

OPINION 8
VEILED PLOT
IN KASHMIR

WORLD 12
ROUHANI HEADS TO UN IN BID TO WIN
IRAN SUPPORT AGAINST 'CRUEL' US

SPORT 15
REAL MADRID BEAT
SEVILLA IN LA LIGA

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

*Late City Vol. 29 Issue 265
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

NEW DELHI, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2019; PAGES 16 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

RAO EXCITED
FOR THE
WHITE TIGER
13 VIVACITY



Pak resurrects Balakot terror camp

High alert as 500 ultras trying to sneak into India; Army Chief warns Pak of unprecedented action

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHENNAI
Maintaining that the Balakot terrorist camp has been "reactivated very recently" by Pakistan and about 500 infiltrators are waiting to sneak into India, Army chief General Bipin Rawat on Monday sent out a clear warning to Islamabad saying the response to the terror camp getting functional again may go beyond India's previous response by way of an airstrike by the IAF in February.



Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat speaks during the inauguration of Young Leaders Training Wing in Chennai on Monday

His warning also comes against the backdrop of reports that at least 60 terrorists have already infiltrated into Jammu & Kashmir since the abrogation of special status to the State under Article 370 and the next three-four days being crucial as the security agencies apprehend a major strike by the terrorists. The Army chief's assertions come a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi too had on Sunday during the Houston event called for a "decisive war" against terror.

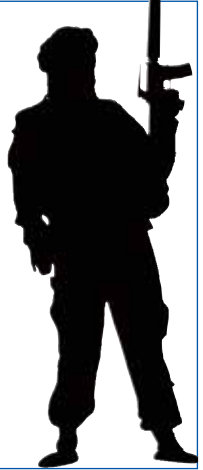
Rawat said the reactivation of the camp is proof that the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) facility was indeed destroyed in the airstrikes by India. Pakistan-based JeM had carried out the suicide attack in Pulwama on February 14 killing 40 CRPF personnel. The IAF conducted retaliatory strikes on the Balakot terror camp on February 26.

TERRORISTS ON PROWL

The next three to four days may see several attempts of sneak-in and authorities cautioned that a major terrorist strike in Jammu & Kashmir or elsewhere in the country may take place during the coming festive season

- At least 16 new terrorist camps have been activated in the last month across the LoC
- Pakistan will push in as many terrorists possible in the coming days

Officials also said the next three to four days may see several attempts of sneak-in and cautioned that a major terrorist strike in Jammu & Kashmir or elsewhere in the country may take place during the coming festive season. They also said the threat this year during the festival season is far more serious than previous years. Moreover, at least 16 new terrorist camps have been activated in the last month across the LoC thereby raising an alarm in the security establishment, they said, adding the revival of the Balakot camp came in four or five days ago. Bracing for the likelihood of terrorist violence, officials, however, said the response by the Indian security forces will be at any level, any range and anywhere and local commanders have redrawn their strategy to meet any contingency. Officials also said sufficient number of security personnel is deployed to thwart any threat. They also said the traditional routes of infiltration in north Kashmir, including Gurez, Machhil, Kerain, Tangdhar and Uri, will be closed by late October due to snowfall in the higher reaches. Given the limited period, Pakistan will push in as many



terrorists possible as this is the only window available to the infiltrators, sources added. Interacting with reporters in Chennai at the Officers Training Academy, the Army Chief obviously pointing to the hiatus in terror operations at Balakot for several months following the cross border strike, said it highlighted the IAF action in February. Balakot had suffered damaged and was destroyed by the cross border strike and "that is why people have got away from there and now it has been reactivated," he said. Asked about the response to the reactivation and if a repeat strike may be expected, he said, "Why must you expect repeat of a similar thing, earlier we did something, then we did Balakot, why must we repeat... Why not keep the other side guessing as to what we will do; why tell him what we are going to do, why not keep him guessing, why say repeat, why not something beyond that?"

CAPSULE

BJP-RSS MEN'S MURDER CRACKED: 3 ULTRAS HELD
Jammu: Four terror cases, including the killings of a BJP leader and an RSS functionary in Jammu & Kashmir's Kishtwar district, were solved with the arrest of three terrorists affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen, police said on Monday. **P6**

SONIA, MANMOHAN MEET PC AT TIHAR
New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday met P Chidambaram at Tihar Jail, where he has been lodged since September 5 in connection with the INX media case. **P5**

TIGRESS FOUND DEAD IN CORBETT RESERVE
Dehradun: A tigress was found dead in the Dhela range of the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The carcass of the tigress bearing multiple injury marks was recovered from Dhela range of the reserve on Sunday morning, CTR Director Rahul said.

9 DIE IN BUS-MINIBUS COLLISION IN ASSAM
Demow: At least nine persons were killed and several others injured in a collision between a bus and a minibus in Sivasagar Assam, on Monday, police said.

Kejriwal pledges to light up Capital's dark spots

₹100 crore project to install 2.1 lakh street lights to begin on Nov 1
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



Delhi Distribution Limited — have been assigned the responsibility to install street lights. The scheme was launched on Monday by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday. The scheme will be rolled out from November 1. "Women safety and security have always been an important concern for the Delhi Government. The Government has taken many steps such as CCTV cameras to make the Delhi a safe city for woman and

girls. Now, with CCTV cameras, it is important to eradicate dark spots by installing street lights. We will not leave even a single dark spot in Delhi," said Kejriwal. He said local MLAs have major role in the project and citizens can also submit their request for installing street lights to the local leaders. After which permission from the building owner and a survey of a particular locations will be conducted by the power company. The officials said these lights will be automatic with sensor based technology. The lights will automatically turn on after sunset and turn off after sunrise in the morning. "In the tender, we will install 3 to 5 year warranty lights," said Kejriwal. The Government has further decided to take electricity connection for the street lights from the particular building owner's household itself.

Delhi Govt to sell onion at ₹24/kg

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
With onion prices soaring in the national Capital, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government on Monday decided to take immediate measures and sell onions at ₹24 a kg across the city through fair price shops and mobile vans. "We are procuring onions that will be sold at ₹24 a kg across the city via mobile vans. Tenders have been floated for the transportation of onions," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told the media on Monday. "There are 70 food circles in Delhi. Every circle has five fair price shops (FPS), totalling 350 such shops across Delhi. These shops, along with mobile vans, would be used to sell onions," said a senior official of the

Delhi Government. It may be noted that Delhi Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain had on Friday reviewed the status of onion prices which have spiralled due to the crop having been affected because of excessive rain in different parts of the country. The Minister observed the Delhi Government is considering selling onions through its 'Fair Price Shops/mobile vans', in order to check the price rise of onions. In this regard, meetings with Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation (DSCSC) and transporters have also been held. The meeting was attended by the Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies (CFS), senior officers of DSCSC and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee.



Investors richer by ₹10L cr in 2 days as mkt rallies on tax booster

Sensex, Nifty close at two-month high
PTI ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI



Investor wealth soared for the second consecutive session on Monday, rising by ₹10.35 lakh crore in two sessions, as market sentiment remained euphoric after a host of measures were announced to boost slowing economic growth. Market benchmark BSE Sensex skyrocketed by 1,075.41 points, or 2.83 per cent, to close at more than two-month high of 39,090.03 on Monday. During the day, it jumped 1,426.5 points to 39,441.12. The broader NSE Nifty zoomed by 326 points or 2.89 per cent to end at a two-month of 11,600.20 with 32 of its constituents closing with gains. "Markets for the second day in a row, after the historic decision to cut corporate tax,

witnessed a stellar rally. A lot of buoyancy has come from the fact that these measures will boost the profitability of a number of companies, which will either be used to stimulate demand by lowering prices, payouts to shareholders in the form of dividends or using it for capital expenditure,"

Amit Shah moots all-in-one ID cards

Multipurpose card to replace voter ID, PAN, Aadhaar, passport a possibility, says HM
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

- Home Minister Amit Shah announced that data for 2021 Census — to be carried out by 33 lakh employees across India — will be collected through a mobile app
- The planned all-in-one identity card could trigger yet another controversy just as it did by the Centre's move making it mandatory to link Aadhaar with PAN



exercise. Officials said the NPR could be the basis for a pan-India version of Assam's National Register of Citizens. The Home Minister was speaking on the occasion of foundation stone laying ceremony of Jagananna Bhawan, the new headquarters of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India. "We can have just one card for all utilities like Aadhaar, passport, driving licence, bank accounts, voter card. This is a potential," suggested Shah, adding the mammoth nationwide exercise will be carried out in 16 languages and at a cost of ₹12,000 crore.

Modi takes groundbreaking vow for cleaner fuel at UN



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Climate Action Summit in the United Nations General Assembly, at UN headquarters on Monday

PM pledges to more than double India's non-fossil fuel target to 450 GW by 2022

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday gave a clarion call for a "global people's movement" to bring about a behavioural change to deal with climate change as he made a path-breaking pledge to more than double India's non-fossil fuel target to 450 gigawatts by 2022. In his Independence Day speech, Modi had announced that India will produce 175 GW of non-fossil fuel as part of its commitment to the Paris Climate agreement. Monday's announcement during Modi's speech at the global climate summit goes well beyond the pledge of 175 GW. It comes a day after Modi and US President Donald Trump shared the stage at a gala event in Houston on Sunday and displayed a close friendship and a common vision on fighting terrorism. But the US and India differ on the issue of climate change. Trump withdrew from the

Paris climate deal in 2017 and blamed India and China for his decision, saying the agreement was unfair as it would have made the US pay for nations which benefited the most from the deal. "We must accept that if we have to overcome a serious challenge like climate change, then what we are doing at the moment is just not enough," Modi told world leaders at the summit organised by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres here. In his first engagement at the United Nations, Modi noted that various efforts are being made by different coun-

'Abki baar Trump sarkar' triggers BJP-Cong fracas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
A day after the mega 'Howdy, Modi' event in Houston, the Opposition on Monday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi accusing him of violating Indian foreign policy's "time-honoured principle" of not interfering in the domestic elections of another country by "campaigning" for US president Donald Trump. However, the BJP hit back terming the event as "history in the making" and the charges as "preposterous." "He referred

Minister and not a star campaigner in the US elections. While another Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said he is glad that Modi was reminded of the contributions of Jawaharlal Nehru by US House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, jailed former Finance Minister P Chidambaram, through his family, took a dig at Modi's saying, "Everything is fine in India except for unemployment, loss of existing jobs, lower wages, mob violence, lockdown in Kashmir and throwing Opposition leaders in prison." **Related reports on P5**



Centre plans to reopen 50,000 temples closed for yrs in J&K

Schools, movie halls shut on ultras' threat to open: MoS Home
PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU
The Union Government is set to reopen about 50,000 temples and several schools, which were shut in the Kashmir Valley. The Government will also revive and open up cinema theatres shut down years ago on the dictates of the militants. Elaborating on the development plan laid out for J&K, to be changed into two Union Territories effectively from October 31 — Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy on Monday said the Central Government is focused on unleashing new activities in J&K and elections will be held there once the situation returns to normalcy. The Minister said a survey of about 50,000 temples that are shut in Jammu & Kashmir will be done while plans are also on to open cinema theatres there. "Assembly elections will also be held as soon as things are normal. We have successfully conducted sarpanch elections, now we will conduct block development council elections by November or December and then we will conduct district development council election. This will give a push to our development plan for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh," Reddy said in Bengaluru. Speaking to reporters, he said the newly elected sarpanchs will be trained in implementing new acts, schemes and developmental work.

It took 17 hrs to convince TikTok star not to kill self

Man with 50 lakh fans on video app blames wife, sister-in-law for suicide move

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

It appeared to have been lifted from the famous Hollywood movie 'Man on a Pedestal' scene after a 31-year-old man climbed on the terrace of a west Delhi hotel with the idea of ending his life but was finally persuaded not to do so after 17 hours of negotiations that carried on through the Sunday night.

The man identified as Sandeep alias Arman Malik — very famous on TikTok with 50 lakh followers — first climbed the sixth floor of the hotel in Hari Nagar.

Police said Sandeep later climbed up to the terrace of the building and threatened to commit suicide after he had an

altercation with his wife.

According to a senior Delhi Fire Services (DFS) official, a call regarding the incident was received around 4 pm on Sunday after which three vehicles carrying ladders were rushed to the spot.

The fire brigade, the police and a CAT ambulance were on the spot the entire night trying to convince the man so that he could be brought down safely.

"Sandeep was finally rescued around 8.45 am on Monday," said the fire official. According to a senior police official, on Sunday, Sandeep had checked into the hotel at 1.30 pm on Sunday with his wife Kritika Basera.

"She is his second wife and their marriage had taken place a year ago in the same hotel. The couple had come to Delhi from Ahmedabad.

Sandeep is allegedly an accused in a case lodged at

Nihal Vihar police station.

He was rescued and taken to Nihal Vihar Police Station for further questioning," said the senior police official.

After climbing onto the roof top Sandeep also put up a video on TikTok threatening to commit suicide.

The video went viral and within hours of uploading the video, Sandeep's followers increased significantly. He had uploaded two videos of suicide threats.

In one of the videos, Sandeep said, "My wife Payal and her family members together framed me in a rape case."

In another video, he mentions about his maid and someone named Neeraj.

In the third video, Sandeep uploaded a letter of suicide threat on his TikTok account. He in his letter blames Payal and her sisters behind this move.

Snatchings down by 29%: Delhi Police

3,499 involved in street crimes held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Despite sporadic incidents of street crime being reported in the national Capital, Delhi Police top brass claimed to have brought down street crime and sending criminals to the Tihar jail. Till date some 3,499 criminals involved in street crimes such as snatchings and using illegally procured fire arms have been brought to justice.

Arrest of these desperate criminals, have brought down the incidents of snatchings by 29 per cent as compared to the last year.

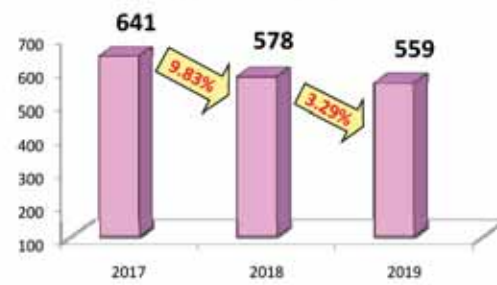
"Street crimes and illegal firearms are 'Siamese Twins'," said a police officer. "It is an area of concern for the force and an intense hunt has been ordered by the Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik. All the districts, specialised units have been put on the job and during fortnightly crime review meetings, progress made in arresting criminals and gangs involved in

the smuggling of illegally manufactured arms, is discussed and strategies are devised," said the police officer adding that it is an ongoing drive and there would not be any let up into this.

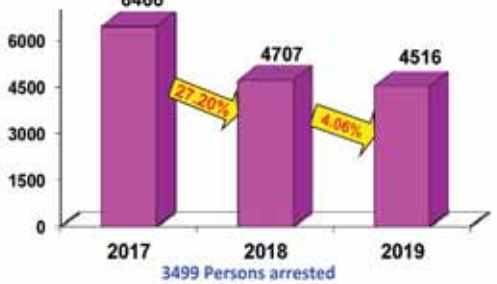
According to Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO) of Delhi Police, since January this year the sleuths of Delhi Police have arrested 3,499 notorious criminals involved in snatching and robbery across national Capital. "The Delhi Police has registered around 4,516 cases of street crime since January till September 15 and 2,491 cases have been solved so far," said Mittal.

"Robberies and snatchings together have seen a drop by more than 29 per cent in the last two years. Delhi Police has taken street crimes as a priority focus-area and several measures have been initiated in the last two years or so to control street crime. Visibility in vulnerable areas has been improved by launching

Use of Fire Arms in Crimes
(Upto 15th Sept.)



Snatching Cases registered
(Upto 15th September)



'Raftaar' and All-Women Patrols, Anti-snatching Teams are now functioning in all police stations, and a special

drive has been launched against illegal fire-arms," said Mittal.

"Crime by use of firearm has also shown a steady decline due to sustained drive launched against criminals in possession of firearms. Till September 15, 2019 the Delhi Police has registered 559 cases of armed snatching which are 3.29 per cent down as compared to last year," said Mittal.

Recently after the arrest of several arms supplier and manufacturers in national Capital, during interrogation, it was revealed that the illegal arms manufacturers have built their factories either in forest area or residential complexes. Police have busted several factories located in Rajasthan, Mewar and Western Uttar Pradesh.

"Several arms suppliers indulged in supplying illegal weapons to criminals in Delhi have been arrested by Special cell and Crime Branch. The retailers who act as a mediator between criminals and arms manufacturers are being traced and arrested by the police," said a senior police official.

1K online job seekers duped of ₹2 cr, 6 held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

One should be on guard uploading resume online as there are gangs who are there to dupe job seekers on the pretext of providing jobs. Cyber Cell of Delhi Police have busted a gang who had allegedly duped more than 1,000 gullible job seekers to the tune of ₹2 crore in the name of getting them high paying corporate jobs.

Police said that they have also arrested six persons, including the mastermind who had targeted over 10,000 job seekers targeted by the fraudsters.

"The accused used to purchase bulk data of resumes from a prominent job portal by impersonating as 'Placement Service' company," said Anyesh Roy, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Cyber Crime



Unit (CyPAD).

The accused have been identified as Kunal Singh (35), the kingpin of the gang and a resident of Noida in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Gaurav Gupta (26), a resident of Sahajahanpur, UP, Kalpendra Singh Rajput (42), a resident of Kozhikode, Kerala, Shashank Shekhar (29), a resident of Ghaziabad, UP, Shubham (23) and Vishal Tanwar (23) both residents of Modinagar, UP.

According to the DCP, a complaint was received from a woman who stated that she received a call from an agent of Placement Confirmation Service of a prominent job portal who assured the complainant to forward her resume to prominent companies and corporate groups.

"Subsequently she also received an email asked her to pay service registration amount through an online payment link. The amount was paid accordingly. After paying the amount, the

accused person asked the woman to submit scanned copies of documents on a separate link and further demanded her to pay a refundable fee for verification of documents," said the DCP adding that an amount of ₹34,000 was paid by the complainant.

"When the complainant asked the company to return money, a payment link and promo code was sent to the woman by the alleged agency. However, the moment victim fed that code, money got debited from her UPI linked Payment App accounts," said the DCP adding that a First Information Report was registered and investigation was taken up.

"On September 20, the high end office of this gang located in Sector-8, Noida was raided by the police team and the accused Kunal Singh, Gaurav Gupta, Vishal Tanwar, Shashank Shekar and Shubham were arrested," said the DCP. "During interrogation, the

accused revealed that the mastermind of the gang Kunal had opened his own office in the name of 'Trevion' in Noida, UP. He targeted unemployed youth for cheating and started working with 11 associates who were given separate desktop computers, Head-phones and other accessories for calling the job aspirants, sending emails, payment links," said the DCP.

"The accused further revealed that Kunal used to receive the cheated money in multiple bank accounts opened in the name of bogus companies such as BTT Online Services and Ask Solutions. The said amount was further transferred in multiple accounts to hide the money trail," said the DCP.

Explaining the modus operandi of the gang, the DCP said that each staff member of Kunal was assigned worksheets with details of the job seekers and tele-calling was done through VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

"The accused have confessed to have obtained the bio-data of around 10,000 job seekers and they had been able to dupe more than 1000 innocent job seekers for various amounts in a period of eight months. The main accused Kunal has been found to be involved in a similar type of fraud earlier and was arrested by Pune Police in the year 2016," said the DCP.

Tagore Garden fruit market declared single-use plastic free

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its initiatives towards environment protection, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday declared Tagore Garden's fruits and vegetable market as single use plastic free.

The civic body started a mass awareness campaign last month, motivating shopkeepers to put up a board at their shops instructing customers to carry clothes and jute bags. Apart from this, the SDMC also identifies five markets each in its all four zones to give plastic free status.

SDMC Mayor Sunita Kangra said that the civic body has set up an example by achieving plastic free status for this fruits and vegetable market and aiming to reduce plastic waste by promoting use of eco friendly sustainable alternatives.



Chairman Standing Committee Bhubender Gupta appreciated the efforts of market association and said that initially our motive is to spread awareness about the ill effects of using plastic and then initiate providing alternatives of polythene bags to the shopkeepers.

"We have organised various activities within this market in order to promote the message against plastic and achieved our goal of making our plastic free market through mass awareness effective campaign and with the support of market association and shopkeepers," he said.

Cop rescues electrocuted electrician from electrocution

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Timely help by a police inspector saved the life of an electrician at the police lines in Gurugram during the intervening night of September 13 and 14.

According to police, on the night of September 13/14, the power system suffered a fault in flat number 603 of J Tower at the police lines. Electrician Parasram was called to fix it.

"The electrician got electrocuted while rectifying the fault. He started frothing and was on the verge of collapse when Inspector Chander Prakash, who lived in the opposite flat, arrived. With the help of Inspector Suresh Kumar and Sub-Inspector Satish Dagar, he succeeded in taking away electrician from the electric wire. They administered first aid to Parasram and was taken to the hospital in Chandra Prakash's private



car. Inspector Chander Prakash's timely intervention and presence of mind is being appreciated," said Subhash Boken, the spokesperson of Gurugram Police.

"I immediately rushed him to a private hospital with the help of other policemen. Timely treatment saved his life," Inspector Chander Prakash said. Parasram was all praise for the timely help that he received from his saviour Chandra Prakash.

PUBLIC NOTICE
ICICI Home Finance
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051
Closure of Branch
Notice is hereby given that ICICI Home Finance Company Limited has closed the branch located at 2nd floor, O/15, Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi - 110024. The nearest branch for contact is at 2nd floor, SCO-319, Sec -29, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
For ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. Pratap Sallian Company Secretary

Public Notice
I Chand Singh S/o Tara Chand & Mother Seema Devi, R/o H. No. -100, Gali No.-12, Dala Ram Park, Dinpur, Najafgarh New Delhi-43. Declare that my Son Himanshu (Minor) DOB- 23/06/2005 has been written wrongly in School Documents & Birth Certificate. The Correct my Son DOB- 23/07/2007 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary Public Delhi on 29/06/19.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice hereby given to the public that the property more described in schedule hereunder written is being transferred in name of 1) Ms. Asha Rani. All persons having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, lien or otherwise whatsoever are requested to inform the same in writing to the undersigned having their address (Karnail Singh & Co., K-8, LGF, Jangpura Extn., New Delhi-110014) within 15 days from the date of hereof falling which, the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and the transfer shall be completed.
SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO
Property Address (Freehold Property No. FZ-140, built on Plot No. 92, measuring 70 Sq.Yards, out of Kharsa No. 68, situated in the area of Village Sagarpur, Delhi State, colony known as East Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046) measuring 70 SQ Yard, as per the General power of Attorney dated (29.04.1985) and Agreement to Sell dated (02.08.2019) from seller (Smt. Asha Rani), it's a part of property, total property measuring 250 sq yard at Residence address (Freehold Plot No. 92, measuring 250 Sq.Yards, out of Kharsa No. 68, situated in the area of Village Sagarpur, Delhi State, colony known as East Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046)
Karnail Singh & Co. K-8, LGF, Basement, Jangpura Extn, New Delhi

Digital kiosk installed at G'gram's Rajiv Chowk to assist farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

To avail the benefits of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare accessible to the farmers, a Touch Screen Digital Farmer Kiosk has been installed in the Mini-Secretariat near Rajiv Chowk.

From this kiosk, farmers can easily get the benefits of schemes operated by the Department of Agriculture. Information in both Hindi and English languages is available at this kiosk.

"From Touch screen farmer kiosk, farmers can get information about departmental schemes as well as information on solutions to problems related to farming, toll-free numbers live chat and prize schemes etc. People usually come to the Secretariat and District Court for their various everyday tasks. They can take advantage of the digital farmer kiosk," Deputy Commissioner (DC) Gurugram, Amit Khatri said.

"The digital kiosk has been set up in collaboration with the State Bank of India General Insurance Company. This digital kiosk will save farmers time and money and their work will be done quickly," Khatri, said.



Talking about Digital Kisan Kiosk, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad (ADC), Imran Raza said that "Earlier the farmers were informed about the crop wastage within 72 hours in the office of the District Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department so that they could avail the benefits of the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme to take.

After this, the information related to the application and harvest of the farmer was provided on the portal by the

departmental staff, which used to take a lot of time, but now through the digital farmer kiosk, the farmers will be able to upload the information related to the crop directly on the portal, so that they the compensation amount will also be available soon," Raza said.

"This kiosk is helpful in giving many types of information to farmers. Through this digital kiosk, farmers will not only be able to get information about the schemes of the Agriculture Department but can also complete the claims related to the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme," said, Deputy Director of Agriculture and Welfare Department, Atma Ram Godara.

He informed that facilities like hotline telephone have also been provided in this kiosk, through which farmers can reach their headquarters directly by telephone to Panchkula.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
F-17, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110032
Ph. No: 011-22309220, Email: dirdhs@nic.in
CORRIGENDUM

With reference to Public Notice regarding classification of laboratories and qualification for signing of laboratory reports issued by Directorate General of Health Services, Government of NCT of Delhi in newspapers on 12.12.2018, a corrigendum is being issued in this regard which reads as below:

All medical diagnostic laboratories situated in NCT of Delhi are to be classified into three categories, namely, Basic Composite; Medium and Advanced and the owners of all pathological laboratories situated in NCT of Delhi are directed to display a signage at a conspicuous place in their premises regarding the category of their pathological laboratory.

Further, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide Order dated 12.12.2017 in SLA (C) No. 28529/2010 in the matter of North Gujarat Unit of Association of Self Employed Owners (Paramedical) of Private Pathology Laboratories of Gujarat versus North Gujarat Pathologists Association & Ors. regarding the signing of Laboratory reports, the following directions are being issued:

- The reports of the Advanced category and Medium category laboratories are to be signed either by doctors registered with Delhi Medical Council having Post-Graduate qualification in Pathology/ Bio-chemistry/Microbiology/ Laboratory Medicine or having MBBS with Ph.D qualification in Pathology/ Bio-chemistry/Microbiology/ Laboratory Medicine.
- The reports of Basic Composite laboratory are to be signed by doctors registered with Delhi Medical Council having minimum MBBS Degree.

The general public is hereby informed that the list of laboratories surveyed / mapped by this Directorate can be viewed on Delhi Government Website www.health.delhigovt.nic.in and in case they find that the reports provided by a Pathological Laboratory situated in NCT of Delhi is not signed in accordance to aforementioned directions, they may complaint either to Secretary, Delhi Medical Council, 308A, 3rd Floor, Administrative Block, Maulana Azad Medical College, BSZ Marg, New Delhi- 110002 (delhimedicalcouncil@gmail.com) or Director General of Health Services, F-17, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 (dirdhs@nic.in).

Sd/-
Director General Health Services
Government of NCT of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/0712/19-20

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for the information of General Public that M/s Pacific Retail Centers (I) Pvt. Ltd. has been granted Environmental Clearance by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Haryana for the development of Modern Bus Terminal project that mainly comprises of Bus Terminal, Mall and Multiplex, etc. located at New Industrial Township (NIT), Faridabad, Haryana vide Letter No. SEIAA/H/2019/298 dated 06.09.2019. The copy of the Environmental Clearance along with the conditions to be complied is available with Environmental Clearance portal and with the Project proponent. The interested person can contact:
M/s Pacific Retail Centers (I) Pvt. Ltd. Ground Floor-42, Pacific Mall, Tagore Garden, Najafgarh Road, New Delhi-110018

Public Notice
This is to inform that I. Doma Tamang D/o Sherab Pajor R/o L-99 B, Gali No. 1, L Block, Mahipalpur, South West Delhi- 110037, have changed my name from Doma Tamang to Lamchen Dolma for all purposes. And Also state that my father name is wrongly mentioned in my passport no. T3366777 as T. D. Tamang whereas his correct and original name is Sherab Pajor. In my passport no. T3366777 my old address is mentioned as Ghising Gaon, Old Manora Road, P.O: Ghoom 734102 P.S: Jorebunglow, Darjeeling, West Bengal- 734102 which I wish to change as L-99 B, Gali No. 1, L Block, Mahipalpur, South West Delhi-110037 for all purposes.

RATHI GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
Regd. Office: D-12 A, Sector - 9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. - 201009
Corporate and Marketing Office: 24/1A, Mohan Co-Operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road New Delhi, 110 044
Ph. No. 011-45002480
CIN: L28600UP1991PL201370.
Website: www.rathitoner.com
E-mail id: investor@rathitoner.com

SHORTER NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provision of Regulation 33 and 29(1) (a) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015, the 06/2019-20 meeting of the Board of Directors of Rathi Graphic Technologies Limited ("Company") at a shorter notice will be held on Saturday, 28th Day of September, 2019 at Corporate & Marketing office of the Company situated at 24/1A, Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044 at 10.00 a.m. inter-alia to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2019 and any other business with the permission of the Chair.

Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed for the Directors/Officers/Key Managerial Personnel/Designated Employees of the Company from Tuesday, 21st May, 2019 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchange and the Public.
Sd/-
Raj Kumar Rathi
Director (Managing Director)
Date: 23.09.2019
DIN: 00009569

Sisodia leads raids on liquor shops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, along with the Excise officials, on Monday conducted a surprise inspection and raid on the wine shops that run in the name of Departmental stores in several parts of Delhi such as Karol Bagh, Janakpuri, Kailash Colony and Govindpuri and other areas.

Deputy CM and the Excise officials raided the departmental stores in several parts of Delhi. During the raid, two shops have been sealed where a case of violation of rules was revealed.

"According to law, a departmental store with the particular license can hold 15 percent of beer and wine, but it has to have 85 percent of other inventory. These two 'departmental stores' were defaulting, apart from a few soft drinks & snacks, 80-90 percent

□ No. of departmental stores	125
□ Rules	Departmental stores have a license to keep 15% of wine/beer but it has to have 85% of other inventory. The highest limit of refrigeration allowed in such stores is of 300 litres.
□ Number of stores sealed	2 for violating law by keeping 80-90% of the stock was of wine/beer.

of the stock was of wine/beer. This is completely in violation of the law. They were running wine and beer shops in the name of departmental stores. Delhi has 125 departmental stores which have a license to keep 15 percent of wine/beer. The highest limit of refrigeration allowed in such stores is of 300 litres."

