

LANDMARK 5
RSS CHIEF TO INTERACT
WITH FOREIGN MEDIA**WORLD 7**
MALL BRAWLS, STREET FIGHTS AS
HK POLARISATION DEEPENS**SPORT 10**
INDIA TO FACE
SA IN FIRST T20Published From
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**USUALSUSPECTS**
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

India looks beyond British Raj excesses

On the morning of September 11, readers of *The Times* in the United Kingdom may have been a little stunned at the front page photograph of Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, lying prostrate in his traditional red robes. The photograph was from Amritsar where the visiting religious head of the Church of England (the monarch being the titular head) had prostrated himself before the Jallianwala Bagh memorial to express his "profound regret and shame" over the massacre of some 400 people by British troops in 1919.

In a statement the Archbishop went on to say: "I recognise the sins of my British colonial history, the ideology that has too often subjugated and dehumanised other races and cultures." Then, adding the necessary religious dimension to his message of contrition, he noted that Jesus Christ had called on the faithful to "turn away from sin — not just repenting old ways but to live in a new way that sought the kingdom of God."

Whether the Archbishop directed his message at Indians or an audience at home is not very clear. However, it is a commentary on differing national interests in history that whereas *The Times* thought his message significant for page one, almost none of the mainstream Indian newspapers — I don't know about the coverage in Amritsar — thought the Archbishop's dramatic genuflection all that newsworthy.

There was a minor flutter in 1997 when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made a trip to Amritsar and there were some expectations of a national apology from the British head of state. It didn't happen — not that the token expression of sadness and regret was in any way responsible for that Royal visit ending up as an unmitigated disaster — and life went on as usual. India-UK relations has its own dynamics but it is definitely not governed by the issue of either a British apology over Jallianwala Bagh or the return of the Kohinoor.

No Indian expected the Archbishop of Canterbury to prostrate himself before the Jallianwala Bagh memorial to express his 'profound regret and shame' over the massacre and make a public show of his anguish over the British Empire... Trying to put order into history is tempting but ultimately a self-defeating exercise. Britain has its own issues with its past. It is best to leave it to resolve its existential dilemmas. India is looking forward

In my reading, the issue of colonial guilt is principally a British domestic issue. Indians have a rather curious attitude to Empire. At one level, particularly in the public utterances of politicians, there is the inclination to rail against colonial hangovers and debunk alien institutions that were planted in the soil of India. There is also a caricatured view of British rule in official history that pits "bad" goras against "good" desis. At another level, however, there is in civil society a qualified acceptance of the reality of the British legacy. This starts from the armed forces and judiciary and extends to the way we aspire to communicate in English. The whole attitude to the Raj is ambivalent and extends from hate to nostalgia, not to mention the period chukcles over the many Indians who actively propped up the Empire. There is no black and white view.

My friend Shashi Tharoor, for example, made quite a splash with an eloquent denunciation of the British Empire in a speech to the Oxford Union. He subsequently elaborated this into a book that essentially regurgitated Dadabhai Naoroji and Rajni Palme Dutt. It was a best seller in the UK and was much talked about. In India, however, the book was a modest success and certainly didn't feature in any public debate. The reason is simple: Indians are not obsessed about the Raj. It was a reality but I don't think it is seen as a national catastrophe. Between the fierce denunciations of Empire — and the simultaneous upholding of the PG Wodehouse legacy of humour — and the adulatory view of British rule — Zareer Masani has managed to occupy this vacant space — there is a middle path that, like the Hindu way, is difficult to define.

What can be said with a measure of certainty is that no Indian expected the Archbishop of Canterbury to genuflect and make a public show of his anguish over the British Empire. It was a form of self-flagellation that may appeal to multiculturalism, the most recent European fad which has landed the continent in a lot of trouble, but doesn't alter the way India thinks of contemporary Britain. There is the constant gripe in some circles over the condescending attitude of Britons who know they are no longer a great power. At the same time this disdain for racist attitudes squares uneasily with the fact that the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer are both Asians whose families originated from the subcontinent.

Trying to put order into history is tempting but ultimately a self-defeating exercise. Britain has its own issues with its past. It is best to leave it to resolve its existential dilemmas without India adding its one pice contribution to a self-indulgent debate. India is looking forward. It is to be hoped that the UK does likewise. It will be better for both countries.

₹70k cr stimulus for realty, exports

₹20k cr stressed asset fund for housing projects; remission-based ₹50k cr sops for exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday unveiled over ₹70,000 crore of measures for exporters and the real estate sector, including ₹30,000 crore new spending in plans such as setting up of a stressed asset fund, as part of efforts to boost economic growth from a six-year low.

While measures to boost exports include remission of duties, higher insurance coverage and technology enablement to cut downtime at ports, for real estate sector a ₹20,000 crore fund — with half of the money coming from the Government — will be set up to provide last-mile funding for housing projects that are not in bankruptcy courts or already tagged as bad debt.

The remission based incentive scheme for export of goods would involve ₹50,000 crore of outgo, higher than the ₹40,000-45,000 crore budgeted in existing plans that it is replacing.

At a press conference called to announce the third and final set of measures to address stress in specific sectors and bolster growth, Sitharaman said housing finance companies have been allowed to borrow funds from abroad at relaxed rules while interest rate on housing building advance has been lowered, benefiting Government servants who make up for a major component of demand for houses.

Exports have declined in two out of last three months despite a weaker rupee, while the shock 2016 demonetisa-



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, with MoS Anurag Thakur and Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty, addresses the media in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

tion of 86 per cent of the currency in circulation and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) had dented the real estate market.

The stressed asset fund, which is to be used to provide finance to affordable housing projects, will benefit around 3.5 lakh homebuyers, Sitharaman said, adding that buyers stuck in bankruptcy-bound projects will get relief through the NCLT route.

For exporters, a new scheme for reimbursement of taxes paid on exports, called the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP), will come into effect from January 2020 to replace existing dispensations.

The new RoDTEP "will more than adequately incentivise exporters than existing schemes put together," she

said. Besides, a ₹1,700 crore annual dole will allow Export Credit Guarantee Corp to offer higher insurance cover to banks lending working capital for exports, she said. This will enable reduction in the overall cost of export credit, including interest rate, especially for MSMEs, she added. Priority sector lending tag for export credit is under consideration of the Reserve Bank, which will release an additional ₹36,000 crore to ₹68,000 crore as export credit.

Other measures for exporters included real-time electronic processing of GST refunds by the month-end, action plan to reduce time to export or turnaround time at airports and ports by December and a special FTA

utilisation mission that will work with export houses to utilise concessional tariffs in each free trade agreement India has with different nations. She also announced that a mega shopping festival, on the lines of the world-famous Dubai Shopping Festival, will be conducted at four places in India in March on themes of gems and jewellery, handicraft/voga/tourism, textiles and leather.

The finance minister said the measures together with the ones announced on the previous two occasions will help lift the economy and growth rate will improve in the second quarter of this fiscal.

Inflation, she said, has been kept "very much" below the 4 per cent mark and there are "clear signs" of revival in

the economy, as witnessed in an uptick in industrial production and fixed investment.

Measures are being taken to improve credit outflow from banks, which have also begun to transmit interest rate cuts to borrowers, she said. Sitharaman will meet heads of public sector lenders on September 19 to review the transmission.

The Reserve Bank of India has since February cut the benchmark interest rate by 110 basis points but banks have lagged in transmitting the lower rates to borrowers. The government has been pressing banks to offer external benchmark linked loans to speed up the transmission of rate cuts.

India's GDP growth decreased for the fifth consecutive quarter in April-June

2019 to 5 per cent, the lowest in six years. This was on the back of faltering domestic demand, with both private consumption and investment proving lackluster.

The government's previous policy measures to stimulate the economy included support for the automobile sector, reduction in capital gains tax, and additional liquidity support for shadow banks. Accompanying structural reforms included a further easing of the foreign direct investment (FDI) regime and consolidation of the public banking sector.

When asked if the government was reassessing its fiscal map, Sitharaman said: "Well it is a one quarter matter (5 per cent growth) but then we will be definitely taking that on board and reconcile it with what I have stated in the Budget."

The growth numbers are "now very different from what we had said in the Budget. We will certainly reconcile... And take a call at what stage we are and what level we are," she added. The minister also stressed that it is a fact that growth was low in the first quarter and "5 per cent growth is not something which I am ignoring", but added that there are clear signs of revival in certain sectors.

Commenting on the measures, Vikas Vasal of Grant Thornton India LLP said the steps should help provide impetus to the two sectors and also have a spiral effect on the associated sectors like technology, logistics and labour employment.

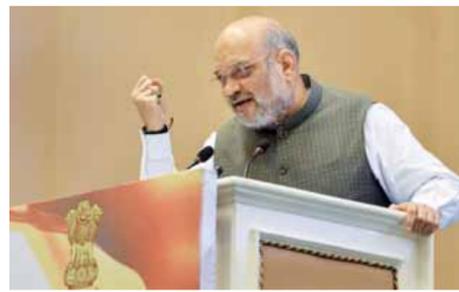
Shah's 'one nation, one language' call draws fire

HM for promotion of Hindi with regional languages, S Indian parties protest move

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday created a flutter as he pitched for "one nation, one language" while espousing the cause of Hindi, which, he said, is spoken by most of the people in India, and can become country's identity globally and unite the nation.

Shah's pitch on "Hindi Diwas" was instantly opposed, mostly by the Dravidian and southern political parties like DMK, AIADMK and AMIM besides the Congress, Trinamool Congress and the CPI, with the common refrain being that any move for imposition of Hindi would disintegrate the country and its pro-



Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during the Hindi Divas Samaroh in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

motion should not be at the cost of the mother tongue or a native language.

Maintaining that it was important to have a common language in the country that becomes the "mark of India's identity globally", Shah said, "I want to appeal to people to promote their native languages but also use Hindi to make the

dream of Babu (Mahatma Gandhi) and Sardar (Vallabhbhai) Patel of one language come true."

The Home Minister also said efforts will be made to expand Hindi to different parts of the country and asked everyone to use their native languages as much as possible.

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Chinmayanand case; Student's father gives evidence to SIT

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The father of the law student who has accused Bharatiya Janata Party leader Swami Chinmayanand of rape, said that he had handed over a pen drive containing 43 videos to the sleuths of the Special Investigation Team to buttress the charges of sexual harassment of his daughter.

The move was made after the SIT asked the victim's family to provide them all evidences which they had against the former Union minister to facilitate the probe.

After quizzing the victim and visiting Mumuksh Ashram with her to collect scientific evidences on Friday, the SIT also called the complainant's mother for questioning on Saturday. She was also taken to SS Law College along with a battery of forensic experts.

The woman alleged that important evidences had been

Pak raises white flag at LoC to retrieve 2 bodies

RAHUL DATTA/MOHIT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

Amid its continuous ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC), the Pakistan Army was forced to raise the "white flag" to recover the bodies of two of its soldiers killed in the strong retaliatory firing by the Indian Army in Hajipur in Uri sector.

While the soldiers were killed on September 10-11, Pakistan could not retrieve the bodies despite shelling on the Indian posts. It finally showed the white flag implying truce for the time being on Friday.

The LoC has become "hot" again since the abrogation of Article 370 and more than 350 ceasefire violations have taken place in the past one and a half month. In fact, violations are taking place daily since August 15. Four Indian soldiers and one civilian have died in shelling from across the border.

In an effort to internationalise the Kashmir issue, the Pakistan Army is desperate to



raise the ante on the LoC by relentless firing and to provide covering fire to ultras to help infiltrate into the State.

As regards the Hajipur incident, officials said the retaliatory fire by the Indian Army led to the death of one Pakistani soldier of its Punjab Regiment identified as Sepoy Ghulam Rasool. Initially, the Pakistan Army tried to get hold of the bodies by targeting the Indian posts to suppress them. However, such repeated attempts failed leading to the death of another Pakistani soldier forcing the local Pakistan commanders to raise the white flag to retrieve the bodies.

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CAPSULE

TRUCK OWNER FINED STAGGERING ₹6.53L

Sambalpur: Even before the new Motor Vehicle Act came into being on September 1, a truck owner was on August 10 fined a whopping ₹6.53 lakh as penalty for various offences in Odisha's Sambalpur.

RSS PLANS OUTREACH TO FOREIGN PRESS

New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with members of foreign Press later this month to clear illusion about the outfit and its ideology.

SANJAY JAISWAL IS BIHAR BJP CHIEF, SATISH RAJ'S

New Delhi: The BJP on Saturday made its Lok Sabha member Sanjay Jaiswal as party's Bihar unit's president, and appointed Satish Poonia, its MLA from Amber Assembly segment in Jaipur district, the party's Rajasthan unit president.

Drones attack Saudi Aramco facility, oilfield

AP ■ DUBAI

Drones attacked the world's largest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia and a major oilfield operated by Saudi Aramco early on Saturday, the kingdom's Interior Ministry said, sparking a huge fire at a processor crucial to global energy supplies.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks in Buqayq and the Khurais oil field, though Yemen's Houthi rebels previously launched drone assaults deep inside of the kingdom.

It wasn't clear if there were any injuries in the attacks, nor what effect it would have on oil production in the kingdom.

Detailed report on P7

Monsoon overstay, to soak Guj, MP

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon is running behind its September 1 withdrawal schedule and the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rainfall in east Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat in next two-three days.

On Saturday, the all India rainfall stood 4 per cent above normal with only east and North-East India showing a deficit among the four main geographic regions. It was 21 per cent above the normal in central India, 10 per cent above the normal in south peninsula; but minus 9 per cent in North-West India. India recorded 835.2 mm rainfall as against the normal of 801 mm.

According to IMD officials, the rainfall activity over most parts of the country may start



to lose intensity from September 19-20. The withdrawal commences from the western parts of Rajasthan, at times simultaneously covering Punjab, Haryana, and J&K.

"There is no set pattern, date or pace of the withdrawal process. The withdrawal is usually seen in the second half of September. Before declaring withdrawal date, there should

be cessation of rain over an area for a total of five days. Another factor is the formation of an anti-cyclone in the lower levels, along with drop in humidity levels, increase in temperatures, and reduction in clouding," the IMD said.

In fact, this season saw many events of flooding in Bihar, UP, MP, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh,

Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala.

As per IMD data of the 683 districts, 436 have received either normal or above normal rainfall while 242 have recorded deficient monsoon. "The weakening of El Nino during early July and the consistent shifting of the monsoon trough between south and central India regions hugely benefited the overall rainfall this season," officials said.

Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Bengal, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura received less rain. Due to change of weather pattern, east Rajasthan recorded 47 per cent more rainfall, while west Rajasthan received 19 per cent above the normal rain this year.

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CM: Govt will restore Aligarh's lost glory

Blames previous govts for closure of lock and hardware industries

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused the opposition parties of showing no concern for the lock and hardware industries of Aligarh resulting to their closure and assured the city of restoring its lost glory.

Dedicating to people and laying foundation stones of 352 projects worth ₹1135 crore in Aligarh on Saturday, the Chief Minister said due to the lackadaisical approach of the earlier governments, the locks and hardware industries of Aligarh had to be shut down. "But, in our (BJP) government, Aligarh will shine once again," he said.

Addressing a gathering, the Chief Minister said his government had linked the locks and hardware industries of Aligarh with the One-District, One-Product scheme and it would soon get a new identity, and the people here would get more employment.

He lamented that the previous governments did nothing

to restore Aligarh's recognition. The Chief Minister said that Aligarh would be one of the six districts through which the defence industrial corridor would pass in UP, opening huge employment opportunities.

He pointed out that the Defence Corridor, the Centre's flagship, mega infrastructure development projects worth over ₹40,000 crore, was underway in the arid Bundelkhand region and spanning the six districts of Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow and Chitrakoot.

The project is expected to attract investment worth ₹20,000 crore and create 250,000 jobs.

Yogi Adityanath also promised to set up after the next budget a new state university in Aligarh in the name of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, a freedom fighter and former Lok Sabha member.

The Chief Minister also accused the previous governments in UP of siding with people running illegal slaughterhouses and asserted that he



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visiting a stall at an exhibition in Aligarh on Saturday

would neither allow cow slaughtering in the state nor let the animals ruin crops.

"As soon as our government was formed in the state, we forced illegal slaughterhouses in Aligarh to shut down. Earlier people did not fear the law. We have implemented a plan for the protection and care

of destitute cows," he said.

CM said, "There used to be riots during the tenure of earlier governments and festivals used to turn into mourning instead of happiness. But today not a single riot took place in our two and a half year tenure. He also mentioned the abrogation of Article 370 of the

Constitution on Kashmir.

Yogi Adityanath said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had empowered women of the minority community by enacting a law against triple talak which was used to torture women and had started the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign across the country.

Will withdraw all cases against Azam after coming to power: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said in Rampur on Saturday that all criminal cases lodged against party's Rampur MP Mohammad Azam Khan by the Yogi Adityanath government would be withdrawn after his party was voted back to power in the 2022 UP Assembly election.

Expressing solidarity with the party MP and his family over registration of over 81 criminals cases against them by the authorities, Akhilesh Yadav said that he along with other SP leaders were ready to go to jail in support of Khan.

"We are collecting information about all FIRs lodged against Khan and I will meet Governor Anandiben Patel and apprise her of the injustice being meted out to our MP," the SP chief said.

Akhilesh said, "Samajwadi Party leaders are used to facing repression by the state. Once as many as 100 FIRs were lodged against Mulayam Singh Yadav by Bahujan Samaj Party Chief Minister Mayawati but all of them were later quashed by the court. The Yogi Adityanath government is doing the same against Khan."

Daring Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the SP chief said, "You construct jails and we are ready to go there. We SP leaders know well that if we go to jail, then the next government in UP will be ours."

In Rampur, Akhilesh met SP leaders at the Humsafar resort owned by Rajya Sabha MP and Azam Khan's wife Tazeen Fatma. Party leaders



Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav addresses his supporters in Rampur on Saturday

from nearby districts reached Rampur to meet the party president and expressed their support for Khan.

Earlier, Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav had given a call for an agitation by party workers over harassment of Khan by Rampur district authorities.

Attacking the Yogi Adityanath government over law and order and rising crime, Akhilesh said that everyone termed SP regime as a government of goondas. "Now what should we call this government, whose Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister have several FIRs and BJP legislators are involved in gang-rape and other serious crimes?" he

asked.

"It has been proved that the government is protecting Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Unnao, Kuldeep Sengar in a rape case while the police are biased in a rape case against a senior BJP leader in Shahjahanpur," the SP chief said referring to Swami Chinmayanand.

Meanwhile, in a bizarre incident, a SP leader dressed like a groom to escape arrest by the police and meet Azam Khan.

Feroz Khan from Sambhal wore a groom's sehra in an attempt to dodge the police and enter Rampur, where Section 144 has been imposed, but he was taken into custody and later released.

Yogi: Shun plastic, use jute bags as a substitute

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a bid to make India 'plastic-free', Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath appealed to the people to use jute bags as a substitute, saying it would lead to a healthy way of life as plastic and polythene were the cause of diseases and could even cause cancer.

"Polythene and plastics are the main cause of pollution and environmental hazards, hence people should avoid their use," Yogi said on the second and concluding day of his visit to Chitrakoot on Saturday.

Earlier, at a function, the Chief Minister distributed jute bags to gram pradhans and women and encouraged them to make the district plastic-free.

He also exhorted the people to refrain from the use of pan, gutka and khaini which were carcinogenic. He directed officials to ban these tobacco products on Parikrama road.

The officials were also asked to remove illegal hoardings across the town.

Referring to October 2, the day Swami Vivekananda delivered his famous Chicago speech, Yogi said the day his year would be another great day heralding a new era of clean India free of plastic.

Meanwhile, Yogi



UP's first 256-meter ropeway runs from Kamadgiri Parikrama Marg to Lakshman Hill top, trailing the mythical route of Lord Ram's exile in Chitrakoot.

Adityanath dedicated to people the first ropeway of the state in Chitrakoot and paid obeisance at Kamantath temple before starting a parikrama.

He also picked up a broom and swept the Parikrama Marg of Kamadgiri.

The Chief Minister took out time to worship at Bharat Milap temple before inaugurating the ropeway and sat in the cabin to reach Laxman Hill. He discussed with officials more tourist facilities and development of Chitrakoot as a pilgrim centre.

The state's first 256-meter ropeway, to be operated by women only, runs from

Kamadgiri Parikrama Marg to Lakshman Hill top, trailing the mythical route of Lord Ram's exile in Chitrakoot.

The three-cabin ropeway can accommodate 18 people at a time and can ferry 400 people in an hour. The travel duration will be of five minutes and a traveller will have to pay ₹50 to avail it. Earlier, pilgrims had to trek 400 steps to reach Laxman Hill top.

Constructed on a PPP model at a cost of Rs 15 crore, the ropeway will run on 'build and operate' basis by a private company for 30 years.

Before leaving for Lucknow, Yogi Adityanath inspected the government hospital and was unhappy with the facilities there.

Later, Chief Medical Officer of Chitrakoot, Dr Rajendra Singh, was shifted as Joint Director in Medical Health and Family Welfare department in Kanpur. He will be replaced by senior consultant of district hospital in Banda, Dr Vinod Kumar.

Senior child specialist in Banda district hospital, Dr RK Gupta, was also shifted as chief medical superintendent at Karvi. He will replace Dr Sampurnanand, who has now been shifted to Banda in the same capacity.

Cong announces 5 more candidates for Assembly bypolls

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Congress leadership finalised the names of five candidates for UP Assembly bypolls on Friday night. Now, candidates for only two more seats are to be decided by the high command.

Both Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party have already declared their candidates, indicating that the bypolls would be a multi-corner contest.

As per a Congress press release, Umesh Kumar Diwakar will be contesting from Iglas (Scheduled Caste) seat, Sneh Lata from Tundla (Scheduled Caste) seat and Karishma Thakur from Govind Nagar seat of Kanpur.

The Congress has fielded Sunil Mishra from Jalalpur and Rajmangal Yadav from Ghosi.

Earlier on September 3, the party had finalised the names of five candidates for the bypolls.

As per the list released by AICC, Congress leader PL Puniya's son Tanuj Puniya will contest from Zaidpur Assembly seat in Barabanki. Tanuj also contested the last parliamentary election from Barabanki reserved seat but lost to Bharatiya Janata Party's Upendra Singh Rawat.

Nauman Masood will be the

party candidate from Gangoh constituency in Saharanpur while Dilpreet Singh will contest from Lucknow Cantonment seat.

Masood is the kin of Congress leader Imran Masood, who contested parliamentary election from Saharanpur and lost.

Ranjana Pandey, who earlier contested zilla panchayat chairperson's election, will now fight for the Manikpur Assembly seat and Neeraj Tripathi, who is head of Youth Congress (UP east zone) will contest from Pratapgarh Assembly seat. Bypolls will be held in 13 Assembly constituencies in the UP.

Meanwhile, the UP Congress on Saturday expelled senior leader from Rampur, Faisal Lala for anti-party activities.

Lala was using the party banner to settle scores with veteran Samajwadi Party leader and MP Mohammad Azam Khan against whom the state government has already launched legal action in several matters.

Initially, a notice was issued to Lala to explain why he was using the party forum to raise his voice against Khan but when he refused to reply, the high command decided to expel him from the party.



NOTICE

I Army No 4383314 P Rank-SEP, Name Phurpa Tashi Namsa S/o Dorjee Khandu R/o 6 Assam Regiment C/o 99 APO P.O. & P.S. Barrackpore District North 24 Parganas Kolkata - 700120, Hereby declared that in my service record my mother name wrongly mentioned Tsamkang Pema her correct name is Tsamkang Rema.

AUCTION NOTICE

24.09.2019, अपराह्न 200 बजे मण्डी परिषद आवासिय कालोनी, विभूति खण्ड गोमतीनगर लखनऊ बरनों की मरम्मत उपरान्त निकली अनुपयोगी / निष्प्रयोज्य सामग्रियों, किसान मण्डी भवन, बोर्डरूम से निकली रियालविंग चेरयर्स नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु 20,000/- राश्ट्रीयकृत बैंक का ड्राफ्ट 'उपनिदेशक (निर्माण), मुअनु0 खण्ड, मण्डी परिषद, लखनऊ' नामित/आई.पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स।

UPEIDA app to monitor Purvanchal e-way work

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) will soon launch a mobile app for Purvanchal Expressway. The app will make the task of monitoring construction of the expressway easier.

UPEIDA CEO Awanish Kumar Awasthi on Saturday reviewed the progress of the expressway.

He said 97 per cent of the land required for the expressway project had been acquired so far and the rest of the acquisition work would be completed soon.

Against the target of 36 months, the expressway is slated to be completed in the next 30 months and the main carriageway will be completed in next 24 months.

The UPEIDA CEO said the construction work of the expressway was progressing at brisk pace and the main lane of the project was likely to be

opened for traffic on August 1, 2020.

The construction companies which have been awarded the contract have been asked to expedite the construction with the monsoon season over.

The CEO also directed officials to expedite the process of obtaining approval of the design for the rail over bridge structures.

The 340-km-long Purvanchal Expressway is a six-lane (expandable to eight lanes) highway beginning from village Chand Sarai on Lucknow-Sultanpur National Highway 731. Passing through Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Faizabad, Ambedkarnagar, Azamgarh and Mau districts, the expressway will conclude at village Haidriya in Ghazipur district.

For the construction purpose, the highway has been divided into eight packages. The total contracted value of eight packages is ₹11, 216 crore.

QUICK TAKES

3-YEAR-OLD GIRL RAPED BY COUSIN

Baghat: A three-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her cousin in Baghat district, police said on Saturday. The girl was playing with her friends when the 24-year-old man took her to a secluded spot and allegedly raped her on Friday, Superintendent of Police Pratap Gopendra Yadav said. The accused left the child in a "very bad condition" and fled the village, they said, adding that the girl's family took her to a doctor who told them about the sexual assault. On the complaint of the victim's family, an FIR was lodged against the accused, who is the son of the victim's uncle, and efforts are on to nab him, Yadav said. He said the man lived in Chandigarh and had come to the village five days ago.

