

OPINION 8
PAKISTAN'S
HYPOCRISY**WORLD 12**
GANTZ FOR PM POST
IN ISRAEL'S UNITY GOVT**SPORT 15**
PSG BEAT REAL MADRID
3-0 IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

BHUBANESWAR, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com


**INAAYA HAS
CHANGED MY
LIFE: SOHA
13 VIVACITY**

Ahead of 'Howdy', India for GSP

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Modi's packed schedule includes addressing the annual UNGA session, meeting Trump and 20 other global leaders in bilateral meetings besides addressing the mega 'Howdy Modi' event. On September 24, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be observed at the UN and Modi will be joined by his counterparts from Bangladesh, Singapore, Jamaica and New Zealand besides the Korean President and the UN Secretary General.

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

There will be two meetings between Modi and Trump

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

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

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

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

Stressing on the impor-



tance of trade concessions for India, the Foreign Secretary said the US "unilaterally withdrew that concession; we believe that GSP is something which is important for our industry but ultimately it is a matter for the US to take a call on."

Indian exports are worth over 6.3 billion dollars under the GSP and India was the largest beneficiary of the scheme. After the US decision in June, India reciprocated by increasing the tariffs on 28 products imported from the US, including high-value products like almonds and fresh apples. The US has protested against it at the WTO.

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

Continued on Page 4

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



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

PTI

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

Making no bones about the

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

Modi called for "hugging each Kashmiri and creating a 'new paradise' in the Valley."

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

lagana hain (We should embrace every Kashmiri)," Modi said.

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

Continued on Page 4

Didi meets Shah, flags NRC flaws



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

PTI

Says 19L genuine people left out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Continued on Page 4

Mamata, who handed an official letter in this regard to Shah, however, said the issue of NRC in West Bengal was not discussed but reiterated her stance that it was not needed in the State. Shah had on Wednesday announced yet again the Government's intention of carrying out the exercise in the entire country. While the TMC supremo maintained that her meetings with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister were not political.

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

Detailed report on P7

Delhi Govt to open 140 new Mohalla Clinics by Sep end

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

- ❑ Sent to jail as bail plea rejected
- ❑ Not to be taken on remand in this chit fund case
- ❑ Conspiracy before OCA polls, alleges son

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested former Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) secretary Asirbad Behera over his alleged complicity in the Artha Tatwa (AT) Group chit fund scam.

A team of about 20 CBI officials earlier raided the residence of Behera here in the

morning. Along with Behera, Hotel Solan Inn owner Kamalakanta Das was also arrested by the CBI in connection with the AT chit fund scam.

"Asirbad Behera has been arrested on the basis of a non-bailable warrant issued by court. We will not take him on remand," said CBI SP Jaya Narayan Rana.

Later, Behera and Das were

produced by the investigating agency in the Court of CBI Special Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) after conducting their medical tests.

The court rejected their bail pleas and sent them to judicial custody.

The CBI had last month filed a supplementary chargesheet against Behera and Das under relevant Sections of IPC and the Prize Chits & Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act, 1978.

"It was alleged that the Odisha Cricket Association through its honorary secretary and in criminal conspiracy with Odisha-based Group of Companies (Artha Tatwa), promoted the said Group of Companies so that the credibility of the companies rose in the eyes of general public and



more people invested in the different schemes floated by said Group of Companies," the CBI had said in a release then.

"In lieu of the same, they allegedly received a sum of Rs one crore (approx.) from the said Group of Companies in the garb of sponsorship of the Odisha Ranji Cricket Team and title sponsorship of

Odisha Premier League, 2011," the release added.

Following his arrest on Thursday, Behera told reporters, "You all know what the motive behind my arrest is."

Asirbad Behera's son Sanjay Behera alleged that it is a conspiracy against his father prior to the conduct of the upcoming OCA elections. "Our opponents are trying to put pressure on us ahead of the Odisha Cricket Association elections. Our panel will definitely file nomination papers tomorrow (Friday) and win the elections," said Sanjay.

Asirbad Behera has been under the CBI scanner since 2014. Earlier, the agency had interrogated Behera several times over the allegations of his links with the AT Group.

Salepur minor rape, murder: Accused gets death penalty

4th ruling of capital punishment in 2 months

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A special POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Court here on Thursday awarded death sentence to the accused in the sensational rape and murder case of a six-year-old girl in Salepur in Cuttack district in 2018.

Weighing the aggravated and mitigating circumstances, Additional District Judge Bandana Kar categorised the case as a "rarest of rare" and awarded the capital sentence to convict Md Mustaq of Salepur under Sections 376 AB (rape of woman under 12 years of age) and 302 (murder) of IPC.

After examining as many as 23 prosecution witnesses and a single defence witness, the lower court observed that no leniency should be shown to the convict in view of the abject monstrosity of the crime. "He is to be hanged by the neck till his death," said the court order.

Notably, the accused Mustaq had reportedly lured the girl with a chocolate and



raped her in a school in the village on April 21, 2018.

Later, he tried to kill the girl by bludgeoning her head with a stone.

The victim succumbed to the injuries while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack on April 29, 2018.

Police arrested the accused soon after the incident and also filed chargesheet against him in a record 19 days.

Family members of the girl, besides praising the

police, welcomed the judgment and termed it as true justice.

It is to be noted that this death sentence is fourth such ruling in the State in last two months under the POCSO Amendment Act, which has the provision of capital punishment in rape cases involving minor girls under the age of 12 years.

The POSCO Courts in Angul, Mayurbhanj and Jagatsinghpur districts had recently awarded similar punishments to rapists.

IN JAGATSINGHPUR

Muslims demand ban on film 'Ayesha the Mother'



PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Hundreds of Muslims from across Jagatsinghpur district staged a demonstration in front of the district Collector's office here on Thursday demanding a ban on Wasim Rizvi's upcoming movie 'Ayesha the Mother'.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the Collector which was addressed to the President of India and other dignitaries.

Chairman of Shia Waqf Board, Lucknow, Wasim Rizvi, on August 12 had uploaded a 36-second video on his film 'Ayesha the Mother' on social

media which is objectionable and anti-Islam hurting religious sentiment of Muslims across globe, they said.

The film has depicted an imaginary face of Prophet Mohammad's wife Ayesha Raziallahu Taala Anha which is stated to be an unrefined presentation of Islamic religion.

The protestors demanded immediate arrest of "anti-Islamic" Rizvi and legal action against him forthwith.

The agitation was led by Mohammad Nazir, Ekbal Ahemmd Shah, Shaikh Aminus Sajdeen and Jakir Uddin Khan.

Bhubaneswar rly station to be a multimodal hub

- ❑ ECoR signs MoU with BDA
- ❑ Project to come up at ₹840cr in 30 months
- ❑ Biggest milestone to transform the station, says Naveen

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The East Coast Railway (ECoR) on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to develop the Bhubaneswar railway station through a multimodal hub project.

The MoU was signed by BDA Vice-Chairman Premchand Choudhury and ECoR DRM Sashikanta Singh at the Udyog Bhawan in New Delhi. The BDA will be the nodal agency for planning, designing and executing this project. The BDA has already roped in a Singapore-based International Design Consultant Subarna Jurong for the project.



Speaking on the occasion at the Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik described the event as a historic occasion for developing Bhubaneswar into a smart city. It is one of the biggest milestones to transform the Bhubaneswar railway station into a world-class one, he said.

The BDA would involve internationally reputed consultants and showcase Bhubaneswar to the world with a blend of contemporary designs and traditional Kalinga architecture. The multimodal hub would be developed by the State Government at a cost of Rs 840 crore and the public infrastructure part would be completed in 30 months, he said.

Stating that it would be the first transit-oriented smart development project, the CM expect-

ed the project to trigger development of planned central business district for Bhubaneswar. A three-tier monitoring mechanism would be put in place for close supervision and monitoring, he informed. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who was present at the Udyog Bhawan, appreciated the role of the State Government in the project. He said it has rarely happened that a State Government has taken a lead role in such a project.

The public infrastructure component includes a new terminal building, a city bus terminal, public car parking, pickup and drop-off lanes for vehicles, plazas and a public utility space. The mixed use Real Estate Component will have an iconic city square with high rise tower. The project will take 30 months for completion.

BJP demands probe into selection of KALIA beneficiaries

- 'Ministers must return money paid to ineligible persons'
- It's not a scam as bogus beneficiaries number only 32,000: BJD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Opposition BJP and Congress have made a big issue of the corruption in the State Government's flagship KALIA scheme following Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Sahoo's statement that there are 3.41 lakh fake beneficiaries of the scheme. The BJP has demanded an impartial inquiry into the selection of Kalia beneficiaries. "An amount of Rs 170 crore is involved in the scam. The Chief Minister, the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister should return Rs 170 crore to the State exchequer," said BJP leader Prithviraj Harichandan. The Congress also severely criticised the State Government over the distribution of financial assistance to the ineligible beneficiaries. "The Government cannot retrieve money from the people. They may seek refund from 20,000 Government employees and pension holders and not from others," said Congress MLA Suresh Routray. The Congress would hit the streets and gherao all block offices and dis-

trict Collector offices against "misutilisation" of public money, Routray said. However, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has said that the money would be recovered from the ineligible beneficiaries. Meanwhile, the ruling BJD said that steps are being taken to recover the financial assistance received by the fake beneficiaries. claimed that only 32,000 ineligible beneficiaries availed financial assistance under the KALIA scheme. BJD spokesman Pratap Keshari Deb denied the Minister Sahoo's statement that 3.41 lakh fake beneficiaries have been provided over Rs 170 crore under the scheme. He said, "12,000 large farmers and 20,000 Government employees and pension holders, total only 32,000 are the fake beneficiaries. The assistance released to them shall be adjusted in subsequent instalments within five years. The margin of error is only 0.62 percent. It is not at all a scam as alleged by opposition parties." "The assistance released to the fake farmer beneficiaries shall be adjusted in subsequent instalments within five years," he added.

RTO advises LL, DL seekers to apply online

- Whole process is transparent: Secy
- Transport camp offices at 6 places in city till Sep 21

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Senior officials of the transport department have advised applicants to use SBI ePay for online payment for obtaining Learners Licence, Driving Licence and other certificates relating to their vehicles and not to fall prey to middlemen (Dalals). The applicants can fill up details online at <https://parivahan.gov.in> for e-pay and other services and they need not visit RTO office for submission of application, said Transport Commissioner Sanjeeb Kumar Panda. After online filling of LL and DL forms, one has to pay the fee online. The online payment was not successful most of the time and the applicants had to visit the RTO office to make the payment and at this point some of them may be cheated by middlemen. Panda advised the applicants to use SBI ePay for online payment of fee as the success rate is very high and not to

chase debit card/credit card option while selecting the payment mode. SBI service charges pop up will be displayed as per RBI guideline. At present payment up to Rs 2000 by debit card does not attract any charge as per RBI directive. Click outside the pop up to enter the captcha and proceed. In the next two pages check the amount of fees and click confirm, then click make payment. Then SBI ePay will ask you to feed your credit card/ debit card or internet banking. After entering the card details for payment, you make the online payment. In case a receipt is not generated, one has to follow a few steps to get confirmation of his payment status. The applicant has to open driving license online service page, to select verify pay status and input the application number and date of birth and click the verify button to see the payment status screen.

In case it shows the transaction is pending, the applicant has to click on select paid button to re-verify payment and then can get his receipt generated. After successful payment, the applicant can select appointment date for LL test online without coming to RTO office or dalals. One can reschedule the appointment as per own convenience online without any fee. On the day of the LL test, one can come with the documents for verification. He/she will have to pay the smart chip service fee and the biometrics will be recorded. After that he or she will appear for the online test. After the test is successful, one can download the LL after some time. The whole process is transparent and online, said Panda. In the mean time, the department has opened temporary camps at BMC Zonal office, Nalco Chhakh, BMC ward office, Saheed Nagar, BMC office, Kalpana from 18 to 21 September and they will remain open from 10 am to 5 pm. The applicant will have to bring online application number, Aadhaar Card, education certificate, blood test certificate or blood group certificate to get LL certificate.

INBRIEF

IOCL HEART DAY AWARENESS VEHICLE FLAGGED OFF
Bhubaneswar: A World Heart Day awareness vehicle was flagged off by IOCL, Paradip Refinery IOCL, Paradip Refinery Executive Director TDVS Gopalakrishna on Thursday. The programme was organised at the Apollo Hospitals. The vehicle will touch 20 districts in Odisha to create public awareness about heart diseases and their remedies.



BRAHMA KUMARI VIDYALAYA HOLDS PLANTATION DRIVE
Bhubaneswar: The Prajapita Brahma Kumari Ishwariya Viswa Vidyalaya held a plantation drive here on Thursday. Besides plantation, Brahma Kumar and Brahma Kumaris also cleaned the Chandra Sekhar Mahadev Temple premises. Human Rights Organisation national secretary L. Sahu, Brahma Kumaris Tapaswini and Arpana, Brahma Kumaris Santosh, Dinabandhu, Sudarshan Pradhan, Brajabandhu Bhol, Binod Kumar Rout and Arkshit Swain were present.



3 BOOKS BY BASANTI MOHANTY RELEASED
Bhubaneswar: Three books, 'Uttaran', 'Hatapapuri Jeeban' and 'Bhoka Bilas', written by Dr Basanti Mohanty and published by the Timepass were released here on Thursday. Noted orator Krupasagar Sahoo released the books. Noted poet Hrushikesh Mallick, researcher and translator Asit Mohanty and orator Seetesh Tripathy reviewed the books, respectively. Timepass Publication director Saroj Bal delivered the welcome address. Poet Pabitra Mohan Kar proposed a vote of thanks. The Timepass felicitated 15 punctual visitors on the occasion.

Old enmity: Youth stabbed to death in Cuttack

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A youth was stabbed to death at Alamchand Bazar under the Lalbagh police station in Cuttack city over previous enmity on Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Kartik Barik. As per a complaint lodged by the deceased's family members with the Lalbagh police, Kartik had gone to a local shop at night during when a youth named Nanda allegedly attacked him with a knife. The victim sustained critical injuries and was rushed to the City Hospital here. He was later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. A dispute was earlier prevailing between Nanda and Kartik which was later resolved mutually, family sources said. While investigation into the incident is underway, the accused is still at large.

Min makes surprise visit to Utkal Varsity



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Three days after student unrest at the Utkal University here, Higher Education Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo made a surprise visit to the State's premier educational institution on Thursday. Accompanied by Higher Education Secretary Saswat Mishra, the Minister, who is also a former student leader of the university, visited the campus at around 8 in morning to review the university's infrastructure and the facilities available for the students at the campus.

Sahoo held a meeting with university Vice-Chancellor Soumendra Mohan Patnaik and discussed matters relating to development of the university. Notably, students of the university had staged protests on Monday over various demands. They had gheraoed the office of the VC pressing for fulfilment of a 10-point charter of demands. The agitation had turned violent as the students had a faceoff with police personnel deployed at the campus to prevent the students from entering the chamber of the VC. This is expected to further

Now, evictions from Govt quarters to be smooth, speedy

After amended Act comes into force from Sept 16

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While former MLAs are raising a hue and cry over the Government quarters eviction notices issued by the State Legislative Assembly, now the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Act, 2019 comes handy for the State administration. This Bill passed by the Parliament during the Budget Session this year has come into effect from September 16. The gazette notification in this regard has been issued by the Government of India. Thelaw would facilitate smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from Government residential accommodations and ensure retrieval of the residential accommodations from unauthorised occupants without requiring elaborate procedures under sections 4 and 5 of the Act. This is expected to further

increase availability of Government residential accommodations for eligible persons and reduce the waiting period. As per the Act, the Estate Officer will issue short show cause notice of three days before eviction of the unauthorised occupant from Government accommodation. The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 was enacted to provide for eviction of unauthorised occupants from "public premises" and for certain incidental matters. Both the Union and State Governments provide residential accommodation on licence basis to its employees, Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislative Assembly and other dignitaries while they are in service or till the end of the term of their office. As per the existing allotment rules, after the end of eligibility as per the terms and

conditions of the licence, the occupants of such residential accommodations become unauthorised occupants and are to vacate the same. The Act confers powers upon the Estate Officers to evict such unauthorised occupants from "public premises" in a smooth, speedy and time-bound manner. Under the existing provisions, the eviction proceedings of unauthorised occupants from "public premises" take around five to seven weeks' time. It may take around four more weeks in case the unauthorised occupants file appeal before the District Court under the Act. However, eviction proceedings take much longer period than the timeline prescribed in the Act. Sometimes, it takes years to evict the unauthorised occupants, especially, if the unauthorised occupant approaches higher courts.

River cruise service in State soon



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

River cruise is set to become a reality soon in Odisha as the State Government is planning to launch the service to promote tourism. The tourism department is targeting to introduce several schemes. Like Kolkata and Banaras, a river cruise service would be kicked off under the State Tourism Policy-2020, informed Tourism Secretary

Vishal Kumar Dev. Initially, the cruise service would be commenced on river Mahanadi. Subsequently, the service would be available at the Chilika lake and Bhitarkanika. Apart from it, the authorities are planning to reintroduce surfing festival on the Chandrabhaga sea beach in Konark, he said. Besides, two golf courses would be built in the State to attract various corporate houses.

Army Air Defence to get President's Colours

Prez to give away award at Gopalpur on Sep 28

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

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



The President's Colours is the highest military honour for armed forces organisation. Selection for the award is based on c o r p s performance and achievements during both peace and hostilities. The selected organisation is hon-

oured for meritorious services rendered by them for a period of 25 officers. General Bipin Rawat, Lt General Ashwani Kumar, Lt General AP Singh and other high ranking officers will witness the ceremony. Governor Prof Ganeshi Lal and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik are likely to grace the occasion.

Newly-wed woman killed for dowry in Puri

PNS ■ PURI

A newly-married woman was murdered allegedly by her in-laws over dowry demand at Puruna Delanga under the Delanga police station in Puri district on Thursday. The deceased, identified as Laxmi Priya Mohapatra, had married one Pradip Kumar



Mohapatra of the locality eight months ago. She was being allegedly tortured by her in-laws who were demanding dowry after the marriage, Laxmi Priya's father alleged, adding that they at last killed his daughter. Police recovered the woman's body and started an investigation into the incident.

