

OPINION 8 PERILS OF GM FARMING

WORLD 12 WEAPONS USED IN SAUDI ATTACKS 'CAME FROM IRAN': COALITION

SPORT 15 MY HUNGER, PASSION HASN'T DIMINISHED AT ALL: PANKAJ

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DOWNEY JR WILL BE BACK AS IRON MAN 13 VIVACITY

PSA slapped on Farooq for detention

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

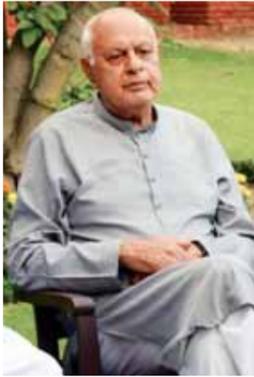
At 81, Abdullah has been charged with "disturbing public order" under the law, which means shorter detention of three months.

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

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

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

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



Father's Act hounds son

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

"The right to free speech and expression is considered to have paramount importance in

a democracy as it allows its citizens to effectively take part in the governance of the country," it said. Vaiko said he had written a letter to the authorities on August 29 to allow Abdullah to travel to Chennai to attend the conference but they have not responded.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Attorney General KK Venugopal, representing the



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

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

While Venugopal apprised the Bench about medical and other facilities being provided to the people, Mehta said that "not a single bullet has been fired" in the State since August 5, the day when Article 370 was abrogated. Venugopal said that since 1990 till date, 41,866 persons have lost their lives in 71,038 incidents of terrorist violence in the state which includes 14,038 civilians, 5,292 personnel of security forces and 22,536 terrorists.

City cop coughs up ₹5K for triple riding

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A sub-inspector of the twin city commissionerate police landed in trouble for violating the rules of the amended Motor Vehicle Act 2019 after a Twitter user brought the traffic violation to the notice of commissioner of police Sudhansu Sarangi on Monday. The cop Santosh Kumar Bhanj was asked to pay a fine of Rs 5,000 for carrying two pillion riders in his two-wheeler in Bhubaneswar.

Bhanj was roaming around the city with two pillion riders in his vehicle bearing registration number ODA49358. A Twitter follower captured the image of the cop's traffic rule violation and tagged the police commissioner.



Alok ku panda @Alokkupanda3 @SarangiSudhansu what is this sir 3 people in two wheeler in a police men's scooter? How much fine he will give? This photo is from

Bhubaneswar & He is a commissionerate police staff Dr Sudhansu Sarangi @SarangiSudhansu

Thanks for bringing this to my notice. We will challan him. https://twitter.com/alokkupanda3/status/1173454271871733761.

Following this post, Sarangi directed the traffic officials to issue a challan to the sub-inspector and collect the fine from him.

STF nabs State's drug kingpin Raja

Pistol, ammo, mobiles seized



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a major achievement, the Special Task Force (STF) of the crime branch nabbed notorious drug kingpin SK Raja (29) from the city on Sunday. This was reported by official sources on Monday.

The STF was on the lookout for Raja after his associates SK Azbahar, SK Azad and Ramakanta Sahu had landed in the police dragnet earlier.

The STF seized a 7.65mm-bore pistol loaded with live ammunitions, cash of ₹1 lakh, six mobile phones, some ATM cards and other articles from Raja's possession.

Raja was involved in inter-State narcotic business and is suspected of having links with international drug suppliers in Bangladesh and Nepal. He was wanted by the Baleswar police for drug trading.

Raja belongs to village Gala Pola under the Sahadebkhunta police station in Baleswar district.

Students' stir sparks tension in Utkal varsity

VC office gheraoed over 10-point demands

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tension prevailed at the Utkal university as a large number of students, including girls, staged a demonstration demanding fulfilment of their 10-point charter of demands. Later, they gheraoed the vice-chancellor's (VC) office. They asked the other students to leave classrooms and locked several administrative chambers in the campus.

The situation particularly turned tense when police arrived and tried to prevent the agitators from barging into the chamber of VC Soumendra Mohan Patnaik. This led to a scuffle between police and students. But as the police personnel were outnumbered by the students, city DCP Anup Sahoo along with additional



forces rushed to the spot and pacified the students.

The students' demands included construction of a new entrance gate to the campus, providing adequate water supply in hostels, repair of hostel rooms and removal of

encroachments in the campus. The students alleged that these are their longstanding demands, towards which the authorities have remained callous despite drawing their attention for umpteen times.

The VC assured them of fulfilling the demands and sought one month's time for it. The students said that they would wait for a month; and if their demands are not met by then, they would again resort to agitation.

State Assembly makeover soon

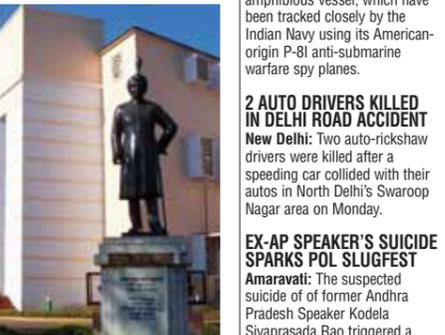


PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Legislative Assembly would get a makeover soon with paperless work and complete WiFi in its premises, informed Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro on Monday.

A meeting was convened at the Assembly to discuss the proposal in this regard with officials of Works, Finance and

State Assembly makeover soon



IT Departments.

"A construction committee headed by the Works Secretary has been constituted. The panel members with approval from the Finance Department will visit various State Assemblies and prepare a blueprint for making big changes (here)," said Patro.

"The Odisha Assembly will be a model in the country," he added.

CAPSULE

7 CHINESE WARSHIPS SEEN IN INDIAN OCEAN

New Delhi: As many as seven Chinese Navy warships are operating in and around the Indian Ocean Region, including an over 27,000 tonnes amphibious vessel, which have been tracked closely by the Indian Navy using its American-origin P-8I anti-submarine warfare spy planes.

2 AUTO DRIVERS KILLED IN DELHI ROAD ACCIDENT

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

EX-AP SPEAKER'S SUICIDE SPARKS POL SLUGFEST

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

NO OIL SHORTAGE DESPITE SAUDI DRAWDOWN: MIN

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

15-year-old girl catches mobile thief in Baleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A 15-year-old girl from Markona in Baleswar district has hogged limelight for her bravery. Suni, daughter of one Budhia Singh of Railway Colony, set an example of bravery by catching hold of a mobile phone thief on Monday.

When one Ajit Mohanty was travelling by the Howrah-Puri Dhauli Express from Jaleswar to Bhadrak, the thief snatched his mobile phone at the Markona railway station and then jumped from the train.

Mohanty screamed for help and alerted other passengers



about the theft. Hearing the scream, Suni chased the thief and nabbed him. Later, local youths joined her and beat up the thief to teach him a lesson. After receiving information, police reached the spot and arrested the accused.

DRUNKEN DRIVING IN STATE

426 held in 10 days; Ganjam tops with 26

141 caught in a single day on Sun

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The special drive launched by the State police from September 6 to check drunken driving under the amended Motor Vehicles Act has so far netted 426 persons.

Of the 426 persons arrested, as many as 141 drunken drivers were held on a single day on Sunday. Ganjam topped the chart with 26 arrested persons followed by Jajpur with 20, Sambalpur 18, Rourkela 16, Brahmapur 12, Jagatsinghpur 12, Gajapati 9, Angul 6, Nabarangpur 6, Korput 5, Mayurbhanj 4 and Kendrapada 2.

Interestingly, only one driver was held for drunken driving in Khordha while no one was caught in Cuttack district.



As part of the drive, police personnel intercepted vehicles on all National Highways and State Highways in the State. Around 5,000 commuters were inspected on Sunday.

The drive aims at curbing the menace of drunken driving, which is blamed for maximum fatalities in road mishaps. But police officials have been instructed to not harass

public and hamper traffic movement while carrying out the inspection.

Notably, motorists are not allowed to drive if the alcohol content is found to be over 30 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood.

A police officer said after drinking most drivers have a "false sense of bravado" and believe they can drive better.

21 ex-MLAs yet to vacate Govt quarters

- Speaker asks for earliest house vacation
- Power, water supply to be snapped

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Taking action against former MLAs for occupying Government quarters in Bhubaneswar, Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro on Monday directed them to vacate the houses at the earliest.

A total of 21 ex-MLAs, including former Ministers, were asked to leave the quarters, failing which electricity connection and water supply to the houses would be disconnected, the Speaker said.

This is the list of the ex-

MLAs, whose Government quarters are still occupied: Basant Kumar Panda, Late Bed Prakash Agarwalla, Bhujabal Majhi, Bibhuti Bhushan Harichandan, Bijayashree Routray, Damodar Rout, Debasish Nayak, Dhaneswar Majhi, Golak Bihari Naik, Jugal Kishore Pattanaik, Kishore Chandra Tarai, Mahesh Sahoo, Nandini Devi, Nitesh Gangadeb, Pravat Kumar Tripathy, Praveen Chandra Bhanjodeo, Pushpendra Singh Deo, Rabi Narayan Naik, Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Sananda Marandi and Sanjay Dasburma.

Meanwhile, action has been taken against ex-MLAs Bhujabal Majhi and Rabi Narayan Naik by cancelling allotment for occupying more than one Government quarter.

Earlier, two former MLAs, Pramila Giri and Anjali Behera, had been evicted from the quarters in 2011 and 2016, respectively.

Allow agents to work in RTO, demands R'kela union

PNS ■ ROURKELA

The agents who, had been working in the Regional Transport Office here to help the public for years, should be allowed to do the job further as that is legal, said the Motor Vehicle Field Workers' Union, Rourkela Branch.

Union president Surendra Dash told reporters that when Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister, this concept was introduced in the country. So, during that time many States issued official identity cards to the field workers whose responsibilities are to create bridge between Transport Office and public.

Though it was not adopted in Odisha, but there was no restriction in the works of field workers.

In 1971 congregating the field workers, a union was formed and registered under the leadership of late Barrister Ranjit Mohanty.

Accordingly, in Regional Transport Office, the field workers were also working but

Though it was not adopted in Odisha, but there was no restriction in the works of field workers. In 1971 congregating the field workers, a union was formed and registered under the leadership of late Barrister Ranjit Mohanty

all of sudden in a surprise move the then Collector, Sundargarh restricted the entry of the field workers into the Transport Office in 1998.

So, having no other way the then president of Field Workers Union of Rourkela unit late Muralidhar Parikha challenged the decision of the Collector in the Orissa High Court and got decree against the decision of district administration.

And basing on the verdict of the High Court, the

Transport Department issued identity cards to the field workers and everything has been going on smoothly.

But going against the court order last month, the Rourkela police arrested some members of the union who were discharging their responsibility in the Transport Office and forwarded them.

Due to the highhandedness of the police, it has become a problem for the authorised agents (field workers) to work in RT Office.

Due to this while the family members of the field workers have been starving, on the other, it has become a problem for common people to get their work done in RT Office.

Hence, under the circumstances, the administration should interfere and allow the authorize agents to work as usual, demanded Dash.

If anyone is doing any unprincipled works, he should be punished; and in this matter, the union would extend all support to the administration, assured Dash.

Woman 'molested' by cop seeks justice from CM

Mayurbhanj woman reaches Naveen Niwas

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Accusing an ASI of Police of molesting her, a married woman of Kaptipada in Mayurbhanj district reached Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's residence here on Monday seeking justice.

"Kaptipada police station ASI Suvendu Behera entered our house on May 12 at around 1.30 am. The grill of the house was left open due to summer. He molested me while I was sleeping in a bed in my room. I raised an alarm, following which my family members woke up. The policeman tried to flee from the spot and got hit

on his head with the grill and became unconscious. We informed the IIC of the police station regarding the incident, after which some policemen reached our house and rescued Behera," the woman said.

She further alleged, "Later in the night at around 3 am, my husband was taken into police custody and detained at the police station without any justified reason. Other members of my family were also detained and tortured by cops at the police station."

"Today I reached Naveen Niwas to seek justice. Concerned officials have assured me of providing justice. If my demands are not met, I will immolate myself," the woman said.



Buses to skip Acharya Vihar, Vani Vihar stops

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Buses plying to various locations from the Baramunda Bus-Stand here via Cuttack would skip the designated stops at Vani Vihar and Acharya Vihar.

In a notification, the Commissionerate police on Monday said all buses going towards Cuttack from Baramunda on National Highway-16 have to avail the fly-over starting from in front of Crown Hotel till the bus bay at Satsang Vihar.

"The bus operators are directed to not ply through Acharya Vihar and Vani Vihar Squares. The order has been issued in view of public safety and security," the notification stated.

Violation of the order would be punishable under Section 96 of the Odisha Urban Police Act 2003 and a fine of ₹1,000 would be slapped on the defaulters, the notification added.

Carcass of leopard seized in Tigiria jungle

DINESH DAS ■ ATHAGARH

In a mysterious way, a leopard was killed in the Haridapasi jungle of Tigiria under the Athagarh Forest Division on Saturday night.

Getting information from a villager on Sunday morning, Athagarh DFO Sasmita Lenka immediately rushed to the spot, seized the carcass and allegedly kept it in the Forester's office in Tigiria very secretly and warned the staffs of the department not to disclose the matter before the public and the media.

DFO burns carcass in hush-hush manner

Intimating her bosses, the DFO sought their cooperation and, accordingly, in the presence of Conservator PK Mohapatra from Angul, post-mortem of the carcass was conducted, followed by its burning in the Forester office premises at Tigiria.

Asked, DFO Lenka said the investigation is going on to dis-

close the reason of the death of the leopard.

As per reports from a private source, at least fifteen days ago, villagers of Haridapasi had intimated local forest officials regarding the presence of a leopard couple in the Haridapasi jungle, but the latter took the information lightly, saying it was a rumour.

However on Saturday night, when most of the forest officers had left the headquarters for their native homes, the poachers thought it appropriate to kill the leopard. They spread some live wires to poach the animal by electric shock.

Dhauili light-and-sound show still defunct

As no attempt made to repair storm-hit system

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even four months after very severe cyclonic storm Fani that devastated coastal Odisha, the light-and-sound show at Shanti Stupa atop the Dhauili Hill is lying defunct here on outskirts of the State capital.

No initiative has been taken so far to resume the show, which was showing epic scenes from Dhauili's eventful past, disappointing the tourists in a big manner.

However, the authorities assured to resume the show at the earliest. "The light and sound show system at Dhauili was completely destroyed in the cyclone Fani. While the total loss was esti-



4 MONTHS AFTER FANI

imated at ₹2.31 crore, allocation amount has been approved for repair of the system. The ITDC has

won the tender and repair work which will begin within a week," informed a Tourist Officer.