FAKE NOTES WITH USD 1 MN FACE VALUE SEIZED

Muzaffarnagar: Fake American currency notes with a face value of USD 1 million were seized in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district after arrest of four persons including a woman, police said on Saturday. The gang was busted in an area under Civil Line police station limits on Friday, they said. According to Circle Officer Deeksha Sharma, a police team during checking recovered the counterfeit currency notes from Iqbal, Mosam, Rakib and Rahisa and arrested the four members of the gang involved in circulating the fake notes in the area. Police are interrogating the arrested accused, the CO said.

TWO OF FAMILY KILLED AS HOUSE COLLAPSES

Amethi: Two members of a family were killed as their house collapsed due to heavy rainfall in Musafirkhana tehsil here, officials said on Saturday. Laxman Kori (55) and his granddaughter Santosha (13), residents of Thakur Pindara village, were buried under the debris of their house that collapsed on Friday night, SDM Mahatma Singh said. Both were rushed to the Community Health Centre in Musafirkhana where they were pronounced dead. PTI

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD					
E-Tender Notice					
E-tender Notice No: CM-I/DeLuxe Pay & Use Toilet/BOT/CNB (Cantt.)/2019			Date: 09.09.2019		
Following e-tender on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Allahabad on behalf of President of India.					
E-Tender No.	Name of Work and Station	Minimum reserved L/Fee of contract for 15 years	Minimum reserved L/Fee of contract for 01 year	Earnest Money(₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)
171/2019	Contract of Deluxe Pay & Use toilets on "Built, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis at Kanpur Central Railway station (Cantt. side) for a concession period of 15 years.	₹ 69,00,153.00	₹ 2,74,589.00	₹ 27,500.00	₹ 5,900/-
Period of Contract: 15 Years Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15:00 hrs. on 04.10.2019 Website & Notice details : E-tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13:00 hrs on 04.10.2019 from the date of opening of the e-tender. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 1319/19(I)					
North central railways		www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in		@ CPONCR	

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD					
E-Tender Notice					
E-tender Notice No: CM-I/DeLuxe Pay & Use Toilet/BOT/CNB (City Side)/2019			Date: 09.09.2019		
Following e-tender on prescribed tender forms are invited by the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, North Central Railway, Allahabad on behalf of President of India.					
E-Tender No.	Name of Work and Station	Minimum reserved L/Fee of contract for 15 years	Minimum reserved L/Fee of contract for 01 year	Earnest Money(₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)
172/2019	Contract of Deluxe Pay & Use toilets on "Built, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis at Kanpur Central Railway station (City side) for a concession period of 15 years.	₹ 2,45,85,506.00	₹ 9,78,371.00	₹ 97,900.00	₹ 11,800/-
Period of Contract: 15 Years Time & date for the opening of tender: At 15:00 hrs. on 04.10.2019 Website & Notice details : E-tender forms shall be available on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13:00 hrs on 04.10.2019 from the date of opening of the e-tender. The e-tender Notice can also be viewed on Railway's web site www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 1320/19(I)					
North central railways		www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in		@ CPONCR	

Department of Health Research
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ICMR-DHR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR THE YEAR 2020-21

One of the major mandates of ICMR and DHR is to augment capacity strengthening of Indian scientists. This ICMR-DHR international fellowship programme is intended to create a pool of talented health research personnel by facilitating advanced training and exposure to the latest advancements in knowledge through interaction with the international scientists in emerging areas of clinical/medicine/health sciences.

- Short Term International Fellowships for Senior Indian Biomedical Scientists**
Duration of Fellowships: Two weeks to 3 months
Number of Fellowships: Twenty five (25) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 57 years as on last date of receipt of application
- Long Term International Fellowships for Young Indian Biomedical Scientists**
Duration of Fellowships: 6 to 12 months
Number of Fellowships: Forty (40) fellowships per year
Age limit: Below 45 years as on last date of receipt of application

Applications should be submitted online through the website portal of ICMR/DHR: www.icmr.nic.in; www.dhr.gov.in. Details of the eligibility, format of application, terms and conditions, and guidelines of the programme are available on ICMR and DHR websites.

Last date of receipt of applications: 15 December, 2019
Dsvp - 17152/11/0014/1920

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4-yr-old kidnapped, raped; youth held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A youth kidnapped a 4-year-old girl on finding her all alone at her house and later raped her in Gudamba. While searching for her, her mother reached the house and caught the accused in the act. She raised an alarm after which locals pinned him down. He was later handed over to the police.

As per reports, the girl was all alone in her shanty after her mother left to pick latter's sibling from a school in the locality. The accused, identified by the police as Anil Yadav, reached the shanty and took the girl away.

Victim's mother did not find her in the shanty when she returned and started searching for her frantically in the locality. While searching for her, she passed from near a dilapidated house and heard her daughter scream. She went inside the house and caught the accused



in the act. She lunged at the accused but was pushed away by the accused, who tried to flee the scene.

However, the cries of victim's mother had drawn the attention of residents who chased the accused and nabbed him. According to a police spokesman, the girl's mother lodged a complaint against the accused who is being interrogated. The house belongs to Sunil Yadav. About the family background, the spokesman said victim's father was a labourer and they lived in a

shanty at a vacant plot in Gudamba.

"Police sent the girl to hospital for treatment and also for medical test," he added.

There were reports that the police talked unsympathetically to the girl's parents when they reached the police station to lodge a complaint against the accused. The police spokesman discredited the reports saying they acted instantly and sent the girl to a hospital.

Meanwhile, a 16-year-old class XI girl student, identified as Deepali Singh of Shyam Vihar Colony, was found hanging at her house on Saturday. Reports said Deepali's parents had gone to their native place for some work. The residents approached foul play saying the doors of the room were not bolted from inside. However, police said it appeared to be a case of suicide. "We have sent the body for autopsy," the police said.

Thieves decamp with cash, valuables from four houses



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Thieves struck four houses in Maal police station area on Friday night and decamped with cash and ornaments. The house owners were identified as Shanno, Rakesh, Shanti and Mujahid. The houses are located about 200 metres away from the Maal police station. The villagers claimed that the thieves struck two more houses.

The villagers said the police did not patrol in the village and it emboldened the thieves. "The incidents of theft are common in the locality as police patrolling is almost zero," the villagers lamented. The police spokesman rubbished the reports of theft at two more houses and said the same were abortive bids.



Zoo director interacting with schoolchildren under a cleanliness campaign on Saturday

Pioneer

UPSRTC finalises tenders for 145 buses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

To enhance rural connectivity, UPSRTC has finalised tenders for around 145 buses and these will connect 2593 villages. Managing director Raj Shekhar said these buses would start operating shortly.

UPSRTC has issued detailed instructions to regional managers and station managers for time-bound repair and maintenance works of all contractual buses and to monitor it personally for ensuring better services and facilities for the passengers. Shekhar said that owners not following the instructions and not keeping up their buses up to the mark would be black listed and their vehicles would be taken off the fleet. He said that contractual buses were also an important part of the UPSRTC fleet but the maintenance of these buses by private owners was in a bad shape and it was a matter of concern.

Meanwhile, the UPSRTC managing director also constituted a committee for studying the model for modern workshops along with enterprise resources management system for workshops and to submit a report by October 15 for necessary decision to be taken up



UPSRTC Board. He said that modern quality check labs would also be set up in each workshop in a phase-wise manner in coming years.

"This will ensure high-quality servicing and maintenance of all kinds of buses for ensuring better safety and services for passengers," he added.

Giving details of the workshop at Gomti Nagar, he said: "This workshop has around 210 employees 80 of whom are permanent and the rest hired on contractual basis. This workshop caters to repair of the accident-damaged buses and those having completed two lakh km run. This workshop also has

the facility of tyre retreading. On an average, around 1200 tyres retreading is done every month," the UPSRTC managing director said. He added that major observations were made, decisions taken and directions issued.

"It's unfortunate that most of the employees were not in workshop uniform. When it was enquired from them, they said they had not received the uniform for the last three years. Directions were issued for giving them two pairs of uniform along with two pairs of comfortable shoes for all 4,000 permanent employees in next one month," said Shekhar.

He said it was also important that the safety of workshop employees was ensured as they dealt with heavy machines, metallic & electrical works. "They should be equipped with safety wearable equipment while on duty," he added.

Shekhar ordered that the workers be provided helmets, welding rays protective glasses, nose filter masks, gloves etc.

He said that the employees were working in bad conditions with low light and ventilation. "Directions were given to the station manager and workshop incharge to go for LED work line system in the next two months," he said.

Awasthi pays surprise visit to WPL-1090

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awasthi made a surprise inspection at Women Power Line-1090 in the city and sought to know the measures being taken for women's safety under the 'Safe City' project. He instructed the officials to ensure disposal of complaints lodged by women and girls. He also asked the officials to send current status of complaints to the government on daily basis. Awasthi also directed the officials to take legal action against recalcitrant offenders not mending their ways.

He asked WPL officials, including ADG Anju Gupta, about progress of the 'Safe City' project meant for safety of women in the city. The project is being run in association with the Central government.

He asked the officials to speed up work under the project setting it at top priority and also asked the officials to expedite the process of formalities for the appointment of advisor for the project. Awasthi was accompanied by Secretary, Home, Bhagwan Das.

The project is aimed at strengthening the security system at crowded/public places for women. For the project, the Union government has provided 60 per cent of the money from Nirbhaya Fund while the UP government will bear the remaining sum for the project. UP police have been tasked with implementing the project.

Under the project, the UP police will set up an integrated 'Smart Control Room' equipped with 1,500 cameras. Besides, 'pink' police outposts will be set up at different places in the city.

CISH helping in development of ultra high-density orchards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) is helping in development of ultra high-density mango orchards in Madhya Pradesh. CISH director Shaileendra Rajan said the government of Madhya Pradesh had sought their help in this regard.

Rajan said he was invited to chair the brainstorming session on various aspects for setting up mango orchards in 1000 acres. "Scientists from the institute at Madhya Pradesh also participated in the deliberations. CISH was invited for guiding the state government for successful implementation of this new venture," said Rajan.

He said high-density planting was becoming popular amongst progressive farmers, particularly young entrepreneurs who want to get higher returns from small pieces of land through horticulture crop production.

"Getting two to three times more income than the normal distance is one of the attractive features of this technique. This is being successfully adopted in crops like banana, guava, papaya and now mango. Farmers in Tamil Nadu have successfully adopted this technique for mangoes. Within a span of six years, the area has increased with a faster pace. Demonstration of orchards at some places has convinced many of the state farmers to start mango cultivation in this unconventional way," he added.

Rajan said the group of farmers and officials from Madhya Pradesh visited these orchards prior to the brainstorming session for better understanding and planning for full implementation.

"Various issues related to



ultra high-density planting (UHDP) were discussed with special reference to selection of mango variety for MP, appropriate planting density, irrigation and fertigation schedules, canopy management technique from the inception of planting" he said. He said that nowadays, unavailability of agricultural labour was a constraint in adopting intensive agriculture practices, therefore, possible mechanisation for pruning and managing the canopy was also discussed.

"So far, not much information is available on high-density plantation of mangoes in Madhya Pradesh, therefore selection of various technologies was discussed in view of available experience with the stakeholders attending the meeting. Farmers from three districts also attended the brainstorming session along with horticulture officials so

that one-to-one interaction can take place and quick implementation of the activity is possible," he added.

Rajan said that Totapuri, a major processing variety of India, had been proposed so that the buy-back mechanism of produce could take place.

"The assured market is one of the motivating factors for the farmers to start the venture. When farmers asked about the ways for sustenance during first few years, they were suggested for cultivation of intercrops like turmeric, onion, chilli which will be purchased for processing. The pulp of Totapuri, the major product of this venture, will be utilised by companies making different products like beverages. This will increase the mango processing avenues in the country and farmers' income is expected to be increased manifold," he added.

Fire at godown, RO repairing centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A massive fire broke out in a godown where plastic pipes were stored, and an RO repairing centre at a commercial complex on Kursi road in Gudamba early Saturday morning. The labourers resting in the godown somehow managed to save their lives and later alerted the police. The cops, along with firefighters, reached the scene. As many as six fire tenders were pressed into ser-

vice and the flames were extinguished within three hours. No casualty was reported in the incident while the losses were being estimated.

Police suspected that the fire was caused by a short-circuit. There were also reports that the fire broke out after some labourer threw a bidi. The godown is owned by Prem Shanker Dwivedi of Atrauli in Hardoi. He had rented the basement to a Jal Nigam contractor, Shubham Trivedi of

Ashiyana, while Tinku Yadav of Gudamba runs the RO centre on the first floor of the building. The labourers told the police that they woke up after smoke was filled in the godown and they felt difficulty in breathing.

"We fled the scene and later informed the police. By then, the fire had engulfed the RO centre too," they told the police. They added that a nearby private hospital was also filled with smoke. Locals said offi-

cial of the power sub-station did not attend the calls made by the firemen and it delayed the rescue operation.

"They said the cops had to contact LESA helpline 1912 to get the electric supply stopped after which the firemen started the operation," they claimed.

The police said they were investigating the cause behind the fire incident. Sub-inspector Ganesh Singh said the fire was spotted around 1.30 am and doused by 3.30 am.



Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya planting a sapling on the campus of the department in Lucknow on Saturday

Latest DNA study by BSIP scientist creates buzz

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The latest DNA study by Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP), which shows that Indians have not descended from the Aryans but from an indigenous race, has created tremendous buzz as it challenges what has been taught in history uptill now.

Neeraj Rai, who has recently established an ancient and modern DNA lab at the institute in Lucknow, said he had worked on the study for four years to arrive at the conclusion and it had evoked response from millions of people across the world.

He said that and his co-worker studied the DNA samples of skeletons of an Indus Valley city in Haryana and matched the same with 500 samples of races outside India at the Harvard Medical School to arrive at the conclusion. The samples matched with the indigenous hunting tribes of India and the results showed that outsiders came to India between 7th-8th century AD.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, he

Neeraj Rai, who has recently established an ancient and modern DNA lab at the institute, said he had worked on the study for four years to arrive at the conclusion

said they extracted DNA samples from 61 skeletons at Rakhigarhi in Haryana. "It is not an easy task to extract DNA from skeletons that old and the success chance is 1 in 1,000. Out of the 61 samples that we collected, we were able to generate sufficient data from two samples which are available for the scientists to check. This data was then matched with that of 500 samples at the Harvard Medical School which has samples of races from the Harappan period to contemporary times," he pointed out.

"Our first finding was that there was no central Asian or Iranian mixing in the DNA while the second finding was that

there was no outside influences in agriculture which were also purely indigenous. The third finding was that the Harappans travelled outside instead of Aryans coming to India," he said. He admitted that he had not expected to arrive at this conclusion. "There are many cities of the Indus Valley Civilizations and we wanted to carry out the DNA sampling at one of the cities," he added.

When asked from where the historians had collected the material served as history, he said it was primarily the Britishers who had brought in these ideas with the aim of making a north-south divide. "The historians started seeing what they wanted to see, which is the way it goes. If you start looking for things, you find them," he added. BSIP director Vandana Prasad said they fully supported the study. "This is a scientific study in which over 24 scientists from across the world participated and hence the findings are important. This will also have its implications on the Indus Valley Civilization studies," she said.

Pre-recruitment counselling held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Indira Gandhi National Open University organised a pre-recruitment counselling programme at its study centre in Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Government PG Girls' College on Friday. The main objective of this programme was to inform the youths about employment opportunities available at leading organisations. Around 500 learners participated in this programme.

In his address, assistant regional director Kirti Vikram Singh said in the last few years, IGNOU was offering courses which were job-oriented and had the potential to enhance the skills of learners.

He said the Lucknow centre was determined to provide employment-oriented education to its learners and after the completion of the programme, they provided employment assistance to the learners.

Regional director Manorama Singh spoke about



the steps taken to provide employment assistance to the learners. She appreciated the efforts taken by the companies for providing placement opportunities to youths. She also spoke about the short-term employment-oriented courses offered by IGNOU.

Prabhat Ranjan, HR manager of a private company, spoke about employment opportunities available at the company's Lucknow office and shared details about the eligibility and selection process. He also highlighted the company's foundation for community development.

Lohia Trust evicted from govt bungalow



Police deployed after Lohia Trust was evicted from government bungalow on Vikramaditya Marg

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a big setback to Samajwadi Party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, the Uttar Pradesh government evicted Lohia Trust from the government bungalow on Vikramaditya Marg in Lucknow on Saturday. The swanky bungalow was vacated by the Estate department. The development comes days after the Supreme Court ordered the UP government to get all official bungalows vacated that were running on government's expenditure. Mulayam Singh Yadav is Chairman of Lohia Trust while his brother and Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav is its secretary. The Lohia Trust had been functioning in the neigh-

bourhood of Samajwadi Party state headquarters. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and several other top leaders of the party are members of the Trust. This bungalow was in possession of Shivpal Yadav's party and was being charged at market rate for the past few months. The bungalow was allotted to Lohia Trust in 1994 during Mulayam Singh Yadav's tenure as chief minister of UP. When the first eviction notice was served on the Lohia Trust in May 2018, it sought time from the authorities to vacate the premises and started paying Rs 70,000 as monthly rent at the market rate. Mulayam Singh Yadav had named the Lohia Trust in the name of his party's icon late Ram Manohar Lohia, to prop-

agate the socialist leader's ideologies. A life-size statue of Lohia was installed on the premises. Retired IAS officer SN Shukla had earlier filed a petition in the Supreme Court stating that the Lohia Trust bungalow was allotted against rules. The plea also mentioned several other bungalows allotted against the rules. Acting on the plea, the Supreme Court ordered that the unauthorised bungalow of Lohia Trust and Society be vacated within four months. "The Samajwadi Party had withdrawn from the Trust two years ago during the Yadav family feud. At the time, the SP formed another trust named after veteran socialist leader Janeshwar Mishra," said a SP leader.

CITYBRIEFS

DRIVE

The Lucknow police kicked off a drive against those driving vehicles while in drunken state inviting a fine of Rs 10,000, as per the New Motor Vehicle Act. A spokesman said the police had been asked to conduct checking around model liquor shops and also at prominent crossings in the state capital. He said the police would use breath analysers to detect if a commuter had taken alcohol. "If the commuters are detected to have consumed 30mg/100ml alcohol, they will be fined," he said. The spokesman said all the inspectors and SHOs had been asked to conduct intensive checking in their respective areas from Saturday itself.

DEGREE DISTRIBUTION

Lucknow Public College of Professional Studies organised its degree distribution ceremony for the students of BBA and BCA. The chief guest was Vice-Chancellor of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University Sanjay Singh. Shubhankar Gupta (BCA), Ankit Kumar (BCA), Vinod Kumar (BBA), Ruchika Singh (BCA) and Naumi Malviya (BCA) were amongst the alumni who received their degrees.



Cleanliness campaign at Modern Rail Coach Factory in Rae Bareilly on Saturday



The road in Aliganj (Sector-N) exposing LMC laxity

INT'L OZONE LAYER CONSERVATION DAY

Regional Science City, in association with Directorate of Environment, UP, is observing 'International Ozone Layer Conservation Day'. The programme started on Saturday with a scientoon contest on 'Ozone layer and its importance' in which 107 students participated. Simultaneously, a debate contest on 'CFC product and our health' was also organised in which almost 50 students from 10 local schools

participated. Around 152 students from various schools participated in the programme on Saturday. Scientists stated that the United Nations General Assembly on December 19, 1994 proclaimed to celebrate September 16 as International Day for Ozone or Ozone Day. "In 1987, the Montreal Protocol was signed by many countries, according to which the substances responsible for depletion of the ozone layer were to be stopped from being

used. Accordingly, September 16 was chosen to observe World Ozone Day and it was observed first time in the year 1995. During the past 30 years, the ozone depletion has been controlled to sufficient extent due to global efforts of the people. This year, International Ozone Layer Conservation Day is being celebrated under the theme '32 years and healing,' the scientists said. The programme will conclude on September 16.

AWARDS

Amity School of Architecture and Planning hosted Council of Architecture, Zonal Jury (zone 2) Awards for excellence in Architectural Thesis (UG) and student awards for excellence in documentation of architectural heritage. Ankur Karmakar, a student of Om Dayal School of Architecture (Kolkata), and Jaykumar Katre of School of Planning and Architecture, MIET Gondia (Maharashtra), won the award of excellence. Both the winners were felicitated in a ceremony organised at Amity University on Saturday.

LAXITY BY LMC

Residents of Aliganj (Sector-N) have been enraged over the irregularities and chaos due to under-construction works of sewer line and road carried out by Lucknow Municipal Corporation for the past one month. The work is painfully slow and the use of old and broken pipes also add to the anxiety of locals. Commuters are using only one side of the road but mishaps occur at night as drivers bump into boulders and suffer injuries. About a month ago, the road in front of House Nos. C-23 and C-24 collapsed, leaving a huge pit.

HINDI DIWAS

It is very difficult to translate from one language into another and in case of two different cultures, the translation becomes even riskier, said Dr Ines Fornell, who is in India from St George August University, Göttingen. Dr Farnell is a Hindi-German translator and an assistant professor in the department of Indology of the said universi-



ty in Germany. She teaches Hindi. She joined the Hindi department of Lucknow University as a key speaker on the eve of Hindi Diwas. She also shed light on the difficulties faced in translation from Hindi to German. She said there was less number of readers of translated works in Germany than in India, so there was a lot of difficulty in publishing and selling such books. "Still, the work is being done there seriously," she added.

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax: 0141-2228065 E-mail: edepm@rpsc-raj.nic.in
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067 Website: www.rpsc.nic.in

No. F-81) RMSC/EP/M-1/19-20/NIB's/2496 Dated: 09.09.2019

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB-439,441,442)

Three (3) bid as detailed below are invited for procurement of equipment & instruments for rate contract period of 24 months:-

S.No.	NIB No./Date	Last Date & Time of Receipt of Bid Form	UBN
1.	439/06.09.19	06.00 p.m. of 09.10.2019	MSC1920GLRC00023
2.	441/30.08.19	06.00 p.m. of 30.09.2019	MSC1920GLRC00020
3.	442/30.08.19	06.00 p.m. of 03.10.2019	MSC1920GLRC00019

Details of the bids may be seen at the office of the M.D., RMSC/ or State Public Procurement Portal website "sppp.raj.nic.in" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://proc.rajasthan.gov.in" or website "www.rpsc.nic.in." The bidding document may be downloaded from either of the above websites and uploaded duly filled in with payment of Rs. 2360/- (Rs. 1180.00 for SSI Unit of Rajasthan) through challan/banker's cheque/demand draft in favour of M.D., RMSC/ payable at Jaipur for each individual bid.

Executive Director (EPM)
Raj. Samwad/C/2536/2019-2020
RMSC, Jaipur

SCHOOLSCAN



ANNUAL FUNCTION

The annual function of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus II, was organised on Saturday. Parents were thrilled to watch the blooming talents of their wards on stage as they sang and danced. The colourful cultural items were greeted with loud applause by the parents and guardians. The chief guest at the function was educationist Roger David Kingdon, who inaugurated the function. CMS founders Jagdish Gandhi & Bharti Gandhi, and principals of various CMS campuses were present on the occasion.

ST JOSEPH COLLEGE

St Joseph Inter College (Thakurganj) organised its annual function 'Reflection- Part-I' and Hindi Diwas on Saturday. School magazine 'Smritika' was also released at Gautam Buddha auditorium. The main attraction of the programmes was a colorful dance presented by tiny-tots who virtually set the stage on fire. On Hindi Diwas, elocution signifying the importance of the mother tongue was presented by the children.

SHAH'S 'ONE NATION...

"India has many languages and every language has its importance. But it is absolutely necessary that the entire country should have one language that becomes India's identity globally," he said in a series of tweets in Hindi. Shah said that today, if any language which can unite the country, it is Hindi that is spoken the most. "Next year we will hold the Hindi Divas functions in different parts of the country. I appeal to every parent to speak to their children in their own language and also with the co-workers," he said.

The Prime Minister also tweeted in Hindi to say, "The simplicity, spontaneity and elegance of a language provide meaningfulness to expression. Hindi has incorporated all of these aspects beautifully." Supporting the pro-Hindi stance, Lok Janshakti Party leader and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan advocated an all-round promotion of Hindi, saying the Constitution should be amended to ensure the use of Indian languages in the Supreme Court and all high courts of the country. The Congress said the three-language formula (Hindi, English and the regional language of the respective States) should not be tinkered with. "We should not stir up controversies on emotive and sensitive issues which have been settled by the maturity of India's

Constitution-makers and the Prime Minister after Independence, especially I am referring to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said.

DMK's Stalin urged Shah to withdraw his statement and said, "When our Constitution says all languages must be treated with equality, the Home Minister's statement which upholds Hindi above other languages is disrupting India's integrity and I strongly condemn that." Despite its leanings towards the BJP, the AIADMK too came out openly against it. Tamil Nadu Culture Minister K Pandiarajan cautioned the Government saying, "If the Centre imposes Hindi unilaterally, there will only be (adverse) reaction and no support, not only in Tamil Nadu, but also in States like Bengal, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh." The MDKM too opposed the proposed move.

MONSOON OVERSTAYS...

West Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat recorded above excessive rainfall so far. West MP recorded 55 per cent above rainfall while Gujarat recorded 35 per cent above rainfall. According to the Agriculture Ministry data, kharif crop sowing was 14 per cent less this year due to erratic weather or rainfall. Rice plantation was recorded one lakh hectare area less as compared to the last year

Centre running on 'Guj model' to harass opp leaders: Digvijaya

Mathura: Accusing the Centre of political vendetta, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has said the Modi government is running on the "Gujarat model" of governance to harass opposition leaders. "Sending former Union finance minister P Chidambaram to jail is an evidence of misuse of the CBI, ED and the IT department for implicating opposition leaders," Singh said on Friday evening.

He said though action has been taken against Chidambaram, the officers on whose recommendation/consent the former union minister took decisions have been spared. The former Madhya Pradesh chief minister claimed no action has been taken against Chinmayanand simply because he is a BJP leader, in spite of a postgraduate woman alleging, in 18 pages, he raped her. Singh demanded action against Chinmayanand similar to that taken against Unnao MLA Kuldeep Singh

Sengar, who too has been accused of sexual assault at his residence and expelled by the BJP. He said the Centre is "running on Gujarat model" to harass only opposition leaders. The Congress leader took exception to the reported remarks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mathura, on "Om and cow". He said "such baseless aspersions" are made to divert attention from the failure of the government.