"As soon the deputy CM got the news about the ongoing raid by the excise officials, Sisodia rushed to the spots to raid several shops. When the Deputy Chief Minister arrived at the departmental store located at Arya Samaj Road,

Keekarwala Chowk, Karolbagh, where they noticed that out of all the items being sold, almost 90 per cent of them were beer and wine being sold openly, whereas only 15 percent beer and wine can be sold at a departmental store as per the rules," said a government official.

After witnessing violations of the departmental store rules, Sisodia directed the officials to seal the shop immediately.

"We are getting complaints from all across Delhi, that liquor shops are being run in the name of departmental stores, follow-



Deputy CM Manish Sisodia comes out of a shop in New Delhi Pioneer photo

ing which raids are being done across Delhi.

Officers of the excise department are raiding such shops in different parts of Delhi. I myself went to some parts to check on it today.

Till now, two departmental stores have been sealed. Wherever we are finding a violation of law, immediate action is being taken, no one will be spared," said Sisodia.

57 malaria cases in 1 week, 304 afflicted with disease

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 57 cases of malaria reported last week of September, taking the total number of patients suffering from the disease to 304 this year. According to the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which tabulates the data on vector-borne diseases in the city, the number of dengue cases reported till September 21 stands at 217 with 46 fresh cases reported last week.

Meanwhile, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 130200 households and 106602 legal notices have been issued this year, according to a municipal report released on Monday.

Sources in the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) said that the number of cases may be bigger in its areas due to apathetic attitude of the officials and widespread corruption in public health department. He alleged that the officials of the department despite having enough stocks of anti-larva insecticides keep busy in ordering a fresh stock without



having taken necessary approval. The insecticides pollute water bodies and can destroy larva of culex mosquitoes which do not cause any of the vector borne disease.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has started an anti-dengue campaign '10Hafta 10Baje 10Minute' urging people to inspect their house for any standing water.

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 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 Sunday, requesting people to check mosquito breeding in their surroundings.

Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four deaths were recorded in Delhi. Both the Delhi government and the local bodies have been making efforts to raise awareness among the people on precautions to ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae in and around their houses.

Govt to consider odd-even exemption for 2-wheelers, women drivers: Kejriwal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said the Government would look into whether two-wheelers and vehicles driven by women should be exempted from the odd-even scheme, which will be implemented in November.

A meeting was held on Monday with all the departments and stakeholders concerned to discuss issues pertaining to implementation of the car-rationing scheme. There was discussion whether women should be exempted or not. "We are examining whether CNG vehicles, women and two-wheelers may be exempted from the scheme," Kejriwal told reporters.

On September 13, Kejriwal had announced that the third edition of the odd-even scheme would be implemented from November 4-15 as part of measures to combat high-level air



pollution caused due to stubble burning in neighbouring states during winters.

During the scheduled 12-day scheme, vehicles will ply alternately on odd and even dates as per their registration numbers. Earlier, a fine of Rs 2,000 was imposed on the violators of the rule.

Kejriwal had said the details of the scheme would be shared with people in the coming days.

Sources had claimed that most of the exemptions, which had been also given in the previous two editions of the in January and April 2016, might remain the same.

Govt forms guidelines to ensure rescued child labourers are enrolled in schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to ensure that the children rescued as labourers are enrolled in schools and are not pulled out to be forced into child labourers again, the Delhi Government has formulated guidelines in this regard.

According to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) formulated by 'Samagra Shiksha', part of Delhi Government's education department, the District Urban Resource Coordinators (DURCC) will be included as a part of the District Task Force (DTF) set up in each district by the Delhi Government's labour department.

The DURCCs are experienced teachers, retired principals, or officials working with the education department.

"A list of rescued child labour in the previous month will be provided to the DURCC every month. The

School Management Committee (SMC) members with the Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators (CRCC) will visit the parents or guardians of the rescued child labour and counsel them to get the child enrolled in the school for his or her better future prospect," the guidelines issued by the Delhi government said.

It said, "They shall facilitate the admission of the rescued child labour in the school in age appropriate class and after assessment, shift him or her to the Special Training Centre for bridge course, if needed."

"The heads of schools and teachers shall monitor the attendance of the child for six months to ensure that the child is not pulled out of school and pushed again into child labour," it said. The Delhi High Court last week directed the AAP government and the police to strictly follow the Delhi Action Plan for Total Abolition of

Child Labour, which gives the procedure for interim care and protection of the rescued children.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar noted that the Delhi action plan was submitted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and accepted by the court in its orders of July 15, 2009 and November 5, 2014.

The bench said it is the bounden duty of the authorities to ensure that there is no violation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and the Bounded Labour System (Abolition) Act.

The NCPCR, after holding consultation with stakeholders and after conducting research and survey, had finalised a Delhi Action Plan for total abolition of Child Labour, clearly defining the role and responsibilities of various departments.

Discoms plan tatkal temporary power connections to provide electricity for Durga Puja pandals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have decided to provide instant temporary electricity connections for Durga Puja pandals and wedding functions under a 'Tatkal' scheme for the festive season.

A senior BSES official said that under the innovative scheme, a consumer will be able to get a temporary connection the same day of applying and completing the requisite commercial formalities. Normally, it can take up to seven days for a temporary connection.

In a statement, it said that to get a 'tatkal' electricity connection, all a consumer has to contact BSES call centre numbers 19123/ 39999707 (BRPL) and 19122/ 39999808 (BYPL) or visit the customer care centre or Digi Seva Kendra at the division office and complete simple formalities. "They can also apply and make payment for the temporary connection online on BSES' website (www.bsedelhi.com) and from



BSES' Mobile App," it said. Announcing the scheme, BSES spokesperson said, "Our entire machinery is geared-up to make 'same day' connections possible."

The advanced IT capabilities and processes will play a major part in facilitating this. This scheme is our way of joining in the celebrations and making the festive season even more memorable for our consumers."

"To ensure reliable power supply during festivals, BSES discoms are undertaking several measures, including

putting its operations and maintenance teams on high alert," it said.

"The incidence of power-theft also increases during the festival season. BSES teams will be on a high alert to catch such transgressions. Discoms will be relying heavily on analytics to catch the power thieves," the official added.

BRPL and BYPL are premier power distribution companies and Joint Ventures between Reliance Infrastructure Limited and Government of the National Capital Territory.

Gang busted; 2 held for selling drugs meant for military

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the arrest of two people, the Delhi Police on Monday claimed to have busted a gang allegedly involved in selling expensive cancer medicines meant for defence personnel to patients at cheap rates online.

The accused have been identified as Dhruv Nath Jha and Om Nath Jha - both brothers and residents JJ Bela Estate near Vijay Ghat. Police said that a total cost of medicines recovered from the duo is around Rs 30 lakhs.

According to Jasmeet Singh, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, on September 20, police received information about a gang involved in selling costly cancer medicines meant for sale at defence and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) dispensaries in the open market.

"A trap was laid near a petrol pump in Vikas marg by the police team and subsequently Dhruv Nath Jha, who



Accused brothers Dhruv and Om Nath Jha in police custody Pioneer photo

came on a scooter with a bagful of medicines, was nabbed. Police recovered five packets of costly medicines with stamps that read - sale in Defence and ESI only - from the bag which was in possession of the accused," said the DCP.

"The police also recovered seven other medicine packets from which similar stamps had been erased. A case under section 420, 468, 471, 409, 380,

411, 120 B of Indian Penal Code (IPC) has been registered at the Preet Vihar police station against Dhruv," said the DCP.

"Based on information disclosed by Dhruv, his brother Om Nath Jha was also arrested from his office in Laxmi Nagar. Police have also recovered large quantities of medicines and the chemical used for erasing the stamps from the office of the accused," said the DCP.

"During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they had received these medicines at cheap rates from a gang operating from Gwalior, Mumbai, Ghaziabad and Noida. The accused used to further supply the medicines to the patients on cheap rates online," said the DCP adding that police teams have initiated manhunt to nab the other criminals indulged in illegal trade.



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia flags off the Anemia Mukta Delhi awareness campaign organised by Ministry of Women and Child Development at Delhi Vidhan Sabha in New Delhi on Monday Ranajin Dimri | Pioneer

Only 2-year lease upsets Mahila Haat book sellers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leaving home is never easy, even when it's across the road and cleaner. Ask the hawkers of the city's Daryaganj Sunday book market, who have a new address at the Mahila Haat ground.

After 50 years of operating from the cramped, congested pavement between Delite and Golcha cinemas, the book bazaar has moved to the elevated Mahila Haat ground on Asaf Ali Road nearby. And the shopkeepers — as well as buyers — are beset with mixed feelings.

"Apna ghar chod kar nayi jagah jaana kis ko achha lagta hai (Who feels good about leaving their old house for a new one)," 67-year-old Niyazuddin, who has been selling books in

the market for the last 40 years, said on Sunday, a week after the shift.

"Letting go is always difficult. I don't know how it will feel after some time, but right now it surely does not feel good," Niyazuddin said.

The famed Sunday book bazaar is where one can land a rare copy of New Yorker, or even a first edition of Margaret Mitchell's 'Gone With the Wind' for just Rs 20.

The book bazaar was closed for several weeks, ever since July 2 when the Delhi High Court vacated a stay on a direction declaring Netaji Subhash Marg (also including the road between Delite and Golcha) a "non-vending zone".

Each vendor has a designated 4 feet by 6 feet space in the new space allotted by the North

Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) in the Mahila Haat ground. The rent has gone up from Rs 15 to Rs 185 per week and the space has been given on a two-year lease.

Sumit Verma, a member of the Daryaganj Patri Sunday Book Bazaar Welfare Association, alleged that the administration had violated the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act (2014), and accused them of ruining the heritage status of the book market.

"What kind of barter is this? You take our 50-year-old heritage market and give us a new piece of land on two years lease. What is the surety that you won't take this away as well?" Verma asked as some vendors protested outside the ground.

Despite their misgivings, he said many hawkers are taking up space in the new ground because it is a question of their livelihood. Of the 276 stalls, over 200 were occupied this Sunday. Last week, the first Sunday at the new venue, there were only about 100 stalls, he said.

According to the Act, "Natural markets where street vendors have conducted business for over fifty years shall be declared as heritage markets, and the street vendors in such markets shall not be relocated".

For regular visitors, it is the idea of letting go of the original market's old world charm that is most painful. Many admit having had a long-term relationship with the market that spans years, even decades.

They can't help but be nostalgic about the innumerable

times they have rummaged through giant piles of dusty books to find old and rare titles, including first editions of classics or a vintage gold foil embossed leather bound book.

"It was in Daryaganj where I first discovered the works of legendary playwright Oscar Wilde and it has stayed with me since then. Then a naughty teenager, and now an old grumpy grandmother, a trip to this place on Sundays has been a one constant thing in my life," said 52-year-old Renu Uppal.

Uppal, who was visiting the new market this Sunday with her granddaughter, said she hoped it would be moved back to its original location. "It is so out of place in this location. It looks like as if we have been robbed of our childhood," she added.

NMC Mayor suspends 20 AAP members for 15 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The House meeting of North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) witnessed a high voltage drama on Monday as over 20 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) members were suspended by its Mayor Avatar Singh for 15 days.

The move came following a spat among councillors of the ruling and Opposition parties over taking credit of reducing cases of dengue.

AAP councillor and Leader of Opposition in the House Surjeet Singh Pawar described it a "black day" and claimed that never in the history of the MCD such a step has been taken.

"I wanted to raise an issue of

scam in the parking system of the NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Corporation), and had also submitted a short notice for it. But, I was not allowed to speak," he alleged.

Instead, the BJP members, sought to "badmouth" Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the anti-dengue campaign led by him, as the "MCD has been ineffective over the years in controlling dengue in Delhi", he claimed.

Pawar said a commotion soon followed as several members of the AAP trooped into the Well of the House, following which he and some other AAP councillors were "marshalled out by enforcement staff".

"I was manhandled by the

enforcement staff, and this is a black day for the NDMC," he alleged. Mayor Avatar Singh has suspended 25 councillors who were present in the House on Monday, the Leader of Opposition said, adding that the AAP has 31 councillors in the 104-member House.

The mayor alleged that the AAP councillors were "obstructing the proceedings" of the House and hence, the action was taken.

He indicated that a "special House session could be convened in the next few days to just discuss the issue of dengue. Pawar said if the mayor convenes the House in the absence of the opposition, it amounts to "sheer dictatorship".

Terrorism sustained via financial, political support from some nations: India

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Terrorism has been sustained through financial, political and moral support from some nations, India told a meeting of the inter-governmental forum Monday, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Pakistan committed one of biggest blunders by joining US after 9/11: Imran Khan

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Prime Minister Imran Khan admitted on Monday that Pakistan committed "one of the biggest blunders" by joining the US after the 9/11 attacks, saying the previous governments "should not have pledged what they could not deliver."

Modi takes...

From Page 1 "We will increase our renewable energy capacity to much beyond 175 GW and we are committed to take it further to 450 GW."

The Climate Action Summit aims to boost action to implement the Paris Agreement, which was signed in 2015. The Paris deal aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"We believe that an ounce of practice is worth more than

(CICA) Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly session. "Terrorism is a scourge that afflicts member countries of the CICA and others. It has been sustained through financial, political and moral support of some States," he said, without naming any country.

Noting that organisations such as Financial Action Task Force (FATF) are engaged in maintaining integrity of the international financial system in Asia for combating terror financing, Muraleedharan said

resume talks until after the elections in India were over but then it found that "India is pushing us in the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force to bankrupt us."

India is pushing us in the blacklist of the Financial Action Task Force to bankrupt us. He said that by abrogating Article 370, India had cast aside the UN Security Council resolutions, the Simla accord and its own Constitution. Khan said he would ask the UN to play its role on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue but India has asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 was its "internal matter".

Modi said India is also focusing on the use of compressed bio gas and his Government has provided clean cooking gas to 150 million families, thus improving the health of the environment, of women and children.

Pak resurrects...

To a question on the number of infiltrators waiting to get in, Rawat said the numbers kept fluctuating based on the weather pattern. "These numbers keep fluctuating, but I would say yes there are at least 500 people who are waiting to infiltrate and that is the minimum number," he said. Rawat also rejected claims of a clampdown in J&K and asserted that it was a facade put up by terrorists to project a false picture of "harsh measures" to the outside world.

In reality, the violence and killings were down and the terrorists were being kept at bay, he told reporters. While communication lines are through for the people, there is a breakdown for handlers of terrorists in Pakistan and their associates in the Valley, he said. Also, arrangements are in place for security forces to talk to their families and there is no communication breakdown, he said.

members of the CICA must continue to support the FATF in its endeavours.

"We also seek your support on an early conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism, as proposed by India," he added.

Muraleedharan further said that India supports inclusive and consensus-based multilateral cooperation. "India's policies of Think West, Act East, Security and Growth for All, and its vision of Indo-Pacific are a reflection of our commitment to partner with countries of Asia in our collective endeavour to make the 21st century a century of Asia."

Amit Shah moots...

From Page 1 The Census will have its reference date as March 1, 2021, but for snow-bound Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand it will be October 1, 2020, Shah said.

"Census data will be collected through a mobile app. This is for the first time that the mobile app will be used for the census exercise. India will be moving from the pen and paper census to digital data, which will be a big revolution in the country's census exercise," he said.

Referring to the 2021 census, he said the data will help in future planning of the country, especially for development initiatives and welfare schemes, and it will be a 'Jan Bhagidari' (people's participation) exercise. "India's total 130-crore population should be informed about its benefits. How, the census data could be used for future planning, development initiatives and welfare schemes. The utilisation of census data is multi-dimensional and will be a significant contribution to the nation's progress," Shah said.

Kejriwal vows to light up Delhi's dark spots

From Page 1 "In a day or two, we will decide how much electricity will be needed to run one light. We will deduct that amount from people's bills. This will also be an automatic arrangement," he said adding the way people had given permission to install CCTV at their home and the enthusiasm with which people are involved in CCTV scheme, we hope that the public will be equally interested in the Mukhyamantri Streetlight Scheme.

The installation will be of 20 to 40 Watt LED lights. The tendering will include a warranty clause of 3 to 5 years. The scheme has an investment of Rs 100 crores for the installation and Rs 10 crore per annum subsequently. "We will not leave a single dark spot in Delhi," said Kejriwal.

Ready to mediate if India, Pakistan agree: Trump

New York: Describing himself as "an extremely good arbitrator", US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he was ready to mediate between Pakistan and India on the Kashmir issue, but both sides have to agree on that.

Govt: Link emission test data with Vahan database

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday asked all States to ensure linking of emission test data of vehicles with Vahan database. The Road Transport and Highways Ministry had earlier issued a notification for amendment in the rule 115 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 in June, 2018 for linkage of PUC certificate with Vahan database.

Investors richer by ₹10L cr...

From Page 1 The m-cap of BSE-listed companies was ₹1,38,54,439.41 crore on Thursday. Markets are on a rise since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered a surprise cut in corporate tax rates.

The announcements were made during trading hours on Friday which sent the markets soaring. On Friday, it logged its biggest single-day jump in over a decade by surging 1,921.15 points, or 5.32 per cent.

Centre plans...

Territories will come into force from October 31, coincides with birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, he said Lt Governors will be appointed to them.

Listing out various initiatives taken up by the Government in Jammu & Kashmir, he said, "Five youths from each village will be given Government employment based on merit. Also, recruitment will be made into the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, CRPF, BSF among other. Central Government departments have been asked to prepare an action plan for development of J&K."

Ready to mediate if India, Pakistan agree: Trump

it," he said, a day after attending 'Howdy, Modi' rally in Houston, where he shared the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and displayed a close friendship and a common vision on fighting terrorism. "At any point of time, I would be an extremely good arbitrator," he said.

Concerned over situation in Gulf region: India

New York: India has voiced concern over the situation in the Gulf region, saying competing geo-strategic interests can lead to an avoidable conflict that will have a disastrous impact on the security and development of the countries in the region and beyond.

Delhi Govt to sell onion at ₹24/kg

From Page 1 The Minister directed Commissioner, DSCSC, APMC/DAMB that immediate corrective action be taken as average wholesale prices of onions have risen astronomically in last two-three days in Lasalgaon and Nashik in Maharashtra.

Its repercussions would be felt in retail markets across the country, it is being apprehended. The officers present in the meeting informed that due to ongoing phase of Shraadh followed by the festive Navratri period, the demand of onions decrease which will help in neutralising some of the effect of price rise of onions.

Man lynched, 2 hurt in J'khand over cow slaughter suspicion

Khunti: A physically disabled man was killed and two others were seriously injured after they were allegedly beaten up by a mob over suspicion of slaughtering a cow in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police said on Monday.

The incident happened after local residents allegedly spotted Kalantus Barla, Fagu Kacchap and Phillip Horo with the carcass of a cow near a river at Jaltanga village on Sunday, and assaulted them, a police officer said.

Ready to mediate if India, Pakistan agree: Trump

At the rally on Sunday, Modi 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.

Govt: Link emission test data with Vahan database

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday asked all States to ensure linking of emission test data of vehicles with Vahan database. The Road Transport and Highways Ministry had earlier issued a notification for amendment in the rule 115 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 in June, 2018 for linkage of PUC certificate with Vahan database.

Investors richer by ₹10L cr...

From Page 1 The m-cap of BSE-listed companies was ₹1,38,54,439.41 crore on Thursday. Markets are on a rise since Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered a surprise cut in corporate tax rates.

The announcements were made during trading hours on Friday which sent the markets soaring. On Friday, it logged its biggest single-day jump in over a decade by surging 1,921.15 points, or 5.32 per cent.

Centre plans...

Territories will come into force from October 31, coincides with birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, he said Lt Governors will be appointed to them.

Listing out various initiatives taken up by the Government in Jammu & Kashmir, he said, "Five youths from each village will be given Government employment based on merit. Also, recruitment will be made into the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, CRPF, BSF among other. Central Government departments have been asked to prepare an action plan for development of J&K."

India's experience in affordable healthcare available for use to all developing nations: Modi

India's experience and capabilities in providing affordable healthcare is available for use to all developing countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the first-ever high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage here on Monday, underscoring that a healthy life is the right of every person.

Man lynched, 2 hurt in J'khand over cow slaughter suspicion

Khunti: A physically disabled man was killed and two others were seriously injured after they were allegedly beaten up by a mob over suspicion of slaughtering a cow in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police said on Monday.

Delhi Govt to sell onion at ₹24/kg

From Page 1 The Minister directed Commissioner, DSCSC, APMC/DAMB that immediate corrective action be taken as average wholesale prices of onions have risen astronomically in last two-three days in Lasalgaon and Nashik in Maharashtra.

Its repercussions would be felt in retail markets across the country, it is being apprehended. The officers present in the meeting informed that due to ongoing phase of Shraadh followed by the festive Navratri period, the demand of onions decrease which will help in neutralising some of the effect of price rise of onions.

Centre plans...

Territories will come into force from October 31, coincides with birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, he said Lt Governors will be appointed to them.

Listing out various initiatives taken up by the Government in Jammu & Kashmir, he said, "Five youths from each village will be given Government employment based on merit. Also, recruitment will be made into the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, CRPF, BSF among other. Central Government departments have been asked to prepare an action plan for development of J&K."

India's experience in affordable healthcare available for use to all developing nations: Modi

India's experience and capabilities in providing affordable healthcare is available for use to all developing countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the first-ever high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage here on Monday, underscoring that a healthy life is the right of every person.

Man lynched, 2 hurt in J'khand over cow slaughter suspicion

Khunti: A physically disabled man was killed and two others were seriously injured after they were allegedly beaten up by a mob over suspicion of slaughtering a cow in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police said on Monday.

Delhi Govt to sell onion at ₹24/kg

From Page 1 The Minister directed Commissioner, DSCSC, APMC/DAMB that immediate corrective action be taken as average wholesale prices of onions have risen astronomically in last two-three days in Lasalgaon and Nashik in Maharashtra.

Its repercussions would be felt in retail markets across the country, it is being apprehended. The officers present in the meeting informed that due to ongoing phase of Shraadh followed by the festive Navratri period, the demand of onions decrease which will help in neutralising some of the effect of price rise of onions.

Centre plans...

Territories will come into force from October 31, coincides with birth anniversary of Sardar Patel, he said Lt Governors will be appointed to them.

Listing out various initiatives taken up by the Government in Jammu & Kashmir, he said, "Five youths from each village will be given Government employment based on merit. Also, recruitment will be made into the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, CRPF, BSF among other. Central Government departments have been asked to prepare an action plan for development of J&K."

King George's Medical University U.P. Chowk, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA-226003 E - Tender Notice

Bhopal Municipal Corporation IInd Floor, Above Passport office, Kushabham Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus, Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.)

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS THANKSGIVING Thank you Holy Spirit for blessings Celine PD(8655)C

PUBLIC NOTICE I, Aman Bhardwal, Advocate, Chamber No. D-520, KKD Court, Delhi on behalf of Sh. Rakesh Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh. Sarjeewan Lal and Smt. Neena Gupta D/o Late Sh. Jai Prakash Gupta F/o 735/E, Lohia Gali No.1, Babarpur, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, do hereby make a declaration that my aforesaid clients debar their son Preshit Gupta and his wife Smt. Kavita from their moveable and immovable properties as they are indulged in illicit activities and also misbehaved with my clients and further threatened them to face dire consequences as such my clients does not want to deal with any relation of any kind with them and cut off her relations with them. Any person if deals with them in any manner whatsoever they have to deal with their own responsibilities and for that my clients shall not be held responsible for the same. AMAN BHARDWAL ADVOCATE

Data of top 7 cities

Average flat size down by 27% in 5 yrs: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The average apartment sizes in the top seven cities in India have shrunk by 27 per cent over the last five years — from 1,400 square feet in 2014 to nearly 1,020 square feet in 2019 so far — due to liquidity crisis, changing buyer preferences, and growing concerns about affordability, according to a study by Anarock, a real estate services company.

However, contrary to popular perception the National Capital Region (NCR) — considered to be one of the worst-habitat residential markets in recent years — has witnessed a decline of merely 6 per cent during this period compared to 45 per cent in Mumbai, 38 per cent in Pune, 12 per cent in Bengaluru, 9 per cent in Hyderabad and 8 per cent in Chennai among others.

The current average size of apartments in NCR is nearly 1,390 sq ft, pulling ahead of Bangalore where average flat sizes reduced to 1,300 sq ft in 2019. As per data, there are 1.8 lakh unsold flats in the NCR areas.

"The maximum reduction have seen in affordable homes priced less than Rs 40 lakh in sizes over the previous years, while ultra-luxury homes saw the least," said Anuj Puri, chairman of the Anarock.

Affordable homes priced less than Rs 40 lakh saw average sizes reduced by 28 per cent — from 750 sq ft in 2014 to 540 sq ft in 2019.

The mid-segment apartments priced from Rs 40 lakh to Rs 80 lakh saw sizes reduced



by 17 per cent - to 950 sq ft in 2019 from 1,150 sq ft in 2014. Premium homes priced between Rs 80 lakhs to Rs 1.25 crore saw a 21 per cent reduction in sizes — from 1,450 sq ft in 2014 to around 1,140 sq ft in 2019. Ultra-luxury homes priced more than Rs 2.5 crore saw a mere 8 per cent decline in average sizes over the last five years — from 2,400 sq ft in 2014 to around 2,200 sq ft in 2019.

According to the study, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) has the least average apartment size among all top cities, and also recorded the highest drop of 45 per cent - from 960 sq ft in 2014 to 530 sq ft in 2019. Pune registered 38 per cent reduction in sizes during this period, with the average apartment size currently at 600 sq ft. The average sizes in both MMR and Pune are calculated on the carpet area while for the remaining cities it is based on the built-up area.

"Also, buyers are increasingly looking to avail the government's credit subsidy benefits for affordable housing. These require a home to be priced less than Rs 45 lakh and not exceed 60 sq m carpet area

HOWDY MODI

'Ab ki baar Trump sarkar' slogan upsets Congress

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the 'Howdy, Modi' event, several Congress leaders lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi either accusing him of actively campaigning for US president Donald Trump or taking a dig at him using the remarks of a Democrat senator on Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Opposition party said by taking a 'partisan' position, the Prime Minister has done a "diservice" to long-term strategic Indo-US relations. It also took a swipe at Modi saying it would have been better if he would have 'shed his aversion' to Jawaharlal Nehru and joined in endorsing what the US Senators were saying about the country's first Prime Minister.

Congress senior spokesperson Anand Sharma said it should not be seen that India is taking sides and the Prime Minister using the Houston platform to exhort and raise the slogan of 'Ab ki baar Trump sarkar' was better avoided. "We have a strategic partnership between India and the United States of America which is bipartisan, which we fully endorse.

But, there is a time-honoured convention of India's foreign policy that when we engage with the foreign governments or the President or Prime Minister when on foreign soil, we do not take part in the domestic electoral politics. Prime Minister should have honoured that," Sharma told reporters. "It should not be seen that India is taking positions or sides and Prime minister using that platform to exhort and raise that slogan on 'Ab ki baar Trump sarkar' was better avoided," the Congress leader said. Sharma said India has engaged with both Republican administration and Democratic administration and it was a Republican administration under President George W Bush "when we successfully negotiated the Indo-US Nuclear deal during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's tenure."

He said when the US elections came, the Indian leadership under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh did not take a partisan position to support or endorse the Republicans and when Barack Obama took over as the US President, "we carried on with the US engagement with the Democratic administration, as effectively as we had done with the previous Republican administration."

"As far as India's strategic interests are concerned, we have to engage with all the parties concerned. We wish the prime minister for his visit. We hope that President Trump would appreciate the Indian diaspora greeting him when the prime minister was there," he said.

On President Trump attending the 'Howdy, Modi' event in Houston, he said, the Congress has no objections to it. "But, we hope the Prime Minister would get President Trump to agree to restore all the cuts on H1B Visas, reduce the fees and again restore the GSP so that Indian exports can get access to the US markets," he said.

The Left parties also hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday saying his "virtually campaigning" for President Donald Trump at the 'Howdy, Modi' event in Houston was "strange" and "unprecedented".

"This is a strange thing that has happened. In India we never allow any foreigner to campaign in our domestic elections, and our PM going there and virtually campaigning for President Trump for his reelection and raising the same slogan used in India — as 'Abki baar Trump ki Sarkar'. This is something that's unprecedented," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury told reporters.

He said as the head of the executive and the Government in India this is something that we would not have permitted anyone to do in our country.

It is believed that Modi's pitch will greatly help the Republican Trump in winning votes of nearly four million Indian-Americans, who have traditionally voted for the Democrat Party.

"An Indian PM campaigning for the US President? Our PM has become the election campaigner for Trump, that is the outcome of 'Howdy, Modi'," said CPI general secretary D Raja.

CPI(M) leader Mohammed Salim said while the US is allowing one per cent of its population of NRI Indians to gather and meet their leader, Modi was denying such rights to the people of Kashmir.

BJP: Cong peeved at massive success of Houston event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Describing the 'Howdy Modi' event at Houston as "unprecedented" and "history in the making", the BJP on Monday said it has left an indelible footprint of a stronger India on the world map and thanked Prime Minister's leadership which, it said, brought the entire world stand firmly with India in its decisive fight against the menace of terrorism.

The BJP also countered Congress' criticism with its IT cell head Amit Malviya saying some in the Congress are peeved at the massive success of Howdy Modi but to allege that the PM interfered in US elections is preposterous.

"A historic day in world politics! Leaders of the two most powerful democracies shared their ideas & dreams for a prosperous world together in a way that one has never seen before. #HowdyModi was unprecedented. It has left an indelible footprint of a stronger India on world map," BJP president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted.

In a reference to Modi's attack on Pakistan over the issue of terrorism, he said the message to the world is loud and clear that this "new India" will leave no stone unturned to keep the country safe and united.

Thanks to Modi's leadership, the entire world today stands firmly with India in its decisive fight against the menace of terrorism, Shah said, asserting that the prime minister's popularity has soared across the globe. It is a recognition of the people of India. The grand event is testimony of India's power under Modi, he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the event in Houston has reignited shared Indian-American dreams and their bright futures. "The oldest and largest democracies joined hands today giving us hope and a promising future. It was history in the making," he said.

