

OPINION 8
WHAT'S A DEGREE WORTH?

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IRAN WARNS FOREIGN FORCES OF MEDDLING

SPORT 15
NO MS DHONI TILL NOVEMBER

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TRAVELLING IS ORGANIC:
KALKI
13 VIVACITY

Howdy, Modi echoes in Houston

Without naming Pak, Modi says 9/11, 26/11 terrorists were provided safe haven there

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

Addressing over 50,000 Indian-Americans at the NRG stadium, Modi said it was honour and privilege for him to welcome Trump in this magnificent stadium and magnificent gathering.

Modi drew a parallel between the 9/11 and 26/11 terror attacks, saying time has come for a "decisive fight" against those who promote and support terrorism, in a veiled attack on Pakistan which is accused of harbouring terror groups. "Whether it is 9/11 in US or 26/11 in Mumbai, where are these people coming from?" Modi asked while addressing the record crowd in the presence of Trump.

In an apparent reference to Pakistan, Modi said the people who cannot even manage their own country are harbouring terrorism and supporting terrorism. "The entire world knows about this," he added.

Modi said India has given farewell to Article 370, which allowed terrorism and sepa-



President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi walk around NRG Stadium waving to the crowd during the Howdy Modi event in Houston on Sunday AP

ratism to rear its head in Jammu & Kashmir.

Modi introduced Trump to the crowd and said, "Greetings to my fellow Indians in India and around the world. Friends,

this morning, we have a very special person with us."

"He (Trump) was a household name even before he went to hold the highest seat in the US," Modi said while greeting

the US president. "President this morning in Houston, you can hear the heartbeat of this great partnership in this celebration of the world's two largest democracies. You can

feel the strength and depth of the bonds between our two nations," Modi said.

Trump has already made the American economy strong again, Modi said. "He has

achieved much for the US and for the world," Modi said. "We in India have connected well to him," he said, adding "Abki baar Trump Sarkar".

It is for the first time that Trump and Modi shared a stage together and address a record crowd of Indian-Americans. Trump vowed to protect innocent civilians from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism and said border security is vital to both America and India as he emphasised on bolstering further the Indo-US security relationship.

Trump said the countries will soon sign several defence deals to bolster their relationship. "We are committed to protect innocent civilians from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism," the US President said.

"India and US also understand that to keep our community safe, we must protect our borders. Border security is vital to the United States. Border Security is vital to India. And we understand that," Trump said as Modi was seen clapping.

The US President greeted 'Happy Birthday' to Modi who turned 69 last week. He praised Modi for doing "exceptional job" in India and said over 60 million people participated in the General polls in India and voted "overwhelmingly" for

him. Trump said if he is elected, India will have a "true friend" in the White house. He said "India can never have a better friend" than Trump.

Welcoming Modi, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner highlighted the significance of the event and said Indians have been a key figure in the development of his city.

Turner told the crowd that Houston is the most diverse city in the county. "In Houston, we say howdy in more than 140 languages," Turner said, "and this morning we are saying howdy to Modi!"

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

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

Organised by the non-profit Texas India Forum, the event, with the tagline "Shared Dreams, Bright Futures", showcased tremendous contribu-

tion of Indo-Americans in United States and the strong and lasting partnership between the US and India.

Ahead of Modi's address, Indian-American artists from Texas and elsewhere performed cultural programmes.

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

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

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

Accompanying Mago to the air force base, Piyush Patel said this was a dream come true. "For me this mega event will take India-US relationship goes to a whole new level," he said.

Related reports on P4

DMK affidavit to EC puts CPM, CPI in tight spot

CPM affidavit doesn't mention DMK donation

J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Shah blames former PM Nehru for POK

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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



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

we have POK now," the BJP president said.

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

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

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Centre to release buffer stock to arrest soaring onion prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Taking note of increasing onion prices, the NDA Government is mulling imposing stock limits on onion traders.

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



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

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

Continued on Page 4

CAPSULE

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

DON'T REPEAT MISTAKES, RAJNATH WARNS PAK
Patna: Warning Pakistan to not repeat the "mistakes of 1965 and 1971", Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the neighbouring country can get dismantled into various parts on account of flagrant human rights violations against Balochs and Pashtuns on its soil.

GREYHOUNDS OF AP POLICE KILL 3 MAOISTS
Amaravati: Elite Greyhounds of Andhra Pradesh Police on Sunday killed three members of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) in an encounter in the Visakhapatnam district on the AP-Odisha border, police said.

70 IAS OFFICERS TRANSFERRED IN RAJ
Jaipur: The Rajasthan Government has transferred 70 IAS officers, including 10 district collectors, according to an official order.

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 44-year-old widow was allegedly beaten to death by the landlord in South Delhi's Mehrauli after he suspected her of being a thief. Four people, including the landlord, have been arrested.

The deceased woman has been identified as Manju Goyal and she is survived by her two children who were in Haryana at the time of the incident.

Goyal's brother Mahesh Jindal informed police on Saturday about the incident. "When a police team reached the spot, he said his sister was staying at the house of one Satish Pahwa as tenant. And he narrated the incident," said a senior police official.

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

Police, criminals exchange fire near Akshardham Metro Station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



Police personnel at the scene of crime on Sunday PTI

The incident took place at when police was trying to nab the criminals involved in duping several people near the metro station, police said.

According to police, a team from Mandawali Police Station laid a trap and when the white-coloured car carrying the criminals approached, it was signalled to stop, a police officer said.

Continued on Page 4

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

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

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

"The State Government has contacted experts in Assam and Kerala, where a similar virus killed several elephants in the past," said Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha on Sunday.

Efforts are on to save the remaining jumbos, Arukha said. Out of these four elephants, three are adults. The EEHV mostly affects elephants below 15 years of age. Since most of the elephants were

Continued on Page 4

Aromatic plants perk up Leh-Ladakh farmers

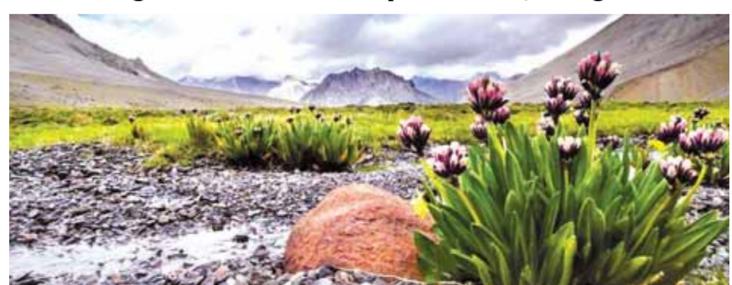
MoU signed for cultivation of high-value aromatic crops like rose, marigold & mint

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The fragrance of the high revenue-earning aromatic plants seems to have caught the fancy of the small farmers residing in the high-altitude cold arid zones of Leh-Ladakh.

Tapping in on this growing interest among farmers, Ladakh Farmers and Producers Cooperative Limited (LFPCL), Leh and Ladakh recently inked a pact with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Palampur-based lab, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) for cultivation of the high-value aromatic crops like rose, marigold and mint.

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



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

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

chamomile, wild marigold, dracocephalum, lavender and saffron, so CSIR-IHBT recognised this area for the cultivation of these crops," he explained.

Dr Kumar said seeds of wild marigold, chamomile and saffron have also been provided to the farmers along with the complete information package of agro technologies which will help them in proper culti-

vation of these crops.

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

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DELHI — THE NEW UDTA PUNJAB!

The Pioneer investigation team has found that drugs are being supplied by underground operators who are using couriers from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Drugs are also finding its way into the national Capital from Myanmar-Manipur border

THE RATES ARE GIVEN OVER PHONE AND DRUGS ARE SOLD BY NICKNAMES SUCH AS CHITTA OR HAERO

IN DWARKA, MANY YOUTHS AGED BETWEEN 16-25 YEAR-OLD ARE BUYING HEROIN FROM SECTOR-21 AND SECTOR-15 IN THE AREA

The Delhi Police statistics till Aug 31 revealed that since Jan, police have recovered 531 kgs of heroin, 3,156 kgs of cannabis, 33 kgs of charas and 596 gms of cocaine

College-going students in West Delhi source drugs from an African national who is popular among them as Charlie



SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Proliferation of hard drugs such as cocaine, ephedrine, LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide), MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine), ketamine and the new sensation Meow-Meow (4-methylmethcathinone) has sent alarm bells ringing. Special Cell the anti-terrorist unit of Delhi Police has widened its net to rein in drug peddlers. Investigations have found that drugs are being supplied by underground operators who are using couriers from Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Drugs are also finding its way into the National Capital from Myanmar-Manipur border. Few weeks back, Special Cell has arrested a gang of drug peddlers and recovered around 300 kg of Heroin. The interrogation has led the sleuths to other active peddlers.

Investigations by *The Pioneer* team led it to several colleges in and around Delhi and the findings

were quite alarming. Several drugs apart from 'ganja' are being sold and used openly across college campuses. Addicts are procuring drugs through 'Dark Web' to avoid being caught by the police. The investigation also revealed that other than 'pan bhandars' or 'JJ' clusters near the colleges, several foreigners are also involved in supplying drugs to students in city. Even 'drugs delivery system at the doorstep' has also started in the city and the major recipients are younger people of the city and its peripherals.

Madangir Village in south Delhi that has two big colleges near it, the College of Vocational Studies (CVS) and Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, is where you can simply stroll in and buy heroin and ganja (marijuana). The heroin is supplied over demand and the buyers even had to wait for four hours to get heroin from drug peddlers.

Though the Delhi Police have claimed to tightened its noose over the drug peddlers but it seems that the drug peddlers in Madangir

have a lot of alternatives to sell drugs to students in area which can be seen roaming around in Madangir during evening hours to procure drugs.

Sitting inside a home and selling drugs at Madangir village area to college going kids, a middle-aged woman told us it's her daily business. Posing as a college student and filming the entire episode secretly over the phone, the correspondent asks the woman for heroin.

She said that presently it is not available but it could be arranged in short span of time. She said there are three types available -- Black Tar (1 gram for Rs 120-160), Brown Sugar (1 gm for Rs 450) and White powder which is also purest form of heroin for Rs 5000 per 1 gm.

The woman asked us to come after two hours as we had asked for white powder (heroin). While waiting for consignment the correspondent asked woman about who are the most buyers of heroin here? The woman replied that

most of the students come here to buy heroin and ganja both. "The demand of heroin is less as we also face difficulty in procuring these from markets," said the woman.

The Pioneer team also visited to SGT College in Gurugram (Haryana) where it was revealed that the drugs are also being sold over the phone. Peddlers have gone mobile — now one can simply give them a call at widely-circulated numbers, which *The Pioneer* accessed, for free delivery of drugs in the college campus. Though the delivery college did not entered the college premises but delivered the heroin at college gate in a sealed packet.

In the dingy bylanes of Govindpuri and Kalkaji in Delhi's Southeast district which are favourite haunts for college-goers to buy hash, heroin and some other drugs. The area had two of Delhi University's prominent south Delhi colleges, Deshbandhu and Acharya Narendra Dev.

Here in these lanes of Govindpuri and Kalkaji high-

quality of charas (ranging from Rs 1,500 to Rs 4,000 for 10 gms) can be procured at an hour's notice whereas heroin (ranging from Rs 3000 to Rs 7000 per 1 gms) can be procured at an 5 hours.

Colleges of DU's North Campus, too, have their own supply chain of drugs such as MDMA, Ket, hash, heroin and weed. Areas such as Timarpur and Model Town are hubs of cannabis and 'Meow Meow'. Peddlers are on call and they meet you at secluded areas around the campus with the supply.

A university in Noida also has several students who to procure drugs have started using different modus operandi. A student on anonymity told the correspondent that, the drugs such as MDMA, Ket and heroin are procured through 'Dark Web'.

"Students in college order their drugs online. They all in groups orders drugs through this bitcoin to not get detected by police. One of the students orders the consignments and after delivery it is

also being sold to others students," said a 23 year-old students, who doesn't wish to reveal his name.

However, the college going students in West Delhi source drugs from an African national and also popular among students as Charlie. "You have to give him reference over phone to buy heroin. Once he recognises you Charlie will call you at Uttam Nagar Metro station near Janakpuri to exchange money with drugs," said a 25 year-old on condition of anonymity.

"The rates are given over phone and drugs are sold by nicknames such as chitta or haero," he added.

Whereas, a college offering professional courses and situated in Rohini area also have students which are buying drugs including heroin from Rithala.

Delhi's Dwarka area is also not behind, several kids aging between 16 to 25 years-old are buying heroin from Sector-21 and Sector-15 in the area.

"We know names and addresses of the drug peddlers and we just

have to call them before we reach Sector- 21 or 15 to buy drugs. They sell white powder for Rs 4500 per 1 gram," said a 20 year-old boy who has fallen in the trap of this vicious circle.

According to Dr Ajit Kumar Singla, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime Branch, they have arrested several people and peddlers who use dark web to order various narcotics substances.

"Crime Branch monitors movements of drug peddlers and also keep tab on the packages coming from foreign soils and also the new route of suppliers," said Dr Singla.

Delhi Police statics till August 31 revealed that since January this year the police had recovered 531 kgs of heroin, 3,156 kgs of cannabis, 33 kgs of charas and 596 grams of cocaine. "Around 543 cases have been registered and police have also arrested 687 criminals indulged in supplying and selling drugs in city," said a senior police official.

TYPES OF DRUGS

- ☉ Cocaine
- ☉ Ephedrine
- ☉ LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide)
- ☉ MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine)
- ☉ Ketamine
- ☉ New sensation Meow-Meow (4-methylmethcathinone)
- ☉ Cannabis (Ganja)
- ☉ Hash (Charas)
- ☉ Brown Sugar
- ☉ Ecstasy



PHYSICAL AND MENTAL EFFECTS OF CONSUMING NARCOTICS SUBSTANCE

- Rapid onset of effects with a short duration
- Excitement, stimulation, delusionally amplified senses of confidence and self-worth, unusually increased energy, loss of appetite, awake for long periods, unusually focused
- Dilated pupils. Dry or cracked lips (after smoking). Frequent rubbing of nose (after snorting)
- High-dose use can result in aggression, panic, suicidal or homicidal tendencies. Paranoia and hallucinations may also occur, especially after binges of cocaine use
- Long-term snorting of cocaine can lead to a loss of the sense of smell, sinus infections
- Long-term smoking of cocaine can lead to lung damage that causes chest pain, breathing problems and fever
- Termination of use may be followed by depression and intense fatigue

Chola Enter a better life

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
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POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(LC No. X0HEELD00002272331, X0HEELD00001598962 & X0HEDHE00001394182 of our Delhi Branch) NITIN GUPTA (Borrower) POOJA GUPTA, JAI PRAKASH GUPTA, M/S. JP CABLE AND WIRES (Co-Borrower) Add:- F-30, BLOCK-F, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHADARA DELHI - 110 032.	Compound No.30 Admeasuring 150 sq.yds. Front Portion Block-F out of Khasra No. 1096/322 & 1097/322 Mauza Chandrawali situated at Mansarovar Park Shahdara NEW Delhi-110032.	26-06-2019 Rs. 1,03,06,490.39 (One Crore Three Lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Rupees and Thirty Nine Paise Only)	20-09-2019
2.	(LC No. X0HEDHE00001005151 of our Delhi Branch) RAHUL GUPTA (Borrower) JUGENDER PRASAD, MADHU GUPTA (Borrower) Add:- C-4/2, RANA PRATAP BAGH, NEW DELHI - 110 007.	Property bearing No.C-4/2 Admeasuring 233.33 sq.yds. situated in the Colony Known as Rana Partap Bagh Delhi-110007.	26-06-2019 Rs. 1,97,58,365.65 (One Crore Ninety Seven Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Five Rupees and Sixty Five Paise Only)	20-09-2019

Place : Delhi/NCR Date : 23-09-2019 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For M/s Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

4 held in connection with dacoity in gas godown

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested four men who had allegedly barged into a gas godown in east Delhi's Trilokpuri area. Police said that the accused had robbed staffers and customers there about two months ago.

