

OPINION 8
A HIMALAYAN
THREAT

WORLD 12
US OFFICIAL SAYS IRAN BEHIND SAUDI
ATTACK, PENCE WARNS OF STRIKES

SPORT 15
DORTMUND HOLD BARCA
FOR GOALLESS DRAW

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13 VIVACITY

Ayodhya verdict by mid Nov

SC says, let us conclude hearing by Oct 18 so that we get 4 weeks to write order

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The target date for completion of arguments assumes significance since Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, who is



heading the five-judge Constitution Bench hearing the case, is due to demit office on November 17.

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

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

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

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

No more procrastination

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

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

"There is an ancillary issue.

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

Referring to its earlier order, it said, "We also make it clear that the terms and the process of settlement including mediation, if resorted to, will abide by our earlier order dated March 8, 2019, with regard to confidentiality." While ordering the day-to-day proceedings, the court had taken note of the report of the three-member panel, also comprising spiritual guru and founder of the Art of Living foundation Sri Sri Ravishankar and senior advocate and renowned mediator Sriram Panchu, that mediation pro-

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

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

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

SC fumes at no safety net for sewer cleaners

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



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

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

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

"Why are you not providing them masks and oxygen cylinders? In no country in the world, people are sent to gas chambers to die. Four to five people are dying due to this every month," a Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra asked Attorney General KK Venugopal Venugopal, while conceding that people involved in such works are dying in the country day-after-day, said deaths have also happened due to potholes on the roads but no action has been taken against the authorities concerned.

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The Government is of the view that e-cigarettes pose health risks similar to those caused by combustible cigarettes. The prohibition will entail penal provisions also with a jail term up to three years and a fine up to ₹5 lakh. The Union Cabinet approved the Prohibition of E-cigarettes Ordinance, 2019. The Ordinance has been sent to the President for clearance. "The ban means prohibition on the production, manufacturing,



Countries where vaping is banned

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

import/export, sale, storage and advertising of e-cigarettes. This is keeping in mind the impact it is having on the youth today. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters here after the Cabinet meeting.

Transport stir against MVA defers exams in Delhi, NCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Dead heat in Israel: Bibi trails by 1

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

The Central Election Committee said that Blue and White party seemed to be taking a lead over Likud after 91 per cent votes were counted. The centre-left bloc now has 56 seats compared to Netanyahu-led bloc, comprised of right-wing and ultra-Orthodox parties, which is at 55 seats in the 120-member Parliament.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

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

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

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

OHRC seeks report on ragging from 4 Govt depts

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Expressing concern over the frequent reports of ragging at different educational institutions, the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) on Wednesday issued notices to four Government departments asking them to submit reports within 10 days.

The OHRC asked the School and Mass Education, Higher Education, Skill Development and Technical Education and Health Departments Secretaries to give details on steps taken to prevent ragging at educational institutions.

Also, the OHRC sought replies on why no criminal cases have been lodged against students involved in ragging.

Notably, on Tuesday, a police complaint was lodged at the Sasan police station in Sambalpur town alleging that a Plus Two first year student of Vedic International School was mercilessly assaulted by senior students with iron rods and belts, following which was hospitalised.

But the school authorities

The Ragging-Free Campus Abhiyan in a petition to the SHRC requested the commission to strongly reprimand the authorities of the educational institutions where ragging is being reported.

instead of taking action against the guilty students, tried to hush up the matter.

In a related development, the Ragging-Free Campus Abhiyan in a petition to the SHRC requested the commission to strongly reprimand the authorities of the educational institutions where ragging is being reported.

Abhiyan president Tejeswar Parida urged the rights body to issue guidelines to make the educational institutions campuses ragging-free.

Naveen reviews pending issues with Centre

AIIMS Delhi donates ₹94L to CM's Relief Fund

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik reviewed the important issues of Odisha pending with the Union Government at the Odisha Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister reviewed the issues and projects pending with different Ministries and Departments of the Central Government. He directed the State's Chief Secretary and the Chief Resident Commissioner in New Delhi to ensure follow-up on these issues.

He directed for close follow-up with the Ministry of Railways on projects where State Government is bearing substantial proportions of the



cost of the projects, besides providing land free of cost. He also suggested further follow-up on issues related to improving telecom and banking density in the State.

Patnaik reviewed the 5T framework for the CRC office and expressed his happiness that lot of progress has been made both in the administrative and financial management.

During his visit, AIIMS Delhi Director Dr Randeep Guleria accompanied by faculty

and staff representatives called on the Chief Minister and presented a cheque of about Rs 93.89 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for Cyclone Fani as one-day salary contribution of employees of AIIMS, Delhi.

The Chief Minister thanked them for the contribution. He also thanked the AIIMS and the entire team of doctors, paramedics and other staffs for their outstanding surgical interventions and care in handling the Jaga-Kalia case.

KALIA SCHEME 32,000 ineligible beneficiaries, not 3.41L: BJD

- Says there is error of only 0.62 %
- 'Allegations of scam politically motivated'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A day after Agriculture Minister Arun Sahoo said there are 3.41 lakh ineligible beneficiaries in the KALIA scheme, BJD spokesperson Pratap Keshari Deb on Wednesday clarified that not all the 3.41 lakh people who received assistance under the scheme are ineligible.

Deb said that only 32,000 ineligible beneficiaries availed the financial assistance and not 3.41 lakh as reported in media, quoting the Agriculture Minister.

Not all the 3.41 lakh beneficiaries are ineligible rather only large farmers and

Government employees are ineligible. A total of 12,000 large farmers and 20,000 Government employees are the only ineligible beneficiaries, who have received assistance under the scheme, Deb said.

He further said that multiple members of the same eligible families who have received assistance are not ineligible. Rather, the assistance released to them would be adjusted in subsequent installments within five years.

But money would be retrieved from the large farmers who have got assistance, he said.

Continued on Page 4

Nurse murder: Six detained for questioning



PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Police have detained six persons for interrogation in connection with the mysterious murder of a nurse, whose body had been found on the Biliukhai riverbed in the district on Tuesday.

The Biridi police detained them on Tuesday night and are currently grilling them to crack the murder mystery.

The body of nurse Niharika Patra, a native of Bhingarpur village of Khordha district near Bhubaneswar.

stuffed in a sack was found on the riverbed near Nuapari in Jagatsinghpur district on Tuesday morning.

Niharika, who was working as a staff nurse at a private nursing home in Cuttack, was missing since September 9.

Continued on Page 4

Man convicted in murder, rape case of Salepur minor

Quantum of punishment to be announced today

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A POCSO Court on Wednesday convicted a person in the sensational rape and murder case of a minor girl on April 21, 2018 in Salepur in Cuttack district.

The court held accused Mohammed Mustaque guilty while the quantum of punishment would be pronounced on Thursday.

Mustaque had raped the six-year-old girl near a school at a village under the Salepur police station. Later, he had also crushed her head with a stone, leaving her critically injured.

The victim had been rescued by villagers and admitted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, where she succumbed to her injuries on April 29.

K'mal rape accused gets 20 years of RI

PNS ■ PHULBANI

A person accused of rape of a minor girl has been sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in Kandhamal district.

Hearing the 2015 case, the POCSO Court here convicted the accused Dasarathi Sethi alias Bulu under Sections 376-D, 376(2)(I), 323 and 506 of IPC and Sections 4 and 6 of Protection of Children from

Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Besides being sentenced to undergo 20 years' RI, the convict was also slapped with a fine of Rs 50,000 for the crime, failing which he would undergo six more months of RI. As per the court's order, the fine will be paid to the victim as compensation. The court recommended the case to the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Phulbani, for awarding the compensation to the girl.

City parks to get makeover soon

Biju Patnaik Park to have world-class facilities

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The authorities are planning makeover of all parks in the State capital with new facilities soon.

The design of the parks would be changed by November this year, informed Housing & Urban Development Minister Pratap Jena. This has been decided at a meeting convened for development and beautification of the city parks, he said.

As per the decision, all the parks including Biju Patnaik Park and Indira Gandhi Park would have facilities like digital boards, sound systems, food courts, restaurants, cafeterias and ladies' corners.

Measures would be taken to update the Biju



Patnaik Park as the country's best park providing all the facilities of international standard, an official source said.

Besides, a yoga trainer would be appointed for each park. Saplings and bio fertilisers would be available at all the parks for visitors. A festival would be organised by an event management firm every week at the parks and visitors would be encouraged to participate in various programmes like

yoga, music, art, theatre, games, community gardening, poetry recitation and awareness programmes.

The width of the road inside a parks would be extended up to 5-6 ft and landscaping would be made by registered agencies. The project would be completed by November 15, said Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) Vice-Chairman Prem Chandra Chaudhary.

INBRIEF

SUGUNA NEW RED CROSS ODISHA SECRETARY

Bhubaneswar: Former IAS officer CTM Suguna has been appointed as Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch Honorary Secretary. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal as President of the Indian Red Cross Society Odisha Branch appointed Suguna for a term of two years on Tuesday. Superannuated from the elite service last year, Suguna was successful in policy planning, policy implementation and an ace mandarin; she donned several crucial assignments in the State Government. She served in various departments including Health and Family Welfare, Labour and Employment, Commerce and Transport, Revenue Administration and several others.



DALIT BODY CELEBRATES PERIYAR'S BIRTH ANNIV

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Dalit Adhikar Manch celebrated the 141th birth anniversary of Periyar EV Ramasamy, Indian social activist and politician who started the Self-Respect Movement and the Dravidar Kazhagam. Giving tributes to Periyar, Manch president Manas Jena spoke on the life and ideals of Periyar. Among others, former administrator Kalayan Ray, Odisha Communist Party president Ajeeta Rout, Aam Aadmi Party State convener Nishikanta Mohapatra, Manch advisor Madhusudan Yadav, Jajpur district president Rajesh Jena, Boudh district president Suresh Rajhans, Lecturer Raghunath Mandal, Banshidhar Parida and Shrinath Jena remembered Periyar's contribution in social reformation. Prashant Mallick delivered a vote of thanks.



IYA HOLDS AWARENESS DRIVE IN DIFFERENT MANNER

Bhubaneswar: The Indian Youth Association (IYA) held a traffic awareness drive in a different manner at Kalinga Hospital Square here recently. Traffic DCP Sagarika Nath and her team attended the programme and sensitised people about the new traffic rules. IYA members distributed key chains and leaflets and pasted stickers on vehicles with a message 'I am obeying rules, U too obey'. IYA PRO Aditya Samal, Priya Gadnayak, Rinku Samal, Pramod Prusty, Patitapaban Panda, Sukant Swain, Kalpana Ankita, Asit Samal, Krishna Nayak, Bhakti Prasad Pradhan, Biswajit Samal, Rakesh Sahu and many other members took part in the drive.



TALK SHOW ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT HELD

Bhubaneswar: Odia newspaper 'Odisha Mirror' organised a talk show on women empowerment at the Symphony Mall here on Tuesday. Amiyabala Parida, Kalipada Tripathy, Basantaraja Samal, Prasanta Rout, Abhaya Kumar Jena and Prakash Chandra Rout attended as guests. On the occasion, Babina Mahalik was felicitated for her bravery in protesting eve-teasing in the city. Odisha Mirror editor-in-chief Dillip Kumar Biswal presided over the meeting.



Pradhan bats for direct flight from BBSR to Dubai

Tells Aviation Min that 15K Odias residing in UAE

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the rising Odia population in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to introduce a direct flight to-and-from Bhubaneswar and Dubai.

"At present, Bhubaneswar is connected internationally with a direct flight to only one destination, i.e. Bangkok. There has been a long-pending request from various quarters for introducing a direct flight from Bhubaneswar to Dubai in the UAE," Pradhan wrote to Puri on Tuesday.

He mentioned that more than 15,000 Odia people residing in different parts of the UAE who are forced to undertake an indirect route for travelling to Odisha. The Odia Society of the UAE had a meeting with the GM of the Air India Middle-east and Africa

At present, Bhub is connected internationally with a direct flight to only 1 destination, i.e. Bangkok

regarding viability of a direct Air India flight between Bhubaneswar and Dubai based on favourable traffic data between these destinations.

"Bhubaneswar has now turned to be an educational, healthcare, cultural and tourist hub with rich potential for medical tourism, cultural tourism and educational exchange programmes. Keeping in mind all these, I request your personal intervention in launching a direct flight between Bhubaneswar and Dubai at the earliest for the welfare of commuters," wrote Pradhan.

Teachers have to stay in schools for seven hours

Working hours changed in Bhubaneswar
Minister takes action against absentees at Baliana BEO

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has come up with new guidelines by changing the working hours of the teachers posted in Government schools in Bhubaneswar.

As per the instructions issued by the Block Education Office (BEO) to the headmasters of all types of schools in Bhubaneswar, the teachers have to stay seven hours a day at schools. The working hours will begin from 9.30 am and continue till 4.30 pm.

"No teacher is allowed to leave school before 4.30 pm and he has to come at 9.30 am," the notification stated.

Besides, the BEO under the School and Mass Education Department has instructed the school authorities to display the School Development Plans

(SDPs) and Student Success Plans (SSPs) at the schools.

The BEO has also asked the schools to install filters for students and have mat in every classroom.

The school authorities have also been directed to maintain a register when parents take their children during class hours and ensure to have a monitoring register to keep record of any official's visit to school.

As per the new guidelines, the teachers will have to be present during midday meal serving time and no teacher is allowed to visit any other office during the school hours.

The school authorities are asked to take care of students and practise them regularly to bag Garima Award, failing which the school will be proved as 'default'. Meanwhile, School & Mass Education Minister Samir



Ranjan Dash on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to the office of Baliana Block Education Officer (BEO) and took action against the staffers who were absent during the working hours. The Minister found presence of only two employees at the office at around 10.40 am. He directed the BEO to issue show-cause notices to the absent staffers and deduction of one day's salary of these employees. Dash later visited the Nuapatna UP School and the Pratap Sasan High School in the area, where he checked the attendance of teachers and interacted with students.

3 new learning licence centres in city

The offices are functioning at the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation head office Office at Kalpana Square

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government on Wednesday opened three camp offices in the city in a bid to decrease the rush at the RTOs and streamline the issuance of driving licences to the applicants.

The offices are functioning at the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation head office Office at Kalpana Square; BMC Ward Office in Saheed Nagar and BMC Zonal Office at Nalco Square. Learning Licences will be issued at the centres from September 18 to 21 between 10 am and 5 pm. There would be no 'slot booking' system at the camp offices. Instead, 'first come, first serve' procedure would be implemented at these centres.

Sri Sri arrives on 4-day visit to State

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Lifetime president of Sri Sri University Sri Sri Ravi Shankar arrived here on Wednesday on a four-day visit to the State.

During his visit, the founder of the Art of Living would lay foundation of a Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and Research Hospital in the university campus here on Saturday.



Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Health Minister Naba Kishore Das would grace the ceremony, said a Press release issued by the university.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is also scheduled to preside over an integrated health summit and a special convocation, where Herman De Croo, former Belgian Member of Parliament, would be honoured with Honoris Causa Honorary D.Litt. for his contribution towards politics, law and social welfare, said another release issued by the district administration here.

Realtor rapes woman job aspirant; held

2nd such incident in city within a couple of weeks

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Badagada police have arrested the owner of a real estate firm on the charge of raping a married woman on the pretext of a job inter-

view. The accused was identified as Debashish Samantaray (37), a resident of Kedar Gouri Vihar in the city. Sources said Samantaray had asked the woman to visit his office at Kedar Gouri Vihar for the job interview. But when she went there, she was allegedly raped.

Samantaray also threatened the woman of dire consequences if she divulged the matter to anyone. Later, the victim lodged a police complaint

in this connection on September 15 at the Badagada police station. Acting on the complaint, a police team conducted a raid and nabbed the accused, who was forwarded to court on Wednesday.

Notably a couple of weeks ago, another woman job aspirant had been raped in a hotel in the Kalpana Square area under the Badagada police station in the city by the branch head of a finance company.

Long queues at vehicle emission check centres

Sir, Since three days I have been visiting several vehicle emission checking centres in Bhubaneswar and seeing long queues of vehicles, both two and four-wheelers, going for emission testing. The heavy rush may be primarily because of the new traffic rules which I wholeheartedly welcome.

I want every vehicle driver not only to keep all documents perfect but also to follow

traffic rules carefully and drive with caution avoiding accidents.

Also, I request, through this column, all vehicle owners, both two and four-wheelers, to cover the half portion of the high beam lights with black paint to avoid dazzling lights during night time to prevent accidents.

K Ravi, E-237, GGP Colony, Bhubaneswar-751025, Mob: 4374616497

Puri facelift drive: None adversely hit; displaced gain enormously

BISWARAJ PATNAIK ■ BHUBANESWAR

Amicus Curiae Ranjit Kumar and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta have expressed great satisfaction over the Odisha Government's eviction and reconstruction drive in Puri to make it a world-class heritage centre. They have approved the facelift initiative as absolutely in public interest and keeping with law. Both legal experts visited the temple, met Shankaracharya Swami Nischalananda Saraswati and Gajapati Maharaja Dibyasingh Deb. They also consulted the temple managing committee enquired to know that the people too supported the drive.

When the temple construction was completed sometime in the 13th century, the population of the entire Indian subcontinent was less than 150 million. India may have had 120 million people then by logical conclusion and Odisha may have had around 4 million. Puri may have been home to only 5 thousand inhabitants as there was not much facility available other than related to temple service. As aural histo-

ry would have it, there were only monasteries and mutts established by the monarchs to extend hospitality to pilgrims. The most luxurious mode of transport then was horse carts mainly owned by the royal families and the rich. For commoners, the bullock cart was the most-coveted transport mode, or else travel by foot. No wonder, Puri town was planned with roads for horse and bullock carts to cater a maximum 5 hundred thousand people across a year including the Car Festival.