Modi along with Trump on Sunday addressed a large public rally of an Indian diaspora at Houston in South-East Texas and went on to recall how the latter as the Republican presidential candidate had used "Ab ki baar Trump Sarkar", an improvised tag line from the BJP's "Ab ki baar Modi Sarkar" campaign in the 2014 Lok Sabha poll. US polls are due next year. Some Congressmen in the US have reportedly taken exception to what they saw as Modi's campaign-like address in favour of Trump.

Most of the 30 lakh Indians in the US had in the last US presidential poll largely voted for Trump's main opponent Hillary Clinton, wife of former American president Bill Clinton.

With the main opposition Congress accusing Modi of campaigning for Trump, Malviya took a dig at the Opposition while calling its charge preposterous. "I can understand some in the Congress are peeved at the massive success of Howdy Modi but to allege that the PM interfered in US elections is preposterous!"

"He referred to the 'Ab ki Baar Trump Sarkar' slogan and its resonance with the Indian-American community back in 2016! Listen," the BJP's IT department head said while posting a clipping of the prime minister's speech.

INSHORT

GOVT EMPLOYEES KIN TO GET HIKED PENSION

New Delhi: The families of government employees dying after serving less than seven years will get enhanced pension now with the Centre amending rules. The move is likely to benefit the widows of Central Armed Police Forces personnel. Earlier, the government employees should have rendered at least seven years of service in case of death so that the family could get the enhanced family pension at 50 per cent of the last pay drawn. Now, even with less than seven years of service, families, in case of death, will get enhanced family pension.

CEC ARORA CAUTIONS POLL OBSERVERS



New Delhi: Even the most "minor mistakes" committed at times have the potential to spiral into avoidable news reporting, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora cautioned observers appointed for the Maharashtra and Haryana polls on Monday, urging them to strictly follow standard operating procedures.

CBI ARRESTS CGST INSPECTOR FOR BRIBERY

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested an inspector of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Department in Dhanbad for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹50,000 to settle a pending enquiry. According to CBI, Jeetan Das, an inspector in the CGST department, had allegedly demanded ₹2 lakh for settling the enquiry in complainant's favour. The amount was allegedly brought down to Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000 was the first instalment to be paid to Das, CBI said.

PRODUCE MUSLIM GIRL BEFORE COURT: SC TO UP

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Uttar Pradesh Government to produce before it a 16-year-old Muslim girl, who is presently being kept at a children's home in Lucknow after her marriage was declared void by the Allahabad High Court, and pulled up the State for not instructing its lawyers on her appeal.

Ex-PM, Sonia meet PC in Tihar Jail

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday met former Finance Minister P Chidambaram in Tihar Jail, where he has been lodged since September 5 in connection with the INX media case. Chidambaram later tweeted through his family: "As long as the @INXIndia party is strong and brave, I will also be strong and brave."

Sources said that Manmohan and Sonia reached Tihar at around 7 and went directly to jail number 7 where they spoke to Chidambaram for about half an hour.

The sources said the visiting leaders also enquired about Chidambaram's health and welfare. The two Congress leaders were accompanied by Karti Chidambaram, the former Finance minister's son who is also a Lok Sabha MP. Chidambaram, who had asked his family to tweet on his behalf, said he was honoured that the two leaders visited him.

Congress has maintained that Chidambaram's arrest is a witch hunt by the Modi government. P Chidambaram was sent to Tihar jail by the Rouse Avenue Court. Chidambaram has been allotted a single high security cell inside Tihar.

Karti expressed his gratitude to the two Congress leaders for meeting his father. "My father and I are extremely grateful to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former prime minister Manmohan Singhji for visiting us today. This will give us the strength and support in this political fight," he said after the meeting.

Last week, leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and Congress leader Ahmed Patel had visited Chidambaram in a show of solidarity.

Chidambaram was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on August 21 in INX media case. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has also accused Chidambaram of taking a bribe to allow foreign investment into INX Media.

4 SC judges take oath of office

New Delhi: Four new Supreme Court judges took oath of office on Monday, taking the total strength of judges in the apex court to 34.

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi administered the oath of office and secrecy to justices Krishna Murari, S Ravindra Bhat, V Ramasubramanian and Hrishikesh Roy in a simple function in courtroom 1.

The appointment takes the number of judges in the apex court to the total sanctioned strength of 34, including the CJI, Justices Murari and Bhat headed the Punjab and Haryana and Rajasthan high courts respectively. Justices Ramasubramanian and Roy headed the Himachal Pradesh and Kerala high courts respectively.

With a huge backlog of cases in the top court, the Centre had last Wednesday cleared the names of the four high court chief justices who were recommended by the apex court Collegium on August 30 for elevation. *PTI*

SC to hear plea of 17 disqualified Karnataka MLAs on Monday

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday agreed to hear the plea of 17 disqualified Karnataka MLAs who are seeking to contest by-polls for 15 Assembly seats in the state.

A three-judge Bench, headed by justice N V Ramana, said it would hear on September 25 the plea in which the disqualified MLAs have sought interim relief to contest the by-elections.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the disqualified MLAs, told the bench that as per the disqualification orders of the then Speaker KR Ramesh Kumar, these persons cannot contest elections for the remaining term of the current Assembly which will end in 2023.

Meanwhile, the counsel representing the Election Commission, told the bench that by-polls for 15 vacant Assembly seats have been notified and the court should not stay the elections.

The EC's counsel also said the Speaker's order disqualify-

ing these MLAs cannot deprive them of their right to contest by-polls.

Kumar had disqualified the MLAs which eventually led to the fall of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government headed by the then chief minister HD Kumaraswamy.

Kumaraswamy resigned as the Chief Minister after losing a trust vote, which paved the way for the BJP-led Government in the southern state under Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

The lawmakers have approached the apex court, challenging Kumar's decision to disqualify them.

Some of them have contended in their pleas that the decision taken by Kumar before resigning as the speaker was an entirely illegal, arbitrary and mala fide exercise of his power under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. They have also questioned Kumar's decision to reject their resignations by holding that those were not voluntary and genuine. *PTI*

Apex court pulls up Kerala Govt for not complying with orders

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up the Kerala Government for not complying with its orders to demolish four apartment complexes constructed at Kochi's Maradu in violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notifications.

The top court said it is shocked to know about illegal structures coming up in coastal zone areas and said the chief secretary should conduct a survey to gauge the extent of devastation caused to nature.

A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said it will pass a detailed order on Friday on the issue. "Have you any idea how many people have died due to floods and devastation caused to the environment. You are playing with nature. Thousands of people have died in devastations. How many houses have you built for victims. Yet illegal structures continue to come up in coastal areas," the bench told the Chief Secretary of the state.

The bench said the conduct of the chief secretary is of

defiance and now he stands in great difficulty.

"What is happening there we know. We will fix responsibility on those responsible. This is a colossal loss. It's a high tide area and hundreds of illegal structures have come up in the coastal zone," the bench said.

It said the chief secretary has not indicated in his affidavit as to how much time is needed to comply with apex court order. "We will pass a detailed order on Friday," the bench said.

In an affidavit, the chief secretary of Kerala had assured the top court that its order would be complied with and the process for selecting a specialised agency for "controlled implosion" to demolish the buildings is underway.

The top court had earlier asked the state government to file a compliance report before it by September 20 failing which the Chief Secretary will have to be present before it on September 23. *PTI*

Govt estimates slightly lower Kharif yield of 141m tonnes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Due to erratic and excessive rainfall this year, the Ministry of Agriculture has estimated foodgrain (rice and pulses) production to be slightly lower at 140.57 million tonnes in the Kharif crop season of 2019-20 as sowing of the kharif (summer) crops is almost complete and harvesting will begin from October onwards.

According to the first advance estimates of Kharif crops production, released by the Ministry of Agriculture, rice output has been pegged at 100.35 million tonnes for the kharif season of the 2019-20 crop year, lower than 102.13 million tonnes in the year-ago period.

"The foodgrains production stood at 141.71 million tonnes (MT) in the kharif season of the 2018-19 crop year (July-June) and it is expected to be lower at 140.57 million tonnes in 2019-20," the first advance estimates said.

Notably, the research

agency Crisil and private weather forecaster Skymet Weather Services had predicted that food production may go down slightly as compared to last year, NCML, India's largest post-harvest services firm, felt that it may rise slightly. Rice, pulses and coarse cereals comprise of the foodgrain basket. Floods in rice-growing States such as Assam and Bihar and a rain deficit in West Bengal and other Eastern States may adversely hit rice output.

The Ministry releases four estimates at different stages of production and harvest. Pulses production has been estimated to be lower at 8.23 million tonnes as against 8.59 million tonnes. The production of coarse cereals, however, has been estimated higher at 32 million tonnes in the kharif season of this year from 30.99 million tonnes in the same season previous year.

Among cash crops, cotton output has been pegged at 32.27 million bales of 170 kg each for the 2019-20 crop year,

similar to 32.26 million bales achieved in the previous year. Jute output has been estimated at 9.96 million bales of 180 kg each as against 9.95 million bales in the previous year. Even sugarcane production has been pegged at 377.7 million tonnes for the current year, similar to what was achieved last year.

The IMD had predicted a normal monsoon. There was a delay in the onset of southwest monsoon but later it picked up. However, states like Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, and Maharashtra are hit by floods due to heavy rains that have impacted kharif crops. Presently, India recorded 889 mm rainfall as against the normal of 849.2 mm, an increase of 5 per cent so far.

Production of most of the crops for the agricultural year 2019-20 has been estimated higher than their normal production. However, these estimates would undergo revision based on further feedback from the states.

Gap between Govt, people must go, says President

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As he met a group of 169 IAS officers of the 2017 batch at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday said the gap between the Government and the people must go.

The officers are currently attached to different ministries and departments as assistant secretaries.

The President told the group that while discharging their responsibilities, they would have to look at approaches that give optimum results, the Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson said in a statement.

"They must emphasise on teamwork and take everybody along and recognise everybody's contribution. And while they do so, they must lead and be a role-model. They must also encourage greater people's participation in socio-economic programmes, especially where they are dealing with mindsets and attitudes," Kovind said.



He said administration is no more about "us" and "them" but only about "us" and "us together". The gap between the Government and people must go, the President said adding that the officers' approach should be people-sensitive and people-centric. "We are duty bound to enhance 'Ease of Living' for our people," Kovind said.

"IAS officers are at the cutting-edge of implementation

and their role is paramount if India is to transform itself to a five-trillion economy, to double farm-income, to achieve social justice and to make women equal stakeholders in our progress," he said.

The officers have worked hard and with sincerity to reach thus far in life, Kovind said, adding that they must continue with the same zeal and dedication to serve the people of India.

Lavasa's wife under I-T dept scanner

New Delhi: Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's wife Novel Singhal Lavasa has come under the scanner of the Income Tax Department on charges of alleged tax evasion, official sources said on Monday.

Lavasa's wife has been issued a notice by the department to explain certain details in her IT Returns (ITR) with regard to holding directorship in about 10 companies, they said. The officials said after preliminary investigation, the tax department has asked her to provide more documents related to her personal finances. The department is looking at the ITRs of Novel Singhal Lavasa to ascertain if her income has escaped assessment in the past or something has been concealed from tax authorities, they said. The probe into alleged tax evasion and holding of directorship in multiple firms against the former banker pertains to a time period between 2015-17, they said. *PTI*

BJP-RSS leaders' murder: 3 Hizbul ultras arrested

Key conspirators still at large

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

As key conspirators responsible for killings of BJP leader and RSS functionary in Kishtwar still at large, the Jammu & Kashmir Police on Monday claimed to have solved the 'sensational' case following the arrest of three close aides of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists.



According to police, all three local terrorists, arrested recently from Kishtwar, had provided logistics support to the key conspirators to execute their terror plots aimed at reviving militancy in the region.

Police also claimed the same set of people, who had hatched a conspiracy to revive militancy in the hilly district, were behind two weapon snatching incidents reported in the last six months in Kishtwar. Terrorists snatched service weapon of PSO attached with DC, Kishtwar in March this year and another incident of weapon snatching was reported on September 13 where three terrorists ran away with service weapon of a PSO attached with district President of PDP Adv Sheikh Nasir.

Addressing a Press conference in Jammu, Inspector General of Police (Jammu range) Mukesh Singh said, "three Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists have been arrested for their involvement in four ter-

ror-related cases. He said they were part of the HM group responsible for the killings of BJP leader Anil Parihar along with his brother Ajeet Parihar on November 1, 2018 and RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his PSO Rajinder Kumar in April 2019".

Mukesh Singh, flanked by senior Army and State police officers, told reporters at Zonal Police headquarters, the terror-related incidents were part of a conspiracy hatched in 2017-18 to revive militancy in the Chenab Valley region comprising Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts.

Labelling Jehangir Saroori, one of the most active terrorist of the Hizbul Mujahideen in the area, as the mastermind behind the conspiracy, Singh said he conspired with Nisar Ahmed Sheikh, Osama and others to revive Hizbul Mujahideen in Chenab valley. Under this plan they first decided to eliminate BJP leader Anil Parihar last year to spread

reign of terror in the area. Rustam, a resident of Kishtwar, was also a part of the group. Rustam, Singh said, built hideouts in the houses of Nishad Ahmed and Azad Hussain, which were used before and after every terror-related incident in Kishtwar region in over one year.

"We have arrested Nisar Ahmed Sheikh, Nishad Ahmed and Azad Hussain. On their disclosures, their hideouts were raided and arms and ammunition including magazines, rifles and pistols were recovered from them," he added.

Singh said investigations were on and more arrests were likely in the days to come. "Our effort is to arrest all terrorists 'active' in the region and we will arrest them soon. In this entire exercise, the army, NIA and CRPF played a major role," he said.

Mukesh Singh also warned against people giving shelter to terrorists and said that whoever helped them will be dealt with sternly.

Army recovers 40 kg of explosives in Kathua

Jammu: The Army on Monday recovered over 40 kg of explosives in Jammu & Kashmir's Kathua district and the agencies are probing possible terror angle, officials said.



On a specific information, the Army troops launched a search operation and raided a house of one Khalil in Dewal village of Malhar belt in Billawar tehsil, an officer said. As Khalil's wife saw the approaching troops, she tried to take the two bags carrying gunpowder explosives out of the house but was caught, he said. The bags weighing 20 kg each were seized, he added.

The Army was keeping a close watch on the activities of Khalil for some time, the officer said.

One person has been detained and is being questioned about the recovery, he added. PTI

Gen Rawat rejects claims of clampdown on J&K

Chennai: The chief of Army staff General Bipin Rawat on Monday rejected claims of a clampdown in Jammu & Kashmir and asserted that it was a facade put up by terrorists to project a false picture of "harsh measures" to the outside world.



In reality, the violence and killings were down and the terrorists were being kept at bay, he told reporters. While communication lines are through for the people, there is a breakdown for handlers of terrorists in Pakistan and their associates in the valley, he said.

Also, arrangements are in place for the security forces to talk to their families and there is no communication breakdown, he said. Assuring further gradual easing of the situation, he said, "to say there is a clam-

pdown, I don't agree with this."

Listing out a whole gamut of economic activities in the Kashmir valley, from movement of apple laden trucks to other parts of the country, operation of brick kilns and sand transportation through trucks after its procurement from the Jhelum river, he said "obviously people are coming out."

Flights were being operated in and out of Srinagar and other modes of transport like taxis were functional, he said and wanted to know if these could happen in a lockdown scenario. PTI

50 DAYS OF KASHMIR CLAMPDOWN

Apple traders operate under terror threat, hope for restrictions to end

Srinagar: With virtually no business being transacted for 50 days, small-scale entrepreneurs and apple traders on Monday said they were desperately hoping for an end to the clampdown in the Kashmir Valley and are unable to cope with threats from terror groups.



The Valley, which was brought under a virtual curfew with communication networks snapped on August 5 after the Government abrogated special status to Jammu & Kashmir, has seen little difference in the last seven weeks as public transport is still not available and schools waiting for students to collect assignments.

The apple trade, which is the lifeline of a majority of people in North Kashmir's Sopore and three districts of South Kashmir, has taken a hit. There is a shortfall of 30,000 tonnes till September.

The figures till mid-September in 2018 was 80,000 tonnes and this year, it is a little less than 50,000 tonnes, the officials said.

The reasons: Threats by terror groups, beating of orchard owners and burning down of trucks ferrying the fruit outside the Valley.

"We have been sending messages to the police but nothing is forthcoming on the ground, other than tall claims from top police officials in the media," a trader from militancy-infested Shopian district of South Kashmir said.

The trader, who did not

wish to be identified, said he had managed to take his fruit to New Delhi during the night and earn around ₹60,000.

"On my return, three militants approached me and gave me a choice. Either damaging my truck or getting ready to be shot in the leg. I had no option... It will take around ₹1.5 lakh for me to refurbish the vehicle again," he said.

Showing the ready to plucked apples at his orchard, he said, "I am too scared now."

There are similar stories of other apple orchard owners who have claimed that they have been unable to sell their product because of threat from the terror groups.

Police said that till mid-September, at least 40 incidents of apple orchard owners, labourers and vehicle operators being beaten up or threatened by the terror groups have been reported.

"Why have the anti-terror operations ended. Why is police not being able to find out the real culprits behind the posters and threats?" says Isaq Ahmed, an apple

orchard owner in south Kashmir.

Many officials, orchard owners and other business owners feel the government should act with firmness and end the stalemate and establish the rule of law.

Though restrictions at various places in the Valley have been lifted by and large, the clampdown, which started on August 5, on communication, including mobile phones and internet, remain in force and there are no plans to lift them in the near future, officials said.

Landlines had been activated in the entire Kashmir valley but the number of civilian subscribers was little over 18,000 while nearly 30,000 were Government, business establishments, schools, hospitals and hotels.

Farooq Khan, adviser to the Jammu & Kashmir governor, had made it clear earlier that examinations would be held on time. The exams are generally held in last week of October or early November. PTI

HC dismisses Asaram's plea for suspension of sentence

Jodhpur: The Jodhpur High Court on Monday dismissed self-styled godman Asaram's plea for suspension of sentence in a rape case after it was withdrawn as not pressed.

"We decided to 'not press' the application for suspension of sentence after brief arguments," said Pradeep Choudhary, counsel for Asaram.

However, a division bench of justices Sandeep Mehta and VK Mathur, agreed to hear arguments on appeal against sentence. "We had also prayed to begin hearing on our appeal against the sentence and the court granting our plea and listed it for hearing in second week of January next year," he said.

This is the second plea of Asaram which has been withdrawn as not pressed. PTI

Saradha scam: Kumar files anticipatory bail plea in Calcutta HC

Kolkata: Former Kolkata police commissioner Rajeev Kumar on Monday filed an anticipatory bail petition before the Calcutta High Court in the multi-crore Saradha chitfund scam case, days after a district court rejected his prayer.

The plea is likely to be moved by Kumar's lawyers before a division bench of the high court on Tuesday.

A CBI lawyer said the agency has been served a copy of the petition by Kumar's counsel. Kumar, who is now the Additional Director General in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), had on Saturday suffered a setback in Alipore district sessions court which dismissed his anticipatory bail plea.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had claimed that Kumar is not cooperating with it in the probe and had been evading appearance before its investigation team on frivolous grounds.

Countering the assertion, the senior IPS officer's counsel said he is not a fugitive and has taken leave from September one to 25.

On Thursday, the agency had moved the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM), seeking arrest warrant against Kumar.

The court had, however, told the CBI that it does not need its warrant as the Supreme Court and the Calcutta HC have already lifted bar on his arrest in the chit fund case. PTI

Deja vu 90s as Kashmiris throng makeshift phone booths

Srinagar: Faisal Ahmad walked five kilometres from his home in Rainawari in downtown Srinagar to a makeshift telephone booth in the upscale Jawahar Nagar to make a voice call to his brother who works in Qatar.

Faisal says a few PCOs (Public Call Offices) have come up in the old city area following the communication blockade that has been in place since Article 370 was revoked

in August, but they lack ISD facility. Though most landlines across the Valley have been restored, that has not eased the troubles facing people like Faisal.

"I have been trying to call my brother since the morning, but lines are down and I am not able to speak to him," he said. "I will keep trying. It's the second time I have come to this PCO to talk to my brother since August 5," he added

With mobile phones and internet snapped across the Valley, it's deja vu 90s for most Kashmiris, who have converted their landlines into makeshift phone booths.

There are long lines of people outside PCOs, most which have come up in the Civil Lines area of Srinagar. They charge Rs 2 for an STD call, and Rs 20 a minute for an international call. Younis has also started a

makeshift PCO from his consultancy in Lal Mandi. Though his PCO has come as a big relief to people in the vicinity, Younis says business is not his sole purpose.

"It is also to help people to communicate with their loved ones. There are many people who come to us and don't have money to make phone calls, we understand business activities in Kashmir have stopped, so we don't really

force people to pay for making calls," he said. The Government has opened phone facilities in police stations, but people are reluctant to make calls from police stations.

"It is awkward for women to go to a police station for making a phone call, it is any day better to do that from a PCO," said Nahida waiting for her turn at a PCO. Desperate times do call for desperate measures, but not in a man-made crisis. IANS

ABVP's march to JU stopped; 3 cops, 6 ABVP activists injured

Kolkata: ABVP activists on Monday pelted stones at policemen injuring three of them and tried to break barricades after their protest rally to Jadavpur University here was stopped midway, sources said.



Leaders of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) also alleged that six of their workers were injured when police threw stones at them, a charge denied by police.

The students' wing of the RSS took out the rally from Gariahat area in south Kolkata to protest against the September 19 attack on Union minister Babul Supriyo on Jadavpur University campus.

As soon as the procession reached Jodhpur Park, around 2 kilometres away, the police stopped them by putting up barricades on the road, the sources said.

The protesters pelted stones to the policemen and tried to break the barricades.

Raising slogans against the Trinamool Congress government, they squatted on the road for an hour. They lifted the road blockade around an hour later. Police sources said three of their personnel were injured in the stone pelting.

The ABVP claimed that its six activists were injured when police pelted stones at them, but the police denied the allegation. PTI

Students of the Jadavpur University also held a programme outside its campus during the day to protest vandalism of a building at the institute by alleged ABVP workers on Thursday.

On that day, Supriyo was heckled and held up for several hours by the students of the university, where he had gone to attend a seminar organised by the ABVP. PTI

Will not apologise to Supriyo: JU Student

Kolkata: The student who had allegedly pulled Union Minister Babul Supriyo's hair during an agitation by Left wing students at Jadavpur University said on Monday that there is no question of his apologising as he did not do it intentionally.

Debanjan Ballav, a student of Sanskrit College and member of Left radical United Democratic Students Front (UDSF), told reporters that it was Babul Supriyo who had threatened and abused him when he wanted to speak of the concerns about lakhs of people who were rendered homeless due to the NRC exercise in Assam.

Babul Supriyo had assured the student's ailing mother that no action will be taken against her son for his action.

"As I went forward and put the question to the minister, who was gesturing and arguing with students for showing him black flags, Mr Babul Supriyo became aggressive and instead asked me if I knew the full form

of NRC. As he continued to speak in a rude manner, I protested and in the melee his security guards pushed me," Ballav claimed.

The student said that he had lost balance when he was pushed and might have touched the minister's hair while trying to straighten himself. "It was unintentional. The video which went viral showing me pulling the union minister's hair has been distorted by BJP's IT cell. The video made it appear as if I had lunged towards him (the union minister) and pulled him by his hair," he said.

"There is no question of apologising to the central minister as I had not done anything wrong that day," he said.

Asked about his presence at JU on Thursday, Ballav claimed that he was there to attend a UDSF programme and joined the protest by its students in solidarity to "stop the entry of fascist forces in educational institutions". PTI

84 hours left for nominations, BJP-Sena yet to reach consensus on seat-sharing

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

With just 84 hours left for filing the nominations for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the ruling BJP and Shiv Sena are yet to reach any consensus regarding seat-sharing for the October 21 polls.

The ruling BJP appeared to be playing hard ball, sending waves of anxiety in somewhat upset Shiv Sena camp.

Though Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Monday that the saffron alliance partners would reach a deal between them, the ruling BJP apparently kept the Shiv Sena on tenterhooks in an effort to force the latter agree to its terms in the seat tie-up. Suddenly, there seems to be

a trust deficit between the two saffron alliance partners. On its part, the Shiv Sena has not taken kindly to the fact that BJP national president Amit Shah, in his speech at party workers' rally in Mumbai on Sunday, chose not to mention the name of the Shiv Sena but said that the NDA would get three-fourth of majority in the State Assembly polls. He also chose to announce that incumbent Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis would return as the Chief Minister after the Assembly polls.

Ahead of Shah's visit to Mumbai on Sunday, there was speculation in the state political circles that he would meet Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and formalise the seat-sharing tie-up for the

Assembly polls. However, Shah left Mumbai after the BJP workers' rally, without meeting Uddhav, a development apparently miffed the Sena leadership to no end.

No wonder that the Sena, in an editorial published its official mouth-piece 'Saamana' on Monday, took a dig at Shah for giving more importance to the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution than the State issues ahead of the State Assembly polls. Shah asked the voters to those opposing the annulment of Article 370 to "show their place".

In its editorial, the Sena mouth-piece sarcastically wrote: "Shah said that during the last five years, Fadnavis has taken Maharashtra ahead in the fields of investments, agri-



culture, industry and health. He went on to announce that Fadnavis would be the next Chief Minister of

Maharashtra. That being the case, the Maharashtra Assembly polls have become a mere formality. The people

have just to press EVMs buttons".

Addressing a news conference in Mumbai, Fadnavis said on Monday: "We will announce the BJP-Sena seat-sharing pact soon. We (BJP and Sena) will soon hold seat-sharing talks".

What has surprised many as to why there has been such a delay on the BJP's part in formalising seat-sharing tie-up with the Shiv Sena.

On its part, the BJP has long side-stepped the earlier seat-sharing formula between them of sharing 135 seats each between them after leaving the remaining 18 seats allies had come cropper. Three days ago, BJP State president Chandrakant Patil said that no formula had been finalised on the sharing of seats for the

Assembly polls.

The BJP is no mood to allocate 135 seats to the Shiv Sena on the ground that since it had won 122 seats as against 63 seats won by the Sena in the 2014 polls, it deserved more number of seats than the Uddhav Thackeray-led party.

The BJP has thrown hints that it would offer anywhere from 110 to 120 seats to the Shiv Sena.

On its part, the Sena has reportedly pushed a new formula — under which it would get 126 seat, while the BJP would keep 162 seats. From its quota of 162 seats, the BJP would allocate seats to various allies in the BJP-Sena combined 'Maha Yuti' (grand alliance). The BJP has reservations in accepting the 126

(Sena):162 (BJP+allies) formula. The BJP, which is confident of returning to power in the state, has hinted that it has Plan-B of contesting all the 288 seats in the state ready.

The delay in the formalisation of seat pact with it, coupled with the indirect manner in which Shah snubbed its leadership, has put the Shiv Sena on the defensive.

The writing in the wall for the Shiv Sena is: If it wants to contest the Assembly polls in alliance with the BJP, the Sena will have to accept whatever the number of seats offered by the principal ruling in the state and at the Centre.

A final picture about the fate of the BJP-Sena alliance will emerge in the next 48 hours.

No stay on student's arrest: HC

Rape accused Chinmayanand shifted to Lucknow hospital

Allahabad/Lucknow: The Allahabad High Court on Monday refused to grant relief to the Shahjahanpur student seeking a stay on her possible arrest in an extortion case filed by BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, who is accused of raping her.



Chinmayanand, who was arrested on Friday, was shifted on Monday from a Shahjahanpur jail to a Lucknow hospital, where he was tested for cardiac problems.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case submitted a report in a sealed cover before a two-judge Bench.

Expressing satisfaction with the probe so far, the Bench of Justices Manoj Mishra and Manju Rani Chauhan fixed October 22 for the probe team to submit the next report. The woman was also present in the court room.

The postgraduate law student had sought a stay on her arrest after the SIT booked her and arrested three men for allegedly trying to extort money from Chinmayanand.

"If the victim wants any relief in this regard, she may file a fresh petition before an appropriate Bench," the High Court said.

"This Bench was nominated to the case only for monitoring the investigation in this matter and has no jurisdiction to pass order on stay of arrest."

The woman, who studied at a college run by Chinmayanand's ashram, has alleged she was raped and physically exploited by the former

Union Minister for a over a year. She first mentioned about harassment by him in a video clip uploaded on social media last month.

The Supreme Court had on September 2 taken suo motu cognizance of the case and directed the high court to monitor the investigation. The SIT was also formed by the Uttar Pradesh government on the directions of the apex court.

Meanwhile, Chinmayanand has been admitted to the intensive care unit of the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute (SGPGI) in Lucknow, where cardiologists examined him, Jail Superintendent Rakesh Kumar said.

Hospital Chief Medical Superintendent Amit Agarwal said angiography was done and no significant blockage was found, adding that angioplasty was not required.

The chest pain Chinmayanand suffered from was linked to his diabetes, Agarwal said.

The 72-year-old will be stabilised with medicines in four or

five days and his discharge will be planned in due course of time, according to the doctor.

Doctors in Shahjahanpur had earlier referred the Bharatiya Janata Party leader to Lucknow for angiography in view of his health condition, according to jail sources.

Chinmayanand was arrested on Friday and sent to 14 days' judicial custody. He has been booked under sections 354 D (stalking), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code.

Instead of Section 376 (rape), the 72-year-old has been booked under Section 376 C, which is usually applied in cases where a person abuses his position to "induce or seduce" a woman under his charge to have "sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape".

If proved, a rape charge can lead to punishment of up to life imprisonment, while someone convicted under Section 376C can be jailed for between five and 10 years. **PTI**

The woman had claimed that the police were trying to weaken the case against the ruling party politician.

The high court on Monday found that the investigation was going on in a proper way, adding that even the student had not made any allegation in her application regarding irregularities in the investigation.

The bench also did not accept a second prayer by the woman, who sought permission to record a rectified or a fresh statement under Section 164 of the Code Of Criminal Procedure as she said her earlier statement made before the magistrate was not proper.