With completion of the repair work, the light and sound show will once again leave the tourists jaw-

dropped. The light and sound show was launched at Shanti Stupa, which stands firm atop historical Dhauili hill, on August 15, 2015. The initiative had fetched much appreciation from the visitors.

In the 35-minute show presented in three languages (English, Hindi and Odia), the audience witness great story glorifying the Kalinga empire, feuds within the Mauryan empire, King Ashoka's rise to power and his epic transformation from Chandashoka (cruel Ashoka) to Dharmashoka (Ashoka on path of religion).

It also shows the gruesome Kalinga War and its morbid aftermath as well as King Ashoka's remorse at the massive blood-bath.

It ends with Ashoka renouncing violence, embracing Buddhism and propagating the religion from Kalinga to the rest of the world.

'PMAY houses named as Biju Pucca Ghar'

BJP accuses State Govt of hoodwinking people

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Monday alleged that the State Government has once again hoodwinked people by building houses with funds available under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) but naming them as 'Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana' houses.

"The Chief Minister has announced to lay foundation-stone for four lakh houses. While the houses will be built with PMAY funds, it is disappointing to tell people that the houses will be provided under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana," said BJP State sec-

retary Dr Lekhashree Samant Singhar at a Press meet here.

Samant Singhar said the State has not allocated a single rupee for the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana in this year Budget. She said all pucca ghars are being built with PMAY funds.

"The Prime Minister has announced 'Housing for All by 2022'. Accordingly, the State Government has got a lion's share to build houses for the poor in rural areas," she said.

Samant Singhar said out of 20 lakh houses built in Odisha, 16.23 lakh built under PMAY and 3.77 lakh under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana. She said the Centre has already provided 4,820 crore to the State for the current year, 2019-20.

BJP Yuva Morcha State president Tankadhar Tripathy and State executive member Jagannath Pradhan were present.

Gopalpur Ports completes beach front nourishment



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of its ongoing port construction project, the Gopalpur Ports Limited (GPL), which believes in an eco-friendly and sustainable infrastructure development, has deposited four million cubic meters of sand and other soil north of the port nourishing a five-km beach front stretch.

A significant portion of the material recovered from dredging of the port basin has been deposited along the shore north of the port near Arjeepalli village.

The conventional method of disposing of dredged material is a high-seas discharge. The GPL though chose to deposit it over five km at a considerable financial cost. GPL MD Amit Saboo said,

"An important aspect of our business is to ensure that our activities are environmentally and ecologically sustainable. We are committed to the high-standards of sustainable development."

GPL HSE DGM Sanjay Thorat said, "The Gopalpur Port works with the Berhampur University for shoreline monitoring and its related aspects."

State Student Cong seeks Itish's arrest

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Pradesh Student Congress co-coordinator Sayed Yasir Nawaz on Monday demanded that former Student Congress State convener Itish Pradhan be ousted from the party for six years for his anti-party activities.

Addressing a Press conference here, Nawaz also demanded that Itish be arrested as he threatened to take personal action against PCC president Niranjan Patnaik.

"Itish's criminal attitude will not be tolerated by the Student Congress. We have lodged an FIR in the Capital police station against him. We demand Itish be arrested at the soonest," said Nawaz.

₹8-cr subsidy to Fani-hit tourist boats in Puri

Govt asks owners to make boats more attractive

PNS ■ PURI

The State Government on Monday disbursed financial assistance to Cyclone Fani-affected tourist boat owners to repair and redevelop their boats with better engines and facilities so that they would attract more tourists in coming days.

While distributing assistance, Development Commissioner Suresh Chandra Mahapatra said, "There is no such scheme as to provide financial assistance to tourist boats affected in natural disasters. But the Government has decided to help them as they have been equally affected like any other community in the cyclone."

Tourism Secretary Vishal Dev, Puri Collector Balwant



Singh, SP Umashankar Dash and Hudco Director SK Nanda graced the occasion held here on Monday.

As many as 789 tourist boat owners were provided assistance for damage of 1,066 boats.

Of the total amount of ₹8.33 crore, ₹4,26,40,000 was provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudco) gave ₹1.92 crore and

the State Bank of India ₹5.08 crore as Mudra loan.

"In Odisha, only 10 per cent revenue comes from tourism industry. We should try to provide better services to tourists so that more and more people from different parts of the world will come to visit places like Puri again and again," said Dev.

The programme was concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Sub Collector Bhabatarana Sahu.

PM responds to Cuttack resident's letter on J&K

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Abhishek Joshi, a resident of Cuttack city, on Monday informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded to his letter in which he had supported the Bills on Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh passed in Parliament in August.

The Prime Minister thanked him for writing to him on the Bills. "The Bills on Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will ensure integration and empowerment. These steps will bring the youth into the mainstream and give them innumerable opportunities to showcase their skills and talents. Local infrastructure will significantly improve," read the PMO letter.

The letter further read, "Together we are, together we shall rise and together we will fulfil the dreams of 130 crore Indians."

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Nilgiri Tehsildar, team attacked by sand mafias

One arrested
UBACHAK MOHANTY ■
BALESWAR

The Nilgiri Tehsildar and her raiding staffs faced the wrath of sand mafias when they went to Sono riverbed to check illegal mining of sand.

Tehsildar Susrita Tudu and Revenue Inspectors of Mitrapur and Santragadia accompanied by other staffs raided the sand loading site in the riverbed at Kathapal lat on Sunday night after getting information of sand transport. They intercepted six tractors.

However, the loading and ferrying staff of three tractors vehemently protested the raid by showering slangs against the woman officer, besides heckling her. The staff while retaliated, the violators attacked the

Ris and staff. They further took away the tractors from their clutches. After receiving information, the IIC Nilgiri police station rushed to the spot and rescued all the staff to safety.

One of the accused, Sukanta Chaudhury, of village Karanjia was arrested on the charges of obstructing Government officials from their duties and assaulting them.

On receiving information the district Collector K Sudharshan Chakraverty visited Nilgiri and inspected sand lifting points. He further took stock of the situation and warned that stern action would be taken against the sand mafias for smuggling mineral resources.

It may be noted sand mafias continue to flourish

despite restrictions and enforcement. It is alleged that they carry out illegal operations in connivance with the enforcement agencies. The illegal sand lifting issue has become a menace of late and not only Sono, similar illegal activities also happen in the Budhabalang and the Subarnarekha rivers too.

The sand lifting tender-awarding process also has become one of key factors for crimes as it involved a hefty profit in a short period. In most of the cases, the mafias in nexus with corrupt Government officials, siphon off sand more than their limit without transit pass, etc.

In the past, several crimes, including firing and stabbing occurred due to disputes between gangs attributed to sand lifting from riverbeds.

Balangir couple 'killed' over 'sorcery'

PNS ■ BALANGIR

A married couple was found dead in a forest near Chitkimal village under the Larambha police limits in Balangir district on Monday. The bodies were found packed in a sack.

The deceased were identified as Chintamani Baraha and his wife Rukmini. Police officials, including the Balangir SP, reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Though the exact reason of the deaths was yet to be ascertained, it was suspected that the duo was murdered by some villagers over suspicion of their practice of sorcery.

Notably, Chintamani had recently lodged a complaint with the Larambha police that he was being scolded and thrashed by villagers.

A child of the village had died some days ago and the villagers were suspecting that witchcraft practised by Chintamani led to the death. A faceoff was continuing between the villagers and Chintamani over the matter, reports said.

Locals attack police in M'giri; 2 cops injured

PNS ■ MALKANGIRI

Tension prevailed near the Papermetla police station in Malkangiri district as locals attacked cops, leaving two of them injured, on Monday.

The situation arose out of the recent death of one Raju Hantal of Ranganiguda village under Dhuliput panchayat. Family members of the deceased have been alleging that he was abducted and murdered by BSF jawans.

After postmortem, Raju's family refused to accept his body on Monday. They along with locals staged a dharna in front of the police station placing the body on ground. They demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

The situation turned violent in the afternoon as the locals attacked policemen. They also ransacked a police vehicle.

Notably, Raju was found dead in the kitchen of an Anganwadi Centre at Jantabai village in the Chittrakonda area on Sunday. As per his family members, he had on September 13 gone to the weekly market at Jantabai with his two daughters. Some BSF personnel met him at the market and took him along with them, following which he didn't return home, they alleged.

Prawn trader, aide hurt in bomb attack in Bhadrak

Business rivalry likely motive behind incident

BHADRAK: Two persons, including a prawn trader, suffered grievous injuries when unidentified miscreants hurled bombs at them near Balukuri Chhak under the Chandbali police station in the district late on Sunday night.

The victims Bidyadhar Samal and Sudarsan Sethi were rushed to the Chandbali Community Health Centre by

locals and later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

Reports said that five miscreants hurled three bombs at Bidyadhar and Sudarsan and fled from the spot.

The duo suffered multiple injuries in their bodies. Police started an investigation into the incident and efforts were on to identify the miscreants.

The reason behind the attack was yet to be ascertained though police suspected that business rivalry could have led to the bomb attack. PNS

B'swar lawyers seek helmet use exemption

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Even as awareness is being spread everywhere for obeying traffic rules after implementation of the amended MV Act, members of the Balasore Bar Association have sought exemption from wearing helmets while driving two-wheelers.

The association has passed a resolution in this regard. In a letter to the district SP, the lawyers' body has mentioned that they are attending different courts during office hours near periphery areas. They may be exempted from using helmet between 8 am and 8 pm, the letter pleaded, adding that they should not be detained during this period.

Copies of the resolution have also been sent to the Collector, the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) and the Inspector of Traffic Police.

Demo held for B'ngir flood victims' rehab

Activists allege Govt apathy

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Demanding a special package for the flood-affected people, members of the Youth Action Committee led by Bindo Kalsai and Rilulath on Monday staged a demonstration before the district Collectorate.

They criticised the Government for its apathetic attitude towards the

flood victims of Balangir.

On August 12 and 13, there was severe rainfall in Balangir which damaged houses, roads, bridges etc, besides creating sand casting of agricultural land.

"The Government has taken the flood affected issue of Balangir very lightly. Unless immediate assistance is given to people who lost their all belongings, the Action Committee would launch agitation," said president of committee Gopalji Panigrahi.

Later, the activists submitted a seven-point charter of demands addressed to the Chief Minister.

Malaysian cargo ship removed from Chilika

PNS ■ PURI

Malaysian cargo vessel JIN HWA 32, which had run aground off the Chilika lake near Rajhans on August 9, was removed from the beach on Sunday.

A special tug boat from Singapore and a 15-members team from Malaysia had launched an operation to tow the ship back into the sea. After long hours of the operation, the

team succeeded in its job.

Notably, the ship, which was heading towards Visakhapatnam, had drifted towards the Odisha coast due to a storm in the Bay of Bengal. The ship had anchored near Rajhans island close to the Chilika lake in the Krushnaprasad police limits in Puri district.

Earlier, the district administration had removed oil from the vessel fearing its spillage.

Road safety awareness rally held at Khariar

PNS ■ NUAPADA

An awareness rally on road safety was organised under the guidance of the Khariar police on Monday at Khariar. The objective was to generate awareness among the people on road safety and motivate them to abide by the laws while driving, said Khariar SDPO Biranchi Prasad Dehuri.

Hundreds of scouts and guides and NCC cadets of Raja AT High School, Khariar participated in the rally holding banners and placards and



urged people through slogans to wear helmet and seat belt and avoid using mobile phone while driving and also to avoid driving being drunk.

The rally started from the

Samalswari temple and proceeded up to Boden Chowk culminating at the police station. Marwari Yuva Manch, Vanika Sangha, Sahid Bhagat Singh Club, District Press Club,

Paradip Port launches Swachhta Pakhwada

PNS ■ PARADIP

The Paradip Port Trust (PPT) began observance of Swachhta Pakhwada-2019 from Monday and it will continue till September 30 as per the instructions from the Ministry of Shipping.

The programme started with an awareness rally on Swachhta and plastic waste management, which was flagged off from the PPT Administrative Building by PPT Chairman Rinkesh Roy. HODs and other senior officers of PPT were present. Lady volunteers of the Paradip Sakshyatra Samiti went around the local market and convinced shopkeepers and vendors to stop use of single-use plastic or polythene. A street play 'Chakulia Panda' was performed by local cultural organisation CANMASS to make denizens aware about the plastic menace.

The PPT has already drawn up a detailed action plan for the



Swachhta Pakhwada, viz., awareness drives among workers and staffs of all departments and divisions of PPT and local community, cleaning activities in colonies and sites, organisation of Swachhta awareness workshops in local

schools, cleanliness drive in local slums, display of Swachhta awareness hoardings and digital display at important locations in the township with special emphasis on the theme "Plastic Waste Management".

Bargarh college students hold demo Press for fulfilment of demands



More than 200 students of the Panchayat College here held a demonstration in front of the college gate on Monday demanding fulfilment of their various demands. They also locked the main gate and gave slogans against the activities of the Principal.

The students' demands included filling up of vacant posts of Lecturers and

other staffs, giving autonomous status to the college and solving drinking water and other problems in the hostels. Bargarh Sub-Collector Prabhas Dansena reached the spot and assured that he would put up the demands before the Government and try to get them fulfilled soon. After the assurance by the Sub-Collector, the strike was called off.

Iskcon Acharya Charu Swami's 74th appearance day

RADHAKANTA DAS

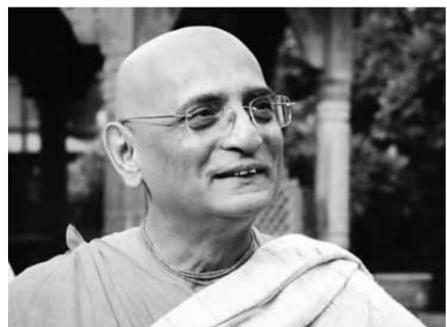
Among many followers and disciples of Iskcon founder Srila Prabhupada, Srimad Bhakti Swarup Damodar Swami Maharaj, Srimad Gour Govind Swami Maharaj and Srimad Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj spread Bhagavattatwa and Vaishnavism all over the world in adverse situations.

Today is the 74th holy appearance day of Srimad Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj, who is an international preacher, philosopher, Guru and great Vaishnav Acharya. Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj was born in Kolkata on this day in 1945. He had proceeded to German in 1970 to pursue higher education in Chemistry. There, he was influenced by Indian spiritual culture. He

returned to India and moved from city to city to find a spiritual master.