The average daily footfall until the 1970s never exceeded 3-5 thousand. It would stun most people to know that the population of India in the Nabakalebara year of 1977 was only 630 million, half of today. Until the early eighties, before live telecast happened and the ISKCON popularised the Jagannath culture all over the planet, the Car Festivals did not even have enough visitors to pull the Raths away to a mere 3-km destination. One would witness on the morrow hapless police personnel pulling the cars from the mid-road locations. Interestingly, the Gajapati whose specific title has been



drawn and derived from owning elephant-borne soldiers, does not have one elephant in his service today. A couple of elephants had always been prized possession of the monarch until the early 1970s, who would be pressed to the service of joining the police personnel in pulling the chariots to the Gundicha Temple. So, everybody is in trouble today for lack of space and safe traffic management in Puri, which is the foremost shrine city among the Hindu destinations. And because of the disproportionately rising number of visitors, it has been suffering heavily on space and traffic management fronts. Naveen Patnaik, himself an ardent devotee of Lord

Jagannath, took a bold decision of making Puri universally attractive by having the location fittingly revamped with sensitively-planned facelift moves after a couple of judicial commissions placed reports and several court rulings on PILs came into hands. People must realise that the times of today have undergone a sea change. More than the pilgrims, tourists and health-seekers have chosen Puri as a desired destination. More and more outsiders have set up home in Puri. Thus, Puri has a whopping population of at least 6 lakh locals and a daily floating one of another 2 lakh. That turns the Puri of horse carts, bullock carts horrendously difficult to manage traffic and huge crowd of today involving at least 2,000 motor cars, 5,000 two-wheelers and countless cacophonous auto-rickshaws.

There is big talk by mindless, uneducated elements about Puri being turned into a world-class heritage centre by putting people into jeopardy due to eviction and displacement, which is grossly wrong. A uniquely massive special package for rehabilitation and

resettlement of affected individuals and institutions has been brought in place already. No one is truly going to suffer materially; in fact, all stand to gain immensely on the monetary front. There will of course be some sentimental issues for a few, but for the greater good of the society, people should give up sentiments.

The comprehensive package focuses on almost all stakeholders as it includes immediate as well as resettlement assistance in multiple layers that would benefit not only residents but also shopping establishments, lodges and vendors. For residential units, according to the special package, a relocation allowance of Rs 50,000 per family towards expenses of transportation and other immediate arrangements will be given apart from Rs 10,000-per-month assistance from the date of acquisition of the property till handing over of a residential unit/resettlement plot to the displaced family. The space losers will be compensated at several times the market price, which is kind of a 'dream come true' thing for mutt custodians. The Mahant Ramanuja Mutt, 'MR Mutt' in

short, called 'Emar Mutt' by the ignorant locals, is going to benefit the most. It will have a modern, attractive structure attracting all to go around soon. More importantly, the literally damaged, rundown Raghunandan Library, forgotten and ignored since long, is now to rise in resurrection. The self-proclaimed heritage activists and opponents may not have visited the library once in the last two decades. Political crooks and headless rebels, including a few from the legal community, have been screaming hoarse against the laudable facelift initiative only with a view to remaining in news. Even the Shankaracharya seems to know nothing about restoring heritage and past glory. Most importantly, no mutt and monastery will lose "gaadis" at all. A fantastic redevelopment plan is in place to reconstruct and restore the heritage component of all age-old mutts that's connected with the main shrine and has much to do with mass sentiments. What is not discussed about detractors is that most mutts had badly disintegrated to pitiable wrecks of the original shapes and sizes. Thugs had

encroached most space and were reaping huge financial benefits without sharing even a little to restore the heritage structures. In fact, the mutts are now with enough cash to being back the structural glory in modern form and pursue religious matters better than ever before.

Affected families can opt for a one-time assistance of Rs 30 lakh or go for 520-square foot unit within 1.5 km of the temple complex, or a 1,000-sqft plot within two km. For shop owners, a relocation allowance of Rs 50,000 per unit is given for transportation. Shops between 200 and 500-sqft size, variable monthly rental assistance of Rs 5,000, Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000 are being given from the date of acquisition of property until new spaces are handed over.

Similarly, lodging houses over more and less than 3,000 sqft are given relocation allowance of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively, for transportation and immediate livelihood. Besides, lodging units will be paid a monthly support assistance of Rs 25 per sqft from the date of acquisition of property for 18 months. A

lodge owner can also opt for onetime assistance of Rs 2,000 per sqft built-up area. Lodge owners can also opt for allotment of one resettlement plot each towards development of new units within 300 metre on either side of the Grand Road. Most uniquely, every lodge owner will be provided with a construction assistance of Rs 750 per sqft. Besides, affected street vendors will also be provided a onetime assistance of Rs 30,000.

Naveen, with his extremely capable administrators, has planned so well for making Puri enormously attractive as to be the envy of the rest of the regimes in India. It would be appropriate to mention his 5T Secretary V Karthikeyan Pandian, an otherwise shy, low-profile, God-fearing guy who is glued to the job like a general in war field, and monitoring the facelift activities 24x7 only to ensure no single person is affected adversely due to the drive. A chance conversation with him, though very brief, revealed his noblest of designs in the service of the Lord whose only desire is to see every living creature happy!

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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

Posts best performance in a decade with ₹1,732cr net profit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

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

Speaking on the sidelines of the 38th AGM on Wednesday, Nalco CMD Dr Tapan Kumar Chand attributed the success to team work,



strong cost focus and strategic planning.

"Year 2018-19 has been an extremely rewarding year for the Nalco on all fronts. We have not only excelled in mak-

ing production, profit, productivity and people engagement, we have also made exemplary contribution in promoting and putting focus on nature, nurture and future.

Sustainability has now become a part of our key business processes, empathy and core of our CSR practices," said Dr Chand.

The company also achieved best performance in a decade making Rs earning 1,732 crore net profit, a growth of 29 per cent over previous year.

The Central PSU is credited to be the lowest cost producer of alumina in the world consecutively for the last four years, lowest cost producer of bauxite in the world in 2018, one of the top three CPSEs with highest net foreign exchange earnings and its domestic market share in aluminium has increased to 24.3 per cent in FY 2018-19 against 21.1 per cent in previous year.

Highhandedness, excess by Nalco PS cops NHRC seeks report from Angul DM in four weeks

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought an action-taken report (ATR) from the Angul district Collector on the highhandedness and misbehaviour by cops of the Nalco police station. The Collector was directed to submit the report within four weeks.

The NHRC passed the order taking cognisance of a petition filed by civil society organisation Human Rights

Watch secretary Sangita Swain.

In her petition Swain alleged that on August 18, 2019 a poor woman was beaten up by her husband. When she went to the Nalco PS, Sub Inspectors Anupama Patra and Sanghamitra Sathpathy told her to come later.

Later, when two journalists Samir Sahoo and Nipu Bhutia went to the police station on her behalf in a bid to help her, the Sub-Inspectors threatened them in presence

of IIC Geetanjali Sahoo of dire consequences.

They even lodged blatant false case (No. 89/ 2019) against the journalist duo despite them writing to the Angul SP about the matter.

Swain prayed to the commission to initiate criminal proceedings against the concerned officials for misutilising their power and troubling the journalists who are working for larger public interest and compensate Rs 5 lakh each for the mental harassment.

Medicine trader shot dead in Kendrapada

Motive behind crime yet to be ascertained

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

In yet another incident of the deteriorating law and order situation in the district, a medicine trader was shot dead by unidentified miscreants near Hatia village under the Marshaghai police station in the district on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Gagan Sahu of Manikunda village. He was on his way on a two-wheeler when two bike-borne miscreants

fired at Sahu. Locals, who were working in the nearby farmland, immediately rushed Sahu to the Marshaghai Government hospital, where he was declared brought dead by doctors.

A case was registered at Marshaghai police station in the matter and a probe was underway, a police official said. The motive behind the murder was yet to be ascertained. The body would be handed over to the family after postmortem, police said.

The incident has triggered panic among the business community in the area.

Chouhan WODC new Chairman

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday appointed senior BJD leader Subash Chouhan as Chairman of the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC). The post was vacant since last incumbent Chairman Kishore Chandra Mohanty was elected to the State Assembly in the last elections.

IN JAGATSINGHPUR Upakula Bikash Parishad meeting held



PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The Upakula Bikash Parishad (UBP), a socio-cultural organisation functioning in 10 coastal districts of Odisha, held its third general meeting at Sasanapada near Alpingala here on Tuesday.

Representatives of the organisation discussed several problems and demanded that the State Government form a

'Coastal District Bikash Parishad' like the Western Odisha Bikash Parishad for undertaking developmental works in the coastal region. A memorandum would be submitted to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in this regard, they said. Among others, UBP leaders Sasibhusan Parida, Nrusingha Barik, Saroj Nayak, Arta Pati, Aruna Acharya, Ajay Jena, Youtiranjan Parida and Birabar Dalei were present.

JGU gets 'Institution of Eminence' tag

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The OP Jindal Global University (JGU) has been recognised as an "Institution of Eminence" by the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and has entered into a select list of top 10 private institutions in the country. This was announced in New Delhi on Wednesday. Chancellor Naveen Jindal said, "I am immensely pleased with the recognition of JGU as an Institution of Eminence. I would like to thank the Ministry of HRD for recognising our efforts to provide world class education in India. JGU will create new opportunities for empowering the youth of India and the world. The recognition in a decade of its existence is a tribute to the outstanding contribution of its faculty, students and staff. It heralds a new era in our journey towards nation-building."

Ravenshaw Eng department 1975-batch alumni meet held

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The third meeting of the alumni of Ravenshaw College PG Department of English 1975-batch was held here recently and made honest introspection regarding the realisation of pledges and promises made to the life of the institution, established over more than one and a half centuries ago.

Department HOD Dr Sambit Panigrahi welcomed the alumni members describing their assemblage as a spiritual homecoming to their second home.

Alumni members opined that the Ravenshaw College should also have its distinctive identity apart from the present Ravenshaw University, although every one welcomed the metamorphosis of the college into a varsity.

It was resolved that the alumni shall extend all possi-



ble help to the department that takes a lead for enumerating a total list of alumni of Ravenshaw by contacting all those who are alive till date.

An atmosphere of retrospective reverie was palpably noticeable during the meet. It was announced that the next meet would be hosted by alumni Rabi Nanda on December 1 at the venue at the OAS Officers' Association in Bhubaneswar.

The entire meet of the alumni was spearheaded by the

untiring efforts of the visiting Prof Dr Bhagawat Nath along with the effective coordination and contact by Prof Sourav Udgata and Prof Santosh Bez.

Among others, Indo-Anglican poet Raju Samal, Prof Manjushri Diivedi, Prof Sulochana Das Roy, Ashok Das, Ravi Singh, Bijay Mania, Prof Sachitananda Tripathy, Arabinda Panigrahi, senior journalist Sugyan Choudhury and former IAS officer Rabi Nanda were present.

ODISHA TOURISM CONCLAVE Centre urged to boost infra, save foreign exchange

- To include Sun Temple, Buddhist Circuit in Iconic list
- To provide air connectivity to Jeypore

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

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

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

He suggested that in order to give a faster boost to the growth of tourism industry and infrastructure every department of the Government must be involved in allocating funds.



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

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

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

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

Construction and technology god Viswakarma's Puja has begun at more than 20 places at this port town from Tuesday. The celebrations will continue till September 22 with cultural programmes.

Mainly, trade unions, truck owners' associations and industrial units are celebrating the Viswakarma Puja. They include Jagatsinghpur District Truck Owners' Association, Baba Biswanath Jagatsinghpur District Dumper Owners' Association, Eastern India Oil Refinery Workers' Union, whose president is eminent trade union leader and BJD State secretary Santosh Kumar

INBRIEF

B'GARH VILLAGERS GHERAO DM OFFICE, OPPOSE SBI SHIFTING

Bargarh: More than 200 people of Bugbuga village under Attabira block on Wednesday staged a demonstration in front of the Bargarh Collectorate in protest against shifting of the SBI Branch from their village. They sent a memorandum in this regard to Chief Minister Naveen Patanaik through the district Collector. MP Suresh Pujhari came to the spot and assured them that he would request the SBI higher authorities to withdraw the decision. The SBI Bugbuga Branch was inaugurated by the Chief Minister through video conferencing on January 26, 2014.



2 DIE, 6 CRITICAL AS TRUCK HITS VAN IN KEONJHAR

Keonjhar: Two persons died and six others sustained critical injuries when a truck hit a van by which they were travelling on NH-20 near Marshapal Chhank in Anandapur of the district on Tuesday night. The van, carrying 11 persons from Gaya in Bihar to Guna district of Madhya Pradesh, was hit by the truck from rear when it was parked on roadside. Fire Services personnel reached the spot, rescued the victims and admitted the injured to the Anandapur Sub-Divisional Hospital.

MAN FOUND DEAD IN WELL ; KIN SUSPECT FOUL PLAY

Angul: A man was found dead in mysterious circumstances in an abandoned well at Natada village under the Angul police station on Wednesday morning. He was identified as Panchu (35). He had gone missing since Tuesday evening. Villagers spotted his body floating in the well and informed his family and police. Police reached the spot, recovered the body and sent it for postmortem. The deceased's family members suspected that he was murdered and his body was dumped in the well.

INEBRIATED MAN KILLS WIFE IN BALESWAR

Baleswar: A 35-year-old man thrashed his wife to death in an inebriated state in the Khatapar area on Tuesday night. The incident occurred at Tentulia village. The accused was identified as Bharat Singh, who killed his wife Basanti (30) after taking liquor. The sister of the deceased lodged a complaint with police. "We reached the village and seized the body. The accused confessed to the crime. A case has been registered against him under Section 302 (murder) of IPC," said police.

DRUNK MAN TRAMPLED BY ELEPHANT IN SUNDARGARH

Rourkela: A 50-year-old man was trampled to death by a tusker at Deobhubanpur village under the Ujalpur Forest Range in Sundargarh district late on Tuesday night when he was sleeping at the verandah of his house in an inebriated condition. The elephant lifted him with its trunk and crushed him to death on the spot. He was identified as Dhoro Barla. The pachyderm also broke the wall of the house. Being informed, forest officials reached the spot and recovered the body.

GOODS TRAIN DERAILS IN JHARSUGUDA

Jharsuguda: A coal-laden freight train derailed near Lahandabud in Jharsuguda district on Wednesday. A wagon of the goods train went off track on the Basundhara-Jharsuguda railway line at around 7 am causing the derailment. The train was on its way to Jharsuguda from Basundhara in Sundargarh district. Railway officials reached the spot and initiated efforts to restore normalcy in the route as rail traffic was affected after the incident. A relief train was pressed into service for realignment and a probe was ordered into the mishap.

PYTHON TRAPPED IN FISHING NET RESCUED FROM POND

Cuttack: A 10-ft-long python, trapped in a fishing net, was rescued from a pond at Kakhadi village under Tangi Choudwar block in Cuttack district on Wednesday. The non-venomous snake had been trapped in the net laid by fishermen for fishing. Panicked locals informed forest officials about it. Forest personnel reached the spot, rescued the snake and released it into a forest.



Viswakarma Puja celebrated at Paradip

Immersion to take place on Sept 22



PNS ■ PARADIP

Besides, Paradip Truck Owners' Association, Jagannath Truck Owners' Association, Odisha Marine Fish Producers' Association, Paradip Youth Development Council, Erasama Paradip Industrial Workers' Union, PPT Marine Department, PHD Department and Port Electrical Department are also celebrating the Puja.

The immersion of idols will take place on September 22. For law and order purpose, nine 9 platoons of police force, including 45 officers and civil dressed police personnel are deployed in the town. All Puja Mandaps have installed CCTV cameras.

Japanese neurosurgeon behind Jaga-Kalia separation

Prof Takizawa hails from Hokkaido

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

On August 28, when Jaga and Kalia underwent the first stage surgery for 25 hours at AIIMS, New Delhi, the whole State of Odisha rejoiced and so did the country. The second stage of separation was performed some days later.

The surgery was labeled as a "medical achievement" and was well covered in all the newspapers across the country. But what is less known is that Prof Katsumi Takizawa, a world-renowned neurosur-

geon from Japan, performed the 'most vital' operation, "vascular venous anastomosis", which was the most important component of the surgery.

Prof Takizawa hails from Hokkaido, Japan and is the Head, Department of Neurosurgery, at the Japanese Red Cross Asahikawa Hospital.

He is recognized world over for his skill in ability to perform "Brain vascular bypass". He has given lectures all over the world and has trained several surgeons all over the world.



"Vascular bypass" or "Brain blood vessel bypass" involves joining and suturing blood vessels in the brain under microscope which is an extremely complex and difficult process.

Still more difficult is the ability to suture veins, which are even more difficult. Unlike heart bypass, the blood vessels in brain are barely 1 mm in diameter and only a few surgeons world over possess the skill to do this surgery.

Jaga and Kalia shared common venous channels and Prof Takizawa was specially invited to separate the blood supply of both the children by performing "venous bypass". Only a few surgeons across

globe can perform such small and delicate vein to vein anastomosis (joining).

This most difficult surgery involved Prof Takizawa to perform this surgery for over 20 long hours without stopping even once for a sip of water or food. The surgery started at 8 am in the morning and Prof Takizawa remained scrubbed for surgery till the next day 3 am! What is more remarkable is that following surgery, he even went for giving a class for students at 8 am after just catching a few hours of sleep!

And Prof Takizawa did all this without any consultation charges or fees. All he was provided was tickets for travel and stay, sources said.

Prof Takizawa was invited to give a Special Oration at the 19th Annual Congress of Cerebrovascular Society of India held here at Bhubaneswar from September 13 to 15.