Kendrapada locals involved in bird, tree conservation

SUDHANWA DASH ■ BHUBANESWAR

A very unique conservation exercise has been put in practice in Kendrapada district involving weaverbirds, humans and palm trees. Much enthusiastic response has been shown by people from many villages which in the coming years will address many problems. For these, functions were organised in various villages located in Kendrapada, Patamundi and Mahakalpada blocks. Certificates were also distributed among participants in the programme 'Weaverbirds Odisha Count 2019'. The Wild Orissa organised them, specially launched for conservation of weaverbirds and their habitats. As part of

the programme, the people were sensitised about the requirements of weaverbird species and their conservation. It may be recalled that in an unprecedented mobilisation of human resources for the cause of wildlife conservation in the Indian context, 560 persons participated voluntarily in surveying and counting weaverbirds in the just-concluded Odisha Weaverbird Count 2019 conducted by the Wild Orissa along with the Odisha Chapter of Indian Bird Conservation Network. Three species of weaverbirds, belonging to the family Ploceidae, are found in Odisha, viz., Baya Weaver Ploceus philippinus, Streaked Weaver Ploceus manyar and Black-Breasted



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

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

300 Baya Weaver birds and 140 nests this year. The census showed as to how damaging cyclone Fani has been on the breeding habitats of weaver species. Cutting of palm trees and date palm trees and toddy extraction

from date palm trees by people was a reason as to why weavers faced problems in nest building. Urban and semiurban areas in Odisha are becoming devoid of such trees due to which weaverbirds are finding it difficult to nest due to non-availability of proper trees. Being a species which predominantly inhabits human-dominated landscapes, it is extremely important to have local people's support for their conservation. With these findings what was attempted in Kendrapada district by the Wild Orissa was unique: To engage and mobilize people in a similar manner as during the counting exercise and to plant and adopt palm trees. Planting palm trees was a traditional

practice in villages in Odisha, but now discontinued over years due to emphasis on urbanisation and development. The important question of palm trees being able to mitigate against an ever increasing human deaths by lightning strikes gained credence. 1,256 human deaths due to lightning have taken place in Odisha in the last three years, most of them (about 85%) in the May-September period, accounting for about 27 per cent of the total number of disaster deaths. Serious discussions, communication and sincerity in efforts witnessed people from all walks of life, viz., elected representatives, teachers, students, agriculturists, small business, small entrepreneurs, fishermen, homemakers, etc., to

involve themselves with the story of palm trees, humans and weaverbirds. People were explained the interconnectivity and linkages between weaverbirds, human beings and palm trees and the need for survival for each of them. Kendrapada was the first district chosen where plantation of palm trees was promoted and assisted. Saplings were distributed by the Wild Orissa free of cost, and each person was assigned a plant for care and nurture for the initial period, in a pure 'volunteer' approach. The important issue of interdependence of life of a weaverbird with that of humans and a palm tree was established and a conservation story woven. (The writer is joint secretary, Wild Orissa)

IN BALESWAR

Geriatric ward at DHH still a distant dream

Project not taking off for years

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■
BALESWAR

Opening of a geriatric ward in the Baleswar District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) campus has become a distant dream.

Although about three years ago all necessary initiatives were taken by the district as well as the hospital administration following constant demands and persuasions of the Senior Citizens' Forum, yet the proposal has been nipped in bud.

Although a building accommodating 20 patients at a cost of Rs 50 lakh was constructed to facilitate patients in the ward, the project collapsed before it could take off. The reason being the same building space was allotted to accommodate CT scan facility since it was a mandatory requirement for upgradation of a DHH to the standard of

medical college and hospital.

Since the DHH didn't have any other building to instal CT scan machineries before the inspection of MCI team to check feasibility and facility, the building was hurriedly allotted for CT scan. "Not having a geriatric ward in the DHH is very unfortunate. Despite our best of efforts we couldn't. In the last moment, the proposal and planning changed. For the ward, every arrangement was made for its functioning. Even a doctor was given training. Sadly, it couldn't take off," said forum president Laxmidhar Behera. "Since in old age people suffer on account of multiple diseases, an earmarked ward is required. Here we were told then about three years ago that the ward would be for 20 beds," he said.

According to sources, the DHH while experiencing a surge in flow of patients ever

since it was upgraded to a MCH and several specialists of different departments are posted, patients have been pouring from neighbouring districts as well as States. About 800-1,000 patients visit the DHH and depend on the treatment and advices of doctors.

Out of the visiting patients, about 45 percent of them are aged and about 15 percent of them regularly visit hospital suffering from old age diseases. In this age, they suffer from certain diseases such as Parkinson, dementia and Alzheimer etc. which require regular special care.

Superintendent, FM Government MCH Sudhir Ghosh said, "There was an urgent need for establishment of CT scan unit in the DHH as it was a mandatory for an MCH. There was no other venue available to instal machinery for CT scan before the MCI team's visit. However, initiative would be taken to establish a geriatric ward."

Pregnant woman raped in Baleswar

Accused held

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A pregnant woman was kidnapped from her home and raped at Singhakhunta village in the Soro area of the district on Tuesday night.

The accused, identified as 22-year-old Kumpander Nayak of the village, abducted the pregnant woman from her house when she was sleeping with her sister-in-laws and then raped her at his place. He allegedly committed the act to take revenge on the woman, with whom he had some old enmity. The accused thrashed the woman after she asked for water, relatives of the victim alleged. When the family members of the woman went to rescue her, the accused threatened to attack them with a sharp weapon. With the help of villagers, the victim's relatives rescued her on Wednesday morning and filed a complaint against him with the police. Police have started investigation after arresting the accused.

Baleswar firing: 4 held, ammo seized

PNS ■ BALESWAR

In connection with the firing incident of Remuna on September 14 evening, the Industrial police unfolding the crime have arrested four of the five involved in the attack.

They were identified as Sk Ishak Ali of Nuanai under Chandipur police station, Sidharth Shankar Bag of Gopalgaon under Baleswar Town police station, Rajendra Pradhan, Nuagaon under IAPS, and Sangram Malik of Ranasahi under Chandipur police station.

The other key accused Jayi Swain of village, Mansing Bazaar, is absconding. In fact on that night, Jayi had opened fire on Badal Sahu, said police.

Addressing mediapersons, SDPO Sadar Pravash Pal and IIC (Industrial PS) Jayant Behera said Jayi was at large and few more would be arrested in the connection, since more persons are suspected to be involved in the crime and conspiracy.

He also added that the motive behind the attack was for old rivalries on multiple reasons.



The police seized bikes from each of them besides one sword and one country made revolver and five rounds of bullets, which are seized from the possession of Rajendra Pradhan.

Badal was attacked at around 9.30pm while he was sitting along with his friends in a hotel near the Remuna medical.

The accused persons in two bikes after approaching him opened fire at him. He received two bullet injuries in his right hand. <https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/image/clear-dot.gif>

Different police teams were formed under SP B Jugal Kishore's direction to track down the miscreants.

INBRIEF

'SAMVAAD' AT B'PATNA: TRIBAL ISSUES DISCUSSED



Bhawanipatna: The regional edition of all-India tribal conclave "Samvaad 2019" was held at the OUART establishment here being attended by 84 persons representing 18 tribes from Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. Most of them are change-makers in their communities. OUART VC Dr Pawan Agarwal, Dean Dr Santanu Kumar Mohanty, Tata Steel's CSR Tribal Culture Society head Jiren Topno and CSR Ambika Prasad Nanda were present. Padma Shri Kamala Pujari addressed the gathering. Speakers gave their views on language, safety of women and livelihoods. "The essence of tribal culture lies in the absolute belief that tribals have in tribalism. Modernism has bankrupted our value systems, not theirs," said Dr Agarwal.

MOTORCYCLE THIEF HELD IN BHAPUR

Bhapur: The Fatehgarh police arrested a motorcycle thief last week and recovered a Pulsar motorcycle from his possession. The arrestee was identified as Pradeep Samal (30) of Malibereni village under Bijipur Panchayat in Bhapur block. Acting on a tipoff, a police team led by Fatehgarh police station IIC Niranjan Kishore went near Bijipur Square and arrested Samal while he was with his three associates. Seeing police, the three others fled from the spot. Police said many cases are pending against Samal in the police station. He is involved in cases including sale of brown sugar. He was forwarded to court.

Mohana BEO clerk held taking bribe

Anti-corruption officials led a trap and caught the Junior Clerk red-handed

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Vigilance officers arrested Gajapati district's Mohana BEO office Junior Clerk Jeetendarnath Nayak for demanding and accepting illegal gratification of ₹3,000 from schoolteacher (GS) Dandapani Mallick to process his file for transfer from the Gaptima Nodal Primary School to the Paramanaga ME School.

Mallick is a resident of Paramanaga village under Mohana block. He is now working at the Gaptima NPS on deputation for last three years.

Acting on complaint of Mallick, anti-corruption officials led a trap and caught the Junior Clerk red-handed while taking the bribe amount at his residence on Tuesday.

His residential house at Kanteikoli, Jyoti Nagar, Mohana, was under search, informed an official release.

IN SUBARNAPUR

Irregularities galore in PMAY house allotments

Action not taken against corrupt panchayat officials

SRIKUMAR MAHANT ■
SONEPUR

Reports of irregularities have come to the fore in the implementation of housing scheme for rural poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) here.

While the scheme is meant to provide housing for all poor people by 2022, there are allegations against the Gram Rojgar Sevak (GRS) of Dunguripali Block. Despite allegations of irregularities against the panchayat officials, including the GRS, no action has been taken.

Many alleged that the houses were allotted on the basis of forged documents. They sought intervention of the district Collector into the issue.

According to reports, villagers of Andharibanji gram panchayat alleged irregularities in funds utilisation in the bills of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) by Gram Rojgar Sevak (GRS) Madhumita Patra. As per the



guidelines, during the time of the construction of houses under PMAY, money is credited in the Saving Accounts of labourers in respect of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). But GRS Patra credited money in the accounts of her near and dear.

Bina Jagdala of Sulei village has not got a single rupee in respect of MGNREGS.

Another Barun Jagdala of the village has already finished the construction of his house since 2018, but he has got only Rs 6,000 instead of Rs 16,000 in respect of labour.

Some villagers of the gram panchayat alleged that although they have finished the construction of their houses within three months, they have only got a cheque of Rs 10,000 only, although as per the guidelines, the beneficiary should get Rs 20,000 bonus if he has finished the construction of his house under three months.

They also alleged that the panchayat officials have bungled money by forging bills. As the husband of the GRS is a contractor, he is doing construction of all houses. They said those who pay bribe to the GRS are getting houses under the scheme. They alleged that Rs 10,000- Rs 20,000 is collected for each house from beneficiaries as bribe. When contacted, BDO Sahadev Samadhiya said he would inquire into the matter.

Balangir couple's murder: 4 accused held

Two slings seized

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Police on Thursday arrested four persons for their alleged involvement in killing a couple at Chitikmal village over sorcery suspicion in the district on September 16.

The arrestees were identified as Narayana Bariha (23), Swarupa Ghibhela (40), Gouranga Podh (25) and Krushna Bariha (60).

Police also seized two slings on which the accused had carried the bodies for disposal after the murder.

Notably, the couple, identified as Chintamani Bariha and his wife Rukmini, had been murdered allegedly by some villagers. Later, the bodies were found stuffed in a sack at a forest near Chitikmal village on the fateful day.

Chintamani had recently lodged a complaint with the Larambha police alleging that he was being abused and threatened by some villagers. A child of the village had died few days ago and the residents were suspecting that witchcraft by Chintamani led to the death. A dispute was prevailing between him and the villagers over the matter.

MDM rice loot issue rocks ZP meeting in Baleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

There is pilferage in the rice of midday meal (MDM) and teachers serving in the urban areas for years who are hands in glove are not being transferred to rural areas.

These are two issues among others which the elected representatives highlighted during the 9th meeting of the Zilla Parishad meeting held here on Wednesday.

The participants alleged that the MDM instead of arriving in the slated schools from FCI Go down are being stored in private places and from the points they are further dispatched to schools. During the transit at least 8-10 kg of rice is being taken out from each bag, some members alleged.

Others pointed out that strength of some schools are over flooded with teachers as the teachers continuing for years are not being transferred due to political reasons and others.

As a result, the schools in the rural pockets are facing a dearth of teachers affecting education delivery mechanism.

They demanded rotation of teachers at regular intervals.

Further, some members

alleged that the Government officials were not picking up their phones even though they wanted to speak regarding public issues.

District Collector K Sudarshan Chakraverty, noting the concern and grievances of the members, assured that he would do the needful.

The meeting while was held under the chairmanship of ZP President Nibedita Mohanty, Planning Board chairman and Bhograi MLA Ananta Das, Bhadrak MP Manjulata Mandal, MLAs Nityananda Sahu, Sukanta Nayak, Sudhansu Sekhar Nayak, Aswani Patra, Parsuram Dhada and representatives of Baleswar MP and Sadar MLA were present.

In the meeting discussion and deliberations were made over the projects, budgets and action plans of 2019-20 financial year.

DRDA PD Ramchandra Jena said a budget of Rs 134.28 for 9,373 projects under the MGNREGA has been approved, adding that now money under the scheme could be spent on 181 types of different projects.

He further said that for the mass awareness, publicity would be made through poster, banner and leaflet, etc.

Cash loading agency staff behind ATM loots

B'pur police find clue, to arrest culprits soon

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Brahmapur Town police said they have identified some cash replenishment company officials behind the missing of money from various ATMs and would arrest a few of them soon.

Town PS IIC Suresh Tripathy said a team of cops, acting on a complaint of cash replenishment company manager, registered a case against one Sukant Behera and conducted investigation.

Police said that the company officials on September 12 had taken money from the SBI Main Branch here to load in the Axis Bank ATM on Akash road but subsequently it was found that the ATM was short of Rs 24 lakh.

Similarly, Rs 15 lakh was found missing from the SBI Medical branch ATM and Rs 16 lakh was found lost at an ATM under the Ganjam police station in recent days.

Students ransack college in Baleswar

Protest against exam fee hike

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Tension prevailed at the Laxmi Narayan College at Jamsuli under the Singla police station in the district on Thursday as its students went on a rampage over the hike in examination fees. The students had on Wednesday locked the college protesting the fee hike. As the college authorities didn't pay any heed to their grievance, they burnt tyres and ransacked furniture and other equipments of the college.

"Examination fees in our col-



lege are too high in comparison to other colleges in the area.

Besides, fees collected from us for the development of the educational institution are not being utilised at all," a student said. As the situation turned volatile, police rushed to the college and brought the situation under control. Police personnel were deployed in the campus to prevent any further untoward incident.

'Ghost' fear haunts Nuapada village

Students stay away from school

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Residents of Nagajhara village under Jharabandha panchayat in Nuapada district have been haunted by fear of 'ghost' for the past couple of months.

As such, attendance of students at the Project Upper Primary School, Nagajhara, has come down to 16 from the total strength of 120. On the other hand, after the ghost fear first reported in July, many



villagers have opted to send their unmarried daughters to the relatives' place outside the village. A villager said school-going girls of Nagajhara village are behaving in an unusual manner. "An evil spirit casts its spell on the girls of the village because of which they are displaying abnormal behaviour," he added.

"We prefer to send our children to schools in nearby

villages to avoid the influence of the evil spirit," said another villager. During evening hours, the villagers stay indoors and avoid going outside because of the fear of an evil spirit.

After getting information about 'ghost' fear, the Khariar SDPO visited Nagajhara on September 15 to hold discussion with the villagers. However, the villagers are in no mood to ignore the fear.

Illegal detention, harassment by police NHRC seeks report from Angul SP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rights Commission has redirected the Angul district Superintendent of Police to submit an action-taken report, within eight weeks on the illegal detention of a truck driver following a minor mishap.

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 stated that on August 17, 2019 a minor mishap took place between a motorcycle and a truck. The bike owner Saleem Kumar Barik fell down and suf-

fered a minor injury.

But the traffic Constable on duty near the accident site handed over the truck and its driver to the Angul Town police station. Though the motorcycle owner Barik submitted a written statement to the Town PS IIC Ramesh Chandra Bisoi that he and the truck driver Deepak Sahu reached a compromise, II Bisoi illegally detained Sahu for hours without food and water, alleged Swain.

She further alleged that the IIC also abused Sahu in filthy language and took Rs 2,000 bribe through an ASI to release him. He also demand-

The NHRC passed the order taking cognisance of a petition filed by civil society organisation Human Rights Watch secretary Sangita Swain.

ed and took Rs 5,000 from the truck owner Satya Sahu as bribe to release the vehicle.

Swain prayed the commission to take immediate necessary steps against the concerned police officials after conducting a probe and take immediate steps to prevent harassment of the truck driver and owner.

Pani Panchayats demand more fund in JSpur

Office-bearers form panel to talk to higher authorities

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

As many as 64 Pani Panchayats (PPs) functioning across Jagatsinghpur district with five water distributaries systems under Machhagaon and Taladanda canals have demanded that they be funded adequately and given free hand for distribution of water.

Attending a meeting here on Tuesday, PP office-bearers alleged that local Water Resources engineers and offi-



cials have neglected in implementation of PP scheme in the district. Due to lack of guidance, supervision and proper coordination with local Irrigation department staffs, PP works have been impacted severely, they rued.

On the occasion, they formed a district-level com-

mittee taking 30 members to take up the PPs' grievances with State and district-level Water Resource officers for early solution, informed district PP president Prakash Ray.

PP leaders such as Rajendra Das, Ravindra Sahoo, Gouranga Das, Kalandi Bastia and Sarada Satapathy spoke.

Man collects donation posing as Minister; held

PNS ■ BARGARH

The Koraput police on Thursday arrested a person for allegedly impersonating as Labour and Rural Development Minister Sushant Singh and collecting donations from Government officials.

The arrestee was identified as Sushant Kumar Ranjit (24), a native of Prabhusuni village in Deogarh district.

Police arrested the accused, acting on an FIR filed by Ganatantra Sahu, a resident of Sohela in the district, said Bargarh SP Padmini Sahu in a Press meet here.

Ranjit had created a fake Facebook account in the name of the Minister. He interacted with



Government officials of Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada districts through the fake account and allegedly asked for donations. He duped several officials and collected more than Rs 3 lakh from them, added sources. Police have seized three mobile phones, a debit card and a bank passbook from his possession.

56 dengue cases found in Sundargarh

3 shifted to AIIMS in BBSR

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Dengue scare has now gripped Sundargarh district as 56 people are suffering from the vector-borne disease at different places in the district now. As per reports, out of 329 suspected blood samples collected in a week, 56 samples were tested dengue positive. In the Khatkurbahal area under Kutra block of the district, 54 are now suffering from the vector-borne diseases. The other two infected persons belonged to Sundergarh and Biramitrapur area.

While all the infected patients have been quarantined in a special ward of the District Headquarter Hospital (DHH) at Sundargarh, three of them whose health condition deteriorated have been shifted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bhubaneswar. The district administration has launched a sanitation drive in the Khatkurbahal area.

"General public are being advised to use mosquito nets while resting and not to roam outside in bare body. Sanitation and medical teams have already been mobilised in the area to screen the suspected dengue cases," said the CDMO.

IN PURI

World's biggest beach clean drive tomorrow

PNS ■ PURI

The district administration here will organise a beach cleaning drive on Saturday. This will be world's largest-cleaning operation because it is covering the longest stretch along the shore of the district.

