

LANDMARK 5
BJP-SENA IN MAHA AIMS TO
TROUNCE CONG-NCP

SPORT 8
DEEPAK PUNIA
ENTERS WORLD FINAL

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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Babul episode warrants guidelines for varsities

So great is our collective willingness to digest the indigestible that the ugly incidents in Kolkata's Jadavpur University centred on the protests against Union Minister Babul Supriyo will become less than a footnote in a few days. Campus turbulence is not new either in India or for that matter in most parts of the democratic world. Unlike an earlier era when protests used to be centred on wider issues such as the Vietnam war, recent disturbances seem to be all about free speech. Whether in Jadavpur or Delhi University, whether it involves the Right or the Left, there is an inclination to believe that those with a sharply different point of view should somehow be barred from expressing their point of view. Accusations of fascism, homophobia and racism have marred normal campus meetings and those involved include distinguished writers and scholars.

There is, quite predictably, a temptation to incorporate Thursday afternoon's fracas inside the Jadavpur University campus with the wider battle for political supremacy that is waging in West Bengal. Needless to say the incident is not entirely unrelated and the subsequent war of words and competitive complaints to the police has made it more so. The laudable role of the State's Governor in extricating the Union Minister from protesters may even add a federal dimension to the battle.

It is, however, time to look beyond mundane politics. This incident, as I have mentioned, isn't unique. Similar incidents based on the un-democratic principle of 'no platform' for the other side have troubled Indian campuses. There has also been controversies over the use of campuses by Left organisations, including overground supporters of the Maoist underground and supporters of secessionist movements, for provocative demonstrations. It is time that the university authorities and the Governments arrive at an understanding over what should be allowed and what is prohibited from the campuses.

It is not my case that all political meetings should be prohibited from the campuses. Being socially and politically aware is part of higher education and it would be a sad day if India's students are insulated from the real world. The real question is whether all points of view — except perhaps those prohibited by either law or a sense of moral propriety — should be allowed free play? Alternatively, should the university authorities exercise their discretion and should there be guidelines? This is a difficult question to answer. While it is easy to say that a Union Minister speaking on Article 370 and Kashmir is a perfectly legitimate subject, how should university authorities deal with a speaker who openly advocates the separation of Kashmir from the Indian Union? To those who tried to prevent Babul's entry into the campus, this sitting MP and member of the BJP, the maximum over 'fascist' and therefore had no place in the university. To my mind this is absolutely ridiculous and those students who assaulted the Minister and showered him with abuse were guilty of small-mindedness, at the very least. They were probably also guilty of common assault and I believe should be prosecuted as per the law. Being students should not be a ground for sanctioning irresponsible behaviour. More so since the meeting convened by the ABVP had prior permission from the university authorities.

While judgment on this issue is relatively easy, should university authorities accord permission for meetings that, say, advocate secessionist? What should be the Lakshman Rekha of free speech?... In the past, life in a campus was guided by restraint, responsibility and good sense. This understanding has clearly broken down. This is why the need for guidelines and codification arises. Let us learn a few lessons from the incidents in Jadavpur last Thursday

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Maha, Haryana to go to polls on Oct 21

Counting on Oct 24; EC to announce Jharkhand Assembly election dates later

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Exactly a month from now, BJP-ruled Maharashtra and Haryana will go to polls — the first election since the Lok Sabha elections and the Government's key decisions on Article 370 and triple talaq. While the polls in the two States will be held on October 21, the counting of votes will be held on October 24. The term of the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 9 and that of the 90-member Haryana Assembly expires on November 2. The dates for Jharkhand Assembly polls will be announced later.

Faced with a string of high-profile desertions from their camps to the ruling combine in Maharashtra, the Congress and the NCP have joined hands once again after five years and have stitched up a seat-sharing deal in their bid to stop the BJP-Shiv Sena from returning to power. But then, the BJP and the Shiv Sena too have come together after 2014 to ensure they retain power. The two saffron parties are likely to announce their seat-sharing deal this week. The Congress and the NCP had been in power for three consecutive terms before they lost to the BJP-Sena combine in 2014. In Haryana, the Congress is exploring a tie-up with the

BSP, which has announced its intentions to go it alone and is also cut up with the principal Opposition party for having engineered a defection of six of its MLAs to join its camp in Rajasthan. In both the States, the BJP is expected to espouse the cause of nationalism among the masses by pitching its "strong" decision to abrogate the special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370. It would also point to its another "bold" decision of banning the triple talaq practice among Muslims to reach out to the women from the minority community.

Soon after the announcement of the poll schedule, leaders of the ruling coalition exuded confidence of winning a second consecutive term in Maharashtra with Devendra Fadnis asserting he will be back as the Chief Minister. State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said given the response to the "Mahajanadesh Yatra" of Fadnis, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance is likely to get more than 220 seats. With the BJP taking centre stage even in the Lok Sabha polls contested in 2014 and 2019, the Congress hold in its strongholds of Vidarbha, Marathwada and Mumbai region has weakened. Similarly, the NCP is struggling to retain its pocket-borough of western

Assembly Election 2019		Maharashtra	Haryana
Total Constituencies		288	90
Total Electors		8,95,62,706	1,82,98,714
Photo Electoral Rolls		96.44%	100%
Elector Photo ID Cards		96.81%	100%
Polling Stations		95,473	19,425
KVMS			
Ballot Units		1.80 lakh	0.38 lakh
Control Units		1.28 lakh	0.25 lakh
VVPATs		1.39 lakh	0.27 lakh
Schedule			
Issue of Notification	Sept 27		
Last Date for Nominations	Oct 4		
Scrutiny of Nominations	Oct 5		
Last Date for Withdrawal	Oct 7		
Date of Poll	Oct 21		
Counting of Votes	Oct 24		
Source: EC			

Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena has retained its base in Konkan. The BJP and the Shiv Sena had swept the Lok Sabha polls in the State winning 41 of the total 48 seats. The NCP and the Congress won only five seats



CEC Sunil Arora flanked by Election Commissioners Ashok Lavasa and Sunil Chandra during a Press conference regarding the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections at Election Commission in New Delhi on Saturday

campaign in Maharashtra, the Congress-NCP are taking up issues of farmers' suicide, agrarian crisis and the rising graph of unemployment, highest in last 40 years, as its main attacking points against the BJP-Sena alliance in the State.

In contrast, the BJP, which has netted a number of NCP leaders, has attacked Sharad Pawar, saying his period of dominance is over. "Breaking and making parties" kind of politics practiced by the NCP chief is now catching up with his party with the passage of time, said Fadnis in Mumbai, stepping up his campaign. The BJP, which won 122 seats in the 2014 Assembly polls, had a vote share of 27.81 per cent, well ahead of the Congress' 17.95 per cent.

Bypolls for 1 LS and 64 Assembly seats also on October 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The Election Commission on Saturday announced the bypolls for 64 Assembly seats spread across 17 States and Union Territory of Puducherry, besides the Samastipur Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar. The bypolls will be held along with Assembly polls in Haryana and Maharashtra on October 21. Karnataka, where resignations of 17 rebel MLAs led to the collapse of the JDS-Congress Government in July, will see bypolls on 15 seats. *Detailed report on P5*

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CAPSULE

AMIT 1ST INDIAN TO WIN WORLD BOXING SILVER
Ekaterinburg (Russia): Indian boxer Amit Panghal's phenomenal campaign in the men's world championships ended with a silver medal after he went down to Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirav of Uzbekistan in an intense 52kg category final here on Saturday.

MARRIED WOMEN HAPPIER THE MORE LIVE-IN
New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday will release findings of a survey conducted by a Sangh-linked organisation that claims married women are more happy than those in live-in relationships.

150 DIED ON YAMUNA E-WAY IN 2019: DATA
Noida: The Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh witnessed over 150 deaths in road accidents this year so far, the maximum ever since it got operational in 2012, according to official data.

UP FARMERS' MARCH TO DELHI HALTED AT BORDER
Noida/New Delhi: Hundreds of farmers from Uttar Pradesh, marching to Kisan Ghat in the national Capital for payment of sugarcane dues, loan waivers and cheap electricity, were stopped at the Delhi-UP border on Saturday while a delegation was allowed to meet officials at the Kishji Bhavan.

Largest crowd for foreign leader in US awaits Modi

After 'Howdy Modi', Trump, PM likely to ink trade deal

PTI ■ HOUSTON
Indian-Americans in Houston are all set to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the mega "Howdy, Modi" event on Sunday, to be attended by 50,000 audience, the largest gathering ever for an elected foreign leader visiting the US, other than the Pope. The three-hour "Howdy, Modi!" event in which President Donald Trump will join Prime Minister Modi is being organised at the sprawling NRG Football Stadium, with an impressive history of shows that starred Beyonce, Metallica, U2. Indian Ambassador Harsh V Shringla previewed the event at NRG Stadium, where preparations were in full swing with

Chandrayaan-2's orbiter doing stellar work: Sivan

Gaganyaan next priority, says ISRO chairman
SUMEET SHARMA/PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR/CHENNAI
The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's ensemble of eight scientific instruments is performing very well and is expected to continue its stellar work for about seven and a half years, ISRO Chairman K Sivan said on Saturday. As the prospects of re-establishing contact with "Vikram" lander have virtually ended after the conclusion of 14 Earth days, ISRO said it will take up a study to ascertain what exactly happened to it. Sivan said after Chandrayaan-2's next priority is Gaganyaan mission. "We have set a target of achieving it by December 2020; and the second unmanned mission is targeted in July 2021. By December 2021, an Indian will be first carried by our own rocket to space," Sivan said.

In a first, ED attaches 3 chimps, 4 monkeys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
In a bid to prevent a wildlife smuggler of West Bengal from claiming ownership of three chimpanzees and four marmosets (long-tailed South American monkeys) recovered from him, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has, for the first time, attached the endangered animals under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The wild animals have been kept in Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata. ED sources said smuggler Supradip Guha will be probed under the money laundering case. The ED said the first-of-its-kind attachment under the PMLA "enabled" zoo authorities to retain the animals as the smuggler was trying to take them away on forged papers. An attachment by the ED renders an asset out of bounds for its owner and it can be further confiscated by the agency after the Adjudicating Authority of the PMLA, a quasi-judicial body, approves the attachment within 180 days of seizure.

Wake up Call

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Har Dil Aapke Saath

'Gully Boy' India's official entry to 92nd Academy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Zoya Akhtar's "Gully Boy", featuring Ranveer Singh as an aspiring rapper, has been selected as India's official entry in the International Feature Film category at the Oscars, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced on Saturday. "India's official entry for Oscars this year is 'Gully Boy'. There were 27 films in the running this year but it was an unanimous decision to select 'Gully Boy'. FFI secretary general Supran Sen told PTI. The movie, which was released across the country on February 14, also features Alia Bhatt, Vijay Raaz, Kalki Koechlin, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Vijay Varma. Ranveer said it is a proud moment for the entire team.

SHOW TIME

Rambo lives on



RAMBO: LAST BLOOD
*Ing: Sylvester Stallone, Paz Vega, Sergio Peris-Mencheta, Adriana Barraza, Yvette Monreal, Genie Kim, Joaquin Cosío, Oscar Jaenada
Rated: 8/10

Sly, 73. Still rippling in enough ways to mollify the effect of wrinkles and eye bags. Seemingly the last of the sizzling and iconic Rambo series, *The Last Blood* is expectedly reflective and a journey wrapper for Sly who has dominated worldwide imagination in his 50-plus years on the screen as just one of his characters: John Rambo and Rocky Balboa, the latter drawing more eyeballs if at all a comparison is made.

As it is reflective so it is excruciatingly violent too, perhaps to make maximum impact or maybe because it showcases a war-weary warrior who knows to strike only with utmost power. So don't flinch when he yanks out a beating heart after squaring up his legendary blade on the villain; don't be surprised if the atrocities on his kin are unimaginable despite the very obvious censor cuts; don't be surprised that the

introspection often takes over the action which comes in late into the movie.

Sly is in a self-indulgent but brooding mood here and jobs like pulling out people alive from a tsunami have become routine for him.

There are relationships that get honoured, there are scars that get getting thrown into the screen through his walking nightmares and there are plenty of one liners that are spoken by his soulful eyes.

Yes Rambo will all along been a silent type of fighter and words do not come easy to him.

Here, so engagingly ending the journey after a young and dishing John Rambo first launched Hollywood's rescue mission with a bandana, a bow and arrow and lots and lots of writhing muscles showcasing the signature vest, an aged John talks more than he has in all the four films put together over a period of more than three decades.

But you forgive the verbal intrusion for he is Sly. Old, introspective, loner, traumatised and yet the ultimate defender.

Sweet and lots of fun moments

THE ZOYA FACTOR
*Ing: Sonam K Ahuja, Dulquer Salmaan, Sanjay Kapoor, Anagad Bedi, Sikander Kher
Rated: 6/10

It is luck or hard work that gets one ahead in life? Lots of people out there will tell you that it is luck. Some may say that it is sheer luck that got them where they are today. But most would agree that it is a combination of both — hard work and luck — in this order. But what would one say if someone insisted that it was only sheer hard work that counts?

This is the backdrop of *The Zoya Factor*. Weave in a love story around cricket and one has a winner. Then there is the fact that Sonam K Ahuja plays characters that are light, fun and sweet to a T. She knows how to carry herself in any outfit and look good. Here, she plays a junior copy writer with an ad agency, thinks she is a loser, hates cricket but falls in love with the captain of the Indian team played by Dulquer Salmaan, a playback singer who predominantly works in Malayalam cinema. There is bound to be fun moments.

Director Abhishek Sharma, also the screenwriter who has *Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran* and *Tere Bin Laden*, to his credit, has done a passable job. The good part is that he doesn't drag the whole luck versus hard work debate.

Overall, *The Zoya Factor* is sweet and has lots of fun moments to keep one entertained.

—Shalini Sakrana



Miles to go for this star kid

PAL PAL DIL KE PAAS
*Ing: Karan Deol, Sahar Bamba, Aakash Ahuja, Kamini Khanna
Rated: 5/10

While it is absolutely wrong to compare one actor with another, more so, if that actor happens to be a star kid, but the truth is that there is no hall pass even if you are a third generation actor. Add to that mix the fact that your grandfather has some great movies to his credit — *Sholay*, *Blackmail*, *Dharam Veer* and *Yadon Ki Baaraat* to name just a few — it comes even tougher to prove your worth in the first attempt.

Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas (PPDKP) that marks the debut of Karan Deol, Sunny Deol's son, unfortunately fails to make the ripples that one would expect from the son of an actor who made quite an impression with *Betaab* which released in 1983. The problem with PPDKP is not that this Deol kid can't emot and his dialogue delivery falls flat; the issue is not that he doesn't have *dhai kilo ka haath*, not that he doesn't land a few punches that need a mention here; the problem with this movie is the storyline.

Sunny Deol, who is also the director here, needed to launch his son with a storyline that was fresh like the two leads who make their entry in the industry.

Therefore, this star kid has miles to go before he can even make a ripple. Better luck next time!

—Shalini Sakrana

Oktoberfest

Venue: The Irish House, Nehru Place & Noida
Date: Till September 22, 2019
Time: 12 noon to 1 am
Cost: ₹1,400 for two

It's time to celebrate the biggest beer festival of the year, Oktoberfest. Experience the German beer fest right here in Delhi and Noida at The Irish House with curated beer offers, German inspired food, fun drinking games and a festive vibe all through.

