

WORLD 7
 WILL TURN ATTACKING COUNTRY INTO BATTLEFIELD: IRAN

MONEY 8
 'TAX CUT TO HAVE MINOR IMPACT ON FISCAL DEFICIT'

SPORT 10
 DEEPAK PUNIA ENTERS WORLD FINAL



sunday pioneer

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NEW DELHI, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2019; PAGES 12-4 ₹4



USUAL SUSPECTS

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Babul episode warrants guidelines for varsities

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

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

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

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

prosecuted as per the law. Being students should not be a ground for sanctioning irresponsible behaviour. More so since the meeting convened by the ABVP had prior permission from the university authorities.

While judgment on this issue is relatively easy, should university authorities accord permission for meetings that, say, advocate secessionist? What should be the Lakshman Rekha of free speech? This is an issue that warrants urgent attention and even some codification. Things have reached such a pass that such decisions can no longer be left to the good sense of university authorities that are very susceptible to local political pressures.

The second issue that needs some attention is that of police entry into the campus. By convention, campuses have their own security and police is denied entry. In Jadavpur, the Vice Chancellor made a huge issue of it and said that he would rather resign than let the police in. It is fortunate that no one got seriously hurt because otherwise his judgment would have been regarded as both foolish and pig-headed. Yet there was a definite case for the police to come in to the campus for the limited purpose of ensuring the safe passage of the Minister. Having the police inside would not have defiled the campus unless, of course, the police is viewed as goons in uniform. I believe that the wide discretion allowed to university authorities on this matter should be replaced by broad guidelines that are set at the national level. If there can be a FIR on a matter inside the campus, it follows that the police should have some responsibility for maintaining order if the need arises. This is a delicate matter that can easily be misconstrued and that is why the importance of guidelines. To this must be added common sense.

In the past, life in a campus was guided by restraint, responsibility and good sense. This understanding has clearly broken down. This is why the need for guidelines and codification arises. Let us learn a few lessons from the incidents in Jadavpur last Thursday.

Maha, Haryana to go to polls on Oct 21

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exactly a month from now, BJP-ruled Maharashtra and Haryana will go to polls — the first election since the Lok Sabha elections and the Government's key decisions on Article 370 and triple talaq.

While the polls in the two States will be held on October 21, the counting of votes will be held on October 24. The term of the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 9 and that of the 90-member Haryana Assembly expires on November 2. The dates for Jharkhand Assembly polls will be announced later.

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

In Haryana, the Congress is exploring a tie-up with the

BSP, which has announced its intentions to go it alone and is also cut up with the principal Opposition party for having engineered a defection of six of its MLAs to join its camp in Rajasthan.

In both the States, the BJP is expected to espouse the cause of nationalism among the masses by pitching its "strong" decision to abrogate the special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370. It would also point to its another "bold" decision of banning the triple talaq practice among Muslims to reach out to the women from the minority community.

Soon after the announcement of the poll schedule, leaders of the ruling coalition exuded confidence of winning a second consecutive term in Maharashtra with Devendra Fadnavis asserting he will be back as the Chief Minister. State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said given the response to the "Mahajanadesh Yatra" of Fadnavis, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance is likely to get more than 220 seats.

With the BJP taking centre stage even in the Lok Sabha polls contested in 2014 and 2019, the Congress' hold in its strongholds of Vidarbha, Marathwada and Mumbai region has weakened. Similarly, the NCP is struggling to retain its pocket-borough of western

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

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

among them. The Congress and the NCP have decided to contest 125 seats each out of the total 288 seats in the polls.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi would again be the main face of the BJP poll



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

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

In contrast, the BJP, which has netted a number of NCP leaders, has attacked Sharad Pawar, saying his period of dominance is over. "Breaking and making parties" kind of politics practiced by the NCP chief is now catching up with his party with the passage of time, said Fadnavis in Mumbai, stepping up his campaign.

The BJP, which won 122 seats in the 2014 Assembly polls, had a vote share of 27.81 per cent, well ahead of the Congress' 17.95 per cent.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Detailed report on P5

CAPSULE

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

MARRIED WOMEN HAPPIER THAN THOSE IN LIVE-IN
New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday will release findings of a survey conducted by a Sangh-linked organisation that claims married women are more happy than those in live-in relationships. P5

150 DIED ON YAMUNA E-WAY IN 2019: DATA
Noida: The Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh witnessed over 150 deaths in road accidents this year so far, the maximum ever since it got operational in 2012, according to official data. P4

UP FARMERS' MARCH TO DELHI HALTED AT BORDER
Noida/New Delhi: Hundreds of farmers from Uttar Pradesh, marching to Kisan Ghat in the national Capital for payment of sugarcane dues, loan waivers and cheap electricity, were stopped at the Delhi-UP border on Saturday while a delegation was allowed to meet officials at the Krishi Bhavan. P4

Largest crowd for foreign leader in US awaits Modi

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

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Indian-Americans in Houston are all set to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the mega "Howdy, Modi" event on Sunday, to be attended by 50,000 audience, the largest gathering ever for an elected foreign leader visiting the US, other than the Pope.

The three-hour "Howdy, Modi!" event in which President Donald Trump will join Prime Minister Modi is being organised at the sprawling NRG Football Stadium, with an impressive history of shows that starred Beyonce, Metallica, U2.

Indian Ambassador Harsh V Shringla previewed the event at NRG Stadium, where preparations were in full swing with



Prime Minister Narendra Modi enplanes for his visit to the US in New Delhi on Saturday

over 1,500 volunteers working round the clock to make it a memorable event.

Meanwhile, the US and India are racing to negotiate a limited trade deal that Trump Modi can sign at the UNGA in New York, people familiar with the talks said.

A car rally was organised at the NRG stadium, where more than 200 cars participated, fluttering flags of both India and the US to signify the friendship between the two countries. Turn to Page 4

Chandrayaan-2's orbiter doing stellar work: Sivan

Gaganyaan next priority, says ISRO chairman

SUMEET SHARMA/PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR/CHENNAI

The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's ensemble of eight scientific instruments is performing very well and is expected to

continue its stellar work for about seven and a half years, ISRO Chairman K Sivan said on Saturday.

As the prospects of re-establishing contact with "Vikram" lander have virtually ended after the conclusion of 14 Earth days, ISRO said it will take up a study to ascertain what exactly happened to it.

Sivan said after Chandrayaan, ISRO's next priority is Gaganyaan mission.

"We have set a target of achieving it by December 2020; and the second unmanned mission is targeted in July 2021. By December 2021, an Indian will first be carried by our own rocket to space," Sivan said.

In a first, ED attaches 3 chimps, 4 monkeys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to prevent a wildlife smuggler of West Bengal from claiming ownership of three chimpanzees and four marmosets (long-tailed South American monkeys) recovered from him, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has, for the first time, attached the endangered animals under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The wild animals have been kept in Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata. ED sources said smuggler Supradip Guha will be probed under the money laundering case.

The ED said the first-of-its-kind attachment under the PMLA "enabled" zoo authorities to retain the animals as the



smuggler was trying to take them away on forged papers.

An attachment by the ED renders an asset out of bounds for its owner and it can be further confiscated by the agency after the Adjudicating Authority of the PMLA, a quasi-judicial body, approves the attachment within 180 days of seizure.

Turn to Page 4

'Gully Boy' India's official entry to Oscar awards

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Zoya Akhtar's "Gully Boy", featuring Ranveer Singh as an aspiring rapper, has been selected as India's official entry in the International Feature Film category at the Oscars, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced on Saturday.

"India's official entry for Oscars this year is 'Gully Boy'. There were 27 films in the running this year but it was an unanimous decision to select 'Gully Boy'," FFI secretary general Supran Sen told PTI.

The movie, which was released across the country on February 14, also features Alia Bhatt, Vijay Raaz, Kalki Koechlin, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Vijay Varma. Ranveer said it is a proud moment for the entire team.

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Har Pal Apke Saath

SHOW TIME

Rambo lives on



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But you forgive the verbal intrusion for his is Sly — Old, introspective, lonely, traumatised and yet the ultimate defender.

Sweet and lots of fun moments

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

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena



Miles to go for this star kid

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

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Day

Oktoberfest

Venue: The Irish House, Nehru Place & Noida
Date: Till September 22, 2019
Time: 12 noon to 1 am
Cost: ₹1,400 for two
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Oktoberfest is all about beer, and to give you the right vibe of it, The Irish House has curated some crazy beer deals on domestic & imported pints, craft & draught beers. Get your favourite domestic & imported beer pints at steal prices all through the festive season. Grab your bucket of any three domestic pints at just ₹495++ with a variety of options to choose from Kingfisher, Kingfisher Ultra, Heineken, Budweiser, Bira, Simba, Carlsberg, & Tuborg. Buckets of any 3 imported pints of brands like Sol, Kronenbourg, Corona Extra, Hoegaarden, Stella Artois, Hopper, & Kati Patang are all available at ₹995++.

Standup Special by Guptaaji

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

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

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

Appurv, who is an engineer turned comedian has always created relatable content which strikes a chord with his audience and that has contributed immensely to his ever-growing popularity. His previous acts- AppurView, Relationship or RelationShit, Laugh with an Engineer and Best of Guptaaji have been huge hits with the audiences and Kaafi Wild Hai promises to be another laughter riot.



Angrezi medium

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

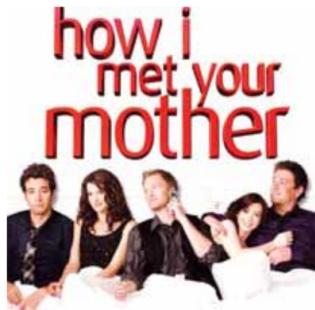


From the adaptation of Hollywood shows like *Hostages*, *24* to remakes like *The Office*, the foreign content which once didn't have many takers, now makes for an interesting watch for the audience. So much so that the producers are in no mood to stop experimenting or getting inspired from the Hollywood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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

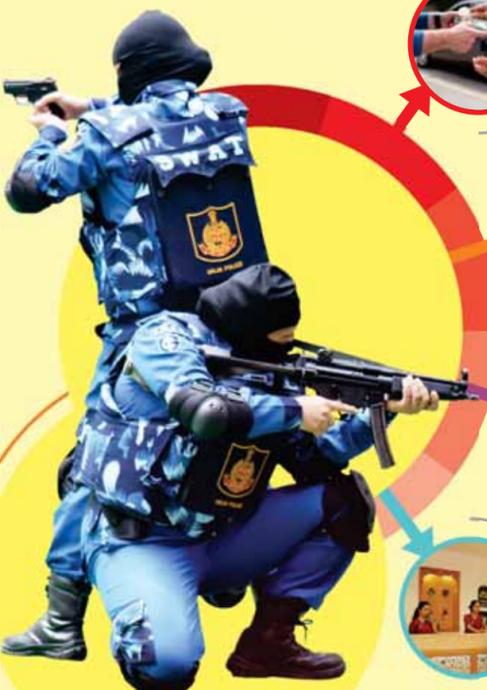
"Apart from the English channels which have been promoting the English content aggressively from the past few years, there are some digital mediums too that are coming up with English content and is changing their entire offering on the basis of some of the English shows. This in itself is an indicator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

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



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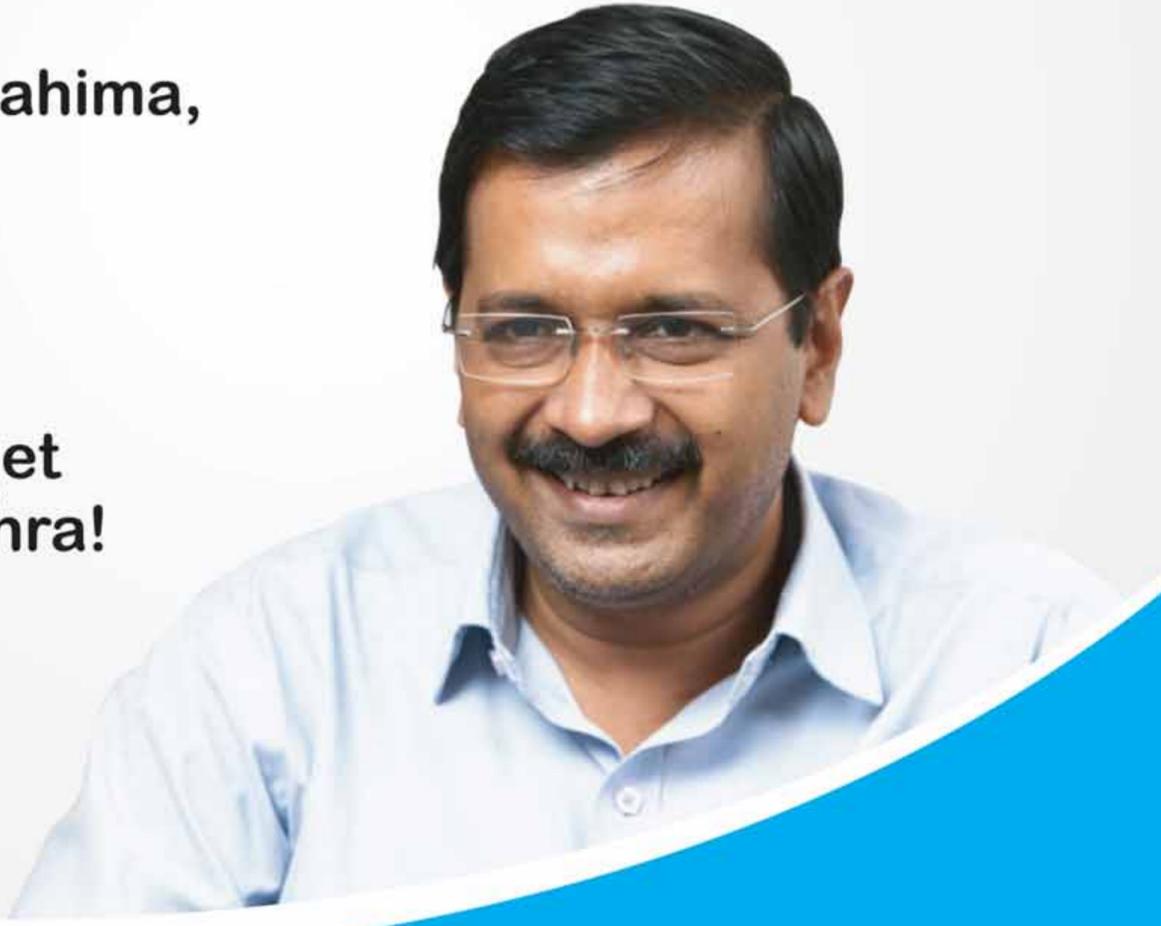
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DP/9155/19

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First check your home,
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Khan Sahab,
Garima and Mahima,
Mrs. Maurya,
Mr. Bansal,
Mr. Reddy,
Mrs. Rawat
and don't forget
to call Mr. Mishra!



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coolers, vases and everywhere around your house. If you find stagnant water
anywhere either pour it away, replace it or add some oil/petrol into it. And once you've
checked your home, do remember to call 10 friends and ask them to do the same.

When you check your home, do take a selfie and Whatsapp
it to me on 8287972050. I will come and visit some of Delhi's
Champions in the coming weeks.



दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

Farmers end protest on assurance

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The farmers camping at the Uttar Pradesh-Delhi border since Friday ended their protest on Saturday evening after Union Agriculture Ministry assured action on five of their 15 demands.

According to Rajendra Yadav, UP in-charge of the Bharatiya Kisan Sanghathan, a delegation of farmers met Agriculture Ministry officials on Saturday afternoon who agreed on 5 of the 15 demands following which they have ended their protest.

"The Ministry officials told us that the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister are not in the city and as soon as they will be available, the remaining 10 demands will be discussed," said Yadav.

"The officials also assured us to look into our demand for insurance schemes for crops, farmers and their families. The officials also said that they will also see possibilities into 14-day payment window for sugarcane, making rivers pollution-free and involvement of farmers in the crop rate determination," said Yadav.

Hundreds of farmers from various parts of Uttar Pradesh (UP) started their march on Saturday morning from Sector 69, Noida, towards Kisan Ghat in New Delhi, to raise their demands of payment of sugar-



Farmers block the highway during their agitation at NH24 in Ghazipur border on Saturday

Committee's recommendation.

Heavy security, including paramilitary forces, was deployed on the route of the march. Farmers were expected to enter Delhi from Ghazipur border via NH 24.

Alok Kumar, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Eastern Range-Delhi at Delhi-UP border near Ghazipur, said, "We are coordinating with UP police. In the afternoon that the protestors have been stopped at Delhi-UP border but the traffic situation was normal. One delegation has gone to meet officials in the national capital."

The UP Government has set October 31 as the deadline for sugar mills to clear dues of cane growers, UP State Minister Suresh Rana said, warning strict action against defaulters. The agitating farmers later in the day called off the protest after the Government assured them.

cane crop dues, full loan waiver and making electricity free for farming amongst others.

However, they were stopped at the Delhi-UP border on Saturday while a delegation was allowed to meet officials at the Krishna Bhavan. The farmers are protesting under the banner of Bharat Kisan Union (BKU).

The security was beefed up along the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border in the wake of the protest march, launched by the farmers on September 17.

The farmers who had stayed in Noida on Friday were

at Delhi Gate, on the Delhi-Ghaziabad border, around noon, causing an obstruction in traffic along the route. "Traffic is obstructed in both carriageways from Ghazipur Border UP Gate on NH-9, NH-24 towards Nizamuddin due to the farmers' rally," the Delhi Traffic Police tweeted.

While in Noida, the farmers held talks with government representatives but those failed to materialize on Friday. They are on their way to Kisan Ghat, the memorial of the former Prime Minister and farmers' leader Chaudhary Charan

Singh, in the national capital. Among their other major demands is the implementation of the Swaminathan

THEIR DEMANDS

- Waiving the debts and loans of all the farmers
- Free electricity for irrigation
- Free education and health facilities
- A pension of ₹5K per month for farmers and labourers above 60
- Crop prices to be decided in the presence of farmers
- Accident insurance scheme for farmers
- Set up AIIMS and High Court in western Uttar Pradesh
- Farmers should be paid price of sugarcane with interest

Four women beaten twice within eight days outside their house by masked men

New Delhi: A 30-year-old woman, seeking divorce from her husband and pursuing a criminal case against him, was beaten twice within eight days along with her mother, sister and sister-in-law with batons by some masked men in full public view outside their house at Sangam Vihar in South Delhi.

Poonam, along with her three women relatives, were first assaulted on September 10 for pursuing the divorce case against her husband Prem Chand, 35 and then again on Tuesday this week for reporting the matter to police with the video of the twin assault having gone viral on social media.