In more than 100 locations, as many as 700 volunteers will be engaged in the drive and commemorate the World Peace Day which falls on Saturday also.

Under the banner of Mo Beach, the mega drive along Puri will be jointly sponsored by ICZMP of Forest and Environment Department, State Tourism, Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), Pollution Control Board.

Bharat Scout and Guide and Shree Jaganath Temple



Administration.

In groups selected from local community, fishermen, camera men and hoteliers will work in their respective points.

Noted sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik will lead the campaign as ambassador. The sole motto of the drive is to keep the shore free from plastic by taking a pledge to protect the ocean by reducing and recycling of

wastes generated out of plastic itself.

The administration has already drawn a roadmap for management of crowd, security, water supply and fire safety during the operation.

Volunteers with glove in hands, T-shirt and required gadgets will operate on the vast shore and also create awareness.

M'bjanj BJP to hold membership drive till Dec

To hold Seva Saptah

PNS ■ BARIPADA

The Mayurbhanj unit of the BJP is to carry on its membership drive till the end of December this year.

During the next three and a half months, the party will have at least 50 members at each and every booth. Then booth committees will be formed, mandal committees' formation will follow and finally a new BJP district president will be elected. All this will be a part of the saffron party's countrywide greatest democratic exercise of holding organisational elections.

At an important meeting of office-bearers and workers here on Monday, the party prepared a detailed plan for all this. It appointed Mandal Returning Officers (MROs) to hold organisational elections at the grass-root level. The meeting, among other things, also decided to observe Seva Saptah in the wake of the birthday of



Narendra Modi.

Under the Seva Saptah, the party unit will undertake cleanliness drives across the district, creating awareness on environmental pollution, organising mega blood donation camps and holding meetings on abrogation of Article 370.

The meeting was presided over by

BJP district president Dr Krushna Chandra Mohapatra and was attended by Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha MP Engineer Bishweswar Tudu, Udala MLA Bhaskar Madhei, Baripada MLA Prakash Soren, Saraskana MLA Dr Budhan Murmu, Badsahi MLA Sanatan Bijuli, Zila Parishad President Sujata Murmu, district

vice-presidents Nihar Modi, Subash Pradhan, Sobhavati Otta, Suman Singh, district general secretaries Pradeep Mohanty, Laxmidhar Hawda and many other senior leaders like Kandra Soren and Sugda Murmu etc.

State leader Ashok Mohanty was the chief guest on the occasion.

BDA holds eviction drive at Chandrama Complex front

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The officers and staffs of Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA), Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation (BMC), GA Department and Commissionerate Police carried out an eviction drive in front of the Chandrama Complex Block-A gate and behind the Labour Cooperative Tribunal in Kharavel Nagar here on Thursday.

During eviction drive, five tin shed houses were demolished and approximately 0.080 decimal Government land was made free from encroachment.

Among others, BDA Enforcement Officer-II Pramod Kumar Patro, Liaison Officer Subhransu Sekhar Mohanty, Kharavel Nagar PS SI Meenati Kumari Nayak and RI Manas Kumar Behera were present.

Similarly, the joint eviction drive was carried out over unauthorised structure on



Government plot number-1845 in Baramunda. During eviction three polythene shade shops, one OMFED booth and two ACCSade shop houses were demolished.

'Arrest nurse Niharika killers in 48 hrs'

BJP Mahila urges DGP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP Mahila Morcha on Thursday slammed the State Government for rise in violence against women cases and demanded that all culprits involved in the nurse Niharika Patra murder case be arrested in 48 hours.

A team led by Morcha State president Pravati Parida



visited Niharika's house at Bhingarpur under Balipatana block in Khordha district and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family. Then the family visited the nursing home where Niharika was working.

Then, the team met DGP Dr BK Sharma and urged him to arrest the culprits in 48 hours. "Police are now discharging their duties properly. Due to its inefficiency, the body of Niharika was located 10 days later on the Biluakhai riverbed at Biridi in Jaspur district," alleged Parida.

Among others, secretary Pravati Satpathy, Mahila Morcha vice-president Smruti Patnaik, Aska BJP MP candidate Aneeta Subhadarshini, secretary Rashmirekha Das, Aisacharya Biswal, Krishan Mohanty, Yajnaseni Jena, social media Kasturi Mishra were part of the team.

Ahead of 'Howdy', India for GSP

From Page 1

It adversely impacted Indian exports and prompted it to approach the WTO dispute settlement body.

The US raised issues with India's moves to slash the maximum retail prices of essential medical devices and demands that dairy product exporters certify their produce.

Modi is scheduled to arrive in Houston on Saturday. A day later, he will be joined by Trump at the mega 'Howdy

Modi' rally, to be attended by the members of the Indian-American community. The Prime Minister will address the UN General Assembly session on the morning of September 27, Gokhale said.

As the world commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, Modi will also host a special event 'Leadership Matters: Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World' on September 24. He will be joined

leaders of a few countries at this event.

Modi's packed schedule also includes a meeting with American CEOs of energy giants on the evening of September 21 in Houston, Texas. A day after the Houston event on September 22, Modi will take part in a climate summit in New York. The bilateral meeting with Trump is on September 24 and an investment roundtable with 40 major companies the next day.

On the morning of September 27, local time, Modi will address the UN General Assembly, after which he will leave for Delhi. Incidentally, his address will be followed by his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan.

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

From Page 1

"The entire country of 130 crore people is standing as one with the Government. Unfortunately, senior leaders of the Congress and NCP

who ought to have been cooperating with the Government and conducting in a circum-spect manner, but, I do not get to see such a thing happen-ing," said the PM.

The Prime Minister said that the Opposition was free to criticise the Government, him personally and even Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra. "It is their right to criticise us. They should not be saying certain things in national interests. But their statements are being

used by the forces supporting the terrorists to indulge in false propaganda against India." Hitting out at Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi whose statement was used by the Pakistani Foreign Minister in making a representation before the United Nations, Modi said, "It is rather unfortunate that the statements of our Opposition leaders on Kashmir are being used to attack India in international forums.

Your stolen car may be parked on OLX for sale

Man held for selling over dozen expensive cars on site

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

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

Active since 2014, the accused had succeeded in selling high-end cars by posting their advertisements on OLX app. However, he ran out of his luck a few days ago. Suspecting something fishy after the accused asked for a nominal price of an expensive car, a buyer informed police which swung into action.

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

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

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

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

"Acting on the complaint an FIR was registered. During the course of investigation, it was revealed that there is a gang operating in Delhi and Rajasthan involved in entrapping unsuspecting buyers of stolen luxury cars on very



The stolen cars

Pioneer photo



Ankit Pruthi

cheap price on OLX platform," said the DCP.

"A police team was tasked to collect tip-off about the gang-members which led to the hideout of kingpin Ankit. On

September 14, a trap was laid and Ankit was arrested in Jaipur. He had changed his name from Ankit Pruthi to Ankit Arora to hide his identity. Originally from Delhi, he had acquired a Jaipur address," said the DCP.

"Ankit confessed that he used to change his mobile number after every successful sale. We have recovered three cars and trying to locate other cars.

Ankit confessed to have sold over a dozen luxury cars using OLX app. Police recovered 'Volkswagen Vento' and 'KUV-100' from Sikar in Rajasthan. These cars were stolen from Delhi's Hauz Khas and Mehrauli area," said the DCP.

A senior police official involved in the investigation said they are sending notices to the OLX people to join investigation as they have failed to answer many queries.

"It amounts to complicity as the OLX management was allowing the advertisement of stolen cars without applying due diligence.

How can they allow an auto-thief to sell stolen cars by using their platform and then feign ignorance," said the police official, adding that an FIR is being registered against the OLX management and the ambit of the probe is being expanded to ascertain what other stolen item were being sold by crooks to the people by using this popular App.

Capt inspects work on Kartarpur corridor

PNS ■ DERA BABA NANAK/CHANDIGARH

With less than two months to go for historic 550th prakash purb of Guru Nanak Dev, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Thursday took stock of ongoing construction work for Kartarpur corridor, while sanctioning ₹75.23

crores for widening and strengthening of the major roads leading to this iconic town.

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

works for the celebration.

At the same time, the Shiromani Akhali Dal ridiculed the Chief Minister for "forcibly" making "on-the-spot and fake announcement" of projects worth ₹75 crore. "The announcements were made without realising that the completion of these projects in just about seven

weeks, including the construction of quality roads leading to the main site befitting the sanctity and significance of the occasion, would be impossible and non-practicable," said SAD MLA and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia.

Accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues, the Chief Minister inspected the Kartarpur Corridor

construction works at the Indo-Pak border, including the Integrated Check Post (ICP) construction project, where he interacted with the construction workers.

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

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

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KHARIAR

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE

Letter No. 2772 /NAC KHR Dated 18-09-2019

In pursuance to this office Tender Call Notice No.-2706 Dt.11.09.2019 is hereby cancelled for time being due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sd/-
Executive Officer,
Notified Area Council,
Khariar

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER : BARGARH

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Letter No. 5082 dt.17.09.2019

In pursuance to the tender call notice No. CDM&PHO/MGPS/7274/DT.27.08.2019 published in the district web site and different newspapers, the last date of receive of tender is hereby modified to dt.25.09.2019 upto 12 Noon due to some unavoidable circumstances. For other changes in the general term, condition and technical specification please log on to the district website bargarh.nic.in.

Sd/-
Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer,
Bargarh

"e" Procurement Notice for PMGSY Works

Identification No.- Online Tender- PMGSY N.C.B. No. 164 for 2019-20.

Letter No- 2288 / Date: 16.09.2019 //

- Name of the work :- Construction & Maintenance PMGSY-I road works of 2018-19 in the District of Mayurbhanj.
- Total No. of works :- 02 Nos. (Two Nos.)
- Estimated Cost :- From Rs.74.32 lakhs to Rs.97.45 lakhs (approximately).
- Eligible Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A' P.W.D. or relevant Class of other licensing authorities.
- Period of Completion :- 06 (Six) calendar months for works as specified in DTGN.
- Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada.	PMGSY Online N.C.B. No. 164	DL.26.09.2019 11.00 A.M.	DL.15.10.2019 5.00 P.M.	DL.14.10.2019 1.00 P.M.	DL.16.10.2019 11.00 A.M.	DL.25.10.2019 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgstyenders.gov.in

Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only. **Sd/-**

Superintending Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Baripada.

25130/11/0006/1920

Rajnath becomes 1st Def Min to fly Tejas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

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

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

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

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



aircraft. This is why I flew in this aircraft," the Minister said. Wearing a G suit, holding his helmet under his arms and sporting aviator glasses, Singh looked every inch a fighter pilot.

Visibly impressed by the performance of the plane which over the years came under lot of criticism due to repeated delays thereby adding to the cost of the first indigenously designed fighter jet, Singh said, "I want to congratulate HAL, DRDO and several agencies concerned. We have reached a level where we can export fighter planes across the world...Countries in South East Asia have shown interest in purchasing Tejas aircraft," he said.

An official said the Minister also "controlled" and flew the aircraft for around two minutes. However, the minister said he was following

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

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

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

When a person is standing still on earth, the amount of force exerted by earth's gravitational field is "one g". Fighter pilots have to bear higher number of g's as they fly at high speed and altitude.

Tiwari said the Minister was very happy with the flying quality, "the smoothness, the controls, and the way the aircraft was flying".

RKS Bhaduria to be next Air Force Chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



after the contract was signed.

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

He has over 4,250 hours of experience on twenty six types of fighters and transport aircraft with the unique distinction of being an Experimental Test Pilot, a Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and a Pilot Attack Instructor.

During his nearly four-decade career, Bhaduria commanded a Jaguar squadron and a premier Air Force Station. He was also the Chief Test Pilot and Project Director of the National Flight Test Centre on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. He was extensively involved in the initial prototype flight tests on the LCA.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"This (apology) would make his (Rahul's)

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

The 'Jan- Jagran Abhiyan'

(public awareness campaign) launched for the purpose would take National party leaders, MPs, MLAs and Ministers to different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir.

Under the programme, the party has decided to organise 370 small indoor meetings and 35 big meetings, signifying Article 350 and Article 35 A, across the country, including six in Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

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

Agriculture Ministry hopes for Parliament nod to 2 pending Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

as well, he said at an event.

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

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

As per the proposed law, pesticide companies will have to pay a huge penalty of Rs 25,000 to Rs 50 lakh - up to a whopping 70 times than the existing provision of Rs 500-

INSHORT

PRESIDENT CLEARS E-CIGARETTES BAN

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

₹25K CR IN FIVE YEARS FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

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

MUSLIM PARTIES ADVOCATE LOSES COOL

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

SC SLAMS UP FOR ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT

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

2 MORE COURTROOMS FOR HEARING CASES: SC

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

No financial crisis in country: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



mation and broadcasting and environment and climate change.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Later, the bench summoned the home secretary

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

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

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

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

SC refuses to keep in abeyance NBW issued against jail superintendent

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

The matter was mentioned

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

"Let him come (before the court)," the bench said.

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

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



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

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

Forces launch ops

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

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

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

The data pertains to the

period between 2017 and August this year.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Ministry official said.

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

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

Modi's anonymous attack on Sena over Ram Mandir

Says loudmouths must have faith in judicial system

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hope PM respects SC ruling on Ram temple, says NCP

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"When the country is united over the decision on

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bulletproof jackets made in India sent to 100 countries: Modi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAY 46

Normal life remains disrupted in Kashmir

Reports of shopkeepers being threatened

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The officials said Internet services remained suspended across all platforms.

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

The efforts of the state government to open schools have

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

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

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

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

Five of family die inside sewage well in Gujarat

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

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

Sabarimala back in focus as campaign peaks for Pala bypoll

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

the former union minister alleged.

He challenged Vijayan to declare his current stand on the issue in the wake of his party admitting its mistake in handling the women entry issue.

Vijayan, currently touring the constituency campaigning for LDF candidate Mani C Kappen, did not respond to Antony's allegations.

But his ministerial colleague and senior CPI(M) leader MM Mani attacked Antony, accusing

him of speaking in the tune of the BJP.

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

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

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

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

under the consideration of the Supreme Court.

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

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

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

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

CHINMAYANAND CASE

Priyanka questions PM's silence

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Three booked for provocative speech in K'taka

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

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

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



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

110 IRS officers appointed as expenditure observers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Maharashtra has 288.

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

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

stringent and effective enforcement action is undertaken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through C-Vigil app and voter helpline against those who are trying to induce voters by distributing cash and liquor among others to vitiate the poll process.

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

Supriyo heckled, taken hostage

Guv rushes to Jadavpur campus along with cops, rescues him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

PTI

Former Kolkata CP hiding like Dawood, CBI tells court

Claims State Govt not sharing any information regarding him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HINDI ROW

Crack in Opp unity surfaces in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Aarey cannot be declared as forest just because there is



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

39 mob lynchings in two and a half months in Bihar

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police has registered FIRs against 348 named accused and 4,000 unidentified persons. "Police is taking strict action against those involved in mob lynching incidents. We identify the accused from the video footage of the incidents and take action against them," said Additional Director General (police headquarters) Jitendra Kumar. **IANS**

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

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

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

The PSA order against Abdullah, accessed by PTI, cites

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

three to six months and the latter for two years.

The PSA is applicable only in Jammu & Kashmir. Elsewhere in the country, the equivalent law is the National Security Act (NSA). Separatists and Abdullah's political opponents in the Valley have termed him a vehement supporter of state's accession with India.

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

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

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

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

The bench noted that the pollution situation has not improved in Mahul since 2015.

Some 15,000 families were displaced after their "unauthorised" houses near the Tansa pipeline were ordered to be demolished by the high court.

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

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

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

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

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS TYPES OF WORKS
Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, SRTI,AM (MP) invites offer through E-tender portal www.reps.gov.in under two packet system for the following tender: Tender No: RTM/DINL/Dy.CE(C)/90 Name of work: Addition/alteration/modification/ construction of various structures viz. platforms, covering shed, FOB, passenger amenities, construction of store buildings, staff quarters, extension of minor bridges, demolishing existing structures & other misc. works at Dahod station in connection with Dahod-Indore new BG line Project of Western Railway. NIT Cost Rs.: 303046814.01 EMD: Rs. 1665300/- Bid Submission Closing Date: 18.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs. Bid Opening Date: 18.10.2019 at 15:30 hrs. For detailed tender conditions, please visit www.reps.gov.in. Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail) 15

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT JAMMU
Phone No.: 0191-2430908. Email: ce-mejmm@nic.in
cejemjmm@gmail.com website: www.mechjmm.ac.in

CORRIGENDUM-2

In the interest of Govt. works and to promote healthy competition among the bidders, the e-Tender/Auction No: CE/MED/J/Tech/2019-20/04 Dated: 03-08-2019 Due on 02-09-2019 extended upto 14-09-2019 for the Disposal of Condemned vehicles/machinery lying in various Divisions of Mechanical Engineering Department, Jammu is hereby further extended upto 23-09-2019 and shall be opened on 25-09-2019. The revised critical dates can be seen / downloaded from the J&K Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in and departmental website www.mechjmm.co.in. rest all other terms and conditions of e-NIT shall remain the same. Sd/- (Er. Ganit Jyoti) Chief Engineer
No. DIPJ-637519 Dated:- 18-09-2019

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

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

ICICI Home Finance

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

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis as per the particulars given hereunder;

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

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

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

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact on Mobile no. 8657549734 / 9650193259 of ICICI Bank Limited and / or 9910453434 of Shriram Automall India Ltd. The tenders which are acknowledged by the Secured Creditor/ auctioneer's official and registered before the cut off time with complete details shall only be considered for auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any reasons thereof. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit Secured Creditor's website at www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: September 20, 2019
Place: Delhi/ Ncr

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd

PAPER WITH PASSION

Missing woods for trees

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



Decades of action by advocacy groups and the anti-tobacco lobby had finally made smoking uncool, to a degree at least, among younger people. This was a big change considering smoking was, for almost a century, one of the ultimate hallmarks of confidence for teenagers and a sign of having arrived. Films, brands and advertisements had reinforced that image till the time research didn't link life-threatening diseases to a costly indulgence. Sustained campaigning might not have got many smokers to kick the butt but they looked for alternatives. And then vaping came along as an option. Born through the burgeoning marijuana industry in the US, it involves taking a liquid concentrate and "vapourising" it by heating it to extreme temperatures thanks to an electric arc. It is a cleaner way of inhaling active ingredients and the US tobacco industry, wary of losing customers to the burgeoning competition, quickly adopted vaping or electronic cigarettes as a method of consumption. But much like hookahs in India, where "flavoured" mixes made the habit popular among a younger audience, flavoured vapes became a hot-seller. For kids, smoking bubblegum flavoured e-cigarette concentrates and exchanging their capsules became the "new cool." But then many experts claimed that vaping innocuous flavoured mixes could be a gateway to ultimate nicotine addiction. Vaping was also claimed to tax our lungs in much the same way. So banning e-cigarettes was, some argued, the need of the hour. Of course, nobody is considering that the stricture could also push more smokers to conventional tobacco. Besides, is the Government being truly altruistic, considering that it appears to be playing into the hands of the tobacco lobby? Banning e-cigarettes definitely makes it look more interested in protecting cigarette companies and raises questions if there is a vested interest involved. The ghoulish advisories in multiplexes and on cigarette packets look hypocritical too.