Oktoberfest is all about beer, and to give you the right vibe of it, The Irish House has curated some crazy beer deals on domestic & imported pints, craft & draught beers. Get your favourite domestic & imported beer pints at special prices all through the festive season. Grab your bucket of any three domestic pints at just ₹495++ with a variety of options to choose from Kingfisher, Kingfisher Ultra, Heineken, Budweiser, Bira, Simba, Carlsberg, & Tuborg. Buckets of any 3 imported pints of brands like Sol, Kronenbourg, Corona Extra, Hoegaarden, Stella Artois, Hopper, & Kati Patang are all available at ₹995++.



Standup Special by Gupta Ji

Venue: NCU Auditorium, 3, Siri Institutional Area, Block A, Noida Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi
Date: September 22, 2019
Time: 8 pm onwards

Our favourite Gupta Ji is back to tickle our funny bones with his new comedy show, *Kaafi Wild Hai*. Apurv has become a rage amongst the youth and his four back to back superhit solo shows are a testament to that. Not one to be in the success for very long, Apurv has already moved on to his next comedy special *Kaafi Wild Hai*.

The show will feature Apurv in his signature avatar, Gupta Ji who narrates some of his favourite stories. Each story has a wild character which makes the proceedings fun and interesting. The crux of the story will revolve around this wild character, which will be portrayed by Gupta Ji but in every story, as luck would have it, he ends up telling someone else *Kaafi Wild Hai*.

Apurv, who is an engineer turned comedian has always created relatable content which strikes a chord with his audience and that has contributed immensely to his ever-growing popularity. His previous acts- *ApurvView*, *Relationship or RelationShip*, *Laugh with an Engineer* and *Besides Gupta Ji* have been huge hits with his audience. *Kaafi Wild Hai* promises to be another laughter riot.



Angrezi medium

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with VIVEK SRIVASTAVA about how English entertainment is changing with new content as well as remakes of classic shows

From the adaptation of Hollywood shows like *Hostages*, 24 to remakes like *The Office*, the foreign content which once didn't have many takers, now makes for an interesting watch for the audience. So much so that the producers are in no mood to stop just by remaking getting inspired from the Hollywood series even though we have been watching Indian versions of the Hollywood films for quite some time now. But, the trend of remaking shows for TV is new.

To add value to content, Romyed Now, a part of The Times Network which has channels like Movies Now, MN+, has gone through a refreshed brand identity with the introduction of originals, new shows and movie premieres. The channel unveiled its refreshed identity with its first original show *The Love Laugh Live Show*.

Vivek Srivastava, President — Strategy and Business Head, English Entertainment Cluster says that this refreshed identity of Romyed Now will be re-engineered content to offer viewers an unparalleled, and complete, English Entertainment viewing experience. *The Love Laugh Live Show* marks our debut in originals and will explore various categories across travel, food, beauty and lifestyle, bringing two exciting shows a quarter to the viewers," he adds.

Though there are more remakes and adaptations of foreign shows, the number of original English content remains very low. Srivastava has a take on this. "The

how i met your mother



reason why makers don't risk making more original English language shows is because of the diverse Indian audience. It will be very odd to see a show in which all the characters speak English. Therefore, they prefer making shows with a pinch of Hindi in it. It is to retain the traditional element and connectivity with the audience. Also, if we are making a show for the premium households then English can be dominant in that as we are making a show for the mass households then Hindi or regional languages have to be there," he says.

There is a reason why English channels are not bringing in the latest shows that air in the US. "We are bringing the latest shows as well but unfortunately what we remember are the evergreen shows. Also it takes a lot of time for the foreign shows to get

registered in India. But yes, at this point of time, the classic works better than the new shows," Srivastava tells you.

The market penetration for these shows at present is the Tier-I cities but this is about to change. "We are now planning to penetrate into Tier-II and III cities as well," he says.

But, will they work as good as in Tier-I cities? "If a film like *The Lion King* can do so well in the Tier-II and III cities, then I see no reason that these shows will not do good in them. The audience is changing and is opening up to newer content. I believe they will do better," he tells you.

And this latest fad for the English entertainment content is not going to end anytime soon. "English entertainment has long way to go. We are the second largest English speaking country with about 10 per cent English speaking population, which means the language is set to grow. The choice of content has become far more global and the audience will start consuming this content at a greater rate soon."

Apart from the English channels which are being promoting the English content aggressively from the past few years, there are some digital mediums too that are coming up with English content and is changing their entire offering on the basis of some of the English shows. This in itself is an indicator that English content is here to stay," he tells you.

The Love Laugh Live Show airs every Saturday at 9 pm.

TELLYTALE

SUITS SERIES FINALE



With Katrina losing her job too after Samantha's wrongful termination, Harvey and Louis will go to any extent for Faye to leave their firm altogether. If it means going up against Mike himself in court. Unaware of their intentions, Mike is certain to go all out in the next court hearing after having received a subpoena from Harvey himself. It remains to be seen how many metaphorical casualties it will take for Faye to finally be shown the door. At this point, we are not even sure if she will hold up her end of the bargain.

The series finale also tasses not one but two weddings. While Louis and Sheila are finally united, Darvey fans might just have got what they've been eagerly awaiting as Harvey discovers his mother's unsent letter containing his grandmother's ring and a hint that Donna has always been his mother.

Will the dream team be able to join forces will it all come crashing down? Catch the *Suits* Series Finale exclusively in India on Colors Infinity on 26th September 2019 at 12pm.

NEW SHOW

Close on the heels of successful drama series like *Criminal Justice*, *City of Dreams* and *Hostages*, Applause Entertainment announced the completion of their latest drama-thriller, *Your Honor*. The original Israeli series was created by Ron Mizlik and Shlomo Mischich, and distributed by Yes Studios. Produced for Applause Entertainment by

Spherorigins, the series is headlined in India by Jimmy Shergill. Dark, gripping and morally complex, *Your Honor* is set in Ludhiana, Punjab. It tells the story of Bishan Khosla (Jimmy Shergill), a respected circuit court judge, known for his uncompromising honesty, and on the cusp of a big promotion. After his troubled teenager son Abeer Khosla (PulkitMak) is involved in a hit-and-run accident, Bishan is about to turn Abeer in to the police, when he learns who the accident victim is. What happens next is a disturbing downward spiral of events, as Bishan tries to protect his son, uncharacteristically obstructs justice to cover up the truth.

Speaking about his role, Jimmy Shergill says: "My role in *Your Honor* takes a chance with his own reality, the substance of the story is what convinced me to take up the part. The length an individual can go, burning all the bridges and principles for the ones he loves, is truly compelling. I'm glad that I am a part of this show with Applause Entertainment."

WITNESS REEL DEEWANE GROOVING

The three dapper men on *Dance Deewane* will take over the stage with their grooving act. Shaad Bark Khatun, Arjun Bijiani and Tushar Kalia will be seen doing something that will set new standards for the reality shows. The young, talented and sporting men will set the stage on fire with their stunning and breath-taking moves, while performing around a pole on the Bollywood dance number *Saaki Saaki*.



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Name of Borrower & Branch	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice & Amount	Date of Possession
1. Sh. Girija Shankar S/o Sh. Lakshwar Mishra R/o Plot No. 220, North- 46ft. Haridwar.	A Property situated at north portion of residential plot no. 220, khasra no. 880 measuring in East- 52.17 ft., West- 52.17 ft., North- 46 ft., South- 46 ft. total measuring area of 2400.00 sq ft (ie. 223.04 sq mtrs), situated at Nath Nagar, Jwalapur, Pargana and Tehsil Jwalapur, District Haridwar bounded In East: House of Rehtu Singh, West: 10 ft wide road, North: plot of Donor South: 10 ft wide road (vide Gift deed regd. at book no. 1, Vol-22 page 197-210 Sl. No. 497 on 17.07.2010 at S.R.O. Haridwar), registered with Sub registrar Haridwar entered at Bahi no. 1, 2ild no. 343, pages no. 633/638, document no. 1869 on dated 25.08.1980.	Rs. 35,75,006/-50/- (Rs. Thirty Five Lacs Seventy Five thousand Six & Fifty paise only) with further interest and other expenses w.e.f. 01.07.2019 untiltill payment in full.	17.09.2019 (Symbolic)
2. Smt. Praveen Arora W/o Jaideep Arora R/o Flat No. 21, Gokul Devi Apartment, Kharkhari, Bhopalwadi, Haridwar Uttarakhand.	BO:Ahmedpur, Haridwar.		

Date: 21.09.2019 Place :Haridwar Authorised Officer

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Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Oriental Bank Of Commerce (name of the institution) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(1) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices on below mentioned dates calling upon the below mentioned borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of Notice/date of 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 9 of the said Rules on 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 Oriental Bank of Commerce. The borrower's/guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provision of sub section (8) of section 13 of the act. In respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name of Borrower Type of Loan & A/c No & Branch	Name of Owner of Chd's	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice (Date of Possession)	Outstanding as on the Date of Demand Notice
1.	Borrower - Sh. Chandra Pal S/o Mani Ram 57, Jaitpur W/o Mani Ram Alkarpur Haridwar.	Sh. Chandra Pal S/o Sh. Chandra Pal Village Jaitpur, Laksar Haridwar Registered in Bahi no. 1, Page no. 120-303-310, 2ild no. 1393/1413, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986			

Illicit liquor tragedy: main accused apprehended

Police and excise inspectors suspended in the case

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Amid politics that started after death of six persons who allegedly died after consuming illicit liquor in provisional state capital Dehradun, the police arrested Gaurav, the bootlegger who is accused of supplying the country liquor that took six lives.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dehradun, Arun Mohan Joshi told media persons on Saturday that Gaurav, a resident of Patharia Peer area of the city was arrested by a team of police from Ganesh temple

Kurbura on Saturday. He said that on the basis of the interrogation from Gaurav, the police have also rounded up some suspects in the case. On a stern note, the SSP said that the police would take action on every individual who is found to be involved in the tragedy. He added that the police action would not get affected by the background of the culprits.

The SSP claimed that the Inspector-in-charge of Kotwali police station and in-charge of police post, Dhara chowk, were suspended so that the investigation remains unaffected.

It is worth mentioning here that one of the survivors of the hooch tragedy had informed the police that they had purchased the country liquor from Gaurav. In the interrogation Gaurav said that

he either purchases the liquor from the government shop or gets it from one Raju alias Raja Negi and sell it on profit.

He also revealed that he in past had purchased liquor from Ajay Sonkar alias Ghonchu. Incidentally Ghonchu is a former Councillor and at present associated with a political party.

Meanwhile the shops of the liquor in Dehradun remained closed for second day on Saturday.

HOCH TRAGEDY- EXCISE DEPT CIRCUMSPECT ON DEATH CAUSE

The post mortem of the dead in the Hooch tragedy has not clear reason behind the death of the victims of the Hooch tragedy. The excise department and other officials

are treading cautiously on the probable cause of the death in the tragedy and are now waiting for the viscera report of the victims to ascertain the cause of death. The additional commissioner excise, Ajay Kumar Pandey told The Pioneer the department has taken samples from different shops of the city. He said that the chances of the sale of contaminated liquor from shops are very bleak. Pandey claimed that the victims were said to be suffering from fever and this angle is also needed to be investigated.

He said that the department has suspended excise inspector of the area, Sujat Hussain and inspector enforcement Manohar Singh Pataliyal in the case. He hinted that some more heads may roll in the case.

Cong accuses BJP leaders for protecting illicit liquor biz

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Congress party has severely castigated the BJP government of Uttarakhand for the illicit liquor tragedy in the state capital. The Vice President of the Congress party, Surya Kant Dhasmana has

alleged that in Uttarakhand the leaders of ruling party are providing protection to the illegal business of illicit liquor. Launching a scathing attack on the state government, he said that one can understand the situation in other parts of the state when a tragedy has struck

in an area that is hardly 500 meters from the residence of Chief Minister of the State. On Saturday, Dhasmana visited the Patharia Peer area and met the families of victims.

He claimed that some more people in the area have fallen ill. Dhasmana said that

one person in the area has died under suspicious conditions. He demanded that the state government should destroy the entire network of illicit liquor in Uttarakhand failing which the Congress party would start a massive agitation in the State.

Cong allegations baseless, says BJP

Appreciates the stern action taken by CM on the issue

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Termining the allegations of Congress on the Hooch

tragedy baseless, the media in charge of the state unit of BJP, Devendra Bhasin has said that the opposition party should refrain from engaging in politics over the dead bodies of victims.

He said that the tragedy which has taken a toll on six lives is very unfortunate. Bhasin said that the party is solidly with the strict action

taken by the Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on the issue and no one who is involved in the case would be spared.

He added that the background of the accused would not affect the punitive action in the case. Bhasin termed the suspension of the officials of police and excise department as a correct step

and said that the legal action would be taken against all those involved in the case. The BJP leader negated the allegations of Congress party and said that the party should remember the actions of the governments ruled by it and the protection provided by the congress leaders to the illicit trade of liquor in the state.

Workshop on Utilisation of Geospatial Technology held at USAC

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

On the occasion of 15th foundation day of Uttarakhand Space Application Centre (USAC), a one day capacity building training of the officials of the Agricultural department on 'Utilisation of Geospatial Technology in Agriculture and Horticulture sector' was organised on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the director of the USAC, M P S Bisht said that in its journey of 15 years, the centre has successfully completed many important projects assigned by the state government to it. He said that in the workshop the agriculture department officials would be informed about the use of the remote sensing and GIS techniques in pre harvesting and post harvesting assessment

of production of crops. He expressed concern on decline in the area under crops in the mountainous regions of the state.

The bio diversity advisor of Chief Minister of Sikkim, Hemant Kumar Badola said that in recent years the international demand of the traditional agricultural producers of mountainous areas has increased.

The representative of the Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC), New Delhi, Seema Sehgal gave a presentation of the crop forecasting by using remote sensing techniques.

The scientist of Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Abhishek Dandolia informed about use of remote sensing and geospatial techniques in mapping and assessment of crops.

THE BIO DIVERSITY ADVISOR OF CHIEF MINISTER OF SIKKIM, HEMANT KUMAR BADOLA SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE INTERNATIONAL DEMAND OF THE TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS OF MOUNTAINOUS AREAS HAS INCREASED.

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MAHALANOBIS NATIONAL CROP FORECAST CENTRE (MNCFC), NEW DELHI, SEEMA SEHGAL GAVE A PRESENTATION OF THE CROP FORECASTING BY USING REMOTE SENSING TECHNIQUES



Anti encroachment drive underway at Rajpur road of Dehradun on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Less voters in panchayat elections this time

SN	District	Gram Panchayat	Member Village Panchayat	Member Block Panchayat	District panchayat members	Total electorate		
						Female	male	total
1	Dehradun	401	3333	220	30	218845	234796	453281
2	Dham Singh Nagar	376	3948	273	35	325591	344303	669894
3	Rudraprayag	336	2444	117	18	97708	96985	194693
4	Tehri	1035	7379	351	45	265383	283488	548871
5	Almora	1160	8266	395	46	243763	255831	499594
6	Chamoli	610	4358	246	26	131817	135307	267124
7	Nainital	479	3789	266	27	181997	195244	377241
8	Bageshwar	407	2917	120	19	93643	97278	190921
9	Uttarkashi	508	3664	204	25	105492	109943	215435
10	Champurawat	313	2295	134	15	82491	88402	170893
11	Pithoragarh	686	4956	290	33	161888	162428	324316
12	Pauri	1174	8249	372	38	196835	202325	399160
	Total	7485	55574	2984	356	2105093	2206330	4311423

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The constitution of new municipal bodies in Uttarakhand has resulted in decrease in numerical strength of the panchayat representatives and voters in the three tier panchayat raj system. In the ensuing panchayat elections, a total of 4311423 voters would exercise their franchise, this figure when compared with the total electorate of 4694689 in the panchayat elections of 2014 means that the Panchayats have lost 383266 voters in these last five years.

