

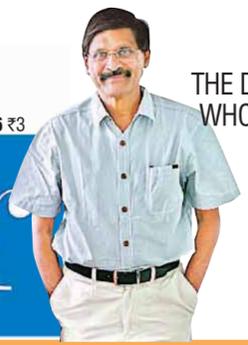
NATION 5
VERDICT ON DK'S BAIL
PLEA ON SEPT 25

MONEY 10
MOBILE PRODUCTION
TO REACH \$190 BN BY 2025

SPORT 16
DEEPAK'S DOUBLE
DELIGHT

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THE DOCTOR
WHO LOVES
MATH

9

sunday pioneer

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Serial holidays for banks

HYDERABAD: Residents of twin cities have been advised to keep money at hand in view of series of holidays for banks from Sep 26 to 30.

Banks staff has been observing bandh on Sep 26 and 27 in support of their demands. On Sep 28 banks do not work since it is the fourth Saturday. Sep 29 being Sunday is a holiday for the banks. On Sep 30, the banks will not entertain any transactions since it is a half-yearly closing day.

The banks will reopen on October 1, but majority of the bank employees wish to proceed on leave on this day. October 2 being Gandhi Jayanti is a national holiday for banks. They will reopen again on October 3. Keeping of cash in many ATMs across the city is unlikely.

First time: ED seizes chimpanzees

NEW DELHI: Believe it or not, the ED has attached three chimpanzees and four marmosets as part of a money laundering probe against a wildlife smuggler of West Bengal. The central agency, which probes serious money laundering crimes, said the chimpanzees that were seized by customs from the smuggler's house were being kept at the Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata. They have become a major attraction for visitors and hence, a source of revenue too, it said, adding that the marmosets were being kept at an animal shelter.

The agency said the first-of-its-kind attachment under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) "enabled" the zoo authorities to retain the animals as the smuggler was making attempts to take them away.

'Social media companies accountable for fake news'

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has held that social media companies cannot escape liability for the damage done to society through fake news or rumours spread through their platforms, and said they need to be held accountable for such misuse by users.

Underscoring the importance of holding intermediaries responsible for the content shared by users, the court said, "Fake news, misinformation and hate speeches can reach hundreds of people and consequently have a psychological impact on them leading to even unrest."

"Law and order would be disrupted. The platforms cannot avoid liability for the damage that has been caused through its use," it observed.

Maharashtra, Haryana Assembly polls on Oct 21

● Notifications on September 27 ● Counting on October 24

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Single-phase assembly elections will be held in Maharashtra and Haryana on October 21 and the BJP will take on the Congress-led opposition to retain power in both the states. The date for the polls in the two states was announced by the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 24, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora told a press conference.

The term of the 288-member Maharashtra assembly ends on November 9 and that of the 90-member Haryana assembly on November 2.

Notifications for the two assembly elections will be issued on September 27 and the nomination process will begin on the same day. October 4 is the last date of filing nominations.

While scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on October 5, October 7 is the last date for candidates to withdraw from the electoral battle.

The assembly elections are the first after Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP to power at the Centre for a second term in May.

The government's decision to abrogate Article 370 provisions, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is among



Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Saturday

the BJP campaign's key themes for the assembly polls.

BJP leaders sound confident of retaining power in both the states, where opposition parties have been weakened with many key leaders from their camp joining the saffron party in the recent weeks.

In Maharashtra, the alliance between the BJP and the Shiv Sena has not been finalised yet, though talks between the two parties have been going in for some time.

The BJP wants to fight a larger share of the 288 seats in the assembly while the Sena wants it to stick to the earlier agreed formula that both will contest an equal number of constituencies. Both parties could not agree

to a seat-sharing deal even in the 2014 polls, leading to them fighting the elections separately. The BJP had won 122 seats and the Sena 63 seats. They joined hands after the polls to form government.

Asked why elections to the Jharkhand assembly were not announced on Saturday when the country was discussing simultaneous polls, Arora said the term of the state assembly there ends on January 9.

"If the leader of the House there wants to dissolve the assembly and advance the elections, then it is a separate matter. But why should the commission want to advance it," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Bypolls to 64 Assembly seats, one LS

Bypolls to 64 assembly seats and one Lok Sabha constituency spread across 18 states will be held on October 21 and the counting of votes will be on October 24, the Election Commission announced on Saturday. While assembly by-elections will be held on 64 assembly seats, the Samastipur Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar will also have a bypoll.

These assembly seats include 15 in Karnataka and 11 in Uttar Pradesh. Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora said the bypolls in Karnataka will be held on seats, including where sitting MLAs were disqualified recently. The 11 UP assembly seats mostly belong to MLAs who had won the Lok Sabha elections and had resigned as members of the state assembly. The Samastipur (Bihar) Lok Sabha by-election was necessitated following the death of sitting MP Ram Chandra Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party in July.

ELECTION CODE TAKES EFFECT

Huzurnagar bypoll on Oct 21

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Election Commission of India on Saturday announced by-election to the Telangana State Legislative Assembly from the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency on October 21, as part of bypolls to other seats in various parts of the country.

The Huzurnagar seat fell vacant due to the resignation of N Uttam Kumar Reddy, who gave it up after winning as Member of Parliament from the Nalgonda Lok Sabha constituency in the recent Lok Sabha elections.

As per the Election Commission's schedule, the Gazette Notification will be issued on September 23, 2019. The last date for nominations is September 30, 2019. Scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 1, 2019. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is October 3rd, 2019. Polling will be held on October 21. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 24.

The EC said that it would

Rajat Kumar said that the by-election would be held based on January 1, 2019 voters list. The EC would increase vigilance as Huzurnagar constituency is on AP border. The Commission would keep special vigilance to prevent distribution of liquor and money.



Rajat Kumar

conduct the elections using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter-verified paper audit trails (VVPATs).

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Rajat Kumar stated that the Code of Conduct for the elections took

effect on Saturday in Suryapet district. Hence, the state government cannot make any policy statements regarding the district. The government should not effect any transfers in the district. Ministers cannot participate in official programmes in the district, he said.

Rajat Kumar said that the by-election would be held based on January 1, 2019 voters list. The Election Commission would increase vigilance as Huzurnagar constituency is on AP border. The Commission would keep special vigilance to prevent distribution of liquor and money. He advised voters to lodge their complaints if any through C-Vigil on code violations.

Woman gangraped, videographed

PNS ■ NIZAMABAD

A 24-year-old woman was gang-raped by seven persons, including an auto-rickshaw driver with whom she was in a relationship, at Sarangapur on Friday. Two of the accused videographed the rape with the help of their mobile phones.

The victim was identified as a factory worker living in a village on the outskirts of Nizamabad.

According to a statement made by the victim to the police, the woman used to travel in Suresh's autorickshaw in the absence of bus facility. She became close to Suresh, who is married and has children. He claimed to be in love with her and used to



take her out to cinemas and elsewhere.

On Friday afternoon, Suresh, on the pretext of taking her to Lord Anjaneya Swamy's temple at Sarangapur, took her to an isolated place in the forest area behind the district jail and perpetrated the offence on her and then encouraged six of his friends to outrage her modesty.

Continued on Page 2

Man ends life while on video call to wife

RAMAKRISHNA PERALA ■ KARIMNAGAR

In a bizarre incident that has shaken everyone in Godavarikhani town of Peddapalli district, Peetha Mahender, a coal miner, allegedly committed suicide while talking to his wife Priyanka on a video call on Saturday morning. The incident took place in 1 Incline area of the industrial town. According to family members of the victim, Mahender, a fitter in 1 Incline mine and resident of Kalyan Nagar area, got married to Priyanka of Sangareddy three months ago. They were leading a normal life. Priyanka went to her parents' place three days ago as she was stated to be suffering from viral fever.

Continued on Page 2

Ban soon on private online movie ticketing agencies

L VENKAT RAM REDDY ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State government will soon impose a ban on online sale of movie tickets by private ticketing agencies. Alongside the ban, the State government would launch its own portal with online movie ticketing facility. The move is intended to check irregularities in ticket sales and tax evasion by many of the private ticketing agencies. Minister for Cinematography Talasani Srinivas Yadav disclosed the government's plans on banning private online movie ticketing agencies while interacting with media persons in the lobbies of the State Legislative Assembly on Saturday.

Srinivas said that the decision was taken following complaints that private online movie ticketing agencies were resorting to irregularities in the sale of tickets, evading taxes payable to government, and collecting higher amounts than that prescribed from cinegoers by levying various charges.

The Minister stated that the government had launched its own online movie ticket booking portal (https://tsboxoffice.in) in October 2017 on a pilot basis, but it could not



● Govt to start its own online movie ticketing facility
● Move aimed to check tax evasion by private firms

extend the facility to a full-scale due to various reasons.

The government portal would soon serve as a single-window platform for all cinema halls in the State. All cinema halls and multiplexes would have to mandatorily register with the government portal to sell movie tickets online.

Yadav said that the portal, first of its kind in the country, would be run by the TS Film Development Corporation Ltd to ensure transparency in the sale of tickets and tax collections. The government would require all theatres to sell all tickets only through the online portal, including those handed over manually through counters.

At present, private online ticketing agencies collect a fee of Rs 10 per ticket, which is shared in the ratio of 50:50 between agencies and exhibitors. The government wants to collect Rs 6 as fee per ticket, of which Rs 2 will go to TSFDC and Rs 4 to exhibitors.

There have been complaints of large-scale evasion of entertainment tax. This problem could be addressed with the launch of the portal, he added.

Srinivas expressed his confidence that both distributors and exhibitors would benefit from the government portal. The government was planning to arrange seating in theatres in 18 to 20 lines, each with 8 to 10 seats, he added.



The powerful want to trample me: Harish Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Alleging that some powerful people wanted to trample him, former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat accused the CBI of being "impatient" and "under pressure" in its probe into the sting operation case.

Rawat on Friday said that he was ready for any punishment but his right to justice should be protected. "Some powerful people want to trample me under their feet," he tweeted.

"Justice is free, it will punish the guilty and protect the innocent but why do the powerful today seem to mount pressure on everything. Am I a threat to the country's security? Am I a threat to law and order? Am I running away from the country," he asked.

Tomato prices fall to Rs 10/kg

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Following heavy movement of tomatoes from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and parts of Telangana into city markets, the prices of tomato, which ruled high at Rs 30-40 a kg two weeks ago, eased to Rs 10-15 a kg.

It is pertinent to note here that the prices of tomatoes crossed Rs 60 a kg just a month ago.

Wholesale markets, especially those at Gudimalkapur, LB Nagar, Bowenpally, Madannapet, Secunderabad (Monda Market) as well as Rythu bazars at Yerragedda, Mehadipatnam, Kukatpally, Falaknuma and Alwal source tomatoes from neighbouring states as well as parts of TS.



Tomato prices ruled high at Rs 30-40 a kg two weeks ago eased to the current Rs 10-15 a kg. Tomato prices crossed Rs 60 a kg a month ago

Tomatoes are sourced usually from Madanapalli in Chittoor district of AP, Karnataka, and from elsewhere in Telangana - Medak, Siddipet and Nizamabad.

On normal days, daily 60-80 truckloads of tomatoes arrive at the main markets in the city. But the arrivals rose to 100-120 truckloads recently, bringing

down prices. Rythu Bazars are selling tomato at Rs 8 a kg, as against Rs 10 a kg by retail traders.

Farmers are worried once again over the crashing tomato prices. For, farmers are currently getting a pittance. Some of the commission agents are looting farmers by purchasing tomatoes at Rs 2 a kg.

Chandrayaan-2 achieved 98% objectives: ISRO

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan on Saturday said the Chandrayaan-2 mission has achieved 98 per cent of its objectives, even as scientists are working hard to establish contact with lander 'Vikram'.



Sivan also said Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is doing well and performing scheduled science experiments. "Why we are saying Chandrayaan-2 achieved 98 per cent success is because of two objectives — one is sci-

ence and the other technology demonstration. In case of technology demonstration, the success percentage was almost full," he told reporters at the airport here, before heading to IIT-Bhubaneswar to attend its 8th convocation ceremony.

Sivan said ISRO is focusing on another moon mission by 2020.

"Discussion is on about the future plan... nothing is finalised. Our priority is on an unmanned mission by next year. First, we have to understand what exactly happened to the lander," he said.

Should a PM speak like this: Pawar on Modi

PNS ■ AHMEDNAGAR (MAHA)

NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday slammed PM Narendra Modi over the latter's swipe about Pawar 'liking' Pakistan, and said it did not behove a PM to speak before verifying the facts. Addressing a rally in Nashik on Thursday, ahead of Maharashtra polls, Modi alleged that Congress leaders' comments were being used by 'other countries' against India.

"I can understand the confusion of the Congress. But Sharad Pawar? I feel bad when an experienced leader like him makes wrong statements for votes. He said the likes the neighbouring country. But everyone knows where the terror factory is," Modi had said.

Showing middle finger to woman same as outraging her modesty, rules Delhi court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has ruled that showing middle finger to a woman amounts to outraging her modesty. The ruling was made by a judge while hearing a case concerning an assault which took place in 2014.

The accused, who has been sentenced to jail, had gestured at a woman with his middle finger and made obscene facial expressions. The complainant, in this case, had alleged that the accused passed lewd remarks aimed at her and even slapped her.

The matter was first brought to the attention of Delhi Police in May, 2014 by

The matter was first brought to the attention of Delhi Police in May, 2014 by a woman who claimed that her brother-in-law showed her his middle finger and assaulted her, according to a media news report

a woman who claimed that her brother-in-law showed her his middle finger and assaulted her, according to a media news report.

After an investigation, police booked the accused under Sections 509 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which correspond to punishment awarded for word gesture or lewd remarks meant to

insult a woman's modesty. Based on the investigation, the court framed charges against the man on October 8, 2015.

However, the accused consistently denied all of the

allegations and claimed that the complainant had accused him of outraging her modesty owing to a property dispute.

After hearing the case, metropolitan magistrate Vasundhara Azad stated that the actions of the accused amounted to making utterances or gestures intended to outrage a woman's modesty. The accused is now looking at a maximum punishment of three years in prison along with a fine. However, the length of the jail term will be announced on Tuesday.



TODAY

ALMANAC
Month & Paksham: Bhadrapada & Krishna Paksha
Panchangam
Tithi: Ashvini : 07:50 pm
Nakshatram: Mrigashirsha: 11:47 am
Time to Avoid: (Bad time to start any important work)
Rahukalam: 04:39 pm - 06:09 pm
Yamagandam: 12:08 pm - 01:38 pm
Varjyam: 08:05 pm - 09:40 am
Gulika: 03:09 pm - 04:39 pm
Good Time: (to start any important work)
Amritakalam: 01:37 am - 03:12 am
Abhijit Muhurtham: 11:44 am - 12:32 pm

HYDERABAD WEATHER

Forecast: Thunderstorms
Temp: 30/23
Humidity: 87%
Sunrise: 06:04
Sunset: 06:12
Current Weather Conditions
Updated September 21, 2019 5:00 PM

HUZURNAGAR BY-ELECTION

PARTIES GEAR UP FOR THE HUSTINGS

■ TRS says their candidate's victory a mere formality, while Cong says it will win with 30,000 vote majority

K VENKATESHWARLU
■ HYDERABAD

The contest to the Huzurnagar Assembly constituency has heated up following the Election Commission of India announcing the date for by-poll on October 21. The ECI has announced the date on Saturday.

The ruling TRS party has announced that it will field Shanampudi Saidi Reddy, who lost elections in the hands of N Uttam Kumar Reddy in December 2018, for the by-election immediately after the announcement of the schedule, without giving a chance to the opposition parties as usual.

The ruling party, which is considering the election as prestigious, not only announced its candidate but also stated that the victory of their candidate is a mere formality. On the other hand, the Telangana Congress Chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy, who forced the ECI for by-election by tendering resignation to the Huzurnagar MLA position after winning as an MP from Nalgonda Lok Sabha constituency, said that their candidate, whoever it may be would win the seat with 30,000 votes majority.

Though the Congress is yet to announce its candidate, the TPCC chief exuded confidence that the party will win easily as it has strong hold in the constituency. Before the announcement of the ECI, rumblings broke out between the leaders in the Congress over selecting candidate for the seat.

TPCC working president A Revanth Reddy upped the ante by proposing Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy as his candidate, whereas, Uttam Kumar Reddy is trying to field his spouse Padmavathi Reddy.

Meanwhile, the CPI is exploring the option of extending its support to the Congress. The BJP, on the other hand, who are yet to announce its



TRS fields Saidi Reddy again

HYDERABAD: The TRS has fielded Sanampudi Saidireddy again in the by-election to Huzurnagar Assembly constituency scheduled for October 21. The Assembly seat has fallen vacant as TPCC president N Uttam Kumar Reddy, who upon getting elected to Lok Sabha from Nalgonda seat, relinquished his Huzurnagar Assembly seat.

It may be recalled that Saidireddy unsuccessfully contested against

Uttam Kumar Reddy in the early elections held in December last year. But the TRS boss K Chandrasekhar Rao is fielding the same candidate again from the seat. The CEC, Sunil Arora, announced the by-election to the Huzurnagar seat on Oct 21. The last date for filing nominations is September 30, while the last date for withdrawal is October 3. The polling would be held on Oct 21. The counting of votes would take place on Oct 24.

The state once again turned into election mode. The TRS announced its candidate, while the Congress and BJP are yet to come out with names of their respective candidates. The Congress leaders have been mounting pressure on the high command asking it to okay names of candidates proposed by them. Thus, MP Revanth Reddy and N Uttam Kumar Reddy have been furnishing their own lists to the high command.

candidate, is stating that it is the only alternative to ruling TRS. According to sources, the BJP may field Bobba Bhagya Reddy as its candidate.

TRS victory a formality, says Jagdish Reddy

Power Minister G Jagdish Reddy has exuded confidence that their candidate, Saidi Reddy's victory is a mere formality in Huzurnagar by-election. He said that they will be in a position to tell the majority number after nearing the polling date. He made it clear that their contest is only with Congress as there is no influence of BJP in the constituency.

While speaking to the media at Ministers Quarters along

with their candidate Saidi Reddy, Jagdish Reddy said that the constituency people have already decided to ensure the victory of Saidi Reddy.

He alleged that Uttam Kumar Reddy was the reason for the backwardness of the constituency. "Uttam never cared for the development of the constituency. The people have already observed Uttam's sense of levity towards TRS and negligent attitude towards development," he said.

He said that Uttam never brought the problems of the constituency to the Chief Minister or to the district Minister (Jagdish Reddy). The development is possible only with the efforts of local MLA besides the works of the government. There is no truth in the allegations of Uttam that the TRS is threatening the Congress activists. TRS is away

from political frictions.

"We will initiate action against the police if they behaved partially," he said. Congress is the party which developed the political factions in the state. It is sure that the Pink flag will fly in the Huzurnagar constituency, the Minister said.

Cong victory must for democracy: Bhatti

Congress Legislature Party leader Bhatti Vikramarka exuded confidence that Congress will win the Huzurnagar by-poll elections. The party would announce its candidate very soon, he said and added that the Congress victory in Huzurnagar is very much needed for democracy to survive.

Congress will win big in by-poll, says Uttam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Meanwhile, TPCC chief Uttam Kumar Reddy exuded confidence that the Congress will win with 30,000 votes majority in by-elections, which will be held on October 21. The Congress launched its campaign on Saturday immediately after the announcement of election schedule. Uttam participated in the party activists meeting held at Nereducharla village in Huzurnagar constituency. Senior leader K Jana Reddy

too participated in the meeting. Speaking on this occasion, Uttam alleged that the TRS party allotted ticket to Andhra candidate. He made it clear that every development work took place in the constituency was during Congress regime only. He demanded the TRS government to tell as to what they did in the constituency during their regime. Uttam alleged that the TRS is doing politics in the constituency using the police officials, who were from AP.



Give free hand to Uttam: Jagga

Congress MLA from Sangareddy urged the party high command to allocate ticket to the candidate suggested by the Uttam. The election in Huzurnagar is a fight against government. He said that Uttam has strong hold on the constituency and hence he won five times from the constituency. There is no need of 'stars' to resort campaign at Huzurnagar as Uttam is 'super star', he said.

Uttam's spouse Padmavathi Reddy, who was an MLA from Kodad segment of the erstwhile Nalgonda district, lost the general elections to the TRS' Bollam Mallaiah Yadav. Following this, the PCC chief announced that his wife, Padmavathi Reddy would contest the seat on Congress ticket. However, Malkajgiri MP and Congress party working president A Revanth Reddy triggered a controversy and differed with PCC chief's statements. Meanwhile, the BJP on the other hand is moving its pawns in a more systematic manner and its leadership is keen on

BJP, TRS hope to wrest seat from Congress

PV KONDAL RAO
■ HUZURNAGAR

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

While, the ruling TRS is trying to clinch the seat from the Congress and spring a surprise, the national ruling party, BJP is leaving no stone unturned to grab the seat, the bastion of grand old party. The TRS has already announced Saidi Reddy as the candidate for the seat, while a war of words between the senior leaders of Congress is reflecting that party's mood in the wake of by-elections.

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

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

Following this, the PCC chief announced that his wife, Padmavathi Reddy would contest the seat on Congress ticket. However, Malkajgiri MP and Congress party working president A Revanth Reddy triggered a controversy and differed with PCC chief's statements.

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While, the ruling TRS is trying to clinch the seat from the Congress and spring a surprise, the national ruling party, BJP is leaving no stone unturned to grab the seat

entering into the south Telangana, the bastion of Congress with the aid of leaders like Komati Reddi Rajagopal Reddy.

Though the Munugode MLA of Congress has not yet joined the BJP officially, he is likely to become the central ruling party trump card in the by-elections. The BJP is taking this election as a serious challenge and it is even considering the option of choices of Rajagopal Reddy for fielding the party nominee.

The name of defeated MLC at the local body elections, Rajagopal Reddy's wife Lakshmi Reddy was also doing rounds as the BJP nominee from the Huzurnagar segment. During the 2018 Assembly polls, Congress nominee Uttam Kumar Reddy secured 92,996 votes while the TRS' Sanampudi Saidireddy secured 85,530 votes. The Bharatiya Janata Party's candidate Bobba Bhagya Reddy secured a mere 1,555 votes.

CPM and NOTA polled more votes than that of BJP nominee during that polls but this time, the party is banking on what the leaders term the abrogation of Article 370 issue and other positive aspects of BJP for wresting the seat from Congress and as also from the ruling TRS.