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

Howdy NRIs

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



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

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

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

Pakistan's hypocrisy

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



DEEPAK SINHA

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

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

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

If the contents of the letters do confirm what is suggested, then Pakistan must certainly be asked to justify the change in its stance.



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

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

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

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

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

"Mainlanders", as Indians from outside the Valley are

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

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

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

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

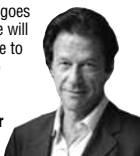
This need not be so if the region is given a special status under Article 471, as has been done for other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some in the North-East. However, what is undeniable is that every Kashmiri, whether he/she admits it or not, is fully cognisant that status quo over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

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

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

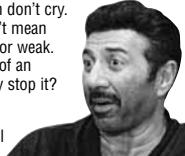
SOUNDBITE

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



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

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



Actor —Sunny Deol

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



UN chief —Antonio Guterres

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



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discriminatory provision

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

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

SC Agrawal
Delhi

Progressive step

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

Do what's right for the Valley

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

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



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

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Creating unrest

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

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

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The Modi-Trump bromance show

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a policy analyst)

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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



VV SUNDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A time of reckoning for babus at last

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

While these reforms were aimed at bringing in accountability in performance and conduct, the Government also addressed rising

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

This would help the MSME sector, she said.

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

The Minister also announced that banks have been asked not to declare any

stressed MSME loan as non-performing assets (NPA) till March 31, 2020.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS CORNER

MMTC WINS CAPEXIL EXCELLENCE IN EXPORT AWARD

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



NORTHERN RAILWAY GM MEETS LS, RS LAWMAKERS

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



DELHI TOURISM WINS AWARD

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



IOCL LAUNCHES SOCIAL CAMPAIGN THROUGH DTC

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



NLCIL SIGNS MOU WITH INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

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



OBC LAUNCHES REPO RATE LINKED LOANS

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

₹ slips 10 paise to 71.34 against \$

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3259/RD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



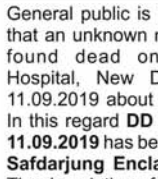
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a person namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was admitted on 11.09.2019 at RML Hospital, when found near Fire Station, SPM Marg, Lahori Gate, Delhi.**

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

Name: Unknown, Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Hospital Outfits. If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

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

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General public is hereby informed that an unknown male person was found dead on Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi on Dated 11.09.2019 about Time 15:32 PM. In this regard DD No. 37A, Dated 11.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Unknown S/o: Unknown R/o Unknown Age: 40 years Height: 5'5" Complexion: Sallow, Face: Oval, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the dead person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.**

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



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

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/3266/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



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

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/3238/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED PERSON



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

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639, Tel.: 24368638/24368641
SHO : P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25489080
DP/3147/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

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

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

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/3265/RD/19

SHO
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25489080

Sensex crashes 470 points on weak macro data, global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks resumed their downward march on Thursday as tepid tax collection numbers fanned fears of a prolonged slowdown, prompting investors to unwind risky bets.

Hawkish commentary from the US Federal Reserve and incessant foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

After gyrating 626 points, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 470.41 points, or 1.29 per cent, lower at 36,093.47.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 135.85 points, or 1.25 per cent, to settle at 10,704.80. The previous closing low for Nifty was 10,604.35 on February 19, 2019.

The Centre's direct tax mop-up is said to have grown just 4.7 per cent till September 17, compared to a target of 17.5 per cent budgeted for the full year, which analysts said reflects deepening slump in demand and overall growth.

Yes Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, plunging 15.52 per cent, after a Moody's report said Altico default may be credit negative for banks given their significant exposure to the real estate sector.

Among the banks Moody's rates, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank have the largest direct exposure to commercial real estate and will be susceptible to asset quality difficulties if the sector continues to slow, the agency said.

IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank too fell up to 3.59 per cent. Other losers included Tata Steel, Maruti, SBI, RIL, Tech Mahindra, ONGC, Vedanta, Bajaj Finance, Hero MotoCorp and TCS, falling up to 3.66 per cent.

Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel and Asian Paints were the only gainers, rising up to 1.97 per cent.

"Lower tax collection figures spooked markets today as FIIs continued selling in key pivots, dragging down indices. Exposure of many Private Sector Banks towards commercial real estate further accentuated selling towards afternoon trade across these counters. Investors are getting jittery on PSU names as they keep losing market capitalisation rapidly," said S Ranganathan, head of research at LKP Securities.

Sectorally, BSE energy, oil and gas, bankex, metal, realty, auto, healthcare, tech and IT indices cracked up to 2 per cent. Telecom was the sole gainer,

inching up 0.17 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended up to 1.48 per cent higher.

Investor wealth dropped by ₹1.65 lakh crore on Thursday as equities witnessed a heavy sell-off. Led by the weak trend in the broader market, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies plunged ₹1,65,437.91 crore to ₹1,38,54,439.41 crore.

"Continuous selling by FIIs and uncertainty over future trajectory of Fed rate cut dampened investors sentiment. Slowdown in direct tax collection and rise in oil prices will limit government's space for stimulus measures which will continue to act as a downside risk to the market," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services Ltd said.

From the 30-share pack, 26 companies closed the day with losses, led by Yes Bank which tumbled 15.52 per cent. At the BSE, 1,828 scrips declined, while 686 advanced and 114 remained unchanged.

As many as 116 stocks dropped to their one-year low level on Thursday. Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve slashed the policy rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday but dimmed hopes for further rate cuts as it took

a cautious approach to further reductions in borrowing costs.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Nikkei and Kospi ended on a positive note, while Hang Seng settled in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in their respective early sessions. Foreign portfolio investor sold shares worth a net of ₹959.09 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors bought equities worth ₹780.45 crore, provisional data showed.

Brent crude futures gained 1.98 per cent to USD 64.81 per barrel (intra-day).

The rupee dropped 10 paise to close at 71.34 against the US dollar on Thursday.

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

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

Mukesh Ambani's shareholding has not increased in company: Reliance

New Delhi (PTI): Reliance

Industries on Thursday clarified that promoter and chairman Mukesh Ambani has not acquired any new shares in the company and that his stake has not increased.

This statement comes after the company had on September 17 through a 'Disclosure under Reg/29(2) of Sebi (SAST) Regulations, 2011' said that Reliance Services and Holdings Ltd (controlled by Petroleum Trust, a part of promoter/promoter group), has acquired 17.18 crore or 2.71 per cent stake in the company "pursuant to a scheme of arrangement not directly involving the target company (Reliance)".

"The aggregate shareholding/voting rights of the Promote and Promote Group now stands at 309.8 crore shares — 48.87 per cent," it had said.

The company's filing to stock exchanges for the shareholding pattern for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, showed promoter group holding at 47.29 per cent. The company in an emailed statement said: "There has been no transaction of purchase of shares". It said: "41.28 crore treasury shares of Reliance Industries were held as follows by (a) by Petroleum Trust 24.09 crore shares; and (b) by subsidiaries of RIL 17.19 crore shares.

Govt reworking its strategy to enhance direct tax mop-up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is reworking its strategy to boost revenue collection from direct taxes which has been lagging behind so far, a senior CBDT official said on Thursday.

The government has set a direct tax collection target of ₹13.35 lakh crore for the current fiscal, which includes ₹7.66 lakh crore from corporate tax and ₹5.69 lakh crore as income tax.

"Growth in direct tax collection has been less than expected. The Central Board of Direct Taxes will look into this and rework its strategy," Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Member Akhilesh Ranjan said on the sidelines of an

Assocham event.

Ranjan, who is also the convenor of the task force on Direct Tax Code, said taxpayers in the country should not see paying income tax as a burden.

Asked about lowering corporate tax, he said the government was seized of the matter and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had also reiterated recently that there was some need for corporate tax reduction.

"That has been reiterated by the finance minister recently also that we are moving towards lower rate and I am sure that will happen sooner or later. Government has already said that there is some need for some corporate tax rate reduction," Ranjan said.

Talking about tax compli-

ance, he said government was trying to further simplify the taxation system as it will lead to better revenue realisation.

On the Direct Tax Code (DTC) report, which has been submitted to the government, Ranjan said, "The report has not been (made) public, so I won't be able to give any details on that. But the broad trends are that we have obviously focussed on compliance."

Compliance is the cornerstone of any tax policy and it has different aspects. It is not just about tax rates but also about ease of filing, about modernising tax system, improving litigation system management as well as systems like making tax law more comprehensible and organised, he added.

Tata Motors revs up for EV space, launches new powertrain

Mumbai (PTI): Tata Motors, which is a leader in the electric vehicles in the domestic market, on Thursday announced a new EV powertrain that will power a range of its upcoming models, including a new model scheduled for the fourth quarter. Zipton, the soon to be introduced EV powertrain, will help it drive economies of scale on one hand and make new EVs more affordable for consumers on the other, the largest domestic auto maker told reporters here.

Zipton offers efficient high voltage system,

better performance, long range and fast charging, and a battery warranty of eight years, and adherence to the IP67 standard.

Announcing the launch, the managing director and chief executive Guenter Butschek, said, "Zipton is designed in-house utilising our global engineering network. At the heart of our future EV line-up, this technology has been tested across 1 million km proving its reliability. With this, we hope to usher in a new wave of e-mobility and accelerate faster adoption of EVs."

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	10845.20	10845.20	10670.25	10704.80	-135.85
TATAMOTORS	123.50	125.35	121.20	124.20	2.45
COALINDIA	191.30	194.50	189.50	193.70	1.35
HDFCBANK	1099.90	1107.05	1084.00	1100.65	6.15
UPL	555.50	566.40	549.20	560.00	2.95
BHARTIARTL	338.40	342.55	334.70	337.00	1.40
ASIANPAINT	1553.90	1563.50	1545.00	1551.20	3.45
BRITANNIA	2618.00	2653.20	2590.00	2619.00	5.15
JSWSTEEL	220.15	221.60	215.25	220.50	-0.90
POWERGRID	202.75	202.75	199.10	200.65	-1.40
KOTAKBANK	1464.80	1464.80	1445.00	1453.95	-10.80
TITAN	1164.00	1167.65	1148.45	1152.00	-1.45
GRASIM	704.00	710.60	695.25	697.80	-5.30
DRREDDY	2740.10	2748.20	2708.65	2722.20	-21.45
HDFC	1988.30	2002.30	1964.10	1972.50	-15.80
BPCL	383.05	386.50	375.65	379.00	-3.10
BAJAJFINSV	7246.00	7249.00	7135.55	7195.00	-60.05
NTPC	122.95	122.95	120.10	121.30	-1.20
HINDUNILVR	1830.00	1843.60	1808.25	1810.25	-18.95
ULTRACEMCO	3910.00	3928.40	3838.00	3861.00	-41.80
HCLTECH	1058.00	1058.00	1032.25	1046.25	-12.20
INFY	824.85	827.00	815.20	820.30	-9.55
HINDALCO	198.00	198.00	191.25	195.70	-3.20
ITC	239.25	239.25	236.10	236.40	-2.85
ADANIPORTS	366.30	366.50	357.85	362.00	-4.35
GAIL	135.70	135.70	130.80	133.20	-1.75
WIPRO	245.25	245.25	240.25	241.30	-3.20
M&M	529.00	529.45	513.00	520.00	-7.00
LT	1320.00	1320.00	1298.00	1299.50	-18.50
SUNPHARMA	416.80	418.90	408.20	410.70	-6.10
BAJAJ-AUTO	2773.00	2776.00	2736.30	2736.30	-40.75
IOC	128.30	128.75	125.40	126.15	-2.00
HEROMOTOCO	2561.00	2595.00	2513.45	2534.90	-12.10
AXISBANK	648.20	650.00	632.60	637.35	-11.05
INFRAEL	253.10	253.70	247.05	249.10	-4.40
EICHEMOT	16100.00	16180.00	15630.00	15750.00	-280.40
MARUTI	6139.00	6175.00	5942.40	5987.70	-107.35
CPIA	458.65	461.95	449.90	450.50	-8.15
BAJFINANCE	3426.00	3426.40	3340.30	3349.00	-64.85
TCS	2135.00	2135.80	2091.00	2096.90	-41.65
ONGC	127.00	127.25	123.65	124.20	-2.50
SBN	279.95	279.95	273.05	274.50	-5.90
VEDL	149.40	150.10	142.00	146.50	-3.20
TECHM	715.70	715.70	700.00	701.20	-15.55
RELIANCE	1207.85	1209.70	1172.65	1179.00	-26.70
ICICIBANK	395.70	395.70	384.35	386.30	-13.70
TATASTEEL	356.00	356.00	340.05	345.55	-12.05
INDUSINDBK	1332.90	1333.30	1278.15	1280.50	-49.90
IBULHSGFIN	420.90	422.40	379.15	400.00	-19.25
ZEE	335.00	335.00	306.10	309.15	-26.25
YESBANK	64.70	64.80	53.00	54.00	-10.10

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	26178.70	26189.00	25804.75	25922.10	-227.80
IDEA	4.90	5.70	4.90	5.45	0.40
ICICIPRULI	423.80	433.80	422.00	430.00	8.40
INDIGO	1683.00	1701.50	1662.65	1697.00	19.20
GICRE	184.90	189.75	182.45	186.20	2.10
ICICI	1154.95	1177.05	1136.90	1166.00	11.15
GODREJCP	649.25	667.70	647.85	655.00	5.75
COPAL	1314.00	1342.00	1312.75	1328.10	10.70
MOTHERSUMI	103.50	105.40	102.50	104.20	0.80
OFFS	2908.95	2950.00	2889.00	2930.00	19.80
BANDHANBNK	445.00	447.00	442.00	444.95	0.30
SRLIFE	804.00	805.00	799.00	802.90	-0.05
BAJAJHLONG	3175.20	3192.05	3120.30	3150.05	-2.15
SRTRANSFIN	1038.90	1045.00	1026.70	1035.80	-1.10
BIOCEN	225.20	229.00	225.00	227.30	-0.35
PGH	10499.00	10549.00	10387.10	10445.00	-21.40
ABB	1330.00	1333.50	1317.95	1322.30	-3.60
DABUR	462.85	462.85	456.40	458.50	-1.50
MRF	58213.00	58400.00	57890.95	58127.00	-237.55
SIEMENS	1240.55	1247.00	1228.65	1241.00	-6.50
ACC	1489.00	1498.85	1465.20	1480.20	-10.50
MCDOWELLN	603.95	609.45	594.00	598.75	-4.80
CONCOR	527.45	538.45	512.25	521.40	-4.40
PIDILITIND	1305.00	1311.80	1292.05	1297.80	-11.95
CADILAC	242.00	242.45	234.70	238.95	-2.30
NIACL	105.05	106.10	104.50	104.80	-1.05
BANKBARODA	95.95	96.00	93.75	95.00	-0.95
PAGEIND	19650.10	2002.95	19476.30	19589.90	-198.85
BOSCHLTD	1369.00	1370.00	1339.00	13475.00	-140.75
NHPC	23.70	24.00	23.55	23.60	-0.25
HDFCLIFE	540.70	540.70	529.10	532.95	-6.15
HDFCAMC	2583.75	2667.70	2583.70	2611.00	-31.00
HAVELLS	650.00	651.95	634.70	642.30	-7.70
DLF	157.00	157.50	153.30	155.05	-2.10
L&T	92.45	92.50	89.60	90.80	-1.35
UBL	1251.00	1257.50	1220.85	1231.00	-19.65
HINDPETRO	257.00	258.95	248.60	250.70	-4.35
HINDZINC	213.50	214.10	208.45	209.75	-3.70
DMAT	16590.00	1660.70	1603.75	16180.00	-28.90
ASHOKLEY	99.90	99.90	58.00	58.45	-1.20
AMBUJACEM	195.50	196.00	190.25	191.40	-4.40
LUPIN	760.25	762.75	733.75	742.00	-17.10
AUROPHARMA	618.00	619.80	603.00	604.35	-14.40
DIVISLAB	162.00	163.10	157.50	157.40	-38.75
BHEL	48.70	48.75	47.10	47.40	-1.25
NMDC	86.45	86.45	82.45	84.00	-2.75
PETRONET	263.35	265.00	251.60	254.70	-6.65
PEL	1830.00	1833.00	1741.70	1759.95	-65.20
SURECHEM	18700.00	18700.00	17780.00	17900.00	-787.20
SAIL	33.50	33.50	31.50	31.95	-1.45

BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	UNIONBANK	56.90	56.90	54.45	55.45
MARUTI	6130.10	6169.40	5925.00	5938.30	PVR	1599.00	1600.30	1566.55	1574.35
YESBANK	64.60	64.90	53.05	54.15	HCLTECH	1078.00	1078.00	1032.85	1049.15
TATAPOWER	64.20	65.10	63.65	64.65	PIIND	1274.00	1274.00	1236.20	1250.30
IBULHSGFIN	420.00	422.25	378.85	395.15	COALINDIA	191.50	194.25	189.50	193.45
ICICIBANK	396.00	396.10	384.60	386.55	GRASIM	705.00	710.05	695.25	700.00
RELIANCE	1207.00	1209.35	1173.25	1178.20	DISHTV	22.40	22.40	19.40	19.75
TATAMOTORS	123.50	125.25	121.30	124.75	HDFCLIFE	539.50	540.35	529.25	532.50
SBIN	280.50	280.50	273.20	274.00	STRTECH	159.85	160.35	151.30	152.50
TINDIA	340.50	343.00	335.00	337.30	IGL	329.10	329.50	319.25	321.80
HEG	1131.00	1133.50	1178.20	1216.25	NMDC	85.60	87.00	82.50	84.00
INDUSINDBK	1396.00	1354.90	1278.00	1281.95	SPICEJET	128.40	128.40	124.55	125.00
TATASSTEEL	356.90	356.90	340.95	344.95	PGFPCAMC	2659.00	2665.00	2588.00	2608.00
GRAPHITE	339.70	349.60	330.35	334.70	WIPAC	24.25	25.90	24.00	24.15
HDFC	1990.00	2001.30	1963.50	1974.70	SFR	273.50	274.00	267.50	270.00
RRBLBANK	35.00	35.25	32.60	33.25	UJJIYAN	30.10	30.20	28.65	28.90
ZEELE	336.00	336.00	306.25	308.80	ACC	1497.00	1497.75	1465.65	1478.95
HDFCBANK	1099.80	1103.50	1084.40	1100.40	IBREALEST	60.50	60.90	56.50	57.50
BAJFINANCE	3434.00	3434.00	3348.00	3362.85	WOCKPHARMA	324.65	328.00	302.65	307.00
IDEA	1324.45	1327.95	1298.00	1300.60	ADANIENIT	144.10	144.10	140.75	142.40
ITC	4.97	5.68	4.87	5.44	PFIZER	3333.30	3348.00	3322.95	3324.25
BPCL	384.00	386.15	375.80	379.60	JUSTDIAL	708.70	711.00	690.10	694.00
AXISBANK	68.80	64.90	63.70	63.60	BANKINDIA	64.90	65.00	62.60	63.00
TCS	2138.85	2139.90	2091.55	2102.15	JENFUNKY	1242.00	1262.25	1237.90	1243.50
BANKBARODRA	95.95	95.95	93.75	94.55	VENUS	170.02	172.50	165.40	167.60
DHFL	52.00	52.35	46.55	47.50	RNAM	232.25	239.35	226.50	230.90
NCC	54.00	54.10	50.90	51.65	GAIL	133.25	136.00	139.00	133.00
JINDALSTEEL	105.35	105.35	97.65	100.35	DIVISLAB	1616.00	1628.40	1571.25	1581.30
MARICO	38.15	38.20	37.85	37.90	AYURPHARMA	618.75	618.75	600.60	602.75
UPL	1250.00	1255.50	1221.25	1228.20	TATATELXSI	638.00	639.95	619.95	627.00
KOTAKBANK	76.20	76.20	73.85	74.15	TECHM	718.00	718.00	700.00	703.40
INFY	1456.00	1462.65	1445.40	1453.40	BATAINDIA	1542.50	1545.80	1526.85	1529.25
PEL	82.50	82.65	81.50	82.10	INDIGO	1691.00	1701.25	1664.00	1694.30
VEDL	1840.00	1840.00	1742.00	1764.25	HINDALCO	197.00	198.80	193.50	195.50
MOTHERSUMI	149.45	150.00	141.90	146.40	VEDL	65.00	65.00	63.55	64.65
ESCORTS	103.75	105.00	102.25	104.10	DREDDY	2739.00	2740.00	2708.00	2715.00
SUNPHARMA	516.50	517.25	506.85	513.95	RAJESHXPO	680.00	685.00	673.00	674.00
JSWSTEEL	221.35	221.45	215.40	219.70	APOLLOHOSP	143.50	143.50	140.60	141.25
					BIOCIN	225.95	230.00	225.20	227.30
					OMAXE	192.40	197.30	185.40	193.95
					UPL	577.00	566.00	549.00	562.25
					PETRONET	264.05	264.85	251.75	252.50
					DABUR	462.80	462.80	456.45	458.85
					SUNTV	429.00	431.20	414.45	417.85
					SKRTRANS	105.00	104.50	102.65	103.55
					BOMDYEING	86.15	87.35	80.80	81.35
					PHILIPCARB	125.50	127.95	121.95	123.15
					STAR	365.80	368.35	355.35	359.30
					HAVELLS	65.00	65.30	63.50	64.00
					GODREJCP	63.00	63.70	64.70	65.55
					NTPC	123.20	123.20	120.15	121.75
					OFSS	289.45	295.00	289.00	294.05
					JUBILANT	527.80	530.15	512.20	522.60
					NESTLEIND	1282.20	1288.00	1263.75	1269.94
					VOLTAS	630.60	632.00	622.00	625.00
					SBILIFE	89.45	83.00	79.50	80.50
					SWANENERGY	99.00	102.50	97.75	100.00
					BAIJAMCHIN	153.50	156.80	151.25	153.15
					PORTIS	123.70	127.90	123.70	126.15
					BAIAI-AUTO	2789.00	2789.00	2722.85	2738.35
					MANAPPURAM	126.40	126.50	122.70	123.80
					INDIACEM	85.10	86.50	82.00	82.60
					ADANIPORTS	365.30	365.30	358.10	361.80
					ICICIGI	1158.75	1137.00	1136.55	1173.94
					RAIN	102.85	103.90	98.50	99.90
					VIPIND	449.50	454.45	432.00	435.15
					CIPLA	460.15	461.60	450.00	451.80
					CHOLAFIN	268.20	269.60	259.25	263.30
					TRENT	465.00	465.15	448.40	456.65
					INDHOTEL	133.30	133.90	129.50	134.80
					IBVENTURES	164.30	166.50	155.70	159.90
					DELTACORP	174.00	174.95	167.85	169.40
					BEMIL	825.00	830.00	811.00	815.45
					APOLLLOTRE	180.00	181.15	174.50	175.00
					NAUKRI	1999.95	2025.00	1920.00	1926.60
					NIITTECH	1357.00	1387.95	1354.25	1366.15
					IDFCFIRSTB	41.45	41.70	40.40	40.80
					MINDTREE	70.00	70.60	68.00	69.00
					RAYMOND	572.00	572.00	554.15	558.30
					CENTURYTEXT	907.25	910.50	877.00	882.00
					AVANTI	35.00	35.00	32.10	34.60
					MMRFIN	326.00	326.00	319.20	324.30
					SUVEN	280.00	287.25	275.20	283.10
					GODFREYPHLP	1000.00	1002.60	955.95	963.30
					BTC	64.95	64.95	62.80	63.00
					PTTC	1134.40	1136.40	1085.45	1093.70
					ITDC	225.00	248.90	215.80	247.80
					POWERGRID	201.00	202.45	199.20	201.10
					HEXAWARE	390.00	390.00	373.00	376.10
					PIDILITIND	1312.00	1312.00	1293.00	1294.90
					TATACHEM	581.95	581.95	566.25	567.60
					SPARC	160.90	160.90	151.75	153.75
					HAL	731.00	727.70	731.00	740.70
					EDELWEISS	106.10	106.90	103.05	104.60
					IDBI	27.80	27.80	26.95	27.10
					GLAXO	1418.30	1425.00	1380.60	1396.40
					BHARATFORG	400.30	406.20	390.00	392.90
					MGL	840.70	840.00	824.95	829.40
					ABJUMACEJ	196.00	196.45	194.50	191.90
					SIEMENS	124.90	1245.70	1228.00	1237.20
					GODREJIND	40.10	40.90	40.10	40.50
					CADILAHC	243.80	243.80	234.65	237.70
					CATALINDIND	125.70	125.70	122.50	122.70
					FRETAL	393.40	393.40	386.00	388.00
					ORIENTAL	1162.00	1182.00	1124.00	1131.50
					GLENMARK	362.65	365.35	356.50	358.40
					PGHH	1049.00	1049.00	10385.00	10476.40
					BAJORPLTD	87.70	87.70	81.45	82.50
					JAIRKUSIND	744.00	750.15	737.60	740.00

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	UNIONBANK	56.90	56.90	54.45	55.45
MARUTI	6130.10	6169.40	5925.00	5938.30	PVR	1599.00	1600.30	1566.55	1574.35
YESBANK	64.60	64.90	53.05	54.15	HCLTECH	1078.00	1078.00	1032.85	1049.15
TATAPOWER	64.20	65.10	63.65	64.65	PIIND	1274.00	1274.00	1236.20	1250.30
IBULHSGFIN	420.00	422.25	378.85	395.15	COALINDIA	191.50	194.25	189.50	193.45
ICICIBANK	396.00	396.10	384.60	386.55	GRASIM	705.00	710.05	695.25	700.00
RELIANCE	1207.00	1209.35	1173.25	1178.20	DISHTV	22.40	22.40	19.40	19.75
TATAMOTORS	123.50	125.25	121.30	124.75	HDFCLIFE	539.50	540.35	529.25	532.50
SBIN	280.50	280.50	273.20	274.00	STRTECH	159.85	160.35	151.30	152.50
TINDIA	340.50	343.00	335.00	337.30	IGL	329.10	329.50	319.25	321.80
HEG	1131.00	1133.50	1178.20	1216.25	NMDC	85.60	87.00	82.50	84.00
INDUSINDBK	1396.00	1354.90	1278.00	1281.95	SPICEJET	128.40	128.40	124.55	125.00
TATASSTEEL	356.90	356.90	340.95	344.95	PGFPCAMC	2659.00	2665.00	2588.00	2608.00
GRAPHITE	339.70	349.60	330.35	334.70	WIPAC	24.25	25.90	24.00	24.15
HDFC	1990.00	2001.30	1963.50	1974.70	SFR	273.50	274.00	267.50	270.00
RRBLBANK	35.00	35.25	32.60	33.25	UJJIYAN	30.10	30.20	28.65	28.90
ZEELE	336.00	336.00	306.25	308.80	ACC	1497.00	1497.75	1465.65	1478.95
HDFCBANK	1099.80	1103.50	1084.40	1100.40	IBREALEST	60.50	60.90	56.50	57.50
BAJFINANCE	3434.00	3434.00	3348.00	3362.85	WOCKPHARMA	324.65	328.00	302.65	307.00
IDEA	1324.45	1327.95	1298.00	1300.60	ADANIENIT	144.10	144.10	140.75	142.40
ITC	4.97	5.68	4.87	5.44	PFIZER	3333.30	3348.00	3322.95	3324.25
BPCL	384.00	386.15	375.80	379.60	JUSTDIAL	708.70	711.00	690.10	694.00
AXISBANK	68.80	64.90	63.70	63.60	BANKINDIA	64.90	65.00	62.60	63.00
TCS	2138.85	2139.90	2091.55	2102.15	JENFUNKY	1242.00	1262.25	1237.90	1243.50
BANKBARODRA	95.95	95.95	93.75	94.55	VENUS	170.02	172.50	165.40	167.60
DHFL	52.00	52.35	46.55	47.50	RNAM	232.25	239.35	226.50	230.90
NCC	54.00	54.10	50.90	51.65	GAIL	133.25	136.00	139.00	133.00
JINDALSTEEL	105.								

Gantz for PM post in Israel's unity Govt

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

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

of war."

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

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

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

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

Pompeo called the attacks "unprecedented."

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

"The Iranian regime's threatening behaviour will not

be tolerated."

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

retaliation.

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

elaborating.

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

Pompeo favours 'peaceful resolution'

AFP ■ ABU DHABI

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

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

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

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

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

"I hope the Islamic Republic of Iran sees it the

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

would make a difference."

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

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

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

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

Johnson faces Brexit flak from EU lawmakers, top UK court

AP ■ STRASBOURG (FRANCE)

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

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

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

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

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

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

The judges, for their part, wondered why Johnson had refused to provide a sworn statement to the court about his reasons for the suspension.

"Isn't it odd that nobody has signed a witness statement to

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

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

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

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

China rebukes Washington after HK activists make Congress plea

AFP ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ KABUL

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

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

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

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

bomb destroyed a hospital in the southern Afghan city of Qalat.

Hours later, reports emerged of an overnight drone strike in eastern Nangarhar province said to have killed at least nine civilians who had been camping in the mountainous region as they collected pine nuts.

The US is the only member of the international coalition in Afghanistan that provides air support in the conflict, but there was no immediate statement from its forces in Afghanistan, the United Nations or NATO.

The strike came just hours after four people were killed on Wednesday when unknown gunmen and a suicide bomber stormed a government building in nearby Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province. On Tuesday, the Taliban killed nearly 50 people in two separate attacks — one on a campaign rally for President Ashraf Ghani in the central province of Parwan, and the other in Kabul.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found near Mayapuri Theka in Unconscious Condition and admitted in DDU Hospital Harinagar, Delhi. During Treatment He Died on 14.09.2019. In this regard a DD No. 13-A Dated 14.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Maya Puri, Delhi. Dead Body had been preserved in DDU Hospital Mortuary. The description of the dead body is given as under:



Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 45-50 years, **Height:** 5'8" Feet, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin Complexion: Brownish Black, **Wearing:** White Pajama. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O

P.S. Maya Puri, Delhi.

DP/8424/WD/19 Ph. No. 011-28117644, 28116097, 8750871121

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Namely :** Unknown S/o Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 47 years approx, **Height:** 5' 7", **Wearing:** Pink colour T-shirt, who was found at Haiderpur Water Treatment Plant, Sec. 13, Rohini, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 25-A. dated 20.08.2019 has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi.



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

Sd/- SHO

P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi

Tel. No. 011-27571162

DP/3281/RD/19

Banning e-cigarettes 'historic' move, says US-based advocacy group

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India has become a leader in the global fight against a youth e-cigarette epidemic by taking a "historic" decision to ban such nicotine and tobacco products, a US-based top advocacy group has said.

The Government on Wednesday banned production, import and sale of e-cigarettes and similar products, citing health risk to people, especially youth. An ordinance will be brought in to make it an offence, entailing jail term of up to three years as well as fine.

The decision was taken by the Union cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

President of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Matthew L. Myers said India's decision to ban the sale, manufacture, import and advertising of e-cigarettes nationwide was a "bold effort" to protect youth from the risk of nicotine addiction.

He praised the Government for taking such decisive action to prevent a youth e-cigarette epidemic in India.

Pak police detain two classmates in Hindu dental student's mysterious death

PTI ■ KARACHI

Two classmates of a Hindu dental student have been detained by the police in Pakistan's Sindh province after she was found dead in her hostel room, a media report said on Thursday.

Nimrita Chandni, a final-year student of Bibi Asifa

Dental College in Larkana district and a social activist, was found lying on a cot by her friends on Monday with a rope tied to her neck.

The two suspects, both classmates of Chandni, were taken into the custody by the police after tracing the call data from the deceased's cell phone, Geo News reported.

Her room was locked from inside. Police have not yet ascertained whether she committed suicide or was murdered.

The girl hailed from Ghotki district, which recently witnessed riots after a school principal from the minority Hindu community was booked on charges of alleged blasphemy.

Philippines declares new polio outbreak after 19 years

AP ■ MANILA

Philippine health officials declared a polio outbreak in the country on Thursday, nearly two decades after the World Health Organisation declared it to be free of the highly contagious and potentially deadly disease.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said at a news conference that authorities have confirmed at least one case of polio in a 3-year-old girl in southern Lanao del Sur province and detected the polio virus in sewage in Manila and in waterways in the southern Davao region.

Those findings are enough to declare an outbreak of the crippling disease in a previously polio-free country like the Philippines, he said.

The World Health Organisation and the United Nations Children's Fund expressed deep concern over polio's reemergence in the country and said they would support the government in immunizing children, who are the most susceptible, and strengthening surveillance.

"As long as one single child remains infected, children across the country and even beyond are at risk of contracting polio," UNICEF Philippines representative Oyun Dendevnorov said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

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

N.I.T.No.: 07/19-20/ dated 18.09.2019 **Name of work with its location :** Proposal for establishing operating, managing & maintaining CTM/RI centre in already built up space in Northern Railway Central Hospital (NCRCH), New Delhi. **Approx. Cost of work:** Rs.10,000 **Earnest Money:** Rs.6,50,600 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) **Completion period of Work :** 120 Months. **Cost of tender on cash/by post :** Rs. 29,500 (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016) **Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender:** upto 15:00 hrs on 11.10.2019 **Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs On 11.10.2019 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen : Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 08 Dated : 18.09.2019** 3015/19

Serving Customers With A Smile

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE TALAB TILLO, JAMMU- J&K
Phone No. 0191-2505201, 2552145, www.diragriju.nic.in

ABBREVIATED OF e- TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from the Manufacturers/ Duly Authorized Dealers, Government undertakings for supply of the Plant Protection Chemicals required for fixing the Rate Contract for the year 2019-20 as per specification laid down in the Tender form.

S.No.1, Particulars :- Supply of Plant Protection Chemicals.

Earnest Money :- a) Rs. 20,000/-, b) For SSI units Rs.5000/- as per Government Policy.

Cost of Tender document :- a) General Rs. 500/-, b) For SSI Units as per Government Policy.

Date of Publishing of Tender Notice :- 18/09/2019 at 1:00 PM

Period of downloading of documents :- From 18/09/2019 to 28/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM

Date of submission of online documents:- From 19/09/2019 to 30/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM

Date of submission of Hard Copy :- From 19/09/2019 to 30/09/2019 up to 12:30 PM

Date of Opening Technical bid :- 03/10/2019 at 01.00 P.M or subsequent convenient date

The tender documents along with Terms and Conditions of the NIT and relevant documents can be downloaded from the State e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in. The tender shall be uploaded in the electronic format on the State e-Procurement portal www.jktenders.gov.in.

**Sd/- Accounts Officer,
Member Secretary, SLPC
Directorate of Agriculture,
Jammu.**

**No. DIP/J-6436/18
Dated :- 19-09-2019**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that M/S S.A. Propcon Private Limited "owner" in collaboration with Signature Infrabuild Private Limited "Developer" had obtained a license bearing No. 73 of 2019 Dated 04/07/2019 from the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana (DTCPP) to develop an affordable group housing colony on the land admeasuring 40 kanal 18 marla (5.1125 acres) situated in the revenue estate of village Dhorka, Sector-95, District Gurugram.

We now propose to transfer the license in favour of Signature Infrabuild Private Limited having its registered office at 1310, 13th floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 and have obtained permission from Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana Vide Memo No. LC-3714-Asstt.(AK)-2019/23116 Dated 16.09.2019.

Any entity/person including any Government Authority, Bank or Financial institution having or claiming any right, title, claim, benefit, demand or interest with respect to the licence or has any objection to the intended above referred matter, such person/entity may inform in writing to o/o STP Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Total land admeasuring 40 Kanal and 18 Marla or 5.1125 Acres comprised in rect. No-3, Killa No-18/2(2-0), 19/2(2-0), 20/1(2-1-18), 21/2(7-12), 22(8-0), 23(8-0), Rect. No-11, Killa No-3(8-0), 8 Min(3-8), Situated in the revenue Estate of Village Dhorka, Sector 95, Gurugram.

<p>SD/- Authorised Signatory Signature Infrabuild Pvt. Ltd U70100DL2013PTC247676 & 1310 at 13th floor Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan 28, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001.</p>	<p>SD/- Authorised Signatory S.A. Propcon Private Limited U70109HR2006PTC064522 Plot No 144, Sector-44, Gurugram - 122002</p>
---	--

Place: Gurugram **Dated:** 18.09.2019

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.

<p>OA No. 1351/18 PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK MUKESH GOSWAMI & ORS.</p>	<p>Date : 16.09.2019 APPLICANT VERSUS RESPONDENT</p>
---	--

To, Defendant
1. Mukesh Goswami S/o Kamal Kishore Giri, C-157/3, C-Block West Karawal Nagar, Delhi-94
2. Narendra Pal S/o Ramvir Singh Pal, R-12/56, Sect-9, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad-201002
3. Manoj Kumar S/o Suresh Chand, F-112, Udai Nagar, Mukund Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 1,02,18,535/- (Rupees One Crore Two Lakh Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Five Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **20.11.2019 at 10.30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

**By order of the Tribunal
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi**

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING

Name of Area: MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dep/VCECL Hqrs. **Tender No. & Date:** ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51913052/Rubber belting/055 Date: 13.09.2019.