In the 2014 panchayat elections, 2313900 female and 2377103 male voters were registered in 12 districts (barring Haridwar), 89 blocks and 7657 village Panchayats. In this elections 49337 village Panchayats members, 7657 Pradhans, 3054 members of Block Panchayat and 389 members of District Panchayat were elected.

In the ensuing panchayat elections, 2105093 female and 2206330 male votes are eligible to cast their votes in 7485 village panchayats in 89 blocks of 12 districts. The rural electorate would elect 55574 village Panchayats members, 7485 Pradhans, 2984 members of Block Panchayat and 356 District Panchayat members.

The decrease in number of rural electorate has occurred due to delimitation of the municipal bodies and creation of new municipalities. In 2017, Uttarakhand had a total of 78 municipal bodies that included six municipal corporations, 31 municipal councils and 41 Nagar Panchayats.

corporations. The tenure of Panchayats in all the districts of Uttarakhand barring Haridwar ended in July this year after which the State Government has appointed administrators in the Panchayats.

The elections in the three tier panchayat raj system in Uttarakhand would be held in three stages. In the first stage, the voting would be held on October 5 while the second and third stage of voting would be held on October 11 and 16 respectively. The counting of votes would start at 8 AM on October 21 and the results are expected to be declared on the same day. One of a special feature of these elections is that the EVMs would not be used by the commission. The state election commission would use traditional ballot papers in these elections.

Meanwhile clearing the confusion on the eligibility of the people having more than two children to contest the panchayat elections, the state election commission has sent advisory to all district magistrates asking them to accept the candidature of all the contestants. Reversing the provision of Uttarakhand Panchayat Raj (amendment) act-2019, the Uttarakhand High Court (HC) in a landmark decision had ruled that the candidates having more than two children before to July 25, 2019 are eligible to contest the panchayat elections. On Saturday a delegation of

the Uttarakhand Panchayat Jan Adhikar Manch led by its convener Jot Singh Bisht met the secretary, state election

commission Rohan Lal and requested that the order of HC should be implemented completely.

सीमा सड़क संगठन

जयकृष्ण लाल मेमोरियल जिला स्तरीय बैडमिन्टन प्रतियोगिता

स्थान- मुख्यालय 36 बी.आर.टी.एफ. (नोफ)

दिनांक: 28 सितम्बर 2019 से 2 अक्टूबर 2019 तक

निम्नलिखित वर्ग में प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की जायेगी:-

महिला एकल	महिला युगल वर्ग	मिश्रित युगल (पु. एवं म.)
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(2) 17 से 30 वर्ष आयु के बीच	(2) 17 से 30 वर्ष आयु के बीच	(2) 17 से 30 वर्ष आयु के बीच
(3) 30 वर्ष आयु से ऊपर	(3) 30 वर्ष आयु से ऊपर	(3) 30 वर्ष आयु से ऊपर

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It will be 'national' issues of BJP vs 'local' issues of Cong, other parties

AMITABH SHUKLA ■ CHANDIGARH

It will be a battle between national issues versus local issues in Haryana. Ruling BJP in the state will go to the October 21 polls with the slogan of 'delivery' of long pending issues by the Narendra Modi government at the Centre while for Congress and other regional parties in the fray, it will be local issues with which they will try to woo the electorate.

BJP has given a slogan "Mission 75 plus" in the state even as the Opposition dubs it as a mere slogan devoid of ground realities. They also ridicule the BJP for milking national issues to the hilt saying the party has performed miserably in the state and has nothing to bank on except its regional base.

The five years of Manohar Lal Khattar government in the state has been uneventful despite the government boasting of 'unprecedented development in every nook and corner' of the state without any regional discrimination. As Haryana has been a well-governed state for a while, political observers find little merit in BJP's argument of sustained

development. "There was precious little to do in Haryana as the state had already touched all the developmental parameters when BJP came to power," said a senior Haryana watcher. He added that it was only "cosmetic changes" with a road here and a railway line there type of approach of the government.

Of course, educated electorates have become a reality with the Khattar government setting educational standards for the election of village panchayats. Then, any big ticket corruption has been ruled out in the five years as the RSS pracharak Khattar assumed office due to the blessings of Modi and he did not have any family or high command baggage to cater to.

As only a month is left for the October 21 battle, it is clear that the main battle in the round will be between the BJP and Congress. While the main opposition of 2014, INLD has practically withered away, its place has been taken by the Janayatri Janata Party (JJP) to some extent. However, being an assembly elections where the interplay of caste, community and region would be much more than Lok Sabha polls, JJP and INLD candidates could be the spoilers in several constituencies. However, ask any



Haryana expert and they will tell you that the fight is basically for the third position and an electoral one as they are devoid of grassroots level support.

Of course parties like BSP, AAP and Swaraj India party will be in the fray but at present it seems to be more of a statistical exercise rather than an election as they are devoid of grassroots level support.

Not happy with the BJP raising issues like Article 370, Triple Talaq, NRC, etc, the opposition is targeting the party on record on Unemployment, economic crisis in the state as well as the country, farmer distress, dissatisfied government employees and also under-performance in all spheres of governance.

In its publicity blitzkrieg and the campaign before the model code of conduct came into force, the ruling party consistently focused on transparency in governance through e-governance initiatives, zero tolerance for corruption, giving jobs on merit, etc.

BJP is on a front foot and in upbeat mood as its electoral and caste engineering arithmetic has reaped big dividends for the party as the results of 2019 general election indicated. The party won all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state, something which was unthinkable not long ago. Despite having little support from the dominant Jat community, BJP galvanized all non-Jat communities like never before and won by a margin of 10 lakh votes, something which is called in gymnasium parlance as a 'perfect ten'.

Given the strong presence of BJP nationally and its spread at the grassroots level in the state, political experts say that the BJP government has a rethink and a section is in a mood to support the party this time round provided it gets adequate representation in the ticket distribution exercise. "Initially, it was difficult for the Jat community to reconcile

with the fact that a non-Jat (Khattar) would be the chief minister. But that was the trump card of BJP. Having the entire non-Jat castes on its side, BJP is inching towards getting the support of the dominant Jat community as well and that does not augur well for the Opposition," said a seasoned Haryana expert.

Though Congress has pulled up its socks after divided house all these months and years since it lost power in October 2014, it is yet to find a winning formula. After Sonia Gandhi became the Working President of the party, she brought in the duo of Sula as state party chief and Bhupinder Singh Hooda as Leader of the CLP and practically the chief ministerial face of the party.

The move has brought in smiles on the faces of old Congress stalwarts. They know that Hooda's networking skills will help rope in sulking workers and groups.

Intense factional rivalry within the Congress has come to an end for now. Though the BJP government has a rethink and a section is in a mood to support the party this time round provided it gets adequate representation in the ticket distribution exercise. "Initially, it was difficult for the Congress as the woman leader

Given the strong presence of BJP nationally and its spread at the grassroots level in the state, political experts say that the Jat community had a rethink and a section is in a mood to support the party this time round provided it gets adequate representation in the ticket distribution exercise. "Initially, it was difficult for the Jat community to reconcile with the fact that a non-Jat (Khattar) would be the chief minister. But that was the trump card of BJP. Having the entire non-Jat castes on its side, BJP is inching towards getting the support of the dominant Jat community as well and that does not augur well for the Opposition," said a seasoned Haryana expert

from the family of Chaudhary Bansilal, is expected to participate wholeheartedly in the campaign now.

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Since the last elections, the biggest shock has been for the main opposition INLD which has suffered a series of setbacks after its split because of a feud in the Chautala family. Most of INLD's sitting MLAs and members have either switched over to the BJP and some to the Congress ahead of polls. Party patriarch Om Prakash Chautala is in jail and so is his son Ajay Chautala, triggering a series of allegations and counter allegations within

the family. For BJP keeping all the new comers in good humour and giving them tickets would be a herculean task. There have been so many lateral entries in the BJP that it would find it difficult to accommodate them in its ticket distribution exercise. It is a classic case of problem of plenty and is bound to hurt it in the long run.

Presenting some new statistics on unemployment, he said BJP must answer the public on the question of unemployment and other political parties must also come up with alternative solutions.

Presenting some new statistics on unemployment, he said BJP must answer the public on the question of unemployment and other political parties must also come up with alternative solutions. He said BJP must answer the public on the question of unemployment and other political parties must also come up with alternative solutions.

if some of them join other parties at the last moment. In the 2014 elections, BJP won 47 seats and later won by-poll of Indt, taking its tally to 48. INLD had won 19 seats and later won by-poll of Indt, taking its tally to 20. He said BJP must answer the public on the question of unemployment and other political parties must also come up with alternative solutions.

He said that JJP has already released the first list of candidates and the second list will be announced on September 23.

Dengue showing no signs of respite

173 new cases reported on Saturday from Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The dance of dengue in the Dehradun and nearby areas is continuing to haunt and harass the people. On Saturday, the state health department reported 173 new cases of the vector borne disease in Dehradun

district. With these cases the number of the patients affected by the disease mounted to 2407 in Dehradun. The health department data shows that six people in Dehradun have so far succumbed to the dengue.

In Nainital district, 1189 patients of the disease have been reported by health authorities.

The data of the department shows that the dengue has so far affected 4057 patients in the state with seven persons succumbing to the virus.

The district vector borne disease officer Subhash Joshi said that activities like fogging and spread of insecticides are being undertaken apart from spreading awareness on preventive measures to be adopted for the disease.

Cong to corner BJP on people centric issues: Selja

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Soon after the Election Commission of India declared Haryana polls date, the Congress President Selja said the party will corner the Manohar Lal Khattar government on economic slowdown, unemployment and betrayal of farmers and the law and order situation.

She said retrenchment in the auto sector and closing of units have brought people close to the Congress, adding that more people were joining the Congress now than those who quit five years ago. Slamming the BJP government, she said, "Farmers and small businessmen are in crisis in the state. Farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. The rate of unemployment has risen in the last five years."

She said BJP promised to double the minimum support price for crops, but didn't even purchase most of the farm produce this year. Selja said when the government announced 4,000-5,000 vacancies for the current season, 15 lakh youth applied, showing that unemployment had gone up. On law and order, she said

under the Khattar regime five big riots had taken place and even drug peddling has increased in the districts bordering Punjab, affecting law and order situation.

On the BJP making abrogation of Article 370 a poll plank, she said, "We have seen how the Chief Minister (Khattar) had said that we will bring girls from Kashmir to the state. He said, 'I have a regressive mindset', she added.

Khattar stirred a controversy last month when a video of his speech went viral on social media in which he was heard saying, "Some people are saying that we have a 'regressive mindset', she added. Khattar stirred a controversy last month when a video of his speech went viral on social media in which he was heard saying, "Some people are saying that we have a 'regressive mindset', she added.

The State Congress party chief said that the party will give tickets to youth, women and experienced people. The candidates will be decided after the first list of candidates addressing a workers' conference at Ramliha Ground in Mahendragarh on Saturday.

Dushyant's show of strength in Rohtak today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Almost a year after the split in the Chautala family and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), the party and its breakaway outfit, the Disha Janta Party (JJP) will organise its Jan Samman Divas rally to mark the birth anniversary of its ideologue late Devi Lal in Rohtak on Sunday.

As all efforts by Akali patriarchy and former Punjab chief minister Parkash Singh Badal and khap panchayat leaders have failed to re-unite the Chautala clan, the two parties will go ahead with their separate events. The INLD will organise a "Samman Divas" rally at Kaithal on September 25.

The JJP and Former Hissar MP Dushyant Chautala would send a poll bugle of assembly elections from Rohtak, the headquarters of Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Rohtak is considered a stronghold of Hooda but Congress had lost the 2019 Lok Sabha elections from here. Party leader said that the JJP will hold a historic public rally in the same ground where Prime Minister Narendra



Modi and Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda had held the rally...

Modi and Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda had held the rally in Rohtak. The party will hold a historic public rally to commemorate the 106th birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal. JJP national principal general secretary Dr KC Bangar said that the JJP's rally would be massive. He said people are frustrated from BJP and Congress and JJP rally will expose the both Modi and Hooda.

He said that JJP has already released the first list of candidates and the second list will be announced on September 23.

Swaraj India to raise unemployment - last issue

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Swaraj India president Y.ogendra Yadav on Saturday said the party will raise the issue of unemployment in the Assembly election.

Presenting some new statistics on unemployment, he said BJP must answer the public on the question of unemployment and other political parties must also come up with alternative solutions.

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He said that JJP has already released the first list of candidates and the second list will be announced on September 23.

Swine flu: Mahant Indresh hospital sets up isolation ward

PNS N DEHRADUN

In view of the arrival of the Swine flu in Uttarakhand, the Mahant Indresh Hospital here has set up a 12 bedded isolation ward. The medical superintendent (MS) of the hospital, Dr Vinay Rai said that Dr

Jagdish Rawat of Pulmonary Medicine Department has been appointed as the Nodal officer for Swine Flu at the hospital. He said that special guidelines have been issued by the hospital for the care and treatment of suspected Swine Flu patients. Dr Rai said that a Swine Flu

laboratory is functional under the Molecular Lab of the hospital which is the only certified centre for Swine Flu (H1N1) testing from National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi. He said that in this lab complete facilities of testing of Swine flu are available.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Bhairab Singh Rawat, R/o VIII-Shibbunagar, Post-Kotdwara, District-Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand declares that in high school certificate & mark sheet of my son Ayush Rawat my name is mentioned B.S.Rawat which is incorrect. My correct name is Bhairab Singh Rawat and it should be corrected.

1. Tamanna Parbin spouse of No. JC-341075L, Rank-Sub, Md Ziaul Hogue Permanent residing at VIII- Chhapra, Post- Parani Nagar, Distt- Malda, State-West Bengal, 732123, Present Address- BEG & CENTRE ROORKEE STB (D) HTT COY QTR No. 247/B Rang Line have changed my name to Tamanna Parbin Sirajee to Tamanna Parbin for all purposes.

1. Thwarakesh R.v. Poothan Vilai House, Pankulam (PO) Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, change my name as Dhwarakesh R.v. S/o C. Raja

In my army records my name Manjil DOB is wrongly entered as 26.08.2001 whereas the correct DOB is 26.03.2001. Army No. 639235601 Rank: Hav Mukesh Kumar S/O D Baharwal R/o P.O Anarwala Distt. Dehradun

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Punjab CM asks farmers not to resort to stubble burning as a mark of respect for the first Sikh Guru



PNS ■ LUDHIANA

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday appealed to the farmers in his state not to resort to paddy stubble burning, as a mark of respect for the historic 550th Prakash Parb of the first Sikh Guru.

The Happy Seeding machines being distributed by his government would not only help in stubble management, but also ensure increased productivity for the farmers, he told reporters here.

He was inaugurating a two-day Pashupatan Mela at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Singh said paddy stubble burning, besides damaging the texture of soil and human health, had emerged as a major environmental threat.

per cent subsidy. Singh said the state had provided 28,600 implements worth Rs 269.38 crore to farmers during 2018-19 and 28,000 implements worth Rs 273.80 crore would be provided to them for paddy straw management in this fiscal.

He also announced that the state would develop a separate research and training institute at Gurdaspur, besides establishing an agricultural market innovation research and intelligence centre in Mohali. The centre would provide necessary support and assistance to farmers in marketing of their diversified crops, said the Chief Minister.

Addressing farmers gathered here, Capt Amarinder emphasised the need to increase the crop diversification to conserve the depleting ground water.