Not only Goseva Ayog for cows was constituted in Madhya Pradesh during his term as chief minister in 1993-94 but also the process to give grant had started, Singh said. However, the BJP government overruled the decision in 2003, when it came to power, he alleged. Singh congratulated Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath for virtually reviving the scheme with an order for opening 1,000 goshalas (chowsheds).

He demanded introduction and total funding of a

scheme for stray cattle by the Union government to counter stray cattle menace. BJP is the only party that receives funding from "beef exporters", Singh alleged, adding that it has "confessed" it in its report to the election commission. There has been a rapid increase in beef export, he said.

He was critical of the betrayal of the promises made by the prime minister, terming them "jumla" as none of the promises — like combatting the menace of terrorism, fake notes, corruption, black money — were fulfilled, instead people are losing their job. Ten lakh people working in automobile industry would lose their job while unemployment is knocking the door of sarrafa workers. "The person, who had reservations on putting on a Muslim cap in Gujarat, is wearing the same cap in Arab countries," he said sarcastically. Economy is in doldrums, as it is passing through a slowdown, the Congress leader said. **PTI**

Hindi Diwas celebrated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Hindi Diwas was celebrated at various institutes and government departments across the city on Saturday. At Hindi Sansthan, the programme was organised at Yashpal Sabhaghar. Keynote speaker Kumud Sharma from Delhi said Hindi had the numbers but there was still lack of respect. "This is an issue of concern and requires mulling. It is very necessary to work in the direction of respecting the local languages and what is to be noted is that there are very few good translators in this area," she said. Deputy CM Dinesh Sharma inaugurated a Hindi Diwas programme at IITR. He said Hindi was a simple language and progress could be made through its use.

Dr Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University also celebrated Hindi Diwas on Saturday. The keynote speaker on the occasion was Suresh Chandra Shukla from Norway.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

while pulses sowing also recorded 3.74 lakh hectares less this year. Reservoirs in seven States still hold less water than their normal storage capacity. These States are Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Nagaland, Tripura, and Chhattisgarh. The situation at Omkareshwar dam in Madhya Pradesh and Yeldari dam in Maharashtra was grim with zero per cent live storage, while seven others have less than 50 per cent storage.

PAK RAISES...

The Indian Army responded immediately as it respects the fallen soldier and allowed the Pakistanis to take back the bodies, officials said. Since the Pakistani Army is dominated by Punjabis including soldiers and officers, the commanders are sensitive about the fallout back home if the bodies are not retrieved, sources said and therefore resorted to 'white flag' on Friday. The Indian Army released a 1.47minute video of the incident.

Elaborating the aspect of Punjabi factor, officials also said the Pakistan Army did not take back the bodies of 6-7 of its soldiers, most probably hailing from the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) and

part of the Northern Light Infantry on July 30-31 in Keran sector. Moreover, Pakistan had disowned its soldiers killed in the Kargil War in 1999 and Indian soldiers performed their last rites. On the overall situation on the 750-km long LoC since August 5 when the special status was withdrawn, ceasefire violations have seen a quantum jump with 350 ceasefire violations so far. The overall figure for the entire last year was 1,629 while the figure till now since January stands at more than 2,000. Firing is on both in South and North of Pir Panjal mountain ranges. While south comprises Poonch and Rajouri, north includes Uri and Tangdhar besides other areas adjoining the Kashmir Valley. Continuing the escalation on Saturday, the Pakistan Army targeted forward areas of Balakote and Mendhar in Poonch sector for over four hours. Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation in Mendhar sector around 9.30 am on Saturday." He said, "Pakistan army fired mortar shells targeting civilian areas." "Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively," he added. The firing in the area continued for over four hours and stopped

around 1.30 pm. According to ground reports, "large number of schoolchildren remained stranded inside their class rooms in Manjakote area" while heavy shelling was going on in the area. "Several forward villages including Sandote and Nanjot bore maximum brunt of heavy mortar shelling in the area," official sources said.

According to them "at least four civilian houses, 2 vehicles, 1 cattle shed and four shops were damaged in the Pakistan firing along with several livestock. Panic stricken residents took shelter at safer places while local police officers along with jawans of the Indian army rushed to the school buildings to safely escort schoolchildren to safer places.

CHINMAYANAND...

removed from Chinmayanand's bedroom and it now wore a new look. "The paint and other things have been changed and it now has a new look. Important evidences have been removed from there but two oil bowls used during massage, were found by the SIT. A towel, toothpaste and soap used by the BJP leader was sealed and taken away by the forensic team," the complainant said. The woman said that she told the SIT team about a young BA-LLB student who was also being tortured and had confided in her about her harassment. The com-

plaintant said that she had also given her statement about the FIR lodged in New Delhi on September 5.

Recounting her ordeal, she said that after she took admission in LLM course, the Swami's men called her to his home and left her in a room on the upper floor where the Godam showed her a video of her having a bath, after which her physical exploitation began.

The woman, however, said that this video was not found by the probe agency in the bedroom and claimed that it could have been kept in the Swami's Haridwar ashram. Accused's counsel Om Singh argued that giving massage was not a crime and people go to spa for it. "Besides, the video does not show anything being done under pressure," he said. Sources said that on the basis of statement recorded by the victim, the SIT put 150 questions before Swami Chinmayanand during interrogation. The BJP leader was also quizzed about his intimacy with the victim as seen in videos and photographs. He was also asked whether he gave a job to the girl and waived her fees college fees. The Swami claimed that the issue was looked after by the principal of the college. The SIT also questioned the Swami about how he knew Sanjay, the youth with whom the girl was found in Rajasthan.

RSS chief to interact with foreign media

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the first major outreach to foreign press, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat will interact with members of foreign media later this month "to clear misconceptions" about the outfit and its ideology. Invitation is being extended to 70 foreign media organisations from various countries barring Pakistan.

However, it will be an off-camera briefing and will not be for reporting, sources said.

RSS functionaries said the aim of the 'briefing' was to discuss the RSS' views on various topics, as well as to address some "wrong narratives" about the organisation that have developed over the years.

"The main purpose of this meeting is to clear misconcep-



tions about the Sangh and its ideology," they said, adding "it will be an off-camera briefing by Bhagwat and will not be for reporting".

According to the sources, it is a first of its kind interaction with the foreign press by the RSS, the ideological parent of the ruling BJP.

"The meeting will start with Bhagwat ji making opening remarks and it will be followed by a question and answer session with him," said a functionary involved in the event.

Sangh's prachar vibhag (publicity department) is coordinating the meeting which will be held at the Ambedkar International Centre here.

The planned meeting comes exactly a year after Bhagwat's three-day lecture series in September last year, in which the India media had participated but the international media was largely left out.

Bhagwat had met members of the diplomatic community last year as a part of the Sangh's outreach activities. He also hosted German Ambassador to India Walter J. Lindner at the RSS headquarters in Nagpur in July this year.

ED raids Income Tax Commissioner in Rose Valley chit fund case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said that it has raided multiple locations linked to Income Tax Commissioner, Neeraj Singh, in connection with a money laundering case associated to an alleged disproportionate assets case. Singh is under the scanner of the Kolkata Police and the ED for alleged links with the prime accused of the ₹ 15,000-crore Rose Valley chit fund scam Gautam Kundu.

Singh was last posted in Chennai and has earlier worked in the investigation wing of the I-T department in Kolkata.

The federal probe agency said it raided six locations, two each in Kolkata, Mumbai and Patna, after it booked Singh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act

(PMLA).

The ED filed its criminal case against the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer based on a Kolkata Police FIR "for accumulation of huge wealth in the name of his associates by giving undue favours by misusing his official position".

Searches conducted at several locations resulted in seizure of various property documents, bank accounts and investment documents, the ED said.

Officials said Singh is under the scanner of the Kolkata Police and the ED for alleged links with the prime accused of the ₹ 15,000-crore Rose Valley chit fund scam Gautam Kundu. Kundu has been arrested by the ED in the Rose Valley case. The IRS officer has denied these charges in the past.

Congress takes dig at Govt, says Nirmala's measures cosmetic, clueless on economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a slew of measures to revive the economy, the Congress on Saturday dubbed them as "cosmetic measures" and said the Modi government was "clueless" over the economy which is in shambles.

The Congress' attack came after Sitharaman announced an over Rs 70,000-crore package for exports and real estate sectors, including setting up of a stressed asset fund, as the government continued with fire-fighting measures to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth rate.

"I can only say that the finance minister is clueless as to how to deal with the gravity of the crisis and the government has no concrete plans to revive the economy," Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said at a press conference.

After the earlier announcements of stimulus package, the

situation deteriorated and the latest steps are not going to help, Sharma asserted.

"The finance minister of India is lacking in macroeconomic understanding. A comprehensive package for economic revival was expected," he said.

"The steps announced today will not revive the Indian economy, they are purely cosmetic, piecemeal and also convey the arrogance of the government and its indifference to the seriousness of the situation," he said.

Hitting out at the Finance Minister for blaming the youth and millennials for the economic slowdown, Sharma said, "The BJP ministers have been making shocking statements insulting the youth. The Finance Minister said that the millennials are responsible for the economic slowdown and has not apologised for her statement so far."

He said the government is also low on reserves. Citing the

figures of the government, Sharma said that in the last financial year, the government was ₹1.7 lakh crore in deficit. This year they have a target of Rs 24 lakh crore, but in last five months they have only managed to get Rs 5.4 lakh crore.

India's growth rate has slipped to 5 per cent in the June quarter, government data showed last month. Several sectors from the auto manufacturing to even consumer goods have raised concerns of flagging sales.

Forecasting the move could lead to banks providing up to an extra Rs. 68,000 crore of export credit, Ms Sitharaman said that the government will relax rules for lending to priority sectors.

The finance minister also detailed other steps, including improved insurance cover to banks that lend to exporters and the digitalization of certain services that she said would further bolster exports.

Steps to be evolved to check veg prices: Jagan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has said that there should be an effective mechanism on market intelligence for agriculture products and asked the officials to take immediate steps to keep the prices of vegetables under check.

Speaking at a review meeting on Agriculture Mission here on Saturday, he said that a new mechanism should be evolved based on the inputs from Agriculture Committees and a long-term plan should be drafted for stabilising the prices.

A Cell should be formed with experts for purchase agriculture produce and marketing and in the next meeting of the Mission the discussion will be on the agriculture yield, MSP and the situation in the market.

The officials brought to the notice of the chief minister that some pulses and tomatoes are not getting proper prices due to the availability of socks with farmers, government and import policy and in the coming days the issue would be addressed to. The chief minister has also enquired about the growing prices of onions and asked the officials to put a check on it.

During the previous government term, businessmen and politicians in the garb of



farmers have duped the farmers to a great extent. Village volunteers should help out farmers in all possible ways and they should get MSP.

From the rabi crop, farmers should be helped in all aspects, the chief minister told the officials. Making best use of Market Stabilisation Fund, and opening of purchasing centres should ensure that farmers get proper price to their produce, he said.

The dues to farmers of the previous government which

A Cell should be formed with experts for purchase agriculture produce and marketing and in the next meeting of the Mission the discussion will be on the agriculture yield, MSP and the situation in the market

accumulated up to Rs 1,830 crores will be cleared by month end. Rythu Bharosa and input subsidies will come a long way in helping farmers in the days to come, he said. The cultivation of pulses should be encouraged in dry and arid lands, he said. (Spot)

Focus on malnutrition among urban poor: Centre to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked States to focus on tackling malnutrition among slum-dwellers and migrant population in urban areas during a month-long campaign under the government's flagship nutrition scheme Poshan Abhiyaan, which was launched in 2018 to reduce low-birth weight, stunting and undernutrition, and anaemia among children, adolescent girls and women.

The Government said malnutrition in urban areas is mainly caused by increasing population of the poor, food safety risks and unhealthy food environment, and asked the states to expand the outreach of health and nutrition services among slum-dwellers and migrant population.

In a note to state and district authorities, the Women and Child Development Ministry said that "activities under Poshan Abhiyaan should be promoted in urban areas with an effort to expand the outreach of health and nutrition services among slum-dwellers and migrant population."

It has also set the responsibilities of the state, district and block level officials which include special focus on migrant population and people living in slum areas.

It further said asked the



states to take steps like strengthening convergence between departments, developing urban health mission and spreading the message Swachh Bharat Mission among others.

"Reach out to labour-centric industries or private employers to establish contact with migrant populace and sensitise them on Poshan Abhiyaan. Identify urban unserved/uncovered pockets and reach out to these pockets with nutrition services via special drives," the ministry told the states.

It has also asked states and districts to promote urban

"Reach out to labour-centric industries or private employers to establish contact with migrant populace and sensitise them on Poshan Abhiyaan. Identify urban unserved/uncovered pockets and reach out to these pockets with nutrition services via special drives," the ministry told the states

primary health centres and

organising anaemia camps in urban areas and slums. "Organise door-to-door awareness drives on Poshan Abhiyaan in urban slums," the Ministry said.

The states and districts have been asked to organise all these initiatives during the 'Poshan Maah' or nutrition month which is celebrated every September under the Poshan Abhiyaan.

According to the National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4), 38.4 per cent children under five years of age are stunted (low height-for-age) and 21 per cent wasted (low weight-for-height).

Telangana is growing in IT investments: Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Minister KT Rama Rao on Saturday said that irrespective of the Centre's stance on Information Technology and Investment Region (ITIR), Telangana is growing in IT investments. As part of ITIR, they proposed IT clusters in the State.

He said, "Neither UPA nor NDA gave even ₹1 for ITIR project. With the new NDA Government we asked 10times by meeting personally, writing letters and providing the information. They clearly said that they gave up ITIR, our policy is not ITIR and it is not part of NDA."

He said despite repeated

requests during the meetings with then IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and also several letters sent by the state, the Centre did not provide any funds. KTR pointed out that Prasad went to the extent of saying that the government has shelved ITIRs.

He said, "Even if they didn't give anything, nothing stopped. Because of ecosystem centric policies of Telangana government, IT growth is 17percent unlike national average of 8-9percent".

Dismissing claims of Congress over not doing enough to get ITIR grounded



KTR said, "Bengaluru and Hyderabad never got ₹1 for ITIR. Did Congress Government even put one brick for ITIR in Bengaluru?"

Government is taking steps to encourage establishment of IT companies in the Eastern and Southern regions of the city.

Addressing concerns raised by some members that the IT industry was currently clustered in just the Western part of the city putting increasing pressure on infrastructure in the area, the Minister said the Government has already approved Maheshwaram and Raviryal areas for development of electronic industry clusters.

He said, "Owaisi asked for startup program. In Old-city also we will try to get startup program, if we get

any interest and land in the area with help".

Responding to the issue of IT development in two tier towns raised by KP Vivekanand of the TRS and D Sridhar Babu of Congress, KTR said,

"IT Tower in Karimnagar town was getting ready for inauguration next month. And the one in Khammam will be ready by November or December. The Government also identified 50 acres for a similar project in Mahabubnaga. Because of the Rural technology policy, BPOs are operating in Janagaon, Huzurabad, Kamareddy, Jachchela," he said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda during cleanliness drive at AIIMS in New Delhi on Saturday PTI

BJP appoints Sanjay Jaiswal as Bihar unit Chief

SATISH PUNIA AS RAJASTHAN UNIT CHIEF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday appointed Lok Sabha member Sanjay Jaiswal and MLA Satish Punia as chiefs of its units in Bihar and Rajasthan respectively.

While the Rajasthan state President post fell vacant on account of the untimely death of incumbent its previous head, Bihar slot needed to be filled as the BJP unit head of the state was moved to the union cabinet.

Jaiswal, an OBC, replaces Nityanand Rai Yadav, also an OBC and now a minister of state in the Modi-government, as the head of the BJP's Bihar unit. Jaiswal, 53, is an MP from Paschim Champaran in the state.



Similar caste consideration has been applied in Rajasthan where Punia, again an OBC has been appointed chief of Rajasthan BJP, weeks after the death of state party chief Madan Lal Saini of the same caste. Punia was picked up by Party President Amt Shah last year along with other BJP leaders including MPs Arjun Meghwal

and Gajendra Singh Sekhawat to assess ground situation in Rajasthan before the ticket distribution for the assembly election in the state.

Hailing from Churu's Rajgarh, Punia, 55, is the MLA from Amber constituency of Jaipur district.

Besides these two key appointments, BJP President

Amit Shah also appointed Ajay Kumar, an RSS 'pracharak' as General Secretary of the Party in Uttarakhand. Kumar has also worked as organising secretary in West Uttar Pradesh. The post fell vacant after the resignation of the Sanjay Kumar who was facing '#Mee-too' charge by a woman.

India to offer 1,000 PhD fellowships to ASEAN students

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI.

The Government of India will launch a programme commencing from September 16, 2019, that will allow and offer 1,000 PhD fellowships to students of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the Institute of Information Technology (IITs) in India. External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar and Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal will jointly inaugurate the programme.

Head of missions of ASEAN countries, senior officials of ministries of External Affairs and Human Resource Development, Directors of all 23 IITs, Chairman of UGC and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog would attend the event.

IIT Delhi has already been accorded the status of Institution of Eminence and the decision by the government to start the PhD programme for students of ASEAN countries comes with the motive to "encourage the



best talent from across the world to join its PhD programme.

Speaking about the International PhD Fellowship Programme (IPFP), Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT Delhi, said: "Having meritorious PhD students coming to IIT Delhi from all over the world

(as part of the programme) and will not only enhance the quality of research happening at IIT Delhi but will also help India develop its soft power across the world. The cultural diversity that will happen because of this step will go a long way in generating new research ideas."

The admission portal for this programme is being executed by IIT Delhi. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises of Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

HINDI DIWAS

Mother tongue above all: Mamata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said people should respect all languages and cultures equally but not at the cost of their mother tongues.



Her statement came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah pitched for a common language for the country and said it is Hindi which is spoken the most and can unite the whole country.

Greeting people on the occasion of Hindi Diwas, Banerjee tweeted, "My best wishes to all on #HindiDiwas. We should respect all languages and cultures equally. We may learn many languages but we should never forget our mother-language." She also posted the greetings in another tweet in Hindi.

In a series of tweets in Hindi, Home Minister Shah said, "India has many languages and every language has its importance. But it is absolutely necessary that the entire country should have one language that becomes India's identity internationally."

Shah said that today, if any language which can unite the country, it is Hindi that is spoken the most.

"I want to appeal to people to promote their native languages but also use Hindi to make the dream of Babu (Mahatma Gandhi) and Sardar

(Vallabhbhai) Patel of one language come true," he tweeted. Later, speaking at a 'Hindi Diwas' function in New Delhi, Shah said Hindi should reach every individual and every home in the country.

Hindi Diwas is observed to mark the decision of the Constituent Assembly to extend official language status to Hindi on this day in 1949. It was first observed in 1953.

AIADMK, DMK against Shah's 'Hindi' push

CHENNAI: Opposing Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi as the nation's common language, AIADMK on Saturday cautioned against its 'imposition' while the DMK demanded that he withdraw his view, since it would "infringe national integrity."

After Shah said Hindi is the most spoken language which can unite the nation as a common language, Tamil Nadu parties rallied against it. AIADMK leader and Tamil culture Minister K Pandiarajan said: "If the Centre imposes Hindi unilaterally, there will only be (adverse) reaction and no support, not only in Tamil Nadu, but also in states like Bengal, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh."

Making it clear that he was not aware of the context in which Shah made those comments, he opined that the remarks appeared to be intended to bring Hindi to the position of English, which had performed the role of a link language all along in the country.

"Only about 45 per cent people speak Hindi and even today it is not spoken by a majority of the people," Pandiarajan said, adding that the Tamil Nadu Government has never toed the line that Hindi could be the link language. DMK chief M K Stalin said Shah's views were 'shocking'. "This will certainly infringe national integrity and hence he should withdraw his views immediately," he said.

K'taka parties call it 'imposition' of language

Bengaluru: 'Hindi Diwas' took a political twist in Karnataka with the Congress and JD(S) leaders terming it as an 'imposition' of the language. However, the ruling BJP batted for learning it just like Kannada and appealed to the people of the state not to treat it as imposition of a language. The reaction of the parties comes in the wake of Union Home minister Amit Shah pitching for a common language for the country and saying it was Hindi which was spoken the most and can unite the whole country. Tweeting in Kannada, former chief minister Siddaramaiah said, "The lie that Hindi is a national language should stop. Let it be known to all that it is just like Kannada, one among the 22 official languages of India. You cannot promote a language by spreading lies and fake information. Languages flourish by affection and respect for each other."

3-language formula should not be tinkered with: Cong

PTI ■ New Delhi

Hours after Union Minister Amit Shah's Hindi language pitch, the Congress on Saturday said the three-language formula should not be tinkered with and controversies must not be stirred up on "emotive" issues settled by Constitution-makers.

The opposition party also said no indication should be given of a rethink on the "three-language formula" as it will create strife and unrest in the country. The three languages formula is commonly understood to comprise Hindi, English and the regional language of the

respective states. Home Minister Shah on Saturday pitched for a common language for the country and said as Hindi is spoken the most, it can unite the whole country. He also asked everyone to use their native languages as much as possible, but said efforts will be made to expand Hindi's reach to different parts of the country.

Asked about Shah's remarks, Congress spokesperson Anand Sharma said: "Let me make it very clear, if that is true then the Home Minister of India should know that Hindi has been declared as the official language long back."

Day curfew lifted in Kishtwar

Search on for suspects who snatched rifle from PDP leader's PSO

PTI ■ JAMMU

Day curfew was lifted in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district even as a massive search operation for suspected terrorists, who snatched the service rifle from a personal security officer of a PDP leader, continued for the second day on Saturday, officials said.

The day curfew, which was imposed in the town following the weapon snatching incident on Friday, was lifted but all educational institutions remained closed as a precautionary measure, the officials said.

A group of terrorists struck the house of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Kishtwar district president Sheikh Nasir Hussain at Gourian village in the town and escaped with the service rifle of his Personal Security Officer (PSO) early Friday.

"The curfew, which was imposed following the incident, was lifted this (Saturday) morning. However, all educational institutions in the town have been closed as a precautionary measure," District Development Commissioner Anzreg Singh Rana told PTI.

He said the night curfew, however, will remain in force till further orders. A massive search operation

to track down the terrorists was going on, Rana said, adding the police is working on various leads and the culprits will be brought to book soon.

Officials said additional police and paramilitary forces have been deployed at entry and exit points in the town, where all incoming and outgoing vehicles are subjected to thorough checking.

They said the private car of the PDP leader's brother in which the suspects fled was found abandoned in Dool village, about nine km from the town.

The hilly district, which was declared terrorism-free over a decade ago, has witnessed a number of terror strikes and weapon snatching incidents over the past 10 months. Terrorists snatched the service rifle of the deputy commissioner's PSO Daleep Kumar on March 8. They struck again at district hospital on April 9, killing RSS functionary Chanderkant Sharma and his PSO before fleeing the scene with the service rifle of the slain cop.

Pak hell bent on stoking LoC fire

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Despite suffering heavy losses in strong retaliatory firing from the Indian side, Pakistan is bent upon escalating tensions along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir.

Since August 15, there has been no let up from the Pakistani side especially in frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

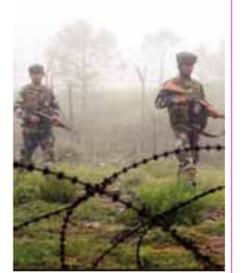
So far, four Indian jawans have made supreme sacrifices while one civilian was killed in Pakistan firing.

On Saturday, Pakistan Army targeted forward areas of Balakote and Mendhar in Poonch sector for over four hours.

Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation in Mendhar sector around 9.30 a.m on Saturday." He said, "Pak Army fired mortar shells targeting civilian areas." Indian Army retaliated strongly and effectively," he added. The firing in the area continued for over four hours and stopped around 1.30 p.m.

According to ground reports, "large number of school children remained stranded inside their class rooms in Manjakote area" while heavy shelling was going on in the area.

"Several forward villages including Sandote and Nanjot bore maximum brunt of heavy



mortar shelling in the area," official sources said.

According to official sources, "at least four civilian houses, 2 vehicles, 1 cattle shed and four shops were damaged in the Pakistan firing along with several livestock. Panic stricken residents took shelter at safer places while local police officers along with jawans of the Indian army rushed to the school buildings to safely escort school children to safer places.

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch Rahul Yadav told The Pioneer, "firing from the Pakistan side started around 9.30 a.m on Saturday while children were attending their classes in local schools in the forward villages. He said, rescue teams could not be rushed amid heavy firing from the Pakistani side. During brief lull, police jawans along with local army men escorted these children to safety, he added.

Pawar to take Maha tour as NCP hit by desertions

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Jolted by unprecedented desertions from his party, NCP founder Sharad Pawar will embark upon a six-day tour of western Maharashtra and Marathwada regions from September 17 to 22, to set the house in order and energise his cadres ahead of the State Assembly polls due next month.

During his six-day tour that will take him to three districts of his party's strong-hold of western Maharashtra and eight districts of neighbouring Marathwada, Pawar will hold meetings with the party's current and past MPs, MLAs, past and current representatives from local bodies, office bearers and representatives from the cooperative bodies.

This is for the second time since he founded the NCP in June 1999 that Pawar is undertaking such a tour in the state. In an effort to enlarge his party's base, Pawar had taken a similar tour immediately after he founded NCP. Faced with a major crisis arising out of large-scale desertions from his party, 79-year-old Pawar has—this time around—will be setting out from Solapur on a tour of eleven districts in western Maharashtra and Marathwada regions.

The districts where he will hold consultations with his party leaders and elected representatives will be Solapur, Ahmednagar, Satara, all in western Maharashtra, Beed, Latur, Osmanabad

Nanded, Hingoli, Parbhani, Jalna and Aurangabad, all in Marathwada.

According to a senior NCP leader, Pawar will hold meetings with party leaders and other people in in Solapur, Osmanabad (September 17), Beed, Latur (September 18), Parbhani (September 19), Jalna, Aurangabad (September 20), Ahmednagar (September 21) and Satara (September 22).

During his tour, Pawar—who had in eighties and nineties had undertaken similar State-wide tours—will go all out to rebuild his party to take on the powerful ruling BJP and Shiv Sena, which will contest the Assembly polls as an alliance.

The NCP and Congress, which had contested the 2014 State Assembly polls separately, will contest next month's Assembly together.

