

**OPINION 8**  
MESSAGE FOR A  
VIOLENT WORLD

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TALIBAN KILL 48 AHEAD  
OF AFGHAN POLLS

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BAN CUT TO  
TWO GAMES  
15 SPORT

## Investors lose ₹2.72L cr in 2 days

Hit by oil crisis,  
Sensex tanks  
642 points

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Equity investors lost ₹2.72 lakh crore in two days as market tanked for the second day in a row on Tuesday following spike in the crude price triggered by drone attacks on the world's largest oil processing facilities in Saudi Arabia. The rise in geopolitical tensions in West Asia led to severe selling in the equity market.

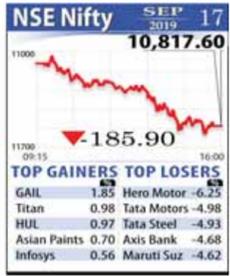
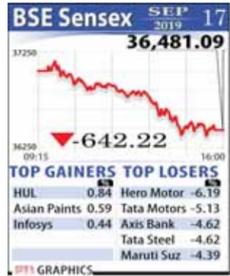
The Sensex on Tuesday plummeted 642.22 points or 1.73 per cent to close at 36,481.09. During the day, it dropped 704.22 points. Sensex on Monday tanked 262 points.

After soaring as much as 20 per cent to \$71.95 per barrel on Monday, Brent crude futures corrected slightly to trade at \$67.97 per barrel on Tuesday.

Haunted by fear that elevated crude prices could worsen India's fiscal concerns, the market came under vicious bear grip and even blue chip stocks could not withstand the sell-off. Led by the heavy selling in the market, the market capitalisation (m-cap) of BSE-listed companies was eroded by ₹2,72,593.54 crore to ₹1,39,70,356.22 crore.

All sectoral indices ended in the red, with BSE auto, realty, metal, banks, finance, oil and gas, energy, technology and IT indices falling up to 3.80 per cent. On the Sensex chart, losses were driven by Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Maruti and SBI — falling by 6.19 per cent. Only, Hindustan Uniliver, Asian Paints and Infosys ended in mild green. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices followed benchmarks, cracking up to 1.84 per cent.

The rise in crude prices



## Asia's biggest electrical market dim ahead of festival of lights

Bhagirath Palace in Delhi wears deserted look

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

Asia's biggest wholesale electrical market Bhagirath Palace — a one-stop destination for retailers to buy electrical equipment — located in the heart of Delhi, wore a deserted look on Tuesday ahead of the festival season.

Many traders were sitting idle waiting for customers with only a few people seen doing window shopping in the narrow lanes of the market.

Bharat Ahuja, president of Delhi Electrical Traders Association, hold economic slowdown responsible for slack business. "Many real estate projects have been stalled in neighbouring States and it has hit sale of electrical appliances. Realtors were our major buyers and we have lost them as well," he said.

Ahuja said the Union Government has done nothing to address our concerns except announcing support to micro, small and medium enterprises. "How does it help traders?," he said, adding that the decreasing number of Government or local bodies tenders for electrical appliances has further added to our woes.

Traders claimed 70 to 80 per cent drop in sales has affected the job prospects in the market. A trader said shopkeepers used to employ four to five workers every year before Diwali to deal with the festival



A view of Bhagirath Palace electrical market

Pioneer photo

rush but the situation this year is different. "Now, it is difficult to keep the existing employees as there is not enough work. Staffers employed in shops have been reduced to two or three as compared to 10 to 12 in corresponding years.

"Many workers came from different States in search of jobs here but they returned back disappointed," he said.

However, some traders blamed road blockage due to redevelopment work being carried out by the Shahjahanabad Redevelopment Corporation, a firm responsible for redevelopment of Old Delhi.

Ashok Kumar, owner of New Bhagwati Lite said that one of the reason due to which sales have been affected is curbing vehicle movement leading to the market by the authorities. "It has also affected sells but the major reason is slow down of economy," he added.

It may be noted that the SRDC as part of the Chandni Chowk redevelopment project is making a nearly 1 km-long dual carriageway stretch of the famed street, from Fatehpuri

Mosque to Red Fort, pedestrianised to bring back the charm of Chandni Chowk.

Kumar also said that buyers from adjoining States of Delhi like UP, Bihar, Haryana, Orissa, Rajasthan, Maharashtra have also not been turning up for purchasing Diwali accessories, citing lack of demand and money as a reason.

Another trader said that transaction worth crores of Rupees was made on daily basis in the market and a huge economy is involved that sustains not only the traders but thousands of daily wage labourers who offload and load the bulk of material into and outside shops. "Now the current situation has made it difficult for not only traders but the daily workers to sustain their livelihood," he said.

The Bhagirath Palace market was opened in 1950 is a hub of import and export trade in electrical equipment as it caters to the export demand from the markets particularly in neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the Maldives, Bangladesh etc.

## All 6 Raj BSP MLAs defect to Congress

Maya hits out at Congress, says it is untrustworthy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ashok Gehlot Government received a big boost in Rajasthan after all six BSP MLAs on Tuesday joined the Congress.

Though Gehlot denied having given any inducement to MLAs who switched sides, Mayawati accused the Congress of "betraying" her. Gehlot described Mayawati's reaction as "natural", but reiterated his party did not mount any pressure on the BSP MLAs.

"The Congress Government in Rajasthan has lured the BSP MLAs (to its fold) and given proof of being an untrustworthy and fraudulent party once again," said the BSP supremo in a tweet. Mayawati lamented that the Congress, instead of fighting rival parties, always hurts the ones which support them.

Gehlot justified the MLAs' cross-over, arguing that the MLAs have taken the decision to join the Congress as per the aspiration of their electorate.

Congress State president Sachin Pilot too defended the development, saying the BSP MLAs have switched over to his party without any greed and it would boost development in their region. With BSP MLAs joining the Congress, the number of the Congress MLAs has increased to 106. The BJP has 72 MLAs in the 200-seat Assembly.

The Congress was able to woo MLAs from other parties after losing dozens of them in other States, particularly in Maharashtra, where its ally NCP has seen major exodus.

The prominent defectors are former Minister and Navi Mumbai strongman Ganesh Naik, who was with the NCP for at least two decades, before he joined the BJP recently, and Udayanraje Bhosale, a direct descendant of warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.



Bhosale had resigned from his Parliamentary membership from Satara in western Maharashtra before joining the BJP in Delhi in the presence of party chief and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

A senior Congress leader from Maharashtra said on Tuesday the deserters have switched sides considering local political equations, but they are not being able to dent the party's organisation at the local level.

### CAPSULE

**POK WILL BE OURS ONE DAY, SAYS JAISHANKAR**  
New Delhi: Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) is a part of India and New Delhi expects to have physical jurisdiction over it one day, EAM S Jaishankar said.

**EX-KOLKATA CP FAILS TO GET ANTI-CORRUPTION BAIL**  
Kolkata: Former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar, did not get relief from Barasat District and Sessions Court on Tuesday on his anticipatory bail application hours after a special court refused to hear the plea. P6

**ALL ACCUSED IN BETTIAH GANG-RAPE CASE HELD**  
Patna/Bettiah: All four persons named as accused in the Bettiah gang-rape case have been arrested and the complainant, who claimed she was 18 years old, turned out to be a minor.

**AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE ASTRA TEST-FIRED**  
Balsore: IAF on Tuesday successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed air-to-air missile Astra that was fired from a fighter aircraft.

## Harsha-era Govisana Mound gets national tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

It took up to over five decades and a court order for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to issue a final notification to declare historical site Govisana Mound at Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district in Uttarakhand as of "national importance". Interestingly, the preliminary notification for declaring the site of "national importance" was issued way back in 1970.

Last year, the Uttarakhand High Court, on the basis of a petition filed by Kashipur resident Anil Kumar Maheshwari, had sought the removal of encroachments from around monuments of national importance in the State and urged the court to declare Govisana Mound as a national heritage.

Kashipur was known as Govisana, during the time of Harshavardhana (606-647 AD). The ruins of the large settlement of those days can be still seen near the city.

The division bench of acting Chief Justice Rajiv Sharma



A view of ancient Govisana fort in Kashipur

and justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari of the High Court directed the premier archaeological agency to take over the maintenance of the Drona Sagar Chaiti and Moteshwar Mahadev temples in Kashipur.

According to reports, the ancient mound at Kashipur was identified by Major General Sir Alexander Cunningham, a British Army engineer. He had traced remains of a large structure at Bhim-Gaja, the highest place at the site. The ASI conducted excavations here in 1939-40,

1965-66 and 1970-01 in order to reveal the details of the structure traced by Cunningham.

Excavation revealed substantial part of the plan of the temple built in three different phases. Initially, the temple appears to have started as a solid brick built high platform surmounted possibly by a sanctum during Gupta period but later, two encircling walls probably in 6th-7th century AD were laid around it covering it into an extensive and impressive Panchayatana complex.

Since the excavation was aimed to obtain the detail plan of the temple, no attempt was made to reveal the complete cultural sequence of the site; however pottery collected from the site revealed that site remained under occupation from Painted Grey Ware period to the early medieval time. The thick brick debris accumulated against the wall of the temple contained copper coins, copper and glass bangles, copper rings, terracotta and, stone beads, nails and chisels of different periods, according to ASI reports.

However, after issuing the preliminary notification in 1970, the place was forgotten by the ASI that led to illegal encroachments.

Maheshwari petitioned against the encroachments made on the ancient monuments and archaeological sites in Kashipur town. He alleged that the State machinery did not take effective steps and evicted the persons, who have raised construction on the prohibited area/regulated area.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks the blessings of his mother Hiraben on the occasion of his 69th birthday in Gandhinagar on Tuesday

## United Left clean sweeps JNUSU polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The united front of Left student groups AISA, SFI, AISE, DSF has bagged all the four posts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU). The results of the elections held in September first week were declared on Tuesday after the Delhi High Court order.

The grouping's presidential candidate Aishe Ghosh defeated Manish Jangid of the ABVP by bagging 2,313 votes. Jangid got 1,128 votes. Saket Moon was elected JNUSU vice-president and bagged 3,365 votes. Moon defeated ABVP's Shruti Agnihotri, who got 1,335 votes.

Satish Chandra Yadav polled 2,518 votes to defeat Sabareesh PA, who got 1,355 votes, for the general secretary post. Md Danish was elected joint secretary by defeating Sumanta Kumar Sahu.

Continued on Page 4

## HC gives lease of life to 2,648 Aarey trees

Next hearing on Sept 30

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a temporary relief for citizen activists protesting against the felling of trees in Aarey colony, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday ordered that the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL) shall not fell any tree at Aarey Colony in north Mumbai for a Metro car shed till September 30.

The HC will hear a petition challenging proposed felling of over 2,648 trees in this area in north Mumbai from September 30, said a Division Bench of Chief Justice Pradeep

Nandrajog and Justice Bharati Dandge. Zoru Bathena has filed a petition challenging the approval granted by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on August 29 to cut trees for the Metro car shed.

Bathena's counsel Janak Dwarkadas told the HC that on September 13 the authorities issued final permission letter to MMRCL for felling or transplanting trees.

Continued on Page 4

## SC quizzes Muslim parties on images, figures at disputed structure

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday posed certain searching queries to the Muslim parties about the images of lions, birds and flowers found on the now-demolished structure at the disputed Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri masjid site, seeking to know whether such pictures are found in mosques.

The Muslim parties said there were no images of God found in any mosque but just because "some flowers and some pictures" have been found, it cannot be said that the site was "unquranic" and against the Islamic beliefs.

They told the 5-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, that a few pictures of lions, a bird on the 'Singhdwar' (gate) and some

flowery images found on 'kasauti pillars' of the structure do not help the Hindu side in establishing that there was a temple instead of a mosque.

"This (the picture of two lions and one bird taken in 1950) is on the 'Singhdwar'. It has two lions and one 'ganada', the bench said, adding that it wanted to see a "better picture".

"There cannot be images of flowers, animals in a mosque... Mr Dhavan, you can make a small note and give us the images of mosques," said the bench, also comprising Justices SA Bobde, DY Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and SA Nazeer, on the 25th day of hearing in the case.

Dhavan, who was arguing on eighth day on behalf of Sunni Waqf Board and others including original litigant M Siddiq, told the bench that the reliance on

### AYODHYA CASE

these pictures by Hindu parties "does not prove anything".

Moreover, we were not called upon to answer this question in the High Court and the point was that there was "no direct evidence of any image of a god there", he said.

Nothing had come out of it (pictures of lions and a bird) as some Muslim witnesses had said it was "emblem of Nawab", while some Hindus said that they indicated towards the existence of temple.

On the lotus symbol, found on the kasauti pillars, the senior lawyer said that they did not make the structure a temple or part of a temple and moreover, such flowery images were also part of Islamic art the world over.

Dhavan questioned the submissions of Hindu parties on 14 'kasuti' pillars and various images found on them and said: "Some (witnesses) said that these pillars were lying there, some said that they came from Nepal and some said they came from nearby mining area and few others said that they came from Sri Lanka.

"On kasuti pillars, there was no direct evidence of any image of God or Goddess on them. This is what I have argued. They (Hindus) will have to show some images of God on them...there was a suggestion that as there were images of lotus, so it was a temple." Referring to the High Court verdict, he said that there was no such findings in the judgement and referred to Qutab Minar and said that there are temple inscriptions on it.

"The question is that

whether such images are there in any mosque." Justice Bobde asked. If a 'Sultan' or 'Nabab' or a King gave an "un-Islamic" or "Unquranic" edict, the structure does not become "un-Islamic", Dhavan said, adding that there were no images on the west wall of structure and Muslims pray with their face towards west.

Justice Chandrachud said the presence of such images on the site could be because of the "cultural assimilation" and the religions, which came from outside, adopted some features of Indic faiths also.

Dhavan agreed with the observations and said the purpose of showing these images by Hindus was to prove that this mosque was not a mosque at all. Justice Bobde then asked, "Has any witness said that this (pictures) was because of any cul-

tural assimilation".

Dhavan replied in negative. He assailed the HC verdict saying that it did not consider a report of four famous historians, including Irfan Habib, on the existence of Ram temple at Ayodhya on the site of Babri mosque.

The report had stated that the site where Babri Masjid stood could not have been the birthplace of Lord Ram, he said, adding that it was not considered because one of the historians, DN Jha, did not sign it.

"Who asked them to give the report," the bench asked, adding, "at the highest", the report could be considered as an opinion. Dhavan said that according to the report the belief that temple was destroyed gained ground for the first time in 19th century.

# Wishes pour in on PM's birthday

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party joined the country in celebrating the 69th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with several programmes, including puja, havans and blood donation camps, across the state on Tuesday.

Wishes also poured in on social media networking sites. Taking the lead was Governor Anandiben Patel who tweeted: "Adhering to the ideology of Chariaveti-Chariaveti (always walking), PM Narendra Modi is taking the country on the path of development. On his birthday I wish that the Almighty keeps him in good health and bestow upon him all the success."

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who is in Gorakhpur, tweeted: "Heartiest wishes to our PM Shri @narendramodi ji on his birthday. Your dedication, commitment and vision of building a #NewIndia with mantra of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' always keeps inspiring all of us. I pray for your long, healthy and prosperous life."

Among the opposition leaders, BSP president Mayawati was first to wish the Prime Minister on his birthday. "Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 69th birthday for his long life," she posted on Twitter.

BJP state president Swatantra Dev Singh said that the Prime Minister has dedicated his life for the welfare of the society. "Serving people is the mission of Prime Minister and



Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna and Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia taking part in the cleanliness drive on Tuesday

we, as party workers, are working hard to ensure we fulfill the dream of Modi ji."

"I appeal to the party workers to work hard for the uplift of the poor. The way Prime Minister has formulated policies for building houses for the poor and providing them free electricity is commendable. We should ensure that bonafide beneficiaries get the government benefits," he said.

Different programmes were held at different places. In Varanasi, the parliamentary constituency of the PM, BJP

celebrated Modi's birthday in a big way by holding blood donation camps and other programmes. Similar functions were held in Gorakhpur and Lucknow. Some party workers also distributed fruits and sweets among the patients in state-run hospitals.

A BJP leader even donated a gold crown to the Sankat Mochan temple in Varanasi on the occasion. In Lucknow, a photo exhibition of the life of PM is being organised at the state BJP headquarters.

As per reports from different parts of the state, puja,

havans, and bhandaras were organised and special prayer meetings were held for the long life of the Prime Minister.

Ministers in the Yogi cabinet led celebrations in different regions. Deputy Chief Minister Dr Dinesh Sharma took part in programmes held under Sewa Saptah organised at Agra while Satish Mahana was in Hardoi.

"All the ministers in-charge were present in their respective districts and they took part in the programmes," BJP media incharge Manish Dixit said.

# Chinmayanand remains under medical observation ...no rape FIR lodged yet

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, accused of raping a student, remained under medical observation on Tuesday, a day after he complained of uneasiness. Chinmayanand had complained of uneasiness on Monday after the alleged rape victim got her statement recorded before a magistrate.

A team of three doctors examined the former Union minister in his ashram after he complained of weakness and fluctuating blood sugar level besides an upset stomach, Dr Gaurav Mishra of a private nursing home here told PTI after visiting the 72-year-old leader. Chinmayanand, however, has not been shifted to any hospital, he added.

Official sources, meanwhile, said the SIT continued with its probe in the mat-

ter, but no FIR has been lodged so far against the BJP leader.

The special investigation team probing the case, however, took the alleged rape victim to the court on Monday for recording of her statement before Judicial Magistrate Geetika Singh.

The Supreme Court-appointed SIT had on Sunday examined three friends of the victim besides some employees of her college.

The victim's friends, who were examined, included the one who was with her when she was traced in Rajasthan after having gone missing last month. The SIT had called them to the police lines here and recorded their statements, official sources said.

The SIT had also examined principals of the two colleges, besides their two staffers, where the girl studied. The girl's

father on Sunday had termed the leakage of some video footage given by his daughter to the SIT as a "conspiracy" and had said he would request the Supreme Court court to order a probe into it.

"From where have the screenshots and videos appeared on social media? The screenshots have been posted on various social media platforms. These were given to the SIT by my daughter. This is a conspiracy," he had said.

The law student had on Saturday given a pen drive containing 43 videos to the SIT to support her allegations after the sleuths asked her to submit whatever evidence she had against the former Union minister.

The SIT had taken the woman to Chinmayanand's bedroom on Friday morning and had collected evidence.

# Shivpal Yadav struggling to remain politically relevant

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Pragatishheel Samajwadi Party Lohia (PSPL) leader Shivpal Yadav is struggling to remain politically relevant in the state. Shivpal Yadav now faces the threat of being disqualified from the membership of UP Assembly.

The SP has petitioned the Assembly Speaker, seeking his disqualification under anti-defection law. In March 2017 elections, Shivpal was elected to UP Assembly from Jaswant Nagar seat in Etawah district on Samajwadi Party ticket.

SP president and Shivpal's nephew Akhilesh Yadav has on several occasions dubbed the PSPL a 'B' team of BJP floated to cut into the SP vote bank in the last Lok Sabha elections.

"Even if the assertion of Akhilesh Yadav is taken on face value, Shivpal Yadav is now of little use for the BJP as the ruling party has decimated both the SP and BSP," a PSPL leader said.

Following the Samajwadi Party's defeat in May 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it was expected that the Yadav family feud would be settled and Akhilesh



his strength by contesting the Lok Sabha elections with PSPL, but did not succeed. "There is no use in allowing Shivpal to remain an MLA. Weakening him will ultimately finish his party and their leaders will come to SP which will benefit the party in by-elections," a Samajwadi Party leader said.

Shivpal was looking at his political career in the Congress party after parting ways with the SP. There were a lot of talks that he was planning to join hands with the Congress. But after the Congress suffered a crushing defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, he was left all by himself. After the elections, the BJP also stopped giving Shivpal any importance.

"Both Akhilesh and Mulayam have understood that Shivpal will not be joining either Congress or BJP. In such a situation, the SP can become stronger only by weakening the PSPL," a Samajwadi Party leader said, adding: "Shivpal Singh Yadav wanted to join the SP after the Lok Sabha elections, but Akhilesh was not willing to include him in the party at any cost."

# Jaya Prada slams Akhilesh, MSY for backing Azam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Former MP and BJP leader Jaya Prada has debunked the claim of Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh and his son Akhilesh Yadav that Rampur MP Azam Khan constructed the Jauhar University by begging from the common people and seeking donations.

Jaya Prada also criticised Mulayam Singh Yadav and SP president Akhilesh Yadav for supporting Azam Khan.

"Only small rooms can be built by begging and donations. A palatial universi-

ty like the Jauhar University in Rampur can never be constructed with the money collected through begging," Jayaprada said in Rampur, adding: "It is naive on the part of Azam Khan to hold me responsible for the action by the district administration of Rampur against him. He is being brought to justice for his misdeeds and he is reaping what he has sown."

On Mulayam Singh's statement that Azam Khan made a university by begging, Jaya Prada responded: "If a university can be constructed by begging, everybody will make a university." Lashing out at SP

national president and former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, Jaya Prada said that Azam Khan was torturing her during the SP government.

"Akhilesh Yadav as Chief Minister never found it prudent to intervene when Azam Khan was running a vicious campaign against me, because I am a woman and a Hindu," Jaya Prada said, adding: "Today, Azam Saheb has become the guru of Akhilesh Yadav."

Jaya Prada said a person like Akhilesh Yadav who could ditch his father could do anything for his narrow political ends.

# Govt move to hike quota of molasses leaves sugar industry dismayed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government's move to hike the reserved quota of molasses from 12.5% to 16% for country-made liquor has left the sugar industry dismayed. Private sugar millers have expressed concern over hike in the reserved quota, claiming it will not only impact their cash flow but also squeeze free availability of molasses towards ethanol making for mixing in petrol to that extent.

Against the prevailing molasses market price of Rs 480-500 per quintal, the state distilleries lift their reserved quota at a controlled rate of Rs 70 per quintal, thus paying only 15% of the market rate.

The government has hiked the reserved quota to maintain adequate supply of molasses for distilleries to produce country liquor.

The move has been prompted by the shortfall in molasses production from the estimated 5.5 million tonnes (MT) to about 4.7 MT during the last cane crushing season this year.

In fact, UP sugar mills have long been asking the state government to decontrol the commodity and abolish the system of reserving molasses for distilleries, so that they could buy the same from the open market. They observed since liquor was also a commercial commodity and produced by business entities, they were not entitled to subsidised price.

"The unexpected hike in the molasses reserved quota will definitely hit our finances apart from depressing the availability for ethanol production, especially in the backdrop of the UP sugarcane outstanding of about Rs 6,200 crore for the 2018-19 crushing season," said an official of a private sugar company.

UP, which is eyeing a robust excise revenue of more than Rs 31,000 crore for the current 2019-20 fiscal, does not want to affect the supply chain of country liquor, which could impact revenue collection. This has been sought to be addressed through hike in the reserved quota to 16% under the current 2018-19 UP molasses policy.

Molasses is a sugarcane byproduct generated during sugar production. Molasses recovery is pegged at about 4.75% of cane crushed. Molasses is processed to make ethyl alcohol and methyl alcohol.

While ethyl alcohol is not for human consumption, methyl alcohol is used for making liquor by distilleries and it also has other medicinal uses.