Those arrested have been identified as Nisar Ahmad (32), Shahrukh (28), Neeraj (25) and Mohammad Arman (19), residents of Delhi.

According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, on July 24, at about 3 pm, six armed men barged into the gas godown and robbed three staffers and two customers of Rs 1,10,000 and their mobile phones.

"A cylinder delivery boy, the manager of the gas agency, his assistant and two customers were standing near the godown's entry gate when the men arrived on bikes with their faces covered," said the DCP.

"The men fired two shots in the air to scare the crowd present in and outside the godown. A case was registered and an investigation was initiated. Suspecting an insider's involvement in the incident, all the employees were interrogated but no such involvement was found," said the DCP.

"With the help of CCTV cameras installed in and around the spot, the police ascertained the involvement of six people in the incident who had fled the spot on two motorcycles," said the DCP adding that the police managed to trace them for over 34 km using CCTV footage and spotted them near Pasonda in Ghaziabad.

"The registration numbers of the bikes were verified and it was found that one was robbed from Noida Sector 20 in June. The arrest of one of the accused Nasir on August 27 led to further arrests. On interrogation, he revealed the involvement of eight people in the crime. He said his associate, Rahul, had hatched the conspiracy along with Shahrukh," said the DCP.

"On August 31, Shahrukh and Neeraj were arrested. Later police also arrested Mohammad Arman from near Sanjay Jheel, Pandav Nagar. Three mobile phones were recovered from them," said the DCP.

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No.-WF/4711/3(1)/EE-C-2/DUSIB/2019/D-426 Dt. 17.09.2019

Press Notice for inviting E-Tendering

The Executive Engineer-C-2 (DUSIB) Govt. of N.C.T. Delhi invites on behalf of DUSIB online Percentage rate bid on two bid system for the under mentioned work.

NIT NO:- 23C-2/DUSIB/2019-20 Tender ID No. 2019_DUSIB_180361_1 Dated 17.09.2019

Name of work:- Improvement of SC/ST/OBC Minorities Basties Sub-Head:- Reconstruction of Balmiki Chaupal at Village Kamrudin Nagar (AC-08) PID-12403

Estimated Cost:- Rs. 1,28,71,861.00
Earnest Money:- Rs. 2,57,500.00
Tender Cost:- Rs.1000.00 **Time allowed:- 240 days**

NIT NO:- 24C-2/DUSIB/2019-20 Tender ID No. 2019_DUSIB_180362_1 Dated 17.09.2019

Name of work:- Construction of 7620(G+4) five storeyed Low cost Houses (Under JNNURM) at Savda Ghewra PH-III Sub-Head:- Providing and lying feeding line from the DJB peripheral main to the existing UGR-2 in Group-I and Group-II respectively.

Estimated Cost:- Rs.26,38,075.00
Earnest Money:- Rs.52,800.00
Tender Cost:- Rs. 500.00, **Time allowed 45 days**

The tender forms & other details can be obtained from (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) 23.09.2019 15.00PM to 05.10.2019 15.00PM

Note:- Any amendment/change/clarification (if any) will be uploaded only on <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>, therefore, intending tenderers may inspect the website regularly.

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0706/19-20 Executive Engineer C-2/DUSIB

Ask 10 friends to check for dengue larvae: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As part of the city Government's '10 Hafte 10 Bajee 10 Minute' campaign, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday inspected his home for stagnant water to prevent the mosquito-borne diseases and appealed to people to encourage 10 of their friends over the phone to check their houses for dengue larvae.

Kejriwal also urged people to circulate the message on WhatsApp groups. "Today, after checking my house for 10 minutes, I called 10 of my friends and encouraged them to check their houses. This time we have to defeat dengue. #DilliKeChampion," he tweeted.

In a video posted on Twitter, Kejriwal can be seen inspecting his house for mosquito breeding. "From today onwards, we will do one more thing. Call up 10 of your friends and relatives and urge them to inspect their houses. Post the message on WhatsApp groups also and write, 'I have inspected my house for dengue. You also do the same'. This will help you become a champion against dengue," he said in the video.

Delhi minister Gopal Rai said he urged his friends to inspect their houses. His colleague, Rajendra Pal Gautam also tweeted pictures of him cleaning a water pot as a measure against mosquito-breeding.

"Another Sunday — Another day to check your house for Dengue larvae. But this time, I took it up a notch. I called up 10 of my friends and urged them to inspect their houses as well," Rai posted on Twitter.

The campaign from September 1 and November 15 to combat dengue has garnered a massive support from public and several other well-known personalities across the country, including cricketers, Bollywood actors and famous journalists. Bollywood actors Emran Hashmi, Taapsee Pannu, Swara Bhaskar and filmmaker Mahesh Bhat, and several senior journalists, including Rajdeep Sardesai, Nidhi Razdan, Faye D'Souza, have supported the campaign.

Kejriwal had said participation of these public personalities will inspire common

10-WEEK CAMPAIGN



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inspects his home for mosquito breeding in New Delhi on Sunday. Pioneer photo



Labour Minister Gopal Rai checks his home for dengue larvae in New Delhi on Sunday. Pioneer photo

people to take precautions in combating this vector-borne disease. Chief Minister has also directed his colleagues in the Cabinet to work towards encouraging mass participation in the third week of the campaign. He along with his cabinet ministers and MLAs also visited residential areas of the city on last Sunday, requesting people to check mosquito breeding in their surroundings.

The chief minister had also said efforts like establishing Mohalla Clinics and fever clinics have led to 80 per cent decrease in dengue and Chikungunya cases in the last four years. The campaign will be continuing every Sunday till 15th November.

According to report of the municipal corporations, at least 93 cases of malaria have been traced in the national Capital in a month of September, taking the total number of patients suffering from the disease to 247 this year. This is the maximum number of malaria cases recorded in any month this year.

The number of dengue cases reported till September 14 stands at 171 with 49 fresh cases reported last week. The city has also witnessed 60 cases of chikungunya this year, according to a municipal report released on last Monday.

As many as 56 malaria cases were reported in August, 54 in July, 35 in June, eight in May and a single case in April. In September, 79 cases of dengue have been recorded, 52 in August, 18 in July, 11 in June, and rest between January and May, according to the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates the data on vector-borne diseases in the city. Meanwhile, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 1, 19,852 households and 99,448 legal notices have been issued this year.

Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four deaths due to the disease were recorded by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates the data on vector-borne diseases in the city.

PWD to finish work on Pragati Maidan tunnel by Jan

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

This New Year, people of Delhi, especially those who spend hours in the traffic jams on Mathura Road, Pragati Maidan and Bhairo Marg will feel respite as the Public Works Department (PWD) has started working at a frenetic pace to complete construction of 1.2 km 'Underground Tunnel' at Pragati Maidan by January 2020. PWD officers say they want to complete the construction before the deadline.

According to sources, the Prime Minister Office (PMO) has asked the PWD to finish the construction work by first of January next year. PMO intervention has come in wake of complaints by the harried people. As a matter of fact, actual date of completion of the project is March 31st 2020.

As per the Delhi traffic Police and PWD officials, on an average commuters spend around 30-40 minutes on this route to reach their destination.

PWD has completed 60 per cent of the work on this underpass. "The vital segment of the construction such as digging, layout and other important work on the tunnel and underpass has been completed. PWD has gone an overdrive to finish the 1.2 km long by January next year," said a Government official.

"The vital segment of the construction such as digging, layout and other important work on the tunnel and underpass has been completed. About 40 per cent work is left

□ The 1.2 km long underground tunnel on Mathura Road and tunnel will start from Old Fort to Ring Road	
□ Signal free stretch from Noida, Ghaziabad, East Delhi, Sarai Kale Khan, Jangpura via India Gate. U-Turn near Supreme Court	
□ Work completed	60 per cent
□ Cost of the project	₹777 crore
□ Expected date of completion	January 2020
□ Vehicular population on the stretch	3.5 lakh
□ Major relief	Commuters of South Delhi and coming from Palwal and Faridabad.

and the PWD is moving quickly to finish the tunnel by January next year," said a Government official.

The tunnel underneath Pragati Maidan is a part of integrated street transit corridor development project of Mathura Road. The estimated cost of the project is ₹777 crore.

This underground tunnel will be a major relief to the commuters and will de-congest the daily traffic chaos that occurs on Mathura Road, Pragati Maidan and Bhairo Marg T-Point.

According to officials, the upcoming tunnel at the Pragati Maidan will be first of its kind stretch in the national Capital to be constructed with new technologies. Besides, the Mathura Road route will be made signal free. "Currently, on this route there are four 'Red Light Signals' between Sundar Nagri and ITO and once the Tunnel will be ready, these stopping's will be made signal free and four U-Turn's on Mathura Road will be con-

structed for smooth traffic and travel," added the official.

Officials further added that the never ending bottle necks on the Bhairo Marg stretch will also become a thing of past after the construction of this stretch.

"After the widening the National Highway (NH)- 24, the stretch has been sandwiched between Sarai Kale Khan and Indraprasth metro station with heavy traffic jams comings from NH-24. During peak hours, it takes about 20-30 minutes to clear the traffic congestion on this route. Bhairo Marg is the main route for the commuters come from Faridabad and Palwal but this stretch been a havoc for the people with heavy traffic jams. Signal free option will be a major relief and two loops will also be created on the stretch to manage the traffic," said the official.

It is also to be noted that Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal, last year asked PWD to find solution to end the traffic on Mathura Road.



As per the Delhi Traffic Police, nearly 3.5 lakh vehicle use this stretch via ITO.

The underground tunnel will connect India Gate and the Ring Road near Purana Quila (Old Fort) and will pass through the Pragati Maidan Thermal power station. Further, the tunnel will provide a signal free travel to those trav-

elling to and fro from Noida, Ghaziabad, East Delhi, Sarai Kale Khan, Jangpura via India Gate. Moreover, with this construction, traffic jams at ITO red light will also end and a U-Turn will be provided near Supreme Court and will also provide a relief to the traffic congestion on the Pragati Maidan Parking.

Sisodia inaugurates cultural event Awam Ki Awaz in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated a cultural programme 'Awam Ki Awaz' as part of the initiative of the Delhi Government to decentralise art and culture.

Noted Carnatic music vocalist TM Krishna on Sunday performed at the musical concert.

"I am thrilled to say that TM Krishna is performing in this program of the Delhi government for the second time. He is one of the most well-

known classical vocalists of India and his songs always carry a message of harmony and diversity.

Our goal of this program is to spread the message of harmony through culture," Sisodia said.

TM Krishna said, "I am thankful to the government for inviting me and also to the audience of Delhi who has always been enthusiastic about culture."

The goal of this festival is to focus more on the issues or concerns bothering to aam adami like caste, class, religion etc.



CM to speak on anti-pollution steps at Denmark summit

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will attend the C40 Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, next month and speak on his Government's experience in lowering pollution and other issues including the Odd-Even scheme.

According to the statement, invited as the leader of one of the world's largest metropolises, the CM will join leaders of several cities like New York, London, Paris, Los Angeles and Berlin to deliberate on the climate crisis impacting the world at the summit from October 9-12.

"The Chief Minister is expected to speak on his government's experience in lowering air pollution in the city and present the set of initiatives

taken by the Delhi government that led to the 25 per cent reduction in air pollution in the city," it said.

It also stated that the Delhi Chief Minister is expected to speak about the role of improved electricity supply and the phasing out of generator sets on a large scale, the peripheral highways, the crack-down on construction sites, the increased green cover and the massive reduction in industrial pollution due to shutting down of two thermal power plants and shifting industry to CNG.

Confirming the development, the Environment Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "It is a moment of pride for India that a leader of the country will present a major governance success story before



the world."

In a session titled 'Breathe Deeply', city leaders, experts, and business leaders will discuss the innovative new solutions underway in cities that are improving air quality and creating healthier, more equitable and prosperous communities, it said.

The third edition of Odd-Even scheme is scheduled to be implemented from November

4 to November 15. Kejriwal will also be speaking during the summit on the future plan of action on air pollution. "Odd Even, the flagship scheme of the Delhi government aimed at tackling air pollution had generated international curiosity the first time it was implemented in January, 2016. Apart from Delhi, only Paris and some other cities have successfully rolled out such a scheme, it said, adding that in fact, in March 2016, CM Kejriwal had been picked as one of the world's 50 greatest leaders by Forbes Magazine for the successful implementation of the innovative Odd Even scheme.

Mayors and city leaders of Asia's largest cities will meet to discuss how inclusive and sustainable growth can be attained

using greener energy and leaving a low carbon footprint. Several bilateral meetings with leaders of various cities are also being planned and will be announced closer to the summit, government said.

"Kejriwal is likely to speak about the Delhi government's massive investment into improving the supply of electricity and other power sector reforms because of which not only was power supply made cheaper, but it also led to a lower emission through diesel powered generator sets," it stated.

This will be the second official foreign visit of the Delhi chief minister. In September last year, Kejriwal travelled to Seoul in South Korea to sign agreements between Delhi and Seoul.

IIT Delhi team to study impact of odd-even scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) will be analysing the impact of the odd-even scheme, which will be rolled out from November 4 in Delhi, using real-time pollution monitoring devices invented by students.

The monitoring will be done from October 15 to November 15 to study the effectiveness of the car-rationing scheme in improving air quality.

The six-member team has invented sensor-based pollution monitoring devices called 'Eziomotiv' which has been patented and has received ICAD certification too.

"The devices will be placed

atop around 250 buses running in the national capital to gauge air quality. The devices will help calculate Particulate Matter (PM), heat, temperature and humidity across different terrains, traffic movement, weather and times of the day. We have tied up with the Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System (DIMTS) for the purpose," Pooja Singh from IIT Delhi's incubation unit told PTI.

"Each bus makes 16 trips daily, covering different routes with each of them being around 30 to 40 kms long. The devices have camera and are GPS enabled so we can also track the vehicle's movements," she added. The study will be conducted in two phases—pre odd-even

and odd-even."To analyse whether the scheme was impactful or not we also need data of preceding days to compare with. Hence, it will be done in two phases and we will analyse whether the quality improved or not during odd-even and if yes by how much percentage," she added.

The devices that will be used have been invented at IIT through the incubated start up 'Aerogram'. The IIT's Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air, had provided the initial funding for the project. Other members of the team include--Manoj Sahukar, Faheem Ashraf, Sahil Siwach, Bhaskar Dutt and Surbhi Kumari.

City sees decline in butterflies this year

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While Butterflies are considered as the most studied insects over the globe being the best pollinators, Delhi University along with Bombay Natural History Society conducted Butterfly count in all the seven major Biodiversity parks of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

This year, in Yamuna Biodiversity Park (YBP) there were 42 different species of butterflies and in Aravalli Biodiversity park 49 butterflies.

The total number of butterflies recorded less as compared to previous year.

According to Dr Faiyaz Khudsar, Scientist, incharge, University of Delhi, the reason of less number of butterflies is visibility.

Scientists observed that this year rain along with wind probably lead to sighting of little lesser number.

Explaining further about butterfly conservatories, Dr Khudsar said, "Biodiversity Parks and its butterfly conservatories provide special niche for butterfly and bees catering the requirements of host plants and nectar bearing plants."

"Biodiversity parks in a way provide an important ecological service by providing large number of pollinators to the crops in the Yamuna River basin and Aravalli Hill ranges," scientist leading various ecological projects explained.

Notably, there are total 115 species of butterflies in Delhi.