Even though he could not come personally due to a sudden unavoidable personal tragedy, he mentioned his role in the surgery of Jaga and Kalia in his oration through web. Prof Takizawa talked at length about the critical surgery along with detailed videos of surgery done at AIIMS, New Delhi through web conference from Japan and made the entire audience spellbound.

The Society Executive Members thanked Prof

Takizawa profusely for his tremendous contribution and announced the honor for him with a Silver Plaque and thanked him for his rich contribution to the field of neurosurgery.

Prof Dr Hirotoishi Sano of Fujita Health University, Japan, who was attending the conference was handed over the plaque, who talked to him on phone and received the plaque on his behalf.

Now it is high time that Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who took so much care of Jaga and Kalia, should invite the hidden Japanese hand, who did the most critical surgery and honor him in a befitting way.

NIFT CONVOCAION Agrima bags award for 'Student of the Year'



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A convocation ceremony of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Bhubaneswar was held here on Tuesday where degrees were awarded to as many as 185 graduating students of the class of 2019.

Union Minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Bhubaneswar North MLA Sushant Kumar Rout and IIM Sambalpur Director Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal attended as guests.

Sarangi said, "When the

country is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Mahatma, the symbol of sustainability, the NIFT campus brings pride to the State by being registered as the world's first sustainable fashion campus."

NIFT Director Dr Binaya Bhusan Jena presented the annual academic report. The ceremony got extended by the administration of oath to the graduates by NIFT Dean Shantmanu.

The 'NIFT Student of the Year' award was given to Agrima Singh of Bachelor of

UNION MINISTER PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI, BHUBANESWAR NORTH MLA SUSHANT KUMAR ROUT AND IIM SAMBALPUR DIRECTOR PROF MAHADEO JAISWAL ATTENDED AS GUESTS

Fashion Technology and NIFT Extraordinary Service Award to Sampri Singh Babu of Fashion Communication.

Union Min Shekhawat to visit State on Sep 21

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will come on a visit to the State on September 21. He would deliberate on abrogation of Article 270 and 35 (A) at a seminar to be held at Hotel Marriion here at 10.30 am on the same day.

BJP State spokesperson Golak Mohapatra informed this on Wednesday.

Shekhawat would tell the gathering about changes made in the lifestyle of residents of Jammu and Kashmir post nullification of the two Articles of the Constitution, said Mohapatra.

Farmers' body seeks milk MSP at ₹30/ litre

Threatens to hold demo, spill milk on roads

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Milk Farmers' Association (OMFA) held a meeting here on Wednesday under the leadership of its chairman Rabi Behera and demanded that the State Government provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 30 per litre of milk.

Behera said Milk Moo and Pragati dairies are providing Rs 28.50 and Rs 28.85, respectively, to the farmers from September 1. But the farmers who are providing milk to the Omfed are getting Rs 26.10 since 2014.

He said that during a farmers' convention held recently,

the association had submitted memorandum to the Agriculture and Cooperation Minister and the Agriculture Production Commissioner had assured that the Government is sympathetic towards the milk farmers' demand. But even as a week has passed, no step has



been taken to provide the right price to the farmers yet, Behera added.

The members also said the Omfed has increased the price of cattle feed from Rs 16 to Rs 20.58, but the Omfed and the Government have been neglecting the milk farmers since years. The association threatened that if its demand is not fulfilled in two days, the farmers would resort to agitation and would be forced to spill milk on roads.

Cuttack EHT Dvn DGM in Vigilance net

PNS ■ CUTTACK

On the allegation of acquisition of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income by Rameswar Mahala, Deputy General Manager, Narasinghpur Electrical Grid under EHT Construction Division, CDA, Bidanasi, Cuttack, the Vigilance sleuths conducted raids on Wednesday at different locations and traced his assets worth Rs 1,36,53,112.

The locations raided include his residential building at Padmapur, Jaipur Road, Jaipur, house at native village Bada Dangua, Mayurbhanj, office room at Electrical Grid, Cuttack, rented house at Raj Barahampur, Baleswar. His assets include one four-storied building, two numbers of plots, three motor cycles, deposits in different banks and insurance companies, gold ornaments, cash and household articles.

Hindalco in DJSI list, recognised for governance, social, green initiatives



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Hindalco Industries Limited has made its entry in the 2019 edition of the S and P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI).

The metals flagship of the \$48.3-billion Aditya Birla Group, Hindalco has been recognised for its success in governance, social and environmental initiatives and is the only aluminium manufacturer from India to be included in the list this year.

The DJSI is a global stan-

dard for measuring and advancing corporate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

With DJSI inclusion, the Hindalco is now one of 98 companies in the Emerging Markets Index. It is one of 12 companies from India to make to the list. The DJSI score places Hindalco among the world's top three aluminium companies.

"I am proud that Hindalco has successfully met the stringent criteria of DJSI," said company MD Satish Pai.

MCL at vigyan mela wins exemplary exhibit award



PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

While the first prize for "Exemplary Exhibit" attracting visitors at the 8th Bhopal Vigyan Mela was presented to BrahMos displaying models of different ballistic missiles, the MCL was awarded for its "Exemplary Exhibit" showcasing opencast coalmin-

ing models of HEMMs.

A team of Lajkura OCP of MCL's Ib Valley Area displayed mining operations in the exhibit.

It was a proud moment to see sister subsidiaries WCL, Nagpur and NCL, Singrauli also winning 1st and 2nd prizes, respectively, in the industrial category for displaying their innovations.

Prizes were presented by chief guest at valedictory session former Governor Tripura & Haryana Kaptan Singh Solanki and MP Minister Pachayati Raj & Grameen Vikas Kamleshwar Patel.

The four-day-long exhibition attracted a large number of school/engineering college students of Bhopal.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.-E.E.-04/2019-20

174-B

- Number of works :- 1 (One) number of work
- Approximate estimated cost :- 63.06 Lakh
- Period of Completion :- 4 (Four) Calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of bid documents :- Dt.26.09.2019 to 10.10.2019 in the portal
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal :- Dt. 10.10.2019 up to 4.00 PM
- Date of Opening of bid :- Dt. 11.10.2019 at 11.00 AM
- Name & address of the Office inviting bid :- Executive Engineer, Mayurbhanj (R&B) Division, Baripada

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mayurbhanj (R&B) Division

34060/11/0004/1920

SHORT TENDER CALL NOTICE
Office of the D.G. & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack

171-D

- Sealed tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their Authorized Agent or from their Authorized dealers for purchase of the following Tentage items and Riot Control Materials for Odisha Police during the Current Financial Year, 2019-2020.

Sl. No.	Name of the item	Approximate Quantity
1	PVC coated Tarpaulin (14' x 14')	404 nos.
2	PVC coated Tarpaulin (12' x 12')	404 nos.
3	G.S.Pal Tent Cover 404 nos.	
4	Durry Cotton Size (12' x 12')	100 nos.
5	Electric Shock Baton with Holster	100 nos.

- Name of items along with detail technical specifications, probable requirements against each item may be seen from the Web site of the Govt. of Odisha i.e. www.odisha.gov.in. The quantity may vary during indent of the items depending upon budgetary allocation.
- Date of issue of tender documents from dtd.19.9.2019 at 10.00 AM to dtd. 14.10.2019 up to 5.00 PM.
- Last date for receipt of sealed tender on dtd. 15.10.2019 up to 5.00 PM.
- Date for opening of sealed tenders / technical bids on dtd.16.10.2019 at 11.30 AM at the Office of the D.G. & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Buxi Bazar, Cuttack.

Sd/-
A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning),
Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

12018/11/0009/1920

ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI, BARGARH
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
CUM DISTRICT MISSION DIRECTOR, NHM, BARGARH

No.: 8086 Date: 17/09/2019

NOTICE

Applications are invited from the contractual employees currently working under NHM in the same post of OSH & FW society in other district, desiring to be posted in BARGARH District against the vacant positions mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of post vacant
1.	Psychiatric Nurse District Mental Health Programme	1 No.
2.	Clinical Psychologist District Mental Health Programme	1 No.
3.	Psychiatric Social Worker District Mental Health Programme	1 No.
4.	Community Nurse District Mental Health Programme	1 No.
5.	Programme Officer, District Mental Health Programme	1 No.
6.	Finance-Logistic Assistant (FLA), NVBDCP	1 No.
7.	DPMU, Accountant	2 Nos.

Interested in house candidates of NHM may log on to www.bargarh.nic.in for details terms and conditions & application form etc. The eligible candidates for the above post, who are interested, may apply in the prescribed form to the office of the Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer-cum-District Mission Director, Bargarh, Pin Code - 768028, by 25.09.2019 upto (5.00 P.M.) by Regd. Post / Speed Post / Courier only. Application received after the due date will not be considered. Number of vacancies under this advertisement is provisional which may increase or decrease depending upon the actual vacancy. Time to time notification regarding status of selection process will be hoisted in district web-site. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel / reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof. This office will not be responsible for any postal delay. No personal query will be entertained.

Sd/-
Chief District Medical & PHO cum DMD,
Bargarh

ECOR implements e-Office System



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of digital initiative and with an aim to go paperless in office working with promoting Green Railways and also improving transparency and efficiency of the existing official work system, the East Coast Railway (ECOR) has started e-Office System which would be a part

of the national e-governance programme.

ECOR General Manager Vidya Bhushan inaugurated a NIC e-Office System at its headquarters here on Wednesday in presence of Additional General Manager Sudhir Kumar and all Principal Heads of the Departments.

The system will be a great platform towards paperless

working of day to day activities and to bring transparency & efficiency in office functioning. It is based on Central Secretariat Manual of e-Office Procedure (CSMEOP).

The e-Office will enhance data security and integrity and promote innovation by releasing staff energy and time from unproductive process and procedures.

Nurse murder: Six detained for questioning

From Page 1
A missing complaint in this regard had been lodged by her family at the Madhupatna police station in Cuttack.

The family suspected that Niharika had eloped with her boyfriend, namely Raja, whose

whereabouts are yet to be ascertained. After her body's recovery from the river bed, the family has alleged that she was murdered by Raja.

The Jagatsinghpur SDPO said police have sent the deceased's body for post-mortem and are questioning a number of people to unearth the truth. Since it is a sensational case, many people are saying different things. But they have not detained anyone yet.

32,000 ineligible beneficiaries,

From Page 1
He further clarified that the State Government has nothing to hide. Whenever such a huge scheme is launched, there is always two to four per cent error. In case of KALIA

scheme, the rate of error is only '0.62 per cent'.

"So, when the margin of error is only 0.62 per cent, the scheme is termed as a scam; it is politically motivated," said Deb.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik told reporters that the KALIA money paid to ineligible persons would be collected from them.

SC fumes at no safety net for sewer ...

From Page 1
He told the Bench, also comprising justices MR Shah and BR Gavai, that law of tort, which deals with civil wrong and its liabilities thereof, is not developed and practiced in the country and though the magistrates have jurisdiction, not a single case has been registered suo motu (on its own) on such incidents.

"A case cannot be filed against people who are sweeping the streets or cleaning sewers. Cases should be filed against the supervisory officers and authorities who are responsible for such works as they have collected taxes from the citizens for this," the Attorney General said.

The Bench remarked, "This is the most inhuman way to treat a human being."

Bench said, adding, "You have to take care of people. People are dying everyday due to this."

"All the human beings are equal and when they are equal you should provide them equal opportunities as mandated under the Constitution. You are not even providing them an equal chance and they are not even given the basic facilities to even clean themselves," the Bench said.

Justice Mishra also questioned whether the practice of untouchability, which was abolished by the Constitution, has stopped. "Despite the Constitution abolishing untouchability in the country, I am asking all of you, will any of you shake hands with them? The answer is no. That is the way we are going on. The condition must improve. We have moved 70 years since Independence but these things are still happening," Justice Mishra said.

Agreeing with the observation, Venugopal said the caste system is embedded in the country despite the Constitution saying that there should not be any discrimination on the basis of religion, caste and creed.

RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED

Branch Office: 3rd Floor, Unit-3, Khavel Nagar, Back Side of Kalai Petrol Pump, Bhubaneswar - 751001. Registered Office: Reliance Centre, 6th Floor, South Wing, Near Prabhat Colony, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Reliance Home Finance Ltd. under the Securities, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued Demand Notices upon the Borrowers/Co-borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Co-borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Co-borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The Borrower/Co-borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Reliance Home Finance Ltd. The Borrower/Co-borrowers/Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to the provision of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of The Borrower / Address	Co-Borrower and Guarantor Name	Date & Amount mentioned as per Demand Notice	Date & Amount mentioned as per Possession Notice	Date of Symbolic Possession	Property Address of Secured Assets
Bijay Kumar Biswal Plot No-109/5769, Mouza- Bargarh, Unit No-35 Bhubaneswar - 751006	1) Abhyaya Kumar Biswal 2) Sanjay Kumar Biswal 3) Mamata Biswal 4) Latika Biswal 5) Runi Biswal Plot No-109/5769, Mouza- Bargarh, Unit no-35 Bhubaneswar - 751006	11th June, 2019 Rs. 18,72,914/- (Rupees Eighteen Lacs Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred And Fourteen Only)	17th, September, 2019 Rs. 19,44,833/- (Rupees Nineteen Lacs Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred And Thirty Three Only)	17th, September, 2019	Plot no-109/5769 Mouja Bargarh (Bhubaneswar) Unit-35, P.S -Bargarh, Dist- Khurda ORISSA- 751006, being bounded and butted as under: South : Prallahad Mutha (land owner) North : Sub plot-Ranjeet Palei East : Plot no-110/536 West : Plot no-108/574
Biswanath Rath A/P/O Ghatikia, Andharua Bhubaneswar - 751003	1) Pramila Rath 2) Baikunthnath Rath 3) Rashmita Rath Plot No 8372, Khata No-914, Mz- Ghatikia Thana-Chandaka, Bhubaneswar -751003	24th May, 2019 Rs. 10,63,973/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Sixty Three Thousand Nine Hundred And Seventy Three Only)	17th, September, 2019 Rs. 11,51,084/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Fifty One Thousand And Eighty Four Only)	17th, September, 2019	Plot No-8372, Khata No-914, Mouza-Ghatikia, At P.O- Ghatikia, Thana- Chandaka, Bhubaneswar.

Place : Bhubaneswar Date : 19-09-2019

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Reliance Home Finance Limited

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cabinet okays productivity linked bonus of 11.5L rly staff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Confidence of investors shaken: Priyanka

'Govt refuses to acknowledge truth'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

pouring USD 45 billion into India's stock market over the past six years on hopes that Modi would unleash the country's economic potential, international money managers have sold USD 4.5 billion of Indian shares since June. "By showing glitter, saying 5 trillion, 5 trillion, everyday or by doing media's headline management, economy cannot be improved. Investors do not come by sponsoring events abroad," Priyanka Gandhi said in an apparent dig at Prime Minister Modi's upcoming diaspora event in Houston. The confidence of investors

is "shaken" and the foundation of economic investment has "cracked", she said in a tweet in Hindi with the hashtag 'BJP bad for business'. "But the BJP government is refusing to acknowledge this truth. This slowdown is a speed breaker in the direction of becoming an economic superpower. Without improving this situation, all other razzmatazz is useless," Priyanka Gandhi said in another tweet. She has been relentlessly attacking the government over the issue of economy in the last few days and demanding answers from the government over the economic slowdown.

India, Belgium review bilateral trade at 16th BLEU

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

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

with India with a total trade value worth ₹12.8 billion in 2018 consisting of diamonds, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, food-stuff and machinery. These trade figures reflect the close economic partnership emphasizing bilateral relationship. Belgium is keen to further diversify trade relations and explore new sectors with India. About 170 Belgian companies are based in India, whereas around 80 Indian companies

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



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

INSHORT

SC ISSUES NBW AGAINST SP OF UP

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

GOVT IN SC ON 20-WEEK CEILING FOR ABORTION

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

ARMY HOLDS MILITARY EXERCISE IN LADAKH

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

JAIRAM CRITICISES BAN ON E-CIGARETTES

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

JITIN FOR POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES

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

Govt considering construction of new Parliament building: Hardeep Singh Puri

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

ernment is going to "destroy" the Parliament building.

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

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

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

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

Mother Dairy to recycle 832 tonnes plastic by March 2020

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said it will be tragedy if the talks do not resume and the Taliban do not participate in the Afghan elections.

Khan's comments came days after President Trump said that the peace talks with the Taliban are "dead".

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

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

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

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

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

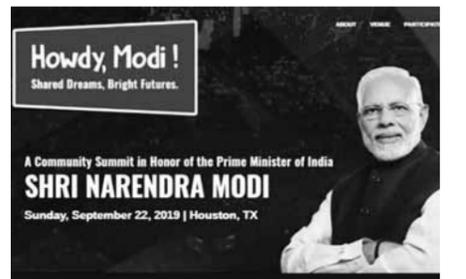
"Indian-Americans are an 'organic bridge' between the world's two largest democracies," he said.

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

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

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

The organisers hope to keep the event non-partisan, and has invited speakers including Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 Democrat in the House of Representatives. Jagdip Ahluwalia, founding secretary and currently executive director of Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACCGH), told PTI there are 90 organi-



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

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

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

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

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

Rishi Bhutada, public relations and media coordinator for the event, said, "Out of 50,000 people expected, 8,000 are coming from outside Texas state. There will be a cultural programme, followed by the Prime Minister Modi's address, he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI/RANCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMIT SHAH

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

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

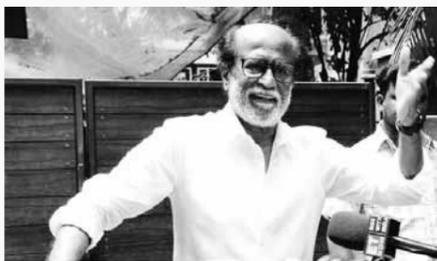
The Home Minister said to end the confusion, people should listen to his speech carefully where he repeatedly said Indian languages should

Rajinikanth against Amit Shah's Hindi drive

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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



the actor.

