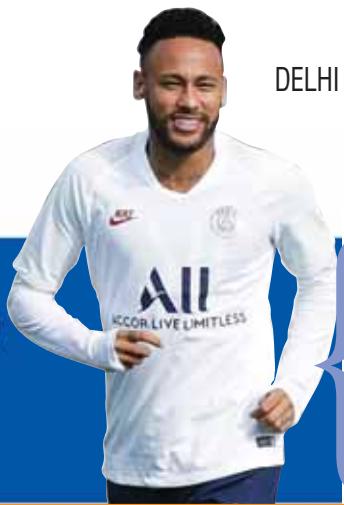
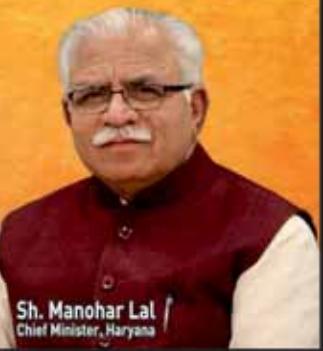


**OPINION 8**  
MESSAGE FOR A VIOLENT WORLD**WORLD 12**  
TALIBAN KILL 48 AHEAD OF AFGHAN POLLS**AVENUES 13**  
ERRORS TO AVOID IN CIVIL SERVICES EXAM

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

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BAN CUT TO  
TWO GAMES  
15 SPORT**Expectations Honoured - Monthly Honorarium Increased****Numberdar****Rs.3,000****Anganwadi Worker****Rs.11,811****Mini Anganwadi Worker****Rs.10,632****Chowkidar****Rs.7,000****MANOHAR SARKAR  
VIKAS APAAR**Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana  
www.priharyana.gov.inSh. Manohar Lal  
Chief Minister, Haryana

## All 6 Raj BSP MLAs defect to Congress

**Maya hits out at Congress, says it is untrustworthy**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ashok Gehlot Government received a big boost in Rajasthan after all six BSP MLAs on Tuesday joined the Congress.

Though Gehlot denied having given any inducement to MLAs who switched sides, Mayawati accused the Congress of "betraying" her.

Gehlot described Mayawati's reaction as "natural", but reiterated his party did not mount any pressure on the BSP MLAs.

"Many workers came from different States in search of jobs here but they returned back disappointed," he said.

However, some traders blamed road blockage due to redevelopment work being carried out by the Shahjehanabad Redevelopment Corporation, a firm responsible for redevelopment of Old Delhi.

Gehlot justified the MLAs' cross-over, arguing that the

MLAs have taken the decision to join the Congress as per the aspiration of their electorate.

Congress State president Sachin Pilot too defended the development, saying the BSP MLAs have switched over to his party without any greed and it would boost development in their region. With BSP MLAs joining the Congress, the number of the Congress MLAs has increased to 106. The BJP has 72 MLAs in the 200-seat Assembly.

The Congress was able to woo MLAs from other parties after losing dozens of them in other States, particularly in Maharashtra, where its ally NCP has seen major exodus.

Continued on Page 4

## Investors lose ₹2.72L cr in 2 days

**Hit by oil crisis, Sensex tanks 642 points**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors lost ₹2.72 lakh crore in two days as market tanked for the second day in a row on Tuesday following spike in the crude price triggered by drone attacks on the world's largest oil processing facilities in Saudi Arabia. The rise in geopolitical tensions in West Asia led to severe selling in the equity market.

The Sensex on Tuesday plummeted 642.22 points or 1.73 per cent to close at 36,481.09. During the day, it dropped 704.22 points. Sensex on Monday tanked 262 points.

After soaring as much as 20 per cent to \$71.95 per barrel on Monday, Brent crude futures corrected slightly to trade at \$67.97 per barrel on Tuesday.

Haunted by fear that elevated crude prices could worsen India's fiscal concerns, the market came under vicious bear grip and even blue chip stocks could not withstand the sell-off. Led by the heavy selling in the market, the market capitalisation (m-cap) of BSE-listed companies was eroded by ₹2,72,593.54 crore to ₹1,39,70,356.22 crore.

All sectoral indices ended



PTI GRAPHICS

TOP GAINERS TOP LOSERS

HUL 0.84 Hero Motor -6.19

Asian Paints 0.59 Tata Motors -5.13

Infosys 0.44 Axis Bank -4.62

Tata Steel -4.62

Maruti Suz -4.39

GAIL 1.85 Hero Motor -6.25

Titan 0.98 Tata Motors -4.98

Asian Paints 0.97 Tata Steel -4.93

Infosys 0.70 Axis Bank -4.68

Maruti Suz -4.62

## Asia's biggest electrical market dim ahead of festival of lights

### Bhagirath Palace in Delhi wears deserted look

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Shaktikanta Das warned on Monday that India's current account and fiscal deficits could worsen if oil prices remain at the elevated level, many experts felt that higher oil prices were likely to severely hit economic conditions in India, which imports more than 70 per cent of its oil needs.

Selling intensified as surge in oil prices and weakening rupee reduced the scope of economic turnaround in the near term.

Banks were impacted the most while investors are in a pessimistic mood as stimulus packages from the Government are not adding any resuscitation to the economy.

Many real estate projects have been stalled in neighbouring States and it has hit sale of electrical appliances. Realtors were our major buyers and we have lost them as well," he said.

Ahuja said the Union Government has done nothing



A view of Bhagirath Palace electrical market Pioneer photo

to address our concerns except announcing support to micro, small and medium enterprises. "How does it help traders?" he said, adding that the decreasing number of Government or local bodies tenders for electrical appliances has further added to our woes.

Traders claimed 70 to 80 per cent drop in sales has affected the job prospects in the market. A trader said shopkeepers used to employ four to five workers every year before Diwali to deal with the festive rush but the situation this year is different. "Now, it is difficult

to keep the existing employees as there is not enough work. Staffers employed in shops have been reduced to two or three as compared to 10 to 12 in corresponding years.

Many workers came from different States in search of jobs here but they returned back disappointed," he said.

However, some traders blamed road blockage due to redevelopment work being carried out by the Shahjehanabad Redevelopment Corporation, a firm responsible for redevelopment of Old Delhi.

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Page 4

## Mahathir says Modi didn't ask for Zakir's extradition

**Jaishankar rejects Malaysian PM's claim, says Modi did request him in Vladivostok meet**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



up in the Dhaka blasts, and subsequently moved to Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency.

Briefing reporters on the Prime Minister's bilateral meeting with Mahathir on September 5, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale had said Modi raised the issue of Naik's extradition with the Malaysian PM.

"Not many countries want him. I met Modi. He didn't ask me for this man," Mahathir told Malaysian radio station BFM 89.9 when asked about Naik's extradition. He also said Malaysia was looking for a place to send Naik, who has made racially sensitive comments against Hindu and Chinese Malaysians recently.

Mahathir then reaffirmed that Naik will no longer be allowed to publicly speak in Malaysia following his racially divisive remarks.

Naik, a 53-year-old radical

television preacher, left India in 2016 when his name cropped

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Page 4

### Lot of progress made in easing India-Pakistan tensions: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that he will soon meet the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, even as he insisted that a "lot of progress" has been made in reducing tension between the countries.

While Trump along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address over 50,000 Indian-Americans at the "Howdy, Modi!" mega event in Houston on September 22, the American President did not say when or where will be meeting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"I'll see Prime Minister Modi and I will — we'll — be meeting with (PMs of) India and Pakistan," Trump told reporters in response to a question at the White House on Monday.

Continued on Page 4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks the blessings of his mother Hiraben on the occasion of his 69th birthday in Gandhinagar on Tuesday PTI

## United Left clean sweeps JNUSU polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The united front of Left student groups AISF, SFI, AISF, DSF has bagged all the four posts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU). The results of the elections held in September first week were declared on Tuesday after the Delhi High Court order.

The grouping's presidential candidate Aishwarya Ghosh defeated Manish Jangid of the ABVP by bagging 2,313 votes. Jangid got 1,128 votes. Saket Moon was elected JNUSU vice-president and bagged 3,365 votes. Moon defeated ABVP's Shruti Agnihotri, who got 1,335 votes.

Satish Chandra Yadav polled 2,518 votes to defeat Sabareesh PA, who got 1,355 votes, for the general secretary post. Md Danish was elected joint secretary by defeating Sumanta Kumar Sahu.

Continued on Page 4

## HC gives lease of life to 2,648 Aarey trees

Next hearing on Sept 30

TN RAGHUNATH ■ MUMBAI

In a temporary relief for citizens, activists protesting against the felling of trees in Aarey colony, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday ordered that the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) shall not fell any tree at Aarey Colony in north Mumbai for a Metro car shed till September 30.

The HC will hear a petition challenging proposed felling of over 2,648 trees in this area from September 30, said a Division Bench of Chief Justice Pradeep

Nandrajog and Justice Bharat Dangre. Zorba Bathena has filed a petition challenging the approval granted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on August 29 to cut trees for the Metro car shed.

Bathena's counsel Janak Dwarkadas told the HC that on September 13 the authorities issued final permission letter to MMRCL for felling or transplanting trees.

However, no trees can be cut for the next 15 days, because under the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, 1975, this much period has to be granted to citizens to raise objections, Dwarkadas said.

Continued on Page 4



A view of ancient Govisana fort in Kashipur

Mound as a national heritage. Kashipur was known as

The ruins of the large settlement of those days can be still seen near the city.

The division bench of acting Chief Justice Rajiv Sharma and Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari of the High Court directed the premier archaeological agency to take over the maintenance of the Drona Sagar Chaiti and Moteshwar Mahadev temples in Kashipur.

According to reports, the ancient mound at Kashipur was identified by Major General Sir Alexander Cunningham, a British Army engineer. He had traced remains of a large structure at Bhim-Gaja, the highest place at the site. The ASI conducted excavations here in 1939-40, 1965-66 and 1970-71 in order to reveal the details of the

structure traced by Cunningham.

Excavation revealed substantial part of the plan of the temple built in three different phases. Initially, the temple appears to have started as soiled brick built high platform surrounded possibly by sanc-

tum during Gupta period but later, two encircling walls proba-

bly in 6th-7th century AD were laid around it covering it into an extensive and impres-

sive Panchayatana complex.

Since the excavation was aimed to obtain the detail plan of the temple, no attempt was made to reveal the complete cultural sequence of the site; however pottery collected from the site revealed that site remained under occupation from Painted Grey Ware peri-

od to the early medieval time. The thick brick debris accumulated against the wall of the temple contained copper coins, copper and glass bangles, copper rings, terracotta and stone beads, nails and chisels of different periods, according to ASI reports.

However, after issuing the preliminary notification in 1970, the place was forgotten by the ASI that led to illegal encroachments.

Maheshwari petitioned against the encroachments made on the ancient monuments and archaeological sites in Kashipur town. He alleged that the State machinery did not take effective steps and evicted the persons, who have raised construction on the prohibited area/regulated area.

# NCRTC plans logistics services in RRTS trains



Vinay Kumar NCRTC Managing Director addresses consultation meet on Tuesday  
Pioneer photo

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

**W**ith an aim to curb pollution in Delhi-NCR areas by limiting the usage of truck and heavy carriage vehicles for commercial activities, the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is planning to explore cargo/logistics services in the RRTS trains during the non-peak and lean hours.

The NCRTC, the executive agency of RRTS in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) has also conducted a consultation meeting on Tuesday with the logistic industries such as Amazon, Flipkart, Big Basket, CONCOR, Delivery to deliberate on the 'Provision of Logistics Services through RRTS corridors in Delhi-NCR.'

The agency has proposed

two depots in its each rapid rail

corridors such as Duhai and

Modipuram depots on Delhi-

Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS,

Murthal and Panipat depot on

Delhi-Panipat RRTS, and

Dhauhera depot on Delhi-

Gurugram-SNB RRTS.

"India is poised to become

a \$5 trillion economy in the

THREE RRTS LENGTH (KM)	NUMBER OF STATIONS	TRAVEL TIME CORRIDORS
Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut 82 km	55 minutes	24
Delhi-Gurugram-Panipat 103km	60 minutes	16 stations
Delhi-Alwar 164 km	85 minutes	22 stations

next few years and to make it possible; NCR alone has to evolve to become a \$1 trillion economy. RRTS is a mainline high-speed mobility system in NCR. The system which is primarily being implemented for commuter movement is planning to utilize its capacity during the lean period for freight movement. Apart from its numerous benefits as a green corridor, it would act as a catalyst for economic growth," dressing the industry representatives," said Vinay Kumar Singh, Managing Director of NCRTC.

A large number of commercial and private vehicles enter the National Capital on a daily basis and emit hazardous pollutants that add up to the unending environment woes. Though there are various measures such as restrictions on entry time of trucks and levying of 'Green Cess' on commercial vehicles but the existing supply chains suffers from various perennial issues such as pilferages, lack of cold chain facilities and excessive transportation time due to entry restrictions.

Thus, the NCRTC considers that Rapid Rail services may act as preferred mode for the industry by meeting their logistics transportation need," said a NCRTC official.

# 2 members of Thak-Thak gang held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two members of infamous Thak-Thak gang active in the national Capital and its peripherals. The duo was arrested from South Delhi's MB road on Monday.

The accused have been identified as Vishal (25), a resident of Inderpuri and Dinesh (29), who had received stolen articles. According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on September 16 specific inputs were received that a desperate member of Thak Thak gang who is involved in several cases of robbery, snatching and theft would come to M B Road, Delhi.

"Acting on the tip off, a



Members of Thak-Thak gang in police custody Pioneer photo

police team laid a trap near Batra Hospital on M B road and two persons were seen coming on a

scooty. The police team signaled them to stop but instead of stopping, the rider accelerated and

tried to escape but the team successfully overpowered them," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused confessed to their involvement in several theft and snatching cases. Further, Vishal also told the police that the pillion rider namely Dinesh is receiver of the stolen articles. Subsequently, at their instance, six mobile phones along with one Laptop and two I-pads were recovered which were found recently snatched from different locations in Delhi," said the DCP.

"Vishal used different motorcycles to commit robberies along with his associates. The accused used to break off car glasses by using slingshot and catapult, or poured oil and deflate the tyres to divert attention of the vehicle's driver. In the meantime, other co-accused used to steal the items," said the DCP.

# 2 post videos on social media with guns, arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men after they posted their photos and videos brandishing sophisticated weapons on various social media sites to threaten their targets and extort money. The duo was arrested from national Capital's Sagarpur area on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Prateek Chhabra (31) and Nikhil Chauhan (20), both residents of Delhi's South West Sagarpur area.

According to Devendra Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South west district, On September 6, Prateek Chhabra

'The duo used to get their photos clicked and videos recorded while brandishing weapons and post them on various social networking sites to threaten their targets for extortion'

and Nikhil Chauhan posted a birthday celebration video on social media in which they were seen cutting a cake with a pistol wrapped in plastic and serving it on the weapon.

"The duo used to get their photos clicked and videos recorded while brandishing weapons and post them on various social networking sites to threaten their targets for extortion," said the DCP.

"Chhabra has been previously found involved in seven cases and used to be assisted by Chauhan. Chhabra has also been declared proclaimed offender by Jagatpuri police station," said the DCP.

"They were arrested from Nagar Van Park in Sagarpur area on Tuesday and two pistols, one of them country-made, along with cartridges were recovered from their possession," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused revealed that both of them used to brandish weapons and used to post their photographs and videos with weapons on various social networking sites to pose as a threat to their targets," said the DCP.

"Chhabra has been previously found involved in seven cases and used to be assisted by Chauhan. Chhabra has also been declared proclaimed offender by Jagatpuri police station," said the DCP.



## Man who left home to attain moksha in Rishikesh reunited with family

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



complaint a First Information Report (FIR) was registered at Maurya nagar police station and investigation was taken up," said a senior police official.

"During investigation, police analysed the CCTV's footage of the locality and found that Gupta had gone to Uttarakhand were parked," said police official.

"Police team tasked to trace the missing man along with his family members, left for Haridwar. When police reached Haridwar and checked the CCTV footage and they saw Gupta at the bus stand. Later, police got information that he was staying at Maheswar Place hotel in Hardwar and left the place before they could reach there," police said.

"Gupta walked all the way and reached Rishikesh. Police followed him and found him at a Hotel near Badrinath Road, Tehri Garhwal on Sunday. Gupta was brought back to Delhi on Sunday," police added.

after leaving his two mobile phones at home," said the official.

"On further checking of CCTV footage at Kohat Enclave metro station, it was learnt that Gupta boarded metro going towards Ghaziabad at 9:10 am on September 11. Later, it was found that he de-boarded the metro at Kashmiri Gate and entered the ISBT at 9:47 am. He was seen in the area from where buses going towards Uttarakhand were parked," said police official.

"Police team tasked to trace the missing man along with his family members, left for Haridwar. When police reached Haridwar and checked the CCTV footage and they saw Gupta at the bus stand. Later, police got information that he was staying at Maheswar Place hotel in Hardwar and left the place before they could reach there," police said.

"Gupta walked all the way and reached Rishikesh. Police followed him and found him at a Hotel near Badrinath Road, Tehri Garhwal on Sunday. Gupta was brought back to Delhi on Sunday," police added.

## 60-year-old held for selling drugs, 36 gm of heroin seized

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 60-year-old woman who used to sell drugs in South Delhi's Tigris area. Police have also recovered 36 grams of heroin from the possession of the woman.

The accused has been identified as Anisha Ali, a resident of JJ Camp in Tigris. According to a Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, the woman was arrested on Tuesday after police received specific inputs regarding her selling drugs in the area.

"Acting on the information, a raid was conducted and the woman was arrested with 36 grams of heroin and cash worth Rs 6,130, earned from the sale of smack," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the woman revealed that to earn quick money this month she started selling drugs but her luck ran out and she was nabbed by the police. She also told police that she has five sons, who are addicted to drugs and also have criminal records," police said.

"Gupta walked all the way and reached Rishikesh. Police followed him and found him at a Hotel near Badrinath Road, Tehri Garhwal on Sunday. Gupta was brought back to Delhi on Sunday," police added.

"The residents of the area are feeling very relieved with the arrest of this woman. The staff of Tigris police station have done a very good job and will be rewarded," the DCP added.



The 60 year-old woman Anisha Ali in police custody Pioneer photo

## Bizman shot dead by 2 criminals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old businessman was allegedly shot dead by two unidentified bike-borne criminals following an altercation between them in northeast Delhi's Jyoti Nagar area. The deceased has been identified as Rajul Gupta, a resident of Jyoti Nagar and he ran an electronic showroom in the area.

According to a senior police official, on Monday night when Rajul was returning towards his home after closing the showroom, a scuffle broke out between Gupta and the two bike-borne men.

"Gupta sustained a gunshot injury over his left shoulder and was rushed to Shanti Mukund hospital, where he was declared brought dead by doctors," said a senior police official.

"A gold chain which Rajul was wearing is missing though his mobile phone, wallet and a bag were found to be intact. A case has been registered under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Jyoti Nagar police station," said the police official.

"The police teams are also looking for CCTV footage to establish the sequence of events and identify the accused. The body was handed over to the family.

ily after postmortem examination was conducted. The ambit of probe has been expanded to ascertain whether it was a pre-planned murder or just took place at the spur of moment," police said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificate No.(s) 12521, 21979, 37310, 37311, 103419, 103420, 103421, 207238, 207239, 207240, 207241, 207242, 207243 for 568 shares bearing distinctive No.(s) 967411-967460, 1136305-1136325, 1876915-1876964, 1876965-1876985, 3708254-3708303, 370830-3708353, 370835-3708395, 7490598-7490647, 7490648-7490697, 7490698-7490747, 7490748-7490797, 7490798-7490847, 7490848-7490881 standing in the name of Charanji Kaur Sethi in the books of Maharashtra Scooters Limited has been lost and the advertiser has applied to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificates in lieu thereof. Any person(s) who have claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the Company's Registrars and Transfer viz. Kary Computershare Pvt. Limited, 46, Avenue 4, Street No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500034 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares.

Name of the Shareholder: Charanji Kaur Sethi 10 Kalyan Vihar, Pol Road, Date: 17/9/2019 DELHI - 110009 Place: DELHI 991945522

## IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI (ORIGINAL COMPANY JURISDICTION)

CO. PET. NO. 615 OF 2014 & C.A. NO. 546 OF 2019

## IN THE MATTER OF:- NARAYAN DAS AND ORS. ... Petitioner versus M/S RHINE AND RAAVI CREDITS & HOLDINGS LTD ... Respondent

## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

To, M/s Rhine and Raavi Credits & Holdings Ltd., Registered Office, 179-E (Ground Floor), Khirki Village, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017

Also at M/s Rhine and Raavi Credits & Holdings Ltd., House No. S-21, (Ground Floor), Flat no-2, Near Sai Baba Mandir, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110 017

Take Notice that a petition under Section 433 and 434 (e) (f) and 439 of the Companies Act 1956 for winding up of Respondent Company presented by Narayan Das and Ors along with Company Application under Rules 9 of the Companies (Court) Rules, 1959 and was listed on 21.05.2019 and thereafter on 09.07.2019. Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of this court that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, the above named respondents to make appearance before the Joint Registrar (Judicial) of this court on 27.09.2019 at 10:00 AM.