Three held for smuggling marijuana

PNS ■ MEDAK

The Toopran police on Saturday nabbed a three-member gang for smuggling ganja and seized 600 grams of marijuana from their possession. According to the DSP Kiran Kumar, the gang was apprehended during vehicle inspection on the Toopran Highway. On seeing the police, the trio tried to flee the place, but the police officials pounced on them and checked the pouches they are carrying with them. Subsequently, the police recovered about 600 grams of marijuana. All the three belong to Toopran mandal. They were booked under narcotic drug offences by the police and produced in the court, the DSP detailed.

Be part of development, Collector urges villagers

PNS ■ NALGONDA

District Collector Gaurav Uppal on Saturday said that not only the elected representatives and officials, people should also take part in the process of development of villages. Gaurav Uppal was speaking at a gram sabha at Muthyalammagudem in Kattangoor mandal organised as a part of 30-day Action Plan for the development of villages and reviewed implementation of the Action Plan.

The Collector said that there was an immediate need to solve the issues prevailed in the villages and people should utilise the 30-day Action Plan for this purpose. He opined that involvement of the people was key for effective imple-



Standing Committees and officials should find places for dumping yards by taking the opinions of the villagers
GAURAV UPPAL
Nalgonda District Collector

mentation of development works and welfare schemes. He also instructed the officials to involve the people in implementation of the 30-day Action Plan.

He said that Standing Committees and officials should find places for dumping yards and graveyards by taking the opinions of the villagers into consideration. He informed that a meeting would

also be held with mandal level officials to discuss the issues faced by the villagers. The Collector has assured the villagers to take up measures for repairing of service road.

Eligible persons can submit their applications to the officials concerned for the welfare pensions, and it would be extended to them after sanctioned by the State government.

Woman gangraped, videographed

Continued from Page 1

When two of the autorickshaw drivers were watching the 'rape' video, the Nizamabad Sixth Town Police personnel happened to pass through the jail area. Sensing something fishy due to the presence of autos in a forest area, they made enquiries from the two auto drivers. Initially they gave evasive replies, but later they revealed the crime. The police took the two youth into custody and seized their cell phones.

The police then took the victim to the police station and questioned her. She complained to the police that seven persons had gangraped her. Basing on her complaint, the police have registered a case.

Maha, Haryana Assembly polls on...

Continued from Page 1

While there is a debate on simultaneous polls, "unless there is a very clear consensus amongst the political parties on the issue, this cannot be taken as a given template", the chief election commissioner said.

Arora was also asked whether the EC will ban the use of Article 370 in election campaigns as it had banned the use of actions taken by defence forces across the border. He did not spell out a clear reply. "(Article) 370 is a decision taken by the Parliament of India. The only place where it can be challenged is the honourable Supreme Court of India," he said.

Referring to the use of paper trail machines, he said on the

lines of the Lok Sabha polls, the commission has mandated that VVPAT slips count of five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency of Haryana and Maharashtra will be done for verification of the result obtained from the EVMs.

The commission also reiterated that while some EVMs fail to function due to "mechanical, structural or physical defect" including faulty switches, broken button, faulty connection, these never record a "wrong vote". The polling stations where the count is taken up are selected by a draw of lots after the election and before counting.

The EC will set up 95,473 polling stations for over 8.95 crore voters in Maharashtra.

30-day plan: 3 villages to be rewarded

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

District Collector M Hanumantha Rao has announced that the administration will present gifts to three best villages for showing the best results during the 30-day action plan in Sangareddy district.

In a press statement here on Saturday, the Collector said the administration wanted to reward villages that put in best efforts during the 30-day programme. After completion of the 30 days, Rao said teams comprising officials will be constituted to evaluate the performance of each and every village to identify the best villages.

He called upon the villagers to pen a song on their village to inspire all the entire residents to participate in the programme. Urging the youth to participate in the programme actively, Rao appealed to them to plant saplings in their houses besides digging a soak pit for conservation of water. The Collector asked them to plant at least two saplings each during the month to make their villages green.

The Collector visited the Bardipur village of Zharasangam Mandal to examine the progress under 30-day action plan. He has instructed the officials and public representatives to expedite the works. On his way back to Sangareddy, the Collector has made a surprise visit ZPHS School, Kamkole village of Municipality Mandal. He has examined the attendance register of both the students and teachers. Rao has also instructed the staff to keep the premises of the school clean and hygienic.

HYDERABAD BULLION RATES

GOLD	₹ 37,700 (10 gm)
SILVER	₹ 260
	₹ 46,500 (1kg)
	₹ 300

CHICKEN RATES

Dressed/With Skin	₹164
Without Skin	₹186
Broiler at Farm	₹113

EGG RATES

HYDERABAD	378
VIJAYAWADA	381
VISAKHAPATNAM	370
RETAIL PRICE (IN HYDERABAD)	₹3.78

Man ends life while on video call to wife

Continued from Page 1

Peetha Mahender, the coal miner was reportedly tensed for the last three days. On Friday, the coal miner went for duty on the second shift. After returning home, while talking to Priyanka in a video call, he suddenly got upset and started preparing to hang himself from a ceiling fan in the room to end his life.

Meanwhile, shocked Priyanka alerted the house owner. However, by the time the house owner reached the room, Mahender had breathed his last. Local people say that Mahender was suffering from diabetes. The police officials have registered a case and are investigating it.

Irrigation tanks, lakes brimming with water

PNS ■ MEDAK

Bringing cheers to farmers, several irrigation tanks and lakes are brimming with water, thanks to the rains, which lashed the state over the past few days. Medak town and its surrounding mandals witnessed heavy rains in the last 24 hours, while several nearby lakes started to overflow. Godavari and Krishna rivers, and its rivulets, witnessed heavy rains during the Southwest monsoon, while Manjeera River, considered as the lifeline of Medak and Nizamabad districts, virtually had no inflows leaving farmers worried.

Adding to their woes, Medak district witnessed only moderate rains. But, in the past 24 hours, several mandals in Medak (65.6mm), Ramayampet



(52.3mm), Havelighanpur (48mm), Shankarmpet (R) (43.4mm) and Narsingi (44.8mm) witnessed heavy rains. The downpour filled many irrigation lakes in these mandals to the brim, while some of these were overflowing. Pasupuleru Vagu, located near

Medak, started flowing due to the heavy rains. Medak district received 21.3mm rainfall in the past 24 hours, as on Friday 8.30 am. The district received 711.9 mm average rainfall this monsoon as on Friday, against the normal of 694.5 mm. Meanwhile, the Kaleshwaram

Medak town and its surrounding mandals witnessed heavy rains in the last 24 hours

waters started flowing into tanks in Nizamabad and Jagtial districts through the Flood Flow Canal. So far, the Kaleshwaram waters filled about 42 tanks along the canal, bringing cheer to the farming community. Farmers in Balkonda Assembly constituency started to reap the fruits of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, with Irrigation officials ensuring that tanks along the Flood Flow Canal from Uploor to Mupkal

CRIME CORNER



Valentine Kevin

Overstaying Nigerian deported

HYDERABAD: A 40-year-old Nigerian native who was illegally overstaying in the city was detained and deported to his country by the Cyberabad police. The man was assisting his counterparts in Nigeria in committing cyber crimes offences and was picked up for questioning before his detention. Cyberabad police commissioner VC Sajjanar said some Nigerian nationals who come to India on tourist visa, medical attendant visa, business visa and education visa stay beyond the permitted time period and become illegal residents, adding that Valentine Kevin, a native of Nigeria, was one such person. Valentine was picked by police on suspicion and was enquired about his involvement in cyber offences. Though he was not involved in any present offences, he could not satisfactorily answer regarding his presence in Hyderabad. He came to India in 2014 on medical attendant visa and was staying illegally after the expiry of the visa, police said. He was deported to his country on Friday after police obtained orders from the office of Bureau of Immigration, Hyderabad.



The blaze raging at the factory

Fire in factory at Jeedimetla

HYDERABAD: A major fire broke in a factory in the industrial area of Dullapally on Friday night. No casualties were reported as the unit was closed by that time, police said. Area locals experienced anxious moments as the fire started spreading near the factory. "We feared the fire lead to a blast in the factory," said Mahesh, a local resident. According to the police, locals noticed fire and thick smoke emanating from the factory in the morning and alerted the fire department and police. Three fire engines reached the spot to put out the blaze. Short-circuit is suspected to have caused the fire. The unit was closed after work on Friday night.

Woman, paramour held for theft

HYDERABAD: A woman and paramour were held for stealing Rs 2.65 lakh from a man's house after he threatened to unmask their alleged illicit affair. The case was probed by Mahabubnagar police. The theft which was perpetrated on September 8 at Christian Colony in Mahabubnagar by the arrested couple, identified as Mohammed Sameer alias Vinod Kumar Rajput, a native of Jhansi in UP, and Nazia. According to District SP Rema Rajeshwari, Sameer had migrated to Mahabubnagar in search of work nine years ago. "About eight years ago, he got acquainted with Nazia, a resident of Christian Colony and developed an extra-marital affair with her." Medari Emmanuel, Nazia's neighbour, recently saw Sameer at Nazia's house and warned them that he would have to inform her husband if they continued with the affair. As revenge, Nazia asked Sameer to commit a theft at Emmanuel's house to cause him a loss. On September 8, when Emmanuel and his family had gone to Hyderabad, the two broke into his house and burgled it. "When the family returned, they found cash and jewellery worth Rs 2,65,000 missing from the almirah. Following investigations, police recovered the jewellery and cash from the accused.

Hyd beats B'luru in office space absorption: KTR

TS' sustained efforts have brought it top-five global IT firms; Cong merely made announcement, says IT Minister

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Information Technology Minister KT Rama Rao said Hyderabad has beaten Bengaluru in office space absorption in the first quarter. The minister said in the State Assembly on Saturday that five top international IT companies like Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft and Apple have set up their units in Hyderabad after being impressed with the stable and good governance of the Telangana government.

"Yesterday, I had said that Hyderabad would overtake Bengaluru in office space absorption this year. According to the latest updates, Hyderabad has already beaten Bengaluru in



KT Rama Rao

The minister said in the Assembly that top IT firms like Google, Amazon, Facebook, Microsoft and Apple have set up their units in Hyderabad

the first quarter," KTR said. Tearing into the Congress claims of establishing ITIR project in the city during the UPA regime, the minister said during Question Hour that the UPA government had confined itself only to making an announcement on the project.

"The project was announced in November 2013 with investment support of Rs 3,275 crore, but not a single paisa was released," he said, adding that the state government had aggressively pursued the issue with the central government. Finally, the NDA government shelved the ITIR policy,

which was announced in June 2018. However, without waiting for Delhi's support, the state government continued with its efforts to create new IT clusters and attract new investments in the sector.

The previous Congress government had only made estimations of creating 1.54 million jobs upon completion of the ITIR project in 20 years, but there was no concrete work on the ground. Not a single brick was laid, he said.

On the other hand, the TRS government during the last five years has created many jobs. Over 12.60 lakh jobs were created under TS-iPASS alone, the minister said, dismissing Congress Legislative Party leader Bhatti Vikramarka's claims in the House.

Kukatpally, Sec'bad worst hit by viral fevers

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

About 1.51 lakh households under GHMC jurisdiction in Hyderabad are vulnerable to viral fevers - i.e. 389 localities in the city are prone to diseases.

As per the data released by the civic body, 83 localities with 45,487 households in Kukatpally zone are susceptible to diseases. This is followed by Secunderabad zone where 112 localities having 40,699 households are susceptible to diseases. Moosapet circle, with 12,411 households and Malkajgiri circle with 10,294 households, are among the areas highly prone to diseases.

In Khairatabad zone, with about 7,795 households, is among the least prone zones to viral fevers, followed by Charminar zone with 11,813

1.5 lakh households in Hyderabad are vulnerable to viral fevers

ZONE	NO. OF VULNERABLE LOCALITIES	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS
LB Nagar	61	29,014
Charminar	38	11,813
Khairathbad	62	7,795
Secunderabad	112	40,699
Serilingampally	33	16,605
Kukatpally	83	45,487
Grand Total:	389	1,51,413



households. GHMC Commissioner Lokesh Kumar said, "North and south of Musi are high-risk zones, especially the Secunderabad cantonment area. There are 2,400 dengue cases registered in Telangana, of which 845 cases are from

Hyderabad. Some 410 areas are identified as high-risk areas in Hyderabad. Even the areas which share the border with municipalities of Rangareddy are prone to diseases. The process of preventing mosquitoes will be continued till December."

Ex-AP MP's kin held for nuisance on Metro

Face-recognition tech helps trace, identify him

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Face-recognition technology helped Metro authorities trace the person who created nuisance on the Metro train. The person identified as Seelam Kanaka Raju is an employee of Container Corporation of India, working in Sanathnagar container depot. Sources said he is relative of a former MP of Andhra Pradesh, Jesudasu Seelam.

Sources said a special team was formed to keep a watch on Kanaka Raju. Officials used a combination of traditional and modern facial recognition techniques to nab him. A video of his nuisance activity on September 8 was widely circulated on social media. He



Seelam Kanaka Raju

A video of his nuisance on September 8 circulated widely on social media. He later grew a beard and sported a disheveled look to avoid detection

was caught on Monday morning by the Metro security personnel at the Metro station at Tarnaka and handed over to Osmania University police.

Kanaka Raju grew a beard after the incident and sported a disheveled look to avoid detection. A case was

booked under Metro Rail (O&M) Act 2002 and u/s 70 (b) CP Act by the police.

Meanwhile, HMRL is working on creating a WhatsApp facility for commuters to lodge complaints instantly so that offenders can be caught and detained immediately.

Don't buy flats in Ayyappa society: GHMC

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The GHMC warned the general public from buying unauthorised buildings in Ayyappa society. The civic body had demolished unauthorised buildings in Gokul Plots in Sy.No.78 at Hafeezpet (V) of Serilingampally mandal. Even after demolitions, owners have started re-constructions at the same place. They are trying to sell individual flats to people. About 108 illegal and unauthorised constructions were demolished in Ayyappa society. The GHMC requested HMWS&SB to stop water supply and drainage connections to the buildings.



Water supply curbs on Monday

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

A water shut down is proposed for 24 hours i.e. from 6.00 am on Monday to 6.00 am on Tuesday as a result of heavy leakages on the MS gravity main supply lines of Krishna Drinking Water Supply Phase-III.

There will therefore be no water supply during the period of the reservoir areas of Saheb Nagar, Auto Nagar, Vaishalinar, Meerpet, Jalpally, Mailardevpally, Shastripuram, Bandlaguda, Budvel, Sulernannagar, Hyderguda, Golden Heights, Gandhimguda, Allabanda, Bhojagutta, Shaikpet, Prashan Nagar, Madhapur, Gachibowli, Manikonda, Narsing, Boduppall, Chengicherla, Prizadiguda, Moosapet, Qutubullapur among others will receive the sarees.

Monsoon retreat delayed this year

TS under 'Yellow weather' warning till Sep 25

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The southwest monsoon, which arrived after four weeks late this season, is likely to withdraw in the next 15 days. "Climatologically, the southwest monsoon season ends by September 30, but its withdrawal this year is likely to be delayed till October 15," said private weather forecaster Skymet on Saturday.

"The month of June recorded 87 mm of rain against the monthly average of 111.2 mm. July was also deficient with 84.2 mm of rain against the normal of 179.2 mm. The situation in August wasn't any different as the city recorded 129.4 mm of rain, against the average of 207 mm. But September turned out to be good in terms of rain for Hyderabad," Skymet website said.

Indian Metrological Department (IMD) officials in Hyderabad said in August, Hyderabad showed a rain deficit of 25 percent. This has reduced to 16 percent now.

During its later stages, the southwest monsoon has been quite vigorous over TS because of upper air circulation in



Southwest monsoon season usually ends by September 30, but its withdrawal this year is likely to be delayed till October 15, said Skymet

Bay of Bengal, over south Andhra Pradesh coast, which is expected to create a low-pressure area that will bring rain to nearby regions, including all Telangana districts, IMD said.

Telangana is now under a Yellow Weather alert with heavy downpour expected in all districts till September 25. Light rain is likely in Hyderabad till September 23.

Rock-laden lorry on ORR incurs KTR's ire

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister KT Rama Rao on Saturday requested Principal Secretary Arvind Kumar on Twitter to issue instructions to HMDA and GHMC to control dangerous vehicles plying on roads. He suggested that officials must seize these vehicles with help of RTA and the police. The instruction came after one Vinod Reddy tweeted a photograph showing a lorry carrying large rocks travelling on ORR service road, pointing out that the rocks could fall and pose a danger to vehicles behind the lorry.

Arvind Kumar responded to the tweet saying, "necessary action would be taken in coordination with the police and transport departments. We will also impose hefty fines apart from seizing such vehicles. Instructions have already been issued not to permit such lorries on ORR."

SSC students shifted to save school 'reputation'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Balala Hakkula Sangham objected to Raj Bhavan government high school sending about 30 SSC students lagging behind in education to other government schools fearing that their continuation in the school would affect the SSC pass percentage there.

Sangham honorary president Achyuta Rao blamed the school teachers, calling it "sheer inefficiency" on their part.

He demanded the authorities to hold the school headmaster responsible for the incident and place him under suspension and also re-enroll the transferred students and groom them well so that they clear the exams. Achyuta Rao said failing that the Balala Hakkula Sangham would take up their cause and

Balala Hakkula threatens stir as Raj Bhavan school transfers 30 SSC students over pass percentage concerns

fight for their rights. If students lag behind, the school should have arranged additional classes and ensured that they do well in the SSC exam, he said. Instead, the school chose to send them away to other schools, he said.

The Raj Bhavan school functions under the supervision of government officials. The measure amounted to discrimination towards students and subjecting them to ill-treatment on the grounds of failure, Rao said.

15 lakh sarees to be gifted in city

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

GHMC is gearing up to distribute 15 lakh Bathukamma sarees to women in Hyderabad. The distribution will be on Monday. It has received 4.2 lakh sarees for the purpose so far. The GHMC urban community development wing will distribute the sarees to white ration card holders in the city. Residents in areas like Gachibowli, Kukatpally, Rajendranagar, LB Nagar, Malakpet, RC Puram, Moosapet, Qutubullapur among others will receive the sarees.

Man detained under PD Act for cheating

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

As a part of the ongoing drive against habitual offenders, Rachakonda Police Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat detained an interstate habitual cheating offender under PD Act.

Accused Somen Banerjee, a native of Kolkata, came to Medipally seven years ago and introduced himself to locals as a Customs officer posted in Visakhapatnam, police said. He later told them Customs had seized gold biscuits from passengers carrying them illegally.

Banerjee offered to sell the gold at half the market rate and collected advance amounts from people. Initially, he gave them some gold coins but cheated them after collecting large sums of money. He bought two villas, two cars and set up groceries shop at Chengicherla and Marredpally. Banerjee had made fake identity card of Customs, Aadhaar cards and education-

Accused Somen Banerjee came to Medipally seven years ago and introduced himself to locals as a Customs officer posted in Visakhapatnam

al certificates. He collected about Rs 5 crore from people and circulated the money among investors in schemes that he ran until absconding, police said. Medipally police arrested Somen and his wife and accomplice Suparna Banerjee on July 10 in Odisha and remanded them to judicial custody. So far seven cases have been reported against him in Kushaiguda, Nacharam, Medipally, Uppal and Neradmet police stations of Rachakonda commissionerate.

Man killed by relatives for harassing wife

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Ibrahimpatnam police on Saturday arrested four men for murdering a man and covering the offence as a missing person case. The men were relatives of the deceased, who allegedly harassed his wife and repeatedly threatened to murder her family members.

The arrested were identified as Gunukulaiah, 58, Gunukula Suresh, 34, Gunukula Naresh, 26 and Guddeti Shekar, 27. Police said three others -- Guddeti Srisailem, 31, Rasamoni Krishna, 40, and Guddeti Naresh, 25 - involved in the incident were absconding.

The deceased, Jakkula Kishan, a labourer at a government school in Hayathnagar, was the cousin of Gunukulaiah. His wife had left him about 6-7 years ago

Probe in missing person case unravels crime and motive



The four accused in police custody on Saturday

allegedly due to his extra-marital affairs and drinking habit. Police said Kishan often quarrelled with his relatives. He

had threatened to kill his wife's relatives on several occasions. The relatives then plotted to kill him, and on August 31 they

The relatives plotted to kill Kishan, and invited him to Nerrapally on August 31. They attacked him with axes and sickles, killed him and burnt the body in a pit

invited Kishan to Nerrapally. When Srisailem came to know of this, he informed Gunukulaiah. The men attacked him with axes, sickles and sticks killed him. Later they transported the body in Gunukulaiah's auto

into Janaharsha area and dumped the body in a pit they dug earlier and set it on fire. Police said Gunukulaiah, his sons and son-in-law again went to the spot on September 1 with diesel and set fire to the partially burnt body a second time. They then buried covered the body with soil, police said.

A missing person report was initially registered following a complaint from Kishan's daughter Jakkula Meenakshi. Police started an investigation and interrogated some people. Leads provided by Gunukulaiah led to recovery of Kishan's body. A spot PME was conducted by the CAS Govt hospital. The men were arrested and the sections were altered to murder and other related sections of the IPC.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
State Board of Technical Education & Training, Hyderabad.

SBTET-EE-1/E-14/39/2019-POE1. **Notification** Dt: 20.09.2019

Secretary, SBTET desires to select an agency for **Printing of Original diploma Certificates & Memorandum of Marks** for the year 2019-20. Bidders willing to participate in this tender may visit e-procurement portal <http://tender.telangana.gov.in>

Date of commencement of Downloading : 25-09-2019, 10.00 A.M.
Last Date of Submit bids on e-portal : 09-10-2019, 3.00 p.m.

DIPR No. 674-DP/ICL-Agency/AdvT/172019-24 Sd/- Secretary.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Rc. No 679/2019/TO **e-Procurement Notice** Dt: 16.09.2019

Description of Work: Construction of 2.50 Kms. sea through Wall / Chain Link Mesh towards phase of Urban Forest Block in Compartment Nos. of Jamrudipally Section, Mahabubabad Range of Mahabubabad Division during the year 2019-20 under CAMPA Scheme. ECV. Rs. 119.34981 Lakhs. Starting date of Online Bidding : 20-09-2019, 10.30AM to 04-10-2019, 3.00PM. Last Date and time for submission of Bid : 04-10-2019 upto 3.30PM Date of Opening of Tender : 04-10-2019 @ 4.00 PM. Further details can be at e-procurement market place at www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Ph: 7382619260

Sd/- District Forest Officer, Mahabubabad.