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

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

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

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

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

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

They were demanding recognition for 300 handicapped schools in State

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

Protests make BJP swear by Kannada over Hindi in Karnataka

IAN S ■ BENGALURU

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

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

Celebrating September 14 as the Hindi Diwas, Shah had

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

Pak Rangers again target posts along Border in Kathua

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

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

BSF troops retaliated the fire in equal measure.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

IAN S ■ PRAYAGRAJ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More CBI sleuths in Kolkata as Rajeev Kumar moves court again

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

The former Kolkata top cop continued to remain under-



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

J&K showing signs of improvement

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ahead of the week-long trip of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States from September 21 to September 27, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir is showing signs of partial improvement. In the recent days, no major incident of law and order situation was reported from anywhere across Kashmir Valley.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

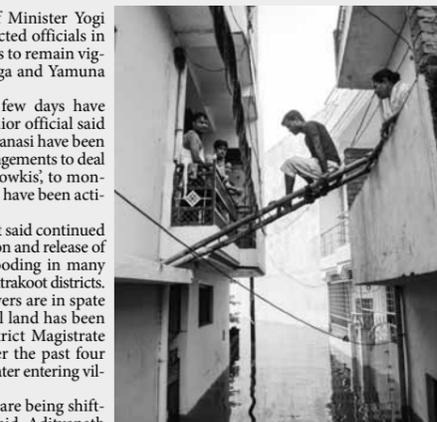
Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday directed officials in Allahabad and Varanasi districts to remain vigilant as the water levels in Ganga and Yamuna rivers neared the danger mark.

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

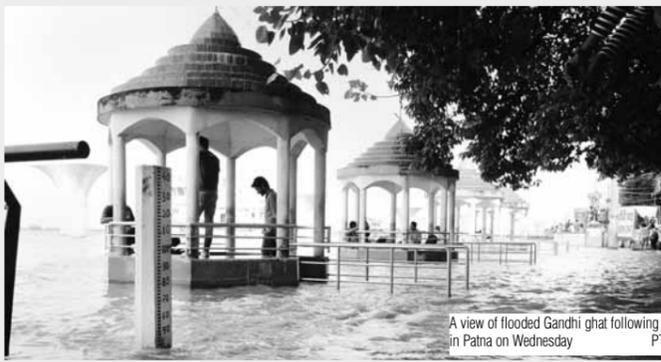
A report from Banda district said continued rainfall in the Bundelkhand region and release of water in Yamuna had led to flooding in many areas in Hamirpur, Banda and Chitrakoot districts.

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

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



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



A view of flooded Gandhi ghat following in Patna on Wednesday

IN BRIEF

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

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

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

CHINMAYANAND CASE

Student threatens self-immolation

Accused BJP leader hospitalised

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

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

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



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

reporters here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Gehlot Govt plans 75% job quota for locals in Rajasthan

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

UP BJP MLA makes derogatory remark on Nehru

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

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

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

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

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

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

political scene," he said.

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

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

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

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

Opp questions timing of Mamata-Modi meet

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

sent during the conversations."

To Banerjee's claim that she would also seek appointment from Home Minister Amit Shah for a one-on-one talks with him Chowdhury wondered whether Wednesday's meeting was fruitful in the real sense.

"After meeting with the Prime Minister she will meet the Home Minister too. Then are we to assume that the Prime



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

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

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

Eight-month-old boy kidnapped in Andhra

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

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

1st case of human trafficking lodged under new NIA Act

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'7" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Build:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue & White T-Shirt and Black & White Pajama.

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

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

DP/9377/NW/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
NIT No. 2019-20 dated 18.09.2019
1 Name of work with its location: Repair to courtyard, Boundary wall, plaster work and additional room Type IV (B.No. 7 to 18) at TKJ railway colony in the S/o SSE/WB, House under ADENE-1
2 Approx. Cost of work: 7821022.02
3 Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). 156400.00
4 Completion period of work: 6 Months
5 Cost of tender on cash/by post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note :- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). 5,900
6 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 11.10.2019 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 11.10.2019
7 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.
No. 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NW/NIT 20 Dated: 18.09.2019 2999/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
(through e-tendering)
Name of work with its location: Provision of interlocking at L-Xing No.109 & 133 in section of ADSTE/ROK of DLI Division.
App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 50,85,862.38/- only
Tender Document Fee (₹): ₹ 5,900/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹): ₹ 1,01,700/- only
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110 055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender: Tender uploading / closing date & time- 04.10.2019 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice Board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110 055.
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1302 Dated: 18.09.2019 2995/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



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

In this regard a DD No. 72-A U/s 363 dated 19.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Female kindly inform to the following.

SHO P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi Ph. 011-27052772, 27052773 DP/3218/RD/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
Sub- Tender for "ISO 14001:2015 Certification of 29 Listed Stations over Delhi Division, Northern Railway, for three years as per scope of work"
Corrigendum-1
Date of opening of tender is rescheduled and will open on 11.10.2019 at 15:00. All terms and conditions will remain same.
No. 221-S/4/2/ISO-29 STN/DLI-Divn/ML-IV/2019-20 Dated: 18.09.2019 3002/2019
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE
SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGG. (ELECT)/WZ
OLD ZONAL BUILDING, RAJOURI GARDEN, ND-27
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT NO. EE/Electrical/WestZone/2019-20/14, Line no. 01, Dated 17/09/2019, NOW:- Providing and GI Octagonal poles alongwith LED Street light fitting in various Mpi parks & dark spots of Madipur Assembly Constituency in AC-26 under Westzone.
The tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.tenderwizard.com/SOUTHDMCETENDER.
Ro No. 65/DPI/S/19-20 Ex. Engineer (E)/WZ

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M) W&S C/N
KANHIYA NAGAR, DELHI-110035
PRESS NIT No. 09(2019-2020)
S. No. Name of work Estimated cost Tender Processing Fee Earnest Money Tender ID No. & Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date/time of receipt of tender e-procurement solution
1. Deployment of skilled, semi skilled and unskilled labour for E and M installations at Burari & Badli Constituency. Item Rate Rs. 500/- Rs. 54,000/- 2019_DJB_180267_1 17-Sep-2019 11:30 AM 27-Sep-2019 11:30 AM
Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in.
ISSUED BY P.R.O (WATER) Sd/ Advt. No. J.S.V 366/2019-20 EX. ENGINEER (E&M) W&S C/N

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi
TENDER NOTICE Date: 19.09.2019
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following job from all bidders.
NIT No. Brief Item Description Estimated Cost (₹) Cost of EMD (₹) Due Date & Time of Submission Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/19-20/ RSP/G/809 PHASE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF SINGLE RATE METER WITH BOX 33.00 33,00,000/- 11.10.2019 1600 HRS 11.10.2019 1630 HRS
CMC/BR/19-20/ RSK/M/817 RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 4CX150 SQ.MM 3.00 6,00,000/- 11.10.2019 1500 HRS 11.10.2019 1530 HRS
Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off. :- BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No. : U40109DL2011PLC111527 Telephone No. :- +91 11 3999 9444 | E-mail :- bpl.eauction@bsestn.co.in | Website :- www.bsesdelhi.com

noida New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
Sl. No. Job No. Name of Work Amount in Lac
A 1 04/GM(R)/SM (WC-3)/2019-20 M/o Road (Beautification of Vliopit Koodaghar at various locations in the Area of Work Circle-3), Noida. ₹ 34.39
2 05/GM(R)/SM (WC-3)/2019-20 M/o Building (C/o Urinal block (10 Nos.) in the Area of Work Circle-3), Noida. ₹ 46.50
B 3 03/GM(R)/SM (WC-4)/2019-20 M/o Road (Beautification of Vliopit Koodaghar at various locations in the Area of Work Circle-4), Noida. ₹ 52.95
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No need for Opposition

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



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

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

Who is a woman?

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

Woman *\ˈfem-ɪ-n-ə-ˌni-n-i-ty \fe-mə-ˌni-n-ise Brit var of i-nism \ˈfe-mə-ˌn-ɒ-m-ic, and social ɔlf of women's ri-i-nis-tic \fe-m-ˌi-n-i-tv \fe-ˈmi-nə-*

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

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

A Himalayan threat

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



KK PAUL

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

say that huge volumes of carbon dioxide so released lead to serious environmental impact. In addition, nano-sized particles from the smoke tend to settle on snow-covered areas in the vicinity, which is a separate field of study in glaciology. It is, however, well-known that such depositions and even a fractional rise in temperatures lead to erosion and consequent retraction of the glaciers.

Two very important glaciers in the vicinity of the fire impacted area are Gangotri and Milam. Both have extensively been studied by experts. Water from these glaciers flows entirely into the Gangetic river system.

Almost 65 per cent of the landmass in Uttarakhand is under the cover of forests out of which the Chirpine (*pinus roxburghii*) occupies about 20 per cent of the area, which is about four lakh hectares. Every year, large quantities of dry pine needles fall on the ground. These are very rich in oil, are highly inflammable and constitute a major source of fire hazard in the State. The Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Department Agency (UREDA) has since launched a scheme whereby pine needles are collected by villagers, who are paid on account of the weight of their collection. The needles are then used as fuel to generate power.

During the post-fire analysis, one aspect that was mentioned very emphatically by one and all was that the particu-

ipation of Van Panchayats had almost been negligible. Earlier, forest dwellers used to provide volunteers, who would maintain a strict vigil and help prevent and extinguish the fires well in time. After the introduction of and sometimes over stringent application of the Forest Rights Act, traditional forest dwellers from certain areas faced eviction, leading to a sort of vacuum with none to look after the vast tracts of forests. The official departmental guards are either too inadequate or permanently absent from duty.

In some foreign countries, like Australia and elsewhere, spraying of fire retardants is not uncommon when the fires become life-threatening. However, such sprays have not been used in India. Nevertheless, there is enough scope for technological innovations in this important area that impacts the environment. At one time, the Uttarakhand Government had sought to do away with the chirpine plantation and resorted to large scale afforestation through oak and other hardy trees. But this was dependent on expert advice as it had serious implications for both the soil structure and the environment. Considering their impact on the environment as well as biodiversity, vital decisions need to be taken in the right earnest.

(The writer is a former Governor of Uttarakhand and a Senior Advisor at the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation)

SOUNDBITE

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



Union Minister —Amit Shah

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



Actor —Rajkumar Rao

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



Iran's President —Hassan Rouhani

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



Congress leader —Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Shocking development

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

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

Come to terms with air pollution

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

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



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

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

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

Tharcus S Fernando Chennai

Gandhian philosophy

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

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

"climate strike."

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

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

Srishti Mathur Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The mystery of drone strikes

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



GWYNNE DYER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—BAHUKAN SAMAJ PARTY CHIEF MAYAWATI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

Free the land to save Earth

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



INDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

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

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

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

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

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



Agriculture) published in 2019. The study stated that the "country as a whole has sequestered 285,005 million tonnes of carbon in its mango orchards. Andhra Pradesh (AP) and Telangana put together, having a maximum area under mango cultivation, sequestered 69.98 million tonnes of carbon. This is followed by Uttar Pradesh (35.58 million tonnes) Karnataka (29.57315 million tonnes), Odisha (21.07 million tonnes) and Bihar (20.09 million tonnes)."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ship-breaking poisoning the environment

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



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an environmental journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



TACKLING DISPARITIES

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

Plastic ban: India Inc seeks exemptions

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt proposes to corporatise EPFO, ESIC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

The draft code provides

At present, EPFO and ESIC work more like autonomous bodies run by trustees and board, respectively under the administrative control of Ministry of Labour & Employment

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Economic slowdown impacts coal import cargo in H1 FY20: Icrs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

MTDC upgrades 23 resorts to promote tourist destinations

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

MTDC managing director Abhimanyu Kale told PTI here.

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

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

Trai invites public comments to review mobile call termination rate deadline

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

At present, Reliance Jio leads mobile market with 339.7

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

In a letter to US Trade

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

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

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

BUSINESS CORNER



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

Mother Dairy to recycle 832 tonnes of plastic by March 2020

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
(A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006)
(Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016
Phone No. 011-26542159, 011-26542170

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

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

Public notice for Sale/Auction of immovable properties (under SARFAESI Act read with proviso to Rule 9 (f) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules).
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 10-10-2019 at 12 Noon at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128 Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Noida (U.P.)-201301 for recovery of Rs. 17,02,961/- due as on 22-09-2016 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mr. Devendra Pal Singh. The reserve price will be Rs. 25,43,138/- (Rupees Twenty five lakh forty three thousand and one hundred thirty eight only) and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 2,54,314/- Last Date, Time And Venue For Submission Of Bids With Sealed Offer/ Tender With EMD on 09-10-2019 at the above mentioned address.

Account Number	Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
Home Loan No - PHR01260335239	A Residential Flat Having Super area 1244.59 Sq.Ft. (ie 115.56 Sq.Mtr) and built up area 995.50 Sq. Ft. (ie 92.45 Sq. Mtrs) bearing Flat No CO20203 on 2nd Floor (Without roof Rights) in Building C-02 situated in Group Housing Project namely "Ebony Greens" being part of Residential Township Crescent Park C situated at Village Shalpur, Bamnala, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh along with usage right of one open parking space.	NO

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

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

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

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

ASSET	ITEMS	RESERVE PRICE (Rs. In)	Earnest Money Amount (Rs. In)
Mahindra & Mahindra CB_Bolero Maxi Truck Reg No. DL1X3477 Vehicle parked at: A-33/21, Vishwakarma Compound, Site-4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh, India	1	130,000	13,000

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

Sd/-
Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator

Date: 17.09.2019
Place: New Delhi
IBBI/PA-002/PP-N00076/2017-18/10207

Petrol, diesel prices see steepest hike since July 5

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices were on Wednesday hiked by 24-25 paise per litre, the steepest increase since July 5 Union Budget, as a fallout of turmoil in global oil markets following drone attacks on Saudi Arabian crude oil facilities.

Petrol price was increased by 25 paise per litre to Rs 72.42 and diesel by 24 paise to Rs 65.82 in the Delhi market, which is sort of a national benchmark, according to price information available from state-owned fuel retailers.

This is the biggest single-day hike since the July 5 budget-finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman that raised rates by almost Rs 2.50 a litre due to an increase in excise duty on the fuels.

The hike on Wednesday followed a 14 paise a litre increase in price of petrol on Tuesday and 15 paise per litre rise in diesel rate.

Following the drone strikes on Saturday, international oil prices rallied nearly 20 per cent on Monday in intraday trading -- the biggest jump in almost 30 years -- as the attacks halved Saudi Arabia's output.

Rates have in subsequent two days retreated, conceding about half of the gains. Brent crude future on Wednesday dipped 0.26 per cent to USD 64.38 per barrel after jumping to near USD 72 in reaction to the disruption. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude lost 0.5 per cent to USD 59.06 per barrel.

This came after signs that Saudi Arabia was quickly

restoring production at Abqaiq facility. Abqaiq is now producing about 2 million barrels a day and should return to pre-attack levels of about 4.9 million barrels by the end of September, Saudi Aramco chief executive Amin Nasser said.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has reportedly stated that two-thirds of production has been restored and the kingdom sees a full recovery in 10 days.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday said India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, is keeping a close watch on the developing situation.

India imports 83 per cent of its oil needs, with Saudi Arabia supplying a fifth of these. Saudi Arabia is its second-biggest supplier after Iraq.

DPIT notifies FDI relaxation norms in coal mining, contract manufacturing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIT) on Wednesday notified the recent decisions to relax foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in sectors such as coal mining, contract manufacturing, and single-brand retail trading.

The DPIT, under the commerce and industry ministry, deals with FDI-related issues. It notifies FDI-related government decisions through Press Notes.

The department has also notified the decision to allow 26 per cent FDI in digital media, a move over which certain industry and experts have raised issues.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



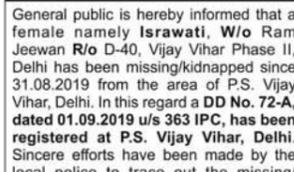
General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo) namely Gajander Singh, S/o Omprakash, R/o H. No. C-600, Dakshin Puri, New Delhi, has been missing since 09.07.2019. In this regard a D.D. No. 74-A, Dated 13.07.2019 has been lodged at Police Station - Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi. His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

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

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

Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, Delhi
DP/5630/SD/19 Ph: 011-29052304, 29051917

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



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

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

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

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
DP/3257/RD/19 Ph. No.: 011-27282350, 27280435

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

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

SHO : P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23370928, 8750870426
DP/6583/CD/19

TV makers hail scrapping of duty on open cell panel

Mfg cost to go down by 3pc

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The television industry has welcomed the government's decision to scrap the customs duty on import of open cell TV panels, saying the move will boost domestic manufacturing.

In a late night notification on Tuesday, the Finance Ministry said "open cell, (15.6 inch and above), for use in the manufacture of Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and Light Emitting Diode (LED) TV panel", would attract nil duty.

TV makers say the move will help them reduce the manufacturing cost by up to 3 per cent, however, consumer prices are expected to remain same.

The announcement has come just ahead of the festive season sales and would positively impact the sales of LED TV panels.

"Industry welcomes this decision. This will ease the cost pressure on TV and the benefit once passed to the consumers will help the industry accelerate demand," Panasonic India and South Asia President

and CEO Manish Sharma told PTI.

LG Electronics India said the government's decision would boost domestic manufacturing.

"This is a very positive development... it will certainly boost Make in India," said LG Electronics India Director (Home Entertainment) YOUNGCHUL PARK.

