

OPINION 8 WHAT'S A DEGREE WORTH?

WORLD 12 IRAN WARNS FOREIGN FORCES OF MEDDLING

SPORT 15 NO MS DHONI TILL NOVEMBER

DEHRADUN, MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2019; PAGES 16 & 2

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TRAVELLING IS ORGANIC: KALKI 13 VIVACITY

Howdy, Modi echoes in Houston

Trump heaps praise on India, says under PM Modi world witnessing a strong country

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a rousing welcome on Sunday when he arrived at the crowded NRG stadium on Sunday to address the Indian-American community with people chanting "Howdy, Modi."

Trump, who joined Modi as a "special gesture" by the US President to underscore the special bond between the two countries, said, "Modi is doing extraordinary job for India and under him the world is witnessing a strong India."

While addressing the Indian diaspora, Trump said, "I am happy to be here at the Houston event. We are celebrating everything that unites India and the US. The relationship between India and the US is stronger than ever before... We are strengthened by our love of liberty. The constitutions of both the countries begin with three beautiful words — We, the people."

It is for the first time that Trump and Modi shared a stage together and address a record crowd of 50,000 Indian-Americans.

Modi introduced Trump to Indian-American community, describes him as a "special person". Modi entered on the stage with folded hands. He



President Donald Trump stands on stage with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at NRG Stadium on Sunday

bowled before the audience, thanking them for such an amazing welcome. Welcoming Modi, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner highlighted the significance of the

event and said that Indians have been a key figure in the development of his city. Turner told the crowd that Houston is the most diverse city in the county. "In Houston,

we say howdy in more than 140 languages," Turner said, "and this morning we are saying howdy to Modi!"

After welcoming Modi at the event, Turner presented him the keys to the Houston City, which has one of the largest concentration of the Indian-American community in the US. About two dozen governors and members of the

US Congress are also attending the event.

Democrat Steny Hoyer welcomed Modi and invoked Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in his speech. He said both Indians and Americans have the same purpose, growing the partnership between the two countries.

Earlier, Trump said he and his "friend" Modi will have a "good time" at the mega event. "Look forward to being with our great India loving community!" he tweeted.

Responding to Trump's tweet, Modi said he was looking forward to meet the US leader in Houston. "It surely will be a great day! Looking forward to meeting you very soon @realDonaldTrump," Modi tweeted.

Organised by the non-profit Texas India Forum, the event, with the tagline 'Shared Dreams, Bright Futures', will shine light on the tremendous contribution of Indo-Americans in United States and the strong and lasting partnership between the US and India. Ahead of Modi's address, Indian-American artists from Texas and elsewhere performed cultural programmes. Modi welcomed Trump and the two leaders embraced each other and walked together towards the stage.

Dallas-based Ashok Mago said 'Howdy, Modi' is an opportunity for the two leaders to showcase to the world the shared values and principles of the two largest democratic countries of the world.

"This meeting has great significance" Mago said. "It (Howdy Modi) shows that President Trump wants the US-India relationship strong and is committed to this. I do not think that Trump has shared a dais with a visiting foreign leader like this." Dallas-based Mago told PTI.

An eminent Indian American, who has played a key role in strengthening India US relationship, Mago was one of Indian-Americans who were invited by the White House to meet the president on his arrival at the Joint Reserve Base.

Accompanying Mago to the air force base, Piyush Patel said that this was a dream come true. "For me this mega event will take India-US relationship goes to a whole new level," he said. India, he asserted, should be treated as a most favoured nation as is the case with major European countries. Defence, technology and energy are some of the key sectors he identified as major areas of co-operation that would take the relationship to a new level.

"Today, there are no other leaders like Trump and Modi. For both of them the country comes first. Both of them are working for the people of the country," he said.

Earlier in the day, Modi had a "special interaction" with a 17-member delegation of Kashmiri Pandits here and assured them of "building a new Kashmir" which would be for everyone.

The delegation, which included Kashmiri Pandits from across the US, met Modi on his arrival in Houston as part of his week-long visit to the US. "Kashmir mein naee hava bah rahee hai (New winds are blowing in Kashmir) and we will all build a new Kashmir together that will be for everyone," he told the delegation.

The Indian Government on August 5 revoked the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into two union territories. Modi also thanked the community for their patience for over 30 years. "I had a special interaction with Kashmiri Pandits in Houston," Modi later tweeted.

Earlier, MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted that the Kashmiri Pandits expressed support for the steps taken by the Indian Government for the progress of India.

DMK affidavit to EC puts CPM, CPI in tight spot

CPM affidavit doesn't mention DMK donation

J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI

The DMK's Lok Sabha election expenditure affidavit submitted to the Election Commission has put its alliance partners CPM and CPI in a tight spot.

As per the affidavit submitted on September 20, the DMK has given ₹10 crore to CPM and ₹15 crore to CPI which were allotted two seats each in Tamil Nadu by the major alliance partner DMK. Interestingly, this ₹10 crore donation from the DMK is not reflected in the CPM's affidavit to the Election Commission.

The CPI(M) had submitted the first expenditure affidavit on July 10 and on September 13 the party claimed that its total election expenditure across India is around ₹7.2 crore in

their last affidavit. The CPI has not yet submitted their affidavit to the Election Commission.

According to the DMK's affidavit, it had given ₹10 crore to the CPI(M) through bank transfer in three installments on April 5, 8 and 9. The DMK transferred ₹15 crore to the CPI through bank in two installments on April 5 and 16. The DMK also gave ₹15 crore to one of their regional alliance partners Kongu Nadu Democratic Party, which was allotted one seat in Lok Sabha elections from the DMK-led alliance.

It is interesting to note that the DMK's self-declared total expenditure is ₹79.26 crore including the above-mentioned total ₹40 crore donations to its alliance partners. The DMK won 22 seats in Tamil Nadu. The CPI(M) in its expenditure affidavit showed around ₹82 lakh as receipts from Coimbatore and Madurai constituencies, while the DMK's affidavit claims they have given ₹10 crore.

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Shah blames former PM Nehru for POK

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Blaming late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the creation of Pak-Occupied Kashmir (POK), Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday exhorted voters of Maharashtra to "show the place" they deserved to political parties opposing the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, in the State Assembly polls.

Launching the BJP's campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly polls at a party workers' rally held at Nesco ground at Goregaon in north Mumbai, Shah laid the blame for the creation of the POK at the door of the then Prime Minister Nehru. "Maharaj Hari Singh ceded Kashmir to India on October 26, 1947. On the following, Indian forces began to de-throw and capture areas under Kashmir. One fine day, Nehru declared ceasefire with Pakistan-supported forces. POK would not have come into existence had Nehru not declared ceasefire at that time. It's because of Nehru's blunder,



Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during a rally on the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir and to campaign for next month's Maharashtra Assembly polls, in Mumbai on Sunday

we have POK now," the BJP president said. "Later on January 1, 1948 India approached the United Nations. Had India invoked charter 51 instead of charter 35, POK would have been part of India. But India invoked charter 35 which is meant for disputes. And the POK came to be declared as disputed territory," Shah said.

Charging that the Congress and its ally NCP were "shamelessly" opposing the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, Shah said, "I have come here to appeal to see for yourself who is in favour of the annulment of Article 370 and who is against it. There are two major political formations in the fray."

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Centre to release buffer stock to arrest onion price increase

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prices of onion have once again gone up by around 50 per cent from ₹30-40 per kg to ₹50-80 per kg due to uneven distribution and supply in the wholesale markets across the country and floods in major supplying States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Taking note of increasing onion prices, the NDA Government is mulling imposing stock limits on onion traders. Onion prices are on the rise despite several measures taken by the Ministry of Food and Consumers Affairs to boost supply. The onion supply is expected to improve in November when the new crop will come in the market. The Centre has a buffer stock of 56,000 tonnes of onion, of which 16,000 tonnes have been offloaded so far. In Delhi, 200 tonnes a day is being offloaded. The trade data showed



retail onion prices skyrocketing to 70-80 per kg towards the end of the last week from ₹50-60 per kg in the previous week. At wholesale market of Lasalgaon, onion prices rose to ₹45 per kg last week, when compared with less than ₹10/kg during the same period last year.

The retail onion prices in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) areas are Rs 50-80 per kg depending on the localities and quality. "Onion prices have almost doubled in the last 7 to 10 days."

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Landlord beats widow to death on suspicion of theft; four held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old widow was allegedly beaten to death by the landlord in South Delhi's Mehrauli after the he suspected her of being a thief. Police said they have arrested four persons, including the landlord. The deceased woman has been identified as Manju Goyal and she is survived by her two children who were in Haryana at the time of the incident. Goyal's brother Mahesh Jindal informed police on Saturday evening that she was beaten up by three-four people.

"When a police team reached the spot, he said his sister was staying at the house of one Satish Pathwa as tenant. On Saturday morning, Jindal's wife

3 Delhi shootouts in last 24 hours; 4 dons arrested, 1 injured

Police, criminals exchange fire near Akshardham Metro Station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three separate incidents of shootout and encounter between the Delhi Police and criminals were reported in the last 24 hours in national Capital from Akshardham Metro Station, Najafgarh and Seemampur in which one gangster sustained injuries and four were arrested.

In the Akshardham metro station shootout on Sunday around 10.45 am, the gang, however, managed to escape.



Police personnel at the scene of crime on Sunday

The incident took place when police was trying to nab the criminals involved in duping several people near the metro station, police said. According to police, a team from Mandawali Police Station laid a trap and when the white-coloured car carrying the criminals approached, it was signalled to stop, a police officer said.

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Odisha seeks help from Assam, Kerala to save tuskers from killer virus as 4 die

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With as many as four elephants having died at the Nandankanan Zoo in a span of a month after being infected by Endothelotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV), a worried Odisha Government has sought assistance from Assam and Kerala to fight the virus.

"The State Government has contacted experts in Assam and Kerala, where a similar virus killed several elephants in the past," said Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha on Sunday. Efforts are on to save the remaining jumbos, Arukha said. Out of these four elephants, three are adults. The EEHV mostly affects elephants below 15 years of age. Since most of the elephants were

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Aromatic plants perk up Leh-Ladakh farmers

MoU signed for cultivation of high-value aromatic crops like rose, marigold & mint

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The fragrance of the high revenue-earning aromatic plants seems to have caught the fancy of the small farmers residing in the high-altitude cold arid zones of Leh-Ladakh. Tapping in on this growing interest among farmers, Ladakh Farmers and Producers Technology (LFPT) for cultivation of the high-value aromatic crops like rose, marigold and mint.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a processing unit to churn out essential oils from these crops at village Ranbirpura, Thiksay and Leh is being set up. Dr



Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur said processing unit is indispensable for value addition of aromatic plants and establishment of this facility in Leh will benefit the local farmers of Leh district.

"As the region is deprived of natural irrigation facilities and is suitable for the cultivation of high value aromatic crops such as damask rose,

chamomile, wild marigold, dracocephalum, lavender and saffron, so CSIR-IHBT recognised this area for the cultivation of these crops," he explained. Dr Kumar said seeds of wild marigold, chamomile and saffron have also been provided to the farmers along with the complete information package of agro technologies which will help them in proper cultivation of these crops.

The project is being undertaken under the CSIR's Aroma Mission programme started two years ago with an aim to promote the aromatic crops and to bring additional area of 5,500 ha under these crops for socio-economic upliftment and employment generation for farming community and rural masses.

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CAPSULE: TWO NEWBORN GIRLS DROWNED BY PARENTS. Muzaffarnagar: Two newborn girls were drowned in a pond by their parents in an UP village, with the father claiming that they killed 20-day-old twins as they could not bear their expenses. DON'T REPEAT MISTAKES, RAJNATH WARNS PAK: Warming Pakistan to not repeat the 'mistakes of 1965 and 1971', Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the neighbouring country can get dismantled into various parts on account of flagrant human rights violations against Balochs and Pashtuns on its soil.

Guest column
BY
Roshen Dalal



Looking back at China's Cultural Revolution THROUGH PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

The Cultural Revolution had some good points, it emphasised equality, the dignity of labour and the need to forget about a 'glorious heritage' and move into the future. But everything was taken to illogical extremes. Higher education suffered, scholars were condemned. Behind this revolution were political struggles and Mao's attempts to retain his power. Gradually the extreme phase of the Cultural Revolution subsided, and after Mao's death in 1976, China began to rethink its policies. According to statistics 1.5 million people died during the Cultural Revolution

Many years ago I was involved in a project on post-Mao China. Sent by friends copies of the *Beijing Review*. I was captivated by the Chinese method of encapsulating long statements and concepts in a couple of words. Of course, the 'double hundred' was easy to understand, it was Mao's policy stating 'Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend,' but several others were not so simple. The 'two what-ers' referred to following whatever policy Mao laid down, and whatever instructions he gave, which in the post-Mao period was not recommended. 'Eating from the same pot' meant that everyone got the same payment, regardless of the amount and quality of the work done, while 'the iron rice bowl' was a term for a permanent job, which could not be terminated on any grounds. Even some longer phrases were intriguing, for instance, 'The Kremlin wants to pluck the ripe apple and put it in the basket'—in this case, the 'ripe apple' was a reference to Iran.

I was reminded of all this when I read several memoirs relating to China's Cultural Revolution. Among them were Ji-Li Jiang's *Red Scarf Girl*, Xianlin's, *The Cowshed: Memories of the Chinese*

Cultural Revolution; and Anchee Min's *Red Azalea*. In the Cultural Revolution, key phrases, included the 'Four Olds' and the 'Four News', *Red Scarf Girl*, is actually a book for young people, describing Ji-Li's life between the ages of 12 and fourteen, at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution, which lasted from 1966-1976. The red scarf they proudly wore was a symbol representing communism and Mao. The name 'Ji-Li' means 'lucky and beautiful', and Ji-Li was a happy young girl, but 'dearer still is the prologue to the book she says, 'I never doubted what I was told: Heaven and earth are great, but greater still is the kindness of the Communist Party; father and mother are dear, but dearer still is Chairman Mao.'

Unfortunately for Ji-Li her father was the son of a landlord, and this meant the family was under threat, landlords being among those out of favour in the new China. Every day the people of China listened to Chairman Mao on the importance of removing the 'Four Olds', old ideas, old culture, old customs and old habits.

As the Cultural Revolution set in, the names of shops and streets had to be changed, for instance 'Great Prosperity Market', 'Prosperity,



'good fortune', 'innocent' and 'even peace' were among names considered part of old culture. 'Prosperity', for instance, could only be achieved by exploitation, and 'good fortune' indicated superstition. Clothes too reflected the old, such as pointed shoes and pants with narrow legs. Gradually Ji-Li felt increasingly confused, as the 'Four

Olds' were extended to all walks of life, and youngsters gained the right to torment others. Respecting parents, teachers and elders, long hair worn in braids, the prevailing educational system, protecting one's own property, storing old clothes of the pre-revolutionary period, reading stories from other lands, were all

examined and abolished in Ji-Li's school. She could not go to the high school of her choice. Red Guards approaching with gongs and drums ransacked houses looking for 'four olds'. Punishments began to be meted out to older people by these young Red Guards. When Ji-Li's house was searched even her stamp album was taken away. Her father was detained, her mother and grandmother suffered. Things improved after Mao's death, and finally, Ji-Li moved to the USA in 1984, where she wrote this book.

Anchee Min too moved to the US, and began writing books, *Red Azalea*, being the first, an account of growing up during the Cultural Revolution. She and her family lived in Shanghai, and she describes how from the age of six she took care of her younger brothers and sisters. Soon she became a Red Guard, she was called on to give speeches, as she was well-versed in Mao's Little Red Book. A poignant incident takes place when she is brainwashed into speaking against her beloved teacher, and denouncing her as an

American spy. Her mother, a former school teacher, sent to work in a shoe factory, is deeply disturbed by this, and Anchee too knows it's wrong. Later, she is among the other young people sent to work in a farm under harsh conditions, producing food for the people. Even there the young women did not lose their faith in Mao, doing everything and undergoing all hardships for him. These books record how Mao had become a kind of god, with his picture everywhere, and people bowing to it, perhaps even praying.

The Cultural Revolution had some good points, it emphasised equality, the dignity of labour and the need to forget about a 'glorious heritage' and move into the future. But everything was taken to illogical extremes. Higher education suffered, scholars were condemned. Behind this revolution were political struggles and Mao's attempts to retain his power. Gradually the extreme phase of the Cultural Revolution subsided, and after Mao's death in 1976, China began to rethink its policies. According to statistics 1.5 million people died

during the Cultural Revolution. Many were killed by Red Guards, others committed suicide. Fighting among Red Guard factions killed some more. Did this phase in China's history have long-term effects? Was eliminating aspects of the past a contributing factor in making China an economic super power?

The effect of dictators such as Mao also raises questions on the forces of history. Can one person actually take a country in a different direction? What were the other forces at play? Were youngsters, who chiefly participated in killing and violence against older people, yearning to break free from the confines of a traditional society? What were the economic factors that allowed this to happen? And what psychological factors can lead to mass worship of one individual? Historians have attempted to answer these questions, but an analysis of these memoirs would also reveal some answers.

(A PhD in ancient Indian History, the writer lives in Dehradun and has authored more than ten books)

Encroachment on BHEL land goes unabated despite complaints

Time and again the matter of encroachment on BHEL land in Shivalknagar and Tibbi area has surfaced. In the township administrators are turning a deaf ear to the problem. Recently, the foundation for a building was laid by a scrap dealer on BHEL land where propose V of Shivalknagar is proposed but no action has been taken by the administrators, alleged a local activist.

Haridwar-based activist Aditya Sharma has alleged that one Gulshan Ansari, a scrap dealer dug foundation for a building on the vacant ground on the back side of Chinmaya degree college.

The land adjacent to the HRDA certified Inderlok colony on one side and Rawli Mehdood colony on the other side is being encroached upon by some business man for construction purposes.

While the BHEL office bearers are passing the buck on each other for taking action, the



dealer smartly covered his foundation by planting some trees. When this correspondent tried to contact the township administrator Naveen Lunia, his phone was found switched off. In a written complaint to the BHEL general manager of Human Resource, Sharma has complained that some BHEL officials are sheltering the trader and not taking action against him.

Speaking to *The Pioneer*, activist Aditya Sharma said, 'I was asked to approach BHEL

- The land adjacent to the HRDA certified Inderlok colony on one side and Rawli Mehdood village on the other side is being encroached upon by some business man for construction purposes
- Speaking to *The Pioneer*, activist Aditya Sharma said, 'I was asked to approach BHEL Sarkeri Grah Samiti which is looking after construction of the phase V of Shivalknagar to take action in four days but nothing happened. Now the person concerned is not responding.'

Sarkeri Grah Samiti which is looking after construction of the phase V of Shivalknagar to take action in four days but nothing happened. Now the person concerned is not responding.

Head of BHEL Sarkeri Grah Samiti, Afzab Khan told this respondent that the matter was being undertaken by the BHEL township administrator, and whatever action is needed, will be taken by him alone.

Little Baby trailer launched in Dehradun



The trailer of the Hindi movie *Little Baby* shot entirely in Dehradun was launched here in the presence of State Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, Dehradun mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' along with the director and producer of the movie among others on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion Rawat said that a new film policy, subsidy for film makers and single window system introduced by the State Government will further boost film shooting in Uttarakhand.

There are hundreds of sites in the State which are more beautiful than even foreign locations, he added, while appreciating the movie makers.

Movie director Shekhar Jha said Uttarakhand is one of the most beautiful Indian States.

Stating that it took 20 days to complete the film shooting in Dehradun, he thanked the State Government, local residents and local actors for their contribution.

Movie producer Rinku Singh recalled that though Dehradun was the first choice of the director, she was initially apprehensive.

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However, shooting the movie here was a good decision since all equipment, locations and about 90 per cent of the actors in the movie were found in Dehradun, she said.

Stated to be released on September 27, *Little Baby* explores various facets of relationships between a concerned father and a fiercely independent teenage daughter. Priyanshu Chatterjee plays the father while Gulnaz Sigamoria plays the rebellious daughter.

In the movie, police officer Dushyant working Dehradun, played by Chatterjee, needs to break fresh-trade racket in

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(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

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1	Roorkee	Shri Sanjeev Kumar / Smt Rakhi Sharma	Borrower & Mortgagor: 1- Shri Sanjeev Kumar / S/o Late Shri Kuma Lal Sharma (Borrower) and 2- Smt Rakhi Sharma W/o Shri Sanjeev Kumar (Mortgagor and Borrower) Guarantors: 1- Pradeep Kumar Sharma S/o Hemendra Kumar Sharma 2- Shri Ghanshyam S/o Jooa Ram	Equitable mortgage of property part of private plot no 10 measuring east -48 feet west-44 feet 11 inch north-15 feet and south-15 feet having total area 881.5 square feet in 63.53 square meter belonging to Khazra no 287/11 situated at New Adarsh Nagar/Village Madakour Labeopur (within limits of Municipal Council Roorkee) Pargana Roorkee Tahsil Roorkee District Haridwar Boundred as: East: Plot No 3 Jain Sarab West Plot of Smt Sukhish North/Land of Other South: Way 18 feet North Plot no 33 South Plot no 31	29.05.2019	RS 566832/- Rupees Five Lacs Sixty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Two Only plus interest and Expenses thereupon	17.09.2019
2	Haridwar	Smt Sakhya Khurana and Smt Sachin Khurana	Borrower & Mortgagor: Smt Sakhya Khurana W/o Sachin Khurana (Borrower and Mortgagor) 2- Mr Sachin Khurana S/o Late Nand Kishore Khurana (Borrower) Guarantor: Shri Neeraj Kumar	Equitable Mortgage of the residential plot of 75.51 square meter situated at plot no 32 khazra no 527 Gaurav vihar jankapur kalyanjawar (Out of limits Nagar Nigam Haridwar) Taluk Jawalapur District Haridwar in the name of Smt Sakhya Khurana W/o Sachin Khurana Boundred as: East: God for water West: Road 24 ft wide North Plot no 33 South Plot no 31	06.05.2019	Rs 1687326/- Rupees Sixteen Lacs Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Two Six Only plus interest and Expenses there upon	17.09.2019
3	Haridwar	Smt Devendra Deswal	Borrower & Mortgagor: Ms Devendra Deswal S/o Santram Deswal Guarantors: 1- Shri Gagandeep Deswal 2- Shri Pranav Deswal	Equitable Mortgage of the residential flat no 416.4th floor Anand Cham Phase -II having area 31.26 sq mtr situated at Haridwar-Rishikesh Road village Haripur Gan pargana Parwadood Taluk Rishikesh District Dehradun/Landmark-patrol pumpo near -50 m distance in the name of Ms Devendra Deswal Property Boundred as: East: Gaurav West: Other Property North: Open Passage South: Flat others	10.05.2019	Rs 814779/- Rupees Eight Lacs Fourteen Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine only plus interest and Expenses there upon	17.09.2019

Date: 21.09.2019 Place: Dehradun Authorised Officer - Allahabad Bank

Authorities find minor's body in Vikasnagar

Deceased has been identified as Julie, a resident of Yamuna College, Dehradun, according to police. She was studying in Class IX at Government Inter College Dakpathar

The body of the minor girl who had jumped into the canal earlier this month on September 17 near Tikona Park in Vikasnagar has been recovered by the local authorities.