CAPSULE



Indrakaran Reddy

No plans to shift HC, says Indrakaran

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has made it clear that there is no proposal of shifting the High Court from the existing place. The Forest and Environment and Law Minister Indrakaran Reddy told the Legislative Assembly that the government is not planning to shift the Telangana High Court from the present premises in the Old City to Budvel near Shamshabad. Reacting to the question raised by the AIMIM MLAs Akbaruddin Owaisi, Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, Mohd. Moazam Khan, Jaffar Hussain, Syed Ahmed Pasha Quadri, Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala and Kausar Mohiuddin on Saturday during Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly, Indrakaran Reddy said that some lawyers of the High Court had started a campaign opposing the High Court relocation and the government noticed about the campaign through media reports in last week of August 2019. It may be recalled that some High Court lawyers staged dharnas before the High Court demanding the state government not to shift the existing High Court building to Budvel near Shamshabad.

Lovers commit suicide in Kothagudem

KOTHAGUDEM: Unable to bear separation, two lovers committed suicide on Saturday by consuming pesticide on the outskirts of Annarapadu in Bhadradi-Kothagudem district. The deceased were identified as Sindhu, 21, and Gopi, 21. They took the extreme step as their elders refused to accept their relationship. As the love affair between them became known to elders, they questioned them about it. They refused to give consent for their marriage. Feeling heartbroken, they took the extreme step. The locals found them dead in the fields. The police have registered a case and are investigating it.



Police officials present the accused before the media on Saturday

'Jail buddies' turn habitual offenders, held

PNS ■ MAHABUBNAGAR

Mahabubnagar police have arrested three 'jail buddies' who have been repeated offenders perpetrating burglaries and property offences in Shadnagar, Rayadurgam, Narsingi, Hanvada, Mahabubnagar, Jadcharla and Tirupathi in the past.

According to District SP Renu Rajeshwari, Chakkagopi Ashok (26), Akkapally Chandra Shekar (25) and Chitral Ravi Kumar (26) had become friends while they were undergoing trial for various property offences at Mahabubnagar District Jail. When Ashok was released from jail on bail, he committed a burglary at the residence of one Chittamma in Rajendranagar of Mahabubnagar on the night of April 22. He made away with gold ornaments weighing around 29 grams and also looted cash.

When his friends Chandra Shekar and Ravi Kumar were released from jail recently, all three of them hatched a plan and perpetrated burglary at one Madhava Chary's residence in Balanagar on the night of September 10. The trio broke open the door lock and made away with jewellery weighing around 90 grams and cash amounting to Rs 55,000.

'Aasara' reaching far and wide

Over 30 lakh people benefit from the scheme, says Minister Errabelli

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao said that over 39.41 lakh people had benefited under the Aasara pension scheme and till date Rs 23,019 crore was spent by the State Government on the scheme.

Further, the State Government had reduced the age limit to 57 years for eligibility to avail benefits under the scheme. The government was seeking details of such persons



from District Collectors, he said, during question hour in the State Assembly. Telangana extends the high-

The State Government has reduced the age limit to 57 years for eligibility to avail benefits under the scheme, the Minister said

est financial assistance under the scheme in the country. Rajasthan gives Rs.750, Maharashtra Rs.600, Gujarat

and Uttar Pradesh Rs.500, he informed. Unlike other States, which extend benefits only under couple of pension categories, Telangana offers benefits for widows, physically challenged, weavers, toddy tappers, HIV/AIDS positive, beedi workers and single women, the Minister said.

Minorities Welfare Minister K Eshwar said 8,013 Imams and Muezzins were being paid honorariums across the State. The programme was launched in 2015 with an honorarium of

Rs.1,000, which was revised recently to Rs 5,000 per month, he said.

Complimenting the TRS government for introducing the programme, MIM MLA Mohd. Moazam Khan said due to delay in processing by officials, many applications were getting piled up in the Wakf Board.

Regarding the pending applications, the Minister said all the pending applications will be cleared by identifying eligible persons.

Former TDP MP Sivaprasad no more

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former Member of Parliament Naramalli Sivaprasad, known for dressing up as various characters in Parliament to draw attention to issues, passed away in Chennai on Saturday. He was 68. The two-time Lok Sabha member from Chittoor, who also served as a minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh, breathed his last at a private hospital in Chennai, TDP leaders said.

Sivaprasad, who also acted in a few Telugu films, was suffering from kidney-related ailments. He was admitted to SVIMS Hospital in Tirupati last week but after his condition turned critical he was shifted to Apollo Hospital in Chennai. Sivaprasad, who was also a theatre artist and film producer, joined the TDP while being active in the film industry. He was elected to the Andhra Pradesh Assembly in 1999. He served as minister for information and public relations and culture in the Chandrababu Naidu cabinet between 1999 and 2001.

He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chittoor in 2009 and re-elected in 2014. He, however, was defeated in the recent elections. While opposing the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and later demanding a special package for the state, Sivaprasad drew attention through innovative protests near Parliament. He used to come to Parliament



Naramalli Sivaprasad

Sivaprasad, who was also a theatre artiste, joined the TDP while being active in the film industry. He was elected to the AP Assembly in 1999

dressed up as a mythological character or a leading personality.

In August last year, he appeared in Parliament dressed like Adolf Hitler, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to follow the dictator. He also dressed up as Lord Ram, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, M.G. Ramchandran, a farmer, a Muslim cleric, a cattle herder and even a woman. With Sivaprasad's death, the TDP has lost a second senior leader in less than a week. Former Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao had committed suicide at his residence in Hyderabad on September 16.



Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addresses a press conference in Hyderabad on Saturday

KCR obstructing Centre's schemes: Dharmendra Pradhan

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan came down heavily on Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao saying the latter has not been working in the spirit of co-operative federalism and obstructing implementation of NDA government's schemes in Telangana, which is eventually harming the people of the state.

The Senior BJP leader warned the Chief Minister that obstructing Centre's welfare schemes such as PM Awas Yojana and Ayushman Bharat would backfire on TRS and further strengthen BJP in Telangana. "Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is not working in the spirit of cooperative federalism. He is obstructing implementation of Centre's schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Fasal Bhima Yojana which were launched to help poor," he said.

"Telangana government has also not implemented EBC reservations till now. While

Telangana Chief Minister is obstructing implementation of Centre's schemes like PM Awas Yojana and other schemes, he said

KCR is obstructing Centre's schemes, it is people of Telangana, who are being deprived of the benefits and bearing the brunt of his actions. KCR should set his priorities right. There is nothing wrong in doing politics during polls. But schemes which are aimed at helping poor should not be politicised. There are no elections in Telangana for the next four years. KCR should stop politicising and implement schemes implemented by PM Modi in Telangana," he further said, speaking at BJP state office in Hyderabad on Saturday. "KCR is obstructing PM Awas Yojana in Telangana is

coming in the way of fulfilling PM Modi's vision of housing for all by 2022. Leave about implementing Awas Yojana, TRS government has failed to implement even its own scheme of double bedroom homes. KCR is neither fulfilling his own poll promises nor letting NDA government reach out to Telangana people with its schemes. Three states - Telangana, Orissa and West Bengal have witnessed a new trend during this Lok Sabha polls. BJP has made huge gains and emerged as a powerful force in these states," he said.

Stating that India is facing challenging of economic slowdown due to multiple global factors, Union Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Steel stressed that decreasing corporate tax will give a boost to the tune of Rs 1.35 lakh crore to Indian economy and will turn India into an attractive destination for new investors. Dharmendra Pradhan also reviewed performance of Hyderabad headquartered PSU NMDC during his visit to Hyderabad.

No disqualification petitions: Speaker

K VENKATESHWARLU ■ HYDERABAD

Telangana Assembly Speaker Pocharam Srinivas Reddy has said that he disposed all disqualification petitions of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) and made it clear that there are no pending petitions with him. The disposal of disqualification petitions was taken place before the merger of 12 Congress MLAs into TRS only.

On Saturday, the Congress senior MLA D Sridhar Babu, during the discussion on demands in the Legislative Assembly, questioned the Speaker to tell as how the latter resorted to the process of merger of CLP into TRSLP as the disqualification petitions were with Speaker. The Speaker cut the mike when Sridhar Babu raked up the issue for the first time.

However, Sridhar Babu once again raked up the issue during clarifications on the demands. General Administration, Roads and Buildings, Information and Public Relations, Forest and Environment and S&T, Endowments and Law Department and Finance Departments. However, interfering Sridhar Babu Speaker said that he disposed all the petitions filed by the CLP. He said that he took time to study the petitions and disposed all after going through the petitions. The Speaker also made it clear that he followed all norms during merger of CLP into TRSLP.

Amidst the discussion between Speaker and Sridhar



Pocharam Srinivas Reddy

Pocharam said that he disposed all disqualification petitions of the CLP and made it clear that there are no pending petitions with him

Babu, Congress MLA, who joined TRS along with 11 other Congress MLAs, from Bhupalpally. Gandra Venkatramana Reddy said that the merger took place here as was taken place across the nation. It is not correct to Sridhar Babu to make allegations against 12 Congress MLAs who joined the TRS. He demanded Sridhar Babu to withdraw his remarks.

He also asked Sridhar Babu to file cases against 12 Congress MLAs who joined TRS if they want. "We are ready to face cases if CLP files cases against us," he exhorted. He advised Congress MLAs to not to rake up the issue time and again to lower the dignity of the House.

Infant with fever abandoned in bushes

PNS ■ SANGAREDDY

In a revolting sight, a one-month-old infant girl was found abandoned among bushes here on Saturday. Shocking facts relating to the abandonment came to light in district headquarters when the one-month-old girl, who was suffering from viral fever, was admitted to the district hospital.

According to officials, the infant's mother was identified as Rameshwari, from

Lakdaram village in Patancheru. The doctors at the district hospital, who have attended the infant, referred the kid for advance treatment at the Niloufer Hospital. Unable to bear the travel expenses, Rameshwari left the kid in the bushes on the hospital premise. Locals, who have noticed this, immediately alerted the authorities, who in turn admitted the infant in an emergency ward and providing treatment.

TS ASSEMBLY PASSES MUNICIPALITIES BILL 2019

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Municipalities Bill, 2019 and the Telangana Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2019 were passed unanimously in the State Assembly here on Saturday. Explaining the provisions of Telangana Municipalities Bill, 2019, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister K T Rama Rao said some provisions under the existing acts had become redundant and non-relevant due to changing times.

More importantly, there was no proper use of technology to its optimum level for the convenience of citizens. To make the administration in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) more transparent, time bound and

accountable besides preparing budgets in the ULBs in a scientific manner, it was essential to bring out a new Telangana Municipalities Bill, 2019, repealing the earlier Acts, he informed the House.

During the question hour, Law Minister A Indrakaran Reddy clarified that the State Government had no plans to shift the Telangana High Court from the present premises in the Old City. The Health Minister E Rajender said currently 50 hearse ambulances were being operated across the State. Of these, 30 were being operated in Hyderabad. If need be, more hearse ambulances will be introduced for the convenience of citizens, he said.

Inter results: NSUI tries to lay siege on Assembly

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

NSUI activists have tried to lay siege on the Assembly alleging that the state government is adopting negligent attitude in solving the problems of the education sector. The activists alleged that they resorted to lay siege Assembly as there was no response from the government though they waited till the end of the Budget session of the Legislative Assembly thinking that the government may give clarity on the suicides of inter students and an action against the persons responsible for the irregularities in inter results.

However, the police arrested the NSUI activists near the Assembly and shifted them to nearby police station. Speaking on the occasion, NSUI state president B Venkat alleged that the government had



announced that there was no fee for re-correction and revaluation after the student paid fee. "How the government will repay the amount about Rs1

crore to the students", he questioned.

Venkat alleged that the government failed to extend help to the families of inter students

NSUI activists tried to lay siege on Assembly, charging the govt with neglect of the education sector. The police foiled their attempt

committed suicides. He demanded the state government to extend help to the bereaved families.

He also demanded the state government to initiate action against Globerena and the persons responsible for the irregularities in Inter Board. He made it clear that they will continue their fight till inter students and the families of students committed suicides get justice.

Venkaiah calls for fast-tracking projects

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Regretting that the country does not have a good track record in executing projects on time, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday said execution of projects and programmes needs to be improved.

"Sadly, our country does not have a good track record of executing projects on time. This needs to change," he said, speaking at the Project Management National Conference here. Although transformation must be seen at all levels, the project managers play a key role and must act as change agents, he said.

The 'flash report' published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in April this year says more than 25 per cent of large central sector projects (that cost Rs 150 crore or more) were delayed beyond their scheduled



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the Project Management Institute National Conference in Hyderabad on Saturday

date of completion, he said. "We need to improve the execution of our projects and programmes. For that, we need to improve the way we plan projects, manage stakeholders, monitor progress, take corrective action swiftly and decisively, and develop future-ready talent with a high-technology quotient," he said.

The task force has recommended the setting up of a National Policy Framework for Project and Programme Management, and prescribed global standards and certifications for project professionals in public projects, he said. The Quality Council of India is currently working on the policy framework. If implemented, it would be the first time that the Centre would have initiated a formal approach to project and programme management, he said.

"I believe this is the right time for such a step. Our country has embarked on a development agenda that is bold, ambitious, and at a pace and scale that is unprecedented, he said. Project managers have played a vital role in both public and private sectors - from infrastructure building to IT, from telecom to the power sector to healthcare and more, he said. However, to support fast growth across sectors, the country requires more skilled talent, he said. Observing that

India is a land of engineering and architectural wonders that serves as examples of great project management practices, he said.

The modern-day India has had several remarkable achievements that serve as proof of its capabilities, he said, citing the example of the newly inaugurated Statue of Unity on the banks of the Narmada, in Kevadia in Gujarat. There are many other projects and programmes that are a matter of great pride for the country, he said. He mentioned Aadhar, the world's largest biometric database, Chandrayaan 1 and 2, the Indian elections, which is the largest democratic exercise in the world, and the Kumbh Mela, the largest human gathering in the world to be such projects. In many of the successes the country has achieved, there is a strong role of the private sector, he said.

Errant traders warned

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister S Niranjan Reddy has issued a stern warning to middlemen and traders if the subsidised ground nut seeds find their way into their hands. Speaking in connection with distribution of subsidised ground nut seeds at Bijinepalli in Nagarkurnool district on Saturday, he asked the agriculture officials to find out whether the farmers sown ground nut seeds given to them on subsidy in their farm or not.

He said that 9,000 quintals of groundnut seed is being given to farmers at a subsidised price of Rs 5,000 a quintal, with Rs 4,000 being the subsidy component per quintal. The officials should ensure that the farmers did not sell the subsidized seeds to traders or middlemen, he said.

SHORT READS



CBI teams continue operations to locate Rajeev Kumar

KOLKATA: CBI sleuths kept up their efforts Saturday to locate top West Bengal police officer Rajeev Kumar who has been skipping summons of the probe agency in connection with the multi-crore Saradha deposit default scam. Teams of the special crime branch of CBI visited the office of the CID at Bhabani Bhawan as well as various parts of the city to ascertain the whereabouts of Kumar. Kumar is the additional director general of CID, West Bengal. Sources said the CBI sleuths reached a private hospital in South 24 Parganas district to trace the former Kolkata police commissioner. Kumar is alleged to have suppressed evidence crucial for the investigation into the scam. The team of CBI officials had on Friday gone to the official residence of Kumar on Park Street and another to a resort in South 24 Parganas to trace him. Last week, the DG of West Bengal police apprised CBI that Kumar was on leave from September 9 to 25. The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people of Rs 2500 crore promising higher rates of return on their investments.

Saying poor roads will affect Goa tourism, GFP seeks CBI probe

PANAJI: Goa Forward Party (GFP) president Vijal Sardesai on Saturday demanded a "CBI inquiry" into the poor condition of roads in the tourist state alleging the BJP-led government is delaying the repair works under various "excuses". He also condemned PWD Minister Dipak Pauskar's statement that the pothole-ridden roads will be repaired by May next year. "The government has been giving the excuse of torrential rains for the delay in road works, as if it has never rained in Goa in the past. The poor road conditions can even affect tourism," said the former deputy chief minister. He also alleged the state government has failed to fulfill its promise to repair the roads before Ganesh festival, held earlier this month, causing grave inconvenience to the people.

Madhya Pradesh: Student among 2 held for highway robbery

JABALPUR: A 23-year-old student of physiotherapy was found to be a part of a gang of highway robbers operating on the national highway (NH) 7 in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Saturday. While the accused, identified as Shubham Khatik (23) and Pawan Burman (21), have been arrested, their accomplice Ankush Burman is on the run. Khatik, a resident of Bahoriband district in Katni, is studying physiotherapy in Jabalpur while Burman works in a sweet shop. The trio used to rob cash and other valuables from villagers riding cycles and two-wheelers on the highway, said superintendent of police Amit Singh. "Police received a tip-off about two people travelling on a motorcycle without a registration number on the highway near Sagda village," he said, adding that the duo have confessed to their involvement in at least six cases.

BJP-Sena will contest jointly; I will return as CM: Fadnavis

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said the BJP and the Shiv Sena will contest the next month's Assembly polls together. The CM also exuded confidence that he will retain the post after elections. He dismissed media reports that the BJP will contest 162 out of total 288 seats and the Sena 126. Fadnavis' remarks came a day after Sena president Uddhav Thackeray asserted that both the parties will contest the elections in alliance, and that an announcement on the seat-sharing formula will be made in a couple of days.

Maharashtra will go for a single-phase election on October 21. Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24.

"I am saying with no uncertainty that we will contest the Assembly polls along with Shiv Sena. The seat-sharing talks are still on, do not trust the reports," Fadnavis said, while speaking at the "India Today Conclave 2019" being held here.

Referring to the Sena pitching for equal sharing of the 288 seats, the chief minister said all details about the seat-sharing arrangements will be formally announced at a press briefing.

To a question, Fadnavis said the BJP did not dictate terms to the Sena and that decisions between them are taken "amicably".

On the Sena's criticism of his government through party



mouthpiece "Saamana", Fadnavis quipped, "I don't read Saamana".

He said all the decisions taken by his Cabinet were "unanimous" with the support

of Shiv Sena ministers. "No Shiv Sena minister had second thought about any of the decisions in the last five years (since BJP-led government came to power). So, we are not con-

cerned about what happens outside," he said in an oblique reference to 'Saamana'.

Responding to a query on whether he will get another term as the chief minister, the CM retorted: "Do you have any doubt?"

He also said the decision to appoint Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray as deputy chief minister, in the event of the NDA government returning to power, will be taken by the Sena.

Fadnavis said he looked at "positively" Aaditya becoming active in politics.

"He is fanning out parts of the state, trying to understand issues pertaining to Maharashtra. I welcome his decision to join active politics, I take it positively. He has to lead Shiv Sena one day. He is going through the process," Fadnavis said.

Sena, BJP confident of winning over 220 seats

Leaders of the Shiv Sena and the BJP on Saturday exuded confidence of winning a second consecutive term in Maharashtra, hours after the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the poll schedule. Maharashtra will go for a single-phase election on October 21. Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24. State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said given the overwhelming response to the 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP alliance is likely to get more than 220 seats. "The 'Yuti' (alliance) will burst crackers a day before Diwali (due later in October). Our preparations are complete," Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut told reporters here. Senior BJP leader Vinod Tawde said a BJP-led alliance government under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will emerge victorious once again. "In the next one month, we will ensure the report card of our development work of the last five years reaches the people as against the erstwhile 15-year rule of the Congress-NCP combine. That's what we intend to do in the next five years," said the School Education Minister. Meanwhile, when asked about the ECI not announcing the date for the by-election to Satara Lok Sabha constituency represented by NCP's Udayanraje Bhosale before he joined the BJP last week, Chandrakant Patil said Bhosale will work to ensure victory of BJP-Sena candidates. Bhosale had reportedly wanted the bypoll announcement to be made with the schedule of the state assembly polls.

Verdict on Shivakumar's bail plea on September 25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader D K Shivakumar may influence witnesses in the money laundering case in which he has been arrested, the Enforcement Directorate on Saturday told a Delhi court, which said it will pass an order on his bail application on September 25.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the ED, opposed the bail application before Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar, saying that Shivakumar cannot turn his tainted property into untainted one just by paying tax on it. Senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Shivakumar, opposed the ASG's submission and said that he was innocent and that the ED was desperate to keep him in jail. Rohatgi said if people like P Chidambaram, arrested by ED in another case, are flight risk then everyone in the country is a flight risk. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its order.

During the hearing, the ED, also represented by special public prosecutors Amit Mahajan, N K Matta and Nitesh Rana, said, "More than Shivakumar having deep roots in the society, I say, the case has deep rooted conspiracy. There is possibility of tampering with evidence."

"In the I-T proceedings, statements were made by certain people which were later retracted. This shows he can influence the witnesses in the case. Being



The ED accused Shivakumar of committing 'serious economic offence' and said it's a threat to national economy

an influential and powerful person, he may hamper the investigation," Rana said. The ED accused Shivakumar of committing "serious economic offence" and said it's a threat to national economy.

"It may imbalance the national economy and pose a threat to national security. It has to be dealt this an iron hand," Rana said, adding that Shivakumar remained non-cooperative and evasive during investigation.

Apart from agricultural land, there are many non-agricultural land and properties which are required to be probed further and the investigation is at a crucial stage, the agency said.

"Shivakumar's brother had about 27 properties and agri-

cultural land out of which 10 properties were purchased in cash or acquired by his father, but how it was acquired, we don't know," it said. Opposing ED's plea, Singhvi said, "What is the meaning of presumption of innocence if this approach is taken? I object to going into merits at this stage. The approach is trying to influence the court by throwing huge figures. The amount of money is increasing every day."

"There are only 20 active accounts then where is the figure of 317 accounts coming from? Show me the 21st account and I would sit down," he said. Rohatgi said the case was related to one income tax raid and the material recovered from it.



KATHUA CASE 2 overground workers of JeM module held

PNS ■ JAMMU

Police conducted raids at several places in south Kashmir's Pulwama district and apprehended two overground workers of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) on the basis of leads provided by three arrested terrorists of the outfit in Kathua earlier, officials said on Saturday. The arrested OGWs include the owner of the intercepted truck, which was ferrying terrorists and AK-type rifles to Kashmir from Punjab, in Kathua district Thursday last, they said.