Open cell panel is an important part of TV manufacturing and covers more than half the cost of the unit.

Sony India said reduction in duty would help enhance its efforts to increase domestic manufacturing of its TV range.

"The company has long been committed to the government's Make in India initiative. This withdrawal of duty on open cell provides a strong boost to local manufacturing and will help us further enhance our efforts in this direction," said Sony India Managing Director Sunil Nayyar.

According to Haier India President Eric Braganza, the industry has been pushing for this for some time. TV market is slow, so anything that could ignite the growth is welcome.

When asked whether it would have any impact on TV

price, Manish Sharma said currently inventories for festive season are already in place, however for fresh imports, the cost impact will be about 3 per cent.

"Our festival pricing is already in place which is attractive compared to the previous months. Hence post season, this duty reduction will help us maintain the pricing at same levels with reduced cost pressures on industry," Sharma said.

Besides removing 5 per cent customs duty imposed on import of open cell TV panel, the government has waived customs duty on import of chip on Film, Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and Cell (glass board/substrate), which are used to manufacture open cell TV panels.

All leading TV makers along with the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association had been asking the government to waive it.

Indian TV market, which is estimated to be around ₹22,000 crore is facing tough times due to slow demand.

Manufacturers like Samsung had shifted TV production lines to Vietnam using the Free Trade Agreement to import it.

Markets eke out modest gains as oil prices cool; Fed rate decision eyed

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity markets found firmer ground on Wednesday after two days of steep declines as easing crude oil prices and a recovering rupee shored up investor confidence. After a range-bound session, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 82.79 points, or 0.23%, higher at 36,563.88. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty gained 23.05 points, or 0.21%, to finish at 10,840.65.

Global equities and oil markets stabilised after Saudi Arabia's energy minister said more than half of the country's daily crude oil production, that was knocked out by the drone attack over the weekend, had been recovered.

He added that production capacity at its targeted plants would be fully restored by the end of the month.

Market participants were also awaiting cues from the policy meeting of the Federal Reserve, traders said.

Top gainers in the Sensex pack included Tata Steel, Vedanta, SBI, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, M&M, NTPC and PowerGrid, rising up to 3.95%.

On the other hand, ONGC, Yes Bank, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Sun Pharma and Maruti tumbled up to 2.08%.

"Market was range-bound with a mild positive bias backed stability in oil prices with signs

of faster restoration in Saudi production. Further, rupee gained and 10-year yield declined which added respite to the sentiment.

"Auto was range-bound as the sector is unlikely to get any interim relief by way of GST cut due to concern of further short-fall in tax collection and challenges to meet fiscal target," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services.

Sectorally, BSE realty, metal, oil and gas, power, energy and FMCG indices spurred up to 1.54%. Telecom and auto lost up to 0.43%. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended up to 0.39% higher.

Meanwhile, Brent crude futures fell 0.95 per cent to USD 63.94 per barrel (intraday).

Tracking the movement in oil prices, the rupee appreciated 52 paise (intraday) to trade at 71.26 per US dollar.

Further boosting global market mood, US President Donald Trump said a trade agreement between the US and China was likely to happen either before or immediately after the American elections.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Hang Seng, Nikkei and Kospi ended on a mixed note. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in their respective early sessions.

Ambani raises stake in Reliance Industries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani has raised promoter stake in flagship Reliance Industries by 2.71 per cent to 48.87 per cent, according to regulatory filing by the company.

Reliance Services and Holdings Ltd, controlled by promoter group firm Petroleum Trust, acquired 17.18 crore shares or 2.71 per

cent stake in Reliance on September 13, it said.

The acquisition was pursuant to a scheme of arrangement not directly involving Reliance, the filing said without giving details.

Ambani and his private firms held 47.29 per cent stake as on June 30, 2019 in India's second-most valuable company.

As on June 30, FILs held

24.4 per cent stake in the firm, mutual funds had 4.56 per cent and insurance companies 7.1 per cent. The remaining share was with public.

Earlier in July, Reliance had announced a composite scheme of amalgamation by merging Reliance Holding USA into Reliance Energy Generation and Distribution and the latter with the company itself.

SAT gives 4 weeks more to NSE, others in co-location case

Mumbai (PTI): Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Wednesday asked NSE and its ex-officials, including the former CEO Chitra Ramkrishna, to file their rejoinders within four weeks in their plea against Sebi that penalised them in the co-location case. The tribunal also fixed November 27, as the date for the disposal of the case and said no further extension will be granted to anyone.

On April 30, market watchdog Sebi had ordered NSE to disgorge ₹1,000 crore, including 12 per cent interest, and had also asked Ramkrishna and three others to pay back 25 per cent of their salaries for the period involving the scam — between 2011 and 2014 — that came to light in 2015. NSE and the people punished, challenged the order at the SAT on May 21. The co-location case dates back to 2015, when a whistleblower wrote to Sebi alleging that NSE was giving a few high-frequency traders and brokers preferential access to its trading platform which benefited both the parties at the cost of others. The whistleblower had alleged that some brokers had figured out that the way to manipulate the system by becoming the first one to connect to the server — preferably the one which was the faster. Sebi said NSE committed fraudulent and unfair trade practice as contemplated under the Sebi PFUTP (prohibition of fraudulent and unfair trade practices) regulations.

RCom RP asked to approach NCLT for refund of ₹577 cr from Ericsson

New Delhi (PTI): The NCLAT on Wednesday directed resolution professional of Reliance Communications to raise demand for ₹577 crore paid to Swiss telecom gear maker Ericsson before the NCLT-Mumbai. Anil Ambani-led RCom is presently going through Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process. A two-member National Company Law Appellate Tribunal bench headed by Chairperson Justice S J Mukhopadhyaya asked the Resolution Professional to file the claims before the NCLT.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	Low	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10872.80	10885.15	10804.85	10840.65	23.05
TATASEEL	348.00	361.30	345.35	357.70	12.75
BPCL	379.70	388.75	369.05	382.00	13.25
VEDL	146.00	150.50	145.10	150.00	4.60
GAIL	133.10	135.75	131.65	135.55	3.65
SBN	277.20	282.95	274.40	280.40	6.45
IOC	127.60	128.60	125.30	128.00	2.80
JSWSTEEL	217.55	223.55	217.25	220.90	4.70
INFRAEEL	251.30	255.75	249.25	254.70	4.50
TECHM	710.00	718.10	701.90	717.40	11.45
BAJAJFINSV	722.00	734.00	719.60	726.00	10.50
ASIANPAINT	1542.15	1560.95	1535.00	1552.90	22.00
BAFINANCE	3407.00	3464.50	3388.50	3416.40	48.00
M&M	525.00	531.35	518.20	528.50	6.55
POWERGRID	200.50	203.00	198.25	202.80	2.35
NTPC	121.55	122.85	119.65	122.55	1.35
AXISBANK	645.50	654.55	641.55	647.50	7.05
RELIANCE	1204.95	1216.30	1197.20	1209.00	11.55
KOTAKBANK	1450.00	1478.95	1449.90	1469.95	12.65
TCS	2126.40	2142.95	2113.15	2141.15	18.50
ITC	237.20	242.30	234.05	238.90	1.70
TITAN	1163.00	1168.00	1150.55	1166.30	7.30
LT	1320.10	1328.40	1313.30	1321.00	7.50
HEROMOTOCO	290.00	297.00	291.00	295.10	13.15
TATAMOTORS	123.05	125.90	120.50	122.60	6.60
ADANIPORTS	365.00	368.30	364.20	366.10	1.30
GRASIM	705.85	711.50	701.00	705.20	2.20
ULTRACEMCO	3910.10	3937.95	3885.05	3910.00	9.60
HCLTECH	1059.65	1066.95	1050.65	1058.25	2.15
HINDALCO	198.40	200.80	197.15	198.20	0.25
BAJAJ-AUTO	2798.00	2819.00	2790.10	2775.00	1.85
INDUSINDBK	140.00	143.00	131.80	133.45	0.85
WIPRO	245.40	249.55	243.30	244.20	0.10
INFY	829.90	832.95	824.00	831.40	0.20
DRREDDY	2739.80	2761.95	2715.15	2737.00	-1.05
HINDUNILVR	1839.50	1843.95	1818.65	1828.25	-2.95
ICICIBANK	405.45	405.45	396.50	399.25	-1.40
HDFC	2010.00	2012.40	1982.40	1988.85	-7.40
MARUTI	6165.00	6211.80	5986.60	6105.00	-25.40
CIPLA	461.40	462.80	454.35	458.70	-1.95
ZEEL	338.15	342.30	333.40	335.40	-1.95
UPL	565.00	565.00	542.75	559.55	-3.75
SUNPHARMA	423.90	424.60	414.25	417.30	-3.35
YESBANK	66.00	66.45	61.70	64.45	-0.65
HDFCBANK	2217.30	2224.15	2180.00	2183.20	-6.35
BHARTIARTL	341.60	344.15	334.60	336.10	-3.75
EICHERMOT	1650.00	1654.95	1584.00	1603.00	-241.95
ONGC	129.70	129.95	125.95	127.15	-2.55
COALINDIA	198.45	199.20	191.75	192.45	-5.15
IBULHSGFIN	436.00	438.70	411.35	417.20	-11.95
BRITANNIA	2668.70	2668.70	2588.20	2614.90	-77.55

BSE 500

SCRIP	Open	High	Low	LTP	MINDTREE	686.00	711.60	685.10	699.95	BALKRISIND	748.00	753.30	733.15	745.30	MRPL	50.00	50.60	48.80	49.45	GRINDWELL	571.00	583.40	565.00	569.90
MARUTI	6164.00	6210.00	5987.40	6093.55	LITTS	1622.00	1622.00	1595.20	1609.45	SHANKARA	437.65	439.00	407.25	412.95	JISLJALEQ	22.25	23.15	22.25	22.80	REDINGTON	102.75	104.90	94.00	104.70
YESBANK	653.00	660.90	61.70	64.10	BATAINDIA	1560.00	1568.00	1530.00	1545.50	COFFEEDAY	73.00	76.35	70.25	72.25	ZYDUSWELL	1858.85	1858.85	1756.35	1768.95	CENTRUM	24.75	25.70	24.60	24.75
ICICIBANK	404.90	404.90	396.70	399.15	UNION	56.55	57.70	56.50	56.80	MUTHOOTFIN	596.15	605.80	589.55	593.00	GODREJAGRO	471.25	472.95	466.90	470.10	FNCABLES	367.35	370.20	365.00	365.90
HDFC	2007.00	2012.40	1982.60	1988.75	LUPIN	760.25	761.80	753.05	759.50	TRF	5840.00	5805.15	5808.95	5830.40	INDOSTAR	261.40	263.00	248.50	250.15	KEC	468.30	471.40	460.95	465.50
TATAMOTORS	122.90	125.55	120.50	121.85	SUNTV	40.70	43.85	42.95	43.75	CGPOWER	16.35	16.35	14.91	15.10	FOCUSUSER	29.50	29.50	27.90	28.70	CHOLAHLDNG	436.00	436.00	429.30	430.60
HEG	1269.70	1294.60	1175.50	1193.25	BHVL	53.75	50.75	48.40	48.65	ENGINEERSIN	109.50	110.95	107.10	109.10	ALKEM	1860.00	1929.90	1860.00	1891.90	THOMASCOOK	147.00	150.20	145.10	146.35
HDFCBANK	2215.15	2229.35	2180.00	2186.95	IBVENTURES	176.00	178.70	165.10	166.65	DCBBANK	197.55	198.55	194.30	195.75	TRIPRESTIG	5595.95	5650.00	5565.00	5600.05	NETWORK18	25.00	25.45	24.45	24.55
RELIANCE	1204.95	1216.10	1197.60	1205.70	SIFYONLINE	1027.05	1042.00	1023.95	1037.10	RAMCOCEM	724.25	727.05	709.50	723.60	ALBC	32.65	32.65	31.40	31.70	ALLCARGO	101.50	102.00	100.00	100.40
BULLHSGFIN	434.00	439.80	412.00	419.15	WIPRO	244.70	245.90	243.25	244.20	GRANULES	105.10	108.35	103.25	106.75	ABANK	646.40	657.15	644.25	653.95	ICHAC	1774.85	1774.85	1731.65	1767.40
BAFINANCE	3417.70	3464.00	3390.00	3415.05	INDIGO	1681.00	1710.85	1673.30	1677.15	GNFC	192.00	193.90	189.45	191.40	WELSPUNIND	52.00	52.55	50.00	52.00	AKZOINDIA	1716.00	1720.00	1697.00	1699.65
TATASTEEL	347.20	361.00	345.60	358.05	TATAGLOBAL	257.20	261.35	253.35	259.70	JKTRE	68.40	69.05	67.15	68.25	TATACOFFEE	79.80	81.00	79.55	80.45	ASTERDM	128.90	129.00	123.20	123.40
GRAPHITE	350.80	358.00	331.50	338.15	ITI	78.85	84.00	78.85	82.65	BALMALWRIE	172.85	172.85	167.00	168.70	PGHH	10375.00	10468.35	10314.75	10444.05	UCOBANK	14.75	14.85	14.70	14.75
BPCL	378.00	388.65	369.30	382.15	VOITAS	624.70	633.90	620.05	630.60	DBL	432.40	438.00	420.05	426.75	PANARMILK	160.90	162.50	154.85	159.30	GALAXYSURF	1357.40	1364.65	1324.85	1332.20
INDUSINDBK	1334.80	1349.20	1322.05	1329.65	JUBFOOD	1260.00	1260.00	1236.90	1243.70	OIL	150.00	152.80	147.45	150.20	MPHASIS	980.00	987.15	973.75	983.75	GMDCLTD	68.8			

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

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

"As the president said, we don't want war with anybody but the United States is prepared," Pence said in a speech to the Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington.

"We're locked and loaded and we're ready to defend our interests and allies in the region, make no mistake about it," he said, echoing President Donald Trump's words on Monday.

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

However, continuing days of mixed messaging from the White House, spokesman Hogan Gidley refused to rule out a possible -- albeit now highly unlikely -- encounter between Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani at the United Nations next week.

Trump is "obligated to try and find peace," he said. Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for Saturday's oil installation attacks, which halved output from the petro-state, the world's biggest crude producer and a close ally of Washington.

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

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

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

Rouhani says Yemenis attacked Saudi oil sites as 'warning'

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

"The Yemenis... Haven't hit a hospital, they haven't hit a school, they haven't hit Sanaa bazaar. They just hit an industrial centre... To warn you," Rouhani said after a cabinet meeting.

"Learn lessons from this warning and consider that there could be a war in the region," he said, in a likely address to the rulers of Saudi Arabia which has spent billions of dollars on US weapons.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for the strikes but a US official said Tuesday that the administration of President Donald Trump concluded the attacks involved cruise missiles from Iran.

Saudi Arabia, which has been bogged down in a five-year war in Yemen, has said the weapons used in the attacks were Iranian-made but has not directly blamed its regional arch-rival.

Tehran has repeatedly denied accusations from Washington and Riyadh that it arms the Houthis. **AFP**

trying to build nuclear weapons and must be stopped.

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

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

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

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

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

US 'IN DENIAL' OVER SAUDI ATTACKS: ZARIF

Tehran: The US is "in denial" over attacks on oil installations in Saudi Arabia, Iran's top diplomat said Tuesday, after Washington blamed weekend strikes on Tehran despite Yemeni rebels claiming responsibility.

"US is in denial if it thinks that Yemeni victims of 4.5 yrs of the worst war crimes wouldn't do all to strike back," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter.

American ally Saudi Arabia leads a military coalition that has been battling the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels since 2015. **AFP**

is the big unknown.

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

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

Substantially increase Iran sanctions, orders Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced what he would be substantial new sanctions against Iran in the first response to what US officials say was likely Iranian involvement in an attack on Saudi oil facilities.

"I have just instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to substantially increase Sanctions on the country of Iran!" Trump said in a tweet.

The United States already enforces widespread sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy, including attempting to shut down its major oil export industry.

There were no immediate details on what the new measures might be. Trump has yet to put categorical blame on Iran for last weekend's bombardment by drones or missiles of Saudi oil facilities. However, a US official has confirmed to AFP that the administration believes Iran is responsible.

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

may no longer feel that restraint.

"I'm not looking to get into new conflict, but sometimes you have to," he said Monday.

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

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

ners to "address this unprecedented attack."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NYT ENDS SEPARATE SPANISH-LANGUAGE OP

New York: The New York Times is shutting down its Spanish-language service called NYT en Espanol, saying it was not "financially successful." The service launched in 2016 had included around 10 "high-quality original and translated" New York Times stories a day in Spanish.

"We launched NYT en Espanol as part of an experiment to reach and engage more international readers by extending our coverage to different languages," the newspaper said in a statement. **AFP**

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt. -Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail: constructionunit@nigam.com

Letter No. 1468/ NVIDA / 304 Date: 18.09.2019

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF TRANSIT HOSTEL FOR 12 MEDICAL OFFICERS AT CIVIL HOSPITAL KHATIMA (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 199.08 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 06 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 19.09.2019 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhm Singh Nagar).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 21.09.2019 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt. -Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail: constructionunit@nigam.com

Letter No. 1469/ NVIDA / 305 Date: 18.09.2019

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE-II BUILDING FOR AASHRAM PADHATI SCHOOL, KHATIMA (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 92.15 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 09 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 19.09.2019 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhm Singh Nagar).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 21.09.2019 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER
CONSTRUCTION UNIT UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM,
Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur, Distt. -Udhm Singh Nagar, E-Mail: constructionunit@nigam.com

Letter No. 1467/ NVIDA / 303 Date: 18.09.2019

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the Work:- CONSTRUCTION OF REMAINING WORKS AT ISBT SITARGANJ (UDHAM SINGH NAGAR)

2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 114.16 Lakh

3. Period of Completion:- 04 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal:- 19.09.2019 (17.00 hrs)

5. Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 04.10.2019 (17.00 hrs)

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.10.2019 (12.00 hrs)

7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid :- Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhm Singh Nagar).