In the 2014 Assembly polls, the Congress had ended up with a final tally of mere 42 seats (out of the total 287 seats it contested), while its erstwhile ruling partner NCP bagged 41 seats (out of a total 278 seats contested).

Many of Pawar's loyalists, who were with him through his thick and thin of his political career, have deserted him and joined either the Shiv Sena or the BJP during the past four months. Prominent among them have been Dr Padmasinh Patil, Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil, Madhukar Pichad, Ganesh Naik and Bhaskar Jadhav.

'Seva Saptah': Tripura CM donates salary to clean markets

IANS ■ AGARTALA

As part of the week long 'Seva Saptah' to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has donated six months salary to keep 1,100 village markets in the state clean and garbage free.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as part of its countrywide celebration of Seva Saptah (social service week), launched a variety of social service campaigns in Tripura on Saturday.

"I will donate my six months salary to set up eight to ten dustbins or garbage dumping containers in each of the 1,100 village markets in Tripura. It would make these markets and surrounding villages clean and hygienic," said Deb, who is also the President of the State BJP. He said: "On the occasion of Modi's birthday celebration the Seva Saptah will see a cleanliness campaign, voluntary blood donation, plastic free Tripura, supply of pure drinking water and nutrition drive for children and women." The Chief Minister wrote social media posts calling for everyone to join the Seva Saptah to carry out the various welfare activities.

Centre running on 'Gujarat model' to harass Opp leaders: Digvijaya

PTI ■ MATHURA

Accusing the Centre of a political vendetta, senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh has said the Modi Government is running on the "Gujarat model" of governance to harass Opposition leaders.

"Sending former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram to jail is an evidence of misuse of the CBI, ED and the IT department for implicating Opposition leaders," Singh said on Friday evening.

He said though action has been taken against Chidambaram, the officers on whose recommendation/consent the former Union Minister took decisions have been spared.

The former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister claimed no action has been taken against Chinmayanand simply because he is a BJP leader, in spite of a postgradu-

ate woman alleging, in 18 pages, he raped her.

Singh demanded action against Chinmayanand similar to that taken against Unnao MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar, who too has been accused of sexual assault at his residence and expelled by the BJP.

He said the Centre is "running on Gujarat model" to harass only Opposition leaders.

The Congress leader took exception to the reported remarks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mathura, on "Om and cow". He said "such baseless aspersions" are made to divert attention from the failure of the Government. Not only Goseva Ayog for cows was constituted in Madhya Pradesh during his term as Chief Minister in 1993-94 but also the process to give grant had started, Singh said.

However, the BJP government overruled the decision in 2003, when it came to power, he alleged.

Ladakh BJP MP blames undefined LAC for frequent border row with China

PTI ■ LEH

New Delhi and Beijing need to sit down and properly define the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to avoid border skirmishes, Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal has said. Describing the tension reported earlier this week along the border as "nothing serious", the BJP MP from the just-carved out Union Territory said, "we should not worry too much about such

developments". The LAC has often witnessed skirmishes between troops of the two Asian giants on differing claims over the territory. "The actual problem on our border is that the border is not defined properly because of which China feels one thing and we feel another. The actual line of control is not fixed and demarcated properly, because of which such troubles keep recurring," Namgyal told reporters last evening. He

also said that cows and other livestock do walk across the borders leading to some tension at the local level. The BJP MP, who shot to national fame with a speech in the Lok Sabha supporting the August 5 move of the Centre to abrogate the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370, also claimed that the Chinese have not been able to claim any land since 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power.

Conman arrested for bid to dupe Matoshree staff

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A 19-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly trying to extract money from the staff posted at Matoshree, the Bandra residence of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, for a parcel he falsely claimed was ordered by Aadiya Thackeray.

Matoshree, where the late Sena supreme Bal Thackeray resided, has high security. Notably, the accused Dheeraj More had succeeded in convincing the staff at the bungalow gate on three occasions in the past using the similar modus operandi, a police officer said on Saturday.

More, who used to work as a delivery boy earlier, is a resident of Parel in Central Mumbai. He was arrested earlier for a similar offence and was released from jail recently. Security at Matoshree has been tightened in view of the incident. A police official said More's cover was blown away when security guards at Matoshree detained him on Thursday when he tried to deliver a parcel claiming that it was ordered by the Yuva Sena president. DCP (Zone 8) Manjunath Singh said More had duped the staff for at least Rs 8500 on three occasions.

Names of all NRC applicants published online

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

A complete NRC list comprising names of all the included and excluded 3.30 crore applicants as per draft NRC and supplementary list of inclusions and exclusions (final NRC) were published online on Saturday. The list will be available only online and has been published in English and Assamese language.

The exclusion certificates required for filing appeals in the Foreigners' Tribunals are, however, yet to be issued, sources in the office of the NRC State Coordinator said here. The final National Register of Citizens (NRC), which was published on August 31 consisted only of supplementary lists. The names of

persons included in the complete draft published on July 30, 2018 but having spelling or other mistakes have been corrected in the complete list, they said.

Names of all members of a family irrespective of their involvement in the claims and objections process have been published, the official said. The exclusion certificates are being collected from the various NRC Seva Kendras and will be made available to the public at the earliest so that they can file appeals, the official said.

The time period for issuing exclusion certificates will be announced soon, he said. Queries are being received about the availability of the certified copies of rejection from final NRC. The people are



aware that hearings were held at various venues away from their designated NRC Seva Kendras and the process of collection of these certificates are going on, the official added. The appeal against exclusion from the NRC must be filed in the Foreigners' Tribunals within 120 days of the publication of final

NRC. The final NRC was released on August 31 with 19,06,657 of the total 3,30,27,661 applicants excluded and 3,11,22,004 included.

The process of NRC Update was started in Assam following a Supreme Court order in 2013 and since then, the apex court had closely monitored the entire process. The process of receipt of NRC application forms started in May 2015 and ended on 31st August 2015. A total of 3,30,27,661 people applied through 68,37,660 application forms. The particulars submitted by the applicants were taken up for scrutiny to determine eligibility of their inclusion in NRC, he said. Adequate opportunity of being heard has been given to all per-

sons at every stage of the process, Hajela said. The entire process was conducted as per statutory provisions and due procedure was followed at every stage, he said. As per the Supreme Court orders, the draft NRC (complete draft) was published on 30th July, 2018 wherein 2,89,83,677 numbers of persons were found eligible for inclusion.

Thereafter, claims were received from 36,26,630 numbers of persons against exclusions.

Objections were received against inclusion of 1,87,633 persons whose names had appeared in the complete draft. Another additional draft exclusions list was published on June 26, 2019 wherein 1,02,462 persons were excluded.

Office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow

Very Short Term Notice Inviting Tender

No. 3698 / NIVIDA / 2019 Dated: 05.09.2019

The Executive Engineer U.P. P.W.D. on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP PWD, class A, B, C, D & E as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.

Sl. No.	DISTR. / ICT	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Cost of Bid Document	Time of Completion	Address of Executive Engineer	Address of Superintendent Engineer	Address of D.M.	Address of Chief Engineer
1	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Lucknow - Kanpur Road to Haridi Road & Haridi Road to Sitapur Road.	Rs. 4.47 Lacs.	Rs. 0.45 Lacs.	Rs. 150.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
2	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Lucknow - Kanpur Road to Farsed Nagar Road.	Rs. 3.90 Lacs.	Rs. 0.40 Lacs.	Rs. 150.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
3	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Lucknow - Old V.I.P. Road to Jail Road.	Rs. 3.48 Lacs.	Rs. 0.35 Lacs.	Rs. 150.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
4	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Lucknow - Kursi Road to Picnic Spot Road.	Rs. 0.98 Lacs.	Rs. 0.91 Lacs.	Rs. 225.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
5	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Lucknow - Bareilly - Lucknow Road (NH 24, Sitapur Road).	Rs. 4.07 Lacs.	Rs. 0.41 Lacs.	Rs. 150.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
6	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at P.S.H.L. Road.	Rs. 7.81 Lacs.	Rs. 0.79 Lacs.	Rs. 225.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
7	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Lohiyaspath (Near Mihai Wala Chauraha).	Rs. 2.12 Lacs.	Rs. 0.22 Lacs.	Rs. 75.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
8	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Raj Bhawan & Vidhan Bhawan Connecting Roads.	Rs. 8.20 Lacs.	Rs. 0.82 Lacs.	Rs. 225.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
9	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Old V.I.P. Road.	Rs. 7.94 Lacs.	Rs. 0.80 Lacs.	Rs. 225.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
10	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Purayiya Tirtha to Faizalgarh Road in Km. 1	Rs. 2.21 Lacs.	Rs. 0.22 Lacs.	Rs. 75.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow
11	Lucknow	Road Restoration Work at Kaiserbagh Baradari Road to Panvartan Chowk	Rs. 5.00 Lacs.	Rs. 0.50 Lacs.	Rs. 150.00 + GST+500.00 (Stationary Charges)	02 Month	Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow	Lucknow Circle, P.W.D., Lucknow	D.M. Lucknow	Central Zone, P.W.D., Lucknow

The Rate adopted in the BOQ are excluding GST. A set of Bidding documents may be purchased from the office of concerned Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer, D.M. and Chief Engineer as mentioned in columns 8, 9, 10 and 11 respectively of the table corresponding to the respective work, between 11:00 am and 04:00 pm on any working day from 18.09.2019 To 25.09.2019 in the form of cash or Demand Draft drawn on any Scheduled bank in favour of "Executive Engineer, U.P. P.W.D., Lucknow". The bids must be submitted on or before 12.00 Noon on 26.09.2019 and the bids will be opened on the next working day, that is, on 27.09.2019 at 12.30 pm, in the office of the District Magistrate mentioned in column 10, in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The bidders can get All Terms & conditions from Office of the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, P.W.D., Lucknow. (Arvind Kumar) Executive Engineer, Provincial Division P.W.D., Lucknow UP 143763 Date 11.9.2019 विज्ञापन नक्साद्वारा www.upgoc.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

Drone attacks strike Saudi Aramco facility, oilfield

Yemen's Houthi rebels claim attacks on facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais

AP ■ DUBAI

Drones attacked the world's largest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia and a major oilfield operated by Saudi Aramco early on Saturday, the kingdom's Interior Ministry said, sparking a huge fire at a processor crucial to global energy supplies.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks in Buqayq and the Khurais oil field, though Yemen's Houthi rebels previously launched drone assaults deep inside of the kingdom.

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels on Saturday claimed drone attacks on two Saudi oil facilities, according to the group's Al-Masirah television. The rebels launched "a large-scale operation involving 10 drones that targeted refineries in Abqaiq and Khurais in eastern Saudi Arabia", Al-Masirah said.

It wasn't clear if there were any injuries in the attacks, nor

what effect it would have on oil production in the kingdom. The attack also likely will heighten tensions further across the wider Persian Gulf amid a confrontation between the US and Iran over its unravelling nuclear deal with world powers.

Online videos apparently shot in Buqayq included the sound of gunfire in the background. Smoke rose over the skyline and glowing flames could be seen a distance away at the Abqaiq oil processing facility. The Saudi-owned satellite news channel Al-Arabiya later aired a segment with a correspondent there as smoke from the blazes clearly rose behind.

The fires began after the sites were "targeted by drones," the Interior Ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency. It said an investigation into the attack was underway.

Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil giant, did not immediately



Smoke fills the sky at the Abqaiq oil processing facility on Saturday. AP

THE KHURAIIS OIL FIELD IS BELIEVED TO PRODUCE OVER 1 MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL A DAY. IT HAS ESTIMATED RESERVES OF OVER 20 BILLION BARRELS OF OIL, ACCORDING TO ARAMCO

diately respond to questions from *The Associated Press*. The kingdom hopes soon to offer a sliver of the company in an initial public offering.

Saudi Aramco describes its Abqaiq oil processing facility in Buqayq as "the largest crude oil stabilization plant in the world." The facility processes sour crude oil into sweet crude, then later transports onto transshipment points on the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. Estimates suggest it can process up to 7 million barrels

of crude oil a day. The plant has been targeted in the past by militants. Al-Qaida-claimed suicide bombers tried but failed to attack the oil complex in February 2006.

The Khurais oil field is believed to produce over 1 million barrels of crude oil a day. It has estimated reserves of over 20 billion barrels of oil, according to Aramco.

There was no immediate impact on global oil prices as markets were closed for the weekend across the world. Benchmark Brent crude had been trading at just above \$60 a barrel.

Buqayq is some 330 kilometers northeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

While no group immediately claimed the attacks, suspicion immediately fell on Yemen's Houthi rebels.

A Saudi-led coalition has been battling the rebels since March 2015. The Iranian-backed Houthis hold Yemen's

capital, Sanaa, and other territory in the Arab world's poorest country.

The war has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The violence has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine and killed more than 90,000 people since 2015, according to the U.S.-based Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, or ACLED, which tracks the conflict.

Since the start of the Saudi-led war, Houthi rebels have been using drones in combat. The first appeared to be off-the-shelf, hobby-kit-style drones. Later, versions nearly identical to Iranian models turned up. Iran denies supplying the Houthis with weapons, although the U.N., the West and Gulf Arab nations say Tehran does.

The rebels have flown drones into the radar arrays of Saudi Arabia's Patriot missile batteries, according to Conflict Armament Research, disabling them and allowing the Houthis

to fire ballistic missiles into the kingdom unchallenged. The Houthis launched drone attacks targeting Saudi Arabia's crucial East-West Pipeline in May as tensions heightened between Iran and the U.S. In August, Houthi drones struck Saudi Arabia's Shaybah oil field, which produces some 1 million barrels of crude oil a day near its border with the United Arab Emirates.

UN investigators said the Houthis' new UAV-X drone, found in recent months during the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen, likely has a range of up to 1,500 kilometers (930 miles).

That puts the far reaches of both Saudi Arabia and the UAE in range. The Houthi's Al-Masirah satellite news channel did not immediately acknowledge the attack Saturday, though it said the spokesman of the Houthi's armed forces would soon give a speech on "a major operation," without elaborating.

GLOBE TROTTERING

TIANANMEN SQUARE LENS MAN DIES

Jakarta: The photographer who snapped the defining image of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown — a solitary man defiantly blocking the path of a column of tanks — has died in Indonesia, according to US officials. American authorities confirmed the death of 64-year-old Charlie Cole in Bali, where the Texan had been a long-time resident.

AF GOVT SAYS POLLS FIRST, PEACE DEAL AFTER

Kabul: An Afghan official says that the priority for his Government is to hold national elections later this month — rather than reach a peace deal with insurgents.

LANKA PREZ SACKS FIVE LEGISLATORS

Colombo: Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on Saturday sacked five senior legislators from his Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) for breaching party discipline by collaborating and "promoting" the rival factions ahead of the presidential elections scheduled later this year.

Hamza bin Laden killed in US operation: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Saturday confirmed that Hamza bin Laden, the son of slain al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, was killed in an American counter-terrorism operation along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The confirmation of Hamza's death has come more than a month after the US media reported that he was killed, citing the US intelligence officials.

"Hamza bin Laden, the high-ranking al-Qaeda member and son of Osama bin Laden, was killed in a United States counter-terrorism operation in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region," Trump said in a statement.

However, the US President did not specify the exact place where he was killed and under what circumstances.

"The loss of Hamza bin Laden not only deprives al-Qaeda of important leader-



Hamza bin Laden

Hamza, who according to *The New York Times* was not older than 30 years, first surfaced in late July and early August.

Trump had then refused to confirm those reports.

"I can't comment about that. But he was very threatening to our country. He was saying very bad things about our country," Trump said at the White House on August 1 when asked if the US had any role in Hamza's death.

Hamza's father Osama was killed in a raid by the US Navy SEAL in Pakistan's garrison city of Abbottabad in 2011.

Earlier this year, the US State Department called Hamza an "emerging" leader in al-Qaeda, offering a million-dollar reward for information leading to his capture.

The State Department said the items seized from the elder bin Laden's hiding place in Abbottabad during the raid had indicated that he was grooming Hamza to replace him as al-Qaeda's leader.

ship skills and the symbolic connection to his father, but undermines important operational activities of the group," Trump said.

"Hamza bin Laden was responsible for planning and dealing with various terrorist groups," he added.

Hamza's last known public statement was released by al-Qaeda's media arm in 2018. In that message he had threatened Saudi Arabia and called on the people of the Arabian peninsula to revolt. Saudi Arabia stripped him of his citizenship in March this year.

Reports about the death of

Mall brawls, street fights as Hong Kong polarisation deepens



Police detain a man after fights broke out between pro-China supporters and anti-Government protesters outside the Army Plaza in the Kowloon Bay district in Hong Kong on Saturday. AP

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Fights erupted in Hong Kong on Saturday with political rivals trading blows in a mall and Beijing supporters using Chinese flags to assault opponents on a street, deepening the city's polarisation after months of pro-democracy protests.

The once-stable international hub has been convulsed by weeks of huge, sometimes violent rallies calling for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability.

The movement is the biggest challenge to China's rule since the city was handed back by Britain in 1997 and shows no sign of ending, with city leaders and Beijing taking a hard line.

Police detain a man after fights broke out between pro-China supporters and anti-Government protesters outside the Army Plaza in the Kowloon Bay district in Hong Kong on Saturday. AP

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Cameron says he is 'truly sorry' for Brexit divisions

PTI ■ LONDON

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron, who called a referendum over three years ago and then had to exit Downing Street in the aftermath of the June 2016 verdict in favour of Britain's exit from the European Union (EU), on Saturday said he was "truly sorry" for all the uncertainty and division that Brexit had caused.

In an interview ahead of the publication of his memoir "For the Record" next week, Cameron told *The Times* newspaper that the victory of the Leave camp in the referendum had left him "hugely depressed".

"From the timing of the vote to the expectations I allowed to build about the renegotiation, there are many things I would do differently. I did not fully anticipate the strength of feeling that would



be unleashed both during the referendum and afterwards, and I am truly sorry to have seen the country I love so much suffer uncertainty and division in the years since then," said Cameron, whose memoirs are being serialised by the newspaper.

"But on the central question of whether it was right to renegotiate Britain's relationship with the EU and give people the chance to have their say on it, my view remains that this was the right approach to take,"

he noted. Cameron also reveals that he continues to have robust exchanges over the issue with people on the streets.

Asked if Brexit has given him sleepless nights, he replies: "I worry about it a lot. Every single day I think about... the things that could have been done differently, and I worry about what is going to happen next."

The former Conservative Party leader criticised the current incumbent in Downing Street, Boris Johnson, over his Brexit strategy and for sacking veteran Tory MPs for not voting with him over the issue in Parliament.

"Taking the whip from hard-working Conservative MPs and sharp practices using prorogation of Parliament have rebounded. I didn't support either of those things. Neither do I think a no-deal Brexit is a good idea," he said.

Taliban visits Moscow days after Trump says talks 'dead'

AP ■ MOSCOW

A negotiating team from the Taliban arrived on Friday in Russia, a representative told *The Associated Press*, just days after US President Donald Trump declared dead a deal with the insurgent group in Afghanistan. Russian state news agency Tass cited the Taliban's Qatar-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as saying the delegation had held consultations with Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's envoy for Afghanistan.

The visit was confirmed to the AP by a Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

The Interfax news agency cited an unidentified Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the meeting Russia underlined the necessity of renewing talks between the US and the Taliban.

More than ever, Mike Pompeo at helm of Trump foreign policy

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Speaking at the White House after John Bolton's surprise exit as national security adviser, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo couldn't hide a smile of satisfaction.

With the departure of Bolton, Pompeo has become the undisputed king of President Donald Trump's foreign policy — with the exception, that is, of Trump himself.

The former soldier, lawyer and businessman has made a quick ascent in Washington since arriving as a Kansas congressman elected in the 2010 right-wing populist "Tea Party" movement. But many speculate that Pompeo will choose not to stay long in his newly powerful position, enticed by an opening to represent Kansas in the Senate next year — perhaps with an eye on running for the top prize in the 2024 presidential election.

Iran inks deal to develop gas field in tense Gulf

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Two Iranian companies signed a \$440 million agreement on Saturday to develop a gas field in the sensitive Gulf, with the oil ministry saying it showed arch-foe the United States could not stop the country with sanctions.

Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said the deal reached between two government-owned firms, Pars Oil and Gas Company and PetroPars, to develop the Balal field would be the first of many.

Tensions have soared in the Gulf since last year when the US began reimposing sanctions on Iran after unilaterally withdrawing from a 2015 deal that put curbs on its nuclear programme.

"Signing this contract is... The beginning of a process," Zanganeh said, quoted by the oil ministry's Shana website.

Baloch activists' campaign in Geneva to highlight HR violations by Pak



PTI ■ GENEVA

Baloch rights activists have organised a poster campaign in Geneva to highlight Pakistan's "egregious infractions" in Balochistan where "enforced disappearances and killings" have assumed "epidemic proportions".

Significantly, the 'Stop Baloch Genocide' poster campaign, organised by the Baloch Human Rights Council (BHRC) at the Broken Chair monument area here, coincides with the 42nd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Broken Chair is a monumental sculpture made in wood by the Swiss artist Daniel Berset. Several protests and demonstrations in Geneva are organised in this area.

"Balochistan is the most deprived region within Pakistan. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) — a project allegedly aimed at improving the lives of the people of Pakistan and China — has only exacerbated the deprivation and given Pakistan an excuse to abuse and profit from the abundant resources available on Baloch lands," a BHRC release said.

"What has been officially lauded as an effort to promote bilateral connectivity, investment, and trade initiatives has actually functioned as state-sanctioned 'cultural extermination'," it said.

The poster campaign that began on Friday comes at a time when Pakistan and India are engaged in a war of words on Kashmir after India abrogated Article 370 provisions. The Indian side has hit out at Pakistan for committing rights violations against ethnic and religious minorities.

The BHRC seeks to raise vital awareness about Pakistan's "egregious infractions" with the poster campaign and highlight the country's "ever-worsening exploitation" of the region. The poster campaign asserts that "enforced disappearances and killings have assumed epidemic proportions".

"Villages have been slashed and burned by the Pakistani Army to make room for the settlement of Chinese colonies. Those Baloch whose homes have been destroyed are forced to resettle in abject conditions near the Pakistani Army camps, where they suffer under incessant, hostile surveillance," the BHRC said.

African leaders laud Mugabe at state funeral in divided Zimbabwe

AFP ■ HARARE

Zimbabwe gave former leader Robert Mugabe a state funeral on Saturday with African leaders paying tribute to a man they lauded as a liberation hero but whose 37-year rule was defined by repression and economic turmoil.

Mugabe, who died in Singapore last week aged 95, left Zimbabwe deeply divided over his legacy with his country still struggling with high inflation and shortages of goods after decades of crisis.

He died on an overseas medical trip almost two years after former army loyalists forced him out in 2017, following a power struggle over what was widely perceived as a bid to position his wife Grace as his successor.

Former and current African leaders, including South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa and Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta, arrived to crowds chanting and drumming liberation songs at the less than half-filled 60,000-seat national stadium in Harare.

Solid gold toilet stolen from English stately home

AFP ■ LONDON

A gang of thieves on Saturday stole an 18-carat gold toilet from an art exhibition at Britain's Blenheim Palace, police said — causing flooding to the World Heritage Site.

The fully-functioning piece by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, dubbed "America", was once displayed at New York's Guggenheim museum and offered on loan to US President Donald Trump.

A 66-year-old man has been arrested over the theft at the 18th-century stately home in Oxfordshire, where an exhibition of Cattelan works opened on Thursday.



"The offenders broke into the palace overnight and left the scene at about 4.50am (0350 GMT). No-one was injured during the burglary," local police said.

this has caused significant damage and flooding.

"We believe a group of offenders used at least two vehicles during the offence.

"The artwork has not been recovered at this time but we are conducting a thorough investigation to find it and bring those responsible to justice." Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was closed to the public on Saturday morning due to "an incident", but it did not give further details.

The palace is home to the 12th duke of Marlborough and his family, and was also the birthplace of British wartime leader Winston Churchill.

"The offenders broke into the palace overnight and left the scene at about 4.50am (0350 GMT). No-one was injured during the burglary," local police said.

"We believe a group of offenders used at least two vehicles during the offence.

"The artwork has not been recovered at this time but we are conducting a thorough investigation to find it and bring those responsible to justice." Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was closed to the public on Saturday morning due to "an incident", but it did not give further details.

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SHOW TIME

It's laugh-riot all through



DREAM GIRL
*ing: Ayushmann Khurrana, Nushrat Bharucha, Annu Kapoor, Manjot Singh, Vijay Raaz
Rated: 6/10

It is very rare for Bollywood to make a rom-com and ensure that it is able to hold its worth in gold till the very end. Not delivering a good comedy is not due to lack of talent or good writers. So when one comes across a film that manages to make the audience laugh till the very end, then the person who has written the dialogues needs to be given a pat on the back. In this case it goes to Raaj Shaandilyaa who is the director of *Dream Girl*.

We all know that a movie that portrays middle class resonate with the masses since they manage to find a connect. That is a major contributor why such a movie finds many takers. Then there's the fact that people love to laugh. A rom-com that has the right ingredients works wonders. Add to that the lead character who works with a call centre... *main Pooja bol raheen hoon, mujhse dosti karogey* — it will have the audience in splits from the word go.

We all love to laugh and if we can do that for 132 minutes, it is *paisa wasool* when one goes to see *Dream Girl*. However, one needs to keep all sensibilities at home. Also if you are the kind of person who wants to only watch meaningful cinema, this film is not for you.

But one may want to see this one for Khurrana who has given a great performance. His reactions to men wanting to marry him, of people who touch his feet because he plays Sita are brilliant to say the least. One will also get a kick out of why and how he always ends playing Sita, Draupadi and even Radha.

Then there is some great performance from Annu Kapoor who plays Khurrana's father in this one. The two share a fabulous chemistry. Vijay Raaz as a cop, a *shayar* with a cantankerous wife at home, wins your heart. Manjot Singh as Khurrana's friend is just as good. A special mention for the 90-something *dadi* (Neela Mulherkar) who downs whiskey like a pro.

Overall *Dream Girl* makes for a laugh-riot all through.