The court observed that there was no allegation against the magistrate concerned nor any provision had been shown for recording a rectified statement of the woman.

According to the court, the only allegation made was that the woman's signature was obtained only on the last page instead on each page of her statement.

The bench said there was also no allegation against a woman, who was present while the student's statement was being recorded. It added that the woman was apparently present in the chamber so that student may feel comfortable during the recording of the statement.

Meanwhile, some women's organisations in Lucknow came out in support of the law student, demanding invoking of Section 376 (2) against Chinmayanand and transfer of the case to Delhi. **PTI**

TO WOO BENGAL

Shah to inaugurate Durga Pujas in Kolkata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Apparently taking a cue from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and having become aware of the growing political significance of modern Durga Pujas of Bengal, the State BJP has decided to bring Home Minister Amit Shah to Kolkata to inaugurate Durga Pujas, party sources said.

Shah is likely to come to Kolkata on October 1 when he will hold a party meeting "most probably" at the Netaji Indoor Stadium and "if we do not find a place there, then at another facility at Salt Lake," State BJP sources said.

After the meeting the Home Minister is likely to inaugurate at least four Durga

Pujas in Kolkata on October 2, sources said adding "a request had been sent to Amit Shah ji and he has accepted the invitation to inaugurate the Pujas."

Party acting president JP Nadda is also likely to come on the Mahalaya Day on September 28 when he will perform the Tarpan at the Ganges, party sources said.

On the necessity of bringing Shah to inaugurate the

Pujas making them a political affair State party president said "if the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee can go around inaugurating 100s of Pujas why cannot Amit Shah ji do the same?" adding "if there is no politics in Mamata Banerjee's inauguration of Durga Pujas then there should be no politics in Mr Shah's inaugurating the Pujas too."

Reacting to the BJP's plans to rope in the Home Minister during the Pujas senior State Minister Firhad Hakim said "Durga Pujas are a community affair and the local people who are associated with it take part in them. It is a year-long programme if you talk about the preparations. The local organisers, some of who are politi-

cians plan and organize the Pujas and prepare for it for a full year. This is a practice we have been seeing for the past several decades. Amit Shah is a rank outsider who is trying to reap political benefit without taking part in it."

Hakim who also organizes a famous Durga Pujas under the banner of Chetla Agrani club said "When compared to Mamata Banerjee she has been inaugurating and organizing Pujas for decades and after becoming the Chief Minister the number of Pujas she inaugurates has only increased but this is not a new thing with her. But in case of Mr Amit Shah people will not accept him and they will see through his political designs."

Former Maoist leader killed in Bihar



Gaya: A former Maoist leader has been killed in Bihar's Gaya district, police said on Monday.

Middle-aged Sarekha Yadav, a former self-styled commander of CPI(Maoist), was killed with a sharp weapon at Harahi village under Bhadwar police station limits on Sunday night, a senior officer said.

A family feud could be the reason behind the murder, Senior Superintendent of Police Rajiv Mishra said, adding that the deceased had been imprisoned for his association with the banned outfit.

Police have started an investigation after lodging an FIR, the SSP said.

The body has been sent to Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College and Hospital here for post-mortem, he added. **PTI**

Elgar Parishad: No proof against Ferreira, lawyer tells Bombay HC



Mumbai: Activist Arun Ferreira, an accused in the Elgar Parishad-Koregaon Bhima case, on Monday told the Bombay High Court there was no evidence that he and others were creating a "war-like situation" against the Government.

Ferreira's lawyer, Sudeep Pasbala, told Justice Sarang Kotwal that nothing in the chargesheet filed by the Pune police or the digital evidence gathered by them, nor the statements of witnesses point to any incriminating evidence against his client.

"There is no evidence to show that he (Ferreira) or the other accused in the case were trying to create a war-like situation in the country, waging war against the Government or instigating anyone to do so," Pasbala submitted.

Justice Kotwal is hearing the bail pleas filed by Ferreira and his two co-accused, Sudha Bharadwaj and Vernon Gonsalves.

The three are among nine activists arrested in the case last

The lawyer said the books and other articles seized from Ferreira's house cannot be described as incriminating.

"None of the books seized from his house are banned by the government," he said. "All that these books show is that Ferreira has an academic interest in the Marxist ideology or is inspired by it."

The lawyer contended that the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an anti-terror act, cannot be applied in this case.

"How can they level charges of terrorism when there has been no terrorist attack?" Pasbala asked, arguing for bail to his client.

The bench will hear arguments of the prosecution on October 1. According to the police, the Elgar Parishad conclave was funded by Maoists. The accused in the case have been charged with "waging war against the government", spreading the ideology of their banned organisation, creating caste conflict, disaffection, and hatred in the society. **PTI**

Shame on BJP for creating panic over NRC in WB: Mamata

Kolkata: Accusing the BJP of creating panic over NRC, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday claimed spectre of National Register of Citizens implementation has led to six deaths in the state.

Addressing a trade unions' meet here, the TMC supremo iterated she will not allow NRC exercise in the state.

"NRC exercise will not be carried out in Bengal or anywhere else in country, it was conducted in Assam due to Assam accord."

Even Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, where there is a NDA government) has said he won't allow NRC in his state. If BJP is so keen on NRC why don't they conduct the exercise in the BJP ruled Tripura, you will see Tripura Chief Minister (Biplab Deb) himself is out of the list," she asserted. The Assam Accord, an agreement signed in 1985 between the then Rajiv Gandhi government and the All Assam Students' Union, had ended a six-year mass movement against immigrants alleged to have settled illegally from Bangladesh.

"Shame on the BJP for creating panic over NRC in Bengal, it has led to six deaths. Have faith in me, I will never allow the exercise in Bengal. BJP should stop spreading false rumours and canards over NRC."

"Who are they to ask for my papers? After so many years where from will I get my papers, documents might get washed away in natural calamity or it might get misplaced," Banerjee said, without elaborating further.

According to the state

government sources, so far six people have died in several districts of Bengal with two of them allegedly committing suicide after failing to get hold of old documents and four others died after falling ill while standing in the queue with thousands of other villagers at government offices to get their documents.

More than 19 lakh people in Assam have been excluded from the recently published final NRC, a proof of Indian citizenship.

Criticising the saffron party for "undermining democratic values" in the country, the chief minister said, "Democracy exists in Bengal but it is under threat in several other parts of the country."

The BJP is not talking about job losses or the downward spiral of Indian economy, all it wants to do is serve own political interests, she alleged. "A rally will be taken out on October 18 against privatisation and shutting down of public sector units across the country. I will take part in it. On September 26-27, we would conduct protest rallies in the city against privatisation," the TMC chief stated.

The Central Government is planning disinvestment of 42 PSUs, out of which many of them are profit making. The centre is even planning privatisation of Ordnance factories, this will have a disastrous impact on India's defence mechanism and compromise national security, she said.

"I believe protests are important in a democracy. The day protests lose their value, India will stop being India", she said. **PTI**

Implement NRC in Raj to weed out illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, says BJP MLA

Jaipur: BJP MLA and former minister Vasudev Devnani has urged the Union government to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Rajasthan to get rid of Bangladeshi immigrants "illegally" staying in the state.

The former education minister recently wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and claimed that the NRC was needed in the state as several Bangladeshi nationals have illegally settled in Ajmer, Jaipur, Kota, Udaipur, Jodhpur and other districts.

Devnani, who represents the Ajmer north assembly constituency, pointed out that several Bangladeshi nationals come to his constituency posing as pilgrims to visit the Ajmer Sharif Dargah.

Instead of returning, they stay back and work as labourers without revealing their real



identities, the legislator alleged.

He mentioned that many such illegal Bangladeshis have illegally encroached upon land and constructed houses in Ajmer.

Some have even managed to obtain government IDs by furnishing fake documents and were involved in criminal activities like theft and loot which is disturbing communal harmony. "In view of the above, the NRC should be implemented in Rajasthan too," the MLA said. **PTI**

Mizoram Govt pushes back NRC-hit people into Assam

Aizawl: Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana on Monday said a few hundred people who had been excluded from the NRC list in Assam were detected and pushed back to Assam from the inter-state border since August 31 when the document was released.

Strict security arrangements were made in areas bordering Assam in the wake of the publication of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and no serious problems have arisen for Mizoram, the minister told a programme of the ruling Mizo National Front.

"Mobile patrolling was being conducted in several roads where people not included in the NRC could have sneaked in and the police found a few hundred of such people. They were pushed back," Lalchamliana said.

The final NRC list in Assam was released on August 31 excluding names of over 19 lakh applicants.

He said the state government is planning to computerise the inner line permit (ILP) system so that the document could be verified at all the police check posts. **PTI**

Maha: Bodies of woman, four daughters found floating in well

Buldhana: Bodies of a woman and her four daughters were found floating in a well in Maharashtra's Buldhana district on Monday, a police official said.

The woman along with her children left their home at Malegaon village in Mehekar tehsil on Sunday evening, saying they were going to their farm nearby, he said.

When they did not return

home, the family members and other villagers searched for them in the area.

On Monday morning, the bodies of Ujjwala Baban Dhoke (35) and her daughters Vaishnavi (9), Durga (7), Aarushi (4) and Pallavi (1) were found in a well near the village, the official said, adding that their slippers were also spotted near the water body.

The police were trying to

ascertain if this was a case of mass suicide, he said.

The bodies were later fished out from the well and sent to a Government hospital for postmortem, Janefal police station in-charge Dilip Mataram said.

Some villagers said Ujjwala Dhoke's husband Baban Dhoke also died a few months ago due to a suspected poisoning. **PTI**

ED moves court to declare Zakir Naik a fugitive economic offender

Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday moved an application before a special court here seeking to declare controversial Islamic preacher, Zakir Naik, a fugitive economic offender.

Naik, believed to be in Malaysia, is facing the charge of allegedly laundering money to the tune of Rs 193 crore.

The ED filed the application before the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) seeking that Naik be declared as a fugitive economic offender under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act.

The court said it would hear the application on September 30.

Last week, the court issued a fresh non-bailable warrant (NBW) against Naik in a 2016 money laundering case.

The central agency has so far arrested two of Naik's aides namely Amir Gazdar and Najamuddin Sathak.

The 53-year-old radical television preacher left India in 2016 and subsequently moved to the largely Muslim Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency. The ED booked him in 2016 on an FIR filed by

the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

The controversial preacher is wanted by authorities for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches.

In July this year, the court issued summons against Naik after taking cognizance of a complaint filed by the ED against Dubai-based jeweller Abdul Kadir Najamuddin Sathak for allegedly assisting the preacher in raise and diverting funds. **PTI**

Guj: 4 crocodiles rescued in Vadodara, 76 so far this monsoon

Vadodara: Four crocodiles were rescued in the early hours of Monday from Vadodara and surrounding villages, taking the total number of these reptiles saved during this year's monsoon to 76, a senior Gujarat forest department official said.

The four crocodiles were rescued from the campus of a hostel, a railway crossing and two villages, said Range Forest Officer (RFO) Nidhi Dave. "The hostel for resident doctors of Sir Sayajirao General Hospital is near Vishwamitri river and the crocodile may have come from there. One was caught from the Kalali railway crossing, while two others were rescued from Hansapura and Kapurai villages," Dave said. **PTI**

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
 No. AD/IOE/GL-95/2019/3120
 Dtd. 19.09.2019
 Name of the work: "Providing Hospitality Services to 100 Million Guest House of Paradip Port Trust at Paradip Township for a period of 2 years". Estimated cost put to tender: ₹1,14,83,895/-. The last date & time of submission of bid is: 03.10.2019 up to 17:00 hrs. For details please refer our website www.paradipport.gov.in / https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Asst. Secretary (Admn.) PPT/PR/343/19-20 Dt. 23.09.2019

Guj 'fart competition' fails as no one passes wind

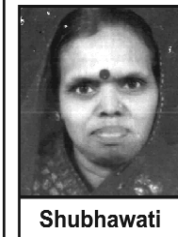
Ahmedabad: A 'fart competition' held on Sunday in Gujarat's Surat, touted as the country's first, turned out to be a lot of hot air, though not literally, as only three participants managed to overcome shyness and inhibitions to take a shot at the three trophies on offer.

They too, however, failed to pass muster after being unable to pass wind, an organiser said.

While sixty people had registered to display their prowess in letting out "longest", "loudest" and "most musical" farts at a banquet hall in Vesu area, only twenty turned up on Sunday, said

organiser Yatin Sangoi. Of these, only three took to the stage, in front of 70 people in attendance along with a few media channels, and ended up failing to "perform", said Sangoi. None of the three trophies were distributed, he said, though the participants were given gift hampers for turning up. "The participants were reluctant to go on stage as they were possibly shy and had inhibitions due to the presence of news channels, photographers, people etc. We had even roped in a firm to build a special device to measure the fart parameters," he said. **PTI**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

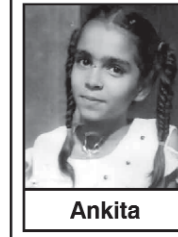


General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Shubhawati, W/o: Sh. Tribhuvan Prasad, R/o: RZ-40F, Gali no. 24, Indra Park, Palm Colony, New Delhi** has been missing since **15.08.2019**. In this regard a case **DD No. 62-A dated 16.08.2019** has been lodged at PS Sagarpur, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under: **Age: 44 yrs, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Golden Colour Blouse & Blue colour Saree and sandal in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
 E-Mail ID - cbc@cbi.gov.in
 Fax No. 011-24368639
 Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641
 DP/7052/SW/19

SHO
 P.S. Sagarpur, Delhi
 Ph.: 011-28522655,
 7065036228

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Ankita, D/o: Mukesh, R/o: H. No. B-1/2, Vikas Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **12.09.2019** from the area of P. S. Ranhola, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 583/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 12.09.2019** has been registered at P. S. Ranhola, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age: 14 years, Height: 3' 10", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Green colour t-shirt, black colour jeans and black colour jutti in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
 E-Mail ID - cbc@cbi.gov.in
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax No. 011-24368639
 DP/2702/OD/19

SHO
 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi
 Tel.No. 011-28363001, 28363002

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely: Gurusimran Singh, S/o: Balwinder Singh, R/o: RZ T-40, Nihal Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **06.09.2019** from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No.631/19 u/s 363 IPC dated 06.09.2019** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under: **Age: 15 years, Height: 4' 5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Blue colour shirt-pant and black shoes in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
 E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in
 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
 Fax No. 011-24368639
 DP/2685/OD/19

SHO
 P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
 Ph.: 011- 25946710, 7065036129

Convenient truths

Both Modi and Trump have betted heavily on the Howdy event to shore up each other's prospects via optics



In the end, one has to give it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visually imprint the strategic heft of the Indo-US relationship by almost becoming a master of ceremonies at the Howdy event in Houston. It takes panache to lead a US President, that too somebody like Donald Trump, on his turf, convince him to take a round of the NRG stadium hand-in-hand — much to the discomfiture of FBI bodyguards — and communicate a new mutual understanding with a rockstar-like body language. Even Trump, for want of a better word, was

“trumped.” Behind the optics of an Indian Prime Minister who scripted an original moment, Modi sent all kinds of messages. For his audience back home, he added to his list of many “firsts”, something that he feels had not been accomplished by any of his predecessors, just like the statement of five-year accounts he presented yet again. Harping on his “new India” theme — which in his book was achieving higher than what it had aimed no matter what the cold facts and figures — he clearly sought a renewal of faith from States going to the polls, knowing a mammoth audience would be clued into the telecast. For Trump, the optics put a clear pressure to stand by the bilateral spirit and not upend it through the other public medium he uses mostly to detrimental effect — Twitter. In fact, with Trump sitting in the front row, Modi made some smart moves. First, he broke political protocol to openly campaign for Trump’s re-election, ill-advised but ego-boosting for the latter now, when India needs US support. Texas may be a red State but Houston is dominated by prosperous Indians who are largely Democrats. If the Modi magic does wash off even a bit on this electoral chunk, Trump would stand to gain and shed some of his anti-immigrant image. By certifying the US President as worthy of India’s trust and giving out a rally cry of “Ab ki baar, Trump sarkaar,” Modi has held him to account should he get re-elected and hinted that quid pro quos could follow only if he stayed as invested. Second, the PM deliberately linked 9/11 to 26/11, making both India and the US equal victims of jihadi terror that is bred in the same part of the world, a nation he carefully chose not to name. He implied that differential and preferential standards should, therefore, not be applied as both were on the same boat. Also, no matter what the US’ transgressions and bullyisms in other conflict zones, by calling Trump the crusader against global terrorism, Modi made sure that he would not, at least overtly, mollify Pakistan at the expense of India.

The PM also sought a public endorsement of his move to abrogate Article 370, saying it equalised democratic rights for all and strongly labelled it as an internal issue of India in Trump’s presence, pre-empting any controversial conversation on this subject hereon. The spot audience applause was a message that the US should not fish in these waters. Of course, not that the US side didn’t play up the anxieties that discomfited Modi. A Democrat Senator reminded the gathering of the liberal and secular character of India and invoked both Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru as laying that vision, the latter the subject of many recent barbings by the Modi-Shah duo. Also, given the recent “one language” rants of neo-bhaktis, Modi played up the plurality and multi-culturalism of India by greeting in several languages. It seemed too reactive to appear well-meant but one that was intended to assuage doubts. Besides, by bringing up Kashmir in front of Trump, Modi sought to up the ante before Pakistan PM Imran Khan could. Modi summarised the US-India ties through a final banter, where he said that though Trump felt he was a tough negotiator, the former was an authority on the art of deal-making from whom he was still learning lessons. Clearly, that is what will set the tenor of future relations, how much both can gain from each other through defence, energy and gas deals and concessions of an incremental nature in the offing. By leveraging data as the new gold, Modi presented the prospects of a digital market, too. Trump, stuck as he is in a trade row with China, needs market access to India to show that he is thinking of “America first.” As for Modi, Trump listening in on Kashmir patiently in the audience and their mutually orchestrated camaraderie as the world’s “two greatest democracies” would blunt the edge of any offensive on the subject. Besides, trade deals would make India look like a recipient of investment, something which it needs to offset the gloomy economy. Both pandered to each other in a token display of realpolitik and opportunism. Who wins and loses is a question for another day.

In tears over onion

While we have learnt many lessons from waves of crisis, the Govt has hardly implemented them on the ground



It is ironic that India experiences spikes in onion prices nearly every third year despite impressive growth in the production of the bulb, which has gone up from below 5.5 million tonnes in 2003 to above 19 million tonnes in recent years. This time around, the spike is being attributed to uneven distribution and supply in wholesale markets and floods in major supplier States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Of course, storage and maintenance of buffer stocks have improved and there is enough supply of stored

onions of the previous year’s crop. However, in the absence of an evenly distributed and uniform warehousing network, transportation has been affected like no other. Rising onion prices are, therefore, politically explosive for the ruling BJP, which is eyeing a return in State elections.

A worried Centre has responded with copybook measures. It has a buffer stock of 56,000 tonnes of which 16,000 tonnes have been offloaded through agencies like NAFED and NCCF. Imports are arriving from Afghanistan and Egypt. It has discouraged exports and is cracking down on black marketeers. But is this desperate fire-fighting enough? Why can’t India increase the acreage under onion cultivation? NITI Aayog member and eminent economist Ramesh Chand had suggested promoting onion cultivation in States like Uttar Pradesh and popularising it in the kharif season as well. Why can’t we promote modern cold storage facilities in States like Madhya Pradesh, which has emerged as a big onion-producer after Maharashtra and Karnataka? To keep stocks healthy, we need dehydrating units across the country, set up processing plants so that the crop has a longer shelf life and, therefore, correct the demand-supply mismatch. A whole host of allied products can keep the demand sustainable among large consumers like restaurants, hotels, fast food chains, the Army, hospitals and so on. Besides, we should look at a trade policy for price stabilisation. The Government must immediately break the handful of cartels that pocket a major share of trade in big markets like Maharashtra and Karnataka and set up Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs), just as was suggested by the Bengaluru-based Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC). When it comes to onions, the Government is not short of well-intended suggestions, advice and reason. Isn’t it time it started acting on some of them?

Veiled plot in Kashmir

The abrogation of Article 370 has many virtues but one of its singular achievements has been that dishonest and hypocrite politicians from the Valley have been exposed



A SURYA PRAKASH

Six weeks have gone by since the Narendra Modi Government took the historic step to abrogate Article 370 and bring the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir into the mainstream. When one examines the global and domestic response to this momentous decision, one realises what a heavy price India has paid for 70 years because of the indecisiveness of the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the Nehruvians, who ran this country for close to seven decades.

The spadework done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in terms of global diplomacy over the last five years has really paid off when one sees how he has ensured that the international community accepts India’s position that issues pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir are “an internal matter” of India.

The historical fact is that in 1947, all princely States in undivided India had the option to either remain independent or accede to India or Pakistan. A total of 564 princely States acceded to the Indian Union. This included the State of Jammu & Kashmir, which signed the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947. Pakistan was unhappy with the decision of Jammu & Kashmir becoming a part of India; it sent the armed forces into the State and occupied a part of its territory. Since the State acceded to India, and part of its territory is in illegal occupation of Pakistan, India has to re-acquire what is now called Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and some of the territories ceded by Pakistan to China. This is what is meant by “Kashmir dispute.”

This primer on what is the “Kashmir dispute” is necessary because the Congress, the Nehruvians and the Marxists, who constituted “the Establishment” in Delhi until 2014, allowed Pakistan to get away with the argument that the State, which legitimately acceded to India, was in dispute. The Modi Government has done remarkably well in correcting this position and that is why, for the first time in 70 years, many nations have declared that matters pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir are India’s “internal matter.” This includes Russia, the US, Australia, France, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to name a few. Closer home, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives have unequivocally taken the stand that this is India’s internal issue. The international community also knows now that the Valley comprises just 14 per cent of the land area of the former State and much of the mischief is engineered in just five districts of the Valley. Thanks to the incompetence of the Nehruvians, the world had believed that the entire State was in strife. This stands corrected now.

As regards the internal situation in Jammu & Kashmir, it must be noted that since the days of Sheikh Abdullah, the so-called political leaders of that State — actually leaders from the Kashmir Valley — developed a vested interest in preserving Articles 370 and 35A in order to demograph-



ically insulate the State and prevent the blossoming of secular and democratic traditions within its territory. Though some of these leaders sometimes paid lip service to the plight of the Kashmiri Pandits — the Hindu minority which was driven out of the State 30 years ago — they did nothing to ensure their safe return. They were happy that the Valley had become a wholly Muslim territory.

Following the Government’s decision to abrogate Article 370, India has got to know how unconstitutional and discriminatory these provisions were. For example, it came as a shock to the people to know that many of the provisions relating to the reservation of educational seats and jobs for certain classes of people, including the economically backward classes, were never enforced in the Jammu & Kashmir.

Second, while the Valmiki community lived in the State and attended to scavenging and other municipal works, they were not given permanent residency in the old regime. Equally absurd was the fact that while they had the right to vote in the Lok Sabha election, they were not entitled to vote in the State Assembly elections.

Third, a Kashmiri woman, who married outside the State, would lose her right to permanent residency and her progeny, too, would be disenfranchised. These are just three of the many such extremely discriminatory and

unconstitutional provisions that prevailed in the former State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Articles 370 and 35A also proved highly discriminatory for the citizens of India living in other States. While Kashmiris could study in the best of educational institutions, secure employment and set up homes all over the country, citizens from other States were prohibited from securing admission in Kashmiri colleges or finding employment there. They were also expressly barred from buying property in that State and settling down there. Again, while you find Kashmiri businessmen everywhere in India, especially in all major tourist locations, Indians from other States were prohibited from setting up businesses in Kashmir.

It is indeed a matter of shame that political leaders in the Kashmir Valley, who cry hoarse about democracy, never stood up for the rights of the Hindu minority or the Valmikis or even the Kashmiri women. Nor did they see any reason for ending the discrimination against other Indians. But these politicians, who lacked the decency and political will to protect the minority, have the temerity to speak about democracy and secularism and shed tears over the alleged depletion in secular values in other parts of the country.

It is even more shameful that many media organisations, especially some English televi-

sion channels where these politicians were regular fixtures, failed to ask them how India’s secular traditions could be preserved if the Hindu minority in the only Muslim-majority State in the country was hounded out of the Valley. These hypocritical media outlets provided these politicians a regular platform to berate the rest of the country for any deficiencies in the working of democracy without ever holding them accountable for the brutal assault on the Hindu minority in their State.

The abrogation of Article 370 has many virtues but this writer would say that one of its singular achievements will be to expose these dishonest, hypocrite politicians of the Kashmir Valley, who while denying the rest of India entry into the Valley, have acquired permanent residency status in Lutyens’ Delhi!

Equally shameful is how the so-called “secular fundamentalists” admit these rank Muslim communalists as very special citizens of the Lutyens’ zone and even parade them as the symbols of secularism. Thanks to Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, these hypocrites from the Valley stand completely exposed. They must now be delegitimised in Lutyens’ Delhi as well.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

IT IS A MATTER OF SHAME THAT LEADERS IN THE KASHMIR VALLEY, WHO CRY HOARSE ABOUT DEMOCRACY, NEVER STOOD UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE HINDU MINORITY OR THE VALMIKIS OR THE KASHMIRI WOMEN. NOR DID THEY SEE ANY REASON FOR ENDING THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OTHER INDIANS

SOUND BITE

I believe protests are important in a democracy. The day protests lose their value, India will stop being India.

West Bengal Chief Minister —Mamata Banerjee

There was a time when I was told to accompany a film director for a recee and I was told ‘I want to know every inch of your body.’

Actor —Surveen Chawla

The US and India have a great partnership and it has only strengthened with the friendship of Donald Trump and Narendra Modi.

Former US Ambassador —Nikki Haley

In cricket, there will always be an odd person who will be swayed by greed. Could be some other reason that might force him to do something.

Former Indian captain —Sunil Gavaskar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Railway tech upgrade

Sir — In a game-changing move, the Indian Railways has decided to upgrade all existing Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches with the Head on Generation (HOG) technology. This development will certainly make the Railways, often referred to as the lifeline of the nation, become more cost-efficient, less polluting and passenger-friendly.

The new system will make use of overhead electricity to supply power to the entire train and thus end the need for LHB rake trains that required two power cars for the same purpose. In place of two generator cars, which would make a lot of noise besides emitting fumes, the HOG technology will come with a single silent generator car that will be used only during emergencies to begin with.

The move from EOG to HOG is definitely going to reduce expenditure cost, lessen noise and air pollution and will be a boon to passengers. The railways has pegged annual savings to the tune of ₹800 crore per year.

M Pradyu Kannur

Crackdown on campus politics essential

Politics has long been a part of campus life in most Indian cities. Students, teachers, politicians and ruffians, all involve themselves in what they believe is politics: Fisticuffs and fights. India’s temples of education have developed multiple crevices, thanks to unending political interferences. Student unions have ended as offshoots of political parties. Therefore, it is not surprising that the idealistic spirit of the youth is aligned with the ideology of parties. But what about the teachers and Vice-Chancellors? Their very names once used to be respectable. Distinguished gentlemen and ladies from various walks of life graced the post of a Vice-Chancellor. They went about their tasks methodically, without any fear or favour, not relenting to any political pull or pressure and having abundant moral courage. Visitors to universities carried fond memories of these great personalities and scholars.

Now with a mushrooming number of universities, there is not enough talent to occupy the top post. Past standards of instruction, too, have taken a severe beating. Conversely, increasing politicisation of centres of learning has meant that pliable people have gotten into universities as Vice-Chancellors. They, too, are accustomed to the trajectory of the “political winds” and have



adjusted themselves accordingly. Brainwashed students, timid principals and a tarnished academic atmosphere are destroying the culture of serious study. To reverse the situation, engagement has to begin from the top level. Academicians must shun escapist attitudes and try to bring about a change by staying within the system. One cannot be cynical. We must restore standards of excellence in our higher institutions.

Ganapathi Bhat Akola

Learn from mistakes

Sir — The newly-appointed Proteas skipper Quinton de Kock must be lauded for his valuable innings in both the T20 matches

played at Mohali and Bengaluru against Team India.

South Africa made an outstanding comeback to end the series 1-1, beating India by nine wickets at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. Despite

having won the toss, where India opted to bat first, we just couldn’t get going and could manage just 134 runs from 20 overs. Barring Shikhar Dhawan, none of our cricketers could score more than 20 runs. The current loss

must propel our team to do some self-introspection. Also, if we have to put our best foot forward for the ICC World T20, which is scheduled next year, team management and selection are important tasks that need a strategy.

Despite being given enough chances to prove his mettle, wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, has not been able to deliver. Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan, who have a very good record in domestic cricket, must be given a chance to show their calibre.

Tushar Anand Patna

Unemployment woes

Sir — This refers to the article, “What’s a degree worth?” (September 23) by Rinku Ghosh. I, too, frequently use Uber and Ola cabs. While speaking to owners/drivers, most being young, I came to know that this job because they were pushed out of their jobs. Indeed a sad state of affairs.

Alisha Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A move towards optimal taxation

Current tax cuts will expand the role of the private sector in our economy and create adequate opportunities in the non-farm employment sector



KARAN BHASIN

Argumentative Indians; it is true that most of us just love to have a debate on everything and anything. So much so that at times we've found ourselves getting embroiled in debates over facts, data and technical concepts. Something similar seems to be happening with the corporate tax cuts recently announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as there seems to be some confusion on whether they are a supply side response or a demand side response. One wonders how anyone, who has studied economics, can view it as a supply side intervention? Economics 101; tax cuts put more money in the hands of people and, therefore, it is a demand side response. This is important because of the current slackness in demand and, therefore, a demand side intervention is critical towards addressing the current economic slowdown.

This makes tax cuts an important part of the counter-cyclical policies that are required in order to kickstart the Indian economy at the moment. At a 22 per cent tax rate, India now has an extremely competitive taxation policy compared to other countries in the region. The fact that there is a lower tax rate for fresh manufacturing companies at 15 per cent makes it all the better as we are witnessing a massive reorientation of global supply chains. These changes ensure that India is a tax-competitive country thereby sending a signal to the world that we mean business — which will give Prime Minister Narendra Modi's favourite initiative 'Make in India' a big push over the next few months.