After a long search, he was inspired by an Iskcon devotee to read the "Bhakti Rasamruta Sindhu" written by Srila Prabhupada.

After reading this book he was attracted towards Iskcon and Srila Prabhupada and eager to meet Srila Prabhupada. After he met Prabhupada, the latter directed him to join at Mayapur Iskcon center in the year 1976. Prabhupada directed him to translate his English books into Bengali for use of Bengali devotees. Srila Prabhupada gave him in one time Harinam and Brahmana Diksha and appointed him his personal secretary in Indian affairs. Prabhupada was over pleased with his seva and gave



Sanyasadiक्षा after three months. He is very closer to Srila Prabhupada till his death among all Indian and foreign devotees. Bhakti Charu Swami

Maharaj proved his efficiency and better administrative capability when the prominent Iskcon centers like Mayapur, Manipur, France and South Africa centers were in embrac-

ing situation. He became a Guru in 1997 and create lakhs of devotees all over the worlds through preaching of his Bhagavat Seva. When he was chief of Iskcon art and culture department, he translated Bhagavat Gita, Srimad Bhagavatam, Chaitanya Charitamrita and Bhakti Rasamruta Sindhu which have been deeply accepted by Bengali devotees. He was director and producer of weekly Prashana Picture of Abhaya Charan in the national channel in 1996. He constructed a nice temple in only 10 months at Krishna Balaram Education Center, Ujjain in 2004 by due invitation from the then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. He also constructed so many Gurukul, Goshala, ayurvedic hospitals. He was also chief of

the Iskcon Annapurna Unit where midday meal is given to lakhs of school students.

Bhakti Charu Swami Maharaj is advisor of England Hindu Sanatan Vaidika Dharma preacher organisation named "I" foundation and he is an identified personality of world trade organisation. He was recently awarded by the United Nations for his noble deed. He also disseminated spiritual knowledge to many PhD scholars and education-

ists. His holy appearance day is observed at Iskcon centers all over the world but centrally at Ujjain. The Iskcon Bhubaneswar observed his holy appearance day with much pomp and religious fervour. (The writer is State PRO, Iskcon)

INBRIEF

TWO KILLED, ONE HURT IN BIKE ACCIDENT IN K'MAL Phulbani: A motorbike mishap claimed lives of two persons and left another critically injured near Penagaberi village under the Tikabali police station in Kandhamal district on Sunday night. The deceased were identified as Kansa Pradhan and Rinku Pradhan of the village. Sagar Pradhan, who was injured, was admitted to the District Headquarters Hospital. The trio was reportedly travelling towards Tikabali by the two-wheeler when the tragedy took place. Police recovered the bodies for postmortem on Monday morning.

NAT'L WOMEN PANEL MEMBER VISITS GAJAPTI Paralakhemundi: Member of National Commission for Women Chandramukhi Devi visited Gajapati district on Monday. She inspected the Swadhar Gruha, old age home, one-stop centre, child care centre, Specialised Adoption Agency at Paralakhemundi. In the afternoon at the Collectorate conference hall, she joined a review meeting. District Collector Anupama Saha and other district officers also participated in the meeting.

JSPL CELEBRATES ENGINEERS' DAY



Angul: The Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL) celebrated the Engineers' Day to mark the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and eminent engineer Dr Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya here on Sunday. Hundreds of Engineers showcased their engineering innovation and out of box ideas in the two-day celebration held at JSPL campus. JSPL, Odisha Business COO Pankaj Gautam, Central Maintenance ED Suresh Kumar, Iron Making Head amodar Mittal along with all the other department heads and thousands of employees participated in the event and paid homage to Visvesvaraya.

JSPL FOUNDATION HOLDS MEET ON NUTRITION

Angul: As a part of its effort to observe the National Nutrition Month, the JSPL Foundation, the CSR arm of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL), in association with ICDS-Angul organised a workshop to create awareness about nutrition and related issues. The JSPL's Occupational Health centre (OHC) also joined the initiative. Young mothers having children of 0-3 years of age and other women from nearby villages joined the workshop. JSPL GM (CSR) Puspapalata Satapathy announced that the Kishori Express, run by JSPL Foundation, would create women on complementary feeding for young mothers and importance of nutrition.

VEDANTA OPENS TAILORING TRAINING CENTRE IN BANJARI

Jharsuguda: With the support of the Vedanta Ltd, Jharsuguda, under its Livelihood promotion initiative, the Subhalaxmi Cooperative inaugurated the tailoring training centre for the cooperative member at Banjari village recently. A total of eight sewing machines with accessories have been provided at the centre for training. Vedanta Ltd, Jharsuguda GM Lokesh Sharma inaugurated the center in the presence of CSR head Sundar Raj and Subhalaxmi Coop president Pushpanjali Sethi, Board of Directors and other members of the community.

22 TRAINED TO JOIN SECURITY DUTIES IN COALFIELDS

Sambalpur: A first batch of 22 trainees out of 79 land outsteees selected for security services from Ib Valley and Talcher Coalfields have passed out after induction training at the Management Training Institute (MTI) at the MCL headquarters. MCL Director (Personnel) KR Vasudevan presented certificates to the newly-inducted security personnel after they took 'oath of loyalty' administered by Chief of Security Lt Col BK Singh. These security personnel will serve at Lakhampur, Ib Valley, Hingula, Jagannath under the MCL command.

ADITYA ALUMINIUM HOLDS LITERACY DAY

Bhubaneswar: Aditya Birla Group Company Hindalco observed the International Literacy Day with great fanfare at Aditya Aluminium Lapnaga, in Dhorropani High School recently. Bolomoloi Sarpanch Seshadev Pradhan, School and Mass Education Department CRC Sanjeev Nayak, School Management Committee President Gopal Panda and Aditya Aluminium CSR senior manager Sweta Upadhyay attended the programme. On the occasion, everyone took pledge to make the society illiterate free and each student took responsibility to teach their family members the alphabets who are illiterate. The students chanted awareness slogans, participated in debate and essay competitions on the topic of literacy and winners were felicitated.

Ex-Serviceman held for raping minor in Jajpur

JAJPUR: A 65-year-old former Army jawan was arrested on Monday on the charge of raping a nine-year-old girl on Sunday evening at a village under the Balichandrapur police station in Jajpur district. The accused Jogendra Ray of Achutabasant village committed the rape while the girl was returning to her house. On Monday, the victim's mother filed an FIR against him alleging that her minor daughter was raped by the accused. Police rushed to the area and arrested the accused. Further investigation in the case was on, said Balichandrapur police station IIC Sukant Patra. PNS

MLA's PSO impregnates divyang girl

PHULBANI: A divyang girl has accused an MLA's (Personal Security Officer (PSO) of raping and impregnating her while she was working as a domestic help at his house. As per the FIR, the girl was working at Behera's official quarters for two years during which he raped her. Later, her pregnancy came to the fore. Police have registered a case against Behera and sent the victim for medical examination. On the other hand, the accused has refuted the allegations, terming those as baseless. Police for questioning. PNS

Youth Empowerment Fest launched at NIST

600 engg students join IIEC event



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Indian Innovation & Entrepreneurship Community (IIEC) launched a "Youth Empowerment Festival" at the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) here on Monday.

With the theme "Can a computer have a vision like a human being", the event unfolded launch of "Jazbaa in Oidhsa" which aims to encourage entrepreneurship and resolving social issues with digital technology. The day-long event was organised by software guru IIEC founder Vimal Daga from Jaipur. Anwsha Rath of NIST,

Bhagabati Prasad Pattnayak (incubation head), Preeti Daga, Shom Prasad Das and over 600 enthusiastic students from Odisha, Jaipur and Delhi participated.

The IIEC kicked off an initiative for achieving its vision of "Making India, Future Ready" while inculcating entrepreneurial skills in students. Festival of empowerment would train, guide and motivate youth, especially Engineering students who are below the average and response of society remains of disapproval towards them.

"We had an insightful workshop today, which felicitated youth for the commend-

able work they have done with the use of digital technology, they have paved way for social empowerment and motivated to initiate their entrepreneurial journey," said Vimal Daga.

This power-packed digital extravaganza touched the pinnacle of creativity, perseverance and hard work as large participation of youth were groomed to showcase their pathbreaking digital creations for a better lifestyle of people and empowerment of society.

The matrimony of technology and social empowerment was witnessed in all its glory and grandeur during the day.

No hearse; man carries father's body on bike

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

While the story of Dana Majhi of Kalahandi is still fresh in the minds people, another man in the State had to carry the body of his father on a motorcycle as he failed to avail a hearse.

The incidence was reported from Nabarangpur district, where one Loki Santa of Kudumadhaa village under Raigarh block carried his father's body on the bike and drove around 20 km.

Loki's father Bali Santa was ill and had gone to a relative's house at Bansibandha village under Jhargarh block on Sunday for traditional treat-



ment. When his condition worsened, an ambulance was called in to take him to a hos-

pital. However, as the ambulance failed to reach on time, Bali died.

Getting information, Bali's son Loki reached Bansibandhaon Sunday evening to bring the body back to his village for last rites. However, after failing to get a hearse, Loki carried his father's body on the motorcycle with the help of others. Midway, a mediaperons spotted them and advised Loki to take the body to a hospital for postmortem. Later, Loki took the body to the Umakote Community Health Centre (CHC). As per latest reports, Bali's body was handed over to his family members after postmortem.

Sambalpur Rly Division bags KPI award for Aug

DRM opens cleanliness drive

SAMBALPUR: The Sambalpur Railway Division has bagged the most prestigious 'Key Performance Indicator (KPI) award, putting behind 68 divisions of the country for the month of August.

The award is given on the basis of performances in various fields, including financial performances, capacity utilisation, asset reliability, safety and punctuality of trains. The

other indicators for selection for this most coveted award are revenue growth, track renewal, freight loading, efficiency and average interchange of trains.

"This is the most prestigious award that the division has bagged for the last month," informed Sambalpur DRM Dr Jaideep Gupta at a Press conference here on Monday.

On this occasion, the DRM accompanied by heads of all other departments, including the ADRM LVSS Patrudu, launched a cleanliness drive under the Swachhata Abhiyan, which will continue till October 2, Gandhi Jayanti day.

Jajpur girl student dies in road mishap

PNS ■ JAJPUR

In a tragic incident, a 10-year-old girl was killed when she was mowed down by a truck at Khandas Chhach under the Jajpur Sadar police station on Monday.

The girl, identified as Rupali Behera, daughter of Uttam Behera of Baliguda village, was returning home from school when the tragedy took place.

Rupali was studying in Class-V.

Police seized the body and sent it to the Government hospital at Jajpur Town for autopsy, said Sadar PS IIC Banshidhar Behera.

Following the mishap, tension mounted at the spot as locals blocked the road by keeping the body. Vehicular movement was disrupted on the Baruha-Balichandrapur road for three hours.

BJP demands Health Min's resignation

Over poor healthcare, pollution in J'suguda

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

The BJP Jharsuguda district unit observed 'Seva Saptah' (Service Week) starting from Saturday for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17.

During the week, innumerable social initiatives have been planned across the nation by the party cadres, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, in a Press conference, said.

During observation of the Service Week, BJP national general secretary and Odisha in-charge Singh distributed fruits to the patients in Jharsuguda



District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) here. Later, while addressing mediaperons, he targeted the State Government and local MLA-cum-Health Minister Naba Das for miser-

able health service and environment pollution.

In view of the pledge taken by the Prime Minister to ban use of plastic, the BJP will make the programme world wide,

the working of Health Department in the State is easily understood. Taking this as his own responsibility, the Health Minister himself should step down, Singh demanded.

Former MLA and district BJP chairperson Radharani Panda, District Membership Campaign head and vice president Naresh Naik, senior BJP leader Dinesh Jain, Netaji Patnaik, Mangal Sahu and Anil Nayak were present.

Meanwhile, Health Minister and Jharsuguda MLA Das asked why the BJP Government at the Centre cannot close down the units promoting environment pollution. About death of patient during saline intake, Das said necessary action would be taken on receipt of the inquiry report in the matter.

Fin firm agent swindles loan amount in JSpur

Accused flees after woman dies of trauma

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

A middle-aged woman, Kanchan Das, hailing from Chatara village under the municipal area here died in mysterious circumstances on Sunday.

The deceased's family has alleged that a financial company agent Badal Das of had swindle her money following which she was traumatised and later died in the SCB

Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

Soon after Kanchan's death news spread, hundreds of people gathered in front of Badal's house and ransacked his house. Later, police rushed to the spot put the situation under control.

Badal was financing a SHG comprising mainly Dalit women. A Rs 8 lakh loan was sanctioned by the company in favour of the SHG but the 30 woman members were

unaware about it.

Surprisingly, a few days ago, a company representative visited the SHG women and asked them to pay the loan. The victims expressed their inability and said they had not availed any loan.

Later, Kanchan went and confronted Badal and after returning home she went ill.

"After Kanchan's death, Badal and his kin have disappeared from the village. We have registered a case following complaint of the SHG members and a probe is on," said Jagatsinghpur PS IIC Rajanikanta Mishra.

Nimapara irrigation engineer in Vig net

PNS ■ PURI

Acting on the complaint of Acquisition of disproportionate-to-income assets by Puri district's Nimapara

Assets worth ₹1.60 cr detected

Irrigation Division Assistant Executive Engineer Laxmidhar Biswal, Vigilance officials on Monday conducted raids on his office room and houses at different places and detected assets worth Rs 1,60,82,084 possessed by him and his family members.

Separate teams of the anti-corruption agency officials conducted simultaneous searches five places, including one at Madhubana, on the

capacity of a court warrant.

The detected assets include a four-storied building at Puri of Rs 40,83,958, a three-storied building of Rs 32,21,100, an asbestos-roofed house at Nimapara of Rs 6,13,000, advance payment for purchase of flat Rs 2,12,000, 93, 200, two plots 1,15,333, two cars 35,21,270, three bikes of Rs 1,37,514, insurance deposits of Rs 7,47,289, gold and silver ornaments of Rs 14,79,580, bank deposits of Rs 1,35,637 and cash and household articles of Rs 9,21,703.

Inquiry was still in progress, said an official release.

Himachal Cabinet approves new tourism policy

PNS ■ SHIMLA

To give a new direction to tourism in the hill State, the Himachal Cabinet on Monday approved the draft of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2019 aimed at holistic development of tourism.