— Shalini Sakseena

An engaging courtroom drama

SECTION 375
*ing: Akshaye Khanna, Richa Chadda, Rahul Bhat, Meera Chopra
Rated: 6/10

Section 375 of IPC defines rape as a criminal offence and states that a man is said to commit rape when he has sexual intercourse with a woman against her or without her consent or if she is a minor — under any of the following situations: Against her will; Without her consent. Just penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape. This sets as the backdrop for Ajay Bahl's *Section 375: Marzi Ya Zabardasti*. The opening stand that Akshaye Khanna, who plays a hot-shot defence lawyer Tarun Saluja, takes — Law is about facts, Justice is abstract — gives you a fair warning what is to unfold.

The courtroom drama is taut and Bahl ensures that his character keep pace with how things progress in the 123 minute drama that will keep you engaged till the very end. In most of the films, the end is rather predictable. But *Section 375...* throws a curve ball. The dialogue at the end sums it beautifully when Khanna says: We are not in the business of justice; we are in the business of law.

While the performances are good, the kind here are the brilliant one-liners and the smoothness with which the two lawyers — defence and prosecutrix — argue on behalf of their clients makes this movie a must watch even if the end leaves one with a slightly bad taste in the mouth especially if you are a woman.

— Shalini Sakseena



'Acting makes me feel alive'

PEARL V PURI, who is now seen in Colors' *Bepanah Pyaarr*, tells MUSBA HASHMI that it is the most challenging project and that he will be releasing his compositions soon



What is your role?

I play Raghbir, a dark and intense character. He has lost someone whom he loved very much. He is traumatised, is grieving and in deep sorrow. He lives in a different world of his own and can't accept things easily. He is living in a confused state of mind wherein there's no truth or no lies for him. The story of *Bepanah Pyaarr* is very different with a different perspective.

What made you say yes?

The thing which attracted me towards this show is that it is a male-oriented show. The script is fresh. Also being a part of such shows comes with great responsibility and I hope I will be able to do justice to my character. A lot of money and effort has gone into this show. I believe the audience will like it.

What do you like and dislike about your character?

There is nothing that I dislike about my role. The reason being it is a challenging role and I love challenges. While you are playing such intense character, you have to bring in that reality and

emotion in it so that the audience can feel what you are going through. I have to be expressive.

From Dil Ki Nazar Se Khoosurat to Bepanah Pyaarr, how have things changed?

It's been six long years. I have had good and some bad times. But, everything was rightly placed by God. Things worked well for me. I just believe in being a good human being. I always try to make myself better every day. That's where my focus lies.

I am a public figure; I want people to learn good things from me. Being an actor, people keep an eye on everything that we do and we have to respect that. We have to set a good example for the society because many people follow us. I am trying to be the best version of myself.

What was the most challenging project?

The one that I am part of at present — *Bepanah Pyaarr*. And not only for me but for the whole team, I believe. I also had to shed some weight for the role. It is a sad character so I have to bring in that dullness in my personality. I cannot look happy.

I try to play Raghbir even when I am not shooting to make my character look as real life as possible in reel. Otherwise it will become difficult for me to switch on and off from this rather intense character. As actors, we have to live with our characters so that we can bring out their essence on-screen.

What does acting mean to you?

Acting is something which makes me feel alive. My approach towards acting is to keep it as real as it can be. To imitate someone is not acting; to be real and to feel the characters you are playing is acting for me. Acting is no rocket science. You just have to get the feelings right and portray your characters in good faith and you are good to go.

You were top ranked in Times Most Desirable Men's list. How did it feel?

I didn't know that I have been ranked No 1 in the list. I got to know it from somebody and then I read the story. It was a great moment because a lot of people want to see their names in the list and fortunately I topped it. Wherever I am today is because of my family and fans who continue to shower their love on me and extend their support.

I feel blessed to have been working in this industry and getting so much appreciation for my work.

You also released your album Peerh Meri. How did the transition from an actor to a singer happen?

I am into music since I was in Class VIII. I used to write songs and till date I have written and composed more than 100 songs.

I'll release them too when the right time comes. Just like I felt that the time was right to release my first song and I did it.

KBC gets its 9th crorepati

KBC 11 has finally found its first crorepati. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with SANJOJ RAJ, a 25-year-old Civil Services aspirant from Bihar, about what it took to reach the hot seat

Sitting on the hot seat with Big B right in front is every Indian's dream. While it come true for some, others merely enjoy Big-B's aura on their TV screens. *Kaun Banega Crorepati* has turned eleven and after almost one month into the new season, the show has finally found its first crorepati. Yes, you read that right. A 25-year-old boy from Bihar's Jehanabad district, Sanoj Raj, has become the first contestant to have won ₹1 crore. He went on attempting the *koti ki choti prashan* — ₹7 crore question, but decided to quit the game.

Raj, an engineer by profession, who lives in a joint family, is preparing for the Civil Services. It took Raj, hours of studying and months of preparations to crack the KBC code.

"I worked as an engineer for two-and-a-half years. I was paid well. But, I decided to give up on my job and concentrate on my Civil Services preparations. I used to study for hours and gather as much information as possible. I used to read a lot of books as well," he says.

The adage, life is not a bed of roses, holds true to Raj, who was trying to enter the show for the last eight years, but failed.

"Not even for once did I think that I should quit. I knew I have to be on the hot seat, no matter how long it will take. I was confident that I will make it there one day. And that time came on Friday," he says and tells you that it doesn't took him any extra preparations for the show but what he studied for the Civil Services.

It was nothing short of a festivity in Raj's family when they got to know about his selection. "My uncle got a call from the team that I was selected in *KBC*. He then went on to tell the news to my family and friends. I was out for some work then and I got to know about it from my friends. I was on cloud nine," he says.

Meeting Amitabh Bachchan and sharing the stage with him gave Raj goosebumps.

"The moment I stepped on to the stage my heartbeat increased. I was nervous. It was a dream come true moment for me. Once you are on the hot seat, in the centrestage with so many people around it sent shivers down the spine. But, once Big B starts talking he makes sure that the other person gets comfortable," he tells you.

Raj was confident that he will win ₹50 lakh but winning as much as ₹1 crore came as a surprise.

With the winning amount, Raj want to complete his Civil Services preparations, open a nursery for his father in his village and travel all through the Indian sub-continent.

"We are already exploiting our environment a lot. By opening up the nursery I want to contribute my bit towards Nature. I know it will not solve all the problems but it will definitely help fighting some. I love travelling and exploring places — North-east being my favourite. I will first travel to Meghalaya



Sanoj Raj with Amitabh Bachchan after winning ₹1 crore on KBC 11

and then explore the other places with the remaining amount," he says.

He recalls that when he won ₹1 crore he was about to burst into tears.

"It was a moment of extreme joy. I felt like all my hard work had paid off. It was hard to believe that in just an hour I have turned into a millionaire. My success

mantra is to have patience and take one step at a time. Leaps and bounds would take you nowhere. Not only destiny but my family played their part too. They supported me through thick and thin. They had faith in all my decisions, they knew I will make it big some day. And I am proud to have proved them right," he tells you.

TELLYTALE

SALMAN TURNS CHEF



Bigg Boss, a show that increases the appetite for gossip and makes dinner table conversations even spicier, is set to return. To heighten the excitement, the unprecedented host of the show, Salman Khan shot a promo, that will build a lot of anticipation and tickle your entertainment taste buds.

Serving a platter of surprises, excitement, and drama, the upcoming season of *Bigg Boss* will be packed with elements of spice and unpredictability. Dressed in a chef's jacket in the promo, Salman was seen cooking *khichdi* and *raita* showcasing how the new season will leave the contestants baffled with its unending twists. With the anticipation of a major twist approaching, the inmates will have to up their game from the word go.

With drama being whipped up at every step of the season, the viewers can look forward to a lot of fun and excitement.

MANIESH IS BACK WITH MORE FUN

So, you call yourself a movie buff? Know every last detail about even their least popular films? Well, it's about time you celebrate your passion for movies and have a li'l masti while you're at it! Zee TV is all set to introduce its latest offering — a first-of-its-kind light-hearted, comical Bollywood game show *Movie Masti* with Maniesh Paul.

Hosted by the inimitable Maniesh Paul and a crazy, quirky, odd-ball Bollywood-obsessed family inspired by every Hindi movie stereotype, the show will unravel the unseen and unscripted side of Bollywood celebrities by subjecting them to tricky tasks, fun games and rapid-fire quizzes, all about movies!

Movie Masti with Maniesh Paul will see four hot Bollywood celebrities coming in each week to participate in the game show



with the common man (or woman) as their partner in proving that their filmy quotient is the highest. Together, their love and passion for movies will be put to test and interrupting them every step of the way will be this mischievous, Bollywood-crazy family of roasters and pranksters and at the helm of this quirky comical brigade is host Maniesh Paul.

This family will feature a motley of filmy characters ranging from a melodramatic *maa* — a mother like no other who embodies every mother stereotype ever, a father who is a self-proclaimed villain — one who looks old but feels rather young. Adding to this interesting mix is the duo of a talented but wheeler-dealer of a manager and a naughty, seductive *padosi* Bhabhi.

SEEMA TURNS VO ARTIST

Seema Mishra who hails from Mumbai and has been working in the television industry for quite some has been roped in to lend her voice for the *sutradhaar* of the show, Shehnaai in & TV's upcoming show *Naye Shaadi Ke Siyape*. Being a television artist, she was always keen on exploring different roles and with *Naye Shaadi Ke Siyape*, she will be debuting as a voice over artist. While she has been offered several voicing projects in the past, this particular offer really excited her.

Shehnaai a talking van is the wagon in which Mubarak, Babil, and Bunty travel for weddings across the city. Set to give a third-person perspective, the talking van is a never-seen-before concept on television where viewers will see the van narrate the situations that take place at all the weddings organised by the wedding planners. In the show, the Shehnaai will be seen as Mubarak's only companion who has been with him through thick and thin. So much that Mubarak goes back to the Shehnaai for every good or bad situation that occurs in his life hence setting the premise that he shared a very close bond with the van.

WILL BAALVEER FIND HIS SUCCESSOR?

The legend of Baalveer is back! One of the most loved superheroes on Indian television will invite the fans to the mystical worlds of *veer lok* and *kaal lok*. The show is set to revolutionise the way people watch fantasy dramas on TV. The new cast will be supported by characters brought to life bycutting edge VFX. All this comes together on a brand new, state of art sets where the magic unfolds to provide a thrilling, edge-of-the-seat, visual treat to the viewers. Watch this highly anticipated return of superhero with *Baalveer Returns* every Monday to Friday at 8 pm on Sony SAB.

During an intense battle with a giant Bhoochal from *kaal lok*, Baalveer is hit by the most lethal weapon, *kaal shastra*, where Baalveer takes his last breath. Shaurya, the guiding white lion, with his immense powers resurrects Baalveer while informing him that his glorious powers are draining due to the effect of *kaal shastra* and it is time to look for the chosen one, the worthy successor of Baalveer. All the magnificent fairies and Baalveer embark on their journey to Earth on a quest to find the chosen one.

In the other world, *kaal lok* is restless with Baalveer's revival and Timnasa in order to fulfil her mission to destroy Baalveer, dedicates her deadliest beast,



Bhoochal, to follow Baalveer on Earth and create the ultimate destruction to draw him out.

Will Timnasa get hold of Baalveer again? Will Baalveer be able to find his successor?

RAMBO: LAST BLOOD TO HIT SCREENS

The highly awaited movie from the hit franchise *Rambo* is all set to hit the Indian screens this September. *Rambo: Last Blood* supposedly the last movie of the franchise will be releasing on the September 20, 2019 by PVR Pictures and MVP Entertainment. The film stars Sylvester Stallone in his iconic role as John Rambo along with Adriana Barraza, Oscar Jaenada, Paz Vega, Joaquin Cosio and many others in significant characters. The film is directed by Adrian Grunberg.

The trailer of the film is already grabbing many eyeballs as the last time we saw Sylvester in *Rambo's* character was back in 2008. Now 11 years later we see this veteran war actor reprising his gritty role as John Rambo in a power-packed action thriller. In the film John Rambo teams up with a reporter to save a kidnapped girl from a vicious drug cartel in Mexico. The film surely promises a lot of high scale action packed scenes and will be surely a visual treat to all the *Rambo* fans in India.

DHARMENDRA GOT EMOTIONAL

The upcoming episode of *Colors' Dance Deewane* will witness the three generations of the Deol family grace the stage. While the audience and the contestants were thrilled and happy about seeing the legend walk the stage, there was also a moment where the emotional side of the He-Man was revealed.

The contestants of the show paid a grand tribute to the actor, who we have all grown up watching and admiring. They performed a musical depicting Dharmendra's journey, his struggles and achievements which got him emotional. While the nostalgia kicked in, it also got the legend Dharmendra emotional and he broke down in tears of joy. Unable to contain himself, he thanked *Colors* and *Dance Deewane*, with a for creating this magical moment that took him down the memory lane.

NAMBI NARAYANAN speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA what the Chandrayaan-2 mission means for the nation's space programme and that the next step should be formation of an Asian space agency with India at the helm

WISHING FOR THE MOON



WHY SOUTH POLE?

Had India succeeded in its mission for a soft land on the South Pole of the Moon, it would have created history — no other country in the world has ever landed on this side of the Earth's satellite. There are a few reasons why we chose South Pole:

- This part of the Moon has remained untouched by sunlight for billions of years. Its craters have been untouched by sunlight for billions of years offering an undisturbed record of the solar system's origins
- It is speculated that this side may hold million tons of water
- Lunar South Pole's regolith has traces of hydrogen, ammonia, methane, sodium, mercury, and silver, making it an untapped source of essential resources.



THE ORBITER

At the time of launch, the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter was capable of communicating with Indian Deep Space Network (IDSN) at Bialalu as well as the Vikram Lander. The mission life of the Orbiter is seven years and it will be placed in a 100 x 100 km lunar polar orbit.

The Orbiter camera is the highest resolution camera (0.3m) in any lunar mission so far and shall provide high resolution images which will be immensely useful to the global scientific community.

The Orbiter that weighs 2,379 kg will revolve around the Moon and provide information about its evolution, topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, lunar exosphere and signatures of hydroxyl and water-ice.



VIKRAM—LANDER

The Lander of Chandrayaan-2 is named Vikram after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the Father of the Indian Space Programme. It is designed to function for one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 Earth days. The Vikram has the capability to communicate with IDSN at Bialalu near Bengaluru, as well as with the Orbiter and Rover. The Lander, which weighs 1,471 kg, was designed to execute a soft landing on the lunar surface. It hard landed on September 6, 2019. Even though it has been spotted by the Orbiter, there has been no communication with it for the last eight days.



PRAGYAN—ROVER LOADED

Chandrayaan 2's Rover is a six-wheeled robotic vehicle named Pragyan, which translates to wisdom in Sanskrit. It can travel up to 500 metres and leverages solar energy for its functioning. It can only communicate with the Lander. It weighs 27 kg.

Its mission was to send back the measurements of moonquakes. It would also send more information about the history of the ancient rocks present on the Moon's surface.

Courtesy: Indian Space Research Organisation



In spite of the opinions of certain narrow-minded people, who would shut up the human race upon this globe, as within some magic circle it must never outstep, we shall one day travel to the moon, the planets, and the stars, with the same facility, rapidity, and certainty as we now make the voyage from Liverpool to New York!

— Jules Verne

The ₹978-crore Chandrayaan-2 mission, India's first attempt to land on the Moon's South Pole on September 6, 2019 accomplished 90-95 per cent of the mission objectives even though Vikram did a hard landing and is yet to establish contact with base station despite being spotted by the Orbiter.

In a statement, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said: "The success criteria was defined for each and every phase of the mission, and till date, 90 to 95 per cent of the objectives have been accomplished and will continue to contribute to lunar science, notwithstanding the loss of communication with the Lander."

The Chandrayaan-2 mission was highly complex, which represented a significant technological leap compared to its previous missions. The mission brought together an Orbiter, Lander and Rover to explore the unexplored South Pole of the Moon. Since the launch of Chandrayaan-2 on July 22, 2019, not only India but the whole world watched its progress from one phase to the next with great expectations.

India embarked on an inter-planetary mission in 2008 with its first Moon operation Chandrayaan. The ₹386-crore mission laid the foundation for India's Mars Orbiter Mission in terms of technologies as well as the infrastructure for future deep space missions. The Chandrayaan-1 conclusively discovered traces of water on the Moon. It also discovered water ice in the North Polar region of the Moon. It also detected magnesium, aluminium and silicon on the lunar surface.

India's second Moon mission made it the fourth nation, after the US, Russia and China, to have achieved this feat. While India is the only nation to come closest to a successful landing on the South Pole of the Moon, probes to the satellite have had a lot of precedence. The US has touched the other side of the Moon 28 times, Russia 21 times, China six and Japan and Europe one each. Israel's only attempt has been a failure.

Interestingly, the partial failure of Chandrayaan-2 and the Mars missions doesn't have an immediate impact on the current satellite programmes of ISRO. Chandrayaan-1's mission was to only establish the technology to reach the lunar orbit. The Mars Mission was a little more

complex — it was to establish if that route could be used to reach the planet.

"On the way to Mars or any other planet, there are several hazards like gravitational pull, radiation and situations. Then there are meeting points of two planets which make it easy to transfer from one orbit to another. For Mars mission, calculations had to be made much in advance when to leave the Earth to meet that meeting point which is once a year. These are experiments which we are doing to establish technology and route. Chandrayaan-1 was with PSLV rocket. Chandrayaan-2 was with GSLV-III. Chandrayaan went with PSLV because the cryogenic programme was pushed back by 10-12 years. That mission could not carry lander, orbiter or rover. We just dropped a payload — a suggestion that came from former Late President APJ Kalam," Nambi Narayanan, an Indian scientist and aerospace engineer and Padma Bhushan award winner, says.

With this backdrop, India has over the years achieved many things, many that were outlined by Prof Dhawan back in the late 70s, like a four ton satellite, we want to do remote sensing, telecommunication and oceanography.

"We were very clear with what we wanted with satellites. This has been achieved over a period of 30 years. With respect to deep space operations, we have not defined the goal well. If we had asked what after Chandrayaan, nobody would have said Chandrayaan-2. Today, if you ask what next, somebody may suggest Chandrayaan-3.

"But there is no need for this. What would be the goal of Chandrayaan-3? At best, to rectify the problem of 2. If rectified, so what? No one has the answer to this. Now, Gaganyaan has been announced — to send an astronaut into space for three-four days but not to a planet. This is expected to take in 2022. An astronaut to land on Earth doesn't need a soft landing, he can parachute. This means we don't need to perfect soft landing for the next three-four years," Narayanan tells you.

The prudent question to ask is whether India is going to have deep space programme beyond Gaganyaan. Narayanan says that the answer should be 'yes'.

What we should do is to land on the Moon, then Mars and so forth. This will put us at par with the US and China, countries that are making an attempt to go to the Moon and beyond. "Of course, India may not want to do these things. Many countries like France and Italy are not interested. If this is the stand why Gaganyaan? There is no need for it. We have yet to define our goals with respect to space. With the way things are going, we are going to go for soft landing to the Mars and the Moon. In this case, we need

to perfect soft landing skills in a phased manner. This will require a bigger booster on the lines of China and the US, like the Chang 4-5 or the 180 or the Falcon, respectively. This can be done in the next three years," Narayanan shares and explains the difference between soft landing and crash landing by giving an example.

Let's take landing done an aircraft. When it lands smoothly, like it normally does, it is called soft landing. However, when the aircraft develops a problem and can't land the way it should, it is called crash landing. The same holds true Lander Vikram. The advantage of soft landing is that the instruments are intact. In a hard landing, the instruments may get damaged inside, even if one the outside it may look intact.

Narayanan tells you that this talk of India begin the fourth country to go to the Moon, needs to stop. "We are not only at par with the US and China but can be equal or even better than them. The only question is whether we are willing to bear

be a roadblock.

"China has now gone to a part of the Moon that has not been sunlit for billions of years; this is the dark side of the Moon. They reported that they saw a jelly like substance. What that means, only time and future missions to that area will reveal. Take the US who have had 50 per cent success as has Russia. This is not a good number. Israel failed in their lone mission. India was successful in its Mars Mission in its first attempt. China failed in its first attempt. Therefore, a failure is not a justification to say that it should not and couldn't happen. Obviously, some mistake has been made during landing," Narayanan says.

Where should India go from here? What should be the next step? Is it going to be Chandrayaan-3? According to Narayanan, there is no need for it.

"We have established how to go to the Moon. While we may have not been successful in the soft landing part, there is nothing to worry about. We can rectify it with the next mission.

"From here on, we should form an Asian space agency (ASA) in line with the European Space Agency (ESA). If you look at the Asian countries, there is Indonesia, Thailand, Middle-East and even China and Japan. There are around 23 countries that come together to form a consortium and make a contributory fund. Here, India should take the lead. The second is that the space requirement of the other countries can be met and one can generate business.

"Third, it will help place the satellites in strategic positions. For example, if we need an air station, say over Dubai, then there won't be a problem if Dubai is a part of the consortium. Also, there is news that US President Donald Trump is talking about how the route to the Moon should be regulated. It is not clear what that will entail.

"The ASA will help bring the countries together which can ease border problems as well. This should finally lead to bringing together of the ASA, ESA and NASA to tackle space issues. India can't do it alone. For that matter, nor can the US," Narayanan stresses.

He tells you there is need to define long-term goals for the country's space programme and have a vision for the future.

"I had posed a similar question to Prof UR Rao and Prof Satish Dhawan, (former ISRO chairmen). They had a wait and watch policy. 'We will look at it once we reach that stage,' they had told me. What they referring to were funding constraints. They knew they couldn't have asked for more funds. Back then, nobody would have cared even if we had long-term goals for the outer space programmes. Today, we are somebody," Narayanan opines.

CHANDRAYAAN 2's CAMPUS CONNECT

MUSBA HASHMI touches base with college which supplied parts for Vikram

Although Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all of India hailed the Chandrayaan-2 mission as successful, for professors and doctoral students from Sonu College of Technology, Salem, Tamil Nadu, Vikram's hard landing was a deeply disappointing moment.

They had a crucial role to play in Chandrayaan-2's attempt to land on the Moon as the college's Special Electrical and Electronics Drives Division (SPEED) had supplied three products for the mission. These were, the fuel mixer motors that mix liquid oxygen with fuel, the doppler mechanism for Vikram module to guide the laser to ensure smooth landing on the moon and the robotic arm to enable the Vikram to collect sand and rock samples from the Moon.

This is not the first time that the college has supplied the components to the ISRO.

They have been working with it for seven years. The R&D efforts of the SPEED division have led to the institute supplying ISRO with special purpose BLDC (Brushless DC) motors for satellites and rockets as well as lunar robots for many earlier missions.

"It was a momentous day for India as ISRO's scientists got us so near the Moon through Chandrayaan-2. Our researchers, professors and doctoral students should not be disappointed. The Moon landing would have been the icing on the cake, but the Orbiter is working fine with eight payloads and we do have the cake. These efforts will go a long way in India's quest to unravel what is on the Moon," says Chocko Valliappa, VC, Sonu College of Technology.

He adds that the parts were imported earlier, but SPEED supplied them at a much lower price as compared to the cost of imported components. This is not all. The college will continue to design and develop parts like stepper motors and gyroscopes for ISRO.

"We are also supplying radiation patches to protect the satellites by coating them with Quantum well-based photo detector epitaxial structure for ISRO," he tells you.

TIMELINE

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh approved the Chandrayaan-2, lunar mission: September 18, 2008. Planning of the mission in process
- Chandrayaan-2 launch: July 22, 2019 —
- Moon landing: September 7, 2019
- Orbital experiment which will be operational for seven years

the cost," he says.

Does this mean that science is only about experimentation and not result? "Science is about experimentation and result. This result may not necessarily be successful. For example, we want to conduct an experiment on whether a particular thing exists. If we find it does, we can say that the experiment is successful. Take Chandrayaan-2 experiment to soft land. This experiment would have only come in use after seven-10 years. Now, we first need to complete Gaganyaan. Only then we should attempt soft landing on the Moon. Not that the time frame is a cause of worry and hurry for Chandrayaan-3," Narayanan explains and tells you that the number of failures or successes should not

MASTERMINDS BEHIND LUNAR PROBE

From a farmer's son to now Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman, the 62-year-old scientist, Kailasavadi Sivan, is an inspiration for many. It took the launch of Chandrayaan-2 for Sivan's story to fly high.

Born in Mela Sarakkalvilai, near Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, Sivan graduated from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1980. He then pursued aerospace engineering from Indian Institute of

Science, Bengaluru, in 1982 and joined ISRO soon after. He used to work on the design and development of launch vehicles.

Sivan is the first person to have graduated in his family. Having born to a poor farmer, Sivan had to go through a lot of financial crunch. He didn't even have money to buy sandals and pants till he went to college.

According to reports his father had to sell about a quarter of an acre



K Sivan, Chairman, ISRO

of land to send Sivan to MIT.

He is a perfectionist who expects his team members to give their 100 per cent. He believes in leading a humble life and prefers to wear simple clothes, white being his favourite colour.

His work is well-recognised and he has several accolades to his name: Shri Hari Om Ashram Prerit Dr Vikram Sarabhai Research Award (1999) and ISRO Merit Award (2007), to name a few.

There is an adage: Behind every successful man there is a woman. This holds true when it comes to the success of Chandrayaan-2, but with a slight modification in the saying: Behind every successful mission there is a woman. Hard to believe? May be not after if one has seen the movie *Mission Mangal*.

Meet, Lucknow-based Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, the mission director of Chandrayaan-2. The house in Rajajipuram, where Srivastava lived, is suddenly the

centre of attraction and has acquired celebrity status almost overnight.

The phone line is continuously engaged and after considerable effort, Ritu's sister Varsha agreed to speak.

"We are so proud of our sister. After our parents' demise, she is the eldest in the family and has been a mother figure to me and my brother Rohit," she said.

Varsha recalls that Ritu was always fond of the stars. "My mother would stay awake all night with *Didi* (Ritu) when she studied. *Didi* was always fond of stars and

would lie awake staring at the sky. *Didi* was curious to know what lay beyond the sky. We belong to a middle class family but *Didi* always yearned to go beyond the limits," she recalled.