There are two aspects to the current tax cuts that are important to appreciate. First, before the tax rates were reduced, Indian firms had some of the lowest retained earnings among comparable economies. Consequently, a bulk of the fresh investments had to be financed by the banking system as our corporate debt markets aren't deep enough. This meant that the capacity for private sector investment was constrained by the health of our banking system. This brings us back to why we didn't witness private investments over the last couple of years even when we had robust demand — because of the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) crisis and the existing capacity from investments made between 2009-13.

The output gap has increased of late and one waits for our monetary policy to take note of it, but the lower tax rate for manufacturing companies will act as an attractive pull factor for firms leaving China. These investments will very likely reduce the output gap over subsequent quarters. Similarly, a lower level of corporate taxes will enable firms to have more retained earnings which can be utilised in the short run to deleverage or absorb any short-term shock over the past two quarters. Both will be critical towards strengthening our private sector, going forward.

A medium-term implication of this is an increase in equity financed projects, thereby expanding the role of the private sector in our economy. This will lead to creation of opportunities in the non-farm employment sector and will help shift our surplus labour from the primary to secondary sector. We've discussed the skewed dependence on agriculture for employment in nearly every Five-Year Plan or every Union Budget and this is for the first time we're seeing a proactive policy response that's capable of finally making it happen. The second aspect that needs to be discussed is the systematic overhaul of India's taxation policy — and the thinking behind the reforms. For far too long, people thought that the relationship between tax revenue and tax rate is linear. That is, to get higher revenue increase taxes and for lower revenue decrease them. We were either oblivious or ignorant of the Laffer's Curve as at one point we had taxes equivalent to more than 90 per cent of the income. Clearly, this thinking has changed as we're now talking about lower tax rates with better tax compliance resulting in higher tax revenues. The fact that we chose 22 per cent as the Corporate Tax Rate should not come as a surprise or as a coincidence, as 22 per cent is the optimal tax rate based on the Laffer Curve analysis done in a previous article. We're now looking at greater revenue mobilisation through promotion of economic growth and tax compliance. Therefore, the focus of our taxation policies has shifted towards acting as enablers of growth rather than focussing on revenue mobilisation. This is important as it signals a departure from our conventional way of economic and taxation policies.

On the revenue foregone, many have quoted the figure presented in the note as is but it is important to understand the non-linear relationship between tax rate and tax revenue. Post the reduction of rates, economic sentiment is upbeat and as economic activity picks up, we will see growth revive. Revival of growth combined with improved tax compliance will perhaps make up for a major part of the revenue foregone by the tax cuts. We've officially moved towards an optimal and modern taxation regime.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy researcher)

FRIENDS, WE IN INDIA HAVE CONNECTED WELL WITH AMERICA. THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT TRUMP, 'AB KI BAAR TRUMP SARKAR', RANG LOUD AND CLEAR.

—PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

POINT COUNTERPOINT



PM VIOLATED THE TIME-HONoured PRINCIPLE OF INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY OF NOT INTERFERING IN DOMESTIC ELECTIONS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

—CONGRESS SENIOR SPOKESPERSON
ANAND SHARMA

GST math gone haywire

The Centre and States must introspect as to why despite the regime being in place for over two years, the desired buoyancy in tax revenue has not been achieved



UTTAM GUPTA

A major reason for the delay in taking up the Constitutional Amendment Bill for enactment of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was the reluctance of the then United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government at the Centre to agree to the demand of the States. The latter wanted compensation of the loss of revenue that would arise with its launch *vis-à-vis* the revenue they would get under the subsisting dispensation of excise duty, sales tax or value-added tax plus a host of other local taxes. This hesitancy came although the concept was first introduced by then Finance Minister P Chidambaram in his Budget speech on February 28, 2006 with an ambitious launch target of April 1, 2010.

The Narendra Modi Government, by agreeing to this demand achieved a fair degree of success in building consensus among all the States. Within two years of taking charge in 2014, it was able to steer through the Constitutional Amendment Bill (in August-September, 2016) leading to its launch from July 1, 2017. The GST Compensation Act (2017) was passed to provide for compensation for five years, till 2021-22, to be calculated as the difference between actual collection and the revenue they would have got with growth at 14 per cent over the 2015-16 level.

Being an uncharted territory and the Centre not confident that under the GST scheme of things, it would be able to generate enough surplus to pay for the shortfall faced by States, it also passed an amendment to the GST Compensation Act (2018) to levy a cess on the supply of certain goods and services. The cess is levied on demerit goods (those which fall in the 28 per cent slab) such as automobiles, tobacco, drinks and so on with a proviso to use the proceeds for compensating the States who face shortfall. The cess was to remain in force for five years.

The rationale behind withdrawing this levy on completion of five years is that by this time, meaning 2021-22, the GST dispensation would have become buoyant enough to yield sufficient resources for the States to meet their budgetary requirements within prudential limits set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBMA), thereby obviating the necessity of compensation.

There are still three years to go before the deadline; yet, they have raised a demand for continuing this for five more years. Already, they have made a submission to the 15th Finance Commission in this regard. This is not unusual as the States are prone to looking for a safe harbour perennially.

However, the big worry is the subdued collections, a trend which shows no sign of abatement. Apart from overall growth in tax collections under GST being less than five per cent against the target of 12 per cent, even the proceeds from cess, which are meant to be utilised for compensating the States for the shortfall, are trailing far behind.

During April-August, 2019 against the requirement of ₹65,000 crore (at the rate of ₹13,000 crore a month), the actual collection was only ₹41,000 crore (or about ₹8,000 crore a month) leaving a shortfall of ₹24,000 crore.



AT PRESENT, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN KEPT OUT OF THE PURVIEW OF THE GST, BECAUSE BOTH THE CENTRE AND STATES GET MAXIMUM TAX REVENUE FROM THESE PRODUCTS, WHICH WILL BE SEVERELY IMPACTED IF THEY ARE BROUGHT UNDER THE GST REGIME. HOWEVER, THE ECONOMY IS PAYING A HEAVY PRICE AS CONTINUED EXCLUSION OF THESE PRODUCTS FROM THE GST RESULTS IN SHARP INCREASE IN THEIR PRICES DUE TO THE SHEER CASCADING EFFECT OF EXCISE DUTY AND VALUE-ADDED TAX



To make up for this, the collections in the remaining seven months of the year will have to be at the rate of ₹16,500 crore a month, which is nearly impossible to achieve in view of the current nominal GDP growth.

Even as the shortfall persists, being a constitutional obligation, the Centre will have to pay compensation to the States from out of its own kitty which by itself is dwindling, courtesy declining collection of both indirect as well as direct tax. This in turn, will lead to huge slippage in the fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent already threatening to go out of control due to a spate of expenditure-raising and revenue-forgoing commitments made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (the mother of all being a steep cut in the corporate tax rate).

Both the Centre and the State Governments need to seriously introspect as to why despite the GST regime being in place for more than two years, the desired buoyancy in tax revenue has not been achieved. An overarching objective behind launching this transformative reform — an epitome of "one nation, one tax" — was to increase revenue manifold by boosting the GDP growth on the one hand and bringing millions — hitherto evading the taxman — under the tax net on the other. On both counts, the performance has been far below expectations.

On curbing evasion and widening the tax net, the situation is far more serious than initially thought. It seems dubious businessmen and traders are

having a heyday. According to a statement by Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, loss to the exchequer due to frauds under GST (including bogus claims of input tax credit) was about ₹45,500 crore since the roll-out of the tax reform on July 1, 2017. According to the West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, this could even touch the ₹100,000 crore mark.

At present, the number of entities registered under the GST is about 12 million. This is five million more than the registered entities under the erstwhile dispensation prior to July 1, 2017.

There is an apprehension that a slice of the increase could be fake entities which were set up only to perpetrate fraud. It shows the extent of rot in the system as without connivance of officials in the department, fraudulent claims of this magnitude won't be possible.

No wonder then, the actual collection under GST has been hovering around ₹100,000 crore a month (in some months, for instance, August, 2019 it is even less) whereas the Government should be aiming at a minimum of ₹150,000 crore a month (assuming tax to GDP ratio at the rate of ten per cent).

To get there, it should undertake complete overhauling of the administrative machinery to prevent frauds and plug leakages (mere sacking of a few commissioners here and there won't do the job). The Prime Minister's zero tolerance for corruption should

get reflected in credible action and concrete results on this most crucial front.

Apart from enabling smooth transition to a scenario of no compensation beyond 2021-22 and modest tax rates (we should be aiming to abolish the 28 per cent slab altogether and merging 12 per cent and 18 per cent into a single say 15 per cent), this is crucial from yet another angle.

At present, petroleum products like crude oil, gas, Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), petrol and diesel have been kept out of the purview of the GST. This is because both the Centre and States get maximum tax revenue from these products, which will be severely impacted if they are brought under the GST regime (this will happen even if these are put under the highest tax slab of 28 per cent, which is significantly lower than the current incidence of over 50 per cent under the existing dispensation).

However, the economy is paying a heavy price as continued exclusion of these products from the GST results in sharp increase in their prices due to the sheer cascading effect of excise duty and value added tax.

This can be avoided if GST acquires the robustness and the resilience needed to yield the desired revenue which in turn, will help in persuading State Governments to agree to their inclusion.

How will Team Modi make it happen? One can only guess.
(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Old Ottoman habits die hard

The Turkish President's party lost control of all big cities in the last poll so it's time to beat the Kurds. This time it's going to be the Kurds, who live in northern Syria, just across the border from the Turkish ones



GWYNNE DYER

The Ottoman Empire, like many of its Middle Eastern predecessors, had the bad habit of moving entire peoples around if they were causing trouble. And sometimes, as happened to the Armenians during the First World War, what started as deportation ended up as genocide.

The empire collapsed a century ago but old habits die hard. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (whose admirers often call him 'Sultan') has a new plan: He's going to move a million Kurds away from Turkey's southern frontier with Syria and replace them with a million Arabs.

And if his Western allies don't

like that, he'll dump another million or so Arabs in Europe. "Either this happens (in Syria)," he said recently, "or we will have to open the gates (to Europe)." This is a blackmail threat with teeth: it was the sudden arrival of a million Syrian refugees in Europe in 2016 that energised extreme Right-wing populists from England to Hungary.

Very few of those refugees ever wound up in either England or Hungary — the great majority of them were given shelter in Germany — but their arrival gave nationalists and racists all over Europe a stick to beat their opponents with. Erdogan, who is an accomplished nationalist rabble-rouser himself, knows exactly what he is doing, and he may well succeed.

All this is happening because Erdogan is obsessed with the Kurds — or at least he knows that a lot of other Turks are obsessed about the Kurds and he's in political trouble at home, so he needs to feed their fantasies. You can never tell with the 'Sultan', who has a Trump-like abil-

ity to genuinely believe whatever he happens to be saying at the moment.

To be fair, the Kurds are a real problem for the Turks. They are about a fifth of the country's population, concentrated mostly in the southeast, and they have been mistreated and their very identity denied by the Turkish state for so long that many of them would rather be independent. Some of them have even taken up arms against Turkey in an organisation called the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), which is now mostly based across the border in Kurdish-speaking northern Iraq. There was a ceasefire and peace talks early in this decade, but Erdogan started bombing the PKK again in



2015 when he had a tricky election to win and needed to appeal to Turkish nationalists. Now he's in trouble again: His party lost control of all Turkey's big cities in the last election. Time to whack the Kurds again, and this time it's going to be the Syrian Kurds, another fragment of the Kurdish people

that lives in northern Syria, just across the border from Turkey's Kurds. But not for much longer, if Erdogan has his way.

The Turkish strongman says that the Syrian Kurds are really "terrorists" allied to the PKK, although there have been absolutely no attacks on Turkey from Syria during the entire eight-year Syrian civil war. What the Syrian Kurds were actual-

ly doing was defeating the real terrorists of the Islamic State in Syria, with strong air support and some ground support from the United States of America.

However, there is no gratitude in politics. Erdogan now wants to evict the Syrian Kurds from their homes and drive them south, away from the Turkish border. And to make sure they don't come back later, he wants to settle a million Arabs there permanently instead.

There are four and a half million Syrian Arab refugees in Turkey. They'd like to go home, of course, but most of them are afraid of living under the control of Bashar al-Assad, the cruel dictator who has won the Syrian civil war. And here's that nice Mr Erdogan, offering them homes in a "safe zone" in northern Syria.

That's not where their real homes are, but maybe they'll be happy there once Erdogan has driven the Kurds out. As he said recently in Ankara, "We can build towns there in lieu of the tent cities here." The

only hitch in the plan is that the US may feel queasy about betraying the Syrian Kurds who fought alongside American troops to destroy the Islamic State. To solve that problem, Erdogan is threatening to send a million or so Arab refugees west into Europe. They'll panic and make the Americans go along with his plan, or so he believes. He's probably right.

The European Union promised Turkey six billion euros to keep the Arab refugees in Turkey in 2016, but Erdogan claims that half of it was never paid (which, if true, was very stupid of the Europeans). He doesn't owe the EU any favours, and it truly will panic if he opens the gates and sends the Arabs west.

Donald Trump wants US troops out of Syria before next year's election, so he'll probably give in to Erdogan (and the Europeans). But the Syrian Kurds, who are yet to respond, will probably fight to protect their homes.



FOREIGN EYE



A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

The promise of AI is that it will imbue machines with the ability to spot patterns from data and make decisions faster and better than us. What happens if they make bad decisions faster? Governments need to pause and take stock of the societal repercussions of allowing machines over a few decades to replicate human skills that have been evolving for millions of years. But individuals and firms must take responsibility too.
(The Guardian editorial)

Thomas Cook collapses, Goa set to feel pinch

6,00,000 tourists stranded worldwide, 22,000 staff are now out of job

PTI ■ PANAJI

Tourist footfalls from the United Kingdom to Goa are expected to take a severe hit after British travel group Thomas Cook declared bankruptcy on Monday, an umbrella body of tour and travel operators said here.

The 178-year-old operator had been desperately seeking 200 million pounds (\$250 million, 227 million euros) from private investors to save it from collapse, but a last-ditch rescue deal failed, triggering the UK's biggest repatriation since World War II to bring back stranded passengers.

"Around 30,000 Britons arrived in Goa during the last tourist season through chartered flights, majority of which were flown by Thomas Cook. The firm was flying seven days a week with 300 seats per flight," said Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG) president Savio Messiah.

He added that British tourists were known for spending long holidays in Goa, with the average being 14 nights.

"The collapse of Thomas



People walk past a Thomas Cook travel shop in Paris on Monday

Cook in UK will result in more than 50 per cent reduction in their (British tourists) arrivals as other airlines would not be able to accommodate them now," he added.

Chartered flights from the UK start arriving in Goa from

November, and almost always the first one was operated by Thomas Cook, Messiah claimed.

British travel firm Thomas Cook collapsed into bankruptcy on Monday, leaving some 6,00,000 holidaymakers

stranded and sparking the UK's biggest repatriation since World War II.

The 178-year-old debt-plagued group, which had struggled against fierce online competition for some time and blamed Brexit uncertainty for

a recent drop in bookings, failed to secure 200 million pounds (\$250 million, 227 million euros) from private investors and collapsed in the early hours.

Monday's bankruptcy, which followed a lengthy period of chronic financial turmoil after a disastrous 2007 merger deal, left some 6,00,000 tourists stranded worldwide according to Thomas Cook, while its 22,000 staff are now out of a job.

The British Government launched emergency plans to bring some 1,50,000 UK holidaymakers back home from destinations including Bulgaria, Cuba, Turkey and the United States. Thomas Cook said in a statement that "despite considerable efforts", it was unable to reach an agreement between the company's stakeholders and proposed new money providers.

"The company's board has therefore concluded that it had no choice but to take steps to enter into compulsory liquidation with immediate effect," it added.

The long-troubled group has also been blighted by enor-

mous costs arising from its disastrous 2007 merger with MyTravel, a deal which left it plagued with huge levels of debt. The UK Government said Monday it had hired planes to fly home British tourists, in a mass repatriation plan codenamed Operation Matterhorn which began immediately.

Launching Britain's "largest repatriation in peacetime history", Transport Secretary Grant Shapps added that the government and UK Civil Aviation Authority had hired dozens of charter planes to fly home Thomas Cook customers.

"All customers currently abroad with Thomas Cook who are booked to return to the UK over the next two weeks will be brought home as close as possible to their booked return date," the government said.

Both a tour operator and an airline, the travel giant's key destinations were in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean but it offered also holidays in Asia, North Africa and the Caribbean.

BUSINESS CORNER

CURTAIN RAISER FOR ELECTRON QUIZ-2019

The Regional Round of NTPC's Electron Quiz - 2019 for NCR is scheduled to be held at NTPC's Power Management Institute, NOIDA on 27th September 2019. NTPC's Electron Quiz 2019 is one of the India's most anticipated tests of knowledge and speed, is set to attract some of the brightest minds from elite management and engineering colleges from various parts of the city. Shri Gautam Bose from M/s Greycells will conduct the Quiz. The winners at Regional Round will walk away with prize money of ₹30,000/per team while the first and second runner up will receive ₹20,000/per team and ₹10,000/per team respectively and a consolation prize (4th, 5th and 6th place) of ₹4,000/per team in the Regional rounds. The prizes will be distributed by C Mondal, Regional Executive Director, (DBF & Hydro). The one month long quiz series will culminate in National Finals at NTPC's Power Management Institute, Noida on October 14/2019 where top three teams from each region will compete for the top honor and win prizes worth ₹1,24,000/- plus audience prizes. The Regional Level rounds of NTPC Electron Quiz 2019 was held at Patna, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Lucknow respectively. The final Regional Round will be held at Kolkata on 30th September 2019.

ASSAM RIFLES HOLDS RUN FOR FIT INDIA CAMPAIGN

New Delhi: In sync with the Fit India campaign launched by the Govt of India, Assam Rifles organised a Run For Fit India in all the Garrisons of Assam Rifles in Shillong. The main event was organized at HQ DGAR, Laitkor which was flagged off by Smt Sangeeta Sangwan, President ARWWA & Lt Gen SukhdeepSangwan, SM*, DG Assam Rifles. Officers, JCOs, OR and their Families as well as Children from ARPS Shillong actively participated in the Run. The "4 KM Run was an initiative towards leading Fit & Healthy lifestyle and was highly appreciated by all the participants. More such events will follow in the near future too.



Rupee ends flat at 70.94 against dollar

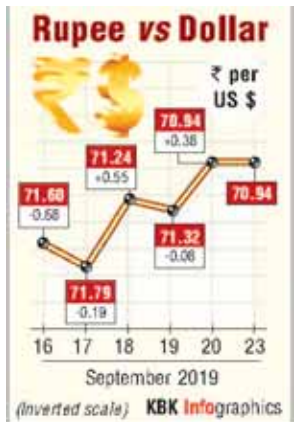
PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from today's low levels to close flat at 70.94 against the US dollar on Monday helped by foreign fund inflows into equities and lower global crude oil prices.

The domestic currency opened lower and fell to a low of 71.03 later on geopolitical concerns in West Asia and gains in the US currency against major global rivals.

A strong rally in equities amid heavy buying by foreign investors helped the rupee pare losses and touch a day's high of 70.87. The local currency finally settled at against major currencies and lower crude prices.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened weak and shuttled between a high of 70.87 and a low of 71.03 during the day.



The rupee finally closed flat at 70.94 against the US dollar despite a steller closing in equity markets. According to provisional data, foreign investors pumped in ₹2,684 crore on a net basis in capital markets on Monday.

No need to ban petrol, diesel vehicles; EVs picking up momentum naturally: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Allaying fears of the automobile industry, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said there is no need to ban petrol and diesel vehicles as electric mobility has picked up momentum on its own and all buses would be electric in two years.

Earlier, Government think-tank Niti Aayog had reportedly proposed that after 2030, only electric vehicles (EVs) should be sold in India. Later, Union ministers, including Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, tried to allay the fear of automobile manufacturers in the country by denying that.

A panel headed by Niti Aayog Chief Executive Officer Amitabh Kant had earlier suggested that only EVs (three-wheelers and two-wheelers)



with an engine capacity of up to 150cc should be sold from 2025 onwards.

"I always talk about EVs such as cars, bikes, and buses. Now, it has started naturally. There is no need to make it mandatory. There is not need to ban petrol and diesel vehicles. In the next two years, all buses would be electric and run on bio-ethanol and CNG (compressed natural gas)," Gadkari said while speaking at a National Conclave on Energy Efficiency in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) here.

Taking about the cost benefit, the minister said, "If we

run vehicles on electricity, it would be like cost of Rs 15 per litre of diesel... When I told industry in a meeting that I would prohibit smoke-emission machines in the country, all were afraid... Now, we have plastic cylinders available from Germany which can save 50 per cent cost on LNG (liquefied natural gas) and 40 per cent on CNG."

He also spoke about converting farm stubble left after harvest into clean fuels for generating electricity and running vehicles which can increase farmers' income manifold.

Currently, farmers burn stubble that causes air and soil pollution. The government through its firms such as power giant NTPC has started procuring stubble pellets for using those as fuel in coal-fired plants.

India's containerised trade growth slows to 1% in Q2 2019

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's containerised trade growth slowed to one per cent during April-June 2019 owing to various factors like growing global trade tensions and liquidity issues in the domestic market, the report said.

According to a report by global integrated logistics company Maersk, the trade growth during April-June 2018 stood at a healthy nine per cent growth, almost three times higher than the global growth average of 2-3 per cent.

"India's containerised trade growth slowed to one per cent in Q2 2019, due to a cocktail of international factors such as slowing trade growth, and growing trade tensions coupled with domestic factors like rural consumer distress, tightening liquidity and a slow-down in key manufacturing sectors," the report said.



The Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), Prahlad Singh Patel, at the curtain raiser Press conference on Indian Tourism Mart, in New Delhi on Monday. The Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Yogendra Tripathi, and other dignitaries are also seen

Hotel stocks in limelight; zoom up to 20% on GST rate cut

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of hotel companies zoomed up to 20 per cent on Monday after the GST Council reduced tax rate for hotel room tariffs. The scrip of Taj GVK Hotels & Resorts jumped 19.98 per cent and Royal Orchid Hotels advanced 16.30 per cent on the BSE.

Among others, Indian Hotels Company zoomed 8.20 per cent, ITC rose 6.95 per cent and Hotel Leela Venture advanced 3.59 per cent.

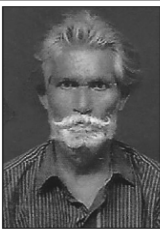
Post market hours on

Friday, the GST Council reduced tax rate on hotel room tariffs, a move aimed at giving a boost to the hospitality sector. The GST (goods and services tax) rate on hotel rooms with tariffs of up to ₹7,500 per night has been cut to 12 per cent from the existing 18 per cent.

Similarly, the tax on rooms with tariff above ₹7,500 has been slashed to 18 per cent from the existing 28 per cent. There will be no GST on rooms with tariffs below ₹1,000 per night.

MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person **Namely English, S/o Sh. Jai Shree, R/o C-73/42, Ram Bagh Road, Bagichi Peer Ji, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**, has been missing from his house since 08.12.2018. In this regard, a **DD No. 09-A, Dated 08.12.2018** has been lodged at **PS Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**. Investigations has been carried out but despite best efforts, the person could not be traced. The description of the missing person is as under:



English

73/42, Ram Bagh Road, Bagichi Peer Ji, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi, Age: 64 years, Height: 6'0" Feet, Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Normal, Wearing: Light Blue colour Kurta & Pyjama and Chappal in Feet. If anyone has any information about the missing person, then please inform **PS Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**.

email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: No.011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/9501N/18.

S.H.O. P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi Ph.: 011-23651692

Closed sugar mills may see revival soon as Govt mulls ethanol production

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is planning to come out with a policy to revive closed sugar mills by using their land for ethanol production, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday. He said the ethanol economy has the potential to reach ₹1 lakh crore from about ₹25,000 crore and can reduce the annual ₹7 lakh crore crude imports.

"A lot of sugar mills are closed... I am going to frame a policy. Condition of these sugar mills is such that they are not getting finances. I want to proceed for a Cabinet note... Some 5-6 acres of land in a closed sugar mill which can be used for making of ethanol," Gadkari said. The Minister said land of the sugar mill can be utilised for ethanol production from sugar, sugarcane juice and molasses and a policy will be framed soon.

Gadkari said there was an

agreement with multilateral banks like KfW for low-cost funds green energy.

"Already we have signed an agreement with KfW for green energy in MSMEs. I will try to convince them to finance sugar mills proposal and we will find out a mechanism with the petroleum ministry for this," the Minister said.

He said ethanol production through sugar could boost the economy of sugarcane-producing states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana.

The minister also said the government does not intend to ban petrol or diesel by giving thrust to alternative fuel. "There are no talks on ban of petrol or diesel... We want to encourage alternative energy... GST is less(on alternative energy fuel). A time will come when India will become the hub for manufacturing of electric vehicles and vehicles on alternative fuel," he said.

Under-invoicing' leading to GST evasion, claim bicycles makers

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The "under-invoicing" of bicycles by some unscrupulous dealers in Ludhiana has hit the market of organised players and is also leading to GST evasion, cycle makers have claimed. Organised bicycles manufacturers on Monday said it has become difficult to hold onto their existing market because of the "rampant illegal practice of under-invoicing" taking place in Ludhiana — the country's major manufacturing hub of cycles and cycle parts.

An ordinary bicycle, priced at ₹2,500 a unit, is being invoiced at ₹900 a bicycle by some illegal dealers, leading to the evasion of the GST, they said while citing an example. Twelve per cent GST is charged on a bicycle.

"By under-invoicing, some illegal dealers are evading GST of ₹192 on one unit of bicycle as against payable tax of ₹300 (GST on ₹2,500)," said a Ludhiana-based owner of a prominent brand of bicycle who wished not to be named.

E-comm can boost consumption, expect strong demand from small towns: Flipkart

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Walmart-owned Flipkart on Monday said it does not see its sellers or consumers tightening their purse strings during the festive season ahead and expressed confidence in clocking strong sales this year with demand being driven by Tier II and III markets.

Speaking to PTI, Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy said this year's edition of The Big Billion Days (TBBDD), which will be held from September 29 to October 4, will see the company taking its "expansive selection to about 19,000 pin codes in the country".

ICICI Bank is adding 450 branches to take its network to 5,300 by March 2020 and will be hiring around 3,500 personnel for the same, Bagchi told PTI.

"We believe e-commerce has the potential to boost the consumption story and bring about good economic activity... We do not see our sellers or

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one lady (depicted in the photo) namely **Sashi W/o Dharmender R/o R-3 A-3, H. No. 68, Gandhi Chowk, Mohan Garden, Delhi Aged - 31 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped with her son **Alok (Age: 3 Years 6 months)** since 01.09.2019 vide **DD No. 99-A dated 11.09.2019** lodged at Police Station Ranhola, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Sashi Alok

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Clothing: Green coloured suit-salwar and slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped lady and her son, may inform **SHO, Ranhola, Delhi** at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
DP/2707/OD/19 Tel.: 011-28363001, 28363002, 28363003

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Samina Bibi W/o Sh. Noor Alam Sheikh R/o H.N. 3009, Gali Naal Badan, Shah Ganj Chowk, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of **P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** since 11.08.2019. In this regard, a case **DD No. 29-A dated 19.08.2019** has been registered at **P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under.



SAMINA BIBI

Age: 27 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'0", Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Pink colour suit & salwar. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing lady then please inform **P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi** at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No./11-24368639
DP/333N/19

India to be net exporter of steel for years: Pradhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday said that in the next two-three years, India will be in a position to remain a net exporter of steel for years.

The minister was speaking at an event 'Chintan Shivir', organised by the steel ministry. The event had a theme of making the domestic steel sector "vibrant, efficient and globally competitive".

Currently, India has a production capacity of about 140 million tonne (MT) capacity and produces over 100 MT of

steel annually, he said.

"We also produce saleable steel. We sometimes become importer, sometimes we are exporter. At present, we are net importer, we are importing about 2-3 MT. The outcome of this Chintan Shivir will be that within the next two-three years, India will remain a net exporter of steel for years. There will be no import," he said.

With an aim to increase exports, India has also started talking to countries from which it buys petroleum, said Pradhan, who is also the minister for petroleum and natural gas.

ICICI to open 450 slimmer branches, to hire around 3,500

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The ongoing slump in the realty sector is helping ICICI Bank in its expansion drive as it is adding branches by nearly a tenth of its existing footprint, a top official said.

According to executive director Anup Bagchi, the branch expansion plan is not affected much by the ongoing slowdown, as the bank has only a small share of the overall activity and thus sees enough scope to grow its presence.

ICICI Bank is adding 450 branches to take its network to 5,300 by March 2020 and will be hiring around 3,500 personnel for the same, Bagchi told PTI.

Corporate tax cuts to have little impact on auto sales: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Massive reduction in corporate tax rates will have minimal impact to revive the steeply falling auto demand as the 10-12 percentage points reduction in the levy on companies can at best lead to a 1-2 percent discounts only, says a report. As against this, had the government offered a GST reduction, demand could have been propped up well, helping automakers offer a 7-8 percent discounts, the report adds.

The auto industry, which is facing its worst crisis in two decades, had been pleading for a GST cut to 18 percent from 28 percent now to boost sagging sales.



NotSoSweet

Fat mass index, not body mass index, is linked to a higher risk of cardiovascular events in people with diabetes, says a study. The research showed that people with Type-2 Diabetes and higher fat mass were at increased risk of major cardiovascular events compared to people with lower fat mass



SECRETS FOR GREAT GLOW

Dull skin is part and parcel of our hectic lifestyles. DR SATISH BHATIA shares tips that may help you to regain your natural glow

Everyone loves a healthy glow but owing to a hectic lifestyle, pollution and improper skincare regime we often end up with our skin looking dull and worn out. To restore your natural glow, it is essential to follow a skincare routine you can rely on. If you are battling an oily shine or puffy eyes or excessive dryness here are a few tips that can help you restoring your skin's health.