Name of Work: Domestic open e-tender for procurement of Rubber Conveyor Belting. **Estimated Tender Value:** ₹ 63,23,856.00. **Document Download Start Date:** 25.09.2019 from 11.00 hrs IST. **Document Download End Date:** 23.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. **Tender Opening Date & Time:** 25.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. **Name of Area:** MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Dep/VCECL Hqrs. **Tender No. & Date:** ECL/Hq/Pur/O/51983053-RC/DRILL ROD/056 Date: 13.09.2019. **Name of Work:** Domestic open e-tender for conclusion of Rate Contract for supply of Underground Drill Rod (6 feet long) for 3 years. **Estimated Tender Value:** ₹ 64,28,253.00. **Document Download Start Date:** 25.09.2019 from 11.00 hrs IST. **Document Download End Date:** 23.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. **Tender Opening Date & Time:** 25.10.2019 11.00 hrs IST. For Further details & Submission of Tender Please visit the website <https://coalinindiatenders.gov.in>

VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited

Registered Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice(Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Abha Jain/ Raj Kumar Jain/ Aditya Jain LBDEL00002080406	Unit No. DPT 340, Parking No. 2254 In DLF Prime Towers, Okhla, New Delhi And/ Or Flat No-DPT 340, 3rd Floor, Prime Tower, Plot No-79 And 80, Block-F, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, Delhi/ 16, Sep.2019	September 29, 2018 RS. 61,90,412/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 days Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

**Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited**

**Date : 20-09-2019
Place: Delhi/ NCR**

Trend Blazer

'My parents were proud of me'

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** got really emotional talking about his deceased parents at the trailer launch of his forthcoming film *Made in China*.

He said that his parents were really proud of him after he became an actor and it gave them joy.

Rajkummar said, "It's an irreparable loss for me. A few years ago, I lost my mother and that time I was shooting for *Newton* and I went back to shoot the next day."

The actor said he had shown the trailer of *Made In China* to his father in his last moments. "I am so glad that the trailer was ready just in time, when my father was in the hospital. I feel his blessings are always there with me," added he.



'As an actor, it is important for me to be part of a good story and The Zoya Factor is one such opportunity. Having said that, working with family members is always a good idea. Although we spend time when we have a family get-together, but during the shooting of film I got a chance to spend quality time with Sonam (Kapoor).'

—Sanjay Kapoor

Actor and author **SOHA ALI KHAN** has lent support for a new health awareness campaign and says that since the birth of her daughter Inaaya, a lot of change has happened in her daily life, and she is trying to set a good example for her daughter with her own lifestyle.

"Parenthood brought a certain change of habits in my daily days. Since I do not want Inaaya to watch TV or stick around the mobile phone, I have stopped watching TV when she is around. Children always tend to imitate everything that we are doing in front of them," says she.



Kylie shuts split rumours

A day after doubts were raised about their relationship, reality TV personality **KYLIE JENNER** has shared a loved-up family photograph with rapper **Travis Scott** to shut down splitting rumours.

The 22-year-old make-up mogul took to social media to share the sweet picture with her 146 million followers after fans questioned whether they had parted ways.

The photograph shows Scott and one-year-old daughter Stormi having a wonderful time with Kylie at a zoo in Los Angeles.

She captioned the picture — 'Happy Wednesday'.



We have been watching the father-son duo Sunny and Karan Deol for a while. At the press conference that preceded the interviews, they made sure to answer each question, some humorously and others, a little seriously. When a reporter asked Sunny to deliver one of his famous dialogues, he pushed his son forward and said, *abhi bachchon ki baat karte hain* (We must talk about the kids now). Even when all the those who were assembled requested him again, he stood his ground before asking Karan to sing a song from his forthcoming film. As often happens, even when it concerns parents who are nowhere near the arc lights, Sunny too placed his offspring in focus. So despite performances from his past films having made a strong impression on people's hearts, the actor-turned-director does not seem to be hankering for more attention.

When questioned about taking a backseat for his son's debut, Sunny said, "I am not bothered about such things because I am not insecure. Even when I started my career I was beyond all this. I want to tell youngsters to be confident and proud of who they are. Success and failure are a part of life because every one cannot have the same pace. You should enjoy every moment because life happens but once. There is no point creating more stress for no rhyme and reason."

Karan is making his debut with *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas*. It is a love story set in snowy regions of Himachal Pradesh. Directed by Sunny, the film revolves around the journey of two youngsters who are in love and ready to face any hurdles to be together.

Working with a family member and that too a son is special for anyone. But in such cases it is important to maintain a balance between the personal and the professional. "It was a great experience. *Jaisi humari family hai, humlog beta baap door-door hi rehte hai, dost nahi hote*. (The kind of family that we have, my son and I usually stay apart. We are not friends). It took three years to prepare for this film. During this journey both of us spent a lot of time with each other. I will always cherish these years," said Sunny. While talking about his son, the slight smile that consistently hovered on his lips revealed his love.

But a father launching his son naturally gives rise to the loud whispers about nepotism especially in Bollywood with two opposing camps arguing for and against it. When asked about the same, Sunny answered really promptly as if he was anticipating the question. "Had people not favoured nepotism, they would have asked some questions from the heroine too during the press conference. But they did not. Every question was directed at either me or my son. This itself explains the mindset of the people. I believe, every child's journey is based on his/her capabilities. It has nothing to do with what their parents have done," said he.

Of course when your father is the director, it is inevitable that most people would allege that Karan would get a stronger role. But Karan disagrees. "It's a perception. When you see the film, you will realise that both the characters are equally strong. They are supporting each other."

Sunny explained that he had not planned that Karan should debut in a film directed by him and would have preferred some other director. But that didn't materialise. For lack of options, he decided to take on the mantle on himself.

From an actor Sunny who has displayed his charismatic personality, to a director, he believes that there is no such thing as "challenge" in life. Acting and directing are professions that he has taken up and both need preparation. He said, "There are people who speak out their problems loudly but one

FILIAL BOND

Actor-turned-director **SUNNY DEOL** prefers to put the spotlight firmly on his son **KARAN** for *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas*, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

'SHOOTING IN HILLY REGIONS IS TOUGH BECAUSE IT'S A DIFFERENT LIFESTYLE ALTOGETHER. IT TOOK TIME TO ADJUST TO THAT PLACE. I HAD TO WAKE UP EARLY AND TREK IN THE COLD WEATHER. IT WAS VERY TAXING PHYSICALLY. POST TREK I HAD TO RAPPEL AND DO ROCK CLIMBING. I USED TO CRASH AS SOON AS I HIT THE BED'

should not. I have understood that *mushkile sabke paas hai, mai koi alag thodi hu*. (Everyone has some problems, I am no different). If you don't have problems, you will remain in your comfort zone and not move forward. I would encourage the youth not to fall prey to that."

The first hurdle was the kind of film that Sunny wanted to make. The senior Deol had decided that he wanted to make a film but was not sure about the storyline. "I hired Jassi and Ravi (writers) and we did a lot of brainstorming before coming up with an idea. As the germ of an idea made its presence felt, I realised that this was something I always wanted to do. I wanted to understand today's generation and bring forth their perspective. We often try to put the youth in a pre-determined mould rather than understanding what they want to do. There was a time when we followed traditional practices, but we cannot enforce the same on our kids. Today's youth is very different," said Sunny. However, one thing which made the film different was that he had not put any restrictions before the shoot began as Sunny wanted the story to find its own path.

The film has been shot in villages near Manali where survival is tough. The actors had to go through physically and mentally challenging hurdles which were in addition to the fact that both of them are young and naive. Karan has played the role of a Himachali boy which was not easy for a boy who grew up in urban Mumbai. So, prior to the shoot he spent three to four months analysing and understanding how people live in that region. He said, "It was tough because it's a different lifestyle altogether. It took time to adjust to that place. I had to wake up early and trek in the cold weather. It was very taxing physically. Post trek I had to rappel and do rock climbing. I used to crash as soon as I hit the bed. Dad took us to a place where there was hardly any civilisation. It was very tough to bring out emotions as the high altitude presented another set of challenges." But the actor is glad that he went through the gruelling experience as he now has a sense of accomplishment.

He added that he has found a new love and affection for his city. While Karan was balancing the role of an actor, his father had to look at all the aspects of the film rather being focussed on just acting. Sunny said that he was looking for the best singer because music plays a vital role. "My music is very new and story-driven. I believe that a song should always go with the flow of the story

rather than putting it just for the sake of it. I am fond of doing new and interesting things as remakes are boring," he said.

But looking back at his chequered career, even people who hadn't been born when *Ghayal* was released in 1990, are well versed with his famous dialogue, "*Jab yeh dhai kilo ka haath kisi pe padta hai na, toh aadmi uthta nahi uthh jata hai?*" The *Gadar* actor is known for his strong roles. Irrespective of whether it is a comic or a serious role, it was his powerful personality that made an impact. He said, "No matter what the role was, the way I portrayed it made it different. I tried to infuse all my roles with a personal touch so that it looked natural." Recalling an incident from his film *Ziddi* he said, "There is a scene where people tell me, '*tumhari behen ko usne chedh diya*.' I believe that if someone does this in reality *main haath ukhad dunga*. Because I wanted the scene to look natural I said that those were the dialogues I wanted to mouth. When people heard this, they started laughing wondering how could someone do this. But I did that scene. That's my belief, as an actor. When I take up something I do it with honesty."

There is another role that Sunny has taken upon himself, that of a member of Parliament from Gurdaspur. On foraying into the field of politics, he said that it is one more profession he wanted to do justice to. "People know that if I take up anything in life I take it to a high point where it should have been," said he.

During the whole session Karan seemed quite nervous. When asked about the same, before we could even complete the sentence Sunny defended him. He said (pointing towards the lead actors of the film) "They have come to a point where what happens on a Friday will dictate their tomorrow. They are unaware whether it will be smooth, hard or filled with opportunities."

When asked about the plethora of emotions that Karan was going through, he said, "I feel nervous and excited. I am eagerly waiting for the response to my film." As he answered the questions his face began to turn red clearly revealing how frightened he was. He added that his anxiety won't let him sleep until the film releases. Pointing towards Sunny he said, "I can understand now what he must be going through with every release." The thought that first impression is the last has Karan worried.

Right from the black and white era when Dharmendra became a part of the industry, to Sunny and Bobby, the Deols have made a mark in Bollywood. Naturally, with such a family background, the baggage is heavier. Karan said, "People are keenly looking out for your negatives to put you down. They don't see that it's my first experience as an actor. I can't be perfect from the word go just because I come from a particular family. With time and experience, I will polish myself and grow as an actor. I want to push my family name forward and hopefully with this film, I will be able to do that."

The film has a plethora of emotions ranging from excitement, sadness and romance, it was not easy for Karan to portray one and switch to another instantly. For an experienced actor that would be easy but tough for a beginner. He shared that during an emotional scene Sunny made sure that the atmosphere of the set facilitated it.

Crediting all his learnings to his father, Karan said, "No other director would have pushed me the way dad did. When I went home after shoot, he taught me how to get into the mood for a scene instantly. As he knows my personality he was aware how to bring out a particular emotion. It is important for a director to know a person, especially a newcomer so that s/he can be moulded in a desired way. Because he is an actor himself he understands all the facets better. And it was my dad, so yes it was a really emotional journey."

Photo: Panikaj Kumar



Deepika Padukone in a lilac lace gown

Alia Bhatt showed up in a flowy off-shoulder gown

Sara Ali Khan showed up in a pristine white ball gown

Madhuri Dixit in a red-hot gown

Ranveer Singh wore a quirky pant suit

A hundred battles

Actor **BRAD PITT** talks about his new film *Ad Astra*, his struggle with alcoholism and the MeToo movement

Actor Brad Pitt opened up about his struggles with alcoholism and the efforts he made in order to face his problems. He said, "Initially, I didn't know how to deal with my painful feelings. But I don't even want to run from anything, instead want to sit and feel it. I want to get through the rough night. And I found, in doing so, you just come out of it with a more profound understanding of yourself and gratefulness for those in your life."

In an interview with Christiane Amanpour, chief anchor for CNN, he discussed his new film *Ad Astra*, his battle with alcoholism and the Me Too movement. Space epic *Ad Astra* tackles a range of topics. Pitt talked about the film's focus on loneliness, father-and-son relationships, masculinity and vulnerability. He said that there his love for the sci-fi genre made him sign this film. "I didn't want to do it until I figured we could do something that would add to a successful genre. And I think James Gray had a really interesting take that we hadn't seen before. It just seemed the subject matter of, I guess, finding self at this age in my life, it seemed interesting," said Pitt and went on to add, "When you get older, you just get tired of everything. And we wanted to get on with this film in that way. We all carry great pains and major regrets. We have all experienced loss and loneliness. And we're good at packing that away, not dealing with it, some are really good at getting through it and coming out the other side in a more well-rounded and confident manner. So we just wanted to like get it out there."

The two went on to discuss the summer hit *Once Upon a Time in*



Hollywood and Pitt's breakout role in *Thelma and Louise*.

Amanpour spoke to Pitt about the Me-Too movement and his early part in calling out Harvey Weinstein in the 1990s. When then girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow was propositioned by Weinstein, Pitt confronted the media mogul. Asked about the incident, Pitt downplayed his own role in the movement but gave credit to its importance. He said, "At that moment, I was a boy from the Ozarks on the playground and that's how we confronted with things. And I wanted to make sure nothing happened further because Paltrow was going to do two films. I think that the interesting thing is that we, Hollywood specifically, but the work place, men and women's dynamic is being recalibrated in a very good way, and it's long overdue. And I do think that's an important story to tell."



ORGANIC WHOLE

Chef MAGGIE BEER believes in putting together dishes made with ingredients from her own garden that guarantees the best of taste

Maggie Beer did not let a lack of formal training come in the way of her metamorphosing into a legendary cook and author. Whenever she makes an appearance as a guest judge on *MasterChef Australia* it tends to create a lot of excitement among the contestants as they realise that they would be mentored by one of the country's most cherished and respected chefs.

Beer's career extends over five decades and she has been a part of the much-loved show since the very beginning. She worked at a Scottish sailing school during a European trip in her early twenties where she says, "I used the entire larder for the four-month season in eight weeks because I am a very generous cook and that's the only way I know how to do it." After relocating from Sydney to the Barossa Valley, Beer, with her husband Colin, established the Farm Shop in 1979 which morphed into the Barossa Pheasant Farm Restaurant later. It became well-known for serving locally sourced pheasant as well as a *pate*.

When questioned about her journey to becoming one of the world's most famous chefs, she laughs and says, "I call myself a cook and not a chef. I grew up in a family where food and cooking were very important. I started learning about food since then. My parents cooked every-

thing from scratch. We had our own farm and that helped me a lot in understanding the ingredients." Growing up as she did, the chef always had an inclination towards food and cooking so she started with some of her farm produce which marked the beginning of her career.

Along the way she has developed her own food philosophy. "I see myself as a country cook and a produce-driven cook, I cannot waste any product or ingredients. My philosophy is to make every dish in such a way that the ingredients are used properly and efficiently," she says.

Talking about her experience at *Masterchef* she says, "The most beautiful thing about the show is the excited young people who have a dream that they are following. It is good to see how dedicated they are in pursuing their passion. They give a part of themselves to the show. They come with an eagerness and ability to learn and do it very quickly too. So I love their openness to learning."

The chef has not visited India for a long time. She says, "When I was 21, I stopped in New Delhi for some time on my way to Europe. And considering that I will turn 75 in January, that was a long long time ago."

As for Indian food, she is in love with the spices and legumes. "I love things like dough, vignettes and tamarinds. I love



the *Dosa* too because it is a tremendous blend of so many flavours and at the same time it's so crisp," added she. "I don't cook all these as I stick to Mediterranean," she laughs and adds, "But I have tried and tasted all of them when others cook them for me."

Like any other chef, Beer too has her favourites when putting together a meal. "There are some ingredients that I cannot do or live without, extra virgin olive oil being one. But my routine is that we have a big vegetable garden and it's about following the seasons, going to the pantries, looking at the organic produce, getting the right seeds... and more. And my routine is thinking at the last moment what am I going to have for dinner? So I look at the garden and I see all the beautiful and amazing things. It's a very relaxed routine even though I work very long hours. In that routine, I grab and feel a lot of new experiences everyday. So my routine is just to be seduced by whatever looks the most beautiful and make it into a dish," she says with a laugh.

Despite being a much-renowned chef, she believes that cooking is not looked upon as a celebrated career even now. There are people still struggling with their passion "My advice is to understand that hard work can lead you to dizzying heights. And your dream is only likely to be fulfilled if you're truly passionate about it. You want to learn and keep evolving. You should be ready to absorb everything that's been put in front of you. If you have a real interest in cooking, it is one of the most rewarding things to do," she says.

Despite cooking for so many years and having gathered a plethora of experiences, there are some dreams which continue to be yet to be achieved. "My one dream is that I make beautiful ice creams, which are really very special, super premium. We make them commercially and export to China. So my one dream is to be able to export them to India as well. I have always wanted to explore the country and by exporting our ice creams, I'll get its people to taste our produce as well," she says.

However, Beer has not let herself be confined to just cooking but is extending her domain by way of her foundation. "In Australia, food health is not as important and sometimes neglected. So we have a lot of age care homes that need to get much more beautiful food. It can be institutionalised. And I kind of accept that. So I am trying to change the food to give it a whole new flavour and also a pleasure to the residents in age care homes who are no longer able to cook by themselves. So that actually keeps me busy."

(The season 11 of the show airs on Star World.)



Got a haul of apples?

There are many great things one can do with the fruit that don't include making a pie. Here are some ideas that you might not have thought of

It's that time of year again, when fresh Apples are piled high at farmer's markets. If you are lucky enough to live near an orchard, you can take the day and pick your own bushel of apples. But whether you are picking them at the market or off a tree, there are many great things to do with apples that don't include making a pie. Besides apple pie, some ideas you might not have thought of:

- Cut apples into matchstick-size strips and add them to your favorite kale salad for a tart and crunchy addition.
- Sauté chunks of peeled apples in butter, season them with a touch of sugar and a pinch of salt, and serve them with any egg dish to brighten up breakfast. In the South, these are sometimes "fried" with bacon fat and called "fried apples," but I prefer butter. Sautéed apples are also great in pancakes. Let them cool, and add to your favorite pancake batter. If you are a fan of cinnamon like I am, add a pinch and they'll taste like apple pie.
- Make an apple upside-down cake, and add cranberries for a festive touch. Use your favorite pineapple upside-down cake recipe but substitute apples.
- Make a gourmet open-faced tartine, aka sandwich with brie cheese and apples. Brush the bread with your favorite jam — think fig, apricot, raspberry, etc. and top with apples, brie and walnuts. Melt under a broiler and enjoy!
- Make a faux sauerkraut for fall sausages by cooking down grated apples, sliced onions and fennel. Finish with a pinch of caraway seeds and a couple of tablespoons of butter for richness.
- Cook apples slowly until they melt into homemade applesauce. Begin by peeling and coring the apples, and add the juice of a large lemon, and a little sugar and cinnamon. Put the lid on the pot and slowly cook on the stovetop. When they have cooked down to the texture of chunky applesauce, taste and season as you like.
- If you have a juicer, make your own apple juice and serve it cold or hot.