DDA's flagship seven Biodiversity Parks namely, Yamuna, Aravalli, Neela Hauj, Northern Ridge, Tilpath Valley, Tughlaqabad and South Delhi Biodiversity Park provide natural habitat for butterflies of the Delhi region and

This year total seven teams conducted the butterflies counts under the leadership of different scientists

	TEAM LEAD	2019
Yamuna Biodiversity Park	Mohammad Faisal	42
Aravalli Biodiversity Park	Dr M Shah Hussain	49
Neela Hauj	Dr Aisha Sultana	30
Northern Ridge	Dr AK Singh	34
Tilpath Valley Biodiversity Park	Dr R Jayakumar	28
Tughlaqabad Biodiversity Park	Dr Vivek Choudhary	42
South Delhi Biodiversity Park	Yasser Arafat	19

LAST 2 YEARS DATA

	2017	2018
YAMUNA BIODIVERSITY PARK	42	46
ARAVALLI BIODIVERSITY PARK	40	54
NEELA HAUZ	17	21
NORTHERN RIDGE	38	36
TILPATH VALLEY BIODIVERSITY PARK	26	32
TUGHLAQABAD BIODIVERSITY PARK	39	43

site-specific Butterfly conservatories have also been developed in these

Biodiversity Parks. Ecologists have found in their research that the



Butterflies are excellent indicator of pollution load in an urban environment.

"Butterflies are cold-blooded insects and are Sun loving creatures.

For their survival they need host plants to lie their eggs on which after emergence their

caterpillar feeds," a Scientist working on the project said.

"These caterpillars eat green leaves of host plants and grew into cocoons. Generally after remaining dormant for a week or two, a beautiful butterfly emerges out," he added.

Man kills wife for 'adultery' in Prem Nagar, surrenders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 33-year-old man surrendered before the police after he allegedly killed his wife in Prem Nagar as he suspected her of having an affair. The incident occurred on Saturday night.

According to a senior police official, the man first stabbed his wife to death and later chopped her body into pieces and then dumped it in a septic tank of the house.

"He then packed the torso in a gunny bag and dumped it in a drain. After killing his wife, he surrendered before the Prem Nagar Police Station and confessed to his crime," the senior police official said.

"He told police that he killed his wife as he suspected



her of having an affair with someone. The torso has been recovered from the drain, the official added.

"A case has been registered and we are further investigating the matter," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) SD Mishra adding that the man is currently in police custody.

The man worked at a computer repair shop in Mayapuri and lived with his wife and children at Prem Nagar.

FROM HOWDY MODI

PM's veiled attack on Pak for terrorism

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hit out at Pakistan for its support to terrorism and said India's decision to nullify Article 370 has caused trouble to those who cannot handle their country as he called for a decisive battle against terrorism.

Making a strong pitch against terrorism at the 'Howdy Modi' event in the presence of US President Donald Trump, who joined the mega event in a rare gesture of friendship, Modi asked crowd to give Trump a standing ovation, as

he targeted Pakistan and its Prime Minister Imran Khan, without directly naming them.

"Article 370 encouraged terrorism and separatism in Jammu & Kashmir," he said, asserting that its nullification will allow development and prosperity in the region and end discrimination against women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

"Where do you find conspirators of 9/11 and 26/11 terror attacks," Modi said, referring to terror attacks in the US and Mumbai and called for a "decisive battle" against terrorism. He also asked people to

give standing ovation to Indian parliamentarians for their nod to revoking Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir.

Modi also underscored his Government's push for development in India, saying it is the most "discussed" word in the country as his government is "aiming high and achieving higher". Addressing a huge cheering crowd, which organisers said totalled over 50,000, Modi said the presence of such a big gathering is not confined to arithmetic and that people are seeing new history and chemistry being made.

India to have 1st NBA basketball next week: Trump

Houston: US President Donald Trump on Sunday announced that India will soon have access to another world class American product — NBA basketball. Trump, who was speaking at the NRG stadium to over 50,000 Indian-Americans, said that America is committed to ensure Indians have access to the finest goods in the world, products

stamped with the beautiful phrase 'Make in USA'.

"And very soon, India will have access to another world class American product-NBA basketball. Wow, sounds good. Next week, thousands of people will gather in Mumbai to watch the first-ever, NBA basketball game in India," Trump said.

"Am I invited Mr Prime

Minister? I may come, be careful, I may come," he said laughingly as Prime Minister Modi laughed. Earlier this month, the National Basketball Association said 3,000 students from over 70 schools will be extended invitations for the first-ever NBA game in India to be played in Mumbai in October. The NBA sides Sacramento

Kings and Indiana Pacers will play two pre-season games on October 4 and 5 in front of students under the Reliance Foundation Jr NBA programme.

The NBA India Games will mark the first games that teams from a North American sports league will play in India. Prime Minister Modi and President

Trump on Sunday addressed the mega 'Howdy, Modi' event here.

The event has been organised by Indian-Americans in Texas for Prime Minister Modi.

This is for the first time that the leaders of the two largest democracies of the world were addressing a joint mega rally in the US. PTI

Modi meets Kashmiri Pandits, assures of New Kashmir

Houston: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a "special interaction" with a 17-member delegation of Kashmiri Pandits here and assured them of "building a new Kashmir" which would be for everyone.

The delegation, which included Kashmiri Pandits from across the US, met Prime Minister Modi on his arrival in Houston as part of his week-long visit to the US.

"Kashmir mein naee hava bah rahee hai (New winds are blowing in Kashmir) and we will all build a new Kashmir together that will be for everyone," he told the delegation.

The Indian government on August 5 revoked the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into two union territories.

Modi also thanked the community for their patience for over 30 years.

"I had a special interaction with Kashmiri Pandits in Houston," Prime Minister Modi later tweeted. Earlier, MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted that the Kashmiri Pandits expressed support for the steps taken by the Indian government for the progress of India.

"In Houston, a delegation of

the Kashmiri Pandit community met the Prime Minister. They unequivocally supported the steps being taken for the progress of India and empowerment of every Indian," he tweeted.

The delegation thanked the Prime Minister for the move and said that their 700,000 community members were "indebted" to his government. The delegation also presented a memorandum to Modi, requesting him to set up a task force under the Indian Home Ministry to bring the community together, develop the region and repatriate

Kashmiri Pandits.

"Modi Ji brought smiles to the faces of our Kashmiri Pandit delegation, by promising a new Kashmir that we will build together, for everyone," Rajiv Pandit, who was part of the delegation, said.

He recited a religious verse (shlok) for Modi and the Indian leader joined him by reciting its last line.

Surinder Kaul, who led the delegation, told PTI, "the Prime Minister told us you have suffered a lot and together we have to build a new Kashmir."

Lalit Kaul, from Boston, said, "It was gracious of Prime Minister Modi to meet us and acknowledge that our community has suffered a lot! His assurance that he is on the job and things will improve gave all of us a renewed hope."

Another Kashmiri Pandit delegate from New Jersey, Rakesh Kaul said meeting Modi during was important to give him (Modi) unequivocal support at global level for revoking Article 370 and request him to initiate steps which will address the ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits. PTI

PM's visit great thing for Houston: Indo-Americans

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump jointly addressing the "Howdy Modi" event here in the energy capital of the world is "historic" and a direct endorsement of India's Kashmir policy by the United States, Indian Americans said on Saturday.

Describing it as a historic moment for the Indian American community,

Rakesh Mangal, former president of the Indian American Doctors' Association, Houston, said Trump attending the "Howdy Modi" event says how important India is to the entire world, especially to the US.

The US president joining Modi on stage in Houston "is a very clear indication of where the Trump Administration stands when it comes to Pakistan", Shalabh Kumar from the Republican Hindu

Coalition said.

Stating that Pakistan was planning to hold a protest against Modi in front of the NRG stadium on the Kashmir issue, Kumar claimed that it had been quashed to a great extent.

"This is a big slap on Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan," he said, adding that the US is now fully behind India on Kashmir in the aftermath of the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A of the Indian constitution.

Observing that "Howdy Modi" is one of the largest events of Indian Americans that he has seen in his lifetime, Krishna Bansal from Chicago said this is not only "going to be a game-changer" for the community and Indo-US ties, but also for the entire world.

Ritesh Gupta, who flew to Houston from New York, said he had attended the previous two public events of Modi in the US and is excited to be part

of the historic "Howdy Modi".

"We are here to welcome Prime Minister Modi for the work he is doing for the Sikh community. He is doing a great job as the prime minister. He has performed far better than any other prime minister of India in the last 70 years," Satpal Singh Khalsa, who has come to Houston from New Mexico, said.

Stating that Modi is taking India on the fast path of development that will make it a superpower, he said, "His reforms are a road to success."

Singh is part of the Sikh delegation that will urge Modi to work with President Trump on mistaken identity.

Responding to a question, he said Sikhs and other religious minorities in India are safe. "I do not understand why a small minority of Sikhs in the US and Canada is demanding a separate Sikh homeland," Singh said, adding that the

Trump greets Happy Birthday to PM Modi at Howdy, Modi event

Houston: US President Donald Trump on Sunday greeted 'Happy Birthday' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi who turned 69 last week. Addressing a gathering of 50,000 Indian-Americans at the 'Howdy, Modi' event, Trump greeted him 'Happy Birthday' and said the PM marked "another milestone" this week. Modi turned 69 on September 17. He praised Modi for doing "exceptional job" in India and said over 60 million people participated in the General polls in India and voted "overwhelmingly" for him.

Trump said if he is elected, India will have a "true friend" in the White house. He said "India can never have a better friend" than Trump. Earlier, Trump said that he and his "friend" Modi will have a "good time" at the mega event. "Look forward to being with our great India loving community!" he tweeted. PTI



Sikh team meets Modi, thanks for removing names of community members

Houston: A 50-member delegation of Sikhs from across the US met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here and thanked him for removing the names of over 300 community members from blacklist. The Indian government last week removed from its blacklist names of 312 Sikh foreign nationals involved in anti-India activities after a review carried out by different security agencies on the Adverse List or blacklist. PTI

Centre...

From Page 1

Earlier the wholesale price of onion was ₹15 per kilogram, now it is being sold at ₹30 to ₹45," said Rajendra Sharma, a wholesaler of Delhi's biggest Azadpur wholesale vegetable market. Sharma attributed the difference in demand and supply due to floods in several states behind the hike. "Supply is less than demand. Due to rains in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, there is a shortage of onions in Delhi," he said.

According to the Ministry, the retail onion prices rose to Rs 50-60 per kg in Delhi, Rs 50-70 per kg in Mumbai, Rs 45-60 per kg in Kolkata and Rs 40-50 per kg in Chennai last week. The prices were quot-

ed at Rs 60/kg in Gurgram and Jammu during the same period. The retail onion prices were high in posh colonies across the country.

Right now, stored onions are sold in most parts of the country as fresh kharif (summer) crop will hit the market from November onwards, traders said. Traders further said that there is enough supply of stored onion of the previous year's crop in the country but its transportation has been affected because of heavy rains.

Much of the onion is stored in Maharashtra, where rains disrupted the transport of the kitchen staple to other parts of the country, said a wholesale trader from Lasalgaon in Maharashtra, Asia's largest onion market.

Sources said that the government has taken several measures in the last few weeks

to improve the domestic supply and check further increase in prices of onion. "However, retail prices have suddenly shot up in the last 2-3 days because of supply disruption due to excess rains in the growing states," sources added.

It is a short-term supply disruption and if the situation does not normalise in the next 2-3 days and prices rise, then the government may consider seriously imposing stock holding limits on onion traders, the source said.

According to the Meteorological Department, main onion producing regions especially Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, eastern Rajasthan and western Madhya Pradesh have received excess monsoon rainfall in the last two days.

The Centre has taken several measures to arrest the prices of onion in Delhi and

other parts of the country. It is offloading onion from its buffer stock through agencies like Nafed and NCCF which are selling at around Rs 22/kg and state-run Mother Dairy at Rs 23.90 per kg in the national capital.

The state governments have been asked to boost supply in their states lifting central buffer stock. Some states like Delhi, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh have shown interest so far.

Besides, the Centre has discouraged export of onion by increasing the minimum export price and withdrawing incentives.

It is also cracking down on blackmarketees. Besides rains, prices are under pressure on likely fall in kharif production of this year owing to less planted area under onion on account of excess rains, the sources added.

DMK affidavit to EC puts CPM...

From Page 1

Bare study of affidavits filed by parties shows that all of them are trying to tally with the maximum expenditure limit of ₹70 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency specified by the Election Commission. Major parties BJP and Congress have not yet submitted their affidavits. As per the Aam Aadmi Party's affidavit, their total expenditure is ₹1.3

crore only. However, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) which contested only in Odisha (along with Assembly election) shown ₹227.79 crore as their expenses. They also filed an earlier affidavit (part expenditure) of ₹39.7 crore.

The NCP showed ₹72.35 crore and earlier affidavit of ₹11 crore as their expenditure during the Lok Sabha election. The BSP declared their expenditure

as ₹55.39 crore and the Samajwadi Party declared its expenditure as just ₹5.5 crore. The Trinamool Congress declared ₹83.6 crore and ₹10 crore in two affidavits. The AIADMK declared around ₹20 crore as their entire expenditure. Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSR declared ₹86.15 crore as their expenses in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections of 2019. The

JD(U) declared ₹10.71 crore as their expenditure in the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP and Congress, which contested in majority seats, are yet to declare their expenditure to the Election Commission and it is learned that their chartered accountants are busy with preparation of the expenses in co-ordination with their State units.

Odisha seeks help from Assam, Kerala to save...

From Page 1

brought from different forests of the State, blood samples would be collected to ensure that the EEHV has not spread to the wild one also, he said. Nandankanan Zoo Deputy Director Jayant Das said all precautionary measures are being taken to save lives of the remaining elephants. It is not known whether the virus has also affected these elephants, he added.

Delhi Cong protests against MV Act, rising unemployment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress workers organized a massive public meeting on Sunday in Mangolpuri to protest against enhancement of penalties under the Motor Vehicles Act and rising unemployment across the national capital. Under the leadership of veteran Congress leader Jai Kishan, the party workers threatened to hit the streets if the AAP government did not bring down the traffic penalties and provide

jobs to jobless youth in the city.

Addressing the party workers, Jai Kishan said that the Delhi government had promised to provide onions at a cheaper rates in Safal and other government outlets as the prices of the favourite kitchen staple had sharply gone up. He demanded that Delhi government should also provide subsidy to vegetables and fruits as prices have gone up in the past few weeks.

The Congress leader said that Delhi government had

failed on all fronts to fulfill any of the promises it had made to the electorate during the state Assembly elections. He said that AAP government was again making promises to please his vote bank just ahead of the assembly elections scheduled in February next year. Jai Kishan further said the national Capital has the highest electricity rates per unit in the country but the AAP government has projected that it is cheapest as compare to other States.

Shah blames former...

From Page 1

One political formation owes its allegiance to Bharat Mata i.e., BJP and its allies, while the other formation - Congress and NCP -- believes dynastic politics. The voters have to choose between these two political formations."

Making the abrogation of Article 370 main plank in the elections, Shah said: "As a leader and president of BJP, I have come to you with an appeal. Maharashtra is a land of Chhtrapati Shivaji. It was on this land that freedom struggle began. The fight against Moghuls started here. At the time when the elections are happening, the people of Maharashtra should decide and show the people they deserve to the political parties opposing the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution"

Taking a strong exception to Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi's statement that abrogation of Article 370 was a political issue, Shah said: "We have been fighting for this issue since the Jan Sangh days. Bharatiya Jan Sangh's first president Shyama Prasad Mukherjee made the first sacrifice for Kashmir. We have been fighting for Kashmir since then. Rahul baba says that Article 370 is a political issue. Let me tell that three generations of our party since our Jan Sangh days have been fighting for the abrogation of Article 370. Rahulbaba, for you it may be a political issue, but for us the removal of Article 370 is not a political issue but an issue that is

needed for uniting and integrating India."