An oily shine
A natural glow is what we want, but a greasy sheen is what many of us end up with, especially on a long, warm day. Adding layers of makeup is of little help. Instead to fix this issue, what you need is an oily skin cleanser like Cetaphil Oily Skin Cleanser that will wash out the excess oil without stripping your skin off natural oils.

Puffy eyes
Tried and puffy-eyes can make you look dull and exhausted. If you haven't slept the whole night or have been staring at the screen for long hours with little hydration and no rest it can lead to excessive puffiness. The best remedy is to apply cool cucumber slices on your eyes for five to 10 minutes when needed & immediately apply an under eye product that contains Vitamin C.

Parched skin
When the skin is already dry, the last thing



you want to do is moisturise it as a quick fix. Swap in a moisturiser, that'll get rid of dirt, oil & makeup while actually putting some of hydration that's been lost, back into your skin. Apply a good moisturiser in the morning and at night.

Daily Vitamins
While a few skincare products help you rescue from skin damage, your food and vitamin intake play a pivotal in maintaining your skin's well-being. Ensure your vitamin levels do not indicate a deficiency and choose the right supplement under the guidance of your doctor.

Allergic reaction
For sensitive skin it is essential to take extra care and use products that are trusted. For a while, avoid using excessive make-up and go natural for a couple of days. Avoid using paraben products, sulfate, and lanolin. Opt for products like Cetaphil Skin Cleanser followed by the Cetaphil Moisturising Lotion or Cream that soothes & reduces the inflammation.

The writer is Dermatologist and Cutaneous Surgeon of DermDestination

India is home to more than 4 million Alzheimer's patients and is expected to reach 7.5 million by 2030. Doctors tell you how to reduce this progressive brain disorder

DON'T WASTE AWAY

Alzheimer's disease, a form of dementia, is still one of the lesser known problems in India. According to estimates, the number of patients with dementia in India is about 4 million and around the world, there will be approximately 131.5 million people with the condition by 2050. There is a need to raise awareness on the fact that Alzheimer's is an irreversible condition and people who suffer may be unable to carry out even the most basic daily activities over time. It is, therefore,

important to undertake some preventive measures right from a young age to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's later in life.

Adequate physical activity
Any form of physical activity is not only beneficial for a healthy heart but also for better brain function.

This is because physical activity boosts circulation and therefore maintains oxygen supply to the brain. This increases alertness and keeps the brain cells healthy for a longer time.

Control your blood pressure
Hypertension or high blood pressure is a major risk factor for not only heart problems but also certain neurological conditions, including Alzheimer's. It is therefore important to reduce the consumption of salt and maintain a balance.

Healthy eating and a balanced diet
Certain types of foods can increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease while a balanced diet is good for the brain. Make sure your diet is rich in fruits and vegetables,

whole grains, and omega-3 fatty acids. These will keep your weight in check and reduce associated risk factors that lead to Alzheimer's over time.

Watch out for depression
Research indicates that people with untreated depression have a huge risk of acquiring Alzheimer's disease. This becomes more important in the elderly as the symptoms may be difficult to identify.

The writer is Dr Prashant Kumar Dash, Director-Medical Services at Medlife.com



Show them you care



Providing care to people with Alzheimer's can be challenging. Though only basic assistance is required in the early stages, with time, the care needs to be intensified. One of the most cited difficulties that caregivers face is the behavioural changes. Caregiving for people with this condition needs patience, time, flexibility, and understanding.

Make a schedule: It is important to establish a routine. Schedule tasks like bathing or medical appointments when the person is alert and fresh. For

days that are difficult, allow for some flexibility. It is always good to organise activities anticipating possible delays. Allow time for breaks during tasks.

Involve them: Try to help them to certain tasks with least amount of assistance. This will help them improve coordination and cognition. For instance, they could carry out basic activities such as changing clothes or eating their meals themselves but under supervision.

Make communication simple: People with Alzheimer's need time to comprehend and

understand. Break down your instructions in simple and clear language. They understand clear and one-step communication.

Remove distractions: It is important to help people with Alzheimer's to focus on the task at hand. Imagine a small child who is easily distracted. Turn off the television or remove other distractions as it will help them focus and remember better.

Create a safe environment: People with Alzheimer's lack a clear sense of judgment or problem-solving skills. This can even increase the risk of falls and injury. Ensure that safety measures are put in place around them. Alzheimer's progresses differently in every individual and therefore adapting is key. Tailoring caregiving according to their needs and being patient can help caregivers deal better with the challenges.

The writer is Dr Vishal Sehgal, Medical Director, Portea Medical

Age not a factor

Alzheimer's is no more an old man's disease. A Case reports indicate a decreasing onset of age. In spite of being home to more than 4 million patients, Alzheimer's in India is still neither formally diagnosed nor treated. Most of us consider loss of memory as a natural sign of ageing and don't associate it with a probable degenerative disorder. But what if the first signs of dementia start showing at a much younger age? Missing these signs can prove fatal. A proper awareness of the warning signs of the disease, necessary tests to confirm diagnosis and appropriate interventions to mitigate the condition if confirmed of the disease can help in tackling Alzheimer's efficiently.

Cause: While concrete evidences are scarce to explain the reason behind early onset of Alzheimer's disease, people with a parent or grandparent who also developed the disease early were found to have increased risks. Therefore, those with a family history of the disease are recommended to undergo a genetic counseling for an early diagnosis.

Diagnosis: Visible changes show in the body almost a decade after the actual damage to the brain has happened. While these symptoms may vary from person to person, recurrence of some commonly found signs can signal the early incidence of the disease. Once signs of mental decline are noticed in an individual, academic protocols will suggest him/her to undergo a series of cognitive tests, followed by testing the blood, urine and spinal fluid. A CT and MRI scan will confirm the incidence of Alzheimer's and the extent of the damage caused to the brain.

Treatment: It is classified as one among the many incurable diseases. However, medical circles have seen positive results on patients who were introduced to the many available treatment options at an early stage.

The writer is Dr Vijay Janagama, Director, New Initiatives, SuVitas Holistic Healthcare

Early signs

Disrupted sleep is perhaps the only sign of the disease that surfaces much ahead of the development of other cognitive signs like memory loss. Research has shown Alzheimer's plaques can disrupt sleep, so can interrupted sleep promote the development of the former. Those with sleep

efficiency lower than 75 per cent are five times more prone to have preclinical Alzheimer's than the ones who sleep well.

Forgetting the same piece of information in spite of repeatedly checking on

it could be a warning sign of the disease.

Inability to perform an otherwise familiar task is deemed to be another sign. For instance, it is natural for someone to seek help while cooking a new dish but if you have

completely forgotten making your favourite recipe, then it isn't common.

Sudden vision problems like difficulty to identify colours, shapes and distance between objects could indicate neural dysfunction.

The writer is Dr Vijay Janagama

DadiKaKehna

Do you have a baby at home who is teething? If yes, you will know that a teething baby is not a happy one. ROSHANI DEVI shares home remedies that can soothe the pain and keep the little one smiling



We all love the toothless smile of a baby. It means that he is happy and healthy. But teething can be a trying time since the little one is in pain and hence crying looking for some relief. There are several home remedies that one can follow.

Cold is a popular, and simple remedy. One can freeze a number of items for the baby to chew on like a teether. Many parents use a washcloth.

Put it under water, squeeze out excess water and keep it in the freezer for 20-30 minutes. Put this on the gums of the baby to soothe

the pain. One can give a frozen pop as well.

Use ginger, it has anti-inflammatory properties that helps to relieve the pain by soothing the nerve endings in the gums.

Rub a slice of peeled ginger over the baby's gums for a couple of minutes.

Sometimes the simplest solution works. Rub and massage the baby's gums with a firm touch from your index finger. If they don't have too many teeth let them gnaw on the finger!

A warm bath will help your baby to relax. It will take the baby's mind off the pain since there is a change of scene.



TIPTOP

The recent vaping related deaths in the US have once again put a question mark over the possible toxicity of chemicals present in an e-cigarette. While the investigation into those deaths have still not been conclusive and point to the possibility of spurious products, we must refrain from looking at e-cigarettes as a safe alternative.

Dr Dharminder Nagar, MD Paras Healthcare said: "There have been long-standing doubts over what manufacturers and some health experts call 'relative safety' of e-cigarettes over tobacco cigarettes. We do not have sufficient research to understand the long-term health effects of e-cigarettes. There is no 'good smoke' and all forms of smoke are bad. The major difference between con-

ventional and e-cigarettes is that the latter do not contain tobacco."

However, tobacco is not the only culprit in cigarette smoke; there is an entire array of other harmful chemicals, many of which are also present in e-cigarettes. This approach to present e-cigarettes as a "safer" option is flawed.

People continue vaping believing it to be less harmful. The presence of nicotine makes e-cigarettes equally addictive. Youngsters who have never smoked may fall for this form of smoking believing it to be safe.

We welcome the Government's expected move to ban e-cigarettes. According to a draft ordinance, the storage of e-cigarettes will also be punishable with imprisonment up to six months or fine up to ₹50,000 or both.

SLIMLINE

Researchers, including one of Indian origin, have found a certain protein that is more prevalent in older people and which prevent fractured bones from healing.

According to the study published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight, the research team confirmed that older people have more Apolipoprotein E or ApoE than younger people. This discovery will lead to new treatments to help people heal after injuries or surgeries. "When we decreased the

protein level, ageing was reversed. Not only there was more bone and healing happened faster, but it was also structurally more sound," said study senior author Gurpreet Baht, Assistant Professor at the Duke University. They found that 75-85-year-olds had twice as much ApoE in their bloodstreams as 35-45-year-olds, then found the same was true for 24-month-old mice versus 4-month-old mice, which approximate the same human age ranges.

STUDYCENTRE

Encouraging physical activity and improving diet in children is crucial to cut deaths from cardiovascular disease (CVD), a new study suggests. "Atherosclerosis — clogged arteries — starts in childhood and is more likely with a sedentary lifestyle and unhealthy diet," said study lead author Karine Turke. "Exposure to these behaviours throughout life increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes, so prevention should begin in childhood," Turke said. Cardiovascular disease is the world's number one killer, causing 17.9 million deaths a year. The median age was 13 years and 51 per cent were male. The median time spent doing mild, moderate and vigorous physical activity over a week was 40 and 60 minutes, respectively. The median sitting time was 360 minutes a week.

"Physical activity is well below the level recommended by the WHO, which is 300 minutes per week for children and adolescents," said Turke. Regarding food, 53 per cent had consumed leafy vegetables the previous day, 69 per cent fruit, 91 per cent carbohydrates like rice or pasta, 70 per cent legumes, 79 per cent meat, 42 per cent soft drinks, 39 per cent chocolate, 39 per cent powdered beverage mixes, 42 per cent sausages and 49 per cent candy, including chocolate or any other sweets.

"Many had eaten processed foods, which are easier for parents to prepare than cooking from fresh ingredients," said Turke.



Say no to infections

Monsoon season is always beautiful, but it also brings humid and dry weather. Which has an adverse impact on our skin. However, the humidity and the moisture in the atmosphere after the monsoon can lead to skin related issues like rashes, pimples, eczema and so on. Our skin naturally has several very small microorganisms. The local skin temperature and environmental humidity are most conducive for the growth of microorganisms in this humid climate. People who are suffering from diseases which lowers the immunity, there is a higher risk of infection when the humidity in the atmosphere rises, particularly in the changing weather. Therefore it is essential to take care of our skin health this season too. Inflammation of skin folds can be caused by skin-on-skin scraping which can increase due to moisture. Such inflammation is bothersome in obese adults as well as children. Also, such swelling can also occur in natural body folds.

During the humid and adverse weather, it becomes imperative to take care of the skin. This can result in all sorts of skin problems, ranging from irritation and rashes to ringworm. If an infection is severe and causes itching or pain, consult a doctor without delay.

In this season, it is quite common for clothes and shoes to get wet and humid. Wet clothes and shoes become a hotbed for allergies especially when a person is out for some work and is caught in the rain, wet with sweat and stays in the wet clothes and shoes. Synthetic clothes have chemicals and the wet clothes tend to rub against the body causing allergies on the skin. These allergies can give rise to fungal infections especially in the body folds such as inside of the elbows, back of the knees and others.

This humid climate also translates to sweaty feet and wet sticky shoes. The roads are full of dirty water and muck and it enters the footwear easily. People wear these wet shoes for hours and the result is unclean, smelly feet that are the perfect candidate for skin allergies to develop. Chemicals such as bonding agents, glue, adhesives and treatment agents are present in the rubber or plastic shoes which react with water and cause contact dermatitis, which is a kind of painful and uncomfortable allergy.

Tips for Staying Healthy during the changing weather season:
■ People with diabetes are more susceptible to skin allergies and infections during monsoon especially the nail infection and therefore they should take extra care.

■ If you see the onset of any kind of skin allergies then visit a dermatologist instead of visiting a salon.

■ Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing.

■ Practice good personal hygiene. Keep yourself and the clothes clean.

■ Don't stay wet for too long.
■ Opt for simple and airy footwear during this humid climate. This will help keep the feet dry.

■ Skin infections can be contagious sometimes. Keep your towels and other personal belongings separate from others.

■ If you are going to swim then post swimming, take a bath with a disinfectant and use a fungal powder at your underarms, in the groin area and in the gap between the fingers and toes.

■ Do not scratch the skin.

■ Keep pets out of the bedroom to prevent eczema.

■ Use dust and mite proof covers on mattress and pillows.

■ Keep yourself hydrated at all times. Drinking purified water at regular intervals.

SUMMERCOOLERS

SWEET POTATO: A sweet potato is a sweet and starchy root vegetable. It is a great source of fibre, vitamins and minerals. They are also rich in antioxidants which help promote gut health.

Sweet potatoes also contain significant amount of magnesium which help to reduce stress and anxiety. They are also known for their anti-inflammatory properties which help reduce inflammation on the body.

Sweet potatoes can help in controlling blood pressure because they are rich in both magnesium and potassium. They also contain a lot of vitamin A it is good for our vision. It is also believed that sweet potatoes are memory enhancing food.



20 KILLED, DOZENS INJURED IN PAPUA WAMENA: At least 20 people were killed and dozens more injured as fresh unrest erupted in Indonesia's restive Papua region Monday, with some victims burned to death in buildings set ablaze by protesters, authorities said. "Most of them died in a fire," said Papua military spokesman Eko Daryanto.

PAK PM TO MEET TRUMP IN NEW YORK
New York: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will meet Donald Trump here on Monday, a day after the high-profile "Howdy, Modi!" rally in Houston in which the US president and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a stage and showered each other with praise.

MACRON MOVES TO EXTEND IVF TO LESBIANS
Paris: Six years after a same-sex marriage law that triggered months of mass protests, French President Emmanuel Macron risks rolling French conservatives again with plans to allow single women and lesbian couples to access fertility treatment. Under current French law, only heterosexual couples have the right to use medically assisted procreation methods such as in vitro fertilisation, commonly known as IVF.

Rouhani heads to UN in bid to win Iran support against 'cruel' US

TEHRAN, WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN AT LOGGERHEADS SINCE MAY LAST YEAR WHEN TRUMP ABANDONED A 2015 NUCLEAR DEAL

AFP ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani set off for New York on Monday to attend the UN General Assembly on a mission to win Iran support against "cruel" pressure from arch-foe the United States. His departure came as Iran said an oil tanker flying the flag of US ally Britain was "free" to leave more than two months after its forces seized it in sensitive Gulf waters. Speaking before boarding his flight, Rouhani said his delegation was heading to the UN gathering despite reluctance from President Donald Trump's administration to issue them visas. Tehran and Washington have been at loggerheads since May last year when Trump abandoned a 2015 nuclear deal and subsequently began reimposing sanctions on Iran in a stated campaign of "maximum pressure." "When the Americans aren't willing (to let Iran participate), we must insist on travelling," Rouhani said.

"It is essential for us to take part in the UN General Assembly and talk at various levels," he told a news conference at Tehran's Mehrabad airport. "The cruel actions that have been taken against the Iranian nation and also the difficult and complicated issues that our region faces with them need to be explained to the people and countries of the world." Tensions have flared in the Gulf since May this year when Iran began reducing its commitments under the nuclear deal and the US deployed military assets to the region. The US has since formed a naval coalition with its allies Britain, Australia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to escort commercial ships, in response to a spate of incidents in the Gulf. The tensions escalated further in the wake of devastating September 14 attacks on Saudi oil installations that Washington and Riyadh have, to varying degrees, blamed on Tehran. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Monday his government was drawing a similar conclusion to its allies. "The UK is attributing responsibility with a very high degree of probability to Iran" for the Saudi attacks, he said, quoted by the UK's Press

Association news agency. Johnson was himself en route to New York, where he was scheduled to meet with Iran's president. Long-fraught relations between London and Tehran were further soured after Iran seized the British-flagged Stena Impero on July 19 for allegedly breaking "international maritime laws." Iran said on Monday that the tanker was "free" to leave after the completion of legal proceedings. But government spokesman Ali Rabiei did not specify when the vessel, which is owned by a Swedish company, would set sail. The Iranian announcement comes after a court in British overseas territory Gibraltar ordered the release of an Iranian oil tanker in mid-August despite an 11th-hour US legal bid to keep it in detention. Before departing for New York, Rouhani said Iran would put forward a plan to de-escalate tensions in the Gulf during the UN meeting. Under the plan dubbed the Hormuz Peace Endeavour, or HOPE, he said, "all the coastal states of the Persian Gulf are invited to join this coalition to provide and maintain regional security." Rouhani said the Americans were "at the root" of conflicts in the region and

their motive for blaming Iran was to deploy its forces in the Gulf and have access to its oil. "It is clear that they want to own all of the oil that is in the east of Saudi Arabia." "It is clear that the US has other goals and such incidents are their pretext to be more present in the region." Since pulling out of the nuclear deal, Washington has slapped sanctions on Tehran's armed forces, financial sector and top officials including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. Iran has responded by scaling back its commitments under the 2015 deal with world powers that gave it the promise of sanctions relief in return for limiting the scope of its nuclear programme. The US has said it would make its case against Iran at the General Assembly. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the US wanted to give diplomacy "every opportunity to succeed" in the wake of the attacks that set aflame Abqaiq plant and the Khurais oil field in eastern Saudi Arabia. Following the attacks, the US announced it was imposing further sanctions on Iran's central bank. That may have dealt a final blow to efforts by France to arrange a meeting between Rouhani and Trump during the UN General Assembly.

UK says Iran responsible for attack on Saudi oil facilities

AP ■ NEW YORK

Britain has concluded that Iran was responsible for attacks on oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Sunday. He said the UK would consider taking part in a US-led military effort to bolster the Gulf kingdom's defenses, while Iran's president announced plans for a rival Iranian-led security coalition. The UK Conservative prime minister also said he would work with allies to "de-escalate" Middle East tensions that have soared since the September 14 attack on the world's largest oil processor and an oil field. Britain had previously held back from attributing blame for the drone and missile attack. Saudi Arabia and the United States say Iran was responsible, something Tehran denies. Johnson told reporters flying with him late Sunday to New York for the UN General Assembly that now "the UK is attributing responsibility with a very high degree of probability to Iran" for the attack by drones and cruise missiles. "We will be working with our American friends and our European friends to construct

a response that tries to de-escalate tensions in the Gulf region," Johnson said. Shortly before leaving for the UN meetings Monday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said that his country will invite "all littoral states of the Persian Gulf" to join an Iranian-led coalition "to guarantee the region's security." His remarks were broadcast on state television. Rouhani said the plan — details of which he will present at the United Nations — is not limited to "security" but also encompasses economic cooperation and an initiative for "long-term" peace. Iran's president had already called on Western powers Sunday to leave the security of the Persian Gulf to regional nations led by Tehran. Johnson said he would meet Rouhani at this week's high-level UN gathering. Johnson is also due to hold talks with US President Donald Trump, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron. He said he wanted Britain to be "a bridge between our European friends and the Americans when it comes to the crisis in the Gulf."

China rejects US secretary of state's criticism on Xinjiang

AP ■ BEIJING

China's Government on Monday denounced US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for saying that Beijing is trying to erase Muslim culture in its northwest. A foreign ministry spokesman rejected Pompeo's comment at the United Nations that the detention of Uighurs was unrelated to anti-terrorism activity. Pompeo on Sunday called on Central Asian governments to reject Chinese demands that they send home ethnic minorities who might face repression in China. Pompeo said China is trying "to erase" minority cultures and religions. The ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said Chinese activities in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where Muslims are held in detention camps, are the same as de-radicalization efforts in other countries. Geng complained that American politicians "slandered China's policy toward Xinjiang and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs."

Israelis await president's PM choice after crucial talks end

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's president wrapped up his second and final day of crucial talks to find a new prime minister and a way out of political deadlock, after meeting Monday with the smaller parties elected in last week's vote. After hearing the recommendations from the remaining party for who should head a government, President Reuven Rivlin must now select the candidate he deems most able to form a stable coalition. He is set to make his decision by Wednesday. The post-election consultations are usually a formality, but the largely ceremonial president is now playing a key role after an almost tied election result. "There is one thing that

the people are largely united over and that is the desire that there won't be third elections," Rivlin said. The smaller parties' recommendations were split between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Blue and White's Benny Gantz. That would suggest that, coming out of the talks, Netanyahu holds a small edge over Gantz. Rivlin will likely pick the candidate with the most recommendations who will then have 28 days to try to cobble together a government. If the first candidate chosen fails within that time, the second is given the opportunity. If he too doesn't manage, the country could head to a third, unprecedented election. In Rivlin's first round of talks on Sunday, the Joint

Arab List threw its support behind Gantz, the first time the Arab parties had recommended a candidate since 1992, saying it was doing so in a bid to topple Netanyahu, whose anti-Arab rhetoric has infuriated and offended Arabs in Israel during his decade in power. The backing promised to give Gantz a slight edge in support. But on Monday, the Joint Arab List said it was withdrawing some of its members' recommendations for Gantz, trimming his support to below Netanyahu's. Last week's repeat election produced no clear winner, with Blue and White receiving 33 seats in Israel's 120-member parliament and Netanyahu's Likud garnering 31 seats.

Torn by Brexit, Labour votes on way out of EU crisis

AFP ■ BRIGHTON (UNITED KINGDOM)

Britain's main opposition Labour Party was set Monday to decide on a new Brexit strategy at a fractious conference that has piled pressure on leader Jeremy Corbyn to openly campaign to remain in the European Union. Labour's identity crisis is being played out as Britain speeds toward a potentially chaotic "no-deal" departure from the EU on October 31 and a likely general election. Opinion polls show Corbyn's efforts to unite both the pro- and anti-Brexit wings of his party by either delaying a decision on departure or leaving it in voters' hands have led to a dramatic drop in support. Two surveys published

over the weekend put Labour 15 percentage points behind Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives and in danger of losing second place to the pro-EU Liberal Democrats. Grass roots activists spent hours deep into Sunday night trying to come up with a single Brexit motion that could be put up for a vote at the conference on Monday. They ended up with three. One motion backed by regional party branches says Labour "must reflect the overwhelming view of its members and voters, who want to stay in the EU." "Labour will therefore campaign energetically for a public vote and to stay in the EU in the referendum, while recognising the rights of those who want to argue another view."

Afghan officials: 40 civilians killed in anti-Taliban raid

AP ■ KABUL

At least 40 civilians at a wedding party were killed during a raid conducted by Afghan special forces and supported by US airstrikes on Taliban hideouts in the southern Helmand province, Afghan officials said. The violence has further rattled Afghanistan which is facing an upsurge in violence after US-Taliban peace talks to end America's longest war collapsed earlier this month. Abdul Majed Akhund, deputy provincial councilman, said that the majority of the dead are women and children who were at a wedding ceremony that was taking place in Musa Qala district on Sunday night. Akhund said that 12 other civilians were wounded and

are in the hospital in Lashkar Gah the capital of the province. There were conflicting reports on the numbers of killed and wounded from different sources as the area is under Taliban control. Attahullah Afghan, head of the provincial council, said there were two separate raids in different areas of Musa Qala. The first operation killed six foreign fighters, while the second raid "mistakenly" hit civilians, he said. Akhund said authorities are investigating reports civilians attending a wedding died in the raid Sunday night in Musa Qala. Afghanistan's defense ministry in a statement said that as a result of the operations in Musa Qala district, 22 foreign members of the Taliban were killed and 14 arrested. The

arrested terrorists include five Pakistani nationals and one Bangladeshi. "The foreign terrorist group was actively engaged in organizing terrorist attacks," said the statement and added that a large warehouse of the terrorists' supplies and equipment was also destroyed. Omar Zwak, the provincial governor's spokesman, said 14 insurgents including six foreigners were killed during the raid. They were investigating reports of civilian casualties. The deadly strike came after a drone attack last week in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province blamed on U.S. Forces killed at least 16 and wounded tens of others, most of them civilians. U.S. Forces said that attack was targeting Islamic State militants.

NATIONAL HYDROLOGY PROJECT
INVITATIONS FOR RE-BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Notice
(Two Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Date: 17/09/2019
Credit No.: 8725-IN
Bid No./ IFB No.: BR/WRD/PPDA/NHP-SW/IFB/2019-20/02

OFFICER INVITING BIDS : Chief Engineer, Flood Control and Drainage, Water Resources Department, Patna, Bihar

1. The Chief Engineer, Flood Control & Drainage, Water Resources Department, Patna, Government of Bihar invites online bids for the construction of works detailed below in the table.

Package No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (INR) in Lakhs	Bid Security (INR) in Lakhs	Cost of Bid Document (INR)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
NHP-2018-2019-BRSW-537732	Construction of Water Knowledge Centre, Bihar at Anisabad, Patna under National Hydrology Project (NHP).	1620.00	32.40	5000/-	30 months from the date of signing of the contract

(a) Date of commencement of sale of bidding document: 30/09/2019 at 15:00 hrs. server time
(b) Last date for sale of bidding document: 31/10/2019 at 15:00 hrs. server time
(c) Last date and time for receipt of bids: 31/10/2019 at 15:00 hrs. server time
(d) Time and date of opening of bids- 31/10/2019 at 16:00 hrs. server time
Technical part:

2. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 14/10/2019 at 11.30 hrs. in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Flood Control and Drainage, Patna, Water Resources Department, Government of Bihar, 1st Floor-Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Block-A, Anisabad, Patna-800002 to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.

3. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.
For further details please visit website www.prd Bihar.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
Flood Control and Drainage, Patna
Water Resources Department,
Government of Bihar
1st Floor-Jal Sansadhan Bhawan, Block-A,
Anisabad, Patna-800002, Bihar, India
Tel.(0612-2250681), Mob.:- 91-746389513
Email: cewrdanisabadpatna@gmail.com

PR. No. 08195 (WRD) 2019-20
अविधे शराव एवं नादक द्रव्य के सम्बन्ध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें।

Collapse of US-Taliban talks an awkward blow for Pakistan

AFP ■ ISLAMABAD

The collapse of US-Taliban talks is an untimely setback for Pakistan, which had hoped its efforts to bring the militants to the table would be rewarded with an economic boost and American support in its dispute with India over Kashmir. Prime Minister Imran Khan has promised to issue a rallying cry at the UN General Assembly in New York next week over India's moves in the disputed Himalayan region. But Pakistan, long condemned for its support for militant groups, needs political capital if it is to sway a global community that has been historically reluctant to challenge New Delhi over Kashmir. Helping the United States with its fervent wish to leave Afghanistan

after nearly 18 years of war was widely seen as an opportunity to get back into Washington's good books after years of being accused of duplicity. For a brief moment in July, it appeared to be working. President Donald Trump delighted Khan in Washington by declaring his willingness to mediate on Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two wars and countless skirmishes since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. New Delhi repeated its position that Kashmir is a purely bilateral issue with Islamabad and dismissed the possibility of foreign mediation, but still, Pakistan's star once again appeared on the rise in Washington. The relief was short-lived. Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revoked the region's

autonomy, igniting outrage in Pakistan. And as Islamabad scrambled to win international support for its position on Kashmir, in a separate twist, Trump abruptly called off talks with the Taliban, blowing up nearly a year of painstaking efforts to secure a deal that would have seen the beginning of US troop withdrawal. Pakistan has for years called for a political solution in Afghanistan, and had used its influence over the Taliban to help facilitate talks with the United States, hoping a successful outcome would help generate diplomatic capital — especially for Kashmir. Khan told reporters last week that he will meet with the US President on Monday to urge a resumption of talks with the Taliban.

Chinese officials hold talks with Taliban delegation

PTI ■ BEIJING

Chinese officials have held talks with a Taliban delegation ahead of the presidential elections in Afghanistan on September 28, days after US President Donald Trump cancelled a meeting with the militant group in the war-torn country. The Taliban delegation, headed by Mullah Baradar, spoke to China's special envoy to Afghanistan Deng Xijun on Sunday, the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Geng Shuang, said at a media briefing here on Monday. Though Geng confirmed the Taliban delegation's visit on Monday, he gave few details. The situation in

Afghanistan has changed dramatically after US President Donald Trump called off his meeting with Taliban representatives two weeks ago following a deadly attack by insurgent groups in Kabul that killed an American soldier. The proposed US-Taliban talks and a reported agreement between the two about the withdrawal of American troops raised concern about further violence and political uncertainty in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is due to hold presidential elections on September 28 in which President Ashraf Ghani is seeking re-election. The election is already marred by violence.

'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' to release in China on October 25

PTI ■ LOS ANGELES

Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" is heading to China on October 25. According to Variety, the Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt-starrer will be the director's first movie to get a proper release in the country. The film, set in 1960s reimagines the murder of actor Sharon Tate and three others at the hands of the Manson Family cult, will arrive in the Chinese theatres after the country's National Day holiday. Interestingly, the Chinese authorities typically impose an unofficial blackout on foreign titles in order to support the local industry over the week-long holiday period. The weekend, this year, will be dominated by animated titles and patriotic films praising the ruling Communist Party of China. Bona Film Group, one of China's longest-running production companies, was a co-investor in the title.