● Make your own apple butter. Cook about 5 pounds of apples with ½ cup of apple cider until they are deep brown and have a creamy, "buttery" consistency. Season with your favorite autumn spices. No sugar necessary. You can do this easily in a slow cooker or a pressure cooker. The slow cooker is the slow, all day method and the pressure cooker is the fast method.

Reminder: If you get a bunch of apples, keep them in a cool place. I have had success keeping them for months in the crisper drawer of my refrigerator. If you picked your own and went a little crazy, and have too many to fit in your refrigerator, wrap each apple individually in paper — unprinted newsprint paper works well — and store in the garage or basement where it is cool. Be careful of any rotting apples, because the old saying "One bad apple spoils the bunch" is true.

My favorite thing to make with extra apples is my Grandmother Odom's Apple Cake. The recipe doesn't call for any liquid because the fresh apples give up their juice as the cake bakes, and that creates liquid in the batter. It's a simple cake to make and is positively addicting. In fact, anytime I have a prickly relationship with someone, I make them my grandmother's cake and it changes our relationship! I call it The Power of Grandmother Odom's Apple Cake.

—AP

gorgeous

Varq, the modern Indian restaurant at the Taj Mahal Hotel, is all set to celebrate its 11th anniversary. To mark this milestone, culinary legends like chef Naren Thimmaiah from Karavalli restaurant will curate the first ever Karavalli experience in the city. He will curate special dishes like *Crab milagu fry*, *Sea crab ghee roast*, *Malvani surmai tawa fry*, *Tiger prawns roast*, vegetarian dishes and many more.

Date: September 21 to 28 **Time:** 12:30 pm to 2:45 pm (lunch); 7 pm to 11:45 pm (dinner) **Price:** ₹5,000 **Venue:** Varq, The Taj Mahal Hotel.

The chefs at SET'Z, MKT and Cha Shi introduce a special thali curation of three different cuisines — Oriental, Coastal and North Indian. In the North Indian menu, there is *Anar raita*, *Kuttu puri*, *Sabudana papad* and *Kheer*. The Oriental delicacies have *Cantonese tong sui soup*, *Crispy fried lotus stem*, *Tossed asian greens*, *Lemon grass rice*. The Coastal journey includes *Kadala manga sala*, *Samak pulao*, *Paneer moilee*, *Kuttu masala dosa* and *Pappali halwa*. **Date:** September 29 to October 7 **Time:** 11 am to 11 pm **Venue:** SET'Z @DLF Emporio and MKT.



Swad is serving food in a *desi* Sway. It offers a range of delicacies from *Mushroom chettinad phulka* tacos to *Chimichanga rolls* with *tamar gur salsa*, *Roast soya boti* with mini appam, *Garlic soy paneer tartlet*, *Kurkure kebabs* and many more. **Date:** Till September **Time:** 12 noon to 11:30 pm **Price:** ₹ 800 (plus taxes) **Venue:** SS Plaza, Vikas marg, Gurugram.



Tea Lounge offers a variety of *Kulle ki chaat* to fill your between-the-meal time with different flavours. The menu offers *Papri chaat*, *Tikki chaat*, *Shakarkandi ki chaat*, *Samosa chaat* and various fruit *chaats* along with traditional condiments. **Date:** Till September 30 **Time:** 11 am to 8 pm **Price:** ₹500 (plus taxes) **Venue:** Tea Lounge, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place.



Mellow Garden offers favourite drinks at MRP. One can get pegs of *Martini Bianco*, *Martini Rosso*, *Kahula*, *Triple Sec*, *Glenfiddich* (12 Yrs), *Talisker* (10 Yrs), *Jim Beam*, *Jameson*, *Jack Daniel's* and a lot more at reasonable prices. **Date:** Till September 30 **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Price:** ₹165 Onwards (plus taxes) **Venue:** The Mellow Garden, Rajouri Garden.



RECIPES



COCONUT CRUSTED FISH CAKES

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fresh coconut (grated)
- Indian salmon fillet: 500 gm
- Cilantro: 2 tbsp
- Cloves of garlic: 2
- Ginger: 20 gm
- Lime juice: 10 ml
- Chopped pineapple: 50 gm
- Red onion: 25 gm
- Coconut water: 1/2 cup
- Sriracha sauce: 10 gm
- Red pepper: 20 gm
- Tomatoes: 20 gm
- Sea salt: 1 pinch
- Coconut oil: 10 ml
- Chopped coriander: 10 gm
- METHOD
- Marinate fillets with salt

and lime juice for 15 minutes.

- Grill the fillets well in coconut oil.
- Cool and mince the fillets or flake with hands and mix chopped onion, coriander, sriracha sauce, grated fresh coconut, chopped ginger and chopped garlic.
- Shape them into gallettes, coat with fresh grated coconut and grill in coconut oil.
- Prepare the salsa by mixing chopped pineapple, tomatoes, cilantro, mint leaves, red pepper and coconut water and oil.
- Serve the coconut fish cakes, with the salsa.

Courtesy: Executive chef Gautam Mehrishi at Vivanta New Delhi, Dwarka

KANDHARI LAMB SHANK

WHAT YOU NEED

For marination:

- Sea salt: 1 tsp
- Garlic: 5-7 cloves
- Ginger: 1 medium bulb
- Garam masala: 1 tsp
- Curd: 2 tsp

For sauce:

- Mustard oil
- Black cardamom: 2
- Green cardamom: 4
- Mace: 2
- Bay leaf: 1

- Black pepper (crushed): 8
- Cloves: 5
- Ginger: 1 medium bulb
- Garlic: 10 cloves
- Onion (chopped): 3
- Dry red chilli
- Turmeric powder
- Salt to taste
- Coriander powder
- Curd: 1 cup
- Cream: 2 tbsp
- Mutton Stock: 5 cups

METHOD

- Wash and pat dry the lamb shanks. Marinate them with



sea salt, ginger-garlic paste and rub it with a mixture of *garam masala* and curd. Refrigerate for about 45 minutes to an hour.

- Prepare mutton stock. You can simmer mutton cracked

bones in water for an hour and half or buy mutton stock cubes.

- Once the meat is marinated, heat mustard oil in a deep pot over medium fire till it begins to smoke. Add black and green cardamom, mace, bay leaf, crushed black pepper, cloves and stir till the aroma of the spices is extracted.

- Add the marinated shank to the pot and stir till the meat is evenly seared. Lower the heat and continue cooking for about 15 to 20 minutes, stir occasionally.

- Continue cooking till the water evaporates. Add garlic and ginger paste and stir till the paste is evenly mixed.

- Add the chopped onion and cook for another 20 to 25 minutes. Cover the pot with a lid, stir occasionally.
- Sprinkle mutton stock if the pot becomes too dry and continue cooking on low heat till the onions appear brown and mashed. Then remove the lid and get rid of the extra water.

- Add *deggi mirch* powder, haldi powder, coriander

powder and mix well.

- Stir and cook for 2-3 minutes. Check, the mutton should be cooked by now.

- Add curd and mix well. Add the mutton stock, depending upon how thick you want the gravy, add a little extra to compensate for evaporation and then add salt and cook.

- Remove the shanks and place them on the plate, pour the Kandhari gravy over it.
- Serve hot. Best enjoyed with Khameeri roti or Taftan

Courtesy: Corporate chef Sidharth Sharma at Saints N Sinners

Evening in Paris

Angel's brace helps PSG thrash Real 3-0; Herrera snatches late point against Juve



Angel Di Maria celebrates after scoring PSG's opening goal against Real Madrid. AP

FIGURATIVELY

1 Paris-Real Madrid is the first game in the history of the UCL where both teams have more players of the nationality of the opposing team than of their own in their starting 11 (3 in Real, 1 in Paris — 2 in Paris, 1 in Real).

0 Real Madrid failed to have a single shot on target against PSG tonight, the first time they have failed to do so in the UCL since 2003-04 (in 167 games).

3 Angel Di Maria is only the 3rd player to score at least 2 goals in a match against Real Madrid and Barcelona in the history of the CL after Mário Jardel and Andriy Shevchenko.

4 Angel Di Maria has been involved in 4 of Paris' last 6 goals in the CL (1 goal, 3 assists).

7 Kieran Trippier created seven chances for Atlético Madrid against Juventus, the most by any player on MD1 of this season's tournament.

2 Atlético de Madrid has conceded two or more goals in three straight matches in all competitions for the second time in the Simeone era, the first was in February 2014.

4 Juan Cuadrado has scored each of his four CL goals in away games.

1 The 2019-20 CL season is the first campaign to see two different players score a hat-trick on their debut (Mislav Orsic and Erling Haaland).

16 The Bayern Munich wins for the 16th time in a row his opening match in the CL and thus expands the record in this competition.

2011 It's the first time since Barca and Man Utd in 2011 when both CL winners and runners up did not win their first game in the following season.

82 Rodrigo completed all 82 passes that he attempted in Manchester City's win against Shakhtar; the most passes with a 100% success rate in UCL since Oct 2017 (Barzagli for Juventus v Sporting CP — 96/96).

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain launched their latest quest for Champions League success with a statement win over Real Madrid on Wednesday, while a late Atletico Madrid comeback foiled Juventus as Manchester City eased to victory in Ukraine.

French giants PSG have failed to make their mark in Europe, crashing out of the Champions League in the last 16 each of the past three years despite the huge sums of money spent by their Qatari owners.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di Maria stepped up in their absence by grabbing two first-half goals in a 3-0 triumph at the Parc des Princes.

Thomas Meunier added the third late on as Madrid, who beat PSG on the way to lifting the trophy in 2016

and 2018, were soundly beaten in their Group A opener with Eden Hazard kept quiet on his full debut. "There's no message sent, but we dominated this game very well," PSG captain Thiago Silva told *RMC Sport*.

"We have to play like this all the time, in the league as well, with character and hunger." Real, the 13-time European champions, are still favourites to advance from a section that includes Club Brugge and Galatasaray, who drew 0-0 in Belgium, but the nature of the loss underscored the work that lies ahead for coach Zinedine Zidane.

Diego Simeone's Atletico clawed their way back from two goals down in the final 20 minutes to rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Juventus in Group D.

The anticipated clash between Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix, the teenager



Atletico Madrid's Hector Herrera scores his side's second goal during Group D match against Juventus. AP

touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, took a backseat to a Atletico rousing comeback after second-half goals from Juan Cuadrado and Blaise Matuidi put Juve in control. Stefan Savic nodded home from point-blank range to give Atletico hope

and substitute Hector Herrera headed in a corner in the final minute to snatch a point.

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands," said Juventus boss Maurizio Sarri.

STRONG RESPONSE Both sides trail Lokomotiv Moscow following the Russians' 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen. Grzegorz Krychowiak and Dmitri Barinov scored for Lokomotiv either side of an own goal by former Germany defender Benedikt

"We can't be too surprised because he (Di Maria) has been showing for more than a year now that he is capable of performances like that. He was exceptional tonight. He is always dangerous."

—THOMAS TUCHEL (PSG coach)

"PSG are a good team and created lots of chances but what worries me is that my team played without any intensity. We didn't really ever get going. We usually create lots of chances and today, well we scored two goals but both were disallowed. Apart from that there was nothing."

—ZINEDINE ZIDANE (Real Madrid coach)

"I'm happy to have made my first appearance and to have helped the team. This side is known for how it always fights to the end. A draw against a team like Juventus isn't bad at all. We wanted to win the match but a draw is a good result given the quality of the opposition."

—HECTOR HERRERA (Atlético de Madrid midfielder)

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands. We need more attention and focus on set-pieces. We will work on that."

—MAURIZIO SARRI (Juventus manager)

"We put ourselves in a great position. But conceding a goal before half-time changed the momentum."

—HARRY KANE (Tottenham Hotspur striker)

"I believe we can be very satisfied, the team concentrated very hard on the job at hand. We scored three goals, that's standard for us."

—NIKO KOVAC (Bayern Munich manager)

"Three points away are so important. Now it's in our hands. If we can close the games at home then we will be in the last 16."

—PEP GUARDIOLA (Manchester City boss)

Hoewedes.

Premier League champions City bounced back from defeat by Norwich at the weekend with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Shakhtar Donetsk in Kharkiv.

Riyad Mahrez slammed home a rebound after Ilkay Gundogan hit the post, and the German international smacked in a second before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points on 76 minutes.

"When you win the manager makes the right decisions, when you lose the wrong decisions. We lost one game in eight months and we will not doubt who these players are. It is a joy to be their manager," coach Pep Guardiola told *BT Sport*.

City are second to Dinamo Zagreb in Group C after the Croatian champions made it a night to forget for competition debutants Atalanta with a 4-0 rout.

Dinamo failed to score a single goal as they lost all six matches on their last group stage appearance in 2016-17.

However, Marin Leovac gave them a 10th-minute lead and Mislav Orsic bagged a hat-trick as Dinamo got off to a dream start ahead of a trip to City on October 2.

Bayern Munich needed late goals from Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller to make sure of victory against Red Star Belgrade in Group D.

Kingsley Coman's bullet header gave Bayern a first-half lead but the German champions were forced to wait until the 80th minute before Lewandowski ended Red Star's threat.

Substitute Mueller volleyed in a third in stoppage time. Last year's finalists Tottenham blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Olympiakos.

Harry Kane's penalty and a fine Lucas Moura strike put Spurs 2-0 up after 30 minutes in Greece, but Daniel Podence cut the deficit shortly before the break and Mathieu Valbuena levelled from the spot in the second half.

SINGLES

DANANJAYA BANNED FOR ILLEGAL ACTION
DUBAI: Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was on Thursday handed a 12 month ban by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment of his action. The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his bowling action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle from August 14th to 18th. He subsequently underwent the independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he employed an illegal bowling action.

INDIA SLIPS IN FIFA RANKING

ZURICH: The Indian football team on Thursday slipped a place to 104th position in the latest FIFA rankings. The Indian team, coached by Igor Stimac, have been regularly playing since the 2019 Intercontinental Cup in July. Earlier this month, India had held Asian champions Qatar to a goalless draw in Doha to gain their first point in the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers. Qatar held on to their ranking of 62nd position, despite not being able to beat India. Oman, however, gained three places to 84th spot, following their 2-1 win over India. Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France have surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot.

MARKRAM, MULDER LED FIGHTBACK

MYSRUR: Skipper Aiden Markram and allrounder Wiaan Mulder hit superb hundreds as South Africa 'A' fought their way to 400 all out against India 'A' on day three of the second unofficial Test on Thursday. Markram geared up for the three-Test series against India with a superb 161, while Mulder produced an unbeaten 131 — as the visitors came within 17 runs of India A's first innings of 417. The duo added 155 runs for the sixth wicket stand to resurrect the South Africa A's innings after they were struggling at 142 for 5 at one stage. The home team were 14 for no loss in six overs before bad light resulted in play being called off with over 25 overs still to be bowled.

DIBABA OUT OF WORLDS WITH INJURY

PARIS: Genzebe Dibaba, the 2015 champion and world record holder in the women's 1,500 metres, will miss the World Championships due to a foot injury, the Ethiopian said on Instagram. Dibaba, 28, who won the world title in Beijing in 2015 and set the global best of 3min 50.07sec over the distance the same year, is suffering from a partial rupture to a ligament in her right heel which she suffered during the Zurich Diamond League meeting last month. "Unfortunately I am not able to be at Doha World Championship. I am already working to come back stronger!" she posted alongside a photo.

TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR ASIAN SHOOTING

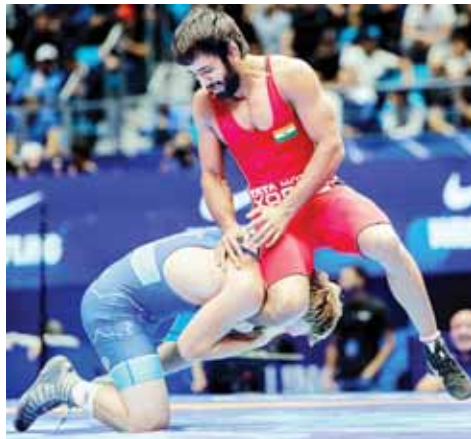
NEW DELHI: A 41-member strong Indian shooting squad will look to secure the maximum possible Olympic quotas in the 14th Asian Championship, which begins in Doha on November 3. Thirty-eight Olympic quota places will be up for grabs in the continental tournament in the Qatari capital. The selection committee of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), announced the team consisting of shooters across the 15 Olympic events, including six entries only for the non-competition Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) section. A notable selection was the fielding of seasoned rifle shooter Sanjeev Rajput in the MQS section of the men's 10m Air Rifle event. There are also some new faces who will be seen for the first time in senior India colours in the Olympic events.

BENGAL BEAT HARYANA STEELERS IN PKL

PUNE: Maninder Singh was the star for Bengal Warriors as they beat Haryana Steelers 48-36 in their Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) match here on Thursday. The victory helped Bengal Warriors consolidate their stay in the second place of the points table. Bengal Warriors dominated the first half of the match with their raiding trio of Maninder Singh, K Prapannan and Mohammad Nabibaksh picking points with ease against a Haryana defence that evidently lacked leadership. Bengal's dominance wasn't limited to their raids though as their aggressive approach in defence paid rich dividends.

AGENCIES

Bajrang loses in semis after qualifying for 2020 Olympics



Bajrang Punia in action against David Habat during the pre-quarter round. PTI

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Bajrang Punia lost his semi-final bout against home wrestler Daulet Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances after sealing his Tokyo Olympics quota along with Ravi Dahiya, who made his presence felt in a star-studded field at the World Wrestling Championships, here on Thursday.

Bajrang's frustrated coach Shako Benitidis kicked the coach's block in anger after the 65kg bout ended 9-9 following a nerve-wracking six minutes. Since Niyazbekov was given a bigger throw of four points in the bout, he was

declared the winner. In the fiercely-fought bout, the referee gave ample time to tiring Niyazbekov to catch his breath and he was not given caution at least thrice. Instead Niyazbekov was awarded four points when it was Bajrang who effected a throw at the edge of the circle. "I challenged it and they should have given at least two points to Bajrang for that hold," said coach Benitidis. Several times, Bajrang raised his hands in frustration but to no avail. The last edition Silver medalist Indian will now fight for the Bronze today. "It was clear that the mat chairman favoured the home

wrestler," said a coach who did not wish to be named.