Take further notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the company petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

JASMEET BHATIA Administrative Officer (Jud.) High Court of Delhi

Subhash Mohanty Advocate for Petitioner

D-131, Lok Nayak Puram DDA Flats, Delhi-110041, 9810751634(M)

New Delhi Date: 18.09.2019

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The AAP on Tuesday alleged that the BJP opposed the allocation of earmarked land for Mohalla Clinics in a DDA apex body meeting, a claim denied by the saffron party saying it was just an attempt to misguide people.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) apex body meeting headed by Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday ended with no decision being taken on the land, the AAP said.

"The BJP scuttled the provision of land belonging to the people of Delhi to build primary healthcare centres for the people," he AAP said in a statement.

It claimed that Bhartiya Janata Party MLA OP Sharma and two councillors, all of whom are non-official members of the DDA, vehemently opposed the allocation of ear-

marked land for Mohalla Clinics.

Sharma, however, denied the allegation saying "we just wanted clarification."

"There was no reason of an alteration there," he said.

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Somnath Bharti, also a member of the DDA, was present at the meeting. He said he strongly

advocated for allocation of the land.

Bharti said the BJP opposed the grant of land in an "unprecedented manner".

"They shockingly claimed that the grant of land is not in the public interest".

After the debate, LG directed the BJP to consider grant of

land for the construction of Mohalla Clinics. But the matter ended inconclusively," Bharti said.

Bharti said he also raised the issue of non-provision of land by the DDA for the construction of Mohalla Clinics in the state in an apex body meeting in July this year.

Take further notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the company petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

JASMEET BHATIA Administrative Officer (Jud.)

High Court

# 7-point action plan to cut air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday directed all his Cabinet Ministers to begin immediate implementation of seven-point action plan to combat high-level of air pollution during winters, sources said.

He directed Health Minister Satyendar Jain to take immediate steps to begin the process of procuring 'best quality' N-95 anti-pollution masks, they said.

The odd-even road rationing scheme will come into effect in the national capital from November 4 to 15. Kejriwal had announced this last week among a slew of



other measures to combat high-level of air pollution caused due to stubble burning in neighbouring states during winters.

"There should be no compromise in the procurement of 'best quality' N-95 anti-pollution masks. Health of Dehliites during the critical season will be given priority," the sources quoted Kejriwal as saying in directive to Jain.

On September 13, the chief minister had said his government would make large-scale procurement of around 50-60 lakh N-95 anti-pollution masks which would be distributed among the people in October before the spike in air pollution in next month due to stubble burning.

The seven-point action plan also includes mass mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads, tree plantation, and special plans for 12 pollution hotspots in Delhi.

The Delhi Government would hold a mega laser show on the eve of Diwali and appeal to the people to follow the ban on bursting of crackers on the festival, Kejriwal had said.

# Govt orders ₹1 cr each to kin of 8 slain cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday directed its officials to immediately go ahead with the ex-gratia payment of ₹1 crore each to the families of eight personnel of the Delhi Police, who laid down their lives on the line of duty.

A group of ministers, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, held its meeting on Tuesday which was attended by several Government officials.

According to the statement issued by Delhi Government, the families which will get ex-gratia as per the Delhi Government's existing scheme are of sub-inspector Khajan Singh, assistant sub-inspectors Vijay Singh, Jeetender, Mahavir Singh and Dharambir Singh, and head constables Guljali Lal and Raj Pal Singh Kasana, and constable Amarpal.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Vijay Singh was performing duties of Personal Security Officer (PSO) of Bhupender Singh on the orders of the Delhi High Court. On April 30, a few bike-borne assailants opened fire at the duo and later Vijay Singh succumbed to injuries.

ASI Jeetender Singh was on traffic duty on November 13, 2018 when he signalled a car to stop but instead of stopping the car barged on to the barricades and eventually hit him.

Jeetender Singh held on to the handle of the speeding auto-rickshaw but later fell down and died.

Mahavir Singh was on the drunken drive checking day on July 12, 2018, when he signalled a car to stop but instead of stopping the car barged on to the barricades and eventually hit him.

Instead of stopping the vehicle, the driver tried to run over him.

Jeetender Singh succumbed to injuries during treatment.

Guljali Lal was on night



over him.

Jeetender Singh held on to the handle of the speeding auto-rickshaw but later fell down and died.

Dharambir Singh died on October 20, 2017 in a road accident while he was collecting information about some gang members, the statement said.

Amarpal too died in a road accident on December 21, 2017 while he was investigating a case. Later, he succumbed to injuries at a hospital.

picket duty at Dwarka underpass on January 7, 2019 when a speeding car came and hit the barricades and ran away from the spot.

The barricade swung in the air and hit Guljali Lal who was later rushed to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead by doctors.

Head constable Rajpal Singh Kasan was chasing an illegal arms supplier January 14, 2019 when a car hit his motorcycle and he succumbed to injuries during treatment.

S u b - I n s p e c t o r Khajan Singh was in Jhajjar in search of missing children on October 20 2017, where he died in a road accident.

Dharambir Singh died on October 20, 2017 in a road accident while he was collecting information about some gang members, the statement said.

Singh said once he had an opportunity to meet Modi, who had told him that the objective should be "to work for the poor and needy people." "Since taking charge in the NDMC, we are constantly fulfilling every promise made to the corporation employees and 'safai karamcharis,'" the mayor claimed.

On PM's birthday, NDMC regularises jobs of eighteen sanitation workers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Mayor Avtar Singh on Tuesday handed over letters to 18 sanitation workers to regularise their employment, coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, officials said.

Out of the 18 'safai karamcharis', 16 are from Rohini and two from Keshavapuram Zone, they said. The mayor handed over the letters to them at his office to mark the 69th birthday of Prime Minister Modi, the NDMC said in a statement.

Singh said once he had an opportunity to meet Modi, who had told him that the objective should be "to work for the poor and needy people." "Since taking charge in the NDMC, we are constantly fulfilling every promise made to the corporation employees and 'safai karamcharis,'" the mayor claimed.

Amarpal too died in a road accident on December 21, 2017 while he was investigating a case. Later, he succumbed to injuries at a hospital.

If this is allowed to continue, India will always remain a job seeker economy. We have to become a job creator economy."

Hailing the opportunity before the city's entrepreneur community to contribute to the nation, the deputy chief minister said, "When we reach a stage in like where we believe we have already achieved a lot of material gain, the question we ask ourselves is, what can we contribute to the nation? I want to tell you today, this program is precisely that opportunity presenting itself before you."

In the next 4-5 years, we have the opportunity to transform Delhi's job market and economy, and contribute to the country as well. Let's take this as a challenge and dream big," Sisodia said in his concluding remarks.

Laying out his government's vision for the Entrepreneurship Mindset curriculum, the deputy chief minister said, "99 percent of the graduates coming out of our colleges today are job seekers.

Mindset Curriculum program was launched earlier this year in all Delhi government schools for Classes 9 to 12. A major component of the program involves the entrepreneur community of the city to engage with children on a regular basis.

140 of the entrepreneurs who had responded to the government's open call to the community to participate in the curriculum were present on the occasion to interact with the Sisodia, who also held the portfolio of Finance Minister in current regime.

Talking about the benefits of the Entrepreneurship curriculum, he explained that it will deal with the problem of joblessness, staggering economy and unemployment. "We should let our kids decide on both the choices- to opt for a salaried profession or to explore the field of entrepreneurship without restricting them to pursue a job"

The Delhi government's flagship Entrepreneurship

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Best brains are working for the growth of foreign companies, how can India become a developed economy? So entrepreneurship mindset is very important. We will have to work together to change this, and put India back on the growth track," he added.

DDA has further approved various other decisions such as fixation of amalgamation charges for commercial properties, removal of embargo for execution of conveyance deed for a period of five years, policy for collection of damage from the occupants of damage payee properties, modification in the Development Control Norms and activities permissible under religious Category at sub city level in the Master Plan and proposed amendment in Master Plan Delhi 2021.

The other proposals approved were activities/use premises under the educational category plots, rationalization of cost of one bed room flats at Ram Garh Colony, Jahangirpuri. Relaxations in respect of flats allotted to Persons with Disability (PWD). Relaxations in respect of flats allotted to Persons with Disability (PWD).

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## INDIA STARES AT WATER CRISIS

# 70% of aquifers have dried: Waterman

PTI ■ STOCKHOLM

More than 70 per cent of India's aquifers have dried up, signifying a crisis so grave it may lead people to seek refuge in water-rich countries, says Magsaysay award-winning conservationist and environmentalist Rajendra Singh.

Stressing that corrective steps must be taken immediately, Singh noted that people from parched areas of central Asian and African countries are already migrating to water-rich European countries, in a way disturbing the harmony of the world.

"In India, such migration is taking place from villages to cities. However, the current water crises may lead to such climatic migration in future to other countries," Singh, known as Waterman of India, told PTI on the sidelines of the recently concluded World Water Week organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) here.

According to the World Resources Institute's (WRI) updated global water risk atlas, India faces "extremely high" water stress, close to what is known as "Day Zero" conditions when taps run dry.

"India will face considerable and varied climate change impacts in the coming decades. The country has a large population with high poverty and

low adaptive capacity, heavy dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, and is likely to face negative climate change impacts. These factors make adaptation critical," a March 2019 report by WRI said.

Singh, who won the Magsaysay award in 2001 for his pioneering work in water management, said 72 per cent of India's underground aquifers have dried up.

In such a situation, it is going to be difficult to save the country from an imminent "water catastrophe".

This year, 365 districts in 17 states of the country were under drought and over 190 districts under floods, Singh noted.

"This deadly combination of floods and droughts cannot be tackled by providing piped water but only through community driven water management," said the conservationist who belongs to Alwar in India's desert state Rajasthan.

The 60-year-old, who won the Stockholm Water Prize in 2015, reiterated the need to develop a community-driven decentralised water management programme to address India's water crisis.

"The responsibility of providing water to everyone can only be fulfilled if the government collaborates with people at the ground level rather than handing over the work to con-



tractors, whose only interest is to earn benefits or profits," said Singh.

"The government and people have to come together to tackle the crisis. To achieve this, the government should formulate a policy that it won't outsource water management to contractors and instead involve public-driven initiatives. This is the only way to make the society water-efficient from water deficient," he added.

A NITI Aayog report in June estimated that 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by 2020 -- a bleak scenario for a country where 75 per cent of the domestic water sectors and 80 per cent of agriculture irrigation are reliant on groundwater.

Answering a question in the Parliament on the NITI Aayog report, Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi informed the Lok

Sabha that 60 crore people in India face high to extreme water crisis and its demand is projected to be twice the availability supply by 2030, adding that there was an imminent need to deepen understanding of water resources and their usage.

A lot of time has been lost, but it's still possible to overcome the crisis, Singh said.

"The water utilised for agricultural purposes could easily be halved by stopping the use of mechanised herbicides and pesticides which have caused water deficiency in aquifers, leading to both floods and droughts which are both connected to water aquifer management," he said.

Singh also stressed on the need to develop water harvesting systems and protecting water reservoirs from evaporation by the heat of the sun.

"We have to see how to do that. We are blessed with huge

aquifers so we have to recharge them to fill our reservoirs."

By doing so, the country will still have a "reserve bank of water" which we can use in emergencies, even in the case of deficient rainfall.

Unfortunately, however, no such policy has been put in place by the government till now, he said.

"I spoke to the Jal Shakti Minister (Gajendra Singh Shekhawat) here and he assured me that such policy will be adopted," he said.

"We are running out of time. In fact we have lost all the time to act. A country whose 70 per cent aquifers are dry has no time left," he said.

A classic example, he said, is Bengaluru which once had several lakes but is now water deficient because the water bodies have dried up over the years.

"We can understand the water crisis in Delhi-NCR due to overpopulation, but water deficiency in Bengaluru and Shimla clearly speaks of water mismanagement on part of government as well as people," Singh said.

"We need water security rather than water markets," he said.

He cited several examples from his experience where water management work by public groups was handed over to contractors, who use unscientific methods.

## Space diplomacy route to India-Pakistan peace: Pak female astronaut

PTI ■ DUBAI

Pakistan's first female astronaut Namira Salim, who made headlines last week for congratulating India on the Chandrayaan-2 mission, has said the South Asia region could benefit from innovative space diplomacy.

"I engage statesmen to utilise space diplomacy as a sustainable tool for peacemaking on Earth via Space Trust," she said on her non-profit initiative, which was established in 2015 on the founding principle of "making space the new frontier for peace on Earth."

To date, Space Trust has engaged nine governments and five former and sitting Heads of State on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week in New York who have endorsed the idea of utilizing space for peace? on Earth, she said.

Space Trust's maiden mission to Space next year, the CubeSat Mission - called OG Peace Mission 2020 - which will be a capacity-building mission between a US university and one in a developing country.

"The mission, which will play peace messages in orbit in the voices of world leaders, eminent personalities, peace-makers, civil society and youth to inspire peace beyond borders, is envisioned in cooperation with the UN to build bridges and to inspire Space for Peace and Trust on Earth worldwide and particularly in the South Asian region," she said.

## Did you spot Indian moon lander: Brad Pitt to ISS

**Los Angeles:** When Brad Pitt rang up the International Space Station (ISS), he had a list of questions for NASA astronaut Nick Hague that ranged from India's Chandrayaan-2 Moon mission, life in zero gravity conditions and most importantly, if he had bested George Clooney as a cosmonaut.

The ISS crew previewed the actor's space drama, "Ad Astra," which has garnered one of the best reviews of his career and is generating Oscar buzz, along with his other screen outing "Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood".

"Station, this is Brad, how do you hear me?" the actor asked upon receiving confirmation from NASA for a voice check and in the 20-minute call, carried by NASA TV on Monday, he covered a lot of topics on space exploration.

To which Hague replied, "Hey Brad, this is Nick. I've got you loud and clear. Welcome to the International Space Station."

Pitt continued the conversation with a question on India's Chandrayaan-2 lander Vikram, as part of the country's moon mission. The ISRO was unsuccessful in its attempt to land the Vikram module on the Moon's uncharted south pole. **PTI**

## American lawmakers express concern over situation in J&K

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

More American lawmakers have expressed concerns over the situation in Kashmir and asked the Indian government to lift the restrictions imposed in the Valley.

"I am deeply concerned regarding the recent activity in Kashmir. The increasing militarisation of the region has created a situation in which a mis-

culation can have devastating repercussions," said Congressman Anthony G Brown, who is vice chairman of the powerful House Armed Services Committee.

The reports that the freedom of expression, assembly and movement of the people of Kashmir have been restricted are "troubling", and these rights must be restored immediately, he demanded.

"I urge the governments of India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and to engage with the United States to deescalate the situation," Brown said, adding that he will continue to work with his colleagues in the Congress and the administration to advance a peaceful resolution to this humanitarian crisis.

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar tweeted that it has been over 40 days since the Indian government shut off all communications in Kashmir.

## Asia's biggest electrical market dim ahead of...

From Page 1

Ashok Kumar, owner of New Bhagwati Lite said that one of the reason due to which sells have been affected is curbing vehicle movement leading to the market by the authorities. "It has also affected sells but the major reason is slow down of economy," he added.

In this market one can find a range of electrical products such as lightening of all types, lamps, types of lightening equipment and electrical decoration used during festive season or in parties, marriages and functions, wiring of all types and almost everything that comes within the ambit of being "electrical" equipment is available at this biggest wholesale market in Asia.

### History of the market

The electrical market, primarily settled in an early colonial time heritage building-Begum Samru's Palace - which hosts more than 4,000 registered shops in the market. The palace was built by Begum Samru and was known by her name until it was brought by Seth Bahigirath Mal after which the palace got its new name - Bhagirath Palace. One of the major landmarks in the history of palace is that it is famous for housing last mughal emperor Bahadur Shah after he was captured and arrested for alleged involvement in Mutiny of 1857.

The Bhagirath Palace mar-

ket was opened in 1950 is a hub of import and export trade in electrical equipment as it caters to the export demand from the markets particularly in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Maldives, Bangladesh etc.

But the prime minister will be honoured with the prestigious "Global Goalkeeper Award" next week by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for his leadership and commitment to improve access to sanitation in India.

But a group of prominent South Asian Americans, who say they are "allies in philanthropy" have written an open letter criticising the award and urging the Foundation to withdraw it, citing concerns over his human rights record since Modi came to power in 2014, CNN reported.

In a statement to CNN, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation defended its decision, saying: "Before the Swachh Bharat mission, over 500 million people in India did not have access to safe sanitation, and now, the majority do. There is still a long way to go, but the impacts of access to sanitation in India are already being realised.

"The Swachh Bharat mission can serve as a model for other countries around the world that urgently need to improve access to sanitation for the world's poorest."

The annual awards, in five categories, are presented to leaders and individuals for their efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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# Job losses, MVA penalties to top Cong poll agenda

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■

NEW DELHI

The roadmap for the Congress campaign in the forthcoming Assembly polls will revolve around rising unemployment, increasing job losses, economic slowdown and the hefty penalty imposed on commuters under the new Motor Vehicle Act.

In the two crucial states of Haryana and Maharashtra, where agriculture is equally important, the party may announce certain sops the way they did in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh to wrest power from BJP last year.

AICC sources said that the party may also announce guaranteed stipend for unemployed youths in the poll-bound states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana and a team has been constituted to devise a mechanism focusing on youths' aspirations.

"The roadmap is clear. Today every family of this country is affected by the bad

economics of Modi government. Every household has either lost a job or did not get any employment and worst is that the Centre blames the skills and talent of Indian youths rather than accepting they are unable to meet the demands of citizens. They announced sops to farmers but still this segment is in distress," said a senior Congress leader at AICC.

The last time when Congress saw some success under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi was in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh where it was able to win voters by announcing populist measures for farmers, youth and poor.

While the economic slowdown has raised hopes for the grand old party to revive itself after its dismal Lok Sabha performance which ultimately led to Rahul Gandhi quitting the party president's post, it has brought trouble for the ruling BJP just ahead of elections in States where the BJP is in power.

Congress and alliance partners are constantly trying to corner the Modi government on slowdown, unemployment and rural distress. General secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been constantly talking about the issues concerning the youth like unemployment and job loss by taking to social media.

The mood in the Congress is also upbeat with the rise in monetary collections through donations. The party's treasury has seen a five-fold increase at Rs 146 crore in 2018-19 from mere Rs 26 crore in the last fiscal.

While erstwhile Tata-backed Progressive Electoral Trust emerged as biggest donor with Rs 55 crore, Prudent Electoral Trust (chiefly backed by Bharti Airtel group and DLF) donated Rs 39 crore.

Prudent in last fiscal had donated Rs 144 crore to the BJP and Rs 10 crore to Congress. Party president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi contributed Rs 54,000 each this fiscal.

# INS Khanderi submarine to be inducted on Sep 28

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to induct the second Scorpene submarine INS Khanderi on September 28 in Mumbai in a function presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The remaining four Scorpene submarines are in advanced stages of manufacturing and trials.

Giving this information here on Tuesday, Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar also said two other landmark events are planned on September 28. They include launch of first frigate Nilgiri under the Project-17A A and commissioning of the largest dry dock of the Indian Navy.

He said with the launch of these three projects, the Navy will further enhance its reach and combat sustenance.

INS Khanderi was launched into waters in January 2017 and was undergoing extensive sea trials before commissioning. When asked about the delays in inducting the submarine, Kumar said certain amount of delays and learning happen

along the way and it is acceptable. He also said all issues of Khanderi were now resolved.

The public sector Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai, is manufacturing six Scorpene conventional submarines under technology transfer from Naval Group of France under a 2005 contract worth \$3.75 bn. After a series of delays in the project, the first submarine of the class Kalvari joined service in December 2017. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2020.

The cost of the Scorpene project is now about Rs. 25,000 crore. The cost of aircraft carrier dry dock was Rs. 1,320 crore while the cost of the seven frigates under P-17A is over Rs. 48,000 crores.

Responding to a query about budgetary constraints of the Navy, the Vice Chief said the service will certainly seek more money. "What we need is more capital allocation of the budget... Share of Navy share was 18% of defence budget in 2012-13 which has come down to 13.6%. We would like it to go back to 18-20%", he said.

Answering questions on the Naval Light Combat Aircraft(LCA), which made its first short arrested landing in Goa last week, Kumar said the Navy is fully in support of LCA project and always made payments on time. He also said the arrested landing is a great achievement and will lead to twin engine advanced medium combat aircraft which the Navy will induct.

After extensive arrested landings on shore, the pilots will graduate to landing on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. Landing and take-off from a moving aircraft carrier with restriction of space in terms of the landing strip demands exceptional pilot skills and sophisticated aircraft.

The Navy will finally induct a squadron(18-20 jets) indigenously designed and developed LCA on the aircraft carrier. At present, the service is operating MIG-29s from the carrier.

Incidentally, the defence minister will spend a day at sea on board INS Vikramaditya after presiding over the three functions in Mumbai.

# Govt carries out cadre review of lower rung of CRPF, 2.37 lakh troops to benefit

**New Delhi:** A first-ever cadre review for jawans and sub-officers of the CRPF will "benefit" 2.37-lakh troops as it will ensure faster promotion and monetary benefits to them, an order issued on Tuesday said.

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned fresh posts to the CRPF, the lead internal security force of the country, in its fighting or combat ranks.

The over 3-lakh personnel force is thickly deployed in anti-Naxal operations, counter-terrorist offensives in the Kashmir Valley and responding to law and order duties across the country.

As per the latest order, the CRPF said in a statement, while it will be a 100 per cent jump in sanction for the rank of sub-inspector (SI), the same figure will be 91 per cent for inspector ranks, 40 per cent for head constable and 34 per cent for assistant sub inspector (ASI) ranks, it said.

