kamal sailed into the quarterfinals of the 24th ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with easy win over Mahfoodh Sayed Muradha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain at Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Thursday.
The Indian duo beat Muradha and Rashed 11-8, 11-6, 11-3 in a lop-sided affair.
In the quarterfinals, Sathiyan and Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun and Lin Gaoyuan.
Earlier in the day after receiving first-round bye, the Indians got the better of Jordan's Abo Yaman Zaid and Aldmaizy Zeyad 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 in the round of 32.
But the other Indian pair of Harmeet Desai and Anthony Amalraj, after enjoying a bye in the round of 64, lost to Chinese Taipei's Liu Hsing-Yin and Peng Wang Wei.
Harmeet and Amalraj fought hard before losing 11-5, 7-11, 11-3, 8-11, 6-11 against their accomplished Chinese rivals.
It was curtains for India in the women's doubles as the pair of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath and Madhurika Patkar and Sutirtha Mukherjee bowed out the tournament.
The pair of Manika and Archana had an easy round of 64 outing, beating the Kazak duo of Lavnova Anastasiya and Khuseinova Gulchekhra 3-0 but lost in the next round to Korean combination of Yang Haeun and

STRONG RESPONSE
Both sides trail Lokomotiv Moscow following the Russians' 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen. Grzegorz Krychowiak and Dmitri Barinov scored for Lokomotiv either side of an own goal by former Germany defender Benedikt
However, Marin Leovac gave them a 10th-minute lead and Mislav Orsic bagged a hat-trick as Dinamo got off to a dream start ahead of a trip to City on October 2.
Bayern Munich needed late goals from Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller to make sure of victory against Red Star Belgrade in Group D.
Kingsley Coman's bullet header gave Bayern a first-half lead but the German champions were forced to wait until the 80th minute before Lewandowski ended Red Star's threat.
Substitute Mueller volleyed in a third in stoppage time.
Last year's finalists Tottenham blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Olympiakos.
Harry Kane's penalty and a fine Lucas Moura strike put Spurs 2-0 up after 30 minutes in Greece, but Daniel Podence cut the deficit shortly before the break and Mathieu Valbuena levelled from the spot in the second half.
Dinamo failed to score a single goal as they lost all six matches on their last group stage appearance in 2016-17.

In the quarters, Sathiyan & Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun & Lin Gaoyuan
Jeon Jhee 6-11, 9-11, 7-11.
Madhurika and Sutirtha followed suit as they lost to Doo Hoi Kem and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong 9-11, 5-11, 11-13 after clearing the round of 64 hurdle against Macau's Tao Chong and Lei Wai Mei 3-0.
In the mixed event, the pairs of Sharath Kamal-Manika and Sathiyan-Archana lost in the round of 32.
While Korean pair of Lee Sangsu and Jeon Jhee accounted for Sharath and Manika 11-9, 11-8, 11-7, China's Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha beat Sathiyan and Archana 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.
In men singles, Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan, Amalraj, Harmeet and Manav Thakkar had all received first-round byes and registered 3-0 wins over their respective rivals in the round of 128.
Only Harmeet dropped a game against Panagitung Yanapang of Thailand before overcoming his rival 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 11-5.
All the Indian men's singles paddlers will play their round of 64 matches later in the day.
In women singles, Archana enjoyed the random bye in the round of 128 while others had to play their first round matches to enter the round of 64.

Panghal, Manish aim for history

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG
India would be aiming to better their best ever show when Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) step inside the ring against tough opponents in pursuit of summit berths in the World Men's Boxing Championship here today.
India have never had two semifinalists at the marquee event for amateur boxers and in that respect, the two Haryana boxers have already scripted history.
But if both or either of them manages to make the finals, it would be a gigantic step forward for the sport in the country.
The task, however, is easier said than done.
Panghal has in his way Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, who stunned Armenia's European Gold-medallist and sixth seed Artur Hovhannissyan in the quarterfinals.
Kaushik, on the other hand, faces the most accomplished boxer in his weight category — Cuban top seed Andy Gomez Cruz, who out-punched Russia's eighth-seeded Ilya Popov in the last-eight stage.
"Now begins the tough job. We have already delivered on bettering the medal count and now we aim to better their colour," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.
"I am happy but I won't be completely happy till the time both of them reach the finals and they surely can, both of them," added the country's chief coach C A Kuttappa.
They are up against tough challengers but that in no way



makes them automatic underdogs.
Panghal, the pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak, is the reigning Asian Games and Championships Gold-medallist and has back-to-back gold medals at one of Europe's oldest tournament — the Strandja Memorial.
Kaushik, the shy man hailing from the cradle of Indian boxing Bhiwani, is a Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and is a two-time national medal winner.
Both are employed with the Indian Army and both have shown a soldier's grit in some draining bouts so far.
Manish Kaushik (63kg) have also made the Indian boxing squad for next year's Olympic Qualifiers owing to their medal-winning show.
The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) had made it clear that boxers who win medals at the world championships will be automatic picks for the Olympic qualifiers scheduled in February in China.
"Yes, Amit and Manish will be going to the qualifiers. There will not be any trials in their weight categories now," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.
The rest of the squad will be picked on the basis of camp performance, points accumulated at international events and in some cases, trials.
QUALIFIERS SEALED
Amit Panghal (52kg) and



EATING OUT NOT GOOD ALWAYS

Hunting for outside food is not bad however, eating at home has many points in its favour. It is cheaper to eat at home. It is healthier to eat at home and it is usually much more comfortable, says **TEAM VIVA**



Eating out can be a very pleasurable experience. Having dinner with a friend, eating a romantic meal while on a date or celebrating some special event with a party at a restaurant are all things we enjoy doing.

Many distinct types of food can end up making you sick. You must know that food that contains dangerous bacteria or viruses may not necessarily look, smell or taste any different from food that is safe. Food-poisoning causing bacteria are either in the food to begin with or are transferred to the food during storage, preparation, cooking or serving.

When eating out, you must pay special attention to how these high-risk foods are being prepared, cooked, stored and served in eateries. Vigilance is key here, so always keep your eyes out for potential hazards.