Besides, sugar mills also allege that even the reserved quota was not lifted readily by distilleries, thus adding to

their inventory costs and resulting in shortage of storage spaces.

According to the latest figures available, against net molasses reserved quota of 0.49 MT in UP, the state distilleries had only lifted 0.28 MT till the end of July 2019.

Meanwhile, the UP Cooperative bank has decided to lend Rs 3,221 crore to the cooperative sector sugar mills for the next cane crushing season 2019-20 commencing from November.

Currently, there are 23 factories operated by the government-managed UP Cooperative Sugar Factories Federation Limited in the state.

This will enable the mills to carry out necessary maintenance work on plant and machinery, apart from financing stocks and receivables, during the course of the cane crushing season, which is expected to start from November and extend till April-May 2020.

In the 2018-19 crushing season, the state government had given a similar guarantee worth nearly Rs 2,704 crore to the cooperative sector mills. Thus, the estimated working capital requirement by these mills for the coming season has risen by Rs 517 crore or by almost 20 per cent over the previous cycle.

Of the 119 sugar mills in UP, 94 belong to the private sector, making up 80 per cent of the total, followed by cooperative sector entities at 23 (20 per cent).

One factory is run by UP State Sugar Corporation Limited. The state government plans to revive few more cooperative sector mills in the coming crushing season.

# Congress unreliable, untrustworthy: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Chief Mayawati on Tuesday called the Congress "unreliable" and "untrustworthy" after six of her party MLAs switched over to the grand-old party in Rajasthan.

Mayawati, in a tweet, said, "By poaching BSP MLAs, the Congress has proved that it is an unreliable party. This is a breach of trust even when the BSP was lending its unconditional support to the Congress government in Rajasthan."

The BSP president said: "Instead of fighting with its arch rivals, the Congress always damages the parties that have helped and supported it. Hence, Congress is against Dalits, STs and OBCs and has been non-serious about the rights of backward."

She also accused the grand-old-party of being against the principles of Babasaheb Ambedkar, "which is why he had to resign from the post of the country's first law minister."

"The Congress never let Babasaheb go to Lok Sabha and neither was he awarded the Bharat Ratna. This is very shameful and sad," she said.

On Monday night, all six BSP MLAs wrote to state Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to merge the Legislative Party with the Congress. MLAs Rajendra Singh Gudha, Jogendra Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Lakhan Singh Meena, Sandeep Yadav and Deepchand said they were merging their legislative party with the Congress. The development came ahead of civic body polls and bypolls to two assembly seats. Meanwhile, in another development, after the Allahabad High Court stayed the notification to include 17 OBC groups in the Scheduled



Castes list, the BSP president on Tuesday said such government decisions were guided by total selfish political motives but affected the entire society.

She said the move was "most unfortunate". "The news of the high court staying the forcible declaration of 17 OBCs as Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh is naturally in limelight today. Such decisions guided by total selfish political motives do not affect any party/government but the entire society. Most unfortunate," Mayawati tweeted in Hindi.

Staying the notification on Monday, the high court directed the state government to file its reply in three weeks on a petition against its decision to declare 17 Other Backward Classes as SCs. The petition stated that the Constitution has empowered the Centre to make such amendments and include a particular community in the Scheduled Caste list. Hence, such a decision by a state government was in violation of Article 341 of the Constitution, it said. According to the petitioner, the Uttar Pradesh government issued a government order in June to include 17 communities of the OBC category in the SC list. Kahar, Kashyap, Kewat, Nishad, Bind, Bhar, Prajapati, Rajbhar, Batham, Gaur, Tura, Majhi, Mallah, Kumhar, Dheemar and Machua sub-castes were among the 17 OBC groups.

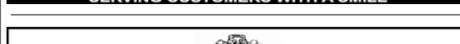
## NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Golden Opportunity for Cargo Operators and Transporters to be a partner with Northern Railway through contracts of leasing of Parcel Space in 10 M/Exp. Trains originating from different stations of Lucknow Division. Tender Notice for Leasing of SLRs space for a period of five years. The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Lucknow invites E-tender from "Registered Lease Holders of Lucknow Division" with applicable GST registered under CPLP-2014 for the contract of leasing of SLR spaces in the following trains originating from various stations over Lucknow Division.

Tender Opening Date	23.10.2019
Tender Notice No.	3/2019
Name of work	Leasing of 4/3 tonnes SLR spaces of M/Exp. Trains originating from different stations of Lucknow Division for 5 years. Following Trains numbers are as under :- 14307, 14202, 11094, 19408, 22970, 22417, 14216, 14203, 14227, 14123.
Date & Time for online submission of Tender	Upto 23.10.2019 till 15.30 hrs.
Date & Time of opening of Tender	23.10.2019 at 15.30 hrs.

Interested registered leaseholders may submit bid through E-tendering only by registering themselves on the Portal i.e. [www.parcel.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.parcel.indianrail.gov.in). Online bid can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. Dt. 23.10.2019 on the web portal i.e. [www.parcel.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.parcel.indianrail.gov.in) with individual 'User ID & password' provided. The bidding will close at hrs. on 15.00 hrs. Dt. 23.10.2019. Details of the Notice Inviting Tender, Terms & Conditions and Agreement will be available on the website of Northern Railway <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Online bid in the system along with tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. Note :- Whenever tariff rates are increased/decreased, the lumpsum leased freight will also be increased / decreased on Pro-rata basis even in case of leasing tenders, which are in process or under finalization stage. The Notice Inviting Tender, Eligibility Criteria, Terms & Conditions and Agreement are available on the official website of Indian Railway [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Notice No. C/SLR Leasing Contract-2019/KS. 2984/19

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F.No. Z-28021/118/2018-IT Cell Government of India Ministry of AYUSH

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India invites RFP for engagement of Social Media Network Management Agency. The RFP document along with the notice inviting tender is available on the CPP Portal i.e. <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> with tender id 2019\_AYUSH\_501679\_1. All interested may refer on the CPP Portal and website of Ministry of AYUSH i.e. <http://ayush.gov.in/> for complete details and also for corrigendum if any.

davp 17201/11/0025/1920



## सूचना

सूचित हो कि मिर्जा तन्वीर अहमद व तन्वीर अहमद दोनों नाम एक ही व्यक्ति के हैं। परन्तु परिवार में मुझे मिर्जा तन्वीर अहमद के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए। मिर्जा तन्वीर अहमद पूरा जी मिर्जा रईस अहमद, पता-592K/386, सुनानी रोड, तैलीबाग, लखनऊ, पिन-226002

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# Property dealer succumbs, police groping in the dark



Property dealer Ashok Yadav, who was peppered with bullets in Mohanlalganj on Monday afternoon, succumbed to injuries on Tuesday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Property dealer Ashok Yadav, who was peppered with bullets in Mohanlalganj on Monday afternoon, succumbed on Tuesday. Meanwhile, police are groping in dark to track down the assailants who had fled the scene after executing the crime. Also, the police have yet to ascertain the motive for the fatal attack on Ashok, who retired as Hawildar from army.

A police spokesman said Ashok breathed his last around 2 am on Tuesday at Trauma Centre II, where he was admitted by locals. He had suffered three firearm injuries in the stomach and one on right arm.

His condition was stated to be critical on Monday night as doctors had failed to stop the bleeding in internal organs.

Amidst the presence of heavy police force, the body of the victim was taken to his native house in Medai Kheda village and was cremated later.

The family members, apprehensive of their safety, have demanded security cover. "Before his death, Ashok had told us that he had no enmity with anyone, and he himself was puzzled as to why he was shot at," the grieving family members told the police.

Those who admitted Ashok to Trauma Centre II said he was repeatedly saying that he was an armyman and had no enmity with anyone.

A team led by ASP (Rural) Vikrant Veer camped at Mohanlalganj Kotwali which

## Trigger-happy goons giving sleepless nights to police

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Trigger-happy goons are giving sleepless nights to the Lucknow police who have apparently failed in curbing such incidents despite intensified vigils following the instructions of senior government officials.

"The Mohanlalganj incident in which a property dealer and retired armyman was peppered with bullets is just another incident on the long. The miscreants have shot at or killed several people in full public view in the past," sources said.

They recalled that three unidentified miscreants had shot at Jafri brothers allegedly over a property row behind St Francis' College in Hazratganj in July last. Shortly after that, a realtor, Sunil Singh, was shot at in Ansal City under PGI police station area on August 3. "Earlier, unidentified miscreants had shot dead a youth, Salman, near Jahaz wali Kothi in Chowk police station area

has a staff strength of two inspectors, 18 sub-inspectors, 65 constables and 22 women constables at present.

Mohanlalganj Kasba, where the crime took place, is manned by two sub-inspectors and 14 constables. The ASP sought to know from the policemen about their delayed reaction time.

Sources said the teams started scanning the Base Transceiver Station (BTS) of different telecom companies to find out the suspect cell numbers. "The list is very exhaustive as it contains several hundreds of numbers. Police's plan is to study the numbers to find a clue out of the heap of mobile numbers," the sources said.

They said the miscreants changed their sitting position on the bike while speeding off the scene. "In one footage, it was seen that the pillion-riders changed their position on the

about eight months back. In Thakurganj, the miscreants had shot dead a software engineer, Sharad Nigam. In Chinhat, Kakori and Madaon, such incidents have been reported in the past few months," the sources said.

They said among the list of the crime, the above-mentioned cases got the media hype while other cases could not be highlighted. "The incidents in which the victims were ordinary people did not make the headlines," they said.

The sources said that the murder of Apple executive Vivek Tiwari was the incident which had invited national outrage and the Lucknow police had drawn flak from several quarters.

"Only in Thakurganj, three incidents — murders of property dealer Pappu, software engineer Sharad and businessman Chhotu — were reported in the past three months. Though the police worked out these cases, their competency remained at stake till then," the

way," they claimed.

It surfaced during investigation that the miscreants sleuthed the police before executing the crime. "One of the teams left for checking of banks while a Shakti mobile team left for checking around the schools and colleges. The miscreants chose the time to execute the crime in the interval between arrival of conducting bank checking and departure of Shakti mobile team from the police station," they said.

The police spokesman said the teams were yet to get any clue about the motive for murderous assault. "We also are yet to find clues about the assailants. We checked above 70 CCTV footages but the registration number of the bike was found to be unclear in all," he said.

Meanwhile, a youth, identified as Gaurav Dwivedi (25) of Rahim Nagar locality in

Mahanagar, ended his life at his house on Tuesday. Police said Gaurav was suffering from some mental disease and was spotted hanging from the ceiling of a room on the top floor of his house. "His parents did not find him in his room and went upstairs to search for him. They found the doors locked from inside. He was later found hanging," the police said.

Meanwhile, a farmer, identified as Ram Prasad (50) of Nigoha, was found hanging from a tree in the village on Tuesday. Police claimed that Ram Prasad ended his life due to financial crisis. Elsewhere, a 50-year-old man, identified as Jamuna Prasad of Malihabad, drowned in a canal on Tuesday. Police said Jamuna Prasad had gone to the canal with his buffaloes and was swept away by the water current. His body was recovered on Tuesday morning.

police suspected that the same youths might have executed the attack to exact revenge.

Manager of the shop Mohit Jaiswal lodged a case against unidentified miscreants. A police spokesman said further investigations were underway.

**RAPE**

A 14-year-old girl accused her father of raping her since the death of her mother, in Gosainganj on Tuesday. In her complaint, the girl said her father held her hostage in the house after her elder sister got married and would often rape her. She alleged that she managed to run away on Tuesday. Police arrested the accused and sent him to jail. "We registered a case of rape and also booked the accused under POCOA Act," inspector DK Upadhyay said.

Meanwhile, thieves decamped with cash and documents from Krishna Public School in Ashiyana on Monday night. The incident came to light when the peon opened the school on Tuesday.

# Students clash with RMLIMS staff

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Director of Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences AK Tripathi has constituted a committee to look into the indisciplinary situation which cropped up when students of the Oncology department had a clash with the outsourced employees on Tuesday.

Tripathi has directed the committee to look into the matter and find out the employees and students responsible for the clash. The committee is headed by CMS PS Singh, dean Nushat Hussain and UG Committee secretary Navbir Pasricha.

Media spokesperson Vivek Singh said the committee scanned the CCTV footage and concluded that a show-cause notice should be served on both the students and the employees. He said the response was expected in the next 24 hours and administrative action would be taken accordingly. He said the clash took place at 9 am and the patient care was affected for about 15 minutes.



Unruly scenes were witnessed at RMLIMS on Tuesday

Pioneer

## Varsity department working in area of nanomaterial toxicity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University's Environmental Science department, under the aegis of the Botany department, is working in the area of nanomaterial-toxicity. Prof Poornima Upadhyaya said it was an emerging field and needed to be studied because no norms had been set up for the release of nanoparticles in the eco system. "Nanomaterial is a new material and has one dimension between 1-100 nanometre and they are very reactive because of the exposure of their surface area," she said.

She admitted that it was important to explore this area because there were no standards regarding the release of this material in the environment.

"Take the case of handwash which is available in the market; it contains nanomaterials which can be harmful because they are absorbed in the body through skin. Then, there are undergarments in the market which contain these nanomaterials," she pointed out. Poornima said she was working on the nanomaterials in plants and how they affected metabolism of the plant and brought about other behavioural changes. "I am also carrying out the study as to how the nanomaterial interacts with other pollutants and affects their behavior," she added.

On being asked what harm these nanoparticles can cause, she said they could break the blood brain barrier and they were carcinogenic in nature.

When inquired as to why was the world waking up to their damaging impacts now, she said these nanoparticles had been there for long but it was only lately that they were being studied and researched upon.

## S-I LANDS IN SOUP

Lucknow (PNS): A sub-inspector, identified as Mohammed Arif, landed in a controversy for his fad for TikTok after his video went viral on Monday night. SSP Kalanidhi Naithani has sought an explanation from him while asking the cops to remain disciplined while using social media. Arif, who is in the charge of South City in PGI police station area, was seen

# LDA joint secretary crowned 'Mrs India'

SHARMILA KRISHNA ■ LUCKNOW

Joint secretary, Lucknow Development Authority, Ritu Suhas has made the city proud by bagging the 'Mrs India' title at a beauty pageant organised in Mumbai on September 16.

Ritu, who was back to the office on Tuesday after a six-day leave, told *The Pioneer* that she was overwhelmed by the response and the way women staff welcomed her.

Wife of the Special Secretary, Planning, posted in Uttar Pradesh, Ritu said after winning the pageant, she wanted to be beauty with a purpose and be the face of women empowerment and other causes such as 'Namami Gange' and 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'.

About the competition, she said it was held for six days in Mumbai. "There were 60 participants who had been selected from city auditions held in 20 states. The final day witnessed several sub-contests, including the manner in which the participants talked and walked. A common question was asked to all the contestants which they had to answer as per their line of thoughts," she said. The question was about success and failure from the contestants points of view.

Quoting Winston Churchill, she said: "Success is moving from one failure to another without the loss of enthusiasm. I also said that success and failures are not opposed to one another, instead they are a part of one another and success comes only after one faces failure."

Asked whether she had ever participated in such a contest before, she said she had once been a part of the college



Ritu Suhas at her office on Tuesday; and with her crown (left) after winning the beauty pageant in Mumbai



pageant and won it too.

"Thereafter, my priorities changed and I started looking for a good job and got married and had children. However, whenever I saw a winner, I always used to get nostalgic. My husband encouraged me to be a part of the contest this year," she said.

Ritu said she began preparations for the pageant soon after she was selected in the city auditions held in January. "I would take time out of my busy schedule for workout and would take a lot of time in looking for good literature," she said. She said no one had a clue when she took a six-day leave from the office to participate in the contest. "The response was great when I broke the news because everyone has a different perception of government departments," she added.

Mother of a 9-year-old girl and 5-year-old boy, Ritu completed her schooling from Loreto Convent and also studied Law from Lucknow University.

"There were several participants from television and choreography having a good amount of exposure. I was not used to wearing high heels and after some time, my heels started bleeding," she said.

# Beer shop salesman shot at; cash looted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

At the time when the Lucknow police are on high alert following the attack on property dealer Ashok Yadav in Mohanlalganj, three unidentified miscreants shot at a salesman of a beer shop on Ring Road in Gudamba and looted Rs 10,000 from him on Monday night. The victim who suffered injuries on his chest has been admitted to a hospital even as police doubt his claims.

As per reports, Jitendra Jaiswal (35) of Triveni Nagar was selling beer cans at the shop when the miscreants reached there on a bike around 9.30 pm. Two of them had their faces covered with a gamchha while another remained seated on the bike. Both the miscreants stormed the shop and opened fire, creating a sensation in the area. Customers who were at the shop started running for cover while the miscreants trained the pistol on Jitendra and asked him to give them the cash.



As Jitendra offered resistance, one of them pushed him down. Jitendra stood up to overpower them but was shot at by one of the miscreants below his throat. Jitendra slumped on the ground and the miscreants looted the cash before fleeing the scene. Some commuters tried to chase the miscreants but stopped after the latter opened fire in the air. Residents alleged that two cops reached the scene on a bike immediately after the miscreant fled the scene. "The cops were told about the incident but they were of little help," they alleged.

Though the police raised doubts over the incident, they

## THE MISCREANTS STORMED THE SHOP AND OPENED FIRE, CREATING A SENSATION IN THE AREA

said doctors had told them that a bullet got embedded into the chest of the victim. "A bullet-like object was seen embedded in victim's chest when we did a digital X-ray. It is yet to be removed," a doctor at the KGMU Trauma Centre said.

The police recovered four bullet shells and a live cartridge from the scene. As they did not find any impression on the walls inside the shop, the cops doubted the incident.

It surfaced during investigation that Jitendra had a showdown with some youths when he was working at a shop in Jankipuram sometime back. The youths had issued death threats to Jitendra and the

police suspected that the same youths might have executed the attack to exact revenge.

Manager of the shop Mohit Jaiswal lodged a case against unidentified miscreants. A police spokesman said further investigations were underway.

## RAPE

A 14-year-old girl accused her father of raping her since the death of her mother, in Gosainganj on Tuesday. In her complaint, the girl said her father held her hostage in the house after her elder sister got married and would often rape her. She alleged that she managed to run away on Tuesday. Police arrested the accused and sent him to jail. "We registered a case of rape and also booked the accused under POCOA Act," inspector DK Upadhyay said.

Meanwhile, thieves decamped with cash and documents from Krishna Public School in Ashiyana on Monday night. The incident came to light when the peon opened the school on Tuesday.

# PMAY: LDA bid to ensure transparency in allotment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) administration has decided to take effective measures to maintain transparency in allotment of shelters being constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and to ensure only needy persons are allotted the accommodations.

LDA Vice-Chairman PN Singh said on Tuesday that the allotment letter would be handed over to buyers after scrutinising their documents and confirming that they had no other accommodation in any other place across the state. The others factors to be scruti-

nised are their monthly incomes, possession of land (agricultural, residential) and their social status. As per rules, only one member of a family is eligible to have a shelter under the scheme. Singh said a three-member team would be formed with a supervisor for the purpose. "The members will be from the revenue department, district administration and LDA administration. A survey will be conducted under the guidance of the District Magistrate," he added.

It is said that the LDA administration, with the help of a multinational company, will develop a special software to scrutinise the documents. The project will be funded by the Central government.

The allotment of the houses will not be cancelled in case of anomalies, but the buyers will be asked to remove the same. Besides, they will be given time if their documents are incomplete.

The allotment will be done through lottery system at the LDA head office in the presence of the applicants so that there are no accusations raised against the officials.

The first lot of the houses will be allotted in November this year. Further programme will be discussed and finalised in a meeting to be held on Sunday. District Magistrate Kaushal Raj Sharma has assured support to the LDA administration.

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# Tarun Patel faces the axe for remarks against Lallu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Making objectionable remarks against Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Ajay Kumar Lallu finally proved costly for Congress leader Tarun Patel. Already issued a show-cause notice by the party, he is all set to be expelled from the party for six years by the end of this week.

Interestingly, Patel played his cards well before the party high command and managed a ticket for him, both for Parliament as well as Assembly elections from Uttar Pradesh though on both the occasions, he hardly got any votes and even lost his deposit. However, this time, Patel's move seems to have backfired as he used derogatory remarks against senior party leaders, that too when he (Lallu) was tasked by the AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra with reviving the party in UP. Though no official confirmation has been made, several Congress leaders hoped that Lallu would be elevated to UPCC president post any time now.

It may be mentioned that a meeting of the members of Other Backward Caste (OBC) of Congress, held under the leadership of all-India general secretary of OBC cell and state coordinator of UP Anil Saini on Friday last, ended on a controversial note as the



leaders openly opposed the move to make Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader Ajay Kumar Lallu as state president. "Agar Lallu-wallu adhyaksh ban jaate hain toh party bhi lallu-panju ho jayegi," Patel had said.

Speaking during the OBC meet here at UPCC headquarters on Friday last, Patel said if Lallu was made the president, they all would quit the party. He also said that under Lallu, the party would not even win seven seats which it won in the last Assembly elections. Interestingly, the objectionable words were used for Lallu when Anil Saini was sitting on the dais and senior Congress leader and former

MP Rajaram Pal was also in the meeting. Not only this, the leaders opposed Lallu even he also hails from the OBC category.

It may also be mentioned here that the leaders tried to send a strong message to Priyanka Gandhi that barring Lallu, they would accept only some other OBC leader as state president or else would revolt against the decision.

Congress district president of Lucknow Gaurav Chowdhary, who was present in that meeting, had later criticised the manner in which the members opposed Lallu.

He even went to allege that state coordinator Anil Saini himself was selling the posts of OBC cell in UP and inducting leaders from outside. He had even taken name of Preetam Chowdhary, claiming that he did not belong to UP, but Saini still made him incharge of OBC Cell of Western UP.

Gaurav claimed that without appointing any state-level chairman who could prepare his team of OBC Cell, Saini for the last over two years was just giving assurances of announcing the names but the truth was that he himself appointed nearly the entire team at district and zonal level. Gaurav said that Anil Saini was doing more harm to the party in UP and he would soon apprise Priyanka Gandhi about the same.

# Wife of Etawah SP consumes poisonous substance 'by mistake'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

In a bizarre case, wife of SP (Crime) in Etawah 'mistakenly' consumed some poisonous substance on Tuesday morning and was admitted to hospital. Local police officials took no legal cognisance of the matter, saying they were waiting for the victim to recover before acting depending on her disclosure.

According to sources, SP's wife Pallavi Chowdhary was rushed to the district hospital and it was claimed that she consumed some poisonous substance by mistake and her condition started deteriorating.

Doctors attending to her referred her to Saifai Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences. Medical superintendent at Saifai PGI Dr Adesh Kumar claimed that the condition of the woman was stable but she had been shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The police claimed that Mahesh was getting ready to leave for his office on Tuesday morning when his wife consumed phenyl by

mistake. The domestic help raised an alarm after which Mahesh called circle officer Vaibhav Pandey, with whose help, she was rushed to the district hospital.