The Cabinet, which met under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, decided that in this policy, special focus would be on ecotourism, agro organic tourism, snow tourism, lake tourism, adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism, cultural and heritage tourism, health and wellness tourism, film tourism and MICE tourism (Meeting Travel, Incentive Travel, Conference Travel and Exhibition Travel).

The main objectives of this policy is to promote tourism diversification through theme based development, to safeguard state's tourism destinations through sustainable interventions, to ensure that sustainable tourism primarily benefits host communities, to build capacity and develop quality human resource for the tourism industry, to provide safe, secure and unique 'tourism for all' and to create enabling environment for investments for sustainable tourism.



Cabinet also approved 'Capital Investment Subsidy' for tourism projects in under developed areas of the State and grant for access of roads and water supply to tourism units.

Investment Subsidy' for tourism projects in under developed areas of the State and grant for access of roads and water supply to tourism units.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
INVITATION FOR BIDS
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid Identification No: RWSS_MKG_ONLINE_06/2019-20 DATED: - 16.09.2019

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Malkangiri on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites from bidders of eligible class registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for the works detailed in the table below to be eventually drawn up on turnkey basis (i.e. with design and execution).

- Name of the Work : Supplying all materials, labor, T&P etc. and construction of balance work of RCC QHT, Pump House, compound wall, laying of rising main and distribution system, installation of submersible pump including five years maintenance cost in connection with RPWS to village Silakota under Podia Block.
- No. of Works : 01 No.
- Estimated Cost : ₹ 40.09 Lakhs
- Tender Paper Cost : 10,000/-
- Class of Contractor : Estimated cost up to ₹ 20.00 lakhs Estimated cost more than ₹ 20.00 lakhs & within ₹ 40.00 lakhs Estimated cost more than ₹ 40.00 lakhs & within ₹ 300.00 lakhs

Period of Completion	04 (Four) calendar months		
Critical dates :			
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for Bidding	Last Date of seeking tender Clarification
Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Malkangiri	RWSS_MKG_ONLINE_06 of 2019-20	24.09.2019 at 09.00AM up to 03.10.2019 at 05.00PM	01.10.2019
Date of opening of Bid	04.10.2019 at 12.30PM		

Further details can be seen in the bidding documents, which is available in the e-procurement portal <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>.

Subsequent corrigendum if required shall be appeared in the web site.

Authority reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
RWS&S Division, Malkangiri

25044/11/0007/1920

Cong working unitedly to ensure candidates' victory, says Selja

PNS ■ KARNAL

Haryana Congress President Kumari H Selja on Monday appealed to the people of Karnal not to vote for the local MLA Manohar Lal Khattar in the Assembly elections as he had mocked at Karnal's daughter Kalpana Chawla who had made a name for the city and herself worldwide.

Addressing party workers for the first time in Karnal after being appointed as state president where former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda was also present, she appealed to the Congress workers to work unitedly and ensure the victory of party candidates from all the assembly constituencies of Karnal district. In his address, Hooda counted his government's achievements when he was in power and reminded people that instead of taking the development work forward, Chief Minister Khattar has pushed Haryana into disrepair. He said that the victory of Congress is only for the benefit of the people and the state. Selja charged the

Khattar government of cheating the common people. The government, which has come out with the promise of giving fifteen lakhs in the accounts of the people, has done the job of snatching employment from the youth of the state, she said. Selja alleged that the Chief Minister has declared Karnal as a dry zone, due to which farmers are not getting a new tubewell connection. The State Congress President said that BJP-led government demands birth certificates from old people to release their pension. This is a complete insult to the elderly people. "Earlier people were not educated and in such a situation it was not necessary that everyone has got a birth certificate. Now, how will they bring the proof of his birth?" she asked. The state Congress president said that Karnal has become the crime capital of Haryana and the morale of criminals has been high under BJP-led state government. There have been more than 82 murders in the last five years in the Chief Minister's Assembly constituency, she alleged.

Punjab to fill 19,000 vacancies, seeks department-wise lists

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Easing the recruitment rules to plug uncertain long-pending vacancies, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday ordered immediate steps to fill up a whopping 19,000 vacancies in various departments.

The vacancies to be filled up on priority include 5,000 in the Police department, 5,300 in electricity department (PSPCL), 2,500 teachers, 5,000 paramedic and specialized staff, including doctors and specialists, in Health Department and 1,300 in Revenue department, said the spokesperson.

The Chief Minister has also asked the other departments to submit their lists of vacancies without delay so that the process of filling them up could also be initiated immediately. Bringing more efficiency into concerned departments, the move will also generate additional employment in the State.

The directions by the Chief Minister came even as the Cabinet

decided to ease the recruitment rules for qualified civil services personnel in the State through amendments to various relevant legislations, thus paving way for filling posts that remain vacant due to non-availability of suitable candidates.

The decision would help resolve the issues related to allocation of services on the basis of Punjab State Civil Services Combined Examination.

The Cabinet also authorized the Chief Minister to approve the final draft of the rules, said the spokesperson.

Under the existing rules, different categories of vacant posts, such as those reserved SCs, Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh and general category sportsmen and ex-servicemen, were being treated differently.

There was ambiguity on whether the unfilled posts of ex-servicemen and sports quota from Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh category were to be filled from General Pool of Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh or from General pool of all SC Candidates.

Plea against Admiral pick rejected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



Portrait of Vice Admiral Bimal Verma.

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

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



Portrait of Karambir Singh.

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

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

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

The Defence Ministry also

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

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

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

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

INSHORT

THREE-DAY NOTICE TO EVACUATE GOVT HOUSE

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

CEC TO VISIT MUMBAI FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS

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

LEFT TO HOLD PROTEST AGAINST ECO POLICIES

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

AI TO BE PART OF CLASS IX SYLLABUS

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

SC ALLOWS TARIGAMI TO GO BACK TO J&K

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

COLLEGIUM TAKES DECISION ON KURESHI

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

NAVAL EXERCISE BEGINS AT PORT BLAIR

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for former RSS ideologue KN



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

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

REMARK ON NORTH INDIANS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

□ Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked Union Minister Santosh Gangwar to provide figures for jobs given to people from that region in last five years

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

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

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

Wing Commander Anjali Singh first woman officer attaché posted abroad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Patel has challenged in the

Crackdown on wildlife online traffickers

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

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual harassment at workplace: Future actions discussed

GoM discusses various aspects of issues and possible legal mechanism

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah set up to look into various aspects of how to prevent sexual harassment at workplace and strengthen legal frameworks, met on Monday and discussed on future action.

The GoM discussed various aspects of the issues of sexual harassment at workplace and possible legal mechanism, an official privy to the meeting said.

Other Ministers in the GoM are Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani. There will be more meeting on the subjects in the coming weeks, the official said.

The GoM was first set up in October 2018 to examine and give recommendations for strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at workplace. The GoM will undertake consultations with stakeholders and examine various suggestions received, another official said.

PMO defines work areas for PK Mishra, Doval and Sinha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

□ It also has the potential to offer an alternative to crop residue burning by farmers, a major cause for air pollution in the northern part of the country

□ The research which has been published in the scientific journal, Progress in Organic Coatings has been sponsored by the Government's CSIR, and has been tested under extreme weather conditions including rain and storms

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BSP chief Mayawati had



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

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

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

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

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

UP honour killing: Dalit burnt alive

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

languages for the Union government and Parliament.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 injured in mob attack on family

AMU students protest, demand arrest

PTI ■ ALIGARH

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

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

A little later, about 30 peo-

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

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

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

Ex-Andhra Speaker commits suicide

SEELAM AROZIE ■ VIJAYWADA/HYDERABAD

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Eminent personalities in West Bengal oppose Hindi imposition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The HC accepted the CBI's submissions and adjourned the hearing to next month. Dabholkar was shot dead on August 20, 2013 in Pune while on his morning walk. Pansare was shot at on February 16, 2015 in Kolhapur and succumbed to his injuries a few days later on February 20. **PTI**

Dengue vaccination in India from next year, says ICMR

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

A serosurvey (a test of blood serum from a group of individuals) in this connection has been done recently in more than 15 states including West Bengal, and the report was published in the medical journal, Lancet Global Health, the official said. "As soon as we get the approval (from the government), as soon as all permissions and documentations are done properly, we will launch the dengue vaccine in India, ICMR Director General Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava said. "We are looking at the use of demonstration projects for the dengue vaccine for the future in areas of high prevalence," Bhargava said. **PTI**

MUZAFFARPUR GANGRAPE Woman's medical report shows no injury: Police

NHRC seeks report, NCW team to visit Bihar

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

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

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

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

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

assaulted by four men on Friday night.

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

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

Maharashtra to deploy drones for emergency medical supplies

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

Once the project is completed, the data will be available to citizens and to Gram Panchayats and local

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

Not Hindi hain hum

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



Perhaps nobody could have articulated the difference between a transactional language and the tongue you are born with than the great Nelson Mandela himself, who was as rooted as global. "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his mother language that goes to his heart," he said. Our Constitutional fathers understood this and despite their attempt at breaking the colonial shadow with a pan-India language — something which could be argued better during a

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

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

War clouds

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



The shock of the drone and missile attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility should worry everyone. Not only did it take offline half of Saudi Arabian oil production, the development highlights how critical infrastructure facilities can be targeted by drones from an "unknown" entity. Of course, now the spectre of another conflagration in the Persian Gulf looms large, especially after US President Donald Trump said his nation is "locked and loaded" and attributed the explosions to Iran's nefarious designs on American

interests. If this escalates, oil prices might rise dramatically even though the cooling global economy will possibly temper that. Although Saudi firms have affirmed that there would not be any shortage of supply, repairing reservoirs might take time and India would have to look for an alternative then. Early estimates show that around six per cent of global supplies could be hit. We have imported 19 per cent crude and disruptions could impact our volatile economy.

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

Perils of GM farming

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



SANDHYA JAIN

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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

Karnataka Minister —KS Eshwarappa



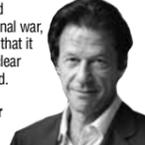
Everybody's always gonna comment about whatever seems intriguing and he's (Bradley Cooper) one of my best friends in the world.

Actor —Laura Dern



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

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



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

AIMM leader —Asaduddin Owaisi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Statements that divide

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

Raking controversy

Sir — The idea of "one nation, one language" mooted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has expectedly been met with resistance, especially from the southern States. Parties from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been more vocal against the proposal and have accused Shah of running a "divisive agenda" and foisting the "RSS agenda on the country."
 While a large number of people in the south do not under-

Accommodation is the key, not imposition

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

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



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

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

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

Diverting attention

Sir — At a time when the country is faced with an economic crisis, it is unfortunate that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has raked up the issue of nationalising the Hindi language. Maybe this is a tactic to divert people's attention from some of the most pressing concerns pertaining to the economy. Undoubtedly, the call for unity is noble but to think that it can come only out of uniformity is flawed. The BJP's landslide victory must not make it lose its head and cause it to become arrogant, autocratic and non-amenable to reasoning.
Ravi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The magic of 370 SUVs

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



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



KARAN BHASIN



PRACHI JHAMB



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

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Recovery will take time

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Right to live happy in the sunset years

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



KEWAL KAPOOR

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

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

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

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



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

social prescriptions for the elderly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE



CAMERON COST THE NATION DEAR

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

(The Guardian editorial)

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt to cut insurance premium rates for small exporters: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NPA date, whichever is earlier.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

for MSMEs and the automobile sector.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business Corner



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



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



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



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

Jet Airways lenders make presentation to Synergy Group

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

No Deal: Auto workers strike against GM in contract dispute

AP ■ DETROIT

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

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

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

China's economy strains under disappointing data

AFP ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

₹ tumbles 68 paise against US dollar on crude oil woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

Crude oil benchmark,

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

However, Brent Futures saw some moderation and was trading at \$66.63 per barrel, still up 10.59 per cent over the previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.13 per cent to 98.38.

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



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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

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

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

SHO

Police Station Vasant Kunj North, Delhi.

DP/7072/SW/19

Ph.: 011-26892530, 7065036224

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

IL&FS puts 494 acre land parcels on block

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

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

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

WANTED/SUSPECTED



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

SUSPECTED

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

SHO : P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
DP/6567/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23537374, 23613252

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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



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

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
DP/2662/OD/19 Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Enquiry No.	MQP-152/2019-20(PQM)
Short Description	Procurement of 70,000 No. "ISI" marked, DLMS compliant LT AC 3 -Phase, 4-wire, Whole Current Static Intelligent Energy Meters (Category -C2) with Optical Port & RS-232 port of rating 10 -60 Amps, 50 Hz, 415 volts (3x240 volts) of accuracy class -1
Last date and time for downloading of tender documents	04-11-2019 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for Bid submission	05-11-2019 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Date and time of opening of tender	05-11-2019 up to 11:30 Hrs.

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website https://pspcil.abcpocure.com
Note: Contingendum, if any after the publication of this tender enquiry shall only be uploaded on website https://pspcil.abcpocure.com and will not be published in newspapers.
Dy CE/HMC
PSPCL, Patiala
C-367/19 DPR/16SEP19/C7135 Dt. 16-09-2019



TinyButEffective

Researchers have found that tiny bubbles in our body might potentially be used to treat cancer and could fight the disease better than chemotherapy. These bubbly extracellular vesicles could become mini treatment transporters, carrying a combination of therapeutic drugs and genes that target cancer cells and kill them



DOCYARD
DR ROHIT BATRA

Dermatologist

SIR GANGARAM HOSPITAL,
NEWDELHI



Cheers to healthy skin

While everyone enjoys the rain, it is a great time to plan an outing or a trip and flaunt your skin in beautiful dresses. But at the same time, one needs to pay special attention to the skin as heat, the warmth of the sun, hot winds cause severe skin damage. The season can be quite tricky as it causes digestive and skin problems and infections.

During the monsoon, there is an increase in the temperature and humidity level in our country. The infections occur more in the skin and scalp areas, especially in the skin fold areas like armpit, groin and others. Moisture remains trapped in these areas and cause fungal infections.

Fungal infections are of two types like dermatophyte and yeast infections. Dermatophytes cause superficial infections of the skin, hair and nails. A yeast infection occurs when there is an overgrowth of yeast (a type of fungus) anywhere in the body. The primary symptoms of fungal infection are red itchy skin.

People are more prone to infections during monsoon due to excessive sweating, dehydration, photo-toxic effects of the sun and, of course, humidity.

Common skin infections are caused in areas where the skin folds like armpits, groin, between the fingers, toes, nails, elbow fold and so on. You might experience rashes and fungal infection and bacterial growth in such areas as they don't get sufficient air to dry off. Nail infections are also quite common during monsoon as bacteria find a home inside the nails and causes infection. So trim/cut your nails regularly.