"We have arrested two supporters of JeM terrorists from Pulwama. They include truck owner Suhil Ahmed Latoor of Gulshanabad, Pulwama, and Bashir Amhed Lone of Rajpora, Pulwama," a senior police officer said. The duo has been taken on remand. They are being interrogated to know about the JeM module and its activities, he said. The officer said more arrests are likely to take place in the case. Last Thursday, the truck loaded with cardboard material was intercepted during checking on the Jammu-Pathankot highway. Three ter-

rorists, who were travelling on the truck, were arrested and arms and ammunition, including four AK-56 rifles, two AK-47 rifles, six magazines and 180 rounds of ammunition, besides Rs 11,000 in cash, was seized, officials had said. The police had intercepted the truck (registration number JK13E-2000) acting on specific inputs at Lakhampur in Kathua, when it was on its way from Punjab to the Kashmir Valley. All the terrorists belonged to the Valley, they had said, adding that the truck was owned by Latoor, and was being driven by Javid Ahmed Dar. The three terrorists were identified as — Ubaid-ul-Islam and Sabeel Ahmad Baba, residents of Aghlar Kandi in Pulwama's Rajpora, and Jehangir Ahmad Parray, a resident of Pakherpora. Charar-e-Sharief in Budgam. They were illegally transporting arms and ammunition from Punjab to Kashmir to "disrupt peace in the Valley", the officials had said. "Bashir was to receive the consignment of weapons," the officer said.

So far, six people have been arrested in the case, he said.

Collegium modifies decision on Justice Kureshi's elevation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court collegium has recommended the alleviation of Justice Akil Kureshi as the chief justice of the Tripura High Court, modifying its earlier decision of sending his name for the post of the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The resolution of the collegium uploaded on the apex court's official website late Friday evening said the modification to recommend Justice Kureshi to the Tripura High Court was taken in the collegium's meeting held on September 5. Earlier, the apex court had recommended Justice Kureshi to be elevated as the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court but the Centre had expressed certain reservations. Later, the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association (GHCAA) had filed a petition claiming that Justice Kureshi's name has not been notified by the Centre even after the collegium recommended his name on May 10. During the



hearing on September 16, the apex court said that the collegium has taken a decision on the elevation of Justice Kureshi and it will shortly be uploaded. The latest resolution stated: "This Collegium vide Minutes dated 10th May, 2019 recommended that Mr. Justice A.A. Kureshi, senior-most Judge from Gujarat High Court be appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court." The said recommendation sent to the Government has been referred back to the Chief Justice of India vide two

The Collegium resolves to reiterate its earlier recommendation dated 10th May, 2019 with the modification that Mr. Justice A.A. Kureshi be appointed as Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court

communications dated 23rd August, 2019 and 27th August, 2019 received along with accompanying material. These communications and material received from the Department of Justice have been placed before this Collegium."

It added, "On reconsideration and after taking into account the aforesaid two communications dated 23rd August, 2019 and 27th August, 2019 and the accompanying material, the Collegium resolves to reiterate its earlier recommendation dated 10th May, 2019 with the modification that Mr. Justice A.A. Kureshi be appointed as Chief Justice of the Tripura High

Court." The apex court had on August 28 said it had received a communication from the Ministry of Law and Justice on the collegium's recommendation to elevate Justice Kureshi.

On August 16, the Centre had told the apex court that it would take a call within a week on the collegium's May 10 recommendation on the elevation of the judge.

Before that, on August 2, the top court had asked the Centre to take a decision in the matter by August 14 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had informed the bench that the collegium's proposal was under consideration.

Woman dies in roof collapse; husband, son injured

PNS ■ PHAGWARA

A 23-year-old woman was killed while her husband and son were injured after the roof of their rented accommodation collapsed early Saturday morning in Bhagatpura locality here when they were asleep, police said.

Rekha Devi Tiwari died on the spot. Her husband Brijesh Kumar Tiwari (30) and son Shobhit Tiwari (7) suffered serious injuries and were admitted to the Civil Hospital here, they said. The incident took place at 4:30 am.

The rented accommodation, a room, was dilapidated and rains had further weakened the structure, sources said. Brijesh, who fractured a leg, was later referred to the Jalandhar hospital as his condition was critical. This was confirmed by Senior Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Kamal Kishore. Phagwara DSP Surinder Chand said the family hailed from Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh.

Govt accepts resignation of Madras HC Chief Justice V K Tahilramani

PNS ■ RAIPUR

The resignation of Madras High Court Chief Justice V K Tahilramani has been accepted, according to a government notification. Her resignation has been accepted with effect from September 6, it said. She had resigned after the Supreme Court collegium

declined her request for reconsideration of transfer to the Meghalaya High Court. Justice V Kothari has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Madras High Court, another notification said. The transfer of Justice Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to the Meghalaya High Court had snowballed into a

major controversy with lawyers in Chennai as well as in her home state of Maharashtra coming out in protest against the Supreme Court collegium's decision in this regard. Later on September 12, the apex court had come out with a statement, saying that each of the recommendations for transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of various high courts was based on "cogent reasons".



DANTEWADA BYPOLL

Around 18,000 security personnel on duty

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Around 18,000 security personnel will ensure a safe conduct of the assembly bypoll in naxal-affected Dantewada seat in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on September 23, a senior police official said on Saturday.

The bypoll for the ST constituency was necessitated following the death of BJP legislator Bhima Mandavi in a naxal attack in April this year. "Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure peaceful polling in Dantewada assembly seat. All necessary measures had been taken to thwart attempts by the Maoists to disrupt the poll process," Deputy Inspector General (anti-naxal opera-

tions) Sundarraj P said. Around 18,000 security personnel, including from paramilitary forces, have been deployed for safety of polling booths and carrying out search operations in the forest, he said. While the Centre has sent about 7000 personnel of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), around 11,000 jawans, including those from paramilitary and state forces engaged in anti-Maoist operations, have also been roped in, he added.

"Patrolling has been intensified in the area and drones are being used to track the movement of naxals in the vicinity of security camps and sensitive polling booths," he said.

Guv visits ailing JU VC, says will work for nation building

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday visited ailing Jadavpur University VC Suranjan Das at a private hospital here, and said he will work together with the senior varsity official to create the "best suitable" environment for students. Dhankhar arrived at the hospital in the southern part of the city's Dhakuria area around 10 am to meet Das and pro-VC P K Ghosh, who were admitted on Thursday, following the incident of heckling of Union minister Babul Supriyo by a section of students at the varsity. "The VC is in good shape and willing to return home. Das also said that once he is



back to work, he will have an interactive session with the students," Dhankhar said.

"I'm glad to say that we are on the same page. We have to work together to create a best suitable environment to explore the character of students and contribute in nation building,"

said. Dhankhar, who is also the chancellor of the university, however, had earlier taken serious note of the fact that Das left the campus on Thursday evening, even as Supriyo remained gheraoed by the students. The Governor pointed to "the issue of serious lapses by

The VC is in good shape and willing to return home. Das also said that once he is back to work, he will have an interactive session with the students

— JAGDEEP DHANKHAR, West Bengal Governor

the University VC, including virtual abandonment of his obligations", a statement issued by Raj Bhavan had said.

Dhankhar on Saturday said doctors at the hospital indicated that none of the two were injured in the incident.

"I have spent considerable time with the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor, and was fully updated about their health condition by the doctors," he said.

"I am very much concerned about their health. I would also like to reach out to the daughter of the VC and his wife, who is a professor at Calcutta University," the Governor said.

Das and pro-VC P K Ghosh had to be hospitalised on Thursday evening after they complained of "headache, vertigo, palpitation and nausea", a medical bulletin issued by the hospital said.

Both were taken ill while

Supriyo was being heckled and gheraoed by the students at the university, where he had gone to attend a programme by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

After being held up at the university campus by protestors from leftist students unions and some from TMCfo nearly five hours, Supriyo was taken out by the governor late Thursday evening.

"I was personally constantly keeping a note of the VC and the pro-VC's health. In fact, I wanted to see them first before going to the university, when I heard that they were injured. But, when I called him (the VC), he told me that he was not injured but suffering from hypertension," Dhankhar added.

SHORT READS

Cong appoints Supriya Shrinata as spokesperson

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Saturday appointed Supriya Shrinata, who was the party's candidate from Maharajganj in the Lok Sabha polls, as a spokesperson. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has approved the appointment of Supriya Shrinata as spokesperson of All India Congress Committee, a statement issued by the party's communication department chief Randeep Surjewala said. Until a few months ago, Shrinata was a TV journalist. She is the daughter of former Congress MP Harsh Vardhan. She lost to BJP's Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha polls from Maharajganj. Her father Harsh Vardhan was a two-time MP from the seat.

On dharna since 1996, UP teacher booked for bizarre protest

MUZAFFARNAGAR: A teacher, who has been on a sit-in protest here for more than 23 years over alleged land grabbing by a former legislator, has been booked for hanging his undergarments outside the Collectorate office, police said on Saturday. A case under Section 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the IPC was registered against teacher Vijay Singh following a complaint by Nazarat in-charge of the Collectorate Sanjay Kumar, Station House Officer Sameyapal Atri said. Singh has reportedly shifted his dharna site after the authorities asked him to call off his protest and move away from the Collectorate premises.

Farmers from UP march towards Delhi with demands

NOIDA/NEW DELHI: Hundreds of farmers from Uttar Pradesh were on their way to Kisan Ghat in Delhi demanding pending sugarcane dues, loan waivers and cheap electricity, among others. The farmers who had stayed put in Noida on Friday were at Delhi Gate, on the Delhi-Ghaziabad border, around noon, causing obstruction in traffic along the route. "Traffic is obstructed in both carriageways from Ghazipur Border UP Gate on NH-9, NH-24 towards Nizamuddin due to the farmers' rally," the Delhi Traffic Police said. The farmers, protesting under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Sangathan (BKS), had started their march from Saharanpur on September 11. While in Noida, the farmers held talks with government representatives but those failed to materialise.

16 animals die along LoC as Pak violates ceasefire

PNS ■ JAMMU

At least 16 animals were killed in heavy firing and shelling by Pakistan Army on forward posts and villages in different sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts, officials said on Saturday.

The intense shelling from across the border also prompted the authorities to suspend class work in nearly half a dozen government-run schools falling within the firing range in Poonch district on Saturday, they said.

A defence spokesman said Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by targeting Nowshera sector in Rajouri and Balakote area of Mendhar, Shahpur and Kermi sectors in Poonch district, drawing befitting response from the Indian army.

Pakistan first violated the ceasefire in Nowshera sector from 8 pm to 10 pm on Friday, followed by firing of small



arms and shelling with mortars in Balakote area of Mendhar sector in Poonch district from 11.45 pm to 2 am, he said.

At about 9.45 am on Saturday, the spokesman said, Pakistan again violated the ceasefire and targeted Shahpur and Kermi sectors in Poonch district.

The cross-border firing between the two sides was going on when the last reports were received, he said.

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Rahul Yadav said 16 domestic animals were killed in the overnight Pakistani shelling

in the Balakote area. "The class work in four schools was suspended today (Saturday) as a precautionary measure as there was apprehension of unexploded mortar shells lying in the vicinity," Yadav told PTI.

Officials said a few more schools were closed in Shahpur sector in view of the ongoing shelling for the safety of the students.

Several residential houses suffered minor damages due to Pakistani shelling, they said, adding there was no report of any civilian casualty.

Several residential houses suffered minor damages due to Pakistani shelling, they said, adding there was no report of any civilian casualty

Panic gripped the border villagers as the shelling on civilian areas was intense, the officials said, adding the people have been advised to take necessary precautionary steps for their safety.

This year, according to officials, Pakistan violated the ceasefire over 2,050 times, leaving 21 Indians dead and scores of others injured.

India has repeatedly called upon Pakistan to ask its forces to adhere to the 2003 ceasefire understanding and maintain peace and tranquility along the LoC and the International Border.

Army commander reaches out to locals in south Kashmir

PNS ■ JAMMU

Northern Army commander Lt Gen Ranbir Singh has reached out to the locals in south Kashmir, considered to be the hotbed of militancy, with a message that the army and the government are working towards restoring peace and ensuring overall development of the region.

During the interaction with a select group of community leaders organised on Friday, the army commander sought suggestions from the people to ensure a bright future for the youth of the valley.

The meeting comes at a time when normal life across Kashmir continues to remain disrupted since the scrapping of the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and its bifurcation into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- on August 5.

A short video clip of the interaction was shared on Saturday by Udhampur-based defence PRO Lt Col Abhinav Navneet.

"Wherever we go, we try to convey this message to all and I want to request you to carry this message forward that we want peace and development of this region. We want the boys and girls to get better education and good jobs... we want a bright future for them,"



The army has launched a massive mission reach out initiative in Jammu region post revocation of the provisions of Article 370 to assist the local administration in maintaining peace, harmony and conducive environment

Lt Gen Singh was heard telling the community leaders.

"We are working in this direction and so is the government. If you have any suggestions, we are ready to act upon those suggestions," the commander said.

The army has launched a massive mission reach out initiative in Jammu region post revocation of the provisions of Article 370 to assist the local administration in maintaining

peace, harmony and conducive environment. Though no untoward incident was reported from any part of Jammu region where normal life remained peaceful with people continuing with day-to-day activities, the army is meeting opinion makers and reaching out to the populace to mitigate their sufferings by organising free medical camps, Jammu-based Army PRO Lt Col Devender Anand said.

Day 48: Restrictions lifted in most parts of Kashmir

PNS ■ SRINAGAR

Restrictions were lifted from most parts of Kashmir on Saturday, but remained in force in the Handwara area of Kupwara district as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order, officials said.

Fresh restrictions were imposed in many parts of the Valley on Friday in view of apprehensions that vested interests might exploit the large Friday prayer gatherings at big mosques and shrines to fuel protests.

Officials said restrictions have been eased out in most areas of Kashmir.

However, the curbs continued to be in force in many areas of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, they said.

The restrictions under Section 144 of the CrPc continued as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order, the officials added.

Security deployment remained in vulnerable areas and mobile and internet services were yet to be restored in most parts of the Valley 48 days after the Centre abrogated Article 370 provisions of the Constitution.



The restrictions under Section 144 of the CrPc continued as a precautionary measure to maintain law and order, the officials added

Restrictions were first imposed across Kashmir on 5 August after the Centre announced stripping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating the state into two Union territories. The restrictions were lifted in phases from many parts of the Valley.

Friday prayers have not been allowed at any of the major mosques or shrines - including Jamia Masjid in Nowhatta or Dargah Sharief in Hazratbal.

Normal life continued to remain affected across the valley for the 48th consecutive day on Saturday with markets closed and public transport off the roads, the officials said.

The internet services remained suspended across all platforms, they said.

While landline across the valley were functional, voice calls on mobile devices were working only in Kupwara and Handwara police districts of north Kashmir, the officials added.

Supriyo takes auto to beat Mumbai traffic

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Union minister Babul Supriyo has posted a video in which he is seen taking an autorickshaw ride in Mumbai after his official car got stuck in traffic jam.

In the clip posted on Twitter on September 17, Supriyo said as his car got held up in traffic, he used the "opportunity" to travel in an autorickshaw.

"My official car is stuck in jam. I am using the opportunity to sit in an auto in Mumbai, reminiscing the past, the city where I struggled several times in an auto. It is a very nostalgic feeling and it is really making me feel very good," he posted.

Supriyo said the first time he sat in an autorickshaw in Mumbai was in 1992, and that he is "thoroughly enjoying" the ride.

The singer said the only song which comes to his mind is Kishore Kumar's hit "Main Hoon Ghoda, Yeh Hai Gaadi, Meri Rickshaw Sabse Nirali", which the minister sang for his Twitter audience.

"It's a unique experience, trust me. A rickshaw in Mumbai is fantastic," the Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change added.

Navy Chief begins four-day Bangladesh visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

During the visit, Admiral Singh will hold extensive talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury, besides meeting the other service chiefs and senior military officials, the Indian Navy said. Sources said the two navy chiefs are expected to deliberate on regional security scenario including China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean region and its military assertiveness in the South China Sea.

"The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance the bilateral maritime relations between India and Bangladesh," a Navy statement said.



Admiral Karambir Singh

Admiral Singh will visit several key military establishments including the Khulna Shipyard Limited, Bangladesh's naval bases in Chattogram and Khulna and address cadets at the Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA).

In addition, he will participate in the first anniversary celebration of Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD), the Navy said.

Oxford varsity Press divisions merged

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Oxford University Press (OUP) has announced the merger of its two education divisions - Oxford Education and Asia Education - into a new business operating across the world.

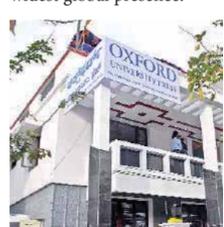
The new division will be headed by Fathima Dada, the current managing director of Oxford Education.

South Africa-born Fathima, who began her career as a teacher in the apartheid era and has also worked with Pearson, takes up the new position immediately.

OUP CEO Nigel Portwood said that creating a single division, focused on the publishing house's education markets, will help it to compete more effectively and further enhance its ability to serve schools and learners across the world.

"We are already very successful in the markets that we serve, but we want to ensure that we can accelerate our digital transformation and building of market-leading educational services," Portwood said.

OUP is a department of the University of Oxford and is regarded the world's largest university press with the widest global presence.



BJP faces multi-corner hurdles in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The ruling BJP, which was propelled to power in Haryana by a dramatic surge in its vote share five years ago, faces a multi-level hurdle this time in its "Mission 75 plus" as it aims to retain power in the state.

With Haryana going to polls on October 21, over the next few days parties will face an uphill task to pick their best for the 90 seats.

While the main contest is seen between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress, other players in the poll ring include Indian National Lok Dal, Jannayak Janata Party — formed after a vertical split in INLD, BSP, AAP and Swaraj India party.

Unemployment, youth, farmers, employees, water issues and alleged non-fulfilment of poll promises of the BJP are going to be some of the issues likely to be raised by the opposition.

For the ruling party, transparency in governance, zero tolerance for corruption, giving jobs on merit, implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Haryana and achievements of state and central governments are going to be the poll issues. Scrapping of Article 370 is also likely to be raised by BJP in the run-up to the election.

The BJP is upbeat after its stupendous show in the 2019 general election, winning all the 10 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The polls have come at a time when opposition parties in Haryana are in a disarray. INLD, formed by former



Unemployment, youth, farmers, employees, water issues and alleged non-fulfilment of poll promises of the BJP are going to be some of the issues likely to be raised by the opposition

deputy prime minister the late Devi Lal, has suffered a series of setbacks during the past one year after its split because of a feud in the Chautala family.

Most of INLD's sitting MLAs and prominent leaders have switched over to the BJP ahead of polls. Abhay Singh Chautala is among only a handful of prominent leaders left in the party.

Factionalism had marred Haryana Congress too, though with recent changes made in the state unit by the high command, the party leaders claim that is a thing of past and everyone is united to take on the BJP.

The Congress has named Kumari Selja chief of its state unit and appointed former chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda the Congress Legislature Party leader, and Kiran Choudhary head of its election manifesto committee. AAP, JJP and BSP are fighting the polls independently. JJP's alliance with BSP collapsed earlier this month.

Polls: Cong and NCP to raise farm crisis

PNS ■ MUMBAI

The Congress and the NCP will raise issues like farm crisis, "economic slowdown" and unemployment in the run-up to the assembly elections in Maharashtra, scheduled next month.

Former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan on Saturday said the Congress would take on the saffron parties on these issues as well as on "the attempts to dismantle opposition parties".

"The election dates have not come as a surprise. We were in



Prithviraj Chavan

the midst of preparations keeping in mind that the dates will be announced around this time. The process of seat and

Maharashtra will go for a single-phase elections on October 21. Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24

ticket distribution is going on. There can be some last minute changes. We will take on the ruling party and the government on issues facing the people," Chavan told PTI.

Maharashtra will go for a single-phase elections on October 21. Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24.

He said some leaders may have defected from the Congress-NCP camp "but the common people are with us".

"We will raise the dictatorial attitude of the ruling party to finish off the Opposition," the former chief minister said.

Former minister and senior Congress leader Naseem Khan also welcomed poll schedule.

Meanwhile, NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik exuded confidence that there will be a change of guard in the state.

Kerala's hamlet set to be first 'literate tribal block'

PNS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Attappady, one of the most backward tribal hamlets in Kerala, which was in the lime-light for long for the wrong reasons -- infant mortality, malnutrition, poverty and under development, is now slowly turning a new leaf.

The settlement, located on the foothills of Nilgiri hills of Western Ghats in Palakkad district, is now on its path to achieving a rare feat to become the first complete literate tribal block in the country.

If everything goes as planned, the feat can be achieved within a year and an official announcement in this regard can be expected by June, 2020, official sources here said.

The Kerala State Literacy Mission (KSLM), which is implementing several programmes to achieve complete



literacy among the marginalised groups including tribals, fisher-folk and migrant labours, is scheduled to launch the third phase of its literacy programme in Attappady on September 27.

With the completion of the project, the place can be declared as the first complete literate tribal block in the country as per the criteria set by UNESCO, KSLM director P S Sreekala said.

According to the UN agency, a place can be declared as

With the completion of the project, the place can be declared as the first complete literate tribal block in the country as per the criteria set by UNESCO, KSLM director P S Sreekala said

completeliterate if more than 90 per cent of the native population attain literacy, she said.

A total of 5,031 people had been identified as illiterates in Attappady in a survey conducted prior to the launch of the KSLM's literacy-cum-equivalency drive for the first time there in December, 2016.

Of them, 1,117 people in the first phase and 2,553 in the second phase have become literate under the project, taking the total number of neo-literates to 3,670.

she noted. Detailing the features of the project, the director said besides the literacy drive, the fourth standard equivalency course for the neo-literates was also progressing in the region.

Equivalency programmes are organised with a view to provide an alternative education that is equal to the existing formal system of education, be it related to formal or vocational education, KSLM sources said.

Of the total 275 instructors deployed for the implementation of the Attappady literacy programme, 218 were tribals themselves.

An hour-long class, involving 15-25 students, is scheduled in each village daily. Free food is provided to the them through the 'community kitchen' initiative of the Kudumbashree, the state government's poverty eradication mission.

POST US TROOP DEPLOYMENT

Will turn attacking country into battlefield: Iran

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

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

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

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

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

"Whoever wants their land



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iran denies successful cyber attacks on oil sector

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

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

The statement did not specify which reports it was addressing.

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

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

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

China is threat to world: Trump

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The two countries have resumed their trade negotiations.

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

TRUMP SLAMS WHISTLEBLOWER STORY AS 'PARTISAN HACK JOB'

Whistleblower and Trump phone call: What we know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



attorney, on a probe into Hunter Biden.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trump for his part has insisted there was nothing onto-

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

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

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

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

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

"It was actually a beautiful conversation."

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

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

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

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

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

Corbyn has tried to put a lid on the row by proposing that Labour carry out a review of the role, currently held by lawmaker Tom Watson, who has clashed with the leader on a number of issues, notably Brexit.