Expressing confidence that the BJP-led NDA government would return to power with three-fourth of majority in the Assembly polls, Shah said: "When I say that our victory is a foregone conclusion, I do so with on some basis. I am saying this on the basis of the manner in which chief minister Devendra Fadnavis ran his government in Maharashtra, the Modi government performed at the Centre during the last five years. Through their mandate given in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the people have made public their intention that Devendra Fadnavis will become the chief minister once again in Maharashtra."

In some other part of his 30-minute speech, Shah heaped praise on Fadnavis and said: "Our Devendra Fadnavis has given a given a corruption-free government. Devendraji has given a development-oriented government. He has increased honour of Maharashtra. He has brought back Maharashtra to top position in the country. In the field of education, he has brought the state to 3rd position from 17th position. In terms of investment, he has brought the state to second position in the country. The agriculture growth rate has also increased substantially. Even on the corruption elimination front, Devendra has done between the Congress and NCP."

Shah said that more than the performance of the Devendra Fadnavis government, the voters of the state had to choose between the forces that were with the government in its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and those who opposed it.

Shah, who was briefing the party workers on the issues relating to abrogation of Article 370, said that the Jammu & Kashmir-based job aspirants from the SCs STs and OBCs would benefit from the abrogation of Article 370.

He said that the annulment of Article 370 of the Constitution would contribute to eliminating corruption in the valley state, where the State had lost a staggering Rs 2,27,000 lakh crore owing to the lack of anti-corruption bureau there.

Dismissing criticism of the criticism about the alarming situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said: "No bullet has been fired between August 5 and September 22. No life has been lost. He asked the critics with "political agenda" as to why they scaring people through a false propaganda. "After the abrogation of Article 370, the people are living peacefully in Kashmir. The prohibitory orders have been lifted in all but two places. Ninety nine per cent of land lines have started working. Fifty seven per cent mobile phones are working. Curfew has been lifted from most places. Business is going on as usual in Kashmir."

3 Delhi shootouts in...

From Page 1

The occupants were asked to come out of the car, however, they fired at the police team. Police retaliated and both sides fired one round at each other, however, no one was injured, police said. The gang drove towards Geeta Colony flyover and the police team gave chase but could not catch them, they added.

According to official involved in the Najafgarh shootout, a few criminals managed to flee from the spot. In Najafgarh incident which falls under the jurisdiction of Dwarka district, the sleuths of the Delhi Police arrested three gangsters after an encounter that broke out on Najafgarh's Kair- Mitraon road on Saturday evening. Police said the accused are members of Deepak Dhankhar group, a proxy group of gangster of Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu.

The accused have been identified as Vicky (27), Naveen alias Tinku (20), both residents of Najafgarh and Deepak (28), a resident of Gurugram in Haryana.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Dwarka Anto Alphonse said after receiving information on Saturday that Vicky, along with his two associates possessing illegal weapons would come to Najafgarh on Kair- Mitraon road to attack some businessman for extortion.

"Acting on the inputs a trap was laid and at around 7:40 PM on Saturday, Vicky was spotted on a bike with two of his associates. Police team signalled him to stop but he tried to flee. The police team asked them to surrender but Vicky and his associates opened fire upon the police team," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, it was revealed that all three criminals had been involved in arranging funds for the criminal of Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu. On September 21, the accused had threaten a businessman and would have even fired upon same person to ensure that their threat is not taken lightly and victim(s) actually provide them extortion money, but their luck ran out and they were arrested by the police team," said the DCP.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police have also arrested a 40-year-old man after an encounter in Seemapuri area on Saturday night.

Police have recovered a country made pistol along with 22 cartridges from the possession of the accused.

The accused, identified as, Aasif (40) a resident of Nand Nagari, was involved in 40 cases of Dacoity, Murder, Robbery, Snatching etc. He was also arrested by Hyderabad police in May 2013 and booked in 10-12 cases of snatching. Police had also declared a reward of Rs 25, 000 on information leading to his arrest.

According to Amit Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Shahdara district, following a tip off on Saturday night a trap was laid near Seemapuri when at about 2:00 am, Aasif was seen riding a bike and was signalled to stop.

"Seeing police Aasif tried to flee away and in order to retaliate he fired three rounds at the team. In retaliation staff fired couple of rounds and later overpowered him," said the DCP.

"During interrogation it was revealed that Aasif was also wanted in the murder case of his wife and was absconding since then. He further revealed that he was also planning to murder his sister-in-law and mother-in-law, who were pursuing the murder case of his wife," said the DCP.

Aromatic plants perk up Leh...

From Page 1

Dr ML Mantoo, CEO, LFPCL and former adviser to the Ministry of Rural Development said this partnership will allow them to work in collaboration with premier CSIR institute in cultivating aromatic crops in larger area of Leh and Ladakh region and to provide maximum benefit to farmers.

Dr Rakesh Kumar, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IHBT said Leh and Ladakh region is suitable for cultivation of high value aromatic crops where unique aroma compound can be produced which have huge demand in the international perfumery and fragrance industries.

To promote cultivation, awareness-cum-training programme has been held in villages like Rambirpura of district Leh where large number of farmers participated. Leh- Ladakh is located in the northern part of the Indian sub-continent with an area of about 59,146 km.

With CSIR-IHBT's efforts, Himachal Pradesh has already become the largest producer of high-quality wild marigold essential oil in India, meeting the demand of perfume, flavouring, and condiment industries. A good number of farmers in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir have already taken up the cultivation. In fact, an area of about 214 hectares has been bought under wild marigold cultivation by more than 600 farmers in the hilly region. The crop is suitable for cultivation in the plains as well as on the hills as a mono-crop or inter-crop in orchards/forest/medicinal/ aromatic plants.

Aromatic crops are widely cultivated around the world due to its high-revenue earning essential oils which are utilised in perfumery, food, flavoring, pharmaceutical and agrochemical industry.

Azad visits Anantnag colony, meets people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

"Often curtailments in estimates are done which cause misperception in the mind of field units as they are unable to understand the nature, quantum and reason of curtailments," the CPWD DG said in his two-page letter.

He said such curtailments are also a major reason for delay in the execution and completion of the project. The CPWD also examines the estimates prepared by other depart-



ments and organisations, he said.

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

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

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

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

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

The agency also carries out projects in foreign countries which have friendship programmes with India.

EC announces bypolls to 2 more seats in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid criticism by the Opposition Congress for not conducting polls for all the vacant seats, the Election Commission (EC) on Sunday announced two more Assembly bypolls — Radhanpur and Bayad seats in Gujarat taking the total number of seats going for by-election across India to 66. The bypolls to Radhanpur and Bayad Assembly seats, announced on Sunday, were necessitated after sitting MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalsinh Zala of Congress resigned and joined the ruling BJP.

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

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



qualified following invalidation of his caste certificate.

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

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

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

party win," said Zala.

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

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

BSY seeks ₹2K-cr flood relief from Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

Only 2.5% colleges run PhD programmes, finds HRD survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

For the annual survey, the higher education institutions are categorized in three broad categories—university, college and stand-alone institutions. A total of 962 universities; 38,179 colleges and 9190 stand alone institutions participated in the survey for the year 2018-19.

"Only 2.5 per cent colleges run PhD programme and 34.9 per cent colleges run post graduate level programmes. At PhD level, maximum numbers of students out-turn is in science stream followed by engineering and technology. On the other hand at PG level maximum students out-turn is observed in social science and management stream comes at number two," according to the survey report.

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

The ASHE report pointed out that about 79.8 pc of students are enrolled in under-

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

graduate level programme. "Maximum numbers of students are enrolled in B.A. Programme followed by B.Sc. and B.Com. Programmes. At Undergraduate level the highest number (35.9 pc) of students are enrolled in arts, humanities or social sciences courses followed by science (16.5pc), engineering and technology (13.5 pc) and commerce (14.1 pc)," the report said.

There are 34.8 per cent colleges, which run only single programme, out of which 83.1 per cent are privately managed. "Among these privately managed colleges, 38.1 per cent colleges run B.Ed courses only. 77.8 per cent colleges are privately managed, 64.3 pc private-unaided and 13.5 pc private-aided. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have about 88 per cent private-unaided colleges and Tamil Nadu has 87 per cent private-unaided colleges, whereas, Assam has 16 per cent."

"Around 16.3 per cent of colleges are having enrolment less than 100 and only 4 per cent colleges have enrolment more than 3,000," the report said.

IAF felicitates trust funded by MIAF Arjan Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

In his speech, Dhanoa expressed his gratitude to the founders of the trust and "applauded the noble work done by the trust towards welfare of the serving and retired air warriors including their widows

and dependents." The Marshal and his wife Teji Singh had contributed their personal funds of Rs 2.25 cr to establish this trust on September 22 in 2004, IAF officials said.

Marshal Arjan Singh, a Padma Vibhushan awardee, had played a crucial role in 1965 by stopping Pakistani armour offensive code named 'Operation Grand Slam'. He was also appointed as the Lt Governor of Delhi in 1989, according to a statement issued by the IAF.



Arvind Singh, son of the Marshal and a life trustee of the organisation, delivered an emotional speech.

To mark the felicitation ceremony, a leaflet on the trust and a poetry book "Abhi Kaam Baaki Hai" on the Marshal were launched jointly by the IAF chief and Air Chief Marshal (retired) Arup Raha, the IAF statement said. A memento was also presented to the trust.

Broad gauge Metro time saving option, says Nitin Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Cabinet Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines Prahlad Joshi and Union Minister of State for Railways



Suresh Angadi were also present on the occasion. Gadkari said current metro rail construction costs around ₹320 crore per km, while the broad gauge metro costs around Rs three crore. Stressing on the need to develop indigenous technologies focused on urban infrastructure, Gadkari said it will help generate jobs besides ensuring better organizational efficiencies.

Gadkari also said he has cleared for the consideration of the Union Cabinet the policy for the scrapping of old cars, buses, and two-wheelers. Finance Ministry has already cleared the proposal and the Government will very soon clear it. Scrapping policy for old vehicles will help reduce vehicular congestion in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, which have a large number of vehicles that are older than 10-15 years.

SC: Judges should possess sterling quality of integrity

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

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

Impeccable integrity should be reflected both in the public and personal life of a judge, the top court said, and added judicial officers must always remember they hold high office and serve the public.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said the petitioner did not live up to the "expectations of integrity, behaviour and probity" and no leniency can be shown to him. "Hence, we find no merit in the appeal, which is accordingly dismissed," it said.

The petitioner was appointed as a judicial magis-

trate in March 1985. In February 2001, he was put under suspension and dismissed in January 2004.

He challenged his dismissal in the Bombay High Court but his plea was rejected. He then moved the apex court, which issued a notice on his plea limited to the question of the quantum of punishment.

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

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

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

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

"It has been reported by cyber cell, Ministry of Defence that adversaries are taking

advantage of the popularity of TV show "Kaun Banega Crorepati" by making individuals join WhatsApp groups and sending fake KBC messages to trap individuals," a security advisory issued by the Defence Ministry said.

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



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

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

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

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

again asked its personnel to avoid putting up their service or posting details on social media as it can be used by the adversaries to spread misinformation.

Also, there have been cases of virtual honey traps where serving officers and jawans have been trapped and forced to leak military classified information to enemy operatives who generally pose as girls on social media. Agencies

UNABLE TO BEAR EXPENSES

Parents drown 20-day-old twin daughters



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

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

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

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

The father lodged a mis-

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

Waseem, in the complaint, said when he woke up this morning, he found his daughters missing, the officer said.

The parents have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), Kumar said.

The bodies were recovered and sent for postmortem, he said.

"The parents have confessed to killing their daughters," Kumar said.

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

CHINMAYANAND CASE

Woman, SIT leave for Allahabad High Court for Monday hearing

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

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

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

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

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

Sources said the SIT also booked the woman on charges of causing disappearance of evidence.

Jail Superintendent Rakesh Kumar told PTI on Sunday that on September 20, the advocate of Swami Chinmayanand, Om Singh, had submitted an application



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

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

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

The former Union Minister was arrested by the SIT on Friday and sent to 14 days' judicial custody.

According to Om Singh, the counsel for Chinmayanand, they could not approach the court for bail on Saturday as local advocates were on strike demanding that Shahjahanpur be attached with the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court.

The sources said that the SIT had on Friday registered a

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

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

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

They have been booked under Indian Penal Code Sections 35 (criminal act done with a criminal knowledge or intention), 385 (extortion), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (disappearance of evidences) and Section 67 of the Information Technology Act.

The three men were arrested by the SIT.

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

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

JU row: Students' union files complaint against Supriyo

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

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

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

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

An officer of Jadavpur Police station confirmed the receipt of the complaint.

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

Supriyo could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

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

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

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

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

Asked to comment on the

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

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

"We will take appropriate legal action," Roy said.

BJP leader Agnimitra Paul on Friday had filed a complaint at Jadavpur police station against some students, but did not name anyone. **PTI**

Was left with no other option but to rush to JU: Governor

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

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

Dhankhar, who is also the

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

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

PM deserves respect when he represents India abroad: Tharoor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He criticised the ruling BJP over incidents of mob lynching, saying they are an "insult to Hinduism and Lord Ram."

"There is no difference among people (of different communities) living in Kerala. Then why it is happening in Maharashtra," he said.

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

Police attach properties of absconding RJD MLA Arun Yadav

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

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

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

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

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



A view of illuminated Mysore Palace in Mysore on Sunday

PTI

MAHARAJA HARI SINGH BIRTHDAY EVE

BJP's Jammu rally gets lackluster response

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

Thin attendance inside the pandal, raised outside Maharaja Hari Singh Park, also forced the organisers to delay the programme.

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



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

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

Majority of people, who attended the rally, were ferried from peripheral areas of rural Jammu to fill the seats. To discourage use of plastic, during such public events, the organisers served packaged juice in paper cups instead of PET water bottles.

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

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

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

"Our Government has taken a historic decision to abrogate Article 370. Now, J&K will witness massive development," Thakur also slammed Pakistan for spreading "fake propaganda" and went on to say that PoK is a part of India.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The woman hailed from Uppala in Kasaragod district of Kerala.

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

gave her a poisonous capsule, telling her it was a contraceptive.

He has used the same modus operandi in all the 20 cases against him, the prosecution submitted to the court.

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

The quantum of punishment would be pronounced on September 25.

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

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

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

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

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



the next 24 hours, the IMD informed.

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

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

"It is very likely to intensify further into a deep depression during next 12 hours and into a cyclonic storm during subsequent 24 hours. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards towards Oman coast during next 72 hours," it said. **PTI**

INTER-STATE WATER ISSUES

Kerala, TN CMs to hold talks on Sept 24

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

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

"The discussion will include Parambikulam project, Anamalai, Pandiyar-Punnapuzha, Pamba Achankovil diversion and many



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Police seize 450 cartons of liquor in Bihar

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

BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION CASE

Special CBI court issues summons to Kalyan Singh

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Court had in April 2017 said Singh could not be brought in as an accused to face trial due to the constitutional immunity granted to governors under Article 361 of the Constitution.

The top court had, however, allowed the CBI to move for summoning of Singh as an accused as soon as he ceased to be the governor.

All the accused are on bail in the case, the trial of which is being conducted on a day-to-day basis, on the directions of the apex court. **PTI**

Four held in Kerala for honeytrapping NRI bizman

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

While three of the accused hail from Kannur district, the woman belongs to Kochi. An investigation was launched based on a complaint that the Qatar-based businessman was lured into the trap allegedly by the woman, who was in that country, by establishing friendship through Facebook, they said.

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

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

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

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

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

hand pump soon turned violent and he was beaten up badly.

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

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

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

Gorkhas not to visit Foreigner's Tribunal: Body

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"If the Government of Assam does not do its duty as directed by the Union of India, the BGP will take a policy decision to take the matter to the Supreme Court and make the State Government party to it and contest the case to ensure that Gorkhas are not taken to Foreigners' Tribunals."