Firstly, eating at home is much less expensive than eating in a restaurant. Obviously, when we eat at home we do the preparation, cooking and serving of the food ourselves and, therefore, do not need to pay the labor costs of cook, waiter and other restaurant staff. Similarly, we have no other overheads to pay for such as restaurant rent and high utility bills. A further cost saving is that we shop for the ingredients of our home-cooked meals ourselves and can choose those which are cheaper in price.

Secondly, eating at home is much better for our health and general wellbeing than dining outside. At home, when cooking for ourselves, we can ensure that what goes into our meals is not bad for us. We can control the amount of oil we use. We can control the amount of salt we use and we can balance our diet to suit our own individual needs. When we eat at a restaurant, none of these things are possible. At home we can also cook just enough food to satisfy us. In a restaurant we are often given too much or too little food on our plate.

Finally, eating at home is much more comfortable than having dinner or lunch in a public place. At home, we can be more relaxed than in a restaurant. We can wear comfortable, casual clothes; even pyjamas. We can sit in a comfortable position on our favorite chair, on the sofa or on the floor. If we wish, we can watch TV or a video, or listen to a radio program. None of these can be done at a restaurant. Furthermore, at home we do not have to worry about disturbing other diners and can talk and laugh as loudly as we want without fear of upsetting people sitting nearby us.

There are so many reasons to cook at home, it's surprising that we aren't all doing it at least some of the time. For starters, research shows that regularly eating home-cooked meals as a family is linked to healthier and happier kids, and



teens who are less likely to use alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes.³

Adults also reap considerable benefits from eating home-cooked meals. Research finds that people who eat home-cooked meals on a regular basis tend to be happier and healthier and consume less sugar and processed foods, which can result in higher energy levels and better mental health.⁴ Eating home-cooked meals five or more days a week is even associated with a longer life.

Those mental health benefits increase considerably when we eat home-cooked

meals with other people. In fact, communal meals can make us feel happier even outside of meal times. That's partly because social connections reinforced over meals can help us cultivate a sense of belonging and even reduce symptoms of depression. Sharing the joy of home cooking also preserves cultural knowledge and history as we pass recipes from generation to generation.

If you fall into the trap of thinking you're too busy to cook, evaluate whether that's really the case. Take a week to write down how long you spend browsing the internet, watching TV, or playing games on your phone. Tally it all up, and you'll probably find you have more free time than you realised. Use some of that down time to cook delicious meals.

Don't feel pressured to get fancy just because you're in charge of a meal. If you like chicken-stuffed duck breast coated in truffle oil, then go for it. But there's no need to reinvent the meal. If pizza is more your style, then make yourself a homemade option. By preparing meals you like to eat, you'll be more likely to stick with home cooking.¹¹

Cooking doesn't need to be a solo affair. Invite your partner, kids, or friends into the kitchen to cut down on the time and energy required to make a meal and to make it fun. Cooking together is a great way to solidify relationships, share food knowledge, and make new discoveries in

the kitchen.

Food is a cornerstone of culture. Reconnect to your family history by exploring recipes from your own cultural heritage. If you're not sure where you come from, use this as an exciting opportunity to find out.

Growing your own produce and herbs is a sure-fire way to feel more connected to the food you eat. There's nothing more satisfying (or nutritious) than making a salad from greens and vegetables you grew yourself. While you're at it, consider learning how to preserve food for the winter and compost leftovers. Kicking up your home cooking is just one benefit of investing in your land.

Seek out different cookbooks and recipe sites – or even invest in a few classes – to expose yourself to diverse cooking styles and discover ways of cooking that work best for you.

Deciding to make most meals at home doesn't mean you can't ever enjoy eating out again. Schedule meals out – once a week, once a month, or whatever schedule works for you – so that cooking at home never feels like a chore.

Whether you've never cooked a meal in your life or you want to get back to the kitchen after a busy schedule drew you away, give a few of these tips a try, and commit to a few small lifestyle changes. You'll be on your way to living a healthier, happier life.

WHEN EATING OUT, YOU MUST PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO HOW THESE HIGH-RISK FOODS ARE BEING PREPARED, COOKED, STORED AND SERVED IN EATERIES

Trend Blazer

'My parents were proud of me'

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** got really emotional talking about his deceased parents at the trailer launch of his forthcoming film *Made in China*.

He said that his parents were really proud of him after he became an actor and it gave them joy.

Rajkumar said, "It's an irreparable loss for me. A few years ago, I lost my mother and that time I was shooting for *Newton* and I went back to shoot the next day."

The actor said he had shown the trailer of *Made in China* to his father in his last moments. "I am so glad that the trailer was ready just in time, when my father was in the hospital. I feel his blessings are always there with me," added he.



'As an actor, it is important for me to be part of a good story and *The Zoya Factor*

is one such opportunity. Having said that, working with family members is always a good idea. Although we spend time when we have a family get-together, but during the shooting of film I got a chance to spend quality time with **Sonam (Kapoor).** —Sanjay Kapoor

Actor and author **SOHA ALI KHAN** has lent support for a new health awareness campaign and says that since the birth of her daughter Inaaya, a lot of change has happened in her daily life, and she is trying to set a good example for her daughter with her own lifestyle.



"Parenthood brought a certain change of habits in my daily days. Since I do not want Inaaya to watch TV or stick around the mobile phone, I have stopped watching TV when she is around. Children always tend to imitate everything that we are doing in front of them," says she.

Kylie shuts split rumours

A day after doubts were raised about their relationship, reality TV personality **KYLIE JENNER** has shared a loved-up family photograph with rapper **Travis Scott** to shut down splitting rumours.

The 22-year-old make-up mogul took to social media to share the sweet picture with her 146 million followers after fans questioned whether they had parted ways.

The photograph shows Scott and one-year-old daughter Stormi having a wonderful time with Kylie at a zoo in Los Angeles.

She captioned the picture — 'Happy Wednesday'.



We have been watching the father-son duo Sunny and Karan Deol for a while. At the press conference that preceded the interviews, they made sure to answer each question, some humorously and others, a little seriously. When a reporter asked Sunny to deliver one of his famous dialogues, he pushed his son forward and said, *abhi bachchon ki baat karte hain* (We must talk about the kids now). Even when all the those who were assembled requested him again, he stood his ground before asking Karan to sing a song from his forthcoming film. As often happens, even when it concerns parents who are nowhere near the arc lights, Sunny too placed his offspring in focus. So despite performances from his past films having made a strong impression on people's hearts, the actor-turned-director does not seem to be hankering for more attention.