The proposal to get rid of the deputy's role had been scheduled to be put to a vote Saturday of Labour's governing

body, the National Executive Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBE TROTTER

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

MINIBUS EXPLOSION IN IRAQ: 12 DEAD, 5 INJURED
Baghdad, Sep 21 (AP) A bomb exploded on a minibus packed with passengers outside the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing 12 people and wounding five others, Iraqi security officials and the state news agency said. This was one of the biggest attacks targeting civilians since the extremist Islamic State group was declared defeated inside Iraq in 2017.

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

Washington: The rainfall in some of Indonesia's islands such as Sumatra, Java, and Borneo affects the climate of regions that are even thousands of miles away, according to a new study. Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Papua New Guinea, along with a clutch of smaller islands are part of what is known as the "Maritime Continent," which, according to the researchers, experiences significant rainfall including "periodic monsoonal rain, and flash flooding."

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

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

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

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

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



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

Over 100 held in Paris 'yellow vest' protests

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

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

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

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

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

Kashmir in focus as Imran Khan leaves for UNGA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

HK protesters, police face off in renewed clashes



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

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

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

Most protesters in Tuen Mun were peaceful but some

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

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

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

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

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001. Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida

Expressway, Jaypee Greens Washrow, Noida (U.P.)-201301, Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: 5F-1A,2,3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Nili Khanda-1, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad-201012, Retail Asset Centre, Faridabad: Axis Bank Ltd. SCC-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec. 18, Faridabad, Haryana-121002, Retail Asset Centre Gurgaon: Axis Bank Ltd. ASC Gurgaon, SG-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009, Corporate Office: Axis House, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, PandurangBudhkarMarg, Worli, Mumbai-400025, Registered Office: "Trishul", 3rd floor, opposite Samartheeswar Temple, Law garden, Elstribridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower/Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice
1. Mis K & K Health Care Private Limited R/o - C-10, 1st Floor, Preet Vihar Delhi Also At: -Mis K & K Health Care Private Limited, Al - D - 247/3, Sector - 63, Noida U.P. - 201309	The Residential Flat No - 3A -044 in Tower - 3, Block - A, on 4th Floor, Super Area 2205 Sq.Ft. (ie 204.85 Sq. Mtr) and Covered Area 1784 Sq.Ft. (ie 163.88 Sq.Mtr) in "GC Grand" situated at Plot No -2-C, 110092, Also At: - Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Plot No - 43, Sector-63, Phase- III Noida - 201301	1. 02-Feb-2019 2. 17-Sep-2019 3. Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
2. Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Registered Office at - 17, Vardhman Tower, Preet Vihar, Connaught Place, Delhi - 110002, Also At: - Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Plot No - 43, Sector-63, Phase- III Noida - 201301	1784 Sq.Ft. (ie 163.88 Sq.Mtr) in "GC Grand" situated at Plot No -2-C, 110092, Also At: - Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Plot No - 43, Sector-63, Phase- III Noida - 201301	1. 02-Feb-2019 2. 17-Sep-2019 3. Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
3. Mr. Dinesh Kapoor, C-10, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092 Also At: - Mr. Dinesh Kapoor, C-110, Block C, Preet Vihar East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	North-As per the sale Deed East-As per the sale Deed West-As per the sale Deed	
4. Mr. Saru Kapoor C-10, 2nd Floor, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	North-As per the sale Deed East-As per the sale Deed West-As per the sale Deed	
5. Mrs. Seema Kapoor, (Guarantor), W/o - Mr. Balraj Kapoor C-10, Block C, Preet Vihar, East Delhi New Delhi - 110092	North-As per the sale Deed East-As per the sale Deed West-As per the sale Deed	
6. Mr. Balraj Kapoor, (Guarantor), S/o - Somnath Kapoor, C-10, Block C, Preet Vihar, East Delhi New Delhi - 110092	North-As per the sale Deed East-As per the sale Deed West-As per the sale Deed	
Also At: - Mr. Binraj Kapoor, (Guarantor), S/o - Somnath Kapoor, Residential Flat No - 3A-044 in Tower - 3, Block - A, on 4th Floor, "GC Grand" situated at Plot No -2-C, 110092, Faridabad, Indraprastha, Ghaziabad U.P. - 201014	North-As per the sale Deed East-As per the sale Deed West-As per the sale Deed	

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 22-09-2019, Place: Delhi Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,

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

TRAFFIC ALERT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FACTSPEAK

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



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

— ADVOCATE POOJA SAREEN

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

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

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

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

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

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

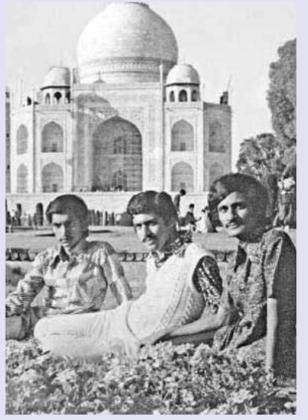
Minors are kidnapped and trafficked on fake IDs and documents. "We have failed as a system rescue such victims despite them being brought into metros from all corners of India and pushed into flesh trade day in and day out.

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

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

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





THE DOCTOR WHO LOVES MATH

From maths to medicine

If I have a chance to go back, I wouldn't choose medicine. I have always loved Physics and Math. I secured State 3rd rank in Higher Secondary board examination and had a chance to either become an engineer or a doctor. I chose the latter, but now feel that I should have done otherwise.

White coat superiority in family played highly on my mind...

It is not surprising that peer pressure makes teenagers take up paths far from what their heart warns them against. For me, at the age of 17, it was a journey away from math and it led to medicine. As four members of my family were in the medical arena, white coat superiority played highly on my mind at the time of decision-making.

My father, Ankamma Choudary, was born a couple of months after his father's death, into a family practicing farming. His main drive for going to school was to avoid working in the fields under the hot sun. He realised very early that farming would not be financially beneficial and so he sold what little he had to educate himself. In spite of his academic excellence, he was initially refused admission to a medical college due to his farming background. He then enrolled into the army. After two years of service, he was given admission to Stanley Medical College — the same institute which had initially refused his application. He became an excellent clinician who practised from a nursing home in Chikalauripet.

Dr B.V.L. Narayana, my maternal uncle, was "the people's doctor" who practised in Ongole. Serving more than 100 patients a day at nominal consultation fees of Rs 1, he never refused treatment to people, including operations, even when they did not have any money. His popularity saw him elected as an MLA twice in the Ongole constituency as an independent candidate.

A costly mistake and recovery...

We planned a two-year field trial of the callipers. Six months ahead of this deadline, Dr



WORKING WITH APJ ABDUL KALAM

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam wanted to develop modular, light-weight callipers for polio patients. As the lead of the NIMS Orthopaedic Workshop, I had an opportunity to work on the project, but I believed in custom-built callipers; hence, I refused to associate myself with the idea. The head of our department, Dr B.N.Prasad, did however initiate the research project. When he resigned and I took over as HOD, I had to continue what was started. As work progressed, I realised that it was possible to realise Dr Kalam's dream. What was initially useful only to 10 per cent of polio victims, following a modified design, extended project time, and support from colleagues from DRDO and Dr. Kalam resulted in developing a light-weight variant of callipers that was suitable to many.



children. He even brought sweets packed for each child from Delhi on his flight. He asked me, "What you want to do next?" We went on to fit more than 30,000 patients with these callipers in different parts of the country and only stopped when we had difficulties from the manufacturing end.

Supported by wife...

I am supported by my wife who is a well-loved and successful doctor Dr Anuradha. She has the distinction of delivering the first test tube baby of combined state of Andhra Pradesh and her establishment is one of the first few in the country. I did not take dowry for my marriage and the wedding ceremony was a simple one held at Tirupathi with a few guests. I have two daughters, both of whom are practising gynaecologists.

Kalam felt that India's Golden Jubilee celebrations in Bengaluru would serve as the perfect stage to announce its launch. I disagreed with him and refused to have anything to do with the launch as the field trial was incomplete. I was worried that it would become unpopular if any issues were reported after this launch. He looked at me and said, "I hope you won't regret this decision at a later date". Six months later, when we completed the field trial, there was nobody to launch it in the community. The scientific work was confined to scientific journals and the callipers were confined to workshop.

When Dr Kalam became the President of India and visited NIMS for its convocation, I bluntly told him that the callipers were confined to store-rooms and nobody was using it, because nobody was aware of it. I was requested to discuss the issue with him further in Delhi. In Delhi, he gently reminded me of my costly mistake and sought remedial measures. I had a new plan which I then discussed with him. A community lunch of the product involving social organizations, Government agencies and medical community together by conducting camps which would be a win-win situation for everyone involved. We went on to conduct successful camps initially in various towns in and around Belgaum. Other camps followed and in one such camp, Dr Kalam came and spent more than two hours with the

It is not often that one hears about a doctor fighting it out with the Government in court much before achieving eminence as a thoroughbred. Dr Narendranath, former director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, did just that. He challenged the Government of undivided Andhra Pradesh in the early 1970s when they chose to conduct a separate entrance examination for medicine, while for other streams, candidates were chosen from among those who qualified in a common examination taken by all students. Although he scored well and got admission in medicine stream, he stood his ground and took the matter to the Supreme Court. From being called a fool for not taking up engineering to initially refusing to participate in former President APJ Abdul Kalam's pet project to develop light-weight callipers for polio patients, Dr Narendranath has done it all. Dr Narendranath shares more insights from his life with

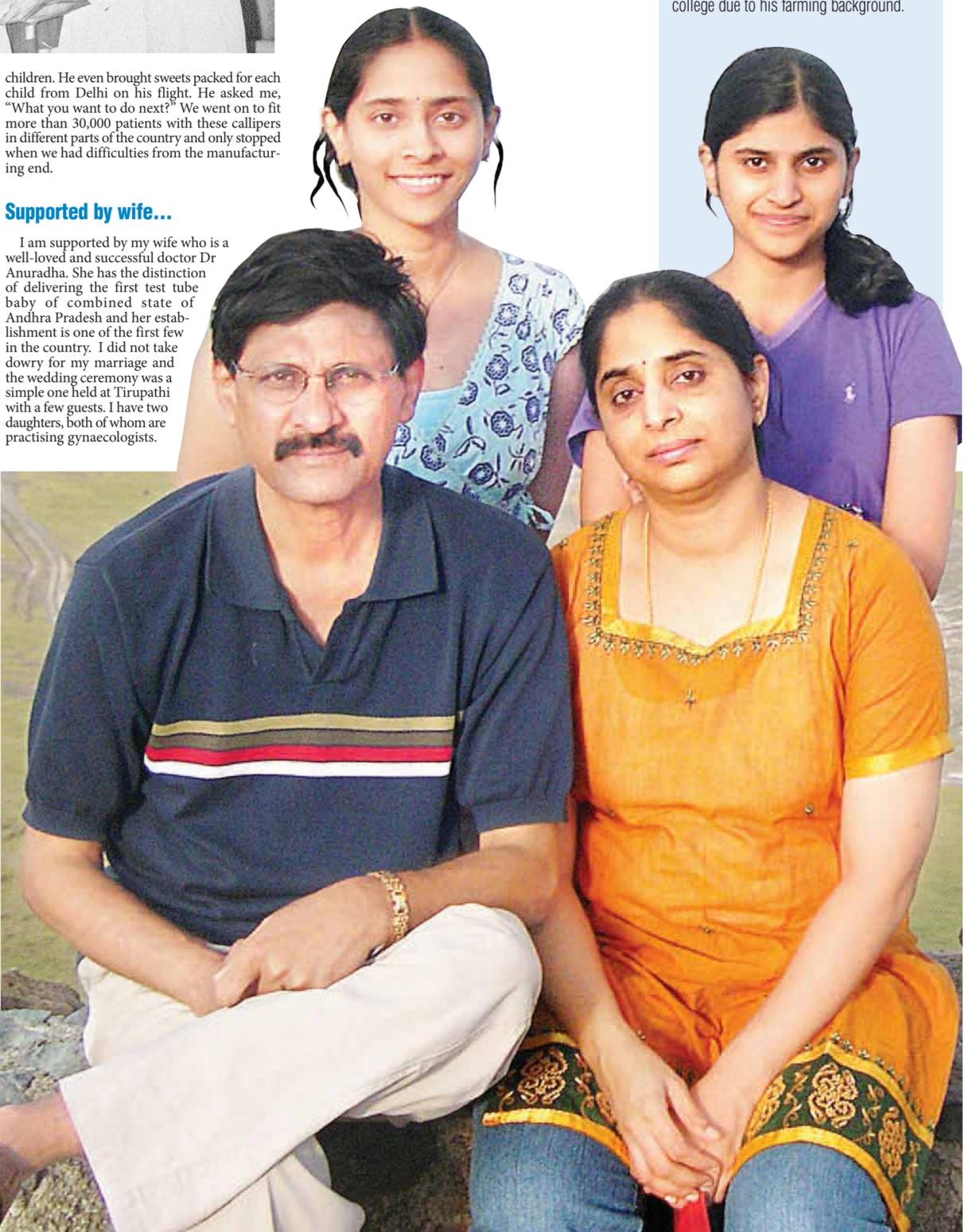
K RAMYA SREE



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam wanted to develop modular, light-weight callipers for polio patients. As the lead of the NIMS Orthopaedic Workshop, I had an opportunity to work on the project, but I believed in custom-built callipers; hence, I refused to associate myself with the idea initially.



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Short takes

I ADMIRE:

Dr G.N. Rao of LV Prasad Eye Institute for his vision and commitment in offering state-of-the-art eyecare to rich and poor alike.
Dr. V. Krishna Murthy of RK Hospital, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam for being one of the most well-respected persons I have encountered in addition to being a brilliant physician.
Dr D.R.K.Prasad and Dr. Padma of Challapally for their unrelenting efforts in motivating people by leading from the front with their Swachh Challapally programme.

I LOVE:

Reading books. I enjoy modern classics and my favourite authors include Somerset Maugham and Oscar Wilde. My all-time favourite books are The Razor's Edge by Maugham, The Picture of Dorian Gray by Wilde and Panchatantra in Telugu.
Kalipatnam Rama Rao heads my Telugu authors' list and I love Sri Sri's poetry.

I ENJOY:

Indian and western classical instrumental music and Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna's vocal.

I AM FASCINATED BY:

The works of Michelangelo and the paintings of Impressionists.

I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO:

I love travelling and enjoy historical places and ones known for natural beauty. Luxor in Egypt, Florence and Capri in Italy and Massai Mara spread over Kenya and Tanzania top my list.

I AM:

Very outspoken. This is my strength and weakness at the same time. I am myself and don't try to please anybody, whether people like it or not.



CAPSULE



Emulate US best-practices to grow faster: Gadhari

MUMBAI: Union minister Nitin Gadkari Friday said the country needs to apply the best practices of its trade partners like the US to become one of the most powerful economies in the world. "We are aspiring to become one of the most powerful economies. We have the potential and we are one of the fastest growing economies. Over the years, we've understood that innovation, entrepreneurship, science, technology and skills are the knowledge areas that need to be converted into wealth," he said at an Indo-American Chamber event. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to the US tonight and I am confident that our ties will become stronger with the visit," Gadkari added. Speaking at the event, US consul general David J Ranz said both the countries should focus on key areas of priorities like clean energy, commerce, smart cities and defence to achieve USD 500-billion bilateral trade target.



Maruti to drive in new model S-Presso later this month

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Saturday said it will launch mini SUV S-Presso later this month, coinciding with the start of the festive season. The company said the indigenously conceived, designed and developed vehicle is made for India as well as the world. "Our internal research suggests that the criteria of buying a car for the youth, apart from affordability, acquisition cost and maintenance, now also include design and aesthetics," MSI Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said in a statement. With S-Presso, the company will offer a premium, feature-rich car that will disrupt the entry car segment in the country, he added.



Tax cuts: SBI pegs cos saving Rs 50K cr

NEW DELHI: The government unexpected move to massively slash corporate taxes by over 10 percentage points will result in savings of over Rs 50,000 crore to India Inc, according to an analysis by economists at State Bank. The benefit coming in from the Rs 1.45 lakh crore tax giveaways will also help companies to cut prices by up to 5 percent to boost consumer demand, which has been sagging and is one of the prime reasons for the deepening slowdown. The economy has grown the slowest pace in six years at 5 percent for the June quarter, which has resulted in a rash of measures from the government, including the massive tax cut for corporates which varies from 10 to 12 percentage points.

Goyal bats for PSUs, says privatisation no panacea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union minister Piyush Goyal Friday batted for continued government ownership in banks and other key industrial areas saying privatisation is not the panacea for all the ills facing the economy as the private sector is plagued with more scandals than their state-run peers.

Chairing a panel discussion at an India Today event here this evening, he said, "there are more

scandals in private banks today than we have in public sector banks. There are more scandals coming out of private sector companies and private sector-run non-banking finance companies and housing finance companies.

"Our government is trying to clean up the mess. So I don't think privatisation is the panacea for all the problems we face," he said.

Lauding the role that public sector banks have played in overall economic and social

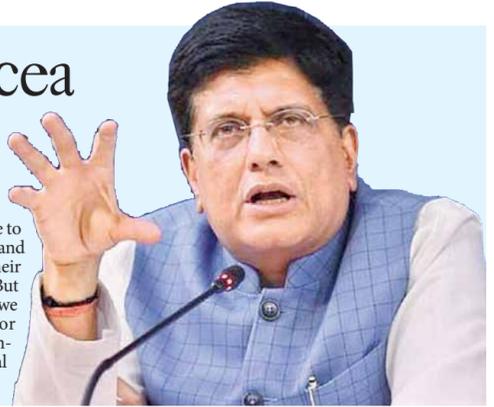
development, the minister said they are the reason behind the development we see today. "They are the reason behind the national infrastructure we have across the country be it power plants or others. No private banks has given money to

PIYUSH GOYAL, Union minister

young entrepreneurs to start businesses but government banks that stood by them," Goyal said. "Taking a dig at the 'cozy banking' that private sector lenders are comfortable with, he said, 'public sector banks have done huge work for the country, while their

private sector counterparts are looking at cozy lending to very, very safe borrowers and not to the poor farmers.

"We must and continue to support the public sector and it's time to recognise their role in nation building. But this does not mean that we should not privatise or disinvest support disinvestment as well, Goyal concluded.



'Corporate tax cut positive, but growth faces headwinds'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Saturday said the cut in corporate tax increases the government's fiscal risks while headwinds from cyclical factors such as rural stress, weak corporate sentiment and slow credit pose threat to near-term growth.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

"But the degree of strengthening in corporate credit profiles will depend on whether companies reinvest surplus earnings into their businesses, or use them to reduce debt or to boost shareholder returns," it said.

In aggregate, rated non-financial companies in India

reported a total pre-tax net income of about USD 35 billion for the fiscal year ended March 2019.

Assuming the earnings of these companies remain unchanged for current fiscal, they will save about USD 3 billion from the tax rate reduction.

"The central government deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2019 already assumes faster economic growth and higher tax buoyancy than we expect," it said.

The July budget projected total corporate tax revenue of Rs 7.7 lakh crore (around 4 per cent of GDP), and the finance minister estimated that the decrease in the corporate tax rate will reduce revenue by around Rs 1.45 lakh crore in the current fiscal year.

"As such, the reduction in corporate income tax revenue - even when balanced against the windfall from the recent transfer of central bank surplus reserves, equivalent to around 0.3 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal year - further narrows fiscal room for manoeuvre," it said.

Moody's said this assumes that the government does not cut expenditure to offset the revenue loss.

US corporate sector hails India's tax cut for companies

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

"We laud the Government for addressing our longstanding demand for lowering the corporate tax rates. The move will make Indian companies globally competitive and allow global companies a good option for growing their manufacturing base in country," Mukesh Aghi, president of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) told PTI.

"This is a welcome step to reverse the economic slow-



USISPF continues to be at the forefront in partnering with the Government of India towards initiatives like these which enhance the ease of doing business in India -MUKESH AGHI, President of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)

down," he said. Aghi said additional announcements pertaining to lowering of MAT rate to 15 per cent, non-applicability of buy-back tax on select listed companies and limiting the applicability of higher surcharge by making it non-applicable on capital gains on sale of security, including derivatives held by FPIs, will help in re-assuring investors from global economies including the United States.

"USISPF continues to be at the forefront in partnering with the Government of India towards initiatives like these which enhance the ease of doing business in India," he said.

Aghi exuded confidence that the trade disputes between India and the US will be resolved by the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump meet in New York for the second time in three days' time on September 24.

"Absolutely", he said when asked if some of the trade issues would be resolved.

Mobile production to reach US \$ 190 bn by 2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mobile phone production in the country is expected to reach USD 190 billion by 2025 on the back of enabling policy environment and lower corporate tax rate, according to industry body ICEA.

Smartphone market leader Xiaomi said corporate tax cut will enhance job generation capability in the industry, invest more in product development and encourage more component suppliers to set up their factories in India.

"Total handsets produced in India clocked 290 million units valued at Rs 1,81,000 crore (nearly USD 25 billion) during 2018-19," ICEA said.

Electronic component makers body ELCINA said the rate cut in corporate tax from 30 to 22 per cent and a minimum alternate tax (MAT) from 18 to 15 per cent is historic and a boost to the slumbering economy and "it will wake up the sleeping giant".

"With such enabling policy environment in place, it would not be impossible to reach the mobile handset manufacturing target of USD 190 billion by



Total handsets produced in India clocked 290 million units valued at Rs 1,81,000 crore (nearly USD 25 billion) during 2018-19

2025 which is about 50 per cent of the total electronics manufacturing target with a total export target of USD 110 billion," ICEA Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said in a statement.

He said mobile handset manufacturing has already witnessed a significant growth trajectory during the past 4-5 years leading to significant export take-off.

Yes Bank promoter entities sell 2.75 pc stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Yes Capital (India) Pvt Ltd, Morgan Credits Pvt Ltd and Rana Kapoor have sold a combined 2.75 per cent in Yes Bank through open market process, Morgan Credits said in a regulatory filing on Saturday. The combined entities held 9.64 per cent holding in the bank which now stands at 6.89 per cent.

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

The stake sale comes in the wake of news reports that Kapoor and the promoter group companies are looking to exit Yes Bank.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

"The auto industry was very hopeful of GST reduction. It is clear that there is no reduction of GST rate on vehicles from 28 per cent to 18 per cent," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Rajan Wadhwa said in a statement. The industry has to find its own balance to enhance demand, he added.

The GST Council, which met in Goa on Friday, did not cut tax rates on automobiles. The industry had been demanding a GST rate cut



Wadhwa expressed hope that the festive season would help in ushering in positive consumer sentiments

from the current 28 per cent to 18 per cent in order to revive sales which have been facing a prolonged slowdown.