Ravi, who felled a few stars on his way to the 57kg semi-finals, lost 4-6 to reigning world champion Zaur Uguev of Russia and will also fight for the Bronze.

Ravi also made it to the Tokyo Olympics in the 57kg after stunning Arsen Harutunyan, the 61kg European champion from Armenia and 2017 world champion and world number three Yuki Takahashi of Japan.

Meanwhile, India's campaign in the women's competition folded following Pooja Dhand's defeat in the Bronze medal bout and first round exits of Sakshi Malik and Divya Kakran.

Pooja could not match his last year's Bronze winning performance as she lost the 59kg Bronze medal play-off 3-5 to 2018 Asian champion Xingru Pei.

There was no end to the woes of Rio Olympic Bronze medalist Sakshi Malik, who lost her opening round 7-10 to Nigeria's Aminat Adeniyi. She was knocked out of the tournament after the Nigerian lost her quarterfinal bout.

Sakshi waited too long to attack while her powerful opponent moved quickly.

In the 68kg, Divya Kakran could not do much against reigning Olympic champion Sara Dosho from Japan, losing the bout 0-2.

Dosho later lost her quarterfinal bout, closing repechage doors on Divya.

Kamal-Sathiyam storm into quarters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's doubles pair of G Sathiyam and Achanta Sharath Kamal sailed into the quarterfinals of the 24th ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with easy win over Mahfoudh Sayed Murtadha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain at Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Thursday.

The Indian duo beat Murtadha and Rashed 11-8, 11-6, 11-3 in a lop-sided affair.

In the quarterfinals, Sathiyam and Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun and Lin Gaoyuan.

Earlier in the day after receiving first-round bye, the Indians got the better of Jordan's Abo Yaman Zaid and Aldmaizy Zeyad 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 in the round of 32.

But the other Indian pair of Harmeet Desai and Anthony Amalraj, after enjoying a bye in the round of 64, lost to Chinese Taipei's Liu Hsing-Yin and Peng Wang Wei.

Harmeet and Amalraj fought hard before losing 11-5, 7-11, 11-3, 8-11, 6-11 against their accomplished Chinese rivals.

It was curtains for India in the women's doubles as the pair of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath and Madhurika Patkar and Sutirtha Mukherjee bowed out the tournament.

The pair of Manika and Archana had an easy round of 64 outing, beating the Kazak duo of Lavnova Anastasiya and Khuseinova Gulchekhra 3-0 but lost in the next round to Korean combination of Yang Haeun and

In the quarters, Sathiyam & Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun & Lin Gaoyuan

Jeon Jhee 6-11, 9-11, 7-11.

Madhurika and Sutirtha followed suit as they lost to Doo Hoi Kem and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong 9-11, 5-11, 11-13 after clearing the round of 64 hurdle against Macau's Tao Chong and Lei Wai Mei 3-0.

In the mixed event, the pairs of Sharath Kamal-Manika and Sathiyam-Archana lost in the round of 32.

While Korean pair of Lee Sangsu and Joo Hyeon accounted for Sharath and Manika 11-9, 11-8, 11-7, China's Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha beat Sathiyam and Archana 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.

In men singles, Sharath Kamal, Sathiyam, Amalraj, Harmeet and Manav Thakkar had all received first-round byes and registered 3-0 wins over their respective rivals in the round of 128.

Only Harmeet dropped a game against Panagittun Yanapang of Thailand before overcoming his rival 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 11-5.

All the Indian men's singles paddlers will play their round of 64 matches later in the day.

In women singles, Archana enjoyed the random bye in the round of 128 while others had to play their first round matches to enter the round of 64.

Panghal, Manish aim for history

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

India would be aiming to better their best ever show when Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) step inside the ring against tough opponents in pursuit of summit berths in the World Men's Boxing Championship here today.

India have never had two semifinalists at the marquee event for amateur boxers and in that respect, the two Haryana boxers have already scripted history.

But if both or either of them manages to make the finals, it would be a gigantic step forward for the sport in the country.

The task, however, is easier said than done.

Panghal has in his way Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, who stunned Armenia's European Gold-medallist and sixth seed Artur Hovhannissyan in the quarterfinals.

Kaushik, on the other hand, faces the most accomplished boxer in his weight category — Cuban top seed Andy Gomez Cruz, who out-punched Russia's eighth-seeded Ilya Popov in the last-eight stage.

"Now begins the tough job. We have already delivered on bettering the medal count and now we aim to better their colour," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

"I am happy but I won't be completely happy till the time both of them reach the finals and they surely can, both of them," added the country's chief coach C A Kuttappa.

They are up against tough challengers but that in no way



makes them automatic underdogs.

Panghal, the pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak, is the reigning Asian Games and Championships Gold-medallist and has back-to-back gold medals at one of Europe's oldest tournament — the Strandja Memorial.

Kaushik, the shy man hailing from the cradle of Indian boxing Bhiwani, is a Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and is a two-time national medal winner.

Both are employed with the Indian Army and both have shown a soldier's grit in some draining bouts so far.

QUALIFIERS SEALED Amit Panghal (52kg) and

Manish Kaushik (63kg) have also made the Indian boxing squad for next year's Olympic Qualifiers owing to their medal-winning show.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) had made it clear that boxers who win medals at the world championships will be automatic picks for the Olympic qualifiers scheduled in February in China.

"Yes, Amit and Manish will be going to the qualifiers. There will not be any trials in their weight categories now," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

The rest of the squad will be picked on the basis of camp performance, points accumulated at international events and in some cases, trials.

FROM START TO STOP

Deepak fond of bowling at death despite success in the starting overs

PTI ■ MOHALI

Most bowlers find it tough to contain batsmen in death overs but young India pacer Deepak Chahar relishes the challenge in the Twenty20 format.

With India giving youngsters opportunities ahead of the T20 World Cup next year, 27-year-old Chahar has impressed in the three games he has got since making his debut in July last year, taking six wickets at 11.50.

Used to opening the bowling for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Chahar has shown he can be equally effective in the death overs.

"I don't know how I developed it (bowling at the top) but you have to do it when you are playing for India. It is challenging with only two fielders outside the circle. But I have started thinking sub-consciously that I will need to bowl three overs with two fielders outside the circle," said Chahar, who was India's standout bowler in their seven-wicket win over South Africa on Wednesday.

In his opening spell of three overs, Chahar swung the ball and picked up the wicket of Reeza Hendricks before returning in the 18th over to remove a set Temba Bavuma with a well disguised slower ball.

"Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders. You can use variation also in death overs," he said.

Chahar said he focuses on out-guessing the batsman.

"How I bowl depends on the batsmen. In the death overs, the batsman is expecting yorkers or a slower ball but if you can also bowl a bouncer or knuckle ball, it can surprise him. You to have to keep guessing the batsman,"



Deepak Chahar, left, looks on as Quinton de Kock completes a run during the second T20 match in Mohali on Wednesday

Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders
— Deepak Chahar

said the Rajasthan pacer.

He feels bowling on flat wickets in Chennai during the IPL has made him a better bowler.

"There is no off the wicket help when you are playing in Chennai. But when we were playing in Pune last to last year, there was help both off the wicket and in the air. But in Chennai, the swing is there for maximum one over as there is no grass. So, I got confidence that if I could do well there, I could do well elsewhere too," he said.

Chahar has grabbed his chances so far but knows he is far from cementing his place in the side ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"There is one whole year left for that. I play each match as if it is my last for India. At this time Indian cricket is at the top. If you want to play you have to do well in almost every game. There is a lot of competition and may be that is why Indian cricket is at the top.

"There is no guarantee that you will get your place back even if you are returning from an injury."

Talking about Virat Kohli's match-winning knock of 72 not out, Chahar was all praise.

"He is just next level and all class," he said.



Tembu Bavuma plays a shot during the second T20 international match

We were not outplayed by beatable India: Bavuma

PTI ■ MOHALI

Test specialist Temba Bavuma, who had a decent outing in his debut in the shortest format.

South Africa looked set for 180 when skipper Quinton de Kock (52) and Bavuma (49) were in the middle before the southpaw's dismissal put the brakes on the scoring rate, limiting the total to 149 for five.

"The first 10-12 overs we played really well. I think we could not really get going after a good start and lost the game between 12th to the 15th over," Bavuma, who has played 36 Tests, said after the seven-wicket loss to India.

"When David came in the 13th over, we were in a strong position, 180 seemed very much gettable at the halfway stage. I was not really able to get that momentum and others as well. I don't think we were completely outplayed," said Bavuma who missed out on a well-deserved fifty by one run in his attempt to accelerate.

The 29-year-old from Cape Town said India are formidable

but not unbeatable as the Proteas aim to level the series in Bengaluru on Sunday.

"They are formidable but not unbeatable. It was just one phase with the bat where we let ourselves down and a quality side like India made us pay.

"There will always be moments in the game which we can win and it is about being aware of those moments and making sure we are in the right mental space to win those moments," said Bavuma.

Playing his first limited-overs game for South Africa in almost two years, Bavuma made it count.

"It was good to be out there. Facing the white ball again. It has been a while. It was a pleasing effort but did not do much to the result of the game. Last (domestic) season was a big season for me in white ball cricket. There were not many Tests and that allowed me to play white ball cricket.

"I got the opportunity to come back to the national fold. It helped me understand what my gameplan is in white ball cricket," he explained.

SL to go ahead with Pak tour despite terror fears

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's cricket board on Thursday said it will go ahead with its tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be the targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday after establishing that there was no threat to the national team.

Sri Lanka Cricket added in a statement that the governing body was assured the Pakistan army would coordinate security set at a level usually reserved for a head of state.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce that the forthcoming tour of Pakistan will go ahead as planned, following assurances given by the government of Pakistan that it will provide maximum security," the statement said.

De Silva added that he and "our office bearers will also be accompanying the team".

Reports last week of a possible terror attack were referred to the defence ministry for investigation.

The six-match tour, due to start on September 27, was put on hold last week after the Sri Lanka prime minister's office warned the board it had unspecified information about a possible attack against its players.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it was not aware of any information relating to the safety of the Sri Lankan team, but reiterated its commitment to providing security.

Paine sees 'very exciting era' for Aus

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Captain Tim Paine has predicted a "very exciting era" for Australian cricket after the team retained the Ashes against England, while revealing he broke his thumb in the final Test.

The series was drawn 2-2, with Australia keeping the urn as the Ashes holders despite losing the last Test at the Oval by 135 runs.

"I'm looking forward to Australia seeing how far we've come this summer," Paine said in a column for The Australian newspaper, referring to upcoming home Tests against Pakistan and New Zealand.

"Last year we were a bit lost and were finding our way," he added after the side struggled in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

"I know we have found it now and I am confident this group is the beginning of a very exciting era in Australian cricket. We've got the best bowling attack in the world and the basis for a great batting line-up."

Australia retaining the Ashes was built on the back of an



Australia's Steve Smith, second left, celebrates catching England's Chris Woakes during the third day of the fifth Ashes

incredible series by former skipper Steve Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, and an impressive bowling attack led by Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

Paine called Smith "a freak" while also praising Marnus Labuschagne as having "a huge future" after he too enjoyed a stellar tour with the bat. But he revealed the last Test was a struggle for himself and fast bowler Peter Siddle.

"My thumb was broken towards the end of that Test but it is not displaced, so I should be right to get back into training early," said Paine, while praising workhorse Siddle who was battling a hip injury.

"He has copped a bit of criticism for not bowling as well as... We know he can, but the team knows just how heroic he was."

"A lot of other people wouldn't have bowled again in the match, but he pushed on

because he didn't want to leave Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to do extra work." Coming off a long overseas tour and with five home Tests starting from November 21, Paine said he needs to rest and will not play the domestic Big Bash League Twenty20 competition this season.

"Being captain is draining and I think I should take every chance to recharge my batteries," he said.

No question of replacing Virat as captain: Hesson

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Virat Kohli's record as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper might have been below-par but the team's newly-appointed Director of Cricket Mike Hesson ruled out any change in leadership for the under-performing franchise in the next IPL edition.

Despite stars like Kohli, AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle (for better part), RCB has not won the IPL since the event's inception. Kohli has led the team in seven of those seasons. Hesson nipped questions on Kohli controlling the team and change in captaincy in the bud.

"We don't have that perception that Virat controls things. But maybe he has had his learnings from the past (mistakes) while moving forward," Hesson said on Thursday.

Hesson said Kohli has been on the same page as him and chief coach Simon Katich. "There has been no question mark over Virat's captaincy during last couple of weeks (of dis-



Virat Kohli in a file picture

cussions)," Hesson clarified.

"We have been very much aligned and he has been more than happy to take our advice from our experience," the former New Zealand coach added.

RCB's questionable recruitment has come in for a lot of criticism but Hesson assured that this time they are looking at specific players and not hundreds of options.

"There will be big focus on recruitment. Once auction gets

completed, the work starts then, not a week before the tournament starts. We would have clarity in roles that players need to perform," he said.

On recruitment of domestic players, Hesson said there are specific players they would be looking at and not just statistical highlights during the Mushtaq Ali or Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"During Vijay Hazare and Mushtaq Ali Trophy, we would like to see players we want to fit in. It's more about finding out how players build context around performance, conditions and pressure situations," he said.

Hesson also agreed that the team needs to consider consistent performances and not one odd innings before selecting players.

"Form is a factor but we need to be more holistic in terms of how we talent scout. We look at four-year period as then they are ready to deliver when put under the pump. It doesn't happen after one good season," he said.

PTI ■ SURAT

Rookie teenager Shafali Verma, who has been picked in India's T20 squad, would be the cynosure of all eyes when the Board President's XI takes on the South Africa women in a warm-up match here today.

The 15-year-old Shafali was named in the Indian women's team for the T20 series against South Africa following her good performance in the

Eves take on SA

Women's T20 challenge earlier and at the age-group level this year.

The diminutive Haryana-girl would like to make optimum use of the warm-up game and get runs under her belt if she is given an opportunity in the playing XI.

The first warm-up game will be held on Friday at the Lalbhai Contractor stadium here

followed by the second match on Sunday.

Apart from Shafali, pacers Mansi Joshi and Pooja Vastrakar have also been named in the T20 squad and a good outing on Friday would also boost their morale before the main tournament begins here on Tuesday.

On the other hand, the South Africa women will also be aiming to start

their Indian tour on a winning note. They would be keen to use these games to assess the conditions and get acclimatised to the hot and humid weather. All the T20s will be played in Surat while the ODIs will be played in Vadodara.

BPIXI: Sushma Verma (captain & wicket-keeper), Devika Vaidya (vice-captain), Vanitha VR, Shafali Verma, Priya Punia, Jasia Aktar.

MD Thirushkarni, Madhuri

Mehta, Tarannum Pathan, Sushree Dibyadarshini, Tanuja Kanwar, Bharti Fulmali, Mansi Joshi, Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar.

SA women: Sune Luus (Captain), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafta, Ayabonga Khaka, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez and Lara Wolvaardt.

12-21 to the Japanese pair.

Ashwini also tasted defeat in women's doubles after she and her partner N Sikki Reddy lost 12-21, 17-21 to second seeded Japanese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi.

Sindhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head lead against Pornpawee, dominated the first game as she lead 7-1 early on but the Thai shuttler reduced the deficit to 10-11 at the break.

However, Sindhu reeled off eight straight points after the interval to jump to 19-10 and eventually sealed the first game comfortably.

The decider started on an even note as both the shuttlers fought hard, moving together till 6-6 when Sindhu surged ahead to enjoy a 11-7 cushion at the break.

However, Pornpawee kept breathing down Sindhu's neck and slowly moved to 15-19. From there, the Thai shuttler blasted six straight points to leave the Indian shocked.

Praneeth keeps hope alive

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion PV Sindhu made an early exit from the China Open but B Sai Praneeth kept the Indian flag fluttering with a hard-fought straight-game win to reach the men's singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

Sindhu, an Olympic Silver medallist, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in a women's singles pre-quarterfinals that lasted 58 minutes here.

Praneeth, who had claimed a Bronze medal at Basel, edged out China's Lu Guang Zu 21-19, 21-19 to set up a meeting against Indonesian seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

Ginting beat India's Parupalli Kashyap 23-21, 15-21, 21-12 in a thrilling contest. Doubles specialist Satwiksairaj



B Sai Praneeth in action during World Championship

Rankireddy also had a dismal day as he suffered twin defeats, losing both the men's doubles and mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.

In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, ranked 15th in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda and went down 19-21, 8-21 in the second-round match that lasted 33 minutes.

This is the second time Satwik and Chirag have lost to the combination of Kamura and Sonoda this year. They had lost to the world No 4 pair at the Japan Open in July.

Satwik then paired up with his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponanappa but the duo couldn't get past Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo, losing 11-21, 21-16,

Smith has complicated technique but organised mindset: Tendulkar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian icon Sachin Tendulkar lauded Steve Smith for his exemplary batting, saying the former Australia skipper's "organised mindset" and "complicated technique" set him apart among his contemporaries.

Tendulkar praised Smith, the numero uno batsman in Tests right now, for his fantastic comeback in red-ball cricket in the just-concluded Ashes series.

"COMPLICATED TECHNIQUE but an ORGANIZED MINDSET is what sets @stevesmith49 apart. Incredible comeback! #ENGvsAUS," Tendulkar posted on his Twitter handle.

Smith has a unique batting style, which is both unorthodox as well as genius and Tendulkar tried to explain the Australian's game in his social media post.

"In the first Test, the English bowlers tried to get him caught behind the wickets with slips and gully in place," Tendulkar explained.

"And Smith just shuffled across and exposed his leg stumps to cover the line, and was selective and smart in his approach."

"At Lord's, they had leg-slip for him on occasions and a few short-pitched deliveries against Jofra Archer got him in trouble as he tried to cover the line with the weight on his back-foot."

Smith was hit by a vicious Jofra Archer bouncer in the first innings of the second Ashes Test at Lord's. The blow was so severe that he didn't come out to bat in the second innings and also missed the next Test at Headingley. Tendulkar went on to explain what Smith did wrong when he was hit by the bouncer.

"The most important thing for any bats-



Steve Smith in action during Ashes

man is to keep the head position forward and wait leaning forward or marginally inline," said Tendulkar, the only player to feature in 200 Tests.

"Smith got into bad positions and that's how he probably got hit."

"In the final two Tests, he was leaving the ball while leaning forward, and looked in better positions. He worked on his technique very smartly. That is why I say, complicated technique, but extremely organised mindset."