When questioned about taking a backseat for his son's debut, Sunny said, "I am not bothered about such things because I am not insecure. Even when I started my career I was beyond all this. I want to tell youngsters to be confident and proud of who they are. Success and failure are a part of life because every one cannot have the same pace. You should enjoy every moment because life happens but once. There is no point creating more stress for no rhyme and reason?"

Karan is making his debut with *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas*. It is a love story set in snowy regions of Himachal Pradesh. Directed by Sunny, the film revolves around the journey of two youngsters who are in love and ready to face any hurdles to be together.

Working with a family member and that too a son is special for anyone. But in such cases it is important to maintain a balance between the personal and the professional. "It was a great experience. *Jaisi humari family hai, humlog beta baap door-door hi rehte hai, dost nahi hote*. (The kind of family that we have, my son and I usually stay apart. We are not friends). It took three years to prepare for this film. During this journey both of us spent a lot of time with each other. I will always cherish these years," said Sunny. While talking about his son, the slight smile that consistently hovered on his lips revealed his love.

But a father launching his son naturally gives rise to the loud whispers about nepotism especially in Bollywood with two opposing camps arguing for and against it. When asked about the same, Sunny answered really promptly as if he was anticipating the question. "Had people not favoured nepotism, they would have asked some questions from the heroine too during the press conference. But they did not. Every question was directed at either me or my son. This itself explains the mindset of the people. I believe, every child's journey is based on his/her capabilities. It has nothing to do with what their parents have done," said he.

Of course when your father is the director, it is inevitable that most people would allege that Karan would get a stronger role. But Karan disagrees, "It's a perception. When you see the film, you will realise that both the characters are equally strong. They are supporting each other."

Sunny explained that he had not planned that Karan should debut in a film directed by him and would have preferred some other director. But that didn't materialise. For lack of options, he decided to take on the mantle on himself.

From an actor Sunny who has displayed his charismatic personality, to a director, he believes that there is no such thing as "challenge" in life. Acting and directing are professions that he has taken up and both need preparation. He said, "There are people who speak out their problems loudly but one

FILIAL BOND

Actor-turned-director **SUNNY DEOL** prefers to put the spotlight firmly on his son **KARAN** for *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas*, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

'SHOOTING IN HILLY REGIONS IS TOUGH BECAUSE IT'S A DIFFERENT LIFESTYLE ALTOGETHER. IT TOOK TIME TO ADJUST TO THAT PLACE. I HAD TO WAKE UP EARLY AND TREK IN THE COLD WEATHER. IT WAS VERY TAXING PHYSICALLY. POST TREK I HAD TO RAPPEL AND DO ROCK CLIMBING. I USED TO CRASH AS SOON AS I HIT THE BED'

should not. I have understood that *mushkile sabke paas hai, mai koi alag thodi hu*. (Everyone has some problems, I am no different). If you don't have problems, you will remain in your comfort zone and not move forward. I would encourage the youth not to fall prey to that."

The first hurdle was the kind of film that Sunny wanted to make. The senior Deol had decided that he wanted to make a film but was not sure about the storyline. "I hired Jassi and Ravi (writers) and we did a lot of brainstorming before coming up with an idea. As the germ of an idea made its presence felt, I realised that this was something I always wanted to do. I wanted to understand today's generation and bring forth their perspective. We often try to put the youth in a pre-determined mould rather than understanding what they want to do. There was a time when we followed traditional practices, but we cannot enforce the same on our kids. Today's youth is very different," said Sunny. However, one thing which made the film different was that he had not put any restrictions before the shoot began as Sunny wanted the story to find its own path.

The film has been shot in villages near Manali where survival is tough. The actors had to go through physically and mentally challenging hurdles which were in addition to the fact that both of them are young and naive. Karan has played the role of a Himachali boy which was not easy for a boy who grew up in urban Mumbai. So, prior to the shoot he spent three to four months analysing and understanding how people live in that region. He said, "It was tough because it's a different lifestyle altogether. It took time to adjust to that place. I had to wake up early and trek in the cold weather. It was very taxing physically. Post trek I had to rappel and do rock climbing. I used to crash as soon as I hit the bed. Dad took us to a place where there was hardly any civilisation. It was very tough to bring out emotions as the high altitude presented another set of challenges." But the actor is glad that he went through the gruelling experience as he now has a sense of accomplishment. He added that he has found a new love and affection for his city.

While Karan was balancing the role of an actor, his father had to look at all the aspects of the film rather being focussed on just acting. Sunny said that he was looking for the best singer because music plays a vital role. "My music is very new and story-driven. I believe that a song should always go with the flow of the story

rather than putting it just for the sake of it. I am fond of doing new and interesting things as remakes are boring," he said.

But looking back at his chequered career, even people who hadn't been born when *Ghayaal* was released in 1990, are well versed with his famous dialogue, "*Jab yeh dhai kilo ka haath kisi pe padta hai na, toh aadmi uthta nahi utth jata hai?*" The *Gadar* actor is known for his strong roles. Irrespective of whether it is a comic or a serious role, it was his powerful personality that made an impact. He said, "No matter what the role was, the way I portrayed it made it different. I tried to infuse all my roles with a personal touch so that it looked natural." Recalling an incident from his film *Ziddi* he said, "There is a scene where people tell me, '*tumhari behen ko usne chedh diya*.' I believe that if someone does this in reality *main haath ukhad dunga*. Because I wanted the scene to look natural I said that those were the dialogues I wanted to mouth. When people heard this, they started laughing wondering how could someone do this. But I did that scene. That's my belief, as an actor. When I take up something I do it with honesty."

There is another role that Sunny has taken upon himself, that of a member of Parliament from Gurdaspur. On foraying into the field of politics, he said that it is one more profession he wanted to do justice to. "People know that if I take up anything in life I take it to a high point where it should have been," said he.