Meanwhile, in a different case in Agra, wife of another SP rank officer, earlier posted in Lucknow, has written a letter demanding action against her husband, who was allegedly involved in a long late night chat with a woman hailing from Lucknow. The woman claimed that few days back, he checked the mobile of her husband over suspicion that he was involved in some affair. She said she was shocked when she found a long WhatsApp chat of her husband with a woman living in Lucknow. The affair had been going for over a year, she claimed. She also said that her husband started abusing her after she objected to his affair with another woman. Though the DGP office refused to make any comment on the issue, sources said that the Agra SSP had been asked to look into the matter and send his report for further action.

**उत्तर प्रदेश प्रशासनिक कार्यपालिका**  
लिमिटेड निविदा सूचना संख्या -  
05/HQ/ECTD-(L)/2019-20  
आवृत्त/अवधि/कार्य का विवरण/कार्य हेतु  
पुष्क-पुष्क मुहब्बत निविदा दो भागों में,  
प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि एवं अर्हताएं  
तथा द्वितीय भाग में स्पेशलिजेशन एवं दरें,  
इच्छुक अनुभवी एवं प्रतिष्ठित ठेकेदारों/  
ट्रेडिंग एजेंसी से कार्यलय में उपलब्ध निविदा  
पेटिका अथवा सीडी-रोम के माध्यम से  
आमंत्रित की जाती है, जिनकी विधी दिनांक  
17.10.2019 तक तथा प्राप्ति व सार्वजनिक  
रूप से खोले जाने की तिथि दिनांक  
18.10.2019 को क्रमशः 15:00 बजे 15:30  
बजे होगी। 1. निदेशक (कार्मिक प्रबन्धन एवं  
प्रशासन), उपप्रशासक/प्रशासक/प्रशासिका के प्रयोगार्थ  
एक अदद डीजल (डीजल विभाग द्वारा देय)  
चलित इन्वोय अथवा समकक्ष वाहन, मय  
ड्राइवर किचन पर लिए जाने का कार्य।  
कार्य अवधि 12 माह, धरोहर धनराशि रु  
10,00,000 (दस लाख मात्र) निविदा  
प्रश्न का मूल्य रु 560 (जीएएसटी  
सहित)। उक्त निविदा की अन्य शर्तें तथा  
मात्रा बीजक इत्यादि का विस्तृत विवरण  
http://upptol.org साइट पर प्राप्त किया जा  
सकता है। **अभिधायी अभियन्ता**, विद्युत  
ज्ञानपद पारिषद खण्ड-प्रथम, उपग्रह  
एअरलोक/सीओ परिसर, विभूति खण्ड,  
गोमती नगर, लखनऊ। पत्रांक - 1092  
दिनांक-17.09.2019, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली  
बचाए"

**North Eastern Railway**  
**E-Tender Notice**  
On behalf of the President of India, acting through Chief Administrative Officer/Con., North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-works Tenders:  
S.N. : 1. E-Tender No. : DYCE-CON-HQ-GKP-21-2019, Name of Work : Supplying and laying of blanketing material in formation between Chhapra (incl.)-Ballia (incl.) section (for balance work) in connection with doubling of Chhapra-Ballia section of Varanasi Division. Approximate Value : Rs. 15,57,43,477.00, Earnest Money : Rs. 9,28,700.00, Cost of Tender Form : Rs. 10,000/-, Completion Period : 05 (Five) Months. Bidding Start date - 25.09.2019 Last date of submission of above E-Tender upto 15.00 hrs. on 09.10.2019 Date of Opening of above E-Tender 15.30 hrs. on 09.10.2019  
Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website <https://trep.gov.in>. In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.  
Shri S.K. Singh, XEN/Con/Ballia Mob. No. 9794845260  
Di. Chief Engineer/Con/HQ, CPWO/W-202 N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur  
About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955  
Do not smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
**E-Tender works: Tender Notice**  
No. DYCE-CON-LJN-63-2019  
On behalf of the President of India, Chief Administrative Officer/Con., North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur invites the following E-works Tenders: **Open Tender No. : DYCE-CON-LJN-63-2019 Dated: 13.09.2019, Name of work:** Construction of substructure of Major bridge No. 453, Km. 7680-1, and Br. no. 454, Km 7705-9 over pile foundation between Gomti Nagar-Badshah Nagar stations in connection with doubling of Malhour-Daliganj section of Lucknow Division in N.E. Railway. Approximate Value: ₹ 6,73,40,703.74, Earnest Money: ₹ 4,86,700/-, Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 10,000/-, Completion Period: 06 (Six) Months. The last date/time of submission of E-Tender on 09.10.2019 upto 15.00 hrs. and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. on same day in the office of Chief Administrative Officer/Con./N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions is available on website <http://trep.gov.in> and Tender Notice is also available on website [www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in). In case any disparity arises between Hindi and English version of tender notice, English version will hold good and will be followed.  
Di. Chief Engineer (Construction) CPWO/W-204 Lucknow Jn.  
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN

**U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED - OBRA THERMAL POWER STATION, OBRA - SONEBHADRA "TIME EXTENTION" TENDER ID No. 2019 RVUNL 354985\_1**  
The opening dates of e-Tender No. 07/O&MMC-V/TMD/BTPS/2019-20 of the work of Spray insulation of HP/IP/LP turbine, insulation work of HP/LPs heater and pipe lines during Revival of unit no. 12th, 200MW, BTPS, Obra, is hereby extended again as below : Last Date and Time For Submission of e-Bids (Technical and Financial) at e-procurement website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> 27.09.2019 up to 18:00 hrs., Last Date and Time for Submission of Hardcopy of : Requisite Documents in the Office of Undersigned 28.09.2019 up to 16:00 hrs., Date and Time of Opening of e-Bids : 30.09.2019 from 16:00 hrs. Other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain the same. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER O&MMC-V, BTPS, Obra - SONEBHADRA. No. - 225, Date: 17.09.2019, "SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF NATION"**

## CITY BRIEFS

### SHOW JUMPING



Adhya Santhosh, daughter of Brig Santhosh, who is a Brigade Commander, won a gold and a bronze in show jumping in children's category-1 (up to 16 years) held on September 14 and 15 at Regional Equestrian League at RVC Centre in Meerut. A student of Class 8 in APS No. 1, Nehru Road (Lucknow), she practises horse-riding at Central Command Equestrian Note and has been pursuing it for the last two years. She also takes professional coaching at Ceddar Equestrian Farm at Pune and Embassy Riding School at Bengaluru under coaches Ashish Limayee and Sanyogeta Kadu. She has qualified two rounds of regional and will take part in the Junior Nationals at Bengaluru in December.

inaugurated the event by lighting the lamp. He welcomed all the newcomers and also honored Hemant for being crowned 'Mr Abhigyaan' and Riddhi 'Ms Abhigyaan'. Senior students presented dance items and songs to welcoming the freshers.

### LOVE'S SIM CARD

A city productions team released a short film titled 'Love's Sim Card' at a programme held in the city recently. The 21-minute film is based on social awareness. Director Brijendra Bahadur Maurya said that social media platform could be used to bring the cultural connect in youths. He said that in the modern era, youths were spending most of their time on social media and becoming careless in terms of their social obligations. "Taking attraction as love at an early age, youths, especially girls, are getting caught in the trap of leaving home and marrying. In the film, it is shown that main protagonist Nadani, who leaves the family home and runs away with her lover, brings a lot of harm to herself and is also mentally tortured," the director said.

### CLEANING DRIVE

A 'prabhat pheri' marked the beginning of a special cleaning drive in the premises of Modern Rail Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly, on Monday. Senior



Cleaning drive at Modern Rail Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly

officials and other staff members participated in the drive on the occasion of Vishwakarma Puja on Tuesday. MRCF general manager also participated in the cleaning drive. Speaking on the occasion, he laid stress on the need to create awareness among the masses to discourage the use of plastic as it is harmful for environment. Chief executive officer Alok Kumar, senior officer RV Yadav and HoDs also participated in the drive.

### SYMPOSIUM

The 12th International Symposium on Fossil Algae was inaugurated at Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) on Tuesday. Ashok Sahni, an eminent palaeontologist of India, was the chief

guest while Daniela Maria Basso of Milan (Italy) the guest of honour. BSIP director Vandana Prasad welcomed the guests and delegates. Organising secretary of the symposium and president of International Fossil Algae Association (IFAA) Amit Kumar Ghosh of BSIP introduced the theme of the symposium and also explained the significance of the study of fossil as well as recent algae. In his address, Sahni laid emphasis on the importance of the study of fossil algae from different sedimentary basins of India. Daniela Maria Basso said the younger generation should be encouraged to work on various innovative ideas pertaining to research on fossil as well as recent algae.

### FRESHERS' PARTY

'Abhigyaan-2019', a freshers' party for BBA-1B students, was organised at Sri JNPG College. Principal SD Sharma

## SCHOOLSCAN

### SCHOLARSHIP

Five meritorious students of City Montessori School, Aliganj Campus I — Shikhar Saxena, Aditi Singh, Devanshu Chatterjee, Palak Agarwal and Fatima Ansari — have been awarded Rs 20 lakh scholarship by the Government of India. Each student will be getting Rs 4 lakh scholarship. The Union Ministry of Science and Technology will be giving the scholarship to these CMS students to pursue higher studies in Science. Each student will be getting Rs 80,000 per year for five years. These students performed excellently in the ISC (Class XII) Board examinations and secured a place on the 'Top 1%' merit list.

### ST JOSEPH COLLEGE

Students of St Joseph College, Sitapur Road branch, got the opportunity to be a part of HCL TechBee programme. Seven students of the 2018-19 batch — Harshit Agarwal, Vishal Verma, Akash Kanaujia, Ayush Khare, Shubham Jaiswal, Saurav Yadav and Areefa Khan — were selected out of 300 in the entrance exam conducted in major cities of UP. They will be felicitated at HCL IT City in Lucknow on September 27.

### GROUP SONG COMPETITION

The team of New Way Public School, Indiranagar, was selected for the state-level round of National Group Song Competition, organised by Bhartiya Vikas Parishad. The team won the first prize in Hindi and Sanskrit songs, and second prize in folk song at the Patelnagar branch of RLB School on September 15. The winners included Saniya, Saurabh, Payal, Bhoomika, Akanksha, Shivkirti, Ashika, Mohit and Rakshit. The next round will be held on October 13.



## 6-day 'Silk Mark Expo' to kick off today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Principal Secretary, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Export Promotion, Navneet Sehgal will inaugurate a six-day 'Silk Mark Expo' organised by the Central Silk Board, Union Ministry of Textiles, at the 'Expo Mart' Export Promotion building here in Kaiserbagh on Wednesday.

Chief executive officer, Silk Mark Organisation of India, KS Gopal said a variety of silk products would be displayed in 'Lucknow Silk Mark' Expo by 11 silk clusters of various producers from all over the nation.

Gopal said that weavers and artisans would display the various silk products and would also be able to sell their products at the expo.

Meanwhile, a prize distribution programme will be organised at the auditorium of Chaudhary Charan Singh Sahkarita Bhawan on Wednesday by Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Federation Limited, Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Union Limited and Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Consumer Union to honour the officers and employees who performed excellently in wheat and paddy procurement. The Uttar Pradesh Warehousing Corporation will honour those officers and employees who performed excellently in storage.

## Murder case worked out; one held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ALLAHABAD

The Ghoorpur police claimed to have cracked the murder of a woman whose body was found lying in the fields near the Iradatganj flyover on August 29. The police arrested a person who confessed to have killed the woman. Two other persons, including the prime accused, were still at large, police said.

SP trans-Yamuna Dipendra Chaudhary told newsmen that the body of Sarita Yadav (20) was found lying in the fields and was later identified by her husband Omkar. Investigations revealed that she had left Omkar and was living with Bablu Yadav, a resident of area. On the night of August 28, she was at Bablu's construction material godown when his brother-in-law Baba Yadav threatened her to end her illicit relations with him. After an altercation Baba strangulated Savita to death and took her body in an Auto car with the help of his accomplice, Santosh, and another unidentified person to Ghoorpur area. They dumped the body in the fields and fled from there. Santosh was arrested by after the



police was tipped off by an informer while Baba, Bablu and another identified persons were still at large, the SP trans-Yamuna added.

Meanwhile Kaushambi police lodged a first information report (FIR) against four named and a dozen unidentified persons for cheating ailing people in the name of curing them. The accused used an 11-year-old child to mislead people claiming that the boy possessed supernatural powers for healing patients. A large number of villagers along with

the kin of the boy staged a protest outside Sarai Akil police station after senior police officials deployed force and stopped his relatives from using him for healing patients on Sunday. As per the reports received here, Raju, a resident of Sandwa Sariya village in Kaushambi, spread rumours around a month ago that Golu possessed supernatural powers and could heal patients. The boy's name was changed from Golu to Balak Baba and his powers were advertised in the social media. As a result a large number of people came there for getting healed. The kin of the boy allegedly took money from them.

Police became alert when the number of visitors increased to nearly 5,000 persons a day. On Sunday Sanjay, a resident of Ghatampur area who was suffering from paralysis was taken to Balak Baba. However, Sanjay died at the residence after which police warned the boy's kin not to hold any healing session again.

SHO Manish Kumar Pande said that an FIR was lodged against Golu's father Raju, uncle Chandan Hira, Radheshyam and a dozen others in this connection.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### HC GIVES LEASE...

"The 15-day period gets over on September 28. We would like MMRCL to make a statement that it would not start cutting trees till September 30," he said. Advocate General Ashutosh Kumbhakoni, appearing for MMRCL, said he need not make official statement but the authority was not in a "hurry" to cut the trees.

"It is understood that they (MMRCL) will not chop the trees," Chief Justice Nandrajog then said. As per Bathena's petition, on August 29 the Tree Authority approved MMRCL's proposal to cut 2,185 trees and uproot and replant elsewhere another 461 trees.

to felling of trees in Aarey Colony, which, together with Sanjay Gandhi National Park, is known as the green lung of the metropolis. MMRCL and the BMC have argued that metro is in larger public interest. Metro will wear people away from using cars, taxis and two-wheelers and result in sharp reduction in pollution, the two agencies said. MMRCL in its affidavit also said Aarey Colony was not a naturally forested area as claimed by the petitioner. The delay in construction of the car shed will cause a loss of Rs 4.23 crore per day, it said. Besides Bathena's, three more petitions have been filed on the issue. The petition filed by NGO Vanshakti seeks

a direction to the Government to declare Aarey a forest area. The High Court on Tuesday said it would look into the question whether Aarey Colony is a forest, and if it is not, can the court issue a direction that it be declared a forest.

"If we arrive at the conclusion that Aarey has to be declared as forest then all the other issues do not arise as all the environmental restrictions come in place. We will also go into the issue of whether the decision taken by the tree authority is legal," Chief Justice Nandrajog said. The judges also stated that forest does not mean just trees and plants. "What we common people call forest, a real environmentalist

may call a jungle. Forest is like the Amazon forest where the vegetation is so rich and thick that sunlight does not reach the ground," Chief Justice Nandrajog said. The hearing on Vanshakti's petition will continue on Wednesday. **PTI**

### UNITED LEFT...

The results were announced after the Delhi High Court directed the election committee to do so. The court had restricted the variety from notifying the results. The voter turnout JNUSU election held on Friday was 67.9 per cent, believed to be the highest in seven years. Over 5,700 students cast their votes. **PTI**

# Job losses, MVA penalties to top Cong poll agenda

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

The roadmap for the Congress campaign in the forthcoming Assembly polls will revolve around rising unemployment, increasing job losses, economic slowdown and the hefty penalty imposed on commuters under the new Motor Vehicle Act.

In the two crucial states of Haryana and Maharashtra, where agriculture is equally important, the party may announce certain sops the way they did in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to wrest power from BJP last year.

AICC sources said that the party may also announce guaranteed stipend for unemployed youths in the poll-borne states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana and a team has been constituted to devise a mechanism focusing on youths' aspirations.

"The roadmap is clear. Today every family of this country is affected by the bad

economics of Modi government. Every household has either lost a job, or did not get any employment and worst is that the Centre blames the skills and talent of Indian youths rather than accepting they are unable to meet the demands of citizens. They announced sops to farmers but still this segment is in distress," said a senior Congress leader at AICC.

The last time when Congress saw some success under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi was in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh where it was able to win voters by announcing populist measures for farmers, youth and poor.

While the economic slowdown has raised hopes for the grand old party to revive itself after its dismal Lok Sabha performance which ultimately led to Rahul Gandhi quitting the party president's post, it has brought trouble for the ruling BJP just ahead of elections in States where the BJP is in power.

Congress and alliance partners are constantly trying to corner the Modi government on slowdown, unemployment and rural distress. General secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been constantly talking about the issues concerning the youth like unemployment and job loss by taking to social media.

The mood in the Congress is also upbeat with the rise in monetary collections through donations. The party's treasury has seen a five-fold increase at Rs 146 crore in 2018-19 from mere Rs 26 crore in the last fiscal.

While erstwhile Tata-trusted Progressive Electoral Trust emerged as biggest donor with Rs 55 crore, Prudent Electoral Trust (chiefly backed by Bharti Airtel group and DLF) donated Rs 39 crore. Prudent in last fiscal had donated Rs 144 crore to the BJP and Rs 10 crore to Congress. Party president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi contributed Rs 54,000 each this fiscal.

# INS Khanderi submarine to be inducted on Sep 28

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to induct the second Scorpene submarine INS Khanderi on September 28 in Mumbai in a function presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The remaining four Scorpene submarines are in advanced stages of manufacturing and trials.

Giving this information here on Tuesday, Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar also said two other landmark events are planned on September 28. They include launch of first frigate Nilgiri under the Project-17 A and commissioning of the largest dry dock of the Indian Navy.

He said with the launch of these three projects, the Navy will further enhance its reach and combat sustenance. INS Khanderi was launched into waters in January 2017 and was undergoing extensive sea trials before commissioning. When asked about the delays in inducting the submarine, Kumar said certain amount of delays and learning happen

along the way and it is acceptable. He also said all issues of Khanderi were now resolved.

The public sector Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai, is manufacturing six Scorpene conventional submarines under technology transfer from Naval Group of France under a 2005 contract worth \$3.75 bn. After a series of delays in the project, the first submarine of the class Kalvari joined service in December 2017. The entire project is expected to be completed by 2020.

The cost of the Scorpene project is now about Rs. 25,000 crore. The cost of aircraft carrier dry dock was Rs 1,320 crore while the cost of the seven frigates under P-17A is over Rs. 48,000 crores.

Responding to a query about budgetary constraints of the Navy, the Vice Chief said the service will certainly seek more money. "What we need is more capital allocation of the budget... Share of Navy share was 18% of defence budget in 2012-13 which has come down to 13.6%. We would like it to go back to 18-20%," he said.

# Govt carries out cadre review of lower rung of CRPF, 2.37 lakh troops to benefit

New Delhi: A first-ever cadre review for jawans and sub-officers of the CRPF will "benefit" 2.37-lakh troops as it will ensure faster promotion and monetary benefits to them, an order issued on Tuesday said.

The Union Home Ministry has sanctioned fresh posts to the CRPF, the lead internal security force of the country, in its fighting or combat ranks.

The over 3-lakh personnel force is thickly deployed in anti-Naxal operations, counter-terrorist offensives in the Kashmir Valley and responding to law and order duties across the country.

As per the latest order, the CRPF said in a statement, while it will be a 100 per cent jump in sanction for the rank of sub-inspector (SI), the same figure will be 91 per cent for inspector ranks, 40 per cent for head constable and 34 per cent for assistant sub inspector (ASI) ranks, it said.

Henceforth, the total sanctioned posts in the subedar major or inspector ranks will rise up to 6,271 (91 pc) while it will be doubled to 17,403 in the rank of SI.

"The maiden cadre review

for general duty personnel of the force will bring cheers to about 2.37-lakh personnel of Group B and C, from constable to inspector ranks, who were facing stagnation. This review has been undertaken the first time in its about eight decades long history," the force said.

This would provide opportunity for honing junior leadership and improve operational efficacy with a younger age profile, it said.

The move would also ensure faster career growth and better remuneration for these personnel who form the bulk of an operational team that is led by officers of the CRPF cadre and those from the Indian Police Service (IPS).

"The cadre review of these officials will add more responsibilities on their shoulders, improve their motivational level and increase their job satisfaction. This anti-stagnation drive would also motivate them to be fitter, a criteria vital for the promotion of those in uniformed services," CRPF spokesperson Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Moses Dhinakaran said.

PTI

# Ayodhya Case — SC asks lawyers to intimate tentative time schedule for completing arguments

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the counsels for both Hindu and Muslim parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case to inform it about the tentative "time schedule" for concluding their arguments.

The moment the 5-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, re-assembled in the afternoon on the 25th day of the hearing, it asked senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Muslim parties, about the time schedule for conclusion of arguments saying it will enable it to know the time left for writing the judgement.

The CJ, who would demit office on November 17, this year, asked Dhavan to sit with his associates and inform the apex court about the number of days they will take to conclude the arguments.

The bench, also comprising justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan

and S A Nazeer, asked Dhavan to consult lawyers from other sides as well.

Dhavan, arguing for Sunni Waqf Board and others including original litigant M Siddiq on the 8th day, said he also wanted a judgement in this case and he would be very fast in advancing submissions.

The top court said that if the schedule is known, "then we will know how much time we have to write the judgment".

The senior lawyer then said that the court may consider granting him mid-week break on this Friday.

The bench said he may take the break, but the other counsel from Muslim side can advance submissions on Friday. "I do not want to break my argument," Dhavan said, adding that they have a schedule and they are conscious of the speed of the arguments.

The bench said Dhavan might be needing the break, but his "young team" was capable and would like to work hard. PTI

# Kerala is part of India, courts there are bound by top court's orders: SC

New Delhi: Irked over the tinkering of its judgement and order by the Kerala High Court in a matter related to churches, the Supreme Court Tuesday said Kerala is a part of the Indian territory and courts there are bound to follow the law declared by the apex court.

The top court restrained the Kerala High Court and all civil courts there from passing any order in violation of the top court's 2017 decision which had held that prayer services were to be performed in consonance with the 1934 Malankara Church Constitution and guidelines. The 2017 judgement had said that 1,100 parishes and their churches under the Malankara Church should be controlled by the Orthodox faction as per those guidelines. A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and M R Shah said that as per Article 141 of the Constitution, the law declared by the apex court is binding on all the courts and under Article 144, civil and judicial authorities within the territory of India shall act in aid of the Supreme Court. PTI

# SC stays execution of convict till Oct 16 in Coimbatore rape, double murder case

New Delhi: Three days ahead of the scheduled hanging of a death row convict for "horribly" gang raping a minor girl and killing her along with her brother in Coimbatore in 2010, the Supreme Court Tuesday stayed his execution till October 16.

A bench headed by Justice R F Nariman said it would hear on October 16 the plea filed by convict Manoharan seeking a review of the apex court's August 1 verdict had which confirmed his death penalty.

During the open court hearing on the review plea, the bench, which also comprised justices Sanjiv Khanna and Surya Kant, said it was granting "last opportunity" to the counsel representing the convict to argue the case since it was a matter of death sentence.

The counsel told the bench that a death warrant has been issued and he was scheduled to be executed on September 20.

"List the matter on October 16, 2019, at 3 pm as a last opportunity for oral arguments in terms of our judgment. Meanwhile, there shall be stay of execution of the death sen-

tence," the bench said in its order.