8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 21.09.2019 (13.00 hrs) Rudrapur.

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment/correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

Project Manager

Sale Notice

Shree Balaji Printpack Private Limited
(In Liquidation)

Reg. Off.: 191, Nanjisaikrawati, PP No-NJF B-379, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043, India
Place where Books of Account & papers are Maintained: A-3321, Vishwakarma Compound, Site-4, Sahibabad Industrial Area, Ghaziabad-201010, Uttar Pradesh, India

Liquidator: Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator Address: G-41, Ground Floor West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008
Email: nazim@mnkassociates.com, Contact No.-9818156340

E-Auction

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

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

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

Terms and Condition of the E-auction are as under

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

Date : 17.09.2019
Place : New Delhi
Sd/-
Mohd Nazim Khan
Liquidator
IBBI/PA-02/PP-N00076/2017-18/10207

Trump names US hostage negotiator as new NSA

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday named his chief hostage negotiator Robert O'Brien as the new National Security Adviser to replace John Bolton, who was fired last week.

O'Brien, who has been serving as the special envoy for hostage affairs at the State Department, has been chosen for the role, Trump tweeted.

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

"I have worked long &

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ KARACHI

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

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

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

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

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

New UNGA president bats for settlement of conflicts peacefully

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Name of work with its location	Provision of "Divyang friendly Toilets" along with septic tank and soakpit at 113 nos. (NSG-5 & NSG-6) railway stations in Delhi division (Sr. DEN I-30 Nos., Sr. DEN II-26 Nos., Sr. DEN III-8 Nos. Sr. DEN IV-38 Nos., Sr. DEN V-13 Nos.) (S7-W-IV-19-20)
2. Approx. cost of work	Rs. 2,08,04,940.25
3. Earnest Money	Rs. 2,54,000.00
4. Date and Time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Bidding Start date Up to 15.00 hrs. on 27.09.2019 opening of e-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 11.10.2019
5. Website particulars published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

3001/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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



HARE KRISHNA

Age: 34 Years. Complexion: Shallow. Height: 5' 3". Face: Round. Wearing: Brown colour shirt and blue colour pant and choklate colour shoes. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in and Website: <http://cbl.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi Ph. 011-25489080 DP/3246/RD/19

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

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



Sarik

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5 Feet, Face: Round, Physique/Build: Medium, Clothing: White Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans and White Colour Shoes in Feet. Any person is having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in or website : <http://cbl.nic.in> Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O. P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi Ph.: 011-27821047, 27822207 DP/576/ON/19.

INDIAN ROADS CONGRESS
80th Annual Session, Patna
12th - 15th December, 2019
Local Organising Committee
Govt of Bihar

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE:

Sl. No.	Activity	Duration
1.	Download Date of EoI Documents	From 24.09.2019 (10:00 Hrs.) To 27.09.2019 (15:00 Hrs.) (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
2.	Pre-bid Meeting	25.09.2019 at 11:00 Hrs. (HQ, LOS office, BRPNL 7, Sardar Patel Marg, Patna-15)
3.	Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	28.09.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
4.	Last Date of Submission of Bank Draft, Bid Security and Hard Copies of Document in original in sealed envelope.	30.09.2019 at 15:00 Hrs.
5.	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	30.09.2019 at 15: 30 Hrs. (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
6.	Date, time and place of opening of Financial Bid	To be informed later to technically qualified bidder. (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)

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

Address for Communication

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

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

PR No. 008018(Ni.Ni.) 2019-20 Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Ltd., Patna

अविष्य शरव एव मादक द्रव्य के सेवध नै शिकारत टॉल फ्री नै. 18003456268 या 15545 पर कर्त

Trend
Blazer

Flawed characters are relatable: Sonam

Actor SONAM KAPOOR AHUJA, who plays the lead role in the forthcoming film, *The Zoya Factor*, says that she finds imperfect and flawed characters more real than those inspirational picture-perfect characters that have been projected in Bollywood for a long time.

Whether it is *Aisha*, *Khoobsurat*, *Dolly Ki Dolly*, or *Veere Di Weeding*, Sonam's characters are typified as flawed.

"I think young boys and girls were not rightly represented in our films for the longest time. When a character is imperfect, it becomes more relatable because, in real life, we are not perfect. Most of the characters I've portrayed are imperfect because they represent us."



'A common language is very important for any country for its development, growth and integrity but unfortunately, such a thing cannot be done in India. Talking about Hindi, so not only Tamil Nadu, but no Southern state will accept the imposition of Hindi. Even some North Indian states wouldn't.'

—Rajnikanth

Actor DIA MIRZA, who also serves as UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador, will be attending UNGA as a UN advocate for sustainable development.



Apart from being a speaker at The Climate Action Summit, Dia will also spend time with the Secretary General of the UN to highlight issues in India. She will interact with the Queen of Belgium and young leaders like Greta Thunberg.

"The Summit hopes to ignite immediate action on the goals set for 2030. With the superiors of global organisations under one roof, this summit could be the much-needed turning point we need," said Dia.

Moore returns to music in 10 years

Singer-actor MANDY MOORE has released her first song in a decade. Titled *When I wasn't watching*, the number is from her new album. Its name is yet to be declared. The album is slated for release early next year.

"The idea of diving back into music after so much time and personal change was really intimidating to me for a while," said Moore.

"But then I finally realised: I'm the only person who can make this move. It all has to start with me," she added.

The actress, who is looking forward to the premiere of her show *This Is Us*, began recording her forthcoming album earlier this year. She wrote the album's lyrics and recorded each song live.



Pregnancy pressure might take a toll on a woman's mental health.

Ovulation predictor kits are offering an easier option to people who have difficulty in conceiving, discovers

AYUSHI SHARMA

Battling infertility, you thought that all roads lead to IVF or surrogacy? But things do not have to always end up at an intensive treatment route. For there are ways to do this in a natural way. The advancement in medical technology means that a clinical device can help you identify and track your fertile window in the comfort of your home.

The need for these arose as the attempt to conceive can be stressful due to rising societal pressure, a ticking biological clock, which, in turn, often leads to repeated clinic visits, blood-drawing and ultrasounds — things, which are not just time-consuming but also expensive.

According to State of World Population Report 2019, the fertility rate per woman was 5.6 in 1969, it dropped to 3.7 in 1994, and is 2.3 in 2019. The changed statistics can be attributed to a variety of reasons, which include lifestyle and behavioural changes. With almost one in six couples facing problems in conceiving and one in two couples tracking their cycles incorrectly, there is a need for proactive measures. With changing lifestyles and associated issues, getting pregnant is not as easy as it used to be which in turn has led to the dip in fertility rates considerably.

These devices are doing away with overwhelming trips to clinics for invasive tests that make you feel like you have a huge fertility problem, even when you don't. Fertility monitors can act as personal assistants that help you understand your body and hormones better. While most women believe that their chances of getting pregnant are highest on the 14th day of their cycle, the truth is that ovulation varies from woman to woman and cycle to cycle. What's more, fertility monitors can help in case of issues like irregular cycles, PCOS, PCOD, thyroid as well, thereby helping you take total control of your fertility, proactively. Taking the guesswork out of the process of conception, it measures estrogen and luteinising hormone levels in your urine to detect peak fertile days in your menstrual cycle.

"The best time to conceive is right before a person ovulates or releases an egg because the internal body temperature fluctuates during the menstrual cycle. But it is possible to get pregnant in the days leading up to ovulation, as sperm can survive for several days inside the female body," says Dr Neena Bahl, director, obstetrics and gynaecology, Fortis



Time the stork's visit

LaFemme, Greater Kailash II. She adds that testing through fertility monitors is just like doing the pregnancy test. An ovulation kit tests your urine sample to detect a surge in LH (luteinising hormone) levels. While the LH is always present in your urine, it increases 34–36 hours before ovulation, which is five times the regular amount. These tests help you find out those days that act as an invaluable tool in your baby-making arsenal. This time is your most fertile window. Having intercourse on those particular days increases your chance of a successful conception.

There are various ways in which one can track fertility. Some ways are as simple as tracking your temperature in the morning as the day your fertile period starts, the temperature goes up by half a degree. Second, to get an ultrasound on any of the 10 days from the ninth day of your period to 19th day, which shows the exact size of the follicle or the egg and once it ruptures, it is the most fertile period to conceive. Third, there are commercially available sticks that tell about the changes in the hormones. It's an indirect way of letting one know that ovulation is going to take place, explains Dr Bahl and tells us that in most cases, ovulation predictor kits provide an accurate forecast of your LH surge and subsequent ovulation. They can be most effective when used together with other monitoring methods. Along with the kits, doctors usually suggest examining the cervical mucus and charting the basal body temperature which is tested the first

thing in the morning. These methods, when combined, can greatly increase your chances of getting pregnant.

As there are advantages and disadvantages of everything, Dr Bahl says, "The pros are that it is a simpler way of knowing the best possible chance of conceiving. Instead of going to the doctor and getting an ultrasound done, you can choose this method but the con is that it is not as sensitive as the latter. Everytime you are testing yourself, your mind is preoccupied and it's obvious when you are trying too hard for something, you get stressed. You do not release happy hormones which in turn affects your ability to conceive. Moreover, your sexual life is timed according to the device and becomes mechanical. It becomes something solely devoted to reproduction. So yes, it can be a rough method but then it's obviously a convenient option."

One of the users of the ovulation predictor kits shares her experience. Shweta Verma, 32, a software engineer from Bengaluru, says that they started their fam-

ily planning after two years of marriage. She was, later in the same year, diagnosed with PCOD and was prescribed a medication for six months. After which, they were advised by the doctors to try conception naturally. The doctor recommended the use of the monitor to ease the journey. "I used it for three cycles after which it was discovered that my husband had a low sperm count. I continued using it and even cross-checked the results with ultrasound scans. They turned out to be identical. This strengthened my faith and I finally got the good news," she says and adds that the monitor eases the journey of a woman.

However, these kits do have limitations as they do not work when fertility drugs are present in the system. Moreover, they do not work consistently on women over 40. Some women in their 40s, especially those approaching menopause, have increased levels of LH in their systems at all times, rendering the tests invalid.

But coming to surrogacy or for that matter IVF, these are for people who are

infertile or have medical conditions which do not allow them to conceive naturally. Alisha Mathur, 36, a housewife, feels that the device helps women conceive but "I don't think it can ever replace doctors or labs or even procedures like surrogacy. It works even for irregular cycles and notifies when there is a probability of a fertility condition or issue which requires clinical support. Surrogacy is a different thing altogether. In the rarest of the rare cases, doctors suggest it."

Dr Bahl explains it better when she says, "You can't jump from class one to class 10. Similarly nobody jumps from tracking ovulation to surrogacy. What would a normal healthy couple do? They would try conceiving without any contraception for one year. And 90 per cent of the couples will conceive within one year of married life. So when you don't, you start tracking the fertility manually. But most of the times you would visit a doctor and ask for his/her help. The doctor will then guide the couple about the various methods. Only when they have tried everything and failed does the doctor advise surrogacy. It might be a marketing gimmick that you can avoid surrogacy if you buy this device. However, the trackers just help women conceive quickly."

Using the ovulation predictor kits or so-called fertility monitors provides more privacy as issues like fertility are things that women don't prefer to discuss in public, feel both the users of Inito fertility monitor.

Middle-class hero

Director KRISHNA DK and actor MANOJ BAJPAI tell CHAHAK MITTAL that the web series, *The Family Man* aims to highlight how intelligence officials are never appreciated for their successes but are heaped with blame for their few failures



Do you ever come across a simple-looking man sitting adjacent to you in the local train, wearing regular clothes, carrying a suitcase who seems to be a government clerk or a secretary? You might assume that he is just another middle-class man with a family who spends most of his earnings on necessities like food and rent. But then, who knows, if he might have just met a deadly terrorist who was hiding behind the railway station, plotting a devastating attack a few minutes ago. Or he may have just gathered some secret information about a potential terror act in the city.

Directors Krishna DK and Raj Nidimoru's forthcoming web series, *The Family Man*, is about a man who with his camouflaged appearance misleads people who will never know the real job that he is holding — that of an intelligence officer. The series revolves around Srikant Tiwari (played by Manoj Bajpai), a middle-class man who also serves as a world-class spy. He tries to strike a work-life balance as he deals with his familial responsibilities and the highly secretive special cell of the National Intelligence Agency. DK says, "That's what they sign up for. They are very simple-looking people and might not even look like they would be courageous enough to handle those kind of situations."

Much to people's surprise, the idea of creating a web show around this story has been work-in-progress since 2016. However, it's only now that it came into being. "I had this idea for a long time about a common man hero who is doing an extraordinary job. We didn't want to make it as a film. A series has its own language. It focusses on various things which come together as a whole. We also felt that a film might not do justice to subjects like counter-terrorism and geopolitics. So a series made more sense. Thanks to Amazon as when it came into the scene, we actually got a platform to showcase it on. We also had *Stree* amid all of this and then we also took a lot of time to finalise its script," says DK who produced and wrote the film along with his partner, Nidimoru.

In one of the sequences in the trailer, when Srikant's son asks him as to why he wants to continue with his job, his daughter says, "Government job me kuch nahi karna hota na, isliye (It's because there's nothing to do in a government job)." DK explains that this is the very idea that we, as people, hold about the government. He questions, "Isn't

ple always discuss it and blame the government for their inefficiency. Even the trailer has a scene where two men are talking to each other about the failure of the intelligence agencies, pointing out to the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which were "not" stopped. "26/11 rokto toh baat hoti." However, here, Manoj and DK both believe that it is because we only know about the attacks that have happened because "they were missed. These people could actually be tracking a terrorist under your nose and you'd have no idea. This is the tragedy of their jobs. You never hear about their successes but failures are all over the news. They are brought up long after they actually take place."

The scenario is much like that of the country's cricket team. They are bashed for losing one match even though they might have won thousands of others. The only difference is that they are appreciated when they win the cup. This is not the case with intelligence officers, points DK.

For Manoj, he saw this role as a chance to make their jobs look real and believable to the common people. "When I read the synopsis, I found it quite unique. I realised that this is something that I have never done. Through this, people would actually come to know about the kind of sacrifices they make. They keep their families happy in their minuscule pay. But they also get the chance to prevent any kind of assault on the nation. I realised that there is a supreme sacrifice linked with an exalted sense of patriotism," says he.

The actor feels that a film wouldn't have done justice to what the series holds. Manoj says, "The only difference between the two is that here, there are a lot of episodes so you get a chance to work on the different facets of the character. Whereas, a two to 2.5 hour-long film does not really focus on the characters but more on the plot."

Recalling an incident in his life, Manoj narrates that he, as an actor, has always wanted to evolve. "When I was in college hostel, my roommates and friends would keep suggesting and forcing me to read their notes and study more. Some were even preparing for civil services exams and would tell me, 'Tu bhi karle yaar thodi si mehnat. Ban jayega kuch. Yeh actor banne ka bhoot utaar de.' And I wouldn't listen because my goals were fixed," he chuckles.

(The series releases on Amazon Prime Video on September 20.)
Photo: Pankaj Kumar



No more creaking doors

Filmmaker Shyam Ramsay, who made Bollywood horror a cult affair, passed away on Wednesday. He was 67. As per the reports, he was suffering from pneumonia.

Shyam, as part of the Ramsay brothers, made films like *Veerana*, *Purani Haveli* and *Andhera*. Ramsay brothers also consisted of Tulsi Kumar, Keshu, Arjun, Gangu and Karan. Apart from films, Shyam and Tulsi also gave the TV audience *Zee Horror Show*.

Netizens have poured in RIP messages for the director. "Rest in Peace #ShyamRamsay ji. You and your family's stories are inspirational. How your whole family come together to give Indian Cinema a new genre called 'horror' it inspired so many industry people how to work on something, which genuinely believes in," one wrote.

Another went back to her childhood days and wrote, "As a kid, I was always afraid of ghost and horror movies, while my sibling and cousin watched it without batting an eyelid."

Another wrote: "The genre of #horror is as tough as making people laugh, the #RamsayBrothers did it with their own unique ways. RIP #ShyamRamsay. I still remember watching that zee horror show and how that scared the hell out of me."

Filmmaker Vikram Bhatt, who has carved a name as a horror filmmaker in recent times, was also saddened by his demise. The *Raaz* director feels the late filmmaker was innovative, and regaled his audiences with fabulous spooky cinema from time to time.

"Ramsay carried the torch of horror films right through the '70s and '80s. Even amongst the Ramsay Brothers, he was considered to be the leader of the group. He was innovative and regaled his audiences with fabulous spooky cinema from time to time. His passing is indeed a sad and his contribution to the dark films will always be held in high esteem," said Bhatt.

FROM HERAT TO TAJ

CD Foundation collaborates with the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on its 100th independence anniversary and will host a food and culture festival in the city

CD foundation collaborates with Embassy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Charge d'affaires Tahir Qadiry announced a 15-day long Afghanistan food and culture festival with the foundation in October on the 100th independence anniversary of Afghanistan.

The food and culture festival is one of eight events which will take place during the anniversary celebration. Live Afghani band performance, ghazal performance, cricket match and many more performances will be there. There will be food stalls and live kitchen display of Afghanistani cuisines too. It will also display handicraft and textile exhibition, fashion walks, cultural performances, conferences, workshop, media interactions and meets for three days. Subsequently, the festival will also mark a meet between Afghanistan and Indian film makers.