Hygiene is an important factor for skin care in monsoon.

Regular shower with antibacterial soap can keep away bacteria and will keep you fungus free. It is suggested to dry off your body completely after washing and avoid getting wet in the rain. Make sure you are cleaning your hair/scalp regularly as fungi and bacteria develop in these areas. Avoid use of greasy creams, ointments, and lotions as they might block sweat and oil gland ducts. Instead use non-comedogenic products on your skin. Since the sun rays are more penetrating during this time use of good, effective sunscreens in the right amount is essential to protect from harmful effects of UV rays.

Take precautions that go a long way in having healthy and infection-free skin. Drink enough water as it will keep your skin hydrated. Also look out for anything odd on your body and immediately see a dermatologist. There are multiple treatment options which an expert can provide you in order to treat the fungal infection.

While the air is cooler, the humidity increases, and this provides the perfect breeding ground for many kinds of skin bacteria. Acne can bother you on your face or even on your body. Follow these simple tips daily for flawless, glowing skin.

Keep your hands off: As tempted as you may feel to break that ugly pimple on your face, try not to. Breaking a pimple or trying to squeeze out blackheads will leave you with scars and even more pimples. Keep your skin clean and let that zit dry out naturally.

Minimise your facials: A facial may be a great way to relax however if you have an acne-prone skin, you need to avoid frequent massages. Moreover, many beauticians don't know the right way to remove blackheads and this can damage your delicate pores. Don't do a facial more than once a month.

Wash your bed linen well: Research shows that pillow covers, and bedsheets are often the least washed items in our laundry. Germs can stick to your pillows, incubate, and cause acne breakouts. Make sure you wash your linen at least once a week and dry it in sunlight.

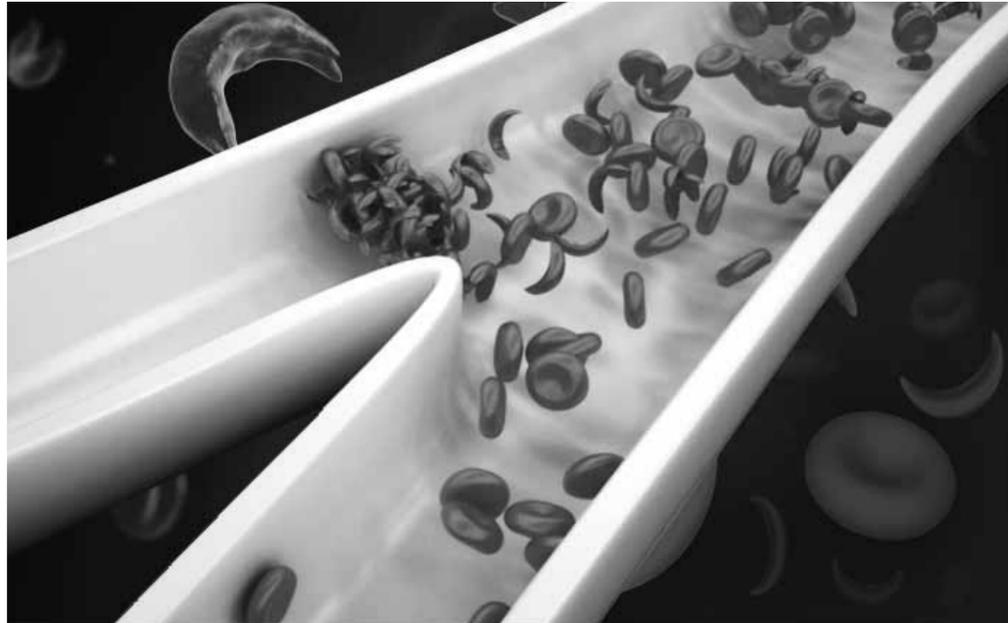
SUMMER COOLERS

GUAVA: A guava is a common tropical fruit cultivated in many tropical and subtropical regions. The fruit is oval in shape with light green or yellow skin and contain edible seeds. The high level of antioxidants, potassium and soluble fiber in guavas are said to help in improved heart health. The fibre content in guava also helps in healthy bowel movement thereby improving the digestive system.

Guava can also help in weight loss as it is low in calories and high in fibre content that may help you feeling full.

Guavas are an excellent source of Vitamin C which may help boost immunity. The wide range of vitamins and antioxidants packed into a guava may work wonders for your skin. Its antioxidants may protect your skin from damage, which can slow down its ageing process, helping prevent wrinkles.

The fruit also contains high water levels that help you feel energetic throughout the day.



ALL ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research survey, about 20% children with Sickle Cell Disease died before attaining the age of two. DR SHEETAL SHARDA tells you what one can do to prevent the complications of this disorder

Sickle cell anaemia (SCA) or sickle cell disease (SCD) is an inherited blood disorder in which the red blood cells take an abnormal sickle shape instead of the normal spherical form. The hemoglobin in our body consists of four proteins sub-units, typically, two subunits called alpha globin and two subunits called beta-globin encoded by the HBA and the HBB gene respectively. A mutation or change in the HBB gene leads to blood disorders like beta-thalassemia and sickle cell. A specific mutation in the HBB gene encodes for an abnormal hemoglobin which causes the RBCs to take an abnormal shape.

In a normal person, the red blood cells (RBCs) have a lifespan of about 90-120 days. However, in a SCA patient, the RBCs do not last long and break down, due to the abnormal sickle shape. This lack of RBCs in the blood leads to anaemia, which may manifest as swelling of the hands and feet and fatigue. In a SCA patient, the sickle shaped RBCs may block the small blood vessels, which over time leads to complications like delayed growth, frequent pain crisis and can cause multiple organ damage. Patients may require blood transfusions to overcome the acute crisis and to keep the hemoglobin in normal range.

Sickle cell anemia is very common among people of African, Arabian and Indian origin. The first evidence of SCA in India was seen in the tribal population in the

Nilgiri Hills in South India. Based on certain surveys, prevalence of sickle gene is found to be 0-18 per cent in north eastern India, 0-33.5 per cent in western India, 22.5-44.4 per cent in central India and 1-40 per cent in southern India. Wide variability in the prevalence of Hb-S trait is observed in population groups within small geographical areas

Sickle cell disease is inherited in an autosomal recessive pattern, which means that both copies of the HBB gene have to be mutated in order for the disease to manifest. Carriers or persons with a single mutated copy may be asymptomatic and are called sickle cell traits. If both parents carry a copy of the mutated gene, then their child will have a 25 per cent chance of being affected with SCD.

To prevent the complications of sickle cell anaemia, early diagnosis of the disease is very necessary. Patients who test positive for abnormal haemoglobin by biochemical testing, need to undergo genetic testing to confirm their diagnosis. Screening for SCA can also be done in newborn period with a simple blood test that detects the presence of the abnormal haemoglobin. Being picked up during an asymptomatic period, such children can have timely and early intervention in case of a crisis and thus prevent secondary complications

Carrier screening is a good way to assess if an individual is a carrier of the disease. Usually it is undertaken on individuals who

IN A NORMAL PERSON, THE RED BLOOD CELLS (RBCs) HAVE A LIFESPAN OF ABOUT 90-120 DAYS. HOWEVER, IN A SCA PATIENT, THE RBCs DO NOT LAST LONG AND BREAK DOWN, DUE TO THE ABNORMAL SICKLE SHAPE. THIS LACK OF RBCs IN THE BLOOD LEADS TO ANAEMIA, WHICH MAY MANIFEST AS SWELLING OF THE HANDS AND FEET & CAUSE FATIGUE



have a family history of SCD or thalassemia and in certain ethnic groups with an increased risk of SCA. But in some cases there may be no family history and carrier status is confirmed only after the birth of an affected child, which is then too late to prevent the disease and its complications. Hence, carrier screening for SCA and thalassemia should be offered to every couple who are planning pregnancy, in order to prevent the birth of an affected child or even to take decision of giving birth to an affected child but being prepared for the future management required. Screening of such couples at the right time (pre-conceptional carrier screening) can help them take informed decision regarding their future children. Some couples also opt for pre-marital genetic counselling and genetic testing when they are aware of such genetic conditions in their family.

Let's make it a point to create awareness on the need for effective and early diagnosis of SCD, so that appropriate management can be offered to patients and families suffering from SCD.

Prevention of genetic diseases causing high morbidity and mortality is possible based on genetic testing and availability of prenatal diagnosis. This can help decrease the incidence of genetic disorders in India and help us to reduce the psychological and financial burden on the families.

The writer is Consultant Clinical Geneticist, MedGenome Labs, Bengaluru

DadiKaKehna

Most people rely on medicines to treat headaches.

ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that can be just as beneficial to get rid of that pounding in the head



A bad day at work, Monday blues, lack of proper sleep and or getting stuck in traffic jams for hours on end are some of the reasons why one may end up with a pounding in the head. While people reach out for medicine, there are several home remedies that can do the trick.

Ginger is a great stress buster. Prepare tea with ginger and drink that. One can even mix two tablespoons of ginger juice and two table spoons of lemon juice and drink this. You can consume this once or twice a day. Make a paste with two tablespoons of water and ginger powder and apply it on the forehead. Leave it on for a few minutes to pro-

vide quicker relief. Have some tea, coffee, or something with a bit of caffeine. But don't over do it. It could ease your headache pain.

Drink water. Sometimes, one gets a headache because one has not had enough water. Drink ample amount of fluids like fresh juices, water and coconut water.

Another way to treat and prevent headache is to sleep for seven-eight hours every night. Lack of sleep can disrupt healthy lifestyle and lead to various diseases. Not getting proper sleep can lead to stress which may become the reason for a throbbing headache.



TIPTOP

On September 6, 2019 Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Prahad Singh Patel, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Culture jointly inaugurated the exhibition Superbugs: The End of Antibiotics? at National Science Centre, Delhi. The exhibition has been organised by National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) in collaboration with Science Museum, Group, London, Wellcome(UK) and supported by ICMR.

The exhibition explores how society is responding to the enormous challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antibacterial resistance (ABR) in particular featuring scientific research from across the globe and personal stories of those waging war on Superbugs.

SLIMLINE

More than 138 million patients are harmed every year by doctors' errors, the WHO warned, just a few days before celebrating the first World Patient Safety Day, with which it seeks to raise awareness of this ongoing tragedy.

Errors in diagnosis, errors in medicine prescriptions and treatments, and the inappropriate use of drugs are the three main reasons why so many patients harmed, WHO patient-safety coordinator Dr Neelam

Bacteria, tiny organisms capable of causing disease are becoming resistant to our most powerful weapon against them, antibiotics and turning into superbugs.

Today antibiotic-resistant superbugs kill up to 7,00,000 people a year. By 2050 that could rise to 10 million.

The exhibition has three major sections: Microscopic, Human and Global. Microscopic Section explores the hidden world of bacteria. Be it their size or characteristics, evolution of superbugs or history of antibiotics; the exhibits of this section will take you on a journey in which you can zoom into the world of microbes, explore the touchscreen multimedia to understand how bacteria evolve into superbugs or flip a digital e-book to know the history of antibiotics.

Dhingra-Kumar said at a Press conference.

"These mistakes occur because healthcare systems are not suitably designed to deal with these errors and learn from them," Dr Kumar said. Examples of errors are the application of medications in ways they were not designed for, errors in blood transfusions, taking X-rays and in dramatic cases, indicating that the wrong limb needs to be amputated or that the wrong side of the brain requires surgery. — IANS

UNDER THE LASER

Going for a laser treatment comes with a lot of questions. DR AJAY RANA bursts myths related to it & dos and don'ts that follow



As we move into the new millennium, it is becoming increasingly clear that the usage of laser and modern technologies are entering the most exciting phase of their development. Laser treatment is commonly used for removing facial wrinkles and skin irregularities. The pulsating beams of light are concentrated on the irregular skin which removes the unwanted skin layer by layer. In short, it helps in improving the skin texture and the appearance as a whole. Laser treatment should always be performed by trained and certified practitioners under the supervision of the dermatologist maintaining strict hygiene standards.

Laser treatments are different from laser surgery. Laser treatment for beautification does not involve any kind of surgery. Laser surgery is generally related to stone removal and for eye diagnoses.

Below some popular myths related to laser treatment and the truths behind it:

Myth 1: Laser treatments expose your skin to infections

Fact: Laser treatments don't cause infections as the skin is not cut open to expose the internal layers or veins. There is very little risk of infection as the treatment's nature is very different.

Myth 2: Lasers expose you to radiation

Fact: Laser treatments are safe as only light is used in the process and no harmful ionising radiation. In fact, normal sunlight contains more radiation than most modern lasers used for medical practices.

Myth 3: Lasers can cause burns

Fact: All modern lasers use the theory of selective photo-thrombolysis formulated at the famous Harvard medical school. This actually means that laser light specifically searches and destroys only the intended target and acts like magic bullets.

Myth 4: Lasers cause thinning of the skin

Fact: In contrary, skin thickens after Lasertreatments. Skin is a living tissue and due to laser treatment controlled gentle heating in the dermis induces new collagen and elastin formation, replacing the older damaged tissue. That is why laser treatments have a rejuvenating effect on the skin, reducing wrinkles to become plumper. Of course, your laser therapist should have in-depth knowledge of laser physics to achieve the desired results.

Myth 5: Lasers are unnecessary

Fact: There are many physical problems and diseases for which lasers are indispensable. There are no medications or creams which can permanently remove scars, birthmarks, tattoos, remove unwanted hair, varicose veins, port-wine stains and others. Laser technology is similarly indispensable for many other internal medical conditions too.

Myth 6: Lasers cause cancers

Fact: Lasers are used to remove all kinds of skin and other cancers. Laser light does not contain wavelengths which can trigger cancers.

Myth 7: Laser hair treatment is harmful to health

Fact: The depth of laser penetration is 1-4 mm; it reaches only the hair follicles, and then is completely dissipated and does not penetrate deeper! Laser destroys only the hair bulb.

Myth 8: Laser hair reduction hurts

Fact: A little pin-prick, that's all the pain involved in this treatment. But this depends on individual pain barrier. For particularly sensitive parts of the body like bikini and underarms, an anaesthetic cream can be used. It can be applied everywhere. If your pain threshold is less.

The writer is Founder & Director of ILAMED

STUDYCENTRE

Researchers have found that a drug, donepezil commonly used to manage symptoms of Alzheimer disease and other forms of dementia, is associated with a two-fold higher risk of hospitalisation.