He announced that the state had already developed a diversification plan to shift

nearly 10 lakh hectares from rice to alternate, less water intensive crops. Listing the initiatives for crop diversification, he said a state-of-the-art Indian Institute of Maize Research was being set up at Ludhawal, while a Postgraduate Institute of Horticulture Research and Education was coming up in Amritsar.

With the concerted efforts of the state government to sensitize farmers about alternate maize, basmati and cotton cultivation had registered a considerable increase during the current season, he said.

Water saving technologies, such as drip irrigation, were being popularised through 80-90 per cent subsidy in the state, besides introduction of the direct benefit transfer for electricity scheme to directly compensate farmers who save electricity and thereby ground-water, he added.

All arrangements in place: Haryana CEO

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

All necessary arrangements for the polls in Haryana has been made for free, fair and transparent elections, Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana Anurag Agarwal said on Saturday.

Addressing a news conference here, Agarwal said that with the announcement of election programme by the Election Commission of India (ECI), Model Code of Conduct has come into effect.

According to the schedule, notification would be issued on September 27 and the last date for filing nominations would be October 4. Scrutiny of nomination papers would be done on October 5 and the candidates could withdraw their nominations by October 7.

Agarwal said the Election Commission, all Deputy Commissioners and Returning Officers are geared up for conducting the elections in completely transparency and ethical manner.

He said after the second revision of electoral list on August 27, this year, the final voter list has been published as per which 1.83 crore voters including 1.07 lakh service voters would exercise their right to franchise. He said that as the process for updating the electoral roll in progress, the number of voters is expected to increase.

The CEO said 19,442 voting centres have been established in the State including 5,511 in urban areas and 13,931 in rural areas. There are 10,288 polling locations, adding that polling stations where the number of voters are more than 1500, request have

Table with 10 columns: S, Name of Work & Place, Area (Sq. meter), Reserve Price (for 01 year Excluding GST), Earnest Money (2% of reserve price), Completion Period, Cost of Tender Form (with 18% GST), Address of website from which tender documents can be downloaded, Last Date & time of submission

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BJP-Sena in Maha aims to trounce Cong-NCP

By RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Fresh from its spectacular performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, a resurgent ruling BJP-Sena alliance goes to the Maharashtra Assembly polls scheduled for October 21, 2019, with a distinct advantage, as it takes on a weakened, weary and somewhat dispirited Opposition Congress-NCP duo.

Ahead of the first crucial electoral battle being after the Lok Sabha polls in which it walked away with staggering 42 out of the 48 seats in Maharashtra, the BJP-Sena combine has already outsmarted the Opposition Congress-NCP alliance psychologically by poaching nearly 30 of its leaders and functionaries, including 17 sitting MLAs, and depleting its cadres.

The two saffron allies — which unlike the Opposition Congress and NCP that have already wrapped up the seat pact between them — may be struggling to arrive at an understanding over the sharing of seats between them. But, the BJP and Shiv Sena are a formidable lot both on paper and on ground — in terms of both resources and reach.

If the percentages of votes polled in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls are any indication, the BJP and Shiv Sena — which decimated the Opposition — are miles ahead of the Congress and NCP. Together, the BJP (27.59 per cent) and Shiv Sena (23.29 per cent) polled 50.88 per cent of total votes, as against the total 31.79 per cent of votes polled by the Congress (16.27 per cent) and NCP (15.52 per cent).

The Congress and NCP are contesting 125 seats each after leaving the remaining 32 seats

Congress and NCP are contesting 125 seats each after leaving the remaining 32 seats to their allies. The ruling BJP and Shiv Sena are expected to ink their seat-sharing deal for the polls in the next two days

Congress leaders have been quietly touring the state, but not in as comprehensive manner as the BJP has done.

Upbeat as it is after it indulged in massive poaching from the Opposition ranks in recent months, the BJP will in likelihood whip up patriotic fervour in giving national integration spin to the Centre's recent decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, inking of which has already been given both by BJP national president Amit Shah and Prime Minister during the last few public meetings in Maharashtra.

Similarly, the BJP — which thinks that it will encash on the "pro-incumbency" mood prevailing in the State — will go to town with its planks like making Maharashtra a drought-free state by 2024, connecting rivers in coastal Konkan region with in western Maharashtra, creating water grid in Marathwada region to address the drinking water problems, initiatives like loan waiver and crop insurance taken by the state government to address farmers' distress and the development push it has given in urban areas, including Mumbai, Nagpur, Thane and Pune, through various infra and social projects like the Metro and expressways.

On his part, chief minister Devendra Fadnis — who is leading the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance into the Assembly polls in the event of the saffron alliance returning to power in the State, has toured several parts of the state.

On the Opposition side, NCP founder-president Sharad Pawar is currently touring western Maharashtra and Marathwada. The State

that party's mood in the wake of by-elections.

During December 2018 general elections, the PCC had retained the seat by defeating TRS' Sadi Reddy. But subsequently, the PCC chief contested the Lok Sabha election as the nominee of Congress from Nalgonda parliament seat and emerged victorious.

It prompted Uttam Kumar Reddy to tender his resignation as Huzurnagar MLA. Uttam's resignation was accepted by the speaker Pemavathi Reddy who was an MLA from Kodad segment of the erstwhile Nalgonda district, lost the general elections to the TRS' Bollam Malliah Yadav.

64 State, 1 LS seats to see bypoll on Oct 21

By P. S. NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday announced the bypolls to 64 Assembly seats spread across 17 States and Union Territory of Puducherry besides the Samastipur Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar. The by-elections will be held on October 21 and the counting of votes will be on October 24, the same dates as those for Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections.

The Samastipur Lok Sabha by-election was necessitated due to the death of sitting JPM MP Ram Chandra Paswan in July. However, the bypoll for Satara Lok Sabha seat will not be held along with in Maharashtra assembly elections on October 21. Satara MP Arun Kumar Bhosale had recently joined the BJP after resigning from the Lok Sabha.

There was no word on when Jammu and Kashmir would head for elections to elect the legislative body. The state, which will become a Union Territory (UT) on October 31, has been under President's Rule for over a year. Due to J&K's bifurcation into two UTs - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh - a delimitation exercise is expected to be undertaken there.

In Karnataka, where resignation of 17 rebel MLAs led to the collapse of the HD Kumaraswamy-Congress coalition government in July, bypolls will be held in 15 seats and in Uttar Pradesh, 11 constituencies will go to the polls. The 11 UP assembly seats mostly belong to MLAs who had won the Lok Sabha elections and had resigned as members of the state assembly.

According to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, bypolls in Karnataka will be held on September 22, Bihar (5), Gujarat (4), Himachal Pradesh (2), Rajasthan (two seats), West Bengal (two seats) and Sikkim (3). States where assembly bypolls will be held are Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha and Puducherry (one seat each).



simultaneous polls, Arora said that the issue was not yet settled and added that term of the State Assembly will end on 9 January. If the Leader of the House there wants to dissolve the assembly and advance the elections, then it is a separate matter. But why should the commission want to advance it, he said.

By-elections will also be held in five seats in Kerala and 4 in Punjab among others. The other states are Assam (4), Bihar (5), Gujarat (4), Himachal Pradesh (2), Rajasthan (two seats) and Sikkim (3). States where assembly bypolls will be held are Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha and Puducherry (one seat each).

These are the first state polls after the BJP's stunning victory in the national election early in this year, clearing the way for a second term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This will also be the first time that elections will be held in Assam after the release of final citizens' list last month. By-elections will be held in four assembly constituencies in the state on September 27. The first date for scrutiny of nominations will be done on October 1. Candidates can be withdrawn up to October 3. The CEC said that the notification for the polls will be made on September 27. The first date of filing nominations is October 4. The scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 5 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 7.

The state government had cited the Durga Puja festivities to postpone the exercise. They will also not be held in Uttarakhand now as panchayat elections are already underway and the state machinery is set up in the state. The CEC Arora said. In some other seats, by-elections are not being held as respective high courts are hearing election petitions and the matters are sub judice, he added.

In Kerala, Stakes are high for the three major political formations - the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance or NDA.

The gazette notification for these polls will be issued on September 23, last date of nomination is September 30, date for scrutiny of nominations will be done on October 1. Candidates can be withdrawn up to October 3. The CEC said that the notification for the polls will be made on September 27. The first date of filing nominations is October 4. The scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 5 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 7.

The CEC has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs in all the polling stations and for this adequate numbers of EVMs and VVPATs have been kept ready. As is the practice, voters will need to carry valid identity cards to the polls. Photo Identity cards (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification. However, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters.

Over 10 cr to vote in Haryana, Maharashtra Assembly polls

By P. S. NEW DELHI

Over 10-crore electorate will be eligible to cast their vote in the coming Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana for a total of 378 seats.

As per Election Commission (EC) data, there are 1,82,98,714 voters in Maharashtra and 91,22,8 are general electors and 1,16,49,5 are service voters who will vote for the 288 Assembly seats in the state.

According to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, a total of 19,425 polling booths will be set up to cast their vote in Haryana. There has been an increase of 19.58 percent of polling stations, the number of station was 16,244 back in 2014. Up from 90,403 in 2014, the number of polling booths will be 1,08,428 in Maharashtra. The commission cast their vote in Maharashtra has gone up to 95,473, reflecting an increase of 5.61 percent.

In Maharashtra, 54 seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe while 17 are reserved in Haryana for women. According to the CEC Arora, the upper limit for expenditure on the election campaign is Rs 28 lakh for each candidate.

Over 1.66 lakh VVPAT (voter-verified paper audit trail) machines will be used in the assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana. Referring to the use of paper trail machines, Arora said that on the lines of the Lok Sabha polls, the commission has mandated that VVPAT slips count of five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency of Haryana and Maharashtra will be done for verification of the result obtained from the electronic voting machines (EVMs).

The polling stations where the count is taken up are selected by a draw of lots after the election and before counting. The commission also reiterated that while some EVMS fail to function, "no machine is natural or physical defect" including faulty switches, broken button, faulty connection, these

Announcement for bypolls add zing to TN's festive season

By KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The festive season in Tamil Nadu will be zinged on Saturday with the Election Commission of India announcing that the bypolls from the Assembly constituencies of Vikravandi in Villupuram district and Nanguneri in Kanyakumari district would be held on October 21.

The by-election in Vikravandi was necessitated by the death of the sitting DMK lawmaker K Rathamani of the DMK in June 2019. Nanguneri constituency fell vacant following the resignation of Vasanth Kumar of the Indian National Congress who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kanyakumari in the May 2019 General election. The point being debated in Tamil Nadu is whether the DMK-led UPA would be able to continue its dream run. Though the final results in the by-polls would not create any threat to the Edappadi Palaniswami-led AIADMK government, it will be a morale booster to the Opposition parties as the State is gearing up for elections to local bodies which

never record a "wrong vote". CEC Arora also said that special security arrangements have been made for the affected areas in Gadchiroli and Gondia in Maharashtra.

Besides announcing the assembly election dates, CEC Arora also spoke about the environmental concern that the election campaigns bring with them. Regarding the same Arora said, "Election campaigns impose an environmental cost upon us. We appeal to political parties to avoid the use of plastic and use only environment-friendly material in their campaigns. Arora also mentioned that the EC has brought down more than 5,000 polling booths on the ground floor from the first or second-floor level on the request of several political parties from Maharashtra.

According to the CEC, both Haryana and Maharashtra are sound-fitting in terms of poll preparation. "All types are arrangements are being made for the voters. Candidates will be provided with the necessary facilities for their poll form. The Election Commission is privileged to play a role in democracy."

BJP, TRS slug it out to wrest Huzurnagar seat from Cong

By PV KONDAL RAO ■ HUZURNAGAR

October 21 is likely to become a turning point in the history of Telangana politics with the Election Commission announcing dates for the bypoll in the constituency.

Though, the ruling TRS is trying to clinch the seat from the Congress and spring a surprise, the national ruling party, BJP is leaving no stone unturned to win the seat. The TRS has already announced Sadi Reddy as the candidate for the seat, while a war of words between the senior leaders of Congress is reflect-

ing that party's mood in the wake of by-elections.

During December 2018 general elections, the PCC had retained the seat by defeating TRS' Sadi Reddy. But subsequently, the PCC chief contested the Lok Sabha election as the nominee of Congress from Nalgonda parliament seat and emerged victorious.

It prompted Uttam Kumar Reddy to tender his resignation as Huzurnagar MLA. Uttam's resignation was accepted by the speaker Pemavathi Reddy who was an MLA from Kodad segment of the erstwhile Nalgonda district, lost the general elections to the TRS' Bollam Malliah Yadav.

Navy Chief embarks on 4-day B'desh visit to boost maritime ties

By P. S. NEW DELHI

Aiming to further consolidate maritime cooperation between the two countries, Navy Chief Admiral Karam Singh on Saturday began a four-day-long visit to Bangladesh.

During the visit, Admiral Singh will hold extensive talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Admiral Anwarul Chowdhury, besides meeting the other service chiefs and senior military officials, the Indian Navy said.

Sources said the two navy chiefs are expected to deliberate on regional security scenarios including China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean region and its military assertiveness in the South China Sea. "The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance the strategic maritime relations between India and Bangladesh,"

Navy to name 7th frigate in P17A series as Mahendragiri

By P. S. NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Navy has planned to name the seventh ship in the P17A frigate series as 'Mahendragiri', senior officials said.

The first ship under P17A borrows its name from an old frigate of the Navy, INS Nilgiri that was named after Nilgiri Hills in Tamil Nadu.

Five more ships of the Nilgiri-class, an upgrade of Leander-class, were also named after other hill ranges of India. The six ships were built a few decades ago and have been decommissioned.

These six ships were called — 'Nilgiri', 'Himgiri', 'Udaygiri', 'Dunagiri', 'Taragiri' and 'Vindhaygiri'. "The first P17A frigate 'Nilgiri' will be launched on September 28. Since, it is named after the previous

frigate which was part of a series of six, 'Kalvari' is named after the remaining names will also follow till the sixth ship," said Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, the vice chief of the Navy.

"For the seventh frigate, we have identified one more in the series — 'Mahendragiri'," he said.

He said this recently during an interactive session held here ahead of the commissioning of Navy's second Scorpene-class submarine INS Khanderi. The commissioning of 'Khanderi', launch of 'Nilgiri' and inauguration of an aircraft carrier drydock are all scheduled to take place on September 28 in Mumbai.

The first Scorpene in a series of six, 'Kalvari' is named after the first Kalvari of the Navy. The first Kalvari, commissioned on December 8, 1967, was also the first submarine of the Indian Navy. It was decommissioned on May 31, 1996 after nearly three decades of service.

The Kalvari-class submarines in the past were a variant of Foxtrot-class submarines, four of which had served in the Navy from late 1960s onwards — 'Kalvari', 'Khanderi', 'Karaj' and 'Kursura'. "Names have a historical backbone. The name ships have been followed on some other ships in the past. So, the name is being repeated," Kumar said.

A contract with French company Naval Group (earlier called DCNS) was signed in 2005 for the supply of six submarines. The six submarines, designed by the French naval defence and energy company, are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai as part of Project-75 of the Indian Navy.

The state-of-the-art features of this Kalvari-class Scorpene submarine include superior stealth and the ability to launch attacks on the enemy using precision guided weapons.

RSS publicity in charge Anand Kumar in an official statement released on Saturday said Bhagwat's interaction with the foreign media is a routine exercise.

Centre, States debate reforms in NEP draft

By P. S. NEW DELHI

The Centre and the States on Saturday held detailed discussions and debated various reforms proposed in the new National Education Policy (NEP) draft that has been much delayed and much awaited.

The meeting of the HRD Ministry's Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) and Education ministers from the NEP draft states was chaired by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. The heads of autonomous organisations, vice chancellors of universities, HRD secretaries for higher education and school education were also present.