According to police, she had a row with her family members after which she left home in a fit of rage and jumped into the canal.

The deceased has been identified as Julie, a resident of Yamuna Colony, Dakpathar.

According to police, she was studying in Class IX at Government Inter College (GIC) Dakpathar.

For the recovery of her body State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and water police conducted a search and rescue operation. Her body has been identified by the parents and was sent for post-mortem examination.

There are hundreds of sites in the State which are more beautiful than even foreign locations, he added, while appreciating the movie makers.

Mayor Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' appreciated the movie makers for giving space for local actors.

He added the local artistes should also be given prominent roles and not only those of extras. Pauri MLA Mukesh Koli, Lansdowne MLA Dilip Singh Rawat and State ministers' commission chairman Dr RK Jain among others also expressed their views on the occasion.

Earlier, movie director Shekhar Jha said Uttarakhand is one of the most beautiful Indian States.

Stating that it took 20 days to complete the film shooting in Dehradun, he thanked the State Government, local residents and local actors for their contribution.

Appreciating the State Government's policy, he said that they had secured the necessary permission for shooting the film in one day.

Movie producer Rinku Singh recalled that though

Dehradun was the first choice of the director, she was initially apprehensive.

However, shooting the movie here was a good decision since all equipment, locations and about 90 per cent of the actors in the movie were found in Dehradun, she said.

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Liquor deaths

Locals allege bigger culprits have political support

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In the deaths of six persons after consumption of illicit liquor in Pathariya Peer colony at Neshville Road on Thursday-Friday, the Dehradun Police have already caught the person accused of selling liquor illegally in the area but the bigger fish accused of selling liquor to this accused person are yet to be caught.

The case has once again raised question on the rampant illicit liquor supply in state, as many locals have alleged that these suppliers come from a politically sound background.

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi though has stated that strict steps will be taken against the accused irrespective of their backgrounds.

If sources are to be believed, the local police are under considerable pressure. Authorities may say that they are still uncertain about the exact cause of deaths, but the fact remains that the illicit supply of liquor is a problem in the State.

According to police, during the initial interrogation arrested accused Gaurav has stated the name of two people from whom he use to buy liquor apart from licensed liquor shops — Raja Negi alias Raju and a former councillor Ajay Sonkar. Sources also stated,

Liquor deaths

Locals allege bigger culprits have political support



Man dies in colony, not due to liquor consumption

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

On Sunday morning the death of another person in the Pathariya Peer colony raised speculation among the locals and the authorities that this death might have been another fatality in the illicit liquor consumption case.

However, the death was not directly related with the case, but is an alleged after effect of the incident.

Circle Officer (city) Shekhar Sural said, "Health of a 65-year-old male in the same area suddenly deteriorated, after which he was taken to

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that police are gearing up for raids at possible hide-outs of these two accused. So far, Rajendra (40), Guddu (30), Sharan Singh (64),

Akash (32), Surendra (35) and Inder (40) have died while Avinash alias Lucky, Karan (25), Praveen and Raju (63) have been admitted in All

India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh. With two more patients admitted in Max Hospital on Saturday, the total numbers of

patients there is four. The patients have been identified as Kishori Lal, Mukesh Kumar, Vinod and Vishal Kumar.

PCC chief visits affected area, meets SSP

Cong to approach Raj Bhawan today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After meeting the family members of those who died after consuming liquor in Pathariya Peer area, the Pradesh Congress Committee president Pritam Singh met the senior superintendent of police Arun Mohan Joshi on Sunday. Submitting a memorandum to the SSP, the PCC president demanded that action be taken on a war footing against those illegally supplying intoxicants in the Pathariya Peer area and those protecting them.

He said that it is known to all that half a dozen people died and others were hospitalised after drinking spurious liquor.

The business of illegal liquor and intoxicants has been thriving in this area for quite some time. He said that the Congress delegation had visited the affected area where the locals were complaining that despite such a big incident, the trade of illicit liquor and intoxicants is still continuing in the area.

Later, while talking to media persons, the PCC president blamed the State Government for the incident while alleging that some members of the party in power were also involved in the case. He said that a delegation of the Congress would visit the Raj Bhawan on Monday and meet the governor on this issue. He

also demanded that the state government should announce Rs 10 lakh compensation each for the bereaved families of those who have died after consuming the spurious liquor.

Meanwhile, Mahanagar Congress workers staged a protest and burnt the state government in effigy.

The party's Mahanagar chief Lalchand Sharma alleged that the BJP State government was encouraging the actions of the liquor mafia in the state. The state's excise policy accords protection to the liquor mafia, encourages the smuggling of liquor and aims at supplying liquor to all homes in the State. The involvement of BJP



leaders and departmental officers in the Pathariya Peer incident is a proof of this, he averred. Sharma further alleged that illicit liquor trade

has been thriving in Dehradun for some time due to BJP members working in connivance with departmental officers.

Max accidents caused by violation of traffic rules

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After the imposition of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act 2019 citizens everywhere have become alert about traffic offences.

Even though a fraction of population in the state is still objecting to the increased penalties and the amended sentencing provision, the state traffic law enforcers are indeed happy with the changes that have been made. A traffic sub-inspector said that it is easy to blame the police for any horrible accident on the road, but in most of the cases the accident is caused due to traffic offence that has been committed by either the victim or the accused. According to the information provided by traffic directorate, from the month of January to August this year about 937 road accident cases have been reported, in which 581 people have lost their lives and 1,038 people were severely injured.

The cause of maximum number of road accidents was reported to be over speeding and rash driving — about 403 such cases were reported in which 227 people died and 397 were injured.



ber of road accident cases in State is due to people's tendency of driving on the wrong side.

About 112 road accidents were reported under this category, in which 62 people were killed and 115 were injured. Third major cause of road accidents in Uttarakhand is people wrongly overtaking the vehicle moving ahead which caused about 96 accidents in which 54 people lost their lives and 103 were injured.

The traffic offence of drink and drive or driving or riding under the influence of other intoxicants is the fourth major cause of road accidents — 92 cases have been reported under this factor in the state, in which 51 people lost their lives and 69 were injured.

Another traffic personnel said, "Corruption is in every department, but we face the maximum flack for it. Just because there have been few alleged cases of corruption on traffic police in Uttarakhand, that undermines all the good work that we have done. If you won't break any rules, there will not be any room for corruption. However, people do not follow the rules, they think that by paying someone off they can get away with it. Now, after the amendment in MV Act, maximum number of people voluntarily have started following the rules."

Dehradun Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arun Mohan Joshi said, "It is our appeal to every citizen to

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□ The traffic offence of drink and drive or driving or riding under the influence of other intoxicants is the fourth major cause of road accidents — 92 cases have been reported due to this factor in the State, in which 51 people lost their lives and 69 were injured

New Education Policy to be introduced soon: Nishank

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has said that after a period of 33 years, a new education policy is going to be implemented in the country which will set the milestone of the development of the country.

Nishank said recently he had called on all the Education Ministers of the country where in 26 Education Ministers gave their viewpoints. Over two lakh suggestions came from across the country out of which important suggestions will be implemented in the new education policy.

He said with the coming of new education policy a revolutionary change will come in the education system. Nishank had come to meet the chancellor of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, Pranav Pandya on Sunday.

The Union Minister appraised Pandya about the accomplishments of Narendra Modi government in hundred days. Nishank told the media persons that Pandya will facilitate admission of 100 Kashmiri students in his university by reserving seat for them and also give free education to students of economically weak-



er section. On Kashmir issue Nishank said that after scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, the people of Kashmir are happy. He said earlier the State had become property of just

four families but in the hundred days of its second innings the Modi Government has taken many historic decisions and has shown a ray of hope to the last man of the country. He added that Modi has

Nishank said recently he had called on all Education Ministers gave their viewpoints

emerged as a powerful leader in the world and India's rapport has been enhanced on world platform. "These are historic landmarks and the government must take measures to conserve them. Irrigation department paints the lions after years but Sher Kothi sample lion is in shambles," said a local resident, Kamal Kumar.

Tigress dies after fight with another tiger



PNS ■ RAMNAGAR

The carcass of a tiger found on Saturday evening in the Dhela range of Corbett tiger reserve was disposed off after veterinarians conducted a post mortem examination on Sunday. According to departmental officials, the death of the tigress is believed to have been caused by injuries resulting from a fight with another big cat. Staff on patrol during

Saturday night had come across the body of the tiger in Dhela. The department staff took possession of the body on which the post mortem examination was conducted on Sunday.

According to the sub divisional officer Ramakant Tiwari informed that the tigress was aged about five years. As a result of the fight with another tiger, the tigress had a broken jaw and a bone of her neck was also found to be broken, he said.

Story of five Lions: The pride of Roorkee

RADHIKA NAGRATH ■ HARIDWAR

Looking in sitting position alert and majestic on the two sides of Ganga Canal in Roorkee can never be missed by anyone entering Roorkee and Haridwar via Ganga canal road route.

There are five statues of lions along the Ganga canal, two are significant landmarks since the colonial era when the Ganga Canal was constructed under the supervision of Colonel PB Cautley.

Cautley was an army officer who was made in-charge of the canal construction. These lions which act as marks of danger zone in canal must be conserved, say the local residents and IIT engineers.

Four lion statues are built along the Ganga canal, two each at Roorkee and Mehwar village while the fifth one is installed in Sher Kothi in Roorkee.

This fifth lion was first built as a model and after it was perfected it was made in design. The four other statues were built along the canal, say the IIT engineers. The famous Ganga canal stretches till Kanpur tra-



versing through Muzaffarnagar. Retired professor of IIT Roorkee SC Handa said, "Going from Roorkee to Haridwar there is a village called Mehwar located 2.5 kilometers from Roorkee on the upstream side.

Two lions are built on the two edges of the canal at that point. Lot of land filling had to be done for the canal to keep the required level between Roorkee town and Mehwar. The two lions at each point were built to indicate that

canal in the filled up portion is in danger zone and lions are there to safeguard the region. If there can be a breach in the zone, the canal being at greater height compared to the surrounding land will inundate the surrounding area and flood so

many villages nearby." The reference of these lions comes in the book titled History of Thomsen College of Engineering (earlier name of IIT Roorkee), which is the oldest engineering college of India wherein there is mention

of the figure of a lordly lion, sitting but alert, paws stretched out and head held high, confident in his majesty and power, but shows neither fear nor ferocity. This lion was adopted as the emblem of the spirit of Roorkee college. While the design of the emblem changed a few times over the years, the lion continued to be its integral part and is still very much appearance in many places.

The apathy of district administration and irrigation department has led to encroachment of the area Sher Kothi, where Cautley used to live.

"These are historic landmarks and the government must take measures to conserve them. Irrigation department paints the lions after years but Sher Kothi sample lion is in shambles," said a local resident, Kamal Kumar.

It is said the lions are similar in structure to the ones erected in Trafalgar Square in London, England. They are made of black granite while the lions in Roorkee are of bricks and lime mortar since cement was not available at that time but dimensions and form matches that of the lions in London.

Azad visits Anantnag colony, meets people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is on a three-day visit to Kashmir following Supreme Court orders, on Sunday visited Anantnag district in south Kashmir where he met people in a Government housing colony.



Azad, who was scheduled to meet people at Dak Banglow which has been declared a jail, had to change the venue after authorities refused him permission. Party sources said that Azad was at the housing colony from 11 am to 3 pm and several people visited the former Chief Minister of the State.

A senior Congress leader alleged while the leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha was strictly following the Supreme Court order with respect to his visit to the valley, authorities were creating hurdles. He mentioned that during Azad's stay in Srinagar on Friday, the security personnel did not allow people to meet him.

This is Azad's first visit to the State after being denied permission to depart the plane when he was part of an all-party delegation led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi last month. He was accompanied by nine senior political leaders from different parties including Left, Trinamool, DMK, RJD.

Azad reached at Srinagar on Friday on his maiden visit following the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and after three failed attempts in which he was turned back from the airport.

Rahul and other were barred from leaving the airport on August 24 when local authorities had warned that their visit could stoke heightened tension in the region. When their plane arrived in Srinagar, the politicians were not allowed to leave the airport and were sent back within a few hours.

On Saturday, Azad visited Lalla Deob maternity hospital and inquired about the welfare of patients. He also visited the Srinagar Reception Centre here and interacted with the members of Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association. He is scheduled to visit Baramulla in north Kashmir on Monday.

Azad's visit became possible after a nod from the Supreme Court, which allowed

the Congress general secretary to visit the state. A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, had on Monday allowed the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister to visit four districts — Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla, Anantnag — to meet people.

The bench was told by senior advocate A M Singhvi, who was appearing for Azad, that the Congress leader wants to meet the people and inquire about their welfare. In his petition filed in "personal capacity", Azad had told the Supreme Court that he had tried to visit the state thrice, but was turned back from the airport.

Upon the insistence of the political leaders to visit the valley post abrogation of Article 370, Jammu & Kashmir government, currently headed by Governor Sat Pal Malik, has remarked that political leaders had been asked not to visit Srinagar as the administration works to restore order.

A row emerged when Malik offered to arrange an aircraft for Rahul Gandhi to visit the Valley in which the former Congress chief said he would take up his invitation but requested the "freedom to travel and meet the people, mainstream leaders and our soldiers stationed there." Sooner the Governor accused Rahul of politicizing the invitation by putting conditions for visit.

CPWD requests MHA not to examine its projects estimates as it delays works

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPWD, a prime construction agency of the Central Government, has requested the Ministry of Home Affairs not to examine its project estimates as it causes delay in taking up the construction works.



In a letter to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, CPWD Director General Prabhakar Singh said that it has been observed that proposals or estimates submitted by the Central Public Works Department are examined at various levels in the MHA or Central Para Military Forces.

Singh said that estimates are made with "sound engineering practices" by competent technical professionals and should not require further scrutiny.

The CPWD is also the principal construction agency of MHA for creation of all types of built assets of Central Para Military Forces, Central Border infrastructure, he said.

"Therefore in the interest of the work, there is no need for checking of CPWD estimates as it entails duplication," Singh said.

He said some of the CAPMFs are also insisting on detailed estimates instead of preliminary estimates.

"Detailed estimates require detailed planning such as soil testing, detailed survey, structural design, architectural detailing etc, which is a time intensive exercise and causes substantial delay," Singh also said.

"I, therefore, request your good self to kindly look into the above issues and advise the concern organisations under your administrative control for appropriate needful," the director general said in the letter.

The CPWD is the central Government's largest construction agency and it carries out several development and border projects.

EC announces bypolls to 2 more seats in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid criticism by the Opposition Congress for not conducting polls for all the vacant seats, the Election Commission (EC) on Sunday announced two more Assembly bypolls — Radhanpur and Bayad seats in Gujarat taking the total number of seats going for by-election across India to 66.



The bypolls to Radhanpur and Bayad Assembly seats, announced on Sunday, were necessitated after sitting MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalshinh Zala of Congress resigned and joined the ruling BJP.

According to the EC, bypolls to Radhanpur and Bayad assembly seats in Gujarat and the Samastipur Lok Sabha seat in Bihar will be held on October 21. Bypolls to four assembly seats — Amraiwadi, Tharad, Lunawada, and Kheralu seats, which fell vacant after sitting MLAs successfully contested Lok Sabha polls in April-May this year, were announced on Saturday.

Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Haryana will also be held on the same day. The counting will be held on October 24. The EC is yet to announce schedule for Morva Hadaf Assembly constituency, reserved for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category in Gujarat. Morva Hadaf seat fell vacant after Independent MLA Bhupendrasinh Khant was dis-

qualified following invalidation of his caste certificate.

The main opposition Congress on Saturday criticised the EC for announcing by-elections to only four Assembly seats in Gujarat and leaving out three other vacant seats. "The commission was acting under the BJP's pressure," it alleged.

Meanwhile, Thakor and Zala have staked claims for their respective constituencies, Radhanpur and Bayad. Both the leaders belonged to the Thakor community.

"My decision to join the BJP was for the sake of the Thakor community and farmers of Bayad constituency. A former MLAs has also demanded ticket from the seat. But people know me. I have helped resolve even small, personal problems of people in my area. If given ticket, I will help the party win," said Zala.

Thakor said (abrogation of provisions of) Article 370 will remain the main issue in polls. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided a capable leadership to the country. The way the Congress campaigned against Article 370 has disillusioned people," he said. Thakor added that people are also appreciating the work of the state government.

"The decision on likely candidate from Radhanpur will be decided by the parliamentary board of the BJP. However, senior BJP leaders have indicated that I will contest. I am very much interested," he added. The EC has announced on Saturday that bypolls to 64 assembly seats and one Lok Sabha constituency, spread across 18 states, will be held on October 21, and the counting of votes will be on October 24.

BSY seeks ₹2K-cr flood relief from Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Day after the Election Commission (EC) announced bypolls in the seats represented by the rebel lawmakers who were disqualified by speaker KR Ramesh Kumar under the tenth schedule, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa rushed to Delhi on Sunday and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and sought ₹2,000 crore as urgent relief for the flood-affected State.



Speaking to reporters, he said the Centre has assured that a decision on providing assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) will be taken after a central team, which is assessing the extent of damage in the state, submits its report in the next two-three days.

"We have demanded ₹2,000 crore central assistance for flood relief. We have resource constraint. Despite all, the state government has released about ₹1,000 crore so far. Release of central funds will ease the burden on us," Yediyurappa told reporters.

Most likely a decision on this matter will be taken after the prime minister returns to India, he added. Shah has assured that flood relief and other emergency works will not be affected in the state as they have been exempted from the purview of the poll code,

according to Yediyurappa. Bypolls in the state will be held on October 21.

Karnataka deputy chief ministers Ashwath Narayan and Laxman Savadi and home minister Basavaraj Bommai were also present in the meeting.

The 2019 floods in Karnataka are touted to have caused losses to the tune of ₹38451 crore and around 103 taluks in 22 districts have been badly hit with over 6.9 lakh hectares of crop loss. Around 75,317 houses have been damaged due to the rains. Last month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Yediyurappa had undertaken an aerial survey of flood-affected areas. The Chief Minister had briefed Shah about the rescue and relief operations that were underway in the state.



Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu lights a lamp to inaugurate a free medical camp organised by KIMS Hospitals and Swarna Bharat Trust, in Hyderabad on Sunday. Telangana Governor Dr Tamisilai Soundararajan and other dignitaries are also seen

Only 2.5% colleges run PhD programmes, finds HRD survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Centre has been advocating and granting more funds through various schemes towards strengthening and encouraging research programmes in academic institutions, the All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE) conducted by HRD Ministry has reflected that only 2.5 per cent colleges in the country run PhD programmes and maximum students in PhD science stream. A total of 1,69,170 students are enrolled in PhD programmes that is less than 0.5 per cent of the total student enrolment.

The share of PhD student is highest in State Public University (34.3 pc) followed by Institute of National Importance (21.6 pc), Deemed University-Private (21.6 pc) and State Private University (13.4 pc)

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a gesture to honour the late Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh, the force on Sunday felicitated a trust founded by him and his wife, with Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa applauding the noble work done by it towards welfare of serving and retired air warriors. The felicitation ceremony was held at Akash Air Force officers' mess here on the establishment day of the trust.



In his speech, Dhanoa expressed his gratitude to the founders of the trust and "applauded the noble work done by the trust towards welfare of the serving and retired air warriors including their widows and dependents". The Marshal and his wife Tej Singh had contributed their personal funds of Rs 2.25 cr to establish this trust on September 22 in 2004, IAF officials said.

Arvind Singh, son of the Marshal and a life trustee of the organisation, delivered an emotional speech. To mark the felicitation ceremony, a leaflet on the trust and a poetry book "Abhi Kaam Baaki Hai" on the Marshal were launched jointly by the IAF chief and Air Chief Marshal (retired) Arup Raha, the IAF statement said. A memento was also presented to the trust.

Broad gauge Metro time saving option, says Nitin Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has advocated the deployment of broad gauge Metro as an affordable, efficient and time-saving option for inter-city travel which will reduce stress on large cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.



Speaking at the curtain raiser event of the India Manufacturing Show (IMS) 2020 in the national Capital last week, Gadkari said: "We are deploying broad gauge metro in my constituency Nagpur. It will connect Nagpur with Wardha, Bhandara Road, Rameek and Narkhed. Running metro on the broad gauge should be considered as it makes travel between cities and its satellite towns affordable. For instance, people can stay in Meerut or Panipat and easily travel to Delhi for work every day. So, it's a win-win for the city as well as the commuter."

Suresh Angadi were also present on the occasion. Gadkari said current metro rail construction costs around ₹320 crore per km, while the broad gauge metro costs around Rs three crore. Stressing on the need to develop indigenous technologies, Gadkari said it will help generate jobs besides ensuring better organisational efficiencies. Gadkari also said he has cleared for the consideration of the Union Cabinet the policy for the scrapping of old cars, buses, and two-wheelers. Finance Ministry has already cleared the proposal and the Government will very soon clear it. Scrapping policy for old vehicles will help reduce vehicular congestion in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, which have a large number of vehicles that are older than 10-15 years.