The auto components industry too had demanded a uniform GST of 18 per cent. At present, 60 per cent of auto components are taxed at 18 per cent, while the rest are in the 28 per cent slab.

Wadhwa expressed hope that the festive season would help in ushering in positive consumer sentiments.

He said the reduction of GST compensation cess for the sub-segment of 10-13 seaters with length less than 4 metres is positive step as the industry had been demanding it for a long time.

HPL plant shut down after fire

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The management of Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL) on Saturday shut down its plant following the fire incident at its naphtha cracker unit (NCU).

Sources said that the man-

agement has formed an advisory committee comprising internal and external experts which would determine the cause of the fire and the extent of damage caused by it.

The fire broke out at the company's Haldia plant in West Bengal on Friday, leav-

ing at least 15 people injured.

"The management will decide on when the plant could be made operational after the assessment of the committee", the sources said.

Out of 15 employees injured, two of them have been discharged after treat-

ment and "three of them are in critical condition", sources said.

The company said that doctor's at the plant referred the injured patients to hospitals having specialised treatment facilities for burn injuries in Kolkata.

'No need to have trade deal with China before 2020 elections'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he does not feel the need to strike a trade agreement with China before the next year's presidential elections, emphasizing that he is looking for a complete and not a "partial deal" with Beijing.

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

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

"No, I don't think I need it before the election," Trump told reporters on Friday at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison when asked if he feels the need for a trade deal with China before the 2020 presidential elections.

Trump insisted that he was looking for a complete trade deal. "We are looking for a complete deal. I am not looking for a partial deal," he said.

"China has been starting to buy our agricultural product. If you noticed over the last week and actually some very big purchases but that is not what I am looking for. We are looking for the big deal. We have taken it to this level," Trump said.

The trade dispute between the US and China widened in August, with each side imposing retaliatory tariffs on the other. But there have been signs of deescalation in recent days,

and Trump has increasingly expressed optimism of reaching a deal with China. US and Chinese counterparts have resumed trade talks this month.

On September 19 and 20, deputy-level negotiators from the United States and China

met here to continue discussions aimed at improving the trade relationship between the two countries, the United States Trade Representative said in a statement.

These discussions were productive, and the United States looks forward to welcoming a delegation from China for principal-level meetings in October, it said.

President Trump

said the US was taking in billions and billions of dollars of tariffs from China as a result of his policies. China has devalued their currency and they are putting in lot of money into their economy and they have a very bad economy right now, he said.

"I don't want them to have a bad economy, but it is the worst they say 57 years," he said. Trump said two weeks ago the Chinese economy was the worst in 22 years, but now it is 57 years and is only going to get worse.

"Their supply chain is being broken up very badly and companies are leaving because they can't pay the 25, soon to go to 30 per cent tariff and we have 30 per cent very shortly on USD 250 billion," he said.

"We have another tariff and a slightly smaller number on about USD 300 billion worth of goods and products so they would like to do something as you know we are talking a little bit this week talking about lot next week and then top people are going to be speaking the week following," Trump said.

"We can do a very big deal with China and it could go very quickly as you know but it wouldn't be the appropriate deal. We have to do it right and that's a very complicated deal with intellectual property protection we have to do that and other things. I could leave lots out and have a deal very quickly but we want to do it right," Trump said.

China has been starting to buy our agricultural product. If you noticed over the last week and actually some very big purchases but that is not what I am looking for. We are looking for the big deal. We have taken it to this level

- DONALD TRUMP, US President



Zomato extends Gold programme to food delivery

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

Earlier, Zomato Gold privileges were only available for dining out, the company said in a statement. While Zomato Gold for dining out and delivery is now operational in 16 cities, the programme will expand to 25 more cities by next week, it added. "We thank our restaurant partners for all the feedback, and users for the love they have shown towards Zomato Gold. It is very much these conversations that led us to put forward a better and bigger Gold programme," Zomato Co-founder and COO Gaurav Gupta said.

Today, Gold drives 25-30 per cent business for its restaurant partners and more and more Gold users are exploring new restaurants because of the programme. It, therefore, makes eminent sense to extend this discovery behaviour to the delivery restaurant base, he added.

"With over 13,000 establishments across 41 cities, Zomato Gold for Delivery brings a wide choice of great restaurants to Zomato Gold members. It is also expected to drive a significant increase in business for restaurants which have signed up on Gold," Zomato Delivery CEO Mohit Gupta said.

On the other hand lashing at the move by the company, the NRAI said that extension of Zomato Gold programme to the delivery vertical is a desperate attempt by Zomato to shore up the sinking fortunes of their flagship programme.

the pioneer agenda

Listening to an underserved population is how you begin to understand them and serve them better
— Constance Wu



FROM THE INSIDE

Caste as Social Capital

A book that talks about how the caste system in India has been distorted by the self-styled liberals

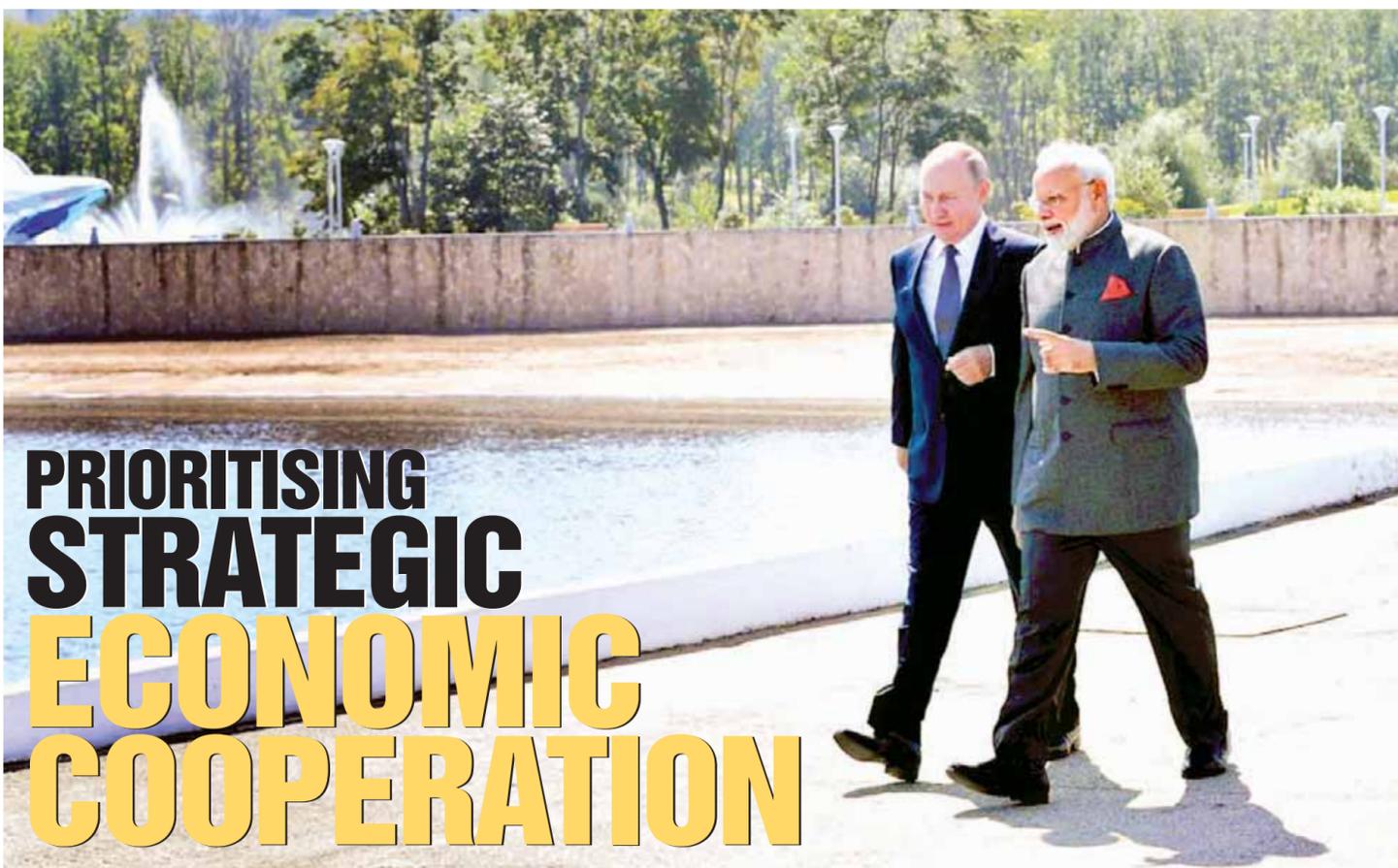
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14

Focus on mind for success

Empower yourself by improving your focus, sharpening intelligence and optimising indwelling potential



PRIORITISING STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



The Vladivostok Summit held earlier this month consolidates two decades of calibrated decisions by India and Russia to give a forward-looking agenda to their bilateral partnership in three core areas — economic, energy and defence cooperation

The 20th India-Russia Summit at Vladivostok on September 4-5, 2019 marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to the Russian Far East. It placed the port city and its surrounding region in the eye of a bold joint initiative to energise “strong, multifaceted trade and economic cooperation as the foundation for further expanding the range of India-Russia relations”.



ASOKE MUKERJI

Speaking at the Joint Press Conference with President Putin, India's Prime Minister emphasised that the partnership between India and Russia was based on “trust”. The basis for this “trust” is rooted in the first India-Russia Summit held in New Delhi in October 2000, when the two countries signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership. At that time, Russia was emerging from a decade of political and economic downturn following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. India was emerging from the first phase of her momentous economic reforms. The overall objective of the India-Russia partnership was designed to create strategic autonomy for both countries.

The first summit took place after India's nuclear weapons tests of May 11-13, 1998, and newly elected President Putin's pledge on May 7, 2000 to make Russia “a country that its citizens are proud of and is respected internationally”. The decision taken by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Putin to institutionalise the India-Russia Summit mechanism annually has withstood the test of time. At Vladivostok, India and Russia asserted that in “successfully coping with the turbulent realities of the contemporary world” they have “never been and will not be susceptible to outside influence”.

Rejecting “unilateral coercive measures not based on international law,” the Summit called for “strengthening” multilateralism and underlined the “primacy of international law”. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that “both countries understand that we need a multipolar world to achieve peace and stability”. Russia reiterated its support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council. At their joint press conference, both leaders underlined the bonds that link India and Russia together, with President Putin highlighting the deep mutual interest in “each other's culture, history and moral values”.

The Summit consolidated two decades of calibrated decisions by India and Russia to give a forward-looking

agenda to their bilateral partnership in three core areas — economic, energy and defence cooperation. In each area, the two countries prioritised the role of investments, manufacturing, employment and technology as catalysts for their burgeoning partnership. They agreed to integrate innovation in high technology products in telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnologies into this framework.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The potential of economic cooperation to strengthen the “special and privileged strategic partnership” between India and Russia has remained largely untapped, despite several initiatives taken over the past 20 years. Bilateral trade has gradually increased from \$1.5 billion in 2000 to its current annual-level of about \$11 billion, well short of the declared target of \$30 billion by 2025.

The Vladivostok Summit resulted in a joint initiative to utilise the “immense energy of the private industry”, in Prime Minister Modi's words, to turn this situation around. In addition to energy and defence cooperation, the economic partnership would target the pharmaceuticals, agriculture, civil aviation, railways, ship building, space, education and tourism sectors. The new strategy unveiled at Vladivostok integrates four supportive measures to increase Russian business participation in the Make in India programme, along with an increased Indian business participation in investment projects in Russia.

First, a bilateral inter-governmental agreement on the promotion and protection of mutual investments is to be negotiated to anchor this initiative. Second, steps would be taken to address non-tariff barriers to bilateral trade, including through broader discussions on a Trade Agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union. Third, coordinating support would be rendered by the investment offices of Russia in India and India in Russia. Fourth, the India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue mechanism set up after the 2018 New Delhi Summit would be geared to promote “cohesive and mutually beneficial cooperation in core sectors”.

Building on the initial attempts made in 2001 to bring the states of India and provinces of Russia into the framework of economic cooperation, the Summit envisaged interaction between Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Goa with the 11 provinces of Russia's Far East to provide depth to this process. Prime Minister Modi mentioned the “coal industry, the diamond industry, the lumber industry, as well as agriculture and tourism” as the specific focus of this interaction, which could impact on “exploring cooperation on temporary

placement of skilled manpower from India” in Russia's Far East.

The broad vision behind India's historic economic engagement at the highest level with Russia's Far East was brought out by Prime Minister Modi at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok on September 5, 2019. He said: “India will provide a \$1 billion line of credit to further contribute to the development of the Far East. This is the first time that we are giving a line of credit to a particular region of a country. My Government's Act East Policy has actively engaged with East Asia. Today's announcement will prove to be the take-off point of the Act Far East policy and it is my firm belief that this step adds a new dimension to our economic diplomacy. We will be active participants in the development of the regions of our friendly countries according to their priorities.”

ENERGY COOPERATION

The primary objective of India-Russia energy cooperation has been India's quest for energy security, and Russia's interest in exporting its huge energy reserves on a long-term predictable basis to India, one of the biggest importers of energy in the world. The Vladivostok Summit discussed partnership in nuclear, oil and gas sectors within this framework, integrating it with the new thrust on economic cooperation.

Both leaders stressed civil nuclear cooperation as an “important component of strategic partnership”. Prime Minister Modi emphasised the significance of “localisation of nuclear power plants” with reference to the new reactors being constructed by Russia at Kudankulam, which will strengthen India's nuclear reactor construction capabilities, including in manufacturing and in expanding her pool of skilled manpower. President Putin highlighted bilateral cooperation in Kudankulam as a “flagship joint project” and anticipated that “at least 12 Russian-designed nuclear power plants will be built within the next 20 years” in India. This would provide the basis for an increase in nuclear trade and technological cooperation between Russia and India, including in “joint manufacturing of equipment and fuel”. The Summit welcomed the success of India-Russia cooperation in constructing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh, which motivated them to look at similar joint cooperation projects for nuclear power in third world countries.

It is significant that during the past 20 years India and Russia have been able to outline such a forward-looking nuclear energy partnership, which is in consonance with their international legal obligations on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Russia reiterated its strong support to India's membership of

the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

India's investments in the oil and gas sector of Russia have crossed \$15 billion, including her stake of \$2.7 billion in the Sakhalin-1 project in Russia's Far East from 2001. Russia's Rosneft-led consortium, which acquired India's Essar Oil (since renamed as Nayara Energy) for \$13 billion in 2017, is expected to expand the capacity of India's second largest oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat, which currently refines 20 million tonnes of oil annually.

An agreement on Hydrocarbons cooperation for 2019-2024 was announced during the Summit, which welcomed the implementation of mutually beneficial long-term partnerships between India's Consortium of Oil and Gas Public Sector Undertakings and Russia's Rosneft, and between Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Russia's giant Gazprom. The projects being implemented included Vankorneft and Taas-Yuryakh in eastern Siberia, the location of one of Russia's largest oil and gas reserves, and a contract for long-term supply of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India.

This approach is designed to create a strategic alignment for the supply and processing of Russian energy to India. A long-term predictable arrangement will mitigate the current volatility in supply and prices in global energy supplies to India. The impact of this emerging alignment will be felt in emerging partnerships in the inland and maritime transportation, port modernisation and energy processing sectors.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

President Putin accompanied Prime Minister Modi on a tour of the Zvezda ship-building complex near Vladivostok, which enabled the two leaders to spend two hours together in the informal discussions. This continued a practice initiated with their meeting in Sochi in May 2018. The Russian leader's public references to the “many Russian made ships” in the Indian Navy including the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya and leased nuclear powered submarine Chakra were significant markers for the Summit agreement on preparing “a framework for cooperation on reciprocal logistics support”.

At the Summit's joint press conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the “steps that are giving our defence cooperation a solid foundation of co-manufacturing” a boost to Indian industry. President Putin emphasised the important role of “joint projects in India” to illustrate that “Russia does more than supply weapons to India.”

A significant takeaway from the Vladivostok Summit for future defence cooperation was the agreement for manufacturing spares of Russian/Soviet-origin equipment in India. This agreement

represents a sustainable solution to a long-standing problem that has festered for almost two decades on the ground. By upgrading India-Russia defence cooperation, opening the doors for joint development and production of military equipment, components, and spare parts, as well as after-sales service activities, a visible economic dimension has been added to defence cooperation. At the heart of this new activity will be Russian participation through investments in joint ventures and technology in the Make in India programme, with its “spin-off” benefits for employment and technology diffusion.

THE GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSION

The objective of prioritising economic cooperation to boost the India-Russia partnership will be require a supportive geo-political framework, especially for connectivity between India and Russia's Far East.

The reference to an “open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region” in Prime Minister Modi's address to the Eastern Economic Forum was accompanied by the announcement of a new maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok to “increase connectivity between the regions”, which would traverse the South China Sea. Despite Russia's reported hesitations on officially using the term “Indo-Pacific”, the Summit declaration's reference to consultations on “integration and development initiatives in the greater Eurasian space and in the regions of the Indian and Pacific Oceans” denotes an emerging strategic convergence between India and Russia on an “inclusive” Indo-Pacific regional strategy. This would incorporate not only maritime connectivity in the Pacific, but also critical maritime connectivity routes in the western Indo-Pacific such as the straits of Hormuz and the Red Sea, as well as connectivity projects such as Chabahar in Iran and emerging maritime routes using the Arctic.

The Summit declaration identified cooperation in the Arctic and cyber security as emerging areas for India-Russia partnership. Russia's long experience in deep sea fishing and deep-sea mining could provide the building blocks for the concept of the Blue Economy of the Indo-Pacific, as part of India's SAGAR Indian Ocean strategy articulated by Prime Minister Modi in March 2015. Incorporating these areas into the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia could catalyse the emergence of India as a maritime power.

The author was India's Ambassador to the United Nations (2013-2015) and India's Deputy Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2001-2005). He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi

“AT VLADIVOSTOK, INDIA AND RUSSIA ASSERTED THAT IN ‘SUCCESSFULLY COPING WITH THE TURBULENT REALITIES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD’ THEY HAVE ‘NEVER BEEN AND WILL NOT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE’.

REJECTING ‘UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES NOT BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW,’ THE SUMMIT CALLED FOR ‘STRENGTHENING’ MULTILATERALISM AND UNDERLINED THE ‘PRIMACY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW’

”




JRR TOLKIEN WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AT THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY. HE RESEARCHED AND EXPLAINED THE ETYMOLOGY OF WORDS STARTING WITH W

The book is a well-argued account of how the caste system in India has been distorted by the self-styled liberals who take the gullible for a ride under the pretext of a casteless society, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The complexities of caste system

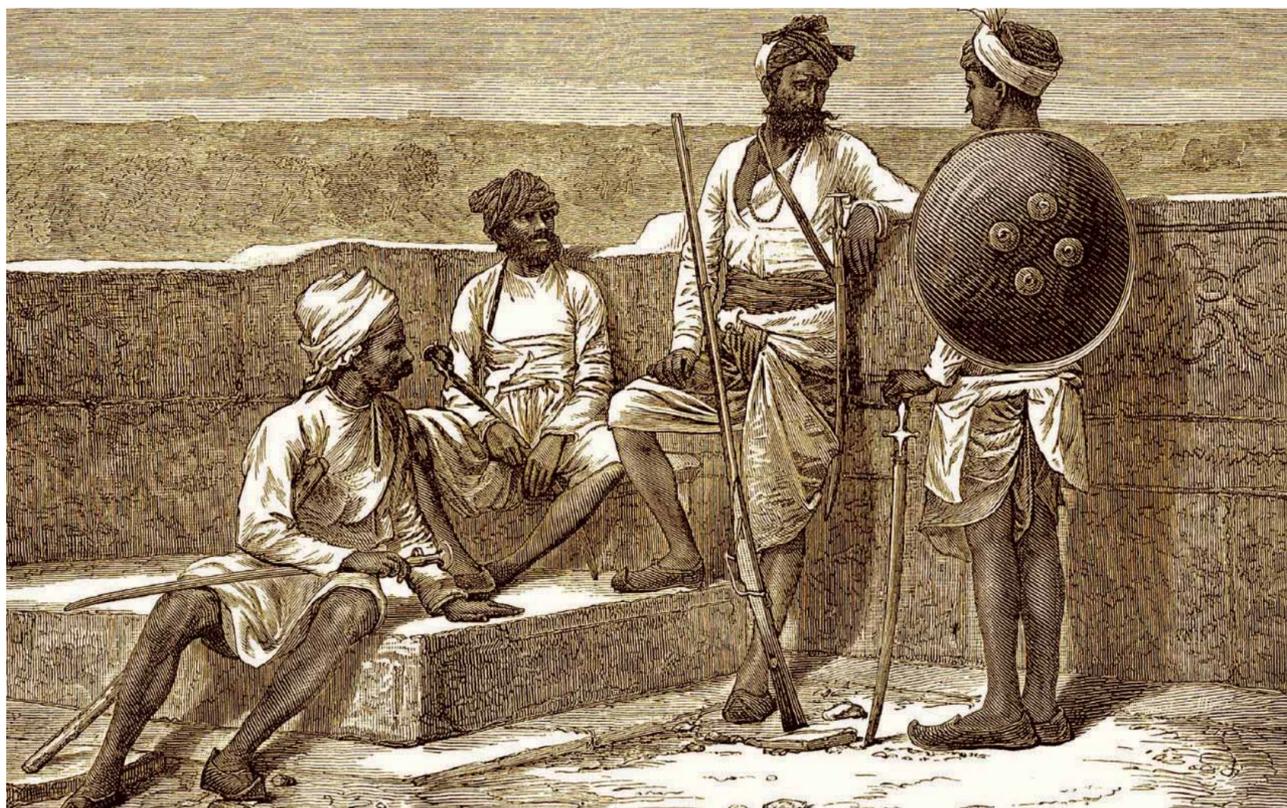
A 131 page book packed with shocking but well researched facts, data and information. That's how "Caste As Social Capital", authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan can be described. The data painstakingly collected by Prof Vaidyanathan and presented in an articulate manner points at a big reservation fraud. The book is an account of how the caste system in Indian has been distorted, mutilated and misinterpreted by the self styled liberals who have taken the gullible for a ride under the pretext of salvation and casteless society.