A contract with French company Naval Group (earlier called DCNS) was signed in 2005 for the supply of six submarines. The six submarines, designed by the French naval defence and energy company, are being built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai as part of Project-75 of the Indian Navy. The state-of-the-art features of this Kalvari-class Scorpene submarine include superior stealth and the ability to launch attacks on the enemy using precision guided weapons.

Further, Nishank's deputy Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prabhakar Singh Patel and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju also attended the meeting.

"The house had detailed deliberations on several recommendations and reforms proposed in the NEP draft. There were valuable suggestions given by the education ministers of states, who are equal partners in policy formulation and felt that their inputs are critical so that the proposed NEP can be a catalyst to achieve the goals of equitable access to quality education while ensuring affordability of education and instilling greater

accountability," a senior HRD official said.

Nishank said in the spirit of "cooperative federalism" both the central and state governments interact and engage in a healthy and enriching dialogue to bring out a robust policy that will empower our youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century. "The government has initiated a major exercise to formulate a National Education Policy that will aim to fulfil the aspiration of the youth for quality education and make our country a knowledge superpower."

"The meeting today was convened to discuss the draft so

Married women happier than those in live-in relationships: RSS survey

By P. S. NEW DELHI

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will release the survey conducted by a Sangh-linked organization 'Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabdhan Kendra' (DSAPK) based in Pune, Maharashtra.

The findings of the survey were discussed at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's coordination meeting in Pushkar earlier this month, sources in the RSS said.

The Supreme Court has ruled that any couple living together for a long term will be presumed as legally married unless proved otherwise. It has also allowed physical relationship between two grown-ups as legal. It was earlier used to be categorized as adultery.

As per the survey, married women have a very high level of happiness, whereas the level of happiness was lowest in women in live-in relationships.

The findings of the survey will be released after Bhagwat's interaction with the foreign media.

RSS publicity in charge Anand Kumar in an official statement released on Saturday said Bhagwat's interaction with the foreign media is a routine exercise.



HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (right) with other officials during the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on Saturday.

that in the spirit of cooperative federalism, both the central and state governments interact and engage in a healthy and enriching dialogue to bring out a robust policy that will empower our youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Nishank also released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19 according to which the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has increased from 25.8 in 2017-18 to 26.3 in 2018-19 while in absolute terms the enrolment increased from 3.66 crore to 3.74 crore students.

"GER for SCs has also shown a growth from 21.8 to 23.0 and STs from 15.9 to 17.2. In terms of increase in the number of universities, they have grown from 903 (2017-18) to 993 (2018-19) and total higher Education institutions from 49,964 to 51,649 in the same corresponding period. The number of faculty increased from 13.88 lakhs to 14.16 lakhs," the survey report said.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी. एन. - 33004/99

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MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 17th September, 2019

S.O. 3346(E)-Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways number S.O. 2055 (E), dated 21 June 2019, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, sub-section (ii) and issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for widening (two lane with paved shoulder etc) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No-34 (erstwhile National Highway No-108) on the stretch of land from Km 101.060 to Km 110.860 (Barethi - Singoti Section) in the District of Uttarakashi in the State of Uttarakhand. And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Dainik Jagran" and "Amar Ujala" both dated 27 June 2019; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act, And whereas no objection has been received from any person by the competent authority, And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government, Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose, And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the National Highway No-34 (erstwhile National Highway No-108) in the stretch of land from Km 101.060 to Km 110.860 (Barethi - Singoti Section) for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder etc) in the District of Uttarakashi in the State of Uttarakhand.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person, Part Survey No., and Village - Barethi. It lists various land parcels and their owners across different villages in the Barethi area.

Main table containing land acquisition details. Columns include: Sl. No., Survey Number, Type of Land, Nature of Land, Area in Hectare, Name of the Land Owner/Interested Person, Part Survey No., and Village - Barethi. It lists various land parcels and their owners across different villages in the Barethi area.

Silver worth its weight in Gold

Panghal ends 2nd at world c'ships

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

Indian boxer Amit Panghal's phenomenal campaign in the men's world championships ended with a Silver medal after he went down to Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in an intense 52kg category final here on Saturday.

Panghal lost 0-5 but the scoreline was hardly a reflection of the fight he put on against the more fancied Zoirov.

In the course of his stupendous run, the second-seeded Indian became the first male boxer from the country to



Amit Panghal poses with Silver medal after suffering defeat in the final. BFI/Twitter

finish second in the world event. The nation achieved its best-ever medal haul of two, Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (63kg) had signed off with a Bronze after losing in the semi-finals earlier.

Once again up against a taller and more muscular opponent, Panghal gave it his all but fell short when it came to connecting accurately. The Asian Games and Asian Championships Gold-medallist nonetheless achieved a historic feat.

In a bout that was mostly about counter-attack, both Panghal and Zoirov were wary of each other in the opening three minutes. The action picked up a bit in the second round and Panghal tried hard to capitalize on his rival's low guard.

However, in Zoirov, Panghal met his match in pace and the Uzbek had no trouble dodging Panghal's lunging efforts.

The final round was when the two boxers decided to attack each other more intensely and even though Panghal was more aggressive, it was Zoirov who managed to land more scoring blows.

The Silver here marks a new high for the boxer from Rohtak, who has been simply unstoppable since 'hooking' into the national scene with a Bronze in the 2017 Asian Championships.

Zoirov, despite being unseeded here, was always going to be a tough challenge as he also has to his credit Silver medals in the Asian Games and the Asian Championships.

Before this year, India had never won more than one Bronze medal at a single edition of the world championship.

This time, India was among nine countries, out of a total of 78, which had their boxers in the finals. Uzbekistan topped the finalists count with four boxers.

"This is a reward for the effort that BFI (Boxing Federation of India) has put into re-modelling the entire structure of the sport so that our boxers get the best of training and can confidently perform on the world stage," BFI President Ajay Singh said.



Amit Panghal in action during his quarterfinal match at World Championship. PTI

Phenomenal Panghal: From late-comer to world-beater

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He is the first to a historic milestone in Indian boxing when Amit Panghal would come in last. The last to knock on the training halls, the last to report back from camp leaves.

The pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak became the first Indian boxer to claim the Silver medal at the World Championships, which concluded in Ekaterinburg on Saturday.

Speaking about it, Panghal (52kg), an Asian Games and Asian Championships Gold-medallist, recalled with hearty laughter the times he "frustrated" coaches with his approach, which meant carefree to him but reckless to them.

"It's true, I used to leave the camp on weekends (off days). I just didn't have the patience. The coaches used to be furious at me but then that was me at that time. We just didn't have enough *chutti* (holidays) and I was always tempted to make the most of whatever I could manage," the 23-year-old Indian Armyman said.

"Oh, we used to be so frustrated with him. He wouldn't come back from leave on time, wouldn't show up for training on time. But then he had this amazing eye-catching game, we just couldn't give up on him despite the indiscipline," recalled national coach C A Kuttappa.

The time they speak of was 2016, and a year later Panghal made quite a statement with a Bronze medal on debut in the Asian Championships.

"I am so grateful to the coaches who didn't give up on me. Because of their patience, I began taking my game more seriously and there came a time when I went home just once a month, that too after the coaches would tell me to take a break," Panghal said.

But old habits die hard and

Kuttappa, who fondly calls Panghal *bachhu* (child), revealed that even at the just-concluded world championship Panghal showed up late once for a training session.

"I told him to pay 1000 bucks and only then we would let him in," he said with a chuckle.

Panghal couldn't help laughing about it either but he also pointed out a major change in his approach.

"Now I am the last to leave the training hall. Everyone leaves but I keep at it, I force them (the coaches) to be with me even on off days for training. They tell me *'bun kar year, hum jaa rhae hain ab'*. My attitude to training has changed quite a lot but even now I am harassing coaches," he quipped.

"Earlier, I would leave (the training hall) without even saying off but I am more patient now. I wait for my body to adapt before signing off. I adhere to the procedure with sincerity now," he added.

Speaking of adapting, Panghal has had to make major adjustments to excel in the 52kg category after a stellar run in the 49kg division. During the transition, he candidly confessed that he was unsure about how the change would pan out for him.

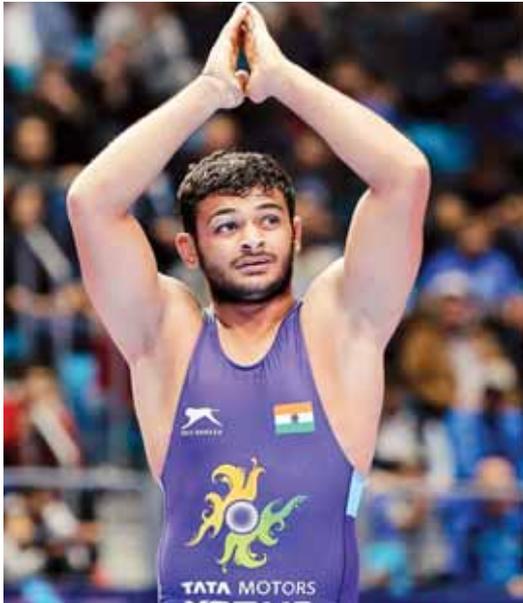
"It hasn't been as difficult as I first thought. But it has taken time for me to fit in," he said.

"*Abhi bhi kahaan itna adjustment huwa hai* (I haven't adjusted completely). I am only 65 to 70 per cent there in realising my full potential. I have managed to add power in my punches to negate the height disadvantage. It's crucial because I am mostly up against taller guys. But I am still a work in progress," he added.

Panghal prefers to be humble about his achievements and prefers to describe his phenomenal rise since 2017 a combination of some luck and loads of hard work.

Deepak's double delight

Punia to fight for Gold at Worlds today after booking Olympics quota



Deepak Punia (86kg) acknowledges his supporters after defeating Stefan Reichmuth in the semifinals of World C'ship. PTI

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Reigning junior world champion Deepak Punia placed himself in line for the senior world title by reaching the 86kg final apart from booking his Tokyo Olympics quota, here on Saturday.

Competing in his maiden senior world championship, Deepak moved to the final with a commanding 8-2 win over Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth.

He will fight for the title against 2016 Rio Olympics 74kg Gold medallist Hassan Yazdanicharati of Iran today. Yazdanicharati had also won 2018 Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games 86kg Gold.

It has been a steady progress for Deepak, who won the World Cadet title in 2016 and became junior world champion only last month in Estonia. He can now move into the double Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar who is still the only Indian to have won a World Championships title in 2010.

The 20-year-old Deepak also ensured that India will return from the World Championship with its best ever performance as the country is now assured of four medals.

Wrestling World C'ship
Live from 3:00pm IST
SONY TEN 3 & ESPN

Punia and Ravi Dahiya have already won a Bronze medal each. All of them qualified for the Tokyo Olympics as well. Rahul Awaré can make it even better if he wins today's Bronze medal bout in the 61kg non-Olympic category. He lost his semifinal bout 6-10 to Beka Lomtadze of Georgia.

India had returned with three medals in 2013. Deepak's all-round ability — defence, attack, stamina and awareness on the mat — played a key role in his memorable performance.

"I had genuinely hoped for a medal and Olympic quota. So, it is a double delight for me. My seniors like Sushil Kumar and Bajrang Punia inspire me," Deepak said.

"I felt a bit under pressure when I fought with the Kazakh wrestler (in quarterfinals). He had beaten me in Italy early this year and I was a bit apprehensive about fighting the home wrestler because of the Bajrang bout (country-versus)," he added.

There was no action in the first period of the semifinal

with Deepak gaining a 1-0 lead on activity clock.

In the second period, Deepak pushed every possible way so that they can carry this form into Tokyo to bring back medals for the country," he added.

The 20-year-old Deepak, who trains at Chhatrasal stadium in Delhi, had booked the quota after prevailing 7-6 in a tense semifinal against Colombia's Carlos Arturo Mendez.

With one minute to go, he was trailing 3-6 but pulled off a takedown and then an expose move to take 7-6 lead in the dying moments of the tense bout.

Also doing a commendable job was Awaré who reached the Bronze medal round in the 61kg non-Olympic category after reaching the semifinals.

Both Deepak and Rahul overcame rough Kazakh wrestlers en route the semifinals.

Awaré lost a pacy semifinal 6-10 to Beka Lomtadze of Georgia, the European champion Silver medallist. Meanwhile, Jitender lost his 79kg quarterfinal while Mausam Khatri lost his first round in 97kg to reigning Olympic champion Kyle Frederick Snyder to go out of the championship since their opponents failed to reach the finals.

Leclerc on pole at Singapore

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc secured pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix on Saturday as he looks to claim a stunning hat-trick of wins after triumphs in Belgium and Italy.

The 21-year-old will be joined on the front row by Lewis Hamilton in a Mercedes, with Leclerc's teammate Sebastian Vettel rounding out the top three, ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas.

Despite winning the last two races on power-friendly tracks, Ferrari had been given little chance of competing under the floodlights at the demanding 23-turn layout in Singapore.

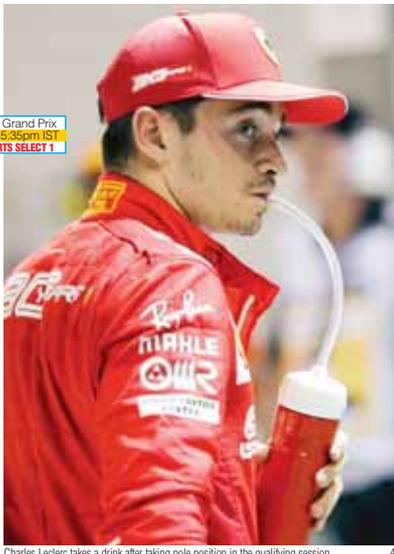
But Leclerc and Vettel tore up the script to gatecrash what was expected to be a Mercedes and Red Bull party.

"I'm extremely happy about today. It was a good lap but I lost it a few times," Leclerc said after completing a 1:36.217 second final lap.

"I have to thank the team. We brought some new bits that worked properly. I worked hard after a bad Friday and today it paid off," added Leclerc, who recorded his fifth pole position of the season.

Hamilton holds a 63-point lead over Bottas of Mercedes in the title race with seven rounds remaining. The Briton said he would adopt an aggressive approach to today's race in search of a ninth victory of the season, as he seeks a sixth world championship.

"I don't know where Ferrari picked up their pace but they did a great job," said Hamilton, who lapped in 1:36.408.



Charles Leclerc takes a drink after taking pole position in the qualifying session. AP

Vettel has suffered an erratic season while his rookie teammate has shone for the Italian team. The German was quickest in the first half of the final part of qualifying until Leclerc and Hamilton edged past him.

"The final attempt should have been better but I was able to improve run by run. Maybe I peaked too early," Vettel said.

Another series win on focus

India look to maintain clean slate against Proteas before Tests

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Virat Kohli's familiar exuberance and pep talks drowned the chatter around Rishabh Pant as India prepared to play South Africa in the first T20 International here today, seeking a 2-0 series verdict.

The comprehensive seven-wicket victory in the second game, which was built on the back of a fine comeback by the bowlers and a Kohli masterclass, is history now and the team is looking for another commanding performance before the Test series gets underway.

Against a fairly new-look South African side that seems to lack the resources required to counter the home team's firepower, India will surely fancy their chances of an encore, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Embattled wicketkeeper-batsman Pant could not deliver in the last match and as he continues to struggle with the bat, he remains under scrutiny.

Pant has divided opinions — many questioned his temperament, shot-selection and the resultant slump in form — while others refused to be harsh on him considering the talent that he possesses.