SC: Judges should possess sterling quality of integrity

New Delhi: The judiciary is an institution founded on honesty and integrity, the Supreme Court has said, reasserting that it is necessary judicial officers possess the "sterling quality of integrity" to be able to serve the public.

It made the observation while refusing to show any leniency to a Maharashtra-based judicial magistrate, who had challenged his 2004 dismissal from service following allegations he passed orders in favour of the clients of a woman lawyer he had a "proximate relationship".

Impeccable integrity should be reflected both in the public and personal life of a judge, the top court said, and added judicial officers must always remember they hold high office and serve the public. A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said the petitioner did not live up to the "expectations of integrity, behaviour and probity" and no leniency can be shown to him. "Hence, we find no merit in the appeal, which is accordingly dismissed," it said.

The petitioner was appointed as a judicial magis-

trate in March 1985. In February 2001, he was put under suspension and dismissed in January 2004. He challenged his dismissal in the Bombay High Court but his plea was rejected. He then moved the apex court, which issued a notice on his plea limited to the question of quantum of punishment.

"In this case, the officer decided the cases because of his proximate relationship with the lady lawyer and not because the law required him to do so. This is also gratification - of a different kind," the bench said, explaining that gratification can be of various types. "It can be gratification of money, gratification of power, gratification of lust etc," it said.

The bench said the first and foremost quality required in a judge is integrity. Being a public servant, judicial officers should always remember they are there to serve the public. "The need for integrity in the judiciary is much higher than in other institutions. It is, therefore, necessary that judicial officers should possess the sterling quality of integrity," it said. **PTI**

Pak fake social media handles using KBC to trap people: Def Ministry

New Delhi: Security agencies have warned Pakistan-based operatives are attempting to use the popularity of the Amitabh Bachchan-anchored show Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) to trap individuals and propagate misinformation through fake social media handles.

"It has been reported by cyber cell, Ministry of Defence that adversaries are taking advantage of the popularity of TV show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' by making individuals join WhatsApp groups and sending fake KBC messages to trap individuals," a security advisory issued by the Defence Ministry said.

The advisory listed two Pakistan-based numbers found to be the administrators of WhatsApp groups, which were

trying to trap individuals. The Defence Ministry's cyber cell advised people who are part of these groups to "immediately exit such groups if one has already been added.

"The cyber cell also advised people to compare their WhatsApp settings in a manner that only a person whose contacts details are saved in your phone can add you without an invitation. After the abrogation of article 370, Pakistani spy agencies have become very aggressive in spreading misinformation about India and have been targeting the defence forces in a big way in the virtual world. The

security agencies had detected that over 200 fake handles of military officers including both serving and retired officers had come up on social media who were tweeting and spreading messages as per the Pakistani narrative on the Kashmir issue.

After the agencies concerned approached Twitter, a large number of such handles were suspended for being fake. The Indian Army has now

again asked its personnel to avoid putting up their service posting details on social media as it can be used by the adversaries to spread misinformation. Also, there have been cases of virtual honey traps where serving officers and jawans have been trapped and forced to leak military classified information to enemy operatives who generally pose as girls on social media. **Agencies**

UNABLE TO BEAR EXPENSES

Parents drown 20-day-old twin daughters



Muzaffarnagar: Two newborn girls were drowned in a pond by their parents in an Uttar Pradesh village, with the father claiming that they killed the 20-day-old twins as they could not bear their expenses.

Waseem, a daily wage earner, and his wife Nasreen were arrested on Sunday for killing Afrin and Afiya at Bhikki village here, Station House Officer (SHO) Ajay Kumar said.

"Our financial condition is very weak. We could not have borne the expenses for our two daughters," Waseem, who has a seven-year-old son, told police.

The couple had an argument on Saturday night following which the newborns were thrown by them in the pond near their house, the SHO said, adding that the twins drowned.

The father lodged a mis-

ing complaint on Sunday morning, but during investigation it was found that the twins had been killed, Kumar said.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, former MLC and BJP leader Jayesh Prasad met Chinmayanand in the jail and expressed concern over the health of the 72-year-old former Union Minister.

"The health of Chinmayanand is continuously deteriorating. He should be shifted to the KGMU in Lucknow or any other prominent hospital for treatment," he said, adding that though he respected the legal process, the woman was "yet to be arrested" in the cases registered by the leader against her and other accused.

The student and her three friends were booked for extortion by the SIT.

Residents of the village said Waseem was angry over the birth of two girls and frequently fought with his wife over it. PTI

CHINMAYANAND CASE

Woman, SIT leave for Allahabad High Court for Monday hearing

Shahjahanpur: The student who levelled rape charges against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand has left for Allahabad, where she will be appearing before the High Court on Monday, sources said.

The special investigation team (SIT), which will submit a status report in the court, too has left for Allahabad, they said.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, former MLC and BJP leader Jayesh Prasad met Chinmayanand in the jail and expressed concern over the health of the 72-year-old former Union Minister.

"The health of Chinmayanand is continuously deteriorating. He should be shifted to the KGMU in Lucknow or any other prominent hospital for treatment," he said, adding that though he respected the legal process, the woman was "yet to be arrested" in the cases registered by the leader against her and other accused.

The student and her three friends were booked for extortion by the SIT.

Residents of the village said Waseem was angry over the birth of two girls and frequently fought with his wife over it. PTI



to the CJM court, urging it to allow the "shifting of the leader to the KGMU, Lucknow, for treatment."

Kumar said they had received directions from the court and the jail doctor was looking after the leader.

"A team of doctors from the Shahjahanpur Medical College came yesterday to see him and he is being given the medicines from time to time as prescribed by the doctors," he said.

The former Union Minister was arrested by the SIT on Friday and sent to 14 days' judicial custody at the court. He is being held at the Allahabad High Court.

The sources said that the SIT had on Friday registered a

case against the woman's three friends -- Sanjay Singh, Sachin Sengar and Vikram -- and an unnamed person (Ms A).

They said the unnamed person was also a student but they did not disclose her identity in view of the Supreme Court guidelines.

SIT chief Naveen Arora had on Friday said the three friends, when questioned in view of a video clip in which they were purportedly discussing extortion, had accepted their involvement in the case.

They have been booked under Indian Penal Code Section 302 (murder with a criminal knowledge or intention), 385 (extortion), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (disappearance of evidences) and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

On her name being included in the extortion case, the woman had said, "I do not know if the people who helped me escape from the SIT were using me for I have nothing to do with the extortion case. I think all this drama is being done to dilute my charges of rape."

The girl said, "The Supreme Court has taken cognisance of the entire matter and I am confident that I will get justice on September 23, which is the date of hearing in Allahabad High Court." PTI

JU row: Students union files complaint against Supriyo

Kolkata: The Arts Faculty Students Union (AFSU) of Jadavpur University has filed a police complaint against Union Minister Babul Supriyo, accusing him of misconduct during the ruckus at the varsity on Thursday.

The left-leaning AFSU also lodged a complaint against five members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) for assaulting students, including women, and vandalising university property.

"Various incidents had taken place after the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Babul Supriyo) came to the JU campus in an event organised by ABVP, prompted by ABVP members," the AFSU said in its complaint on Saturday.

The complaint named Supriyo as the "prime accused" and also identified five other ABVP members.

An officer of Jadavpur Police station confirmed the receipt of the complaint. Alleging that the minister and his bodyguards had misbehaved with students on Thursday, it read, "A file of loaded magazine was found on the site of the event, which created unnecessary panic among the students, disrupting the campus life."

Supriyo could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

The AFSU complaint also said that ABVP members "created a ruckus, burnt and

destroyed campus property, threw acid bulbs, burnt tyres and pelted stones at the students and beat them up with sticks".

The student union was referring to the incident when agitated ABVP supporters assembled outside one of the main gates of the varsity on Thursday evening, after Supriyo was confined in the campus for over five hours.

The ABVP members then barged into the campus and allegedly went on a rampage in the union room and arts building. "Babul Supriyo being the prime accused, some other ABVP members recognised by us until now are..." the complaint said.

Asked to comment on the

action of AFSU, BJP leader Mukul Roy told PTI, "This is the present scenario in West Bengal, where a union minister, who has been assaulted by students of a university for attending a function at the institute, is named in a police complaint by those who had attacked him without any provocation."

He alleged that the police was not taking any action against those involved in the "attack on Supriyo," and instead accepting their complaint.

"We will take appropriate legal action," Roy said. BJP leader Agnimitra Paul on Friday had filed a complaint at Jadavpur police station against some students, but did not name anyone. PTI

Was left with no other option but to visit JU: Bengal Gov

Kolkata: West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said he was left with no other option but to rush to Jadavpur University for rescuing Union Minister Babul Supriyo, who was heckled and held up by a section of students at the varsity.

After being held up at the university campus by protestors from leftist students unions for nearly five hours, Supriyo was taken out by the Governor late on Thursday evening.

Dhankhar, who is also the

chancellor of the university, said there was nothing wrong in his decision to visit its campus to understand the prevailing situation at that time. "I am happy that after I went there, I got the cooperation and support of students and professors," he said.

"If I don't connect with the agitating students and understand their situation, who will connect with them? I have to connect, have a dialogue with them... Only then, we can go ahead," the Governor said at an event here. PTI

PM deserves respect when he represents India abroad: Tharoor

Pune: Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who has been critical of the Modi-led government, on Sunday said the prime minister deserves respect when he visits foreign countries as India's representative, but when he is in the country, people have the right to question him.

On the row over a common language for India, the Lok Sabha MP from Kerala said he was in favour of a three-language formula (promoting multilingual communicative abilities).

He was speaking at a session organised by the All India Professional Congress in Pune district of Maharashtra.

"The prime minister deserves respect in foreign countries as (here) he is a representative of our nation. But when he is in India, we have the right to ask him questions," Tharoor said.

On the issue of one common language in the country, he said the BJP's ideology of promoting Hindi, Hinduism and Hindutva is "dangerous" for our country.

"We need to carry on the three-language formula," he said.

Amid a heated debate over his remark that Hindi should be a common language, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on

Wednesday said he has never asked for imposition of Hindi over native languages in the country but advocated its use as the second language.

He criticised the ruling BJP over incidents of mob lynching, saying they are an "insult to Hindutva and Lok Satta". "There is no difference among people (of different communities) living in Kerala. Then why it is happening in Maharashtra," he said.

Even Maratha warrior king Shivaji Maharaj had people from different communities under his rule. But he instructed everyone to respect each other, he said. PTI

Police attach properties of absconding RJD MLA Arun Yadav

Ara: Police in Bihar's Bhojpur district on Sunday attached the properties of RJD MLA Arun Yadav, who is absconding in connection with a case of sexual abuse of a minor girl, a senior police officer said.

The process of attaching the Sandes RJD MLA's property at his native village Lasarhi began this morning amid tight security, the officer said.

The properties belonged to MLA Yadav, located at his native village Lasarhi were attached today. Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Nitin Kumar said.

The move comes days after District and Sessions Judge R K Singh, who holds the charge of special POCSO court, issued the NBW against Yadav following an application filed by the district officer.

The POCSO court had on September 13 issued a non-bailable warrant against the sitting RJD MLA in the sexual abuse case. The ASP said that the MLA has been absconding since an NBW was issued against him in the case besides a notice for attachment of properties was pasted on his house on the court's directive. PTI



A view of illuminated Mysore Palace in Mysore on Sunday

PTI

MAHARAJA HARI SINGH BIRTHDAY EVE BJP's Jammu rally gets lackluster response

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Multiple rows of empty chairs on Sunday greeted top BJP leaders including national vice-president Shyam Jaiu, Union Minister of State PMO Dr Jitendra Singh and Union Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur as they arrived here to pay tributes and address public rally on the eve of 125th birth anniversary of Maharaja Hari Singh.

This attendance inside the pandal, raised in moderate rains in Maharaja Hari Singh Park, also forced the organisers to delay the programme.

Interestingly, central BJP leaders waited for the green signal from the organisers to reach the venue as empty chairs inside the pandal, decked up



with king size images of Maharaja Hari Singh, kept staring at the organisers till the programme culminated.

The public rally was organised by the Jan-Jagran Abhiyan committee of BJP along with Jammu Bar Association and Civil Societies, Jammu.

On their arrival, the central BJP leaders offered floral tributes to the statue of Maharaja Hari Singh and later addressed a public rally.

Addressing the public rally, Minister of State for Finance Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur said the Government is committed to the development of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said the Government had taken a "historic" decision to abrogate Article 370, which he claims will result in massive development in the entire region.

"Our Government has taken a historic decision to abrogate Article 370. Now, J&K will witness massive development."

Thakur also slammed media for spreading "fake propaganda" and went on to say that PoK is a part of India.

Reaching out to the business community of Jammu, the MoS Finance said several measures have been implemented for the revival of the economy, citing recent cuts in corporate tax and GST for certain categories.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Thakur said the entire world is standing with India today due to the efforts of Prime Minister.

Shyam Jaiu, in his address, said the whole Nation is thankful to Maharaja Hari Singh for his contributions to the society and for acceding to the Union of India.

Dr Jitendra Singh, in his address, said the decision to abrogate Articles 370 & 35(a) has nothing to do with Hindus and Muslim but it is for betterment

of common masses. He said that Home Minister Amit Shah is very liberal towards house arrested leaders in J&K providing them Hollywood movies, gym facilities & brown breads to eat, as we remember also the times when our leaders were thrown away to far off places & abused and added that these are the "House Guests & not House Arrests". He said that these valley politicians have exploited public machinery after getting only 10% votes. He added his voice for the commitment to make status of PoJK in the state as it was then the Maharaja handed it over to the Union of India.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Th. Narayan Singh and Adv. Abhinav Sharma also addressed the rally.

Serial killer 'cyanide' Mohan convicted in 16th murder case

Mangaluru: "Cyanide" Mohan, a serial killer who has murdered several women using the deadly chemical after befriending and raping them, has been convicted of killing another woman — a music teacher — in Karnataka, taking the total number of his convictions to 16.

Mohan, who has previously been convicted of killing women in public toilets by giving them cyanide capsules, murdered the 33-year-old woman after raping her at a lodge in Bengaluru in May 2007, the court said.

The woman hailed from Uppala in Kasaragod district of Kerala.

The serial killer had introduced himself to her as Sudhakar Acharya, an employee of the forest department. He

gave her a poisonous capsule, telling her it was a contraceptive. He has used the same modus operandi in all the 20 cases against him, the prosecution submitted to the court.

Judge Sayeedunnisa pronounced Mohan guilty on Friday under various sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to murder, robbery and punishment for cheating and others, after examining 38 witnesses and 49 exhibits.

The quantum of punishment would be pronounced on September 25.

This was the 16th case in which Mohan has been convicted. He had been accused of killing a number of women between 2003 and 2009 and had been sentenced to death in three cases and to life imprisonment in others. PTI

Depression off Guj coast likely to turn into cyclonic storm: IMD

Ahmedabad: A depression formed over east-central and north-east Arabian Sea, was now around 170 kilometres west-southwest off Veraval in Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department said on Sunday.

It is likely to intensify into a deep depression and subsequently convert into a cyclonic storm in 24 hours and move west-northwest towards Oman coast over the next 72 hours, the IMD added.

The cyclonic storm will cause light to moderate rains in several places in the Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat, and heavy rainfall in isolated places in the coastal districts during



the next 24 hours, the IMD informed.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the east-central and adjoining north-east Arabian Sea along and off Gujarat coast during next 48 hours as the condition of the sea would be very rough with winds with speeds of 45-55 kmph to 65 kmph, the IMD informed. PTI

The depression over east-central and adjoining north-east Arabian sea off Gujarat coast moved west-northwest with a speed of 15 kilometres per hour and lay centred, at 11:30 am on Sunday, around 170 km west-southwest of Veraval in Gujarat, 570 km south-southeast of Karachi in Pakistan, and 1170 km east-southeast of Muscat in Oman, the IMD said.

"It is very likely to intensify further into a deep depression during next 12 hours and on September 25 to discuss various inter-State water issues, including the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP)."

INTER-STATE WATER ISSUES

Kerala, TN CMs to hold talks on Sept 24

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will meet his Tamil Nadu counterpart K Palaniswami here on September 25 to discuss various inter-State water issues, including the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP).

Palaniswami will lead a delegation on a day's visit to Kerala and during it both the states would discuss various current and proposed river water sharing agreements between the two neighbouring states, Water Resources Minister K Krishnakunty told PTI here on Sunday.

The discussion will include Parambikulam project, Anamallai, Pandiyar, Punnappuzha, Pamba Achankovil diversion and many



more. We will discuss the water-sharing agreements between the states," Krishnakunty said.

This would be first meeting between the chief ministers of the two states in 15 years, he said.

In 2004, the then Chief Ministers Jayalalithaa and Oommen Chandy had met in Chennai.

"This is one major meeting happening in the state. A few ministers and officials are also accompanying the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister," the Kerala Minister said.

The Tamil Nadu delegation includes Minister for Power P Thangamani, Rural Development Minister S P Velumani, Environment Minister K C Karuppannan,

assembly Deputy Speaker V Jayaraman, Chief Secretary K Shanmugam, secretaries and chief engineers.

Kerala has an expressing concern over Tamil Nadu's approach to the river-water sharing agreement, signed by the two states in 1970, with retrospective effect from 1958.

The state has also been demanding Tamil Nadu to honour the provisions of the PAP and its rightful share of water.

Tamil Nadu might take up its demand for the diversion of Anamallay river water, which is linked to the Idamalayar project. Krishnakunty has recently held discussions with senior officers of his department here as part of the preparations.

Police seize 450 cartons of liquor in Bihar

Ara: Police on Sunday seized 450 cartons of India Made Foreign Liqueur (IMFL) worth in Bihar's Bhojpur district, a senior police officer said. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped a truck near Ramdihra pul in Barja village under Bihyan police station and recovered 450 cartons of liquor during the search of the truck. Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Nitin Kumar said adding that smugglers fled from the spot. The liquor consignment was brought to Bihyan from Arunachal Pradesh, the ASP said. Sale, consumption, manufacturing, transportation, storage of liquor had been completely banned in Bihar by the Nitish Kumar Government in April 2016. PTI

BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION CASE

Special CBI court issues summons to Kalyan Singh

Lucknow: A special CBI court here has issued summons to former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and BJP leader Kalyan Singh, directing him to appear before it on September 27, in connection with the Babri Masjid demolition case.

The court is conducting the trial of accused persons, including BJP leaders K. K. Advani, M. J. Joshi, Uma Bharti and others for allegedly conspiring to demolish the mosque at the disputed Ram Jambhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya.

Taking note of the information given by the members of the Bar association that Singh's term as Rajasthan governor expired in the first week of this month, special judge S K Yadav on Saturday passed the order on a pending application that the CBI had moved on September 9.

After serving a full five-year term as governor, the 87-year-old leader, who was the Uttar Pradesh chief minister when the Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, rejoined the BJP on September 9.

The court had taken up the application and asked the CBI to produce papers that the



term of Singh as the governor has expired. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had then sought time to produce the papers, saying it did not receive any documents from its headquarters.

On the information given by the members of bar association, the court issued the summons to Singh for appearing before it on Friday.

Moving the application, the CBI pleaded that Singh was charged in 1993. It further pleaded that the Supreme

Gorkhas not to visit Foreigners's Tribunal: Body

Cuwahati: The Gorkhas, whose names have been excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, will not visit Foreigners's Tribunals to prove their Indian citizenship, a community body said on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here, Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) national president Sukhman Moktan said that Gorkhas being tried in the Foreigners's Tribunals (FT) will be an "insult to us for being Indians," he said.

"We can file defamation suit against the system for challenging the citizenship of Gorkhas and Nepali speaking population being taken to FT", Moktan, who heads the only registered national organisation, representing 10.5 million Indian Gorkhas in 22 state union territories, said.

The BGP had organised a week-long tour across Assam to meet the victims of the Gorkha community who were not included in the NRC and directed to appeal against it at Foreigners's Tribunals.

During the visit to 18 districts that ended on Sunday, Moktan said they found that names of many Gorkhas had been left out from the final NRC list.

"We met NRC victims and arbitrarily marked D Voters and their descendants whose citizenship is challenged and are being directed to go to FT as per NRC guidelines while a recent Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification exempts the Gorkhas."

This is an attempt of a few vested interests within the system to disrespect Indian

Gorkhas who are actually original inhabitants as is proved by our historically and mythologically recorded presence since centuries," Moktan said.

Nimal Kumar Pun, BGP secretary general said, "No Indian Gorkhas should be left out of the NRC. As a vigilant civil society organisation, the BGP will play a vital role as it is a judiciary monitored process".

On being asked whether the BGP is planning to take the state government to High Court for the delay in filing fresh writ petition to uphold the MHA notification, Nityananda Upadhyay, president, Assam State Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) said, "BGP is a party to the NRC case in the Supreme Court of India.

If the Government of Assam does not do its duty as directed by the Union of India, the BGP will take a policy decision to take the matter to the Supreme Court and make the State Government party to it and contest the case on the merits of the matter."

On Saturday a BGP delegation had urged Chief Secretary Alok Kumar to implement the MHA notification.

The chief secretary was urged to form an Empowered Committee to address the woes of the Gorkha community regarding exclusion of many of their names from the NRC, BGP national secretary Nanda Kirat Dewan had said. More than 19 lakh of 3.29 crore applicants have been excluded from the final NRC, released in Assam last month.



Exclusion of Hindu Bengalis from Assam NRC changing political narrative in Bengal

Kolkata: The spectre of NRC implementation is fast turning Bengal into a political battleground, with the TMC appearing to have an advantage over the BJP after the omission of a large number of Hindu Bengalis from the register in saffron party-ruled Assam.

The demand for the NRC exercise to weed out infiltrators has been gaining momentum since last year in the state, which shares over 2000-km-long border with Bangladesh.

However, the publication of the final NRC list in Assam, which left out over 19.6 lakh people - of which around 12 lakh are Hindus and Bengali Hindus - has changed the political narrative in the state to a great extent.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been on the offensive by milking the issue of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as an "anti-Bengali" move on the part of the saffron party.