Confirming the incident of mass assault on hapless women, police on Saturday said they have already arrested four men involved in the incident which occurred on September 10.

The police made the arrest after registering a criminal case under section 308 for attempting to cause culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

The police, however, is yet to arrest Prem Chand despite the woman, having named him in the case. They said they are investigating the matter.

Poonam said she had married Prem Chand in 2010, but her love marriage has gone sour.

"It was a love marriage and we had good relation for the first four months. He, however, started beating me after four months, following which I filed a divorce suit and criminal case against him around ten months ago," said Poonam. She said she and her relatives were beaten up first on September 10, when there were four women and two kids present in the house.

"Chand came to our house on September 10 night along with his associates and assaulted us. He held me by hairs and dragged me out of the house. That time, my brother and father were not present in the house. I sustained injuries along with my mother, my sister and sister-in-law," she said.

Poonam and Chand are both residents of Sangam Vihar area.

"Chand sent some people again on Tuesday who assaulted us with batons," she said.

"I want to leave him but he is not ready to accept it. I am so scared of him that I can not even step out of my house," Poonam added. **PTI**

DHFC chief to fund education of daily wager's son at NIT Delhi



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Housing Finance Corporation chairman Rajesh Goyal has come forward to bear the educational expenses of a daily-wager couple's 17-year-old son who has secured admission to the National Institute of Technology here after availing free coaching under a Delhi Government scheme, officials said on Saturday. Amarjeet and his parents, Sohan Lal and Kavita, lives in the cramped quarters of Dharampur and could not afford to avail private coaching for entrance examinations. He was enrolled in 'Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana' — a free coaching scheme of the Delhi government which was launched in 2017. He was part of the first batch of students under the scheme and got coaching from Sachdeva New PT College.

According to officials, Amarjeet's educational expenses would be around ₹1 lakh each year. He aspires to join the Indian Administrative Services.

Earlier, Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam had announced to fund the education of a daily wager's daughter, Shashi, who secured admission to Lady Hardinge College after clearing the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test.

Shashi's father, 47-year-old Akhilesh Kumar Gaur, who studied till class 12, earns ₹400 per day for plastering walls. Her mother never attended school.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier announced that a resident of the national capital has decided to sponsor the education of Vijay Kumar who had secured a seat in IIT-Delhi after availing the government's free coaching scheme.

The aim of 'Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana' is to provide free quality coaching for economically disadvantaged candidates for various competitive and entrance examinations. Earlier, only meritorious Dalit students were eligible for availing free coaching. The government recently extended the scheme to economically weaker candidates from other backward castes and the general category, too.

Centre should make law to allocate 6% of GDP to education: Manish Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday demanded a law be made to allocate at least six per cent of GDP to education.

Sisodia, who also holds the portfolio of Education Minister, attended a special meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) convened by the Union Human Resource Department (HRD) Ministry to discuss and finalise the National Education Policy.

In a meeting, he asked that the preamble to the policy should state that "providing good quality education would be the responsibility of Government through Government schools".

Lauding few provisions of the policy, Sisodia highlighted that unless there is a law which binds the Governments to allocate the fund, the policy per se will not result in the

transformation of Education in India.

"Just like Governments are bound by law to have ceiling on fiscal deficit or one country one tax system, similarly to implement the provision of the New Education Policy, the Governments should be bound to spend at least 6% of GDP," Sisodia said.

Stressing on the quality of education being delivered in government schools should be at par with the private schools. "Going to private schools should just be an option, not a necessity due to the lack of quality education in our government schools," the education minister said.

"Only five percent of children get access to quality education, the rest 95 percent have been getting average quality education. It needs to change. It is the job of the Government to provide education to all children," he added.

Downpour drenches Delhi, waterlogging triggers traffic snarls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Impulsive rain on Saturday brought respite from humid weather for Delhiites but city remained 'stand still' due to long hours of traffic snarls at different locations.

Delhi Traffic Police (DTP) reported waterlogging at the outer side of the Old Delhi Railway Station towards Chatta rail—Chatta rail to Hanuman Setu, Gol Dak Khana towards Kashmiri Gate under the railway bridge.

Updating weekly weather forecast, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in its website marked September 22, 23 and 26 rainy day. "The minimum temperature will remain 26 degree Celsius and maximum temperature will fluctuate between 32 degree and 35 degree Celsius," Delhi wing of IMD updated.

Delhi people took twitter and shared traffic choke points. Tis Hazari Court gate no-1 towards Boulevard Road (Both carriageway), Baraf Khana chowk towards Panchvati (Both carriageway) were the few locations where water logging reported.

In West Delhi zone of the capital, traffic snarls witnessed towards National Highway - 8 on Dwarka Link Road. Majnu Ka Tilla Footover Bridge towards Wazirabad flyover was another location where traffic issues reported.

Meanwhile, besides rainfall, farmers' strike also caused long hour traffic jam near Delhi - Ghaziabad border

"Traffic is obstructed in both carriageways from Ghazipur Border UP Gate on NH-9, NH-24 towards Nizamuddin due to the farmers' rally," the Delhi Traffic Police said.



Vehicles ford a waterlogged road following rain in New Delhi on Saturday

Road accidents claim over 150 lives on Yamuna E-way in 2019, highest ever: Data

Noida (UP): The Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh witnessed over 150 deaths in road accidents this year so far, the maximum ever since it got operational in 2012, according to official data.

The 165-km-long road stretch that connects Delhi and Agra has seen 357 accidents, injuries to at least 822 people and death of 145 others till July 31 this year, as per the data obtained via the Right to Information (RTI) Act by Agra-based lawyer Krishna Chand Jain.

PTI had earlier reported three road accidents in August and September in which nine people, including three college students, lost their lives on the expressway in Greater Noida,

taking the death toll this year so far to 154. According to the data, 2018 witnessed 659 road accidents, 1,388 injuries and 111 deaths, while 2017 had 763 accidents, 1,426 injuries and 146 deaths on the expressway.

In 2016, there were 1,219 accidents, 1,524 injuries and 133 deaths, while 2015 had 919 accidents, 1,392 injuries and 142 deaths, 2014 saw 771 accidents, 1,335 injuries and 127 deaths, stated the data provided by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), which manages the expressway.

The Yamuna Expressway witnessed 280 accidents, 33 deaths and 391 injuries in 2012 and 896 accidents, 118 deaths

and 1,345 injuries in 2014, according to YEIDA's response to a separate RTI query filed by Jain last year. On September 13 this year, a group of college students met with an accident on the expressway in Greater Noida, resulting in the death of three of them. On September 10, two men died at the Zero-point after their motorcycle crashed, while four IT professionals lost their lives at the same spot on August 18 when their SUV crashed.

Safety on the Yamuna Expressway became a major concern when 29 people died after their bus veered off the road and plunged into a drain on July 8. The incident had occurred in the Agra sector of the expressway. **PTI**

Maha...

From Page 1

In Haryana, disarray in the Opposition and internal fighting within State Congress may give the BJP a headstart in the campaign. The Congress high command's capitulation to former Haryana Chief Minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda and replacing his arch rival Ashok Tanwar, a Rahul Gandhi appointee, as PCC president with Kumari Selja, has already weakened the Congress challenge in the State. Hooda had threatened to float a separate regional party if Tanwar was not removed as PCC chief.

As against this, the BJP has shored up its campaign by highlighting Prime Minister's leadership and like in Maharashtra roped in many rival leaders including those from Congress and INLD in the State. The caste combination could also play favourably vis-à-vis

the Congress which is presently seen as a divided house.

The non-Jat Manohar Lal Khattar's BJP Government could sway Dalits, mainly 'Jatavs', towards the BJP in the light of traditional fear they have from the dominant 'Jats' in the State.

Khattar on Saturday said the Opposition is "divided" in the State and claimed that the BJP will win over 75 of the total 90 seats in the next month's Assembly polls. He said that BJP's relation with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is cordial in Haryana and the Central leadership will take a call on the fixing of number of seats for the SAD. He said tickets would be finalised before the start of nomination of papers.

In the 2014 Haryana Assembly elections, the Congress won only 15 seats with the BJP scoring a majority at 47 making 33 per cent of the vote share. The INLD emerged second ahead of Congress with 19 seats.

Woman shot dead by bike-borne assailants

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 58-year-old woman was allegedly shot dead by two unidentified bike borne assailants in the national Capital. The incident was reported from Delhi's Madhu Vihar area on Saturday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Usha, a resident of Delhi's Jagatpuri area. According to a senior police official, information regarding the incident was received around 7 am on Saturday after which a police team rushed to the spot.

"Usha was taken to Max hospital in Parpatganj where she was declared brought dead by the doctors. During initial investigation, it was revealed that on Saturday morning, Usha along with her husband had to go to Max hospital for the treatment. While going towards the hospital, the cou-

ple stopped at a temple near Hassanpur depot," said the senior police official.

"Usha's husband, Kishan Kumar went inside the temple while she remained in the car when two unidentified men on bike came and shot her in the head," said the senior police official. "Kumar told police that when he came back after visiting the temple, he found his wife in pool of blood on driver seat of the Hyundai i10 car," said a police official. "The woman used to work in a private insurance company. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Madhu Vihar police station. Police teams have been formed who are scanning CCTV cameras in the area to identify the culprits and to know the crime sequence. Police is investigating the case with all angles including personal enmity," said the police official.

In a first, ED attaches...

From Page 1

The ED said the State police had booked Guha for "forgery and using forged documents as genuine as he was found using a forged permission letter to illegally transport the wildlife birds purportedly issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal."

The ED took over the case under PMLA based on this police FIR. The agency said its probe found Guha was "running an organised wildlife smuggling racket".

He is a clever criminal and recorded contradictory statements before the customs authorities and wildlife authorities to evade action from both the departments, it alleged.

Guha also obtained fake certificates regarding birth of the three chimpanzees in India, the ED said.

"This attachment has enabled the zoo authorities to keep the animals with them. The action by the ED will deter dealers against indulging in illegal trade of animals and wildlife," it said.

The three chimpanzees have become a major point of attraction for the visitors of the Alipore zoological garden in Kolkata and hence, a source of revenue too, the agency said.

It said the seven animals are valued at ₹81 lakh, with each chimpanzee worth ₹25 lakh and a marmoset, a species of small long-tailed South American monkeys, about ₹1.5 lakh.

Largest crowd for foreign leader in US awaits Modi

From Page 1

The organisers and volunteers sporting 'NAMO AGAIN' shirts, chanted "NaMo Again" and they are ready to welcome Prime Minister Modi "wholeheartedly".

At a press briefing on Friday, Texas India Forum (TIF) spokespersons Priti Dawra, Gitesh Desai and Rishi Bhutata, briefed media about the event timeline, what to expect and why Houston was chosen for such a mega community event.

"The event is a grand celebration of culture and unity of America and India, where

attendees will hear Modi speak about the deepening US-India ties strengthened by the confirmations of over 3 million Indian Americans in the US and will lay out his vision of the continuous India's growth and development as he begins his second term following his historic re-election," Dawra said.

"First time the leaders of the world's two biggest democracies are appearing together at such an event to share their resolve to build strong partnership," she said.

They will showcase the growing US-India geopolitical partnership, commitment to global peace and prosperity through entrepreneurship, hard work and sacrifice of the people of both nations. The presence of these two leaders is also a sign of the positive growing influence of Indo-Americans and their invaluable contributions to Texas and United States, the spokesper-

sons said.

Dawra said President Trump's participation in the event shows that he is highlighting his "goodwill and friendship" towards the Indian Prime Minister, the people of India and the Indian American diaspora.

A bipartisan group of senior elected officials, leaders from the US government including, senators, governors, mayors will also attend the event.

"The 'Howdy, Modi' is about the unity of culture and it will bring the entire US India and Texas closer than ever, TIF is deeply grateful or this opportunity to bring together such a historic event driven in large part by the diverse community of Americans all over the united states," Dawra said.

Texas accounts for 10 per cent of India-US trade, about USD 7 billion worth of US goods and commodities are

moved between Texas and India.

Some of the largest companies are setting up their headquarters all over Texas, creating jobs and opportunities for Americans and Indian Americans.

"India is Houston's fourth largest trading partner today just behind Brazil China and Mexico. It attracts largest influx of Indian population and investment. Houston is uniquely positioned towards this community summit as it is the energy, space and the medical centre capital of the world," she said.

"Howdy, Modi' is the community summit organised by the contributions of over 600 organisations, 1,000 volunteers and attendees representing all the 50 states of the US, "Indian Americans are not just most educated and affluent community in the US, but it is also now recognised for

serving across all fields including military medicine and education; highly respected doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, empowering the US economy," she said.

The spirit and diversity of the Indian community will be showcased by the specially curated cultural programme "WOVEN" at the start of the event, featuring 400 artists, she said.

The NRG gates will open at 6 AM to accommodate and seat 50,000 people by 9 AM, after which cultural programme will begin and continue till 10:30 am, and will be broadcast live in Hindi, English and Spanish languages followed by the address of the two leaders. The event will end by 12:30 PM, after which Modi will join a private community reception before heading to New York for the UN General Assembly session and other engagements.

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BJP-Sena in Maha aim to trounce Cong-NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

to their allies. The ruling BJP and Shiv Sena are expected to ink their seat-sharing deal for the polls in the next two days.

In the 2014 polls which the saffron alliance partners had contested on their respective strengths, the BJP had won an all-time high of 122 seats as against 260 out of the total 288 seats it had contested. The Shiv Sena had walked away with 63 seats out of 282 seats it had contested. On the other hand, the Congress bagged 42 seats out of 287 seats it had contested, while the NCP emerged fourth by winning 41 out of 278 it had contested.

The Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, which suffered a setback last week after the exit of the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, is contesting the 2019 Assembly polls as a third front.

The Raj Thackeray-led MNS, which had not contested the Lok Sabha polls but supported the Opposition parties, is yet to take a final call whether or not to contest the Assembly polls. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, Samajwadi Party and BSP will contest the polls in some pockets of their influence.

On his part, chief minister Devendra Fadnis — who is leading the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance into the Assembly polls — is sitting pretty after having criss-crossed the state as part of his 4000 km-long campaign tour 'Mahajanadesh Yatra'. Youth Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray, who is deputy chief minister in the event of the saffron alliance returning to power in the State, has toured several parts of the state.

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

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

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

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

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

Bypolls to 64 Assembly seats on Oct 24

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Kashmir and Ladakh - a delimitation exercise is expected to be undertaken there.

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

According to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, the bypolls in Karnataka will be held on seats, including where sitting MLAs were disqualified recently. Asked why elections to the Jharkhand Assembly were not announced on Saturday when the country was discussing

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

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

These are the first state

polls after the BJP's stunning victory in the national election earlier this year, clearing the way for a second term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This will also be the first time that elections will be held in Assam after the release of final citizens' list last month. By-elections will be held in four assembly constituencies in the state.

The Samastipur (Bihar) Lok Sabha by-election was necessitated following the death of sitting MP Ram Chandra Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party in July. One Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra is currently vacant but CEC Arora said it won't go to polls along with the state assembly elections on October 21.

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

In Kerala, Stakes are high

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

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

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

Over 10 cr to vote in Haryana, Maharashtra Assembly polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

As per Election Commission (EC) data, there are 1,82,98,714 voters in Haryana. Of this, 1,81,91,228 are general electors and 1,07,486 are service voters who will vote for the 90 assembly seats in the state. In Maharashtra, there are 8,95,62,706 voters, of which 8,94,46,211 are general electors and 1,16,495 are service voters who will vote for the 288 Assembly seats in the state.

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

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

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

The polling stations where the count is taken up are selected by a draw of lots after the election and before counting. The commission also reiterated that while some EVMs fail to function due to "mechanical, structural or physical defect" including faulty switches, broken button, faulty connection, these

never record a "wrong vote".

CEC Arora also said that special security arrangements have been made for the LWE affected areas in Gadchiroli and Gondia in Maharashtra.

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

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

Announcement for bypolls adds zing to TN's festive season

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

The by-election in Vikravandi was necessitated by the death of the sitting DMK lawmaker K Rathamani of the DMK in June 2019. Nanguneri constituency fell vacant following the resignation of Vasanth Kumar of the Indian National Congress who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kanyakumari in the May 2019 General election.

The point being debated in Tamil Nadu is whether the DMK-led UPA would be able to continue its dream run. Though the final results in the by-polls would not create any threat to the Edappadi Palaniswami-led AIADMK government, it will be a morale booster to the Opposition parties as the State is gearing up for elections to local bodies which were due in 2016 itself.

In the 234-member strong Tamil Nadu Assembly, the AIADMK has 122 members while the DMK-led Opposition has 109 members. M K Stalin, president, DMK, told journalists on Saturday that his party would contest Vikravandi by-poll leaving Nanguneri to alliance partner Congress. The DMK-Congress front is hoping to retain both the seats taking advantage of recent events like the arrest of P Chidambaram, former union finance minister in money laundering case and the accidental death of Subasri, a young techie who lost her life when a larger than life size hoarding installed by a former AIADMK municipal corporation councillor in connection with the marriage of the latter's son's marriage.

Though it is more than a week, the police had failed to arrest the culprit who is on the run. This has added to the woes of the government.

The DMK-led alliance had swept the Lok Sabha election from the State winning 38 out of the 39 seats which were at stake.

BJP, TRS slug it out to wrest Huzurnagar from Congress

PV KONDAL RAO ■ HUZURNAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Sources said the two navy chiefs are expected to deliberate on regional security scenario including China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean region and its military assertiveness in the South China Sea.

"The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance the bilateral maritime relations between India and Bangladesh,"

a Navy statement said.

Admiral Singh will visit several key military establishments including the Khulna Shipyard Limited, Bangladesh's naval bases in Chattogram and Khulna and address cadets at the Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA). In addition, he will participate in the first anniversary celebration of Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD), the Navy said.

The Bangladesh Navy is an active member of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a forum for maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

There has been increasing cooperation between Indian and Bangladeshi navies and they regularly engage through staff talks, annual defence dialogue and other operational interactions.

Navy to name 7th frigate in P17A series as Mahendragiri

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

The first of the seven frigates, christened 'Nilgiri', is slated to be launched in Mumbai on September 28 in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

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

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

These six ships were called — 'Nilgiri', 'Himgiri', 'Udaygiri', 'Dunagiri', 'Taragiri' and 'Vindhyaagiri'.

"The first P17A frigate 'Nilgiri' will be launched on September 28. Since, it is named after the previous

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

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

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

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

The Kalvari-class submarines in the past were a variant of Foxtrot-class submarines, four of which had served in the Navy from late 1960s onwards — 'Kalvari', 'Khanderi', 'Karanj' and 'Kursura'.

"Names have a historical background, and many ships have been follow-on of some other ships in the past. So, the name is being repeated," Kumar said.