The festival aims at enhancing the cultural relations between India and Afghanistan. Both the countries are bounded in cultural and historical relations. The age old cultural and civilisational ties and the deep-rooted linkages in the fields of music, art, architecture, lan-



guage and cuisine constitute an important bond of friendship between the countries. Therefore, events like this make us celebrate our values together.

Tahir appreciated the

founder director of CD Foundation Charu Das. She said that it is a privilege for her foundation to have the responsibility of this festival. She added that this initiative was mainly taken to meet the commit-

ments made by CD foundation in Kabul during a formal visit of the city by a group of Indian delegation in August.

Her aim for planning this festival is double. On one hand, it is a way to exhibit various

aspects of Afghanistan culture to Indians. On the other, it provides an opportunity for the participants (women entrepreneurs) to get trained in their respective fields by Indian experts and to create a network

for doing future business in India.

Dr Sandeep Marwah, chairman of AAFT and president of Marwah Studio was also present. He extended his support to the festival.

IN SHORT



SPMCIL has been awarded Best in Class for Training and Development in the 18th edition of the Asia Pacific HRM Congress held on Tuesday in Bengaluru. The award was received by BJ Gupta, additional general manager (HR) and Durga A Prasad, manager (HR).



Andhra Association celebrated Ganesh Puja festival at AAD building in the city. Arvind Kejrival, chief minister and Sanjay Singh, MP (RS) attended the function.



Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has been awarded the Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar for 2018-19 for implementation of official language policy of Government of India. Home minister Amit Shah presented the award to Santosh Kumar Mall, commissioner, KVS at Vigyan Bhawan on Saturday. KVS was selected for its excellent work in Hindi under the category of 'Boards/Autonomous Bodies/Societies of Govt' in region A by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.

The board meeting of city's Municipal Corporation was boycotted by municipal commissioner Dinesh Chandra as there was a uproar during it.

The dispute started when Municipal Corporation's executive vice president and BJP councillor Sunil Yadav, commented on the work style and behaviour of officials of Pawan Pandey, manager of CLC (urban livelihood development company). Chandra became so uncomfortable and angered by this indecisive behaviour of councillors, that he left the board meeting.

Later mayor Asha Sharma adjourned the meeting indefinitely,

Municipal commissioner boycotts board meeting

repeating all the proceedings. She then had a conversation with councillors of all parties and condemned the behaviour of the city commissioner. She even wrote a letter to the chief minister, contempting the house. In the letter, the chief minister has been demanded to be disciplined against the city commissioner and other officials.

On the other hand, Chandra told that the councillors in the house were using unparliamentary language against the former city commissioners which led them to leave the house



Councillors near the House table

silently. He added that he has not committed any contempt of the house but instead sent the additional municipal commissioner Pramod Kumar to continue the proceedings of the house. But, the councillors continued to create a ruckus even then.

In this sequence, the manager of CLC Pawan Pandey said that he has never behaved indecisively with any Municipal Corporation officials or councillors. He alleged that some councillors are angry as he had not facilitated their misleading work.

SRM students bag good jobs

At the first day of recruitment process at SRM Institute of Science and Technology, four major IT companies offered 4,749 jobs to students from the graduation batch of 2020.

TCS (Ninja) has made 1437 offers, Infosys 1315, CTS 1175 and Wipro 822. Apart from this, TCS has made 183 offers under digital track too (₹7 lakh per annum), said Sriram Padmanabhan, director, career centre at SRMIST. The highest paid offer



was ₹41.6 lakh per annum by Microsoft. More than 120 companies have visited the campus since the commencement of the placement session on July 22. They have made 6000 offers.

Top recruiters include Amazon (18 offers of ₹32 lakh per annum), Barclays (25 offers of ₹10 lakh per annum) and startup Udaan (four offers of ₹30 lakh per annum). Besides this, organisations like Veritas and Pay Pal have made internship offers

Municipal Corporation incorporates steelware-only model

With regard to environmental protection, municipal commissioner Dinesh Chandra has issued instructions to Municipal Corporation establishment heads that refreshments will be provided only in steel utensils at meetings held in all the establishments of the city's Municipal Corporation.

This model was first used in the kavay camps during the kavay yatra and had positive results. Dinesh said that due to the use of banned plastics, the



Municipal Commissioner Dinesh Chandra

city used to get dirt piles during the bhandara and religious events. He added that he made it mandatory to use steel and other metal utensils for all such events.

"Inspired by us, the management committees of the gurdwaras and temples have abandoned steel crockery and made steel utensil banks for the distribution of langar and food offerings," said Dinesh. He added that they have also decided to put hoardings and stalls for publicity so that people are aware of it.

'Industry and academia need to come together'



IIT Madras organised a Technology Conclave: Vision New India 2022 with the theme — development for all through technology.

Rakesh Kumar, chairman, Scope and CMD, NLC India Limited addressed the conclave. Arjun Ram Meghwal, MoS, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises inaugurated the conclave in the presence of Dr Madhukar Gupta, additional secretary, department of Public Enterprises.

Rakesh asserted the need for industry and academia to come together to bridge the skill gap of the talent required by the industry. He pointed out that the ambitious plan of creating a new India through "Strategy for New India @ 75" could only be achieved if the younger generation is equipped with the necessary skills required in the current volatile market environment.

The chief executives from various public sector enterprises and other organisations also participated in varied panel discussions such as role of CSR in technology, leveraging CSR funding for nation building and many others.

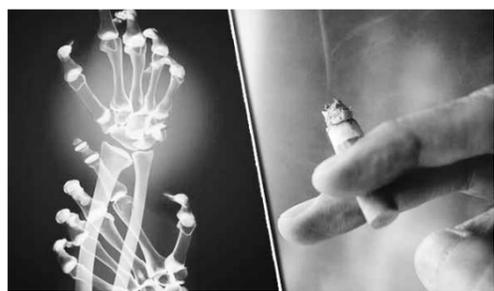
Smoking could lead to rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory disorder that occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks the joints leading to pain and inflammation in the tissue surrounding the joints. Women are three times more likely to get diagnosed with RA than men and the disease can impact anyone within the age group of 20 to 50 years.

Though, there are no exact numbers, we can safely say that RA impacts 0.5 per cent to one per cent of the population. Despite relatively high awareness levels on



RA, there are many myths and misconceptions surrounding the disease which could pose an impediment to the treatment. Some of the common myths like RA only affects people of old age



and that there is no treatment. It can have a negative impact on patients therefore it is important for them to come in for regular check-ups and follow the Rheumatologist's advice," says Dr Himanshu Agarwal, Consultant Rheumatologist, Max Superspecialty Hospital, Vaishali. "Smoking may contribute towards the increase in RA cases especially among younger population. People with genetic risk factors are also prone to developing the condition. RA causes pain and disability leading to loss of

daily functioning and missing of work schedules. Change in weather also leads to change in barometric pressure which could exacerbate the arthritis. Majority of the patients come in within three months of experiencing the first signs of RA. About 0.5 to 1 per cent of the Indian population is affected with the condition. Education and early detection are crucial to the effective management of RA," shares Dr Sonal Mehra, Consultant Rheumatologist at Jaypee Hospital, Noida.

NHPC INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) invites applications for the second batch of NHPC Sports Scholarship Scheme for Upcoming Sportspersons in five sports — football, kabaddi, boxing, wrestling and para sports. These scholarships are meant for young players of 14-19 years (14-24 years for para sports) with a view to encourage talent and create a pool of sportspersons during their formative years of education.

There is a maximum provision of 10 numbers of scholarships with two numbers in each of the five sports. The applications shall be considered for scholarships in two categories — elite scholar and scholar, based on the fulfillment of required criteria. The details regarding the scholarships are available in the career corner of NHPC website. The last date for receiving application forms has been extended till October 17.

God is the seer of past, present and future. He knows the intellect of all human beings. In this regard, god preaches in Rigved mantra that there are people who although sees the literal Vedvani yet ignores it due to lack of the literal knowledge. And then there are people who don't understand it. A few of so-called saints are unknown to the meaning of Ved mantras and Vedic knowledge, and then they misguide people. Whereas they must pay attention to the other mantras where god preaches that if an aspirant understand Vedas, he only receives benefit of it. People listen to Puranas, Bhagwad Geeta and other spiritual books as they are inspired to listen, in the name of faith. They are even explained the meaning of each word in Hindi language, whereas as far as the matter of Vedas, the said practice is not in vogue and hence the prob-

THE SUPREME KNOWLEDGE

lem. So it is clear that until people become aspirants and start understanding Ved mantras, the problem to follow Vedic path will always remain unsolved. Intellectuals should approach the government to do the needful because the most important knowledge to make the future bright is the knowledge of four Vedas, which emanate directly from god. It can't be compared to any other literal knowledge. Today, Vedas have almost been intentionally disregarded instead of being followed by people. Above quoted matter concludes that illusion, corruption, dishonour to women, violence and several other types of problems exist in world because people are not aware of the Vedic know-



edge. Therefore, we will have to pay attention towards Vedas and its literature like Shastras, Upanishads. Kapil Muni states

in his Sankhya Shastra Sutra that there are three types of sorrows, whose total destruction enables a devotee to

attain salvation. First, AdhyatmikDukh, which is generated due to internal reasons. It has two kinds —

Shareerik, due to human body and Manas, due to mind/thought. Second, Adhibhautik, pain and afflict-

tion caused by snake and scorpion's bite due to physical violence and bitter words. Third, Adhidivik, caused by non-living things like rain, fire, snowfall, lightning, earthquake and sorrows generated by cyclones.

Kapil Muni says that it is not possible to put an end to the sorrows until we follow the Vedas. Undoubtedly, today, most people do not believe in Vedic knowledge but truth prevails. He further adds that the said sorrows can't be separated from the soul. Yes, money should be earned with hard effort. So the learning of Vedas in all circumstances will help to attain salvation.

(The author is Swami Ram Swarup, chief editor of Ved Ishvareeya vani, a bi-annual magazine.)

Penalty of drama

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

AFP ■ NAPLES/LONDON

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

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

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

Dries Mertens beat Adrian from 12 yards and substitute Fernando Llorente — who played for Tottenham Hotspur against Liverpool in last season's final — then took advantage of a rare defensive lapse by Virgil van Dijk to make it 2-0 in stoppage time.

HAT-TRICK HERO HAALAND

Liverpool must now bounce back in two weeks when they host Austrian champions Salzburg, who made a stunning return to the group stage as teenage forward Erling Braut Haaland netted a hat-trick in a 6-2 demolition of Genk.

Salzburg had fallen in the qualifying rounds in the last seven campaigns but finally progressed this season to the group stage for the first time since 1994-95.

Haaland, the teenage English-born Norwegian striker whose father Alf-Inge played for Manchester City, gave Salzburg a second-minute lead and netted twice more before half-time.

Aged just 19 years and 58 days, Haaland is the third-youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick behind Wayne Rooney and Raul.

The South Korean Hwang Hee-Chan and Dominik Szoboszlai also struck before the break for Salzburg, while captain Andreas Ulmer completed the rout in the second half.

Jhon Lucumi and Tanzanian striker Mbwana Samatta scored for the Belgian champions.



Barcelona's goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen saves a shot by Marco Reus during the Group F match in Dortmund



Fernando Llorente holds Dries Mertens after the scores from spot against Liverpool

Last season's Europa League winners Chelsea ensured it was two defeats out of two on the night for English sides as they lost 1-0 at home to Valencia.

The Spaniards scored in the 74th minute when a Dani Parejo

free-kick was converted by Rodrigo Moreno. Chelsea were given a chance to rescue a draw when Daniel Wass was penalised for handball in the box, but Ross Barkley's 87th-minute penalty hit the bar and went over.

FIGURATIVELY

1 Napoli are the first Italian side to win against the European reigning champions in the CL group stages since Juventus, against Chelsea in 2012 (3-0).

19 Erling Haaland, aged 19 years and 58 days, is the third youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick, behind Rauli (18y 113d in 1995) and Wayne Rooney (18y 340d in 2004).

1 Frank Lampard is the first Chelsea manager to lose his first Champions League match in charge, 10 of the previous 11 had won, while Gianluca Vialli drew with Milan in 1999.

12 Lille remain on 12 matches without success in European competition (6 draws, 6 defeats — preliminary rounds included), the worst series of its history.

4 Marc-Andre ter Stegen has stopped four of the six penalties he has received in the Champions League and is the goalkeeper who has stopped the most in the competition since at least 03/04 alongside Andriy Pyatov

1 Ansu Fati (16 years and 321 days) becomes the youngest player in CL history to play for Barcelona, breaking the record of Bojan (17 years and 22 days).

"You want to have at least a point and we didn't get that because of the penalty. When the player jumps before there is contact it cannot be a penalty. We cannot change that any more, so now we carry on. That's it."
—Jurgen Klopp (Liverpool manager)

"It was just one victory, but yes it has given us confidence, being able to match Liverpool is impressive as for me they are the best team in Europe at the moment."
—Carlo Ancelotti (Napoli manager)

"Given the performances last season, the bar was set high, and people were asking if we could do it again this season. I think a 3-0 victory shows that we can."
—Quincy Promes (Ajax forward)

"It was a difficult game today and I think the result is fair considering what happened."
—Marc Andre Ter Stegen (Barcelona goalkeeper)

"Without a doubt (we deserved more). Probably a win, but at least a draw. We conceded with one shot on target. It's a harsh lesson of Champions League football, a game we've played pretty well in and we lose it."
—Frank Lampard (Chelsea manager)

"We had four or five chances, and if we had taken one of them, we would have won. We said after the draw that we wanted to qualify for the knockout stages. If we continue to play like we did today then there shouldn't be a problem."
—Marco Reus (Borussia Dortmund captain)

"Slavia Prague attacked us with intensity and showed a ruthless streak. We didn't do well in terms of finding the right solutions and struggled too much."
—Antonio Conte (Inter Milan coach)

"Everything is possible. We all saw Ajax last year, it would be nice to be the new Ajax. But we know there are a lot of good teams. It's hard, but everything is possible."
—Erling Braut Haaland (Salzburg striker)

ANAX IMPRESS
Also in Group H, last season's semi-finalists Ajax claimed an impressive 3-0 home win over Lille with two of their newest signings among the goals.

Quincy Promes headed the Dutch champions in front and the Mexican Edson Alvarez doubled their lead early in the second half before Nicolas Tagliafico sealed the win.

After a patchy start to the season, Barcelona will be relieved to escape from their trip to Borussia Dortmund with a 0-0 draw as Lionel Messi returned from injury as a second-half substitute.

The home side will feel they should have won, but Marco Reus had a second-half penalty saved before Julian Brandt hit the bar late on.

"We played brilliantly in the second half, and it feels a bit like we have lost two points," Mats Hummels told Sky.

Those two appear well placed already to progress from Group F after Inter Milan needed a stoppage-time Nico Barella goal to rescue a 1-1 draw against rank outsiders Slavia Prague.

Nigerian forward Peter Olayinka put Slavia ahead in the 63rd minute, only for Barella to level in the second minute of stoppage time after a Stefano Sensi free-kick hit the bar.

In Group G, RB Leipzig won 2-1 at Benfica with Timo Werner bagging a brace before Haris Seferovic pulled one back.

Earlier, Memphis Depay's penalty gave Lyon a 1-1 draw at home to Zenit Saint-Petersburg after Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun opened the scoring.



Marcus Rashford, Matic & Juan Mata during training

Man Utd, Arsenal carry English hopes

AFP ■ PARIS

Manchester United and Arsenal headline an English trio that also features Europa League newcomers Wolves while record five-time champions Sevilla figure to be among the primary contenders as the group stage begins today.

Scottish rivals Celtic and Rangers face testing paths to the knockout rounds as bitter foes Roma and Lazio bid to end Italy's two-decade wait for the title.

Porto, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord are the other former European Cup winners in a competition that will welcome the eight third-place finishers from the Champions League groups for the knockout phase.

United, Europa League winners in 2017, will host Astana in Group L as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side face opponents from Kazakhstan for the first time in club history.

They will be expected to progress with relative ease from a group that also includes Partizan Belgrade and former finalists AZ Alkmaar of the Netherlands.

Unai Emery's Arsenal return to the competition

after last season's 4-1 defeat by Chelsea in the final in Bakau.

The Gunners visit Eintracht Frankfurt to kick off their campaign, with 10-time Belgian champions Standard Liege and Portugal's Vitoria Guimaraes also in Group F.

Wolves, in their first European campaign since 1980, will meet Portuguese club Braga in their opening game at Molineux.

Scottish champions Celtic travel to French Cup holders Rennes in Group E, with Italian Cup holders Lazio and CFR Cluj, the Romanian side to whom they lost in Champions League qualifying, completing a tricky section.

Steven Gerrard's Rangers are at home to Jaap Stam's Feyenoord and will do well to navigate a group with Porto and Young Boys.

Roma will take on Istanbul Basaksehir in their first game while Moenchengladbach host Austria's Wolfsberg.

Austria boast two representatives with LASK Linz among the six debutants — alongside Espanyol, Wolves, Wolfsburg, Olexandriya and Ferencvaros — in the tournament.



Amit Panghal celebrates after winning his last 8 bout against Filipino Carlo Paalam

Panghal, Kaushik assure 2 medals

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

India were assured of an unprecedented two medals at the World Men's Boxing Championships after Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) entered the semifinals of the marquee event with impressive victories here on Wednesday.

While Asian Games and championship Gold-medallist Panghal defeated Filipino Carlo Paalam 4-1, Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Kaushik got the better of Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira 5-0.

Both the boxers sealed their maiden world medals.

Before this year, India had never won more than one Bronze medal in a single edition of the world championship.

The overall medal count for the country stood at four Bronze medals claimed by Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

However, Sanjeet (91kg), a former India Open Gold-medallist, and fifth seed and Asian Silver-winner Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) bowed out after losing their respective quarterfinals.