The South Africans had no answer to Kohli's batting at Mohali in the second T20, and with the next game being hosted at a ground where he is too familiar with, the Indian captain will be eyeing another good outing.

But before Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan will be standing up to the



Rohit Sharma, Khaleel Ahmad, Shikhar Dhawan and coach Ravi Shastri during a practice session ahead of the 3rd T20 match. PTI

India vs South Africa
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack with optimism, the size of the ground only aiding stroke-makers like the two openers.

India also have the likes of the extremely talented Shreyas Iyer in their middle-order, followed by Hardik Pandya and Ravindra

Jadeja. Indian team management may have taken heart from the fact that pacers such as Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini put their hands up in the absence of regulars Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

They may not have years of international experience behind them but the likes of Washington Sundar, Chahar and Saini showed that they can challenge the South

Africans. New captain Quinton de Kock will again have to shoulder the bulk of responsibility with the bat and he will hope for support from the likes of David Miller and Reeza Hendricks.

De Kock might have to change the manner in which he handled his bowlers in the second match, introducing his spinners late in the innings despite the Indians easily tackling his fast bowlers.

Listening to an underserved population is how you begin to understand them and serve them better — Constance Wu



Caste as Social Capital
A book that talks about how the caste system in India has been distorted by the self-styled liberals

2



4

Focus on mind for success
Empower yourself by improving your focus, sharpening intelligence and optimising indwelling potential



PRIORITISING STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



The Vladivostok Summit held earlier this month consolidates two decades of calibrated decisions by India and Russia to give a forward-looking agenda to their bilateral partnership in three core areas — economic, energy and defence cooperation

The 20th India-Russia Summit at Vladivostok on September 4-5, 2019 marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to the Russian Far East. It placed the port city and its surrounding region in the eye of a bold joint initiative to energise “strong, multifaceted trade and economic cooperation as the foundation for further expanding the range of India-Russia relations”.



ASOKE MUKERJI

Speaking at the Joint Press Conference with President Putin, India's Prime Minister emphasised that the partnership between India and Russia was based on

“trust”. The basis for this “trust” is rooted in the first India-Russia Summit held in New Delhi in October 2000, when the two countries signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership. At that time, Russia was emerging from a decade of political and economic downturn following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. India was emerging from the first phase of her momentous economic reforms. The overall objective of the India-Russia partnership was designed to create strategic autonomy for both countries.

The first summit took place after India's nuclear weapons tests of May 11-13, 1998, and newly elected President Putin's pledge on May 7, 2000 to make Russia “a country that its citizens are proud of and is respected internationally”. The decision taken by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Putin to institutionalise the India-Russia Summit mechanism annually has withstood the test of time. At Vladivostok, India and Russia asserted that in “successfully coping with the turbulent realities of the contemporary world” they have “never been and will not be susceptible to outside influence”.

Rejecting “unilateral coercive measures not based on international law”, the Summit called for “strengthening” multilateralism and underlined the “primacy of international law”. Prime Minister Modi said that “both countries understand that we need a multipolar world to achieve peace and stability”. Russia reiterated its support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council. At their joint press conference, both leaders underlined the bonds that link India and Russia together, with President Putin highlighting the deep mutual interest in “each other's culture, history and moral values”.

The Summit consolidated two decades of calibrated decisions by India and Russia to give a forward-looking

agenda to their bilateral partnership in three core areas — economic, energy and defence cooperation. In each area, the two countries prioritised the role of investments, manufacturing, employment and technology as catalysts for their burgeoning partnership. They agreed to integrate innovation in high technology products in telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnologies into this framework.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The potential of economic cooperation to strengthen the “special and privileged strategic partnership” between India and Russia has remained largely untapped, despite several initiatives taken over the past 20 years. Bilateral trade has gradually increased from \$1.5 billion in 2000 to its current annual level of about \$11 billion, well short of the declared target of \$30 billion by 2025.

The Vladivostok Summit resulted in a joint initiative to utilise the “immense energy of the private industry”, in Prime Minister Modi's words, to turn this situation around. In addition to energy and defence cooperation, the economic partnership would target the pharmaceuticals, agriculture, civil aviation, railways, ship building, space, education and tourism sectors. The new strategy unveiled at Vladivostok integrates four supportive measures to increase Russian business participation in the Make in India programme, along with an increased Indian business participation in investment projects in Russia.

First, a bilateral inter-governmental agreement on the promotion and protection of mutual investments is to be negotiated to anchor this initiative. Second, steps would be taken to address non-tariff barriers to bilateral trade, including through broader discussions on a Trade Agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union. Third, coordinating support would be rendered by the investment offices of Russia in India and India in Russia. Fourth, the India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue mechanism set up after the 2018 New Delhi Summit would be geared to promote “cohesive and mutually beneficial cooperation in core sectors”.

Building on the initial attempts made in 2001 to bring the states of India and provinces of Russia into the framework of economic cooperation, the Summit envisaged interaction between Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Goa with the 11 provinces of Russia's Far East to provide depth to this process. Prime Minister Modi mentioned the “coal industry, the diamond industry, the lumber industry, as well as agriculture and tourism” as the specific focus of this interaction, which could impact on “exploring cooperation on temporary

placement of skilled manpower from India” in Russia's Far East.

The broad vision behind India's historic economic engagement at the highest level with Russia's Far East was brought out by Prime Minister Modi at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok on September 5, 2019. He said: “India will provide a \$1 billion line of credit to further contribute to the development of the Far East. This is the first time that we are giving a line of credit to a particular region of a country. My Government's Act East Policy has actively engaged with East Asia. Today's announcement will prove to be the take-off point of the Act Far East policy and it is my firm belief that this step adds a new dimension to our economic diplomacy. We will be active participants in the development of the regions of our friendly countries according to their priorities”.

ENERGY COOPERATION

“AT VLADIVOSTOK, INDIA AND RUSSIA ASSERTED THAT IN ‘SUCCESSFULLY COPING WITH THE TURBULENT REALITIES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD’ THEY HAVE ‘NEVER BEEN AND WILL NOT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE’.

REJECTING ‘UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES NOT BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW’, THE SUMMIT CALLED FOR ‘STRENGTHENING’ MULTILATERALISM AND UNDERLINED THE ‘PRIMACY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW’.”

The primary objective of India-Russia energy cooperation has been India's quest for energy security, and Russia's interest in exporting its huge energy reserves on a long-term predictable basis to India, one of the biggest importers of energy in the world. The Vladivostok Summit discussed partnership in nuclear, oil and gas sectors within this framework, integrating it with the new thrust on economic cooperation.

Both leaders stressed civil nuclear cooperation as an “important component of strategic partnership”. Prime Minister Modi emphasised the significance of “localisation of nuclear power plants” with reference to the new reactors being constructed by Russia at Kudankulam, which will strengthen India's nuclear reactor construction capabilities, including in manufacturing and in expanding her pool of skilled manpower. President Putin highlighted bilateral cooperation in Kudankulam as a “flagship joint project” and anticipated that “at least 12 Russian-designed nuclear power plants will be built within the next 20 years” in India. This would provide the basis for an increase in nuclear trade and technological cooperation between Russia and India, including in “joint manufacturing of equipment and fuel”. The Summit welcomed the success of India-Russia cooperation in constructing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh, which motivated them to look at similar joint cooperation projects for nuclear power in third world countries.

It is significant that during the past 20 years India and Russia have been able to outline such a forward-looking nuclear energy partnership, which is in consonance with their international legal obligations on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Russia reiterated its strong support to India's membership of

the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

India's investments in the oil and gas sector of Russia have crossed \$15 billion, including her stake of \$2.7 billion in the Sakhalin-1 project in Russia's Far East from 2001. Russia's Rosneft-led consortium, which acquired India's Essar Oil (since renamed as Nayara Energy) for \$13 billion in 2017, is expected to expand the capacity of India's second largest oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat, which currently refines 20 million tonnes of oil annually.

An agreement on Hydrocarbons cooperation for 2019-2024 was announced during the Summit, which welcomed the implementation of mutually beneficial long-term partnerships between India's Consortium of Oil and Gas Public Sector Undertakings and Russia's Rosneft, and between Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Russia's giant Gazprom. The projects being implemented included Yankorpet and Taas-Turyakh in eastern Siberia, the location of one of Russia's largest oil and gas reserves, and a contract for long-term supply of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India.

This approach is designed to create a strategic alignment for the supply and processing of Russian energy to India. A long-term predictable arrangement will mitigate the current volatility in supply and prices in global energy supplies to India. The impact of this emerging alignment will be felt in emerging partnerships in the inland and maritime transportation, port modernisation and energy processing sectors.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

President Putin accompanied Prime Minister Modi on a tour of the Zvezda ship-building complex near Vladivostok, which enabled the two leaders to spend two hours together in the informal discussions. This continued a practice initiated with their meeting in Sochi in May 2018. The Russian leader's public references to the “many Russian made ships” in the Indian Navy including the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya and leased nuclear-powered submarine Chakra were significant markers for the Summit agreement on preparing “a framework for cooperation on reciprocal logistics support”.

At the Summit's joint press conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the “steps that are giving our defence cooperation a solid foundation of co-manufacturing” a boost to Indian industry. President Putin emphasised the important role of “joint projects in India” to illustrate that “Russia does more than supply weapons to India”.

A significant takeaway from the Vladivostok Summit for future defence cooperation was the agreement for manufacturing spares of Russian/Soviet-origin equipment in India. This agreement

represents a sustainable solution to a long-standing problem that has festered for almost two decades on the ground. By upgrading India-Russia defence cooperation, opening the doors for joint development and production of military equipment, components, and spare parts, as well as after-sales service activities, a visible economic dimension has been added to defence cooperation. At the heart of this new activity will be Russian participation through investments in joint ventures and technology in the Make in India programme, with its “spin-off” benefits for employment and technology diffusion.

THE GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSION

The objective of prioritising economic cooperation to boost the India-Russia partnership will be require a supportive geo-political framework, especially for connectivity between India and Russia's Far East.

The reference to an “open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region” in Prime Minister Modi's address to the Eastern Economic Forum was accompanied by the announcement of a new maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok to “increase connectivity between the regions”, which would traverse the South China Sea. Despite Russia's reported hesitations on officially using the term “Indo-Pacific”, the Summit declaration's reference to consultations on “integration and development initiatives in the greater Eurasian space and in the regions of the Indian and Pacific Oceans” denotes an emerging strategic convergence between India and Russia on an “inclusive” Indo-Pacific regional strategy. This would incorporate not only maritime connectivity in the Pacific, but also critical maritime connectivity routes in the western Indo-Pacific such as the straits of Hormuz and the Red Sea, as well as connectivity projects such as Chabahar in Iran and emerging maritime routes using the Arctic.

The Summit declaration identified cooperation in the Arctic and cyber security as emerging areas for India-Russia partnership. Russia's long experience in deep sea fishing and deep-sea mining could provide the building blocks for the concept of the Blue Economy of the Indo-Pacific, as part of India's SAGAR Indian Ocean strategy articulated by Prime Minister Modi in March 2015. Incorporating these areas into the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia could catalyse the emergence of India as a maritime power.

The author was India's Ambassador to the United Nations (2013-2015) and India's Deputy Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2001-2005). He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi



JRR TOLKIEN WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AT THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY. HE RESEARCHED AND EXPLAINED THE ETYMOLOGY OF WORDS STARTING WITH W

The book is a well-argued account of how the caste system in India has been distorted by the self-styled liberals who take the gullible for a ride under the pretext of a casteless society, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The complexities of caste system

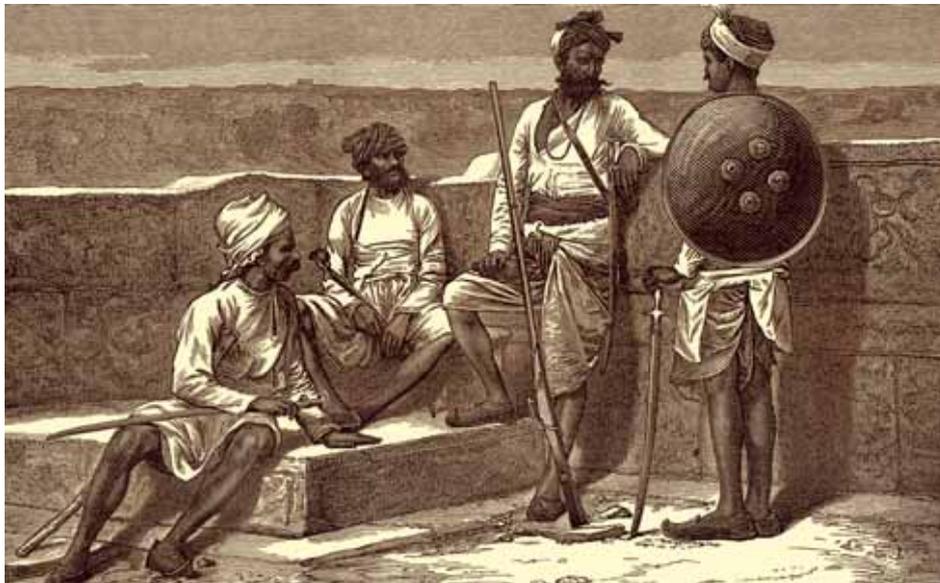
A 131 page book packed with shocking but well researched facts, data and information. That's how "Caste As Social Capital", authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan can be described. The data painstakingly collected by Prof Vaidyanathan and presented in an articulate manner points at a big reservation fraud. The book is an account of how the caste system in India has been distorted, mutilated and misinterpreted by the self styled liberals who have taken the gullible for a ride under the pretext of salvation and casteless society.

The modern English education introduced in the subcontinent by Thomas Babington Macaulay during the colonial rule of British has succeeded in creating generations of Indian youth suffering from serious inferiority complex. They have not read Sanskrit or *Kalidasa* or *Megha Sandesham* and hence are ignorant about the rich Indian heritage. For them, what matters is the manufactured and distorted history inculcated in the Indian psyche by the Macaulay designed education. "Our English schools are flourishing wonderfully... The effect of this education on the Hindus is prodigious. No Hindu, who has received an English education, ever remains sincerely attached to his religion... It is my firm belief that, if our plans of education are followed up, there will not be a single idolater among the respectable classes in Bengal thirty years hence..." Macaulay wrote to his father in 1836. Needless to say, the modern day Indians have done Macaulay proud by living a life as scripted by him way back in the 1830s.

While the colonial masters aided by evangelists and proselytisers had a free run all over the country, the great truth about the rich cultural heritage of this nation lies buried thousands fathoms deep. Prof Vaidyanathan, through his book is trying to bring the real picture out in the public domain.

What "Caste As Social Capital" tries to tell the readers is that despite the protests by the Left and Liberals against the Indian caste system, it has more advantages than disadvantages. And the most shocking disclosure made by Prof Vaidyanathan is that the Reservation System practiced in India is a big fraud perpetrated on the Hindus of India by forces which want the annihilation of the *Sanatana Dharma*.

The Mandal Commission recommendations were implemented in early 1990s by politicians with selfish motives.



Though there were widespread agitations against the recommendations that "robbed" a major chunk of seats in educational institutions and government jobs from the merit category and placed them at the disposal of communities categorised as the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Communities and Most Backward Communities, the mainstream media sought to downplay the same to suit their business interests.

How many among us remember the martyrdom of Rajiv Goswami, the New Delhi youth who tried self immolation to protest against the then VP Singh government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission Recommendations. India was not the same after the implementation of those recommendations. Prof Vaidyanathan says that the recommendations were erred out of sync with reality. The quota and per cent of

reservation announced by the Mandal Commission were based on flawed numbers, facts and figures. The last caste census in India was held in 1931 and the recommendations of the Commission were based on the data collected in that census. For more than six decades, there were no caste census of any kind in India and setting apart 27 per cent quota for OBC according to the findings of the 1931 census was against all norms, says the professor.