During the whole session Karan seemed quite nervous. When asked about the same, before we could even complete the sentence Sunny defended him. He said (pointing towards the lead actors of the film) "They have come to a point where what happens on a Friday will dictate their tomorrow. They are unaware whether it will be smooth, hard or filled with opportunities."

When asked about the plethora of emotions that Karan was going through, he said, "I feel nervous and excited. I am eagerly waiting for the response to my film." As he answered the questions his face began to turn red clearly revealing how frightened he was. He added that his anxiety won't let him sleep until the film releases. Pointing towards Sunny he said, "I can understand now what he must be going through with every release." The thought that first impression is the last has Karan worried.

Right from the black and white era when Dharmendra became a part of the industry, to Sunny and Bobby, the Deols have made a mark in Bollywood. Naturally, with such a family background, the baggage is heavier. Karan said, "People are keenly looking out for your negatives to put you down. They don't see that it's my first experience as an actor. I can't be perfect from the word go just because I come from a particular family. With time and experience, I will polish myself and grow as an actor. I want to push my family name forward and hopefully with this film, I will be able to do that."

The film has a plethora of emotions ranging from excitement, sadness and romance, it was not easy for Karan to portray one and switch to another instantly. For an experienced actor that would be easy but tough for a beginner. He shared that during an emotional scene Sunny made sure that the atmosphere of the set facilitated it.

Crediting all his learnings to his father, Karan said, "No other director would have pushed me the way dad did. When I went home after shoot, he taught me how to get into the mood for a scene instantly. As he knows my personality he was aware how to bring out a particular emotion. It is important for a director to know a person, especially a newcomer so that s/he can be moulded in a desired way. Because he is an actor himself he understands all the facets better. And it was my dad, so yes it was a really emotional journey."

Photo: Parikaj Kumar



I I F A G A L A



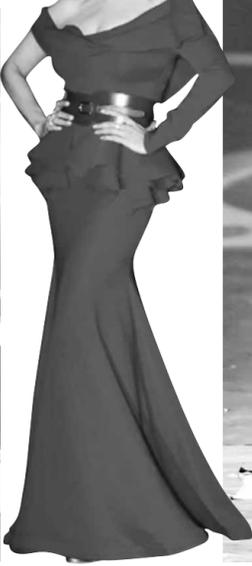
Deepika Padukone in a lilac lace gown



Alia Bhatt showed up in a flowy off-shoulder gown



Sara Ali Khan showed up in a pristine white ball gown



Madhuri Dixit in a red-hot gown



Ranveer Singh wore a quirky pant suit

A hundred battles

Actor **BRAD PITT** talks about his new film *Ad Astra*, his struggle with alcoholism and the MeToo movement

Actor Brad Pitt opened up about his struggles with alcoholism and the efforts he made in order to face his problems. He said, "Initially, I didn't know how to deal with my painful feelings. But I don't even want to run from anything, instead want to sit and feel it. I want to get through the rough night. And I found, in doing so, you just come out of it with a more profound understanding of yourself and gratefulness for those in your life."

In an interview with Christiane Amanpour, chief anchor for CNN, he discussed his new film *Ad Astra*, his battle with alcoholism and the Me Too movement. Space epic *Ad Astra* tackles a range of topics. Pitt talked about the film's focus on loneliness, father-and-son relationships, masculinity and vulnerability. He said that there his love for the sci-fi genre made him sign this film. "I didn't want to do it until I figured we could do something that would add to a successful genre. And I think James Gray had a really interesting take that we hadn't seen before. It just seemed the subject matter of, I guess, finding self at this age in my life, it seemed interesting," said Pitt and went on to add, "When you get older, you just get tired of everything. And we wanted to get on with this film in that way. We all carry great pains and major regrets. We have all experienced loss and loneliness. And we're good at packing that away, not dealing with it, some are really good at getting through it and coming out the other side in a more well-rounded and confident manner. So we just wanted to like get it out there."

The two went on to discuss the summer hit *Once Upon a Time in*



Hollywood and Pitt's breakout role in *Thelma and Louise*.

Amanpour spoke to Pitt about the Me-Too movement and his early part in calling out Harvey Weinstein in the 1990s. When then girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow was propositioned by Weinstein, Pitt confronted the media mogul. Asked about the incident, Pitt downplayed his own role in the movement but gave credit to its importance. He said, "At that moment, I was a boy from the Ozarks on the playground and that's how we confronted with things. And I wanted to make sure nothing happened further because Paltrow was going to do two films. I think that the interesting thing is that we, Hollywood specifically, but the work place, men and women's dynamic is being recalibrated in a very good way, and it's long overdue. And I do think that's an important story to tell."



ORGANIC WHOLE

Chef MAGGIE BEER believes in putting together dishes made with ingredients from her own garden that guarantees the best of taste

Maggie Beer did not let a lack of formal training come in the way of her metamorphosing into a legendary cook and author. Whenever she makes an appearance as a guest judge on *MasterChef Australia* it tends to create a lot of excitement among the contestants as they realise that they would be mentored by one of the country's most cherished and respected chefs.

Beer's career extends over five decades and she has been a part of the much-loved show since the very beginning. She worked at a Scottish sailing school during a European trip in her early twenties where she says, "I used the entire larder for the four-month season in eight weeks because I am a very generous cook and that's the only way I know how to do it." After relocating from Sydney to the Barossa Valley, Beer, with her husband Colin, established the Farm Shop in 1979 which morphed into the Barossa Pheasant Farm Restaurant later. It became well-known for serving locally sourced pheasant as well as a pate.

When questioned about her journey to becoming one of the world's most famous chefs, she laughs and says, "I call myself a cook and not a chef. I grew up in a family where food and cooking were very important. I started learning about food since then. My parents cooked every-

thing from scratch. We had our own farm and that helped me a lot in understanding the ingredients." Growing up as she did, the chef always had an inclination towards food and cooking so she started with some of her farm produce which marked the beginning of her career.

Along the way she has developed her own food philosophy. "I see myself as a country cook and a produce-driven cook, I cannot waste any product or ingredients. My philosophy is to make every dish in such a way that the ingredients are used properly and efficiently," she says.

Talking about her experience at *Masterchef* she says, "The most beautiful thing about the show is the excited young people who have a dream that they are following. It is good to see how dedicated they are in pursuing their passion. They give a part of themselves to the show. They come with an eagerness and ability to learn and do it very quickly too. So I love their openness to learning."