"What does the omission of 12 lakh Bengalis and Hindus from Assam NRC show? It shows that it is a tool to target Bengalis. The BJP which claims to be the champion of Hindus and its rights should first answer how come Hindus and Bengalis were omitted from the list."

The figures prove that their main target was Bengalis," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said on Sunday.

The BJP national president Amit Shah, who had repeatedly said that the exercise would be conducted across India, is expected to address a seminar on the issue here on October 1.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who met the Union home minister in Delhi over the matter early this week, has been building strong public opinion against the exercise. The TMC supremo had led a rally against NRC on September 12 here.

Last month, the West Bengal Assembly had passed a resolution against NRC, with Banerjee vowing not to allow its implementation in Bengal.

TMC MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the register has not just divided the mass but also made people refugees in their own country.

"The BJP has said if it comes to power, it will implement NRC in Bengal. So the people of Bengal are conscious enough to decide what is good and bad for them. The party should first explain why Bengalis and Hindus have been excluded from the list," Bandyopadhyay said.

The ripple effect of NRC in Assam has already been felt in Bengal, especially in districts bordering the neighbouring state, with panicked people lining up at government offices to get documents in place.

Two recent deaths in the state have been attributed to the state assembly around the citizenship register.

The TMC leadership has

blamed the BJP for creating anxiety over NRC in Bengal.

Banerjee, however, iterated that the exercise will not be allowed in the state and the BJP would have to get past her if they tried to touch anyone.

The illegal NRC implementation, which has been a major plot plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha polls, is considered by its leaders as a plausible factor that led to the rise of the party in Bengal, having bagged 18 parliamentary seats earlier this year.

Nevertheless, the exclusion of around 12 lakh Hindus from the final NRC list in Assam has put the saffron party in a precarious situation.

The party has now said that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would be implemented first, which would provide Hindu refugees Indian nationality, and then the process tooust Muslim infiltrators" would be carried out.

During the 1971 Liberation War in Bangladesh, millions of people fled the country and moved to India, particularly in Bengal and the northeast region.

"In Bengal, we would first implement citizenship bill and then the NRC. The TMC is just trying to create a divide to reap political dividends," Ghosh added.

"We do not need to do anything against Pakistan. It will get dismantled because of the people's path it has chosen. The country will be devoured by flagrant violation of human rights and flourishing terrorism on its soil," Singh remarked grimly, without elaborating further.

He rubbished the "one man's freedom fighter" theory often used by the neighbouring country to justify militancy in the northern state.

"Let us see how many terrorists they can send (to India). None of them will go back," he added. Among others who addressed the gathering here were Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Bihar Chief Minister Surjit Kumar Modi.

Four held in Kerala for honey trapping NRI bizman

Kochi: Four people including a woman were arrested for allegedly honey trapping a Gulf-based NRI businessman to extort money from him, police said on Sunday.

While three of the accused hail from Kannur district, the woman belongs to Kochi.

An investigation was launched based on a complaint that the Qatar-based businessman was lured into the trap allegedly by the woman, who was in that country, by establishing friendship through Facebook, they said.

The businessman was invited to her room in Qatar by the woman. One of the accused, in connivance with the woman, had allegedly set up a secret camera inside the room and took their naked photos.

Dalit man beaten to death for 'stealing water pump' in Rajasthan's Jhalawar

Kota (Raj): A 40-year-old Dalit man was beaten to death for allegedly stealing a water pump in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Ghatoli area on Saturday morning, when a 60-year-old man, his two sons, and some other unidentified people thrashed Dhulichand Meena of Mewakheda village, alleging that he stole a water pump from their fields, Station House Officer (SHO) Nainaram Meena said. When Dhulichand was on his way to a nearby village, Purail Tanwar, his sons, Devi Singh (23) and Mohan (20) and the other men confronted him, the SHO said.

He said a heated exchange between Dhulichand and the group of men over the stolen

hand pump soon turned violent and he was beaten up badly. Dhulichand's father reached the spot and took his injured son home. Later, Dhulichand's condition deteriorated and he was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, the SHO said.

He said preliminary investigation revealed that Tanwar and his sons had on Friday complained about the theft to Dhulichand's father, who reprimanded his son and asked Tanwar to lodge a police complaint against him.

A case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been registered against Tanwar, his sons and seven unidentified men, the SHO said.

Meghalaya may add more teeth to MRSS Act to check illegal immigration: Dy CM

Shillong: Following the publication of NRC in Assam, Meghalaya government is contemplating to add more teeth to a law, enacted in 2016, to check illegal immigration into the state, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said on Sunday.

The state government will soon hold a consultative meeting with all political parties in the state to discuss on the proposed amendment of the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security (MRSS) Act 2016 and also agreed, the same may

be passed in the form of an ordinance, he said.

"We will soon hold consultations with all political parties as well as legislators for their views and suggestions in this regard," the deputy chief minister said.

Once the consultation process is completed, Prestone said the Government would place the proposed amendments before the state cabinet for its approval. He also informed that the proposed amendment may be passed in the form of an ordinance.



A view of houses partially submerged under flood waters of River Ganga at Chhota Boghara area in Prayagraj on Sunday

Three-fourths of J&K supported Art 370 abrogation: Rajnath

Patna: Article 370 was like a "canker" that bled Jammu and Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday, asserting that more than three-fourths population of the erstwhile state supported its abrogation.

Addressing a "Jan Jagran Sabha" (public awareness meet) organized by the BJP here, where leaders spoke on the Narendra Modi government's move to strip J&K of its special status, Singh said the party has lived up to its promises.

"As a nationalist party, the BJP never softened its stand on the issue. Article 370 was like a canker (nasoor) which left J&K bleeding. We have now demonstrated that we are an honest and credible party which fulfills its promises," Singh said evoking applause from the crowd.

He blamed Article 370, an Article 35A which arose out of it, for the state being in the throes of terrorism.



"J&K will now be transformed within five years. In fact, more than three-fourths of its population wanted this provision to go. Our intentions were good and it is no surprise that our move was supported wholeheartedly by our alliance partners," Singh said.

Again in 2003, when Mayawati severed her alliance with the BJP and recommended dissolution of the state assembly, about 18 BSP MLAs crossed over to the Samajwadi Party and Mulayam Singh formed the government.

According to a former BSP leader who is now in BJP, it is Mayawati's style of functioning that has made her party susceptible to recurrent splits.

Notably, the abolition of Article 370 has been one of the key promises made by the BJP to the state's voters. It has accomplished earlier this year by a presidential order and the ruling party at the Centre managed to secure a parliamentary nod for bifurcation of the state into Union territories with the help of its coalition partners.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), however, emerged as the lone dissenting voice from within the alliance as it staged a walkout in both the Houses of the Parliament after expressing his disapproval over the Narendra Modi government's move.

The defence minister also warned Pakistan against "repeating mistakes of 1965 and 1971", referring to the two wars fought and won against the neighbouring country, and

claimed that it ran the risk of getting "dismantled" on account of flagrant violation of human rights.

"We do not need to do anything against Pakistan. It will get dismantled because of the people's path it has chosen. The country will be devoured by flagrant violation of human rights and flourishing terrorism on its soil," Singh remarked grimly, without elaborating further.

He rubbished the "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" theory often used by the neighbouring country to justify militancy in the northern state.

"Let us see how many terrorists they can send (to India). None of them will go back," he added. Among others who addressed the gathering here were Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Bihar Chief Minister Surjit Kumar Modi.

After losing 6 legislators to Congress, BSP may lose more to BJP

Lucknow: After losing six legislators to the Congress in Rajasthan, the Bahujan Samaj Party is now likely to lose three members of the UP Legislative Council to the BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

According to sources, three BSP MLAs had left meetings with state BJP leaders and are waiting for a meeting with the party high command before they resign from the BSP.

One Rajya Sabha MP from the BSP is also said to be knocking at the BJP's doors.

The BSP, at present, has four members in the Rajya Sabha and eight members in the Vidhan Parishad.

The BJP, on the other hand, lacks a majority in the 100-member UP Legislative

Council where the BJP has only 21 members while the Samajwadi Party has 55 members and BSP 8 members.

A senior BJP leader, while speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The BSP has always been prone to splits. History proves this and we are not forcing anyone to quit the party."

"If the leaders are unhappy with the leadership, it is the leadership that is to be blamed. If anyone comes to us with a clean slate, we will welcome them with open arms."

The leader, however, refused to disclose when exactly the BSP MLAs would quit to join the BJP.

However, he said, "In the case of SP MPs and MLAs we have kept our word and re-

nominated them to their respective houses. The BSP leaders should know this."

The Bahujan Samaj Party, incidentally, has been prone to splits ever since Mayawati took over the reins of the party.

The first split that the BSP suffered was in 1995 when the infamous state guest house incident took place in Lucknow and the then state BSP president Raj Bahadur crossed over to the Samajwadi Party along with some other legislators. The BSP had won 67 seats in the 1993 elections and some legislators were upset at the hard bargain that Mayawati was then trying to drive with the then Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

Kanshi Ram, who was in



hospital at the time of the incident, could not intervene and Mayawati's leadership, apparently, was not acceptable to a section of the BSP MLAs.

The BSP (which again won 67 seats) suffered its biggest split in 1997 when Mayawati pulled out of the coalition with BJP. About 20 BSP MLAs broke away to form the Jantankir Bahujan Samaj Party and extended support to the then Kalyan Singh government. All of them were made

ministers.

Again in 2003, when Mayawati severed her alliance with the BJP and recommended dissolution of the state assembly, about 18 BSP MLAs crossed over to the Samajwadi Party and Mulayam Singh formed the government.

According to a former BSP leader who is now in BJP, it is Mayawati's style of functioning that has made her party susceptible to recurrent splits.

"Kanshi Ram reached out to party cadres at the lowest level and established an emotional connect with them. Mayawati never meets her MLAs and MPs on a one-to-one basis. Moreover, ever since she has started charging money for tickets, the dedi-

cated party workers are left out and those with monetary interests end up getting tickets. Such persons have no loyalty to ideology and can leave the party for further gains," he said.

Political analyst Pradeep Kapoor, meanwhile, said that the BSP was becoming prone to splits because of the fickle nature of its leadership.

"Making and breaking alliances without a valid reason has become a habit with Mayawati. She has forged and then broken alliances with SP, Congress and BJP on several occasions. This naturally disturbs leaders who contest elections in her party. Moreover, she never takes her people into confidence before announcing decisions," he said.

A dose of adrenaline

The Indian economy needed a booster shot. Was Nirmala Sitharaman's corporate tax cut the way to do it?



On the face of it, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement to cut the corporate tax rates in India from 30 to 25 per cent, making for an effective slab of 25.17 per cent for all companies in India that do not use incentives, is a smart move, both for the corporate sector and the optics of politics. This avoids any potential conflict with sector-specific reductions in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates, which would have led to a showdown in the GST Council. By cutting a Central tax, a decision solely of the Central Government, days of headache have been avoided. Of course, Opposition politicians will make a fuss about these rates but the smarter among them will understand that not only did something need to be done but that the private sector was essential for creating employment and the challenges thereof might potentially be reduced. Now, how the tax cuts will be utilised could determine how they benefit the economy. Companies could use the extra cash to fund expansion, pare debt or even not reduce their workforces in what has been a difficult year. That said, the reduction in corporate tax rates would also be extremely beneficial for potential foreign investors who might have shied away from India due to higher rates and could, therefore, give a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative. This shows that the Government is not just taking half-hearted selective measures to revive the economy but is actually taking matters seriously.

The prime disappointment though has been felt by middle-class income tax payers, who were also hoping for some adjustments in personal income tax rates that remain relatively high. While the after-effect of demonetisation and the GST rollout, both of which brought in a lot of the informal economy into the formal scheme, was an increase in the overall tax base, there have been no commensurate rate reductions. The investing classes are still peeved about long-term capital gains tax on money market investments and any reduction in these will excite the markets once again. The problem is that while this might have given the bourses a booster shot, it could take several quarters for the effects to really start taking hold of the economy. In the short-term, consumer sentiment might take a while to recover. And that is worrisome. With companies already stressed, some feel that the rate cut will be absorbed in the near-term by firms balancing their books. While there could be some concerns and some cribs, there should be no doubt that the measures taken by the Government are on the whole an extremely positive given the overall state of the economy, and could even improve collections in the long-run once investments increase. If companies pare their debts, it could encourage the banks to start lending more. Increased investments could spur job creation as well. Yes, the Government has huge social responsibilities but the best way to help people is to create jobs and India's challenge on that front is unparalleled. This will help. However, this looks more like a distress management module rather than embodying a vision of either long-term goals, structural or big bang reforms that will take us to the next level irrespective of market trends and crisis. If only, this gives credence to the idea that no Government really changes the status quo unless it is forced to by the scale of an economic crisis. This is a repeat of the scenario in 1991 when then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh liberalised the economy in the face of an unprecedented crisis. India's economy cannot afford to be reactive anymore, it has to be proactive.

Role model

Greta Thunberg's call is reverberating in India where school kids in metros are missing classes for a climate strike



Youth leadership is certainly changing the world. And the greatest impact among activist leaders has been achieved by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden, who has taken upon herself the task of awakening the consciousness of the world community to the only issue that will matter to us — climate change. From launching a protest outside her country's Parliament on August 2018, till a little more than a year now, the teenager has indeed caught the attention of not just the intended audience, the lawmakers across the world, but gathered traction among the youth. Her message has been plain and simple: Stop talking, start acting. And she is leading by example, taking the road and sailing the waters in solar-powered rides while strictly not flying. Now her call for "climate strikers" till the end of the month has ensured the largest student demonstration on planet earth till now. Millions of youth, predominantly school-goers, are giving their classrooms a miss to take part in peaceful street protests demanding world leaders to take concrete actions and avert environmental catastrophes. Her echoes have been heard here, too, as millennials in Delhi launched a march from the city centre that snaked past Lodhi Garden and ended at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The students even submitted a memorandum to the powers that be. In the spirit of the freedom movement and a display of our vibrant culture, brightly dressed students held up placards that read, "The show must go on" and "if the weather can change, so can you." Young people in other metro cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata followed suit, setting aside their weekday pursuits.

Ahead of the 2019 Climate Action Summit, while speaking to the members of Congress in the House Ways and Means Committee last week, Greta said, "This is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced, you cannot solve a crisis without treating it as one. Stop telling people that everything will be fine. As it looks now, everything won't be fine." Bluntly, she told the US lawmakers, "Listen to the scientists, unite behind the science, then take real action." Echoing her words, even the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres could not afford to remain a mute spectator and asked member nations to bring a plan and not plain speeches to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Greta's speech and freshness have been that as a disruptor, she is being heard more and as a representative of a generation we will be bequeathing the earth to, is stirring up enough guilt within us. Besides, her passionate campaigns and demonstrable actions of how to re-orient modern living in a sustainable manner have given everybody an individual goal that is easier to meet than effecting a policy change. Climate scientists had for long warned that the world is running out of time to avert the worst effects of global heating. They had alerted about the consequences — food scarcity, water stress, deaths due to high temperatures, forest fires, and mass displacements — all of which have become a reality. Youth leaders are more aware in a knowledge society, more user-oriented and practical. It's time we go by their blueprint. For a child is indeed the father of man.

P Senthil
Via email

What's a degree worth?

As graduates and class VIII dropouts are forced into the same career stream, India's joblessness is leading to desperate choices



RINKU GHOSH

They say the story of India is found in its people, its complexity unravelling in everyday life. And so it is that I chanced upon Ankit, who is an owner-driver of a Hyundai Xcent with taxi aggregator Uber and makes anything about ₹40,000-50,000 a month. That's not new or surprising. But Ankit was a verification officer at Barclays bank, who found himself jobless at a time when he was expecting his first child and his family deep in a financial trough for other reasons. Maternity meant his wife, too, was hived off from her firm that justified job cuts in the name of smart-sizing. Another job with his qualifications was difficult to come by and the offers that came guaranteed him nothing more than ₹35,000 a month. With mounting debts, he rested his severance package in a car and drove around the city, 17 hours on normal days, 22 hours over the weekend, so that he could earn the high points and incentives that Uber guarantees. Despite the inhumanity of sleep deprivation that such trips entail, Ankit's bioclock on the company's app flashes the only thing that has become his calling card, that he is healthy and ever-ready to run. Now a father of a one-and-a-half month daughter, a fan of Adele whose songs motivate him on each ride, he has invested in a second car which he uses for inter-city tours. Some day, he hopes to grow his tourist car business, may be even set up his own agency. But a job he is not going back to, even if it means devaluing his education or explaining to neighbours in the Ghaziabad condominium he lives in why he scours the city at night. "Whatever gives me money, there is no shame. My education isn't working anymore."

Many other young graduates and with middling incomes that are on freeze in a sputtering economy, are signing up with taxi aggregators that make ends meet across the country. A very infrequent user, over the last couple of months I have chanced upon at least six graduates who believe in dignity of labour provided it ensures the right price. There was Sandeep, who was a junior sales executive at a company and a people's person but once retrenched, chose the graveyard shift to rush people to their destinations. There was Vikas, who junked a job of ₹25,000 simply because it involved grudgingly long hours and he realised he could make more money in the same time period. "Now I can pace out my work on my own terms, be my boss and take home everything," he had told me. "What social embarrassment, I am my own company and I can vary my workflow depending on my needs. Which job will give me this flexibility? This is my choice!" There was a young woman too, Suman, who is funding her vocational course by driving around women professionals in a WagonR owned by the family. "I drive select hours, am on GPS, so safety isn't an issue. This is good supplementary income for me."

The fact that I found all these drivers in



Noida's one-time booming SEZ area also presents a sordid tale of a slowdown and shutdown that's forcing our young people to find their own means of survival. With taxi aggregators like Uber and Ola finding the third largest ride-sharing market in India after the US and China, a driving partnership has now become a viable self-entrepreneurial option. Yet others are signing up with food and other service aggregators. Some are even relooking at their passions and acquired skills as there is a shop for every kind of service, utilitarian and entertainment, online.

If a report released by the Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment is to be believed, then people with a graduate degree are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than the national average. The same study also found that women are more likely to fall by the wayside. Not only that. Even if graduates decide to take up low-skill work, they have to face intense competition from those who apply to such categories normally. This trend was echoed by a Kotak Institutional Equities report too, which cited data from the Government's periodic labour force survey (PLFS). The unemployment rate among male job seekers with secondary-

level education far exceeds joblessness among illiterates in both rural and urban areas. "The unemployment rate is highest among youth with education until diploma (37 per cent), graduate (36 per cent) and post-graduate and above (36 per cent), suggesting the lack of opportunities for a higher skilled workforce." The crisis was found to be more acute in urban areas (7.8 per cent) than in rural (5.3 per cent). A report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMI) had also found that qualified youth — those with bachelor's degrees and above — faced the highest unemployment.

There have been alarming news reports about how graduates and post-graduates are applying for Class IV services in Maharashtra and how nearly a third of the 93,000 applicants for 62 police courier jobs in Uttar Pradesh had doctorates. With more people moving away from agriculture sector jobs to services, the pool of applicants is now an ocean of missed opportunities. There's a big rush for any kind of Government jobs as they provide what has become elusive today — job security, salaries that are routinely revised and a relatively good beginners' package. The minimum

Government salary is now ₹18,000 per month, higher than what 70 per cent employed people make in this country in desolate times. No data encapsulates this better than the Hindi film *Dream Girl*, where Ayushmann Khurrana plays an educated young man from Mathura, who has pursued the conventional path of BA, MA and MPhil but finds himself without a job. Out of sheer desperation, he signs up for a phone-sex call centre simply because it promises an income that his degrees cannot give him.

Undoubtedly, this trend is setting off a socio-economic transformation. At one level, it is offering recourse to students who are not academically brilliant and won't make the cut in higher institutions, just plain regulars who, however, make up the bulk of our educated workforce. At another level, it also means we are diluting their core competence, productivity and belief that education and knowledge are tools for an elevated life. We are teaching them the art of compromise, building values numerically than holistically. In fact, if basic skills like driving and cooking can earn people the moolah, then our young may just give up the idea of 'becoming a graduate,' still an aspiration that

parents sacrifice their earnings for across the vast hinterland of India. If that benchmark is seen as a redundancy, then it is another challenge in a country where literacy is often mistaken to be good enough as an education, compromising the overarching process of evolution of the mind. Let's not forget the last Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) which found that one out of every four Class VII students in rural India is unable to read even a Class II text and over one in two Class VIII students cannot solve a problem that involves basic division.

In the end, there is the socio-psychological impact of levelling out to a bare median, of a graduate and a class VIII dropout being forced into the same career stream. Is coming to realise ever happy when you are told that excellence should be your only pursuit? Besides crushed expectations can have ramifications in the form of increased manifestation of disturbing and deviant behaviour among the youth.

How then can we customise higher education for a segmented job market rather than dumping a one-size-fits-all formula on sectors that can hire but do not need specific domain knowledge? How can we make our graduates job-ready? As a recent skill research has shown, employers found 80 per cent of Indian engineering graduates failing to meet minimum requirements for a hire. Many such firms say prospective candidates lack sufficient industry experience because our courses are too theoretical and not application-oriented. There must be an industry-aided skill requirement map so that the student has the over-qualification, as evidenced by the latest job rush queues in Maharashtra, does not dash hopes. Besides, there must be a provision for career-long skill upgradation given that the economic paradigm can change due to technological breakthroughs and fluidity of the economy. There should be enough start-up incentives for engineers to set up small units that are viable. Yes, use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may kill some traditional jobs but given with the IT revolution, it also encourages an allied layer of human services and talent. That spinoff is often overlooked in umbrella decisions. The jobs crisis is severely threatening our economic dividend, given that half our population is below the age of 25. But a potential asset could become our biggest liability if we don't look at the bigger picture now.

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUNDBITE

The Government has initiated a major exercise to formulate a National Education Policy that will aim to fulfil the aspiration of the youth.



HRD Minister
—Ramesh Pokhriyal

I cried the day Article 377 was abolished in India. The next step is gay marriages are allowed in our country. I hope that happens very soon.