Henceforth, the total sanctioned posts in the subedar major or inspector ranks will rise upto 6,271 (91 pc) while it will be doubled to 17,403 in the rank of SI.

"The maiden cadre review

for general duty personnel of the force will bring cheers to about 2.37-lakh personnel of Group B and C, from constable to inspector ranks, who were facing stagnation. This review has been undertaken the first time in its about eight decades long history," the force said.

This would provide opportunity for honing junior leadership and improve operational efficacy with a younger age profile, it said.

The move would also ensure faster career growth and better remuneration for these personnel who form the bulk of an operational team that is led by officers of the CRPF cadre and those from the Indian Police Service (IPS).

"The cadre review of these officials will add more responsibilities on their shoulders, improve their motivational level and increase their job satisfaction. "This anti-stagnation drive would also motivate them to be fitter, a criteria vital for the promotion of those in uniformed services," CRPF spokesperson Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Moses Dhinakaran said.

PTI

## Ayodhya Case -

### SC asks lawyers to intimate tentative time schedule for completing arguments

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the counsels for both Hindu and Muslim parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case to inform it about the tentative "time schedule" for concluding their arguments.

The moment the 5-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, re-assembled in the afternoon on the 25th day of the hearing, it asked senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Muslim parties, about the time schedule for conclusion of arguments saying it will enable it to know the time left for writing the judgement.

The CJI, who would demit office on November 17, this year, asked Dhavan to sit with his associates and inform the apex court about the number of days they will take to conclude the arguments.

The bench, also comprising justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan

and S A Nazeer, asked Dhavan to consult lawyers from other sides as well.

Dhavan, arguing for Sunni Waqf Board and others including original litigant M Siddiq on the 8th day, said he also wanted a judgement in this case and he would be very fast in advancing submissions.

The top court said that if the schedule is known, "then we will know how much time we have to write the judgment".

The senior lawyer then said that the court may consider granting him mid-week break on this Friday.

The bench said he may take the break, but the other counsel from Muslim side can advance submissions on Friday.

"I do not want to break my argument," Dhavan said, adding that they have a schedule and they are conscious of the speed of the arguments.

The bench said Dhavan might be needing the break, but his "young team" was capable and would like to work hard.

PTI

### Kerala is part of India, courts there are bound by top court's orders: SC

**New Delhi:** Irked over the tinkering of its judgement and order by the Kerala High Court in a matter related to churches, the Supreme Court has said Kerala is a part of the Indian territory and courts there are bound to follow the law declared by the apex court.

The top court restrained the Kerala High Court and all civil courts there from passing any order in violation of the top court's 2017 decision which had held that prayer services were to be performed in consonance with the 1934 Malankara Church Constitution and guidelines.

The 2017 judgement had said that 1,100 parishes and their churches under the Malankara Church should be controlled by the Orthodox faction as per those guidelines.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman said it would hear on October 16 the plea filed by convict Manoharan seeking a review of the apex court's August 1 verdict had which confirmed his death penalty.

During the open court hearing on the review plea, the bench, which also comprised justices Sanjiv Khanna and Surya Kant, said it was granting "last opportunity" to the counsel representing the convict to argue the case since it was a matter of death sentence.

The counsel told the bench that a death warrant has been issued and he was scheduled to be executed on September 20.

"List the matter on October 16, 2019, at 3 pm as a last opportunity for oral arguments in terms of our judgment. Meanwhile, there shall be stay of execution of the death sen-

### SC stays execution of convict till Oct 16 in Coimbatore rape, double murder case

**New Delhi:** Three days ahead of the scheduled hanging of a death row convict for "horribly" gang raping a minor girl and killing her along with her brother in Coimbatore in 2010, the Supreme Court Tuesday stayed his execution till October 16.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman said it would hear on August 1 sent Manoharan to gallows for "horribly" gang-raping a 10-year-old girl along with a co-accused and killing her and her seven-year-old brother by throwing them in a canal with their hands tied.

Terming the offence as "shocking" and "cold-blooded", a three-judge bench, by a majority of 2:1, had upheld the verdicts of the trial court and the Madras High Court to award death penalty to the condemned convict saying that the offence fell under the "rarest of rare" category.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the counsel representing the convict told the bench that throughout the trial in the case, Manoharan was lodged in jail and seven advocates were changed in the matter due to which the convict was not duly represented from trial court to the top court.

"During the trial, he (convict) must have been produced before the court and interacted with his lawyers," the bench observed.

tence," the bench said in its order.

The top court had on August 1 sent Manoharan to gallows for "horribly" gang-raping a 10-year-old girl along with a co-accused and killing her and her seven-year-old brother by throwing them in a canal with their hands tied.

Addressing the 100-day press conference of the Ministry of External Affairs, he said the "trajectory" of the relationship between India and the US has been "upwards" amid various administrations in Washington, be it Bush, Obama and now Trump.

Responding to a question on commerce, he said the trade problem between the two countries is "normal". As relationship grows, there will be problems... The only way you don't have trade problems is when you do not trade," he said referring to the trade relations between the two nations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a six-day visit to the US, beginning September 22.

Jaishankar said in partnership with the Indian diaspora, Modi addressed events in San Jose in 2015 and Madison Square in New York in 2014, and the September 22 event at Houston will be the third.

### Indo-US relations on upward trajectory, says S Jaishankar

#### India-China faceoff at Ladakh not a skirmish: Min

**New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the recent incident between Indian and Chinese soldiers on the bank of the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh was "not a skirmish" but a face-off which was resolved using bilateral mechanisms in place to defuse such situations. "We did not have a skirmish, I want to be very clear I think there was what we call a face-off. It was resolved. From time to time that has happened and it has happened because you have deferring perceptions of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and patrols meet and some time that kind of situation happens. A lot of effort has gone into mechanisms and procedures to address such situations," he said.

#### 'Don't worry' beyond a point what people say on Kashmir, India's position on it has and will prevail'

**New Delhi:** India on Tuesday said there is no need to "worry" too much beyond a point about what people will say on Kashmir as it was its internal issue on which its position has "prevailed and will prevail", remarks that come in the backdrop of raging debate over New Delhi's decision to abrogate Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hit out at Pakistan, saying India has a "unique challenge" from one neighbour and it would remain a challenge until that neighbour becomes a normal neighbour and acts against cross-border terrorism. He also made it clear that with Pakistan, the issue is not Article 370, the issue is cross-border terrorism and the first thing that has to come to table for any talks with Pakistan has to be the terrorism issue.

He said the Indo-US relations are in very good health. "There is no facet of the relationship today which has not gone upward over the period of 20 years," he said.

PTI

### ED attaches Delhi farmhouse in Moin Qureshi case

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has attached a Delhi farmhouse and an old fort in the border town of Bikner in Rajasthan as part of a money laundering probe case against controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi.

The assets are "held" in the name of shell firms "controlled" by Qureshi, the ED said in a statement. It said a provisional order for attachment has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the total value of the properties is Rs 9.35 crore.

### Tarigami slams Centre for Abdullah's detention

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

CPI(M) leader from Kashmir Mohd Yousuf Tarigami on Tuesday criticised the Centre for detaining former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah under PSA and said that "people across the border are clapping" that the Government has done what they could not. Addressing a Press conference with CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, the former member of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly

said that whatever is happen-

ing in Kashmir is not in the interest of the country.

"We, Abdullah and others are not terrorists. It is such a horrible time. I am very disturbed," he said.

Tarigami said he was under house arrest since August 5, when the Centre announced abrogation Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K. He was brought to the AIIMS here for treatment on the direction of the SC after it allowed Yechury to meet him in Srinagar and submit a report on his health condition.

"Padmavat" fame film director Sanjay Leela Bhansali will weave a special feature film on Modi titled 'Mann Bairagi' and Bollywood star Akshay Kumar posted the film's poster on his Twitter account on the PM's birthday. The film is supposed to be based on an 'untold' story from the life of the Prime Minister - that of what inspired him to dedicate himself to the service of the nation.

In the national Capital, BJP leaders celebrated Modi's birthday by cutting cakes weighing 69 kg and 370 kg, highlighting the revocation of special status to J&K under Article 370, and 'bhandaara' and 'yagna'.

Modi had a packed schedule and spent most part of the day in Gujarat. His schedule

### Onion prices to remain high for next 15 days

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

The retail price of onion is ruling between ₹ 50-60 per kg due to short supply in metro cities of the country. The prices are expected to remain high in the next 15 days or till the arrival of new crops.

According to the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, the maximum retail price of onion was at ₹ 70 per kg while the model rate was ₹ 44 per kg. Among metros, onion prices was quoted at ₹ 45-50 per kg in Chennai, ₹ 43-60 per kg in Mumbai, ₹ 44-60 per kg in Delhi and ₹ 45 per kg in Kolkata

are not available. It is mostly the stored one of the last year's crop.

Union Food and Consumers' Affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan held a meeting in the ministry on skyrocketing of onion price in the retail market. In some parts of the country, onion is ruling high at ₹ 50-60 per kg depending on the quality and locality.

Terming high onion prices as a "temporary phase", Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan asserted that they have enough supplies in buffer stock to check prices of the staple food that

official data showed is ruling in the range of ₹ 50-60 per kg in some parts of the country.

"It is a temporary phase. Every year we face this problem (price rise) in three main perishable commodities potato, onion and tomato. This year, it is onion. However, we have enough supply in our buffer," Paswan said. There was supply disruption because of floods in main-growing states like Maharashtra and Karnataka. Otherwise, the country has enough onion production and the Centre has also created a buffer stock of 56,000 tonne to address any shortages, he said.

# Mixed blessing for former Kolkata CP

Court refuses to pass any order on Rajeev Kumar's NBW, but rejects anticipatory bail

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a partial respite for now "missing" IPS officer, Rajeev Kumar the special CBI court hearing the multi-crore Sharada and other chit fund cases on Tuesday refused to pass any order on the Agency's petition seeking non-bailable arrest warrant citing lack of jurisdiction.

The court at Barasat also refused Kumar's application for anticipatory bail in the same case saying it lacked jurisdiction to grant or not grant anticipatory bails being a trial court and directed the parties to approach the court of District and Sessions Judge.

While the CBI had alleged that the top IPS officer was not only refusing to cooperate with its officials by giving misleading or no answers to specific queries but also he was repeatedly refusing to respond to its summons



□ The court at Barasat also refused Kumar's application for anticipatory bail in the same case saying it lacked jurisdiction to grant or not grant anticipatory bails being a trial court and directed the parties to approach the court of District and Sessions Judge

□ While the CBI had alleged that the top IPS officer was not only refusing to cooperate with its officials by giving misleading or no answers to specific queries but also he was repeatedly refusing to respond to its summons

the latter two after providing some initial protections lifted the protective cover exposing the senior officer to CBI's chances of arresting him.

Since then Kumar has not been heard off despite repeated CBI's summons notices to appear before it forcing the Agency to move the court of original jurisdiction seeking a non-bailable arrest warrant against him.

Kumar, former Kolkata Commissioner of Police is being probed for his role as the chief of the State Government constituted Special Investigation Team in investigating into the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case. The CBI has alleged that the senior officer presently

functioning as the Additional Director General of CID was not cooperating with it in the investigation process despite Supreme Court and High Court directives.

The Calcutta High Court had on September 13 withdrawn the protection against arrest given the officer and directed him to cooperate with the CBI. Since then he had been at large and the State Government too responding to the letters written by the Central Agency seeking his whereabouts expressed its inability to contact him as his mobile phone and that too of his personal security officer were switched off. Kumar is reportedly on leave till September 25, the Government source said.

Mayawati, in a tweet, said, "By poaching BSP MLAs, the Congress has proved that it is an unreliable party. This is a breach of trust even when the BSP was lending its unconditional support to the Congress Government in Rajasthan."

The BSP president said, "Instead of fighting with its arch rivals, the Congress always damages the parties that have helped and supported it.

# Mamata leaves for Delhi, to meet Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid scornful remarks from Opposition parties like the BJP and the Left, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday left for Delhi where she will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi breaking after an 18-month gap since they last met for a few moments at the convocation of Vishwabharati University.

While Banerjee claimed minutes before leaving for the Capital that meeting the Prime Minister was within her official duty and that the meeting was long overdue "because I have to discuss some matters like pending Central grants, renaming of the State of West Bengal," as also some other issues that may come in between during the conversation.

She is also likely to relate to the Prime Minister the "popular concern regarding steps being taken to privatise Air India, BSNL and even the



Indian Railways," Banerjee said adding "the people often cannot reach him as they don't have that access so they come to us. So I have decided to take this issue with him."

The Chief Minister would not react to the loaded remarks from the Opposition leaders who questioned her sudden decision to meet the Prime Minister at a time when the Central Bureau of Investigation probing the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case was almost on the verge of arresting one of her blue-eyed IPS officers and for-

mer Kolkata Commissioner of Police Rajiv Kumar for his alleged role in the investigation of the ponzi scam in 2013 before the Supreme Court finally handed over the case to the CBI.

Banerjee said "all the 365 days I am tied down in Kolkata on account of the huge work load. But the same responsibility demands a visit or two to Delhi where a Chief Minister has to go to get many works done in the interest of the State... This is a constitutional obligation to meet the Prime Minister," irrespective of the

political differences.

The BJP and the Left however took a dig at Banerjee "not for her constitutional obligations as the Chief Minister to meet the Prime Minister but the time of the visit," said senior CPI(M) leader and former MP Samik Lahiri. "Let us see what the outcome of the talks is, particularly at a time when the CBI has zeroed in on Rajiv Kumar for his dubious role in the chit fund investigation," he said.

Questioning the timing of the visit BJP leader and the party's minder for Bengal Kailash Vijayargya said "this is the same Chief Minister who declined the invites of the Central Government to visit Delhi during the Niti Ayog meeting, or the meeting of the Chief Ministers or even the meeting on the education policy. Now suddenly she has been reminded of her responsibilities as a Chief Minister when the CBI is tightening its noose around Rajiv Kumar."

**Mamata b'day wish to Modi, saree to wife**

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Hours before her visit to Delhi, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday morning wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 69th birthday apart from meeting his wife Jashoda and gifting her with a saree at NSI Airport in Kolkata.

Banerjee wrote, "Birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modiji," in the morning and late in the noon when she was waiting at the VIP lounge of the airport before leaving for Delhi she heard about the Prime Minister's wife who was also returning to Gujarat.

The Chief Minister immediately rushed out and met her and demanded a second visit when "I will arrange for a site-seeing." Modi's wife was in Dhanbad and had come to Kolkata enroute to Delhi. She replied in the affirmative when the Chief Minister asked her as to whether she had visited Kalighat and Dakshineswar temples.

# Cong unreliable, untrustworthy: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Tuesday called the Congress "unreliable" and "untrustworthy" after six of her party MLAs switched over to the grand-old party in Rajasthan.

Mayawati, in a tweet, said, "By poaching BSP MLAs, the Congress has proved that it is an unreliable party. This is a breach of trust even when the BSP was lending its unconditional support to the Congress Government in Rajasthan."

The Congress never let Babasaheb go to Lok Sabha and neither was he awarded the Bharat Ratna. This is very shameful and sad," she said.

On Monday night, all six BSP MLAs wrote to state Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to merge the Legislative Party with the Congress. MLAs Rajendra Singh Gudha, Jogendra Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Lakhan Singh

Hence, Congress is against Dalits, STs and OBCs and has been non-serious about the rights of backwards."

She also accused the grand-old-party of being against the principles of Babasaheb Ambedkar, "which is why he had to resign from the post of the country's first law minister".

"The Congress never let Babasaheb go to Lok Sabha and neither was he awarded the Bharat Ratna. This is very shameful and sad," she said.

On Monday night, all six BSP MLAs wrote to state Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to merge the Legislative Party with the Congress. The development came ahead of civic body polls and bypolls to two Assembly seats.



Meena, Sandeep Yadav and Deepchand said they were merging their legislative party with the Congress. The development came ahead of civic body polls and bypolls to two Assembly seats.

Meanwhile, in another development, after the Allahabad High Court stayed the notification to include 17 OBC groups in the Scheduled Castes list, the BSP president on Tuesday said such government decisions were guided by total selfish political motives but affected the entire society.

She said the move was "most unfortunate." "The news of the high court staying the forcible declaration of 17 OBCs as Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh is naturally in limelight today. Such decisions guided by total selfish political motives do not affect any party/government but the entire society. Most unfortunate," Mayawati tweeted in Hindi.

# Kodela murdered by YSRCP Govt, says Naidu, demands CBI probe

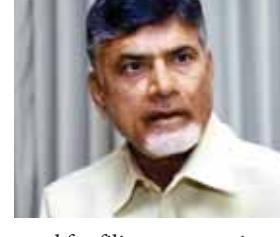
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has lashed out at the YSRCP stating that it has harassed former Speaker Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao mentally, physically and financially by slapping cases on him. Kodela was a case of murder by the YSRCP Government, he said and demanded a CBI probe into the death.

Naidu said despite the letters sent by Kodela Siva Prasada Rao to take away the furniture, the Government had filed cases after receiving them.

He said on August 20, Kodela had sent a letter and on Narasaraopeta MLA Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy lodged a complaint two days later. Subsequently, they filed cases against Kodela and his son Kodela Sivaram, he added.

"When he was ready to hand over furniture, what's the



need for filing cases against. Is it not harassment? A man who has charge sheets against him for financial frauds worth Rs 43,000 crore, has filed cases against Kodela for furniture worth Rs 2 lakh. They have filed 19 cases against Kodela, including the old ones, which have been reopened now."

Calling Kodela "Palani Tiger," he said even the police humiliated him by not responding to his appeal. He alleged that all police officials and IAS officers had surrendered to the ruling party.

# Man convicted of killing 7-yr-old after trying to rape her

PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

A special court on Tuesday held a 30-year-old man guilty of killing a 7-year-old child after trying to rape her nearly three years ago.

Special Judge Sanjiv Kumar Tiwari, trying cases registered under Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, convicted Tanzim of murdering the child in November 2016 in her village.

The court will decide the quantum of sentence to the convict on Wednesday. Prosecution counsel Dinesh Kumar Sharma said the case dated back to November 16, 2016, when Tanzim lured away his neighbour's daughter and tried to rape her at a secluded place.

But as the girl began crying, he bludgeoned her to death and fled the scene, said Sharma. After the girl's parents noticed the child having gone missing, they launched a search for her and found her in a pool of blood near their house in a secluded place, said Sharma, adding the girl was rushed to a hospital but declared "brought dead".

Police later registered a case under section 376 of the Indian Penal Code and sections 3 and 4 of the POCSO.

# Only few people opposing Centre's decision to scrap Art 370: BJP minority cell

PTI ■ JAMMU

BJP Minority Morcha national vice-president Nahid Sheikh on Monday said only a "handful of people" are opposing the Centre's decision to scrap Jammu & Kashmir's special status.

"Except a handful of people who are opposing the decision for their own benefit or saving their own skin, the minorities living in Jammu & Kashmir are happy with the decision to nullify Article 370," Sheikh, who is BJP's J&K Minority Morcha in-charge, told reporters here.

She said the minorities are happy with the Centre's decision as they are of the firm belief that their "days of miseries" are over and a new era of real welfare and empowerment will begin, paving way for overall development, progress and prosperity of the State.



National Disaster Response Force personnel speak to flood-affected people in Prayagraj on Tuesday. Heavy monsoon rain have raised water levels of the River Ganga above the danger level, triggering evacuation of thousands of people from flooded homes around the area

# Karnataka MLA summoned by ED in Shivakumar case

custody for 14 days till October 1 by a Delhi court.

The former minister was in the ED custody since his arrest. The agency had earlier summoned his daughter Aishwarya in connection with the case.

It had in September last year registered the money laundering case against Shivakumar, Haumanthaiah, an employee at Karnatak Bhavan in New Delhi, and others.

PTI



Police and locals look at the remains of a TAPAS Experimental Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, belonging to Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), which crashed in a field near Chitradurga test range on Tuesday



PTI

Two baby crocodiles seized by forest officials in Thane on Tuesday

Mumbai, and what will be their ultimate fate," Muthu added.

The 'Crocodylus Palustris' figures on the Red List of Threatened Species of the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2014.

The forest department has arrested three persons - the bus driver M Abdul Rahim Hafiz and Shivaji Baglaya, both from Hyderabad, and their associate

Khuddos Latif Baig from Bidar in Karnataka. They were produced before a Magistrate Court in Borivali and have been remanded to police custody for three days, Muthu said.

Found only in freshwater bodies or marshes of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Iran, these crocodiles are also known locally as 'muggers'. They have already become

extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar, and the species is likely to have been wiped out even in Bangladesh, according to the IUCN.

The current estimated population of the 'muggers' is between 5,700-8,700 in the wild and are poached for use as food — especially its eggs and meat as delicacies, certain organs for medical purposes, and its skin is used for fashion apparel and accessories, wildlife officials said.