While Sanjeet went down 1-4 to Ecuador's seventh-seeded Julio Castillo Torres, a Pan-American Games Silver-medallist, Bisht was beaten by the reigning Commonwealth Games champion Peter McGrail of England 0-5.

The second-seeded Panghal, who had earlier defeated Paalam in the Asian Games semifinals last year, wasn't off to the best of starts and was trailing Paalam at the end of the opening round.

But the Army man from Rohtak didn't take long to get his act together and become the more aggressive one in the next two rounds.

In the last-four stage, the Haryana-pugilist will be up against Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, who stunned Armenia's European Gold-medallist and sixth seed Artur Hovhannysyan in his quarterfinal showdown.

"He is a southpaw and has a long reach, I will work out a strategy for him," the 23-year-old Panghal said.

While next up for Kaushik is Cuban top seed Andy Gomez Cruz, who out-punched Russia's eighth-seeded Ilya Popov.

Cruz was the light welterweight (64kg) category Gold-medallist in the 2017 edition.

Vinesh locks Olympic quota with Bronze

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Indian wrestling had a lot to celebrate on Wednesday as Vinesh Phogat secured Tokyo Olympics qualification and won a Bronze, while Pooja Dhandla put herself one win away from her second medal at the World Championships.

Having endured a medal-less run in three World Championships before, Vinesh finally ended the drought by pinning wrestler Maria Prevolaraki by fall in the Bronze-medal bout.

"It is my first World Championship medal and it is a big thing to win a medal at the Worlds," Vinesh told reporters.

"I had changed my weight category and in just 10 months, I got this medal. It is a thing of great happiness for me. It is the biggest medal of my career till now."

She is only the fifth Indian woman wrestler to win a Worlds medal after Alka Tomar (2006), Geeta Phogat



Vinesh Phogat in action against Yuliya Khavaldzhny Blahiniya

(2012), Babita Phogat (2012) and Pooja Dhandla (2018).

Earlier in the day, she had held off world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt with some superlative defense in her second repechage round to qualify for the 2020 Olympics.

Vinesh is now one of

India's most successful wrestlers with Gold medals at the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games, already in her cupboard.

Adding to the elation of the Indian camp was a gritty show by Pooja in the 59kg, a non-Olympic category. Pooja reached the semi-

finals with a remarkable comeback behind 11-8 win over Japan's Yuzuka Inagaki before losing the semifinal by technical superiority to Russia's Liubov Ovcharova, the 2017 European champion.

She will now fight for her second Bronze medal at the Worlds, having won one in 57kg at the 2018 Budapest edition.

Pooja can now become the first female wrestler and only second Indian to win two World medals. Only Bajrang Punia has achieved the feat. He won a Bronze in 2013 and a Silver in 2018.

Seema Bisla though missed Olympic qualification in the 50kg after losing her second repechage round 3-11 to Russia's Ekaterina Poleschchuk.

Much was expected from Sarita Mor after her shock victory over Pooja Dhandla in the trials but she was far from her usual aggressive self.

In the 76kg, Kiran had rattled her German opponent

Aline Rotter Focken to lead 4-0 but lost five points in a row in the second period to lose the opening bout 4-5.

She paid the price for being over-defensive. Since the

German lost her semifinal, Kiran's campaign is over.

Navjot Kaur was also ousted from 65kg after losing her opening bout to Alis Manolova, who later lost her semifinal.

SINGLES

HIMA DAS RULED OUT OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW DELHI: World junior champion Hima Das has been ruled out of the upcoming World Championship due to a nagging back problem. "Unfortunately Hima will not be able to compete at the World Championships in Doha due to her back injury," Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president Adil Sumarwalla said. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) had on September 9 named seven women, including Hima, for the 4x400m relay and 4x400m mixed relay races at the World Championships to be held from September 27 to October 6 in Doha. Hima has been suffering from a lower back pain after competing at the Asian Games last year. She pulled out of the individual 400m heats during the Asian Championships in Doha in April midway through the race.

PANT, SAINI NAMED IN DELHI SQUAD

NEW DELHI: Wicket-keeper batsman Rishabh Pant and pacer Navdeep Saini were on Wednesday named in the 16-member strong Delhi squad, led by top-order batsman Dhruv Shorey, for the first four games of the Vijay Hazare Trophy, starting September 24. Delhi start their campaign on the opening day against Vidarbha and it is expected that both the players will be available for the initial matches. Saini, who is not in the squad for the Test matches, is expected to be available for the better part of the National one-day championship, while opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan has opted out of the current squad.

FEDEX, POTRO TO PLAY IN BUENOS AIRES

PARIS: Roger Federer and Juan Martin del Potro, who is set to return next month from a knee injury, announced Tuesday they will play an exhibition match in Buenos Aires on November 20. "I just wanted to tell you I'm so excited to come back to Argentina to play my good friend Juan Martin del Potro at Parque Roca," Federer said in a video on Del Potro's Twitter account. The Parque Roca stadium has a capacity of around 15,500 and is primarily used for Davis Cup ties. Del Potro has not played since fracturing his right knee in the Wimbledon tune-up at Queen's in June. He is expected to make his comeback at the ATP tournament in Stockholm, which runs from October 14 to 20, and is also scheduled to compete in Vienna the following week.

MOODY NAMED AS COACH OF OVAL TEAM

LONDON: Former Australia all-rounder Tom Moody and England World Cup winner Lydia Greenway have been appointed as head coaches of the Oval-based men's and women's teams for the new Hundred competition, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Wednesday. The 53-year-old's appointment is the final one among the eight men's outfits in The Hundred following the announcements of Stephen Fleming (Nottingham), Mahela Jayawardena (Southampton), Simon Katich (Manchester), Gary Kirsten (Cardiff), Darren Lehmann (Leeds), Andrew McDonald (Birmingham) and Shane Warne (Lord's).



Naomi Osaka celebrates after beating Viktorija Tomova in straight sets on Wednesday to reach Pan Pacific Open quarters



Aiden Markram of South Africa plays a shot during India A vs South Africa A 2nd Test match in Mysore on Wednesday

India restrict South Africa to 149/5

Deepak Chahar picks two wickets for 22 runs in his four overs



India's captain Virat Kohli, right, congratulates teammate Deepak Chahar after he dismissed South Africa's Reeza Hendricks

HIGHEST SCORES ON DEBUT FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN T-20I				
Score	Batsman	Opponent	Venue	Date
78	Rilee Rossouw	Australia	Adelaide	05-11-2014
61	Greame Smith	New Zealand	Johannesburg	21-10-2005
56	Rassie van der Dussen	Zimbabwe	East London	09-10-2018
49	Christiaan Jonker	India	Cape Town	24-02-2018
49	Temba Bavuma	India	Mohali	18-09-2019

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Skipper Quinton de Kock and debutant Temba Bavuma played impressive knocks but India were able to contain South Africa to 149 for five in the second T20 International here on Wednesday.

Newly appointed captain de Kock (52 off 37) led from the front, while Bavuma (49 off 43) too impressed in his first limited-overs appearance for South Africa in almost two years.

But South Africa did not get the final flourish they were looking for and ended up with a below-par total. India bowled well in the death overs, conceding only 24 runs in the final four. Pacer Deepak Chahar was pick of the bowler with two wickets for 22 runs from his four overs.

India captain Virat Kohli sent a new-look South Africa into bat with the visitors picking three debutants in Anrich Nortje, Bjorn Fortuin and Bavuma.

While Reeza Hendricks departed cheaply, de Kock looked in sublime touch from the word go.

De Kock cover drove spinner Washington Sundar on the first ball he faced before collecting three straight boundaries off pacer Navdeep Saini who was taken out of the attack after conceding 13 runs in his first over.

Bavuma, South Africa's Test specialist, joined de Kock after the fall of Hendricks in the fourth over and he too looked in fine touch. He made his intentions clear by pulling Hardik Pandya over deep square leg for a six.

South Africa made only 39 for one in six overs but their innings

INDIA CAPTAIN VIRAT KOHLI SENT A NEW-LOOK SOUTH AFRICA INTO BAT WITH THE VISITORS PICKING THREE DEBUTANTS IN ANRICH NORTJE, BJORN FORTUIN AND BAVUMA

picked up momentum after that, taking them to 78 for one in 10 overs.

It took a brilliant catch from skipper Kohli to dismiss de Kock and shift the momentum in India's favour.

De Kock mistimed a hit off Saini and Kohli came running from mid-off to pounce on it, brining the crowd back to life. The stand between de Kock and Bavuma yielded 57 runs.

Vice-captain Rassie van der Dussen, South Africa's best batsman in the World Cup, followed de Kock in the dressing room quickly by offering a simple return catch to Ravindra Jadeja in the 13th over, leaving his team at 90 for three.

Runs dried up in the death overs but South Africa got a much-needed couple of sixes in the 20th over off Saini, which went for 16 runs.



Shreyas Iyer bats during practice session

BCCI/Twitter

Ganguly demands consistent run for youngsters

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly said that India need to look beyond the upcoming World T20 when it comes to finding young talent and give them consistent runs in the senior squad.

"The most important thing for India is to not look at the World T20 next year. Before the last World Cup there was too much noise about it and that sometimes is not good. What they need to do is pick the best possible players and give them consistent opportunities, as there is some serious talent in the domestic circuit," Ganguly wrote in a column for the *Times of India*.

Ganguly said that the bowling department in particular will be interesting to watch with the likes of Deepak Chahar, Khaleel Ahmed and

Navdeep Saini knocking at the doors. "These guys, with time and maturity, will see (Jasprit) Bumrah, Bhuvu (Bhuvneshwar Kumar), (Mohammed) Shami as their role models and this will be a healthy sign for Indian fast bowling. Spinners like Rahul Chahar, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep (Yadav), (Yuzvendra) Chahal will also keep everyone on their toes," said Ganguly.

He said that K L Rahul will now be under pressure to keep his number four spot in limited overs after losing the Test opening slot. "With Rohit (Sharma) and Shikhar (Dhawan) at the top as the domestic circuit," Ganguly wrote in a column for the *Times of India*.



Indian paddler Sharath Kamal in a file picture

Paddlers win Gold in 1st Div at Asian C'ship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's team logged their best ever result at ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships, finishing fifth after beating Hong Kong 3-1 in the classification match here on Wednesday.

The Indian team also defeated Iran 3-0 to clinch the Gold medal in the champions division.

In the classification match, India tried out a new opening with Sharath Kamal, who after the initial struggle, managed to put it across Lam Siu Hang 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 11-7 to provide the lead.

In the second tie, Anthony Amalraj beat NG Pak Nam 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-7, while in the third singles, G Sathiyam defeated Kwan Man Ho 11-5, 11-13, 11-7, 14-12.

In the second and fourth games, Sathiyam won the last on his second match-point. He was the lone Indian who did not lose a single match in team event, having played all matches from 1st Division to finishing fifth in the Champions Division.

In the final of the 1st Division, Sathiyam opened again for India and downed Amin Ahmadi 11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6, while both Sathiyam and Amalraj were stretched fully. Sathiyam beat Air Hossein Hodaei 6-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-7, 12-10 while Amalraj accounted for Noshad Alamiyan 18-16, 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-9 as India won the yellow metal.

Sindhu, Praneeth, Kashyap win in China

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion and title favourite P V Sindhu sailed into the quarterfinals with a convincing straight-game win over former Olympic Gold-medallist Li Xuerui at the China Open Super 1000 tournament here on Wednesday.

India's top shuttler Sindhu beat China's Li Xuerui 21-18 21-12 in just 34 minutes to set up a clash with Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong.

Replicating her world championship form, the Olympic Silver-medallist produced another strong performance to get the better of the currently 20th-ranked Chinese, who entered the match with a 3-3 record against the Indian.

Men's singles players, Sai Praneeth and Parupalli Kashyap also progressed to the second round after notching up contrasting opening-round wins.

Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini



PV Sindhu attempts a return shot

BAI/Twitter File Picture

Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too found a place in the quarterfinals after crossing the opening hurdle.

However, Saina made an early exit after losing to Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunghan in the women's singles.

The London Olympics bronze-medallist lost 10-21

17-21 at the hands of the World No.19

Ongbamrunghan in a match that lasted for 44 minutes at the Olympic Sports Center Xincheng Gymnasium.

It was the former world number one's second successive loss to the Thai player.

The 29-year-old Saina has struggled for form following

her recovery from injuries.

The Indian started her season with a win at the Indonesia Masters but failed to reach another final on the BWF circuit so far.

In men's singles, world championships bronze medallist Praneeth had to battle for an hour and 12 minutes to get past Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon 21-19 21-23 21-14.

while former top 10 player Kashyap beat France's Brice Leverdez 21-12 21-15 in 38 minutes.

Next world no 15 Praneeth will face China's Lu Guang Zu, while Kashyap lock horns with seventh seeded Indonesian Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

In women's doubles, Commonwealth Games bronze medallists Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy too crossed the opening hurdle after their opponents

Chinese Taipei's Cheng Chi Ya and Lee Chih Chen retired mid way in the second game after lagging 13-21 8-11.

NEW ■ (IANS)

Ever since making his Test debut in Cape Town in January 2018, Jasprit Bumrah has improved by leaps and bounds and has become an integral part of the Indian team across all formats, especially Test cricket. Bumrah has featured in 12 Test matches so far, in which he has scalped 62 wickets at an average of 19.24, thus becoming the linchpin of Indian bowling unit.

All these 12 Tests have been played on foreign soil (3 in South Africa, 3 in England, 4 in Australia and 2 in West Indies) where wickets naturally assist pacers. In all these places, the right-arm pacer from Mumbai has made a mark and performed brilliantly. However, the real test for him will come up when India take on South Africa in the three-match series at home.

Former Indian pacer Ajit Agarkar feels Bumrah will have an exceptional debut home Test series against the Proteas. "With experience, every-



Jasprit Bumrah in a file picture

FIANS.

(IPL) and has been instrumental in their success in the league.

"A lot of people tend to forget that Bumrah played quite a lot of first-class cricket before he played for India. He has bowled in these conditions with the SG ball. He knows what to do," said Agarkar.

Agarkar, 41, who played 26 Tests and 191 ODIs for India, also said that Bumrah will be fresh and raring to have the ball in his hand as he has not played much cricket ever since the World Cup. "Since the World Cup, he hasn't played a lot of cricket. He missed (rested) the T20Is and the ODIs and featured in the two Test matches. So, he must be relatively fresh and will be very keen to perform in India as well," he said.

Bumrah played two matches in the Caribbean Islands, in which he picked 13 wickets, including a hat-trick.

"I would not be surprised if he has an exceptional series," Agarkar signed off.

Belgian title will give me confidence: Lakshya

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen is hoping to continue the consistency that fetched him the Belgian Open as he looks to break into top 50 in the world ranking, which will help him qualify for bigger tournaments next season.

The 18-year-old from Almora shocked second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch the men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge last Saturday.

"I think I played consistently well throughout the week and I'm happy with my performance," Lakshya, who didn't drop a single game throughout the tournament, told PTI.

"This win will give me lots of confidence to do well in the coming tournaments," he said.

"This year I can play more tournaments than last year in the senior circuit and I hope to prepare well for all the tournaments."

Playing his first full-fledged season in the senior circuit, Lakshya had broken into the top-100 in March this year. The Belgian Open win saw him jump 12 places to grab the World No 67th spot in the latest BWF ranking.

His father DK Sen, a SAI coach, who gave him the early lessons in badminton,



Lakshya Sen in a file picture

qBWF

THIS YEAR I CAN PLAY MORE TOURNAMENTS THAN LAST YEAR IN THE SENIOR CIRCUIT AND I HOPE TO PREPARE WELL FOR ALL THE TOURNAMENTS

said Lakshya will have to quickly get into the top 50 by the year end.

"The target now for him will be to break into the top 50 by end of the year so that he can qualify for bigger tournaments," he said.

Asked about his upcoming tournaments, Lakshya, the reigning Asian Junior Championship winner, said: "I'll be playing the Dutch and SaarLorLux Open next month and then in November, I have Irish and Scottish Open."

Lakshya, who also claimed a bronze at the World Junior Championship and silver at Youth Olympic Games last year,

is currently in Europe playing in the Danish League for Aarhus club.

"It's nice to be in Denmark and the league matches are exiting. It's a new experience for me," he said.

"We are going to be in Europe for 3 months, play the European circuit and the league matches."

"In the first team match, I won against Jan Jorgensen and got 1 point for the team. It was a big match for me," added the Indian, whose next outing in the country will be the Syed Modi World Tour Super 300.

Lakshya, who has been a trainee at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) since 2010, had decided to play in the season circuit after the high in juniors last year.

He began the year well with a semi-final finish at the China Masters Super 100 tournament before reaching the finals at Polish Open. After a few early exits, he suffered an ankle injury in July but recovered well to claim the Belgian Open.

"This year, I twisted my ankle in July. It was not very major but I took two weeks to get back on court. I'm just taking good care and rehab," Lakshya said. "Mental strength is very important as in senior circuit every match is tough," he signed off.



Mahmudullah plays a shot during his 62 run innings

ICC/Twitter

Mahmudullah guides B'desh to 175-7

AFP ■ CHITTAGONG

Mahmudullah Riyad smashed 62 off 41 balls, with five sixes, as Bangladesh posted 175-7 in their tri-nation Twenty20 international match against Zimbabwe in Chittagong on Wednesday.

Liton Das gave Bangladesh a positive start with 38 off 22 balls before a mini collapse saw the home side reduced to 65-3 after

they were asked to bat first by Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza.

Mahmudullah put on 78 runs with Mushfiqur Rahim (32) for the fourth wicket before Zimbabwe snatched the momentum back with few quick strikes.

Kayle Jarvis claimed 3-32 while Chris Mpofu finished with 3-42 for Zimbabwe. Afghanistan are the third team in the tournament.