The top court had on August 1 sent Manoharan to gallows for "horribly" gang-raping a 10-year-old girl along with a co-accused and killing her and her seven-year-old brother by throwing them in a canal with their hands tied.

Terming the offence as "shocking" and "cold blooded", a three-judge bench, by a majority of 2:1, had upheld the verdicts of the trial court and the Madras High Court to award death penalty to the condemned convict saying that the offence fell under the "rarest of rare" category.

During the hearing on Tuesday, the counsel representing the convict told the bench that throughout the trial in the case, Manoharan was lodged in jail and seven advocates were changed in the matter due to which the convict was not duly represented from trial court to the top court.

"During the trial, he (convict) must have been produced before the court and interacted with his lawyers," the bench observed. PTI

# Indo-US relations on upward trajectory, says S Jaishankar

New Delhi: Indo-US relations have been on an upward trajectory and they are in a very good health, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

Addressing the 100-day press conference of the Ministry of External Affairs, he said the "trajectory" of the relationship between India and the US has been "upwards" amid various administrations in Washington, be it Bush, Obama and now Trump.

Responding to a question on commerce, he said the trade problem between the two countries is "normal". "As relationship grows, there will be problems... The only way you don't have trade problems is when you do not trade," he said referring to the trade relations between the two nations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a six-day visit to the US, beginning September 22.

Jaishankar said in partnership with the Indian diaspora, Modi addressed events in San Jose in 2015 and Madison Square in New York in 2014, and the September 22 event at Houston will be the third.

# India-china faceoff at Ladakh not a skirmish: Min

New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said the recent incident between Indian and Chinese soldiers on the bank of the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh was "not a skirmish" but a face-off which was resolved using bilateral mechanisms in place to defuse such situations. "We did not have a skirmish, I want to be very clear I think there was what we call a face-off. It was resolved. From time to time that has happened and it has happened because you have differing perceptions of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and patrols meet and some time that kind of situation happens. A lot of effort has gone into mechanisms and procedures to address such situations," he said. PTI

# 'Don't worry' beyond a point what people say on Kashmir, India's position on it has and will prevail

New Delhi: India on Tuesday said there is no need to "worry" too much beyond a point about what people will say on Kashmir as it was its internal issue on which its position has "prevailed and will prevail", remarks that come in the backdrop of raging debate over New Delhi's decision to abrogate Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar hit out at Pakistan, saying India has a "unique challenge" from one neighbour and it would remain a challenge until that neighbour becomes a normal neighbour and acts against cross-border terrorism. He also made it clear that with Pakistan, the issue is not Article 370, the issue is cross-border terrorism and the first thing that has to come to table for any talks with Pakistan has to be the terrorism issue. PTI

He said the Indo-US relations are in very good health. "There is no facet of the rela-

tionship today which has not gone upward over the period of 20 years," he said. PTI

# ED attaches Delhi farmhouse in Moin Qureshi case

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Tuesday said it has attached a Delhi farmhouse and an old fort in the border town of Bikaner in Rajasthan as part of a money laundering probe case against controversial meat exporter Moin Qureshi.

The assets are "held" in the name of shell firms "controlled" by Qureshi, the ED said in a statement. It said a provisional order for attachment has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the total value of the properties is Rs 9.35 crore. PTI

# Tarigami slams centre for Abdullah's detention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI(M) leader from Kashmir Mohd Yousuf Tarigami on Tuesday criticised the Centre for detaining former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah under PSA and said that "people across the border are clapping" that the Government has done what they could not. Addressing a Press conference with CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, the former member of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly said that whatever is happen-

ing in Kashmir is not in the interest of the country.

"We, Abdullah and others are not terrorists. It is such a horrible time. I am very disturbed," he said.

Tarigami said he was under house arrest since August 5, when the Centre announced abrogation Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K. He was brought to the AIIMS here for treatment on the direction of the SC after it allowed Yechury to meet him in Srinagar and submit a report on his health condition.

# Onion prices to remain high for next 15 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The retail price of onion is ruling between ₹ 50-60 per kg due to short supply in metro cities of the country. The prices are expected to remain high in the next 15 days or till the arrival of new crops.

According to the data maintained by the Consumer Affairs Ministry, the maximum retail price of onion was at ₹ 70 per kg while the model rate was ₹ 44 per kg. Among metros, onion prices were quoted at Rs 45-50 per kg in Chennai, ₹ 43-60 per kg in Mumbai, ₹ 44-60 per kg in Delhi and ₹ 45 per kg in Kolkata



Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan addresses a Press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

on Friday, the ministry data showed. At present, fresh onions

are not available. It is mostly the stored one of the last year's crop.

Union Food and Consumers' Affairs minister Ram Vilas Paswan held a meeting in the ministry on skyrocketing of onion price in the retail market. In some parts of the country, onion is ruling high at ₹ 50-60 per kg depending on the quality and locality.

Terming high onion prices as a "temporary phase", Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan asserted that they have enough supplies in buffer stock to check prices of the staple food that

official data showed is ruling in the range of ₹ 50-60 per kg in some parts of the country.

"It is a temporary phase. Every year we face this problem (price rise) in three main perishable commodities potato, onion and tomato. This year, it is onion. However, we have enough supply in our buffer," Paswan said. There was supply disruption because of floods in main-growing states like Maharashtra and Karnataka. Otherwise, the country has enough onion production and the Centre has also created a buffer stock of 56,000 tonne to address any shortages, he said.

# Bhansali releases Mann Bairagi 1st look on Modi's 69th b'day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Celebrating his 69th birthday with a packed schedule that included visiting his 99-year-old mother Heeraben, statue of unity, 'Sardar Sarovar dam', the Khalvani Eco-Tourism site and 'safari' in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was greeted on Tuesday by a string of top political leaders even as a first-look poster of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film on him titled 'Mann Bairagi' was launched on the occasion.

Top dignitaries and political leaders including Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president and Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Modi with party leaders being effusive in their praise of the Prime Minister who is on his consecutive second inning at the centre.

Those congratulating the Prime Minister took note of his "strong" and "visionary" lead-

ership that led the county decisively in the comity of nations. Many BJP leader recalled his modest roots and praised his achievements as a world leader.

'Padmavat' fame film director Sanjay Leela Bhansali will weave a special feature film on Modi titled 'Mann Bairagi' and Bollywood star Akshay Kumar posted the film's poster on his Twitter account on the PM's birthday. The film is supposed to be based on an 'untold' story from the life of the Prime Minister - that of what inspired him to dedicate himself to the service of the nation.

In the national Capital, BJP leaders celebrated Modi's birthday by cutting cakes weighing 69 kg and 370 kg, highlighting the revocation of special status to J&K under Article 370, and 'bhandara' and 'yagna'.

Modi had a packed schedule and spent most part of the day in Gujarat. His schedule



Sarovar project is catering to needs of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Addressing a gathering in Kevadiya, he also thanked and saluted lakhs of people who worked to make Sardar Sarovar project a success. "Our culture believes in development while protecting environment. Nature our jewel and dear to us," he said.

On dismantling of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, he said that the BJP government's decision on Kashmir was inspired by Sardar Patel and an attempt to find solution to decades-old problem.

In his congratulatory message to Prime Minister, Naidu said the nation is making steady progress under Modi's able leadership. Shah described Modi as a leader with strong willpower and a symbol of decisive leadership and hard work. "Under your leadership, an emerging India has made a

mark in the world as a strong, safe and reliable nation," Shah said on Twitter.

JP Nadda, the national working president of the BJP, called the PM a "Karmayogi" and said his dedication towards the "service of the nation" was an inspiration and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the PM has been instrumental in building and strengthening India's position in the comity of nations.

Union Minister for Railways Piyush Goyal hailed Modi as a statesman, decisive leader and an inspiration for all. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also wished the PM on his birthday. Among the opposition ranks, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who is scheduled to meet Prime Minister on Wednesday, also wished him on his 69th birthday on her Twitter handle. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also extended his wishes to the PM.

# Every two seconds, an e-card issued under AB- PMJAY

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In every two seconds, an e-card is being issued to a beneficiary under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious health scheme Ayushman Bharat, or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB- PMJAY), which is completing one year on September 23.

More than 45 lakh so far who have availed medical facilities worth Rs 7,500 crore, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Tuesday here at a press conference.

He said, over 10 crore Ayushman Bharat PMJAY eCards have been issued in around 350 days of the launch of the scheme. "I am pleased to share that more than 45 lakh people have availed cashless treatment worth over Rs 7,500 crore for serious illnesses since the launch of AB-PMJAY," he added.

Several events are being

planned across the country to commemorate the first anniversary of its launch and September 23 will be celebrated as 'Ayushman Bharat Diwas' to generate awareness about the scheme.

The Minister said 18,000 hospitals have been empanelled so far and the effort was to get 25,000 on board. The fortnight of September 15-30 will be marked as the 'Ayushman Bharat Pakhwara' when several activities will be carried out in the states to generate awareness around the scheme and celebrate this gift of health to the nation.

Cyber security and privacy mechanisms have been set up at the National Health Authority, the apex body implementing the scheme to protect the beneficiary data. "Nearly 1,200 cases of fraud have been confirmed and action has been taken against 338 hospitals," the Minister said,

# INSHORT

## SIBAL SLAMS GOVT FOR ABDULLAH'S DETENTION

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader Kapi Sibal on Tuesday hit out at the BJP over the detention of Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act and questioned whether the step was prompted by MDMK chief Vaiko's plea in the Supreme Court seeking a directive that the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister be produced before it.

## CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED ON WORLD ENGINEERS DAY

New Delhi: On the occasion of World Engineers Day, a three-day Campaign on 'Art of Self Engineering' by Scientists and Engineers Wing of the Brahma Kumaris was launched in the national Capital by Durga Shankar Mishra, Secretary, Union Ministry of Urban and Housing Affairs. B.K. Mohan Singh, Chairperson of Scientist and Engineers Wing of Brahma Kumaris was also present.

## SJM URGES GOVT TO CAP UBER, OLA PRICING

New Delhi: The Transport Ministry should ensure surge pricing by cab aggregators like Uber and Ola is capped at 25 per cent, RSS-affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) said on Tuesday, cautioning that if not done, States might form their own rules under the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019, and set a lower limit.

## ISRO INKS MOUS WITH DRDO FOR GAGANYAAN

New Delhi: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Tuesday inked MoUs with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for development of human centric systems for the Gaganyaan project, the Defence Ministry said.

# CBI court breather to IPS Rajeev Kumar

Court refuses to pass any order on ex-Kolkata CP's arrest warrant

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



- The court at Barasat also refused Kumar's application for anticipatory bail in the same case saying it lacked jurisdiction to grant or not grant anticipatory bails being a trial court and directed the parties to approach the court of District and Sessions Judge
- While the CBI had alleged that the top IPS officer was not only refusing to cooperate with its officials by giving misleading or no answers to specific queries but also he was repeatedly refusing to respond to its summons

In a partial respite for now "missing" IPS officer, Rajeev Kumar the special CBI court hearing the multi-crore Sharada and other chit fund cases on Tuesday refused to pass any order on the Agency's petition seeking non-bailable arrest warrant citing lack of jurisdiction.

The court at Barasat also refused Kumar's application for anticipatory bail in the same case saying it lacked jurisdiction to grant or not grant anticipatory bails being a trial court and directed the parties to approach the court of District and Sessions Judge.

While the CBI had alleged that the top IPS officer was not only refusing to cooperate with its officials by giving misleading or no answers to specific queries but also he was repeatedly refusing to respond to its summons.

Kumar had appeared before the CBI sleuths at Shillong following a Supreme Court order which had after providing him a temporary shield from arrest directed him to appear before the Agency at a neutral venue outside Bengal.

Subsequently after the Supreme Court withdrew its shield and directed him to move the Calcutta High Court the latter two after providing some initial protections lifted

the protective cover exposing the senior officer to CBI's chances of arresting him.

Since then Kumar has not been heard of despite repeated CBI's summons notices to appear before it forcing the Agency to move the court of original jurisdiction seeking a non-bailable arrest warrant against him.

Kumar, former Kolkata Commissioner of Police is being probed for his role as the chief of the State Government constituted Special Investigation Team in investigating into the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case.

The CBI has alleged that the senior officer presently functioning as the Additional

Director General of CID was not cooperating with it the investigation process despite Supreme Court and High Court directives.

The Calcutta High Court had on September 13 withdrawn the protection against arrest given to the officer and directed him to cooperate with the CBI. Since then he had been at large and the State Government too responding to the letters written by the Central Agency seeking his whereabouts expressed its inability to contact him as his mobile phone and that too of his personal security officer were switched off. Kumar is reportedly on leave till September 25, the Government source said.

# Mamata leaves for Delhi, to meet Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Amid scornful remarks from Opposition parties like the BJP and the Left, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday left for Delhi where she will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi breaking after an 18-month gap since they last met for a few moments at the convocation of Vishwabarati University.

While Banerjee claimed minutes before leaving for the Capital that meeting the Prime Minister was within her official duty and that the meeting was long overdue "because I have to discuss some matters like pending Central grants, renaming of the State of West Bengal," as also some other issues that may come in between during the conversation.

She is also likely to relate to the Prime Minister the "popular concern regarding steps being taken to privatise Air India, BSNL and even the



Indian Railways," Banerjee said adding "the people often cannot reach him as they don't have that access so they come to us. So I have decided to take this issue with him."

The Chief Minister would not react to the loaded remarks from the Opposition leaders who questioned her sudden decision to meet the Prime Minister at a time when the Central Bureau of Investigation probing the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case was almost on the verge of arresting one of her blue-eyed IPS officers and former

Kolkata Commissioner of Police Rajiv Kumar for his alleged role in the investigation of the ponzi scam in 2013 before the Supreme Court finally handed over the case to the CBI.

Banerjee said "all the 365 days I am tied down in Kolkata on account of the huge work load. But the same responsibility demands a visit or two to Delhi where a Chief Minister has to go to get many works done in the interest of the State... This is a constitutional obligation to meet the Prime Minister," irrespective of the

political differences.

The BJP and the Left however took a dig at Banerjee "not for her constitutional obligations as the Chief Minister to meet the Prime Minister but the time of the visit," said senior CPI(M) leader and former MP Samik Lahiri. "Let us see what the outcome of the talks is, particularly at a time when the CBI has zeroed in on Rajiv Kumar for his dubious role in the chit fund investigation," he said.

Questioning the timing of the visit BJP leader and the party's minder for Bengal Kailash Vijabargya said "this is the same Chief Minister who declined the invites of the Central Government to visit Delhi during the Niti Ayog meeting, or the meeting of the Chief Ministers or even the meeting on the education policy. Now suddenly she has been reminded of her responsibilities as a Chief Minister when the CBI is tightening its noose around Rajeev Kumar."

He said, "Mamata Banerjee knows that if Rajeev Kumar is arrested then he will spill the bins and half of her ministerial colleagues will go to jail."

State BJP vice president LP Majumdar scoffed at Banerjee saying "not very long ago the same Chief Minister was telling packed crowds about her designs to tie Narendra Modi with ropes and put him behind the bar and now she is running to him perhaps to save some of her trusted bureaucrats and party men."

## Mamata b'day wish to Modi, saree to wife

PNS ■ KOLKATA

Hours before her visit to Delhi, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday morning wished Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his 69th birthday apart from meeting his wife Jashodaben and gifting her with a saree at NSI Airport in Kolkata.

Banerjee wrote, "Birthday greetings to Prime Minister Narendra Modiji," in the morning and late in the noon when she was waiting at the VIP lounge of the airport before leaving for Delhi she heard about the Prime Minister's wife who was also returning to Gujarat.

The Chief Minister immediately rushed out and met her and demanded a second visit when "I will arrange for a site-seeing." Modi's wife was in Dhanbad and had come to Kolkata enroute to Delhi. She replied in the affirmative when the Chief Minister asked her as to whether she had visited Kalkighat and Dakshineswar temples.

# People from 5 Maha villages seek merger with T

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Attracted by the welfare schemes being implemented here, a section of people from five villages in bordering Nanded district, Maharashtra, has expressed a desire to merge them with Telangana.

The people and elected representatives of various political parties have also decided to contest the forthcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra with the merger demand, the villagers informed the Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, an official Press statement said on Tuesday. "People, including elected representatives from villages spread over five legislative Assembly segments from the bordering Nanded



district in Maharashtra, are in an agitational mood demanding the State Government to either implement the welfare schemes of Telangana State in their villages also or allow their villages to be merged with Telangana," the release from the Chief Minister's office said. The leaders from Nalgao, Bhokar, Degloor, Kinwat and Hathgaon Assembly segments, who met Rao, sought his support for their agitation and informed that they were ready to contest on the TRS party tickets if allotted.

The people informed that many Telangana Government schemes such as the Rs 10,000 financial assistance per acre per year under the Rythu Bandhu, Rs 2016 per month pension, 24-

hour uninterrupted free and quality power, Kalyan Laxmi, KCR kits and clothes distribution during the festivals were not available for the Maharashtra people, the release said.

In the past, 40 villages in Dharmabad taluk in the neighbouring State had passed a resolution demanding their merger with the Telangana. Responding to the resolution, the Maharashtra Government had then declared Rs 40-crore grant for these villages, but the assistance was yet to be released.

Rao said the demand of people for implementation of welfare schemes like ones in the Telangana was rational and hoped that the Maharashtra Government will accede to the demand.

# Only few people opposing Centre's decision to scrap Art 370: BJP minority cell

PTI ■ JAMMU

BJP Minority Morcha National vice-president Nahid Sheikh on Monday said only a "handful of people" are opposing the Centre's decision to scrap Jammu & Kashmir's special status.

"Except a handful of people who are opposing the decision for their own benefit or saving their own skin, the minorities living in Jammu & Kashmir are happy with the decision to nullify Article 370," Sheikh, who is BJP's J&K Minority Morcha in-charge, told reporters here.

She said the minorities are happy with the Centre's decision as they are of the firm belief that their "days of miseries" are over and a new era of real welfare and empowerment will begin, paving way for overall development, progress and prosperity of the State.

"Article 370 has been misused by vested interests for personal benefits for decades together at the cost of welfare of the masses and development," she said without identifying the "vested interests" but apparently referring to the Congress, National Conference and PDP. She said history has been created with the abrogation of this Article, which could only be possible due to the firm will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Jammu & Kashmir has now been completely integrated with the rest of the country and the people here will be enjoying all rights and benefits availed by the citizens in other States," Sheikh said. She said the bold decision would attract private sector and full exploration of tourism sector which would result in creation of employment opportunities for the local youth.



National Disaster Response Force personnel speak to flood-affected people in Prayagraj on Tuesday. Heavy monsoon rain have raised water levels of the River Ganga above the danger level, triggering evacuation of thousands of people from flooded homes around the area

# Kodela murdered by YSRCP Govt, says Naidu, demands CBI probe

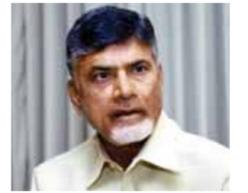
PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has lashed out at the YSRCP stating that it has harassed former Speaker Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao mentally, physically and financially by slapping cases on him. Kodela's was a case of murder by the YSRCP Government, he said and demanded a CBI probe into the death.

Naidu said despite the letters sent by Kodela Siva Prasada Rao to take away the furniture, the Government had filed cases after receiving them.

He said on August 20, Kodela had sent a letter and on Narasaraopeta MLA Gopireddy Srinivasa Reddy lodged a complaint two days later. Subsequently, they filed cases against Kodela and his son Kodela Sivaram, he added.

"When he was ready to hand over furniture, what's the need for filing cases against. Is it not harassment? A man who has charge sheets against him for financial frauds worth Rs 43,000 crore, has filed cases against Kodela for furniture worth Rs 2 lakh. They have filed 19 cases against Kodela, including the old ones, which have been reopened now."



Calling Kodela "Palnati Tiger", he said even the police humiliated him by not responding to his appeal. He alleged that all police officials and IAS officers had surrendered to the ruling party.

# Crocodile smuggling gang busted in Mumbai

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

In a first for them, the Thane Forest department has busted a gang of crocodile smugglers from Hyderabad and seized two live endangered baby crocodiles, an official said on Tuesday.

Following a tip-off, the unprecedented operation was carried out on Monday, at Borivali East in north-west Mumbai, on the highway, when a team of forest department officials intercepted a tourist bus travelling from Hyderabad to Navi Mumbai in Thane.

"On checking the luggage compartment of the bus, we came across the two baby crocodiles kept in cages. We have seized them and sent them for caretaking, and arrested three persons in connection with the racket. Further investigations are underway," Thane Range Forest Officer Narendra Muthe told IANS.

He said that these juvenile reptiles — known by their scientific name as 'Crocodylus Palustris' — are estimated to be worth between Rs 1,00,000 to Rs 2,00,000 each in the grey markets.

"However, it is still not clear what is the real reason for smuggling these creatures over such a long distance by road from Hyderabad to Navi



Two baby crocodiles seized by forest officials in Thane on Tuesday

Mumbai, and what will be their ultimate fate," Muthe added.

The 'Crocodylus Palustris' figures on the Red List of Threatened Species of the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2014.

The forest department has arrested three persons - the bus driver M Abdul Rahim Hafiz and Shivaji Baglaya, both from Hyderabad, and their associate

Khuddos Latif Baig from Bidar in Karnataka.

They were produced before a Magistrate Court in Borivali and have been remanded to police custody for three days, Muthe said.

Found only in freshwater bodies or marshes of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Iran, these crocodiles are also known locally as 'muggers'. They have already become

extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar, and the species is likely to have been wiped out even in Bangladesh, according to the IUCN.

The current estimated population of the 'muggers' is between 5,700-8,700 in the wild and are poached for use as food — especially its eggs and meat as delicacies, certain organs for medical purposes, and its skin is used for fashion apparels and accessories, wildlife officials said.

# K'aka MLA summoned by ED in Shivakumar case

Bengaluru:

Karnataka Congress MLA Laxmi Hebbalkar has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate to appear before it in connection with the money laundering case against her senior party colleague DK Shivakumar, official sources said on Tuesday.

ED sources said the woman MLA, who represents Belagavi (Rural), has been asked to appear before its officials on September 19 in New

Delhi. Hebbalkar confirmed receipt of the summons and said she had requested the ED to allow her to deposit at her residence itself but the agency was yet to respond.

Yes, it is true. They (ED) have given me notice asking me to appear on September 19. I am talking to my advocate," she told PTI.

Shivakumar, arrested by the ED on September 3 in a money laundering case, was on Tuesday remanded in judicial

custody for 14 days till October 1 by a Delhi court.

The former minister was in the ED custody since his arrest. The agency had earlier summoned his daughter Aishwarya in connection with the case.

It had in September last year registered the money laundering case against Shivakumar, Haumanthaiah, an employee at Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi, and others.

# Man convicted of killing 7-yr-old after trying to rape her

PTI ■ MUZZAFFARNAGAR

A special court on Tuesday held a 30-year-old man guilty of killing a 7-year-old child after trying to rape her nearly three years ago.

Special Judge Sanjiv Kumar Tiwari, trying cases registered under Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences Act, convicted Tanzim of murdering the child in November 2016 in her village.

The court will decide the quantum of sentence to the convict on Wednesday. Prosecution counsel Dinesh Kumar Sharma said the case dated back to November 16, 2016, when Tanzim lured away his neighbour's daughter and tried to rape her at a secluded place.