PTI

# Pak Rangers shatters peace along border in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

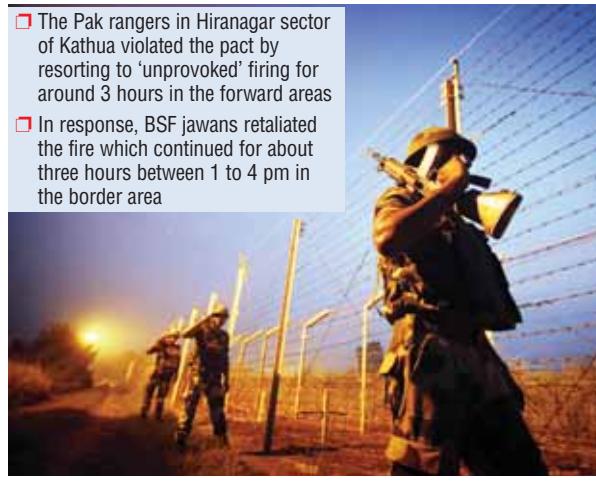
Peace prevailing along the International Border across Jammu frontier was shattered by the Pakistani Rangers in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district by resorting to 'unprovoked' firing for around three hours in the forward areas.

In response, BSF jawans retaliated the fire which continued for about three hours between 1 to 4 pm in the border area.

BSF officials of Jammu frontier claimed, this is the first major incident of ceasefire violation across Jammu frontier this year. By and large peace prevailed in the border area even as Pakistani rangers raised objections to developmental activities in the forward villages falling close to the zero line.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier NS Jamwal told The Pioneer, "Pakistani rangers resorted to 'unprovoked' firing in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua on Tuesday between 1 to 4.00 pm".

He said, "Pakistani rangers used small arms firing to target the Indian posts. We retali-



The Pak rangers in Hiranagar sector of Kathua violated the pact by resorting to 'unprovoked' firing for around 3 hours in the forward areas  
In response, BSF jawans retaliated the fire which continued for about three hours between 1 to 4 pm in the border area

iated the fire in equal measure." He said we are keeping a close watch on the activities of Pakistani rangers. IG, BSF also maintained, no incident of infiltration was reported across Jammu frontier this year.

When asked whether they established any contact with their Pakistani counterparts, IG BSF clarified, no contact was established with them on Tuesday after the exchange of fire took place on the International border.

Earlier, on July 15, 2019, a suspected Pakistani intruder was killed by the alert BSF jawans in Samba sector when he was trying to sneak inside the Indian territory near SM Pura border outpost.

Meanwhile, no fresh exchange of firing was reported along the Line of Control in Rajouri and Poonch districts till late Tuesday evening.

However, jawans of the Indian Army have been maintaining tight vigil in vulnerable

## Lt Gen Ranbir Singh visits Ladakh, witnesses exercise by integrated troops



Lt Gen Ranbir Singh in Ladakh

areas and non-traditional routes of infiltration to foil repeated infiltration bids by the heavily armed intruders with support from the Pakistan Army regulars.

Recent Intelligence reports claimed, small groups of infiltrators have managed to sneak inside the Indian territory from dormant routes of infiltration in Rajouri and Poonch sectors in the recent weeks.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command on Tuesday witnessed an exercise by integrated troops of all arms and services in Super High Altitude area in Eastern Ladakh. He was briefed on the

conduct of the exercise by Lieutenant General YK Joshi, General Officer Commanding, Fire & Fury Corps. The exercise encompassed employment of mechanised forces with force multipliers integrating high technology platforms.

Complimenting the commanders and troops for the outstanding display of professional competence and war fighting capability in extreme terrain and altitude conditions, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh stated that he was fully confident that Northern Command will continue its legacy of excelling in combat, should a conflict be forced upon the nation. He also remarked that with the induction of new weapon systems and high tech equipment, the capability and lethality of the Indian Army was progressively improving each passing day.

Later, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff also visited HQ Fire & Fury Corps and interacted with NK Singh, Chairman and other members of the 15th Finance Commission. The Finance Commission team is in Ladakh Sector as part of their visit to

field formations of the Indian Army to understand the conditions under which troops are operating and assess the requirement of financial outlays to meet the modernisation and infrastructure development requirements of the Army.

During their meeting, General Bipin Rawat highlighted the peculiar terrain, weather and altitude challenges of Ladakh Sector, which require specialised equipment & skills for performing operational tasks.

He also apprised the

Finance Commission that the focus on improving connectivity to the border areas in the recent years had greatly improved the efficacy of the troops deployed along the borders.

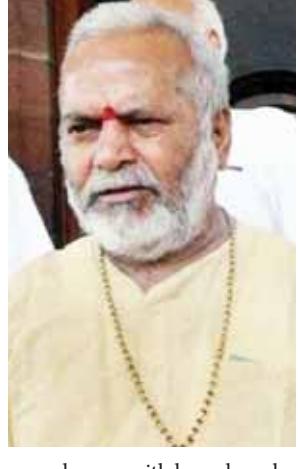
Members of the Finance Commission appreciated the dedication and commitment of the Indian Army, while defending the borders of the nation, in such far flung areas. They assured the Indian Army of all support required to discharge their duties effectively.



A security officer stands guard on a deserted street in Srinagar on Tuesday PTI

## Chinmayanand remains under medical observation

No rape FIR yet



## All accused in Bettiah gangrape case held

PTI ■ PATNA/BETTIAH

All four persons named as accused in the Bettiah gangrape case have been arrested and the complainant, who claimed she was 18 year old, turned out to be a minor, a top police officer said on Tuesday.

Additional Director General of Police, headquarters, Jitendra Kumar, said that the four accused — including two brothers — have allegedly confessed that they had sexual intercourse with the girl last week.

Even if it was with mutual consent it would be deemed an offence since the medical reports of the girl, a former inmate of the infamous

Muzaffarpur shelter home, have put her age between "15 and 17 years", Kumar noted.

A sex scandal had come to light at the Muzaffarpur shelter home in April last year when abuse of the inmates was flagged in a social audit report by Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Talking to PTI over phone, Bettiah SP Jayantkant said all four accused named in the FIR — Akash Kumar, Sajan Kumar, Kundan Kumar and Anshu Kumar — have been arrested.

"All of them, including siblings Akash and Sajan, are said to be known to the girl. The victim and the accused reportedly used to visit each other," he

said.

Earlier, the SP had said that the complainant, in her FIR, stated she was raped by the four on Friday in a moving car in Bettiah, the district headquarters of West Champaran.

Jayantkant had also said that the medical examination reports of the girl, who claimed she was 18

years old, showed "no internal or external injury" which was unusual in a case of a sexual assault.

He, however, maintained that police was "not ruling out anything" as of

now. Talking to reporters in the Bihar capital, the ADG said, "The girl's medical examinations suggest that her age is between 15 and 17 years. During interrogation, the accused have confessed that they had intercourse with the girl. Even if it was with mutual consent, it becomes immaterial and falls in the category of an offence as the girl is a minor."

He also said police was in search of another unnamed person in connection with the case. "We would like to point

## Medical tests show victim minor: Police

He, however, declined to divulge more details about the girl, saying "the identity of a sexual offence victim, especially a minor, has to be kept secret. Sharing more information will give it away".

Expressing outrage over the Bettiah incident, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) had shot off missives to top officials in Bihar.

The NCW, which took suo motu cognizance of the incident, has asked the Director General of Police to treat the case on a priority, while the NHRC has sought a detailed report on the case in four weeks.

one who was with her when she was traced in Rajasthan after having gone missing last month.

The SIT had called them to the police lines here and recorded their statements, official sources said.

The SIT had also examined principals of the two colleges, besides their two staffers, where the girl studied.

The girl's father on Sunday had termed the leakage of some video footage given by his daughter to the SIT as a "conspiracy" and had said he would request the Supreme Court court to order a probe into it.

"From where have the screenshots and videos appeared on social media? The screenshots have been posted on various social media platforms. These were given to the SIT by my daughter. This is a conspiracy," he had said.

An artisan creates idols of Goddess Durga ahead of Durga Puja, in Hyderabad on Tuesday

## Use of AI to boost tourism in India

IANS ■ KOCHI

A major international summit here next week will take up use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies in the tourism industry.

For the two-day event, which will start on September 26, the Kerala Tourism is partnering the Association of Tourism Trade Organisations India (ATTOI).

Among the 500 participants from across the world will be Hannes Losch, known for intelligent analytics and business intelligence solutions.



PK Anish Kumar, convenor of the event, said AI had made travel more convenient. Its use allowed travellers to opt for last-minute vacation planning, he added. The event will see

convergence of owners of hotels and resorts, online tourism marketing managers and tour operators, who is expected to be the biggest beneficiary of new technology.

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : 50 years, Height : 5'3", Complexion : Fair, wearing blue colour shirt and pant, was found unconscious on 08.09.2019 in the area of P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. He admitted in LNJP Hospital, during the treatment he died. In

this regard a DD No. 16-A dated 08.09.2019 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The Deadbody has been preserved for identification in the mortuary of LNJP Hospital, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-23953776

DP/425/N/19

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI  
DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001  
O.A. No. 517 of 2019

The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD V/s AHMEDABAD BENGAL ROADWAYS PVT. LTD.

21.08.2019 Item no. 20  
Present: Mr. Punit K. Bhalla along with Mr. Rakesh Singh, Ld. Counsel appears for applicant bank.  
Mr. Dimple Arora, Ld. counsel appears for defendant no. 1.

I.A. No. 184/19 is filed by the applicant bank seeking direction to the garnishee for depositing the amount payable to defendant no. 1. In the circumstances urged in the application that an amount of Rs. 2,30,71,383.59 is due. At this stage, the Ld. Counsel for defendant no. 1 request time to file reply.

1. Description of Asset: hypothecated assets

Model	Reg No	Asset	Reserve Price	EMD
2013	HR55S7375	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S7382	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S7383	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7385	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7387	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7388	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7390	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S8240	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S8241	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S9135	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S9136	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S9477	AL 2516	600000	60000

2. Date and Time of Auction: 23 September, 2019 Time: 2:00 PM To 3:00 PM

3. Auction Venue: ABR Yard, Behind Park Inn hotel, Binola Manesar, Haryana, NH-8, Pin Code- 122051.

5. Manager: Awanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)

Terms of Sale  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount mentioned above against the respective vehicle by way of pay order/ Demand Draft payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 5 days from the approval shared with them. In Case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited. Interested participant/s are requested to participate 23 September, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Awanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)

Presiding Officer  
DRT-II, Delhi

## Hyderabad-Karnataka region renamed 'Kalyana Karnataka'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Fulfilling a long standing demand of the people of Hyderabad Karnataka region, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday announced that it has been renamed as 'Kalyana Karnataka' and a separate secretariat would be established for its development.

"It has been a long standing demand to rename Hyderabad-Karnataka as Kalyana Karnataka. With God's grace at the time when I'm the Chief Minister of the state, I'm declaring Hyderabad-Karnataka as Kalyana Karnataka. There is a festive atmosphere in the six districts of the region," Yediyurappa said there may be financial issues this time due to floods in several parts of the State, but more funds would be allocated for development in the next budget.

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Tuesday announced that the Hyderabad-Karnataka region has been renamed as 'Kalyana

Karnataka' and a separate secretariat would be established for its development.

All other formalities relating to the renaming would follow in consultation with the centre, he said. Assuring more funds for the all round development of the Kalyana Karnataka region, Yediyurappa said there may be financial issues this time due to floods in several parts of the State, but more funds would be allocated for development in the next budget.

The people informed that many Telangana Government schemes such as the Rs 10,000 financial assistance per acre per year under the Rythu Bandhu, Rs 2000 per month pension, 24-hour uninterrupted free and

quality power, Kalyana Laxmi, KCR kits and clothes distribution during the festivals were not available for the Maharashtra people, the release said.

In the past, 40 villages in Dharwad taluk in the neighbouring State had passed a resolution demanding their merger with the Telangana. Responding to the resolution, the Maharashtra Government had then declared Rs 40-crore grant for these villages, but the assistance was yet to be released.

Rao said the demand of people for implementation of welfare schemes like ones in the Telangana was rational and hoped that the Maharashtra Government will accede to the tickets if allotted.

The people informed that many Telangana Government schemes such as the Rs 10,000 financial assistance per acre per year under the Rythu Bandhu, Rs 2000 per month pension, 24-hour uninterrupted free and

People from 5 Maha villages seek merger with T

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Attracted by the welfare schemes being implemented here, a section of people from five villages in bordering Nanded district, Maharashtra, has expressed a desire to merge with Telangana.

## Farooq, now a threat

Holding the NC leader and former CM under a draconian Act will undo any points the govt might claim on Kashmir



If the Government indeed wants to make an example of Kashmiri politicians, who have traded loyalties on either side of the LoC for their political relevance and continuity, then it would be advised to expose such deliberate acts on facts. Holding former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA) certainly won't achieve that purpose, considering he no longer has "high visibility" value. For normal Kashmiris, he is a recipient of much hatred and abuse. They believe he shortchanged them by choosing to

accede with a secular and democratic India and lost the only marker of autonomy they had courtesy Article 370. Now, not only that is gone, the former State has been reduced to a Union Territory. So Kashmiris are questioning his family legacy of standing by India. For New Delhi, he may have been the moderate face and an asset but one that's not needed, given the endorsement of Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) special status both at home and the world. Therefore, Abdullah's inescapable need to question the abrogation of Article 370 and appear an activist Kashmiri is more than an irritant, it is an obstacle in the new narrative. His suggestions of a negotiated autonomy for the two sides of Kashmir and converting LoC into a soft border for trade and commerce to flourish seem misplaced when all talk is about righting historical wrongs and reclaiming territories in that context rather than addressing current realities. Yet one must remember his worth through the decades of conflict. He acted as a filter and as Chief Minister did manage to keep militancy in check, give some semblance of credibility to the election process and had a pan-India acceptability. At 81, and suffering from kidney ailments, he certainly doesn't pose such a threat as to be booked under a tough law meant to be used against terrorists. Apparently, the idea is to prevent him from participating in a rally planned by Opposition leaders ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session next week. Does a former Chief Minister, democratically elected and for years nurtured as an asset by the Centre, be suddenly disowned as a troublemaker under a draconian law? One which doesn't allow him to be tried before two years? All this has happened despite him and son Omar Abdullah meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier and hours before the Supreme Court was to take up a habeas corpus petition by MDMK chief Vaiko seeking to know the whereabouts of his "friend." Considering that Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has been allowed to visit four J&K districts — Srinagar, Jammu, Baramullah and Anantnag — to meet people but not hold any political rally and that CPI(M) leader Mohd Yousuf Tarigami has been allowed back in, Abdullah's detention reeks of chicanery and intrigue, not of vision. For he may be a spent force but people, who have invested in the idea of India at his call, will only see this as betrayal and recede into separatist ways.

True Abdullah, and his son Omar, have failed to deliver to both New Delhi and their people but both have sworn by the Constitution and neutralised the shrill cries of *azaadi*. And if the peace-makers are suddenly seen as deal-breakers and made the fall guys, then we are unwittingly drawing the world's attention back to the human rights situation in Kashmir, the lockdown and the political and economic morass. Dangerously enough, our justification for reorganising Kashmir may not seem all that worthy. If the Government is not even able to restore normal lives despite its heavy-duty security presence, crackdowns and an information blockade, then there will only be a flood of questions on its intent to engage with people, convince them of their stakeholdership and erect an alternative political matrix that's more responsive to its concerns. For that to happen, people must be heard and allowed to speak. Also, leaders like Sajjad Lone, whom the Centre was at one time keen on grooming as its "enabler", continue to be detained too. The common Kashmiri, hedged in by the politics of the terror economy, knows that abrogation of Article 370 doesn't mean much on the ground as the State was anyway being run like a Union Territory for some time. But locals still want that reconciliation with honour, dignity and justice, not arbitrary impositions and demotions. Abdullah's detention is so not clever as it emaciates the political will to treat J&K as a serious matter. It's not an extension counter of Central whim.

## Unsafe cities

Delhi, Mumbai slide down in a global report on security and liveability, fall behind Asian counterparts



Considering that both Mumbai and Delhi could be counted in the race to be desirable world cities, both are considered grossly unsafe, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, which ranks 60 countries worldwide across indicators, including digital, infrastructure, health and personal security. In the context of safety, Mumbai and Delhi ranked 37 and 41 respectively on the parameter of personal security and 45 and 52 overall. That is a large dollop of dampener considering that for

all our pretension to becoming an Asian powerhouse, cities in the Asia-Pacific region have bagged six of the top 10 spots. Tokyo continues to be the numero uno for the third year in a row as Singapore and Osaka take second and third places. In contrast and worryingly so, Delhi actually slid callously down the ladder, falling nine places from its 43rd position in 2017 to the 52nd position in just two years. According to data released by the Delhi police itself, the total number of heinous crime cases registered till August 31 was 2,00,485, much higher than last year's 1,57,462 cases. Mumbai, too, which witnessed the first dip in the past decade in 2017, registered 21 per cent more rapes and murders last year. If that was not all, both our cities had a poor track record on environmental and health security, pollution being the biggest bottleneck. The less said about infrastructure security the better, both cities scoring low on the road safety index. And as far as population growth is concerned, Delhi's planners, who in 2014 were expected to address needs of 6.7 million more residents between 2020 and 2030, have actually allowed that figure to swell to 8.7 million.

It's not that we didn't envision the parameters; our smart cities project was all about developing liveability indices, a vision which has failed miserably in execution. In fact, if pursued correctly, some of India's newer cities could have well made it higher up on the list. The Tokyo model needs to be emulated as it is one of the most populous cities in the world with an intense demand on its resources. Yet it scored well on almost all parameters — be it its low crime rate and improving the quality of life by banning diesel cars. Clearly, city governments have taken tough decisions and stood by them. One parameter where the Asia-Pacific region lags behind is on digital security and it is here where our cities could score by using technology for traffic management and personal safety. Also, we need responsive city governments that work with the citizenry rather than hide-bound bureaucracy, instill pride by making legislative bodies more representative and provisioning for responsible elected officials.

# Message for a violent world

Gandhian beliefs need to be spread to not only eliminate emerging conflicts but also arrest the wanton destruction of nature and the ecosystems of this planet



RK PACHAURI

**I**t is a tragic irony that the worst act by terrorists involving wanton killing of innocent people in recent times took place on September 11, 2001, when two hijacked planes were deployed to kill over 3,000 people on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, New York, while another one targeted the Pentagon and yet another crashed in Pennsylvania. Just three weeks later after that dastardly act, we commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest human being to ever have practised non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi. This year, of course, marks a special occasion when Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary would be celebrated.

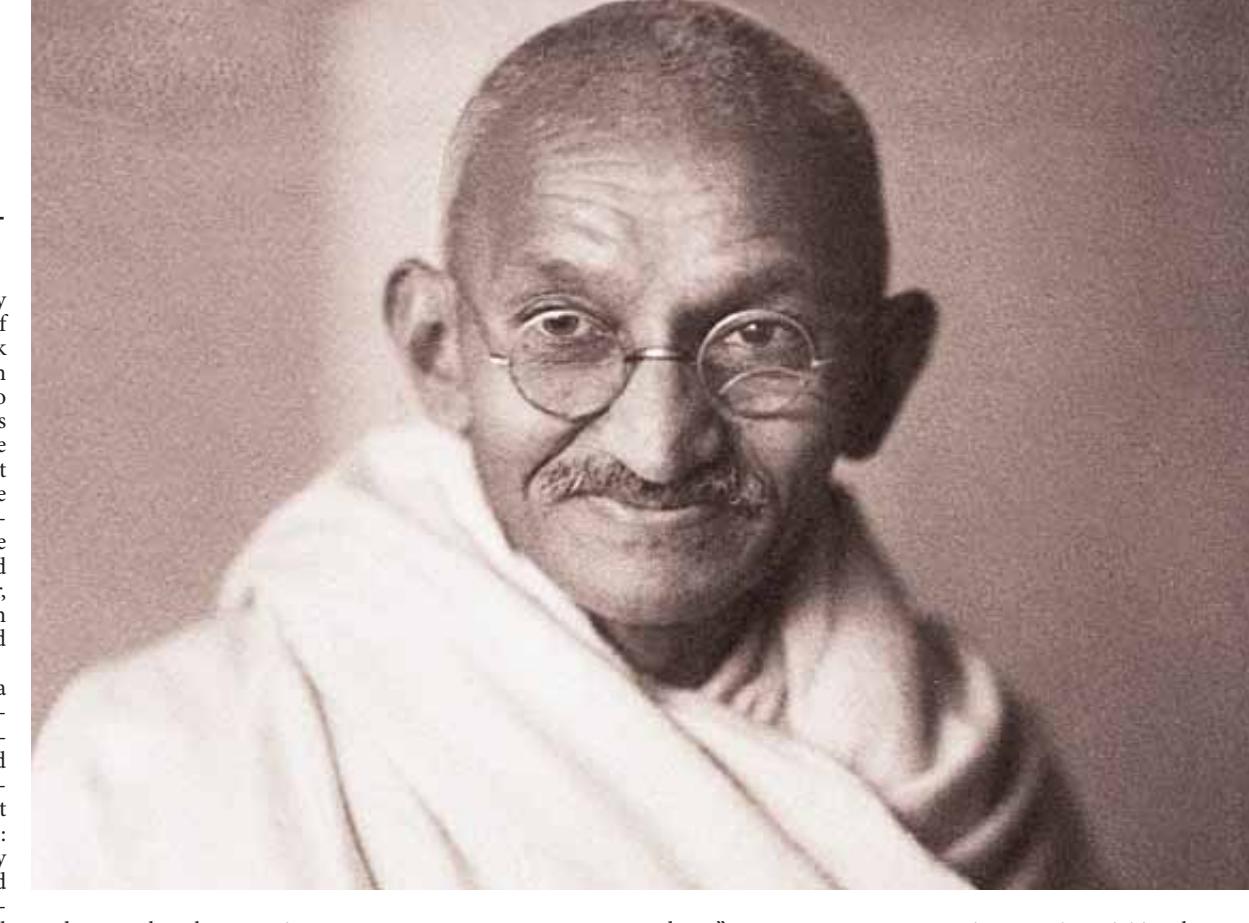
Gandhian philosophy represents a perfect integration of non-violence, non-exploitation of one community by another and respect for all human beings and other species with whom we share the planet earth. His views on these subjects are best explained by the following quotation: "Public opinion alone can keep a society pure and healthy...I claim that human mind or human society is not divided into watertight compartments called social, political and religious. All act and react upon one another...Human society is a ceaseless growth, an unfoldment in terms of spirituality...ill-digested principles are, if anything, worse than ill-digested food, for the latter harms the body and there is a cure for it, whereas the former ruins the soul and there is no cure for it...It is the law of love that rules mankind. Had violence, ie, hate, ruled us, we should have become extinct long ago. And yet, the tragedy of it is that the so-called 'civilised' men and nations conduct themselves as if the basis of society was violence."