A contract with French company Naval Group (earlier called DCNS) was signed in 2005 for the supply of six submarines.

The six submarines, designed by the French naval defence and energy company, are being built by Mazagon Dock Ltd in Mumbai as part of Project-75 of the Indian Navy.

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

Centre, States debate reforms in NEP draft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The meeting of the HRD Ministry's Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) and Education ministers from states was chaired by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. The heads of autonomous organisations, vice chancellors of universities, HRD secretaries for higher education and school education R Subrahmanyam and Rina Ray, along with senior officials of the central and state governments also attended.

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

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



accountability," a senior HRD official said.

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

"The government has initiated a major exercise to formulate a National Education Policy that will aim to fulfil the aspiration of the youth for quality education and make our country a knowledge superpower."

The extant National Policy on Education, 1986 modified in 1992 required changes to meet the contemporary and futuristic needs of our large youth population," he said.

"Thus, this policy is being brought out after more than three decades. Massive consultative process over four years has been undertaken and the draft NEP has been submitted by the committee.

"The meeting today was convened to discuss the draft so

that in the spirit of cooperative federalism both the central and state governments interact and engage in a healthy and enriching dialogue to bring

out a robust policy that will empower our youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century," the minister added.

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

"GER for SCs has also shown a growth from 21.8 to 23.0 and STs from 15.9 to 17.2. In terms of increase in the number of universities, they have grown from 903 (2017-18) to 993 (2018-19) and total higher

Education institutions from 49,964 to 51,649 in the same corresponding period. The number of faculty increased from 13.88 lakhs to 14.16 lakhs," the survey report said.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which, in a way, celebrates bachelorhood as most of its 'pracharaks' keep off conjugal lives, has conducted a survey that claims that married women are "happier" than those in live-in relationships. Its findings will be released on Tuesday.

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

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



RSS said. The Supreme Court has

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

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

women in live-in relationships.

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

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

NRC phobia grips Bengal, 4 dead

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allayed fears of National Register for Citizens (NRC) being enforced in Bengal a mass phobia of losing citizenship claimed at least four lives in as many days, sources said, adding while one person in North Bengal committed suicide having failed to trace his land deeds and other documents three persons died of heart attack for the same reasons.

The mass fear of NRC coincided with a Government drive to rectify voters' ID cards and digital ration cards. Mistaking the Government move to rectify the cards for a lead-up to the invoking of the NRC dreaded for its track record in Assam, lakhs of people crowded in front of panchayat and BDO offices to get their particulars entered or rectified in their respective documents.

"One Annada Roy died committed suicide at Moynaguri in Jalpaiguri district after he failed to find out his

■ The mass fear of NRC coincided with a Government drive to rectify voters' ID cards and digital ration cards

■ Mistaking the Government move to rectify the cards for a lead-up to the invoking of the NRC dreaded for its track record in Assam, lakhs of people crowded in front of panchayat and BDO offices to get their particulars entered or rectified in their respective documents

land deeds — probably washed away in floods" — considered important for NRC, sources said. Mantu Sarkar at Balurghat died of heart attack as he too failed to trace his supportive documents and repeated visit to Government offices yielded no result.

Similarly Sahida Biwi of Hingaljan and Mantu Mandal of Matia in North 24 Parganas succumbed to heart attacks as they failed to get their ration cards done despite standing in long queues for the past sever-

al days, sources said.

Meanwhile, even as the Government opened special camps to handle overflowing crowd in all parts of the State the Chief Minister iterated in a tweet that there rectification of voters' cards or ration cards were just a routine procedure and had nothing to do with the NRC.

Banerjee who had repeatedly criticised the way NRC was invoked in Assam throwing out lakhs of Bengalis from the list said, "I can assure you that NRC will not happen in Bengal. We will not allow it to come to this place. Bihar and other States have already rejected it and so have we."

Accusing the BJP of using the NRC as a political tool to polarise the electorate she said, "It is only that the voter list is being renewed and ration cards are being digitised and corrected, so I would just ask to get these done and not panic for the NRC as we will not allow that to come in Bengal."

She said, "For invoking NRC in Bengal they (BJP) will have to first kill me."

MoS Babul forgives JU student who pulled him by hair

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a humane gesture Union Minister Babul Supriyo on Saturday pardoned the student who had pulled him by his hair at Jadavpur University on Thursday evening when hundreds of Left wing students gheraoed him for more than five hours requiring Governor Jagdeep Dhankar to personally move into the campus to secure his release.

The singer-turned-minister forgave the accused after his ailing mother begged pardon over social media. Bengal BJP president and another senior leader Sayantan Bose

had earlier threatened to have located the boy's and address and threatened him and his comrades with a payback. "Those who have done it will not be spared and their hands will be broken," Ghosh said.

Soon after the student's mother begged for the boy's life and career in the social media prompting Supriyo to write "maasima (auntie) I have already forgiven your son. Neither have I complained to the police nor have I allowed any other person to do that. So don't worry nothing will happen to him. Just take care of your health and ask your son to learn from his mistakes. Take my pranam!"

Cong appoints Supriya Shrinete as spokesperson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday appointed former television journalist Supriya Shrinete, who was the party's candidate from Maharajganj in the Lok Sabha polls, as a spokesperson.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has approved the appointment of Supriya Shrinete as spokesperson of All India Congress Committee, a statement issued by the party's communication department chief Randeep Surjewala said.

Until a few months ago, Shrinete was a TV journalist. She is the daughter of former Congress MP Harsh Vardhan. She lost to BJP's Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha polls from Maharajganj. Her father Harsh Vardhan was a two-time MP from the seat.

The Congress had recently also appointed Sharmistha Mukherjee, the daughter of former Congress veteran and President Pranab Mukherjee, and Anshul Kumar, the son of former Speaker Meira Kumar, as its spokespersons.

Court rejects pre-arrest bail plea of Rajeev

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In yet another setback to top West Bengal police officer Rajeev Kumar, the Alipore District and Sessions court on Saturday rejected his anticipatory bail plea after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said he was breaking the law by evading its summons in the Saradha chitfund case.

Meanwhile, having failed to trace "absconding" IPS officer, the CBI on Saturday summoned five staff employed in his bungalow and his personal assistant for interrogation, sources said.

"Mr Kumar's staffs were asked questions on whether he had been visiting the residences of other IPS officers. His driver was also asked as to which address he used to frequent these days. Others were asked to report on whether his wife (a senior IRS officer herself) had been in touch with Kumar," CBI sources said.

Pak targets forward posts in Poonch

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Pakistan Army on Saturday targeted forward Indian posts in two different sectors of Poonch with heavy mortar shelling.

According to ground reports, first incident of ceasefire violation was reported in Shahpur and Kerni sectors around 9.45 am and after a brief gap Pak army targeted forward posts and civilian areas in Balakote area of Mendhar around 4.15 pm. Ground reports claimed, intense shelling was reported in the area late Friday night as well.

Defence spokesman in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the line of control in Shahpur and Kerni sectors of Poonch around 9.45 am."

Several civilian areas were also targeted by the Pakistan army during intense shelling in the forward area. Defence PRO also said, "The Pakistani Army initiated ceasefire violation by firing of small arms & shelling with Mortars in Balakote area of Mendhar. Indian Army retaliated befittingly."

At least 19 animals including 12 Buffalo's and 7 goats per-

ished in Pakistan firing along the line of control in Balakote area of Mendhar sector late Friday night.

Defence PRO in Jammu said, "Pakistan army had initiated firing late Friday night in Balakote area around 11.45 pm."

He said Indian army retaliated strongly and effectively. The firing in the area continued till 2.00 am. Official sources claimed, a total number of 19 animals including 12 buffalo's and 7 goats were killed in Pakistani firing.

We'll return to power in Maha: Fadnavis

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid speculation about the differences between the ruling saffron alliance partners over the sharing of Assembly polls, Maharashtra Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday expressed confidence that the BJP and Shiv Sena would soon ink the seat-sharing deal between them and return to power in the State Assembly polls.

Speaking during an interview at *India Today* conclave, Fadnavis said, "We will have an alliance with the Shiv Sena for sure. The talks on seat sharing are going on. We don't dictate terms to Shiv Sena. We are friends. We do take decisions in a united manner. There are several aspirants in both the parties and both of them will definitely try to please them till the last moment"

Queried about the possibility of Shiv Sena youth president Aditya Thackeray becoming the deputy chief minister in the event of the saffron alliance returning to power in the state, Fadnavis said: "It is good to see Aditya Thackeray taking active part in politics. His father or grandfather stayed

away from electoral politics. It does not mean he also should follow them. He understands the political situation well. After all, he has to take the reins of Shiv Sena one day".

Congress-NCP will recapture power in Maha: MPCC chief

Mumbai: Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Balasheeb Thorat said on Saturday the Congress-NCP alliance would recapture power in the State.

In a statement issued after the declaration of schedule for the State Assembly polls, Thorat said, "During the last five year, the BJP-Sena Government has reversed the process of development in the estate. There is a lot of resentment among people against BJP-Sena Government. People want a change. Voters will bring the Congress-NCP and their allies back to power with a thumping majority."

Thorat said during the last five years, the State had recorded highest number of farmer suicides. PNS

Pak national apprehended close to IB

Jammu: A Pakistani national was apprehended in one of the forward villages of RS Pura, close to the International Border, on Saturday evening by local residents and later handed over to the police.

The identity of the Pak national has been established as Basharat Ali S/O Mohd Rafiq, R/O Village Al Jattan, Sialkot. Joint teams of interrogators are currently questioning him to ascertain the motive behind sneaking inside the Indian territory.

So far police has not ruled out the possibility that the apprehended Pak national may have been acting as a local guide to help small group of infiltrators sneak inside the Indian territory.

Meanwhile, alert was sounded in the area while interrogation of Pak national was still going on.

Official sources claimed, Basharat Ali, roaming in RS Pira area had taken lift from a local resident and he dropped him near village Chandu Chak ahead of village Abdullian. After some time, a local woman in the area raised an alarm after she detected presence of an unknown person in the courtyard of her home. PNS

Shah discusses economic issues with CMs of BJP-ruled States

New Delhi: BJP president Amit Shah on Saturday discussed economic issues with Chief Ministers of party-ruled States and laid out his party's extensive plans to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations in a video-conference address to party MPs, including Union Ministers, and state organisational leaders.

Speaking from the BJP headquarters here, Shah, sources said, asserted that the measures, especially a major cut in corporate tax rate, will give a big boost to economy.

The Opposition has used the economic slowdown issue to target the Union government, and Shah's decision to speak to the chief ministers underscores the BJP's determination to counter the rivals as it gears up for assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana next month.

He was joined by BJP working president JP Nadda and other senior leaders during his address. Shah, who is also Union Home Minister, asked party MPs to start campaigns in their constituencies to propagate Gandhi's ideals, including on cleanliness, khadi and environment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already asked the party MPs to undertake a 150 km 'padyatra' (foot march) between October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, and October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

Party leaders were asked to touch every village in the campaign. The sources said they were also told to clean statues of all icons "irrespective of the ideology they came from" during the exercise. The MPs joined the conference from capital of their respective State. PNS

Vaishno Devi shrine gets gold-plated entrance gate

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After Golden temple Ain Amritsar, the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, is all set to welcome pilgrims with a magnificent view of gold-plated entrance of the 96 feet long traditional cave on the occasion of Navratri festival beginning September 29.

In addition, shrine board authorities have decided to decorate the bhawan shrine with imported flowers and fruits to create 'festive' look and provide 'spiritually' stimulating atmosphere to the pilgrims during their stay.

This year, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities have also decided to illuminate 13 km long serpentine track connecting Katra base camp with colorful lights during the Navratri festival to attract rush of pilgrims.

The nine day long Navratri festival is being organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and District Administration, Reasi in collaboration with Tourism department and active participation of local community/ Tourism and Trade Industry of Katra, NGOs.

Community Kitchen services (langar) will be extended to the pilgrims along the yatra track where they will be served freshly cooked food for those observing 'fast' as well.

To ensure safety of pilgrims, elaborate security arrangements have been made by the security grid in and around Katra town, base camp of yatra. State police and para military forces have been deployed in adequate numbers to secure the yatra route and important installations. The entire Katra town, bhawan area, and yatra track has been covered with CCTV cameras to monitor the activities of pilgrims and any other suspicious movement. X-Ray scanner machines and other



Gold plated entrance of Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine

pilgrims visited the cave shrine during the Navratri festival. He said, "to attract rush of pilgrims we are going to decorate the bhawan area, from Manokamana Bhawan to the main temple, with imported flowers and fruits".

He said, "we are importing the rich quality exotic flowers from Thailand, Holland, Malaysia, Singapore, Ooty, Palampur and Uttar Pradesh".

Sharing details of the 'golden gate' project which was in the pipe line for a long time, CEO Simrandeep Singh said, "work on the ambitious project was sanctioned under the new 'donation' policy adopted by the Shrine board".

He said for a long time devotees were raising the issue of installing 'golden gates' replacing 'marble gates' outside the cave shrine.

The Chief executive Officer of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Simrandeep Singh said that during this festival, various events will be organised which will attract audience from the length and breadth of the state and country. He said the Navratri festival will be inaugurated by the Governor Satya Pal Maalik on September 29 in Katra. A cultural procession showcasing rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir will be taken out from main roads of Katra every day. Devotional song competition, Hasya Vyang kavi samelan, wrestling competition, special play on Mata Ki Kahani will be organised during the festival days.

This year, wrestlers from Pakistan have not been invited to participate in the wrestling competition. Owing to sour relations between the two neighboring countries, the organisers of the event have not been inviting them to participate in the competition during Navratri festival in Katra since 2013.

Govt accepts resignation of Madras HC Chief Justice VK Tahilramani

New Delhi: The resignation of Madras High Court Chief Justice VK Tahilramani has been accepted, according to a Government notification.

Her resignation has been accepted with effect from September 6, it said. She had resigned after the Supreme Court collegium declined her request for reconsideration of transfer to the Meghalaya High Court. Justice V Kohari has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Madras High Court, another notification said.

The transfer of Justice Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to the Meghalaya High Court had snowballed into a major controversy with lawyers in Chennai as well as in her home state of

Maharashtra coming out in protest against the Supreme Court collegium's decision in this regard.

Later on September 12, the apex court had come out with a statement, saying that each of the recommendations for transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of various high courts was based on "cogent reasons".

Without naming Justice Tahilramani, the statement issued by the office of apex court's Secretary General Sanjeev S Kalgaonkar had said the reasons of transfer of judges were not disclosed in the interest of the institution but the apex court collegium would not hesitate to disclose them in the circumstance it becomes necessary. PTI

Notice Inviting e-Tenders
MAHATMA GANDHI CHITRAKOOT GRAMODAYA VISHWAVIDYALAYA
CHITRAKOOT DISTT. SATNA (M.P.) 485334
 Ref No.-Pur/19/D-5/ 429 Date-12.09.2019
 Online bids for the following items are invited from manufacturers / authorized dealers / suppliers / reputed firms registered in appropriate registra-tion authorities.

NIT No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount (Rs.in Lakh)	Compl. Period Days	Cost of tender form
53/pur/etend	e-tender for Errection, testing and commissioning of 500 KVA Transformer, Supply of different size of Cables.	24.38	30	2500.00
54/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of Mechanical Engineering laboratories equipments .	06.00	30	600.00
55/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of Civil Engineering laboratories equipments.	40.00	30	4000.00
56/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of Food and Agricultural Engineering laboratories equipments	15.00	30	1500.00
57/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Geology lab	10.75	30	1000.00
58/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of Software and equipment for Zoology lab	05.00	30	500.00
59/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Environmental lab	23.00	30	2000.00
60/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Art lab	05.00	30	500.00
61/pur/etend	e-tender e-tender for supply of Computer (Work station) for Mathematics Modeling lab	05.61	30	500.00
62/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Botany lab	09.50	30	1000.00
63/pur/etend	e-tender for supply of equipments for Physics lab	14.25	30	1400.00

- Interested bidders can view the NIT and tender detail on website <http://mptenders.gov.in>
- The Bid Documents are available only online from 17.09.2019, 15.00 hrs to 15.10.2019 time 11.00 hrs. For other important dates please refer NIT document on site.
- Amendments to NIT and tender document if any, would be published in website only, and not in newspaper

Ph.: 07670-265629, mail : purchase.gramodaya@gmail.com
 Registrar

Chola CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
 Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
 Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005

DEMAND NOTICES ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING BORROWERS UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

Sl No.	Date of Loan	Account No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	ADDRESS	SECURED ASSET	Date of Demand Notice	Loan Amount	Amount Outstanding
1.	29.07.2013, 18.03.2014 & 28.02.2015	XOHEDEHO0001017249, XOHEDEHO0001162337, XOHEDEHO0001371151	1. Ravi Prakash Sadh 2. Sandeep Sadh 3. Sunita Rani Sadh	H.No.B-45, 1st Floor, Block-B, East Krishna Nagar, New Delhi - 110 051. C-11, First Floor, East Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar, New Delhi-110 051. E-228, Sector-63, Noida-201 301.	First Floor portion of Property No.46-B (Old) and New No.B-45 (Part), Khasra No.1048/824/3, East Krishna Nagar, Village Chandrawali, Shahdara, New Delhi-110 051.	13.09.2019	Rs.1,75,00,000	Rs.1,73,63,514.71 as on 31.08.19 with interest thereon

The Under signed is the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited hereinafter called the secured creditor, under Rule 2(a) of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules framed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

In pursuant to loan agreement on the dates mentioned in column [A] the above named borrowers in column [C] residing at the address in column [D] were sanctioned loans indicated in column [G] in loan account number indicated in column [B]. Towards the due repayment of loan, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the assets in column [E] was created by the borrowers.

On persistent default in repayment of the loan amount the loan accounts of the borrowers have been classified by the secured creditor as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directions and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. Consequently notice under Sec. 13(2) of the Act was also issued to each of the borrowers on the dates mentioned in column [F], which have been returned undelivered.

I state that under section 13(8) of the Securitisation Act, you can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges & expenses before notification of sale.

In view of the above, the above named borrowers are called upon to discharge in full their liabilities towards the Secured Creditor by making the payment of the entire outstanding indicated in Column [H] above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of notice, failing which, the secured creditor shall be entitled to take possession of the Secured Asset and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Secured Creditor in law. In the absence of full discharge of dues even after the transfer of secured assets the secured creditor reserves its right to proceed against the borrowers before a Sole Arbitrator, in terms of the Loan Agreement.

In addition the above named borrowers shall not alienate by way of transfer, sale, lease or otherwise or create third party interest or dealing with the Secured Asset in column [E] mentioned against the name of the each borrowers in any manner except with specific prior written permission of the Secured creditor.