Filmmaker
—Karan Johar

India is an important actor in climate action. Obviously, part of the dialogue was also related to our own efforts and the need to green the UN.



UN chief
—Antonio Guterres

The people of the country have been divided into black and white and there is no shade in between which is called tolerance.



Congress leader
—Shashi Tharoor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A wake-up call

Sir — The world's largest oil facilities in Saudi Arabia have faced massive damages in the recent drone attacks. Various conspiracy theories have been doing the rounds regarding the culprits and the US President, Donald Trump, has pointed to Iran as the culprit. But it must be remembered that Saudi Arabia has for long been threatened by internal conflicts by fringe elements and other radical groups. Further, the dependence of the world on Saudi Arabia for fuel makes it crucial for any strife there to be solved at once. This incident goes on to show how such attacks can impact world economics and politics.

P Senthil
Via email

Boosting the economy

Sir — This refers to the report, "Corporate tax slashed to 25% to rev up economy" (September 21). In a bold move to revive the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an eight percentage points cut in

Apathy towards a football player

Sir — The world's largest oil facilities in Saudi Arabia have faced massive damages in the recent drone attacks. Various conspiracy theories have been doing the rounds regarding the culprits and the US President, Donald Trump, has pointed to Iran as the culprit. But it must be remembered that Saudi Arabia has for long been threatened by internal conflicts by fringe elements and other radical groups. Further, the dependence of the world on Saudi Arabia for fuel makes it crucial for any strife there to be solved at once. This incident goes on to show how such attacks can impact world economics and politics.

The very fact that Konar has not been able to elicit any response from Government officials speaks volumes about a powerful nexus with powerful lobbies. His situation is that of a typical ordeal of a street vendor who gets targeted by powerful lobbies who use force and bullying tactics to evict them. But how can the administration be silent to the plight of the star player who has brought many laurels to the State?



Besides playing for Mumbai's top outfits, Konar was also part of the Maharashtra squad that won the gold medal in football at the 1999 National Games as well as the 2000 Santosh Trophy. Such indifference towards one of India's sporting heroes does not behave well. When it comes to matters of livelihood, it is essential that the administration takes a stringent view of the matter and ensures that the Konar family is allowed to operate from its ancestral hawking spots.

Pachu Menon
Margoa

Timely action

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Missing woods for trees" (September 20). With more than 100 million adult smokers, India has a huge market for both electronic and conventional cigarettes. Although few Indians vape at present, the Indian ban cuts off a vast potential market of 1.3 billion consumers for makers of e-cigarettes. In particular, the e-cigarette market is acquiring 'epidemic' proportions among the youth and children. Given their attractive appearances and the availability in a number of flavors, teenagers are likely to be more prone to such devices.

In this backdrop, the Government's comprehensive ban on these battery-operated devices is welcome. The perception that e-cigarettes are a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes is entirely wrong. In fact, youngsters who use ENDS are more likely to start smoking conventional cigarettes.

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

No plans to revise fiscal deficit target: Nirmala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said there are no plans to revise the fiscal deficit target for the current fiscal at the moment and a decision in this regard will be taken before the annual Budget.

Experts are of the view that India's fiscal deficit will widen as a result of the corporate tax reduction by the government.

When asked if the government will consider revising the fiscal deficit target, Sitharaman said these are "decisions taken near the Budget".

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the Government on Friday slashed corporate tax by almost 10 percentage points as it looked to plug the economy out of a six-year low growth and a 45-year-high unemployment rate by reviving private investments with a ₹1.45-lakh crore tax break.

Base corporate tax for existing companies was reduced to 22 per cent from the current 30 per cent; and for new manufacturing firms, incorporated after October 1,



Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

2019 and starting operations before March 31, 2023, to 15 per cent from the current 25 per cent.

On raising the borrowing target for the second half of the current fiscal, the Finance Minister said, it will be decided in the next few days.

"Not touching any of the given targets now. When the meeting for revised estimates takes place, we will look at it," Sitharaman said.

According to global rating

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agency Moody's, the reduction in corporate income tax revenue — even when balanced against the windfall from the recent transfer of central bank surplus reserves, equivalent to around 0.3 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal year — further narrows fiscal room for manoeuvre.

However, it described the rate reduction as credit positive for companies because it will enable them to generate higher post-tax incomes.

Quoting experts, she said

Corp tax cut makes India an investment destination, says FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has become a highly competitive investment destination post corporate tax reduction as the rates are now lower than that in China and most Southeast Asian countries, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

India was earlier at disadvantage because of multiple factors and on top of it was the high corporate tax rate, she said, adding that the reduction has made it attractive for foreign investors, including iPhone maker Apple, to set up units in India.

The top consideration on which India was rejected as investment destination is now better than everybody else... For some one who is coming up with new investment, no country is offering 15 per cent (tax rate). We are giving 15 per cent with no MAT (minimum alternate tax) and simpler taxation structure," she said.

Apple and its ecosystem's moving will have a greater impact. Everyone who comes now will straightaway get 15 per cent tax benefit. Component manufacturers of Apple in China will find India more attractive to have units at 15 per cent in India than 25 per cent there," she said.

Apple or any foreign company can come and set up business and enjoy the competitive rate of 15 per cent, she said, adding that the entire related timeline for the product roll-out from the new unit is on or before March 31, 2023.

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government on Friday slashed corporate tax by almost 10 percentage points as it looked to plug the economy out of a six-year low growth and a 45-year-high unemployment rate by reviving private investments with a ₹1.45-lakh crore tax break.

India is now much better than China in terms of rate, transparency, and tax administration so companies can now look at India for setting up new units.

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Top 1K listed firms may see savings of ₹37K cr post corp tax cut: CRISIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

CRISIL Research on Sunday said top 1,000 listed companies could see tax savings of ₹37,000 crore on account of the corporate tax cut.

"Over the past few days, a slew of measures have been introduced to address the slowdown in the Indian economy. Friday's announcement, however, is the most material... Our analysis indicates these 1,000 companies could see tax savings of ₹37,000 crore, or nearly a fourth of the total savings anticipated by the government," it said in a statement.

The drop in tax rate would now bring India at par with most Asian economies, it said.

"CRISIL Research's analysis of nearly 1,000 companies — spread across 80+ sectors such that they cover more than 70 per cent of NSE's market capitalisation — indicates that effective tax rates had risen over the past 5 years," it said.

These companies, including oil & gas and financial services, account for nearly a third of the tax paid by India Inc.

BUSINESS CORNER

PRADHAN REVIEWS PERFORMANCE OF NMDCC

New Delhi: Dharmendra Pradhan

Pradhan Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, Govt. of India visited the Head Office of NMDCC Limited at Hyderabad on 21.09.2019. The Minister met CMD, Directors and employees of the company and reviewed NMDCC's performance in presence of G. Kishan Reddy Minister of State for Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Pradhan said, NMDCC being one of the largest mining companies in India should focus on increasing iron ore production. This will have the benefit of keeping prices in check and ensuring equitable supply of raw material to all steel producers. He further asked NMDCC to carry-out sustainable and responsible mining using digital means. The Minister directed that the execution and commissioning of the ongoing projects especially NMDCC Iron and Steel Plant (NISP) should be monitored regularly so that it can be completed on priority. Pradhan also reviewed the Slurry Pipeline Project of NMDCC.



AAI PARTICIPATES IN WORLD ROUTES 2019

New Delhi: Airports Authority of India

Authority of India, the sole provider of air navigation services and responsible for management of airports across the country is participating in the 25th World Route Development Forum - World Routes 2019 Adelaide in Australia. The India Pavilion jointly representing Airports Authority of India and Mumbai International Airport at this global event was formally inaugurated today by Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India in presence of IN Murthy, Member (Operations), AAI, Kaushik Bhatnagar, Airport Director, NSGBI Airport, Kolkata, Ajay Kumar Bhatnagar, Airport Director, Pune, Jit Singh, GM (CO), AAI and Ajay Kumar Verma, DGM (Operations), AAI.



Commenting on the outcome of the Annual General Meeting, Rear Admiral V K Saxena, IN (Retd.), Chairman and Managing Director, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., stated that this AGM had a very special significance as it was GRSE's first AGM after the successful IPO of the Company, wherein the Government of India divested 25.50 per cent of its shareholding in the Company. The Public Issue was well received and the shares of the Company are now listed on NSE and BSE. The CMD took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to all the investors for the confidence they reposed in the Company, which was further reflected by the increased market capitalisation post listing of its shares.

GRSE CONDUCTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

New Delhi: The 103rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) was held on Friday 20 Sep 19 at 1030 hrs. at Bhasha Bhawan of National Library, Kolkata.

Commenting on the outcome of the Annual General Meeting, Rear Admiral V K Saxena, IN (Retd.), Chairman and Managing Director, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., stated that this AGM had a very special significance as it was GRSE's first AGM after the successful IPO of the Company, wherein the Government of India divested 25.50 per cent of its shareholding in the Company. The Public Issue was well received and the shares of the Company are now listed on NSE and BSE. The CMD took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to all the investors for the confidence they reposed in the Company, which was further reflected by the increased market capitalisation post listing of its shares.



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MMRE AWARDS GRANTS TO FOUR PROJECTS

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has granted the award of the second round of PAC/Estter fund programme in a ceremony organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy yesterday. Anand Kumar, Secretary, MNRE and Kenneth Ian Jaster, the US Ambassador to India co-chaired the felicitation ceremony. In the second round of awards, a total of 168 Expressions of Interest were received. Out of these, four projects were shortlisted for award grants. The awardees include the Society for Economic and Social Studies, New Delhi, Customized Energy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Pune, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and RaghavendraSuntech Systems Pvt Ltd (RSSPL), Bengaluru.



Stressing on the importance of access to energy for all, the U.S. Ambassador said that innovation in off-grid and clean energy will improve energy access. Secretary, MNRE appreciated the impact that the awarded projects would have on the common man. He also suggested that innovation realised through such projects could be replicated in other developing countries.

We are committed to meet India's energy security needs: Saudi envoy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of disruption in global oil supply following the biggest-ever attacks on its oil installations, Saudi Arabia has said it is committed to meet India's energy security needs and will work constructively with other oil producers to maintain market stability.

Saudi Ambassador Dr. Saud bin Mohammed Al Sati, in an exclusive interview to PTI, also said his country will invite the United Nations and international experts to view the situation on the ground and to participate in the investigation into the attacks.

He said Saudi Arabia has the capability and resolve to defend itself and to forcefully respond to "these aggressions", and appreciated India's support and solidarity to Riyadh following the strikes which, he asserted, were "against the international community as a whole".

A series of drone and missile attacks on oil facilities of Saudi Aramco, the country's national petroleum company, in Abqaiq and Khurais on September 14 knocked out half of its daily oil production, severely impacting the global oil market and triggering fresh tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Saudi Arabia is a key pillar of India's energy security, being a source of 17 per cent of more of crude oil and 32 per cent of LPG requirements of India. The attacks on Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais facilities resulted in up to 10 per cent increase in global oil prices last week due to disruption in supply by the top oil exporter.

Al Sati said the "unprecedented act of aggression and sabotage" on Saudi petroleum facilities, which were vital for



Saudi Ambassador Dr. Saud bin Mohammed Al Sati

global energy supplies, resulted in the suspension of approximately 50 per cent of Saudi Aramco's production.

"As the investigations are ongoing, the Kingdom will

invite UN and international experts to view the situation on ground and to participate in the investigations," the ambassador said.

"The Kingdom will take appropriate measures to ensure its security and stability. The Kingdom affirms that it has the capability and resolve to defend its land and people, and to forcefully respond to these aggressions," he said.

Yemen's Houthi terror group has taken responsibility for the biggest-ever attacks on Saudi oil facilities which severely impacted global oil supply. Saudi Arabia and its ally, the US, have blamed Iran for the attacks but Tehran has strongly denied the allegations.

The recent attack against Saudi Aramco was not only against the Kingdom, but against the international community as a whole, and was a deliberate attempt to disrupt the global economy. Therefore, the perpetrators should be held accountable," the envoy said.

The envoy said Saudi Arabia will continue working with its partners and allies in stabilising the security of the region

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Petrol price jumps ₹1.59/ltr, diesel ₹1.31/ltr after Saudi attacks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol prices have soared by Rs 1.59 a litre and diesel by Rs 1.31 in the last six days — the most since daily price revision was introduced in 2017, as a massive strike at Saudi Arabian oil facilities jolted oil markets.

Petrol price on Sunday hiked by 27 paise to Rs 73.62 a litre in the Delhi market — the benchmark for national rates, according to a price notification by state-owned oil firms.

Price of diesel was increased by 18 paise to Rs 66.74 per litre in Delhi. This is the sixth straight daily increase and has taken the cumulative price hike since September 17 to Rs 1.59 per litre for petrol and Rs 1.31 for diesel.

Global oil prices shot up the most since the Gulf war in the immediate aftermath of the unprecedented drone missile strikes on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that disabled 5

per cent of the global supply. Oil prices have cooled since September 16 but remain on the edge.

Attackers using low-flying drones and cruise missiles knocked out 5.7 million barrels of production, or about 60 per cent of what Saudi Arabia produces daily. It was the largest supply disruption in history. On Monday, Brent oil futures soared 15 per cent.

Analysts have warned that the style of the attacks on Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities may add a permanent risk premium to oil and gasoline prices.

While Saudi Arabia is saying it can quickly bring supply back online, experts say the shock to the global oil market will last for years.

India depends on Saudi Arabia for a fifth of its oil imports and has been in constant touch with Kingdom officials on securing its supplies.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday spoke to

Saudi Arabia's new oil minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman to discuss the supply plan. Saudi Arabia, according to Pradhan, has assured India of meeting all its committed oil supplies.

Saudi Arabia, which is India's second-largest oil supplier, produces 12 million tonnes of crude every month. Of this, 1.2-1.3 million tonnes of supplies for September have already been taken and the rest too has been assured.

However, Saudi has sought

Tax cuts to boost industry; now need to focus on spurring demand: India Inc

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Industry leaders from diverse sectors such as manufacturing and services expect the new tax rates to help them to create a positive impact on the economy, leading to a speedier turnaround.

Last Friday, the government announced a massive 10-12 percentage points reduction in taxes for corporates, bringing down the effective corporate tax to 25.17 per cent inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies. The new tax rate will be applicable from April 1, involving a revenue loss of Rs 1.45 lakh crore this fiscal.

Welcoming the step, Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej said, "This great announcement will totally change the economic progress. It will change the way we do business, which is of greater importance was in July 1991. This tax cuts will have tremendous positive effect. We will soon see a turnaround."

Addressing the "India Inc" event, he said, "Over the weekend, he said there is now a need to focus on improving demand."

RC Bhargava, chairman of Maruti Suzuki, said manufacturing's growth rate or share in GDP is nowhere near the required level. Manufacturing

is barely limping at around 5 per cent and we need to lift it to 15 per cent, he said, adding that the tax cuts will be a big step in that direction.

The need is to address the demand side issues, Bhargava also opined. Niranjan Hiranandani of realty major Hiranandani Group said the tax cuts address only the supply-side economics but we also need to address the demand side."

Piramal Group's Ajay Piramal said the tax cut sends out a clear message that the government is listening to the issues. It is a brave step but more needs to be done to speed up demand, he added.

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the government has brought corporate tax on par with the East Asian neighbours and on par with the best tax regimes say the world. "The government has put liquidity into the bottom line of the companies. Roughly, close to Rs 75,000 to Rs 80,000 crore will be flowing because of the tax cuts into the bottom line of companies," he said.

The onus is on these companies now as the government has done its bit, Kant said, adding that it is time for all the Marutis, Mahindras and Godrejs to act by cutting their prices and offering more spots to consumers.

Petronet to invest \$2.5 bn in Tellurian Inc for 5 m tons of US LNG

PTI ■ HOUSTON

India's largest LNG importer Petronet will invest \$2.5 billion for nearly 20 per cent equity stake in US energy major Tellurian Inc's Driftwood project to export 5 million tons of 5 million tons of gas per annum. The Houston-based Tellurian and Petronet LNG Ltd (PLL) signed an MOU on Saturday under which the Indian company and its affiliates will import 5 million tons of LNG from America over a 40-year period.

The agreement also includes PLL making investment in the equity of \$28 billion Driftwood project in Louisiana to secure the LNG. On the sidelines, an MoU was signed between Tellurian, a Houston based energy major and Petronet LNG. Petronet will invest \$2.5 billion in Tellurian's proposed Driftwood LNG export terminal in exchange for the rights to 5 million metric tons of LNG per year over 40 years," Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

The Petronet deal, the largest by an Indian company in US LNG, came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with the CEOs of top US-based oil companies.

Experience more relevant than what you learn 35-40 years ago, says Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shaktikanta Das has played down many jokes and spoofs about his history background in an audience who sought the appointment as the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India last December after the 'pretest' resignation of Urjit Patel.

Academic qualification of the head of the central bank is not relevant, but what matters is his/her grip on the economy, general awareness about the issues facing the economy and professional experience, is how Das has deflected the question from an audience who sought to know whether his non-economic academic background has weighed him down as the governor.

Das pulled out from retirement and dashed to the RBI within two days of Patel's calling it quits on December 10, 2018, after many a run-in with the government. Both Patel and his predecessor Raghuram Rajan have illustrious academic records. Rajan is an internationally acclaimed economist, writer and sociopolitical thinker. Patel is known for his papers on monetary economics from among the world's universities.

Das is also known for exactly predicting the 2008 global financial meltdown more than a year before it really engulfed the world at the

annual Jackson Hole retreat of the US Federal Reserve with economists.

As against this, Das has done history from St Stephen's, Mumbai, who, after this, joined the civil service and retired in May 2017 as the economic affairs secretary. At the time of joining the RBI, he was a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

The role in the note ban and how he managed the changing narratives for the government in its aftermath has got him the moniker of a being an insider who will toe the government line as the past few governors hardly were on the same page with New Delhi on most matters.

"The chief of US Fed (Jerome Powell) has a political science background, the incoming chief of the European Central Bank (Christine Lagarde) has a legal background and the chief of the Bank of Japan (Haruhiko Kuroda) has a civil service background," Das said at the India Today event.

Das was responding to a question from the audience whether his academic qualification has weighed him down as the governor. Stating that policymaking involves a lot of complex realities, which is less academic and more of experience, Das argued, "when it comes to policymaking, whether you did a

particular course 35 or 40 years ago, I think it is not relevant as it would appear.

"I think what matters more is your awareness, your grip on the world, your understanding what is the economy, the kind of experience you have had in your entire professional life," Das smiles.

The governor then goes on to pointing out that the RBI has a lot of research talent and there is "no dearth of technical inputs from them" and it is not necessary for the governor to go into each equation and take a policy decision.

"It is necessary for the RBI governor to have an understanding of the role of monetary policy, and the importance of financial stability, it is also important for the governor to understand the nuances of the real economy and have the ability to take into account all the incoming data and take the appropriate decision," he explained offering a peek into how he conducts his affairs from the 19th floor corner office.

However, the 62-year-old Das, who hails from Bhubaneswar, is in all praise of his predecessors Patel and Rajan. "Both of my immediate predecessor and the one before that have made their contributions to the RBI. The RBI and the nation are fortunate to have had a number of outstanding governors over the years," he smiled.

HDFC Bank to hold 1,000 grameen loan melas over next 6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank on Sunday said it plans to organise 1,000 grameen loan melas over the next six months in a bid to expand its retail portfolio.

These grameen loan melas (or village loan fairs) will be held across more than 300 districts and cover around 6,000 villages across India, HDFC Bank said in a statement.

Just like a traditional village fair, the grameen loan mela will be a one-stop shop for people from the surrounding five or six villages to access the entire range of the bank's products, it said. Customers can avail of tractor, auto, two-wheeler and agri loans or open current or savings accounts, it said.

Besides, self help groups (SHGs) can avail of finance through the bank's Sustainable Livelihood Initiative. The loan melas will also serve as a platform to educate the local populace about banking services.

WTO dispute over India's tariffs on ICT goods: US seeks setting by up of dispute panel

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The US has sought establishment of a dispute panel by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) in a case against India's import duties on certain ICT products, including mobile phones.

The US sought consultations in July under the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism over imposition of import duties by India on certain information and communication (ICT) products, alleging breach of global trade norms.

As both the countries failed to resolve the dispute through the consultation process, the US has sought setting up of the dispute panel.

Bilateral consultation is the first step towards resolution of a trade dispute under the WTO norms. "The US held consultations with India on August 1, 2019. Unfortunately, these con-

sultations did not resolve the dispute," according to a communication of the US to the WTO.

Several countries including the European Union, Singapore, Canada, China, Taiwan and Thailand have sought to join in the dispute as they have claimed significant trade interest in the ICT products over which India has imposed import duties.

The EU has challenged introduction of import duties on a wide range of ICT products, for instance, mobile phones and components, base stations, integrated circuits and optical instruments.

Seeking consultation is the first step of dispute settlement process as per the WTO rules. If the consultations requested with the complainant do not result in a satisfactory solution, they can request that the WTO sets up a panel in the case to give ruling on the issue raised.

Govt working on measures to make steel sector 'globally competitive'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Sunday said it is working on various fronts to make the Indian steel sector vibrant, efficient and investor-friendly and globally competitive.

In this regard, the steel ministry is organising 'Chintan Shivir', in the presence of Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday, with the theme to "make the sector vibrant, efficient and globally competitive".

The steel ministry said in a statement. Despite short-term challenges and the current slowdown, it is believed that India's long-term growth story remains intact, the ministry added.

This growth must be backed by the steel sector by making the industry principally and fundamentally stronger, it further said. Steel is the basic input material for a host of development activities. From a small capacity of 22 million tonne (MT) in the financial year 1991-92.

Iran warns foreign forces of meddling

AFP ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday denounced the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and said Iran will offer a peace plan, after arch-foe the United States ordered reinforcements to the tinderbox region.

"Foreign forces can cause problems and insecurity for our people and for our region," Rouhani said in a televised speech at an annual military parade.

Rouhani also said Iran would present a peace plan to the United Nations in the coming days.