In 1997, Ritu received a letter inviting her to join the ISRO office in Bengaluru. The decision was tough but her parents allowed her to go and pursue her dreams.

Ritu's husband, Avinash, and her two children Aditya and Anisha, are her biggest supporters in her starry mission.

India eye perfect start

Men In Blue ready to take on Quinton de Kock-led Proteas in first T20

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Virat Kohli will be venturing into the unknown with a clean slate, where a few seasoned hands will be backing a group of immensely talented youngsters, in his quest for World T20 title which begins with a three-match bilateral series against South Africa here on Sunday.

The 3-0 series win against the West Indies could be called a pre-cursor as it was just after enduring a disappointing end to their ODI World Cup campaign.

The real battle begins now with this series against Quinton de Kock and Kagiso Rabada who are also in the midst of a tough transition phase.

A good spell from Rabada or a cameo from David Miller could pose challenge for the Indians, while some of the others like Test specialist Temba Bavuma or Anrich Nortje will like to prove their credentials in absence of Faf du Plessis or Hashim Amla.

There will be around 20 odd matches for captain Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri to build a near perfect combination going into the World T20 in Australia in October next year.

There are many questions that the team management will have to answer in the next 13 months during which IPL will also be held.

Save Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma, all-rounder Hardik Pandya and premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah (rested for this series), at least seven slots in playing XI and four more in the 15-member squad are up for grabs, with some bold steps on cards.

Retirement is Mahendra Singh Dhoni's individual call but does the team manage-



Rishabh Pant bats during a practice session before the 1st T20 against South Africa



Junior Dala, left, and Tabraiz Shamsi chat as they leave the ground

ment intend to look ahead like the selection committee does?

It is yet to be known and Rishabh Pant's indiscretions doesn't make it easier for Kohli and Shastri.

Manish Pandey has been in and around for years now and despite the kind of quality he possesses, the Karnataka batsman has not inspired highest confidence in the chances he got.

So will it be Pandey at No 4 or Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer, who was in fine form during the Windies one days?

The other fascinating aspect will be the future of spin twins Yuzvendra Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav, at least in the shortest version.

Rajasthan leg-spinner Rahul Chahar is a young talent and is being billed as one for the future.

And with all-rounder Krunal Pandya also shaping up well and Ravindra Jadeja's experience set to come in handy, where does it leave the

much in demand wrist spin duo, who had replaced Ravichandran Ashwin and Jadeja (for the better part) post 2017 Champions Trophy.

Not to forget, India have a back up finger spinner in young Washington Sundar, who in his U-19 days was a hard-hitting top-order batsman. So next question is where does it leave Kuldeep and Chahal in T20 scheme of things?

Last but not the least is the pace department where Bumrah is the only certainty.

Deepak Chahar, who many in Indian cricket term as 'Poor Man's Praveen Kumar' for the movement he generates during first spell, is an inspired investment for shortest version.

And then there is Navdeep Saini with raw pace and Khaleel Ahmed bringing in the left-arm variety but known to leak runs. Will they be persisted with in the long run?

In next 13 months, Kohli will seek all the answers.



Joe Denly plays a shot during the fifth match at Oval

ICC/Twitter

Aussies hopes fade as Eng dominate

AFP ■ LONDON

Ben Stokes and Joe Denly battled England into a potentially match-winning position in the fifth and final Ashes Test at the Oval on Saturday as Australia's hopes of a series win faded.

At tea the home side — desperate to finish their World Cup-winning season on a high by levelling the series at 2-2 — were 193-2, leading by 262 runs.

England captain Joe Root will be wary of declaring too soon though as India last year made 345 batting fourth at the Oval chasing 464.

Denly was unbeaten on a Test-best score of 82 while Stokes, playing as a specialist batsman, was 57 not out after passing 400 runs for the series.

England enjoyed two slices of good fortune on a pitch offering little in the way of help for the bowlers as the September sun beat down from a clear London sky.

Steve Smith dropped Stokes in the slips when the batsman was on seven and Denly should have been out lbw on 54 but Australia failed to review.

Stokes started his innings slowly but accelerated, reaching his fifty off 89 balls with a huge six off leg-spinner Marcus Labuschagne over wide long-on.

The left-handed batsman is second only to Smith in the combined run-scoring charts over the series, albeit more than 300 runs adrift of the Australian's total of 751.

Off-spinner Nathan Lyon struck twice in the morning session, removing Rory Burns and Root but Australia failed to make a much-needed breakthrough after lunch.

Burns and Denly put on 54 for the first wicket — the highest opening stand of the series for either side — after surviving a torrid four over on Friday evening during which they scratched nine without loss and had Denly dropped by Marcus Harris.

The Australian opener split the webbing in his left hand in the drop and did not take the field on Saturday. He required stitches but is expected to bat.

Off-spinner Lyon struck in his third over when Burns bottom-edged a short ball outside off-stump, with wicketkeeper Tim Paine taking the catch.

Root also fell in tame fashion, edging Lyon to Smith at slip for 21 to leave England 87-2 in the 28th over.

Jofra Archer put England in pole position on Friday, taking six wickets to bowl Australia out for 225, giving the home side a useful first-innings lead of 69.

Rohit can help India chase down targets: Bangar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rohit Sharma needs to "maintain his individuality" as a Test opener and his success in the longest format can help India successfully chase down big targets, said former assistant coach Sanjay Bangar.

A revered opening batsman in limited over cricket, Rohit was included in the 15-member squad for the three-Test series against South Africa at home beginning on October 2.

"If he succeeds, his style of play will be extremely helpful to the team. It might result in being able to successfully chase down targets that we haven't achieved in the past, like in Cape Town and Edgbaston," Bangar told ESPNcricinfo in an interview.

The 32-year-old was seen as a middle-



order batsman in Tests but with Hanuma Vihari sealing the number 6 spot with some superlative performance in the Caribbeans, doors have opened up for Rohit to seal the opening slot in Test.

Bangar said: "The key to his success will be if he maintains his individual style of play. He has to maintain his individuality."

"At the moment, there is no place in the settled middle order in the Test team. Opening will be a new challenge for him, since he has rarely done it in the longer formats."

"But the advantage is that he will get to bat against a hard ball with plenty of gaps in the field. He will also not have to wait for his turn to bat, which will save his mental energy."

'We need to take advantage of India's inexperienced pace attack'

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

South Africa will like to put pressure on India's inexperienced pace trio of Navdeep Saini, Khaleel Ahmed and Deepak Chahar during the three-match T20 International series, visiting side's assistant batting coach Lance Klusener said here on Saturday.

Former South African all-rounder sensed it as an opportunity for the Proteas as their new look team tries to settle into a groove.

"Looking at the Indian team, that (inexperienced bowling attack) is an area we are going to take advantage of just like I suppose, you look at opposing teams and at areas, which you can take advantage of," Klusener said during a media interaction on the eve of the first T20 International.

However he made it clear that by no means he underestimates the Indian attack.

"They are great cricketers and we are not taking anything away from that and our focus will be on ourselves and little



Navdeep Saini bowls during net session

BCCI/Twitter

areas that we can take advantage and maybe that's one of them," he said.

Klusener was asked about what he expects from a player like Temba Bavuma, whose game is not naturally suited to the demands of T20 cricket.

"He recently got a hundred in the CSA (domestic) T20 final. It's easy to pigeonhole him and say okay he plays Test cricket. But Temba is wonder-

ful all-round cricketer. Yes he needs to learn a couple of all-round options and that's really about it," Klusener defended the pint-sized batsman's selection.

However, he agreed that Bavuma's game will be more about rotating the strike and give opportunities to big hitters like David Miller, Dwayne Pretorius or Andile Phehlukwayo.

"He is not the biggest guy, who can muscle the ball over the fence, but there are different ways of doing it. I am uncomfortable saying he is a red-ball cricketer. He has played two ODIs with a hundred and a fifty, so he is a good cricketer," the 48-year-old said.

"He will certainly get his opportunity on this tour and I think he is ready to make transition into being somebody in that engine room, who can be good at rotating strike and have good plans so that other hitters like David, Dwayne and Andile, some of the biggest hitters on the planet, can bat around him," he further added.

Smith unfazed by burden of Australia run-scoring



Steve Smith raises his bat after scoring a half century during 5th test

ICC/Twitter

LONDON ■ (AFP)

Steve Smith refused to blame his inconsistent teammates for their batting failures during the Ashes after he again shouldered the run-scoring burden for Australia.

The former skipper scored 80 at the Oval - his lowest total of a sensational series - as the tourists were bowled out for 225, 69 runs short of England's first-innings total of 294 on the second day of the fifth and final Test.

When he was asked for reasons for Australia's batting failures he said conditions had not been kind throughout the series but that players would learn from performing in unfamiliar conditions.

"We haven't seen any huge totals really throughout the whole series so it's not been easy," he said.

"There's always been something there, I felt. If you bowl in good areas for long enough then I think we've seen you'll get rewards."

"Playing in England is completely different from playing back home and you've got to find ways to play away from home," he added.

"Sometimes you need to change certain little things that can help you play in certain conditions and adapt accordingly but I think it will

be a good learning curve for all of our batters."

PRESSURES

Smith said he was able to shut out pressures and focus on the job in hand despite the weight of expectation on his shoulders.

"I just sort of do my thing and what people say it doesn't really bother me, it's just each time I go out to the middle I love batting and I just want to bat and score runs and help out the team," he said.

"People can say whatever they like, nice things, bad things, whatever. It really doesn't bother me."

"Who knows? When's the next Ashes series? I don't even know," he said. "Will I still be playing? I'm not sure. Who knows the answer to that? We'll see."

"He's a quality performer. He's got two five-fors in four Test matches (Archer has twice taken six wickets in an innings) and you don't get guys bowling 90 miles an hour growing on trees and with the skillset he's got."

"He's a terrific bowler and there's no doubt that he'll gain a lot of confidence from his first Test series." Australia, 2-1 up, have already retained the Ashes urn but are aiming to win their first Test series in England since 2001.

Dhoni cares for Indian cricket, says Kohli

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has always put the interest of Indian cricket in mind and is "on same page" with the team management as far as his international future is concerned, skipper Virat Kohli said on Saturday.

On the eve of the T20 International series against South Africa, Kohli maintained that the 38-year-old Dhoni will "remain valuable" as long as he continues playing the game even as team management grooms youngsters like Rishabh Pant.

"One great thing about him (Dhoni) is that, he thinks for Indian cricket. And whatever we (team management) think, he is on the same page. The alignment is there. The kind of mindset he has had about grooming youngsters and giving them opportunities, and he is still the same person," Kohli



Indian Skipper Virat Kohli speaks during a press conference

AP

replied when asked if the legend is in his scheme of things for next year's World T20 in Australia.

While Kohli reminded the scribes about Dhoni's ability to prove his detractors wrong, his answer on his impending international future was a bit open-ended.

"Look, experience is always

going to matter whether you like it or not. I mean there are a numerous number of times people have given up on sportsmen and they have proved people wrong and he (Dhoni) has done that many times in his career as well. As long as he is available and continues to play, he is going to be very valuable," Kohli said.

Miller in support of De Kock's captaincy

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

Quinton de Kock possesses an "incredible cricket brain", feels senior batsman David Miller, who is ready to perform "any role" that the new South African white-ball skipper wants him to. Left-handed Miller along with De Kock and Kagiso Rabada form the core of a new-look South African limited overs set-up which is going through a transition phase with first stop being tour of India.

"He's (Quinton) been around for many years, and he's got an incredible cricket brain. Like I said, it's exciting times — new skipper, new players and a lot of young, fresh faces," said Miller.

Miller is happy with the way De Kock is progressing as a leader and wants to lend all the support that he needs at the start of his new journey.

"It's been really good so far and we'll see as it progresses how we go along. It's really nice to be alongside him and supporting him in whatever role he wants me to do. Yeah, it's been great so far and hopefully it continues," Miller told reporters on the eve of the first T20 international, here on Sunday. It's a new-look side and Miller knows he will have to take the responsibility of guiding the younger crop of players.

"I feel playing while for the country there is always responsibility, regardless whether you are less experienced or more experienced. I mean I have been playing for many years now and that responsibility has been with me for a couple of years now, and it's really exciting," Miller said.

"Like you said, it's a young side and we've got a lot of energy amongst the squad. There are actu-



David Miller steps over a boundary net

AP

ally a lot of guys who have played a lot of cricket, in the A side and domestically. So, all of us are really, really experienced in each department and it's just a great stepping stone."

The Proteas had a forgettable World Cup and Miller wants to look ahead.

"Yeah, I think what happened at the World Cup is something to learn from. We did a few things wrong and it (results) never came out the way we wanted. So we are lucky that it's a new phase in South African cricket at the moment," said Miller.

Liverpool stretch Premier League lead, Chelsea, Tottenham hit form

AFF ■ LONDON

Liverpool recovered from a shock Newcastle opener to open up a five-point lead at the top of the Premier League with a 3-1 win at Anfield, as Tottenham and Chelsea bounced back to form with big wins on Saturday.

Tammy Abraham's sensational form continued as the English forward scored a hat-trick as Chelsea romped to a 5-2 win at Wolves.

Spurs were 4-0 up by half-time against Crystal Palace to record just their second win of the season as Son Heung-min scored twice, while Erik Lamela and an own goal from Patrick van Aanholt rounded off the scoring on a miserable day for the Eagles.

An injury-hit Manchester United coped without Paul Pogba to inflict Leicester's first defeat of the season as Marcus Rashford scored the only goal from the penalty spot in a 1-0 win at Old Trafford.

United join Tottenham and Chelsea on eight points from five games, but Liverpool protected the only 100 percent record in the league by reacting to a slow start in style.

Manchester City can close the gap at the top to two points with victory later on Saturday at Norwich.

Jetro Willems fired Newcastle in front on seven minutes to leave the European champions trailing at Anfield for the first time since March.

However, any lasting rift between Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah from Liverpool's last outing away to Burnley — when Mane was upset at the Egyptian for his greediness in front of goal — was forgotten as they combined to score all three goals for the hosts. Mane fired into the top corner to start the revival, but it was the introduction of Roberto Firmino off the bench for the injured Divock Origi that truly turned the tide in Liverpool's favour.

The Brazilian's through ball was spilled by Martin Dubravka to allow Mane a simple task for his second just before half-time, and another brilliant Firmino flick teed up



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah celebrates after scoring during the English Premier League match between Liverpool and Newcastle at Anfield stadium in Liverpool

Salah to seal the points 18 minutes from time.

"I started enjoying after 25 minutes, around about when we arrived finally in the game," said Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

"Second half we scored only one goal, but we played really good football and I liked it a lot. There were a few moments I enjoyed, not a lot but a few and enough to be the deserved winner today."

Frank Lampard has endured a difficult start on his return to Stamford Bridge as manager, but he enjoyed his finest day so far in charge of the Blues with his faith in youth again fully vindicated.

Fikayo Tomori, 21, fired the visitors in front at Molineux with his first goal for the club

before Abraham took over to take his tally to seven in his last three games with three brilliant finishes from close range.

Abraham's busy afternoon was not over as he then turned into his own net and Patrick Cutrone cut Wolves' deficit to two before Mason Mount rounded off the scoring for Chelsea late on.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino hoped that the end of the European transfer window would settle his squad and the Champions League finalists looked more like their old selves by tearing apart Palace from the off.

Son was the star of the show as the South Korean opened the scoring then finished off a fine team move by volleying home Serge Aurier's

cross after Van Aanholt deflected a cross into his own net.

Harry Kane was unable to build on his goalscoring form for England, but did play a part in the fourth as his cross was turned home by Lamela.

United had to suffer far more for just a second win in 10 league matches at home to the Foxes as Rashford shrugged off his recent miss from the spot against Palace to convert a penalty on eight minutes after he had been brought down by Caglar Soyuncu.

Brighton edged out Burnley 1-0 at the Amex thanks to Neil Maupay's winner early in the second-half.

Southampton were also 1-0 victors at Sheffield United courtesy of a brilliant strike from Moussa Djenebo.

Lakshya wins Belgian International badminton title

LEUVEN: Rising Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen stunned second seed Victor Svendsen of Denmark in straight games to clinch the men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge here on Saturday.

Lakshya was at his best as he notched up a comfortable 21-14 21-15 win over Svendsen in the title clash that lasted for 34 minutes. The 18-year-old from Almora had earlier beaten Denmark's Kim Bruun 21-18 21-11 win in a 48-minute semifinal clash on Friday night.

The semifinal clash was a close affair initially with Lakshya and Bruun exchanging



leads frequently before the Danish shuttler jumped to a 11-9 advantage at the break.

However, Lakshya erased the deficit after the interval and build on a slender 13-12 lead early on and then reeled off five straight points to grab a 11-3 lead at the breather. The Indian produced another burst of five straight points to create a huge gap which Bruun failed to bridge.

Sourabh seals final spot at Vietnam Open

PTI ■ HO CHI MINH CITY

India's Sourabh Verma out-tweeted Japan's Minoru Koga in straight games to progress to the men's singles finals of the USD 75,000 Vietnam Open BWF Tour Super 100 here on Saturday.

Second seed Sourabh, who had won the Hyderabad Open last month, overcame world no 112 Minoru 22-20 21-15 in a 51-minute semifinal clash.

The reigning national champion, who had won the Dutch Open and Korea Open last year, will now take on China's Sun Fei Xiang in the summit clash.

Sourabh had beaten Minoru en route to his title win at the Slovenian International earlier this year.

"Through to the finals here in Vietnam open super 100 tournament with a victory over japan's minoru koga 22-20,21-15. Will be playing against chinese tomorrow for the title," tweeted Sourabh after the win.

Sourabh fell behind 0-4 early on in the opening game but the Indian made amends quickly to grab a slender 11-9 advantage at the interval.

He reeled off three quick points to make it 14-9 but Minoru slowly clawed back at 18-18 and even held a game point at 20-19 but the Indian pocketed three straight points to earn the bragging rights.

Aduriz misses last-gasp penalty as Bilbao held by Mallorca



AFF ■ MADRID

Both sides missed late penalties as Athletic Bilbao squandered an opportunity to go top of La Liga in a dramatic 0-0 draw at Real Mallorca.

Aritz Aduriz saw his 96th-minute penalty saved by Manolo Reina, after Abdon Prats had dragged a spot-kick wide for the hosts on Friday.

The point keeps Bilbao unbeaten after four league games this season, but victory

would have seen them move two points clear of Atletico Madrid before the early leaders' game at Real Sociedad on Saturday.

The 38-year-old Aduriz had scored a stunning winner as a substitute against reigning champions Barcelona in the opening match of the season, but he turned villain in Mallorca as Reina dived to his left to palm away the striker's penalty.

In the 82nd minute, Prats,

who also came off the bench, had missed Mallorca's effort from 12 yards.

The drama was not over there, though, as Mallorca were not given another spot-kick following a VAR review, before they had a goal ruled out for offside in the ninth minute of added time.

On Saturday, Barcelona host Valencia, who surprisingly sacked coach Marcelino earlier this week, after Real Madrid take on Levante.

Amit Panghal, Manish Kaushik advance, Ashish bows out of World Championship

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) clinched resounding victories in their second-round bouts to ensure there was no stopping India's stupendous run at the World Men's Boxing Championships here on Saturday.

Panghal out-punched Chinese Taipei's Tu Po-Wei, while Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Kaushik also dominated The Netherlands' Enrico Lacruz as the duo clinched identical 5-0 triumphs.

The day, however, ended on a slightly disappointing note with seventh-seeded Asian silver-medallist Ashish Kumar (75kg) going down to China's Tuohetaerbieke Tanglatihan in a split 2-3 verdict.

The second-seeded Panghal, an Asian Games gold-medallist who had been given a first-round bye, will be up against Turkey's Baluhan Citici in the pre-quarterfinals.

Manish has a tough one at hand as he will square off against fourth-seeded Mongolian Chinzorig Baatarsukh, a silver-medallist at the Asian Games as well as the Asian Championships.

Sharp as ever with his attacks, Panghal dominated Po-Wei from the first round



itself to notch up a comfortable 5-0 win.

The boxer from Taipei spent most of his time trying to avoid any engagement, prompting the referee to caution him against the passive approach.

"I had fought him earlier as well in the Asian

Championships' first round and won 3-2. This time I was keen to ensure that the fight was not that close and I managed to do that," Panghal, 23, said after the bout.

"I decided to be aggressive from the very first round and log as many scoring punches as possible," he added.

A quarterfinalist in the last edition of the World Championship in Hamburg, Panghal's trademark aggression and the pace was something that Po-Wei just couldn't cope with.

In the evening session, Kaushik, competing in his maiden World Championship, was equally ruthless against Lacruz.

The former national champion had little trouble connecting his combination punches against an opponent, whose defence was mostly non-existent and the attacking streak also fizzled out after the opening round.

Ashish, on the other hand, was locked in a draining contest. Tanglatihan was not the more attacking but was certainly the more accurate of the two, managing to move in and out effortlessly against a slightly slower Ashish.

Panghal, who lost to the then-defending champion Hasanboy Dumatov in the quarterfinals in 2017, has been in tremendous form for more than a year now.

Even a change of weight category, from 49kg to 52kg, has had little impact on his performance.

In fact, his Asian Championship gold earlier this year came within a couple of months of him going up to 52kg.

Zadran sets up record win for Afghanistan

DHAKA: Najibullah Zadran hit a blistering half-century as Afghanistan beat Zimbabwe by 28 runs in their first match of the tri-nation Twenty20 International tournament in Dhaka on Saturday.

Zadran smashed an unbeaten 69 off 30 balls, with five fours and six sixes guiding Afghanistan to 197-5 before their bowlers restricted Zimbabwe to 169-7 to equal their own record of 11 consecutive wins in Twenty20 internationals.

Regis Chakabva hit 42 off 22 balls not out for Zimbabwe but they came late as Afghanistan bowlers made some early breakthroughs to take the target beyond their reach.

Skipper Rashid Khan and left-arm seamer Fareed Malik claimed 2-29 and 2-35 respectively, while Karim Janat and Gulbadin Naib chipped in with one wicket.

"Being a captain for the first time in T20Is and winning, thanks to Allah. Everyone contributed, in batting, bowling and fielding," Rashid said after the match.

"I think that's the beauty of Afghanistan cricketers that they can adjust very quickly as per the format," said Rashid.

Debutant Rahmanullah Gurbaz made 43 off 24 balls and shared 57 runs in the opening stand with Hazratullah Zazai (13) after Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza won the toss and elected to bowl first. But Afghanistan's innings got real momentum once Mohammad Nabi joined Zadran to share 107 runs in just 40 balls in a fifth-wicket stand. The duo hit sixes on seven consecutive balls between the 17th and the 18th over to give Afghanistan an imposing total. Zimbabwe captain Masakadza lamented the partnership.

"A bit of a disappointing day. Our spinners bowled really well in the middle, extracted turn from the wicket but Najib and Nabi just took the game away from us," he said.

"The last two games we didn't really execute at the back end. But the guys are working really hard," Masakadza added.

India beat Bangladesh to lift U-19 Asia Cup title

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Left-arm spinner Atharva Ankolekar returned with a five-wicket haul to help India clinch the U-19 Asia Cup title with a thrilling five-run win over Bangladesh in a low-scoring final here on Saturday.

Defending a paltry total of 106, India dismissed Bangladesh for 101 in 33 overs, courtesy 18-year-old Ankolekar, who emerged as the star of the Indian team with figures of 5 for 28 from 8 overs.

While Ankolekar spun a web of spin to derail Bangladesh's chase, he was supported well by pacer Akash Singh, who accounted for three wickets. V Patil (1/25) and SS

Mishra (1/27) also chipped in with one wicket each at the R Premadasa Stadium here.

Chasing a small target of 107, skipper Akbar Ali (23) and Mrittunjy Chowdhury (21) kept Bangladesh in the hunt.

After they were back to the pavilion, Tanzim Hasan Sakib (12) and Rakibul Hasan (11) raised hopes of a Bangladesh win before India fought back to bundle them out.

Earlier, skipper Dhruv Jurel (33) and lower-order batsman Karan Lal (37) came up with useful contributions to help India cross the 100-run mark.

India's decision to bat first after winning

the toss backfired big time as left-arm pacer Mrittunjy Chowdhury (3/18) and off-spinner Shamim Hossain (3/8) wreaked havoc on the Indian batsmen.

Opener Arjun Azad was the first to go as he was caught behind by Akbar Ali off Tanzim Hasan Sakib's bowling in the third over. In the next over, NT Tilak Varma was sent back by Mrittunjy with Tanzid Hasan taking another catch and after the other opener SV Parkar was run out by Tanzid Hasan, India U-19 team had slipped to 8 for 3.

Shashwat Rawat (19) and skipper Jurel then steadied the ship and brought up the team fifty before the former was trapped leg-

before by Hossain in the 15th over.

Two balls later, Varun Lavande (0) was dismissed for naught by Hossain as India U-19 lost half their side for 53 for five in 14.4 overs.

Atharva Ankolekar (2) was then run-out in the 20th over, while Hossain accounted for Jurel in the next over.

In 26th over, Sushant Mishra (3) walked back to the pavilion when he was caught by Akbar Ali off Shahin Alami's bowling, while Vidyadhar Patil was removed by Mrittunjy in the next over.

Karan was the last batsman to be dismissed as India U-19 were bundled out for a paltry score of 106 in 32.4 overs.

LOCAL EVENTS



AABHAS, SAANVI EMERGE WINNERS

Aabhas Jindal and Saanvi Agarwal bagged 14th Lucknow District Under-19 Chess Championship in the boy's and girl's category respectively. In the last round, Aabhas Jindal of Bal Vidya Mandir defeated Arnav Tiwari of Excellia School to claim the trophy while Saanvi Agarwal of Seth MR Jaipuria School became champion after defeating Mehak Singhal of CMS. Arnav Tiwari claimed second spot while Atharv Rastogi and Divyansh Pandey finished third and fourth. Excellia School general manager Sekhar Varshney give away the prizes.

DIVYANSH WINS STATE TITLE



Divyansh Srivastava of Lucknow defeated Shivam Chandra of Ghaziabad 8-11, 11-3, 12-10, 11-1 to win the sub-junior boy's title in the 3rd UP State Ranking Table Tennis Tournament at Green Park Stadium on Saturday. Sub-junior girl's title went to Ambika Gupta of Prayagraj, who beat Vartica Bharat of Agra 11-5, 11-4, 11-6. Higher Education minister Neelima Katiyar gave away the prizes to the winners.