Date: 20.09.2019
 Place: Delhi

AUTHORISED OFFICER
 Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NO:-13/EE/PWD(R&B)/AMB/2019-20 Dt: 18/09/2019

The Executive Engineer, Ambassa Division, PWD(R&B), Ambassa, Dhalai, Tripura invites on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura' percentage rate e-tender from the Central & State public sector undertaking/enterprise and eligible Contractors/Firms/Agencies of appropriate class registered with PWD/TTAADC/MES/CPWD/Railway/Other State PWD up to 3.00 P.M. on 12/10/2019 for the following work:

SL NO.	NAME OF THE WORK	ESTIMATED COST	EARNEST MONEY	TIME FOR COMPLETION	LAST DATE AND TIME FOR DOCUMENT DOWNLOADING AND BIDDING	TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BID DOCUMENT	DOWNLOADING AND BIDDING AT APPLICATION	CLASS OF BIDDER
1	"Improvement of road from Gandacherra-Raishyabari road at Ch. 18.30km to Narikel Kunja (Length- 8.00km) for easy access for the Tourists from Dhalai, North and Unakoti Districts to Narikel Kunja Island surrounded by Dumbur Lake Water in Tripura under NESIDS." (2nd call)	Rs. 21,35,11,266/-	Rs. 21,35,11,191/-	18 (eighteen) months	Up to 15.00 Hrs on 12/10/2019	At 16.00 Hrs on 14/10/2019	https://tripuratenders.gov.in	Appropriate Class

For further details please contact to the Office of the undersigned.

Sd/
 (Er. Pranay Kumar Das)
 Executive Engineer,
 Ambassa Division, PWD(R&B),
 Ambassa, Dhalai, Tripura

ICA/C-1143/2019-20

POST US TROOP DEPLOYMENT

Will turn attacking country into battlefield: Iran

Tehran: Any country that attacks Iran will become the "main battlefield", the Revolutionary Guards warned Saturday after Washington ordered reinforcements to the Gulf following attacks on Saudi oil installations it blames on Tehran.

Tensions escalated between arch-foes Iran and the United States after last weekend's attacks on Saudi energy giant Aramco's Abqaiq processing plant and Khurais oilfield halved the kingdom's oil output.

Yemen's Huthi rebels have claimed responsibility for the strikes but the US says it has concluded the attacks involved cruise missiles from Iran and amounted to "an act of war".

Washington approved the deployment of troops to Saudi Arabia at "the kingdom's request," Defence Secretary Mark Esper said, noting the forces would be "defensive in nature" and focused on air and missile defence.

But Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Major General Hossein Salami said Iran was "ready for any type of scenario".

"Whoever wants their land



Chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Gen Hossein Salami speaks in a ceremony displaying pieces of the American drone shot down by the Guard in the Strait of Hormuz in June, in Tehran on Saturday

to become the main battlefield, go ahead," he told a news conference in Tehran.

"We will never allow any war to encroach upon Iran's territory. We hope that they don't make a strategic mistake," he said, listing past US military "adventures" against Iran.

Salami was speaking at Tehran's Islamic Revolution and Holy Defence museum during the unveiling of an exhibition of what Iran says are US and other drones captured in its territory.

It featured a badly damaged drone with US military markings said to be an RQ-4 Global Hawk that Iran downed in June, as well as an RQ-170 Sentinel captured in 2011 and still intact.

The Guards also displayed the domestically manufactured Khordad 3 air defence battery they say was used to shoot down the Global Hawk.

"What are your drones doing in our airspace? We will shoot them down, shoot anything that encroaches on our airspace," said Salami, noting Iran

had defeated "America's technological dominance" in air defence and drone manufacture.

His remarks came only days after strikes on Saudi oil facilities claimed by Yemen's Huthis, but the US says it has concluded the attack involved cruise missiles from Iran and amounted to "an act of war".

Saudi Arabia, which has been bogged down in a five-year war across its southern border in Yemen, has said Iran "unquestionably sponsored" the attacks. The kingdom says the weapons used in the attacks were Iranian-made, but it stopped short of directly blaming its regional rival.

"Sometimes they talk of military options," Salami said, apparently referring to the Americans.

Yet he warned that "a limited aggression will not remain limited" as Iran was determined to respond and would "not rest until the aggressor's collapse".

The Guards' aerospace commander said the US ought to learn from its past failures and abandon its hostile rhetoric.

"We've stood tall for the past 40 years and if the enemy makes a mistake, it will cer-

tainly receive a crushing response," Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said.

The United States upped the ante on Friday by announcing new sanctions against Iran's central bank, with President Donald Trump calling the measures the toughest America has ever imposed on another country.

Washington has imposed a series of sanctions against Tehran since unilaterally pulling out of a landmark 2015 nuclear deal in May last year. It already maintains sweeping sanctions on Iran's central bank, but the US Treasury said Friday's designation was over the regulator's work in funding "terrorism".

Iran denies successful cyber attacks on oil sector

Tehran: Iran denied on Saturday its oil infrastructure had been successfully attacked by a cyber operation, after reports of disruptions to the sector online.

"Contrary to Western media claims, investigations done today show no successful cyber attack was made on the country's oil installations and other crucial infrastructure," the government's cyber security office said.

The statement did not specify which reports it was addressing.

NetBlocks, an organisation that tracks internet outages, tweeted early Saturday that "network data show intermittent disruptions to internet connectivity in #Iran."

But it said the cause was unclear and impact limited, affecting "online industrial and government platforms" and specific providers.

"Data are consistent with a cyber attack or unplanned technical incident on affected networks as opposed to a purposeful withdrawal or shutdown incident," it added.

TRUMP SLAMS WHISTLEBLOWER STORY AS 'PARTISAN HACK JOB'

Whistleblower and Trump phone call: What we know

Washington: A mysterious whistleblower, a telephone call between President Donald Trump and a foreign leader, and military aid to Ukraine.

Here's what we know about the latest political firestorm swirling around Washington:

On August 12, an unknown whistleblower in the US intelligence community filed a complaint with Michael Atkinson, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (ICIG), regarding a matter of "urgent concern." The identity of the whistleblower and the nature of the complaint have not been publicly revealed.

After reviewing the complaint, Atkinson determined it was "credible" and forwarded it on August 26 to the acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire, a Trump appointee.

The Democratic-led House Intelligence Committee is demanding that the whistleblower's complaint be turned over but Maguire has declined to share it.

According to The Washington Post, the complaint concerned a "promise" Trump made in a recent phone call with a foreign leader.

The phone call in question, according to US media reports, was a July 25 conversation between Trump and Ukraine's newly elected President Volodymyr Zelensky.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Trump repeatedly pressured Zelensky in the call to investigate Hunter Biden, the son of Joe Biden, Trump's main potential 2020 reelection rival.

Hunter Biden in 2014 joined the board of Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian gas firm accused of corrupt practices, but he has not been personally accused of any wrongdoing.

The Journal said Trump urged Zelensky "about eight times" during the call to work with Rudy Giuliani, his personal



attorney, on a probe into Hunter Biden.

At the time of the conversation, the United States was holding up \$250 million in military aid for Ukraine, but the Journal said Trump did not mention the assistance during the conversation.

Three committees in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives have demanded that the White House turn over a transcript of the call.

The committees claim it may include evidence of Trump and Giuliani's efforts to "improperly pressure" Ukraine to "improperly pressure" Ukraine to help his reelection bid.

They accused Trump and Giuliani of trying to coerce Ukraine, in exchange for military assistance, into conducting a "politically motivated" investigation into Hunter Biden.

"If the President is trying to pressure Ukraine into choosing between defending itself from Russian aggression without US assistance or leveraging its judicial system to serve the ends of the Trump campaign, this would represent a staggering abuse of power," the Democratic committee chairman said.

The US military aid package for Ukraine, which is battling pro-Russian separatists, was finally approved by the White House last week.

Trump for his part has insisted there was nothing unto-

ward about the telephone call. "Virtually anytime I speak on the phone to a foreign leader, I understand that there may be many people listening from various US agencies, not to mention those from the other country itself," he tweeted on Thursday.

"Knowing all of this, is anybody dumb enough to believe that I would say something inappropriate with a foreign leader while on such a potentially 'heavily populated' call," he said.

"I would only do what is right anyway, and only do good for the USA!"

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday, Trump described the story as a "political hack job" and said former vice president Joe Biden is the one who should be investigated.

"It was a totally appropriate conversation," he said of the telephone call.

"It was actually a beautiful conversation."

Trump claimed he didn't know the identity of the whistleblower but said he was a "partisan person." Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, also took to Twitter to defend Trump.

"A President telling a President of a well known corrupt country he better investigate corruption that affects US is doing his job," he tweeted. **AFP**

UK's Labour Party in turmoil as vote to oust deputy ditched

London: A vote to oust the deputy leader of Britain's main Opposition Labour Party was ditched Saturday after a big backlash to the proposal prompted Jeremy Corbyn, the party's leader, to intervene.

The surprise attempt to abolish the role of deputy leader by one of Corbyn's close allies caused uproar among many Labour members and has overshadowed the start of the party's annual conference in the southern England city of Brighton.

Corbyn has tried to put a lid on the row by proposing that Labour carry out a review of the role, currently held by lawmaker Tom Watson, who has clashed with the leader on a number of issues, notably Brexit. The proposal to get rid of the deputy's role had been scheduled to be put to a vote Saturday of Labour's governing

body, the National Executive Committee.

The move against Watson has laid bare the divisions in the party — Watson has espoused a number of viewpoints that have offended many of Corbyn's left-wing supporters but have appealed to the moderate wing of the party.

Heading into the conference on Saturday, Corbyn tried to put a brave face on the row and said he enjoyed working with Watson.

"The NEC agreed this morning that we are going to consult on the future of diversifying the deputy leadership position to reflect the diversity of our society," Corbyn said.

Questioned by assembled reporters, Corbyn refused to say when he first knew about the attempt to oust Watson, nor whether he had full confidence in his deputy.

Watson told BBC radio before the proposal was ditched that the attempt to oust him was akin to "a straight sectarian attack on a broad-church party" and that he believes his position on Brexit was behind the move.

He said the move against him came as a shock and that he was in a Chinese restaurant in Manchester Friday evening when he found out about it.

The row exploded Friday when Jon Lansman, the founder of the pro-Corbyn grassroots Momentum group, proposed a motion for Watson's job to be scrapped.

Lansman said in a tweet he welcomed Corbyn's proposal to review the role of deputy leader and added that the party needs "to make sure the deputy leader role is properly accountable to the membership while also unifying the party at conference." **AP**



French riot police walk through a tear gas cloud on the Champs Elysees during a yellow vest demonstration in Paris on Saturday

Over 100 held in Paris 'yellow vest' protests

Paris: Over a hundred demonstrators were arrested at yellow vest protests in Paris on Saturday as about 7,500 police were deployed to quell any violence by the movement and its radical, anarchist "black blocs".

There were also fears that the demonstrators could try to infiltrate a march against climate change in the French capital.

The yellow vest movement erupted 10 months ago and blindsided President Emmanuel Macron, whom protesters accused of being out of touch with the needs of ordinary French people.

"What are we doing? We are assembling just to say that we can't make ends meet. (The protest) is not only against the president, it's against the system," said a woman protestor who did not give her name.

The weekly demonstrations — Saturday was the 45th — prompted Macron to loosen the state's purse strings to the tune of nearly 17 billion euros (18.8 billion) in wage boosts and tax cuts for low earners, but tapered off over the summer. **AFP**

Kashmir in focus as Imran Khan leaves for UNGA

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday left for New York on a week-long visit to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session during which he is to make Kashmir the focus of his address and interactions.

He will share Pakistan's perspective and position on the Jammu & Kashmir issue and on its current human rights and related dimensions, a Foreign Office statement said.

Imran Khan is being accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Advisor on Finance Hafeez Shaikh and Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari.

Imran Khan will hold several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various nations and participate in high-level UN summits on climate change, sustainable development, universal health coverage and financing for development. **IANS**



He will also attend and speak at high-level side events co-hosted by Pakistan and Turkey on countering hate speech and on environmental protection and poverty alleviation, co-hosted by Malaysia and Pakistan. A trilateral summit meeting of Pakistan, Malaysia and Turkey will be held on the General Assembly sidelines.

He will interact with a cross-section of international media outlets and hold meetings with editorial boards, the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

He will also avail the opportunity to articulate Pakistan's perspective on some key contemporary issues, especially the centrality of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. **IANS**

China is threat to world: Trump

Washington: Expressing concern over China's growing military might, US President Donald Trump has said the Communist nation is a threat to the world and blamed his predecessors for not stopping it from stealing America's intellectual property to bolster its defence capabilities.

China has hiked its military spending by seven per cent to \$152 billion as Beijing aims at countering America's push into the disputed South China Sea.

"Obviously China is a threat to the world in a sense because they are building a military faster than anybody and frankly they are using US money," Trump, who was accompanied by visiting Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, told reporters here on Friday.

Trump said the US Presidents before him allowed China to take out \$500 billion a year and more than that.

"They have allowed China to steal our intellectual property and property rights and I'm not doing that," he said.

According to the president, the two countries were very close to having a trade deal.

"We work very closely, had intellectual property, all of the tough things work negotiated and then at the last moment, they said we cannot agree to this," he alleged, referring to the abrupt collapse of the trade deal with China early this year.

"I said that's all right we are charging you 25 per cent tariffs and then it's going up and it will continue to go up. Frankly we are making so many hundreds of the numbers that we are taking in to our treasury...Look at the great reports that came out two days ago on retailing, on consumers, on numbers that nobody believes," he added.

The world's two largest economies are locked in a trade war since Trump in March last year imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on \$250 billion of Chinese goods. In response, China, the world's second largest economy after the US, imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on \$110 billion of American goods.

The two countries have resumed their trade negotiations.

Trump has said that he will enter into a trade deal with Beijing only if he is confident that it is good for the US. **PTI**

HK protesters, police face off in renewed clashes



Police face a burning barricade during protests in Hong Kong on Saturday

Hong Kong: Protesters in Hong Kong threw gasoline bombs and police fired tear gas Saturday in renewed clashes over anti-government grievances.

Reporters saw at least one person arrested after violence erupted following an afternoon march by several thousand people in Tuen Mun, a district in the northwest of the Chinese territory. Hong Kong is in the fourth month of sometimes violent protests that occur every weekend. They started with opposition to a proposed extradition law and have expanded to include demands for greater democracy.

Most protesters in Tuen Mun were peaceful but some

threw gasoline bombs and bricks toward police who faced them down the street.

They appeared to fall short of the police and there was no indication anyone was hit.

Police with anti-riot helmets and shields responded by firing tear gas. In the evening, protesters gathered at a shopping mall in another district, Yuen Long.

Some threw gasoline bombs in the street but there was no indication anyone was injured. Elsewhere, scuffles were reported as government supporters heeded a call by a pro-Beijing member of the Hong Kong legislature to tear down protest posters at subway stations. **AFP**

GLOBE TROTTING

INDIAN GIRL DIAGNOSED WITH RARE DISEASE IN UAE

Dubai: A 20-year-old Indian girl in the UAE has been diagnosed with a rare disease, leaving her on ventilator support for the last six months, according to a media report. Neethu Shaji Panikker, who was visiting her husband in Sharjah, was diagnosed with autoimmune encephalitis in March.

MINIBUS EXPLOSION IN IRAQ: 12 DEAD, 5 INJURED

Baghdad, Sep 21 (AP) A bomb exploded on a minibus packed with passengers outside the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing 12 people and wounding five others, Iraqi security officials and the state news agency said. This was one of the biggest attacks targeting civilians since the extremist Islamic State group was declared defeated inside Iraq in 2017.

Rainfall in Indonesia's islands linked to global climate, says study

Washington: The rainfall in some of Indonesia's islands such as Sumatra, Java, and Borneo affects the climate of regions that are even thousands of miles away, according to a new study.

Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Papua New Guinea, along with a clutch of smaller islands are part of what is known as the "Maritime Continent," which, according to the researchers, experiences significant rainfall including "periodic monsoonal rain, and flash flooding."

In the study, published in the Journal of Atmospheric Sciences, researchers revealed details of the connection between a larger atmospheric phenomenon called the Madden-Julian Oscillation

(MJO), and the daily patterns of rainfall in the Maritime Continent.

The MJO, the study noted, circles the globe around the tropics and can affect weather on weekly to monthly time scales, bringing cloudy and sunny periods alternatively.

The researchers, led by atmospheric scientist Giuseppe Torri at the University of Hawaii (UH), found that the impact of the MJO on the daily rainfall patterns of Sumatra was quite significant.

When the MJO was active near the Maritime Continent, there was more water vapour, and therefore greater possibility of rain, according to the researchers. **PTI**

'Tax cut to have minor impact on fiscal deficit'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The ₹1.45-lakh crore tax giveaway is unlikely to widen fiscal deficit much as the shortfall will be met through increased tax collections due to higher growth which the massive tax cuts are expected to achieve, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said here on Saturday. On Friday, the Government had announced tax cuts for corporates by 10-12 percentage points, bringing down the effective corporate tax to 25.17 per cent inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies. The new tax rate will be applicable from April 1, involving a revenue loss of ₹1.45 lakh crore this fiscal.



I don't think tax cuts will leave a gaping hole in the fiscal numbers. There will be some, which will be minor, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said at an 'India Today' event

"I don't think tax cuts will leave a gaping hole in the fiscal numbers. There will be some, which will be minor," Kumar said at an 'India Today' event.

Budget had estimated fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal but many analysts have pegged it overshooting by at least 70 bps to 4.1 per cent as the quantum of the giveaways is worth 0.7 per cent of the GDP. Significantly, it can be noted that neither the finance minister or her senior cabinet colleagues who talked to the media after the announcement

took questions on the shape of fiscal deficit numbers post the tax cuts.

Even, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had lapped it up as growth boosting just a day before warning the government that it has no leeway to undertake any fiscally expansionary measures.

It can be noted that while the GST collection has been ebbing below the desired ₹1 lakh crore mark all through the year expect one month, the direct tax mop-up for the first

half lagged way behind the target. It grew a paltry 4.7 per cent in H1 of this fiscal at ₹5.5 lakh crore against a budgeted target of 17.5 per cent growth in collections for the full year.

Kumar said direct and indirect tax revenues are expected to go up with growth picking up after these tax cuts. "There is buoyancy in growth. In the past, our tax buoyancy has been very good. Therefore, both direct and in direct tax collections will go up with growth," he said.

Kumar said another area for his optimism is the government focus on divestment which he budgeted at ₹1.05 lakh crore.

"Asset sales will yield an additional ₹52,000 crore over the budget estimate. Then you have got another ₹50,000 crore from the RBI which was not included in the Budget," he said. The higher revenue from tax and non-tax fronts will help the government finance the fiscal deficit, he added.