"In this sensitive and important historical moment, we announce to our neighbours that we extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood to them," he said.

Tensions between Iran and the US and its allies have threatened to boil over since May last year when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal and later began reimposing sanctions in a campaign of "maximum pressure".

The tensions escalated in the wake of devastating September 14 attacks on Saudi oil installations that Washington and Riyadh have, to varying degrees, blamed on Tehran. Following the attacks, which caused global oil prices to spike, Trump initially raised

MILITARY PARADE ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR ANNIVERSARY



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani speaks at a military parade marking 39th anniversary of start of Iran-Iraq war, in front of the shrine of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini at Tehran, Iran on Sunday

the possibility of military retaliation, tweeting that the United States was "locked and loaded".

The United States later expanded its long list of sanctions against Iran by further targeting its central bank, as Trump indicated he did not plan a military response. US Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced on Friday that the US was sending reinforcements to Saudi Arabia at "the kingdom's request", while noting the

possibility of military retaliation, tweeting that the United States was "locked and loaded".

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comes from within," said the Iranian president.

Following his speech, the Iranian armed forces paraded their latest equipment, including tanks, missiles and armoured vehicles as Rouhani and top military commanders saluted them.

Rouhani is expected to travel to New York on Monday, a day before general debate kicks off at the United Nations General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is subject to US sanctions, has already arrived in New York ahead of the annual gathering.

Tensions have flared in the Gulf since May, when Iran began reducing its commitments to the nuclear deal and the US said it was sending forces to waters near the region and our nation's interests.

"indications of a credible threat" from its forces.

The US deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the sensitive waters, before sending the USS Zumwalt, its assault ship and Patriot missile battery.

Following the deployments, commercial ships were mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in the waters.

Israeli Prez says 'stable' Govt should include Likud, Blue and White

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said Sunday the country's next Government should include both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and Benny Gantz's Blue and White coalition to form a "stable"

coalition. Rivlin made the comments during meetings with representatives from political parties to hear their recommendations on who should be prime minister following last week's deadlocked election.

Blue and White won the most seats in Tuesday's poll, with 33 out of parliament's 120, while Likud finished second with 31. Neither has an obvious path to a majority coalition, raising the possibility of a third election in a year's time after April polls also ended inconclusively. Rivlin had so far met representatives from Blue and White and Likud as part of his consultations.

ISRAELI ARAB PARTIES BACK GANTZ FOR PM IN BREAK WITH PRECEDENT

AFP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli Arab political parties are backing ex-military chief Benny Gantz as the country's next prime minister in a break with precedent, they announced Sunday.

The mainly Arab Joint List alliance made the announcement at roughly the same time as its leader, Ayman Odeh, published an opinion piece on the New York Times website speaking of the move.

Trump, Biden spar over Ukraine after whistleblower complaint

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Joe Biden accused Donald Trump Saturday of "an overwhelming abuse of power" and called for an investigation into the accusations the US leader pressed his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate the presidential candidate's son.

Biden's allegations prompted a swift rebuke from Trump, who himself accuses the Democratic frontrunner of wrongdoing in Ukraine during his time as vice president under former president Barack Obama.

The back-and-forth recriminations stem from a Washington Post report stating Trump attempted to pressure Zelenskyy to investigate the possibility of a third election in a year's time after April polls also ended inconclusively. Rivlin had so far met representatives from Blue and White and Likud as part of his consultations.

Trump allegedly pressured Zelenskyy to investigate the possibility of a third election in a year's time after April polls also ended inconclusively. Rivlin had so far met representatives from Blue and White and Likud as part of his consultations.

Trump has urged media to "look for the good" in his son, Joe Biden's campaign, but the US president said the Obama administration would freeze \$1 billion in US loan guarantees unless Kiev fire its top prosecutor, who was looking into the gas company.

"This is not a process of an overwhelming abuse of power, but to get on the phone with a for-



eign leader who is looking for help from the United States and ask about me," Biden told reporters on the campaign trail in the state of Iowa.

"I know what I'm up against, a serial abuser. That's what this guy is," Biden continued. "If he sees any threat to his staying in power, he'll do whatever he has to do. But this crosses the line."

Biden had on Friday demanded Trump immediately release the transcript of a July 25 call with Zelenskyy while saying reports that the president sought to coerce his Ukrainian counterpart, if true, amounted to "clear-cut corruption."

Trump slammed the allegations as "ridiculous," and on Saturday accused Biden on Twitter of having demanded, during his time as vice president, "that the Ukrainian Government fire a prosecutor who was investigating his son."

"He also accused news outlets of fabricating a story about me and a perfectly fine and routine conversation I had with the new President of the Ukraine. Nothing was said that was in any way wrong, but Biden's demands on the other hand, was a complete and total disaster."

Trump to boast to UN about US success, but troubles mounting

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump will stand before the United Nations on Tuesday to celebrate the country's 75th birthday. But with diplomatic troubles building, his annual boast may ring hollow.

Trump's political brand is as well known inside the United Nations as his businessman version is to the rest of the world. New York's brash, unabashedly self-promoting, and all about claiming the win.

At this year's UN General Assembly, the former real estate tycoon won't disappoint. "We'll say the United States is the greatest country in the world. It's never been stronger and it's never been better," he said in a mini-review of his speech.

Oh — and that Americans "certainly have one of the great presidents in our history."

Trump's declaration last year that he had "accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country" triggered laughter in the caveats from North Korea to Iran and Venezuela.

World Laughter at Trump followed, to which Trump insisted that diplomats were chuckling with, not at him.

A year later, with Trump beset by setbacks from North Korea to Iran and Venezuela, he has his Big Apple brag-gadocio get a better reception?

UN welcomes Houthi offer to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations envoy for Yemen welcomed Saturday an offer from the country's Houthi rebels to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia, saying it could bring an end to years of bloody conflict.

Implementation of the initiative by the Houthis "in good faith could send a powerful message of the will to end the war," Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths said.

The Iran-backed Houthis, which control the capital Sanaa and other parts of Yemen, have been fighting against a Saudi-led coalition which supports the country's internationally recognised government in a devastating five-year war.

Griffiths hailed "the desire for a political solution to end the conflict" in a statement issued from the UN headquarters in New York. The initiative proposed halting attacks on Saudi Arabia as part of a peace initiative. Saudi Arabia gave a cautious response, with minister of state for foreign affairs Adel al-Jubeiri saying on Saturday, "We judge our efforts to be sincere and not by their words, so we will see (whether) they actually do so or not."

Griffiths stressed "the importance of taking advantage of this opportunity and moving forward with all necessary steps to reduce violence, military escalation and unhelpful rhetoric."

A larger-than-life figure, Trump's 300 school children and 150 adults will take part in the march which will begin from the Gandhi statue at Hobbemeaple and conclude at the iconic Peace Palace.

The rally will be addressed by India's Ambassador Venu Rajamony and other dignitaries in the courtyard of the Peace Palace.

This will be followed by planting of a tree in the Peace Palace. A plaque with a message of Mahatma Gandhi will be placed by the tree.

Other celebrations on October 2 include garlanding of Gandhi statues in The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer, with the public paying tributes by placing flowers on the feet of the statue as a mark of respect amidst speeches, singing of favourite songs of Gandhi, cultural programmes and a memorial meeting by Stichting Standbeeld Mahatma Gandhi in the Peace Palace.

A social media campaign will also be conducted inviting people to post messages retweeting the event and showing their support for non-violence. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. He led India to independence from the British rule through peaceful and non-violent resistance. In 2007, the United Nations declared his birthday October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence and called upon countries and people across the world to celebrate and observe this day by disseminating the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.

Study: Melting Antarctic glaciers to slip faster towards ocean

PTI ■ LONDON

The water from melting Antarctic glaciers, flowing through the ice and beneath them, is rapidly accelerating further thawing of the continent's ice sheets towards the sea, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal Nature Communications, is the first time researchers have found that melting on the surface impacts the flow of glaciers in Antarctica.

Researchers, including those from the University of Sheffield in the UK, used imagery and data from satellites along with regional climate modelling and found that meltwater is causing some glaciers to move 100 per cent faster than average — by up to 400 metres per year.

According to the researchers, gravity causes glaciers to move downhill with the internal deformation of ice, and by sliding over the ground beneath them — a process lubricated by liquid water called basal sliding.

The study shows that the movement of glaciers in the

Antarctic peninsula coincides with spikes in snowmelt. "The researchers said that this is due to the meltwater penetrating into the ice bed, and lubricating the sliding of glaciers.

As temperatures continue to rise in the Antarctic, surface melting could occur more frequently, and across a wider area, the researchers said.

According to the study, the Antarctic temperature is an important factor in determining the speed at which glaciers move towards the sea.

Ultimately, the researchers said that glaciers on the Antarctic Peninsula would behave like those in present-day Greenland and Alaska, where meltwater controls the size and timing of variations in glacier flow across seasons and years.

"Our research shows for the first time that surface meltwater is getting beneath glaciers in the Antarctic Peninsula — causing short bursts of sliding towards the sea 100 per cent faster than normal," said co-author Jeremy Eby of the University of Sheffield.

Gandhi's 150th birthday to be celebrated in Netherlands

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

A number of public awareness events, including a Gandhi March for non-violence, will be held next week in The Hague to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The events — which also includes a cycling rally, an exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, a commemoration meeting, events surrounding the four Gandhi statues in the country and a school outreach programme — are being organised by the Indian Embassy here in cooperation with the Gandhi Non-Violence Foundation and other organisations.

The celebrations will commence with the cycling rally on September 29 to spread awareness about the Gandhian philosophy of simplicity and sustainability. India's Embassy here said in a statement.

The rally in the city of The Hague will begin at the Embassy of India and pass through the iconic Peace Palace, the Parliament (Binnenhof), and the most popular seaside resort Scheveningen and return to the Embassy of India.

From October 1 to October 4, an exhibition on the "Life

and Message of Gandhi" will be displayed in the Atrium of the City Hall of The Hague.

The exhibition in Dutch will show the viewers the important phases of Mahatma Gandhi's life.

From September 24 to October 3, volunteers will fan out to schools and universities of the Netherlands in a "Follow the Mahatma" campaign and talk about Gandhi's message of non-violence and its relevance in today's world.

This school project aspires to reach over 25 schools and over 1,600 children. The aim of the programme is to bring together volunteers who in turn can reach out to several thousand students aimed at disseminating the message of non-violence.

The International Day of

US likely to escalate trade war with China if no deal is agreed soon: Trump's advisor

PTI ■ BEIJING

The US is likely to ramp up pressure on China by raising existing tariffs if a trade deal is not reached soon between the two countries, a key White House adviser has said.

The world's two largest economies have been locked in a bruising trade war since Trump in March last year imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods.

In response, China, the world's second largest economy after the US, imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on USD 110 billion of American goods.

Michael Pillsbury, adviser to the White House, said that Trump would likely escalate the trade war by raising existing tariffs, if no deal is reached.

In an interview in Hong Kong on Thursday, Pillsbury said that Trump would "remarkably restrained in the pressure he has brought to bear on China in the trade field".

Both sides so far have held 12 rounds of talks but failed to reach a deal as China continued to resist Trump's demand for intrusive verification mechanism to supervise Beijing's promise to protect

NOT TOO LATE FOR BREXIT DEAL: JUNCKER

Madrid: There is still time to reach a Brexit deal, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in remarks published Sunday, as the clock runs down to a October 31 deadline. Juncker also told the Spanish daily El Pais that he wished the Commission had played a more active role in the 2016 British referendum to counteract "lies and fake news".

"There's the president has options to escalate the trade war? Yes, the tariffs can be raised higher. These are low level tariffs that could go to 50 per cent or 100 per cent," Pillsbury was quoted as saying in the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post on Sunday.

Trump's critics were wrong to assume the President was "just bluffing" when he threatened an all-out trade war, he said.

"There are other options involving the financial markets, Wall Street, you know, the president has a whole range of options," he said.

Pillsbury said Trump was not wishing to cripple the US. China trade instead posing that he wanted to "increase the level of trade to rectify the deficit".

Demonstrators clash with Egyptian security forces in rare anti-Sisi protests

AFP ■ CAIRO

Egyptian security forces clashed with hundreds of anti-government protesters in the city of Suez on Saturday, firing tear gas and live rounds, said several residents who participated in the demonstrations.

A heavy security presence was also maintained in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the epicentre of Egypt's 2011 revolution, after protests in several cities called for the removal of general-turned-president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Such demonstrations are rare after Egypt effectively banned protests under a law passed following the 2013 military ouster of Islamist ex-president Mohamed Morsi.

But discontent over rising prices has been swelling in Egypt, where Sisi's government imposed a series of austerity measures since 2016 as part of a \$12-billion loan package from the International Monetary Fund. Nearly one in three Egyptians lives below the poverty line on less than \$1.40 a day, according to official figures released in July.

On Saturday, protesters headed to downtown Suez for the second night in a row, where they were met by security forces, barricading the streets and shouting slogans.

"There were about 200 or so people. They (security forces) fired tear gas, rubber and live bullets and there were injuries," a man who took part in the demonstration but declined to be named told AFP. The man, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the tear gas was so thick it had reached her apartment block a few kilometres away from the turbulent downtown area.

"My nose started burning up. The smell was seeping through the balcony. I also saw some youth run and hide in our street," the woman said.

On late Friday, hundreds of Egyptians poured through the streets of Cairo, chanting slogans including "Leave, Sisi!" and demanding the "fall of the regime".

At least 74 people were arrested after clashes between the crowds and police in the capital city, security source told AFP. The protests came after Mohamed Aly, an exiled businessman and opponent of Sisi posted calls online for demonstrations against Sisi.

He upped the pressure on Saturday in an expletive-laced video addressing Egyptians to join a "million-man march" next Friday and to fill all "major squares" of the country.

"This is a people's revolution... We have to link up together as one... And organise the streets and armoured tanks to the major squares," he said in a Facebook appeal to his followers.

WORLD 2

WORLD FEELS HEAT OF CLIMATE SUMMIT

United Nations: Saying humanity is waging war with the planet, the head of the United Nations isn't planning to let just any world leader speak at the climate change summit on Monday's special "action summit."

"Only those with new, specific and bold plans can command the podium and the ever-warming world's attention, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

Tanzania not sharing Ebola info: WHO Nairobi: The World Health Organization has accused Tanzania of failing to provide information on suspected cases of Ebola in the country, potentially hindering efforts to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

Both sides so far have held 12 rounds of talks but failed to reach a deal as China continued to resist Trump's demand for intrusive verification mechanism to supervise Beijing's promise to protect

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Trend Slazer

Hrithik vs Tiger in War promotions

Actors HRITHIK ROSHAN and TIGER SHROFF will not share the same stage during the promotions of their film *War*.

Director Siddharth Anand confirms this news saying, "We want to hold the magic of seeing them going after each other and increase the anticipation for the film. We wanted to translate this on-screen rivalry into an off-screen conversation point. The team is designing events and moments that pitch them against each other at every given opportunity. You have to wait and watch for this plan to unfold."

The film has been shot in seven different countries and is set to release on October 2.



There's so much madness and unpredictable situations on sets that become an adventure and my recreational habits of climbing trees and swimming in the ocean have proved useful for some of my work. Travelling is just a normal organic part of my life. If I have a weekend off, I like to go somewhere and if there's a chance to explore I take it.

—Kalki Koechlin



Singer-rapper YO YO HONEY SINGH strikes big as he wins best music direction award at the IIFA awards.



He received the award for his music direction and songs like *Dil Chori for Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety*.

Taking the award he said, "I tried to keep this song quite desi, for which I also used *dholak* and I am very happy that the audience liked my song. I am very thankful to my parents and friends."

Britney makes red carpet appearance

Singer BRITNEY SPEARS recently made a rare red carpet appearance to support her beau Sam Asghari. The singer has mostly stayed out of the spotlight in last few months amid personal and legal turmoil involving her and her family. Recently, a hearing was held to discuss the status of her conservatorship. Her 67-year-old father, Jamie Spears, had mostly controlled her financial and medical affairs since her 2007 public meltdown. The case remains pending.

Earlier this month, her ex-husband Kevin Federline filed a criminal complaint and obtained a restraining order against Jamie, which bans him from contact with the former couple's two sons, after accusing physical with one of them.



Excerpts from literature

Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival engages the literary world directly with content creators for film, television and digital. This will give the filmmakers an opportunity to discover the untapped reservoir of Indian classics that can become the next hit. By TEAM VIVA

What do films like *Gone With The Wind*, *Fault in Our Stars*, *Lemony Snicket's series on Kai Po Che* and *3 Idiots* have in common? Yes, all of them have been inspired by books and were discovered by a content creator who then crafted them into films. Now imagine another scenario. What if Yash Raj Films or Sanjay Leela Bhansali decide their next film by interacting with the authors and publishing houses directly? The mind boggles at the exchange of ideas and the great content that films would have access to. The audience would also get to know about books which might be embedded with a great idea but have ended up in the back shelves of the publishing houses.

Therefore, it is very important to have a platform where the literary world engages directly with content creators for film, television and digital. This word to screen market gives filmmakers an opportunity to discover the untapped reservoir of Indian literature that can become the next hit story of Indian cinema.

It is this idea that Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival has decided to put it into practice. In the fourth edition of the "Word to Screen Market" it takes a big format leap that will enable the authors and content creators to have more face time with each other.

Focussing on what is different in this edition, Smriti Kiran, artistic director, MAMI says, "In the earlier editions we would ask authors and publishers to pitch their work to us. And



then we curated some of their works and created a list. But we have upgraded our system this year because it is important to consistently learn from what is happening in the market and adapt to it."

This year the festival has asked the publishers to bring forth the backlog of books that people are not aware about and pitch it directly to the content creators. This will showcase the hidden gems that have been lying neglected with publishers and open avenues for both the directors and the writers.

The platform will witness 550 titles ranging across 30 genres — thrillers, romance, spy drama, paranormal, biographies, historical fiction, mythological fiction, sports drama, sci-fi, corporate drama, politics, social satires and several non-fiction best-sellers on subjects ranging from history, society, culture and politics to environment and spirituality.

Some of the renowned publishers such as — Harper Collins, Penguin Random House, Juggernaut Books,

DC Books, Westland Publications and Rajkamal Prakashan will take part in the festival. There will also be 40 buyers and 24 authors including New York-based award-winning author Manireet Sodhi Someshwa of *The Taj Conspiracy* fame, Amazon bestseller Sundari Venkatraman, Jagran-Nielsen bestselling authors, Satya Vyas, Nikhil Sachan, Nilotpal Mrinal, Divya Prakash Dubey and Shashank Bharatiya, as well as several other new voices from the literary world.

The stories will be presented to 40 content creation companies — Jio Studio, Netflix, Aamir Khan Productions (AKP), Disney India, Amazon Prime Video, Dharma Productions, Yash Raj Films (YRF), Sony Pictures Entertainment and many others.

Swati adds that this will help the authors, publishing houses and content creators to interact closely and build relationships and explore the stories which can be portrayed on the silver screen.

However, the transformation of a

book to a film is not easy. The director has to plot deviations, condense plot points and jot down set pieces that could be showcased on screen. It is almost like retelling the story, this time visually.

Such festivals play a vital role in this scenario especially because the avenues for storytelling have gone up. The web space has paved way for more people to showcase their talent and bring more content forward. Anu Singh Choudhary, consultant and an expert in the publishing industry says, "This is the best time for a storyteller. There is an unquenchable thirst for riveting stories across mediums and we are constantly going back to our bookshelves and bookshops in search of magic that narratives deeply rooted in Indian sensibilities hold."

Swati adds that the people who will be benefitting from this shared space will be the end target consumer — readers, viewers and audience. A rise in such platforms is important because they push the boundaries of Indian content by celebrating literature as a potent muse.

Battle of 5G

Here is why you don't need the technology in your phone just yet



No 5G phone? No problem. You probably don't need one anyway. For most people, it's smart to stick with a smartphone that isn't compatible with speedier 5G wireless networks, which are just starting to roll out. That's the case even if you think you'll be hanging on to your next phone for a few years. Not only are the first-generation 5G phones expensive, their antennas and modems typically work only with particular 5G networks owned by specific mobile carriers. That could limit your options if you're trying to get the faster speeds while roaming overseas or if you switch providers later.

Experts say second-generation phones will address those and other shortcomings.

THE TARGET MARKET

Samsung, Motorola, LG and OnePlus already make 5G phones that use Google's Android system. Huawei announced though its missing popular Google apps because of a US ban on tech exports to the Chinese company. IHS Markit said phone makers haven't been able to keep up with surprising strong demand, especially in

South Korea. Samsung has sold two million 5G phones worldwide since April and expects to double that by the end of the year. Motorola has seen "tremendous engagement and excitement" from customers. But Motorola said such first-generation products primarily suit early adopters who need to be first on the block. New iPhones

won't support 5G.

THE PRICE OF 5G

The speedy wireless technology can add a few hundred dollars to phone price tags. For instance, Samsung's standard Galaxy S10 phone costs \$900. The 5G model costs \$1,300, though Samsung said it also showcases the company's best features,

including a larger screen and a better camera. For Motorola, 5G comes as a \$350 option for the existing Moto Z series phones.

The territory is reserved for the leading-edge type of consumer, those willing to sacrifice money to be first," said Wayne Lam, an analyst at IHS Markit. The price gap is expected to narrow and eventually disappear as 5G becomes a standard feature, Geoff Blaber of CCS Insight said.

NETWORK LIMITATIONS

5G coverage is limited to certain neighbourhoods in a handful of cities. While 5G phones can still connect over existing 4G LTE networks, "are you willing to spend extra for something you might not see consistently until 2021?" IHS Markit analyst Josh Buitta asks.

Wireless networks have a history of Balkanisation, although it tends to sort itself out. Verizon and Sprint have been using a wireless technology called CDMA, while AT&T and T-Mobile use an incompatible version called GSM. Early on, phone makers produced separate CDMA and GSM models. But as technology advanced, they were

able to pack all the necessary components into phones.