The chef has not visited India for a long time. She says, "When I was 21, I stopped in New Delhi for some time on my way to Europe. And considering that I will turn 75 in January, that was a long time ago."

As for Indian food, she is in love with the spices and legumes. "I love things like dough, vintettes and tamarinds. I love



the *Dosa* too because it is a tremendous blend of so many flavours and at the same time it's so crisp," added she. "I don't cook all these as I stick to Mediterranean," she laughs and adds, "But I have tried and tasted all of them when others cook them for me."

Like any other chef, Beer too has her favourites when putting together a meal. "There are some ingredients that I cannot do or live without, extra virgin olive oil being one. But my routine is that we have a big vegetable garden and it's about following the seasons, going to the pantries, looking at the organic produce, getting the right seeds... and more. And my routine is thinking at the last moment what am I going to have for dinner? So I look at the garden and I see all the beautiful and amazing things. It's a very relaxed routine even though I work very long hours. In that routine, I grab and feel a lot of new experiences everyday. So my routine is just to be seduced by whatever looks the most beautiful and make it into a dish," she says with a laugh.

Despite being a much-renowned chef, she believes that cooking is not looked upon as a celebrated career even now. There are people still struggling with their passion "My advice is to understand that hard work can lead you to dizzying heights. And your dream is only likely to be fulfilled if you're truly passionate about it. You want to learn and keep evolving. You should be ready to absorb everything that's been put in front of you. If you have a real interest in cooking, it is one of the most rewarding things to do," she says.

Despite cooking for so many years and having gathered a plethora of experiences, there are some dreams which continue to be achieved. "My one dream is that I make beautiful ice creams, which are really very special, super premium. We make them commercially and export to China. So my one dream is to be able to export them to India as well. I have always wanted to explore the country and by exporting our ice creams, I'll get its people to taste our produce as well," she says.

However, Beer has not let herself be confined to just cooking but is extending her domain by way of her foundation. "In Australia, food health is not as important and sometimes neglected. So we have a lot of age care homes that need to get much more beautiful food. It can be institutionalised. And I kind of accept that. So I am trying to change the food to give it a whole new flavour and also a pleasure to the residents in age care homes who are no longer able to cook by themselves. So that actually keeps me busy."

(The season 11 of the show airs on Star World.)



Got a haul of apples?

There are many great things one can do with the fruit that don't include making a pie. Here are some ideas that you might not have thought of

It's that time of year again, when fresh apples are piled high at farmer's markets. If you are lucky enough to live near an orchard, you can take the day and pick your own bushel of apples. But whether you are picking them at the market or off a tree, there are many great things to do with apples that don't include making a pie. Besides apple pie, some ideas you might not have thought of:

- Cut apples into matchstick-size strips and add them to your favorite kale salad for a tart and crunchy addition.
- Sauté chunks of peeled apples in butter, season them with a touch of sugar and a pinch of salt, and serve them with any egg dish to brighten up breakfast. In the South, these are sometimes "fried" with bacon fat and called "fried apples," but I prefer butter. Sautéed apples are also great in pancakes. Let them cool, and add to your favorite pancake batter. If you are a fan of cinnamon like I am, add a pinch and they'll taste like apple pie.
- Make an apple upside-down cake, and add cranberries for a festive touch. Use your favorite pineapple upside-down cake recipe but substitute apples.
- Make a gourmet open-faced tartine, aka sandwich with brie cheese and apples. Brush the bread with your favorite jam — think fig, apricot, raspberry, etc. and top with apples, brie and walnuts. Melt under a broiler and enjoy!
- Make a faux sauerkraut for fall sausages by cooking down grated apples, sliced onions and fennel. Finish with a pinch of caraway seeds and a couple of tablespoons of butter for richness.
- Cook apples slowly until they melt into homemade applesauce. Begin by peeling and coring the apples, and add the juice of a large lemon, and a little sugar and cinnamon. Put the lid on the pot and slowly cook on the stovetop. When they have cooked down to the texture of chunky applesauce, taste and season as you like.
- If you have a juicer, make your own apple juice and serve it cold or hot.



● Make your own apple butter. Cook about 5 pounds of apples with ½ cup of apple cider until they are deep brown and have a creamy, "buttery" consistency. Season with your favorite autumn spices. No sugar necessary. You can do this easily in a slow cooker or a pressure cooker. The slow cooker is the slow, all day method and the pressure cooker is the fast method.

Reminder: If you get a bunch of apples, keep them in a cool place. I have had success keeping them for months in the crisper drawer of my refrigerator. If you picked your own and went a little crazy, and have too many to fit in your refrigerator, wrap each apple individually in paper — unprinted newsprint paper works well — and store in the garage or basement where it is cool. Be careful of any rotting apples, because the old saying "One bad apple spoils the bunch" is true.

My favorite thing to make with extra apples is my Grandmother Odom's Apple Cake. The recipe doesn't call for any liquid because the fresh apples give up their juice as the cake bakes, and that creates liquid in the batter. It's a simple cake to make and is positively addicting. In fact, anytime I have a prickly relationship with someone, I make them my grandmother's cake and it changes our relationship! I call it The Power of Grandmother Odom's Apple Cake. —AP

gorge us

Varq, the modern Indian restaurant at the Taj Mahal Hotel, is all set to celebrate its 11th anniversary. To mark this milestone, culinary legends like chef Naren Thimmaiah from Karavalli restaurant will curate the first ever Karavalli experience in the city. He will curate special dishes like *Crab milagu fry*, *Sea crab ghee roast*, *Malvani surmai tawa fry*, *Tiger prawns roast*, vegetarian dishes and many more.

Date: September 21 to 28 **Time:** 12:30 pm to 2:45 pm (lunch); 7 pm to 11:45 pm (dinner) **Price:** ₹5,000 **Venue:** Varq, The Taj Mahal Hotel.