Egypt: Lawyers say police arrested hundreds over protests

AP ■ CAIRO

Egyptian security forces rounded up hundreds of people following small but rare anti-government protests, rights lawyers said Monday. The protests broke out in several Egyptian cities including the capital, Cairo, over the weekend, calling for President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to step down. All protests were quickly broken up by police. But they marked a startling eruption of street unrest, which has been almost completely silenced the past years by draconian measures imposed under el-Sissi. On Monday, lawyers Malek Adly and Khaled el-Masry said

security forces had arrested at least 400 people in Cairo and elsewhere across the country. El-Masry says prosecutors have questioned at least 220 people, over claims that they took part in activities of an outlawed group, a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood group, and disseminating false news. The new protests emerge from an online campaign, led by an Egyptian businessman living in self-imposed exile who has presented himself as a whistleblower against corruption. His calls for demonstrations come at a time when Egypt's lower and middle classes have been badly squeezed by years of economic reforms and austerity measures.

The Executive Engineer, Mohanpur Division, PWD (R&B), Mohanpur, West Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No. 09/EE/MNP/PWD(R&B)/2019-20 Dated 17/09/2019

For "Replacement of SPT Bridge by Bailey Bridge over river Sonai on the road from Mohanpur to Simna near Mohanpur Market at Ch. 0.80 Km/S.H:Construction of Abutments,launching of Bailey Bridge,approach road & protection work etc (Job No.TP/COM/65/2018-19)"

With-

- Estimated cost: ₹ 2,30,28,941.00/-
- Earnest Money: ₹ 2,30,289.00-
- Time of Completion : 24(Twenty four) months.
- Last Date of bidding for bids - 16/10/2019 upto 15.00 Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>
*To be filled up by the concerned Executive Engineer.

Sd/-
Er. Nihar Rn. Debbarma)
Designation:- Executive Engineer
Mahanpur Division, PWD(R&B),
ICA/C-1158/2019-20 Mahanpur, West Tripura.

Trend Glazer

Taapsee dedicates film to her mother

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** wants to dedicate her next film *Saand Ki Aankh* to her mother because while working in the film, she realised the countless sacrifices a woman makes to run her family.

Saand Ki Aankh is based on the lives of sharpshooters Chandro and Prakashi Tomar, who are the world's oldest sharpshooters, essayed by Taapsee and Bhumi Pednekar.

The film shows how these women defied tradition to pursue their goal and attained fame by winning more than 30 national championships after the age of 65.

"Listening to their story, I just couldn't stop thinking about my mother because it's a story of those women who have lived their life for others."



'Female stars get trolled and criticised more than their male counterparts. I can say this from my observation of the way media constantly questions Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Swara Bhaskar, Sonam Kapoor and other female stars for their choices — whether it is fashion, political opinion or lifestyle. Do they question the male stars enough?'

—Richa Chadha

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** says he cannot wait to start shooting for *The White Tiger*.

The actor shared photographs of him along with **Priyanka Chopra Jonas**.

"Can't wait to start *The White Tiger* with these supremely talented people.

Priyanka, Ramin Bahrani, Adarsh Gourav and Mukul Deora," he tweeted.

Adapted from Aravind Adiga's prize-winning novel by the same name, *The White Tiger*, will also feature debutante Adarsh Gourav. The film to be helmed by Ramin Bahrani, will begin shooting in India later this year.

Patrick's throw-back to Suits



As the finale episode of the popular show *Suits* is going to air this week, actor **PATRICK ADAMS**, who essayed the role of Mike Ross in the legal drama, has shared a few unseen pictures from the set.

"This week the last episode of *Suits* will air and the nearly 10-year journey we've all been on together will finally be over. So it seems right to post some photos the next couple of days from the early days," Adams wrote on social media.

From sharing a photograph of the first fitting he ever had for Mike Ross to sharing the pictures of his co-stars including Meghan Markle, Sarah Rafferty and Gabriel Macht; Adams took a trip down memory lane.

Online shows nudge into Emmys

While *GoT* and *Fleabag* ruled as the top shows and **BILLY PORTER** became the first gay man to win a best drama series, the online industry stood the tallest at the awards

The searing TV series on the plight of the Central Park Five created a memorable Emmy moment when the five exonerated men stood and were honoured at the awards show. The four-part Netflix series explores the true story of five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem who were coerced into confessing to a rape they didn't commit in 1989 and follows them over the course of 25 years to their eventual exoneration.

Show creator Ava DuVernay lost in the directing and writing categories but Jharrel Jerome won for best lead actor in a limited series. "I feel like I should just be in the Bronx right now, just chilling, waiting for my mom's cooking. But I am here in front of my inspirations," said Jerome, a New Yorker whose mother told him about this ugly chapter in city history. He then acknowledged the Central Park Five — Yusef Salaam, Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana, and Corey Wise.

"This is for Raymond, Yusef, Antron, Kevin, and King Corey Wise. Thank you so much, it's an honour. It's a blessing," said Jerome. Some of the men raised fists in the air, while others, including Wise, had tears in their eyes. Jerome played Wise in the series. The case of the Central Park Five cut the city along racial lines from the outset, with the victim being a young white woman. It drew worldwide attention. It took years for the five to be exonerated, and they spent most of their youth in prison. Another man later confessed to the attack.

Thrones, Fleabag top Emmys, Billy Porter makes history

Game of Thrones resurrected the Iron Throne at the ceremony, ruling as top drama on a night of surprises in which *Pose* star Billy Porter made history and the comedy series *Fleabag* led a British invasion that overturned expecta-



tions. "This all started in the demented mind of George RR Martin," said *Game of Thrones* producer David Benioff, thanking the author whose novels were the basis of HBO's fantasy saga. Porter, who stars in the FX drama set in the LGBTQ ball scene of the late 20th century, became the first openly gay man to win a best drama series.

"God bless you all. The category is love, you all, love. I'm so overjoyed and so overwhelmed to have lived to see this day," said an exuberant Porter, resplendent in a sparkling suit and swooping hat.

A *Amazon's Fleabag*, a dark comedy about a dysfunctional woman, was honoured as best comedy and earned writing and top acting honours for its British creator and star, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, as well as a best director trophy. "This is getting ridiculous," Waller-Bridge said in her third trip to the stage to collect the top trophy.

Her acting win blocked *Veep* star Julia Louis-Dreyfus from setting a record as the most-honoured performer in Emmy history. "Nooooo!" a shocked-looking Waller-Bridge said as Louis-Dreyfus smiled for the cameras. "Oh, my God, no. Thank you. I



find acting really hard and painful. But it's all about this," she said, her acting trophy firmly in hand.

Porter, a Tony and Grammy Award winning performer, relished his groundbreaking moment. Quoting the late writer James Baldwin, he said it took him

LIST OF WINNERS	
Drama Series:	<i>Game of Thrones</i>
Actor, Drama Series:	Billy Porter, <i>Pose</i>
Actress, Drama Series:	Jodie Comer, <i>Killing Eve</i>
Supporting Actor, Drama Series:	Peter Dinklage, <i>Game of Thrones</i>
Supporting Actress, Drama Series:	Julia Garner, <i>Ozark</i>
Comedy Series:	<i>Fleabag</i>
Actor, Comedy Series:	Bill Hader, <i>Barry</i>
Actress, Comedy Series:	Phoebe Waller-Bridge, <i>Fleabag</i>
Limited Series:	<i>Chernobyl</i>
Television Movie:	<i>Black Mirror: Bandersnatch</i>

many years to believe he has the right to exist. English actress Jodie Comer was honoured as best drama actress for *Killing Eve*. "My mum and dad are in Liverpool (England) and I didn't invite them because I didn't think this was going to be my time. One, I'm sorry, two I love you," Comer said after saluting Oh.

Peter Dinklage, named best supporting actor for *Game of Thrones*, set a record for most wins for the same role, four, breaking a tie with Aaron Paul of *Breaking Bad*. "I count myself so fortunate to be a member of a community that is about nothing but tolerance and diversity, because in no other place I could be standing on a stage like this," said Dinklage, who is a dwarf.

Ozark star Julia Garner won the best supporting drama actress trophy against a field including four actresses from *Game of Thrones*.

It was the only honour for the acclaimed Netflix series of the evening; *Chernobyl* won the best limited series honour. Amazon Prime winners, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* and *A Very English Scandal*, and Netflix's *Bandersnatch* (*Black Mirror*), honoured as best film.

HBO retained its durable front-runner status with the help of *Game of Thrones* record-tying 12 wins. Netflix collected 27 awards and Amazon nabbed 15.

Dual-tone gowns of pink and red ruled the Emmys carpet

Did someone send a memo? Taraji P Henson, Zoe Kazan, Susan Kelechi Watson, Mandy Moore and Marisa Tomei all showed up to the Emmys in two-tone looks of pink and red that stood out on the awards' purple carpet. The dual tones were the strongest trend among the women, where outfits from Zendaya, Gwendoline Christie and current red carpet darling Billy Porter also turned heads.

While it's common to see many stars wearing a certain colour, the combination of pink and red was particularly eye popping on the purple carpet. "With many also showcasing 80s hints of bold shoulders, it shows an emerging optimism on the red carpet and a willingness to have a little fun with fashion," said Kerry Pieri, the fashion and features director for HarpersBazaar.

Henson's French tulle gown with a sheer red cape was custom Vera Wang Collection. Kazan's black, magenta and pink silk gown with bow detail was Gucci. Badgley Mischka created Kelechi Watson's version, in ruby crepe with blush pink sleeves that fell off the shoulder. Moore wore Brandon Maxwell, a pink twill gazar blouse with a red crepe cummerbund skirt.

Corsets, too, had a wow moment. Indya Moore wore white Louis Vuitton and Zendaya rocked Vera Wang in green with a daring top. "Both also had slits up to there, making this the current approach to something sexy. Maybe it means we're all finally ready to move on from the naked dress," Pieri said. Pieri considered Christie's intensely *Game of Thrones* Bordeaux cape look a near miss. While costume-y, she said, "celebrating the end of a major epic fantasy drama sometimes calls for gilded robes."

Christie was Brienne of Tarth on the popular, defunct HBO series, which won top honours for best drama at the ceremony. Marielle Bobo, fashion director for Essence, said seafoam and another shade du jour — on Regina King, Brittany Snow, Jameela Jamil and Padma Lakshmi. "They stunned in the soft pastel hue which complements a variety of skin tones," Bobo said, also noting the red and pink parade that made for an "unexpected yet refreshing combination."

There were some classic Hollywood metallic moments as well, including Julia Louis-Dreyfus in sequined gold and Rachel Brosnahan in navy blue, the latter offering a "modern take on Hollywood glam with architectural accents," Bobo said.

Laura Linney, Chrissy Metz, Niecy Nash, Dominique Jackson and Patricia Clarkson embraced heavily sequined looks.

Kerry Washington, Angela Bassett and Amy Poehler all opted for pants, while Porter, who has made headlines with his red-carpet gowns, chose sparkling stripe trousers from Michael Kors and a huge statement hat with a towering brim on one side by Stephen Jones. Porter ended up making history later as the first openly gay man to win an Emmy for best actor in a drama series for his role of Pray Tell on FX's *Pose*.

—AP

The unknown

KIRTI KULHARI and RIBHU DASGUPTA talk about creating an unusual character and exploring an unfamiliar terrain for the *Bard of Blood*. By AYUSHI SHARMA

How often are supporting roles appreciated for the difference that they make to the plot of the film? There is a common perception where people term those actors as sidekicks but they are much more than just that. Enter actors like Kirti Kulhari who add flesh, blood and meat to any film or show. Her unconventional script choices have been apparent in the past and she takes it forward with the latest Netflix show *Bard of Blood*. She doesn't care a hoot about whether her role is subliminal or not.

Kirti ensures that each role that she plays holds out something different in the way the character is portrayed. "If everybody expects every actor to be the protagonist, who will do the rest of the roles?" she questions and says, "I am speaking to a lot of other people through you because media is really responsible for changing mindsets. Hence, I am trying to give you a new perspective. From that space, if I call myself an actor, I will not be driven by visibility and wonder if it will put me in the main lead category or as a sidekick? That's not how it works. It will be a mix of everything. Sometimes you will see me in the lead and at times not at the centre of a film. But yet, I will be making my presence felt. So it's a combination of all that. My script choices depend on great roles, good stories and the director because it is his vision ultimately. I need to have enough faith on the direc-



tor, who is going to bring the story and eventually my role on the screen alive."

She does not bother if the audience will slot her. "I will keep doing the roles no matter what people feel about it or whether they are small or big. They are my roles, I do them with complete honesty, effort and hardwork," adds Kirti.

As the series is based on the eponymous novel by Bilal Siddiqi, she tells us that her character is not in the book and that it was developed only for the series. She plays a Baluchi girl and her look was very different from all of the projects that she has worked in so far. "It was tough to find a reference for a Baluchi girl. I happened to catch hold of a documentary to understand the geography, the dialect of Baluchistan, the intonations when they talk. It gave me a lot of input," she says.

It was her interpretation and understanding of how they



(author and director) envisioned the character. "That's the whole idea of collaboration, isn't?", she asks. "When I came on board, I was planning to read the book but Bilal suggested that I should read the show's script because it's a much more

detailed version of what the book is about because the characters are nuanced," she says.

It's not the first time that something on RAW and how the agency works is being made. The film industry has also had a fair share of spy thrillers. Director Ribhu Dasgupta tells us that he has just adapted the book into a seven-part series. Just like how one makes films out of various books, this is a show. "There are so many films being made on books, no matter whether they are bestsellers or not. It would have been a bit difficult to make it into a film because the amount of content and material the book has was vast. We embedded it into a series and it was more intriguing and could be played around more efficiently," he says.

Ask the director how difficult was it to create the landscape similar to the Afghan terrain and capture the exact essence and he says, "We couldn't go to Afghanistan and shoot obviously because of the conflict. So we had to create it in India. We had to shoot in negative temperatures. It was challenging not only for me but for the entire cast. But when you have a good team, it works automatically and creates a good energy around you, keeps you motivated to work. It did turn out to be a great experience."

Ravi Shankar's suitcase in scrap heap

SMM Ausaja, a film archivist and poster collector, has hit the goldmine in a local scrap shop of Mahim, Mumbai. He has discovered a tattered suitcase that belonged to Pandit Ravi Shankar and his son Shubho, which contains original musical notes, handwritten letters, rare photographs, old press clippings, autographed brochures and even a poem written and signed by legendary filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak.

"I am film archivist and a poster collector and I keep going to places where this antique material or junk material is sold in the hope I might find something on cinema. I am a cinema archivist so when someone called me saying that there is material on Pandit Ravi Shankar," Ausaja said. "I was not really interested because he has done very few films. Still, I asked if there were any posters. They said there were photographs. I thought I'd get photographs of him composing for *Shatranj Ke Khiladi* or maybe *Gulzar's Meera* or so many rare films he did," Ausaja added.

He said that when he reached the scrap shop there was no material pertaining to cinema. "There were perhaps one or two files with

names of Bengali and Punjabi films written, and some notations. Then I realised these are actual notations written by him in the file. These are music notations in his handwriting. That was surprising. I thought it was precious and needs to be preserved," Ausaja said. He added that there were beautiful illustrations and signatures in Bengali as well as in English. "There are a lot of brochures — some pertaining to his concert in Russia, so (these are) in Russian language. So in his own handwriting, (outlining) where it happened and on what date," he said.

Some press clippings were found too. "He went to Czechoslovakia, China and all those countries so (there are) press clipping in those languages which appeared on him. So there are two three files of the press clipping from 1954-55," he added.

Ausaja also found some pictures of Pandit Ravi Shankar's wife Annapurna Devi. "There are a lot of photographs. I found Annapurna Devi's photographs, which is impossible to find now because she became a recluse and never got publicized anywhere," he said.

—IANS



Clockwise: Vishesh Gupta, BSG chairperson, Yoshiki Tanigawa, SG Senior Vice President, IK Bhatt, MRU VC, Minoru Harada, SG President and Prashant Bhalha, MRU Chancellor at the conferral of Honorary Doctorate on Dr Daisaku Ikeda President Soka Gakkai International by Manav Rachna University.

Keep it simple

Artists and sculptors make the viewers travel back and forth in time and celebrate minimalism through their works, which are being showcased at the Aakriti Art Gallery, Kolkata, says U NAIR

For some years now, Vikram Bachawat, director of Aakriti Art Gallery, Kolkata, has been virtually rewriting the rules of classical traditions in collecting contemporary artworks. His affordable art exhibition is an annual event that sometimes subtly and often dramatically draws in collectors from all walks of life.

The gallery is now hosting the seventh edition of the *Affordable September Art Mela*. "There have been six successful editions of the fair at the Kolkata gallery, where we constantly strive to make art more accessible. The exhibition hopes to bring art into the lives of people who harbour a passion and love for it," says Bachawat.

The gallery showcases works of over a 100 artists with more than a thousand artworks priced between ₹1,000 to ₹1,00,000. According to Bachawat, this is a one-of-a-kind occasion for art enthusiasts to collect original and rare pieces at the best prices. "The pursuit of owning great works of art should not be limited to a few. The pleasure of living with and savouring great artworks is incomparable to merely looking at them in galleries," he adds.

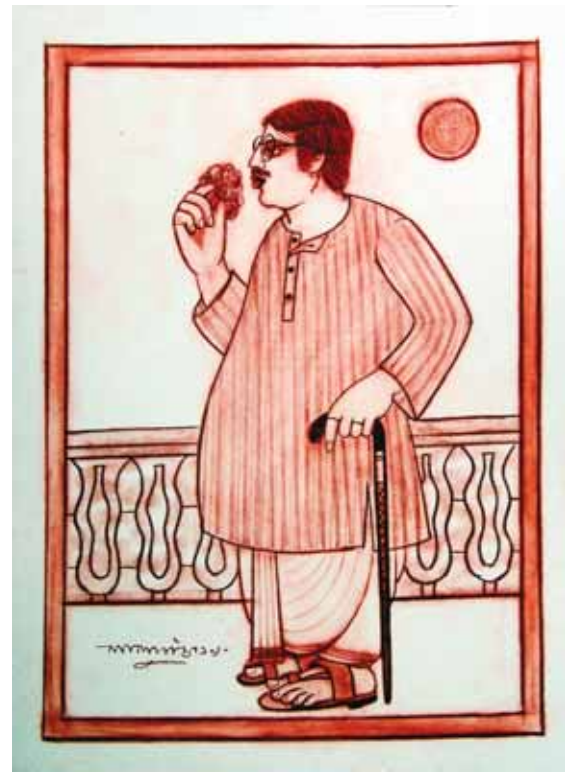
TESTIMONIES OF TIME

Artist Lalu Prasad Shaw's portrait of a Marwari gentleman in a *kurta* smelling a flower is a testimony to observation and satirical slants in the lifestyles of the people he captures with winsome detail.

On the other hand, artist Jogen Chowdhury's acrylic on canvas is a minimally-rendered flower that recalls the tradition of *rangoli* and his love for nature. His penchant for carving contours speak of the beauty of nature's many evocative epochs that run through the tide of time.

SPEAKING SCULPTURES

Sculptor Asim Basu's



Man with Grandson is a brilliant cubist rendering of the human figure done in a style that celebrates minimalism and speaks of its enduring power. Basu translates his imagery into 3D.

Another sculptor, Akhil Chandra Das' *Goat* reminds one of the famous she goat of Pablo Picasso. Das' fervour and a perfection of understanding forms and imagery is



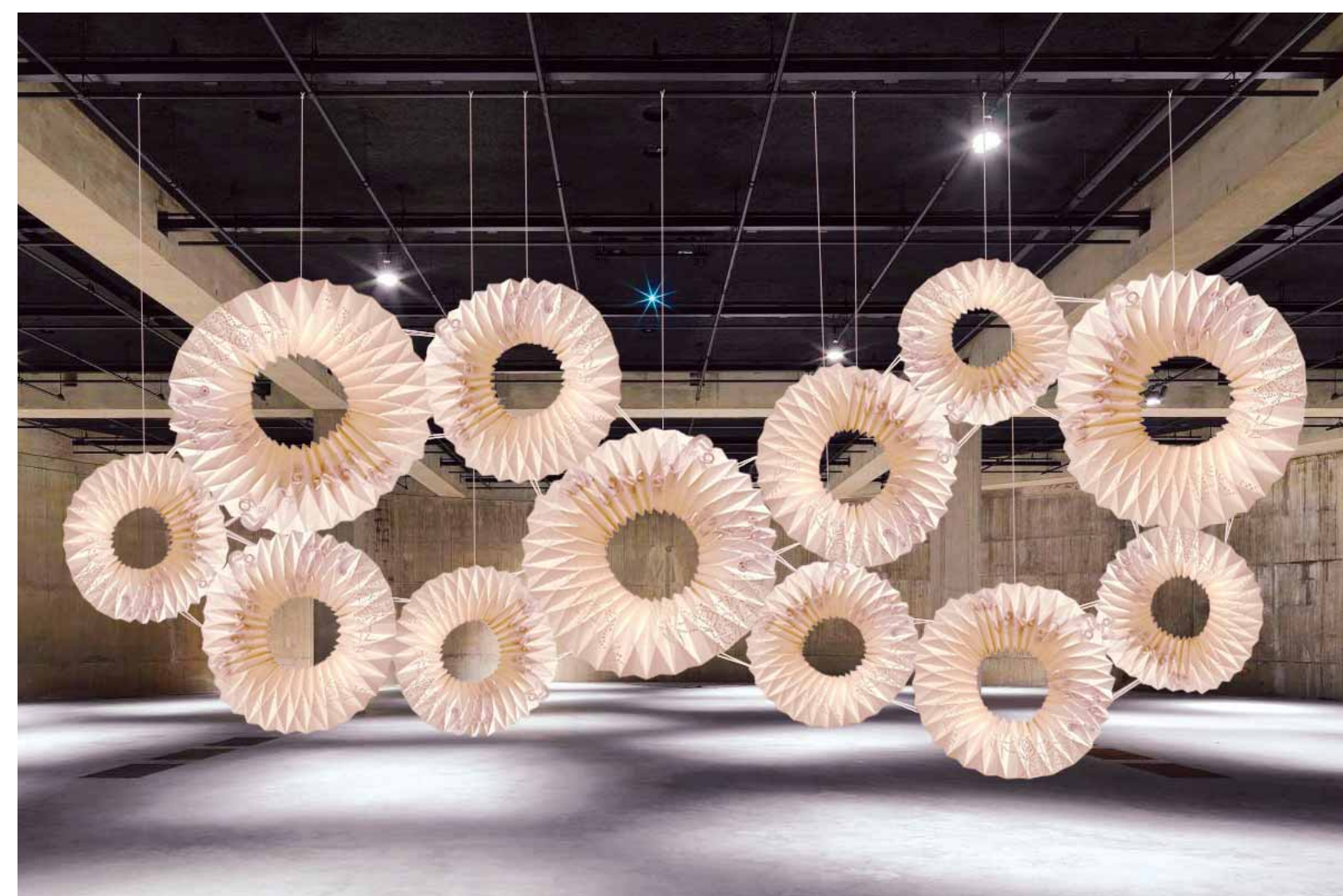
evident in his work in terms of the stylisation he does and the natural flow of the anatomical accoutrements.

Sculptor Subrata Biswas' terracotta image at once celebrates the iconographic power of religiosity with animals and humans. The beauty of terracotta is its tensile and tactile qualities as well as the earthy tonality that keeps the rhythms of resonance and power of sacred and profane intact.

Next up is Bimal Kundu's head, which is a rendition that scores in its vitality and simplicity. The image signifies both ardour and strength of composition.

For the aficionados of art, this is certainly an event which is looked forward to for picking up works that are collectible yet affordable.

(The collection is on display from September 28.)



Labyrinth of possibilities

Origami maestro ANKON MITRA's installation, *The Wheels That Spin Infinity*, is an ode to Gandhi's *charkha* and reminds one of how he used the instrument as a tool for the country's freedom struggle. By UMA NAIR

The possibility of creation from paper is infinite, said Japanese origami artist Akira Yoshizawa. Landscape architect and origami maestro Ankon Mitra turned his words into reality through his installation of khadi, *The Wheels That Spin Infinity*.

He sourced the two tonnes of khadi fabric from Khadi Gramodyog in Rajiv Chowk to create his magnum opus that presents a contemporary take on Mahatma Gandhi's *charkha* (spinning wheel).

"This is an installation made of 17 handcrafted Khadi-clad toroidal forms. The work references our simple heirloom *charkhas*, the glorious past of our freedom struggle embodied within the simplest of hand-

crafted machines. It also exemplifies the present and vaults that onto an even more glorious future — one where the Indian civilisation works with renewed vigour on the monumental achievements of our past like the discovery of zero. It goes on to understand, interpret and harness its mathematical counterpart — the principle of infinity — represented through a network of interlocking spinning wheels," said Ankon.

If one looks carefully, the network of the toroids reveals a hidden symbol of infinity within. According to Ankon, Gandhi bequeathed to us many things — *Satyagraha*, a personal quest for truth and freedom — was one of those treasures. The 17 toroids in this work represent

'The installation, made of 17 handcrafted toroidal forms, understands, interprets and harnesses its mathematical counterpart — the principle of infinity — represented through a network of interlocking spinning wheels'

the 17 fasts that Gandhi undertook during India's freedom struggle. His longest fasts lasted for 21 days. There are 210 folds in the larger toroidal forms to commemorate this number. Gandhi deployed fasting as part of his philosophy of *Ahimsa* (non-violence) and *Satyagraha*.

Ankon adds an elegiac eulogy to his installation as he adds, "Fasting is an ancient Indian technique of renunciation, cleansing and self-analysis and Gandhian use of it for larger political ends was extremely unique and novel. Today, each one of us must engage in our own *Satyagraha*, changing lives of innovation, frugality, wisdom and the zeal to take our nation to newer heights of freedom and awakening."

The spinning wheel was the physical embodiment and symbol of Gandhi's constructive programme. It represents *Swadeshi*, self-sufficiency, and at the same time, inter-dependence, because the wheel is at the centre of a network of cotton-growers, carders, weavers, distributors, and users. It also embodied the dignity of labour, equality, unity, as all volunteers were to spin each day. And finally, independence as British control of India was rooted in the control of indigenous industries such as textiles. For art lovers, Ankon's *Wheels That Spin Infinity* will bring forward history in a tangible tensile way.

(The exhibition starts from October 2 to 22 at Lalit Kala Akademi.)

The art of enamelling has been a showstopper through the centuries due to its brilliance and gloss, which are hard and long-lasting. It has become a substitute for inlaying of mirrors, precious and semi-precious stones and paint on metal.

The exhibition titled *Enamel Revisited* relives this erstwhile tradition in an entirely new avatar of collector's art via the artistry of contemporary artists. Fashioned by 10 enamellists, who have been masters of the art for over a decade, these works reflect a combination of creativity, coupled with their unique technical practices, learnt from their family heritage or experts.

Veenu Shah, founder of Enamelling Society of India, who has been creating these vivid art works for 30 years, tells us about what it means to her. She says, "It's my life, my passion. I love its process, colours and enjoy the almost meditative sense of creating something when I am in the studio. Time seems to stand still and all the nitty-gritties and tragedies of life are pushed to the back when I am into it." Her works, as she describes, are celebratory of the spontaneity and transcendence. They are "imperfect, intimate, irregular, unpretentious and above all, startlingly simple."

Artist Deepak Sankit, master craftsman of Meenakari jewellery who is from the family of the late Deen Dayal Meenakar, aims to take his skills and designs learnt from the traditional workshops of his father to a new



level. Through the techniques of *cloisonné*, he and his sister Preeti create bejewelled splendour and *plique-a-jour*, where the metal surfaces evoke a rare translucence. Ankit says, "There is a new interest in the traditional craft in Rajasthan with a market for royal-inspired jewellery and costumes and we are delighted to create these beautiful pieces keeping that mind."

Kana Lomror's works reflect an innovative style that has provided the input for large-scale ones in 3D and 2D formats. Hailing from Santiniketan, Lomror's works are replete with innovative touches and experimental techniques as she uses vitreous enamelling on copper surfaces. For Kana, enamelling gives the feeling of instant gratification, "which can only come from completing an artwork after a few hours. The versatility of the medium where there are endless possibilities has always fascinated me," says he.

Avanti Mehta cashed upon her travels through the country to stoke her artistry. She works with copper and painstakingly cuts the pieces with a fret



saw, thereby making a visual grid of flora and fauna. She says, "I like to work on a miniature scale, carving away bits of copper to create a filigree of leaves or branches, within which I place the silhouettes of a bird or an insect or a butterfly and then colour them with enamel and fires."

An enamellist whose forte is repousse work, Seema Lalit Uppal banks on her immediate surroundings as the anchor for her inspiration. She finds the way out in the natural world, which "is highly sensitised for making a lasting impact on her viewers." The artist likes working on

Create your own gloss

Enamel Revisited has a fresh take on the art, which reminds one that while oil paints on canvas may eventually fade or darken, enamels are permanent



metal with a hammer, texturing and bending. She finds it extremely therapeutic. She says, "The play of colours and the unpredictability of the final result fascinate me. There is a beauty in uncertainty that draws me to it. Everything — the sense of playfulness of imperfection, the risks one can take with the piece — make enamelling very attractive."

While Seema looks at enamelling as a therapeutic art form, designer Kavita Dhankar, through it, explores the possibilities of vitreous enamelling for jewellery-making as a fine art. Juxtaposing the jeweller's art with professional artistry, her palette encompasses nature and cityscapes, which has found favour at many international workshops in Italy, Russia and Budapest.

For artist Ritu Sangal, enamelling itself has so many possibilities that she looks at it as a medium to learn new techniques, methods and a potential to experiment freely with mixing media. Her works in textile art are detailed compositions that depict the current political and social turmoils across the world.

Artist Smriti Sangal, in her works, creates patterns and enamelled surfaces that define cityscapes through her gaze. She says, "The medium has a great scope to be the top choice for art in public spaces due to its infinite possibilities."

While for artist Triveni Mahajan, it was a thirst to learn new techniques that egged her into experimenting with enamelling, cementing it into a limitless passion, for artist Jyoti Singh, it was the drama of copper being fired, hammered, cut, coloured and pierced into shapes that created landscapes, sacred spaces and pilgrimages. She thus travels to exotic destinations to connect the dots between her artistic pursuits and her inner energies.