But as the girl began crying, he bludgeoned her to death and fled the scene, said Sharma. After the girl's parents noticed the child having gone missing, they launched a search for her and found her in pool of blood near their house in a secluded place, said Sharma, adding the girl was rushed to a hospital but declared "brought dead".

Police later registered a case under section 376 of the Indian Penal Code and sections 3 and 4 of the POCSO.



Police and locals look at the remains of a TAPAS Experimental Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, belonging to Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), which crashed in a field near Chitradurga test range in Karnataka on Tuesday

# Pakistan violates ceasefire along Int'l border in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Peace prevailing along the International Border across Jammu frontier was shattered by the Pakistani Rangers in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district by resorting to 'unprovoked' firing for around three hours in the forward areas.

In response, BSF jawans retaliated the fire which continued for about three hours between 1 to 4 pm in the border area.

BSF officials of Jammu frontier claimed, this is the first major incident of ceasefire violation across Jammu frontier this year. By and large peace prevailed in the border area even as Pakistani rangers raised objections to developmental activities in the forward villages falling close to the zero line.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier NS Jamwal told The Pioneer, "Pakistani rangers resorted to 'unprovoked' firing in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua on Tuesday between 1 to 4.00 pm."

He said, "Pakistani rangers used small arms firing to target the Indian posts. We retaliated the fire in equal measure."

The Pak rangers in Hiranagar sector of Kathua violated the pact by resorting to 'unprovoked' firing for around 3 hours in the forward areas

In response, BSF jawans retaliated the fire which continued for about three hours between 1 to 4 pm in the border area



Earlier, on July 15, 2019, a suspected Pakistani intruder was killed by the alert BSF jawans in Samba sector when he was trying to sneak inside the Indian territory near SM Pura border outpost.

When asked whether they established any contact with their Pakistani counterparts, IG BSF clarified, no contact was established with them on Tuesday after the exchange of fire took place on the International border.

Meanwhile, no fresh exchange of firing was reported along the Line of Control in Rajouri and Poonch districts till late Tuesday evening.

However, jawans of the Indian Army have been maintaining tight vigil in vulnerable

## Lt Gen Ranbir Singh visits Ladakh, witnesses exercise by integrated troops



Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh in Ladakh

conduct of the exercise by Lieutenant General YK Joshi, General Officer Commanding, Fire & Fury Corps. The exercise encompassed employment of mechanised forces with force multipliers integrating high technology platforms.

Complimenting the commanders and troops for the outstanding display of professional competence and war fighting capability in extreme terrain and altitude conditions, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh stated that he was fully confident that Northern Command will continue its legacy of excellence in combat, should a conflict be forced upon the nation. He also remarked that with the induction of new weapon systems and high tech equipment, the capability and lethality of the Indian Army was progressively improving each passing day.

Later, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff also visited HQ Fire & Fury Corps and interacted with NK Singh, Chairman and other members of the 15th Finance Commission. The Finance Commission team is in Ladakh Sector as part of their visit to

in Rajouri and Poonch sectors in the recent weeks. Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command on Tuesday witnessed an exercise by integrated troops of all arms and services in Super High Altitude area in Eastern Ladakh. He was briefed on the

field formations of the Indian Army to understand the conditions under which troops are operating and assess the requirement of financial outlays to meet the modernisation and infrastructure development requirements of the Army.

During their meeting, General Bipin Rawat highlighted the peculiar terrain, weather and altitude challenges of Ladakh Sector, which require specialised equipment & skills for performing operational tasks. He also apprised the

Finance Commission that the focus on improving connectivity to the border areas in the recent years had greatly improved the efficacy of the troops deployed along the borders.

Members of the Finance Commission appreciated the dedication and commitment of the Indian Army, while defending the borders of the nation, in such far flung areas. They assured the Indian Army of all support required to discharge their duties effectively.



Security personnel stands guard at a deserted street in Srinagar on Tuesday PTI

## Dormant routes used by Pak army to infiltrate terrorists to JK: Officials

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Dormant routes have been used by the Pakistani army to infiltrate nearly 60 terrorists since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, officials said on Tuesday. This assessment comes amid intelligence inputs that there has been a surge in infiltration from across the border through higher reaches north Kashmir and Poonch and Rajouri of Jammu region, they said. There was, however, no official word from the army on the crossing of militants from across the border. During a recent meeting to ascertain the number of successful and unsuccessful infiltration bids along the Line of Control, the army representative was presented with host of evidence collected by various agencies about infiltration by terrorists from higher reaches of Gurez, Machil and Gulmarg sectors of Kashmir region and Poonch and Rajouri areas in Jammu region, the officials said.

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbagh Singh had earlier said that several infiltration bids have taken place at the Line of Control and majority of them have been foiled. He had not ruled out the possibility that some may have crossed over and said the matter was being looked into.

The higher reaches of Gulmarg, a portion of which is under the command of Srinagar-based XV corps and another under Nagrota

(Jammu)-based XVI corps, was used in early 1990s for infiltration into central Kashmir.

In 2014, the army was caught by surprise when a militant Naveed, arrested after a suicide bid on a BSF vehicle at Udhampur, told interrogators that they had crossed over from 'Ustad Post' in higher reaches of Gulmarg and reached Kashmir valley.

However, now it seems that the same route has been used to enter the valley, the officials said, adding some of these members had been sighted in various parts of Budgam and Pulwama in South Kashmir.

The officials said a group of terrorists shifted to Baba Reshi area before moving via Pakherpora to highly-volatile Pulwama district, where they have set up their permanent base. Another group has moved into the central district of Budgam, the officials said.

They also said a group infiltrated from Gurez, Machil, Tangdhar sectors under the cover of heavy artillery firing. This infiltration could be realised by the security agencies when new faces started emerging in Ganderbal area, an adjoining district of Srinagar.

Another cause of worry for security agencies is an axis along the Poonch area in Jammu region where small groups managed to sneak in and reach Shopian in South Kashmir. They could have possibly used Hill Kaka route to enter into Shopian, the officials said.

## All accused in Bettiah gangrape case held

PTI ■ PATNA/BETTIAH

All four persons named as accused in the Bettiah gangrape case have been arrested and the complainant, who claimed she was 18 year old, turned out to be a minor, a top police officer said on Tuesday.

Additional Director General of Police, headquarters, Jitendra Kumar, said that the four accused — including two brothers — have allegedly confessed that they had sexual intercourse with the girl last week.

Even if it was with mutual consent it would be deemed an offence since the medical reports of the girl, a former inmate of the infamous

Muzaffarpur shelter home, have put her age between "15 and 17 years", Kumar noted.

A sex scandal had come to light at the Muzaffarpur shelter home in April last year when abuse of the inmates was flagged in a social audit report by Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Talking to PTI over phone, Bettiah SP Jayantkant said all four accused named in the FIR — Akash Kumar, Sajan Kumar, Kundan Kumar and Anshu Kumar — have been arrested.

"All of them, including siblings Akash and Sajan, are said to be known to the girl. The victim and the accused reportedly used to visit each other," he

said. Earlier, the SP had said that the complainant, in her FIR, stated she was raped by the four on Friday in a moving car in Bettiah, the district headquarters of West Champaran.

Jayantkant had also said that the medical examination reports of the girl, who claimed she was 18 years old, showed "no internal or external injury" which was unusual in a case of a sexual assault.

He, however, maintained that police was "not ruling out anything" as

of now. Talking to reporters in the Bihar capital, the ADG said, "The girl's medical examinations suggest that her age is between 15 and 17 years. During interrogation, the accused have confessed that they had intercourse with the girl. Even if it was with mutual consent, it becomes immaterial and falls in the category of an offence as the girl is a minor."

He also said police was in search of another unnamed person in connection with the case. "We would like to point

out that there has been some confusion in the social media about the girl. Many people are suggesting that she was among the eight former inmates of the Muzaffarpur shelter home who were recently released and reunited with their families upon a Supreme Court direction. This is wrong," he asserted.

"The girl had gone missing from her home in May last year and found at a railway station in Muzaffarpur. She was kept at the shelter home for a week and shifted to Mokama thereafter. Two months later she was released from the Mokama care unit and handed over to her parents," the ADG clarified.

## Medical tests show victim minor: Police

He, however, declined to divulge more details about the girl, saying "the identity of a sexual offence victim, especially a minor, has to be kept secret. Sharing more information will give it away."

Expressing outrage over the Bettiah incident, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW) had shot off missives to top officials in Bihar.

The NCW, which took suo motu cognizance of the incident, has asked the Director General of Police to treat the case on a priority, while the NHRC has sought a detailed report on the case in four weeks.

## Hyderabad-Karnataka region renamed 'Kalyana Karnataka'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Fulfilling a long standing demand of the people of Hyderabad Karnataka region, Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa on Tuesday announced that it has been renamed as 'Kalyana Karnataka' and a separate secretariat would be established for its development.

"It has been a long standing demand to rename Hyderabad-Karnataka as Kalyana Karnataka. With God's grace at the time when I'm declaring Hyderabad-Karnataka as Kalyana Karnataka. There is a festive atmosphere in the six districts of the region," Yeddyurappa told reporters at Kalaburagi.

The Chief Minister said a separate secretariat would be

set up for the development of Kalyana Karnataka, through which funds would be released for developmental work.

All other formalities relating to the renaming would follow in consultation with the centre, he said. Assuring more funds for the all round development of the Kalyana Karnataka region, Yeddyurappa said there may be financial issues this time due to floods in several parts of the State, but more funds would be allocated for development in the next budget.

including some related to extortion and breach of trust were foisted against the family members of the departed leader, violating Supreme Court guidelines, which man-

## Use of AI to boost tourism in India

IAN S ■ KOCHI

A major international summit here next week will take up use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technologies in the tourism industry.

For the two-day event, which will start on September 26, the Kerala Tourism is partnering the Association of Tourism Trade Organisations India (ATTOI).

Among the 500 participants from across the world will be Hannes Losch, known for intelligent analytics and business intelligence solutions.



PK Anish Kumar, convenor of the event, said AI had made travel more convenient. It's use allowed travellers to opt last-minute vacation planning, he added. The event will see

convergence of owners of hotels and resorts, online tourism marketing managers and tour operators, who is expected to be the biggest beneficiary of new technology.

## Naidu demands CBI probe into Rao's death

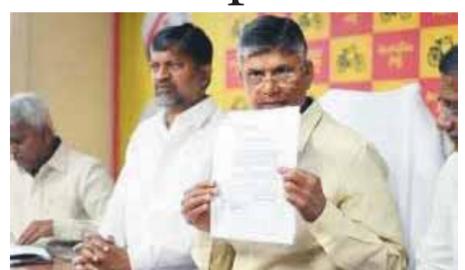
PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Termining the death of former Speaker of Andhra Pradesh, Kodela Siva Prasada Rao, who allegedly committed suicide, as "murder," TDP Chief N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday demanded a CBI investigation into the circumstances leading to the incident.

Blaming the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government for the death of Rao, Naidu said, "I have seen 11 chief ministers in my career and I myself have held the post for so many years. I have never seen such a chief minister (Jaganmohan Reddy). This (suicide) is nothing but murder by the government."

"The entire case has to be investigated by the CBI. Intellectuals in this country should debate on the government's attitude," he told reporters here. Based on eyewitness accounts, Rao was suspected to have committed suicide. The 72-year old leader was last month slapped with a criminal case by the Andhra Pradesh police for alleged illegal possession of furniture of the assembly.

The ruling YSR Congress in AP had dubbed Kodela a "thief" who stole the Legislature property, a charge denied by him. Hitting out at the AP government, Naidu said 19 "baseless and unfounded" cases



dates an inquiry before filing such cases. According to Naidu, the furniture missing case filed against the former speaker was "petty" in nature and the

Guntur police booked a case under Section 409 (Criminal breach of trust by public servant).

The former AP Chief Minister said Rao wrote two letters to the Assembly Secretary to take back the furniture he kept in his camp office in June and also in August. However, the state government chose to file a case against him, he alleged.

Calling Jaganmohan Reddy's dispensation as "worse than a terrorist government" Naidu said, Rao who was regarded as "Palnadu Tiger" was mentally, physically and financially harassed and intimidated. "Right from constable

to the DGP and everybody in the government whoever filed and is dealing with these (cases against Rao) became spineless," he said.

The government abetted the suicide and it is a clear case study on "vindictive politics," which people of the State should be made aware of, he said. Meanwhile, Naidu paid homage to the departed leader at TDP headquarters before it was taken to Guntur in Andhra Pradesh to be kept at the party's office for people to pay tribute.

A six-time MLA from Guntur district, Rao was the Andhra assembly Speaker from 2014 to 2019.

## Hospitals indulging in fraud will be named and shamed: Vardhan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Harsh Vardhan on Tuesday said that names of hospitals found involved in any kind of fraudulent practices in the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme will be put up on its official website to "name and shame" them.

Nearly 1,200 cases of fraud have been confirmed and action has been taken against 338 hospitals, he said, asserting that the government has zero tolerance towards corruption.

"Not only would such hospitals found involved in any kind of fraudulent activity and practices would be de-empanelled, their names would be put up on the official website of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (Ayushman Bharat) and made public. The idea is to name and shame them," the Health Minister said at a press conference here.

Indu Bhushan, CEO of the National Health Authority, the apex body responsible for the implementation of the centrally-sponsored scheme, said that the decision to publicly name the health insurance fraudsters under Ayushman Bharat was taken in collaboration with the IRDAI to deter them from indulging in malpractices.

"We are taking stern action against such fraudsters and have filed criminal cases and FIRs in some cases. In fact, we have suggested such hospitals should not only be de-empanelled from the PMJAY scheme but also from other scheme including that of CGHS and ECHA," Bhushan said.

Giving out figures, Vardhan said 376 hospitals currently are under investigation while the NHA has taken action in terms of issuing show-cause notice, suspending, levying penalty and de-empanelling against 338 hospitals. He said 97 hospitals have been de-empanelled from the scheme while FIRs have been lodged against six hospitals. A total amount of Rs 1.5 crore in penalty has been levied and nearly 1,200 cases of fraud have been confirmed.

"And all these figures show the government's zero tolerance towards corruption and we have been able to detect all these frauds because of a proactive robust strong IT anti-fraud detection system. Our message is loud and clear that no fraud, even of minute nature, will be tolerated in the whole scheme," he said.



Vardhan said the government's ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme will complete first year of its launch on September 23 and the fortnight of September 15-30 is being marked as the 'Ayushman Bharat Pakhwara' where several activities will be carried out in the states to generate awareness around the scheme.

A mega national event 'Gyan Sangam' will be organised from September 29-30 during which the Prime Minister will take stock of the progress of the insurance scheme and its achievements will be highlighted.

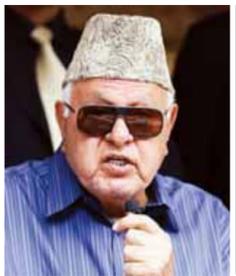
Adopting the true spirit of cooperative federalism, 32 states and Union Territories have already implemented the scheme so far, Vardhan said and appealed to the remaining states including Delhi and West Bengal to join the scheme so that people there are not deprived of its benefits.

He said that 10 crore e-cards have been given out to beneficiaries and the government so far has spent Rs 7,500 crore on treatment. 18,073 hospitals have been empanelled and around 53 per cent of the hospitals are from the private sector.

More than 39 lakh people have availed cashless treatment worth over Rs. 6,100 crore for serious illnesses since the launch of AB-PMJAY. This has resulted in savings of Rs 12,000 crore to the beneficiary families.

## Farooq, now a threat

Holding the NC leader and former CM under a draconian Act will undo any points the govt might claim on Kashmir



If the Government indeed wants to make an example of Kashmiri politicians, who have traded loyalties on either side of the LoC for their political relevance and continuity, then it would be advised to expose such deliberate acts on facts. Holding former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA) certainly won't achieve that purpose, considering he no longer has "high visibility" value. For normal Kashmiris, he is a recipient of much hatred and abuse. They believe he shortchanged them by choosing to

accede with a secular and democratic India and lost the only marker of autonomy they had courtesy Article 370. Now, not only that is gone, the former State has been reduced to a Union Territory. So Kashmiris are questioning their family legacy of standing by India. For New Delhi, he may have been the moderate face and an asset but one that's not needed, given the endorsement of Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) special status both at home and the world. Therefore, Abdullah's inescapable need to question the abrogation of Article 370 and appear an activist Kashmiri is more than an irritant, it is an obstacle in the new narrative. His suggestions of a negotiated autonomy for the two sides of Kashmir and converting LoC into a soft border for trade and commerce to flourish seem misplaced when all talk is about righting historical wrongs and reclaiming territories in that context rather than addressing current realities. Yet one must remember his worth through the decades of conflict. He acted as a filter and as Chief Minister did manage to keep militancy in check, give some semblance of credibility to the election process and had a pan-India acceptability. At 81, and suffering from kidney ailments, he certainly doesn't pose such a threat as to be booked under a tough law meant to be used against terrorists. Apparently, the idea is to prevent him from participating in a rally planned by Opposition leaders ahead of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session next week. Does a former Chief Minister, democratically elected and for years nurtured as an asset by the Centre, be suddenly disowned as a troublemaker under a draconian law? One which doesn't allow him to be tried before two years? All this has happened despite him and son Omar Abdullah meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier and hours before the Supreme Court was to take up a habeas corpus petition by MDMK chief Vaiko seeking to know the whereabouts of his "friend." Considering that Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has been allowed to visit four J&K districts — Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla and Anantnag — to meet people but not hold any political rally and that CPI(M) leader Mohd Yousuf Tarigami has been allowed back in, Abdullah's detention reeks of chicanery and intrigue, not of vision. For he may be a spent force but people, who have invested in the idea of India at his call, will only see this as betrayal and recede into separatist ways.

True Abdullah, and his son Omar, have failed to deliver to both New Delhi and their people but both have sworn by the Constitution and neutralised the shrill cries of *azaadi*. And if the peace-makers are suddenly seen as deal-breakers and made the fall guys, then we are unwittingly drawing the world's attention back to the human rights situation in Kashmir, the lockdown and the political and economic morass. Dangerously enough, our justification for reorganising Kashmir may not seem all that worthy. If the Government is not even able to restore normal lives despite its heavy-duty security presence, crackdowns and an information blockade, then there will only be a flood of questions on its intent to engage with people, convince them of their stakeholdership and erect an alternative political matrix that's more responsive to its concerns. For that to happen, people must be heard and allowed to speak. Also, leaders like Sajjad Lone, whom the Centre was at one time keen on grooming as its "enabler", continue to be detained too. The common Kashmiri, hedged in by the politics of the terror economy, knows that abrogation of Article 370 doesn't mean much on the ground as the State was anyway being run like a Union Territory for some time. But locals still want that reconciliation with honour, dignity and justice, not arbitrary impositions and demotions. Abdullah's detention is so not clever as it emaciates the political will to treat J&K as a serious matter. It's not an extension counter of Central whim.

## Unsafe cities

Delhi, Mumbai slide down in a global report on security and liveability, fall behind Asian counterparts



Considering that both Mumbai and Delhi could be counted in the race to be desirable world cities, both are considered grossly unsafe, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, which ranks 60 countries worldwide across indicators, including digital, infrastructure, health and personal security. In the context of safety, Mumbai and Delhi ranked 37 and 41 respectively on the parameter of personal security and 45 and 52 overall. That is a large dollop of dampener considering that for

all our pretension to becoming an Asian powerhouse, cities in the Asia-Pacific region have bagged six of the top 10 spots. Tokyo continues to be the numero uno for the third year in a row as Singapore and Osaka take second and third places. In contrast and worryingly so, Delhi actually slid callously down the ladder, falling nine places from its 43rd position in 2017 to the 52nd position in just two years. According to data released by the Delhi police itself, the total number of heinous crime cases registered till August 31 was 2,00,485, much higher than last year's 1,57,462 cases. Mumbai, too, which witnessed the first dip in the past decade in 2017, registered 21 per cent more rapes and murders last year. If that was not all, both our cities had a poor track record on environmental and health security, pollution being the biggest bottleneck. The less said about infrastructure security the better, both cities scoring low on the road safety index. And as far as population growth is concerned, Delhi's planners, who in 2014 were expected to address needs of 6.7 million more residents between 2020 and 2030, have actually allowed that figure to swell to 8.7 million.

It's not that we didn't envision the parameters; our smart cities project was all about developing liveability indices, a vision which has failed miserably in execution. In fact, if pursued correctly, some of India's newer cities could have well made it higher up on the list. The Tokyo model needs to be emulated as it is one of the most populous cities in the world with an intense demand on its resources. Yet it scored well on almost all parameters — be it its low crime rate and improving the quality of life by banning diesel cars. Clearly, city governments have taken tough decisions and stood by them. One parameter where the Asia-Pacific region lags behind is on digital security and it is here where our cities could score by using technology for traffic management and personal safety. Also, we need responsive city governments that work with the citizenry rather than hide-bound bureaucracy, instill pride by making legislative bodies more representative and provisioning for responsible elected officials.

# Message for a violent world

Gandhian beliefs need to be spread to not only eliminate emerging conflicts but also arrest the wanton destruction of nature and the ecosystems of this planet



RK PACHAURI

It is a tragic irony that the worst act by terrorists involving wanton killing of innocent people in recent times took place on September 11, 2001, when two hijacked planes were deployed to kill over 3,000 people on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, New York, while another one targeted the Pentagon and yet another crashed in Pennsylvania. Just three weeks later after that dastardly act, we commemorate the birth anniversary of the greatest human being to ever have practised non-violence, Mahatma Gandhi. This year, of course, marks a special occasion when Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary would be celebrated.

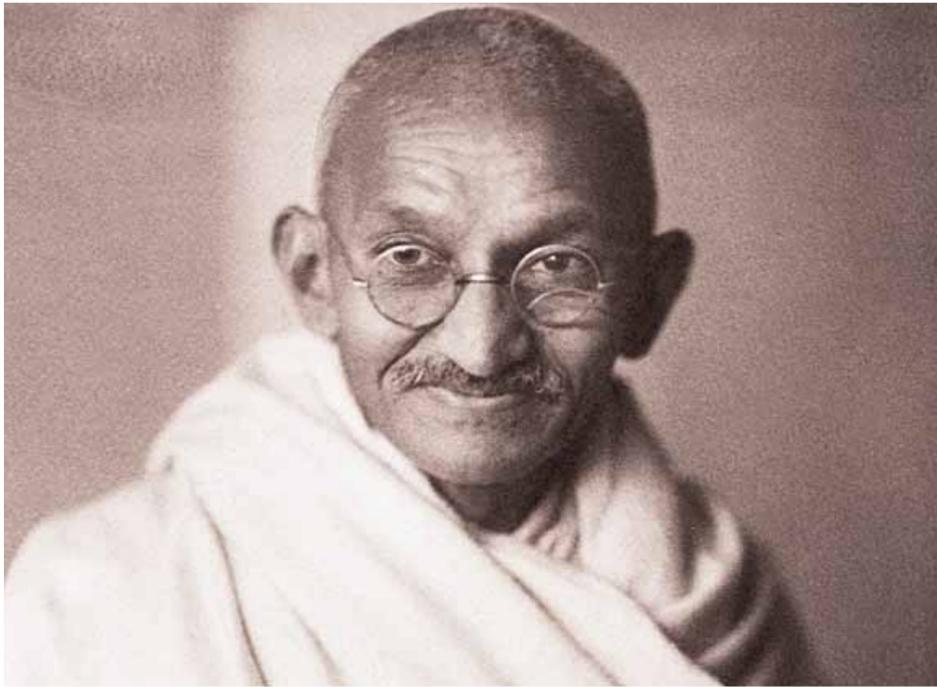
Gandhian philosophy represents a perfect integration of non-violence, non-exploitation of one community by another and respect for all human beings and other species with whom we share the planet earth. His views on these subjects are best explained by the following quotation: "Public opinion alone can keep a society pure and healthy...I claim that human mind or human society is not divided into watertight compartments called social, political and religious. All act and react upon one another...Human society is a ceaseless growth, an unfolding in terms of spirituality...ill-digested principles are, if anything, worse than ill-digested food, for the latter harms the body and there is a cure for it, whereas the former ruins the soul and there is no cure for it...It is the law of love that rules mankind. Had violence, ie, hate, ruled us, we should have become extinct long ago. And yet, the tragedy of it is that the so-called civilised men and nations conduct themselves as if the basis of society was violence."