The holistic nature of Gandhian emphasis on non-violence was expressed eloquently by his emphasis on the need for human beings not exploiting other human beings and the essential need for them, not in any way considering themselves superior to other forms of life. Here again, Gandhiji was very direct in two comments that he conveyed.

"A society can be judged by the way it treats its animals."

"It is an arrogant assumption to say that human beings are lords and masters of the lower creatures. On the contrary, being endowed with greater things in life, they are the trustees of the lower animal kingdom."

Most importantly, Gandhiji's concept of non-violence extended directly to human society, not in any way inflicting major damage to the ecosystems of this planet and resources, which nature provides us on which all life survives and endures. Today, the material demands of human society are resulting in extensive damage to the earth's biodiversity, the growing dangers and risks from human-induced climate change and major pollution of the oceans, which will have serious consequences not only for life



under water but also extensively on large areas of land.

There is a section of public opinion today which seems to believe that perhaps nothing can be done to solve some of these problems simply because human society is too far gone to be able to retreat in the direction of reduced demand for goods and services.

There is now mounting evidence from all over the world on the expanding footprint of human society on the earth's ecosystems. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken up the challenge of reducing single-use plastic in this country because we have blindly emulated the developed nations, which are responsible for the mounting waste of various kinds, based on the growing demand for material goods and products.

It is for this reason scientists like Paul J Crutzen have described the current period that we are going through as one of the anthropocene as opposed to the geological age Holocene, which began 11,700 years ago. Gandhiji was absolutely right when he said: "The incessant search for material comforts and their multiplication is evil. I make bold to say that the Europeans will have to remodel their outlook if they are not to perish under the weight of the comforts to which they are becoming

slaves."

For almost 50 years, human activities have increasingly exceeded the bio-capacity of ecosystems to absorb the expanding footprint of our activities. There is, therefore, the need for a radical shift by which a rapid and decisive change is brought into the devastating consumerist culture dominating modern society, which would ultimately lead to unacceptable risks in the future and exploitation by some, as was the case with colonialism.

We are already seeing signs of domination by vested interests of countries and communities by the rich and powerful seeking benefits of assured supply of raw materials, energy and rare minerals from other locations, almost in a colonial relationship. There is, therefore, an imperative for human society to move towards Gandhian principles, which, quite apart from shunning violence of one community *versus* another, proscribe violence used against nature and its attributes, which sustain life for all species on earth.

In actual fact, it is clearly the desire by human beings to expand material wants and the power associated with it which in some form or the other leads to violence all around. It is tragic that in the 21st century, there are still prosperous nations and groups, which are financ-

ing terrorist activities, the worst example of which leaves us with a continuing sense of horror from the events of September 11, 2001.

It appears that the global community, including the United Nations, has been largely ineffective in curbing violence in several regions of the world. The war in Yemen continues to kill innocent human beings, including children. The conflict in Syria, despite the involvement of some big powers, has not led to any movement towards peace, even as ceasefire after ceasefire is violated. In our own neighbourhood, the Taliban continues to attack innocent individuals in Afghanistan, clearly encouraged and funded by the army of another country in our neighbourhood.

Overall, Gandhian beliefs and principles are required to be spread worldwide not only to eliminate conflict within the narrow prism of one community or one nation imposing violence against another but also in respect of our wanton destruction of nature and the ecosystems of this planet. India, as the nation to which Gandhiji gave so much, has a deep global responsibility to carry his message to the rest of the world, particularly on his 150th birth anniversary.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

IT IS TRAGIC THAT IN THE 21ST CENTURY THERE ARE STILL PROSPEROUS NATIONS AND GROUPS WHICH ARE FINANCING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, THE WORST EXAMPLE OF WHICH LEAVES US WITH A CONTINUING SENSE OF HORROR FROM THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

“ ”

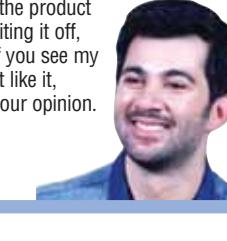
The situation in Kashmir is bad not because of the people of Kashmir but because of all of us politicians and politics.

CPI(M) leader  
—Mohd Yousuf Tarigami



If you've not seen the product and are already writing it off, it's not right. But if you see my work and still don't like it, you're entitled to your opinion.

Actor  
—Karan Deol



There's no need to worry much beyond a point about what people will say on Kashmir. India's position on its internal issues has prevailed and will prevail.

External Affairs Minister  
—S Jaishankar



Saffron-clad people are selling *churan* and committing rapes. Is it our religion? God will not pardon those who have defamed our *sanatan dharma*.

Congress leader  
—Digvijaya Singh



## SOUND BITE

### Respect languages

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Not Hindi *hain hum*" (September 17). Union Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi as a national language because it is the "heart and soul of our freedom struggle" should have been best avoided because it is beset with strongly divisive attitudes, especially in the South where the earlier anti-Hindi agitations had disturbed a hornet's nest. By seeking to thrust Hindi down the throat of millions, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would be committing a grave act of indiscretion.

Any imposition would arouse a fresh round of anti-North hatred that the Centre must guard against. Our linguistic chauvinism and respective lingual ethnocentrism will hardly let us accept Hindi as the language of the country.

English has ceased to be a foreign language. Even the British have ceded exclusive rights over the English language. What is certain is that no language — indeed, nothing — can be imposed from the top. In reality, it is not even needed. Even

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### India will do well to emulate Belgium

This refers to the editorial, "Not Hindi *hain hum*" (September 17). Even before the controversy over the draft National Education Policy (NEP)'s pitch for the implementation of the three-language formula in schools could die down, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has opened a can of worms by advancing the theory of "one nation, one language." Shah's appeal has missed the Southern States. As it is, India is inhabited by descendants of two distinct streams — ancestral north Indians and ancestral south Indians — who, in the modern context, have varied cultures and speak different languages. One is yet to hear of a cogent and convincing assertion about any additional element in Hindi that is not seen in other languages in the Schedule-VIII of the Constitution of India. This distinguishes it as a catalyst of growth and a unifying factor.

That the number of people speaking Hindi is more is certainly not the essential criterion for it to be anointed as the national language. Therefore, excessive activism to establish the paramountcy of Hindi is destined to backfire with unpredictable consequences unfolding. Bernard Shaw's humorous comment, "England and America are two countries separated by

without any Government imposition, Hindi as a language has spread far and wide. In 1971, 36.9 per cent of Indians spoke Hindi as a first language but in 2011 this had increased to 43.6 per cent.

J Akshobhya

Mysuru



the same language", is a reaffirmation of the fallacy about unity without affection. Belgium, a country of just 11 million people with three distinct regions, Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Capital, has three official languages — Dutch, French and German — but the country itself is neither bilingual nor multi-lingual. India could well be in the league of Belgium for good.

Haridasan Rajan

Kozhikode

structure.

The development has sent alarm bells for a possible war on Iran by the US because the latter believes that the drone strike was carried out by the rebels with support from Iran. It is an open secret that Houthi rebels

are being fed by Iran for long. Yemen is Saudi Arabia's neighbouring country and has been ravaged by civil war for long.

Houthi rebels have been battling against the Yemen regime backed by Saudi Arabia and the US. So the attack on the Saudi oil facilities is only a natural extension of Houthi rebels' vendetta against Saudi Arabia.

Iran has always cocked a snook at the US. Now Iran's elite revolutionary guard force has said that it is prepared for a "full-scale war" and that their missiles could hit bases in the US and ships within a range of 2,000 km. Anything may happen anytime. This could be disastrous for the entire world.

The drone attack on the Saudi oil facilities made the authorities in Saudi Arabia slash the oil production by half and consequently, oil prices have been gone up. For India, the fallout will be unbearable as a spike in oil prices will upset the common man's budget.

TK Nandan

Chennai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## Time to up the game

India is losing to China in the fight to woo Myanmar, the latest geo-economic battleground, says Rupesh Dutta

In the last five years, India has achieved notable success in strengthening relations with its immediate neighbours, Sri Lanka and Nepal. However, the other major economy in the region, China, is determined to emerge as the winner in the ongoing geo-economic clash with India and Myanmar has become the latest battleground. China has overtaken India in terms of pumping in money and finalising massive infrastructure projects in the tiny country's economy.

This comes despite India's all-out efforts to boost its Act East Policy. Myanmar, whose political transition to a free democratic system is less than four years old, is in dire need of foreign investment to shun the tag of an "underdeveloped economy." While India has been sluggish in its approach to invest in Myanmar, China has grabbed the opportunity by wooing Aung San Suu Kyi, the Buddhist nation's State Counsellor, a position akin to a prime minister, with lucrative trade offers. Myanmar has swallowed the Chinese investment bait hook, line and sinker.

According to Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, between 1988 and 2011, India invested a paltry \$763.567 million as compared to China's whopping \$20,566 million. In 2014-15, Indian investment was \$208,886 million against China's \$511,415 million and in 2015-16 it was \$224,223 million against Beijing's \$3,324 million. In 2016-2017, New Delhi invested nothing and China pumped in \$482,591 million.

Similarly, India invested \$10,993 million against China's \$1,396,219 million in 2017-18, followed by New Delhi's \$19,925 million against Beijing's \$304,732 million in 2018-19. Year after year, Chinese investments were more than 200 per cent of that by India which even restricted its funding during the power transition from the 'Tatmadaw' (armed forces) to a democratic set up in 2015.

Significantly, the Beijing-led Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is considering providing \$20 million to Myanmar for the development, construction and operation of a Greenfield 225 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant in Mandalay. It will be the largest gas-fired Independent Power Producer (IPP) in Myanmar, producing much-needed clean energy to meet the power deficit.

Furthermore, a master plan for a Chinese-backed, model economic zone along the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) has been prepared and the Suu Kyi Government is engaged in discussions for its implementation. The Myitkyina Economic Development Zone (MEDZ) is also in the pipeline and a pact was signed between Myanmar and the Chinese Yunnan Tengchong Heng Yong Investment Company for its implementation. The MEDZ is likely to come up in approximately 4,700 acres of land along the historic Ledo Road, built during the World War II and used by the Allies to deliver supplies to China which was fighting the Japanese forces. It was an overland connection between Ledo, in Assam and Kunming in China's Yunnan Province. The MEDZ expected to cost over \$400 million, will include nearly 500 factories and 5,000 buildings.

On the other hand, India has fallen short in its plans for Myanmar's infrastructural development. New Delhi must realise that its inability to engage with Naypyitaw will spell doom for its Act East Policy as Myanmar is the bridge linking India with South-East Asia. Sadly, most projects have remained on paper and others are likely to miss deadlines. For instance, New Delhi had funded and implemented a project to develop the deepwater Sittwe Port in Rakhine State to handle 20,000-tonne vessels by dredging the River Kaladan from Sittwe to Paletwa (a 158-km long stretch) to improve its navigability. It also involved building an inland terminal at Paletwa and constructing a 29-km-long highway linking Paletwa to the Indian border. However, the project is running behind schedule and has faced various hurdles.

Similarly, the Narendra Modi Government had cleared a ₹6,167 crore upgrade of a 352-km National Highway in Mizoram to improve connectivity to Myanmar. However, the project has been in a limbo for the last couple of years despite the contracts being awarded.

Moreover, Beijing supported the Myanmar Government during the ethnic crisis in its Rakhine province, saying it understands the country's "security concern" even when the rest of the world termed the clashes as ethnic cleansing and has since called for the repatriation of Rohingyas.

This was the opposite of what the Modi Government did, as it not only remained neutral but also constructed 250 pre-fabricated houses in Myanmar, indicating its tacit support for the repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar. India's relations with Myanmar in the last couple of years have improved significantly and the cooperation between the two governments has increased, especially when it comes to sharing intelligence.

This in particular is a boon for India, given the fact that the majority of armed extremist groups from its northeastern states have their camps on the Myanmar side of the border. India should be fully aware that to crush such forces, it will need the support of the Myanmar Government.

The Modi Government must consolidate its image as a caring neighbour who does not believe in economic adventurism like China. It must also make larger investments in Myanmar not only to check Beijing's rising regional dominance but also not to lose an immediate neighbour which has a buffer status vis-à-vis China.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

INSTEAD OF FIGHTING ITS OPPONING PARTIES, THE CONGRESS IS HURTING PARTIES WHO SUPPORT IT. THIS IS A BETRAYAL OF THE BSP MOVEMENT.

— BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY SUPREMO MAYAWATI

## POINT COUNTER POINT



MLAS CONSIDERED THE SITUATION AND FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT IS WHY THEY JOINED US. WE DID NOT PUT ANY PRESSURE ON THEM.

—RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

## analysis

09

## The need of the hour

To mitigate environmental risks, we have to make costly adaptations. Nations need funds for this, making climate finance a vital resource



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Every nation and individual is exposed to the risks of climate change and we have to make several adaptations to mitigate them. These large-scale measures are costly. So nations need funds to implement them, making climate finance a vital necessity. Such a resource pool seeks to raise local, national or trans-national funds drawn from public, private and alternative sources. Recognising that it may be out of scope and capacity of several countries to initiate climate change measures, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement call for financial help from parties with more resources to those that are less endowed and vulnerable.

In accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities" set out in the convention, developed countries are to provide financial resources to assist developing nations in implementing the objectives of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The pact reaffirms the obligations of developed countries while encouraging voluntary contributions by parties.

Developed country parties should also continue to take the lead in mobilising climate finance from various sources, instruments and channels, through a variety of actions, including supporting country-driven strategies and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country parties. Such mobilisation of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts. Overall, efforts under the Paris Agreement are guided by its aim of making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

**Setting up of funds:** A financial mechanism, which also serves the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, was set up to provide financial resources to developing countries by entrusting one or more existing international entities. Since the Convention came into existence in 1994, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism. At the Conference of Parties (COP) 16, in 2010, parties established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and in 2011 also designated it as an operating entity of the financial mechanism.

This module is accountable to the COP, which decides on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding. In addition, three more special funds have been established — the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), both managed by the GEF; and the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001. At the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015, it was agreed that the operating entities of GCF, GEF, SCCF and the LDCF shall serve the Paris Agreement.

A Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) was established at COP 16 to assist it in exercising its functions in relation to the financial mechanism of the Convention. Currently, the SCF has four specific functions: assisting the COP in improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing; assisting it in rationalisation of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC; supporting it in the mobilisation of resources for climate financing; and supporting it in reporting and verification of support provided to developing country parties.

TO REALISE THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER AND MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, GIVEN THE DIVERSE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS ENGAGED IN CLIMATE FINANCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE LESSONS TO BE LEARNT BY INDIA ON HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCE ARCHITECTURE AND THE EMERGING GCF IN PARTICULAR

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The committee is also tasked with organising an annual forum on climate finance, provide the COP with draft guidance for operating entities, provide expert inputs during periodic reviews of the mechanism and prepare a biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows. Furthermore, the SCF is designed to improve linkages and promote coordination with climate finance related actors and initiatives both within and outside the Convention. At the Paris Conference in 2015, it was decided that the SCF shall also serve the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the long-term finance process is aimed at progressing on the mobilisation and scaling up of climate finance of resources originating from a wide variety of sources. The COP decided on the following activities until 2020: organisation by the secretariat of annual in-session workshops; developed countries providing, on a biennial basis, information on strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance and convening of biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance. Through the Cancun Agreements in 2010, developed countries committed, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, to a goal of mobilising jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

When adopting the Paris Agreement, parties confirmed this goal, called for a concrete roadmap to achieve the goal by 2020 and agreed that prior to 2025, the COP shall set a new collective quantified goal of over \$100 billion per year.

**India's position on climate finance:**

Since India is quite susceptible to the impacts of climate change, it is a huge challenge for us. Given its unique and distinct topography, variations in climate remain a steady feature and any changes in climate are likely to worsen the existing pressure on various sectors. With a growing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission profile, India is currently the third-largest discharger of GHGs globally, after China and the USA. However, according to a 2014 World Bank report, India's per capita GHG emanations remain extremely low at 1.7 metric tonnes (MT) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per capita, as compared to China at 6.2 MT and USA at 17.6 MT.

Moreover, according to the Press Information Bureau 2009(b) report on emissions, it has been estimated that even by 2031, India's per capita GHG emissions (likely to remain 4 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita) will continue to be lower than the global per capita GHG emissions in 2005 (4.22 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita).

Climate finance entered the dictionary of the official establishment with the release of the Economic Survey 2011-12, which contained for the first time a chapter on *Sustainable Development and Climate Change* and a dedicated section on *Climate Change Finance* and provided an overview of various domestic and international sources of finance, as well as private finance sources. An estimated ₹230,000 crore was provided as the amount needed to fulfil the mission objectives under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in the subsequent Economic Survey of 2012-13.

The Government responded by setting up the Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU) in September 2011. In spite of the creation of the CCFU, there is no formal coordination mechanism around climate finance. As a result multiple processes for financing thrive within the country including the Centre, States, private sector and civil society actors, all playing significant roles in low emission and climate-resilient development.

Due to the well-defined national climate policy, climate-related finance is available through a variety of domestic, international, public and private sources. Domestic resources in India can be broadly divided into public climate finance and private climate finance. Public finance comprises budgetary support, taxes, subsidies and other market mechanisms. Private finance usually comprises clean development mechanism finance, debt instruments, equity finance and partial risk guarantee facilities. To realise the potential for greater and more effective action on climate change, given the diverse public and private actors engaged in climate finance at the national level, there are lessons to be learnt by India on how to engage with the international climate finance architecture, and the emerging GCF in particular.

It would also be worthwhile to think of ways in which India could develop new, transformative ideas with a high mitigation or adaptation potential and use GCF financing to unlock a range of domestic financing and implementation capacity around such efforts. India needs to debate on the "readiness" for climate finance.

It has to identify and link existing pipelines of projects to the financial channels that have emerged, both domestically and through international flows. It has to create a new pipeline of domestically-owned projects that could seek international finance for their transformative potential.

To achieve this, several Government departments will need to work closely together not just on climate policy issues but also on operational questions around how to prioritise action.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

## Will Modi bite the UCC bullet?

'One nation, one law' is a necessity and the sooner the Uniform Civil Code comes, the better, though it is a sensitive issue and should be handled delicately by having more public debates and discussions



KALYANI SHANKAR

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi go for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), particularly after being prompted by the Supreme Court (SC) last week?

Right now several of the religious communities in India follow their own personal laws. Under the UCC, all personal religious laws in the country, including marriage, divorce, property rights, inheritance and maintenance will be brought under a secular umbrella in a unified way.

The apex court batttered for the UCC, pointing out that the founding fathers who framed the Constitution had hoped that the

State would bring in such a code. Justice Deepak Gupta said, "Though Hindu laws were codified in the year 1956, there has been no attempt to frame a Uniform Civil Code applicable to all citizens of the country despite exhortations. A belief seems to have gained ground that it is for the Muslim community to take lead in the matter of reforms of their personal law. No community is likely to bell the cat by making gratuitous concessions on this issue. It is the State which is charged with the duty of securing a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens of the country and, unquestionably, it has the legislative competence to do so."

Citing the case of Goa, where a UCC is applicable to all, regardless of religion, except while protecting certain limited rights, the court asked why the Centre has not brought an UCC as yet.

The SC's observation has strengthened the Modi Government's resolve to bring the UCC, which is part of the core agenda

of the Sangh Parivar. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also managed to nuance its narrative by adding the issue of gender equality.

The BJP's argument is that though Hindu laws were codified in 1956, there is no law applicable to all citizens of the country even after several decades of Independence.

India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, while defending the introduction of the Hindu Code Bill in Parliament in 1954, said, "I do not think that at the present moment the time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through." Today Modi has the mandate and the ability as well as willingness to bring the UCC for the benefit of the country.

Taking advantage of the weak and divided Opposition, the Prime Minister has already pushed through two controversial Bills in Parliament, the Triple Talaq and the abrogation of Article 370, in his second term despite not having a majority in the Rajya Sabha. The

Second, Modi's vision of a New India is also a young India with 65

Ram temple issue is in court.

Though the Law Commission in its report last year said that the UCC is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage", the party promised to bring the UCC in its 2019 manifesto.

However, the immediate priority of the Government is to deal with the economic situation and Kashmir. There is trouble in the Northeast on the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Then there are elections to three State Assemblies, Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand soon. Therefore, the work on the UCC could be taken up after that.