WATCH OUT



The 18th edition of the *Lalit Arpan Festival*, conceptualised by Padma Shri Shovana Narayan, Dr Jyotsna Suri and Harish Narula, presents a feast of performances by national and international classical artists. **WHEN:** September 30 and October 1 **TIME:** 7 pm onwards **WHERE:** Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre.



AIFACS Art Gallery presents *Yes or No*, a solo exhibition of paintings by artist Savya Jain, which will be inaugurated by Padma Shri Ram V Sutar Ji and Padma Shri Biman B Das. **WHEN:** September 27 to October 3 **WHERE:** AIFACS.



Presented by Jitendra Padam Jain, Gallery Sree Arts, *Definitely, Maybe* is a solo exhibition of artworks by Palak Modi, who explores the unpredictable life through her study of nature. **WHEN:** September 27 to 29 **TIME:** 11 am to 7 pm **WHERE:** Alliance Franciase de Delhi.

Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra presents the 63rd Scintillating edition of *Sampoorna Ramila*, showcasing a perfect synergy of idealism, grandiosity and reality. **WHEN:** September 29 to October 25 **TIME:** 6.30 pm to 9.15 pm **WHERE:** Kendra Lawns, 1, Copernicus Marg.



Organised by Manoj Aryan, *Eyewin Awards*, second Annual International Photography Awards in India, celebrate photography not just as a profession but as well an art for passion. **TIME:** 3 pm **WHEN:** Photo Video Asia 2019, Hall 12, Pragati Maidan.

ONE IS ENOUGH

Benzema's header ensures Los Blancos bounce back with impressive win over Sevilla



AFP ■ SEVILLE

Real Madrid eased the pressure on Zinedine Zidane and delivered a resounding response to their loss to Paris Saint-Germain by winning 1-0 away at high-flying Sevilla in La Liga on Sunday.

Karim Benzema headed in the decisive goal at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan to secure an impressive victory against a Sevilla side that were unbeaten and hoping to return to the top of the table.

Instead, it is Madrid that go level on points with Athletic Bilbao in first place after a controlled and determined performance that was by some distance their best since Zidane's return as coach in March.

"We have had a quite difficult time but the players reacted," Zidane said.

His position had come under scrutiny after Madrid's woeful 3-0 defeat by PSG in the Champions League on Wednesday, a result that continued their bumpy start to the season, following a turbulent summer in the transfer market.

But this win should do wonders for belief and leaves Barcelona as Spain's chief club in crisis, with Ernesto Valverde under pressure after they were beaten 2-0 by Granada on Saturday. Madrid are now four points clear of the Catalans after five games played.

"I am very happy as people have been questioning us a lot," said Zidane. "But we don't think much about that. We played 90 minutes at a very high level in a difficult stadium. We must congratulate all the players."

Not for the first time this season, Zidane singled out Gareth Bale for praise. "Today hard work was the key," he said. "The effort made by James, Gareth, all of them."

Sevilla's newly-installed coach Julen Lopetegui was sacked by Madrid 11 months ago, 139 days after taking the job

It is the game that leaves me the most satisfied since I came back.
—ZINEDINE ZIDANE

"Madrid is always hungry and angry to win. The team is always very optimistic. The team's getting better."
—SERGIO RAMOS

that cost him the chance to lead Spain at the World Cup.

He insisted on Saturday there was no desire for revenge but it is hard to imagine victory would not have brought a little extra satisfaction.

LOPETEGUI BOOKED

A frantic opening half an hour made for an engrossing contest but there were few chances, as Lopetegui earned himself a booking for beckoning Gareth Bale to be shown a yellow card.

Real Madrid probably just shaded the first period and had its two best chances as Eden Hazard was slipped in by Benzema, only to be denied by Tomas Vaclik on the angle, before Dani Carvajal was sent clear by James Rodriguez but this time Vaclik's right foot blocked the defender's finish.

There was little in it, as Bale's excellent cross almost found James at the back post shortly after half-time while Luuk de Jong went close with a header, prompting Carvajal to hack the ball clear at the far post.

Still, Madrid looked more likely and so it proved as Raphael Varane won back possession high up, allowing Bale to thread Carvajal in behind. He dug out a cross, which Benzema met brilliantly, rising high to head home his fifth goal of the season.

Sevilla might have equalised but De Jong headed wide under pressure from Carvajal and then Javier Hernandez did score, in the 87th minute, poking in at the near post, only for the assistant to raise his flag.

Bale could have made it two late on but hit the side-netting from an acute angle. One was enough.

Neymar to the rescue

Brazilian star scores another late winner to send PSG 3 points clear

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar scored a fine late winner as Paris Saint-Germain beat Lyon 1-0 on Sunday to move three points clear at the top of the Ligue 1 table.

The Brazilian finally beat Anthony Lopes, who had pulled off numerous impressive saves, with three minutes of normal time to play at the Groupama Stadium.

It was Neymar's second winning goal in as many league games since being reinstated to the team following a protracted transfer saga.

"Neymar can do better," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel. "It's the second or third game in four months for him. He's not at 100 percent capacity. He is not at his limit."

1 For the first time since 2006/07, Lyon have failed to score in a Ligue 1 home game.
3 Neymar has scored Paris' first goal in each of his last 3 games in Ligue 1.

He can do better, he will do better. He's going to get to his best level, with matches and decisive goals like that, it's going to help him."

The Parisians sit top on 15 points after Angers and Nice both won over the weekend to temporarily join Tuchel's side at the summit.

Sylvinho's Lyon remain in ninth place and are without a win since mid-August.

He was targeted by home fans when taking set-pieces from the left-hand side as they threw plastic bottles and rolled-up bin bags at him.

With 87 minutes on the clock, substitute Verratti found Neymar in the box who dribbled into space and finally beat Lopes to the keeper's left with a low shot.

He celebrated by running towards the corner of the ground where he had earlier been taunted by the Lyon supporters.



Boxers Kavinder Bisht, Amit Panghal, Manish Kaushik & Sanjeet pose with World Cup medals during an event on Monday PTI

Panghal counts on strenuous training for Olympic medal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Championships' Silver medal-winning boxer Amit Panghal reckons securing an Olympic spot at next year's Asian qualifiers will be a tough task but vowed to leave no stone unturned in his quest for glory at the Tokyo Games.

Panghal (52kg), became the first Indian male boxer to win a Silver at the World Championship, which concluded in Ekaterinburg on Saturday.

The 23-year-old Indian Armyman said he was sure of a podium finish after putting in the hard yards ahead of the prestigious tournament.

"It is a great feeling to win this medal. Given the preparation that I had, I was confident that I won't return without a medal. No Indian boxer has gone beyond the Bronze, so I wanted to do something different, change the colour of the medal," Panghal said after returning to the country on Monday.

"I want to keep repeating what is working for me and keep improving on my weaknesses. I want to practice so much, put in so much effort in my training that I not only return with a medal but also change the colour of the medal at Tokyo," he added referring to Bronze medal won by Vijender Singh back in 2008.

The world championships in Russia no longer have Olympic qualifier status after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended the International Boxing Association (AIBA) from conducting the event in the 2020 Tokyo Games.

"At least 3-4 of us would have qualified if World Championships were still the Olympic qualifiers. It would have been a big achievement. Now the Asian Olympic qualifiers is the next big tournament for us. All the focus will be on that," said Panghal.

The Olympic qualifiers will start in February next year with the Asia/Oceania zone qualifiers in China. "For us who are in the lower weight category, the level of competition at Asian qualifiers is same as world championships. Most of the Asian boxers win medal at the Olympics or World Championships. So it will be tough," Panghal said.

"Of course, the World qualifiers will be tougher as US and European boxers will also participate." Panghal, who had shifted to the 52kg category after a stellar run in the 49kg division, said he needs to work on his strength and power.

"I will work on my strength and stamina. We will improve as we inch towards the qualifiers. We have to hold on to our top form, we can't effort to let it slip a bit till the Olympics."

AFP ■ ZURICH

Alexander Zverev sealed a dramatic Laver Cup victory for Europe over Team World in Geneva on Sunday, as the German beat Milos Raonic in the deciding singles match.

The holders trailed 11-7 midway through the final day but Zverev, after Roger Federer had edged past John Isner, downed Raonic 6-4, 3-6, 10-4 to deny John McEnroe's visitors their maiden triumph in the third edition of the event.

Instead, Bjorn Borg's Europe made it three wins from three since the inaugural staging in 2017.

"Team World came once again very close but we won the right points and had maybe a little bit of luck," said captain Borg.

"I'm very proud of my team, they did a hell of a job. I'm a very happy captain."

After Rafael Nadal withdrew from Sunday's play with a hand injury, Isner and Jack Sock beat Federer and Stefanos Tsitsipas in the opening doubles encounter, before Taylor Fritz saw off Dominic Thiem to leave Team World one win from the trophy.

Epic victory

Team Europe come back from 7-11 down on final day to claim third consecutive Laver Cup



Team Europe pose with the Laver Cup trophy after defeating Team world's in Geneva AP

But Federer claimed a 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Isner to set up a winner-takes-all clash between Zverev and Raonic.

World number six Zverev took the first set courtesy of a break in game seven, with big-serving Canadian Raonic hitting back to force a super tie-break, saving four break points to serve out the second set. But Zverev, selected by Borg ahead of Tsitsipas and Fabio Fognini for the first-ever Laver Cup decider, raced to victory as Raonic's serve deserted him.

The 22-year-old, who also clinched Europe's win last year by beating Kevin Anderson, fired a brilliant cross-court forehand past Raonic on his first match point.

"I've never played in something like that, it was unbelievable," said Zverev.

"It's very special, especially playing in front of those guys and them trusting me to play the last singles game. This event is something I hope to play in every single year of my career."

Europe will defend their title in 2020 at TD Garden in Boston from September 25-27.

Fault in our stars Hamilton blames Mercedes strategy for Singapore result

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

World champion Lewis Hamilton felt Mercedes had the car to win the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday but strategic errors in the middle of the race cost him a chance of victory as the championship leader had to settle for a fourth-place finish.

Hamilton started alongside pole-sitter Charles Leclerc on the front row with the second Ferrari of Sebastian Vettel and Red Bull's Max Verstappen behind him.

After fighting off Vettel to slot in behind Leclerc on the opening lap, Mercedes opted to keep Hamilton out for longer than his rivals rather than attempt an undercut to claim the lead, but the plan backfired when he emerged from his pit stop behind the Ferraris and the Red Bull.

"It's not been the weekend we wanted at all. I was all over Charles in the first stint and I think we had the pace to win the race today," Hamilton told reporters after the Grand Prix finished with a Vettel-Leclerc Ferrari one-two and Verstappen completing the podium.

"We made mistakes tonight, but in this team, we win and we lose together."

"We don't point the finger at people, that's always been our philosophy and that won't change because of one race."

"We're fighting a Ferrari team who are super hungry and pushing very hard," he added of the Italian outfit, who have now won the last three races.

"It's on each one of us to do a better job. I believe we're the best team, but we've got to push on. We'll debrief tonight, put our heads back in the scrum, and then come back fighting at the next race."

Sindhu looks to end title drought

PTI ■ INCHON

World champion P V Sindhu will seek to quickly get over the disappointment of an early exit in the China Open when she resumes her quest for a BWF World Tour title this season at the Korea Open Super 500 tournament beginning here today.

After the high of winning the World Championships, Sindhu was knocked out of the China Open Super 1000 event by Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in the second round last week.

The 26-year-old Indian, who had won the Korea Open title in 2017, will have to sort out the little things that had led to her early ouster in China and turn her focus on the \$ 400,000 tournament in Incheon, where she will face USA's Beiwen Zhang in a tricky opener.

A win in the first round may hand Sindhu a chance to avenge her loss in China as she is likely to face Chochuwong again.

Besides the World Championships final, Sindhu has reached the summit clash of only one BWF World Tour Final this year — the Indonesia Open Super 1000 — but the title eluded her.

Saina Nehwal, who had claimed the Indonesia Masters early in the season, hasn't looked her usual self this year.

Saina, who has been bothered by pancreatitis and few injuries, lost in the first round of Malaysia Open, New Zealand Open, Sudirman Cup and China Open.

The eighth seeded Saina will hope to turn around her indifferent form when she opens her campaign against Korean Kim Ga Eun.



PV Sindhu celebrates after win BWF/File Picture

She has a 2-0 head-to-head record against Kim and another win over the Korean is likely to pit her against Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung.

B Sai Praneeth will also look to continue his impressive run after a quarterfinal finish in China Open. However, he will face a dangerous opponent in fifth seed Anders Antonsen of Denmark.

Parupalli Kashyap, who has looked impressive this season, will take on a qualifier in his opening round.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had broken into world's top 10 after winning the Thailand Open last month, will face fourth seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda in the men's doubles opening round.

Manu Attri and B Sumeth Reddy will take on a qualifying pair.

SINGLES

BAIRSTOW DROPPED FOR NZ TEST SERIES

LONDON: England have dropped Jonny Bairstow from their Test squad for the tour of New Zealand, with paceman James Anderson unavailable for the two-match series due to a calf injury. Four uncapped players will be on the plane — Warwickshire opener Dominic Sibley, Kent batsman Zak Crawley and Lancashire pair Sajib Mahmood and Matt Parkinson. Batsman Jason Roy, who starred in England's World Cup triumph, is another name missing from the 15-strong Test squad after a difficult Ashes series, which ended 2-2 last week. Surrey batsman Ollie Pope is back in the squad while Jos Buttler will be the wicketkeeper in New Zealand due to Bairstow's absence. The first Test, at Mount Maunganui, starts on November 21. The series is not included in the new World Test Championship.

AMIT, MANISH EXEMPTED FROM NATIONALS

NEW DELHI: World Championship medalists Amit Panghal and Manish Kaushik have been exempted from participating at the Senior National Boxing Championship to be held in Shimla from October 4 to 10. "We are not playing Nationals," Panghal said on Monday. "The team that went for the World Cup is not playing at the Nationals. Since, it was a high level tournament, so we have been given rest," he added. Confirming this, High-Performance Director Santiago Nieva said all but one boxer returning will be allowed to skip the Nationals. "Ashish Kumar (75kg) is the only boxer to play at Nationals. No other boxer from the World Cup team will play at the Nationals," he said.

MILLER EQUALS T20 RECORD FOR CATCHES

BENGALURU: South Africa's David Miller has equalled the record for most number of catches in T20Is during the final match against India at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. On Sunday, Miller caught Hardik Pandya at long-on during the 19th over of the Indian innings and in the process registered his 50th catch in T20I cricket. The 30-year-old has 50 catches to his name in 72 T20I matches and now is at par with Pakistan's Shoaib Malik, who also has the same number of catches to his name in 111 matches. Third on the list is former Proteas skipper AB de Villiers with 44 catches to his name, followed by Ross Taylor (44) and Suresh Raina (42).

MALVIKA CLAIM 1ST TITLE AT MALDIVES

MALE: Young Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod has claimed her maiden title at the Maldives International Future Series with a stunning straight-game win over top seed Thet Htar Thuzar of Myanmar in women's singles here. The unseeded Indian, who turned 18 recently, shocked Thet Htar Thuzar 21-13, 21-11 in a 31-minute summit clash here on Sunday. Among other Indians, top seeded Kevin Arokia Walter settled for a runners-up finish after going down 13-21, 14-21 to second seeded Thai Kantawatt Leelavechabutr in men's singles competition. Indian pair of Vaibhav and Prakash Raj, seeded second, also claimed the men's doubles title after beating Thailand's Pakkapon Teeraratsakul and Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul 21-16 21-15 in just 26 minutes.

HARYANA STEELERS BEAT PATNA IN PKL

JAIPUR: Vikas Kandola turned out to be the star performer for Haryana Steelers as they beat three-time champions Patna Pirates 39-34 in a Pro Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Monday. Vikas picked up a Super 10 (13 red points) as Steelers produced a complete performance to quell the challenge of Pardeep Narwal and the Pirates. Meanwhile in the second game, Bengaluru Bulls and Dabang Delhi played out a thrilling 39-39 tie. AGENCIES

PTI ■ BENGALURU

His eyes trained on next year's T20 World Cup, skipper Virat Kohli is willing to take risks in order to mould his India players into an "unfazed" unit, one that is able to "take toss out of the equation".

His bold but surprising decision to bat first in a venue always known to favour the chasing teams may have backfired during the third T20I against South Africa, but Kohli said they will have to take risks to find the best combination.

"Look, we will have to take risks. Even when you want to win a game of cricket you have to take risks, so nothing is a given, nothing is a guarantee before you start playing," Kohli said at the post-match press conference on Sunday.

"I think as a team if we are willing to get out of our comfort zone a lot more, then we will be unfazed with what happens at the toss. That's our basis idea: trying to take the toss out of the equation as a side."

His long batting line-up gives him the leeway to experiment but India still lost the series' final game by nine wickets to settle for a 1-1 stalemate.

"That's why we are trying to play the best combination we can, (with) people batting till nine. So that if you bat first or bowl first, you know we are in a good position," Kohli said.

"Mentally, if we put ourselves in a situation where we are ready to do anything rather than wanting to do one thing, we will be in a better position as a side to capitalise on any situation that we are in.

"Unless you do that, unless you start taking those risks, you are always going to be put under somewhere or the other. We want to make sure that we iron all those out before we head into the World Cup."

No team had ever chosen to bat first in six previous T20Is at this ground, but Kohli wants his team to also become stronger in defending totals.

134 was not a good score on this surface, admitted Kohli but refused to be harsh on his bowlers after the big nine-wicket drubbing.

"Bowlers coming out of their comfort zone mean at least they get 160 (to defend). You can't defend 130, we didn't get it right with the bat and you can't be too harsh on the bowlers in a T20 game with this kind of total when there is a bit of dew as well.

"They should not be analysed or

No risk, no gain

Kohli's mantra heading into T20 World Cup



Proteas skipper Quinton de Kock talks to his batting partner Reeza Hendricks as they await the decision of TV umpire for a review asked by India

criticised on defending this low total. We didn't have enough runs on the board, so the bowlers are always under pressure knowing that one or two overs can take the game away from you.

"But I think they have done decently well (in the series overall), we will have to be patient with the combination we are playing at the moment. We will have to strengthen one or two things."

At the toss, in the presentation as well as the post-match media conference, Kohli said he doesn't want his team to be in a comfort zone.

"... But quickly we realised the pitch didn't allow us to keep doing that. So I

think the kind of start we got, 63 for one after that, I think we could have reassessed, thing about 170 rather than 200."

He acknowledged the South Africans executed their plans better.

"Not to take anything away from South Africa, they hit the right areas, they bowled really well, understood the pitch. So it was a combination of good bowling, not great decision-making but, as I said, these kinds of games will keep happening," Kohli said.

"As long as we are wanting to come out of our comfort zone and putting ourselves in situations which could be the

case in a big tournament."

The focus now shifts to the three-match Test series and Kohli expressed confidence, which stemmed more so from the bowling attack at his disposal.

"Our Test team is as strong as it gets in world cricket, especially in our conditions we are one of the best teams. We know exactly what we need to do," he said.

"The kind of bowling attack that we have is always going to be challenging, but at the same time, you have to respect all opposition and make sure that you are playing consistent, solid cricket in all the sessions."

Miscommunication leads to confusion between Pant, Iyer

PTI ■ BENGALURU

"Miscommunication" between Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer nearly saw both players walking out to bat at the same time, creating confusion during the third T20I between India and South Africa on Sunday.

After the dismissal of opener Shikhar Dhawan, both Iyer and Pant seemed headed towards the pitch before the latter eventually walked in to join his captain at the number four position.

Kohli was asked about it at the post-match press conference after South Africa emerged winners by nine wickets. "I think there was a miscommunication. That was what I understood afterwards," he said.

"The batting coach had a word with both of them. There was a misunderstanding over who has to go at what stage," Kohli said. "It was a little funny as well afterwards because they both wanted to walk in. So it would have been very funny if both reached the pitch, you know three batsmen in the field."

Asked who was originally slated to bat at number four, Kohli said they "had plans" according to phases.

"I think after 10 overs what we had decided was that Rishabh would walk in, and before that, Shreyas had to walk in. But I think both of them got confused and didn't realise who has to walk in at what stage of the game," Kohli said.

Dhawan got out the eighth over with India at 63 for two.



India's batting coach Vikram Rathour, right, gives a pat on the back of Rishabh Pant during a training session

Pant should drop down from 4: VVS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant's natural aggressive game is not working for him at the No 4 position, says Indian batting great VVS Laxman, who feels the youngster can regain his form by coming in lower down the order.

He said the solution to Pant's problems could be as simple as dropping down the order.

"The nature of Rishabh Pant's batting is that he plays aggressive shots...Unfortunately at the international level he is not able to succeed at the number four position," Laxman said on Star Sports.

"Pant should bat at number 5 and 6, where you have the license to go out and express yourself and at the moment he doesn't know the right method of scoring runs at number 4," he pointed out.

However he said that the 21-year-old shouldn't be put under too much pressure as every player goes through rough patches at some point.

"Every player goes through this phase, his natural game is free flowing but suddenly he is not gaining the same results (which he did with Delhi franchise in the IPL)," Laxman said.

"He is trying to evolve and trying to add different dimensions to his game by rotating the strike that we saw in the previous match but unfortunately, his shot selection at the start of the innings has not been great," he added. Laxman said Shreyas Iyer and Hardik Pandya seem better options for the No 4 slot as of now.

"There are other people to bat at number 4 like Hardik Pandya and Shreyas Iyer who are experienced and could play at that spot," he said.

Archer's best is yet to come: Morgan

PTI ■ MUMBAI

England captain Eoin Morgan on Monday said Jofra Archer has proved to be an 'X-factor' in his short career so far but insisted that the best of the tearaway pacer is yet to come.

Archer was rewarded with a central contract for Test and white-ball cricket by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) recently for his superb performances in the ODI World Cup and the Ashes.

And, Morgan was full of praise for the 24-year-old fast bowler, stating that Archer managed to overcome every obstacle that was thrown on him to make his name in world cricket.

"I think it is fantastic. Jofra is very exciting to watch and he bowls fast and has an X-factor. He can bowl in any format of the game and any circumstances and to any plan," Morgan said.

"Every obstacle that is being put in front of him, he overcame that. We haven't seen the best of him, he still wants to learn all the time."

Archer was England's leading wicket-taker in their triumphant World Cup campaign at home.

He then followed up his World Cup performance by scalping 22 wickets at an average of 20.27 in the four Ashes Tests against Australia.

Morgan also hailed Ben Stokes' heroics this summer, terming him as an exceptional cricketer.

"Who would have thought after the World Cup final performance that took absolutely everything that he could come up with, on his own we would win a game (third Ashes Test) at Headingley.

"The innings exposed every attribute that you need to be a Test match batsman. It was exceptional," he said.

Morgan said that England have now set their sights on next year's World Twenty20 after fulfilling their long-cherished dream of winning the ICC ODI World

Cup. "We have 18 T20 International games from between now and then and we will try to build a squad that can potentially win that tournament (World T20)," Morgan told a group of reporters.

"Realistically we do (stand a chance of winning). We came to India in 2016 and made it to the final. We had a similar squad during the World Cup in England this year.

"If we can build our momentum and get together as a side, it will give us the best chance," added the left-handed batsman.

Asked whether they would create another such template for the World T20, Morgan answered in the affirmative.

"It will be very similar because we have some exceptional T20 players and we will try to get them in the best possible position in our team and need to find out how it looks like," he said.

"Over the last two years in particular, we have always seen T20 cricket as an opportunity to give young guys a game simply because our main focus has been the 50-over World Cup.

"Our strategy will change in the new year towards the (T20) World Cup. It is been long summer for some of us and some need rest. I think, in the immediate future, we might experiment a little bit. But next year, we will definitely be

working towards building a strong team."



Eves face SA in 1st T20

PTI ■ SURAT



Smriti Mandhana bats during India's nets session

India women can't afford to take South Africa women lightly despite their recent domination over the visitors in T20Is when the two sides face off in the first game of the five-match T20I series here today.

In the last five matches between the two sides, India women won three while lost one with the other game ending in a no result.

Playing on familiar home conditions, India women would definitely have an edge over the visitors in the upcoming series but they can't take things for granted as South Africa women have proved how dangerous they can be in the second warm-up game played on Sunday.

The Proteas would be brimming with confidence and will depend on opener Lizelle Lee, who scored a quick 65 in the second warm-up game, and Mignon du Preez to take the responsibility of their batting department in the company of skipper Sune Luus.

Harmanpreet Kaur-led India women, on the other hand, would heavily rely on opener Smriti Mandhana for a good start, while Veda Krishnamurthy, the skipper herself and Jimimah Rodrigues too would need to be at their best to help India dish out a fine batting effort in the absence of a reliable Mithali Raj, who retired from T20 cricket recently.

India's bowling attack will be led by pacer Shikha Pandey and fast bowling colleague Pooja Vastrakar.

The spin department will be spearheaded by leg-spinner Poonam Yadav, while the likes of Anuja Patil, all-rounder Deepti Sharma and Anuja Patil will also shoulder the responsibility.

Vinesh eyeing to make up for Rio disappointment in Tokyo

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An Olympic berth already secured, World championship Bronze medalist wrestler Vinesh Phogat says she has unfinished business to attend to in 2020 Tokyo.

The fear of 2016 Rio Olympics injury still playing on her mind, Vinesh on Monday said she is eyeing to complete her bout in next year's Tokyo Olympics.

One of India's biggest medal prospects at the Rio Olympics, Vinesh's campaign ended in agony in the quarterfinals of the women's 48kg freestyle category after suffering a career-threatening knee injury.

"Hopefully in Tokyo I will play the entire six minutes of a bout. A lot was left out for me to achieve in Rio. I was not able to play my entire match. There are a lot of things going in my mind regarding the Olympics," Vinesh said on the sidelines of the launch of Zee Kushti Danga.

"So whatever the results, whether I lose or win I want to complete my six minutes. When I do that whatever questions I have in my mind right now will be cleared," she added.

However since then, the 25-year-old has made a strong comeback, winning Golds in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games last year in the 50kg cate-



Vinesh Phogat poses with World Cup Bronze

gory.

In the recently concluded World Championships, the star wrestler qualified for the 2020 Olympics before winning the Bronze medal in the 53kg.

Relieved to have sealed an Olympic berth, Vinesh said the injury in Rio motivated her to make a strong comeback.

"After my injury in Rio I never thought I'd be able to go back to the Olympics. Somewhere in my mind I felt incomplete. That feeling always kept on driving me to do better. I am very stubborn, I motivated myself to do better and that is why I am going to the Olympics," she said.

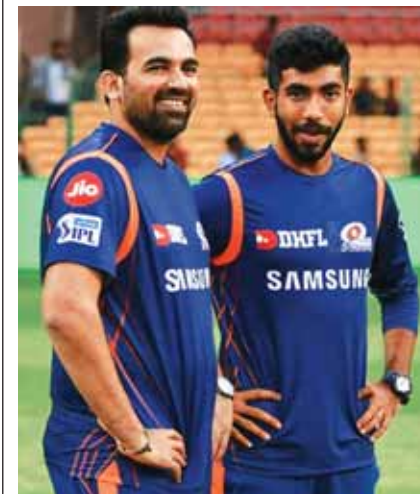
Vinesh, who was earlier competing in the 50kg category but switched to 53kg early this year, said the shift has been beneficial for her.

"The change in weight category has been advantageous for me. I have won back-to-back medals," she said.

Asked about the competition at the Olympics, Vinesh said playing at home, the Japanese wrestlers will be top contenders.

"I feel everyone is strong in the 53kg category. Japan, of course, is the powerhouse and will also have the home advantage. I would love to beat them and win the Gold," she said.

Bumrah's awkward action worked as advantage: Zaheer



Zaheer Khan and Jasprit Bumrah during Mumbai Indians nets session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Describing Jasprit Bumrah as a "special talent", former India speedster Zaheer Khan feels that his awkward action has worked as an advantage rather than a weakness.

"He (Bumrah) is a special talent, he has got that awkward action which works as an advantage for him over the batsmen. He is keen

to learn and drive to excel. He has been working on his fitness, adding new things to his bowling. He has evolved as a bowler in a short time, that have been the keys to success," Zaheer said on Monday.

"It is about how you take things into stride and what kind of approach you have. I think Bumrah has shown all the attitude of achieving that success," added the 40-year-old former pacer.

Zaheer has also a piece of advice for young South African pacer Kasigo Rabada, that he should quickly adapt to conditions and use the reverse swing to be successful in India in the upcoming Test series, which begins in Visakhapatnam on October 2.

Rabada is one of the top bowlers in the world. In 37 Tests, he has taken a staggering 176 wickets.

"There are so many good bowlers and (Kasigo) Rabada has been right up there and you have seen that in such a short time. He has made such massive impact on Test cricket and the numbers are a reflection of that fact.

"In India, we will have to see how he adapts to conditions. You have to adapt to conditions and for any fast bowler to be successful in India, he should possess the ability to bowl with the old ball and use the reverse swing. So, I am looking forward to see how Rabada goes about it and how quickly he adapts in the (Test) series," said Zaheer.

Afghanistan sweat over Rashid fitness

AFF ■ DHAKA

Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan said he is unsure he will play in the tri-nation Twenty20 international final against Bangladesh today as he is nursing a hamstring injury.

Rashid left the field injured against the same opponents in their last match of the league phase in Chittagong on Saturday, before returning to bowl two overs and picking 2-27 in their four-wicket loss.

"I can't say anything right now," Rashid said Monday about his chances of playing in the final.

"I had some work on my hamstring yesterday and today. We will decide tomorrow."

Rashid said he would rather not have bowled in the previous game, but the team needed his services.

"The main reason to come back to bowl was that I wanted to know the sever-



Rashid Khan bats at nets

ity of the injury," he said.

"The physio and coaches didn't want me to bowl. I was OK with the first two overs, but after going for a run it got worse. I think I shouldn't have bowled, but when the team needs you, you have to be there. We give our all for the country."

Rashid said that if he even had a "10 percent chance" to take to the field, he would give it a shot.