CADET RESULTS: Boy's: Arnav Panwar (Gzb) bt Aditya Chand Raj (Gzb) 11-7, 11-8, 11-9 (Girl's) Anika Gupta (Gzb) bt Suhani Mahajan (Gzb) 9-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-8.

UP WOMEN'S TEAM ENTER FINAL



UP women's team edged past Haryana 22-21 to enter the final of National Federation Cup Handball Championship at Ayodhya on Saturday. UP will now take on Railways, which defeated Himachal Pradesh 19-14. In the men's category, UP team lost to CISF 18-26 in the quarter-finals.



Talktime
NUSHRAT BHARUCHA
 Having witnessed both highs and lows in her career, Bharucha believes in staying grounded. She thinks of herself as a performer and not an actor. She tells Musba Hashmi some of her bad choices, inspiration and upcoming projects

'I felt like an actor after doing LSD'

■ From *Jai Santoshi Maa* to *Dream Girl*, how has your journey been?
 It has been a long one. Honestly, when I got *Jai Santoshi Maa* (2009), I didn't want to be an actor. I went for the auditions just to see how would it turn out for me and fortunately I got selected. The real journey started with *Love, Sex Aur Dhoka* (*LSD*), that was the first time when I felt like an actor. The film made me realise the importance of being a performer and what a good film is. Then, I decided that this is the field I want to be in. No matter what I am doing and where will I end up, I just wanted to continue doing good work and feel happy about it.

■ Were there more highs or more lows?
 I have seen both highs and lows. *LSD* was a success but I didn't have work for a few months after it. I kept thinking that the film did well so I should be getting more work. But, I didn't get

any. Then I got casted for *Pyaar Ka PUNCHMAMA* and I entered the commercial cinema. Now it's been years since I haven't done a film like *LSD*. I didn't know where life took me, I just went with the flow.

■ Do you have any regrets?
 Yes, I have had made some bad choices as well. But, the moment I started shooting for those films, I knew I wasn't happy. But, it was difficult to walk away from a project after making a commitment. Now, I have realised that if you are not enjoying your work, just don't do it. There was a time, when just one day before the shoot I pulled out of the project. Though I received a lot of criticism from the team and they called me names, but in my head I was clear that what is the point of doing something half-heartedly. Because they will not get the best of your performance, you'll not feel good about it and ultimately the end product will never be good.

■ Did your family support your decision of being an actor?
 My family is neither regressive nor completely modernised. They are somewhere in between. When I told them that I wanted to be an actor, they themselves were in a conflict of whether to let me follow my dreams or tell me that this will not work out. But everybody else in my

I DON'T DIVIDE FILMS INTO GENRES. I BELIEVE GENRES ARE DECIDED AND DIVIDED BY PEOPLE WHO ARE MAKING FILMS AND THEY WANT TO GET THE CERTIFICATION DONE. FOR ME, ROMANCE AND COMEDY ARE ALL EMOTIONS

family was like that you cannot be an actor. It took them a while to accept my decision. They asked me questions of whether I will be working throughout my work career and I didn't have answers. But they turned out to be very supportive and they digested the fact that I don't have any answers. They knew I was being realistic and I will not live in the bubble that 'oh I am an actor now'.

■ Who is your inspiration?
 For me, inspiration comes from normal people. My driver inspires me. He lives in Nala Sopara and it takes him two hours to reach my house. I have to attend late night shoots, screenings and film parties and he stays there with me. Sometimes he even misses the last train to his place. And then again, he returns to work at 8 am. I ask him to sleep in my building but he refuses because he wants to spend time at his home even if it's for just three hours. I suggested him to leave my job and work somewhere else. But he wants to put in this hard work for his family. Not even once has he come late. All these stories continue to inspire me.

■ Any genres that you would like to experiment with?
 I don't divide films into genres. I believe genres are decided and divid-

ed by the people who are making the films and they want to get the certification done. For me, romance, comedy are all emotions and not genres. For me a story is a story. I decide my projects on the basis of my intuitions. I am a performer so I have to perform regardless of the genre.

■ Upcoming projects?
Dream Girl has just been released. It was a film that I heard the narration for an hour and then within 15 minutes I said yes to it. I am an instinctive person, if I like a project I immediately take it up if not then I probably say that give me sometime to think about it. And then I will say no to it. (laughs)

Then there is *Turram Khan* opposite Rajkumar Rao. I always wanted to be in a Hansal Mehta film. When I got the film, I was like 'yes I am doing a Hansal Mehta film'. Then, I am also doing *Hurdang*.

■ Any anecdotes that you would like to share?
 I remember on the first day of shoot for *Turram Khan* I was not able to do my lines right. I was very scared because there were so many great actors and all of them were staring at me. And I honestly told it to them that 'I am sorry guys, I am intimidated by all of you staring at me and stand in front of such great actors, I feel like a fool!' (laughs)

PICKLE ME PINK

SHALINI SAKSENA tells you why eating pickles, that have been around for over 4,000 years, is such an integral part of Indian cuisine

Pickle or *achaar* is a part of an everyday meal for Indians world over. The sweet, spicy and sour *achaars* have been around for thousands of years. Most of the pickle recipes are handed down generations. Each community has a different recipe — a twist here and twist there — makes all the difference from a mango pickle that one will get to eat at a home in North as opposed to what one will find in South.

Did you know that pickles have around for a long time when it comes to world cuisine? The technique is said to have begun from India and that cucumbers were the first to be pickled and eaten at the Tigris valley. It all began with putting cucumbers in brine — water and salt — to preserve them. Even today, salt is a staple ingredient to preserve pickles. *Lingupurna*, a Kannada work that dates back to 1594 describes about 50 different types of pickles. History also has it that Cleopatra loved them as did Napoleon Bonaparte.

Hence, it is not surprising that Indians love their pickles and that news players want to enter this segment. Karan Shah, director, Society Tea, tells you that Spice Secrets marks their entry into a new category. "We believe in bringing back the art of *chutneys* and pickles to every household; recipes our grandmothers used and passed on to our mothers over years. Indian consumers relish a daily dose of these flavours as it takes them down the memory lane right to that grandma's kitchen," Shah says.

He tells you that the word pickle has originated from the Dutch word *pekel* that was used to refer to a solution of brine that was spiced for preserving and flavouring food.

"Pickle is often associated with processed fruits and vegetables in salt and spice mixture that have an extended shelf life, often with restored or enhanced beneficial properties of the entities involved. Therefore, they are an integral part of how people



define their food culture, and each region is intensely passionate about their pickles," Shah explains.

The same, one is told holds true for *chutneys*. It is also something that everyone relates to. It can be made to suit any taste profile. A versatile condiment, the *chutney* which means something that can be licked, is by definition an appetizer.

"Ayurveda suggests that *chutneys* can offer a balance in the diet as well as act as a suitable camouflage for ingredients that are otherwise not enjoyable. Ever since times infinite, these house recipes have been passed down generations and that's why they still retain a unique taste for each household. Traditionally, it's almost always passed down from mother to

AYURVEDA SUGGESTS THAT CHUTNEYS CAN OFFER A BALANCE IN DIET AS WELL AS ACT AS A SUITABLE CAMOUFLAGE FOR INGREDIENTS THAT ARE OTHERWISE NOT ENJOYABLE

daughter or from the grandmother because of which, the making of these special pickles and *chutneys* are secrets held within the families, like a family heirloom," Shah says.

Chutneys and pickles have always been an age-old accompaniment in the Indian cuisines agnostic of which part of the country you go to or the language you speak.

"It's difficult to trace the exact origins of Indian pickle, but the tradition of pickle making goes back thousands of years. Pickling was commonly used for preserving food by curing it with salt or sugar; before refrigeration and canning made it possible. Ancient civilisations had discovered that to increase the longevity of perishable foods was to dry them in the sun and



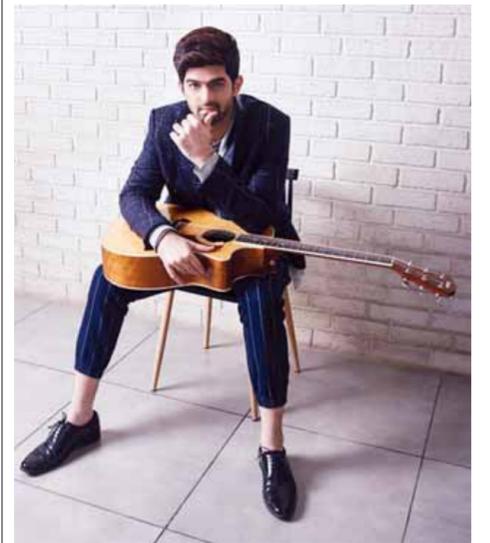
cure them with salt or immerse them in brine.

"In ancient and medieval times, every homemaker used to have a veritable treasure trove of recipes handed down to her from her ancestors. This was the way in which she used to preserve fruits and vegetables by making pickles and *chutneys*," Shah tells you.

For Indians, nothing comes close to say home as simply as pickle. *Chutneys* and pickles in different forms and tastes are prevalent in every corner of our country and are likely to have been a part of your food memories.

"No Indian meal is complete without a smidgen of pickle or *chutney*. This is because pickles are an integral part of Indian culture. *Chutneys* and pickles key role in your meal is to add flavour and make them more appetizing. It is the plainest of food that gives scope for the use of pickles. Hence, they are usually savored as an accompanying condiment — as a spread, sauce and or even a topping. In our cuisine — *chutneys* vary, many being thin enough in consistency to be used as dipping sauces. Other varieties of *chutney* are like chunky well-flavored relish; those are generally used as meal accompaniments or sandwich spreads, and are the popular version found globally," Shah says and adds that our *chutneys* and pickles are of regional flavours representing different communities and heritage.

'Just playback is not enough'



HRIDAY GATTANI, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his latest song for Gurinder Chadha's film

■ How did music happen?
 I grew up watching a lot of concerts because of my father. He has produced and directed concerts with some of the best musical artists in the country like Lataji, Ashaji, Daler Mehndi, Hariharan and AR Rahman sir to name a few. That stemmed the whole inspiration of wanting to be on stage and performing like one of them. But I decided pretty late that I wanted to be a musician and learnt guitar and piano by myself.

■ How was the experience of being mentored by AR Rahman?
 In 2012, I did my first cover on YouTube with a brilliant singer, Suchismita Das. We happened to send the link to Rahman sir and he replied: 'You have a great voice, should study and learn music further'. I packed my bag and came to KM Music Conservatory, Rahman sir's music school in Chennai. Every step of the way he has been helpful. I send all my original songs to him before releasing them to get a feedback from him.

■ How did this mentoring change your music?
 A lot has changed — just the outlook towards music being pure and speaking about one's personality. Like every musician, I too have been influenced by his music and have always tried to adopt his structuring of songs. I have been blessed to work closely with him and see his entire process from start to finish, which is mind-boggling because apart from the melodic brilliance with him there are no boundaries to music and there's certainly no holding back when it comes to trying new things.

■ What is your latest release about?
 The song, *For You My Love*, is a fusion in English and Punjabi that brings both the worlds together even in the story of the film. Sir wanted a light-hearted soulful song which would connect both worlds. I got the opportunity to sing the English part of the song and as luck may have it because of Rahman sir's generosity got to be a part of the video. The song is a part of Gurinder Chaddha's film *Blinded By The Light*.

■ How is it different to work with other music directors?
 Music is a universal language. Its beauty lies in variety and what I enjoy is bringing in my honesty and creativity to any song I sing. I've had the opportunity to sing for Vishal-Shekhar sir for *Udanchoo* from *Banjo*. The experience was amazing becomes easy to work with them.

■ Is it tough to survive in the industry?
 It is extremely difficult to survive in the industry as just a playback. Therefore, I focus on my independent music and production for other artists as well. Today, you have to be self-sufficient and be a wholesome artist; one who writes, composes, sings and maybe plays an instrument too.

■ Do you have a mission as far as music is concerned?
 My mission is to make music from my personal experiences, to help people overcome what I have tried to overcome and also bring joy to my listeners.

■ What next?
 For me my focus for the next few months is my independent music, an announcement is due soon as there is going to be loads of content that I have worked on for over a year that will surface and start releasing.

Try out this Aussie fare, mate

AUSTRALIAN SPRING FESTIVAL PICKWICK'S, THE CLARIDGES
 From September 12 to September 28

Australia is delightfully mixed up in its cuisine, thanks to a blend of many cultures and people who have settled down there along with their spices flavours and meats.

A slice of that wholesome platter is now being showcased at the Pickwick's at The Claridges with a lot of elan and hard work that has gone into bringing this side of Australia to the table.

The effort hasn't gone waste. It is the good old pumpkin soup that leads you out of trepidation about English blandness that assails the cuisine otherwise. Smooth as butter, flavourful and totally Aussie in aroma, the dish fuels your appetite and cajoles your taste

buds with a subtlety that makes it quite a cornerstone for relishing things to follow.

Chef Vivek Rana who loves to go into the history of any of the foods he attempts to regale his guests with, tells you that Australia is all about fusion cuisine, meat grills and desserts that will send you into the guilt zone even if you don't have a sweet tooth.

The fact that there is some Indian cuisine spread graciously with an Australian makeover makes you favourable to experimentation.

But the Australian Lamb Pie keeps you totally engaged with its melt in the mouth crust and the softest of lamb mince one had had in a long while.



Crusted Herb Chicken; (right) Black Ant Lamington

This one is a must-try. The slides keep coming from the live counters and there is nothing that you would want to miss, be it the mini vegetarian burgers or the cottage cheese wraps.

But wait there is a whole lot

of mains, like Grilled Barramundi and the largely unforgettable whole lamb leg slow-cooked in spices and juices that come to the table with their own brand of uniqueness.

If you are at Pickwick with



friends do not miss out on this delicacy put together with tender loving care.

But if you are not having that, the crusted herb chicken is the dish for you, and not just because it is presented so alluringly.

Flavours match the delectable taste and you are forced to close your calorie eye to the cheese spread over it.

Served with spaghetti on the side rippling with herbs and chilli flakes, this one is the dish to go for.

The menu is quite inviting and varied with classics like wild mushroom rissoles and mixed vegetable and garbanzo stew, but save your tummy space for the absolutely out of the world Black Ant Lamington, the signature Aussie sweet that fortunately has nothing to do with those in edible hard-working population of the animal kingdom. Much like a twisted sponge cake, with a taste that defies anything cakey, Mr Lamington call for a requiem.

Don't hesitate. Don't think calories. Just repeat the order with a cup of coffee, please!

the pioneer agenda

I don't know whether it's audiences or filmmakers who want characters to be likable today, but I don't think actors are afraid of their characters being unlikable
— Dakota Fanning



FROM THE INSIDE

Heal self for a better world
The best way to inspire change in others is by changing ourselves. Meditate to relieve stress and heal

2



4

Watch over your karma
The driving spirit of the laws of karma is to put you through lessons of life as would help you evolve



THE BARE NECESSITIES SIMPLE IDEAS THAT MATTER

Using a circular economy methodology, which promotes the use of products that do not end up in landfill and can be reused in a variety of ways without harming the environment, is the only sustainable option. Small changes in your daily life is all it would take to bring about that big change

What is waste? It is a poignant question that is often answered the same way in waste education workshops conducted by the Bangalore-based social business, Bare Necessities (that promotes adoption of zero waste practices, circular economy methodology and sustainability to consumers and businesses throughout India and further abroad through designing zero waste products, running educational workshops and providing sustainability consulting) as 'waste is plastic', 'chip packets', 'chocolate wrappers', 'food scraps', 'drink bottles', 'juice boxes'...



TIM DE RIDDER waste products, running educational workshops and providing sustainability consulting) as 'waste is plastic', 'chip packets', 'chocolate wrappers', 'food scraps', 'drink bottles', 'juice boxes'...



TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE LIFE

- FOR YOUR CLOSET:** Pick ethical and slow fashion (Khadi, natural fibre, support local businesses); Support 'hand me downs'/swap clothes; Donate unworn clothes; Mending is loving your clothes even more; Leave the shoe box at the store; Carry a reusable bag for shopping; Avoid compulsive buying
- HOME CARE:** Dry clothes on a line, instead of a hanger; But detergent in bulk; Plan laundry days to save energy; Bring in houseplants to clean air; Use alternative house cleaning tools such as, wooden brush for light scrubbing, metal scour for stains, compostable brush for hard to reach places, reusable cloth wipes for mopping and cleaning, coconut husk for dishes; Use natural cleaning alternatives such as: coconut soap for floor and sink, baking soda for scrubbing jobs, vinegar for mildew and laundry rinsing agent
- GIFTING:** Donate money to your friend's favourite charity; Opt for potted plants and homemade treats in a jar for party giveaways; Buy local gifts that support local businesses; Give seeds or flower bouquets with no plastic attached; Get crafty, make handmade gifts; Wrap without plastic tape. Use newspaper, paper or cloth bag as alternative packaging; Gift an experience: go hiking, scuba diving, kayaking with friends and family
- KITCHEN:** Use a water-filter; Say no to plastic bottles; Steel/Copper vessels instead of non-stick; Use pressure cooker to half cooking time; Buy package free food from farmer's market; Use steel boxes for storage; Buy local bread; Make compost out of kitchen waste

These are all correct answers and there are many more of those fantastic responses that are received from school children as young as five or six years to well educated adults with tertiary degrees and many other people between. The feedback is exceptionally specific, which has its benefits, yet, for our discussion here, let's look at it on a broader note — Waste, as we would all agree, is humanity's excess.

Humanity is overproducing and over consuming (or not consuming at all if we take a look at landfills), research shows that the "average person buys 60% more items of clothing than they did 15 years ago", and, "an estimated one-third of all food produced — equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around \$1 trillion — ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices". These are two of several examples that could be used to illustrate this point. However, instead of finding more cases, let's think about why these situations occur? It has been noted that within the textile industry, within India, the one major reason why there is so much waste is because of a lack of awareness and education about how fashion can fit within a circular economy. Textile industry is the third largest producer of waste in most Indian states behind plastic and paper.

Notably too, research has shown that the current food system "exerts a considerable impact on the environment. It drives deforestation and biodiversity loss, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for 70% of water withdrawals". This is a problem that affects every individual on the planet no matter where one is standing, but has the potential to disproportionately affect locations with larger societal inequalities — "almost 2 billion people go hungry or

undernourished" across the globe. Thus, part of the reason why this is occurring is because of a lack of awareness. But, that is only a part of the problem.

For, if we were to look at similar types of excess in other areas of life, such as energy use (large cars, technologies such as smartphones) or in the areas of lifestyle and personal care products, we are forced to rethink if it is only about awareness. At an individual level, the focus should be to divert waste from landfill by using innovative design that fits within a circular economy.

A growing number of Sustainability businesses, such as Bare Necessities, aim to raise the level of awareness about the amount of excess that humanity is producing through their talks and workshops while providing alternatives and brainstorming ideas with consumers in order to assess whether there is a need for a product and then designing it for a market that desires innovation that reduces excess. These businesses target a specific and growing market of conscious consumers.

Within the Indian market, the growth in conscious consumers has been led by leaders both individually and in business. Sharing of facts and figures is one important way to raise awareness. For instance, not many are aware that there is "estimated as many as 8.3 billion plastic straws (that) pollute the world's beaches". Or, that for dental care items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, "the package is not noticed during purchase, transport, and use of the product. In fact, it is not noticed until the minute the product is consumed and the package has fulfilled its function and turns into waste". Similarly for soap, "though one wrapper of soap or one bottle of shampoo might not seem to matter, it can definitely make a difference when multiplied by over a billion people, who live in India and who comprise one-seventh of the world's population". Individuals, businesses and groups, by

becoming more aware and implementing action plans (through design, reduction in use of products and other areas) are steadily able to do more to limit waste and humanity's excess.

This brings us to our next question — why is it such a struggle to change? There are a growing amount of facts about these areas of excess that illustrate the detrimental effects of a linear life cycle — the take, make, dispose system that sees many of our products resources being extracted from a limited resource (the planet) before being used and then disposed back into the environment.

Research demonstrates that using a circular economy methodology, which promotes the use of products that do not end up in landfill — instead the products can be reused in a variety of ways without harming the environment — is the only sustainable option. The circular economy is hugely beneficial in ensuring that humanity no longer produces and consumes products with a take-make-dispose methodology, and thereby helps to sustain both us and the environment we live in.

When you think about it on a day to day basis, there are numerous systems around you that call for your attention — where you buy your food is one example and how often you wear your clothes is another. All systems have set processes that are, more or less, controlled by majority stakeholders, who have the greatest say of how a system functions, in terms of production and consumption. This is not, however, doom and gloom, the thing to remember with systems is that until there is enough consumer demand, change often will not occur. Currently, slowly but surely, large companies are becoming aware of the growing consumer demand.

There is a growing focus on designing new solutions that must be valued by

all for long term reduction in the contamination of water, land and air — our environment. Examples of this can be seen as far afield as Mexico where a company is transforming avocado pits into disposable bioplastic straws and cutlery, and in Indonesia where the root vegetable cassava is used to create biodegradable bags. By designing new products, along with minimising single use items, correctly disposing of used products in correct categories and limiting the amount of non-organic material, cleaning agents for example, used on a day to day basis, creating a zero waste environment for our all important planet can be achieved.

Consumer demand, and a willingness to accept responsibility as an individual, is at the heart of production and consumption. Fortunately there is a growing number of consumers, especially in the larger urban centres of India, who are currently wanting change and already taking responsibility. Businesses too are making their stand, for instance, Bare Necessities provides sustainable options to toothbrushes, cosmetics, detergents, soap, and even the humble tote bag among other products. These are all simple ideas that matter.

What, then, is waste? The answers heard at the beginning of a talk or workshop are largely those pointing to excess, yet, if we were to look at it in a different light, perhaps it is simply that it is a resource that we have yet to use, because everything matters when taking positive steps toward sustainability on a planet with finite resources. Therefore, we must endeavour to value every item, whether that is a piece of fruit, an item of clothing or any of the specific answers to the waste question touched on at the outset, we need to take the responsibility right down to the most bare necessities.

The writer is a Sustainability Consultant and Education Officer

CONSUMER DEMAND, AND A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AT THE HEART OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION. FORTUNATELY THERE IS A GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LARGER URBAN CENTRES OF INDIA, WHO ARE CURRENTLY WANTING CHANGE AND ALREADY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND, BUT LET YOUR HEART SOAR AS HIGH AS IT WILL. REFUSE TO BE AVERAGE OR TO SURRENDER TO THE CHILL OF YOUR SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT — ARTHUR HELPS

HEAL SELF FOR A BETTER WORLD

If we wish to heal our planet, we must begin by healing ourselves. The best way to inspire change in others is by changing ourselves, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



Our world is in need of healing, and there are many who have dedicated their lives to this cause. There is a way for each one of us to contribute to a better future, and it all begins in silence.

If we wish to heal our planet, we must begin by healing ourselves. We may not be able to change another person over the course of weeks, years, or even a lifetime, but we can change ourselves immediately. If each person worked on healing themselves, the effect would be monumental. If each person healed themselves, the benefits they experience may inspire others to do the same. Like a wave, the effect would spread, bathing the whole world in healing waters. So let us begin with looking at ways in which we can heal ourselves.

HEALING OURSELVES

When we speak about healing ourselves, we are not talking medically. The word "healing" involves making us whole in all aspects of our life. We are referring to healing our body, mind, and soul. Healing involves eliminating disease. What is disease but "dis-ease," not being at ease. We may find that we are not at ease physically because of different medical conditions. We may find that we are not at ease mentally due to problems we face at our job, in our homes, in our community, or at the

emotional and psychological level.

We may find that we are not at ease spiritually because there are questions relating to our soul and the Creator, and our purpose in life, that we have not yet found answers to that cause restlessness in our soul. Thus, to heal ourselves, we need to employ techniques to remove the "dis-ease," and put us at ease at every level.

HEALING OUR BODY

Advances in science and medicine have taught us a great deal about how to keep our bodies healthy and to ensure optimum performance of the body that we have been given. We know or have access to information about nutrition and personal health and hygiene. We know what precautions to take to prevent certain diseases. If we are to heal our body, we should lead healthy lifestyles: keep physically fit, strike a healthy balance between work, rest, and exercise, eat foods that are nutritionally good for us, eliminate habits and substances that are harmful to us, such as smoking, drinking and taking drugs, and safeguard against conditions that spread disease. The key is to observe these laws of nature so that we do not inadvertently and carelessly injure our body.

STRESS AND DISEASE

Doctors and medical researchers have discovered that stress has a role

IF EACH PERSON WORKED ON HEALING THEMSELVES, THE EFFECT WOULD BE MONUMENTAL. IF EACH PERSON HEALED THEMSELVES, THE BENEFITS THEY EXPERIENCE MAY INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. LIKE A WAVE, THE EFFECT WOULD SPREAD

to play in our health. They have learned that stress can cause a breakdown of our immune system and be a cause of ailments. Stress interferes with the healthy functioning of some of our bodily systems required to resist disease. It activates the "fight or flight" response causing certain biochemical reactions in our body. When we are in a state of stress, our heart beats faster. Certain hormones are released to get us ready to protect ourselves. Once released, they cannot be recalled.

A ready-alert system that was originally intended to help us escape physical harm becomes activated even in the presence of day-to-day situations that do not pose any threat to our life. Thus, we carry within us a state of stress, or a state in which our body is responding to fear and threat even in situations that are only problems for our mind. Because we are not fighting or fleeing, our body has no way to dissipate the bottled up stress and we carry it around with us throughout the day. Ultimately, it begins to cause problems for us internally, and different organs begin reacting to that stress. Thus, stress that is unchecked and not dissipated can affect our heart, our lungs, our circulatory system, our digestive system, our skin, and our nervous system. We may suffer from stress-related headaches, stomachaches, breathing problems, and nervousness.

CHECK STRESS TO HEAL THE BODY

We may not be able to control the contraction of certain diseases which are genetic or which spread through the air, but we can control over our personal stress. There are ways to reduce and even eliminate stress in our lives. When we talk of eliminating stress, we do not mean eliminating problems. Problems will always be there. But we can eliminate our unhealthy physical response to the problems.