According to the study published in the journal Canadian Medical Association Journal, using donepezil increases the risk of hospital admission for rhabdomyolysis, a painful condition of muscle breakdown, compared with several other cholinesterase inhibitors.

Dementia is a growing problem, with almost 10 million newly diagnosed cases every year around the world. The findings of this population-based cohort study support regulatory agency warnings about the risk of donepezil-induced rhabdomyolysis," said study researcher Jamie Fleet from McMaster University in Canada.

The study, led by researchers at Western University, looked at ICES data from 2002 to 2017 on 2,20,353 patients aged 66 years or older in Ontario, Canada, with a new prescription for donepezil, rivastigmine or galantamine, three cholinesterase inhibitors used to manage dementia and Alzheimer disease.

The researchers found that donepezil was associated with a two-fold higher risk of hospitalisation for rhabdomyolysis, a serious condition that can result in kidney disease. According to the findings, the relative risk was small but statistically significant. — IANS

Trend Slazer

Ranveer reveals his fitness secrets

Actor **RANVEER SINGH** has been wooing the audience not only with his feisty screen presence and acting skills, but also with his look — particularly his toned, fit physique. For his forthcoming release *83*, the 34-year-old has undergone a massive workout and physical training to get into the character of former cricketer Kapil Dev.

But apart from intense workout, nutritional diet is one of his major "secrets" behind his chiseled physique. Ranveer's meticulous diet has been taken care of by Anmol Singhal and Mohit Savargaonkar, co-founders of Personal Optimised Diet (POD Supply) over the past five years.



'I tried to explore more with *Dream Girl* and tried my hand at doing a mass

entertainer. I am happy that the audience across the country have accepted me as an entertaining hero. As an artiste, I have always tried to back projects that I felt had the potential to break out in their own genres and this response is a strong validation of that.' —**Ayushmann Khurrana**

Actor **MAHESH SHETTY**, a known name in the telly world, will be playing **AJAY DEVGN's** younger brother in the forthcoming film *Bhuj: The Pride of India*.



Mahesh calls it a very special film. "I am grateful to be a part of such an incredible story. This film celebrates the bravery and dedication of the women of India. It was a pleasure working with Ajay Sir and the entire team of *Bhuj: The Pride of India*," he added.

According to sources, Mahesh will be playing the role of an Air Force pilot. The Abhishek Dudhaiya directorial is slated to release next year.

Downey Jr will be back as Iron Man

Actor **ROBERT DOWNEY JR** will be back as a superhero Iron Man in the Marvel Cinematic Universe with *Black Widow* which will release in 2020.

Downey Jr, who won hearts all across the world as enigmatic superhero Iron Man, bid adieu to his superhero avatar with *Avengers: Endgame* this year. In fact, Scarlett Johansson's *Black Widow* aka *Natasha Romanoff* also died in the film.

The characters will be back as *Black Widow* is a prequel taking place ahead of the events of *Endgame*. It is yet to be seen how big Downey Jr's role in the film will be.

The film will trace the story of Romanoff, who will confront her past.



At the *Lecture Series With Deepika* for the first edition of the Live, Love, Laugh foundation, Dr **SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE** speaks about how we need to address the stigma around mental health the same way we dealt with the taboo around cancer in the 1950s

You matter

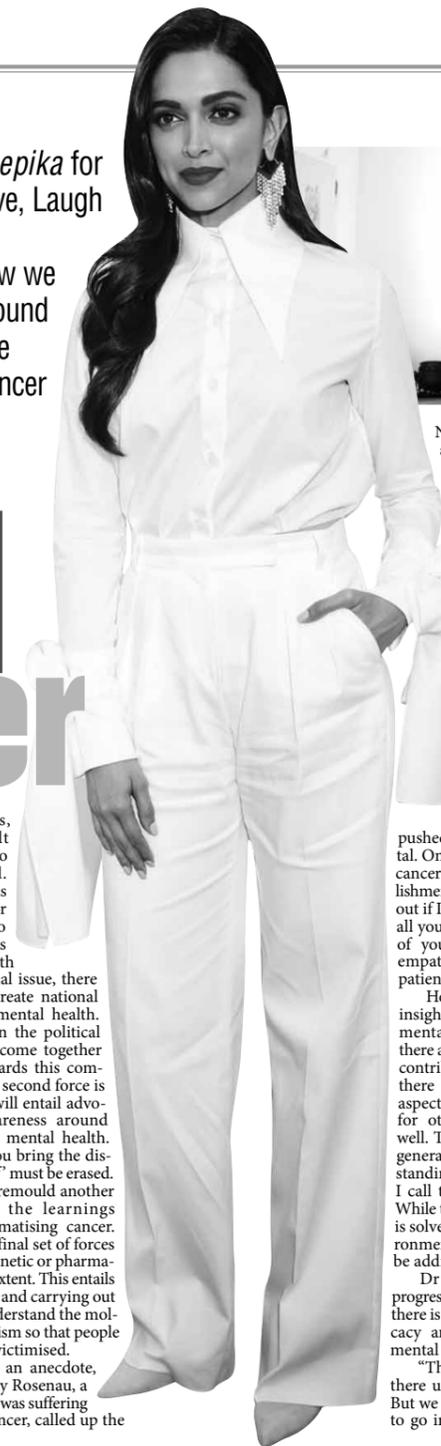
There has been a long standing debate on mental health in our country and actor Deepika Padukone, who has been active in talking about her battle with depression at the peak of her career, believes that there is still a long road ahead in terms of creating more awareness on the issue. Though she is happy to see that a conversation on the topic has opened up. The 33-year-old actor, who was in the capital for the first edition of The Live, Love, Laugh foundation — *A Lecture Series With Deepika*, opened up about her struggles.

The maiden lecture was delivered by Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Padma Shri Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee. In his talk, Dr Mukherjee spoke about how cancer in the 50s, was a stigmatised illness as patients faced potent forces of discrimination, fear and neglect. "When anyone was diagnosed with cancer, the blame for the disease was carried by the person themselves. Patients with cancer were pushed to the back of the hospital. Mental health issues carry a similar stigma," he said.

His talk was centered around

three forces, which he felt were needed to be addressed. The first force is political — for mental health to be recognised as a public health crisis, a national issue, there is a need to create national institutes for mental health. Stakeholders in the political domain must come together and work towards this common goal. The second force is social — this will entail advocacy and awareness around destigmatising mental health. The idea of 'you bring the disease to yourself' must be erased. The idea is to remould another disease with the learnings around destigmatising cancer. The third and final set of forces is biological, genetic or pharmaceutical, to an extent. This entails making efforts and carrying out research to understand the molecular mechanism so that people would not be victimised.

He shared an anecdote, "In 1950, Fanny Rosenau, a journalist, who was suffering from breast cancer, called up the



New York Times to place an advertisement to create a social support group for women with breast cancer. One of the editors said that we can't publish the word 'breast cancer'. How about we say social support group of women with chest diseases? So this is death by euphemism because it creates a culture where you become the victim of the disease. In the 50s, if you spoke to oncologists, they would remember the times when patients with cancer were pushed to the back of the hospital. Once a woman with ovarian cancer asked the medical establishments that 'will you throw me out if I don't get better?' because all you care about is the success of your therapy and not the empathy that you deliver to patients."

He added, "Today, biological insights are being extended to mental health. For instance, there are 100 gene variances that contribute to schizophrenia yet there is a clear environmental aspect to this. The same is true for other mental illnesses as well. The challenge for the next generation thus lies in understanding these two components. I call this the Yin/Yang puzzle. While the Yin — the genetic — part is solved, the Yang — or the environmental milieu — still needs to be addressed."

Dr Mukherjee noted that progress was being made and that there is more conversation, advocacy and philanthropy around mental health.

"There's not much stigma as there used to be four years ago. But we certainly have a long way to go in terms of creating more

awareness. I think that's where we need to keep the conversation alive," Deepika, who looked stunning in a pristine white ensemble paired with shimmering danglers and minimal make-up, said.

The *Piku* star described her journey and said, "It's been an incredible journey since we developed our foundation. I think media has had a huge role in opening up the conversation in various ways, whether through interviews, write-ups or articles but we certainly have a long way to go and that's why we have the lecture series today," she said and added, "Four years ago, we wouldn't even talk to our families about

Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, who said, "According to WHO, health is defined as a state of physical, mental, social and psychological well-being of an individual. It is not merely the absence of disease and infirmity. The definition itself makes it amply clear that mental health is an important component of the overall health spectrum. I wish to congratulate the foundation and Deepika Padukone, of course, for flagging this issue before the Indian society."

Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO of Ayushman Bharat pointed that the country's national health protection scheme covers all secondary and tertiary health states, including a large number of mental health condition. Anyone with those conditions is provided free treatment. It also covers the poverty-stricken population of the country, which is 40 per cent. This is the segment where mental health issues go unnoticed and the scheme is going to help those who may have not received treatment for mental health so far.

The lecture was attended by decision makers including Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO, Ayushman Bharat; Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog; Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; Dr Balaram Bhargava, Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research; Professor Gagandeep Kang, Executive Director of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute; Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.

The event was also graced by Deepika's parents Prakash Padukone and Ujjala, sister Anisha Padukone, actor Sharmila Tagore, key stakeholders and decision makers from different sectors.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

'MEDIA HAS HAD A HUGE ROLE IN INITIATING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH IN VARIOUS WAYS, WHETHER THROUGH INTERVIEWS, WRITE-UPS OR ARTICLES BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO'

how we felt emotionally. Four years on, we, as a nation, have come a long way in bringing that conversation to the fore. This lecture series is an initiative to learn from some of the greatest minds of the 21st century. It is important for people, who are passionate about mental health, to talk about their journey. Illnesses such as AIDS and cancer have successfully managed to break through the stigma and I believe there is a lot for us to learn from those examples."

The event also featured a video message by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for

Dreamy and confident

The London Fashion Week set the tone for an elegant collection that ran the gamut from poised sophistication to joyful exuberance and sensual femininity



cess of Naomi Campbell's Fashion for Relief gala the night before, which continued for hours after the late-night show with a dinner in the heart of the British Museum.

Campbell has become a master at organising big, complex events for her charity efforts, and this was no exception. She managed to procure one of the most prestigious sites in London and filled it with a glamorous crowd.

She even returned to the runway, proving without a doubt she can still model any time she chooses.

EMILIA WICKSTEAD PAYS TRIBUTE TO LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Emilia Wickstead paid homage to Louisa May Alcott's classic novel *Little Women* for spring 2020, a timely reference given a forthcoming film directed by Greta Gerwig which stars Emma Watson as Meg and Saoirse Ronan as the headstrong Jo March.

Debussy's soothing *Arabesque No 1 Andantino con moto* played as Wickstead's guests climbed the stairs of the Royal Albert Hall, setting the tone for an elegant collection that ran the gamut from poised sophistication to joyful exuberance and sensual femininity. There was a focus on volume, with bunches of fabric at the back of dresses echoing the bustles prevalent in Alcott's time.

One jumpsuit had a crisp collar and midriff cutout placed to accentuate a high waistband. Another dress had wide cuffed sleeves and panels reminiscent of 19th century shirt bibs. The palette of saccharine pinks, yellows, lavender, and tangerine was sharpened by red and black, while a print offering was comprised of delicate hand-painted blue roses imposed on a mint colour. Hats, a big motif in the novel, were used to give dramatic effect, especially one wide black visor-like piece that was perched and worn with a slim cap-sleeved black dress with a sternum-exposing cut-out.

Other moments of high drama appeared via a billowing cloud of black organza, fashioned into a balloon-sleeved gown. The closing look elicited raised eyebrows and naked admiration in equal measure — a full-length pink gown with copious bunches that could best be described as a boat-necked marshmallow.

—AP



Sara to bring Saif, Amrita's hits at IIFA

Sara Ali Khan is excited but nervous about performing at the 20th edition of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards. She said that she will dance on hit songs of father Saif Ali Khan and mother Amrita Singh at the show.

"I have been watching IIFA Awards since childhood and have travelled with my father to watch it. She recalls an incident of two years ago when IIFA was held in New Jersey and she was in New York with Saif. She said, "I couldn't attend the function because my father said, 'why do you want to attend, you haven't been invited?' So, this year's IIFA is really special to me because I have been invited. And I will be performing too. So I feel I have become a part of this industry."

She will perform with Ranveer Singh and Madhuri Dixit Nene at the show. "I am rehearsing for my performance and simultaneously shooting for David (Dhawan) sir too. So, I don't get enough time to rehearse but whatever time I get I try to make the most of it. It is pretty obvious that I am nervous about performing at the awards because it is the first time and that too with such big stars," said she.

When questioned about the songs that were on her playlist for the performance, Sara said, "I will perform on my songs. Since it's my first performance, I will also perform on the songs of my father and mother."

Sara will be seen in *Coolie No 1* opposite to Varun Dhawan, and in Imtiaz Ali's next, in which she co-stars with Kartik Aaryan. When asked about the filmmakers she wants to work with, she said, "I am working with David sir and Imtiaz (Ali) sir as of now. But I would also like to work with other filmmakers. I wish them to consider me in their films."

Sara's last release, *Simmba* opposite to Ranveer Singh in December 2018, was a box-office success. —JANS



What can you say about a 23-year-old boy who died? Rather sacrificed his life for his nation's good? Even though school textbooks and various films and plays have created multiple images of legendary Shaheed Bhagat Singh as someone who put the nation first when it was under the control of the British, I see him as the model of a well-educated and responsible youth whose wisdom and understanding of the plight of India at the time was far beyond his age. He profusely apologised for killing superintendent John Saunders and killed him despite knowing its consequences. He did it because for him, 'it had to be done'. He fought for the cause, and later, gave himself to it, quite consciously. However, he made sure he kept the flame burning in people's conscience to fight for their rights.

Playwright and director Piyush Mishra's *Gagan Damama Bajjo*, which returns to the stage after 16 years, presents an idea of the legendary fighter as somebody who, as opposed to what Mahatma Gandhi and other Congressmen followed, fought through violence against the British Raj. He looked at armed struggle as the only way out and a means for direct action that could spur the quickest results. The title of the play, a phrase derived from the Guru Granth Sahib, translates to 'Tu aaj se hi bhid jaa, baaki dekh lenge' (Rush headlong into the battle, the rest will be looked at later). While I have imagined the martyr as a simple man adorning a white kurta-pyjama and a turban on his head, Mishra's Bhagat Singh and his troupe are dressed in crisp plain-white shirts and Cargo men's pants, more like modern-day crusaders. The play begins with a mother scrutinising the British government's regulations as she had lost

Long live the revolution

Playwright PIYUSH MISHRA's *Gagan Damama Bajjo* returns to the stage after 16 years. CHAHAK MITTAL reviews the play, which has become even more relevant with time as it attempts to awaken a sense of responsibility among today's young people and inspire them with Shaheed Bhagat Singh's ideologies

her sons, who had fought relentlessly for the rights of the nation and given themselves to it when the need came. She is petrified of people who sleep soundly despite the dark days and questions, "Do you want to lose more?" Yes, the nation has stopped commemorating their martyrdom — March 23 — but the character's cry was more about lament that today's young people have forgotten the ideals of these revolutionaries and lost the power to protest.