The holistic nature of Gandhian emphasis on non-violence was expressed eloquently by his emphasis on the need for human beings not exploiting other human beings and the essential need for them, not in any way considering themselves superior to other forms of life. Here again, Gandhi was very direct in two comments that he conveyed.

"A society can be judged by the way it treats its animals."

"It is an arrogant assumption to say that human beings are lords and masters of the lower creatures. On the contrary, being endowed with greater things in life, they are the trustees of the lower animal kingdom."

Most importantly, Gandhi's concept of non-violence extended directly to human society, not in any way inflicting major damage to the ecosystems of this planet and resources, which nature provides us and on which all life survives and endures. Today, the material demands of human society are resulting in extensive damage to the earth's biodiversity, the growing dangers and risks from human-induced climate change and major pollution of the oceans, which will have serious consequences not only for life



under water but also extensively on large areas of land.

There is a section of public opinion today which seems to believe that perhaps nothing can be done to solve some of these problems simply because human society is too far gone to be able to retreat in the direction of reduced demand for goods and services.

There is now mounting evidence from all over the world on the expanding footprint of human society on the earth's ecosystems. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken up the challenge of reducing single-use plastic in this country because we have blindly emulated the developed nations, which are responsible for the mounting waste of various kinds, based on the growing demand for material goods and products.

It is for this reason scientists like Paul J Crutzen have described the current period that we are going through as one of the anthropocene as opposed to the geological age Holocene, which began 11,700 years ago. Gandhi was absolutely right when he said: "The incessant search for material comforts and their multiplication is evil. I make bold to say that the Europeans will have to remodel their outlook if they are not to perish under the weight of the comforts to which they are becoming

slaves."

For almost 50 years, human activities have increasingly exceeded the bio-capacity of ecosystems to absorb the expanding footprint of our activities. There is, therefore, the need for a radical shift by which a rapid and decisive change is brought into the devastating consumerist culture dominating modern society, which would ultimately lead to unacceptable risks in the future and exploitation by some, as was the case with colonialism.

We are already seeing signs of domination by vested interests of countries and communities by the rich and powerful seeking benefits of assured supply of raw materials, energy and rare minerals from other locations, almost in a colonial relationship. There is, therefore, an imperative for human society to move towards Gandhian principles, which, quite apart from shunning violence of one community versus another, proscribe violence used against nature and its attributes, which sustain life for all species on earth.

In actual fact, it is clearly the desire by human beings to expand material wants and the power associated with it which in some form or the other leads to violence all around. It is tragic that in the 21st century, there are still prosperous nations and groups, which are financ-

ing terrorist activities, the worst example of which leaves us with a continuing sense of horror from the events of September 11, 2001.

It appears that the global community, including the United Nations, has been largely ineffective in curbing violence in several regions of the world. The war in Yemen continues to kill innocent human beings, including children. The conflict in Syria, despite the involvement of some big powers, has not led to any movement towards peace, even as ceasefire after ceasefire is violated. In our own neighbourhood, the Taliban continues to attack innocent individuals in Afghanistan, clearly encouraged and funded by the army of another country in our neighbourhood.

Overall, Gandhian beliefs and principles are required to be spread worldwide not only to eliminate conflict within the narrow prism of one community or one nation imposing violence against another but also in respect of our wanton destruction of nature and the ecosystems of this planet. India, as the nation to which Gandhi gave so much, has a deep global responsibility to carry his message to the rest of the world, particularly on his 150th birth anniversary.

(The writer is former chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2002-15)

IT IS TRAGIC THAT IN THE 21ST CENTURY THERE ARE STILL PROSPEROUS NATIONS AND GROUPS WHICH ARE FINANCING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, THE WORST EXAMPLE OF WHICH LEAVES US WITH A CONTINUING SENSE OF HORROR FROM THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

## SOUNDBITE

The situation in Kashmir is bad not because of the people of Kashmir but because of all of us politicians and politics.



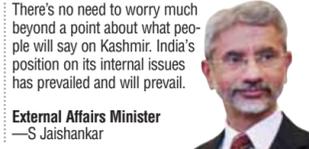
CPI(M) leader —Mohd Yousuf Tarigami

If you've not seen the product and are already writing it off, it's not right. But if you see my work and still don't like it, you're entitled to your opinion.



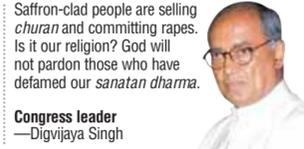
Actor —Karan Deol

There's no need to worry much beyond a point about what people will say on Kashmir. India's position on its internal issues has prevailed and will prevail.



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

Saffron-clad people are selling *churan* and committing rapes. Is it our religion? God will not pardon those who have defamed our *sanatan dharma*.



Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Respect languages

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Not Hindi *hain hum*" (September 17). Union Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for Hindi as a national language because it is the "heart and soul of our freedom struggle" should have been best avoided because it is beset with strongly divisive attitudes, especially in the South where the earlier anti-Hindi agitations had disturbed a hornet's nest. By seeking to thrust Hindi down the throat of millions, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would be committing a grave act of indiscretion.

Any imposition would arouse a fresh round of anti-North hatred that the Centre must guard against. Our linguistic chauvinism and respective lingual ethnocentrism will hardly let us accept Hindi as the language of the country.

English has ceased to be a foreign language. Even the British have ceded exclusive rights over the English language. What is certain is that no language — indeed, nothing — can be imposed from the top. In reality, it is not even needed. Even

### India will do well to emulate Belgium

This refers to the editorial, "Not Hindi *hain hum*" (September 17). Even before the controversy over the draft National Education Policy (NEP)'s pitch for the implementation of the three-language formula in schools could die down, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has opened a can of worms by advancing the theory of "one nation, one language." Shah's appeal has miffed the Southern States. As it is, India is inhabited by descendants of two distinct streams — ancestral north Indians and ancestral south Indians — who, in the modern context, have varied cultures and speak different languages. One is yet to hear of a cogent and convincing assertion about any additional element in Hindi that is not seen in other languages in the Schedule-VIII of the Constitution of India. This distinguishes it as a catalyst of growth and a unifying factor.

That the number of people speaking Hindi is more is certainly not the essential criterion for it to be anointed as the national language. Therefore, excessive activism to establish the paramountcy of Hindi is destined to backfire with unpredictable consequences unfolding. Bernard Shaw's humorous comment, "England and America are two countries separated by



the same language", is a reaffirmation of the fallacy about unity without affection. Belgium, a country of just 11 million people with three distinct regions, Flemish, Walloon and Brussels Capital, has three official languages — Dutch, French and German — but the country itself is neither bilingual nor multi-lingual. India could well be in the league of Belgium for good.

Haridasan Rajan Kozhikode

### Saudi crisis

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "War clouds" (September 17). West Asia is yet again in the grip of hysteria with rebels in Yemen attacking Saudi oil infra-

structure. The development has sent alarm bells for a possible war on Iran by the US because the latter believes that the drone strike was carried out by the rebels with support from Iran. It is an open secret that Houthi rebels

are being fed by Iran for long. Yemen is Saudi Arabia's neighbouring country and has been ravaged by civil war for long.

Houthi rebels have been battling against the Yemen regime backed by Saudi Arabia and the US. So the attack on the Saudi oil facilities is only a natural extension of Houthi rebels' vendetta against Saudi Arabia.

Iran has always cocked a snook at the US. Now Iran's elite revolutionary guard force has said that it is prepared for a "full-scale war" and that their missiles could hit bases in the US and ships within a range of 2,000 km. Anything may happen anytime. This could be disastrous for the entire world.

The drone attack on the Saudi oil facilities made the authorities in Saudi Arabia slash the oil production by half and consequently, oil prices have been gone up. For India, the fall-out will be unbearable as a spike in oil prices will upset the common man's budget.

TK Nandanam Chennai

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

FIRST COLUMN

## Time to up the game

India is losing to China in the fight to woo Myanmar, the latest geo-economic battleground, says **Rupesh Dutta**

In the last five years, India has achieved notable success in strengthening relations with its immediate neighbours, Sri Lanka and Nepal. However, the other major economy in the region, China, is determined to emerge as the winner in the ongoing geo-economic clash with India and Myanmar has become the latest battleground. China has overtaken India in terms of pumping in money and finalising massive infrastructure projects in the tiny country's economy.

This comes despite India's all-out efforts to boost its Act East Policy. Myanmar, whose political transition to a free democratic system is less than four years old, is in dire need of foreign investment to shun the tag of an "underdeveloped economy." While India has been sluggish in its approach to invest in Myanmar, China has grabbed the opportunity by wooing Aung San Suu Kyi, the Buddhist nation's State Counsellor, a position akin to a prime minister, with lucrative trade offers. Myanmar, has swallowed the Chinese investment bait hook, line and sinker.

According to Myanmar's Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, between 1988 and 2011, India invested a paltry \$763.567 million as compared to China's whopping \$20,566 million. In 2014-15, Indian investment was \$208.886 million against China's \$511.415 million and in 2015-16 it was \$224.223 million against Beijing's \$3,324 million. In 2016-2017, New Delhi invested nothing and China pumped in \$482.591 million.

Similarly, India invested \$10.993 million against China's \$1,396.219 million in 2017-18, followed by New Delhi's \$19.925 million against Beijing's \$304.732 million in 2018-19. Year after year, Chinese investments were more than 200 per cent of that by India which even restricted its funding during the power transition from the 'Tatmadaw' (armed forces) to a democratic set up in 2015.

Significantly, the Beijing-led Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is considering providing \$20 million to Myanmar for the development, construction and operation of a Greenfield 225 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power plant in Mandalay. It will be the largest gas-fired Independent Power Producer (IPP) in Myanmar, producing much-needed clean energy to meet the power deficit.

Furthermore, a master plan for a Chinese-backed, model economic zone along the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) has been prepared and the Suu Kyi Government is engaged in discussions for its implementation. The Myitkyina Economic Development Zone (MEDZ) is also in the pipeline and a pact was signed between Myanmar and the Chinese Yunnan Tengchong Heng Yong Investment Company for its implementation. The MEDZ is likely to come up in approximately 4,700 acres of land along the historic Ledo Road, built during the World War II and used by the Allies to deliver supplies to China which was fighting the Japanese forces. It was an overland connection between Ledo, in Assam and Kunming in China's Yunnan Province. The MEDZ expected to cost over \$400 million, will include nearly 500 factories and 5,000 buildings.

On the other hand, India has fallen short in its plans for Myanmar's infrastructural development. New Delhi must realise that its inability to engage with Naypyitaw will spell doom for its Act East Policy as Myanmar is the bridge linking India with South-East Asia. Sadly, most projects have remained on paper and others are likely to miss deadlines. For instance, New Delhi had funded and implemented a project to develop the deepwater Sitwe Port in Rakhine State to handle 20,000-tonne vessels by dredging the River Kaladan from Sittwe to Paletwa (a 158-km long stretch) to improve its navigability. It also involved building an inland terminal at Paletwa and constructing a 129-km-long highway linking Paletwa to the Indian border. However, the project is running behind schedule and has faced various hurdles.

Similarly, the Narendra Modi Government had cleared a \$6,167 crore upgrade of a 352-km National Highway in Mizoram to improve connectivity to Myanmar. However, the project has been in a limbo for the last couple of years despite the contracts being awarded.

Moreover, Beijing supported the Myanmar Government during the ethnic crisis in its Rakhine province, saying it understands the country's "security concern" even when the rest of the world termed the clashes as ethnic cleansing and has since called for the repatriation of Rohingyas.

This was the opposite of what the Modi Government did, as it not only remained neutral but also constructed 250 pre-fabricated houses in Myanmar, indicating its tacit support for the repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar. India's relations with Myanmar in the last couple of years have improved significantly and the cooperation between the two governments has increased, especially when it comes to sharing intelligence.

This in particular, is a boon for India, given the fact that the majority of armed extremist groups from its northeastern states have their camps on the Myanmar side of the border. India should be fully aware that to crush such forces, it will need the support of the Myanmar Government.

The Modi Government must consolidate its image as a caring neighbour who does not believe in economic adventurism like China. It must also make larger investments in Myanmar not only to check Beijing's rising regional dominance but also not to lose an immediate neighbour which has a buffer status vis-à-vis China.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

INSTEAD OF FIGHTING ITS OPPOSING PARTIES, THE CONGRESS IS HURTING PARTIES WHO SUPPORT IT. THIS IS A BETRAYAL OF THE BSP MOVEMENT.  
 — BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY SUPREMO MAYAWATI



MLAS CONSIDERED THE SITUATION AND FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT IS WHY THEY JOINED US. WE DID NOT PUT ANY PRESSURE ON THEM.  
 — RAJASTHAN CHIEF MINISTER ASHOK GEHLOT

# The need of the hour

To mitigate environmental risks, we have to make costly adaptations. Nations need funds for this, making climate finance a vital resource



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Every nation and individual is exposed to the risks of climate change and we have to make several adaptations to mitigate them. These largescale measures are costly. So nations need funds to implement them, making climate finance a vital necessity. Such a resource pool seeks to raise local, national or trans-national funds drawn from public, private and alternative sources. Recognising that it may be out of scope and capacity of several countries to initiate climate change measures, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement call for financial help from parties with more resources to those that are less endowed and vulnerable.

In accordance with the principle of "common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities" set out in the convention, developed countries are to provide financial resources to assist developing nations in implementing the objectives of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The pact reaffirms the obligations of developed countries while encouraging voluntary contributions by parties.

Developed country parties should also continue to take the lead in mobilising climate finance from various sources, instruments and channels, through a variety of actions, including supporting country-driven strategies and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country parties. Such mobilisation of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts. Overall, efforts under the Paris Agreement are guided by its aim of making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

**Setting up of funds:** A financial mechanism, which also serves the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, was set up to provide financial resources to developing countries by entrusting one or more existing international entities. Since the Convention came into existence in 1994, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has served as an operating entity of the financial mechanism. At the Conference of Parties (COP) 16, in 2010, parties established the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and in 2011 also designated it as an operating entity of the financial mechanism.

This module is accountable to the COP, which decides on its policies, programme priorities and eligibility criteria for funding. In addition, three more special funds have been established — the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), both managed by the GEF; and the Adaptation Fund (AF) established under the Kyoto Protocol in 2001. At the Paris Climate Change Conference in 2015, it was agreed that the operating entities of GCF, GEF, SCCF and the LDCF shall serve the Paris Agreement.

A Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) was established at COP 16 to assist it in exercising its functions in relation to the financial mechanism of the Convention. Currently, the SCF has four specific functions: assisting the COP in improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing; assisting it in rationalisation of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC; supporting it in the mobilisation of resources for climate financing; and supporting it in reporting and verification of support provided to developing country parties.

“ TO REALISE THE POTENTIAL FOR GREATER AND MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, GIVEN THE DIVERSE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTORS ENGAGED IN CLIMATE FINANCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE LESSONS TO BE LEARNT BY INDIA ON HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCE ARCHITECTURE AND THE EMERGING GCF IN PARTICULAR ”



The committee is also tasked with organising an annual forum on climate finance, provide the COP with draft guidance for operating entities, provide expert inputs during periodic reviews of the mechanism and prepare a biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows. Furthermore, the SCF is designed to improve linkages and promote coordination with climate finance related actors and initiatives both within and outside the Convention. At the Paris Conference in 2015, it was decided that the SCF shall also serve the Paris Agreement.

In addition, the long-term finance process is aimed at progressing on the mobilisation and scaling up of climate finance of resources originating from a wide variety of sources. The COP decided on the following activities until 2020: organisation by the secretariat of annual in-session workshops; developed countries providing, on a biennial basis, information on strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance and convening of biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance. Through the Cancun Agreements in 2010, developed countries committed, in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, to a goal of mobilising jointly \$100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries.

When adopting the Paris Agreement, parties confirmed this goal, called for a concrete roadmap to achieve the goal by 2020 and agreed that prior to 2025, the COP shall set a new collective quantified goal of over \$100 billion per year.

**India's position on climate finance:** Since India is quite susceptible to the impacts of climate change, it is a huge challenge for us. Given its unique and distinct topography, variations in climate remain a steady feature and any changes

in climate are likely to worsen the existing pressure on various sectors. With a growing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission profile, India is currently the third-largest discharger of GHGs globally, after China and the USA. However, according to a 2014 World Bank report, India's per capita GHG emanations remain extremely low at 1.7 metric tonnes (MT) of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per capita, as compared to China at 6.2 MT and USA at 17.6 MT.

Moreover, according to the Press Information Bureau 2009(b) report on emissions, it has been estimated that even by 2031, India's per capita GHG emissions (likely to remain 4 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita) will continue to be lower than the global per capita GHG emissions in 2005 (4.22 MT of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita).

Climate finance entered the dictionary of the official establishment with the release of the Economic Survey 2011-12, which contained for the first time a chapter on *Sustainable Development and Climate Change* and a dedicated section on *Climate Change Finance* and provided an overview of various domestic and international sources of finance, as well as private finance sources. An estimated \$230,000 crore was provided as the amount needed to fulfil the mission objectives under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in the subsequent Economic Survey of 2012-13.

The Government responded by setting up the Climate Change Finance Unit (CCFU) in September 2011. In spite of the creation of the CCFU, there is no formal coordination mechanism around climate finance. As a result multiple processes for financing thrive within the country including the Centre, States, private sector and civil society actors, all playing significant roles in low emission and climate-resilient development.

Due to the well-defined national climate policy, climate-related finance is

available through a variety of domestic, international, public and private sources. Domestic resources in India can be broadly divided into public climate finance and private climate finance. Public finance comprises budgetary support, taxes, subsidies and other market mechanisms. Private finance usually comprises clean development mechanism finance, debt instruments, equity finance and partial risk guarantee facilities. To realise the potential for greater and more effective action on climate change, given the diverse public and private actors engaged in climate finance at the national level, there are lessons to be learnt by India on how to engage with the international climate finance architecture, and the emerging GCF in particular. India can develop a long-term, coherent strategy around climate finance, by interfacing ongoing efforts on mitigation and adaptation with the emerging financial arrangements.

It would also be worthwhile to think of ways in which India could develop new, transformative ideas with a high mitigation or adaptation potential and use GCF financing to unlock a range of domestic financing and implementation capacity around such efforts. India needs to debate on the "readiness" for climate finance.

It has to identify and link existing pipelines of projects to the financial channels that have emerged, both domestically and through international flows. It has to create a new pipeline of domestically-owned projects that could seek international finance for their transformative potential.

To achieve this, several Government departments will need to work closely together not just on climate policy issues but also on operational questions around how to prioritise action.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

# Will Modi bite the UCC bullet?

'One nation, one law' is a necessity and the sooner the Uniform Civil Code comes, the better, though it is a sensitive issue and should be handled delicately by having more public debates and discussions



KALYANI SHANKAR

Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi go for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), particularly after being prompted by the Supreme Court (SC) last week?

Right now several of the religious communities in India follow their own personal laws. Under the UCC, all personal religious laws in the country, including marriage, divorce, property rights, inheritance and maintenance will be brought under a secular umbrella in a unified way.

The apex court battled for the UCC, pointing out that the founding fathers who framed the Constitution had hoped that the

State would bring in such a code.

Justice Deepak Gupta said, "Though Hindu laws were codified in the year 1956, there has been no attempt to frame a Uniform Civil Code applicable to all citizens of the country despite exhortations. A belief seems to have gained ground that it is for the Muslim community to take a lead in the matter of reforms of their personal law. No community is likely to bell the cat by making gratuitous concessions on this issue. It is the State which is charged with the duty of securing a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens of the country and, unquestionably, it has the legislative competence to do so."

Citing the case of Goa, where a UCC is applicable to all, regardless of religion, except while protecting certain limited rights, the court asked why the Centre has not brought an UCC as yet.

The SC's observation has strengthened the Modi Government's resolve to bring the UCC, which is part of the core agen-

da of the Sangh Parivar. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also managed to nuance its narrative by adding the issue of gender equality.

The BJP's argument is that though Hindu laws were codified in 1956, there is no law applicable to all citizens of the country even after seven decades of Independence.

India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, while defending the introduction of the Hindu Code Bill in Parliament in 1954, said, "I do not think that at the present moment the time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through." Today Modi has the mandate and the ability as well as willingness to bring the UCC for the benefit of the country.

Taking advantage of the weak and divided Opposition, the Prime Minister has already pushed through two controversial Bills in Parliament, the Triple Talaq and the abrogation of Article 370, in his second term despite not having a majority in the Rajya Sabha. The

Ram temple issue is in court.

Though the Law Commission in its report last year said that the UCC is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage", the party promised to bring the UCC in its 2019 manifesto.

However, the immediate priority of the Government is to deal with the economic situation and Kashmir. There is trouble in the Northeast on the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Then there are elections to three State Assemblies, Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand soon. Therefore, the work on the UCC could be taken up after that.

Supporters of the UCC argue that it is long overdue. The issue was discussed during the Constituent Assembly debates where BR Ambedkar was batting for it, but many Constituent Assembly members shot it down. Thus it was added to Part IV of the Constitution as one of the Directive Principles of State policy.

Second, Modi's vision of a New India is also a young India with 65

per cent of the population under the age of 25 years. These young people are influenced by global views and would appreciate the UCC. Third, it would promote national integration as it would provide one law for all citizens. Fourth, it would provide gender justice.

The opponents point out that the Muslims perceive the UCC as an encroachment on their religious freedom, even though some of the Islamic countries have adopted a common law for all. They also note that there is no consensus on the issue.

However, today, the issue is more political than legal and each time the subject comes up, there is a heated debate from both its supporters and opponents. As for political parties, there is no consensus and most of them use it for vote bank politics.

The Congress wants a political consensus while the Samajwadi Party has accused the BJP of doing it for Muslim votes. On the other hand, the BJP's ally, the Janata Dal-

United (JD-U), has diplomatically asked for consultation with all stakeholders. The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) wants reforms across all religions and the Nationalist Congress Party wants discussions on a broader spectrum. While the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) is opposed to it, the Shiv Sena supports it. So where is the consensus?