Supporters of the UCC argue that it is long overdue. The issue was discussed during the Constituent Assembly debates where BR Ambedkar was batting for it, but many Constituent Assembly members shot it down. Thus it was added to Part IV of the Constitution as one of the Directive Principles of State policy.

Second, Modi's vision of a New India is also a young India with 65

per cent of the population under the age of 25 years. These young people are influenced by global views and would appreciate the UCC.

Third, it would promote national integration as it would provide one law for all citizens. Fourth, it would provide gender justice.

The opponents point out that the Muslims perceive the UCC as an encroachment on their religious freedom, even though some of the Islamic countries have adopted a common law for all. They also note that there is no consensus on the issue.

However, today, the issue is more political than legal and each time the subject comes up, there is a heated debate from both its supporters and opponents. As for political parties, there is no consensus and most of them use it for vote bank politics.

The Congress wants a political consensus while the Samajwadi Party has accused the BJP of doing it for Muslim votes. On the other hand, the BJP's ally, the Janata Dal-

United (JD-U), has diplomatically asked for consultation with all stakeholders. The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) wants reforms across all religions and the Nationalist Congress Party wants discussions on a broader spectrum. While the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) is opposed to it, the Shiv Sena supports it. So where is the consensus?

However, there is merit in having one law for all. One can understand the stand of the Muslims but the Congress and other political parties should not play politics in bringing uniformity in laws. In the 80s, even the late Rajiv Gandhi had explored the possibility of introducing a voluntary civil code.

"One nation, one law" is a necessity and the sooner the UCC comes, the better, though it is a sensitive issue and should be handled delicately by having more public debates and discussions to bring about a consensus.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



## CALIFORNIA HAS SEEN THE LIGHT

California is one of the few economies large enough to set the rules in a globalised world. It was also the birthplace of the gig economy, and the use of webs of casual labour tied together by algorithms to subvert labour laws and other regulations in all sorts of fields, ranging from taxi firms to B&Bs. So it's an important development that the state's senate has now turned decisively against the exploitation of casual workers.

(The *Guardian* editorial)

# No slowdown in automobile sector: CAIT



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

sector.

Traders body CAIT on Tuesday said there is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector and the industry is making hue and cry only to get a package from the government.

The auto industry has been attributing the sales downturn to several factors like high GST (Goods and Services Tax) rates, farm distress, stagnant wages and liquidity constraints.

"There is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector. They are saying this to get a package from the government," Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal told reporters here.

Citing an example of new vehicle launches, he said companies have received huge number of bookings, which do not reflect any slowdown in the

sector.

Talking about recent festive sales announced by global e-commerce firms like Amazon and Flipkart, Khandelwal demanded immediate action from the government to ban these mega sales.

He claimed that such firms are violating foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in the e-commerce sector.

"If the Government does not take action, we will approach the court," he said.

He also said these e-commerce companies are allowed to do only B2B business but they are indulging in big advertisement campaign.

"These companies are not doing business, this is the business of valuation. They should give details of top 10 vendors in the last five years," he said.

He also said interest rates are high in India and global firms get loans at cheap rates.

# Oil holds most huge gains after Saudi attack, Fed moves into view

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Oil prices dipped Tuesday but held most of the previous day's record gains following an attack on Saudi facilities that wiped out half the country's output, with traders nervously awaiting the US response after it said Iran was likely to blame.

The crisis revived fears of a conflict in the tinderbox Gulf region and raised questions about the security of crude fields in the world's top exporter as well as other producers.

It has also taken attention away from the upcoming trade talks between China and the US as well as a much-anticipated policy meeting of the Federal Reserve, which is expected to see it cut interest rates. Trump said he was ready to help Riyadh following the strikes but would await a "definitive" determination on who was responsible.

Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility but Washington and Riyadh have pointed the finger at Tehran, which denies the accusations.

Trump appeared to temper his earlier warning that the US was "locked and loaded" to respond, saying: "I'm not looking to get into a new conflict, but sometimes you have to."

The weekend's attack sent both main oil prices surging almost 15 percent on Monday and managed to hold most of those in early Asian trade with WTI and Brent dipping a little

more than one percent. Uncertainty and geopolitical fears hit regional equities, which had been enjoying an upbeat month thanks to easing trade war tensions and fresh easing measures by global central banks.

Hong Kong fell 0.9 percent with sometimes violent unrest adding to the financial hub's woes and dragging on the economy.

Tokyo ended the morning down 0.1 percent as investors returned from a long weekend, Shanghai slipped 0.8 percent, Sydney shed 0.1 percent and Singapore retreated 0.4 percent.

Taipei and Manila were also lower, though Seoul, Wellington and Jakarta rose slightly.

But while there are fears of a conflagration in the Middle East, observers said the chances of that were low.

"Despite the circumstantial evidence, I feel the barrier of proof would have to be very high indeed. Almost impossible so as there are zero appetites in the world for a military conflict with Iran," said Jeffrey Haller, senior market analyst for the Asia-Pacific at OANDA.

He said the most likely outcome would be more severe sanctions on Iran, though he pointed out: "What is clear is that Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure is more vulnerable than thought, and a risk premium will be built into oil prices going forward."

Analysts said the Fed would probably consider the Saudi attack's possible impact

on the economy and prices when deciding on its next monetary policy move this week but tipped it to cut borrowing costs after its meeting Wednesday.

Also providing some optimism was news that Chinese vice finance minister Liao Min will visit the United States on Wednesday to "pave the way" for the higher level talks planned for next month.

On foreign exchanges the aversion to riskier assets pushed the dollar up against high-yielding currencies, while the pound fought to recover from Monday's losses.

Sterling dropped Monday after European officials said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had offered no new, viable ideas to break the Brexit impasse during talks with EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

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West Texas Intermediate:

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# ₹ dips 18 paise as crude worries hurt sentiment

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee on Tuesday weakened by another 18 paise to settle at 71.78 against the US dollar as investors fretted over higher crude oil prices.

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

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange, the rupee opened at 71.83 then lost further ground and fell to an intra-day low of 71.98 against the US dollar.

The local unit finally settled for the day at 71.78, down 18 paise over its previous closing.

The Indian rupee on Monday had plunged by 68 paise to 71.60 against the US dollar amid concerns over soaring crude prices following drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

"Indian currency spot surged to 71.98, Brent crude prices moved to USD 69 and 10-year yield was at 6.72. All these factors are dampening the economy and will be difficult to tackle in the short term," said Shrikant S Chouhan, Senior Vice-President, Equity Technical Research, Kotak Securities.

Crude oil benchmark, Brent Futures, surged by almost 20 per cent to USD 71.95 per barrel (intra-day) on Monday after twin drone attacks on Saturday wiped out more than half of Saudi Arabia's crude supply.

However, Brent Futures on Tuesday saw some moderation and was trading at USD 68.07 per barrel, down 1.38 per cent over the previous close.

"Given India's dependence on imported oil, any spike in crude oil prices would impact India's oil import bill and trade deficit. Every dollar increase in the price of oil raises the import bill by around approx. USD 1.5 billion on an annual basis," said Arun Thukral, MD & CEO, Axis Securities.

Besides, heavy selling in domestic equity market and sustained foreign fund outflows also weighed on the domestic currency, forex traders said.

The 30-share index ended 642.22 points, or 1.73 per cent, lower at 36,481.09. The broader NSE Nifty too settled 185.90 points, or 1.69 per cent, down at 10,817.60.

Adding to woes, foreign investors continued with their equity selling spree in the Indian market. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold at 66.34.

equities worth Rs 808.29 crore on Tuesday, exchange data showed.

The 10-year Government bond yield was at 6.73 per cent on Tuesday.

Market participants were also on edge awaiting cues from the upcoming trade talks between China and the US as well as a much-anticipated policy meeting of the Federal Reserve, scheduled to begin later in the day.

Meanwhile, on the global front, a Chinese vice finance minister will visit the United States on Wednesday to lay the groundwork for trade talks next month.

The official Xinhua news agency said vice finance minister Liao Min will lead a delegation visiting the United States on Wednesday to "pave the way" for the higher level talks.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose by 0.01 per cent to 98.61.

The Financial Benchmark India Private Ltd (FBIL) set the reference rate for the rupee/dollar at 71.5362 and for rupee/euro at 79.1934. The reference rate for rupee/British pound was fixed at 89.1393 and for rupee/100 Japanese yen at 66.34.

## Modi Govt sensitive, aware of concerns of industries: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trying to allay apprehensions of India Inc, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Modi government is "sensitive" and looking into the difficulties being faced by businessmen, including those related to reforms initiatives. Shah also attributed to some of the problems being faced by industries due to the global economic slowdown.

"I understand your difficulties, your apprehensions. There may be uncertainties. But it is a sensitive and non-corrupt government," he said addressing an event of the All India Management Association (AIMA). Talking about the reforms initiatives taken by the government, Shah said there may be some initial problems but such difficulties will be over soon. He asked industries to face them as "they will bring overall good for everyone".

"There were some teething problems in the GST. But tell me in which big decision there is no theething problems. But we have been able to collect over Rs 1 lakh crore (in a single month) on many occasions. There may be a need to take a few corrective steps. "You have to undergo lit-

tle difficulties initially but at the end reforms brings the larger good," he said. Shah said the government was putting in place rules and regulations without any fair and favour.

"You may have apprehensions that so many inquiries. But rule of law has to be brought," he said. Shah said the government wants to expedite industrial activities and trying to provide all assistance, including proving a suitable platform to startups. "We are trying to help you... but there is a global slowdown too," he said.

The Home Minister said the Modi government works for the welfare of both the agricultural sector as well as industries. He asked the AIMA and other industry bodies to come up with suggestions for the government on what to do for the industries. The government would do its best for the benefit of industries, he said.

Shah urged the AIMA, FICCI and ASSOCHAM to devote more energy for research and development initiatives. He said the Modi government was not run by bureaucrats but by political executives. "The political leadership takes the policy decisions and the bureaucrats implement them," he said.

## Govt mulls another booster dose to revitalise economy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry is working on one more booster dose to give a leg-up to the economy that has hit over six-year low of 5 per cent, a senior Finance Ministry official said. The blue print for the stimulus is ready that would be announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the next few days, the official said without giving further details. The government announced a slew of measures in three dosages which include a special window for real estate, export incentives, bank consolidation and sops for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the automobile sector. Earlier this week, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said the government has taken a number of measures to boost the economy in three phases and indicated that more steps are likely.

"I think with right measures taken, things should improve. It's a positive trend that the government is responding fast and I don't think we have heard the last from the government with regard to dealing with the current economic situation... My expectation is that it will be a continuous process and they would definitely be dealing with other challenges," he had said. The first set of announcements was made on August 23 that



included rollback of the enhanced surcharge imposed on foreign portfolio and domestic investors in Budget 2019-20. Sitharaman had in her maiden Budget raised the surcharge on income tax paid by super-rich individuals. The surcharge, levied on top of the applicable income tax rate, was hiked from 15 per cent to 25 per cent for those with a taxable income of Rs 2-5 crore, and to 37 per cent for those earning more than Rs 5 crore. This increased the effective tax rate for these two groups by 3.12 per cent and 7 per cent to 39 per cent and 42.74 per cent, respectively.

Some 40 per cent of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) automatically came under the higher tax rate as they have been investing as a non-corporate entity, such as trust or association of persons (AOPs), which in the income tax law is classified as an individual for the purpose of taxation. It was followed

by announcement with regard to consolidation of 10 public sector banks (PSBs) into four on August 30.

According to the consolidation exercise, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce are to be merged with Punjab National Bank, making the proposed entity the second-largest PSB. Syndicate Bank is to be merged with Canara Bank. Allahabad Bank will be merged with Indian Bank. Andhra Bank will be amalgamated with Corporation Bank and Union Bank of India.

This would be the second round of consolidation of PSBs. Earlier this year, State Bank of India had absorbed its five associate banks and the Bharatiya Mahila Bank to form the biggest public sector lender. In another merger, Bank of Baroda had taken over Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.

Last week, the government announced a slew of measures to boost exports and the real estate sector. During the week, the finance minister will chair the 37th meeting of the GST Council, which is expected to discuss rate revisions for various sectors, including automobiles, fast-moving consumer goods, and hotels. Besides, she will meet heads of the PSBs to discuss issues, including following up on transmission of monetary policy rates.

### NIFTY 50

### BSE 500

Script

Open

High

Low

LTP

Change

NIFTY 50

10000.10

11000.10

10796.00

10817.60

-185.90

GAIL

1294.5

1333.20

129.00

132.10

2.40

TITAN

1155.00

1176.20

1154.05

1159.75

11.20

HINDUNILVR

1814.75

1842.00

1812.00

1834.00

17.70

ASIANPAINT

1527.40

1543.30

1518.60

1532.00

10.70

INFY

831.50

835.00

820.55

832.35

4.65

DREDGY

273.75

276.40

273.00

273.99

14.60

INFRATEL

251.95

251.95

247.00

251.75

-0.20

UPL

569.10

571.50

560.80

562.90

-1.20

BRITANNIA

272.00

274.05

267.80

269.99

-15.15

IBX

270.00

274.05

271.80

271.90

-1.15

POWERGRID

202.40

200.70

200.60

200.60

-1.55

BHARTIARTL

348.80

348.00

332.55

341.15

-2.85

ITC

239.80

240.10

238.00

237.00

-0.25

WIPRO

246.95

247.40

243.70

244.50

-2.60

HDFCBANK

2247.90

2248.50

2198.10

2220.00

-24.15

TCS

2154.95

2165.50

2160.50

2160.20

-23.60

HCLTECH

1069.00

1069.00

1046.55

1057.70

-12.20

RELIANCE

1211.00

1211.00

1193.50

1196.95

-13.80

# Taliban kill 48 ahead of Afghan polls

PTI ■ KABUL

Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 48 people and wounded dozens more in two blasts on Tuesday — one at a campaign rally for the president and the other in Kabul — with the insurgents warning of more violence ahead of elections.

The first attack saw a motorcyclist detonate a suicide bomb at a checkpoint leading to a rally where President Ashraf Ghani was addressing supporters in central Parwan province, just north of the capital, killing 26 and wounding 42.

Just over an hour later another blast also claimed by the Taliban rocked central Kabul near the US embassy. Authorities initially did not give casualty figures, but later said 22 people had been killed and a further 38 wounded.

The explosions came after US President Donald Trump abruptly ended talks with the Taliban earlier this month over a deal that would have allowed the US to begin withdrawing troops from its longest war.

In a statement sent to media claiming responsibility for both blasts, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the attack near Ghani's rally was deliberately aimed at disrupting the September 28 elections.

"We already warned people not to attend election rallies, if



Afghan police inspect the site of a suicide attack, in Parwan province of Afghanistan on Tuesday PTI

they suffer any losses that is their own responsibility," the statement said.

An AFP image from the scene near Ghani's rally, roughly an hour's drive north of Kabul, showed the remains of a burnt motorcycle, with a body on top, covered by a blanket and next to a badly damaged police car.

Women and children were among the casualties, Parwan hospital director Abdul Qasim Sangin told AFP.

The president, who was speaking to his supporters at the time of the blast, was unhurt but later condemned the attack, saying the incident proved the Taliban had no real

interest in reconciliation.

"As the Taliban continue their crimes, they once again prove that they are not interested in peace and stability in Afghanistan," said Ghani in a statement.

Sixty kilometres (40 miles) away in Kabul, a shopkeeper, Rahimullah, said he had been sitting inside his shop when the second blast came.

"The wave broke all the windows," he told AFP.

"I rushed outside and saw several bodies just across the street."

This is the second time in less than a month that a blast has broken our windows. I just fixed them a week ago." The

UN's mission in Afghanistan also slammed the Taliban, accusing them of showing "despicable disregard for civilian life & fundamental human right to participate in democratic process".

The elections will see Ghani face off against his own Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, and more than a dozen other candidates, including former warlords, ex-spies, and one-time members of the country's former communist regime.

The elections will see Ghani face off against his own Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, and more than a dozen other candidates, including former warlords, ex-spies, and one-time members of the country's former communist regime.

For weeks, the election had been sidelined by the US-Taliban talks, with many Afghans and observers expecting the vote to be cancelled if a deal was agreed. Even candi-

dates did little in the way of campaigning.

But with the deal off, Ghani and his rivals have begun the race. Ghani is seeking a clear mandate they can use to negotiate with the insurgents on a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Trump's declaration that the US-Taliban talks were "dead" spurred the insurgents to declare last week that the only other option was more fighting.

"We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations," Mujahid told AFP last week.

"If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it." Observers had warned the Taliban, who hope to weaken the future president, will do anything they can to upend the election.

On the first day of campaigning in July, suicide attackers and gunmen targeted the Kabul office of Ghani's running mate, Amrullah Saleh. At least 20 people died in those attacks.

Turnout in the elections is set to be low, with experts citing fear of violence and a loss of hope among voters following widespread fraud allegations during the 2014 election.

A BBC investigation released on Monday claimed that 74 people were killed every day on average in August, with 611 incidents resulting in 2,307 deaths.

# Iran, Russia, Turkey say Syrian constitution committee ready

AP ■ ANKARA

The leaders of Iran, Russia and Turkey announced on Monday that an agreement has been finally reached on the composition of a committee tasked with rewriting Syria's constitution as part of a political solution to the country's civil war, now in its ninth year.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told journalists at the end of the meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani in the Turkish capital Ankara that differences on one last committee member has been overcome, paving the way for the committee to start working as soon as possible.

"We portrayed a constructive and flexible attitude to determine constitutional committee members and rules of procedure. We made an effort for the political process to move forward. In short, hitches regarding the establishment of the committee were eliminated by our mutual efforts," Erdogan said.

The leaders did not provide a timeframe for the committee — set to be made up of Syrian government and opposition figures — to begin its proceedings. The procedural rules still have to be worked out, Putins told reporters.

"The proceedings must begin rapidly," Putin said. "The proceedings must begin rapidly," Putin said.



From left, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands during their meeting in Ankara, Turkey on Monday

Tahrir al-Sham.

Syrian forces, backed by Russia, targeted the armed group in a four-month ground and air offensive but civilians have been widely affected.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians, some already displaced from other parts of the war-torn country, have moved toward Turkey's border.

A major conflict in Idlib has raised the possibility of a mass refugee flow to Turkey, which already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees.

"We cannot stand by and watch a new tragedy that would affect 4 million people right next to our border," Erdogan said, adding: "Such a calamitous development would not only affect our country but also all of Europe."

# Ayatollah Khamenei rules out talks with US 'at any level'

AFP ■ TEHRAN



NATO chief 'extremely concerned' after attacks on Saudi

Baghdad: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Monday he was "extremely concerned" about escalating tensions following strikes on Saudi oil facilities at the weekend, accusing Iran of destabilising the region.

The leader was speaking after devastating drone attacks at the weekend that halved oil output of Iran's regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia — the world's top crude exporter.

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

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

Iran responded by scaling back its commitments under the landmark accord, which gave it the promise of sanctions in return for limiting the scope of its nuclear programme.

Trump said the US was ready to help Saudi Arabia after the attacks that halted about six percent of the world's oil supply and triggered a record leap in crude prices.

## Israelis vote in snap polls in five months



Jerusalem: Israelis voted on Tuesday in their country's second general election in five months, a contest that is being widely seen as a referendum on incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership.

Netanyahu, 69, called the snap election after failing to form a governing coalition with a viable majority after April's vote.

About 6.3 million eligible Israeli voters started voting Tuesday morning in the unprecedented repeat polls.

Polling booths opened at 7 AM and voters can cast their votes till 10 PM to elect the 22nd Knesset (Israeli parliament) necessitated by the inability of Netanyahu to cobble a coalition of 61 members in a house of 120 following the April 9 elections.

Voter turnout in Israeli elections hit 26.8 per cent mark at noon time, a tad higher than on April 9 at the same hour, with the larger parties, ruling Likud and main rivals Blue and White, resorting to traditional mobilisation tools to create panic among their sympathisers to bring them out to vote.

"The turnout at noon time was 2 per cent higher than 24.8 per cent recorded at the same time during the last polls," Director of Central elections Committee, Orli Adas, said calling it an impressive trend".

Voting for Israel Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers began Saturday evening at bases around the country, and Israeli diplomats abroad have also already cast their ballots. PTI

The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD Vs AHMEDABAD BENGAL ROADWAYS PVT. LTD.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001 O.A. No. 514 of 2019

The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD Vs AHMEDABAD BENGAL ROADWAYS PVT. LTD.

Present: Mr. Punit K. Bhalla along with Mr. Rakesh Singh, Ld. Counsels appears for applicant bank.

Mr. Dimple Arora, Ld. counsel appears for defendant no. 1.

I.A. No. 1797/19 is filed by the applicant bank seeking permission sell/auction of the hypothecated vehicles as is where basis on the ground that trucks are in the stage of scraps position.

1. Description of Asset: hypothecated assets

Model	Reg No	Asset	Reserve Price	EMD
2014	HR37D4074T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D5994T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D6007T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D6034T	AL 2516	500000	50000
2014	HR37D6036T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D6460	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D7486T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D7492T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D751T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D7668T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2014	HR37D7670T	AL 2516	600000	60000
2010	HR55K8412T	Tata 1613	350000	35000
2010	HR55K8415T	Tata 1613	350000	35000
2010	HR55K8416T	Tata 1613	350000	35000
2010	HR55K8420T	Tata 1613	350000	35000
2011	HR746947T	LPO 1512	350000	35000

2. Date and Time of Auction: 23 September, 2019 Time: 2:00 PM To 3:00 PM

3. Auction Venue: ABR Yard, Behind Park Inn hotel, Binolia Manesar, Haryana, NH-8, Pin Code- 122051.

4. Manager: Avanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)

5. Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, to their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount mentioned above against the respective vehicle by way of pay order/ Demand Draft payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 5 days from the approval shared with them.