Kumar said the 5 per cent GDP growth is not yet a crisis and the first quarter number marks the bottoming out of the cycle.

"We will achieve a nearly 6.5 per cent growth this year and we will be on track for doubling up our per capita income in the next five years," he added.

Corporate tax giveaways positive but growth faces headwinds, says Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Saturday said the cut in corporate tax increases the Government's fiscal risks while headwinds from cyclical factors such as rural stress, weak corporate sentiment, and a slow flow of credit in the financial sector, remain headwinds to near-term growth.

On Friday, the Centre announced a reduction in the base corporation tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent as part of stimulus measures to revive slowing economic growth.

The rating agency said it does not expect the corporate tax rate cut to revive growth to the extent that stronger tax buoyancy compensates for the loss of revenue.

"While the reduction

brings India's corporate tax rate closer to peers throughout Asia and will support the business environment and competitiveness, a host of cyclical factors, including rural financial stress, weak corporate sentiment, and a slow flow of credit in the financial sector, remain headwinds to near-term growth," it said.

Moody's said the cut in corporate tax is credit positive for companies because it will enable them to generate higher post-tax incomes.

"However, it is credit negative for the sovereign, as it aggravates mounting risks for the government in meeting its fiscal deficit target."

Commodity and information technology (IT) services companies will benefit most from the tax rate cut.

US corporate sector hails India's move to slash tax rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Washington: The US corporate sector has lauded the Indian government for substantially slashing the income tax rate to 25.17 per cent, saying the move will reverse the economic slowdown and allow global companies a "good option" for growing their manufacturing base in the country.

The government on Friday slashed the income tax rate for companies by almost 10 percentage points to 25.17 per cent and offered a lower rate to 17.01 per cent for new manufacturing firms to boost economic growth rate from a six-year low by incentivising investments to help create jobs.

Finance Minister said the reduction in tax rates was done by promulgating an ordinance to an amendment to the Income Tax Act.

BUSINESS CORNER

SCOPE WELCOMES FISCAL MEASURES BY GOVT

New Delhi: SCOPE welcomes the announcement by Finance Minister to boost the Indian economy through various measures including reduction of Corporate tax rate and expanding list of CSR activities. Recent past has seen a series of progressive measures by government to ring positivity in the economy. SCOPE, the apex body of public sector enterprises, believes that the measure announced by the Government in terms of reduction in corporate tax rate is also likely to encourage investments in Make in India particularly in the manufacturing sector. This would lead to increased economic activity thereby creating employment opportunities. Further, SCOPE appreciates the significant move of the Government to expand list of CSR activities to include incubation centres funded by various agencies/governments including Public Sector Undertaking and also include contributions to public funded educational institutions like IITs, Universities etc. This is in line with the thrust of the Government towards innovation, research and development.



Hotel industry welcomes GST cuts on hotel room tariffs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The hotel industry has welcomed the reduction in GST on hotel room tariffs, saying that it will provide a major fillip to the hospitality and tourism sector and is a step in right direction.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced nil tax for hotels room tariffs of up to ₹1,000 per night. Hotels charging ₹1,001 to ₹7,500 per night would be levied with 12 per cent tax against the existing 18 per cent.

Similarly, the tax on room tariff of above ₹7,500 has been slashed to 18 per cent from the existing 28 per cent. Also, tax on outdoor catering has been reduced to 5 per cent from existing 18 per cent with input tax credit, Sitharaman had said.

"The amendments in corporate tax rates and rationalisation of GST are all steps in the right direction," Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) MD and CEO Puneet Chhatwal said in a statement.

There has been a positive development from the GST panel meet as it has recommended that 18 per cent GST rate is now applicable for hotel tariff up to ₹7,500 per night starting October 1, 2019, he added.

"This gives the hospitality sector a much needed boost and we expect it to propel tourist inflows which will positively impact our bookings," Chhatwal said.

Phillips like this also help create new jobs so as to boost economy, make companies globally competitive and align to vision of the Government with boosting tourism, making hospitality increasingly viable as an investment opportunity for India, he added.

"We believe this would catalyze further growth for not just IHCL but the hospitality sector as a whole," Chhatwal said.

In similar vein, Shangri-La Group, Middle East, India and Indian Ocean Executive Vice President John Northen said: "We welcome this progressive initiative by the Government. A lower GST rate for the luxury hotel sector will boost revenues and spur demand further among travellers."

This in turn will cement India's positioning as a hot spot tourist destination. The move will also increase the sector's contribution to the country's GDP and foreign exchange, he added.



Yes Bank promoter entities sell 2.75% stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Promoter group companies of Yes Bank along with co-founder Rana Kapoor have sold a combined 2.75 per cent stake in the lender through the open market.

Yes Capital (India) Pvt Ltd and Morgan Credits Pvt Ltd and Rana Kapoor have sold a combined 2.75 per cent in Yes Bank through open market process, Morgan Credits said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

The combined entities held 9.64 per cent holding in the bank which now stands at 6.89 per cent.

The release of shares took place between September 18 to 20, 2019, the filing said.

Indian Overseas Bank mobilises ₹500 crore

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank on Saturday said it has raised ₹500 crore through BASEL III Tier-II bonds issue to meet growth and regulatory requirements.

The city-headquartered bank, in a statement, said it mobilised ₹500 crore through the Tier-II bonds.

"The base size of the issue was ₹500 crore aggregating ₹800 crore. The bank received bids for ₹855 crore with various coupon rates.

However, the bank has decided to accept the bids for base issue of ₹500 crore," the bank said.

The funds raised would be used to meet the 'growth' requirements of the bank apart from regulatory requirements.

Zomato extends Gold programme to food delivery; NRAI slams the move

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online food ordering platform Zomato on Saturday said users of its Gold programme will now be able to use membership privileges on food deliveries, a move that has been lashed out by industry body National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).

Earlier, Zomato Gold privileges were only available for dining out, the company said in a statement. While Zomato Gold for dining out and delivery is now operational in 16 cities, the programme will expand to 25 more cities by next week, it added.

Today, Gold drives 25-30 per cent business for its restaurant partners and more and more Gold users are exploring new restaurants because of the programme.

Auto industry has to find its own balance to enhance demand: SIAM

New Delhi: Industry body SIAM on Saturday said the auto industry would have to "find its own balance" to boost demand, with the GST Council declining to cut rates for the sector.

"The auto industry was very hopeful of GST reduction. It is clear that there is no

reduction of GST rate on vehicles from 28 per cent to 18 per cent," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Rajan Wadhwa said in a statement.

The industry has to find its own balance to enhance demand, he added.

The GST Council, which met in Goa on Friday, did not cut tax rates on automobiles. The industry had been demanding a GST rate cut from the current 28 per cent to 18 per cent in order to revive sales which have been facing a prolonged slowdown.

PTI

Travel giant Thomas Cook fails to find private funds to avert collapse: Source

AFP ■ LONDON

Iconic British travel firm Thomas Cook has failed to find further private investment to stave off collapse and is now relying on an unlikely government bailout, a source close to the matter told AFP on Saturday.

The operator said Friday that it needed 200 million pound (£250 million, 227 million euros) — in addition to the

900-million pound rescue deal secured last month — or else face administration, which could potentially trigger Britain's largest repatriation since World War II.

A source close to the negotiations told AFP the company had failed to find the 200 million pound from private investors and would collapse unless the Government intervened.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride
PROVISION OF AFTC
By Chief Engineer/Const. Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 24.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Name of Work : Provision of AFTC from Dum Dum-Noapara, Tollygunge carshed and Kavi Subhash carshed of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Tender Value : Rs. 88,47,728.68.
Earnest Money : Rs. 1,77,000/- Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 5,000/-
Completion Period: 9 Months. The tender can be viewed at website https://www.ireps.gov.in The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.
Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work-2Rtender/12-2019 Dated : 20.09.2019
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Time Extension Notice
Due to unavoidable circumstances, dates are hereby extended as follows for NIT No - 02/EE (Test)/MB-II/19-20 of Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), Dharasu Power House, Chinyalisore.
Last date of downloading the tender: 27-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
28-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
Last date of submitting the tender: 28-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
28-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
Last date for opening the tender: 01-10-2019, at 11:00 Hrs
For eligibility criteria and full & further details kindly visit our website www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com. Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for further details, subsequent addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation etc.
Letter No. 553 Dated 21.09.2019 Executive Engineer (Test)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI FIRE SERVICE
HEAD QUARTERS, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE
Attention: All owners / occupiers of public building / premises providing sleeping accommodations (Hotels/ Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals)

In a recent fire in a hotel in Karol Bagh, Delhi, 17 precious lives were lost and it was observed that great difficulty was faced by the occupants and staff of the hotel during evacuation and fire fighting in the initial stage of fire.

Ant it would be in public interest that all the occupants and employees of building occupancy having sleeping risk e.g. Hotels / Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals should undergo basic fire safety training to keep themselves acquainted with evacuation and firefighting procedures.

It is proposed to conduct three days basic firefighting training programme at Fire Safety Management Academy, Delhi Fire Service, Rohini, Delhi. The training will be imparted in different batches of 40 persons (maximum), depending on the number of nominations received from different organizations, on first come first serve basis, against the prescribed fee as per Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010.

Therefore, the owners / occupiers of all public buildings that provide sleeping accommodation namely Hotels / Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals are hereby advised to nominate their staff / officials, either directly or through their respective associations, for the basic firefighting training. The nominations may be sent to Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service, Fire Safety Management Academy, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 (Telephone No. 011-27552155, Mob. No. 9811032931 and e-mail: sstdfs@gmail.com).

Sd/-

DIP/Shabdarth/0687/19-20

DIRECTOR

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY DELHI FIRE SERVICE

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055

The physical possession notice under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT was published in The Pioneer (English) dated 4th Aug'19, for Loan Account No. LBGUR00002370762 and Name of the Borrower is Pankaj Sharma and Co-borrower is Monica Sharma.
Dated: 21-09-2019
Place : Delhi/NCR
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN e-TENDER
No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date: 19/09/2019. The following e-Tender can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-252594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (₹); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): [1]; 37191036; Grill Assy. for WAG-9/WAP-7/WAP-5 Loco; 200 Set; 20570; 23/10/2019 at 11:00 am.
Principal Chief Materials Manager
ABC-182
CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

Pradhan asks NMDC to focus on increasing output of iron ore
New Delhi: Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday asked state-owned NMDC to focus on augmenting the output of iron ore as it would have the benefit of keeping prices of the raw material used in steel making in check. Pradhan, who visited the corporate office of NMDC Ltd at Hyderabad today, reviewed the performance of the PSU during his interaction with the top management.
PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
By Chief Engineer/Const. Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No 451-C-ACS-HK-TKU Closing Date/Time 15.10.2019 up to 11.30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on web site www.ireps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net Banking, debit/Credit Cards etc. available on IREPS portal. Manual/offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.
Name of Work : House Keeping of Officer's Rest Houses at Lothian Bridge, Delhi, House keeping of Officer's Rest House at Rohtak & up keeping/cleaning of Office complex at Rohtak and Housekeeping of Sr. Rest House & up keeping/cleaning of Office complex of Dy. CE/CTKJ for a period of 24 months.
Tender Type : Open Bidding System Two Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time : 15.10.2019 11:30 hrs Date of Uploading Tender : 23.09.2019
Pre-Bid Conference (yes/no) : No Pre-Bid Conference Date Time : Not Applicable
Advertised Value (Rs.) : 12590985.60 Tendering Section : Engineering
Bidding Style : Single Rate for Each Schedule Item Bidding Unit : Rs.
Earnest Money (Rs.) : 2,13,000.00 Validity of Offer (Days) : 60 days
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.) : Nil Period of Completion : 24 Months
Bidding start date : 01.10.2019 Contract Type : Service
1. Two packet systems shall be adopted in this tender. 2. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk and learning centre available on the website IREPS may be approached. 3. Tenderer(s) are advised to read tender document carefully before participating in the tender. (Tender Notice No.: 451-C-ACS-HK-TKU Dated : 23.09.2019 3060/19)
Serving Customers With A Smile

बिहार सरकार
अधीक्षक का कार्यालय
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय ।
शुद्धि पत्र
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय, दरभंगा के विभिन्न विभागों के लिए वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 में 5,00,000.00 (पाँच लाख) से कम मूल्य के मशीन उपकरण के क्रय हेतु घोषारा संख्या-06531 (Health) 2019-20 के प्रकाशित निविदा में आशिक रूप से निम्न शर्तों को जोड़ा जाता है । पूर्व का शेष शर्त यथावत रहेगा ।
1. निविदा कम्प्यूटर प्रिंट ही होना चाहिए ।
2. मशीन उपकरण का दर अनुमोदन होने के पश्चात ही कम्पनी का फोन नम्बर, सर्विस सेन्टर तथा दक्ष अभियन्ता का नाम की जायेगी ।
3. एक लाख से पाँच लाख मूल्य के मशीन का वारंटी अवधि तीन वर्षों की होगी ।
4. जेनरल आईटम के क्रमांक-16 को विलुप्त किया जाता है ।
5. मशीन उपकरण के निर्माणकर्ता का निर्माण लाईसेंस एवं गुणवत्ता प्रमाण पत्र (ISO/CE Certificate) तकनीकी निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना होगा ।
6. निविदा सूचि में जितने भी संबंधित सामान जूग के अंतर्गत आते हैं उस जूग सामान के निर्माणकर्ता का लाईसेंस एवं गुणवत्ता संबंधित कागजात तकनीकी निविदा में संलग्न करना होगा ।
7. शुद्धि पत्र प्रथम प्रकाशित होने की तिथि से दस(10) दिनों के लिए समयावधि बढ़ाई जाती है ।
विरुद्ध जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.prdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है ।
(डा0 राज रंजन प्रसाद)
अधीक्षक,
दरभंगा मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल,
लहेरियासराय
PR.008176 (Health) 2019-20
बेटा-बेटी एक समान। दहेज-प्रथा करे सबका अपमान।।

A new study has found that only four out of 429 persons named 'traffickers' in police files relating to over 100 cases of human trafficking, have been convicted in the past decade. **MUSBA HASHMI** tells you more

TRAFFIC ALERT

There is an adage — Little thieves are hanged but great ones escape. It holds true to today's era where the most dangerous criminals are never traced. Or even if they are, it's mostly too late.

A new study has found that only four out of 429 people named as 'traffickers' in police files related to over 100 cases of human trafficking, have been convicted in the past 10 years. This provides enough evidence to understand why human trafficking continues to grow unabated in the country.

The study, carried out by analysing case documents such as chargesheets, FIRs and police general diaries related to 198 human trafficking cases, found that out of 429 named offenders only less than one per cent were convicted with punishments ranging between five and seven years of imprisonment. The study revealed that 68 traffickers have been given bail, and in investigations linked to five traffickers, the case has been continuing for over a decade now.

"The low conviction and high acquittal figures cast doubts in the efficacy of investigations by law-enforcement agencies in human trafficking cases," says Snigdha Sen, who conducted the analysis by studying legal documents availed from courts and police stations of cases involving over 173 survivors of human trafficking from West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

"The findings reaffirm that traffickers enjoy a high degree of impunity because of the lacklustre investigations. The lack of retribution encourages them to carry on with their criminal activity leading to a surge in human trafficking," Sen adds. She collaborated with several organisations like HELP from Andhra Pradesh, Goranbho Gram Bikash Kendra from West Bengal and Partners for Anti Trafficking (PAT) — a consortium of eight community-based organisations in West Bengal. These organisations have come together to work for the rehabilitation and protection of survivors under the access to justice programme Taffeesh.

That 31 out of the 429 traffickers are repeat offenders accused in multiple cases of human trafficking and all their victims were children and adolescents, shows the level of impunity they enjoy in the absence of proper law enforcement. These 31 have committed 91 (19 per cent) of the total number of crimes.

"Impunity is one of the key reasons why West Bengal is not being able to arrest human trafficking despite several initiatives by the Government, the police and NGOs. Currently, traffickers who are in the business of recruiting girls and young women in this State and selling them in Maharashtra, Delhi, Telangana or Goa, have little accountability. As they grow wealthier, they recruit others to join them in spotting, recruiting and trafficking vulnerable children and adolescents. The reason these investigations are so prolonged and prosecution so weak is that over 99 per cent of these cases are investigated by the local police which has restricted time and resources. They restrict their investigations to their area and do not take the investigations to destination States to look for evidence to show nexus between traffickers in West Bengal and pimps and brothel owners in destination States," says Roop Sen, co-researcher and a human rights activist, who has been working on human trafficking issue for over 20 years.

These facts clearly indicate how these wrongdoers thrive without being brought to justice, not to mention the agony of the survivors who fall prey to such crimes.

A case in point is Salma Khatun (name changed) who was trafficked at 13 years of age. "I know that the traffickers involved in my case are enjoying impunity. But I am



surprised and disheartened to know that the status is almost the same in most other cases. It's now normal for traffickers to roam free without any fear," says Khatun, who is now 22 years old. She is a member of survivors' leaders collective Bandhan Mukti from where, she says, she draws courage to continue her fight.

But not all is lost here. A ray of hope in such cases is Nusrat (name changed), a survivor whose trafficker was recently convicted for a five-year jail term. "I could not imagine that it would ever be possible to get him punished through a trial conducted via video conferencing. But it happened, and the criminal is in jail now. I would have been much happier had the trafficker got life imprisonment," she says.

Another survivor Shivani (name changed), who is now associated with Andhra Pradesh-based survivor leaders collective Vimukthi recalls the trauma she went through. "I returned home after spending four years in a shelter home but I am stigmatised by my community. People treat me and my family as anti-social elements while the trafficker who made me suffer so much roams free. I want these traffickers to get punished," she says.

According to the 2016 National Crime Records Bureau data, 45 per cent of the children ended up as forced labourers as domestic workers or in small industries such as textile and firecracker workshops.

Another, 35 per cent of them were trafficked for sexual exploitation, 4,980 of whom were sold to brothels and another 162 for child pornography.

Rakesh Senger, Executive Director, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, says the reason behind the low conviction rate of traffickers is the loopholes in the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956.

"We are now demanding a holistic law for sex trafficking. This includes the different ways used, including new methods. In the current Act, there is a thin line between sex workers and brothel owners so the conviction becomes even more difficult. We have proposed certain changes in the Act under the Trafficking of Person, Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation Bill, 2018. This Bill is yet to be passed by the Lok Sabha. We have demanded more convictions and a formation of a special court for such issues. We have also demanded that the brothels should be sealed immediately after the raids. Also, an anti-trafficking cell should be deployed at district and State levels so that no crime



SHELTER HOMES ARE A HUB OF CRIME, MORE SO AS THE AUTHORITIES KNOW THAT THE CHILDREN LIVING THERE ARE EITHER ORPHANS OR THEIR PARENTS DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE. HENCE THEY ARE EXPLOITED

— ADVOCATE POOJA SAREEN

goes unreported. There should be a special rehabilitation fund to help improve the lot of survivors," he says. The number of minors are high in these trafficking cases, he adds.