The government brought in reservation as an act of atonement for the kind of discrimination the SC, ST and the Backwards had to allegedly suffer in the hands of the upper caste and Brahmins, so goes the argument. But a research by renowned Gandhian, Dharampal, has proved that there was no discrimination of any kind against the SC, ST and the OBCs at any time of the history.

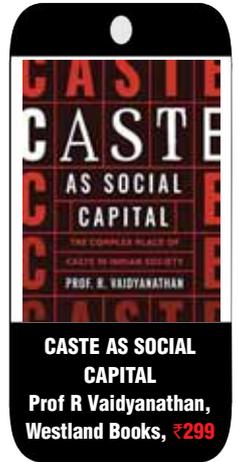
"Dharampal discovered that a fairly detailed survey of school and college education has been undertaken by the British administration in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Area. According to the survey conducted between 1822 and 1825 in the Madras Presidency (that is, the whole of the Indian States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, and the union territory of Lakshadweep), 11,575 schools and 1094 colleges were then in existence in the Presidency and the number of students in them were 157, 195 and 5431 respectively," writes Prof Vaidyanathan. Shudras (backward castes) constituted 70 to 80 per cent of the students in Tamil speaking areas, while the per cent of backward caste students in Oriya speaking areas was 62 per cent!

Interestingly, share of the Brahmins in Tamil-speaking areas of the Madras

Presidency were a mere 13 per cent in South Arcot and 23 per cent in Madras. That much for the leaders who demand still more reservation for the backward, SC and ST sections of the population!

Another report by J Dent Secretary, Fort George, dated February 21, 1825 states that out of 1,88, 680 scholars in all the collectorates of Madras Presidency, Brahmins made up 23 per cent while Shudras constituted 45 per cent.

The author has successfully demolished all the arguments put forward by the political leadership justifying the need for continuation of reservation, and that too the most unscientific and crude form of reservation. "The assumption made by the Mandal Commission based on the 1931 Census and other parameters that more than 50 per cent of the population belongs to OBC may not be true any longer. The National Sample



Survey 2003 suggests that the OBCs may only constitute around 36 per cent of the population and not 50 per cent as was assumed earlier. If one excludes Muslim OBCs, then the figure falls to 32 per cent, according to the NSS. The National Family Health Statistics conducted in 1998 suggests that the population of OBCs is around 32 per cent which is fairly close to the NSS figures," (Page 10-11, *Caste As Social Capital*).

While demolishing and exposing the flaws in the claims by the powerful pro-reservation lobby, Prof Vaidyanathan has argued that the caste system in India is not that bad and has done a lot for the economic and social upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. The days of Marx and Engels who argued that religion is the opium for the masses are long gone. The religions are alive and kicking. Caste and religions are the ultra modern social networking institutions, more progressive and advanced than the five-star clubs we see in metropolitan cities, membership of which is a coveted honour for social upward mobility.

"Caste As Social Capital" is a must read for all those who shun castes and religion as well as for those who find solace in them.

NEW ARRIVALS

FLAWED: THE RISE AND FALL OF INDIA'S DIAMOND MOGUL
NIRAV MODI
Pawan C. Lall
Hachette, ₹399

Based on personal encounters, incisive interviews and meticulous research, *Flawed* exposes the incredible twists and turns of the Nirav Modi story — of a third-generation diamond merchant who moved from Belgium to India to apprentice with his uncle, Mehul Choksi, an established diamond merchant with extensive connections; of an astute businessman whose firm grip over an intercontinental supply chain saw his branded jewellery stores across the world; and of a reclusive, inscrutable man with a penchant for the high life that possibly led him to fly too close to the sun.

THE LAST DANCE
Anmol Arora
Speaking Tiger, ₹499

Anmol Arora's debut novel, *The Last Dance*, tells the story of young Ayla, a refugee in Delhi, who aspires to become a Bharatanatyam dancer. Chronicling her journey (the ups and downs), *The Last Dance*, explores themes of identity, love and ambition in a compelling way that carries the reader along with it till the end.

THE PARROT GREEN SAREE
Nabaneeta Dev Sen;
Niyogi Books, ₹350

Translated from Bengali by Tun Tun Mukherjee, *The Parrot Green Saree* is the story of two women, two generations and two worlds moulded out of memory, expectations, and desires. Set primarily in the United States, this is also the story of displacement and loss, of a remembered homeland, of political and personal battles, of individual freedom. And it is about rebirth (in Bengali, the novel was titled *Phoenix*).

A few well-meaning folk who visit me hold my hand, weep some, and say they're sorry for me. I don't know what to do, so I pat them gently on the thigh (ladies only) and say, "Don't worry, it'll all be okay." They look at me strangely and mumble that I'm strong.

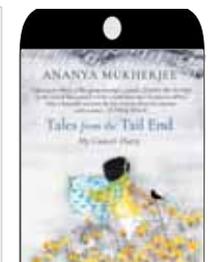
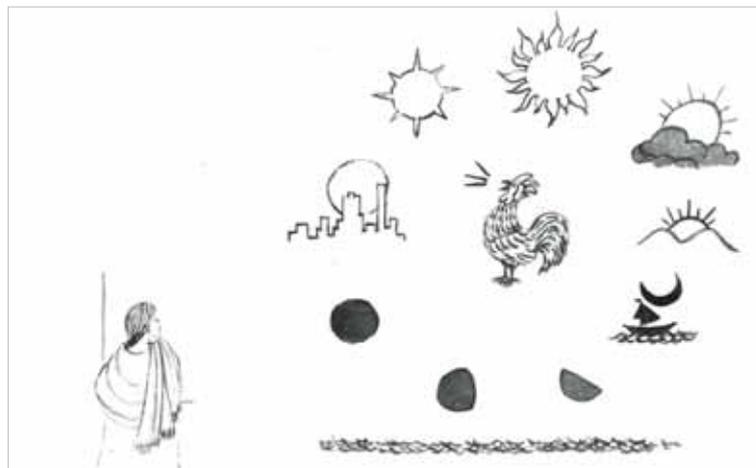
I've always been strong-hearted and proud of it. So am I not sad? When I was first diagnosed with Stage One of an aggressive type of breast cancer, I was stunned and disappointed in myself but quickly found my resolve. I chose to fight cheerfully, selecting the best doctors, eating healthy, praying hard, sending out affirmations to the universe, with a deep belief and faith that I'd be okay.

Then I learnt hope was a bad thing.

A year later, I was told my breast cancer had grown back and metastasised (metastasis is when your cancer has spread from its primary site to the rest of your body; it is also called advanced cancer, and the jury is out on its cure). I googled it on my phone and it to be doubly sure, on my laptop. It said the same thing. Now I became unimaginably sad. But I bit my lip and kept my chin up in front of the traitors (doctors) and the caretakers (family). Like every bad Bollywood film ever, I gulped and told the husband that something had gone into my eye. And then came the waterworks. I cried into the pillow, at the mirror, into the curtain, in the shower and to a few friends who caught me offguard. The rest I avoided. As much as it's important to cry your share, I also believe there's a time to grieve and a time to snap back. Self-pity is a bottomless pit. So now I've crawled out, and walk noisily around the house with a shawl draped around my shoulders like Rajesh Khanna in *Anand*, scolding the husband and teaching him for the two-hundredth

Dukh, Dard and a Season of Hope

ANANYA MUKHERJEE lost the fight to cancer on November 18, 2018, but her book is one of hope and courage, not only for those living with cancer, and their caregivers and loved ones, but for anyone determined to live life on their own terms despite adversity. Excerpt:



TALES FROM THE TAIL END — MY CANCER DIARY
Ananya Mukherjee
Speaking Tiger, ₹399

the water, just like a watercolour in motion. We stuff our faces with food, giggle into the night and look at the highway traffic till 2 a.m., till Crazy Rooster goes off again.

To be able to breathe, walk noisily, listen to a rooster crowing, scold a husband, laugh with a friend and look at something so beautiful, is in itself a miracle. This time I'm not banking on the hope of a better tomorrow. I'm just glad to have had a beautiful spring day. A day of life is still life!

Tales from the Tail End — My Cancer Diary, written by Ananya Mukherjee is published by Speaking Tiger

time how to fold a towel correctly, with the right side up. I'm past my Dukh.

Do I have Dard? Oh yes, of all kinds that come with an illness like this one. But heartbreak and bikini wax still top my list in the 'most painful' charts.

Do I have Hope? Difficult to say. It's a long answer. The husband says, "Try

starting from the conclusion." I pretend I haven't heard.

I stay on the nineteenth floor of an apartment in Thane now and though Ka the crow doesn't visit here (quite a long flight from Bandra, with all the planes coming in the way), there's a Crazy Cuckoo down in the slum nearby that crows shrilly all day. For decency's sake, let's call it the Crazy

Rooster. I hear his vociferous crowing first at the crack of dawn, then he calls boisterously to the neighbourhood at 10.39 a.m., next I record his loud-speaker-like pitch at 1.21 p.m., and then he yells his lungs out at 3 p.m. and so on, all bloody day. Clearly his body clock is screwed. Then I suddenly remember it's spring, my favourite season, a season for

craziness and hope. My *sukhdh ki saathin*, Neha Khullar, is visiting me. We stand at my bedroom window and look out at the dull blue water of the Thane creek. I tell her that its stillness unnerves me. She listens carefully, then cracks a joke like friends do to distract; I throw my head back and laugh. The sun sets between the brown-green hills and a silver moon rises above

Arif Khan vs secular politics frozen in 1986

Arif Mohammad Khan, who rose to fame by quitting the Congress in protest against the then Rajiv Gandhi Government's stand on the Shah Bano case, was once again in spotlight recently due to two momentous events in the Indian polity.

First, because of his vociferous support to the passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 (hereby 2019 Act), by the Narendra Modi Government, which abolished the practice of instant triple talaq among Hanafi Sunni Muslim population. The 2019 Act is both a personal and political victory for Arif Khan's relentless struggle against attacks and vilification by the conservative and fundamentalist Sunni Muslim religious bodies over four decades. The second reason for his grabbing the headlines is Arif Khan's appointment as the Governor of Kerala, ending his political oblivion, particularly from the Government office. The critics, mostly from secular and Muslim intelligentsia and political spectrum, have seen the gubernatorial appointment as a reward for his support to the 2019 Act and accused him of being an opportunist. Such criticism is perfectly understandable as Arif Khan has long defied the "secular framing" of a politician with Muslim identity as primarily representative of Muslim community and understanding of Indian politics in terms of secularism vs communalism.

Beyond these two immediate contexts, a more serious reason for public attention lies in his constant refusal to play the role of "Muslim politics" in accordance with the rule book of "secular politics" and of so-called "secular" political parties. In this political tradition, both "secular politics" and "Muslim politics" complement each other; wherein "secular politics" tends to demonstrate its sensitivity towards accommodating the religious demands of Muslim community to affirm its secular identity in exchange for Muslim electoral support but without allowing the Muslim political agency to wear the mantle of Indian nationhood. One consequence of this interplay of secular politics and Muslim politics is that Muslims have become "other"



of State administration in the 2002 Gujarat riots and Goa speech (April 2002) of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It is this sense of belonging to the "idea of India" mediated through its inclusive understanding of Islam and India's plural ethos that Arif Khan forcefully opposed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (hereby 1986 Act), brought by the then Rajiv Gandhi Government (of which he himself was a part), at the cost of his political career, and he also took initiative in convincing the Modi Government to enact the 2019 Act. In both instances, Arif Khan primarily acted from the point of view of constitutional and Islamic values and ethics. For him, the 1986 Act constricts the constitutional right to life of divorced Muslim women and thus violates the constitutional and Islamic notion of justice; while the Act of 2019 expands constitutional right of equality to Muslim married woman, at least to an extent that the law protects Muslim married woman from arbitrary exercise of pro-

nouncement of instant triple talaq and its immediate effect on dissolution of marriage. This explains his vociferous opposition to the former and support to the latter. Interestingly, in both circumstances, Arif Khan emerged as "anti-Muslim" figure in the Muslim collective imagination, primarily shaped through pan Indian network of Muslim religious clergy and its control over Muslim religious institutions including mosque, *dargah*, *khanqah*, *madrasa*, and *maktab*. With his "anti-Muslim" tag, Arif Khan quickly lost his relevance for the "secular" political parties, which are accustomed to express secularly primarily through deference to Muslim/Islamic identity. Almost all secular political parties, whether national or regional, save for a brief moment with Jan Morcha and BSP, shunned Arif Khan in post-1986 phase for his refusal to play "Muslim politics".

Arif Khan as "anti-Muslim" figure in the collective Muslim imagination rests on the ground that he legitimises the interference of (non-

Muslim) Government in the domain of Muslim personal law/Islamic jurisprudence, which today mostly flows from closed, narrow, insular, hierarchical, modern legalistic vision of Islam. Herein lies the dilemma of "Muslim politics": should it be guided to use Indian Constitution, democracy and secularism only for the purpose of expansion and consolidation of Islamic religiosity and identity at the cost of Indian national identity? or should it be envisioned as an integral part of larger Indian political process to utilise the constitutional opportunity structure to empower themselves as well as to democratise its internal structure by injecting the State mandated reform? Unfortunately, it is the former that has dominated Muslim lives and as a consequence a vast section of Muslims has failed to utilise the latter.

Arif Khan has always preferred the latter course of Muslim political action without subscribing to the identity-centred discourse of Muslim politics. However his "reformist politics" collapsed in 1986 Act with the complete abdication of the modern state in upholding the decision of Supreme Court and injecting democratic reform among the Muslim community. One consequence of the political exit and later political marginalisation of Arif Khan is the weakening of reformist voices within the community on the one hand and increasing assertion of conservative Islamic religious groups in the political domain of the country on the other. The increasing Islamisation of Muslim spaces, strengthening of Muslim religious boundary and lack of reformist process within the community — all combined — have significantly contributed to the "process of otherisation" of the community and produced "siege mentality", incapacitating a large section of Muslim youths from participating in the developmental process.

The test of a liberal-secular-democratic state lies in the protection of well-being of the minority community and ensuring a representation in the power structure of the country. It does not lie in its reluctance to carry out the mean-

ingful reform in the domain of personal laws belonging to minority community on the ground that it must come from the community first. By pursuing this line of argument for decades, the Indian state contributed to the strengthening of conservative religious voices among the Muslim community and indirectly kept a large number of Muslims away from the politics of development. A liberal state has constitutional mandate and duty to undertake those measures that enable the people to become more equal and capable to exercise the freedom of choices. From this point of view, the 2019 Act, irrespective of political intention of the Modi Government, is a welcome move.

Interestingly, while a good section of "secular jamaat" had openly come out in support of Arif Khan in 1986 for his fight against the capitulation of Congress Government before Muslim fundamentalist bodies, particularly the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), today the same secular jamaat is circumspect in extending their support to Arif Khan for 2019 Bill. It is partly because of the fact that in 1986 the "secular jamaat" had found in Arif Khan a struggling liberal Muslim politician. With the Modi Government, Arif Khan ceases to be a liberal Muslim figure and hence not worthy of support of "secular jamaat" irrespective of the merit of legislation.