The play's plot proceeds with two parallel events where Shiv Verma, one of the compatriots of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), is in a time zone of 1994 and recalls the series of events that had happened during 1928-1931. These include the Kakori robbery, bombings hurled at the Assembly, hunger strike in

Lahore prison, and Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev's hanging. It was an impressive non-linear shuffle between time and space, which seamlessly transitioned the audience from the past to the future and the present to the past. And the best part was that one couldn't really point out to one thing as it was very subtle and blended with the plot well.

Going as per what Mishra had said, "Our history textbooks have not done justice to the idea of Sardar Bhagat Singh Sandhu. From his ideology to his complete name, there are many things which our students still do not know about." While they might believe that he hurled bombs at an assembly, killed people and stood against Mahatma Gandhi, the play showcases how he only opposed the idea of Indian leaders collaborating with the

Whites. Such an approach, the young revolutionary had argued, could have ended the British rule in India but wouldn't have brought the "British rule" out of India. The ideologies would have remained the same — repressive — just the rulers would have changed. It was just a shoutout to make people stand up as well as a revolt against the Gandhi-Irwin pact. But it could very well apply to us, a call to think deeply about our systemic wrongs.

He talks about hunger prevailing in the society when he says, "Bhooke so rahe hain log aur party movement band kara rahi hai", (talking of the non-cooperation movement which was called off by Gandhi ji). Shiv Verma recalls how Bhagat Singh as a leader was not worried about independence but the India after the independence. "Azaadi zaroori nahi, azaadi ke

baad ka Bharat zaroori hai" says Singh as he was very well aware that independence was inevitable. After the Lahore conspiracy verdict, he says, "Humara inqilab aayega. Yeh alag baat hai hum usey zinda aankhon se dekh paate hain ya nahi."

Through modern-day humour, the play uses satirical comedy stitched amid serious scenes in the plot to make it more relatable. There is a scene where Singh's friends confront his father when he asks about his whereabouts. When they try to stall the question by answering that they had no information, he says in a loud tone, "Baap hain hum tumhaare" and grabs some laughs.

Even Singh's fiancée makes up for some giggles in her short-lived yet essential presence on the stage. It makes one wonder how even the smallest of characters play such an

important role in the plots.

At various moments throughout the 120-minute run, the dialogue delivery of the actors made one get goosebumps. One of the dialogues that stands out for me is when Singh says, "Kal jab maine jamadaar ke aath (8) saal ke bete ko naara lagate dekha, toh mera maqsad poora hogaya (Yesterday, when I saw an eight-year-old son of a ragpicker calling out slogans, I felt my objective had been accomplished).

The play is quite swift in representing a number of things within the span of just two hours. For instance, Lala Lajpat Rai's death is depicted in a very flowing manner, rather than stretching it out. And the musical elements embedded in between the plot vividly explain every emotion.

The play, produced by Question

Associates (Q&A), eloquently looks at the differences that have come about after their hanging. And commenting on the present, it comes to a final note when everyone is mourning Singh's hanging. Three heads are hung in the backdrop with blood red light, and Shiv Verma, in 1994, questions, "Kya yehi tha woh azaad Bharat ka sapna jisko paane ka tasawoor tumne liya tha, Bhagat?" Even though the play's timeline ends in 1994, it questions the audience even today about their idea of nationalism and how today's youth is growing to be ignorant about multiple events of corruption and injustice prevailing in society. After all, what does this generation's 23-year-old want? Certainly, he wouldn't choose to die for the nation as fearlessly as Singh did, nor would he sacrifice his love interest for the greater good.



Presenting a rare confluence of art and architecture, Chitracharya Upendra Maharathi presents a historic perspective through his paintings, drawings, murals, weaving, sculptures, and a stunning set of 24 chairs that talk about how the dynamism of design has evolved through the time.

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) celebrates the newly renovated Jaipur House by unveiling more than a thousand works by Maharathi. The fact that 95 per cent of his works were bequeathed to the NGMA is a lesson in the annals of history. The artist was also a rare example of an individual who had deep interest in Buddhism. His designs spanned pagodas and other important ventures in Japan too.

BLENDING COLONIAL AND CLASSIC

As one enters the Jaipur House, tucked in the corner is a chaise-lounge characterised by a Baroque aesthetic that features elaborate turnings, simple curves as well as case pieces with simple flat surfaces and architectural trim. Maharathi commonly used materials such as indigenous teak to balance ebullient, elaborate carving, and elegant detailing. The chaise-lounge chair epitomises an eclectic combination of motifs and the simplicity of materials which has been loaned from the Buddhist monastery at Rajghirand. It was used by the monks to sleep upon.

Curator Adwaita Gadanayak, DG NGMA, has designed special installations all through the historic show for this retrospective entitled — *Shashwat*. He says, "Looking at the number of chairs, we realised that Maharathi had a conviction in the aesthetic experiences as a fully autonomous and independent aspect of a human life. His deeper

Classic confluence

CHITRACHARYA UPENDRA MAHARATHI's artworks represent a historic perspective and how it can be re-interpreted by an artist. By UMA NAIR



philosophies followed the meshing of Indian and European ideals. For him, aesthetics stressed simple lines and naturalistic decoration, and he placed ornaments symmetrically."

It wouldn't be wrong to say that Maharathi moved beyond Gothic architectural details to give us architectural elements from the Mauryan as well as Magadha peri-

ods. His evolution, both in style and form, combines both Brahminical and Buddhist balance. His use of the legs, shaped in two curves, and various inlays, favoured over carved ornaments, reveals his love for small details. The Japanese-looking joineries that he saw on his visit to Kyoto talk of the creation of chairs without any nails. For Gadanayak,

unveiling Maharathi is about visiting Indian history. And his works gifted to the NGMA form a resident resonance of a genius who needs to be studied.

ENRICHED BY AN EPOCH

Inspired by the epoch of the art and design period of Bihar during the Mauryan Empire and enriched by the folk and tribal culture, the quaint collection of chairs evokes an understanding of tradition and modernity through a classic vein.

Each chair unravels like its custom made by the artist, architect and designer himself. The weight distribution on the woven rope seats, comfort of the backrest, and the low slung silhouette look add to its charm. The smallest details have been worked upon for aesthetic as well as graceful syncopated reasons. The traditional jaali is as intricate as the plant inspired foliate designs. The Magadha symbol stands regal and royal.

SYMPHONY OF CURVES

The chairs that belong to the Maharathi Museum and the Buddhist Monastery are characterised by a sophisticated fluidity. When we group them they have a very strong and stylistic identity. In the symphony of elegant curves, these 24 chairs are a walk between private and public space.

PAINTINGS AND WEAVES

Other than the chairs, there are

drawings, paintings portraits, woven shawl like sculptures and baskets woven with elan.

Among the portraits there is a frame designed by Maharathi himself which speaks of classic confluences. In his paintings he worked on canvas, paper, cloth and silk. Through his stunning Buddhist narratives, his deep understanding of spirituality comes to the fore. The softened contours show his passion.

FAMOUS ARCHITECTURAL ASSIGNMENTS

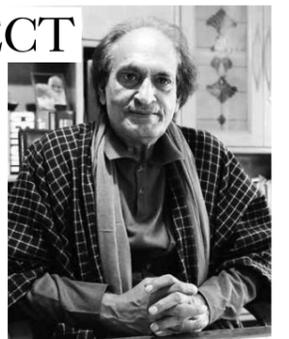
Maharathi designed pagodas not only in India but Japan as well. The Gotemba Peace Pagoda of Japan that enshrines holy relics of Buddha was gifted by India in 1963. The Sanchi Style Gate at Gotemba Peace Park is another masterpiece there. According to his daughter Mahashweta Maharathi, both the monuments are situated in the foothills of Mount Fuji and are the third most visited peace parks after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In India, Rajgir World Peace Pagoda, built atop Ratnagiri hill, facing Gridhakuta hill, where Buddha preached the *Saddharma Pundarika Sutra* (Lotus Sutra) for eight years is of great fame.

He also designed the New Venu Van Vihara Monastery, which is located opposite to the ancient site of first Buddhist monastery presented to Buddha by Bimbisara. It was inaugurated in 1981. Of great importance is the Nav Nalanda Mahavihar (now under Union Culture Ministry at Nalanda) inaugurated by Vice President Dr Radhakrishnan in 1956. It was built to commemorate the ancient Nalanda University. The show affirms the truth that vintage and antiquities are finite, but an artist's creativity is infinite.

THE PERFECT SHOT

Photographer RAGHU RAI becomes the first recipient of the inaugural edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award, William Klein, in India



Raghu Rai has been chosen as the first recipient of the inaugural edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award — William Klein. Established this year, the award is in honour of the celebrated American-born French photographer and filmmaker William Klein, best known for his unusual photography techniques.

"The jury of the 2019 edition named the photographer Raghu Rai, laureate of the first edition of the Académie des beaux-arts Photography Award — William Klein," Académie des Beaux-Arts said.

As a consecration award, the prize is intended to reward a photographer for their entire career and commitment towards photography. It rewards one photographer of all nationalities and ages. To be awarded every two years, alternating with the Photography Prize Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, it carries with it a monetary prize of 1,20,000 euros.

Rai, who started photography by chance in 1965, began to work for The Statesman as their chief photographer a year later. In 1969, he completed a Thomson fellowship in England and

worked for The Times for four weeks. After three half pages of his picture essays were published week after week, he was offered a job at The Times by Norman Hall. He returned to India to continue his unfinished creative explorations in the lanes, and won several accolades in the years that followed.

In 1972, impressed with Rai's exhibition at Gallery Delpire in Paris, Henri-Cartier Bresson nominated him to Magnum photos. In the same year, he was also awarded the Padma Shree, a first for any photographer, for his work on the Bangladesh War. He was awarded the *Photographer of the Year* in 1992 in America for his story — *Human Management of Wildlife in India* for the National Geographic. In 2009, he was conferred Officer des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Government in 2016.

The William Klein Photography Award will be presented to Rai in the Palais de l'Institut de France on October 30. It will be closely followed by an exhibition retracing the career of the photographer in the institute in November.

WATCH OUT



IC presents *Wayside Flowers*, an exhibition of paintings in water colour by Chandrakanta Das from Lucknow. WHEN: September 18 to 26 TIME: 11 am to 7 pm WHERE: Art Gallery, India International Centre Annexe, Lodhi Estate.



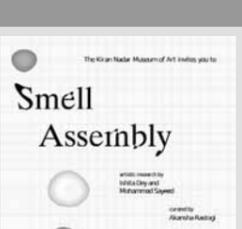
Nav Shri Art & Culture Organisation presents *Art Alive*, a group exhibition of paintings, sculpture, photography, art and craft works by 52 artists from 16 states. WHEN: September 20 to 26 TIME: 11 am to 6.30 pm WHERE: Artizen Art Gallery, Peary Lal Bhanan.



Curated by Ashrafi CS Bhagat, Art Alive Gallery presents *Moments and Transformations: Finding Life in Materiality*, a group show that features artworks by seven artists from Chennai and Puducherry. WHEN: September 23 to October 5 TIME: 11 am to 7 pm WHERE: Art Alive Gallery, Panchsheel Park.



Curated by Akansha Rastogi, KNMA presents *Smell Assembly*, an artistic research project and exhibition, which is about the smells that surround us. WHEN: Till September 30 TIME: 10.30 am to 6.30 pm WHERE: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket.



Curated by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket presents *Smell Assembly*, an artistic research project and exhibition, which is about the smells that surround us. WHEN: Till September 30 TIME: 10.30 am to 6.30 pm WHERE: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket.



Lucid is an amalgamation of two series of works by photographer Abhishek Basu — *Labyrinth* and *The Rum Diary* — which explore his journey of self, intricacies of his mind, feeling of entrapment and mental struggle. TIME: 11 am to 6 pm WHEN: Till September 30 WHERE: Art Explore Gallery.

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

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

The World No.5 Sindhu ended India's long wait for a world championship gold at Basel, Switzerland last month. She achieved the historic feat after her third successive final appearance. The performance also turned around her erratic season during which she had reached the finals at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sindhu eyes China Open



PV Sindhu reacts after getting a point

File photo/Twitter

champion Chen Yufei in the quarter-final.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The 34-year-old

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

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

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

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



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

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

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

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

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

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

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

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

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

That she is a bit worried could be felt as Vinesh walked into the training area grim-faced.

The coaches around her did their best to keep her cheerful.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jordan free-kick fires Sevilla to top in La Liga

AFP ■ MADRID

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

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

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

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

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



Joan Jordan celebrates after scoring a goal

Twitter

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

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

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

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

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

Nagal reaches career-best ranking



Sumit Nagal returns a shot during a match

Twitter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Atalanta, Roma back winning as Lazio fall in Serie A

AFP ■ MILAN

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

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

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

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

AC Milan are just

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

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

The hosts were four goals up at the break after Bryan Cristante, Edin Dzeko, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Justin Kluivert all found the net in a 21-minute spell with Lorenzo Pellegrini providing three assists.

But Domenico Berardi's brace for Sassuolo on 53 and 72 minutes rattled the hosts who are back in the Stadio Olimpico during the week for Europa League action against Istanbul Basaksehir.

"I hope that this will be the first of a lot of victories," said Portuguese Fonseca.

"I realised that I had to



adapt to the dynamics of the Italian championship.

"Today we showed our ability to press high, and while we scored four goals it could have been seven or eight."

"Defensively it was our best performance so far."

Lazio suffered their first defeat this season as they paid for their complacency following a 1-1 draw against Immobile's 17th-minute penalty against SPAL, losing 2-1.

An Andrea Petagna volley just after the hour mark in Ferrara and Jasmin Kurtic's late winner sealed all three points for SPAL.

The Romans are ninth with four points from three games.