The trafficking methods are changing with the Internet trafficking coming in. Online clients are taken to a brothel which is built in such a way that it becomes difficult to differentiate between it and a guest house. Here, even if the police conducts raids, there is no evidence to prove that the place is a brothel and not a guest house.

"Even the victims don't want to speak up in such cases because they are made to believe that this is their normal. Even if they try to escape there is no way out. There is no place they can seek shelter in," Senger says.

The other method of trafficking that is prevalent in the slums is through shopkeepers who sell chocolates laced with weed to youngsters. This is called *bhola* link. Since it is in a chocolate form even the parents don't stop their children from eating this. When children consume this, they faint and can be easily be kidnapped for trafficking. To stop children from falling prey to such traps, more awareness should be created in the form of workshops where the children are taught the pitfalls of eating such detrimental substances.

"In 2017, a 17-year-old girl from Delhi was lured by a marriage proposal and kidnapped from Gurugram. The girl was sold to different sex traffickers in Gurugram. The horrific part in this case is that the girl's parents were themselves into the business of sex trafficking and they were the ones who sold the girl in the name of marriage. The girl somehow managed to escape. But that was not all. The traffickers again kidnapped her near Jhajhar. That was when she realised that there is no escape until she reports the crime. Then, somehow she managed to come to us for help," Senger recalls.

Another such case is of a brothel in Pune where a 20-year-old boy fell in love with a 17-year-old sex worker. "The girl was from the North-East working in a brothel in Pune. When the boy visited the brothel he fell in love with the girl and decided to take her out from her living hell. He reached out to us for help. We found that the girl hailed from a village in the North-East and her friend had kidnapped and sold her to the Pune brothel. We rescued and sent her to a shelter home," he tells you.

FACTSPEAK

- One third or 162 out of 429 traffickers are female.
- 50% or 216 traffickers are from the age group of 25 to 45 years.
- 28% or 118 traffickers are between 25 and 35 years, while two — one boy and one girl — named traffickers are minors.
- The myth that traffickers are mostly the family members has also been busted
- Largest group of the traffickers (34% or 148) were neighbours, while 31% or 131 were completely unknown to the survivors.
- Only 7% or 30 traffickers were from family members, including extended family members.

Not that these Government-run shelter homes are anything less than a prison, the reason being poor maintenance. "The quality of life in these shelter homes is bad with poor hygiene and infrastructure. In any case they are over populated and there are no living standards," Senger says.

According to advocate Pooja Sareen, these shelter homes are beset with illegal activities. "These shelter homes are a hub of crime, more so as the authorities know that the children living there are either orphans or their parents don't know where they are. Hence, they are exploited," Sareen says. Most of the victims are from West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odissa, North-East and Nepal.

It's not only the traffickers who are involved in the crime but some corrupt police officials too. "The Government penalises trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation through the ITPA with a penalty of seven years to life imprisonment. India prohibits bonded and forced labour through the Bonded Labour Abolition Act, the Child Labour Act, and the Juvenile Justice Act. Also, the Indian Penal Code uses Sections 366(A) and 372 to penalise kidnapping and selling of minors into prostitution, respectively.

Penalties under these provisions are a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and a fine. Yet, sex trafficking largely goes unreported, unattended and is seldom in the limelight. Thousands of children and women are forced into prostitution. These sex workers are made to service clients both in Indian and abroad. It's a cruel nexus that rarely surfaces.

"Things go worse for victims due to corrupt officials. They protect brothels, traffickers and brothel keepers from arrest.

Law is often manipulated. Usually, there are no efforts made to tackle the problem of Government complicity in trafficking workers for overseas employment. The bulk of bonded labour heads for the Middle-East for illegal and inhumane trafficking of Indian workers," Sareen says.

Minors are kidnapped and trafficked on fake IDs and documents. "We have failed as a system rescue such victims despite them being brought into metros from all corners of India and pushed into flesh trade day in and day out.

"Many of the pubs in posh localities flourish close to residential colonies. Prostitutes and pimps are a part and parcel of this trade. This happens under the nose of the police and often with their collusion. I can tell you of cases where residents have raised the issue with the police regarding these illegal activities but all goes in vain," Sareen tells you.

Senger highlights the immediate need for more counsellors to help the survivors overcome the trauma. "The survivors need counselling. Many times the survivors don't speak of their trauma for months. During this time, their shelter home inmates play a key role. These survivors often talk to inmates as they feel they are the ones who will understand them better because they too have gone through a similar situation," he tells you.

To help tackle such issues, Sareen suggests that the police should raid places like spas, bars and pubs more often and that the Government should keep a close eye on them. There should be a special squad to check out the NGOs, shelter homes, child and women welfare organisations which claim to safeguard women and children.

Silver worth its weight in Gold

Panghal ends 2nd at world c'ships

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

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

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

"I think I lacked a bit of power in my punches today, I will work on it. Zoirov has been in this weight for longer time than me, that helped him



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

today," Panghal said after the bout.

"Nonetheless, it is the biggest medal of my career, I dedicate this to my country," he added.

In the course of his stupendous run, the second-seeded Indian became the first male boxer from the country to finish second in the world event. The nation achieved its best-ever medal haul of two.

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

In a bout that was mostly about counter-attack, both Panghal and Zoirov were wary

of each other in the opening three minutes.

The action picked up a bit in the second round and Panghal tried hard to capitalize on his rival's low guard. However, in Zoirov, Panghal met his match in pace and the Uzbek had no trouble dodging Panghal's lunging efforts.

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

"I am sure I am going to beat him the next time we square off. There are a few shortcomings in my game, I will ensure they are taken care of next time," he said.

"He could have performed a lot better than what he did. He just needed to be a shade more

aggressive and throw more punches. That alone would have been enough because the other guy wasn't exactly a power-hitter," added national coach C A Kuttappa.

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

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

"With less than a year to go for the 2020 Olympics, these performances are a major boost. BFI will ensure and encourage them in every possible way so that they can carry this form into Tokyo to bring back medals for the country," he added.



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

Phenomenal Panghal: From late-comer to world-beater

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But old habits die hard and Kuttappa, who fondly calls Panghal *bacchu* (child), revealed that even at the just-concluded world championship Panghal showed up late once for a training session.

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

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

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

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

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

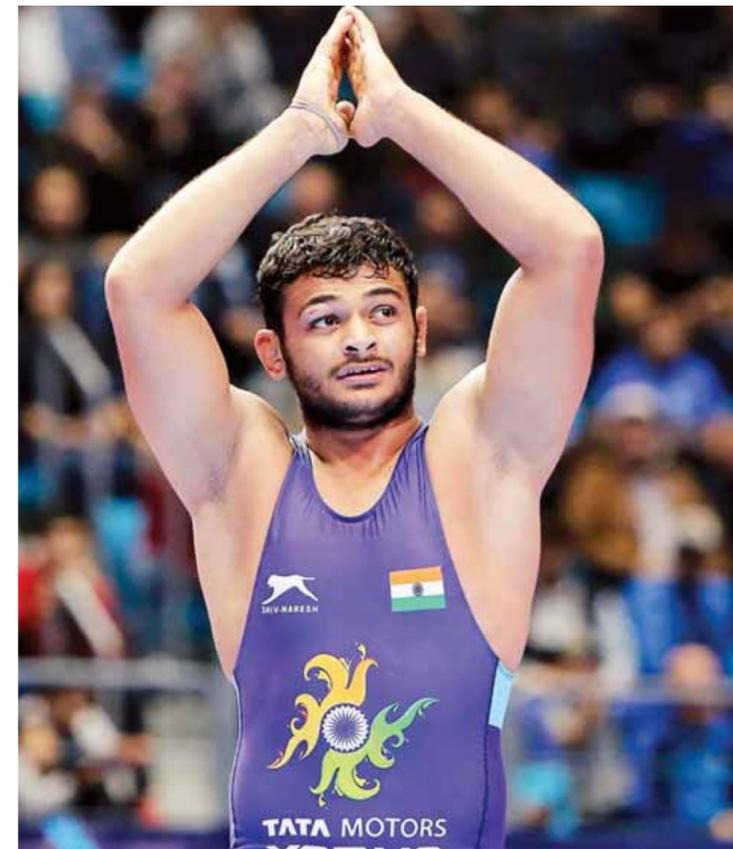
"It hasn't been as difficult as I first thought. But it has taken time for me to fit in," he said.

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

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

Deepak's double delight

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



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

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

Punia and Ravi Dahiya have already won a Bronze medal each. All of them qualified for the Tokyo Olympics as well.

Rahul Aware can make it even better if he wins today's Bronze medal bout in the 61kg non-Olympic category. He lost his semifinal bout 6-10 to Beka Lomtadze of Georgia.

India had returned with three medals in 2013.

Deepak's all-round ability — defence, attack, stamina and awareness on the mat — played a key role in his memorable performance.

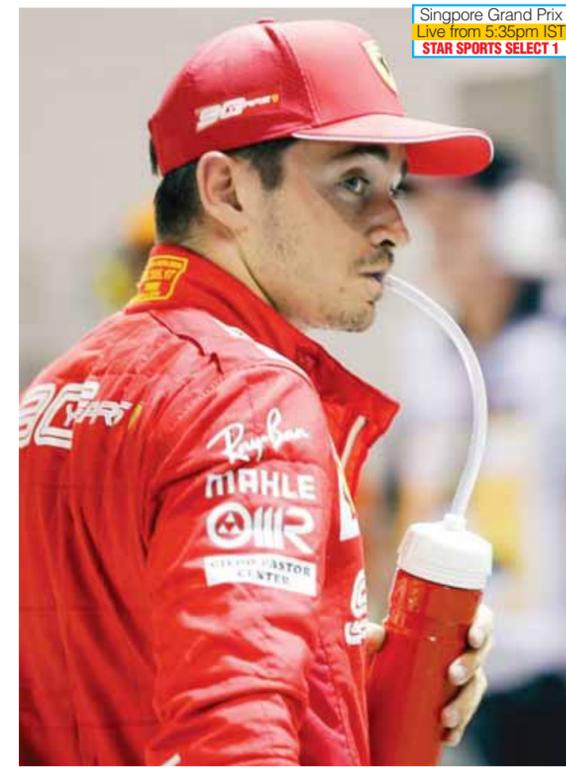
"I had genuinely hoped for a medal and Olympic quota. So, it is a double delight for me. My seniors like Sushil Kumar and Bajrang Punia inspire me," Deepak said.

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

There was no action in the first period of the semifinal



Leclerc on pole at Singapore



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

Singapore Grand Prix
Live from 5:35pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

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

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

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

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

Hamilton holds a 63-point lead over Bottas of Mercedes in the title race with seven rounds remaining.

The Briton said he would adopt an aggressive approach to today's race in search of a ninth victory of the season, as he seeks a sixth world championship.

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

"I'm really happy to be on the front row with them. Tomorrow we can be aggressive."

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

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

Red Bull's Alex Albon will start sixth on the grid, ahead of Carlos Sainz, Daniel Ricciardo, Nico Hulkenberg and Lando Norris.



Team Europe's Roger Federer returns a ball to Team World's Nick Kyrgios during their match at the Laver Cup AFP

Federer puts Europe ahead in Laver Cup

AFP ■ GENEVA

Roger Federer edged out Nick Kyrgios in a super tie-break to give Europe a 5-3 lead after the opening session of the second day of the Laver Cup in Geneva on Saturday.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion, who won his first match alongside Alexander Zverev in Friday's doubles tie, beat Australian Kyrgios 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 10-7 to the delight of his 17,000-strong home crowd.

"The crowd could feel it, I could feel it. I needed to get some energy going but you can't do that if you don't play any good shots and Nick was playing very well," said Federer.

"I was just trying to stay focused. If you can turn the momentum, the crowd gets back into it and I need some earplugs next time, it was just phenomenal."

Bjorn Borg's holders had seen Team World draw level earlier with John Isner's victory over Zverev.

The 38-year-old Federer had won his last

two matches against Kyrgios in straight sets, but dropped the opener in a tie-break.

But he hit back to level the match with a break in game 11 of the second set, before holding off a late Kyrgios rally in the super tie-break to take it on his third match point.

Earlier, Isner fought back from a set down to beat Zverev 6-7 (2/7), 6-4, 10-1 and haul Team World level at 3-3 after Europe led by two points after the opening day.

The big-serving American lost a first-set tie-break, but hit back before racing through the super breaker in style.

"Maybe we're turning the tables just a little bit," said world number 20 Isner, the highest-ranked player in the visitors' team.

"Team World is in this and we're here to win, so let's get it going."

Osaka advances to Pan Pacific final

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japanese tennis sensation Naomi Osaka beat Elise Mertens of Belgium on Saturday to reach the final of the Pan Pacific Open, thrilling her Japanese fans in the city of her birth.

Top seed Osaka dispatched No 9 seed Mertens 6-4, 6-1 in Osaka, western Japan, to reach her first final since winning the Australian Open.

The pair both held their serves for the first set until Osaka broke Mertens in the 10th game.

Osaka, 21, rounded into form in the second, and after the pair traded early breaks, won the last four games of the match to sprint to victory in an hour.

"It's been kind of rough like the past couple of months so I'm really glad that I made it to the final," she said.

She tried to stay calm because the 23-year-old Belgian player is "an amazing player and it's so hard to hit her balls," she said.

Earlier in the day, Osaka saw off Yulia Putintseva in straight sets, even as she was tricked at times by the Kazakh player's slices and drop shots.

"For me, I learned a lot from when I played her at Wimbledon, and I know that a hard court is where I feel most comfortable," Osaka told press after beating Putintseva.

Her challenger in the final will be Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia, 28, who ousted former world number one Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-3, 6-3.



Naomi Osaka celebrates after win WTA

Another series win on focus

India look to maintain clean slate against Proteas in T20s before Tests

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

Pant has divided opinions —



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

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

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

The South Africans had no answer to Kohli's batting at Mohali in the second T20I, and with the next game being hosted at a ground where he is too familiar with, the Indian captain will be eyeing another good outing.

But before Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan will be standing up to the Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack with optimism, the size of the ground only aiding stroke-makers like the two openers.

The terrific Indian trio could again be a thorn in the Proteas' flesh, with Rohit especially looking to make up after failing to translate his start into a big knock in Mohali.

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

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

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

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

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

SINGLES

MARIN ENTERS CHINA OPEN FINAL
CHANGZHOU: Reigning Olympic champion shuttler Carolina Marin on Saturday advanced to the final of the China Open after securing a hard-fought win over Japan's Sayaka Takahashi. The Spaniard came from behind to register a 20-22, 21-13, 21-18 win over Takahashi in a thrilling semifinal that lasted 72 minutes. In the other semifinal, Taiwan's Tai Tzu-ying defeated China's Chen Yufei 6-21, 21-13, 22-20 in 53 minutes to set up a summit clash with Marin, which will be played today. Marin is returning to the court after eight months following a knee surgery in January. She could not participate in the World Championships in Switzerland last month as she failed to recover completely.

JAIPIUR-GUJARAT PLAY TIE IN PKL
JAIPIUR: Hosts Jaipur Pink Panthers played out a highly entertaining 28-28 tie against Gujarat Fortunegiants in the 100th match of Pro Kabaddi League season seven here on Saturday. In the second match, UP Yodha defeated Tamil Thalaivas 42-22 in a one-sided encounter. In the first match, both defences produced a masterclass in the match of the Jaipur leg in front of a packed audience at the Savai Mansingh Stadium but the Pink Panthers will rue missing out on a win despite taking a healthy lead for most part of the first half. Both teams started the match with aggressive defensive shapes. The raiders struggled to get a stranglehold of the match as the defenders kept putting in successful tackles.

MOEEN ALI TO TAKE BREAK FROM TEST
LONDON: England all-rounder Moeen Ali, who missed out on a central contract in Test matches, has decided to take a short break from red-ball cricket. However, he has retained his white-ball contract suggesting he is still a key figure in both the ODI and T20I set-up for England. The development means that the all-rounder will not be available for selection for England's upcoming Test tour to New Zealand. Speaking to The Guardian, Moeen said: "I do feel I need a break from the longer format but not a massive one. We will see what happens after the New Zealand series. This could be just what I need. "It's disappointing to miss out on a central contract but I'm also pretty chilled about it. Cricket has never been about the money for me. I have always relied on my faith and believe that everything will work out fine."

BIBIANO CAUTIONS INDIAN COLTS
TASHKENT: India U-16 football head coach Bibiano Fernandes believes that even though the team has defeated Turkmenistan and Bahrain in the ongoing AFC Qualifiers, "The job is not done yet" as they face Uzbekistan today. The U-16 boys won against Turkmenistan and Bahrain by identical 5-0 margins, and that has put them at a goal difference of +10. "We have had two good results. We need to go into the last game against Uzbekistan with the same attitude," Bibiano was quoted as saying by www.the-aiff.com. "A draw is never in our mind." "We want to win it and come out of the group with nine points. We had set an objective of winning all three games in the group, before coming here, and we intend to fulfill that objective, regardless of what the equations are." AGENCIES

Abid Ali, Rizwan, Shinwari recalled to Pak ODI squad



Misbah ul Haq speaks during press conference

PTI ■ KARACHI

World Cup discards Abid Ali, Iftikhar Ahmed, Muhammad Rizwan, Usman Shinwari and Muhammad Nawaz have been recalled to Pakistan's ODI squad for the upcoming home series against Sri Lanka.

The new head coach and chief selector, Misbah-ul-Haq, told the media that he is looking to build separate ODI and T20 squads.

"Our performances in one-day cricket have been inconsistent. I think we need to improve our bowling and fielding a lot for the 50-overs cricket as we lost matches before and in the World Cup even after putting up 300 plus totals," Misbah said.

All five players were overlooked by former chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq and ex-head coach Mickey Arthur for the World Cup. But Misbah said they were straightforward selections for this series.

"Iftikhar Ahmed is a batsman who can also bowl off-spin and provides the captain with necessary bowling depth as Sri Lanka boasts a few left-handers in their ranks."

"Mohammad Nawaz has been performing well in domestic matches. Despite their strong performances, Mohammad Rizwan, Usman Shinwari and Abid Ali were unlucky to miss out the World Cup squad," he said.

Misbah also underlined that the batsmen have been doing a good job at posting 300 plus totals regularly, but the team traditionally relies on its strong bowling unit.

The former Pakistan captain also said that he felt skipper Sarfaraz Ahmed had undermined his batting potential in recent matches.