The modern English education introduced in the subcontinent by Thomas Babington Macaulay during the colonial rule of British has succeeded in creating generations of Indian youth suffering from serious inferiority complex. They have not read Sanskrit or Kalidasa or Megha Sandesham and hence are ignorant about the rich Indian heritage. For them, what matters is the manufactured and distorted history inculcated in the Indian psyche by the Macaulay designed education. "Our English schools are flourishing wonderfully... The effect of this education on the Hindus is prodigious. No Hindu, who has received an English education, ever remains sincerely attached to his religion... It is my firm belief that, if our plans of education are followed up, there will not be a single idolater among the respectable classes in Bengal thirty years hence..." Macaulay wrote to his father in 1836. Needless to say, the modern day Indians have done Macaulay proud by living a life as scripted by him way back in the 1830s.

While the colonial masters aided by evangelists and proselytisers had a free run all over the country, the great truth about the rich cultural heritage of this nation lies buried thousand fathoms deep. Prof Vaidyanathan, through his book is trying to bring the real picture out in the public domain.

What "Caste As Social Capital" tries to tell the readers is that despite the protests by the Left and Liberals against the Indian caste system, it has more advantages than disadvantages. And the most shocking disclosure made by Prof Vaidyanathan is that the Reservation System practiced in India is a big fraud perpetrated on the Hindus of India by forces which want the annihilation of the Sanatana Dharma.

The Mandal Commission recommendations were implemented in early 1990s by politicians with selfish motives.



Though there were widespread agitations against the recommendations that "robbed" a major chunk of seats in educational institutions and government jobs from the merit category and placed them at the disposal of communities categorised as Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Communities and Most Backward Communities, the mainstream media sought to downplay the same to suit their business interests.

How many among us remember the martyrdom of Rajiv Goswami, the New Delhi youth who tried self immolation to protest against the then VP Singh government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission Recommendations. India was not the same after the implementation of those recommendations. Prof Vaidyanathan says that the recommendations were erred and out of sync with reality. The quota and per cent of

reservation announced by the Mandal Commission were based on flawed numbers, facts and figures. The last caste census in India was held in 1931 and the recommendations of the Commission were based on the data collected in that census. For more than six decades, there were no caste census of any kind in India and setting apart 27 per cent quota for OBC against the findings of the 1931 census was against all norms, says the professor.

The government brought in reservation as an act of atonement for the kind of discrimination the SC, ST and the Backwards had to allegedly suffer in the hands of the upper caste and Brahmins, so goes the argument. But a research by renowned Gandhian, Dharampal, has proved that there was no discrimination of any kind against the SC, ST and the OBCs at any time of the history.

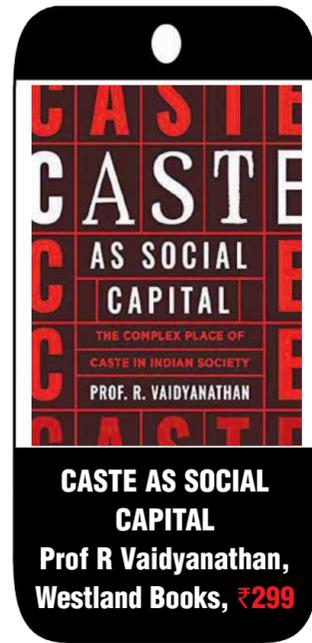
"Dharampal discovered that a fairly detailed survey of school and college education has been undertaken by the British administration in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Area. According to the survey conducted between 1822 and 1825 in the Madras Presidency (that is, the whole of the Indian States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, and the union territory of Lakshadweep), 11,575 schools and 1094 colleges were then in existence in the Presidency and the number of students in them were 157, 195 and 5431 respectively," writes Prof Vaidyanathan. Shudras (backward castes) constituted 70 to 80 per cent of the students in Tamil speaking areas, while the per cent of backward caste students in Oriya speaking areas was 62 per cent!

Interestingly, share of the Brahmins in Tamil-speaking areas of the Madras

Presidency were a mere 13 per cent in South Arcot and 23 per cent in Madras. That much for the leaders who demand still more reservation for the backward, SC and ST sections of the population!

Another report by J Dent Secretary, Fort George, dated February 21, 1825 states that out of 1,88, 680 scholars in all the collectorates of Madras Presidency, Brahmins made up 23 per cent while Shudras constituted 45 per cent.

The author has successfully demolished all the arguments put forward by the political leadership justifying the need for continuation of reservation, and that too the most unscientific and crude form of reservation. "The assumption made by the Mandal Commission based on the 1931 Census and other parameters that more than 50 per cent of the population belongs to OBC may not be true any longer. The National Sample



Survey 2003 suggests that the OBCs may only constitute around 36 per cent of the population and not 50 per cent as was assumed earlier. If one excludes Muslim OBCs, then the figure falls to 32 per cent, according to the NSS. The National Family Health Statistics conducted in 1998 suggests that the population of OBCs is around 32 per cent which is fairly close to the NSS figures." (Page 10-11, Caste As Social Capital).

While demolishing and exposing the flaws in the claims by the powerful pro-reservation lobby, Prof Vaidyanathan has argued that the caste system in India is not that bad and has done a lot for the economic and social upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. The days of Marx and Engels who argued that religion is the opium for the masses are long gone. The religions are alive and kicking. Caste and religions are the ultra modern social networking institutions, more progressive and advanced than the five-star clubs we see in metropolitan cities, membership of which is a coveted honour for social upward mobility.

"Caste As Social Capital" is a must read for all those who shun castes and religion as well as for those who find solace in them.

NEW ARRIVALS

FLAWED: THE RISE AND FALL OF INDIA'S DIAMOND MAGIA
NIRAV MODI
Pawan C. Lall
Hachette, ₹399

Based on personal encounters, incisive interviews and meticulous research, *Flawed* exposes the incredible twists and turns of the Nirav Modi story — of a third-generation diamond merchant who moved from Belgium to India to apprentice with his uncle, Mehul Choksi, an established diamond merchant with extensive connections; of an astute businessman whose firm grip over an intercontinental supply chain saw his branded jewellery stores across the world; and of a reclusive, inscrutable man with a penchant for the high life that possibly led him to fly too close to the sun.

THE LAST DANCE
Anmol Arora
Speaking Tiger, ₹499

Anmol Arora's debut novel, *The Last Dance*, tells the story of young Ayla, a refugee in Delhi, who aspires to become a Bharatanatyam dancer. Chronicling her journey (the ups and downs), *The Last Dance*, explores themes of identity, love and ambition in a compelling way that carries the reader along with it till the end.

THE PARROT GREEN SAREE
Nabaneeta Dev Sen;
Niyogi Books, ₹350

Translated from Bengali by Tun Tun Mukherjee, *The Parrot Green Saree* is the story of two women, two generations and two worlds moulded out of memory, expectations, and desires. Set primarily in the United States, this is also the story of displacement and loss, of a remembered homeland, of political and personal battles, of individual freedom. And it is about rebirth (in Bengali, the novel was titled *Phoenix*).

A few well-meaning folk who visit me hold my hand, weep some, and say they're sorry for me. I don't know what to do, so I pat them gently on the thigh (ladies only) and say, 'Don't worry, it'll all be okay.' They look at me strangely and mumble that I'm strong.

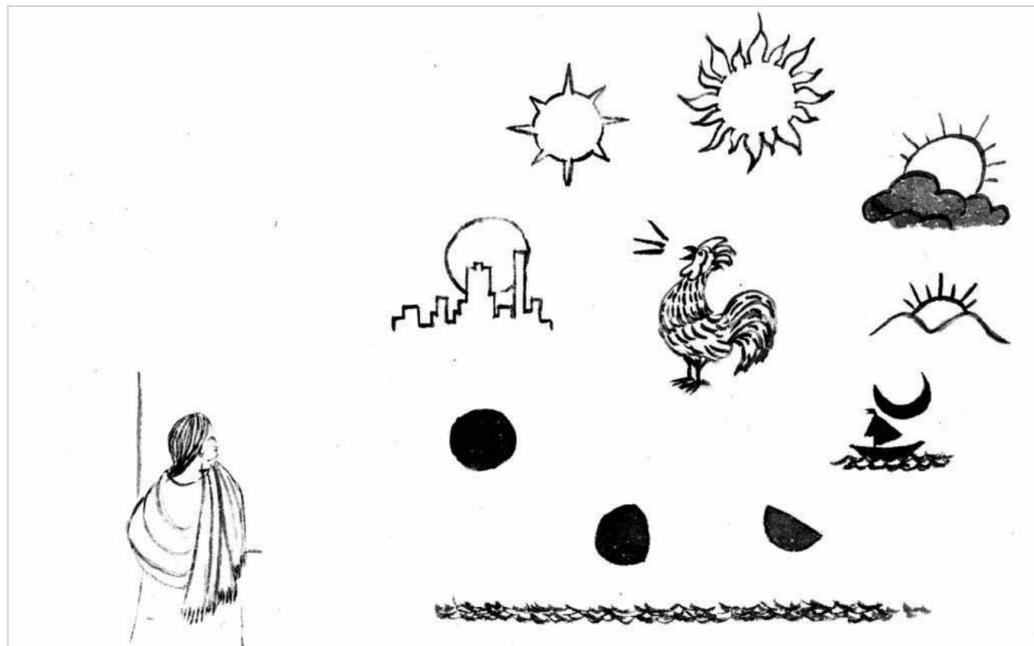
I've always been strong-hearted and proud of it. So am I not sad? When I was first diagnosed with Stage One of an aggressive type of breast cancer, I was stunned and disappointed in myself but quickly found my resolve. I chose to fight cheerfully, selecting the best doctors, eating healthy, praying hard, sending out affirmations to the universe, with a deep belief and faith that I'd be okay.

Then I learnt hope was a bad thing.

A year later, I was told my breast cancer had grown back and metastasised (metastasis is when your cancer has spread from its primary site to the rest of your body; it is also called advanced cancer, and the jury is out on its cure.) I googled it on my phone and to be doubly sure, on my laptop. It said the same thing. Now I became unimaginably sad. But I bit my lip and kept my chin up in front of the traitors (doctors) and the caretakers (family). Like every bad Bollywood film ever, I gulped and told the husband that something had gone into my eye. And then came the waterworks. I cried into the pillow, at the mirror, into the curtain, in the shower and to a few friends who caught me offguard. The rest I avoided. As much as it's important to cry your share, I also believe there's a time to grieve and a time to snap back. Self-pity is a bottomless pit. So now I've crawled out, and walk noisily around the house with a shawl draped around my shoulders like Rajesh Khanna in *Anand*, scolding the husband and teaching him for the two-hundredth

Dukh, Dard and a Season of Hope

ANANYA MUKHERJEE lost the fight to cancer on November 18, 2018, but her book is one of hope and courage, not only for those living with cancer, and their caregivers and loved ones, but for anyone determined to live life on their own terms despite adversity.



time how to fold a towel correctly, with the right side up. I'm past my Dukh.

Do I have Dard? Oh yes, of all kinds that come with an illness like this one. But heartbreak and bikini wax still top my list in the "most painful" charts.

Do I have Hope? Difficult to say. It's a long answer. The husband says, "Try

starting from the conclusion.' I pretend I haven't heard.

I stay on the nineteenth floor of an apartment in Thane now and though Ka the crow doesn't visit here (quite a long flight from Bandra, with all the planes coming in the way), there's a Crazy Cock down in the slum nearby that crows shrilly all day. For decency's sake, let's call it the Crazy

Rooster. I hear his vociferous crowing first at the crack of dawn, then he calls boisterously to the neighbourhood at 10.39 a.m., next I record his loud-speaker-like pitch at 1.21 p.m., then he yells his lungs out at 3 p.m. and so on, all bloody day. Clearly his body clock is screwed. Then I suddenly remember it's spring, my favourite season, a season for

craziness and hope. My *sukh-dukh ki saathin*, Neha Khullar, is visiting me. We stand at my bedroom window and look out at the dull blue water of the Thane creek. I tell her that its stillness unnerves me. She listens carefully, then cracks a joke like friends do to distract; I throw my head back and laugh. The sun sets between the brown-green hills and a silver moon rises above



the water, just like a watercolour in motion. We stuff our faces with food, giggle into the night and look at the highway traffic till 2 a.m., till Crazy Rooster goes off again.

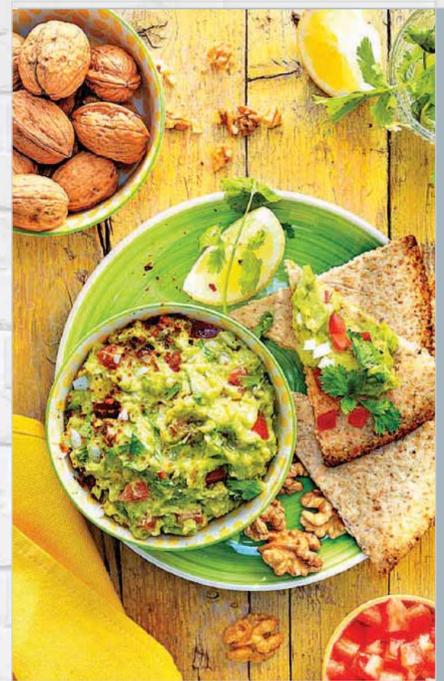
To be able to breathe, walk noisily, listen to a rooster crowing, scold a husband, laugh with a friend and look at something so beautiful, is in itself a miracle. This time I'm not banking on the hope of a better tomorrow. I'm just glad to have had a beautiful spring day. A day of life is still life!

Tales from the Tail End — My Cancer Diary, written by Ananya Mukherjee is published by Speaking Tiger

Eating a wholesome diet offers numerous health benefits that keep you mentally and physically fit. When you talk about good health, nutritious food plays an extremely crucial role for the body to function optimally. While we all know that eating healthy isn't always easy, but committing to a healthy diet can be one of the smartest decisions you have ever made. So make your meal more nourishing by adding the extra goodness of California walnuts, nutritious vegetables, dry fruits such as almonds etc.,

An excellent source of omega-3, antioxidants, and fiber, California walnuts are identified as nutrient dense powerhouses. Their flavour and dynamic nature combined with high nutrition profile make them an ideal go-to-nut for any snack or meal. Mango is a low-calorie fruit that is high in fibre, and is a great source of vitamins A and C. It also contains folate, B6, iron and a little calcium, zinc and vitamin E. Mangoes are a good source of antioxidants, containing certain phytochemicals such as gallotannins and mangiferin. Try out the recipes below for a nutritious diet.

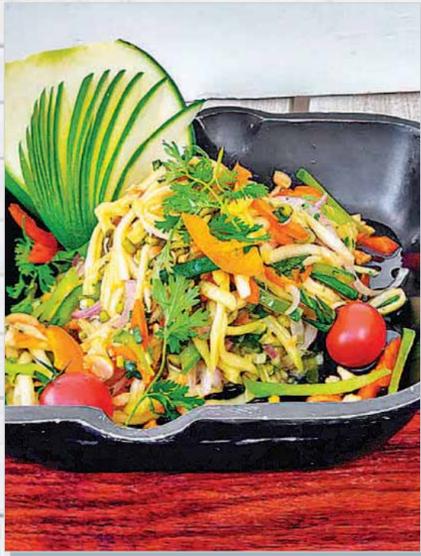
A NUTRITIOUS BOWL



5 ingredient California walnut energy bars

- INGREDIENTS**
- California walnuts (plus 16 California walnut halves for decorating) — 100 gms
 - Medjool dates — 200 gms
 - Dried cranberries — 150 gms
 - Cocoa powder — 3 tbsps
 - Beetroot powder — 1 heaped tsp

- Method:**
- Place 100 gms of California walnuts into a food processor and blend into a fine meal. Add dates, cranberries and cocoa powder and process until the mixture is smooth and sticks together to form one lump.
 - Line a small square baking tray and pour the mixture onto it. With the back of a metal spoon, flatten the mixture into a smooth even layer. Place it in the fridge to chill for at least an hour or overnight.
 - Once chilled, dust the top with the beetroot powder, cut it into 16 bars and top each one with a California walnut half and store in an air tight container.



Thai raw mango salad

- INGREDIENTS**
- Green unripe mango — 1 medium size
 - Shallots/ small onion — 4
 - Crushed peanuts — 3 tbsps
 - Red ripe chili (Birds eye chili) — 2
 - Ginger — 1/2 inch piece
 - Honey — 1 tbsp.
 - Soya sauce — 1 tsp
 - Coriander leaves — 2 tbsps.
 - Or fresh basil leaves
 - Kaffir lime leaf — 1/2 tsp finely chopped
 - Salt as per taste

- METHOD:**
- Wash and peel off the green skin of the mango. Using a zigzag peeler shred the mangoes into strips. I don't have one, so I sliced the mango thinly and julienne cut the mango into thin strips.
 - Do not grate it in a grater as it will make the mango soft, it won't be crunchy in the salad. Peel and chop onion.
 - Grind red chili, ginger, honey, soya sauce, coriander leaves. Add little water if needed. If you want it less spicy, slit and remove the seeds of the chili before grinding.
 - In a mixing bowl, mix all these ingredients gently and serve.

Homemade, Vegan and Gluten-Free California Walnut Nachos with Guacamole

- INGREDIENTS**
- Water — 125 ml
 - For Nachos:
 - Maize flour — 140 gms
 - Sunflower seeds — 120 gms
 - California walnuts — 20 gms
 - Extra virgin olive oil — 60 ml
 - Salt — 1 1/2 tsp
 - GUACAMOLE:**
 - Avocados — 2
 - 1 medium tomato
 - Half onion
 - Salt to taste
 - Fresh coriander leaves — 1 tbsp
 - Cayenne — 1 tsp

- METHOD: NACHOS:**
- Preheat the oven to 220°C.
 - Chop sunflower seeds and walnuts.
 - Put all the ingredients of the nachos in a big bowl and mix them with a wooden spoon. Add oil and combine it. Add water little by little, until the flour sticks together and forms a nice dough ball. If it's wet, continue mixing up until it gets dry.
 - Divide the dough in two balls and place one of them between two baking sheets. Using a rolling pin, extend the dough until it has a thickness of 2 mm and mark with a knife the lines to break or separate them.
 - Retire the baking sheet off the top of the dough and place them in an oven tray. Bake around 10 minutes or until it turns gold. Let it cool and chop. Repeat with the same with the other ball.

- GUACAMOLE:**
- Cut tomato and onion in little cubes.
 - Cut avocados, retire the filling and place it in a bowl. Using a fork or a wooden spoon, smash the avocado flesh and pour lemon juice so they do not rust.
 - Add tomato, onion, salt, cayenne and coriander into the bowl. Mix it until smooth.
 - Serve it with the walnut nachos.

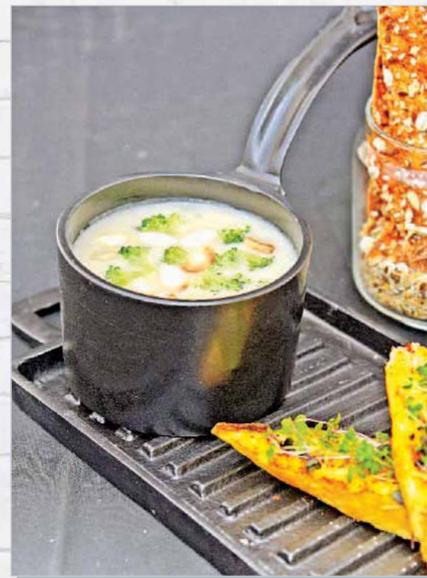
Celebrity Chef Sabyasachi Gorai and Chef Varun M.B of Novotel



Cream of Almond with broccoli florets

- INGREDIENTS**
- Peeled almonds -- 100 gm
 - Potato for thickening -- 30 gm
 - Butter -- 50 gm
 - Celery chopped -- 20 gm
 - Leeks chopped -- 10 gm
 - Almond milk -- 10 ml for garnish
 - Broccoli florets -- 50 gms for garnish.
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Vegetables stock -- 400 ml

- METHOD:**
- Take sauce pan keep it on slow flame, add the butter, once it hot add chopped celery, chopped leeks, add potato.
 - Sauté till it leaves raw flavour, add stock the sauce pan, once the stock reach boiling point, keep it in simmer, and then make paste of almonds by adding stock water until it becomes fine paste.
 - Add the almond paste to the stock pot cook it till it get soup consistence.
 - Strain the soup through a strainer. Keep it aside
 - Boil the broccoli florets in salted water, pour the soup in bowls add florets to it serve hot.



A BENGALI FEAST BEYOND ROSGULLAS

Chef Dipak Adhikary is getting ready with Bengali delights for Hyderabadis for Dussera, reports V SATEESH REDDY

Bengalis celebrate 13 different festivals each year with various food items being the center of attraction, says chef Dipak Adhikary, who is curating a Bengali Food Festival at Mercure hotel in the city. Dipak and his team have prepared a menu for an authentic Bengali spread with a good mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes.

The chef says that the buffet has been crafted to suit a blend of aromatic flavours of the region. A pre-ect use of *panchphoron* the five essential spices of the region namely mustard, Fenugreek seed, cumin seed, aniseed and black cumin seed will take the guests through a journey of Bengal's cuisine.

For the first course, Deepak will serve a new Maket Mangsho chop, vegetable chop, Dhaniya Murgh and Kadak Veg Seekh which are

bound to increase one's appetite for the rest of the meal.

"The specialty of Bengali food lies in the perfect blend of sweet and spicy flavours. The lavish spread of delicacies includes traditional dishes like Luchi Kosha Mangso, Chingri Malai Curry, Radhabollobi, Chochori etc and many others. The all-time favourite Bengali desserts such as the Rosogolla, Mishti Doi, etc. will also be a part of this extravagant food affair," says Dipak.

The non-vegetarian main course will have items such as Shyam Bazar Kosha Murgi, Kochi Pathar Jhoi, Posto Machh, Dim Bhaja Curry, Murgi Biryani, lamb stew and Hunan-style fish. All items, the chef assures, will cater to all taste buds.

For the vegetarians, delicacies such as Chanar Kalla, Kacha Kolar Kofta, Aloo Posto, Chorchori, Patol



Shorshe Pabda

Dolma, Laal Saag, Mussorir Dal, Pulao Rajnandini, Dal Makhani, Vegetable Thai Green Curry, Steamed Rice and Chilly Garlic Noodle will delight children and parents alike.

The guests will be left satisfied and content with the final course of desserts that include Cham Cham, Pantuwa, Chena toast, Kalakand,

Sandeash burfi, Rajbhog and a fresh fruits platter.

Dipak says salads will also be laid out keeping the weight watchers in mind.

"We are doing this event a little early as people love to stay in homes during Navaratri. This is a perfect menu for food lovers during the Durga Puja," concludes Dipak.