Similar all-in-one 5G phones should be fairly common by next year, experts say. In fact, T-Mobile CEO John Legere suggested the company is holding back on 5G network expansions until compatible phones come out later this year. T-Mobile's current 5G phones only work with parts of its planned 5G network. Sprint, which T-Mobile is in the process of acquiring, said first-generation phones are intended to show off 5G benefits to those who live or spend a lot of time in the company's nine 5G markets.

Verizon didn't return messages. AT&T isn't offering 5G to consumers yet, although it has rebranded some existing 4G service as "5G E."

TO WAIT OR NOT

If you can squeeze another year or two out of your current phone, there will be plenty of 5G phones to choose from by the time you're ready to upgrade. But it's ok to buy a new, pre-5G phone now if you can't wait. You can always trade that in for a 5G model later.

—AP



Arya GoT immortalised

Famously, Arya Stark always preferred her sword Needle to needlework. Still, even she would be impressed with the giant tapestry now on show in France that recounts the plot of *Game of Thrones* in glorious and, of course, gory and salacious detail.

With the award-winning saga about power struggles in mythical Westeros poised for more success at the Emmy Awards on Sunday, the tapestry's unveiling this month in the Normandy town of Bayeux could hardly be better-timed. The show's 32 nominations broke a single-year record.

Fans who have flocked in their thousands to see the embroidered artwork are giving it a thumbs-up.

"It's fantastic. You can see kind of the story, how it all lays out," Amanda Zides, visiting from a suburb of Boston, said as she pored over the tapestry this week. "They did a nice job — great colour, great detail."

At 87 meters (285 feet), the tapestry is longer than the width of a soccer pitch and longer than the famous 11th-century Bayeux Tapestry that recounts the Norman invasion of England in 1066. That tapestry served as an inspiration for the *Game of Thrones* look-alike.

The work was commissioned by the tourism office of Northern Ireland, where HBO filmed many of the scenes. Irish officials hope the Bayeux exhibit will boost tourism to Northern Ireland. Its *Game of Thrones* sites are already a big draw, attracting 350,000 visitors in 2018 alone.

"We consider the Bayeux Tapestry as the grandmother of our *Game of Thrones* tapestry," said Severine Lecart, director of marketing in France for Tourism Ireland.

Obvious parallels between the two tapestries include the embroidery styles, colours and structures. Both are divided into three segments, with their central storylines running through the middle bordered by smaller panels displaying motifs like winged beasts or weapons. The two works evoke similar themes of violent conquest and feudal loyalties.

The Bayeux Tapestry is thought to have been commissioned by William the Conqueror's brother. It tells the story of William's conquest of England with vivid scenes of battle and palace intrigue. It attracts nearly 400,000 visitors annually and Bayeux officials hope the *Game of Thrones* exhibit will



grow that number.

The tapestry begins with fictional King Robert Baratheon visiting the Stark family in Winterfell and ends with the final scenes from the eighth and last season. It took a 30-strong team of volunteer embroiderers in Northern Ireland nearly four months to stitch the tapestry in 2017, adding final scenes after *Game of Thrones* last aired in May.

"Like the often-racy show, the tapestry includes several sex scenes. But among visitors on Wednesday, scenes depicting Daenerys Targaryen with her dragons and Jaime Lannister getting his hand chopped off proved particularly popular.

"Amazingly well presented," said Geoffrey Vasse, visiting from the Normandy city of Caen. "I'm a fan of the series of *Game of Thrones* and if there is a tapestry just nearby, I wanted to come and see it!"

—AP

WEBBED

MO GILLIGAN: MOMENTUM

Comedian Mo Gilligan blends smooth moves and sharp humour as he riffs on humble beginnings, family dynamics and the complex art of dancing in the club.

The comedy film releases on September 30 on Netflix.



IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON

A Philadelphia detective slowly unravels as he nurses a lifelong obsession with an enigmatic female serial killer whose crimes defy explanation.

Starring Boyd Holbrook, Michael C Hall, Cleopatra Coleman, the film releases on September 27 on Netflix.



GOLIATH SEASON 3

The unexpected death of an old friend leads Billy McBride to take a case in the drought-stricken Central Valley where he comes face-to-face with a new Goliath: a billionaire farmer and his sister and their scheme to steal California's most valuable resource — water. As Billy and his team pursue truth, old enemies and personal demons resurface forcing him to confront his own mortality.

Starring Billy Bob Thornton, Dennis Quaid, the drama releases on October 4 on Amazon Prime Video.

THE WAY WE WERE

One of the best-known figures from Madhubani, GAURI MISHRA questioned and challenged the orthodoxies and worked relentlessly for women's empowerment, says SUJATA PRASAD



Examining the legacy of someone as extraordinary as Gauri Mishra is not easy. Her demise on August 17 has been entirely overlooked. It is not easy to explain this amnesia or indifference. One of the best-known figures in Madhubani, Bihar, she had a fearless and an indomitable approach towards supporting impoverished women. She took upon herself to question orthodoxies of every kind and was the go-to person for every woman battered by violence.

One of the strongest voices against regressive gender politics of the '80s and the '90s, she was part of an upswell of activism against gender violence and sexism. Her freedom of thought and invincible spirit was infectious. Posted in Bihar during that time as the head of women's empowerment programme, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), I found myself visiting her *karmabhoomi*, Madhubani, repeatedly for a quick dose of inspiration.

Born in 1933, Gauri married Dr Bhavanath Mishra of the Darbhanga Medical Hospital when she was a teenager and studied for a few years in England. She started her work life as an academic interested in gender issues. In 1974, the Committee on Status of Women presented its watershed report *Towards Equality*, that confirmed the worst fear of sceptics. The report combined with nationwide protests on the custodial Mathura rape case and an avalanche of dowry deaths, resulted in the emergence of several tightly-knit women's organisations.

Gauri's direct involvement in women's issues started in the '70s, when she began assisting German anthropologist and folklorist Erika Moser and American Fulbright Scholar Raymond Lee Owens in their research on the Mithila. She began working on the historiography of the art, exploring its social dimensions and tracing the antiquity of some of the artforms to the Brahma Purana.

By 1977, women artists from the area became her prime focus. She founded the Master Craftsmen's Association of Mithila



in partnership with Owens to put an end to the exploitation of impoverished, struggling artists by middle-men. The association provided a platform to eminent women artists like Jagdamba Devi, Sita Devi, Ganga Devi, Maha Sundari Devi, Bauwa Devi, Yamuna Devi, Shanti

Devi, Chano Devi, Lalita Devi, Shashikala Devi, Leela Devi, sikki artist Bindeshwari Devi, paper-mache artist Chandrakala Devi and sujani artist Karpoori Devi. It encouraged them to combat the patriarchal gaze with their artwork. Young artists like Rani Jha were encouraged to

introduce avant garde feminist themes in their pictorial vocabulary.

By the '80s, she teamed up with activist Viji Srinivasan to give a new visibility, potency and legitimacy to women's struggle. Patterned on Ela Bhatt's SEWA, the SEWA Mithila was launched in 1983.

Gauri also founded the Nirbhaya Ashram, a shelter for widows and homeless women. She helped them to deal with their heartbreaks by involving them in her crusade for social justice and change, a crusade that was much bigger than their own personal stories. She was deeply

influenced by the Bodhgaya land struggle, where women's quest for independent rights in land had received traction. Viji was with the Ford Foundation from 1980-86, and then with Oxfam America before founding her own organisation in Bihar. She supported Gauri in setting up economically viable craft and animal husbandry projects. The NGOisation of women's issues may have resulted in certain serious concerns, but no one could doubt that Viji and Gauri were leading genuine movements for gender rights and justice in Bihar.

Our work with grassroots women brought us together. We fought for women's right to livelihood and their independent rights in land and water assets. We created radical new templates and boxes. Giving up hope was not an option. I joined their protest marches and listened to their fiery oratory against dowry and female foeticide at the Saurath Sabha (where Mithil Brahmins traditionally assembled to negotiate marriage) and other forums. I can't but be nostalgic about her collective joy when a government owned pond was leased to a woman's group in Raiyyam. I am equally nostalgic about our schmaltzy moments together, when at the end of a day spent travelling through villages, we would eat our rice and fish meal in the moonlight on a *charpoy*, surrounded by radiant women from Gauri's ashram, our night sound tracked by romantic songs of the celebrated Vaishnava poet Vidyapati. I began to see myself less as a civil servant and more as an activist.

Viji's death in 2005 affected Gauri Mishra deeply. For some time, she leaned on her son Samarendra who joined SEWA as a project coordinator. His death in 2011 devastated her completely. She failed to take charge of her life, abandoned whatever was left of her work and retreated to her family home in Darbhanga. Her work, which is recognised, especially at a time when India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rate in the world and is nearly at the bottom of the Gender Development Index and Gender Inequality Index.

(The writer is a former civil servant and an art columnist.)



Wise beyond her years

For POOJA PASI, a young fierce advocate of girls' rights, it was incomprehensible that only boys were entitled to privileges. By URVASHI SARKAR

Nineteen-year-old, Pooja Pasi along with other children in the neighbourhood began a programme run by Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT), a non-governmental organisation. She is a member of Child Protection Committee.

Her knowledge about civic concerns and challenges that the residents of the slum face are beyond her age. Being a girl, she is passionate about the rights of women. "There is only one playground in our area. Earlier only boys played there. They would drink and smoke and even the lighting was poor. Parents did not allow their daughters to go near the ground as they were concerned about their safety. The girls themselves did not wish to go there as they did not feel safe," the teenager says.

To Pooja, a young fierce advocate of girls' rights, it was incomprehensible that only boys should have the access to the only playground in the vicinity of the area. She tried to resolve and address the issue. And as a member of the Child Protection Committee, she took it as her responsibility to write to the municipal corporation requesting for installation of lights so that at least the ground would be well-lit. "We also met the police and requested them to patrol the area. They understood our problems and

now there is a police van stationed near the ground every day," she says.

Hema Pasi, Pooja's mother, was initially apprehensive of her daughter's involvement with the activities concerning girls' rights. But then, Pooja's actions began to bear fruit. Now, Hema is a staunch supporter of her daughter.

"Initially, my mother was opposed to the initiatives but when I explained to her that girls too have the right to access public spaces just like the boys, she understood the cause for which I was

fighting. I convinced her to help me. In turn, she convinced other parents to encourage their daughters to participate," Pooja says.

Gradually, the other girls started to notice the positive changes that were taking place in and around the locality, especially with regard to the playground. The girls were finally able to use the ground. "I achieved my real victory when I helped in organising a *kho-kho* tournament for girls at the ground," she says beaming with pride. The tournament was a success. Many girls took part in it. When the boys from the locality wanted to participate in the tournament, Pooja and other members of the committee organised a separate one for them.

"I feel very proud because it was through my agency that girls can now play at the playground, which was earlier occupied exclusively by boys," Pooja says with a grin on her face.

As a member of two committees under the Child Protection programme, Pooja takes part in various community activities. "I assist in children's school admissions, Aadhaar card registration while mobilising the women of the community whenever we need to raise or respond to any issue or put forth requests or demands to the municipality," she says.

Concerned with children's rights, especially those of girls', she is critical and questions, "Boys are always better treated than girls, which is why it seems that the two have different rights. But in reality, they have the same ones. Then, why should girls not be treated at par with boys?"

She has her future charted out. "I want to be in a position of responsibility and help people to the best of my ability. I want to be a bank manager" says Pooja who is a Bachelor of Commerce student.

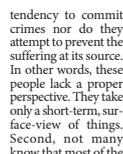
—Charitra Features

The right service

There is a need for institutions to create and promote a socio-spiritual education system as it has the power to eradicate deprivation and crimes from society, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Social work has often been looked at as a synonym of welfare. However, the term has a very loose meaning and may imply as different things in different jurisdictions of the world. Individuals and institutions which help the poor, the handicapped, and those affected by a calamity are usually looked upon as doing great social service. However, if such institutions charge money for the work, it isn't regarded as social service. However, one feels truly amazed when one finds that such other individuals and institutions as are sincerely and honestly devoted to the great task of final eradication of poverty, disease and crime from the society but whose mode of work does not require the distribution of money or materials are not regarded as institutions of social service.

This is because those, who react to such institutions with apathy and a lack of appreciation, fail to realise that the relief measures taken to provide them necessary materials, however important, touch only the tip of the iceberg or deal with only the surface problems. These measures do not actually rid the society of poverty or disease or the



tendency to commit crimes nor do they attempt to prevent the suffering at its source. In other words, these people lack a proper perspective. They take only a short-term, surface-view of things. Second, not many know that most of the diseases are caused by anxiety, trauma, mental depression, bad eating habits, smoking and drinking. It is also because people don't practice meditation and yoga, which could be as effective in treating or managing such problems as medicines. Likewise, it is not known to many that most of the crimes take place due to mental or criminal tendencies in a person. Even poverty is a result of an

economic exploitation of the deprived by the rich, apathy of the society for the less-privileged and sloth of the poor. All this can be eradicated by a socio-spiritual education system, which strikes at the roots of these problems.

If facts and figures had been published to give people the awareness that the ancient technique of yoga gives hundred- and-one benefits simultaneously and is better and cheaper than any other mode of service, importance of social work done by institutions teaching meditation would never be under-rated. On the other hand, their work will be considered as social service par excellence.

“Your time is limited. Don't waste it living someone else's life.” —Steve Jobs

WOMEN QUICKER TO PREPARE FOR DISASTERS

Women are quicker to take cover or prepare to evacuate during an emergency but often have trouble convincing the men in their life to do so, a new study suggests.

"We also found that there are many barriers that disadvantage women in the event of a disaster, leaving them behind when it comes to decision-making and potentially slowing down their recovery," said lead author Melissa Villarreal from the University of Colorado Boulder in the US.

For the study, the researchers analysed in-depth interviews with 33 women and 10 men across two Texas towns. Some were from Granbury, which in 2015 was hit by an EF-4 tornado that killed six people and cut a mile-wide swath of destruction, damaging 600 homes. Others were from West, where an explosion at a fertilizer company that same year killed 15 people and destroyed 100 homes.

Residents were asked about their experiences in the midst of and the year after the disaster. While the circumstances surrounding the events were very different, common gender-influenced patterns emerged.

KINDNESS IS PRIORITY IN RELATIONSHIP

One of the top qualities that people look for in a long-term relationship is kindness, a new research suggests.

For the study published in the *Journal of Personality*, the research team picked over 2,700 college students from across the globe and asked them to build themselves an ideal lifelong partner by using a fixed budget to "buy" characteristics.

While traits like physical attractiveness and financial prospects were important, the one that was given the highest priority was kindness, said the researchers.

"Looking at very different culture groups allows us to test the idea that some behaviours are human universals. If men and women act in a similar way across the globe, then this adds weight to the idea that some behaviours develop in spite of culture rather than because of it," said study principle researcher Andrew G. Thomas from Swansea University in Britain.

HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION CULTIVATES GRATITUDE

Heartfulness meditation can contribute to cultivating gratitude among practitioners, a study said.

The study published in the *International Journal of Recent Scientific Research* has confirmed that Heartfulness meditation, the popular meditation practice around the world, helped to create a sense of gratitude among its practitioners.

World Gratitude Day is celebrated on September 21 annually. The celebration started in 1965 in Hawaii to formally express gratitude and appreciation for all the wonderful things in life.

The awareness of the benefits of gratitude on the general well-being of a person is increasingly becoming apparent and numerous studies have supported the same, Heartfulness Institute said.

The study is authored by Raj Anamath G. Prabhakar Akurathi, Chitra Rajan, Aiswarya Ravichandran, Ravindra Deshpande, Varalakshmi A. Ved Prakash Vyas and Rani Vijayan.

FOOD DOESN'T APPEAL TO NON-SMOKERS

Smokers who quit do not generally turn their gaze towards mouth-watering food as normally thought.

According to researchers from University at Buffalo, smoking abstinence doesn't greatly affect the motivation for food.

"We found that the motivations for cigarettes, food and water do not interact very much," said Stephen Tiffany from the university's department of psychology. "The results suggest that smoking abstinence does not affect the motivation for food and water."

The study, published in the *Journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, used cues and money to learn how much smokers might spend for cigarettes, food and water during abstinence. The insights tell how different systems control motivation and reward. Food doesn't appeal during those times when a smoker is in a smoke-free environment. "If you can't smoke on an airplane, you're not likely to be spending more money than usual on snacks," said Tiffany.

PERSONALITY AFFECTS EXERCISE SCHEDULE

If you haven't been able to meet your gym goals despite persistent efforts to wake up early or hitting that running session on a hot summer afternoon, blame it on your personality.

According to researchers from University of Oregon, some people seem to be able to more consistently meet their goals than others, but it remained unclear if personality traits encourage individuals to achieve long-term goals in their day-to-day lives.

Conscientiousness has long been tied with healthy behaviours. Narrowing their focus to "planfulness" — lead researcher Rita M

Ludwig and colleagues Sanjay Srivastava and Elliot T Berkman, they zeroed in on psychological processes — such as mental flexibility, and a person's ability to make short-term sacrifices in pursuit of future success that contribute directly to achieving long-term goals. "There appears to be a certain way of thinking about goals that correlates with long-term progress," said Ludwig.

Rahul clinches bronze

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Rahul Aware won the biggest medal of his career by bagging a Bronze while an injured Deepak Punia settled for a Silver after pulling out of the final as India celebrated its best-ever performance at the World Wrestling Championship here on Sunday.

Aware outclassed Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan- America champion, 11-4 in the 61kg bronze play-off to take India's tally to five medals.

Deepak, the reigning junior world champion did not take part against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani due to an ankle injury, sustained during the semi-final.

The other medal winners in this edition are Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Vinesh Phogat.

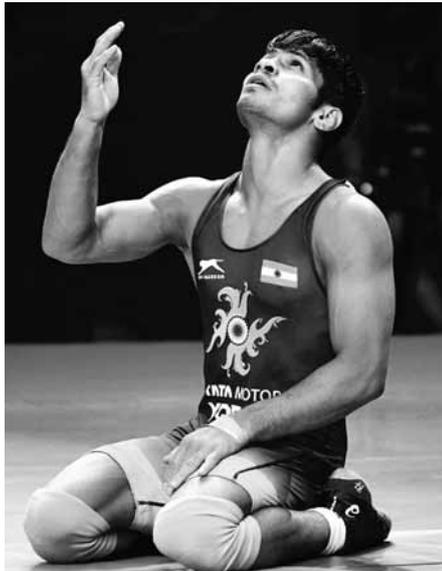
India's previous best show was at the 2013 edition, when the country had won three medals through Amit Dahiya (Silver), Bajrang Punia (Bronze) and Sandeep Tulsy Yadav (Bronze) in Greco-Roman.

Winning Gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia was Awar's best performance before.

"I could have won a Gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Bekas Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period," Aware told PTI.

Aware had shown early promise when he won Bronze medals at the Asian Championships in 2009 and 2011 but suddenly vanished from the scene after that.

"The injuries pegged me back. I was ready in 2014 but then there were no trials for the CWG or the Asian Games. So



I could have won a Gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Bekas Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period

I did not get a chance to prove my worth," he argued. "I feared for losing this chance. After a long time, something good was waiting for me and I was really scared to lose it. I am glad I pulled it off," Aware heaved a sigh of relief.

Westling of late has been a sport dominated by grapplers from Haryana and Aware is first from Maharashtra to win a senior World medal.

"But Maratha sports history will remember me for winning this medal. I am first from that region to do this," he said adding that he would dedicate his win to his first coach, late Harichander Brajdar.

For the record, the greatest ever Maharashtrian wrestler undoubtedly is late KD Jadhav, who won independent India's first individual medal, a bronze in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

Aware was a trainee under Kaka Pawar in Pune, said he was under a lot of self-imposed pressure going into the bout. The American surprised Aware with a double leg attack, the moment the bout started and earned two points with a takeover.

However, he became alert and twice

wriggled out of Graff's right leg attacks. He also scored consecutive takedown points to lead 4-2 at the break.

In the second period too, Graff got hold of Aware's right leg but the Indian got himself out of trouble in an impressive manner.

He then pulled the bout away from the American with a flurry of moves - the takedowns and expose - taking a commanding 10-2 lead. It consolidated further when the American lost a challenge. Eventually he won 11-4.

The morning of the final day of the championships brought with it the news that Deepak will not be able to compete in Sunday's final.

"The left foot is not taking the load. It's difficult to fight in this condition and could have aggravated the injury. I know it was a big chance to fight against Yazdani but I can't help it," Deepak told PTI.

Deepak had come out of the mat limping and a swollen right eye after his semifinal against Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth.

It was a good draw for Deepak and he hoped to get the biggest medal of his career.

In a dream run, Deepak reached the final with wins over Reichmuth, Colombia's Carlos Arturo Mendez and Kazakhstan's Adilet Davliymbayev. He became only the fifth Indian ever to reach the World Championship final.

After Bishamber Singh (1967), Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013) and Bajrang Punia (2018). Only last year he had won the junior world championship.

Sushil Kumar remains India's only World Champion. He had won a Gold in 2010 in Moscow



Lure of job brought Deepak to wrestling

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Wrestling was just a route which Deepak Punia hoped would find him a good job to help sustain his family.

He wanted a job and was even offered the post of a sepo in the Indian Army back in 2016.

But he was told to dream big and not settle for little things in life by none other than Sushil Kumar. "Keep wrestling as your priority, jobs will chase you later," Sushil, India's most successful wrestler with two Olympic medals and a world title, had told him, besides arranging for a sponsorship.

He became a World Cadet champion in 2016 and only last month won the junior World title, only the fourth in his life by none other than Sushil Kumar. Within one month of that feat in Estonia, he found himself face-to-face with his idol and Iranian great Hasan Yazdani for a clash, the winner of which would be crowned the senior world champion.

It is a pity that the bout did not happen because of the ankle injury he sustained during the semifinal against Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth and he settled for a silver.

He missed out on a great opportunity to wrestle with one of the best of the sport has seen in his history. But the last three years in Deepak Punia's life still sounds like a dream.

So, what is it that makes Deepak India's best in heavyweight category in recent times. The results have come thick and fast.

"It's a combination of a lot of things. Everything has to come together," said India's former foreign coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili, who has played a key role in Deepak's progress as a world-class grappler.