"I have spoken to him and I have told him he needs to be batting regularly because he is the sort of batsman who can quickly change the game."

Misbah added that the side was not going to underestimate its opponents because 10 Sri Lankan players refused to tour Pakistan citing security concerns.

"These are the only 50-over matches we play this season and we want to make their optimum use. Over the course of my cricketering career, I have realized there are no easy games and there are no easy opponents."

Asked why he had not included any new players in the squad, Misbah said he had no issues with selecting new players but the Pakistan team is not a laboratory to test players.

"We will only pick those players who have the required fitness and who have performed enough to be given serious consideration. In the past, we have seen we picked players prematurely and after one or two matches they found it difficult to cope with the pressures of international cricket."

Pakistan will host Sri Lanka for three ODIs and as many T20s from September 27 to October 9.

Coutinho shines in Cologne rout

AFP ■ MUNICH

Philippe Coutinho's first Bayern Munich goal and a brace from Robert Lewandowski helped the German champions climb to second in the Bundesliga with a 4-0 thrashing of 10-man Cologne on Saturday.

Poland star striker Lewandowski put Bayern ahead with just 150 seconds gone at the Allianz Arena after Joshua Kimmich split the Cologne defence.

He then doubled the hosts' lead with a header from a corner at the start of the season half to take his league tally to nine in five games.

Coutinho, on loan from Barcelona, converted a penalty on the hour at the second attempt, after Lewandowski gave the Brazilian the chance despite being on a hat-trick.

Kingsley Ehizibue had been shown a straight red card just before the penalty for bringing down Coutinho in the area when the Brazilian was one-on-one with Cologne stopper Timo Horn.

Coutinho capped a superb display by setting up Ivan Perisic to slot the final goal on 73 minutes as Bayern climbed from fourth.

Bayern briefly topped the table before RB Leipzig replaced them in first place despite finishing with ten men in their 3-0 win at Werder Bremen.

A first-half header by defender Willi Orban and a stunning free-kick by playmaker Marcel Sabitzer saw Leipzig go 2-0 up before midfielder Konrad Laimer was sent off for a second yellow card for the last 26 minutes.



Robert Lewandowski, left, celebrates after scoring the opening goal

Leipzig grabbed a late third when Germany striker Timo Werner sparked an attack finished by substitute Marcelo Saracchi to score his first goal.

Bayer Leverkusen bounced back from their shock Champions League defeat to Lokomotiv Moscow in mid-week with a 2-0 win over Union Berlin.

Second-placed Freiburg wasted the chance to go top as forward Lucas Hoeler gave them the lead only for striker Florian Niederlechner to equalise for Augsburg in a 1-1 draw.

Hertha Berlin climbed off the foot of the table with a nervy 2-1 home win over Paderborn, who took their place at the bottom of the league.

City hit 8 past Hornets

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester City powered to their record Premier League win as the champions scored five times in the first half of an incredible 8-0 thrashing of Watford, while Leicester enjoyed a VAR-assisted 2-1 victory over Tottenham on Saturday.

Inspired by Bernardo Silva's hat-trick, Pep Guardiola's side ripped woeful Watford to pieces at the Etihad Stadium, eclipsing a 7-0 success against Norwich in 2013 which stood as their previous biggest top-flight win.

Although City fell one goal short of equalling the biggest Premier League margin of victory — Manchester United's 9-0 demolition of Ipswich in 1995 — their swaggering display was the perfect way to erase the bitter taste from last weekend's shock defeat at Norwich.

Second-placed City move to within two points of leaders Liverpool, who face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge today.

"When you shoot on target five times for five goals — the quality of players we had made the difference," Guardiola said.

"What I like the most is normally when it's 5-0 at half time the second half is not serious, it's boring but we did the opposite and we were more aggressive and made a

City hit 8 past Hornets



Sergio Kun Aguero celebrates after converting from spot to score City's second goal

very good second half.

"People still don't understand, journalists, pundits, former players, losing games is part of life. We can lose the games but the important thing is the approach and how we react."

City had crushed Watford 6-0 in last season's FA Cup final and they picked up where they left off at Wembley with a goal inside the first minute at the Etihad Stadium.

Kevin De Bruyne played a superb ball in from the right, leaving David Silva with the simple task of poking home from close range for his first goal of the season.

The champions doubled their lead in the seventh minute after Watford keeper Ben Foster conceded a penalty with a foul on Riyad Mahrez.

Sergio Aguero coolly slotted in the spot-kick for his eighth goal in six games this term.

Guardiola had rested Raheem Sterling, but even without their star winger City were rampant and they made it three in the 12th minute when Mahrez's free-kick hit Watford's Tom Cleverley in the

head and deflected past Foster.

Astonishingly, City scored again in the 15th minute, De Bruyne's corner nodded on by Nicolas Otamendi for Bernardo to head home.

By the time Otamendi finished off Aguero's cross in the 18th minute, City had established the fastest 5-0 lead in the Premier League era.

The joint biggest half-time lead in Premier League history wasn't enough for City and Bernardo struck again with a close-range finish after another flowing move in the 48th minute.

Bernardo completed his first Premier League treble on the hour with a tap-in from De Bruyne's cross.

De Bruyne set City's new record mark in the Premier League when the Belgium midfielder scored the eighth in the 85th minute.

LEICESTER ON THE RISE

At the King Power Stadium, Leicester proved their credentials to gatecrash the top four as they came from behind to beat Tottenham.

Harry's Kane's improvised 29th-minute opener as he stumbled before flicking home put Tottenham ahead.

However, the game swung Leicester's way after Tottenham defender Serge Aurier's goal midway through the second half was ruled out by the finest of margins for offside by VAR.

The hosts built on that lift immediately as Ricardo Pereira equalised before James Maddison struck the winner from long range five minutes from time.

By contrast, Tottenham have now won just two of their first seven games of the season in all competitions and Mauricio Pochettino admitted the VAR controversy had played a role in their latest flop.

Pochettino bemoaned the momentum swing given to Leicester by the long stoppage in play prior to Aurier's strike being ruled out for an extremely marginal offside against Son Heung-min.

"The emotion of the game changed. The belief it gave to Leicester made things happen differently in the last 10 minutes," Pochettino said.

Burnley beat Norwich 2-0 at Turf Moor, with Chris Wood scoring in the 10th and 14th minutes.

Sheffield United piled pressure on Everton manager Marco Silva, whose side were booed off after a 2-0 defeat at Goodison Park, the damage done by Yerry Mina's 40th-minute own goal and Lys Mousset's 79th-minute strike.

Juve complete routine win

AFP ■ TURIN

Aaron Ramsey's first Juventus goal on his maiden start and Cristiano Ronaldo's spot-kick winner saw the Italian champions seal a comeback 2-1 win over Verona on Saturday that put them top of Serie A ahead of the Milan derby.

Welsh international Ramsey pulled Juventus level in the 31st minute in Turin in reply to Miguel Veloso's early Verona goal, with a well-taken Ronaldo penalty ensuring all three points for the hosts just after the break.

It got Maurizio Sarri's side back winning after last weekend's Serie A stalemate at Fiorentina and a 2-2 Champions League draw at Atletico Madrid midweek.

Italian goalkeeper legend Gianluigi Buffon returned to the Juventus goal after spending a season in Paris Saint-Germain to match Paolo Maldini's Italian record of 902 club matches.

Amid confusion in front of the Juve goal after Simone Di



Juventus players celebrate after Aaron Ramsey's goal

ATM draw blank against Blanco

AGENCIES ■ MADRID

Atletico Madrid failed to win for a third successive game in all competitions as an inspired performance from Ruben Blanco secured Celta Vigo an unexpected 0-0 draw at the Wanda Metropolitano.

Diego Simeone's side saw their 100 per cent LaLiga record come to an emphatic end against Real Sociedad last weekend, while they rallied on Wednesday to secure a 2-2 Champions League draw with Juventus.

However, their efforts in clawing back a two-goal deficit against the Serie A champions appeared to have taken a toll judging by their performance against Celta, with a sluggish Atletico failing to score at home in league action for the first time since May 2018.

Hector Herrera was rewarded for his equaliser off the bench in midweek with a first LaLiga start, while Simeone also selected Angel Correa in an attack-minded starting XI.

Yet for all their exerted efforts going forward, Atletico were unable to find a way to beat the

outstanding Blanco.

He kept the home team at bay with a trio of fine saves in the first half, starting with an acrobatic effort to turn away Felipe's header from Kieran Trippier's inswinging free-kick.

The visiting goalkeeper also tipped over a rising long-range drive from Renan Lodi, with Blanco then denying Joao Felix's on-target prod from the resulting corner.

Koke tested the 24-year-old reflexes again from distance early in a second half where Atletico became increasingly frustrated with each passing minute.

Lodi's decision to go for goal from a tight angle rather than cross for the waiting Alvaro Morata summed up a below-par performance, while they were grateful substitute Pione Sisto failed to do better with a back-post opportunity in the closing minutes of a quickly forgettable encounter.

With a midweek round of fixtures in Spain, Atletico Madrid travel to Real Mallorca on Wednesday. Celta, meanwhile, are in action the following day, as they host Espanyol.

Icardi, Sarabia to miss Lyon trip

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain's injury problems worsened on Saturday as forwards Mauro Icardi and Pablo Sarabia were ruled out of today's Ligue 1 game at Lyon.

Star striker Kylian Mbappe has also failed to recover from a thigh injury suffered in August, leaving PSG coach Thomas Tuchel without five attacking players, with Edinson Cavani and Julian Draxler also still sidelined.

"It's still too risky (to play Mbappe)," said Tuchel.

"He's very close (to playing again), but it (his recovery) is not over."

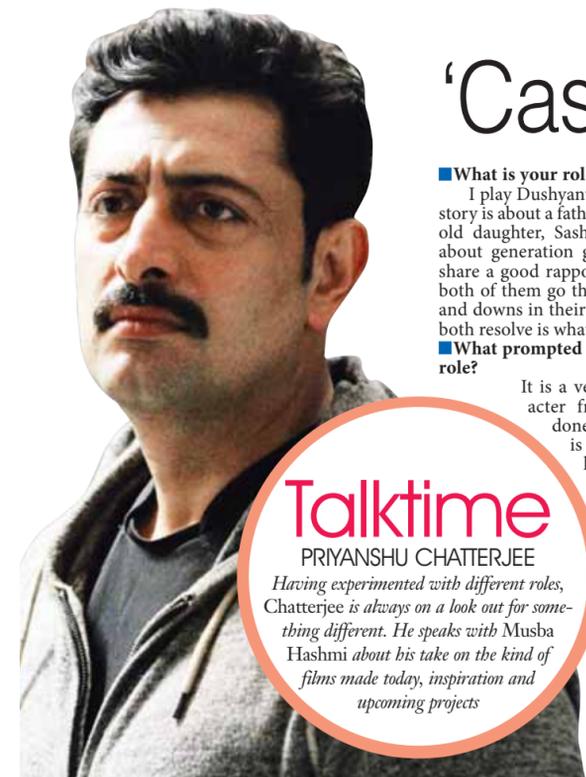
Winger Sarabia, a close-season signing from Sevilla, picked up a knock in Wednesday's 3-0 Champions League victory over Real Madrid, while Icardi, on loan from Inter Milan, is still yet to reach peak fitness.

The French champions will likely start with a front three of Neymar, Angel Di Maria and Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting at the Groupama Stadium.

Lyon were widely tipped to be PSG's closest challengers for the league title this term, but Sylvinho's men sit eighth in the early table, four points behind the leaders.

ODI SQUAD

Sarfaraz Ahmed (captain), Babar Azam (vice-captain), Abid Ali, Asif Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Rizwan, Shadab Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz.



Talktime
PRIYANSHU CHATTERJEE
Having experimented with different roles, Chatterjee is always on a look out for something different. He speaks with Musba Hashmi about his take on the kind of films made today, inspiration and upcoming projects

'Casting procedure should be streamlined'

■What is your role in Little Baby?
I play Dushyant Singh, a cop. The story is about a father and his 19-year-old daughter, Sasha. The film talks about generation gap. Sasha doesn't share a good rapport with his father, both of them go through a lot of ups and downs in their relationship. How both resolve is what the film is about.

■What prompted you to play this role?

It is a very different character from what I have done before. The story is interesting and it has a catch. I always look for projects where I enjoy my work and do something different. This film was up my ally.

■You debuted with Tum Bin. How did you get on board for that?

I was always a movie buff. Acting was always on my

cards. This took me to Mumbai where I gave auditions for *Tum Bin*. After auditioning three-four times, I was finally selected for it.

■What is your take on the kind of films being made today?

A lot of content-oriented films are being made today. The scripts are fresh and unique. People are making a lot of biopics which is a good thing. It is good to see our history and to know the untold stories of some of the greatest people of our country. It makes for an exciting watch.

■What was the most challenging project for you?

Pinjar was the most challenging one because it was a period drama. I hadn't done period dramas before. To relive the time of partition, to bring in the reality and to get the emotions right was challenging.

■Do you have any regrets?

No. I don't think too much about anything. Once you have done something, it's done; you can't redo or undo it. The time has gone. There's nothing that you can do about that. I believe in moving on and learning from my mistakes.

■How has your journey been?

MY INSPIRATION IS MY FAMILY AND PARENTS. IF YOU TALK ABOUT ACTING, THEN THERE ARE A LOT OF GREAT ACTORS WHO CONTINUE TO INSPIRE ME — AMITABH BACHCHAN AND NASEERUDDIN SHAH TO NAME A FEW

It has been an amazing one. There were tough times and there were good times too. I don't worry about anything. Good and bad things are a part and parcel of life. One should not fear it. Instead, we should just take what life has on offer for us with both hands.

■If not an actor, what else would you have been?

I couldn't imagine myself in any other profession but acting. But, if so was the case I would have been an accountant then.

■Who is your inspiration?

My inspiration is my family and parents. If you talk about acting, then there are a lot of great actors in the industry who continue to inspire me. Amitabh Bachchan and Naseeruddin Shah to name a few.

■What does acting mean to you?

Acting is just any other craft or skill. There's no end to learning it. It helps bring out the different sides of your personality through different characters. For me, it is like a sea with no end. No one can reach the bottom of it, it's endless.

■There are a lot of talks around the difference in pay scale. What is your take on that?

It is the case in every sector today. It is not merely related to acting. That is how marketing works. This difference in pay scale has nothing to do with one's calibre or capability. At the end, this is how the industry works and we have to digest this bitter pill. There's nothing one can do about this.

■One change that you would like to see in the industry for actors and other working professionals?

I would want the casting process to get a little more streamlined. Because there are a lot of talented actors and when they don't get work, I feel bad. If the casting process will become more streamlined, it will open the doors to more opportunities for the fresh actors in the industry.

■Apart from acting, what keeps you busy?

I like spending time at my home. Also, I love reading books.

■What are your upcoming projects?

My web series — *Cold Lassi Aur Chicken Masala*, has just been released. Then, *Little Baby* will release on September 27, 2019. Then there is one film — *Sridevi Bungalow* which will release this year.

Pushing musical limit

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with digital audio service providers who talk about what the listeners want, the challenges and growing popularity of podcasting

From listening to songs on LP to radio to audio cassettes iPods to digital music service providers, people who love to listen to music have never had it better. This streaming has been evolving over the years with the most changes coming in the last five years.

Streaming has fundamentally revolutionised the business of music and the experience for creators and fans alike. Today, it's an expression of individuality, a global platform of cultural exchange, a social form of engagement, and a way to enhance moods and moments.

With the rapid Internet penetration, more and more people are moving from illegal means of music streaming to free, legal platforms. However, in India that journey is still far from over, but it is believed that easier access to streaming services, in-app personalisation, ability to discover music, and the general experience of using intuitive apps will lead to more users shifting to legal music streaming in the near future.

Amarjit Batra, Managing Director India, Spotify tells you that there are challenges here. "When we talk about India, the country's rich heritage, diversity of cultures and multiplicity of languages, and access to global cultures translates to a huge range of preferences, necessitating agility in delivering a unique experience for each user. With over 50 million songs and three billion playlists, we are creating an experience that's constantly refreshed," Batra says.

Consumers today aren't

just looking for favourite tracks, but for newer recommendations based on what they already listen to, or sometimes, new sounds altogether." Our AI framework ensures that users are offered curated audio experiences that are new, yet familiar," Batra says.

Second, is piracy. This stems from the fact that we are a price conscious market, and to address this, we introduced an industry leading free tier, and multiple subscription based tiers that make sense for our local users. Third, is the devices and quality of network connectivity across the country.

Batra tells you that the future of audio is limitless. Therefore, there is potential growth of podcasts as a new form of audio storytelling is garnering steady popularity amongst the urban a u d i o streamers in the country.



"Podcasts are an intimate form of storytelling, and listeners are invested in it because it's almost like someone talking to you. Globally, we've seen a 50 per cent podcast audience growth Q-on-Q; while its still early days in our country, we have seen trend around content themed to self-motivation, true crime, mythology and education," Batra says.

The top five most streamed podcasts are *On Purpose* with Jay Shetty, *Views* with David Dobrik and Jason Nash, *The Misfits Podcast*, *Audio Book* and *Sleepy*.

What is that the listeners want today? "A few interesting insights has highlighted that the user mentality in India has matured from just consuming favourite songs and familiar artists to experiencing music that is more personalised through taste-specific discoveries and recommendations. While Bollywood reigns supreme in consumption, GenZ is curious and open to expanding their taste in music. They are discovering new artists and genres, contributing to a significant rise in K-POP, Punjabi, Hip-Hop Latin Pop, and EDM.

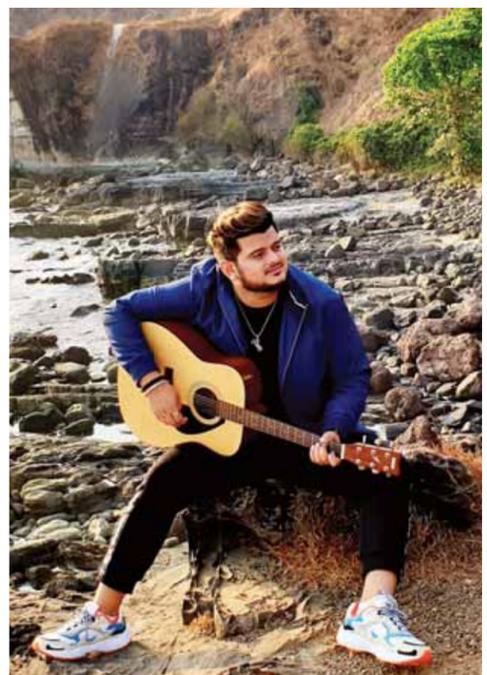
The consumer is spoilt for choice and they will go to brands that listen to them, engage with them, give them audio content in a way that is personalised, intuitive, and brings a seamless user experience,"

Batra explains.