In the context of the 2019 Act, a section of media personalities from "secular jamaat" deliberately framed Arif Khan as "Muslim leader of a Muslim community" despite his well established track record of conducting himself as one of Indian national leader, and then tried hard, though unsuccessfully, to squeeze him for implications of the Modi rule for the well-being of Muslim community! Given such secular obsession with politics of Muslim identity, it is not difficult to agree with Arif Khan's observation that Indian secular politics has remained frozen in 1986.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Policy Perspectives Foundation, New Delhi. Views expressed in the text belong solely to the writer)

It is his sense of belonging to the idea of plural India, mediated through his inclusive understanding of Islam, which made Arif Mohammad Khan a crusader for Muslim women's rights, opposing the 1986 Act that superseded the Supreme Court's Shah Bano judgment. However, the increasing Islamisation of Muslim spaces, strengthening of Muslim religious boundary and lack of reformist process within the community have significantly contributed to the "process of otherisation" of the community and produced "siege mentality", incapacitating a large section of Muslim youths from participating in the developmental process



ANWAR ALAM

PERSPECTIVE

Brexit widening UK-Northern Ireland chasm

What haunts Northern Ireland at the moment is none other than Brexit, which is gradually opening up the old wounds of the historic Good Friday Agreement. The very idea of Brexit has destabilised politics by forcing people to take sides between Britain and Ireland



MAKHAN SAINIA

The exit of Britain from the EU would weaken the bloc. The UK being one of the wealthiest and influential nations, its departure might impair the cohesiveness and effectiveness of the EU. Further, it may trigger more such exit demands from some other members, delivering a potential threat to the survival of the EU. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has already warned about the economic impact of Brexit — reducing trade, investment and economic growth — on the entire EU region. It would make the mega investors nervous and could spark a sharp drop in the stock markets and volatile swings in the currency exchange rates across the continent.

Since June 23, 2016, when the final Brexit vote took place and the majority of the British took a hard decision to leave the EU, the sign of elation has already died down in the polity, economy and society of Britain. Since then two Prime Ministers — David Cameron and Theresa May — had to resign for not being able to manage either the post-Brexit political crisis or the complex negotiations with the EU. Today Britain is at a crossroads and the EU divided.

What makes the Brexit process more complicated is Britain's relationship with Northern Ireland. Currently, the UK is a part of the EU's customs union and the single market. The problem is that if Brexit at all happens, it will have to leave both the market and the bloc. Once this happens, the status of the UK-Northern Ireland border will turn into a customs border, coming along with traditional checks and controls. This will entail entirely a new system, full of restrictions and creating



Border communities protest Brexit on the northern side of the Irish border between Newry and Dundalk

AP/File

new problems for both the traders and the common people. In addition to practical and business hurdles, what concerns the people of Northern Ireland most is the new psychological and political situation that might emerge out of the Brexit. In December 2017, in a European Council meeting, the UK and the EU adopted a joint report, wherein the former pledged to avoid a hard border. But the most unfortunate part of this process is that

Cameron and May could not map out a plan to resolve the Northern Ireland border issue. As the Brexit confusion mounted, the EU insisted on adding a "backstop" provision to the withdrawal agreement. This simply means that if the UK can't offer any alternative arrangements, then this backstop idea indicates that Northern Ireland will continue to remain in the EU customs union and full regulatory alignment with the single market,

mainly for goods. This essentially eliminates all the upcoming checks and controls heralded by a new post-Brexit scenario.

The British Government's stated claims, such as leaving the EU's customs union, single market, preventing a hard border with Northern Ireland and ensuring a countrywide approach to Brexit, seem completely unimaginable by the new administration of Boris Johnson. He is running out of

time, ideas and political commitment in this high stakes stand-off.

Brexit has potential to affect the historic Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement signed on April 10, 1998, between the UK and the Irish Government and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland on how Northern Ireland should be governed. It made it clear to the international community that Northern Ireland will remain

part of the UK unless there is consent of the majority of the people in this part of the island.

Thereafter, the creation of an assembly with a power-sharing executive largely ensured the representation of both the warring communities — the Protestants and the Catholics — in policy making. Again the EU membership of both Ireland and the UK made this fragile peace more viable by enabling quick communications and by reducing physical,

psychological and most importantly, economic barriers for the benefit of this small island. However, the sad part of the Belfast Agreement is that it has not been able to bring forth a durable solution to the most intractable constitutional questions looming large over the Northern Irish.

What haunts Northern Ireland at the moment is none other than Brexit, which is gradually opening up the old wounds of the historic Good Friday Agreement. The very idea of Brexit has destabilised politics by forcing people to take sides between Britain and Ireland. At least for more than two decades of the Agreement, people who fought for establishing their religious identities were able to take a break from their identity politics of the past: the Unionists remained part of the UK and felt reassured that the province's future could only be changed through an open poll whereas the Nationalists Irish had a greater say in local affairs. But today, the inconclusive and the most confusing Brexit process has reignited the old passions and caused polarisation along the Orange (Unionists) and the Green (Nationalists).

Finally, what brings home utter chaos is all but the policy decisions and political uncertainty of the Johnson Government. It is making peace more fragile in Northern Ireland. At the core of the famously unwritten Constitution of the UK is the principle that the PM is there in office as long as he enjoys the confidence of the House of Commons. It's not clear at all whether Johnson has that crucial support. And this is weakening havoc for Northern Ireland.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



TWO OUT OF EVERY FIVE PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE INTO TAROT READING AND VISIT A PSYCHIC READER FOR AN AVERAGE OF THREE TIMES EVERY YEAR



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You will experience harmony in body, mind and soul. For those with an ongoing health issue that hasn't been resolved, you may benefit greatly by alternative therapy and nutrition counselling. A spiritual teacher may appear in your life who will prove to be an excellent mentor and will help you have a new lease of life. On the career front, you may need a counsellor to sharpen your skills. Being a part of a short course or workshop may help you with your goals. Get involved in group work as you will learn from others. You will be lucky in relationships as people around you respect and value your ideas. You are likely to make an impression on your partner with your positive approach. You will feel the warmth and affection of near and dear ones.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your efforts to stay healthy will pay off. This week you will be full of energy, creativity and versatility. You are likely to re-orient and figure your purpose in life. You will engage in activities like yoga, pranayam and other healing practices to stay fit and rejuvenated. Those facing health issues would feel at ease. On the career front, you need to take a break. If required, seek advice from a senior to clear your vision. Someone's guidelines will help you boost your career and attain control over your domain. Involving in a group task or discussions will prove beneficial. In love, tension is indicated. You may face rejection or break-up. Singles will take time to find their love partner. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding, be it in love or marriage.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Some health challenges are indicated this week. You may face problems like indigestion, gastric issues, BP, etc. that would make you restless. This will affect your emotions and make you impatient in behaviour. Take time out to relax and find your comfort zone. In professional life, things are likely to go your way. Those in the private sector may expect a raise in income or a promotion. Chances for an overseas job/education seem bright this week. Stay focused. A senior official will be helpful in making your work easy. Relationship wise, this week is satisfactory. You need to talk to your partner to sort out a confusion that appears to have cropped up between you. Pamper your partner with gifts or drive down to an exotic place. This will certainly boost your love life.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

The week starts with never-ending activities and you will be busy with meetings, travel and attending guests. This will exhaust you and give you no time for yourself. There are chances you might get hurt. Stay safe and use all safety methods to avoid any unpleasant situation. All legends were not geniuses, but they had strong will and determination to get things done. You too possess the spirit and try your level best to achieve ones. Those who are awaiting judgment in a legal matter can expect a ruling in their favour. Relationship wise, you are demanding and strict. This attitude would not work in the favour of married couples. A mother figure may interfere in your relationship. Figure out where your boundaries lie with this and let her know.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will overcome all health challenges. You will be appreciated for accomplishing quality work. Blessings from elders will add shine to your personality. After dealing with a problematic situation, you will experience positive energy and inner satisfaction. Your career looks good this week. Some of you will be promoted or assigned an important task which will boost your career. A seminar or a training session is indicated that will enhance your skill. Luck is in your favour and you will enjoy the results of your hard work. Be cautious in love, as you might be tagged as incompatible. Your newly developed relationship might get affected due to backbiting. Married couples may lack harmony in their relationship and seek space to avoid conflict or tension.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity within. Try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. A basic health regime like exercise, proper diet, enough sleep can be applied now with great success. Don't hesitate to take on a new healer. On the career front, transfer or relocation is indicated. Since this will be your desired posting, you will be filled with hopes and aspiration. You are likely to prove your potential with new avenues of progress. Some of you are expected to travel overseas on a professional trip. This week love is not happening. Due to your busy schedule, your existing relation might suffer. Try to stay in touch through the internet or messages. Those with marriage proposals might face rejection.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Great stamina enables you to stay confident and be in the best of your health. If facing health issues, do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to deal with it. You will be sensible about your day to day matters. At work, things will be better. You will get support from a powerful person. This is the right time to seek increment or change in job that pays you better. You may owe some money to your close ones. Those who are considering applying for a fund or a bank loan for a venture can go ahead. You will experience success. In the context of love, it's important to give your partner some space. You also need to choose the right person with whom you feel a strong emotional connect. Singles, this is not the right time to mingle.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are confused about the direction that your life is taking. Your fluctuating health conditions will affect quality of life. You may need guidelines to reap the results of your past behaviour. Observe your belief system. Take time out to reflect positively. On the career front, you will face challenges and tough situations, but you will emerge a winner due to your determination. Legal issues might get sorted this week. On the love front, you will glow and blush as this week your life will be focussed around love. This could be either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You are likely to share your joy with those around you who need it. Married couples will experience true bonding and feel the attachment. Life will be blissful.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be creative and optimistic. Everything will appear to turn in your favour. You will be generous and ready to share. You have learned to accept your flaws and to adjust with others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Overall, health will be good. In professional life, you need to give your time and attention to your work. Be honest about your work. A disciplined approach like working within the norms and traditions of your organisation will be appreciated. Avoid conflicts with people at work. In love, stop fantasising about the person who doesn't feel the same about you. When love is true, you don't have to struggle to make it work. Expand your horizons and try hard to think positively.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will experience positive energy and will feel as fresh as a teenager. Channelise this energy into doing something creative. Enjoy this phase and watch your creativity enrich your life. On the career front, your potential will be duly recognised. Your financial position will also improve. A gift from your ancestral side may come your way. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. Money gain through property or a plan to invest in a property at a prime location is indicated. This week you may not be lucky in love. If you like someone, go and express yourself to him/her. Avoid loose talk as it might spoil your relations. If you feel stagnated in your relation, then it's time to close the chapter.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Avoid anger and aggression this week. Listen to your inner voice and act accordingly. Seek the advice of an elderly in the family. Home-made remedies will provide relief in health issues. You need nurturing and caring that will sort out half of your problems. On the career front, you will feel at ease as things are working in your favour. Great things come in a small packages. A business in the field of agriculture, horticulture or land will yield profit. Those in a job are likely to get promoted. New opportunities in the career are indicated. Those seeking employment will get a job in their desired field. In love, you are unclear about your future spouse. Those in a relationship, it is likely that your partner will make you juggle between some challenging situations.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You need to come out of your past suffering in order to move forward. Holding on to the past may affect your health. Look within yourself carefully and make note of the areas where you are fearful. Spend time to learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. At workplace, you will experience a feel-good factor. You are likely to find support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be suggested for a promotion. Your professional skills will be at their best. Make the best use of this time. In terms of love, you will find success and enjoy this week. You are likely to become the centre of attraction at an event and draw your partner's attention. Married couples will enjoy the togetherness and intimacy.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Thursday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M. 9873283331



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

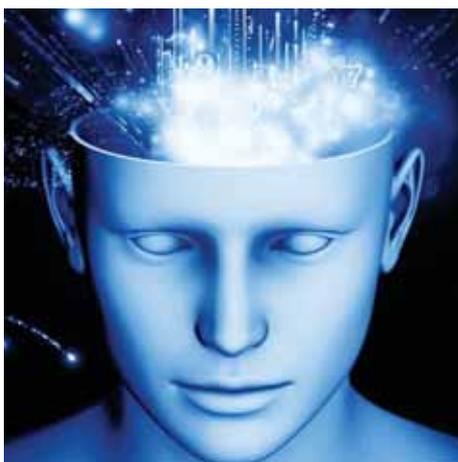
Empower your mind for success

A young graduate, having failed to taste success at many qualifying examinations for different jobs, came asking the other day in a state of desperation: "Sir, what is in store of my destiny? Any luck to get a job in near future? I have tried to put in best during the last three years, but with no luck. Suggest me some puja that may help a poor man like me secure my future."

Young man, destiny is not blind, as it doesn't necessarily play out by default in course of usual run of life. Remember, destiny indicators — the reflection of Karmic imprints carried over from the past — are stored in our memory as seed-thoughts. And a seed, though carrying potential to bloom out into a plant, remains inert till it gets a congenial ground, and is then duly nurtured with water and nutrients (chemical or natural fertiliser). Similarly, seed-thought-seeds may offer you with an opportunity when time is ripe for it. Success, however, may still elude, if you are not well geared up to encash the opportunity available. In so far as remedial measure is concerned, belief driven puja mediated by pundits can't help much. The pundit can neither strike upon your inner realms of

mind to checkmate its vagaries and optimise your potential, nor manipulate the mindset of the unknown recruiters. The only viable method is to look within yourself, identify, acknowledge and then address the fault lines. Also, improve your focus, sharpen intelligence, and optimise indwelling potential. Empowered thus, you may be able to perform well at the examinations and interviews. That carries better probability of success.

You may be putting in long hours towards your studies, which gives a feel that you have endeavoured enough. But bear in mind: physical efforts alone would not suffice. Quality efforts are needed. Should you lack focus, which your astrological chart clearly indicates, you may fail to absorb the subject matters attended. Obviously then, you may not be able to answer well, the questions asked. So, instead of exploring your destiny indicators, and seeking extra-terrestrial support through belief driven pujas, better figure out your own shortcomings through self-reflection, and address them. Often, a disoriented mind is not able to dispassionately identify the inherent fault lines. Let me help you through a look at your astrological pointers.



Lagna lord Venus, and 11th lord Sun identified with fulfillment of desires, occupy the career signifying 10th house. The 10th lord Moon in the 6th house implies success in efforts and against competitors. Moon also beautifully aligned to fiery Mars, makes out an ambitious person bounding with energy. All put together strongly promise a good job. Even government jobs is not ruled out as would presence of the Sun in the 10th imply. On top of that even benevolent Jupiter occupies the 11th house. Despite such strong indicators, what then stands in the way of its fruition?

Mind signifying Moon occupies a dual sign Pisces, which means you have a vacillating mind. You may be continuously putting thoughts and randomly flirting from one to the other. Also, you are subject to mood swings. Such a distracted mind doesn't let you remain focused to your priority preferences. Moon being trine to the Sun is indicative of a comfort loving person, not keen to take pains. That doesn't let you take timely initiative. How can you expect gain without pain? Here again, Moon locks horns with Uranus, which accounts for his mercurial temperament and erratic conduct. Also, Moon is ill-disposed off to mischievous Neptune. This, in the first place makes

you stick to delusional perceptions and beliefs, distanced from ground realities. Second, habitually an escapist who keeps pushing off initiatives to tomorrow. You may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance. Instead, you may prefer continuing with your own line of thinking on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Saturn's opposition to Mercury speaks of a fixated one-track mind. If all that would not be enough, Mars placed adverse to Jupiter signals an inflated ego, which binds you to self-defined dos and don'ts. Your narrowed vision doesn't let you look beyond even for reality check.

So, better get over your habit tendencies, cultivate push, sharpen your intelligence, and improve your focus by following the process suggested. The good thing is that he acknowledged his fault lines and expressed his willingness to reform. Should you sincerely follow the process suggested, I am sure, you may secure a job sooner than later, as already promised in your chart.

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