In case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited.

Interested participant/s are requested to participate 23 September, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Avanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)

Presiding Officer DRT-II, Delhi

## UN experts urge probe of Rohingya killings in B'desh

AFP ■ DHAKA

UN human rights experts have raised new concerns about the treatment of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh following a deadly backlash over the killing of a ruling party official.

The experts called for an "impartial" investigation into the deaths of at least six Rohingya men in gunfights with police after they were named as suspects in the killing of Omar Faruk, a young wing official of the ruling Awami League.

Following the murder, local people vandalised refugee shops and staged protests in one of multiple camps now home to a total of more than 900,000 Muslim Rohingya who have fled oppression in neighbouring Myanmar.

In a statement released late Monday in Geneva, the six specially appointed UN experts on rights issues backed Bangladesh's probe into the murder of Faruk.

But they added, "it is equally necessary to ensure that the presumption of innocence is upheld and that reactionary, summary and ad hoc justice is not doled out solely to placate the legitimate concerns of the host community."

"We are alarmed by the sudden crackdown of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association," they said.

"We urge the Bangladeshi government to carry out an

independent, impartial and effective investigation into all deaths that have occurred with regards to this case," they said.

Police inspector Ali Arshad told AFP at least 40 Rohingya have been killed in Bangladesh since July last year. Of those, at least 33 were killed by Bangladeshis security forces in gunfights and another seven were killed in shootouts among Rohingya groups, he said.

Rights groups have accused Bangladesh police of staging many of these gunfights as a cover for the extrajudicial killings of Rohingya, mainly suspects in drug smuggling. The UN experts also expressed "serious concerns" over "tight new restrictions" and a communication clampdown in the refugee camps, where there is an effective internet blackout.

The clampdown follows the failure of a new attempt to repatriate some of the refugees and an August 25 rally in which some 200,000 Rohingya marked two years since the exodus.

The UN experts said that

since the rally, a number of

organisers have been ques-

tioned and subjected to "intimidation".

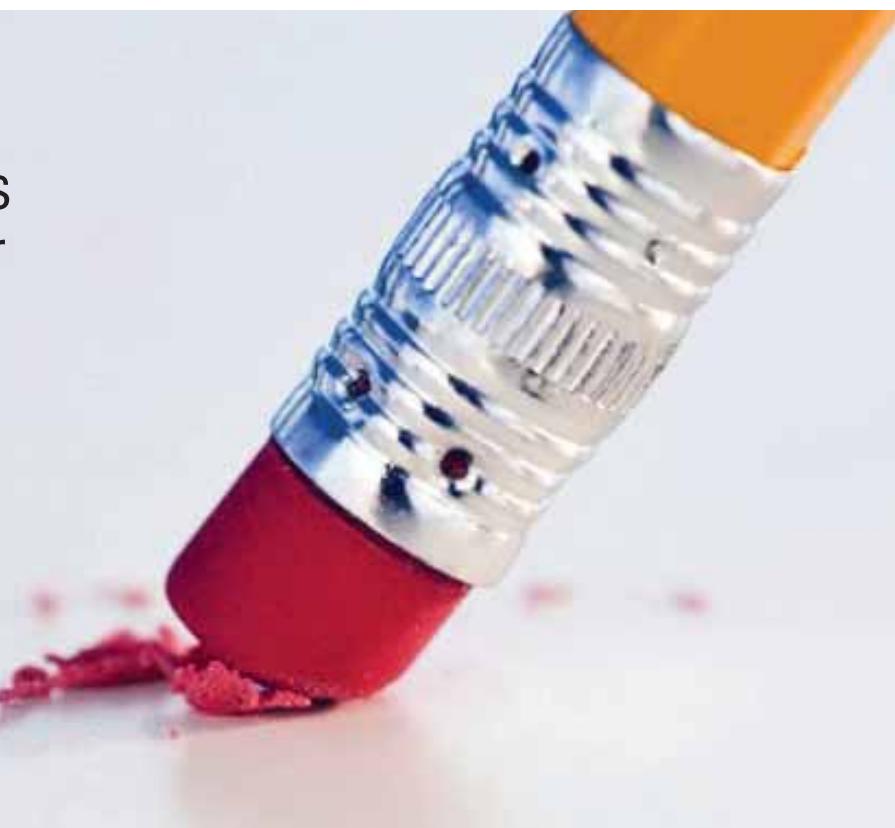
"We are alarmed by the sudden crackdown of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association," they said.

"We urge the Bangladeshi

government to carry out an

Director of Chanakya IAS Academy, AK MISHRA lists mistakes that aspirants should avoid making while preparing for the Civil Services

# WARD OFF ERRORS



**M**aking mistakes is common. But, if you are a CSE aspirant here are a few mistakes that students should avoid in order to ace the exam.

**Following the herd mentality:** Given the degree of competition and the ensuing unpredictability in the civil service examination conducted by UPSC, the decision of entering into this arena is a big decision by all measures. Since the preparation for Civil Services Examination is going to be like a marathon race, one should always have the right and sustainable reasons for starting the preparation and keep going in it and not having the superficial and unsustainable reasons like peer pressure, parental expectations, power, prestige, money or other associated perks. Decide after a thorough analysis of the various job profiles, your preferences of service to get clarity of purpose for which you are going to work hard in the coming years. Also try to awarenness about the role of bureaucracy in India's administrative structure, work culture, degree of discretion and ensuing ability to bring changes at multiple levels.

**Not having an understanding of the syllabus, demand of the examination and criteria for selecting optional:** Once decided to prepare for this examination, an aspirant should give due time to have a clear understanding of the pattern, syllabus and demand of the examination.

Optional marks play a huge role in the given scheme of things, thus its selection deserves due deliberation based on various parameters like your graduation subject (select if you are good at it and feel confident by looking at previous year questions), interest in the subject (for getting a feel of various subjects one can read the basic books on that subject), availability of study material and guidance. Take a reasonable time in deciding your optional, but once selected one should have unwavering faith in that optional and that is bound to pay off.

**Creating social hype about your**

**WHILE READING AND REVISING BASIC AND REFERENCE BOOKS, ONE SHOULD REFER TO PREVIOUS YEAR'S QUESTIONS TO HAVE CLARITY ON THE TYPE AND LEVEL OF QUESTIONS ASKED**

**Underestimating the importance of NCERTs and daily newspaper reading:** NCERTs of relevant subjects are the base of preparation for CSE. Multiple reasons are there: direct question in examination (Preliminary as well as Main), the authenticity of the content and simple language. Given the importance of NCERT books, one should not look for the shortcuts here and thoroughly read the NCERT books along with their multiple revisions.

Similarly, daily reading of newspapers is a must due to multiple reasons — repeated and threadbare analysis of important issues makes one read them multiple times and revise them without doing this separately, developing multidimensional perspective, lots of real examples to quote in all papers of Main exam, enriched vocabulary which is specific and meaningful enabling aspirant to mention more points in main exam using less words, thus saving time and space while fetching those crucial extra marks. The monthly current affairs modules (as making daily notes from the newspaper may not be possible for all aspirants) may only organise or consolidate your current affairs knowledge, as one would have already read them in the newspaper. This will make one's knowledge base more diverse and consolidated.

**Not optimising the study material and sources to refer (especially online sources):** In the present context, any new aspirant is bound to be bogged down by the enormity of study material available online as well offline and will not even realise how her/his

precious time is wasted in running after material. So, aspirants should optimise the reference sources (for example — for GS papers — NCERTs as basic book and one reference book) with credible guidance and religiously stick to that.

**Delayed and improper approach towards mock test practice (Preliminary exam) as well as main answer writing practice:** While reading and revising the basic and reference books, one should refer to the previous year's question to have clarity on the type and level of questions asked from those topics. After this one should start practicing mock tests. Generally, aspirants think that they will practice once they feel confident about the syllabus being completed, but what actually happens is that either that day never comes or comes too late to be effective. The purpose of rigorous mock test practice is to have mental practice enabling to eliminate options in multiple-choice questions using the accumulated knowledge base; not that you will get direct questions from the mock test in the official examination.

Similarly, for the main examination, answer writing should not be delayed until the last moment (though its timing may vary, but it must be started after writing the preliminary examination). This ensures that the candidate is able to finish the paper on time in a structured way maintaining proper priority sequence of various points being written in the answer.

The writer is Director & Founder, Chanakya IAS Academy



## CULINARY ARTS

Indian School of Hospitality in collaboration with At-Sunrise GlobalChef Academy, Singapore, invites applications for diploma in Pastry & Bakery and diploma in Culinary Arts.

**Duration:** One and a half year

**Eligibility:** Applicants who have completed Class XII or equivalent, graduates, professionals and PG students who are planning to change career or venture in the exciting world of bakery or culinary art are eligible to apply for this course.

Also, students with IELTS 5.5/TOEFL 46-59/WPLN level 5 or at least 75 per cent in English in XII standard exams can apply.

**How to apply:** Log on to <http://ish.edu.in/how-to-apply.html>.

**Last date to apply:** October 5, 2019.

## CONTENT WRITING

Education and Career Times invites applications for admissions to its content writing courses in 2019-2020 session.

**Eligibility:** Anyone who has appeared for or passed Class XII exam can enroll for content writing courses at ECT. Candidates should be able to read and understand English language to be eligible to attend the class.

**How to apply:** Log on to <https://ect.co.in> or candidates can download the brochure for free from the website or visit the study center in Connaught Place, New Delhi. A short counseling session will be held to help the students decide the right writing style. Post counseling session, the students can take admission by paying the fee in two installments.

**Last date to apply:** October 15, 2019.

## BBA PROGRAMME

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS) invites applications for admissions to its BBA programmes.

**Programme offered:** Bachelor of Business

Administration (BBA) General, Bachelor of Business Administration (Banking And Financial Markets) and Bachelor of Business Administration (Global) — International Business.

**Duration:** Three years

**How to apply:** Log on to [www.manavrachna.edu.in](http://www.manavrachna.edu.in).

## UG-PG COURSES

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies invites applications for admissions to its UG/PG/Diploma programmes of Journalism and Mass Communication.

**Programmes offered:** BA — Journalism and Mass Communication, MA — Journalism and Mass Communication, PG Diploma in Advertising & Public Relation.

**BA — Journalism and Mass Communication**

**Duration:** Three years

**Eligibility:** Pass in Class XII examination/equivalent examination with at least 50 per cent marks in aggregate in five subjects including English as compulsory subject along with four subjects with the highest score out of the remaining subjects.

**MA — Journalism and Mass Communication**

**Duration:** Two years

**Eligibility:** 50 per cent marks in any stream at graduation level from a recognised university with pass in English in Class XII.

**How to apply:** Log on to [manavrachna.edu.in](http://manavrachna.edu.in).

**Duration:** One year

**Eligibility:** 50 per cent marks in any stream at graduation level from a recognised university with pass in English in Class XII.

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# YOUR SKILLS, YOUR FUTURE

The future workplace is going to demand new ways of thinking.  
**DR GAYATHRI VASUDEVAN** tells you how

**T**oday's markets and the lives of students are very different from the need of the emerging markets and the students for whom the existing education systems were developed. In such scenarios, there is a persisting question that needs to be answered — how can education best prepare the youth to navigate their way through an increasingly interconnected, complex and demanding market and the world in which theoretical recall will matter less than their ability of understanding perspectives and befit unconventional job roles.

India is encountering unique social, economic and environmental challenges driven by accelerating globalisation and a faster rate of technological sophistication. At the same time, those strengths are presenting us with myriad new possibilities for work and human advancement.

Education is going through an extensive change. A range of national models, forms and arrangements have developed to cope with the accelerated technological advancements and the dynamic needs of the labour

market. Transforming social paradigms and environments have modified students' motives and career expectations, highlighting on a qualitative change in the workforce towards human resources furnished to a high degree of skills in diversified vocational courses.

Vocational education, or skills-based, education is getting relevant today, with several employers demanding new employees to possess all the necessary practical skills they require to start work and to support their families shortly after senior secondary education.

In India, we believe that education is critical for nation-building. It is also a well-accepted fact that imparting appropriate knowledge and skills to the youth can secure the overall national development and economic growth. The Indian education system recognises the role of education and particularly vocational education.

Given the rapid technological development, vocationalisation of education implies the introduction of diversified technical and vocational education programmes, which need

## VOCATION-BASED EDUCATION OF DEVELOPING POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS IN STUDENTS FOR SOME DEFINITE VOCATIONAL WORK DURING THEIR POST-SCHOOL STAGE IS KEY

to be designed not as narrowly conceived. Vocationally based education of developing positive attitudes and interests in students for some definite vocational work during their post-school stage is the key.

It helps individuals to be more productive through preparation for specific competencies in different vocations. It can't, however, be equated with mere technician training; it is essentially education in the broader sense of the term. It prepares individuals for understanding the social needs and conditions, and to realise their potentiality so that both can be correlated for bringing about the economic development of the country in particular and creating an atmosphere of self-realisation of individuals and prosperity of the nation in general.

To make vocations aspirational, it is essential to alter the fundamental thought process of people very early on with suitable interventions. Need for vocational professionals is demanded more than ever in numerous industries such as auto repair, woodworking, carpentry, blacksmith, cosmetology, retail,

tourism, information technology, funeral services, as well as in the traditional crafts and cottage industries. There are several benefits of vocational education.

■ Technical programmes develop the economy by bridging the demand and supply gap with skilled workers. It allows students to take marketable skills from the classroom directly into the working world.

■ Majority of vocational skills are relevant all over the world, and hence generate many employment opportunities in foreign countries.

■ School drop-outs and adults can receive this type of education as it offers opportunities to learn a skill or trade. There are many well-paid careers for which a college degree is not required.

■ Better vocational education also draws foreign investment and foreign exchange in the form of international conglomerates and students.

■ Hands-on work activities allow direct application of experience and acquired knowledge.

The writer is chairperson and co-founder of LabourNet

indian graduates who have studied in the UK say that they earn above average salaries in their work life. Fifty-one per cent of all Indians graduating from the UK say they earn above or well above average and 90 per cent of women in this group say they earn average or above. 60 per cent of Indian respondents surveyed said they were in their current jobs because it was exactly the type of work they wanted to do, with 82 per cent saying they are satisfied or very satisfied with their careers.

"The job satisfaction of UK graduates is higher, because chances of getting the job of one's choice markedly increases. I think this also leads to more effective work performance and logically, more recognition for one's work. The

likelihood of UK graduates working in India in managerial roles was 23 per cent higher than the global average," said Vivienne Stern, Director, Universities UK International (UUKI), which is the collective body representing more than 130 universities from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A delegation of senior representatives from 20 UK universities is currently in India to engage Indian stakeholders to understand the vision and priority areas of the Indian Government, governing bodies and higher education institutes to assess the role UK universities and the UK can play to further strengthen the relationship and identify shared priorities for future collaboration particularly in education and research. This

delegation is supported by the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI) and is believed to be the largest delegation of its kind in at least a decade.

This data was released in the Indian Graduate Outcomes 2019 study, conducted by UUKI. Close to 1,000 Indian students of a total of 16,000 students from different nationalities who had completed their studies between January 2011 and July 2016 were surveyed to understand their experience of studying in the UK, their satisfaction with their education and their current jobs. The top ten nationalities (as a percentage of

## MIND IT

respondents) in the study include United States of America, China, India, Germany, Nigeria, Greece, Malaysia, Italy, France and Romania representing 45 per cent of the respondent base.

The number of Indian and international students heading to UK for an education is on the rise. There has been a 42 per cent increase in the number of Indian students going to the UK for studies, in one year according to the latest immigration statistics released by the UK Home Office.

This sentiment is echoed world over, with London voted the best city for students

# 'Plenty of options to choose from'

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with SUKHJIT SINGH ANAND about why students should opt for studying in Germany

■ From working in an automobile industry to an education consultant. How did that happen?

The Calculus was established in 1985 as a first retail outlet for personal computers in Regal Building, New Delhi. From there, I went on to be a part of several other businesses. In 2006, my son was looking for options to do his MBA from an international university. Like any other parent, I too looked at countries like the US and the UK. That is when I decided to become a consultant for the US, the UK and Germany. After working in this sector for sometime, I finally decided to just concentrate on promoting Germany as nobody was promoting this country. I like to diversify in an area where no one is working. There are 400 State-funded colleges. They offer 15,000 courses, out of these 1,000 are in English. Their colleges/universities are 100 to 2,000 years old.

■ How are you different from other consultants?

We are the largest German education consultants of India. The others are consultants who promote the US, the UK and Australia where education is commercial. The consultant firms in India work on a commission basis. They try and push the students to opt for colleges/universities and countries from where they get maximum benefit. In Germany, education is free, they offer no commission. Therefore, we charge a fee from the student.

■ What is your fee? What does it include?

We charge ₹60,000. This fee is entirely refundable if the student fails to secure a place in a college. We guide the student through the entire process like how to secure a bank loan; then the visa process. We guide him through the health insurance since Indian health insurance will not work. We also arrange for his accommodation. Once he comes to us, he doesn't have to go anywhere. No other consultant offers this kind of service.

■ Why do the students need a loan if education is free?

Bank loan is for the first year German language and their stay for that year. The course can begin only after the student has learnt the language. This costs ₹6-7 lakh. The language institute arranges for college admission so the student is carefree. The student needs to open an account in the country with ₹10,000 (₹8 lakh approximately) to study in the country. Then there is visa. The ticket cost is ₹30,000. Our fee is ₹60,000 plus 18 per cent GST.

Germany has 13 years of schooling as opposed to 12 in India. The student has to do a Foundation year which is free. But this course is taught in another college from where



Sukhjit Singh Anand  
Managing Partner, The Calculus

he will do his bachelors. This is basically similar to what the student has done in Class XII. The student has to make arrangement for stay (₹6 lakh for a year) since he can't work while doing his Foundation course.

In ₹25 lakh he can do his bachelors and masters. There is a provision for the student to work part-time and earn ₹15 per hour up to 20 hours a week when he is in the college. In a month, he can earn up to ₹1,400 that can go towards his stay and other expenses.

■ What is the procedure?

Before a student can actually start his course, he has to first learn German for one year. Learning the language is not tough for Indian students as it is somewhat similar to English. After that, they can pursue their graduation and/or PG in German language. Also, 90 per cent students go to Germany for engineering which is for three years. Around 80 per cent of the course is practical, only 20 per cent is theoretical. It is not very difficult for our students to follow these theory classes.

■ What about a job?

There is a website: [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com). This site will give you a list of number of jobs available in a particular sector. The country also allows you to stay for 18 months to look for a job which one can get in under six months. There is campus placement for students who excel. Some students may end up with a job even before they complete their programme.

Given the rapid technological development, vocationalisation of education implies the introduction of diversified technical and vocational education programmes, which need

education also provides benefits beyond employment and career goals, providing possible greater thrust to the sustainability and economic goals of their countries of work/ home country.

Seventy per cent of Indian respondents felt they were better equipped to address issues of equitable access to sustainable development, 65 per cent felt they were better equipped to address issues of human rights, good governance and societal justice, while 69 per cent felt they were better equipped to address issues of sustainable economy and society. India respondents were slightly more positive than respondents globally where the corresponding data was at 64 per cent, 65 per cent and 66 per cent respectively.

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AFP ■ PARIS

The visit of Real Madrid to the French capital today means a glamour tie for Paris Saint-Germain to begin their Champions League campaign but a meeting with the Spanish side also brings back unhappy memories.

When the clubs last met in Europe two seasons ago, a PSG side missing an injured Neymar were dumped out in the last 16.

That was one of three consecutive exits in the first knockout round for PSG, who have failed to make their mark on the Champions League despite all the money spent by their Qatari owners.

So the inevitable question at the start of another continental campaign is can Thomas Tuchel's team this time at least reach semi-final in Europe's elite club competition?

Last season it was Manchester United who embarrassed PSG. Since 2012 the only teams PSG have beaten in a Champions League knockout tie are Valencia, Bayer Leverkusen and Chelsea.

#### NEYMAR OVERTHROWS EVERYTHING

For now, PSG will just be eager to make a statement in their opening match. But with Galatasaray and Club Brugge the other teams in Group A, it would be a monumental surprise if PSG failed to progress, even with Neymar suspended for the first two matches.

The world's most expensive player has overshadowed everything else at the club in recent months, with the saga of his hoped-for move back to Barcelona and then his return to action at the weekend, featuring a brilliant winner against Strasbourg in response to boos from angry supporters.

There is no doubt the presence of Neymar gives PSG a far greater chance of winning the biggest prize in European club football, as long as he stays fit.

As well as Neymar's suspension against Real, Kylian Mbappe is still out with a hamstring injury, but the arrival of Mauro Icardi has added another explosive element to their attack.

# Clock is ticking

With Neymar staying and Icardi in, PSG hope to finally deliver in Europe

PSG vs Real Madrid  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 1 NETWORK



Neymar, left, celebrates his goal with PSG's teammate Mauro Icardi during the French League One match against Strasbourg at the Parc des Princes Stadium AP

Icardi was prolific for Inter before being stripped of the club captaincy last season amid a contract dispute. He signed on loan just before the transfer deadline.

It is elsewhere that Paris really needed to strengthen, though.