Agrees Prashan Agarwal, CEO Gaana. "Listeners expect something new each day. We have launched several industry-first steps in that regard — be it making the app interface live in 12 languages, being the first music app to introduce in-app voice assistant, introducing sing-along lyrics on the player page, smart downloads, where the app will automatically download a premium user's favourite tracks based on their listening history. We have launched aana videos recently," Agarwal says.

He opines that the country's music streaming space has evolved significantly in terms of content consumption and tech innovation. "On the content consumption side, while Hindi continues to be leading the consumption — regional music now contributes to 35 per cent of the overall consumption, led by Punjabi music at 15 per cent at Gaana. "On the tech front, the most remarkable innovation is in widespread voice search adoption and cutting-edge tech like AI and Machine Learning that now help us offer a more personalised music experience," Agarwal says and tells you that they are steadily making their way into podcasts and the originals space.

"These genres allow us the flexibility to be creative and cater to certain niche audiences that we wouldn't have otherwise been able to reach, while offering us a great way to retain users over a longer period of time. The content consumption patterns of these niche categories also show immense promise to be integrated into the mainstream in about a year or two. That is exactly why even they require a great deal of front-loaded investment, we are committed to both," Agarwal says.



'It's important to be versatile'

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with singer-composer VISHAL MISHRA about his latest video, with 4 million views, in which he features

■What is your latest track about?

The song is called *Takda Rava*. This is my second single. The song is very close and special to me since this is the first time I am doing a fusion of R&B and Pop; this had not been done in the country for a long time. The last time, I did *Sajna Ve* and *Kaise Hua*, people wanted me to do a Punjabi song. But I wanted to do something that reflected me, my independent music must showcase what my personality is. Hence, *Takda Rava* happened. It has a beautiful guitar solo. I am also part of the video where I am dancing.

■How was the experience of being in front of the camera?

This is the second independent single. Also, I have been shooting for my songs. People say I am camera friendly though I don't believe them. I like to meet people, I like being on the sets. I like to be part of different vibrations. If people like it, I think it is worth it. Overall, it has been a great experience.

■Would you agree that it is important to be versatile?

It is very important to be versatile. It is important to cater to the people's expectations. This is because the moment you don't do this, when people are eyeing you, there is a line that you have to meet every time. People expect your music to work every time. Your intent has to be correct all the time. I only make music that makes people comfortable.

■Is it tough to do this all the time?

Not really. People are too similar. We do the same thing, just the mannerism may be different. There is no pressure of a different expectation. I make music that makes me comfortable and the people. I hope that it acts as a companion for the people.

■You have sung many romantic numbers. Has that been a coincidence?

I have sung many dance numbers as well like *Ghungroo* and *Rafta Rafta*. But sometimes, the romantic songs become big and household songs and people start associating you with that genre.

■Is the independent music reaching saturation?

There is so much that is happening in this space. It is great time for any kind of music. Now, independent singers are being given space in Bollywood like Guru Randhawa, Badshah, Neha Kakkar and Honey Singh. I am happy to sail on both boats — indie and playback.

■Do you find it tough to sing for other composers?

Not really. I am a singer-songwriter. I don't understand this categorisation. People should be treated as musicians. But we are a bit finicky here in India. In the West, there is no categorisation. I recently, sung for MM Kreeme. If I get a song which I want to be part of, I have to be choosy since I don't want to over cook my voice. I sing only a few on my songs as well. It is a conscious decision.

■Is the industry facing any challenges?

There are so many releases, this is both a curse and a blessing. To fit good talent is tough since even bad music can reach you. People are prone to get attracted to it.

■What next?

I have released 13 songs, I am about to release 13 more. There is *Saand Ki Aankh*. I am also doing two indie songs as well.

WEEKLY NATTER

SPIKE LEE AND ANUPAM KHER IN ONE FRAME

Actor Anupam Kher is currently in the US, where he is busy with the shoot of his show *New Amsterdam*. The versatile star has been gaining accolades for his performance in the show and the success of his recent book *Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly*.

Amid a busy schedule and handling his work in the US and back home in India, the actor decided to visit the ongoing US Open Tennis Championship where he got a surprise.

Anupam Kher bumped into acclaimed Hollywood director Spike Lee. The Academy Award-winning filmmaker, whose film *BlackKlansman*, got multiple nominations at the Oscar and won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Anupam Kher's Bollywood work has reached global status and Spike Lee too was aware of his films.



CLEAN UP THE COASTS

With the seasonal changes growing each year — hotter and longer summers and lashing monsoons — we can see the effects in our daily lives! In order to work towards a better environment, this International Coastal Clean Up Day, Terence Lewis joins hands with Afroz Shah to clean up the Versova Beach in Mumbai.

The ace dancer, choreographer and reality show judge was seen actively helping volunteers clean up the beach location as they cleared the remnants of plastic and other synthetic materials that result in marine pollution.

Urging people to give up the use of plastic, Terence says: "We are a country that worships Nature as our God and we have forgotten that the ocean is the cradle of the origin of life! This is a situation which is not going to change over night but we will collectively need to take efforts to beat the raising levels of pollution to make a better tomorrow. In order to beat this, let's make a conscious effort to minimise the use of plastic and non-degradable materials."



DREAM COME TRUE MOMENT FOR ABHILASH

Actor Abhilash Chaudhary who was seen in *Paltan* and *Tubelight* will be playing pivotal role in *The Zoya Factor*. It stars Sonam Kapoor and Dulquer Salmaan in lead.

Talking about the film and his role, he said: "The film is about a novel with the same name written by Anuja Chauhan. I can't say more about the film's story but if you read the book it's all about a girl Zoya, superstitious things and Cricket. My character is of an opening batsman of Indian Cricket Team in the film, Shivi, he is an attacking batsman."

On talking about his rapport with costars: "Dulquer Salmaan is a fantastic personality. He is humble and down to earth. Director Abhishek Sir was too good, he creates a cool and friendly environment during the shoots. And working with Sonam Kapoor I can say it's a dream come true for me. I saw her in *Sawariya* and since then I am a big fan of her. When I got to know that I am going to shoot with Sonam, I was left stunned.

Chaudhary will also be seen in *Commando 3*.



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



FROM THE INSIDE

Caste as Social Capital

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

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Focus on mind for success

Empower yourself by improving your focus, sharpening intelligence and optimising indwelling potential



PRIORITISING STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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



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



ASOKE MUKERJI

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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ENERGY COOPERATION

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

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

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

the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

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

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

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

DEFENCE COOPERATION

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

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

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

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

THE GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSION

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

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

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

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



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

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

The complexities of caste system

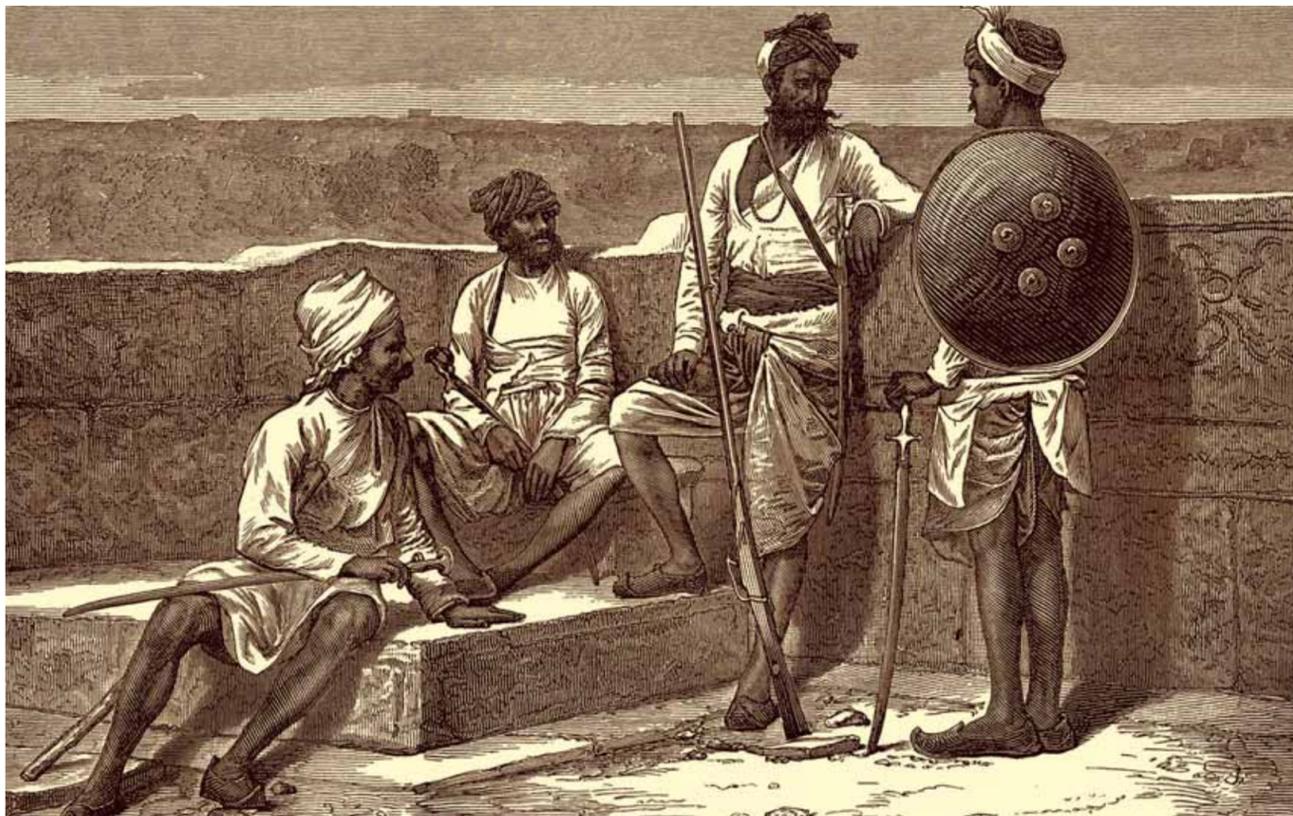
A 131 page book packed with shocking but well researched facts, data and information. That's how "Caste As Social Capital", authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan can be described. The data painstakingly collected by Prof Vaidyanathan and presented in an articulate manner points at a big reservation fraud.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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

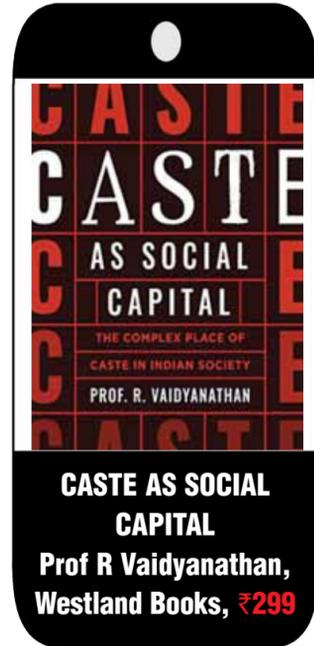
"Dharampal discovered that a fairly detailed survey of school and college education has been undertaken by the British administration in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Area. According to the survey conducted between 1822 and 1825 in the Madras Presidency (that is, the whole of the Indian States of Tamil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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

NEW ARRIVALS

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

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

THE LAST DANCE
Anmol Arora
Speaking Tiger, ₹499

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

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

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

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

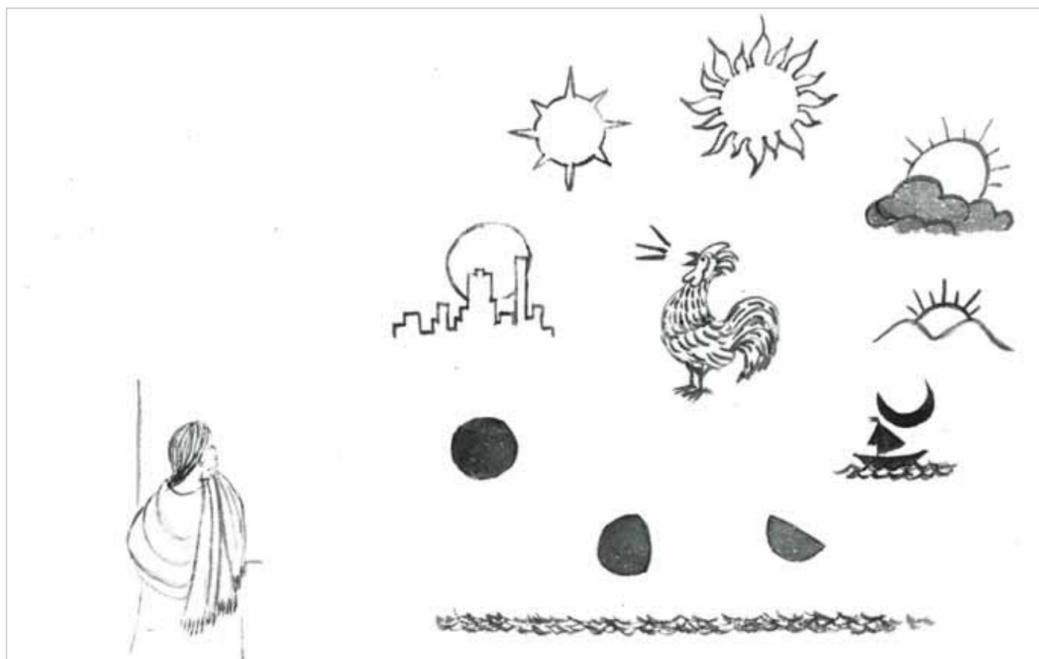
I've always been strong-hearted and proud of it. So am I not sad? When I was first diagnosed with Stage One of an aggressive type of breast cancer, I was stunned and disappointed in myself but quickly found my resolve. I chose to fight cheerfully, selecting the best doctors, eating healthy, praying hard,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

Then I learnt hope was a bad thing.

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

Dukh, Dard and a Season of Hope

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



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

Do I have Dard?

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Arif Khan vs secular politics frozen in 1986

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

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

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



of Indian nationhood more due to internal dynamics of "politics of Muslim identity" and less due to larger external Indian political process.

None other than Arif Khan in contemporary times signifies the dilemma of a Muslim politician to appropriate his Indian national identity while either performing the constitutional duty as elected/nominated member of Parliament to represent Indian people or even in participating in public debates as an ordinary (Muslim) citizen. Throughout his political career and scholarly engagement spanning more than four decades, Arif Khan asserted his Indian identity in public role while being proud of his Islamic/Muslim heritage, and forcefully intervened in the matters of national importance, including the issues connected with Muslim community from the vantage of Indian citizen and national unity. His scholarly work *Text and Context: Quran and Contemporary Challenges* (2010) reveals this approach. Rooted in Indian ethos, he did not shy away from reflecting critically on the role

of State administration in the 2002 Gujarat riots and Goa speech (April 2002) of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

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

nouncement of instant triple talaq and its immediate effect on dissolution of marriage. This explains his vociferous opposition to the former and support to the latter.

Interestingly, in both circumstances, Arif Khan emerged as "anti-Muslim" figure in the Muslim collective imagination, primarily shaped through pan Indian network of Muslim religious clergy and its control over Muslim religious institutions including mosque, *dargah*, *khanqah*, *madrassa*, and *maktab*. With his "anti-Muslim" tag, Arif Khan quickly lost his relevance for the "secular" political parties, which are accustomed to express secularism primarily through deference to Muslim/Islamic identity. Almost all secular political parties, whether national or regional, save for a brief moment with Jan Morcha and BSP, shunned Arif Khan in post-1986 phase for his refusal to play "Muslim politics".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ANWAR ALAM

PERSPECTIVE

Brexit widening UK-Northern Ireland chasm

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

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

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

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



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

AP/File

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



MAKHAN SAINKA



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



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

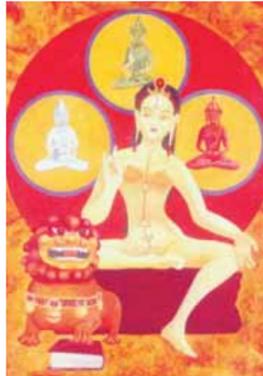
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

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

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

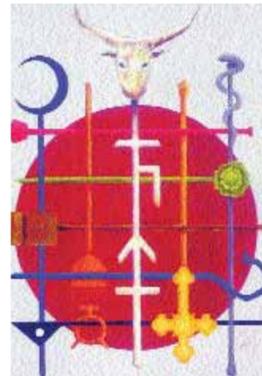
Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Thursday

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Empower your mind for success

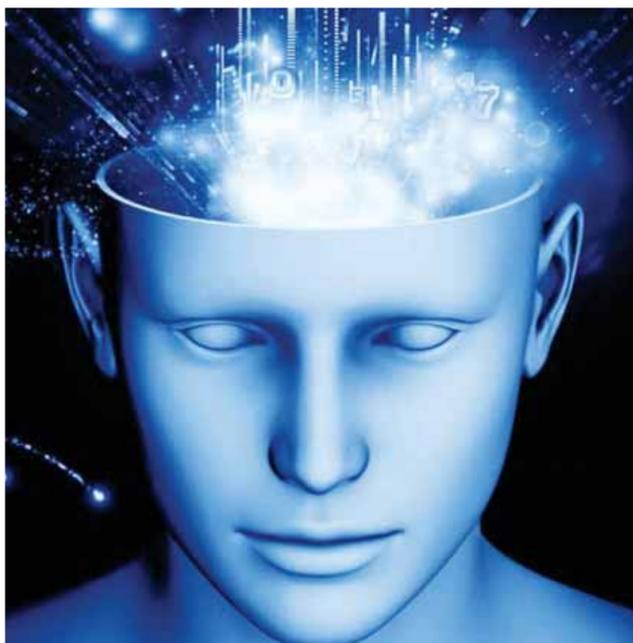
A young graduate, having failed to taste success at many qualifying examinations for different jobs, came asking the other day in a state of desperation: "Sir, what is in store of my destiny? Any luck to get a job in near future? I have tried to put in best during the last three years, but with no luck.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

Young man, destiny is not blind, as it doesn't necessarily play out by default in course of usual run of life. Remember, destiny indicators — the reflection of Karmic imprints carried over from the past — are stored in our memory as seed-thoughts. And a seed, though carrying potential to bloom out into a plant, remains inert till it gets a congenial ground, and is then duly nurtured with water and nutrients (chemical or natural fertiliser). Similarly, seed-thought-seeds may offer you with an opportunity when time is ripe for it. Success, however, may still elude, if you are not well geared up to encash the opportunity available.

In so far as remedial measure is concerned, belief driven puja mediated by pundits can't help much. The pundit can neither strike upon your inner realms of

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

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



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

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

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

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

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