"You need four things — brain, power, luck and flexibility on the mat, Deepak has all. He is a disciplined wrestler and that he gets from his father. "Boys usually get bored with the repetition process when they are told to learn a new technique but Deepak would do it for two, three, four days unless he gets it. It comes from family."

It's true. His father Subash has been coming to his training centre every week and was the first to see him since 2015 despite the fact that his Chhara village in Jhajjar district in Haryana is at a distance of 60km.

That Deepak has immense appetite for milk was known from his childhood when he was a four-year-old kid and even has a role in him getting the moniker 'ketli' pahalwan.

The Surchamp of his village once offered him milk which was kept in a 'ketli' (kettle). He drank that in one gulp. He was offered a second, a third and a fourth and he finished all.

From then onwards, people started calling him 'ketli pahalwan'. Deepak said staying disciplined has been a big reason for his success.

He hangs out with friends, goes to malls and does some shopping. But we are not allowed to go out of the training centre. I like buying shoes, shirts and jeans, though I don't get to wear them because I am always in a tracksuit," he said.

"Whenever I get a chance, like after the tournaments, I go out and eat even junk food. But once the break is over, I don't touch anything else. Wrestling and training is life there."

The sponsorship he got from OGG took away a bit of worry and he began to concentrate on honing his skills.

From bad to worse (Barcelona suffer shocking defeat against Granada)

AFP ■ MADRID

Barcelona threw on their stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save them from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

Messi was still not deemed fit enough to start at Los Carnemes while Fati, the 16-year-old who has lit up La Liga in recent weeks, also began the game on the bench on Saturday.

But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored again, Alvaro Vadillo converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a handball.

Barcelona have now won only two of their opening five league games and none away from Camp Nou, this their second loss already in the season. More than the three they suffered during the entirety of last season.

With seven points on the board, this is their worst start to a season since 1994.

"Obviously I am worried," said coach Ernesto Valverde.

"Because we are not getting good results and when that happens in two or three games, it means we are not playing well."



Instead, Granada go top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before.

They will stay there until Sunday, when Sevilla, Real Madrid or Athletic Bilbao could overtake them.

Barcelona are sixth, grasping on to the consolation of Messi's second substitute appearance in five days that now sug-

gests he has finally recovered from the niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August.

Their problems though are unlikely to be solved simply by their captain's return. Junior Firpo's error two minutes into his first start for the club gifted Granada their opening goal and set the tone for a chaotic night in defence.

And up front, Antoine Griezmann was quiet again,

with little in any of the combinations to suggest Ernesto Valverde has yet worked out who will form his best attacking trio and in what positions.

"In the end, the coach is responsible and I feel responsible," Valverde said.

"I always think you can win or lose but at least you have to deserve to win when you lose, and today it hasn't been like that."

MESSI IMPACT LIMITED

With Firpo on the floor, Gerard Pique scrambled across but Pueras's shot only looped up off the defender to the back post where Azeez headed in.

Granada seemed hungrier than Barca and their dominance persuaded Valverde to make two changes at half-time, Messi and Fati replacing Carles Perez and Firpo.

Messi won a free-kick 30 yards out but hit it straight at the wall while Marc-Andre ter Stegen fumbled a cross and had to react quickly to claw it back off his own line.

Any hopes of a Barca comeback were dashed in the 66th minute as Vidal handballed at the end of a scramble in the box and Vadillo made no mistake with the spot-kick.

Milan belongs to Inter

AFP ■ MILAN

Romelu Lukaku fired Inter Milan back top of Serie A with the second goal of a 2-0 derby win that extended their perfect start to the season at the expense of city rivals AC Milan.

Belgium striker Lukaku and Marcelo Brozovic's second half strikes gave Inter their fourth win in as many games, putting them two points ahead of Juventus after the champions' came back from a goal down beat Verona 2-1 thanks to Aaron Ramsey's first Serie A goal and a Cristiano Ronaldo penalty.

Antonio Conte's Inter were looking for a boost after their dismal 1-1 draw in their Champions League draw against Czech outsiders Slavia Prague.

And they hit back in a fiery Milan derby with Belgian striker Lukaku heading in his third goal in four games with 12 minutes remaining after Brozovic's 49th-minute opener.

"At 26 years old, I needed and wanted a coach like this, one who motivates me every day," said Lukaku of Conte.

"My relationship with Conte is very strong, he's a really good coach because he's someone who helps players to develop a lot. "I'm really happy to be here and to be wearing this shirt."

Milan could thank Gianluigi Donnarumma for keeping the match goalless in the first half after



he denied Lautaro Martinez, Lukaku and Danilo D'Ambrosio. Lautaro had a goal ruled out after 35 minutes for being marginally offside.

But the breakthrough came four minutes after the break when Stefano Sensi set up Brozovic, whose deflected shot beat Donnarumma and was confirmed after consultation with VAR.

Lukaku sealed the win and a perfect 12 points from four games when he guided Nicolo Barelli's cross home with a glancing header, as AC Milan slip to ninth place with six points.

"We came from a performance in the Champions League that left us with a bitter taste, but gave us more impetus to face the derby in the best way," said Conte.

"It is a deserved victory, I am happy for our fans, because the derby is always the derby."

Ole's veering off road

AFP ■ LONDON

West Ham inflicted more away-day pain on a poor Manchester United side on Sunday, lifting themselves to fourth in the Premier League with a comfortable 2-0 win at the London Stadium.

Andriy Yarmolenko's goal shortly before half-time and a wonderful late Aaron Cresswell free-kick extended United's barren run on the road.

United, who started the season by thumping Chelsea 4-0, have lost twice already in their opening six league games and lie seventh, without an away win in any competition since March.

Injury-hit United were without midfielder Paul Pogba and forward Anthony Martial and huffed and puffed but failed to break down their dogged opponents.

West Ham are rising high under Manuel Pellegrini, unbeaten since a 5-0 drubbing in their first match of the season and this victory followed a home win last season against United at the London Stadium.

But it was a chastening day for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men, just a day after champions Manchester City came close to matching United's Premier League record for margin of victory -- 9-0 against Ipswich in 1995.

Solskjaer played the same side that triumphed against Leicester last week while Pablo Fornals came in for the injured Manuel Lanzini for the home side. Both sides were cagey at the start of the match, with neither side able to create clear-cut chances.

West Ham looked the more inventive team when they broke forward



while United looked ponderous in attack and lacking in ideas, with Marcus Rashford isolated up front.

The match was drifting towards the interval before Felipe Anderson and Yarmolenko combined to put United's confidence with a goal in the 44th minute.

United went close to an equaliser early in the second half as the rain came down in London, with Juan Mata missing from close range after an Andrea Pereira cross.

Already short of options up front and missing creators in midfield, they lost Rashford just before the hour mark, replaced by the out-of-form Jesse Lingard. West Ham went close to doubling their lead shortly afterwards but David de Gea got down low to keep out an Anderson shot from a tight angle.

United upheld the pressure and West Ham had goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski to thank for keeping out a Harry Maguire strike from close range.

But West Ham continued to look more dangerous on the break and made United pay when Ashley Young brought down Mark Noble on the edge of the penalty area.

Sock, Kyrgios keep World in touch

AFP ■ GENEVA

Jack Sock and Nick Kyrgios paired up to defeat Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas as Team World cut Europe's lead to 7-5 heading into the final day of the Laver Cup in Geneva.

Sock and Kyrgios won Saturday's doubles in the 66th minute as Vidal handballed at the end of a scramble in the box and Vadillo made no mistake with the spot-kick.

There was a lot on the line there," said Sock. "We obviously wanted to keep the overall weekend close. Being down 9-3 is different than 7-5."

Messi won a free-kick 30 yards out but hit it straight at the wall while Marc-Andre ter Stegen fumbled a cross and had to react quickly to claw it back off his own line.

Any hopes of a Barca comeback were dashed in the 66th minute as Vidal handballed at the end of a scramble in the box and Vadillo made no mistake with the spot-kick.

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West Ham looked the more inventive team when they broke forward



run from Williams, who saved two match points along the way as she drew level at 5-5. In the decider, Williams got the first mini-break but it was Collins who eventually created a 6-4 gap, converting with an ace on her fourth match point to move into the second round.

It was Collins' second triumph over Williams, who had also stumbled against the 25-year-old first during the Miami Open last year.

"This is my first tournament here in Asia, I was just happy to come out with a win, said Collins, who next takes on defending champion and ninth seed Aryna Sabalenka, a 6-1, 6-2 winner over Aleksandra Sasnovich.

Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens battled past home favourite Zhang Shuai 7-5, 6-4 to take just her second win at Wuhan from four starts.

"We've had so many chances this weekend, it's been crazy, so I think the score could be the other way around."

I thought it was a high quality match and we're definitely happy to get the win."

Nadal, who won his 19th Grand Slam title in New York, had earlier overcome Canada's Raonic 6-3, 7-6 (7/1) after defending his eight break points in the first set.

"I feel very lucky," said Nadal. "I think he deserved that first set for sure. Later in the match I think I started to play a little bit better."

Roger Federer, who won his

first match alongside Alexander Zverev in Friday's doubles tie, beat Australian Kyrgios 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 10-7 to the delight of his 17,000-strong home crowd.

"The crowd could feel it. I could feel it. I needed to get some energy going but you can't do that if you don't play any good shots and Nick was playing very well," said Federer, the 20-time Grand Slam champion.

"I was just trying to stay focused. If you can turn the momentum, the crowd gets back into it and I need some earplugs next time, it was just phenomenal."

Bjorn Borg's holders had seen

Team World draw level with John Isner's victory over Zverev. Isner fought back from a set down to beat Zverev 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 10-1 and haul Team World level at 3-3 after Europe led by two points after the opening day.

The scoring system sees one point awarded for each win on the first day, two points given for each win on the second day, and three points on offer in each match on Sunday's final day.

This year is the first time the tournament has been played since being added to the ATP Tour. Europe won the 2018 edition 13-8 in Chicago.

VENUS OUT OF WUHAN OPEN

AFP ■ WUHAN

Venus Williams' first visit to Asia since 2017 was cut short as she crashed out of the Wuhan Open first round on Sunday 7-5, 7-6 (7/5) to fellow American Danielle Collins.

The 39-year-old Williams, a 2015 Wuhan champion now 59th in the world rankings, squandered a lead in the first set before eventually losing to Collins, who recorded just the second match win of her career on Chinese soil.

The 35th-ranked Collins rallied back from 3-5 down in the opening set, winning a whopping nine games in a row to go up 7-5, 5-0.

Williams, a wildcard at Wuhan this year, finally stopped the bleeding, holding the serve to interrupt her opponent's momentum.

Stephens had lost her last two matches against Zhang, and was relieved to get through unscathed.

The American had won just one of her last seven matches on tour but said she wasn't concerned about her performance this year.

"I don't really dwell on things, just move on," the 14th-ranked Stephens said. "The season is not fully behind me, I'm still playing, but when I'm done, I'll definitely be behind me. I'm just going to get in the best shape I can, have a great off-season, and get ready for next year."

TOP RANK RACE Meanwhile, 2017 Wuhan runner-up Ashleigh Barty is making sure she has enough left in the tank for a busy closing stretch of the season, including her singles

debut at the WTA Finals in Shenzhen and a highly-anticipated Fed Cup final between Australia and France in Perth.

Barty is top seed at Wuhan and faces a stiff challenge in the fight for the year-end number one ranking from the likes of Karolina Pliskova, Simona Halep, Bianca Andreescu and Naomi Osaka. The 23-year-old Australian is first-ranked this week and would like to finish the year on top, but admitted that she has other priorities.

"I think it's a target without being a target," Barty told reporters. "We've put ourselves in a position where it's a possibility. I plan my schedule, the last six months of this year, well in advance. I think I'm not going to change it to try and chase it," she added.

INDIA MISS, PROTEAS HIT

de Kock leads the chase as South Africa beat India by 9 wickets to level series 1-1

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India captain Virat Kohli's bold move to bat first boomeranged on his team as Quinton de Kock (79) spearheaded South Africa's chase for a series-leveling nine-wicket win in the third T20 International here on Sunday.

To everyone's surprise, Kohli opted to bat after the coin landed in his favour on one of the smallest grounds, always known to favour teams chasing in the shortest format.

Initially though, the decision seemed to have worked as India raced to 54 for one in six overs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The departure of Shikhar Dhawan gave the South Africans an opening, and they grabbed it with both hands, snuffing out eight Indian wickets for 71 runs.

In their chase, South African captain de Kock looked in complete control and struck six fours and five sixes in his unbeaten 52-ball unbeaten 79.

He added 76 runs for the first wicket with Reeza Hendricks in 10 overs and then put on another 64 with Temba Bavuma. After moving to 19 in four overs, De Kock cut loose by hitting Navdeep Saini for two sixes, and there was no look-



ing back. Earlier, India were stopped at 134 for nine by a disciplined South African attack. Top-scorer Dhawan blazed

away to a 25-ball 36 and got India off to a brisk start that yielded them 54 runs in the first six overs. Kagiso Rabada was expensive but picked up three wickets, while

there were two apiece for Bjorn Fortuin (2/19 in 3 overs) and Beuran Hendricks (2/14). Playing in his first game of the series, Beuran Hendricks was the

team's best bowler without a doubt as he choked run-flow in the middle overs along with left-arm spinner Rohit.

he did not pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada under pressure straightaway, striking him for two boundaries in his first over - one over cover and the other through extra

cover. That brought crowd favourite Kohli in the middle but Dhawan, who began the innings with a boundary, was in charge and welcomed leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi with back-to-back sixes.

The first six was smashed over long-on and the for the second maximum, Dhawan sashayed down the ground, played against the turn, before striking the ball towards long-off.

Going for one too many, Dhawan mistimed Shamsi, who had his revenge after Temba Bavuma completed a neat catch. Kohli, too, followed suit as Andile Phehlukwayo pulled off a fine running catch in the deep, much to Rabada, the bowler on the occasion, and his team's relief.

Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who improvised to scoop Dwaine Pretorius over the fine leg boundary, threw away their wickets within two balls, leaving India in trouble at 92 for five in the 13th over.

After Pant fell prey to Fortuin's smart piece of bowling, Iyer stepped out only to be stumped off a wide ball.

It was yet another failure for Pant and once again to a left-arm spinner. After Santner accounted him in the World Cup, Fortuin has now got him twice in two games.

At the toss, Kohli's contention was that he doesn't want the team to slip into a comfort zone. Batting first or second, he wants his team to be a master of all situations with little more than a year left for the T20 World Cup.

However, it did not prove to be a successful move as South Africa staged a strong comeback to level the three-match series 1-1 after the first game was washed out.



MARIN RETURNS WITH CHINA TITLE

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Triple world champion Carolina Marin retained her China Open title on Sunday, eight months after suffering a career-threatening injury.

The Spaniard recovered from a game down to defeat Taiwan's second-seeded Tai Tzu-ying 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 in Changzhou.

A tearful Marin collapsed to the court floor and buried her head in her hands after powering to victory in 65 minutes.

"It's unbelievable," said the 26-year-old, who injured her anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in January.

"I couldn't imagine during my rehabilitation that I could win in my second tournament back."

"But I did and I feel so happy with myself," added the reigning Olympic champion.

Japan's world champion Kento



Momota cemented his place as the top men's player with a 19-21, 21-17, 21-19 win over Indonesia's seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in their final.

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel ended his year-long drought without a win at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday, mastering a hazy circuit to claim a record fifth triumph in the city-state.

The German was chased home by teammate Charles Leclerc, who started on pole but lost the lead to the four-time world champion after making his pit stop, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who finished third.

"It was a very late call on the pit stop and I just gave it everything on the out lap. I was surprised to come out ahead and it was difficult to manage the tyres but we controlled it to the end," Vettel told reporters.

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton finished fourth but extended his advantage over fellow Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas to 65 points, with six races remaining, after the Finn finished in fifth.

The race got off to a clean start with the top six retaining

Vettel's wait come to end



their grid positions despite Vettel putting immense pressure on second-placed Hamilton in the opening lap.

While a few drivers were shifting position further down the field, the frontrunners were battling between each other as Leclerc set a slow pace to make his soft tyres last as long as possible. Ferrari and Red Bull were

turn to come in. But Vettel, Leclerc and Verstappen were sapping much quicker than Hamilton and when the Briton finally stopped seven laps after his rivals, he emerged in a distant fourth place.

Hamilton's only hope of victory collided with Kimi Raikkonen - allowed the front three plenty of time to cool their rubber.

Ferrari will be delighted to have secured a one-two finish at a circuit they were not expected to leave the pits behind.

But Leclerc was unhappy with the pit strategy that dashed his hopes of a hat-trick after wins in Belgium and Italy.

No MS till Nov

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will not be available for selection until November this year, according to the Mumbai Mirror.

The former India captain had previously missed the West Indies tour after taking a break of two months which also meant that he missed the ongoing home series against South Africa. The extension of the break means that he will miss out on the Vijay Hazare Trophy and the home T20I series against Bangladesh as well.

This means that Dhoni would be available to play for India only in December when the West Indies tour the country for three T20Is and as many ODIs. The series is scheduled to start on December 6.

Dhoni had last played for India on July 10 when the Men in Blue lost to New Zealand in the semifinal of the ODI World Cup in England. His break would effectively be nearly six months long.

This comes at a time when there has been speculation over the 37-year-old's future in the team, especially with the team management grooming 21-year-old Rishabh Pant as his replacement behind the stumps ahead of next year's World T20.

Recently, rumours about Dhoni announcing his retirement were doing the rounds after captain Virat Kohli tweeted a pic of him and Dhoni during a match with the caption: "A man I can never forget. Special night. This game, made me run like a fitness test."

When Kohli was asked about it in a press conference ahead of India's first T20I against South Africa in Durban, the skipper said that he had nothing on his mind when he posted the tweet.

"I was sitting at home and I normally put out a photograph and it became a news item. I think it was a lesson for me, that the way I think, the whole world does not think that way. There was nothing in the farthest stretch of my imagination (that it could be taken as retirement hint) while putting that picture out on social media," he said.

Mumba win against Gujarat

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Mumbai produced an all-round show to beat Gujarat Fortunes by 25 in a VIVO Pro Kabaddi League match at the Savai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Abhishek Singh secured a Super 10 (11 raid points) for U Mumbai, who were also miserly in their defence, with Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar picking up vital points.

The victory meant the Mumbai side jumped to the fourth place in the points table to consolidate their chances of making to the play-off stages.

The match was a closely-fought affair with two of the best defences in the league going head to head.

But Abhishek's raiding backed up by some incredible defence by Sandeep Narwal and Surinder Singh opened up



a lead for U Mumbai as they inflicted an all-out on Gujarat to move to a five points lead with eight minutes still left for half time.

Rohit Gulia found chinks in the U Mumbai armour after the all-out and his eight-point half helped the Gujarat team claw their way back with an all-out under two minutes to play. The first half ended with both the sides locked at 16-16.

The second half continued to be the same with both defences trading blows.

Unfortunately for Gujarat, Sunil Kumar picked up an injury which disrupted the team's structure.

With Arjun Deshwal out for U Mumbai with an injury, the raiding responsibilities for the Mumbai side were solely on the shoulders of Abhishek.

The raider produced a two-point raid in the 13th minute after which the Mumbai defence successfully tackled Gujarat's Sachin to give U Mumbai a three-point lead after a long time.

The raider picked his game up and helped U Mumbai secure an all-out with less than three minutes left in the match to move to a six-point lead.

The defence held firm in the final minutes to clinch an important victory for the Mumbai side

Dutee hope to run personal best at worlds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fastest woman Dutee Chand has set herself a target of reaching the finals of the women's 100m dash in the World Championships starting in Doha here on September 27 with a personal best timing.

Dutee, who these days has been training at night similar to her competition schedule in Doha, said she is determined to make amends of her disappointing performance in the last edition of the event in 2017 London.

"I hope to run my best in Doha, that is my target. I could not reach the semifinals last time but I am hoping to reach the finals this time. It will not be easy but I will be really happy to do that," Dutee told PTI.

In the 2017 London World Championships, Dutee ran a disappointing 12.07 second in the heats and failed to reach the semifinals.

Dutee could not touch the Doha World Championships qualification mark of 11.24 seconds but her personal best effort of 11.26 seconds, which is also the national record, during the Asian Championships in Doha in April, ensured that she was among the maximum target number of competitors for the event.

"I am training at night these days around 7pm to 8pm to adjust to my race timings in Doha and my preparations are going well. Let us see what happens in Doha," said the 23-year-old Odisha athlete, who became the first top Indian athlete to have confessed to same sex relationship.

Dutee, who became the first Indian to win a 100m gold in a global event during the World



Dutee will be competing for Doha on September 25, said her coach N Ramesh who will accompany her and she will wear all his expenses as he is not a member of the official Indian contingent.

All the expenses for accommodation and flight will be borne by me. I have requested the AFI to arrange for a pass for him to be able to be at the stadium when I run my race. The AFI has said yes," she said.

She also rued that she could not travel to Europe to run a couple of races in the first half of last month due to visa issues and later because of some technical problems.

SA women beat BPXI

PTI ■ SURAT

South Africa women started their India tour as they defeated Board President's XI (BPXI) by 83 runs in the second T20 warm-up match here on Sunday.

The first warm-up game was abandoned due to inclement weather.

South Africa women first posted a descent 174 for 5 after opting to bat and later bundled out the hosts for plying 91 to kick off their campaign on a high.

Lus, a leg-break bowler, returned with best figures of 3-17 for South Africa women as she ran through the BPXI's middle-order.

For the visitors, a late onslaught by Mignon du Preez (40 off 18 balls) coupled with Nandine de Klerk's 29 helped them go past the 170-run mark. Preez stuck six boundaries and cleared the fence once during her entertaining knock.

For the hosts, off-break bowler Trarannum Pathan grabbed two wickets conceding 23 runs, while pacers Pooja Vastarakar, part of the main squad, had forgettable figures of 1 for 32.

Chasing the target, BPXI were tottering at 4 for 6 after their first four batters walked back to the pavilion in no time.