The chefs at SET'Z, MKT and Cha Shi introduce a special thali curation of three different cuisines — Oriental, Coastal and North Indian. In the North Indian menu, there is *Anar raita*, *Kuttu puri*, *Sabudana papad* and *Kheer*. The Oriental delicacies have *Cantonese tong sui soup*, *Crispy fried lotus stem*, *Tossed asian greens*, *Lemon grass rice*. The Coastal journey includes *Kadala manga sala*, *Samak pulao*, *Paneer moilee*, *Kuttu masala dosa* and *Pappali halwa*. **Date:** September 29 to October 7 **Time:** 11 am to 11 pm **Venue:** SET'Z @DLF Emporio and MKT.

- KANDHARI LAMB SHANK**
- WHAT YOU NEED**
- For marination:**
- Sea salt: 1 tsp
 - Garlic: 5-7 cloves
 - Ginger: 1 medium bulb
 - Garam masala: 1 tsp
 - Curd: 2 tsp
- For sauce:**
- Mustard oil
 - Black cardamom: 2
 - Green cardamom: 4
 - Mace: 2
 - Bay leaf: 1
 - Black pepper (crushed): 8
 - Cloves: 5
 - Ginger: 1 medium bulb
 - Garlic: 10 cloves
 - Onion (chopped): 3
 - Dry red chilli
 - Turmeric powder
 - Salt to taste
 - Coriander powder
 - Curd: 1 cup
 - Cream: 2 tbsp
 - Mutton Stock: 5 cups
- METHOD**
- Wash and pat dry the lamb shanks. Marinate them with

Prankster brings a Prank Pop Carnival to celebrate its three years. It offers a special menu curated by chef Harangad Singh. The menu includes — *Amritsari kulcha*, *Spicy and flavourful chicken 65*, *Amritsari fish*, *Spicy pav bhaji*, *Vada pav*, *Sev puri*, *Dahi puri*, *Assorted dal kachori* and *Jodhpuri samosa*. **Date:** Till September **Price:** ₹ 1,500 (plus taxes) **Time:** 12:30 pm to 1 am **Venue:** Sector 29, Gurugram.

Swad is serving food in a *desi* way. It offers a range of delicacies from *Mushroom chettinad phulka tacos* to *Chimichanga rolls with tamatar gur salsa*, *Roast soya boti* with mini appam, *Garlic soy paneer tartlet*, *Kurkure kebabs* and many more. **Date:** Till September **Time:** 12 noon to 11:30 pm **Price:** ₹ 800 (plus taxes) **Venue:** SS Plaza, Vikas marg, Gurugram.

Tea Lounge offers a variety of *Kulle ki chaat* to fill your between-the-meal time with different flavours. The menu offers *Papri chaat*, *Tikki chaat*, *Shakarkandi ki chaat*, *Samosa chaat* and various fruit *chaats* along with traditional condiments. **Date:** Till September 30 **Time:** 11 am to 8 pm **Price:** ₹500 (plus taxes) **Venue:** Tea Lounge, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place.

bones in water for an hour and half or buy mutton stock cubes.

- Once the meat is marinated, heat mustard oil in a deep pot over medium fire till it begins to smoke. Add black and green cardamom, mace, bay leaf, crushed black pepper, cloves and stir till the aroma of the spices is extracted.
- Add the marinated shank to the pot and stir till the meat is evenly seared. Lower the heat and continue cooking for about 15 to 20 minutes, stir occasionally.
- Continue cooking till the water evaporates. Add garlic and ginger paste and stir till the paste is evenly mixed.
- Add the chopped onion and cook for another 20 to 25 minutes. Cover the pot with a lid, stir occasionally.
- Sprinkle mutton stock if the pot becomes too dry and continue cooking on low heat till the onions appear brown and mashed. Then remove the lid and get rid of the extra water.
- Add *deggi mirch* powder, haldi powder, coriander

Mellow Garden offers favourite drinks at MRP. One can get pegs of *Martini Bianco*, *Martini Rosso*, *Kahula*, *Triple Sec*, *Glenfiddich* (12 Yrs), *Talisker* (10 Yrs), *Jim Beam*, *Jameson*, *Jack Daniel's* and a lot more at reasonable prices. **Date:** Till September 30 **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Price:** ₹165 Onwards (plus taxes) **Venue:** The Mellow Garden, Rajouri Garden.

COCONUT CRUSTED FISH CAKES

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fresh coconut (grated)
- Indian salmon fillet: 500 gm
- Cilantro: 2 tbsp
- Cloves of garlic: 2
- Ginger: 20 gm
- Lime juice: 10 ml
- Chopped pineapple: 50 gm
- Red onion: 25 gm
- Coconut water: 1/2 cup
- Sriracha sauce: 10 gm
- Red pepper: 20 gm
- Tomatoes: 20 gm
- Sea salt: 1 pinch
- Coconut oil: 10 ml
- Chopped coriander: 10 gm

METHOD

- Marinate fillets with salt

RECIPES



and lime juice for 15 minutes.

- Grill the fillets well in coconut oil.
- Cool and mince the fillets or flake with hands and mix chopped onion, coriander, sriracha sauce, grated fresh coconut, chopped ginger and chopped garlic.
- Shape them into gallettes, coat with fresh grated coconut and grill in coconut oil.
- Prepare the salsa by mixing chopped pineapple, tomatoes, cilantro, mint leaves, red pepper and coconut water and oil.
- Serve the coconut fish cakes, with the salsa.

Courtesy: Executive chef Gautam Mehrishi at Vivanta New Delhi, Dwarka

FROM START TO STOP

Deepak fond of bowling at death despite success in the starting overs

PTI ■ MOHALI

Most bowlers find it tough to contain batsmen in death overs but young India pacer Deepak Chahar relishes the challenge in the Twenty20 format.

With India giving youngsters opportunities ahead of the T20 World Cup next year, 27-year-old Chahar has impressed in the three games he has got since making his debut in July last year, taking six wickets at 11.50.

Used to opening the bowling for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Chahar has shown he can be equally effective in the death overs.

"I don't know how I developed it (bowling at the top) but you have to do it when you are playing for India. It is challenging with only two fielders outside the circle. But I have started thinking sub-consciously that I will need to bowl three overs with two fielders outside the circle," said Chahar, who was India's standout bowler in their seven-wicket win over South Africa on Wednesday.

In his opening spell of three overs, Chahar swung the ball and picked up the wicket of Reeza Hendricks before returning in the 18th over to remove a set Temba Bavuma with a well disguised slower ball.

"Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders. You can use variation also in death overs," he said.

Chahar said he focuses on out-guessing the batsman.

"How I bowl depends on the batsmen. In the death overs, the batsman is expecting yorkers or a slower ball but if you can also bowl a bouncer or knuckle ball, it can surprise him. You to have to keep guessing the batsman,"



Deepak Chahar, left, looks on as Quinton de Kock completes a run during the second T20 match in Mohali on Wednesday

Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders
— Deepak Chahar

said the Rajasthan pacer.

He feels bowling on flat wickets in Chennai during the IPL has made him a better bowler.

"There is no off the wicket help when you are playing in Chennai. But when we were playing in Pune last to last year, there was help both off the wicket and in the air. But in Chennai, the swing is there for maximum one over as there is no grass. So, I got confidence that if I could do well there, I could do well elsewhere too," he said.

Chahar has grabbed his chances so far but knows he is far from cementing his place in the side ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"There is one whole year left for that. I play each match as if it is my last for India. At this time Indian cricket is at the top. If you want to play you have to do well in almost every game. There is a lot of competition and may be that is why Indian cricket is at the top."

"There is no guarantee that you will get your place back even if you are returning from an injury."

Talking about Virat Kohli's match-winning knock of 72 not out, Chahar was all praise.

"He is just next level and all class," he said.



Tamba Bavuma plays a shot during the second T20 international match

We were not outplayed by beatable India: Bavuma

PTI ■ MOHALI

Test specialist Temba Bavuma, who had a decent outing in his debut in the shortest format.

South Africa looked set for 180 when skipper Quinton de Kock (52) and Bavuma (49) were in the middle before the southpaw's dismissal put the brakes on the scoring rate, limiting the total to 149 for five.

"The first 10-12 overs we played really well. I think we could not really get going after a good start and lost the game between 12th to the 15th over," Bavuma, who has played 36 Tests, said after the seven-wicket loss to India.

"When David came in the 13th over, we were in a strong position, 180 seemed very much gettable at the halfway stage. I was not really able to get that momentum and others as well. I don't think we were completely outplayed," said Bavuma who missed out on a well-deserved fifty by one run in his attempt to accelerate.

The 29-year-old from Cape Town said India are formidable

but not unbeatable as the Proteas aim to level the series in Bengaluru on Sunday.

"They are formidable but not unbeatable. It was just one phase with the bat where we let ourselves down and a quality side like India made us pay.

"There will always be moments in the game which we can win and it is about being aware of those moments and making sure we are in the right mental space to win those moments," said Bavuma.

Playing his first limited-overs game for South Africa in almost two years, Bavuma made it count.

"It was good to be out there. Facing the white ball again. It has been a while. It was a pleasing effort but did not do much to the result of the game. Last (domestic) season was a big season for me in white ball cricket. There were not many Tests and that allowed me to play white ball cricket."

"I got the opportunity to come back to the national fold. It helped me understand what my gameplan is in white ball cricket," he explained.

SL to go ahead with Pak tour despite terror fears

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's cricket board on Thursday said it will go ahead with its tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be the targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday after establishing that there was no threat to the national team.

Sri Lanka Cricket added in a statement that the governing body was assured the Pakistan army would coordinate security set at a level usually reserved for a head of state.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce that the forthcoming tour of Pakistan will go ahead as planned, following assurances given by the government of Pakistan that it will provide maximum security," the statement said.

De Silva added that he and "our office bearers will also be accompanying the team."

Reports last week of a possible terror attack were referred to the defence ministry for investigation.

The six-match tour, due to start on September 27, was put on hold last week after the Sri Lanka prime minister's office warned the board it had unspecified information about a possible attack against its players.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it was not aware of any information relating to the safety of the Sri Lankan team, but reiterated its commitment to providing security.

Paine sees 'very exciting era' for Aus

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Captain Tim Paine has predicted a "very exciting era" for Australian cricket after the team retained the Ashes against England, while revealing he broke his thumb in the final Test.

The series was drawn 2-2, with Australia keeping the urn as the Ashes holders despite losing the last Test at the Oval by 135 runs.

"I'm looking forward to Australia seeing how far we've come this summer," Paine said in a column for The Australian newspaper, referring to upcoming home Tests against Pakistan and New Zealand.

"Last year we were a bit lost and were finding our way," he added after the side struggled in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

"I know we have found it now and I am confident this group is the beginning of a very exciting era in Australian cricket. We've got the best bowling attack in the world and the basis for a great batting line-up."

Australia retaining the Ashes was built on the back of an



Australia's Steve Smith, second left, celebrates catching England's Chris Woakes during the third day of the fifth Ashes

incredible series by former skipper Steve Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, and an impressive bowling attack led by Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

Paine called Smith "a freak" while also praising Marnus Labuschagne as having "a huge future" after he too enjoyed a stellar tour with the bat. But he revealed the last Test was a struggle for himself and fast bowler Peter Siddle.

"My thumb was broken towards the end of that Test but it is not displaced, so I should be right to get back into training early," said Paine, while praising workhorse Siddle who was battling a hip injury.

"He has copped a bit of criticism for not bowling as well as... We know he can, but the team knows just how heroic he was."

"A lot of other people wouldn't have bowled again in the match, but he pushed on

because he didn't want to leave Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to do extra work." Coming off a long overseas tour and with five home Tests starting from November 21, Paine said he needs to rest and will not play the domestic Big Bash League Twenty20 competition this season.

"Being captain is draining and I think I should take every chance to recharge my batteries," he said.

No question of replacing Virat as captain: Hesson

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Virat Kohli's record as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper might have been below-par but the team's newly-appointed Director of Cricket Mike Hesson ruled out any change in leadership for the under-performing franchise in the next IPL edition.

Despite stars like Kohli, AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle (for better part), RCB has not won the IPL since the event's inception. Kohli has led the team in seven of those seasons. Hesson nipped questions on Kohli controlling the team and change in captaincy in the bud.

"We don't have that perception that Virat controls things. But maybe he has had his learnings from the past (mistakes) while moving forward," Hesson said on Thursday.