However, there is merit in having one law for all. One can understand the stand of the Muslims but the Congress and other political parties should not play politics in bringing uniformity in laws. In the 80s, even the late Rajiv Gandhi had explored the possibility of introducing a voluntary civil code.

"One nation, one law" is a necessity and the sooner the UCC comes, the better, though it is a sensitive issue and should be handled delicately by having more public debates and discussions to bring about a consensus.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



## CALIFORNIA HAS SEEN THE LIGHT

California is one of the few economies large enough to set the rules in a globalised world. It was also the birthplace of the gig economy, and the use of webs of casual labour tied together by algorithms to subvert labour laws and other regulations in all sorts of fields, ranging from taxi firms to B&Bs. So it's an important development that the state's senate has now turned decisively against the exploitation of casual workers.

(The Guardian editorial)

Director of Chanakya IAS Academy, AK MISHRA lists mistakes that aspirants should avoid making while preparing for the Civil Services

# WARD OFF ERRORS

Making mistakes is common. But, if you are a CSE aspirant there are a few mistakes that students should avoid in order to ace the exam.

**Following the herd mentality:** Given the degree of competition and the ensuing unpredictability in the civil service examination conducted by UPSC, the decision of entering into this arena is a big decision by all measures. Since the preparation for Civil Services Examination is going to be like a marathon race, one should always have the right and sustainable reasons for starting the preparation and keep going in it and not having the superficial and unsustainable reasons like peer pressure, parental expectations, power, prestige, money or other associated perks. Decide after a thorough analysis of the various job profiles, your preferences of service to get clarity of purpose for which you are going to work hard in the coming years. Also try to have awareness about the role of bureaucracy in India's administrative structure, work culture, degree of discretion and ensuring ability to bring changes at multiple levels. Do not have a utopian image of being the only change agent in a multi-layered and diverse Indian Society.

If possible, interact with serving or retired bureaucrats to get the first-hand account about the challenges and opportunities associated with these jobs and do introspection and start the preparation once you are convinced, as only the internal motivation coming out of these reasons will be sustainable in long term.

**Creating social hype about your**

**CSE preparation:** Civil servants (especially IAS/IPS) in India enjoy enviable social status (being an indicator of our developing society where still a huge majority of the population is dependent on the state for getting their day to day concerns addressed). Just the news about your CSE preparation is bound to create a lot of hype around you and arouse expectations and scepticism of a very high degree. This will increase the pressure on you which may become unmanageable and affect your performance which must be avoided given that the examination preparation itself is highly demanding. So, keep the decision of starting and ongoing preparation as closely guarded secret as possible, more so for working aspirants.

**Not having an understanding of the syllabus, demand of the examination and criteria for selecting optional:** Once decided to prepare for this examination, an aspirant should give due time to have a clear understanding of the pattern, syllabus and demand of the examination.

Optional marks play a huge role in the given scheme of things, thus its selection deserves due deliberation based on various parameters like your graduation subject (select if you are good at it and feel confident by looking at previous year questions), interest in the subject (for getting a feel of various subjects one can read the basic books on that subject), availability of study material and guidance. Take a reasonable time in deciding your optional, but once selected one should have unwavering faith in that optional and that is bound to pay off.

WHILE READING AND REVISING BASIC AND REFERENCE BOOKS, ONE SHOULD REFER TO PREVIOUS YEAR'S QUESTIONS TO HAVE CLARITY ON THE TYPE AND LEVEL OF QUESTIONS ASKED

**Underestimating the importance of NCERTs and daily newspaper reading:** NCERTs of relevant subjects are the base of preparation for CSE. Multiple reasons are there: direct question in examination (Preliminary as well as Main), the authenticity of the content and simple language. Given the importance of NCERT books, one should not look for the shortcuts here and thoroughly read the NCERT books along with their multiple revisions.

Similarly, daily reading of newspapers is a must due to multiple reasons — repeated and threadbare analysis of important issues makes one read them multiple times and revise them without doing this separately, developing multidimensional perspective, lots of real examples to quote in all papers of Main exam, enriched vocabulary which is specific and meaning loaded enabling aspirant to mention more points in main exam using less words, thus saving time and space while fetching those crucial extra marks. The monthly current affairs modules (as making daily notes from the newspaper may not be possible for all aspirants) may only organise or consolidate your current affairs knowledge, as one would have already read them in the newspaper. This will make one's knowledge base more diverse and consolidated.

**Not optimising the study material and sources to refer (especially online sources):** In the present context, any new aspirant is bound to be bogged down by the enormity of study material available online as well offline and will not even realise how her/his

precious time is wasted in running after material. So, aspirants should optimise the reference sources (for example — for GS papers — NCERTs as basic book and one reference book) with credible guidance and religiously stick to that.

**Delayed and improper approach towards mock test practice (Preliminary exam) as well as main answer writing practice:** While reading and revising the basic and reference books, one should refer to the previous year's question to have clarity on the type and level of questions asked from those topics. After this one should start practicing mock tests. Generally, aspirants think that they will practice once they feel confident about the syllabus being completed, but what actually happens is that either that day never comes or comes too late to be effective. The purpose of rigorous mock test practice is to have mental practice enabling to eliminate options in multiple-choice questions using the accumulated knowledge base; not that you will get direct questions from the mock test in the official examination.

Similarly, for the main examination, answer writing should not be delayed until the last moment (though its timing may vary, but it must be started after writing the preliminary examination). This ensures that the candidate is able to finish the paper on time in a structured way maintaining proper priority sequence of various points being written in the answer.

The writer is Director & Founder, Chanakya IAS Academy

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go.  
— DR SEUSS

### CULINARY ARTS

Indian School of Hospitality in collaboration with At-Sunrice GlobalChef Academy, Singapore, invites applications for diploma in Pastry & Bakery and diploma in Culinary Arts.  
**Duration:** One and a half year

**Eligibility:** Applicants who have completed Class XII or equivalent, graduates, professionals and PG students who are planning to change career or venture in the exciting world of bakery or culinary art are eligible to apply for this course.

Also, students with IELTS 5.5/TOEFL 46-59/WPLN Level 5 or at least 75 per cent in English in XII standard exams can apply.

**How to apply:** Log on to <http://ish.edu.in/how-to-apply.html>.

**Last date to apply:** October 5, 2019.

### CONTENT WRITING

Education and Career Times invites applications for admissions to its content writing courses in 2019-2020 session.

**Eligibility:** Anyone who has appeared for or passed Class XII exam can enroll for content writing courses at ECT. Candidates should be able to read and understand English language to be eligible to attend the class.

**How to apply:** Log on to <https://ect.co.in> or candidates can download the brochure for free from the website or visit the study center in Connaught Place, New Delhi. A short counseling session will be held to help the students decide the right writing style. Post counseling session, the students can take admission by paying the fee in two installments.

**Last date to apply:** October 15, 2019.

### BBA PROGRAMME

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS) invites applications for admissions to its BBA programmes.

**Programme offered:** Bachelor of Business



Administration (BBA) General, Bachelor of Business Administration (Banking And Financial Markets) and Bachelor of Business Administration (Global) — International Business.

**How to apply:** Log on to [www.manavrachna.edu.in](http://www.manavrachna.edu.in).

### UG-PG COURSES

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies invites applications for admissions to its UG/PG/Diploma programmes of Journalism and Mass Communication.

**Programmes offered:** BA — Journalism and Mass Communication, MA — Journalism and Mass Communication, PG Diploma in Advertising & Public Relation.

BA — Journalism and Mass Communication  
**Duration:** Three years  
**Eligibility:** Pass in Class XII examination/equivalent examination with at least 50 per cent marks in aggregate in five subjects including English as compulsory subject along with four subjects with the highest score out of the remaining subjects.

MA — Journalism and Mass Communication  
**Duration:** Two years  
**Eligibility:** 50 per cent marks in any stream at graduation level from a recognised university with pass in English in Class XII.

PG Diploma in Advertising & Public Relation  
**Duration:** One year  
**Eligibility:** 50 per cent marks in any stream at graduation level from a recognised university with pass in English in Class XII.

**How to apply:** Log on to [manavrachna.edu.in](http://manavrachna.edu.in).

## Time to reboot education

Majority of the country's MBAs have little or no understanding of the most elementary management concepts, says ASHISH MUNJAL

India's education system has its successes and failures however the latter far out weight the former. Perhaps the most striking example of this failing is that the majority of the country's MBAs — who are expected to have a nuanced understanding in the newest business techniques — often have little or no knowledge of the most elementary management concepts. Also, rather than being taught practical skills that help solve real business challenges, most Indian MBA students are taught theory which is often outdated and irrelevant.

Of even graver concern is that MBA graduates from hundreds of colleges don't have the basic skills to thrive in corporate settings. It's not uncommon to find MBA graduates lacking the knowhow to use everyday software like MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. While there are several reasons why Indian management education is failing so many students, a few that deserve to be remarked upon are provided below.

**Curriculum is Obsolete:** An MBA programme is meant to train young minds to solve the business challenges of tomorrow. The curriculum is meant to be rigorous and must incorporate the latest findings



from the world of business. In practice, MBA programmes in most Indian colleges are antiquated and have remained unchanged for years and sometimes even decades. Students who graduate from such programmes expect to reach the upper echelons of the corporate world yet in practice they have little or no practical skills of use to employers. Certainly graduates from leading business schools are armed with skills that help them succeed, however, the number admitted to such schools are a fraction of total MBA enrolments nationwide. Hence

upon completion of their MBA, most students who believe they are assured of financial success shortly are disappointed when they apply for jobs with leading companies.

**Little or no industry interaction:** For a student to succeed in the corporate world he or she must gain the pulse of the industry even before working in it. Sadly many MBA programmes provide no interaction between students and industry. Without such interaction students enrolled in professional courses aren't able to contextualise their subjects concerning their applications

in industry. Hence many students complete an entire programme without understanding why they are studying the subjects taught.

**Poor quality faculty:** Yet another reason why the education system is failing so many students is that faculty in numerous colleges don't have skills to prepare students for the real world. Many faculties in professional postgraduate programmes in India are nearly uninterested in their jobs as educators. Hence their lack of enthusiasm for teaching is obvious to pupils who subsequently lose interest in learning. It's also not uncommon to find faculty that is eager to teach but lacks the skills to effectively do so.

Today's jobs are more demanding than ever before yet this is a reason for cheer because students who have the right skills are poised for stellar careers. However, too many today in the education system are under the assumption great things lie ahead because they're enrolled in professional courses while the reality is quite the opposite. If the education system is to be fair to all stakeholders especially its biggest stakeholders, students, it must tackle the challenges described above.

The writer is Co-Founder & CEO, Sunstone Edvursity

## How to ace SSC JE

With the exam at the doorstep, AKHAND SWAROOP PANDIT shares tips that may help students crack it

The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) of India annually conducts SSC JE exam to recruit eligible candidates for the post of Junior Engineer in multiple Engineering Departments such as Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and Quantity Surveying and Contract. A computer-based Government exam, SSC JE is conducted in two phases — Paper 1 (objective) and Paper 2 (descriptive). While Paper 1 comprises of three sections — General Intelligence & Reasoning, General Awareness, and General Engineering, Paper 2 consists of only one section, General Engineering.

Candidates must have a clear idea on the preparation strategy because cracking the exam requires a lot of patience, focus, practice and, of course, a smart plan that one needs to follow dedicatedly. Here are some tips that may help a candidate crack this exam and secure their career:

■ A candidate needs to strongly focus on theory and formula-based questions in order to crack the technical part of the first phase. To excel in this area, one needs an in-depth understanding of all the technical concepts of their respective fields (mechanical, civil, electrical, Quantity Surveying). More importantly, practice solving the preced-



ing years' question papers, available on the internet or from any standard book; this is a must.

■ To prepare for the non-technical part of this section, a candidate should mainly focus on current affairs, particularly of the last six months. This includes subjects like Indian Geography (map-based questions), modern history, and important articles based on politics. The reasoning part is comparatively easier than other sections; a candidate just needs basic understanding of the concepts to score well.

■ Part 2 of SSC JE is subjective where a candidate has to answer questions in a detailed manner yet be succinct in their approach. This will require a lot of conventional practice as compared to the previous sections. Analyse the syllabus

and point out the core topics of your domain. The test will not include questions from every topic, hence it is critical for candidates to go for the most important topics only.

■ Remember, this test has high failure rates due to candidates' poor-writing skills. It's thus important to work on it too. Best is to solve the previous year's question papers of IES and SSC JE and revise the core topics on a weekly basis.

■ Finally, always choose your questions wisely because a tough question can take a lot of time. Hence it's advisable to efficiently use your time by primarily selecting those questions that you are confident to solve. The best way to prepare for it is frequently taking mock tests.

The writer is Founder & CEO, Catalyst Group

## Science awareness fair

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The three-day Science Awareness Fair 2019 at the Ramkishan Institute School Campus located in local Sanjay Nagar Sector 23 concluded on September 15, 2019.

The fair was organised jointly by Special Data Research Technology and RKI. Thirty Hospitality schools participated in this fair. At the fair, Bloom Public School took the first rites and Green Field finished third. Apart from this, all the schools participating in this fair were encouraged by giving consolation prizes.

On this occasion, the chief guest, Deputy Director of Food Processing and Horticulture Department, Pankaj Kumar said that only new experiments in the field of science lead to progress in science. He said that the intellec-



Guest honouring school students

tual level of students also increases with this type of organisation. In the same sequence, Dr Alok Garg, Director of RKI and Dr Malti Garg, Principal of the school, said that science is the greatest need of humanity today. Project Director Dr Sudhanshu Rai appreciated the teachers and management committee of the school for the success of the fair.

## Show and tell competition

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Show and tell competition was organised for the children of nursery wing of Delhi Public School Indirapuram. Children participated enthusiastically in this competition. As a part of the already running ISA project, the theme of healthy food versus junk was set for the competition.

During this, the children put in great efforts. Wearing a symbolic dress of green vegetables and fruits related to healthy food. Wearing symbolic dress like junk food like noodle and soft dink.



The presentation of children on this occasion was very spectacular. The teachers and staff of the school greatly appreciated the presentation of the children. After this, the child who performed brilliantly in the competition was awarded the Certificate of

Appreciation. At the same time, 'I too did well' batches were given to increase the morale of all the children.

Sangeeta Hazela, Principal of DPS Indirapuram said that the presentation of the children was very impressive. Such competitions raise the morale of children. Because children learn very quickly through competitions. And the urge to learn the same always prevails in children. It is our endeavor to have more and more competitions organised so that children continue to perform well.

## Empowering educators

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) keeping in view the invaluable contribution made by the teachers in guiding the youth of our country, organised Teachers Conference on the Theme Empowering Educators at New Delhi on September 17, 2019.

Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre, Minister of State for Human Resource Development was the Chief Guest. Dhotre commended ICSI for creating such

interactive platforms to provide a new and different perspective and hone the skills of that segment of the society which in turn hones the entire society. Initiative of ICSI shall go a long way in shaping the education methodologies adopted in the times to come.

CS Ashish Garg, Vice President, ICSI said: "I would take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication in serving the society and this nation. It is the teachings and the values shared by you that shall form the foundation of the future of this country."



# YOUR SKILLS, YOUR FUTURE

The future workplace is going to demand new ways of thinking. DR GAYATHRI VASUDEVAN tells you how

Today's markets and the lives of students are very different from the need of the emerging markets and the students for whom the existing education systems were developed. In such scenarios, there is a persisting question that needs to be answered — how can education best prepare the youth to navigate their way through an increasingly interconnected, complex and demanding market and the world in which theoretical recall will matter less than their ability of understanding perspectives and befit unconventional job roles.

India is encountering unique social, economic and environmental challenges driven by accelerating globalisation and a faster rate of technological sophistication. At the same time, those strengths are presenting us with myriad new possibilities for work and human advancement.

Education is going through an extensive change. A range of national models, forms and arrangements have developed to cope with the accelerated technological advancements and the dynamic needs of the labour

market. Transforming social paradigms and environments have modified students' motives and career expectations, highlighting on a qualitative change in the workforce towards human resources furnished to a high degree of skills in diversified vocational courses.

Vocational education, or skills-based, education is getting relevant today, with several employers demanding new employees to possess all the necessary practical skills they require to start work and to support their families shortly after senior secondary education.

In India, we believe that education is critical for nation-building. It is also a well-accepted fact that imparting appropriate knowledge and skills to the youth can secure the overall national development and economic growth. The Indian education system recognises the role of education and particularly vocational education.

Given the rapid technological development, vocationalisation of education implies the introduction of diversified technical and vocational education programmes, which need

**VOCATION-BASED EDUCATION OF DEVELOPING POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS IN STUDENTS FOR SOME DEFINITE VOCATIONAL WORK DURING THEIR POST-SCHOOL STAGE IS KEY**

to be designed not as narrowly conceived. Vocationally based education of developing positive attitudes and interests in students for some definite vocational work during their post-school stage is the key.

It helps individuals to be more productive through preparation for specific competencies in different vocations. It can't, however, be equated with mere technician training, it is essentially education in the broader sense of the term. It prepares individuals for understanding the social needs and conditions, and to realise their potentiality so that both can be correlated for bringing about the economic development of the country in particular and creating an atmosphere of self-realisation of individuals and prosperity of the nation in general.

To make vocations aspirational, it is essential to alter the fundamental thought process of people very early on with suitable interventions. Need for vocational professionals is demanded more than ever in numerous industries such as auto repair, woodworking, carpentry, blacksmith, cosmetology, retail,

tourism, information technology, funeral services, as well as in the traditional crafts and cottage industries. There are several benefits of vocational education.

■ Technical programmes develop the economy by bridging the demand and supply gap with skilled workers. It allows students to take marketable skills from the classroom directly into the working world.

■ Majority of vocational skills are relevant all over the world, and hence generate many employment opportunities in foreign countries.

■ School drop-outs and adults can receive this type of education as it offers opportunities to learn a skill or trade. There are many well-paid careers for which a college degree is not required.

■ Better vocational education also draws foreign investment and foreign exchange in the form of international conglomerates and students.

■ Hands-on work activities allow direct application of experience and acquired knowledge.

The writer is chairperson and co-founder of LabourNet

## 'Plenty of options to choose from'

SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with SUKHJIT SINGH ANAND about why students should opt for studying in Germany

■ From working in an automobile industry to an education consultant. How did that happen?

The Calculus was established in 1985 as a first retail outlet for personal computers in Regal Building, New Delhi. From there, I went on to be a part of several other businesses. In 2006, my son was looking for options to do his MBA from an international university. Like any other parent, I too looked at countries like the US and the UK. That is when I decided to become a consultant for the US, the UK and Germany. After working in this sector for sometime, I finally decided to just concentrate on promoting Germany as nobody was promoting this country. I like to diversify in an area where no one is working. There are 400 State-funded colleges. They offer 15,000 courses, out of these 1,000 are in English. Their colleges/universities are 100 to 2,000 years old.

■ How are you different from other consultants?

We are the largest German education consultants of India. The others are consultants who promote the US, the UK and Australia where education is commercial. The consultant firms in India work on a commission basis. They try and push the students to opt for colleges/universities and countries from where they get maximum benefit. In Germany, education is free, they offer no commission. Therefore, we charge a fee from the student.

■ What is your fee? What does it include?

We charge ₹60,000. This fee is entirely refundable if the student fails to secure a place in a college. We guide the student through the entire process like how to secure a bank loan; then the visa process. We guide him through the health insurance since Indian health insurance will not work. We also arrange for his accommodation. Once he comes to us, he doesn't have to go anywhere. No other consultant offers this kind of service.

■ Why do the students need a loan if education is free?

Bank loan is for the first year German language and their stay for that year. The course can begin only after they student has learnt the language. This costs ₹6-7 lakh. The language institute arranges for college admission so the student is carefree. The student needs to open an account in the country with ₹10,000 (₹8 lakh approximately) to study in the country. Then there is visa. The ticket cost is ₹30,000. Our fee is ₹60,000 plus 18 per cent GST.

Germany has 13 years of schooling as opposed to 12 in India. The student has to do a Foundation year which is free. But this course is taught in another college from where



Sukhjith Singh Anand  
Managing Partner, The Calculus

he will do his bachelors. This is basically similar to what the student has done in Class XII. The student has to make arrangement for stay (₹6 lakh for a year) since he can't work while doing his Foundation course.

In ₹25 lakh he can do his bachelors and masters. There is a provision for the student to work part-time and earn ₹15 per hour up to 20 hours a week when he is in the college. In a month, he can earn up to ₹1,400 that can go towards his stay and other expenses.

■ What is the procedure?

Before a student can actually start his course, he has to first learn German for one year. Learning the language is not tough for Indian students as it is somewhat similar to English. After that, they can pursue their graduation and or PG in German language. Also, 90 per cent students go to Germany for engineering which is for three years. Around 80 per cent of the course is practical, only 20 per cent is theoretical. It is not very difficult for our students to follow these theory classes.

■ What about a job?

There is a website: [www.make-it-in-germany.com](http://www.make-it-in-germany.com). This site will give you a list of number of jobs available in a particular sector. The country also allows you to stay for 18 months to look for a job which one can get in under six months. There is campus placement for students who excel. Some students may end up with a job even before they complete their programme.

Indian graduates who have studied in the UK say that they earn above average salaries in their work life. Fifty-one per cent of all Indians graduating from the UK say they earn above or well above average and 90 per cent of women in this group say they earn average or above. 60 per cent of Indian respondents surveyed said they were in their current jobs because it was exactly the type of work they wanted to do, with 82 per cent saying they are satisfied or very satisfied with their careers.

"The job satisfaction of UK graduates is higher, because chances of getting the job of one's choice markedly increases. I think this also leads to more effective work performance and logically, more recognition for one's work. The

likelihood of UK graduates working in India in managerial roles was 23 per cent higher than the global average," said Vivienne Stern, Director, Universities UK International (UUKi), which is the collective body representing more than 130 universities from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

A delegation of senior representatives from 20 UK universities is currently in India to engage Indian stakeholders to understand the vision and priority areas of the Indian Government, governing bodies and higher education institutes to assess the role UK universities and the UK can play to further strengthen the relationship and identify shared priorities for future collaboration particularly in education and research. This

## MINDIT

delegation is supported by the UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI) and is believed to be the largest delegation of its kind in at least a decade.

This data was released in the Indian Graduate Outcomes 2019 study, conducted by UUKi. Close to 1,000 Indian students of a total of 16,000 students from different nationalities who had completed their studies between January 2011 and July 2016 were surveyed to understand their experience of studying in the UK, their satisfaction with their education and their current jobs. The top ten nationalities (as a percentage of

respondents) in the study include United States of America, China, India, Germany, Nigeria, Greece, Malaysia, Italy, France and Romania representing 45 per cent of the respondent base.

The number of Indian and international students heading to UK for an education is on the rise. There has been a 42 per cent increase in the number of Indian students going to the UK for studies, in one year according to the latest immigration statistics released by the UK Home Office.

This sentiment is echoed world over, with London voted the best city for students

in 2019 in the QS Best Student Cities Rankings report.

"As the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, the British Council encourages student mobility with close to 500 scholarships each year. In addition, we also facilitate and support research collaborations and partnerships between educational institutions in the two countries every year," said Barbara Wickham OBE, Director India, British Council.