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

"The figures prove that their main target was Bengalis," TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee said. BJP national president

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two recent deaths in the state have been attributed to the panic swirling around the citizenship register. The TMC leadership has

blamed the BJP for creating anxiety over NRC in Bengal.

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

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

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

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

"The illegal Bangladeshi Muslims pose security threat to the inhabitants of the state and the country," state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh told PTI.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Cautioning the neighbouring country against promoting cross-border terrorism, in the wake of the recent developments in Kashmir, he said, "Talks with Pakistan will henceforth resume only after it stops promoting terrorism. And it must also keep in mind

that J&K is an integral part of India. All discussions will only take place about Pak-occupied Kashmir."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

One Rajya Sabha MP from the BSP is also said to be knocking at the BJP's doors. The BSP, at present, has four members in the Rajya Sabha and eight members in the Vidhan Parishad.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kanshi Ram, who was in



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

The BSP (which again won 67 seats) suffered its biggest split in 1997 when Mayawati pulled out of the coalition with BJP. About 20 BSP MLAs

broke away to form the Jantantrik Bahujan Samaj Party and extended support to the then Kalyan Singh government. All of them were made

ministers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A dose of adrenaline

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



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

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

Role model

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



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

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

What's a degree worth?

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

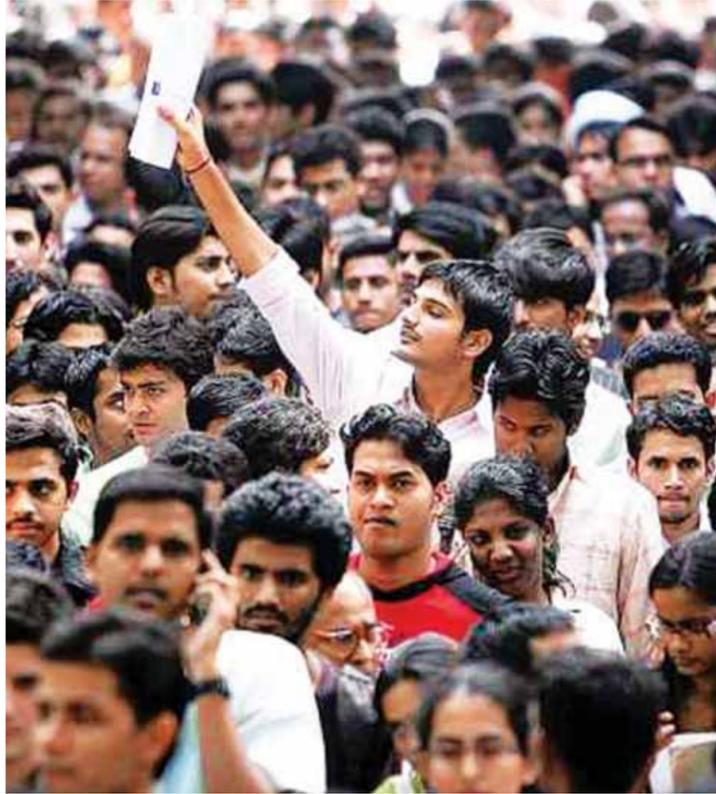


RINKU GHOSH

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

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

The fact that I found all these drivers in



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Associate Editor, The Pioneer)

SOUNDBITE

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

HRD Minister
—Ramesh Pokhriyal



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

Filmmaker
—Karan Johar



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

UN chief
—Antonio Guterres



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

Congress leader
—Shashi Tharoor



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A wake-up call

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

P Senthil
Via email

Boosting the economy

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

Apathy towards a football player

Stories about celebrities falling on bad times are not rare. Managing whatever fortune they amassed during their heydays, many are known to have had pitiable existence thereafter, passing the rest of their lives in near anonymity. But some sagas are known to have their own share of shocks and surprises. The story of ace footballer Uday Konar from Mumbai is a case in point. Harassed by local goons, backed by influential people who are on the lookout to evict him from his hawking space at the Colaba Causeway, Konar is at the risk of losing his only means of livelihood. Apart from the space from where his father used to run a newspaper stall since the 1960s, the land mafia is intent on grabbing control of all spots allotted to his family in the close vicinity. One can very well understand his desperation.

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

the corporate tax rate. This means that the effective tax rate for firms who do not avail exemptions will fall from 34.94 per cent presently to 25.17 per cent. However, for new domestic manufacturing companies, incorporated after October 1, the tax rate

will be as low as 15 per cent. Due to high corporate tax rates, investments had remained at the lowest ebb. The present move will encourage private investment. It may also give a boost to foreign investments given that global value chains

stand disrupted due to the tariff war between China and the US. While the present rate cut bodes well for the overall economy, largely, the corporate sector must not falter now.

Srishti Mathur
Ujjain



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

Pachu Menon
Margao

Timely action

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

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

Bal Govind
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Unsung hero of the downtrodden

Though Bhola Paswan Shastri worked tirelessly for the benefit of the underprivileged, he was never credited for his socio-political work



RAJ PARASHAR

The name, Bhola Paswan Shastri, might have a different meaning for different sections of society, but his contributions and accomplishments in the social and political arena speak for themselves. It is unfortunate that Shastri's endeavours have not been accommodated in the political history of India. Though he worked tirelessly for the benefit of the underprivileged and the oppressed, and for the freedom of the country from colonial rule, Shastri has never been duly credited for his socio-political work.

Simple living and high thinking was a way of life for the three-time Chief Minister of Bihar, who not just dedicated his whole life for the uplift of the marginalised sections of society but also followed a righteous path in the murky world of politics.

Not one to believe in politics of opportunism, nepotism, favouritism, glorification and cashing in on his following by bargaining for political posts, Shastri charted his own course in life and was always guided by political ethics and constitutional morality.

Born in 1914 in Baigachhi, Purnea district, Bihar, in a family that belonged to the Pasi community (considered untouchables) Bhola Paswan, as he was known at that time, faced intense discrimination and atrocities. However, rising above that, he charted his way forward and was a brilliant student. He gained a respectable position in society by studying from the renowned Kashi University and the title of Shastri was conferred on him due to his keen intellect. Using his education as a means to fight for the emancipation of his people, Shastri began raising his voice against the caste system and the atrocities inflicted on members of the Dalit community. He participated in many of the struggles launched for the betterment of Dalits and later on joined active politics to make their voice heard as their representative.

Being a follower of Gandhi, he strongly advocated the Mahatma's ideas during the days of freedom struggle and reiterated that political independence could not be achieved unless one was socially equal and liberated. Realising the important role education had played in his life, Shastri always stressed on the need for learning and urged Dalits to pursue higher education for an overall and holistic development. His keen understanding of socio-political dynamics allowed Shastri to ignite the minds of the oppressed and encourage them to break the shackles of poverty and social stigma attached to the caste-system.

Later Shastri, who also had a nationalistic bent of mind, was to jump into the struggle for India's independence as a revolutionary and play a significant role in it. Shastri's dynamic personality and love for the country, politics and social issues resulted in him becoming the first Dalit Chief Minister of Bihar in 1968. He was to occupy that post twice more. Shastri was also a member of the Rajya Sabha and a vocal advocate for his community and the progressive plans he had for them.

Shastri's unmatched wit and intellect came through in an interview he gave in 1978 in his capacity as the Chairman of the then newly-founded Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. When asked about caste-based discrimination in the country, he said, "With more people from different communities becoming educated, the discrimination against Harijans is slowly becoming less. But then, you also have rigid Hindus, like the ones who washed with Ganga water a statue that Jagjivan Ram had unveiled at Varanasi, in order to 'purify' it."

He mobilised the Harijan community to enter the national mainstream and join hands with other landless peasants to change their lives for the better. Shastri supported affirmative action and termed it as a way to rectify the history of injustice dating back thousands of years. A proponent of the reservation policy, Shastri often pointed out that Harijans have a double impediment, poverty and social discrimination, to overcome and quota would help them beat this.

Shastri was one of the unsung leaders and visionaries of yesteryears who contributed a lot to the nation but never took advantage of their capacity and position. He always gave priority to society over his family and was against amalgamation of wealth, which is why Shastri was left with just a few clothes, a pair of shoes and a meagre bank account at the time of his death. Socialism and egalitarianism were the inalienable attributes of Shastri's personality which is evident from the journey of his life.

It will be an injustice to let his name be erased from the annals of history, especially whenever we remember frontline social reformers and Dalit ideologues. In an era where politics of vendetta and nepotism is being used as a means to further personal agendas or decimate rivals, his simple lifestyle and brand of selfless politics can prove to be the guiding light for modern-day politicians and inspire many budding leaders.

(The writer is a Research Scholar at Patna University.)

BJP SHOULD STAGE A SIT-IN AT DELHI FOR RELEASE OF FLOOD RELIEF FUNDS INSTEAD OF INDULGING IN TONGUE WAGGING AGAINST MY GOVERNMENT.

—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER
KAMAL NATH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



KAMAL NATH SHOULD GO TO DELHI HIMSELF AND ASK FOR HELP. HAVE I EVER TOLD THE OPPOSITION TO GET HELP FROM DELHI WHEN I WAS CM?

—FORMER MP CHIEF MINISTER AND BJP LEADER
SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

Beating desertification

At the COP14 held in India, 196 countries and the EU adopted voluntary land degradation neutrality targets that include their restoration by 2030



VK BAHUGUNA

At the just-concluded Conference of Parties (COP) 14 hosted by India under the aegis of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 196 participating countries and the European Union adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration' wherein they agreed that land degradation is a major economic, social and environmental problem, and welcomed strengthening of the adoption of voluntary "land degradation neutrality" targets that include restoration of degraded land by 2030.

The UNCCD, one of the three environmental conventions running after the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, (the other two being The United Framework Convention Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity) was established in 1994 as a legally-binding international agreement within the parameters of the UN and connects the environment and development with sustainable land management. The conventions deal with most vulnerable ecosystems in arid, semi-arid and dry lands areas. The basic aim of the convention is to work for improving the livelihoods of the people in these ecosystems through restoration of soil and land and combat draught conditions.

Under the UNCCD, the developed countries are supposed to transfer technologies to the developing countries for sustainable land development. The UNCCD had adopted a strategic framework for the period 2018-2030, which among other things, primarily focusses on improving the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification, land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. It also aims to mitigate, adapt to and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; mobilise resources for implementation of the convention and improve the living conditions of the people residing in dry land ecosystems. By far this is the most important convention and the success of two other conventions' objectives depends upon the success of the UNCCD. The secretary of the convention had taken lot of programmes to achieve its mandate and some excellent work has already been achieved by India though almost one-third of country's landmass remains degraded and prone to desertification.

China, which became the president of the convention in 2017, passed on the baton to India at the programme held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar, now has the mammoth task of steering the mandate of the convention for the next two years. The four issues discussed during COP14 were land and draught; land and human security; land and climate change and land and sustainable development goals.

Signatories to the New Delhi Declaration endorsed 35 decisions, including commitments to combat land degradation, desertification and drought. In the resolutions, the conference agreed to make the Sustainable Development Goal target of achieving "land degradation neutrality" (LDN), a national target for action. Besides the LDN agreement, whereby countries have pledged to halt the degradation of land to the point where ecosystems and land use can no longer be supported, there was a landmark decision to boost



global efforts to mitigate and manage the risks of crippling drought.

Countries will now be expected to address insecurity of land tenure, including gender inequality; promote land restoration to reduce carbon emissions and mobilise innovative sources of finance from public and private sources to support the implementation of these decisions at a national level.

All countries recognised that desertification undermines health, development and prosperity in all regions and were deeply concerned that the impacts would be felt most keenly by vulnerable people. They were also convinced that participation from civil society organisations, local governments and the private sector would be crucial to achieving the objectives of UNCCD.

The document laid special emphasis on community-driven transformative projects that are gender-sensitive at local, national and regional levels to drive implementation.

While the declaration is a statement of consensus, the 35 decisions are legally binding on each of the 197 signatories. Activities carried out over the next two years would be monitored by India.

The resolutions adopted in the New Delhi Declaration are vital for India and the world, which is grappling with the ever-increasing effects of climate change and faces a major desertification threat.

Around 30 per cent of the world's populations live in dry areas, which cover more than 40 per cent of Earth's land surface. Countries like Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, China and Pakistan are prone to repeated draught and in fact, 40 per cent of the world is now facing draught-like conditions due to climatic vagaries.

In India, around 20 per cent (63.8 million hectares) of the land is categorised as waste lands and most of this is in dry areas. Latest statistics shows that 42 per cent of the Indian land mass faces draughts where more than 600 million people live.

In the light of these findings, the COP14 is vital for the entire world and its recommendations need to be implemented in all seriousness. The people and the institutions of governance must focus on physical structure of land and quality of soil; improve the availability of water; control landslides, floods and movement of soil and conserve

COUNTRIES WILL NOW BE EXPECTED TO ADDRESS INSECURITY OF LAND TENURE, INCLUDING GENDER INEQUALITY; PROMOTE LAND RESTORATION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND MOBILISE INNOVATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCE FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE DECISIONS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

the bio-diversity and use of land for sustainable development of the people living in these areas.

India must gear up its diplomatic channels to ensure creation of fund and technology for tackling the threat by all countries. As for India, an action plan must be prepared to deal with deforestation, water conservation and land degradation for forest and non-forest lands. The degraded forests below 40 per cent crown density have increased from 24 million hectares in 1985 to 30 million hectares in 2017 and regeneration of natural forests needs to be backed up.

The recent proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to bring private investments in forest areas of less than 10 per cent crown density should be started on pilot basis after taking the local people into confidence. If it succeeds, it will give a big fillip to forest conservation and enhancement of land productivity. The land vested with tribals under Forest Right Act should also be taken up for investment for productive use and livelihoods.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed the ministerial segment of the convention, outlined the success achieved by India in implementation of the objectives of the convention in checking desertification and land degradation as well as help in saving the livelihoods of the people residing in dry areas. Modi asserted that India was looking forward to making an effective contribution at the global level as it took over the chairmanship for the next two years.

He called for concerted attempts as two-third of the countries are affected by desertification and are in the grip of severe water crisis. He exhorted the delegates to create a Global Water Action Agenda and offered Indian expertise to other countries in land degradation and raised the target of its land restoration from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030.

Pointing out that India was on course to achieve its Paris climate change targets, Modi announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education to facilitate scientific and technological collaboration between South-South Cooperation and with those who wish to access knowledge and training of manpower so that land degradation is addressed effectively.

(The writer is a retired civil servant)

The rise of conspiracy theories and fantasies

Complex political, economic, demographic shifts and the mushrooming of social media sites have all contributed in making fantastical explanations, that were once relegated to the lunatic fringe, migrate to the mainstream



NADEEM PARACHA

In 2005, an independent filmmaker, Dylan Avery, made a documentary called *Loose Change*. The film explores the many conspiracy theories which began to emerge after the 9/11 attacks in New York.

The documentary does not discuss the theories as much as it actually promulgates them in a rather dramatic manner. The film claims that it has enough evidence to prove the conspiratorial notion that the 9/11 attacks were an "inside job," meaning they were organised by the US Government.

In 2006, Avery and the film's producers released a second edition of the film, claiming that this one included some new evidence. But,

actually, this one left out certain claims made in the first edition of the film after they were debunked.

A year later in 2007, a third version of the documentary emerged called *Loose Change: Final Cut*. This edition almost entirely edited out the many speculative claims of the previous editions. This left the film looking more like a compilation of reports on the attacks because, by then, *Loose Change* had been systematically debunked through a series of articles in various newspapers in the US and the UK.

Ironically, the American business tycoon, Mark Cuban, who had bought the rights to distribute the last edition of the film — which, unlike the first two editions, was not released online for free — was quoted as saying that he entirely disagreed with the contents of the film. One of the film's producers, Mathew Brown, echoed the sentiment but added that he had financed the film because he believed in freedom of speech.