Hesson said Kohli has been on the same page as him and chief coach Simon Katich. "There has been no question mark over Virat's captaincy during last couple of weeks (of dis-



Virat Kohli in a file picture

cussions)," Hesson clarified. "We have been very much aligned and he has been more than happy to take our advice from our experience," the former New Zealand coach added.

RCB's questionable recruitment has come in for a lot of criticism but Hesson assured that this time they are looking at specific players and not hundreds of options.

"There will be big focus on recruitment. Once auction gets

completed, the work starts then, not a week before the tournament starts. We would have clarity in roles that players need to perform," he said.

On recruitment of domestic players, Hesson said there are specific players they would be looking at and not just statistical highlights during the Mushtaq Ali or Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"During Vijay Hazare and Mushtaq Ali Trophy, we would like to see players we want to fit in. It's more about finding out how players build context around performance, conditions and pressure situations," he said.

Hesson also agreed that the team needs to consider consistent performances and not one odd innings before selecting players.

"Form is a factor but we need to be more holistic in terms of how we talent scout. We look at four-year period as then they are ready to deliver when put under the pump. It doesn't happen after one good season," he said.

Eves take on SA

PTI ■ SURAT

Rookie teenager Shafali Verma, who has been picked in India's T20 squad, would be the cynosure of all eyes when the Board President's XI takes on the South Africa women in a warm-up match here today.

The 15-year-old Shafali was named in the Indian women's team for the T20 series against South Africa following her good performance in the

Women's T20 challenge earlier and at the age-group level this year.

The diminutive Haryana-girl would like to make optimum use of the warm-up game and get runs under her belt if she is given an opportunity in the playing XI.

The first warm-up game will be held on Friday at the Lalbhai Contractor stadium here

followed by the second match on Sunday.

Apart from Shafali, pacers Mansi Joshi and Pooja Vastrakar have also been named in the T20 squad and a good outing on Friday would also boost their morale before the main tournament begins here on Tuesday.

On the other hand, the South Africa women will also be aiming to start

their Indian tour on a winning note. They would be keen to use these games to assess the conditions and get acclimatized to the hot and humid weather. All the T20s will be played in Surat while the ODIs will be played in Vadodara.

BPXI: Sushma Verma (captain & wicket-keeper), Devika Vaidya (vice-captain), Vanitha VR, Shafali Verma, Priya Punia, Jasia Aktar, MD Thirushkamini, Madhuri

Mehta, Tarannum Pathan, Sushree Dibyardarshini, Tanuja Kanwar, Bharti Fulmali, Mansi Joshi, Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar.

SA women: Sune Luus (Captain), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafra, Ayabonga Khaka, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez and Lara Wolvaardt.

Smith has complicated technique but organised mindset: Tendulkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar lauded Steve Smith for his exemplary batting, saying the former Australia skipper's "organised mindset" and "complicated technique" set him apart among his contemporaries.

Tendulkar praised Smith, the numero uno batsman in Tests right now, for his fantastic comeback in red-ball cricket in the just-concluded Ashes series.

"COMPLICATED TECHNIQUE but an ORGANIZED MINDSET is what sets @stevesmith49 apart. Incredible comeback!#ENGvsAUS," Tendulkar posted on his Twitter handle.

Smith has a unique batting style, which is both unorthodox as well as genius and Tendulkar tried to explain the Australian's game in his social media post.

"In the first Test, the English bowlers tried to get him caught behind the wickets with slips and gully in place," Tendulkar explained. "And Smith just shuffled across and exposed his leg stumps to cover the line, and was selective and smart in his approach."

"At Lord's, they had leg-slip for him on occasions and a few short-pitched deliveries against Jofra Archer got him in trouble as he tried to cover the line with the weight on his back-foot."

Smith was hit by a vicious Jofra Archer bouncer in the first innings of the second Ashes Test at Lord's. The blow was so severe that he didn't come out to bat in the second innings and also missed the next Test at Headingley. Tendulkar went on to explain what Smith did wrong when he was hit by the bouncer.

"The most important thing for any bats-



Steve Smith in action during Ashes

man is to keep the head position forward and wait leaning forward or marginally in-line," said Tendulkar, the only player to feature in 200 Tests.

"Smith got into bad positions and that's how he probably got hit."

"In the final two Tests, he was leaving the ball while leaning forward, and looked in better positions. He worked on his technique very smartly. That is why I say, complicated technique, but extremely organised mindset."

Praneeth keeps hope alive

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion PV Sindhu made an early exit from the China Open but B Sai Praneeth kept the Indian flag fluttering with a hard-fought straight-game win to reach the men's singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

Sindhu, an Olympic Silver medalist, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in a women's singles pre-quarterfinals that lasted 58 minutes here.

Praneeth, who had claimed a Bronze medal at Basel, edged out China's Lu Guang Zu 21-19, 21-19 to set up a meeting against Indonesian seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

Ginting beat India's Parupalli Kashyap 23-21, 15-21, 21-12 in a thrilling contest. Doubles specialist Satwiksairaj



B Sai Praneeth in action during World Championship

Rankireddy also had a dismal day as he suffered twin defeats, losing both the men's doubles and mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.

In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, ranked 15th in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda and went down 19-21, 8-21 in the second-round match that lasted 33 minutes.

This is the second time Satwik and Chirag have lost to the combination of Kamura and Sonoda this year. They had lost to the world No 4 pair at the Japan Open in July.

Satwik then paired up with his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponanappa but the duo couldn't get past Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo, losing 11-21, 21-16,

12-21 to the Japanese pair.

Ashwini also tasted defeat in women's doubles after she and her partner N Sikki Reddy lost 12-21, 17-21 to second seeded Japanese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi.

Sindhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head lead against Pornpawee, dominated the first game as she lead 7-1 early on but the Thai shuttler reduced the deficit to 10-11 at the break.

However, Sindhu reeled off eight straight points after the interval to jump to 19-10 and eventually sealed the first game comfortably.

The decider started on an even note as both the shuttlers fought hard, moving together till 6-6 when Sindhu surged ahead to enjoy a 11-7 cushion at the break.

However, Pornpawee kept breathing down Sindhu's neck and slowly moved to 15-19. From there, the Thai shuttler blasted six straight points to leave the Indian shocked.