By learning the art of meditation, we will have a defense system against stress. The key is to have another kind of response to problems that will not stimulate these physical reactions in the body. If we can learn to meditate, then we can confront problems in a way that does not upset our physiological systems. Meditation provides a way for us to learn to control our reactions.

HEALING THE MIND

When we talk about healing our mind, we are referring to its reaction to problems we face that affect our thinking and our emotions. Each day we are bombarded by sensory stimuli from all directions. Each message coming in through our five senses is conveyed to the brain. Some messages require a physical response, but many of them require intellectual or mental responses. We have to think through problems, make decisions, plan, analyse, synthesise, create, and then communicate our thoughts to others.

Often times, the mental stimuli can bring about reactions of fear, anxiety, tension, confusion, indecision, and a host of emotional responses. Mental tension and emotional pain take their toll on our body and physical health. It also affects our ability to be productive and effective in the world.

MEDITATION FOR A HEALTHY MIND

We can avoid much of the stress, anxiety, and tension by meditation. Meditation is a way to relieve stress at the mental level and help us to have a healthy mind. A healthy mind means that we can deal with the challenges of life in a calm, composed way without it causing us to feel upset, depressed, anxious, fearful, or threatened.

A healthy mind means we deal with life's problems without it affecting our emotional make-up. We take things as they come, deal with them effectively, try to find the best solution, and move on. We do not need to be overwhelmed, overpowered, and upset over the daily situations we face. By sitting in meditation, we develop the calmness to approach problems and situations. The more we sit in meditation, the more we are able to return to that state of peace and harmony at any time during the day.

The writer is a spiritual leader



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Market needs stimulation



Democracies thrive on economy and economy thrives on confidence of the people in the system. India has for long carried forward the legacy of the Raj when the purpose of the then government was exploitation of the colony and filling the coffers of the British Government at the cost of India. The *babudom* that continued to hold the reins of governance after independence could not shake off its imperialist mind set and India went on to remain a country of subjects rather than citizens. But there are limitations to the rule by magistracy and collectorate and the signs are gradually showing. It is for this reason that in our TDS (Trust Deficient Society) driven economy business cycles hover between frequent troughs and occasional peaks. In the process, the confidence of the market continues to remain shaky as a result of societal paranoia. To cope with the situation the interventionist stimulations are tried time and again to boost the economy. The tricky part is that it works for short durations and goes back to the original bearish stance sooner than later. What is to be understood is that internal stimulation is required to keep the system ticking and kicking on its own. The only way this can be done is by boosting the confidence of the market which comprises not only the investors but also the consumers. In fact, it is the consumers that stimulate both the market and the investors. More so in a market economy which draws sustenance from a myriad of factors. It is against this backdrop that the recent opinion of the Chief Economic Advisor has to be viewed. In order to rejuvenate the markets stimulus packages are announced to bail out certain industries. But such steps are against the spirit of the market economy. Indian experience with the market economy is around three decades old, time enough to realise that market economy is governed by market forces. Naturally, there are sectors that reach the decline phase. How far can state sponsored stimulation help. Slowdowns are market phenomena that depend significantly on consumer sentiments, rather than only investor perception. Using tax payers' money to intervene every time there are slowdowns in certain sectors is fraught with moral hazards. If some sectors are assumed too big to fail than ensuring that they don't fail through interventions from the state tantamount to creating a situation where profits are private and losses are of the society. Systemic incentives are better options than fiscal stimuli. System needs to be strengthened rather than some sections. The measures announced recently by the government may seem to be prudent. But there is need to examine whether the slowdown bogey is a careful design by some smart operators rather than purely market driven. Markets depend more on psychological rather than economic factors. In order to keep an economy ticking the morale of the industry must be boosted. But government must not only appear to be industry friendly but also prove consumer friendly. Policy consistency is what gives stability to the economy. Knee jerk responses do not go far enough. It is pertinent therefore to give that confidence to the investors, consumers and financial institutions that things will not be allowed to drift.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

Positivity reigns supreme

Positive affirmation is the key to success. Hard work and positive visualisation leads to positive behaviour and weeds out negativity, says SARITA MATHUR



Being in the present moment is the gift of the moment. Only when you live in the present time awareness do you enjoy the moment. There is no guilt or regret from the past. There is no fear of the unknown either. Imagine, when heart-based awareness rules, anger and resentment are no longer a part of your life. Just a peaceful state of acceptance and embracing of the present moment. A sense of adventure and positivity reigns supreme.

Being who you are and speaking up for yourself is a sure shot way of enjoying your life. Often, we do not say what we mean. Consequently, we keep thinking about it — about what we should have said, or not. We are plagued by negativity. By constantly pleasing other people, we put ourselves last. This does not lead to happiness. It actually makes us resentful and unhappy.

By being people pleasers, we do not make anyone happy. People do not realise that we are not doing what we want to. They take us for granted. We earn respect only when we are true to ourselves. We must

speak up when someone is rude to us or says something that we do not agree with. Otherwise, it is too late. The moment is lost and then regret creeps in. By being true to ourselves and honest with our feelings, we feel powerful. Other people's opinion should not make us feel small. They are speaking their own truth. We can accept it if we want to, but not feel bad when they voice it.

The importance of visualisation cannot be overestimated. When we are young, it is called day dreaming. "Do not day dream!" we are often told. However, we can day dream ourselves into a glorious future. If we want a four-bedroom house and keep visualising ourselves living in one, chances are our dream will come true. The Universe answers our prayers. Positive affirmation is the key to success. Hard work and positive visualisation at all times leads to positive behaviour and weeds out negativity. When we dream big and work towards it, our dream is achieved. Positive and constant affirmation are the key to success. Breathing techniques are important.

Focusing on the breath is what people do to control negative thoughts. Breathe in and out slowly while counting each breath. This technique helps the mind to focus on one thing at a time. Most people cannot even count up to ten without thoughts crowding their mind. However, with practice it becomes easier. Each thought is received with detachment. The focus is on breathing. Once should not get attached to one's thoughts. Let the thoughts come and go and focus on the breath. Thought protection or mantras is sound healing. Keep chanting positive thoughts (a word or a sentence) and the vibration will flow through your mind and body. More importantly, there will be space for no other thought. When there is no space for negativity, positivity reigns supreme. The sound of a bell chiming (church or temple bell) sends sound vibrations through the metaphysical centre of the body creating peace and wellness. This is energy vibration. These rituals are profound in nature. They have deep meaning and natural healing.

Additionally, when you believe in a higher energy, and focus on it, peace comes to you. Your world may be out of control, but your faith in that higher energy will be there to help and guide you. God will give you whatever you desire, keep you safe and ensure you remain healthy. That, for most people helps them leave negativity and move towards positive thought.

Hands on and distant healing techniques help the mind calm down and the body to heal. These energy techniques are considered alternative, but more people are following and practicing them. Reiki, Chi Gung and Taichi are a few healing modalities. They bring the body and mind into balance and all negative thoughts get dissipated. As I like to say: life is full of joy. Visualise it, believe in it and work towards it.

Mathur is the author of *Once Again Love: Reconnecting with the Heart*

Correct your self-image

Appearance of self has a large bearing on how we perceive ourselves. To be happy, we must have this image right, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Before I get into this important aspect of our lives, let us be clear about what self-image is all about. Defined as the opinion or idea that you have of yourself, especially of your appearance or abilities, self-image is very different from self-respect, which is the feeling of pride in yourself in terms of what you do, or say, being correct and good. Ego, which is defined as your sense of your own value and importance, is a lot closer to one's self-image.

Image is the impression that a person gives to the public. These are of two types — naturally occurring (the result of many years) and contrived. The latter generally has a sinister motive. Those in the business of cheating the public contrive to give a false impression of self. Fake *babas* come to the mind in this connection. Then, there are people who run ponzi schemes.

Self-image begins to form from childhood itself. This process goes on throughout one's life. One tries to enhance it rather than correct it. There are many factors, which go into image making and its evolution. Humans have been blessed with intelligence. Mature intelligence or wisdom comes after a very long time, sometimes many lives. Still, this fact does not prevent people from pretending to be highly intelligent. That explains why we make so many mistakes. A human is not above erring, but a false assessment of self-intelligence makes it worse.

Appearance of self has also a large bearing on how we perceive ourselves. Good looking people feel more confident about themselves because the appearance is the first thing one notices in a person. However, this factor is not absolute. Other factors like abilities have a large bearing on how we assess our personalities overall. Personal values,



sanskars and morals, are also very important. They emit a feeling of superiority like no other. Our ambitions also decide how we assess ourselves. Persons with high ambitions think highly of themselves and try to project selves in a positive way. They are more focused than an average person. In short, how we desire our future to be is very important in this connection.

Personal nature also determines the image one will have of oneself. And our nature is the sum total of our habits. For example, continued success in life gives the image of being a go-getter. Our past has a lot of bearing on how we will perceive ourselves or others will. After all, are we not a sum total of what we have been, the acts we have done earlier.

The society we live in also influences how we assess ourselves, or like to be. We wish to be one of it and somewhat better. Health also plays a part. Healthy people are more likely to exude confidence. Circumstances and age force changes. In older age, one accepts that one is not so physically capable.

This fact brings out the necessity of correcting the self-image; we cannot be attached to any one version of it. Generally, the self-image is always superior to what we actually are. This puts a lot of pressure on one to rise to that standard. Some will say that it is a motivating factor for self-improvement. Yes, it is true as long as the gap is manageable, otherwise it results in stressful existence. It is very important that we have the right image of ourselves.

Trying to stick to some image is not wise, because the self-image must be attuned to the present realities, otherwise pressure builds up. Most of us are unable to fight it and suffer. This becomes a bondage, which is quite harmful. Ideally, we should focus on doing our duties and the image takes care of itself. And the gap between the reality and what we project ourselves to be should always be manageable; only then, our lives will be better.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Afghan peace process at the crossroads

Peace in Afghanistan, devastated by four decades of war, never seemed so imminent. However, the latest round of peace talks between the US and the Taliban leadership indicates the negotiation process may take longer than expected. This week, when US President Donald Trump announced that he was withdrawing an invitation to the Taliban delegation and the Afghan Government for a meeting at Camp David, it created utter confusion around the world. Does it signal a complete withdrawal of the US from the Afghan peace talks? Or is it leading to another Trump-style chaos without providing any solution?

How America behaves would matter the most for bringing an enduring peace to Afghanistan. In fact, Trump's announcement to halt the negotiation with the Taliban may provide a much needed opportunity for a complete reset of talks so that some of the critical previous mistakes can be rectified without fail. Trump's Afghan envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, himself an Afghan émigré, was said to have reached a tentative agreement with the Taliban leadership. As per that agreement, the US troops would have been withdrawn from Afghanistan within a period of sixteen months in return for hard-to-enforce commitments from the Taliban, like a break from the clutches of Al-Qaeda, denial of their territory for global jihad, de-escalation of violence and starting of negotiations with the dispensation at Kabul.

However such an approach is replete with possibility of losing the US ally and helping the Taliban at the cost of the Kabul Government. And for all these unwanted possibilities, many of Trump's allies and close confidants, including then National Security Adviser John Bolton, are critical of the draft accord.

Rather than immediate troops drawdown, the Trump Administration must utilise all channels to end the war in Afghanistan. It simply implies that Washington has to work closely with the Ashraf Ghani



Afghan Presidential Spokesman Sediq Seddqi gives a press conference in Kabul on Saturday. Seddqi said that the priority for his Government is to hold national elections later this month, rather than reach a peace deal with insurgents AP

Government. Ignoring or excluding the Ghani establishment will in no way help deserting or countering the Taliban monsters. History records that without involving the local allies, peace deal are unlikely to last long. For example, the Paris Peace Accord between the Nixon Administration and the North Vietnam witnessed the fall of Saigon two years after its conclusion in 1973.

Some experts are of the opinion that a competent third party must facilitate the ongoing talks between the US and the Taliban. Also the US can follow the example of what happened in Havana between

the Colombian Government and the FARC rebels (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) from 2012 to 2016. Further the discouraging part of the whole negotiation process is that Khalilzad is directly dealing with the Taliban. This clearly indicates that the Taliban does not need to bother about the popularly elected Government of Ghani and only America alone can decide the future course of action for this war theatre, even particularly excluding the womenfolk of the country.

Another negative aspect of the current peace deal is that the US has not demanded a ceasefire even as the price of

their own forces' drawdown. Again signals are coming out of the already completed draft deal is that it has simply asked for reduction of the Taliban attack, not for bringing the attacks to a complete halt. The peace deal also does not hold the Taliban responsible for the attacks constantly launched by jihadist forces such as the newly formed Afghan branch of Islamic State or Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-Khorasan Province and the Haqqani Network based in Pakistan. It must be understood by the US strategists that Taliban should not be trusted anymore and brokering deal with them without involving the Ghani establishment

might prove fatal anytime.

Finally, when Trump is pushing for a final withdrawal of troops, he must rethink. Maintaining a small non-combat force around 9,000 will surely cost him lesser. But then total departure for the US from the most unpredictable war theatre of the world without providing a sustainable solution might undermine these aspects: the US hegemony, credibility of the democratically elected Government in Kabul, and lastly, safety net for the Afghan civilian population.

Trump must revisit what happened when former President Barack Obama withdrew the US troops from Iraq

in 2011. The power vacuum in Iraq gave birth to the notorious ISIS and once again necessitated the return of the US forces to Iraq.

A deal between the US and the Taliban for the US forces to withdraw from their longest-ever war in the Afghan soil could probably push some radical fighters to work under the wings of ISIS that is raising its tentacles in Afghanistan. It is a golden opportunity for the ISIS to recruit some of the hardcore members of the Taliban. Interestingly, the ISIS, who battles the Afghan Government and the Taliban, is not a part of the ongoing peace process. Many will join

the ISIS despite it losing grounds in Iraq and Syria. Simply put, for some Taliban, they will be able to continue their jihad mission against those whom they perceive as infidels and enemies. For many others, who fear retribution from civil society once they return to normal life, it could be a refuge.

History is witness to futility of military intervention in intersecne war in Afghanistan. Therefore, for the US and its allies it's difficult to find a way out in Afghanistan. Typically, the traditional Afghan warlords may not to follow the terms and conditions of an imposed peace process by the western powers led by the US.

According to many security experts, after the withdrawal of US forces, the Afghanistan Government may encounter the same problems it witnessed during the Najibullah regime after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. What can be a solace for Afghanistan is that Trump has already promised to leave behind "a very strong intelligence" presence in Afghanistan which he calls as "the Harvard of Terrorists". However, if the US strategy is to achieve immediate and long-term security goals, it must cautiously address this problem: many terror groups conform to US foreign policy in order to survive.

Afghanistan remains a hotbed for the growth of jihadist outfits. And the country has gradually become a conflict zone for both regional as well as global hegemony. In the process, non-state actors like the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, the ISIS, the Al-Qaeda and many other local terror outfits would be used for playing the proxies of the great power mongers.

Certainly, what is coming up is slow death of democracy and civil society in this beleaguered nation. And more precisely, millions of ordinary Afghans who have been forced to live their lives under constant shadow of war will be at the receiving end.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

As US-Taliban talks are underway, there is a need for Ashraf Ghani Government's role in brokering the peace deal. Without the Kabul dispensation's involvement in the comprehensive negotiation process, the peace can't be sustained



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Permanent Record of Snowden's story

The memoir, 'Permanent Record,' scheduled for release on September 17, offers the most expansive and personal account of how Snowden came to reveal secret details about the US Government's mass collection of Americans' emails, phone calls and Internet activity in the name of national security

Former US National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden has written a memoir, telling his life story in detail for the first time and explaining why he chose to risk his freedom to become perhaps the most famous whistleblower of all time.

Snowden, who now lives in Russia to avoid prosecution in the US, says his seven years working for the NSA and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) led him to conclude the US intelligence community "hacked the Constitution" and put everyone's liberty at risk and that he had no choice but to turn to journalists to reveal it to the world.

"I realised that I was crazy to have imagined that the Supreme Court, or Congress, or President Obama, seeking to distance his administration from President George W Bush's, would ever hold the intelligence contractor legally responsible — for anything," he writes.

The book, "Permanent Record," is scheduled to be released on September 17. It offers by far the most expansive and personal account of how Snowden came to reveal secret details about the Government's mass collection of Americans' emails, phone calls and Internet activity in the name of national security.

His decision to turn from obscure intelligence contractor work to whistleblower in 2013 set off a national debate about the extent of Government surveillance by intelligence agen-

cies desperate to avoid a repeat of the September 11 attacks. Intelligence officials who conduct annual classified assessments of damage from Snowden's disclosures say the documents will continue trickling out into the public domain for years to come.

Though the book comes six years after the disclosures, Snowden, who fled first to Hong Kong and then Russia, attempts in his memoir to place his concerns in a contemporary context. He sounds the alarm about what he sees as Government efforts worldwide to delegitimise journalism, suppress human rights and support authoritarian movements.

"What is real is being purposefully conflated with what is fake, through technologies that are capable of scaling that conflation into unprecedented global confusion," he says.

The story traces Snowden's evolution from childhood, from growing up in the 1980s in North Carolina and suburban Washington, where his mother worked as a clerk at the NSA and his father served in the Coast Guard.

He came of age as the Internet evolved from an obscure Government computer network and describes how a youthful fascination with technology — as a child, he took apart and reassembled a Nintendo console and, as a teenager, hacked the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory network — eventually led him to a career as an NSA contractor,



In this February 14, 2015, file photo, Edward Snowden appears on a live video feed broadcast from Moscow at an event sponsored by ACLU Hawaii in Honolulu AP

where he observed high-tech spy powers with increasing revulsion.

Analysts used the Government's collection powers to read the emails of current and former lovers and stalk them online, he writes.

One particular programme the NSA called XKEYSCORE allowed the Government to scour the recent Internet history of average Americans. He says he learned through that programme that nearly everyone who's been online has at

least two things in common: They've all watched pornography at one time or another, and they've all stored videos and pictures of their family. "This was true," he writes, "for virtually everyone of every gender, ethnicity, race, and age — from the meanest terrorist to the nicest senior citizen, who might be the meanest terrorist's grandparent, or parent, or cousin."

He struggled to share his concerns with his girlfriend, who joined him in Russia and

is now his wife.

"I couldn't tell her that my former co-workers at the NSA could target her for surveillance and read the love poems she texted me. I couldn't tell her that they could access all the photos she took — not just the public photos, but the intimate ones," he writes. "I couldn't tell her that her information was being collected, that everyone's information was being collected, which was tantamount to a Government threat: If you ever get out of line, we'll

use your private life against you."

Before summoning a small group of journalists to Hong Kong to disclose classified secrets, knowing that a return to the US was impossible, he says he prepared like a man about to die. He emptied his bank accounts, put cash into a steel ammo box for his girlfriend and erased and encrypted his old computers.

These days, the 36-year-old Snowden lives in Moscow, where he remains outside the

reach of a US. Justice Department that brought Espionage Act charges just weeks after the disclosures. He spends many of his days behind a computer and participating in virtual meetings with fellow board members at the Freedom of the Press Foundation. "I beam myself onto stages around the world" to discuss civil liberties, he writes.

When he does go out, he tries to shake up his appearance, sometimes wearing different glasses. He keeps his head down when he walks past buildings equipped with closed-circuit television. Once, he says, he was recognised in a Moscow museum and consented to a selfie request from a teenage girl speaking German-accented English.

It's unclear when or even if Snowden will return to a country where his family has deep roots. He traces his lineage back to the Mayflower and ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War.

He was shaken by the September 11 attacks, but describes his "reflexive, unquestioning support" for the wars that followed as the greatest regret of his life.

"It was as if whatever institutional politics I'd developed had crashed — the anti-institutional hacker ethos instilled in me online, and the apolitical patriotism I'd inherited from my parents, both wiped from my system — and I'd been rebooted as a willing vehicle of vengeance." AP



THE TRUE TAROT IS SYMBOLISM;
IT SPEAKS NO OTHER LANGUAGE
AND OFFERS NO OTHER SIGNS
— A E WAITE

**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

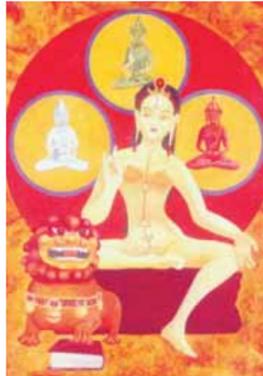
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You are very worried about the future. This will cause you tension and give you sleepless nights. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The best part is that you are positive, know how to control the situation and come out as a winner. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter a mental conflict and nervousness may cause the blood pressure to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In your career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. It is likely to have genuine affection for someone in the work area. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. Those in the job, the favour of a senior will boost your confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love, you will feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

For good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements: earth, water, air, fire and the sky. You need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Any irregularity in diet and lifestyle will have a bad impact on your health. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. This week you will be lucky in love matters and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see perfection all around you. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will enjoy good health, good vigour and good stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On your career front, you may need to take some important decisions with regard to your career/business. Maintain a practical approach. There are chances of you being emotionally blackmailed. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will witness a one-sided love, therefore, you need to have lots of patience and strength. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of responsibilities. Married couples will have a mutual understanding.

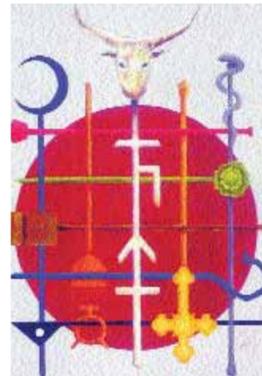
Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health-wise, this week is good. You will feel abundant energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet your health needs and be a motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down on your career front because you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted in life. Your addiction like alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In the area of love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles need to wait for some more time before committing to a relationship.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you will feel stagnated. You need to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors for new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get the good message of love. Romance with your desired partner is on the card. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Positive outlook will bring improvement. The mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away. Physical exercise and being with nature will work best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. You are likely to be called for an interview. Expect a good news in terms of promotion or salary hike. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In your love life, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. You need to adopt a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

It is important that you look after your health this week. Though you have been avoiding it, a visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you to have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on your career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to the desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are full of creativity and positive energy. You need to utilise this energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader and people will listen to you. You will emerge as an efficient participant in meetings, collaborations and contacts. Support from opposite sex will help you achieve desired success. Those appearing for an interview or competitive exams, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift, to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You will enjoy good health, vigour and vitality. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be very important for you. You are capable of regularising your routine, discipline your senses. Your career card holds good fortune this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will be moody and irritable. This may cause concern for your physical health. You might face health issues like headache, nausea and BP etc. You need to control your wild imagination and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed for good results. You may face a lots of challenges at work. Give your best, the rewards are assured. In relationship, abundance of happiness is in store. You will find balance and stability in love. Unmarried may get marriage proposals. You will leave no stone unturned to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness is indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit and healthy. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your senior authorities and may be featured at the top in your Boss' list. Promotion is likely. A new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence, is indicated. In love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Watch over your karma

Having followed last two issues of this column, another regular reader came up with an interesting question: "Sir, you have beautifully explained how our karma sets the term for what we become due for — reward or punishment. But in our life, we do both good and bad karma. Would not the credits earned for all the good done, balance out our bad karma and relieve us from its future implications? You have also suggested that the choice option enjoins upon us with the capacity to filter off the undesirable. To what extent can we modify negative implications of our karmic accruals and what are the remedial measures necessary?"

In divine scheme of things, there is no provision of reward or punishment. Your good karma lets you realise your indwelling potential. That keeps you motivated to for well-intended karma. Your bad karma, in the first place, may stand in way or your potential blooming out in full. Also, it lets you go through similar experiences as would have been met out to others. Purposely so as to put you through such lessons as would make you realise your wrong doings and evolve. It doesn't work like business eco-

nomics where profit balances out the loss. The driving spirit of the laws of karma is to put you through lessons of life as would help you evolve. So, both good and bad karma find reflection simultaneously.

In so far as remedial measure is concerned, self-help offers the best answer. Bear in mind; only such process would work as could get into the inner realms of mind for necessary corrections from the root level. *Pundits* performing belief driven transactional *pujas* can't reach out your mind frame to nullify your habit tendencies. Had it been so, no resourceful person would ever suffer in life.

It is pertinent to note here that thought seeds pertaining to the karmic carry over from the past are imprinted in the mind. They find reflection in your thought process. When you self-reflect, you may figure out different patterns in the thought process playing within mind. That may help you identify and acknowledge the fault lines, and then address them. Often, your ego may not let you dispassionately acknowledge indwelling infirmities. Here, astrology may serve as an effective diagnostic tool, which, through a look at the energy-map of heaven at the time of one's birth, reflects



upon your karmic accrual with a fair amount of precision, as energy knows no bias. The redressal process is not that easy either, as habits die hard. Better seek the guidance of a realised Guru, who is adept in overcoming the limitations of mind and psyche. The extent to which one could modify the implications of karmic carryover from the past depends on your will and resolve to change yourself through sustained efforts.

Here is the case of a person who had been doing extremely well in so far as his business was concerned. But at the same time, he and his family members were faced with a criminal case of serious dimension. Look at his astrological pointers. Towards the potential side, Jupiter, the lord of *Kendra* house occupying its own house, aspects Venus the lord of trine house, which occupies the 10th house identified with career prospects. The 10th lord Mercury occupying the 11th house identified with fulfillment of desires, is posited in the *nakshatra* owned by Venus. Association of *Kendra* and Trine houses speaks loud of his promising career. Further to that, mind signifying Moon, beautifully aligned with Mercury makes him an intelligent person armed with good communicative skill, vital to success in life.

Towards the negative, the Sun is locked in adverse formation with mischievous Neptune, which binds him to his fanciful dream perceptions, not realising that it could put him through difficult situations. Added to that is Venus, ill-disposed off to Neptune. That makes him susceptible to get into unconventional partnership, not acceptable by societal norms, thus putting his morality in question. If all that would not be enough, the Sun is in opposition to its planet of nemesis Saturn. That makes him vulnerable to come under the scanner of law enforcement agencies. As he entered his 38th year, the progressed *lagna* closed up Neptune, which was already placed adverse to Venus. Progressed Sun formed unholy alliance with natal Venus. Progressed Venus as well as Moon, locked horns with Neptune. All these negative indicators simultaneously coming into play, his extra marital relationship created a situation that put him through a very difficult situation.

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