The first edition was a sloppy and amateur attempt to cynically draw traction from online fans of conspir-

acy theories. However, it became a huge online hit, encouraging the makers of the film to turn it into a lucrative franchise of sorts.

The first edition cost just \$2,000, the second \$6,000 and the third \$200,000, after the rights of the film were sold to a major DVD distribution company. Translated versions of the film were also screened on TV channels in various countries, including Pakistan.

Geo TV ran it with an Urdu commentary, even though, by then, the film had been significantly discredited. Influenced by the successful manner in which it had managed to draw a large audience, another local TV channel, *Indus TV*, began to run a series of translated documentaries funded by the wealthy Turkish 'Islamic creationist' and cult figure Harun Yahya. These films explained Darwinism, secularism, democracy, 'Western modernity' and so on, as the core reasons behind the misery in the Muslim world and on Earth in general.

In 2009, *ARY News* jumped on the bandwagon by adapting another

Yahya-funded documentary *End of Time*. Commentary in the Urdu version was provided by a talk-show host, who faithfully replicated the film's sombre tone, pointing out the 'signs' foretold by the holy scriptures of the coming apocalypse.

As I mentioned in a previous column two in-depth studies, conducted in 2018 and published in the *Journal of Individual Differences*, identified 'schizotypy' as a prominent reason behind the growth in the acceptance of fantastical claims and conspiracy theories in recent years. People with schizotypy have an elevated need to feel unique, but at the same time take refuge in a community of like-minded individuals. Such an individual or community are more likely to judge nonsensical statements as profound.

They often believe in things for which there is no empirical evidence. The higher this schizotypy is in a person, the more likely he or she is to believe in conspiracy theories.

There is also the fact that the complex political, economic, climatic and demographic shifts and

changes occurring in the post-9/11 world and the mushrooming of social media sites, have all contributed in making fantastical explanations — that were once relegated to the lunatic fringe — migrate to the mainstream.

Confusion and polarisation in this context allows people to latch on to theoretical concoctions connecting disparate dots to complete an (often diabolic) explanatory whole. Nothing new about this, as such. In 1902 a tome appeared in Russia titled *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

The book reports how a group of powerful Jews got together to plan a sinister takeover of the world's economic, political and media institutions. The book is also a hotchpotch of segments plagiarised from certain 19th-century anti-Semitic literature.

Russian scholar and professor Cesare G. De Michelis writes in his book *The Non-Existent Manuscript* that *The Protocols* was an anti-Semitic satire on a seminar organised by Russian Zionists. Anti-Semitism was peaking in Russia at the time, and this is why this satire was then published more

widely, but this time as fact, according to Michelis.

After doing the rounds in Russia, *The Protocols* reached the US in 1917. In 1921, US car manufacturer Henry Ford financed the publishing of 50,000 copies of the tome. He also published a series of articles inspired by the book in a newspaper that he owned. The articles all appeared under the title *The International Jew*. Everything from the communist revolution in Russia to the creation of trade unions and inter-racial marriages in the West was blamed on the Jews. In 1922, the book and the articles were translated into German and became popular in Germany. It would go on to influence the ideology of Nazism in that country. It didn't matter that the British daily *The Times* had already thoroughly exposed the book as a hoax and a forgery. At the end of World War II, when facts about the Holocaust began to emerge, the book lost mainstream traction and readership in Europe and the US, and was relegated to the Right-wing fringe.

But it rebounded by finding a

brand new audience in the Arab world after the creation of Israel in 1948. Its first Arabic translation appeared in 1951 in Egypt. It soon made its way into the non-Arab Muslim world as well.

I am not sure when it appeared in Pakistan as an Urdu translation, but I once found a 1968 Urdu edition of it in a second-hand book store in Islamabad in 2005. In 1987, when the Palestinian Islamist outfit Hamas was formed, its first charter (published in 1988) heavily referenced *The Protocols*. But by then the book had already begun to lose purchase in the Muslim world as well, until it returned with a bang a decade or so later due to the internet explosion.

Uploaded by Neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups and by various Islamist outfits, *The Protocols* once again managed to migrate from the fringes to the mainstream.

Its readers again outnumber those who are more interested in reading the many exposés that completely debunked the book as a vicious fraud.

(Courtesy, *The Dawn*)

No plans to revise fiscal deficit target: Nirmala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking at a podium during a press conference.

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

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

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

According to global rating

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

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

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

Corp tax cut makes India an investment destination, says FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Quoting experts, she said

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS CORNER

PRADHAN REVIEWS PERFORMANCE OF NMDC

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



AAI PARTICIPATES IN WORLD ROUTES 2019

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



GRSE CONDUCTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

New Delhi: The 103rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) was held on Friday 20 Sep 19 at 1030 Hrs. at Bhasha Bhawan of National Library, Kolkata. Commenting on the outcome of the Annual General Meeting, Rear Admiral V K Saxena, IN(Retd.), Chairman and Managing Director, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., stated that this AGM had a very special significance as it was GRSE's first AGM after the successful IPO of the Company, wherein the Government of India disinvested 25.50 per cent of its shareholding in the Company. The Public Issue was well received and the shares of the Company are now listed at NSE and BSE. The CMD took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to all the investors for the confidence they reposed in the Company, which was further reflected by the increased market capitalisation post listing of its shares.



MNRE AWARDS GRANTS TO FOUR PROJECTS

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) awarded Grants to the awardees of the second round of PAOES programme in a ceremony organised by the Ministry yesterday. Anand Kumar, Secretary, MNRE and Kenneth Ian Juster, the US Ambassador to India co-chaired the felicitation ceremony. In the second round of awards, a total of 168 Expressions of Interest were received. Out of these, four projects were selected for award of grants. The awardees include Society for Economic and Social Studies, New Delhi, Customized Energy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Pune, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and RaghavendraSuntech Systems Pvt Ltd (RSSPL), Bengaluru. Stressing on the importance of access to energy for all, the U.S. Ambassador said that innovation in off-grid and clean energy will improve energy access. Secretary, MNRE appreciated the impact that the awarded projects would have on the common man. He also suggested that innovation realized through such projects could be replicated in other developing countries.



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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Saudi Arabia is a key pillar of India's energy security, being a source of 17 per cent or more of crude oil and 32 per cent of LPG requirements of India. The attacks on Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais facilities resulted in up to 15 per cent increase in global oil prices last week due to disruption in supply by the top oil exporter.

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



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

"As the investigations are ongoing, the Kingdom will

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

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

Yemen's Houthi terror group has taken responsibility for the biggest-ever attacks on

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

Saudi oil facilities which severely impacted global oil supply. Saudi Arabia and its ally, the US, have blamed Iran for the attacks but Tehran has strongly denied the allegations.

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Welcoming the step, Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej said, "This great announcement will totally change the economic progress. I would say the only other announcement which is of greater importance was in July 1991. This tax cuts will have tremendous positive effect. We will soon see a turnaround."

Addressing the India Today Conclave here over the weekend, he said there is now a need to focus on improving demand.

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

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

The need is now to address the demand side issues, Bhargava also opined.

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

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

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the government has brought corporate tax on par with the East Asian neighbours and on par with the best tax regimes across the world.

"The government has put liquidity into the bottom line of the companies. Roughly, close to Rs 75,000 to Rs 80,000 crore will be flowing because of the tax cuts into the bottom line of companies," he said.

The onus is on these companies now as the government has done its bit, Kant said, adding that it is time for all the Marutis, Mahindras

and Godrejs to act by cutting their prices and offering more sops to consumers.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Price of diesel was increased by 18 paise to Rs 66.74 per litre in Delhi.

This is the sixth straight daily increase and has taken the cumulative price hike since September 17 to Rs 1.59 per litre in case of petrol and Rs 1.31 for diesel.

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

per cent of the global supply.

Oil prices have cooled since the spike on September 16 but remain on the edge.

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

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

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

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

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday spoke to

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

Saudi Arabia, which is India's second-largest oil supplier, sells close to 2 million tonnes of crude every month. Of this, 1.2-1.3 million tonnes of supplies for September have already been taken and the rest too has been assured.

However, Saudi has sought deferment of some LPG supplies, but they have assured to make up for all the quantities, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) Chairman Sanjiv Singh said, adding any shortfall can be bought from Qatar.

Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) has already tendered for import of LPG in October, possibly to make up for the shortfall from Saudi Arabia.

India buys around 2,00,000 tonnes of LPG every month from Saudi Arabia.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

In this regard, the steel ministry is organising 'Chintan Shivir', in the presence of Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday, with the theme to "make the sector vibrant, efficient and globally competitive", the steel ministry said in a statement. Despite short-term challenges and the current slowdown, it is believed that India's long-term growth story remains intact, the ministry added.

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

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

PTI ■ HOUSTON

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

The agreement also includes PLL making investment in the equity of \$28 billion Driftwood project in Louisiana to secure the LNG.

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shaktikanta Das has played down many jokes and spoofs about his history background soon after his surprise appointment as the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India last December after the 'protest' resignation of Urjit Patel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The chief of US Fed (Jerome Powell) has a political science background, the incoming chief of the European Central Bank and former IMF president Christine Lagarde has a legal background and the chief of the Bank of Japan (Haruhiko Kuroda) has a civil service background," Das has said at the India Today Conclave over the weekend here. Das was responding to a question from the audience whether his academic qualification has weighed him down as the governor.

Stating that policymaking involves a lot of complex realities, which is less academics and more of experience, Das argued, "when it comes to policymaking, whether you did a

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

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

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

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

However, the 62-year-old Das who hails from Bhubaneswar, is in all praise of his predecessors Patel and Rajan.

"Both of my immediate predecessor and the one before that have made their contributions to the RBI. The RBI and the nation are fortunate to have had a number of outstanding governors over the years," he smiled.

Iran warns foreign forces of meddling

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

MILITARY PARADE ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR ANNIVERSARY



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

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

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

forces would be "defensive in nature" and focused on air and missile defence.

In his speech delivered before a massive military parade on Sunday, Rouhani called on the foreign powers in the Gulf region to "stay away".

"If they're sincere, then they should not make our region the site of an arms race," he said.

"Your presence has always brought pain and misery for

the region. The farther you keep yourselves from our region and our nations, the more security there will be for our region."

"We are even ready to ignore their past mistakes... Since today the situation is such that the enemies of Islam and the region, meaning America and Zionism, want to abuse the rift between us.

"Our logic is the logic of a Persian Gulf whose security

comes from within," said the Iranian president.

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

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

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

Tensions have flared in the Gulf since May, when Iran began reducing its commitments to the nuclear deal and the US said it was sending forces to waters near the Islamic republic in response to "indications of a credible threat" from its forces.

The US deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the sensitive waterways, before sending B-52 bombers, an amphibious assault ship and Patriot missile battery.

Following the deployments, commercial ships were mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in Gulf waters. Trump in June authorised a military strike after Iran shot down a US drone, only to call off the retaliation at the last moment.

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

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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

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

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

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

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

intellectual property rights (IPR) technology transfer and more access to American goods to Chinese markets.

Trump delayed a planned tariff hike on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods as a "gesture of good will" ahead of China's 70th year of National Day celebrations on October 1.

The two countries are preparing for the next round of trade talks in Washington in October.

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

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

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

Pillsbury said Trump was not seeking to cripple US-China trade, instead positing that he wanted to "increase the level of trade to rectify the deficit"

GLOBE TROTTER

NOT TOO LATE FOR BREXIT DEAL: JUNCKER

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

WORLD FEELS HEAT OF CLIMATE SUMMIT

United Nations: Saying humanity is waging war with the planet, the head of the United Nations isn't planning to let just any world leader speak about climate change at Monday's special "action summit." Only those with new, specific and bold plans can command the podium and the ever-warming world's attention, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said.

TANZANIA NOT SHARING EBOLA INFO: WHO

Nairobi: The World Health Organization has accused Tanzania of failing to provide information on suspected cases of Ebola in the country, potentially hindering efforts to curb the spread of the deadly virus.

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

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

Rivlin made the comments during meetings with representatives from political parties to hear their recommendations on who should be prime minister following last week's deadlocked elections. Blue and White won the most seats in Tuesday's poll, with 33 out of parliament's 120, while Likud finished second with 31.

Neither has an obvious path to a majority coalition, raising the possibility of a third election in a year's time after April polls also ended inconclusively. Rivlin had so far met representatives from Blue and White and Likud as part of his consultations.

ISRAELI ARAB PARTIES BACK GANTZ FOR PM IN BREAK WITH PRECEDENT

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

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

Trump, Biden spar over Ukraine after whistleblower complaint

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

The back-and-forth recriminations stem from a Washington Post report stating a whistleblower complaint had been filed over Trump's communications with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and a "promise" allegedly made by the US leader.

Trump allegedly pressured Zelensky to investigate possible corruption involving Biden and his son Hunter, who had worked with a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father was vice president.

Trump has urged media to "look into" Biden's comments in early 2016 when the then US vice president said the Obama administration would freeze \$1 billion in US loan guarantees unless Kiev fire its top prosecutor, who was looking into the gas company.

"This appears to be an overwhelming abuse of power, to get on the phone with a for-

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump will stand before the United Nations on Tuesday to declare his country top of the world. But with diplomatic troubles building, his annual boast may ring hollow.

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

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

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

Trump's declaration last year that he had "accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country" triggered laughter in the cavernous UN hall.

Headlines like "The Whole World Laughed at Trump" followed, to which Trump insisted that diplomats were chuckling with, not at him.

A year later, with Trump beset by setbacks from North Korea to Iran and Venezuela to China, will his Big Apple bragadocio get a better reception?

UN welcomes Houthi offer to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ CAIRO

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

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

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

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

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

"There were about 200 or so people. They (security

forces) fired tear gas, rubber and live bullets and there were injuries", a man who took part in the demonstration but declined to be named told AFP.

Another resident, who also preferred to remain anonymous, said the tear gas was so thick it had reached her apartment block a few kilometres away from the turbulent downtown area.

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

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

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

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

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

Study: Melting Antarctic glaciers to slip faster towards ocean

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

Antarctic peninsula coincides with spikes in snowmelt.

The researchers add that this is due to the surface meltwater penetrating into the ice bed, and lubricating the sliding of glaciers.

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

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

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

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

Gandhi's 150th birthday to be celebrated in Netherlands

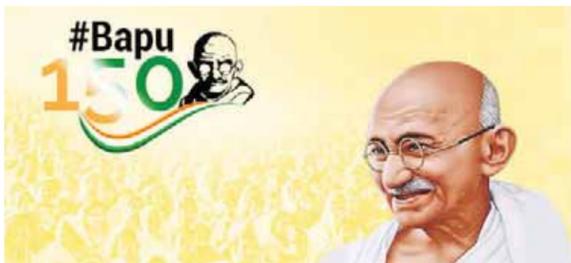
PTI ■ THE HAGUE

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

This school project aspires to reach over 25 schools and over 1,600 children.

The aim of the programme is to bring together volunteers who in turn can reach out to several thousand students aimed at disseminating the message of non-violence.

The International Day of

Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer, with the public paying tributes by placing flowers at the feet of the statues as a mark of respect amidst speeches, singing of favourite songs of Gandhi, cultural programmes and a memorial meeting by Stichting Standbeeld Mahatma Gandhi in the Peace Palace.

A social media campaign will also be conducted inviting people to post messages reiterating their commitment to the principle of non-violence.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. He led India to independence from the British rule through peaceful and non-violent resistance. In 2007, the United Nations declared his birthday, October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence and called upon countries and people across the world to celebrate and observe this day by disseminating the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.

26 people killed as bus rams into mountain in Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

A bus rammed into a mountain on Sunday after the driver lost control while taking a turn on a hilly road in Pakistan's northwest, killing at least 26 people, including children, and injuring 13 others, police said.