Tuchel was unable to settle on a first-choice goalkeeper last season between Alphonse Areola and

Gianluigi Buffon. Both have since left and Keylor Navas has signed from Real Madrid to take over the gloves.

Abdou Diallo has provided an extra option in defence after arriving from Borussia Dortmund.

There has been major surgery in the midfield with the signings of Ander Herrera, Idrissa Gueye and Pablo Sarabia.

Whether Marco Verratti can blend with the newcomers to form a midfield as fearsome as it was in the days when he was flanked by Blaise Matuidi and the peerless Thiago Motta, remains to be seen.

Neymar is still there but brilliant as he is, PSG know from experience that the Brazilian alone will not win them the Champions League.

## Neymar's ban cut to 2 games

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar's Champions League ban for insulting match officials on social media has been reduced from three games to two following an appeal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled on Tuesday.

The world's most expensive player following his move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros in 2017 will miss the fixtures against Real Madrid on today and Galatasaray in two weeks' time due to the original ban from UEFA.

However, he will now be free to face Belgian side Bruges on October 22.

"The Sole Arbitrator partially upheld the appeal and reduced the suspension imposed by UEFA on Neymar Jr to two (2) UEFA competition matches for which he would otherwise be eligible," CAS said in a statement.

The Brazilian criticised the referee and his assistants after PSG's last-16 collapse against Manchester United in March which he watched from the stands due to injury.

United were awarded a penalty deep into injury time after a protracted VAR decision, which Marcus Rashford scored to knock the French side out in the last 16 of the Champions League.

"It's a disgrace. They get four guys who don't understand football to watch a slow motion replay in front of the TV," Neymar posted on his Instagram account after the 3-1 defeat.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Napoli Juve/Twitter

## Felix leads charge for revenge

AFP ■ MADRID

Young gun Joao Felix will lead the charge today as Atletico Madrid seek revenge on Juventus and their old enemy Cristiano Ronaldo in a potential fiery Champions League opener.

Felix, touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, will make his debut in Europe's top competition when the Portuguese pair meet at the Wanda Metropolitano, with the La Liga outfit keen to shoot down the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Juventus dumped Atletico out of the competition last year as Ronaldo scored a sensational hat-trick that overturned a 2-0 first-leg deficit and put the Italian champions in the quarter finals.

The former Real Madrid man rounded off the evening by celebrating provocatively in front of the away fans at Juve's Allianz Stadium.

Now Felix is charged with bringing the old master down a peg or two.

The 19-year-old has been hailed as the new 'CR7' after his breakout season at Benfica last year, scoring 20 times as the two-time European champions won the Primeira Liga and reached the Europa League quarter finals.

Ronaldo's former manager at Madrid Jose Mourinho is convinced that Atletico bagged a "an incredible player" for a club record fee of 126 million euros (\$142 million).

The noise surrounding Felix was amplified after a sublime pre-season that included a brace in a 2-1 win over Juve, but Felix has shied away from the comparisons. A poor display in Saturday's 2-0 La Liga loss at Real Sociedad showed that. Despite the obvious promise, it is still too early to speak of Felix and Ronaldo in the same breath.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, is in a rich vein of form, with six goals in five matches this season for club and country, as he hunts a sixth Champions League title and aims to extend his record total of 126 goals in the competition.

Today, Felix has a chance to redeem himself and add to the one goal he has scored so far in Atletico colours, even if Ronaldo's achievements seem a long way off.

"I am here to write my own story," Felix said.

"Cristiano is Cristiano and I want to be myself".

## GUARDIOLA'S CHASE

AFP ■ LONDON

After a series of painful failures, Pep Guardiola is on a mission to seal his Manchester City legacy by finally getting his hands on the trophy again.

City start their latest bid to win the club's first European Cup with a trip to

Shakhtar Donetsk in the Group C opener.

The long flight to the Ukraine will give Guardiola plenty of time to ponder his curious streak of Champions League flops in recent years.

Guardiola has conquered English football spectacularly after winning the last two Premier League titles, the

Shakhtar vs Man City  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY SIX NETWORK

first in record-breaking fashion and the second as part of an unprecedented domestic treble last season.

Yet the Champions League has proved impossible for Guardiola to master since

he arrived at the Etihad Stadium.

In fact, Europe's elite club competition has been a cruel mistress for Guardiola for most of the last decade, with a series of frustrating exits during his spells in charge of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City.

Guardiola first won the

Champions League as a manager in 2009 with Barcelona.

But he has failed to reach the semi-finals in any of his three seasons as City boss, extending his long wait to win the tournament for the third time — his second triumph coming with Barca in 2011.

City's best Champions League run was under Guardiola's predecessor Manuel Pellegrini, who made the semi-finals in the last season before the Spaniard took over.

## 4 Indians march into quarters



Amit Panghal (52kg) in action during a bout against Batuhan Ciftci PTI

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

The Indian juggernaut seemed unstoppable as four boxers, including Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg), advanced to the quarterfinals with impressive victories to round off an all-win outing at the World Men's Championships here on Tuesday.

Asian Games Gold-medallist and second seed Panghal was joined by Asian Silver-winner and fifth seed Kavinder Singh Bish (57kg) and the debutant duo of Commonwealth Games Silver-winner Manish Kaushal (63kg) and Sanjeet (91kg).

Panghal defeated Turkey's Batuhan Ciftci, while Kaushal stunned fourth-seeded Mongolian Chinzorig Baatarsukh, who is an Asian Games Silver-medallist and also a two-time medal-winner at the Asian Championships. Both the Indians claimed 5-0 victories.

Sanjeet (91kg) then caused another massive upset by defeating second-seeded Uzbek Sanjar Tursunov 4-1. Tursunov a Bronze-medallist from the previous World Championship besides

being an Asian Silver-winner.

In the evening session, Bish defeated Finland's Arslan Khatayev 3-2 to claim a second successive quarterfinal spot at the marquee tournament.

Second-seeded Panghal, the reigning Asian champion, will next be up against Filipino Carlo Paalam, who had lost to Panghal in the semifinals of the Asian Games in Jakarta last year. Paalam defeated Korea's Jo Sehyeong in a unanimous verdict in his pre-quarterfinal bout.

Kaushik, on the other hand, will square off against Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira. Oliveira defeated Japan's Saisuke Narimatsu in his last-16 stage bout.

Sanjeet will be up against seventh-seeded Julio Cesa Castillo Torres of Ecuador. Torres got the better of Hungary's Adam Hamor.

Awaiting Bish in the last-eight stage is fourth-seeded Englishman Peter McGrail, a former Gold-medallist at the European Championships and reigning Commonwealth Games champion.

## Dipa is down but not out



Dipa Karmakar performs during 2018 Asiad PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star India gymnast Dipa Karmakar has just not yet given up on her dreams of qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, insists long-time coach Bishweshwar Nandi, after his ward failed to recover in time for next month's World Artistic Gymnastics Championship.

Dipa's Tokyo dreams suffered a severe setback, when she failed to recover from a nagging right knee injury to make it to the World Championships, an Olympic qualifier, to be held at Stuttgart, Germany from October 4 to 13.

Long-time coach Nandi admitted that the road to Olympics would be extremely tough considering Dipa will need at least two months to get back to training.

"Dipa was upset after missing the World Championship but she is mentally strong and I know that she will make a successful comeback to international gymnastics," Nandi said.

"She is still undergoing rehab. I will start her training only after getting a clearance from the doctor and the physio. As her coach, I need to think about (her) life beyond gymnastics as well. Hopefully by November end, we'll get the go ahead and after that another two months of training and she should be back."

Asked about the Olympics qualification, Nandi said: "There are three World cups starting about three months after the world championship but it would be much tougher to qualify now."

"She will need to win Gold or Silver in all the three World Cups next year to qualify. But she is taking it up as a challenge. We are not yet giving up hope."

"If she unfortunately misses the Tokyo, there is 2024 Paris Olympics," Nandi put up a brave front.

## Mirabai eyes Olympic berth

PTI ■ PATTAYA

Former champion Mirabai Chanu will look to repeat her 2017 Gold-medal winning feat and seal an Olympic spot when she spearheads the Indian challenge at the World Weightlifting Championship, starting here today.

The ace Indian weightlifter, who had won the Gold in the 48kg category at the 2017 World Weightlifting Championships, remains India's brightest medal prospect but she needs to significantly step up her game to salvage hopes of a podium finish here.

The 25-year-old, who jumped from 48kg to 49kg following the International Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) decision to re-jig weight categories, has logged personal bests at two of the three events that she has competed this year.

In the last edition, Thai weightlifter Chayutra Pramongkhon, who is currently embroiled in a dope scandal, had broken the World record in the women's 49kg category by lifting 209kgs (89+120) to take home the Gold, while the Silver and Bronze went for 208kgs and 206kgs, respectively.

This year Mirabai will be competing alongside 2018's Silver and Bronze medal winners



Mirabai Chanu in a file picture Mirabai/Twitter

China's Hou Zhihui, who is also the current world record holder in the 49kg category, and Jiang Huihua respectively.

The two Chinese weightlifters have logged an entry weight of 210kg, a whopping 10 kgs more than Mirabai's 200kg. Ri Song-gum of North Korea and Dominican Republic's Beatriz Piron have also set it at 200kg.

The diminutive Manipuri is aware of the competition posed by the Chinese and is working towards reaching the 210kg mark.

"I have lifted 203kg in training. My aim is 210kg but it has to be done slowly, hopefully till Tokyo I will be able to achieve it," Mirabai said.

## Satwik-Ashwini notch up stunning win

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

India's mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa stunned Indonesia's world No 7 combination of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti in the opening round of the China Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Rankireddy then paired with Chirag Shetty to beat the Canadian duo of Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-18 in a 30-minute match to enter the men's doubles second round. The Indian pair now face the fourth seeded Japanese duo of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda.

World No 26 Satwik and Ashwini showed their grit as they recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit the sixth seeded Indonesian pair 22-20, 17-21, 21-17 in a 50-minute match to enter the second round of the \$1,000,000 World Tour super 1000 tournament.

Jordan and Melati have so far reached five finals, including the 2018 India Open, but they wilted under the



Ashwini Ponnappa & Satwik in a file picture

relentless pressure created by the Indian pair.

The Indian pair had fallen back 4-7 early on but they reeled off five straight points to turn the tables and then held a slender 11-10 advantage at the break.

Jordan and Melati, however, built up a huge lead of 18-12 after the interval but the Indian duo slowly erased the deficit and caught up at 20-20 and then sealed the opening game.

In the decider, Satwik and Ashwini changed their tactics and jumped to a 4-2 lead initially. The Indian duo kept things under control, entering the break with a 11-6 lead.

Jordan and Melati tried to make a comeback but the Indian pair kept their nose ahead to shut the doors on their fancied rivals.

# India look to drawing first blood



Ravindra Jadeja bowls during India's nets session ahead of 2nd T20 at PCA Stadium in Mohali on Tuesday

**After Dharamshala washout, Men in Blue search first home T20 win against Proteas**

## PERFORMANCE IN TWENTY-20 CRICKET

Team (Rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (4th)	118	73	41	1	3	63.55
South Africa (3rd)	113	67	44	1	1	60.17
Ind vs SA	13	8	5	-	-	61.53

## HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	203-5 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	219-4 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

## LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	92 in 17.2 overs at Cuttack	05-10-2015
South Africa	116-9 in 20 overs at Durban	20-09-2007

## HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India	106 Rohit Sharma at Dharamshala	02-10-2015
South Africa	78 Colin Ingram at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

## BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES

India	5-24 Bhuvneshwar at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	3-12 Albie Morkel at Cuttack	05-10-2015

## FAISAL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Rishabh Pant's form would be an important subplot when India look to seize the advantage against South Africa in the second T20 International here on Wednesday after a washout in Dharamsala effectively made the series a two-match affair.

The T20 World Cup is more than 12 months away but India captain Virat Kohli has already detailed his plans and expectations from the youngsters in the side.

The skipper did not expect to get a bagful of opportunities when he arrived on the international scene and believes the current crop of youngsters also need to make it count in the limited time they are going to get.

One of them is 21-year-old Rishabh Pant, who can't be bracketed as a "youngster" anymore having made his

debut back in February 2017. Not a single ball was bowled in the series-opener but there was enough happening on the sidelines and most of it was focussed on Pant.

In a chat with the host broadcaster, the message for Pant from the team management was loud and clear: he can't repeatedly throw his wicket away and if he does "there will be a rap on the knuckles".

"We'll let him be but at times when you see a shot, like the first ball dismissal in Trinidad (during the tour of West Indies), if he repeats that, then he will be told. There will be a rap on the knuckles, talent or no talent," said head coach Ravi Shastri ahead of the series-opener.

With Kohli still very much open to having Mahendra Singh Dhoni back on board, pressure is mounting on Pant to do justice to his rich talent.

Considering the circum-

stances, it was not a surprise that Pant had a hit in the nets right after the team flew here from Dharamsala on Monday.

Pressure will also be on leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and off-spinner Washington Sundar, both of whom have been picked ahead of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal for the second straight series. With 20-odd games to go before the World Cup, the Indian team wants to boost its batting which will require number 8, 9 and 10 to score runs on a regular basis, something which has never been India's strength.

Will a deep batting line-up compromise India's ability to wake wickets in the middle overs? Only time will tell.

It is also an important series for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who have been brought back into the side to solidify the middle order.

The game will also be an opportunity for Shikhar Dhawan to play a substantial knock, having endured a lean tour of the West Indies by his standards.

It is a ground he is fond of, having scored a memorable 187 on his Test debut and more recently a 143 in the ODI against Australia in March this year, albeit in a losing cause.

On the other hand, it will be an uphill task for South Africa to beat this Indian side, which has been on a roll for most part.

Time in the middle for a team in transition would have been valuable but rain robbed the Proteas of that opportunity in Dharamsala.

The Kagiso Rabada-led attack would have to bowl really well to contain the Indian batsmen especially skipper Kohli, who played one of his best knocks against Australia in March 2016, the last T20 played here, to take India to the World T20 semi-finals.



Vikram Rathour speaks during press conference ahead of 2nd T20

PTI

## Fine line between fearless and careless cricket: Rathour

PTI ■ MOHALI

The youngsters in the Indian team have got a clear message from the management — to understand that there is a fine line between "fearless cricket and careless cricket", new batting coach Vikram Rathour said on Tuesday.

The message conveyed was directed mainly at the likes of Pant, who have been often criticised for his reckless choice of shots.

"At times, we over emphasise on technique. It is more about the mindset at this level, getting your gameplan right. As far as Rishabh is concerned, he is a phenomenal player, he just needs to sort out his gameplan, needs to bring in a little bit of discipline in his cricket," said Rathour on

"Those two are very fine cricketers who have done really well in domestic cricket. Shreyas has got a good start (in ODIs against the West Indies). Manish has done well in the past and made a comeback after performing consistently in domestic cricket. I am confident they will come good, they just need to be more consistent."

India have begun their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia next year and there is a significant shift in the way they will approach their batting in the shortest format.

Kohli wants the team to bat deep, increasing the expectations from spin all-rounders Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar.

## Senior players inspire & motivate us to get better

PTI ■ MOHALI

The experience of playing with the Haryana Steelers has been marvellous. This is my first Pro Kabaddi League and I couldn't have asked for a better team to start my PKL career with. The management is fantastic. Everyone is supportive and motivates one another to perform to the best of their abilities. All players are aware of their responsibilities and each of them execute their plans, therefore there's not much pressure on the players.

I was a bit nervous at the start of the league and therefore I hesitated to carry out my game freely on a few occasions, but, as I kept playing matches, I kept getting better and better. I kept honing my skills with each match and now I feel very confident every time I step on the mat. I have realised that if I follow whatever the coach and captain tell me to do, I will always perform for my team.

Vikash Kandola and I discuss before every match about the skills I should work on. We talk about where I should attack to pick up points for the team. Vikash tells me just before I start my raid on the mat — when I should attack and when I should carry out an empty raid. Haryana Steelers' coach Rakesh Kumar has taught me a very important skill this season. He has told me that an immediate reaction is imperative for success in kabaddi. The coach has largely focused on immediate reaction and escape skills this season. Rakesh is very shrewd when it comes to tactics and I have been very lucky to train under him in PKL-7. Being a young player, I wasn't sure that I would get a chance to play. But I knew that if I get a chance then I would definitely make the most of it. I am very pleased with the fact that I have been able to grab my opportunities and be one of the best raiders of Haryana Steelers this season.

I really enjoy playing with established players like Vikash Kandola, Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Prashanth Kumar Rai. Dharmaraj has a fantastic knowledge of match situations. His experience has been invaluable for the team. He knows how the team should react to every situation and keep improving. If Haryana is behind in the scoreline in a certain match, then Dharmaraj knows how the side can make a comeback in the match. The senior players make the strategy for the team, but now I am starting to understand how a team should work out plans before a match.

The Pro Kabaddi League is a great platform for youngsters to showcase their skills. The players can test their skills against the best players from around the world. The level of competition is very high and therefore if a youngster performs in this competition then he can certainly gain a lot of confidence for the rest of his kabaddi career. At the moment, I am looking to maintain my fitness and practice regularly. And going forward, I want to represent the Indian kabaddi team. Playing and achieving great heights for my country is the ultimate dream for me.

(The writer (VINAY) plays for Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League season 7)

## Double-edged sword



Quinton De Kock and Kagiso Rabada during practice session

why that would change without them being here.

"Even they in their career have had to do the same thing we are doing. So we will take it as it comes. In the leadership group in the team we have had a chat (on grooming the youngsters). It is under control so far but we are still learning as part of a young leadership group."

De Kock said some youngsters could get a longer rope while some may not.

"I am not going to put a number on it. For some it could be one, for some it could be 10, so can't really say."

It has effectively become a two-match series with the series opener in Dharamsala being washed out.

"It is a bit of a negative," said de Kock.

"We would like to have played three games against the Indian team. Leading into the World Cup, to lose out on a game in different conditions, it is not ideal but it is what it is."



Rohit Sharma in a file picture

PTI

## Too good to ignore

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly appointed India batting coach Vikram Rathour feels Rohit Sharma is "too good a player" to not be playing in all three formats and backed him to do well as a Test opener in all conditions.

Rohit is one of the greats of white-ball cricket but has had a start-stop Test career. He has been given another opportunity in the five-day format, this time as an opener in the upcoming series against South Africa.

"He is too good a player to not be playing in any game. That is what everyone is thinking. He has done so well in white-ball cricket as an opener so there is no reason why he can't succeed as a Test opener provided he gets enough opportunities," Rathour said ahead of the second T20 against South Africa here on Monday adding that, "If he comes good, he will be a huge asset for the team."

Rohit will be getting the opportunity to open in Tests at home but Rathour said the stylish batsman has it in him to succeed overseas also.

"At the moment, I am not too sure what the playing eleven for the first Test will be but if Rohit does well and is opening, why not," he said, when asked about the possibility of him opening on overseas tours.

## Paddlers remain in champions division

PTI ■ YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team beat Singapore 3-0 in the 5-8 classification match in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships to remain in the champions division of the continental event here on Tuesday.

In another Olympic category, Seema Bisla (50kg) lost her pre-quarterfinal 2-9 to three-time Olympic medallist Mariya Stadnik.

Like Vinesh, she too remained in hunt for bronze and Olympic qualification as Stadnik reached the final.

"It's not that Mariya was more powerful than me. She is more experienced than me. I have just competed in 5-6 competitions in 50kg. I am learning and will get better," said Seema.

In the non-Olympic categories, Komal Gole was too defensive against Turkey's Beste Altug and lost her 72kg Qualification bout 1-4 while Lalita was outplayed 3-10 by Mongolia's Bolortuya Bat Ochir in 55kg.

Both Lalita and Komal are now out of the championship since Bolortuya and Altug later lost their quarter-finals.

The next championships in 2021. India will play Hong Kong in the match for fifth position.

"This is an achievement in itself," said Sharath Kamal, who played an important role in India's 3-0 win over Singapore.

Sathyan beat Poh Shao Feng Ethan in straight games (11-5, 11-11, 13-11). But Sharath needed to dig deep into his vast experience to beat Pang Yew En Koen 7-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-3 and put India 2-0 ahead.

## Vinesh to fight for Bronze



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

the World Wrestling Championship here on Tuesday.

Mukaida later reached the final to help Vinesh stay in the medal hunt as well as Tokyo Olympics qualification. Two victories will ensure her place in Tokyo Olympics.

Vinesh will now have to beat three wrestlers in the repechage—Yuliia Khavaldzhy Blahinya from Ukraine, world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt and then Maria Prevotaraki from Greece to win her first World medal.

She will now have to beat three wrestlers in the repechage—Yuliia Khavaldzhy Blahinya from Ukraine, world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt and then Maria Prevotaraki from Greece to win her first World medal.

It was second consecu-

tive defeat for Vinesh against the Japanese this season after losing to the two-time world champion at the Asian Championship in China.

Vinesh has CWG and Asian Games titles but is yet to win a medal at the Worlds.

"Japan is a wrestling powerhouse. It takes some time to attack these girls. It's about one technique, one move one point that changes the bout. I tried, it did not happen and she succeeded," Vinesh told PTI after her bout.

Vinesh said Mukaida was no different from the Asian Champion though she and her coach Woller Akos had plotted the fall of the formidable Japanese.

"It happens. But Mukaida is not the only target for me. We focus on all wrestlers. Everyone is tough in 53kg. It's not over yet," said Vinesh.