Bologna go second - Bologna moved second after a gutsy 4-3 comeback win over promoted Brescia, inspired by coach Sinisa Mihajlovic who gave instructions from hospital as he undergoes chemotherapy.

"At the end of the first half we heard Mihajlovic's

India men's team enter quarterfinals of Champions Division

PTI ■ YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team booked a quarterfinal berth in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with a 3-0 win over Thailand here on Monday.

After blanking out Kuwait and Sri Lanka with identical 3-0 wins in the group stages yesterday, India entered the knockout stage of the 1st Division.

In the knockout stage they defeated Saudi Arabia (3-1) and followed it up with a 3-0 triumph over Thailand to enter the final of the 1st Division.

In the main draw, where eight teams compete against each other, only the finalists of the 1st Division qualify for the Champions Division with top six teams drawn from the last championships held at Wuxi in 2017, directly making the grade.

In their match against Thailand, Sharath Kamal defeated Padasak Tanviriyavechakul 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-2 to put India up. It was quite a struggle for the world No. 41 as he, after going 2-1 up, made some

crucial errors which helped the Thai claw his way back. But the experienced Indian didn't yield any ground and sealed the game.

In the second tie, G Sathiyam consolidated India's position further beating Supanut Wisutmaythangkoon 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-1.

With a 2-0 cushion, it should have been easy for Harmee Desai, but the Surat lad struggled before overcoming Yanapong Panagitgun 11-3, 9-11, 5-11, 13-11, 13-11 to put India in the final. But, most importantly, it earned India a quarterfinal berth in the Champions Division where they will run into either Japan or Chinese Taipei after the draw.

The Indian women, who did well to enter the 1st Division after winning their group stage matches yesterday against Lebanon and Jordan with 3-0 verdicts. They managed to register a 3-0 win against Uzbekistan before losing to Thailand 0-3. Now they will play Malaysia with the winner finishing at Position 9.

anger on the phone and this shook us," said Bologna forward Rodrigo Palacio.

"We talked to him before the game, for us it is very important and we miss him. We play like this thanks to his mentality."

Sunday's game was the first the 50-year-old Mihajlovic has missed despite his condition.

A quick-fire Alfredo Donnarumma double saw Brescia -- playing their first home match in eight years -- lead after 19 minutes.

Mattia Bani headed Bologna back into the game on 36 minutes, with the visitors trailing 3-1 before Brescia were hit by Daniele Dessena's sending off for a second yellow card just after the break.

Bologna came back with goals from Palacio on 56 minutes, Stefano Denswil four minutes later and a Riccardo Orsolini winner 10 minutes from time.

Mihajlovic's side, who finished 10th last season, are now two points behind Inter Milan and ahead of champions Juventus on goal difference after three games.

Aussie's mission accomplished



Australia's cricket team poses for photographers with the Ashes Urn

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia captain Tim Paine said it was mission accomplished even though his team lost the fifth and final Ashes Test against England to draw the series 2-2.

The tourists came into the match at the Oval seeking their first series victory in England since 2001 but came up short, losing by 135 runs on Sunday.

But Paine said Australia, who won at Edgbaston and Old Trafford but lost agonisingly to a Ben Stokes-inspired England at Headingley, had achieved their main objective in retaining the urn.

"We're taking the urn home so that's certainly what we came to

WE CAN BE REALLY PROUD OF THE WAY WE'VE COME OVER HERE, WHICH IS A CHALLENGING PLACE FOR AUSTRALIANS TO COME AND PLAY AND WIN WE'RE TAKING THE URN HOME

do," he said.

"We're thrilled by that, a little disappointed by this game obviously, puts a bit of a dampener on it."

"We can be really proud of the way we've come over here, which is a challenging place for Australians to come and play and win," he added.

"To win two Test matches pretty convincingly, should have won a third (at Headingley) — let that slip no doubt."

Paine said winning the first Test at Edgbaston, where Australia triumphed by 251 runs, had been crucial for his side's confi-

dence.

"There was so much talk about that being a fortress and how difficult a place it was going to be for us to start the series, probably by design, so for us to come over and win that first Test, and win it, in the end, quite convincingly gave us the belief that we could do it," he said.

And the skipper said he still felt he had a role to play in taking the side forward.

"We've still got a way to go," he said. "Obviously Steve (Smith) had an unbelievably good series and won us a couple of Tests by himself so we've got some parts that we need to improve.

"But if we click them into gear while we've got Steve at the height of his powers and with the pace attack we've got, in the next few years we're going to be a very hard team to beat."

"There's plenty of improvement in this side," Paine added.

"I still feel I've got a little bit to give in that space and we're always trying to develop more leaders within our group as well."

Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, said he was exhausted after a long tour, which also included the World Cup.

The former captain, who returned to international cricket in June after a ban for ball-tampering, received a standing ovation from the crowd in south London when he was out.

"It was a nice reception as I walked off," he said.

"It would have been nice if I'd had a few more runs under my belt in this game."

"I've given it my all since I've been here for the last four-and-a-half-months in every Test match that we've played and I didn't have much left to give today."

"I'm pretty cooked to be honest, mentally and physically. I'm looking forward to a nice couple of weeks' rest now before getting into the Australian summer."



Steve Smith poses with Ashes trophy

Twitter

Smith proud after summer of Ashes redemption

LONDON ■ (AFP)

Steve Smith returned to international cricket to a chorus of boos but he walked off the pitch at the Oval to a standing ovation after a summer of Ashes redemption.

The former Australia captain enjoyed a remarkable series in England, scoring a total of 774 runs in just seven innings and played a pivotal role in his side's two victories in the drawn series.

The catch by Ben Stokes that sent Smith on his way on Sunday ended an astonishing run of scores — 144 and 142 at Edgbaston, 92 at Lords, 211 and 82 at Old Trafford, and 80 and 23 at the Oval.

The 30-year-old made his official return to international cricket in June at the World Cup after serving a year-long ban for ball-tampering and was booed by the crowd in Bristol.

Smith had a decent campaign in the 50-over showpiece but did not set the world alight as Australia reached the semi-finals, where they were beaten by eventual champions England.

But he changed gear when the Ashes started, seemingly hungry to make up for lost time as he dominated the England attack, making two centuries in Australia's comfortable win in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Asked when he felt he was back to his best, an exhausted but "proud" Smith said it was after his first innings at Edgbaston, when he rescued his side, who had stumbled to 122-8.

"That gave me a lot of confi-

dence," he said. "That was probably my favourite innings of the whole series that I played."

"The first Test match, as we know, is always incredibly important in an Ashes series and to sort of pull the team out of a bit of trouble at the time and give me that confidence straight up that I could slot back in and perform, that gave me a lot of confidence."

"It was a long 18 months out of the game and I've got a lot of people to thank, in particular my wife." Smith's series was interrupted after he was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer in the second Test at Lord's, forcing him to miss three innings.

WINNING RETURN

But he returned at Old Trafford to make a monumental double century in another victory for Australia.

His 80 in the first innings in the final Test at the Oval was his 10th consecutive fifty in Ashes Tests.

Australia were chasing 399 to win the series in London but it was always a tall order and Smith was unable to produce a miracle, falling for 23.

His run haul is fifth on the list of highest tallies in an Ashes series.

The man at the top of that list, inevitably, is his late compatriot Donald Bradman, who scored 974 in seven innings in 1930. But the fact that Smith is even in the same conversation as the man widely regarded as the greatest batsman in history is testament to his genius.

Smith, Cummins retain top position

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli has managed to hold on to his second position behind Australia's Steve Smith in the ICC Test Rankings for batsmen released on Monday.

Kohli, with 903 rating points, is 34 points behind Smith (937).

Besides former Australia captain Smith, compatriot Pat Cummins has also retained his one position in the ICC Test bowlers' rankings.

Both Smith and Cummins player key roles in helping Australia retain The Ashes.

The Ashes culminated with a 135-run victory for England in the fifth and final Test on Sunday. The series ended in a 2-2 draw with Australia retaining the Urn.

Smith's scores of 80 and 23 in the two innings in the final Test helped him remain at 937 rating points, an incredible effort since he



Pat Cummins and Steve Smith

started the series in fourth position with 857 points before his surge that came courtesy 774 runs in four Tests.

Cummins too is well clear of other bowlers as he enjoys a lead of 57 points over second-placed Kagiso Rabada after finishing as the top wicket-taker with 29 scalps. India's Jasprit Bumrah is in third place.

Other players from Australia to make notable gains are Matthew Wade and Mitchell Marsh.

Broad got into Warner's head, says Justin Langer

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia's cricket coach Justin Langer said David Warner allowed England paceman Stuart Broad to "get into his head" during a miserable Ashes series for the opener.

Warner ended with the unwanted record of the fewest runs scored by a Test opener across 10 innings of a series.

The 32-year-old, who registered a cumulative total of just 95, was dismissed seven times by Broad during the drawn contest and encountered jeers from home crowds following his role in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

Langer plans to persist with the experienced batsman heading into the Australian summer but expressed some doubt that he would fully recover from a dismal Ashes display.

"I've learned over a long period you never write off champion players, it doesn't matter what sport, you never write off champion players," said Langer, whose side retained the urn following the 2-2 draw.

"He had this series, it didn't go to plan, but he's seen how successful he's

I'VE LEARNED OVER A LONG PERIOD YOU NEVER WRITE OFF CHAMPION PLAYERS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SPORT, YOU NEVER WRITE OFF CHAMPION PLAYERS

been and the impact he can have on Australian cricket teams winning, so I'm confident he'll come good.

"Actually, I'm hopeful he comes good. Talking frankly, I thought he let Stuart Broad get into his head and I think he thought way too much about it."

Langer feels Warner, who was the second-highest run scorer at the World Cup, will be pleased to be returning home.

"In this instance I don't think David solved the puzzle, and he'll be the first to admit that," said.

"He'll probably be very relieved (when) he gets on the Qantas flight knowing he doesn't have to face Stuart Broad for a while, I reckon."



Aus better team in Ashes: Ponting

LONDON ■ (IANS)

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes Tim Paine's men were the better side in the recently-concluded Ashes series against England which ended in a 2-2 stalemate.

Australia retained the Ashes with a comprehensive 185-run victory in the fourth Test but let slip a golden chance to win their first Ashes series in England since 2001 as they conceded a 135-run loss in the tour finale at The Oval on Sunday.

"Australia will look at it as a series of missed opportunities," Ponting told cricket.com.au.

"I think they've clearly been the better team. They've clearly played better cricket throughout the series. They should have won at Headingley."

He also said that the 2-2 result was not a clear reflection of how the series was

played and how the visitors performed in the five-match rubber.

Australia were knocked out of the World Cup in the semi-finals by eventual champions England and retained the urn in England for the first time in 18 years.

Ponting said the efforts of Paine's side should be congratulated even though they didn't manage to win the coveted series.

"We shouldn't undersell how well Australia have played, and on the back of a pretty successful World Cup campaign," he said.

"The boys have been on the road for five months. Making a World Cup semi-final and retaining the Ashes 2-2, it's been a good few months for Australian cricket."

Australia will next face Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series at home beginning October 27.

Sarfraz confident of good showing in World Test Championship



Pakistani batsmen walk into the ground

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan's captain Sarfraz Ahmed is confident that his team is ready to make an impact in the ICC World Test Championship after struggling for form in this format in the last two years.

"After in-and-out performances in the last two years since the retirements

of Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan, I think we are now ready to challenge other teams in the World Test Championship," he said.

Pakistan's first challenge will be a tour to Australia in November where they play two Tests followed by home Test series against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Pakistan is presently placed 7th among 12 Test teams in the ICC World Rankings and Sarfraz admitted his team had neither been consistent nor convincing in the longer format for a while now.

"We have struggled after losing Misbah and Younis and we are in a rebuilding process. But now I think our batsmen are ready to fill the gaps and take responsibility," he said.

"We have Shaan Masood, Imam-ul-Haq, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Harris Sohail and Babar Azam who have now gone through the grind and can do well at the Test level. There is also lot of experience now behind Azhar and Asad."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal — the famed 'KulCha' of Indian cricket — may not be the flavour of the season anymore but experts believe it is too early to write them off in the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

Both Kuldeep and Chahal, who had cemented their place in the two shorter formats with impressive performances over the past 24 months, have not been picked for two straight T20 series, including the ongoing home assignment against South Africa.

Ahead of the opening T20 in Dharamsala, captain Virat Kohli said the team is trying out the likes of Rahul Chahal and Washington Sundar as it is looking to bat deep and post 200 plus totals consistently.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra feels the decision to exclude Kuldeep and Chahal could be a double-edged sword.

"The idea is if you have that much depth in batting you bat a certain way. You can't bat conser-

'Too early to look beyond Kuldeep, Chahal'



Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal chats during practice session

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vatively if you have that kind of depth. That is what England did. They changed the template completely. They focused on batting deep as they wanted to score 400 (in ODIs) and they achieved it many times," Chopra told PTI.

"It looks India is wanting to take the same aggressive approach

in T20s and there is nothing wrong in that. Now, they need to start showing the intent of scoring 220 consistently."

"Batting till 8, 9 and 10 is still ambitious (as you don't need them at all in a 20 over game) but if you are trying to score 220 it is fine," he explained.

Chopra felt if the team decides to compromise on its wicket-taking ability, then it to score more.

However, he foresees Chahal making a T20 comeback very soon. Chahal, at the moment, is only part of the ODI team while Kuldeep is part of both the 50-over and Test squads though not a sure starter in the eleven.

"Chahal will be back. Rahul Chahal is more of a bowler and Washington Sundar's batting at number 8 may not be needed anyway," Chopra added.

Kuldeep and Chahal's inclusion has become a talking point just like finger spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who where shown the door in the shorter formats following the 2017 Champions Trophy, Jadeja made a comeback but Ashwin couldn't.

Former India spinner Sunil Joshi, who is now a well-known spin coach, welcomed the move to try out youngsters before caution-

ing against the confusion the situation might create in the mind of the spinners.

"I would suggest that Kuldeep and Chahal should go back to domestic cricket when they are not on national duty. Finger spinner or wrist spinner is not the question here. It is about having the tactics to outclass the batsman besides technique and temperament," Joshi told PTI.

"Let's see how the young spinners do and ample opportunities should be given to them but at the same time if Chahal and Kuldeep are playing only one format it could disturb their rhythm. White ball cricket is all about rhythm."

"The conditions will be different in Australia for the T20 World Cup with the bigger grounds. Overspin will come in handy. All the spinners who are in the hunt should be told about their roles clearly else it might cause confusion in their minds," Joshi added.