The accident happened in the Babusar Top area, bordering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The bus was going towards Rawalpindi from Skardu city and there were 40 passengers, including 16 Pakistan Army personnel, the Express Tribune reported.

Rasheed Arshad, a spokesman for the Gilgit-Baltistan chief minister, confirmed that 26 bodies, among them women and children, have been retrieved from the wreckage.

He said 13 passengers were admitted to the district headquarters hospital in

Chilas and some of them were in critical condition.

The passenger bus, belonging to a private company, departed from Skardu on Saturday for Rawalpindi. On Sunday morning, the driver lost control of the bus while taking a turn and it collided against a mountain. It is not clear yet how the driver lost control of the vehicle, according to Dhamer police spokesperson Mohammad Wakeel.

Police said that rescue and police teams had been dispatched to the site of the accident. Additionally, a helicopter has been requested from the GB government so as to transport the bodies to Skardu following identification, Dawn News reported.

The Babusar Pass road, frequently used by tourists, remains open from the end of June to October every year. It is then closed following heavy snowfall at Babusar Top.

Trend Slazer

Hrithik vs Tiger in War promotions

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

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



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

There's so much madness and unpredictable situations on sets that become an

adventure and my recreational habits of climbing trees and swimming in the ocean

have proved useful for some of my work. Travelling is just a normal organic part of my life. If I have a weekend off, I like to go somewhere and if there's a chance to explore I take it.

—Kalki Koechlin



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

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

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

Britney makes red carpet appearance

Singer **BRITNEY SPEARS** recently made a rare red carpet appearance to support her beau Sam Asghari.

The singer has mostly stayed out of the spotlight in last few months amid personal and legal turmoil involving her and her family. Recently, a hearing was held to discuss the status of her conservatorship. Her 67-year-old father,

Jamie Spears, had mostly controlled her financial and medical affairs since her 2007 public meltdown. The case remains pending.

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



Excerpts from literature

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

By TEAM VIVA

What do films like *Gone With The Wind*, *Fault in Our Stars*, *Harry Potter* series or *Kai Po Che* and *3 Idiots* have in common? Yes, all of them have been inspired by books and were discovered by a content creator who then crafted them into films.

Now imagine another scenario. What if Yash Raj Films or Sanjay Leela Bhansali decide their next film by interacting with the authors and publishing houses directly? The mind boggles at the exchange of ideas and the great content that films would have access to. The audience would also get to know about books which might be embedded with a great idea but have ended up in the back shelves of the publishing houses.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, the transformation of a

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

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

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

Battle of 5G

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

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

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

THE TARGET MARKET

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



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

won't support 5G.

THE PRICE OF 5G

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

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

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

NETWORK LIMITATIONS

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

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

able to pack all the necessary components into phones.

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

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

TO WAIT OR NOT

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

—AP



Arya GoT immortalised

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



grow that number.

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

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

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

—AP

WEBBED

MO GILLIGAN: MOMENTUM

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

The comedy film releases on September 30 on Netflix.



IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON

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

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



GOLIATH SEASON 3

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

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

THE WAY WE WERE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

introduce avant garde feminist themes in their pictorial vocabulary.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Wise beyond her years

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Gradually, the other girls started to notice the positive changes that were taking place in and around the locality, especially with regard to the playground. The girls were finally able to use the ground. "I achieved my real victory when I helped in organising a *kho-kho* tournament for girls at the ground," she says beaming with pride.

The tournament was a success. Many girls took part in it. When the boys from the locality wanted to participate in the tournament, Pooja and other members of the committee organised a separate one for them.

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

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

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

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

—Charkhia Features

The right service

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

WOMEN QUICKER TO PREPARE FOR DISASTERS

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

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

For the study, the researchers analysed in-depth interviews with 33 women and 10 men across two Texas towns. Some were from Granbury, which in 2013 was hit by an EF-4 tornado that killed six people and cut a mile-wide swathe of destruction, damaging 600 homes. Others were from West, where an explosion at a fertilizer company that same year killed 15 people and destroyed 100 homes.

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



KINDNESS IS PRIORITY IN RELATIONSHIP

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

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

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

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



HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION CULTIVATES GRATITUDE

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

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

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

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

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



FOOD DOESN'T APPEAL TO NON-SMOKERS

Smokers who quit do not generally turn their gaze towards mouth-watering food as normally thought. According to researchers from University at Buffalo, smoking abstinence doesn't greatly affect the motivation for food.

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

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



PERSONALITY AFFECTS EXERCISE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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



JOY OF SIX

Alexander-Arnold, Firmino first half strike help Liverpool maintain perfect start; Hammers adds to Utd trouble

AFP ■ LONDON

Trent Alexander-Arnold's thunderous strike inspired Liverpool's 2-1 win against Chelsea as the Premier League leaders moved five points clear at the top on Sunday.

Jürgen Klopp's side extended their perfect start to the title race as they became the first club to win their opening six games in consecutive top-flight seasons.

Alexander-Arnold's blistering free-kick opened the scoring at Stamford Bridge.

Roberto Firmino increased Liverpool's advantage before the interval and N'Golo Kante's fine goal was not enough to give Chelsea a tangible reward for a vibrant second half.

After Manchester City thrashed Watford 8-0 on Saturday, this was the ideal response from Liverpool as they bid to win the title for the first time since 1990.

Pipped to the trophy by City on the final day of last season, Liverpool are playing with a burning desire to end their rivals' two-year reign as champions.

In contrast to the Champions League holders' scrappy midweek defeat at Napoli, this disciplined display showed the Premier League is Liverpool's top priority this term.

They are on a club-record run of 15 successive league wins and have lost just once in 45 top-flight matches, going unbeaten in the last 23.

Significantly for their title prospects, Liverpool's success at the Bridge was just their second win in 13 away league games against the other established top-six teams.

Although they were hanging on by the end, if Liverpool take more points against the big guns, even City might struggle to keep them at bay.

Frank Lampard's raw side, 10 points behind the leaders, competed gamely to offer hope of a bright future.

However, Chelsea are a work in progress -- yet to keep a clean sheet in seven games and without a win in



their opening four home games in all competitions.

A frenetic start could have brought a Chelsea opener when Tammy Abraham stretched in a vain attempt to turn in Mason Mount's

teasing low cross.

Those two Chelsea youngsters have caught the eye at the start of Lampard's reign.

But it was Liverpool who took the lead in the 14th minute thanks

to their own gifted prodigy.

Fabinho's pass broke to Sadio Mane and the Liverpool winger was bundled over on the edge of the penalty area by Andreas Christensen's clumsy challenge.

Mohamed Salah back-heeled the free-kick into the path of Alexander-Arnold and the 20-year-old right-back smashed a sublime shot past Kepa Arrizabalaga into the top corner for his first goal since



November 2018.

Abraham has already scored seven Premier League goals, but the striker fluffed his lines when he beat the Liverpool offside trap to meet Christensen's long pass.

Clean through on goal, Abraham should have equalised but could only shoot straight at Liverpool keeper Adrian, who saved with his legs.

Chelsea thought they had equalised in the 27th minute when Cesar Azpilicueta prodded home from close range after Willian's cross deflected to the defender off Fabinho.

But, in a huge momentum swing, the goal was disallowed after a VAR review showed Mount was offside in the build-up.

Lampard wore a rueful smile on the touchline and, moments later, the Chelsea manager's expression was misery personified as Liverpool

doubled their lead in the 30th minute.

Andrew Robertson curled over a free-kick from the left edge of the Chelsea area and Firmino, gifted far too much space by Christensen and Marcos Alonso, rose highest to head his third goal of the season.

Kepa made a good save to stop Firmino putting Liverpool further ahead from Alexander-Arnold's cross early in the second half.

But Chelsea's effort couldn't be faulted and, having harried Liverpool onto the back foot, they reduced the deficit in the 71st minute.

Kante turned away from Fabinho with a graceful glide and, with Liverpool sitting deep, the France midfielder curled a superb strike into the top corner.

Michy Batshuayi was inches away from equalising in the final minutes, but Liverpool held on.

Llorente keeps Napoli on track

AFP ■ NAPLES

Fernando Llorente scored a brace as Napoli eased past Lecce 4-1 to keep in touch with leaders Inter Milan and second-placed Juventus in Serie A on Sunday, while Edin Dzeko struck a stoppage-time winner for Roma.

Spainard Llorente, who scored in Napoli's midweek 2-0 win over

Champions League holders Liverpool, grabbed the opener on 28 minutes at the San Paolo Stadium. He added a late fourth for Napoli eight minutes from time.

"It was a game that could have been a trap after the high of Liverpool, but the many changes helped us," said Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti.

In Bologna, Dzeko's late winner sealed a 2-1 win for 10-man Roma, who

are fourth a point behind Napoli.

The Romans were hit by Gianluca Mancini's sending off on 85 minutes, but Dzeko picked up a Lorenzo Pellegrini pass to finish off four minutes into injury time.

Aleksandar Kolarov had opened the scoring just after the break before Nicola Sansone hauled Bologna level from the spot on 54 minutes.

From bad to worse

Barcelona suffer shocking defeat against Granada



AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona threw on their stars of the present and the future on Saturday but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save them from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

Messi was still not deemed fit enough to start at Los Carmenes while Fati, the 16-year-old who has lit up La Liga in recent weeks, also began the game on the bench.

But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored again, Alvaro Vardillo converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a handball.

Barcelona have now won only two of their opening five league games and none away from Camp Nou, this their second loss already, just one fewer than the three they suffered during the entirety of last season.

With seven points on the board, this is their worst start to a season since 1994.

"Obviously I am worried," said coach Ernesto Valverde. "Because we are not getting good results and when that happens in two or three games, it means we are not playing well."

Instead, Granada go top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIVN. NO.1, JAMMU

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. CD-1/63 of 2019-20 Dated 20-09-2019

For and on behalf of the Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. for each of the following works :-

S.No 1, Name of Work :- Providing and applying 2.5mm thick Thermoplastic Paint Markings on :- (i) Road from Police H.Q Chowk to Bahu Rotary. (ii) Bahu Rotary to Gujjar Nagar Bridge. (iii) Bahu Rotary. (iv) Bahu Rotary to NH-IA Upper / Lower links. (v) Narwal to Railway Bridge. (vi) Narwal to Matador Stand Sunjwan. (vii) Bathindi Morh to Ex. C.M House. (viii) Macca Masjid Gulmarg Colony. (ix) Channi Himmat, Greater Kailash. (x) Bikram Chowk to Railway Station via Ambedkar Chowk, Mahavir Chowk, Zorawar Chowk and Marble Market. (xi) Satwari to Airport and Satwari to Technical Gate, Jammu on the eve of Annual Darbar Move 2019 to Jammu, Name of Division :- PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu, Estimated Cost (Rs in lacs) :- 46.29, Cost of document (in Rs) :- 1000, Earnest Money (in Rs) :- 92580, Time Allowed for complete-on :- 15 days, Time and date of opening of tender :- (1400 Hrs) on or after 28-09-2019, Class of Contractor :- "A" & "B" Class, Position of Funds :- Demanded

S.No 2, Name of Work :- Providing and laying Premix Carpet (SDBC) 25mm thick in stretches on road from Bikram Chowk to Satwari Chowk including Flyover from Bikram Chowk upto Presentation Convent School on the eve of Annual Darbar Move 2019 to Jammu, Name of Division :- PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu, Estimated Cost (Rs in lacs) :- 23.45, Cost of document (in Rs) :- 600, Earnest Money (in Rs) :- 46900, Time Allowed for complete-on :- 01 Month, Time and date of opening of tender :- (1400 Hrs) on or after 28-09-2019, Class of Contractor :- "A", "B" & "C" Class, Position of Funds :- Demanded

S.No 3, Name of Work :- Face lifting of roads by way of Painting of Footpath, Central Verge, Rotary, Kerb Stone, Cleaning V-Shaped Drain on Gandhi Nagar Area A,B,C,D Block and Satwari to Bikram Chowk, Bahu Fort Rotary, Gujjar Nagar Bridge to NH-IA, Railway Bridge to Narwal Chowk including road from NH-IA to Sunjwan Matador Stand and Bathindi Morh to Gulmarg Colony, Bathindi, Channi Himmat, Greater Kailash including 2x4 Mtrs Span PSC Bridge, Ware House Hand Pump to 4th Tawi Bridge, Satwari Airport road upto Airport Entry Gate on the eve of Annual Darbar Move 2019 to Jammu, Name of Division :- PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu, Estimated Cost (Rs in lacs) :- 23.49, Cost of document (in Rs) :- 600, Earnest Money (in Rs) :- 46980, Time Allowed for complete-on :- 01 Month, Time and date of opening of tender :- (1400 Hrs) on or after 28-09-2019, Class of Contractor :- "A", "B" & "C" Class, Position of Funds :- Demanded

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:

1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice :- 20-09-2019
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents :- From 20-09-2019 to 27-09-2019, 1630 Hrs
3. Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting :- 23-09-2019 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Const. Divn. No. I Jammu

Sd/- (Er. S.A Wani)
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. I Jammu

No.DIP/J-6655/19
Dated:- 21.09.2019

DHFL DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED					
National Office Address : DHFL, HDIL Towers, B-Wing, 6 th & 8 th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051.					
Zonal Office Address: Plot No. 6, Block-A, Ground Floor, Sector-2, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301 (Near Sector-15, Noida Metro Station)					
Contact Nos :- 1. DHFLAO name and Mobile Nos.:- Pulkit Baluja-971260397 2. Auction Service Provider (ASP) Name and Mobile Nos:-NexXen Solutions Private Limited:- +91 124 4 233 933					
E-Auction Sale Notice-Subsequent Sale					
Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the physical possession, on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis', Particulars of which are given below:-					
Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount In(Rs.)	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP) In (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) In(Rs.)	Total Loan Outstanding (As on Sept.-2019) In(Rs.)
(Loan Code No. 00000907/ Rohini Branch) Neeraj Krishnatrey (Borrower) Priya Krishnatrey (Co-Borrower)	27-03-2018 Rs. 54,88,997/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. Property No. 1/1984 Third Floor Plot No. 49 A, East Ram Nagar Gali No. 22, Shahdara, Delhi 110032, New Delhi-110001, Delhi. Area (1282 Sq ft)	Rs. 54,99,900/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lacs Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Only)	Rs. 5,49,990/- (Rupees Five Lacs Forty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Only)	Rs. 66,97,625/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lacs Ninety Seven Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only)
(Loan Code No. 00003958/ New Delhi Branch) Gaurav Verma (Borrower) Salini Verma (Co-Borrower)	14-03-2018 Rs. 51,23,109/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. K-147 2nd Floor With Roof Rights Kharsa No. 34, Krishna Park Ext Tilak Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi-110018, Delhi. Area (900 Sq ft)	Rs. 27,12,200/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lacs Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Only)	Rs. 2,71,220/- (Rupees Two Lacs Seventy One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Only)	Rs. 61,40,319/- (Rupees Sixty One Lacs Forty Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen Only)
(Loan Code No. 00000320/ Greater Noida Branch) Kirpa Shanker Tiwari (Borrower) Arti Tiwari (Co-Borrower)	13-12-2016 Rs. 18,16,620/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. Flat No. D-8, 4th Floor, Pushpa Apartments, Plot No.-44 A, Sector-5, Rajender Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201005. Area (550 Sq ft)	Rs. 9,38,300/- (Rupees Nine Lacs Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Only)	Rs. 93,830/- (Rupees Ninety Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Only)	Rs. 24,62,505/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lacs Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Five Only)
(Loan Code No. 00001293/ Raj Nagar Branch) Ram Balak Singh (Borrower) Priyanka (Co-Borrower)	06-02-2018 Rs. 28,82,684/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. Flat No T-2, Third Floor, Refer Sketch, Plot No B-7, Block-B, DLF Dilshad Ext2, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010. Area (330 Sq Ft)	Rs. 17,91,000/- (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Ninety One Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,79,100/- (Rupees One Lacs Seventy Nine Thousand One Hundred Only)	Rs. 36,54,203/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lacs Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred Three Only)
(Loan Code No. 00043879/ Gurgaon-Sohna Road Branch) Jitender Kumar Giri (Borrower) Rani (Co-Borrower)	11-10-2018 Rs. 24,91,057/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. 2nd Floor, Plot No. 18 Kharsa No. 111/10/1,10/3 Village Palam, Mahavir Enclave, Delhi, New Delhi-110045, Delhi. Area (607 Sq Ft)	Rs. 21,15,200/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Only)	Rs. 2,11,520/- (Rupees Two Lacs Eleven Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Only)	Rs. 25,76,936/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lacs Seventy Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Six Only)
(Loan Code No. 00000127/ Karkarduma Noida Branch) Gayyur Ali (Borrower) Mrs. Najama Ali (Co-Borrower)	13-12-2016 Rs. 16,02,256/-	All the Part and Parcel of Property bearing No. Flat No. 47 A, First Floor, GDA Flats, Shakti Khand-I, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201014 Area (300 Sq Ft)	Rs. 11,77,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Seventy Seven Thousand Only)	Rs. 1,17,700/- (Rupees One Lacs Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	Rs. 21,59,272/- (Rupees Twenty One Lacs Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two Only)

The Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction are as under:
1.E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", and "WHATEVER IS THERE IS BASIS" and will be conducted "Online". The Auction will be conducted through the DHFL approved auction service provider "NexXen Solutions Private Limited"
2.Last Date of Submission of Tender/Sealed Bid/offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is 09-10-2019 up to 6:00 PM at the Zonal/Branch Office address mentioned herein above. Tenders that are not filled up or tenders received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
3.Date of E-Auction for Property is 10-10-2019 at the web portal <https://disposalhub.com> from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each.
4.The tender/Sealed Bid/offer will be opened in the presence of the Authorized Officer.
5.Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is on 30-09-2019 between 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM.
6.The tenderer/online bidder hereby agrees that once he/she has formally registered a qualified tender before authorized officer will have to express their interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting this document. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login id and password from auction service provider
7.Further interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expenses, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.
8.The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of terms and Conditions of Sale.
9.Since in above mentioned cases wherein Sale Notice was issued/published earlier also therefore, the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby given 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002 (as per the revised guidelines in the Gazette of India notification dated 03/11/2016) to the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction falling which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any, will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
10.The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mentioned National/Zonal/Branch office.
11.The immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer/Bidder in E- Auction. The Authorized Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding with minimum Bid increment amount. The Property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
12.The Tenderer(s) / Offerer(s) / Prospective Bidder(s) / Purchaser(s) are hereby notified that the secured asset will be sold with the Encumbrances and dues payable to Statutory Authority (if any) and are also requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the above and other relevant details pertaining to the above mentioned secured asset before submitting the tenders.
13.DHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.
14.The Total Loan Outstanding amount is not the loan foreclosure amount. All other charges (if any) shall be calculated at the time of closure of the loan.
15.The Demand Draft should be made in favor of 'Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited' or 'DHFL' Only.
16.Wherever applicable, its responsibility of auction purchaser to deduct Tax at Source (TDS) @ 1% of the total sale consideration on behalf of the resident owner on the transfer of immovable property having consideration equal to ₹ 50 lacs and above and deposit the same with appropriate authority u/s 194 IA of Income Tax act.
For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.
Place: Delhi/INCR Date : 23-09-2019

Sd/- Pulkit Baluja (Authorised Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

INDIA MISS, PROTEAS HI

De kock leads the chase as South Africa beat India by 9 wickets to level series 1-1

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India captain Virat Kohli's bold move to bat first boomeranged on his team as Quinton de Kock (79) spearheaded South Africa's chase for a series-leveling nine-wicket win in the third T20 International here on Sunday.

To everyone's surprise, Kohli opted to bat after the coin landed in his favour on one of the smallest grounds, always known to favour teams chasing in the shortest format.

Initially though, the decision seemed to have worked as India raced to 54 for one in six overs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The departure of Shikhar Dhawan gave the South Africans an opening, and they grabbed it with both hands, snuffing out eight Indian wickets for 71 runs.

In their chase, South African captain de Kock looked in complete control and struck six fours and five sixes in his unbeaten 52-ball unbeaten 79.

He added 76 runs for the first wicket with Reeza Hendricks in 10 overs and then put on another 64 with Temba Bavuma. After moving to 19 in four overs, De Kock cut loose by hitting Navdeep Saini for two sixes, and there was no look-



ing back.

Earlier, India were stopped at 134 for nine by a disciplined South African attack.

Top-scorer Dhawan blazed

away to a 25-ball 36 and got India off to a brisk start that yielded them 54 runs in the first six overs.

Kagiso Rabada was expensive but picked up three wickets, while

there were two apiece for Bjorn Fortuin (2/19 in 3 overs) and Beuran Hendricks (2/14).

Playing in his first game of the series, Beuran Hendricks was the

team's best bowler without a doubt as he choked run-flow in the middle overs along with left-arm spinner Fortuin.

Rohit Sharma got out early but

he did put pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada under pressure straightaway, striking him for two boundaries in his first over - one over cover and the other through extra

cover. That brought crowd favourite Kohli in the middle but Dhawan, who began the innings with a boundary, was in charge and welcomed leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi with back-to-back sixes.

The first six was smashed over long-on and the for the second maximum, Dhawan sashayed down the ground, played against the turn, before striking the ball towards long-off.

Going for one too many, Dhawan mistimed Shamsi, who had his revenge after Temba Bavuma completed a neat catch. Kohli, too, followed suit as Andile Phehlukwayo pulled off a fine running catch in the deep, much to Rabada, the bowler on the occasion, and his team's relief.

Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who improvised to scoop Dwaine Pretorius over the fine leg boundary, threw away their wickets within two balls, leaving India in trouble at 92 for five in the 13th over.

After Pant fell prey to Fortuin's smart piece of bowling, Iyer stepped out only to be stumped off a wide ball.

It was yet another failure for Pant and once again to a left-arm spinner. After Santner accounted him in the World Cup, Fortuin has now got him twice in two games.

At the toss, Kohli's contention was that he doesn't want the team to slip into a comfort zone. Batting first or second, he wants his team to be a master of all situations with little more than a year left for the T20 World Cup.

However, it did not prove to be a successful move as South Africa staged a strong comeback to level the three-match series 1-1 after the first game was washed out.



MARIN RETURNS WITH CHINA TITLE

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Triple world champion Carolina Marin retained her China Open title on Sunday, eight months after suffering a career-threatening injury.

The Spaniard recovered from a game down to defeat Taiwan's second-seeded Tai Tzu-ying 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 in Changzhou.

A tearful Marin collapsed to the court floor and buried her head in her hands after powering to victory in 65 minutes.

"It's unbelievable," said the 26-year-old, who injured her anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in January.

"I couldn't imagine during my rehabilitation that I could win in my second tournament back.

"But I did and I feel so happy with myself," added the reigning Olympic champion.

Japan's world champion Kento



Momota cemented his place as the top men's player with a 19-21, 21-17, 21-19 win over Indonesia's seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in their final.

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel ended his year-long drought without a win at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday, mastering a hazy circuit to claim a record fifth triumph in the city-state.

The German was chased home by teammate Charles Leclerc, who started on pole but lost the lead to the four-time world champion after making his pit stop, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who finished third.

"It was a very late call on the pit stop and I just gave it everything on the out lap. I was surprised to come out ahead and it was difficult to manage the tyres but we controlled it to the end," Vettel told reporters.

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton finished fourth but extended his advantage over fellow Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas to 65 points, with six races remaining, after the Finn finished in fifth.

The race got off to a clean start with the top six retaining

Vettel's wait come to end



their grid positions despite Vettel putting immense pressure on second-placed Hamilton in the opening lap.

While a few drivers were shifting position further down the field, the frontrunners were maintaining a one-second gap between each other as Leclerc set a slow pace to make his soft tyres last as long as possible.

Ferrari and Red Bull were

the first of the big teams to bring their cars in for pit stops as Vettel and Verstappen were fitted with the more durable hard tyres on lap 20, with Leclerc following suit on the next lap.

Leclerc, however, was dismayed to leave the pits behind Vettel. Hamilton stayed out on track in the lead to set about forging a big enough gap to retain the lead when it was his

turn to come in.

But Vettel, Leclerc and Verstappen were lapping much quicker than Hamilton and when the Briton finally stopped seven laps after his rivals, he emerged in a distant fourth place.

Hamilton's only hope of victory was to capitalise on his rivals' degraded tyres late in the race.

But three safety car periods — when both George Russell and Sergio Perez stopped on the track, and when Daniil Kvyat collided with Kimi Raikkonen — allowed the front three plenty of time to cool their rubber.

Ferrari will be delighted to have recorded a one-two finish at a circuit they were not expected to muster a podium finish.

But Leclerc was unhappy with the pit strategy that dashed his hopes of a hat-trick after wins in Belgium and Italy.

No MS till Nov

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will not be available for selection until November this year, according to the Mumbai Mirror.

The former India captain had previously missed the West Indies tour after taking a break of two months which also meant that he missed the ongoing home series against South Africa. The extension of the break means that he will miss out on the Vijay Hazare Trophy and the home T20I series against Bangladesh as well.

This means that Dhoni would be available to play for India only in December when the West Indies tour the country for three T20Is and as many ODIs. The series is scheduled to start on December 6.

Dhoni had last played for India on July 10 when the Men in Blue lost to New Zealand in the semifinal of the ODI World Cup in England. His break would effectively be nearly six months long.

This comes at a time when there has been speculation over the 37-year-old's future in the team, especially with the team management grooming 21-year-old Rishabh Pant as his replacement behind the stumps ahead of next year's World T20.

Recently, rumours about Dhoni announcing his retirement were doing the rounds after captain Virat Kohli tweeting a pic of him and Dhoni during a match with the caption: "A game I can never forget. Special night. This man, made me run like in a fitness test."

When Kohli was asked about it in a press conference ahead of India's first T20I against South Africa in Dharamsala, the skipper said that he had nothing on his mind when he posted the tweet.

"I was sitting at home and I normally put out a photograph and it became a news item. I think it was a lesson for me, that the way I think, the whole world does not think that way. There was nothing in the farthest stretch of my imagination (that it could be taken as retirement tribute) while putting that picture out on social media," he said.

Mumba win against Gujarat

PTI ■ JAIPUR

Mumbai produced an all-round show to beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 31-25 in a VIVO Pro Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Abhishek Singh secured a Super 10 (11 raid points) for U Mumba, who were also miserly in their defence, with Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar picking up vital points.

The victory meant the Mumbai side jumped to the fourth place in the points table to consolidate their chances of making to the play-off stages.

The match was a closely-fought affair with two of the best defences in the league going head to head.

But Abhishek's raiding backed up by some incredible defence by Sandeep Narwal and Surinder Singh opened up



a lead for U Mumba as they inflicted an all-out on Gujarat to move to a five points lead with eight minutes still left for half time.

Rohit Gulia found chinks in the U Mumba armour after the all-out and his eight-point half helped the Gujarat team claw their way back with an all-out with under two minutes to play. The first half ended with both the sides locked at 16-16.

The second half continued

to be the same with both defences trading blows.

Unfortunately for Gujarat, Sunil Kumar picked up an injury which disrupted the team's structure.

With Arjun Deshwal out for U Mumba with an injury, the raiding responsibilities for the Mumbai side were solely on the shoulders of Abhishek.

The raider produced a two-point raid in the 13th minute after which the Mumbai defence successfully tackled Gujarat's Sachin to give U Mumba a three-point lead after a long time.

The raider picked his game up and helped U Mumba secure an all-out with less than three minutes left in the match to move to a six-point lead.

The defence held firm in the final minutes to clinch an important victory for the Mumbai side

SA women beat BPXI

PTI ■ SURAT

South Africa women started their India tour on SA positive note as they defeated Board President's XI (BPXI) by 83 runs in the second T20 warm-up match here on Sunday.

The first warm-up game was abandoned due to inclement weather.

South Africa women first posted a descent 174 for 5 after opting to bat and later bundled out the hosts for paltry 91 to kick off their campaign on a high.

Luus, a leg-break bowler, returned with best figures of 3-17 for South Africa women as she ran through the BPXI's middle-order.

Wicket-keeper Lizelle Lee stoked her way to 65 off just 48 balls for South Africa women, Tazmin Brits made 20 off 19 as they duo shared 61 runs for the opening stand to lay the founda-

tion for the score.

Lee was in her elements as he took on the opposition bowlers, hammering 10 fours and a six.

BPXI bowlers then removed Brits and one-down Laura Wolvaardt (7) in quick succession, but that did not deter Lee from playing her natural game.

For the visitors, a late onslaught by Mignon du Preez (40 off 18 balls) coupled with Nandine de Klerk's 29 helped them go past the 170-run mark. Preez struck six boundaries and cleared the fence once during her entertaining knock.

For the hosts, off-break bowler Taranm Pathan grabbed two wickets conceding 23 runs, while pacers Pooja Vastarakar, part of the main squad, had forgettable figures of 1 for 32.

Chasing the target, BPXI were tottering at 4 for 6 after their first four batters walked back to the pavilion in no time.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fastest woman Dutee Chand has set herself a target of reaching the finals of the women's 100m dash in the World Championships starting in Doha on September 27 with a personal best timing.

Dutee, who these days has been training at night similar to her competition schedule in Doha, said she is determined to make amends of her disappointing performance in the last edition of the event in 2017 London.

"I hope to run my best in Doha, that is my target. I could not reach the semifinals last time but I am hoping to reach the finals this time. It will not be easy but I will be really happy if I do that," Dutee told PTI.

In the 2017 London World Championships, Dutee ran a disappointing 12.07 second in the heats and failed to reach the semifinals.

Dutee could not touch the Doha World Championships qualification mark of 11.24 seconds but her personal best effort of 11.26 seconds, which is also the national record, during the Asian Championships in Doha in April, ensured that she was among the maximum target number of competitors for the event.

"I am training at night these days around 7pm to 8pm to adjust to my race timings in Doha and my preparations are going well. Let us see what happens in Doha," said the 23-year-old Odisha athlete, who became the first top Indian athlete to have confessed to same sex relationship.

Dutee, who became the first Indian to win a 100m gold in a global event during the World



University Games in July, has been training with her coach N Ramesh at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

In Doha, she will run in the women's 100m heats on September 28 at 4:30pm local time and 7pm Indian time.

She, however, is not hoping to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics from the World Championships - for which the qualification standard is a tough 11.15 seconds.

"It is the end of the season and I have run a lot of races this year. So, I have to see how far I can push my body to run faster. It will be difficult to run that mark (11.15). It

is not only for me but for other athletes also," Dutee said.

"I am not running any more competitive race and I have to try next year for Olympics qualification," said Dutee, who has run 15 competitive races this season (3 Indian Prix, 3 in Fed Cup, 3 in National Inter-State, 3 in World Universiade and 3 in Asian Championships).

The biennial World Championships are normally held not later than August but in view of the heat in Doha, the showpiece event is being pushed to September end to early October. The late season fixture and the heat, which will be still high, may impact the timings of the athletes.

Under normal circumstances, athletics season ends in September and top athletes all over the world have tweaked their training and competition schedule to able to peak during the World Championships in Doha.

Dutee, who is leaving for Doha on September 25, said her coach N Ramesh will accompany her and she will bear all his expenses as he is not a member of the official Indian contingent.

"All the expenses for accommodation and flight will be borne by me. I have requested the AFI to arrange for a pass for him to be able to be at the stadium when I run my race. The AFI has said yes," she said.

She also rued that she could not travel to Europe to run a couple of races in the first half of last month due to visa issues and later because of some technical problems.