Mishti Pulao and Golbari Kosha Mangsho



Dipak Adhikary, Executive Chef, Mercure



Radhaballavi and Aloo Dum



TWO OUT OF EVERY FIVE PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE INTO TAROT READING AND VISIT A PSYCHIC READER FOR AN AVERAGE OF THREE TIMES EVERY YEAR



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

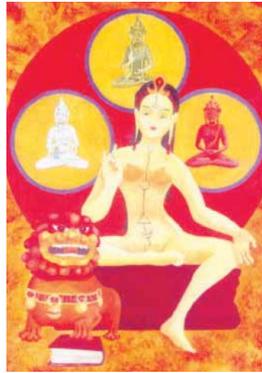
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You will experience harmony in body, mind and soul. For those with an ongoing health issue that hasn't been resolved, you may benefit greatly by alternative therapy and nutrition counselling. A spiritual teacher may appear in your life who will prove to be an excellent mentor and will help you have a new lease of life. On the career front, you may need a counsellor to sharpen your skills. Being a part of a short course or workshop may help you with your goals. Get involved in group work as you will learn from others. You will be lucky in relationships as people around you respect and value your ideas. You are likely to make an impression on your partner with your positive approach. You will feel the warmth and affection of near and dear ones.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your efforts to stay healthy will pay off. This week you will be full of energy, creativity and versatility. You are likely to re-orient and figure your purpose in life. You will engage in activities like yoga, pranayam and other healing practices to stay fit and rejuvenated. Those facing health issues would feel at ease. On the career front, you need to take a break. If required, seek advice from a senior to clear your vision. Someone's guidelines will help you boost your career and attain control over your domain. Indulging in a group task or discussions will prove beneficial. In love, tension is indicated. You may face rejection or break-up. Singles will take time to find their love partner. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding, be it in love or marriage.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Some health challenges are indicated this week. You may face problems like indigestion, gastric issues, BP, etc. that would make you restless. This will affect your emotions and make you impatient in behaviour. Take time out to relax and find your comfort zone. In professional life, things are likely to go your way. Those in the private sector may expect a raise in income or a promotion. Chances for an overseas job/education seem bright this week. Stay focused. A senior official will be helpful in making your work easy. Relationship wise, this week is satisfactory. You need to talk to your partner to sort out a confusion that appears to have cropped up between you. Pamper your partner with gifts or drive down to an exotic place. This will certainly boost your love life.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

The week starts with never-ending activities and you will be busy with meetings, travel and attending guests. This will exhaust you and give you no time for yourself. There are chances you might get hurt. Stay safe and use all safety methods to avoid any unpleasant situation. All legends were not geniuses, but they had strong will and determination to get things done. You too possess the spirit and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those awaiting judgment in a legal matter can expect a ruling in their favour. Relationship wise, you are demanding and strict. This attitude would not work in the favour of married couples. A mother figure may interfere in your relationship. Figure out where your boundaries lie with this and let her know.

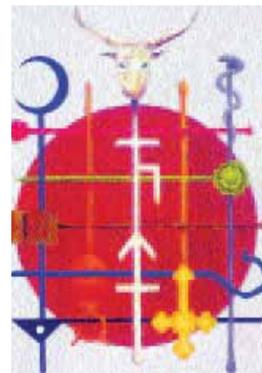
Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will overcome all health challenges. You will be appreciated for accomplishing quality work. Blessings from elders will add shine to your personality. After dealing with a problematic situation, you will experience positive energy and inner satisfaction. Your career looks good this week. Some of you will be promoted or assigned an important task which will boost your career. A seminar or a training session is indicated that will enhance your skill. Luck is in your favour and you will enjoy the results of your hard work. Be cautious in love, as you might be tagged as incompatible. Your newly developed relationship might get affected due to back-biting. Married couples may lack harmony in their relationship and seek space to avoid conflict or tension.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity within. Try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. A basic health regime like exercise, proper diet, enough sleep can be applied now with great success. Don't hesitate to take on a new healer. On the career front, transfer or relocation is indicated. Since this will be your desired posting, you will be filled with hopes and aspiration. You are likely to prove your potential with new avenues of progress. Some of you are expected to travel overseas on a professional trip. This week love is not happening. Due to your busy schedule, your existing relation might suffer. Try to stay in touch through the internet or messages. Those with marriage proposals might face rejection.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Great stamina enables you to stay confident and be in the best of your health. If facing health issues, do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to deal with it. You will be sensible about your day to day matters. At work, things will be better. You will get support from a powerful person. This is the right time to seek increment or change in job that pays you better. You may owe some money to your close ones. Those who are considering applying for a fund or a bank loan for a venture can go ahead. You will experience success. In the context of love, it's important to give your partner some space. You also need to choose the right person with whom you feel a strong emotional connect. Singles, this is not the right time to mingle.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are confused about the direction that your life is taking. Your fluctuating health conditions will affect quality of life. You may need guidelines to reap the results of your past behaviour. Observe your belief system. Take time out to reflect positively. On the career front, you will face challenges and tough situations, but you will emerge a winner due to your determination. Legal issues might get sorted this week. On the love front, you will glow and blush as this week your life will be focussed around love. This could be either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You are likely to share your joy with those around you who need it. Married couples will experience true bonding and feel the attachment. Life will be blissful.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be creative and optimistic. Everything will appear to turn in your favour. You will be generous and ready to share. You have learned to accept your flaws and to adjust with others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Overall, health will be good. In professional life, you need to give your time and attention to your work. Be honest about your work. A disciplined approach like working within the norms and traditions of your organisation will be appreciated. Avoid conflicts with people at work. In love, stop fantasising about the person who doesn't feel the same about you. When love is true, you don't have to struggle to make it work. Expand your horizons and try hard to think positively.

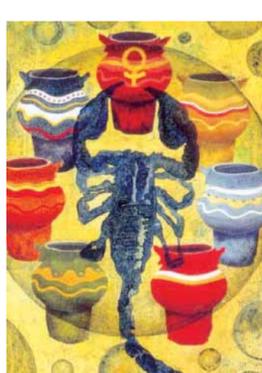
Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will experience positive energy and will feel as fresh as a teenager. Channelise this energy into doing something creative. Enjoy this phase and watch your creativity enrich your life. On the career front, your potential will be duly recognised. Your financial position will also improve. A gift from your ancestral side may come your way. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. Money gain through property or a plan to invest in a property at a prime location is indicated. This week you may not be lucky in love. If you like someone, go and express yourself to him/her. Avoid loose talk as it might spoil your relations. If you feel stagnated in your relation, then it's time to close the chapter.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Avoid anger and aggression this week. Listen to your inner voice and act accordingly. Seek the advice of an elderly in the family. Home-made remedies will provide relief in health issues. You need nurturing and caring that will sort out half of your problems. On the career front, you will feel at ease as things are working in your favour. Great things come in a small packages. A business in the field of agriculture, horticulture or land will yield profit. Those in a job are likely to get promoted. New opportunities in the career are indicated. Those seeking employment will get a job in their desired field. In love, you are unclear about your future spouse. Those in a relationship, it is likely that your partner will make you juggle between some challenging situations.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You need to come out of your past suffering in order to move forward. Holding on to the past may affect your health. Look within yourself carefully and make note of the areas where you are fearful. Spend time to learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. At workplace, you will experience a feel-good factor. You are likely to find support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be suggested for a promotion. Your professional skills will be at their best. Make the best use of this time. In terms of love, you will find success and will enjoy this week. You are likely to become the centre of attraction at an event and draw your partner's attention. Married couples will enjoy the togetherness and intimacy.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Empower your mind for success

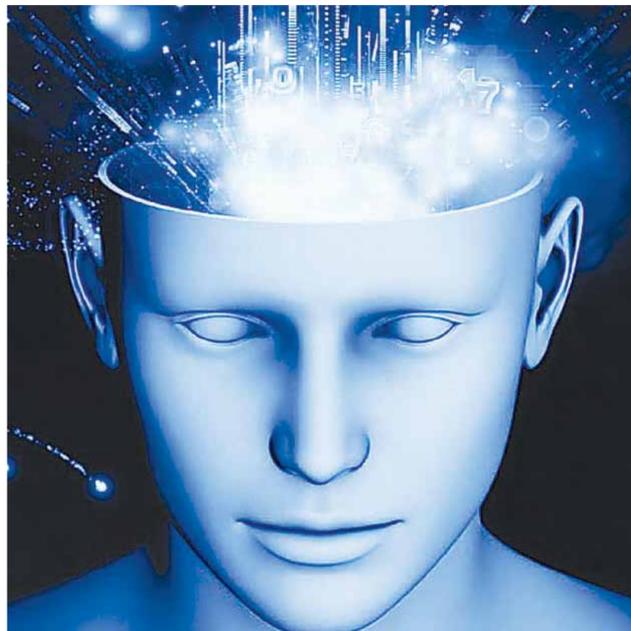
A young graduate, having failed to taste success at many qualifying examinations for different jobs, came asking the other day in a state of desperation: "Sir, what is in store of my destiny? Any luck to get a job in near future? I have tried to put in best during the last three years, but with no luck. Suggest me some puja that may help a poor man like me secure my future."

Young man, destiny is not blind, as it doesn't necessarily play out by default in course of usual run of life. Remember, destiny indicators — the reflection of Karmic imprints carried over from the past — are stored in our memory as seed-thoughts. And a seed, though carrying potential to bloom out into a plant, remains inert till it gets a congenial ground, and is then duly nurtured with water and nutrients (chemical or natural fertiliser). Similarly, seed-thought-seeds may offer you with an opportunity when time is ripe for it. Success, however, may still elude, if you are not well geared up to encash the opportunity available.

In so far as remedial measure is concerned, belief driven puja mediated by pundits can't help much. The pundit can neither strike upon your inner realms of

mind to checkmate its vagaries and optimise your potential, nor manipulate the mindset of the unknown recruiters. The only viable method is to look within yourself, identify, acknowledge and then address the fault lines. Also, improve your focus, sharpen intelligence, and optimise indwelling potential. Empowered thus, you may be able to perform well at the examinations and interviews. That carries better probability of success.

You may be putting in long hours towards your studies, which gives a feel that you have endeavoured enough. But bear in mind; physical efforts alone would not suffice. Quality efforts are needed. Should you lack focus, which your astrological chart clearly indicates, you may fail to absorb the subject matters attended. Obviously then, you may not be able to answer well, the questions asked. So, instead of exploring your destiny indicators, and seeking extra-terrestrial support through belief driven pujas, better figure out your own shortcomings through self-reflection, and address them. Often, a disoriented mind is not able to dispassionately identify the inherent fault lines. Let me help you through a look at your astrological pointers.



Lagna lord Venus, and 11th lord Sun identified with fulfillment of desires, occupy the career signifying 10th house. The 10th lord Moon in the 6th house implies success in efforts and against competitors. Moon also beautifully aligned to fiery Mars, makes out an ambitious person bounding with energy. All put together strongly promise a good job. Even government job is not ruled out as would presence of the Sun in the 10th imply. On top of that even benevolent Jupiter occupies the 11th house. Despite such strong indicators, what then stands in the way of its fruition?

Mind signifying Moon occupies a dual sign Pisces, which means you have a vacillating mind. You may be continuously breeding thoughts and randomly flirting from one to the other. Also, you are subject to mood swings. Such a distracted mind doesn't let you remain focused to your priority preferences. Moon being trine to the Sun is indicative of a comfort loving person, not keen to take pains. That doesn't let you take timely initiative. How can you expect gain without pain? Here again, Moon locks horns with Uranus, which accounts for his mercurial temperament and erratic conduct. Also, Moon is ill-disposed off to mischievous Neptune. This, in the first place makes

you stick to delusional perceptions and beliefs, distanced from ground realities. Second, habitually an escapist who keeps pushing off initiatives to tomorrow. You may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance. Instead, you may prefer continuing with your own line of thinking on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Saturn's opposition to Mercury speaks of a fixated one-track mind. If all that would not be enough, Mars placed adverse to Jupiter signals an inflated ego, which binds you to self-defined dos and don'ts. Your narrowed vision doesn't let you look beyond even for reality check.

So, better get over your habit tendencies, cultivate push, sharpen your intelligence, and improve your focus by following the process suggested. The good thing is that he acknowledged his fault lines and expressed his willingness to reform. Should you sincerely follow the process suggested, I am sure, you may secure a job sooner than later, as already promised in your chart.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025
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'Casting procedure should be streamlined'

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

■What prompted you to play this role?

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

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

■You debuted with Tum Bin. How did you get on board for that?
I was always a movie buff. Acting was always on my

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

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

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

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

■How has your journey been?

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

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

■If not an actor, what else would you have been?
I couldn't imagine myself in any other profession but acting. But, if so was the case I would have been an accountant then.

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

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

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

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

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

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

■Apart from acting, what keeps you busy?

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

■What are your upcoming projects?

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

Pushing musical limit

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

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

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

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

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

Consumers today aren't

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

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

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



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

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

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

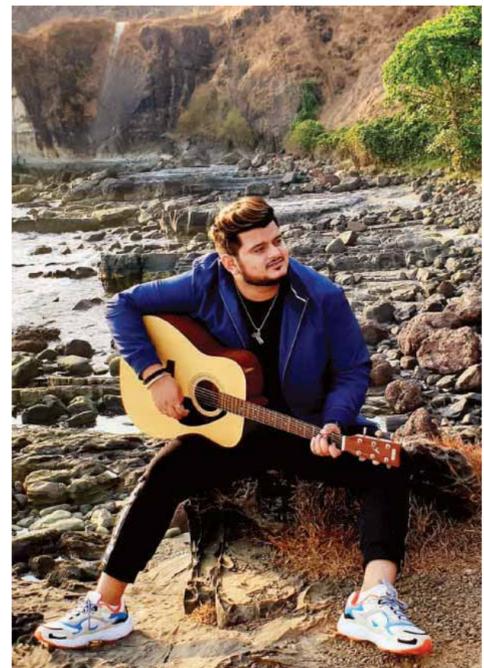
The consumer is spoilt for choice and they will go to brands that listen to them, engage with them, give them audio content in a way that is personalised, intuitive, and brings a seamless user experience."

Batra explains.

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

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

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



'It's important to be versatile'

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

■What is your latest track about?

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

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

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

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

■Is it tough to do this all the time?

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

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

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

■Is the independent music reaching saturation?

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

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

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

■Is the industry facing any challenges?

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

■What next?

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

WEEKLY NATTER

SPIKE LEE AND ANUPAM KHER IN ONE FRAME

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

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

Anupam Kher bumped into acclaimed Hollywood director Spike Lee. The Academy Award-winning filmmaker, whose film *BlacKkKlansman*, got multiple nominations at the Oscar and won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Anupam Kher's Bollywood work has reached global status and Spike Lee too was aware of his films.



CLEAN UP THE COASTS

With the seasonal changes growing each year — hotter and longer summers and lashing monsoons — we can see the effects in our daily lives! In order to work towards a better environment, this International Coastal Clean Up Day, Terence Lewis joins hands with Afroz Shah to clean up the Versova Beach in Mumbai.

The ace dancer, choreographer and reality show judge was seen actively helping volunteers clean up the beach location as they cleared the remnants of plastic and other synthetic materials that result in marine pollution.

Urging people to give up the use of plastic, Terence says: "We are a country that worships Nature as our God and we have forgotten that the ocean is the cradle of the origin of life! This is a situation which is not going to change over night but we will collectively need to take efforts to beat the raising levels of pollution to make a better tomorrow. In order to beat this, let's make a conscious effort to minimise the use of plastic and non-degradable materials."



DREAM COME TRUE MOMENT FOR ABHILASH

Actor Abhilash Chaudhary who was seen in *Paltan* and *Tubelight* will be playing pivotal role in *The Zoya Factor*. It stars Sonam Kapoor and Dulquer Salmaan in lead.

Talking about the film and his role, he said: "The film is about a novel with the same name written by Anuja Chauhan. I can't say more about the film's story but if you read the book it's all about a girl Zoya, superstitious things and Cricket. My character is of an opening batsman of Indian Cricket Team in the film, Shivi, he is an attacking batsman."

On talking about his rapport with costars: "Dulquer Salmaan is a fantastic personality. He is humble and down to earth. Director Abhishek Sir was too good, he creates a cool and friendly environment during the shoots. And working with Sonam Kapoor I can say it's a dream come true for me. I saw her in *Sawanya* and since then I m a big fan of her. When I got to know that I am going to shoot with Sonam, I was left stunned.

Chaudhary will also be seen in *Commando 3*.



Silver worth its weight in gold

Panghal ends 2nd at world c'ships

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

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

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

In the course of his stupendous run, the second-seeded Indian became the first male boxer from the country to



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

finish second in the world event. The nation achieved its best-ever medal haul of two. Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (63kg) had signed off with a Bronze after losing in the semi-finals earlier.

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

In a bout that was mostly about counter-attack, both Panghal and Zoirov were wary of each other in the opening three minutes.

The action picked up a bit in the second round and Panghal tried hard to capitalize on his rival's low guard.

However, in Zoirov, Panghal met his match in pace and the Uzbek had no trouble dodging Panghal's lunging efforts.

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

The Silver here marks a new high for the boxer from Rohtak, who has been simply unstoppable since breaking into the national scene with a Bronze in the 2017 Asian Championships.

Zoirov, despite being unseeded here, was always going to be a tough challenge as he also has to his credit Silver medals in the Asian Games and the Asian Championships.

Before this year, India had never won more than one Bronze medal at a single edition of the world championship.

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

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

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



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

Phenomenal Panghal: From late-comer to world-beater

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But old habits die hard and

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

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

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

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

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

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

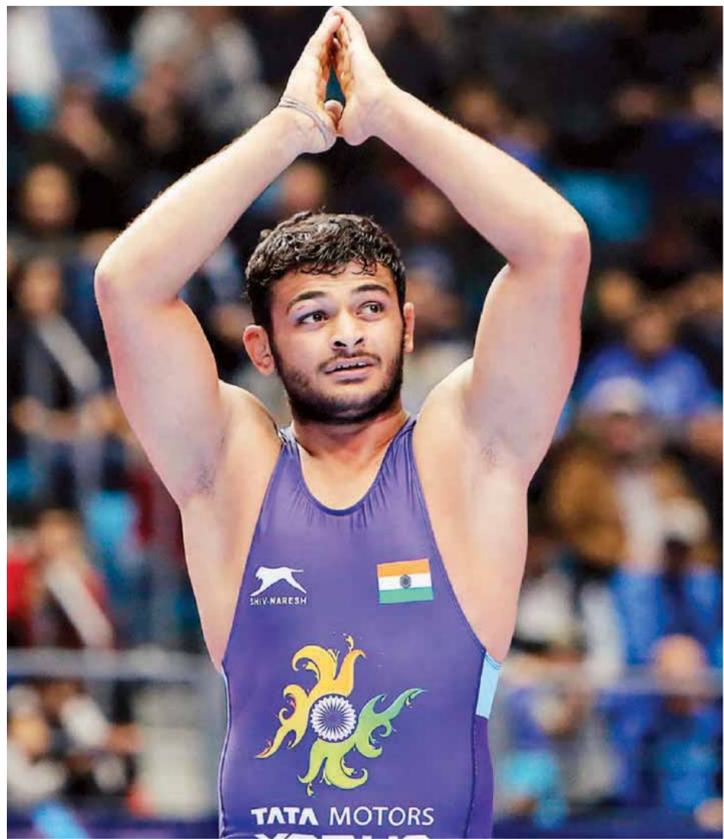
"It hasn't been as difficult as I first thought. But it has taken time for me to fit in," he said.

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

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

Deepak's double delight

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



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

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

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

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

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

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

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

Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang

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

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

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

India had returned with three medals in 2013.

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

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

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

There was no action in the first period of the semifinal

with Deepak gaining a 1-0 lead on activity clock.

In the second period, Deepak pushed out Reichmuth and took the Swiss down for a 4-0 lead. He lost two points but another take-down and expose move clinched it for Deepak.

The 20-year-old Deepak, who trains at Chhatrasal stadium in Delhi, had booked the quota after prevailing 7-6 in a tense semifinal against Colombia's Carlos Arturo Mendez.

With one minute to go, he was trailing 3-6 but pulled off a takedown and then an expose move to take 7-6 lead in the dying moments of the tense bout.

Also doing a commendable job was Aware who reached the Bronze medal round in the 61kg non-Olympic category after reaching the semifinals.

Both Deepak and Rahul overcame rough Kazakh wrestlers en route the semifinals.

Aware lost a pacy semifinal 6-10 to Beka Lomtadze of Georgia, the European championship Silver medallist.

Meanwhile, Jitender lost his 79kg quarterfinal while Mausam Khatri lost his first round in 97kg to reigning Olympic champion Kyle Frederick Snyder to go out of the championship since their opponents failed to reach the finals.

Leclerc on pole at Singapore

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc secured pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix on Saturday as he looks to claim a stunning hat-trick of wins after triumphs in Belgium and Italy.

The 21-year-old will be joined on the front row by championship leader Lewis Hamilton in a Mercedes, with Leclerc's teammate Sebastian Vettel rounding out the top three, ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas.

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

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

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

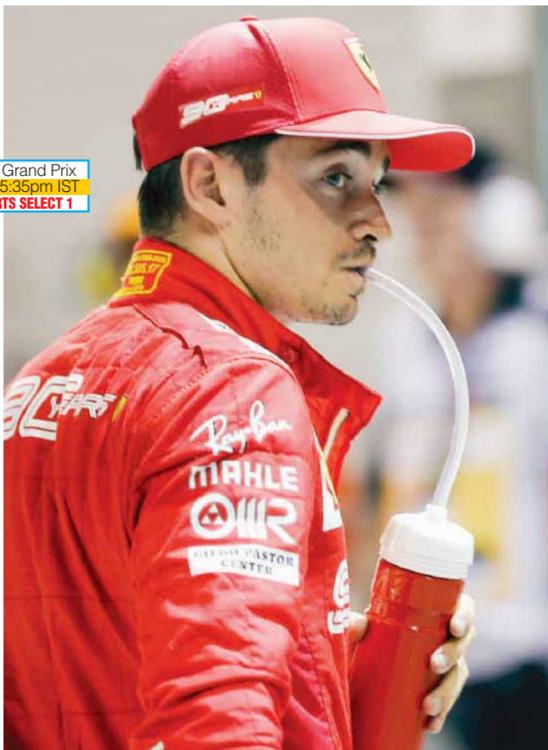
"I have to thank the team. We brought some new bits that worked properly. I worked hard after a bad Friday and today it paid off," added Leclerc, who recorded his fifth pole position of the season.

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

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

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

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



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

can be aggressive."

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

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

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

Another series win on focus

India look to maintain clean slate against Proteas before Tests

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

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

But before Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan will be standing up to the



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

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

Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack with optimism, the size of the ground only aiding stroke-makers like the two openers.

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

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

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

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

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