Sameer Pitalwalla, CEO- Culture Machine, and a UK Alumni from India said, "Studying in the UK is beyond just what you learn at university, (it is) the experiences that you get with the people that you meet." Survey responses show that a UK

education also provides benefits beyond employment and career goals, providing possible greater thrust to the sustainability and economic goals of their countries of work/home country.

Seventy per cent of Indian respondents felt they were better equipped to address issues of equitable access to sustainable development, 65 per cent felt they were better equipped to address issues of human rights, good governance and societal justice, while 69 per cent felt they were better equipped to address issues of sustainable economy and society. India respondents were slightly more positive than respondents globally where the corresponding data was at 64 per cent, 65 per cent and 66 per cent respectively.



The University of Melbourne is offering approximately 2,000 Melbourne Mobility Awards for the eligible students. International students who are undertaking the overseas study as part of their UG or graduate coursework course are eligible for this scholarship.

Eligibility: The candidate must be enrolled at the University of Melbourne in either an undergraduate degree or a graduate coursework degree. Applicant intends to study overseas as part of a University of Melbourne Exchange or short term programme or a University of Melbourne subject with an overseas component that will be credited towards your University of Melbourne degree. Applicant must apply for a Melbourne Mobility Award before the commencement of the overseas study programme.

How to apply: To apply for the opportunity applicant must submit an online application form.

Application deadline: December 31, 2019

The University of Alberta, Canada, is offering

bursary. The bursary is available for high achieving international candidates and also has the purpose of supporting candidates by offering some discount in their undergraduate degree course.

Award: Up to \$9,000  
Eligibility: An interested candidate must be studying at UAlberta on a Student Visa Permit. CV, statement of intent and writing samples, GRE GMAT or other test scores and reference letter should be submitted in a PDF file. Applicants need to complete their academic qualification for studying an undergraduate degree programme. Language requirement: The candidates should be very proficient in the English language.

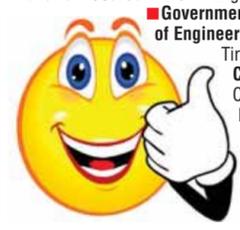
How to apply: For receiving this award, the candidates have to take admission in an undergraduate degree program at the university. After that, on the bases of their academic achievement, they will be notified of their award offer after receiving an admission offer from the university.

Application deadline: The deadlines are as follows:  
■ July 1 for September admission (annual)  
■ November 1 for January admission (annual)  
■ March 1 for May admission (annual)  
■ May 1 for July admission (annual)

## STUDY CENTRES

If you have an analytical mind, then a job as a surveyor is just right for you and you can pursue a wide variety of specialisations. They measure and draw what the earth's surface looks like. This is done in the air, sea and underground. Traveling is part of the job that involves indoors and outdoors. A bachelor's degree in surveying, civil engineering, forestry or a similar field is required for most surveying positions. Besides studying at Indian Institute of Surveying & Mapping, a few more colleges to study are:

- Central College of Engineering and Management, Raipur. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Sagar Institute of Science, Technology and Research, Bhopal. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Nagarjuna Institute of Engineering, Technology and Management, Nagpur. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Radharaman Institute of Technology and Science: Department of Engineering, Bhopal. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Karavali Institute of Technology, Mangalore. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Maher University (Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research): Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Madurai. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Anna University, Chennai. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- National College of Engineering, Tirunelveli. Course: BE Civil Engineering
- Government College of Engineering, Tirunelveli. Course: BE Civil Engineering



## PHOTOGRAPHY AT SPORTZCONSULT

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621653](http://internshala.com/i/1621653)  
Application deadline: September 23, 2019

## DIGITAL MARKETING AT CHIPIN CORPORATION

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621654](http://internshala.com/i/1621654)  
Application deadline: September 24, 2019

## GRAPHIC DESIGN AT BORED MARKERS

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621655](http://internshala.com/i/1621655)  
Application deadline: September 23, 2019

## CONTENT WRITING AT CAKEGIFTS.IN

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹2,000-₹4,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621656](http://internshala.com/i/1621656)  
Application deadline: September 23, 2019

## INTERIOR DESIGN INTERNSHIP IN BANGALORE AT KREIVO INTERIORS

Location: Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹3,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621650](http://internshala.com/i/1621650)  
Application deadline: September 23, 2019

## MARKETING INTERNSHIP AT PROCHAIN TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month plus incentives  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621651](http://internshala.com/i/1621651)  
Application deadline: September 24, 2019

## UAV/DRONE SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT AT PARAS AEROSPACE SOLUTIONS

Location: Bengaluru  
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/1621652](http://internshala.com/i/1621652)  
Application deadline: September 24, 2019

## IN BRIEF

### ASPIRATION FACTOR FOR FINTECH EXPERTISE

The Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIM Calcutta) and TalentSprint released an analysis report on the aspiration factor for FinTech expertise among professionals. The key insights:

- 78% of the professionals aspiring to build FinTech expertise are in leadership and managerial roles
- More than half

the professionals are from Banking and Financial Services, indicating that it is the most disrupted industry

■ 20% of the demand comes from professionals in the IT and Consulting industry indicating that they are driving the disruption in BFSI

■ Professionals with over 10 years of experience seem to understand the disruptive impact of FinTech the most and are highly motivated to ride the FinTech wave

The report is based on data collected from 1500 professionals.

### POST-STUDY UK WORK VISA WELCOMED

The Newcastle University has welcomed the announcement that a new post-study work visa would allow international students to work in the UK for two years after graduation. There is

no restriction on the kinds of jobs they can seek and no cap on numbers.

Welcoming the announcement, Professor Richard Davies, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Global said: "As an international university tackling global

challenges through our teaching and research, we need different perspectives, outlooks, ideas, and opinions. That's why we are delighted that international students can now look for work for up to two years after their degree is completed."

### UDEMY ANNOUNCES BUSINESS PLAN

Udemy announced the launch of its corporate learning solution — Udemy for Business, in India — a subscription that includes 3,500 of Udemy's highest-rated business and technical courses. Irwin Anand, MD Udemy, India said: "The launch of Udemy for Business in India is perfectly timed as companies look to ensure their employees remain competitive in the global economy. We've seen tremendous growth in

our consumer business and the launch of our business offering ensures Indian companies can invest in upskilling their employees with the global skills needed to succeed today and in the future."

Leading companies in India, including Wipro, Tech Mahindra, and Tetrasoft are using Udemy so their employees can learn the latest skills and deliver the most innovative solutions for their customers.

### DOUBT CLEARING COURSE

Ninety per cent or more of the school teachers are unable or unavailable to solve the problems of the students due to sheer paucity of time versus the intensity of the syllabus to be completed. Opting for tuitions, a costly and exclusive privilege has become a basic requirement for students right from Class VI. It only gets worse for those aspiring to appear for competitive exams. The common problem is that the students are still not able to get personalised attention to match their speed of comprehension or clear individual doubts.

BasicFirst, is an aptitude based personalised learning platform using the adaptive learning, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science and 100 years of combined classroom teaching experience. It offers students a solution who can't have the luxury of personal tuitions or get the support of parents, is to be in touch with someone who is dependable, trained and an expert faculty to guide the students.

The doubt clearing programme is organised to address all student-related queries. The programme covers all competitive exams (JEE Advanced, JEE Main, NEET, BITSAT, ACT, WBJEE, SAT, HBBVS, NDA, AIMS) and Classes (VI to XII) for all the Boards (CBSE, ICSE, and State Boards).

Students are first assessed and then assisted to choose the most suited package depending on their needs. Learning then becomes a fully live and continuous activity as they can access the experts' guidance via live video or chat or using any convenient communication medium from the comfort of their home and time of choice.

# No slowdown in automobile sector: CAIT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders body CAIT on Tuesday said there is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector and the industry is making hue and cry only to get a package from the government.

The auto industry has been attributing the sales downturn to several factors like high GST (Goods and Services Tax) rates, farm distress, stagnant wages and liquidity constraints. "There is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector. They are saying this to get a package from the government," Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal told reporters here.

Citing an example of new vehicle launches, he said companies have received huge number of bookings, which do not reflect any slowdown in the sector.

Talking about recent festival sales announced by global e-commerce firms like Amazon and Flipkart, Khandelwal demanded immediate action from the government to ban these mega sales.



He claimed that such firms are violating foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in the e-commerce sector.

"If the Government does not take action, we will approach the court," he said.

He also said these e-commerce companies are allowed to do only B2B business but they are indulging in big advertisement campaign.

"These companies are not doing business, this is the business of valuation. They should give details of top 10 vendors in the last five years," he said.

He also said interest rates are high in India and global firms get loans at cheap rates.

# Oil holds most huge gains after Saudi attack, Fed moves into view

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Oil prices dipped Tuesday but held most of the previous day's record gains following an attack on Saudi facilities that wiped out half the country's output, with traders nervously awaiting the US response after it said Iran was likely to blame.

The crisis revived fears of a conflict in the tinderbox Gulf region and raised questions about the security of crude fields in the world's top exporter as well as other producers. It has also taken attention away from the upcoming trade talks between China and the US as well as a much-anticipated policy meeting of the Federal Reserve, which is expected to see it cut interest rates.

Iran-backed Huthi rebels in Yemen have claimed responsibility but Washington and Riyadh have pointed the finger at Tehran, which denies the accusations.

Trump appeared to temper his earlier warning that the US was "locked and loaded" to respond, saying: "I'm not looking to get into a new conflict, but sometimes

you have to."

The weekend's attack sent both main oil prices surging almost 15 percent on Monday and managed to hold most of those in early Asian trade with WTI and Brent dipping a little more than one percent.

Uncertainty and geopolitical fears hit regional equities, which had been enjoying an upbeat month thanks to easing trade war tensions and fresh easing measures by global central banks. Hong Kong fell 0.9 percent with sometimes violent unrest adding to the financial hub's woes and dragging on the economy.

Tokyo ended the morning down 0.1 percent as investors returned from a long weekend, Shanghai slipped 0.8 percent, Sydney shed 0.1 percent and Singapore retreated 0.4 percent.

Taipei and Manila were also lower, though Seoul, Wellington and Jakarta rose slightly. But while there are fears of a conflagration in the Middle East, observers said the chances of that were low.

"Despite the circumstantial evidence, I feel the barrier of proof would have to be very high indeed. Almost impossibly so as there are zero appetites in the world for a military conflict with Iran," said Jeffrey Halley, senior

market analyst for the Asia-Pacific at OANDA.

He said the most likely outcome would be more severe sanctions on Iran, though he pointed out: "What is clear is that Saudi Arabian oil infrastructure is more vulnerable than thought, and a risk premium will be built into oil prices going forward."

Analysts said the Fed would probably consider the Saudi attack's possible impact on the economy and prices when deciding on its next monetary policy move this week but tipped it to cut borrowing costs after its meeting Wednesday.

Also providing some optimism was news that Chinese vice finance minister Liao Min will visit the United States on Wednesday to "pave the way" for the higher level talks planned for next month.

On foreign exchanges the aversion to riskier assets pushed the dollar up against high-yielding currencies, while the pound fought to recover from Monday's losses. Sterling dropped Monday after European officials said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had offered no new, viable ideas to break the Brexit impasse during talks with EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

# All options open for closure or merger of MMTTC, STC, PEC: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday that all options are open with the ministry for closure or merger of three public sector undertakings - MMTTC, STC and PEC.

When asked whether the government is considering to shut or merge these units, Goyal said: "All options are open." He said gradually the purpose of these companies is getting eroded and they are no more canalising agencies.

"It is not the government's business to be in the business," he told reporters here at the sidelines of a CII function.

He said there is no meaning for such a big infrastructure (MMTTC) to carry out gold imports. "We have started discussions. One by one we will do," he added. STC and PEC are debt-ridden firms.

According to STC's annual report for 2018-19, the company is facing "severe liquidity crisis" as all the lender banks have reported STC's account as NPA due to non-payment of interest on the banking limits availed by the company.

Therefore, at present, the company has no banking limits, funded or non-funded, available with it.

# Modi govt sensitive; aware of concerns of industries: Shah

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trying to allay apprehensions of India Inc, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Modi government is "sensitive" and looking into the difficulties being faced by businessmen, including those related to reforms initiatives. Shah also attributed to some of the problems being faced by industries due to the global economic slowdown.

"I understand your difficulties, your apprehensions. There may be uncertainties. But it is a sensitive and non-corrupt government," he said addressing an event of the All India Management Association (AIMA). Talking about the reforms initiatives taken by the government, Shah said there may be some initial problems but such difficulties will be over soon. He asked industries to face them as "they will bring overall good for everyone".

"There were some teething problems in the GST. But tell me in which big decision there is no teething problems. But we have been able to collect over Rs 1 lakh crore (in a single month) on many occasions. There may be a need to take a few corrective steps. "You have to undergo lit-

tle difficulties initially but at the end reforms brings the larger good," he said. Shah said the government was putting in place rules and regulations without any fair and favour.

"You may have apprehensions that so many inquiries. But rule of law has to be brought," he said. Shah said the government wants to expedite industrial activities and trying to provide all assistance, including proving a suitable platform to startups. "We are trying to help you... but there is a global slowdown too," he said.

The Home Minister said the Modi government works for the welfare of both the agricultural sector as well as industries. He asked the AIMA and other industry bodies to come up with suggestions for the government on what to do for the industries. The government would do its best for the benefit of industries, he said.

Shah urged the AIMA, FICCI and ASSOCHAM to devote more energy for research and development initiatives. He said the Modi government was not run by bureaucrats but by political executives. "The political leadership takes the policy decisions and the bureaucrats implement them," he said.

## NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11000.10	11000.10	10795.50	10817.60	-185.90
GAIL	129.45	133.30	129.00	132.10	2.40
TITAN	1155.00	1176.20	1154.00	1159.75	11.20
HINDUNILVR	1814.75	1842.00	1812.00	1834.00	17.70
ASIANPAINT	1527.40	1543.30	1518.60	1532.00	10.70
INFY	831.50	835.00	820.55	832.35	4.65
DREDDY	2735.00	2762.40	2730.00	2739.90	14.60
INFRATEL	259.15	251.95	247.00	251.75	-0.20
UPL	561.90	571.50	560.80	562.90	-1.20
BRITANNIA	2720.00	2740.95	2678.80	2699.90	-15.15
IBULHSGFIN	425.00	437.30	420.65	432.10	-3.15
POWERGRID	202.40	202.70	199.35	200.60	-1.55
BHARTIARTL	348.80	348.80	332.55	341.15	-1.85
ITC	239.80	240.10	236.80	237.05	-2.35
WIPRO	246.95	247.40	243.70	244.50	-2.60
HDFCBANK	2247.90	2248.50	2198.10	2220.00	-24.10
TCS	2154.95	2156.55	2105.60	2126.40	-23.60
HCLTECH	1069.00	1069.00	1046.55	1057.70	-12.20
RELIANCE	1211.00	1211.00	1193.50	1196.95	-13.80
ONGC	130.75	132.00	129.05	129.10	-1.60
BAJFINANCE	3424.95	3434.00	3354.00	3375.00	-43.85
BAJAJFINSV	7291.00	7325.00	7108.30	7180.00	-100.25
SUNPHARMA	426.70	427.55	419.15	420.80	-6.00
HINDALCO	200.00	202.95	196.65	197.50	-2.90
KOTAKBANK	1471.25	1480.95	1444.00	1453.20	-21.75
COALINDIA	200.00	200.60	196.00	197.40	-3.15
TECHM	719.90	719.90	699.15	707.50	-11.95
VEDL	149.80	153.20	144.45	146.00	-2.65
NTPC	122.85	123.15	120.55	120.90	-2.35
ADANIAPORTS	370.60	372.25	362.80	363.50	-7.10
ZEL	1344.00	1345.00	1310.20	1315.00	-28.60
LI	348.00	348.00	333.55	337.50	-7.45
GRASIM	716.00	724.10	699.90	701.00	-15.70
CIFLA	471.95	472.40	457.00	459.70	-10.80
ULTRACEMCO	3061.00	3075.00	2981.05	2989.00	-93.85
HDFC	2941.90	2945.50	2976.20	2995.60	-61.85
M&M	537.50	539.50	520.00	523.00	-13.95
YESBANK	67.10	68.80	64.65	65.30	-1.75
IOC	127.75	128.30	124.75	125.20	-3.35
ICICIBANK	405.85	411.90	398.30	402.35	-11.90
BPCPL	337.90	339.90	367.65	368.50	-11.50
INDUSINDBK	1376.00	1384.90	1325.25	1334.00	-41.95
BAJAJ-AUTO	2874.80	2875.85	2765.55	2786.00	-88.45
ECHERMOT	1680.00	1685.95	1671.95	1620.00	-560.30
SBIN	285.00	286.45	273.00	274.15	-10.55
JSWSTEEL	224.00	229.00	214.80	215.80	-9.85
MARUTI	6410.00	6445.85	6110.00	6116.30	-296.45
AXISBANK	667.00	668.30	638.05	639.50	-31.40
TATASTEEL	361.20	366.00	342.05	343.30	-17.80
TATAMOTORS	129.00	130.50	121.35	122.20	-6.40
HEROMOTOCO	2774.90	2762.00	2555.00	2567.60	-171.05

## NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	26436.00	26476.65	25947.40	25897.95	-443.25
GODREJCP	640.80	662.00	640.80	647.00	8.75
ICICIPRULI	415.05	423.25	414.80	417.20	2.70
SBILIFE	795.80	802.00	793.95	800.15	3.70
ICICIGI	1129.00	1141.60	1125.00	1134.05	4.90
DMART	1585.00	1616.40	1579.05	1601.00	4.75
MARICO	1240.00	1265.00	1236.00	1244.80	2.30
SAIL	379.50	381.45	376.00	379.80	-1.10
DABUR	455.00	456.85	450.25	453.00	-1.75
INDIGO	1660.00	1688.00	1662.00	1662.00	-9.90
COPAL	1313.20	1325.80	1301.80	1305.00	-9.95
BANDHANBANK	451.90	452.95	443.30	446.30	-3.60
PNGH	10380.00	10400.95	10276.10	10300.00	-82.70
OFSS	2908.45	2911.00	2851.00	2880.00	-28.45
PAGEIND	19473.30	19638.95	19039.15	19160.00	-192.35
ABB	1350.50	1366.95	1331.05	1331.10	-13.55
MOTHERSUMI	107.45	109.60	105.15	105.85	-1.20
HDFCLIFE	538.60	538.60	524.10	531.15	-6.50
LUPIN	770.00	773.00	754.60	757.45	-11.70
CADILAC	242.00	243.35	237.10	238.80	-3.80
MCOWELL-N	610.15	613.25	593.85	600.00	-9.80
UBL	1272.40	1272.40	1251.65	1253.00	-20.75
BIOCON	231.95	234.00	226.30	227.00	-3.85
GICRE	185.00	191.80	182.05	182.05	-3.15
SHREECEM	19065.00	19065.00	18457.05	18561.00	-336.05
CONCOR	106.10	107.90	105.05	105.05	-2.20
NETRONET	268.00	268.35	260.05	262.50	-5.95
BAJAJ	531.00	533.75	515.80	518.05	-12.85
JAIFHLDRG	3329.00	3329.00	3220.00	3240.00	-80.90
MRF	24.05	24.20	23.25	23.45	-0.60
NPC	59650.00	59993.65	57550.00	57920.00	-1541.50
ACC	1526.90	1535.00	1487.40	1490.00	-40.35
DISVILAB	1646.05	1647.00	1598.00	1598.20	-46.60
PIDILITIND	1356.40	1356.40	1316.00	1318.00	-41.15
STRANSFIN	1048.20	1064.80	1013.60	1020.00	-33.55
L&TFH	94.85	95.55	91.50	91.90	-3.05
AUROPHARMA	637.00	639.00	614.50	615.00	-20.80
HAVELLS	672.80	675.10	642.60	649.30	-22.50
HDFCAMC	2645.00	2705.00	2550.00	2564.50	-92.30
AMBUJACEM	200.85	201.20	193.50	194.40	-7.05
BANKBARODA	98.55	99.50	94.90	95.05	-3.80
BHEL	50.60	50.85	48.50	48.60	-2.00
BOSCHLTD	14220.05	14220.05	13514.80	13675.00	-568.25
HINDPETRO	255.00	255.65	244.25	245.30	-10.35
ASHOKLEY	63.05	63.15	59.70	59.90	-2.55
PEL	1906.00	1916.80	1813.75	1821.65	-78.65
DF	162.00	163.65	154.30	154.70	-7.05
NMDC	85.00	87.20	82.00	82.25	-3.75
HINDZINC	218.00	221.45	208.75	209.90	-9.75
IDEA	5.25	5.30	5.00	5.00	-0.25

## BSE 500

Script	Open	High	Low	LTP	Change
MARUTI	6412.30	6440.00	6109.20	6130.65	-281.65
YESBANK	67.05	68.85	64.70	65.15	-1.95
HEG	1374.00	1478.00	1322.75	1245.55	-132.45
GRAPHITE	359.00	383.85	332.00	339.50	-20.50
IBULHSGFIN	424.80	437.10	421.00	429.05	-5.75
TATAMOTORS	128.75	130.45	121.40	121.95	-6.80
TATASTEEL	361.15	365.95	342.25	344.45	-16.70
HDFC	2047.00	2047.00	1977.50	1996.50	-50.50
AXISBANK	670.00	670.00	638.15	640.20	-29.80
SBIN	285.30	286.35	273.10	273.90	-11.40
RELIANCE	1214.80	12			

# Iran leader rules out talks with US

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday ruled out negotiations with the US, as tensions mount between the arch-foes after Washington blamed Tehran for attacks on Saudi oil installations.

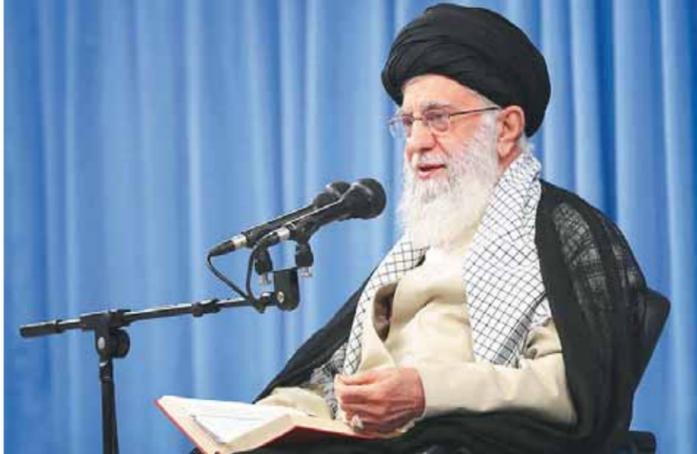
"The policy of 'maximum pressure' against the Iranian nation is worthless and all Islamic Republic of Iran officials unanimously believe there will be no negotiations with the US at any level," he said, quoted on his official website.

Tehran and Washington have been at loggerheads since May last year when US President Donald Trump withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal and began reimposing crippling sanctions in a campaign of "maximum pressure".

Iran responded by scaling back its commitments under the landmark accord, which gave it the promise of sanctions relief in return for limiting the scope of its nuclear programme.

The United States said on Monday that its military was readying a response to the "unprecedented" weekend attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

Trump said the United States was ready to help its key ally Saudi Arabia after the attacks that triggered a record leap in world oil prices.



In this photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei speaks in a meeting in Tehran (Iran) on Tuesday

"I'm not looking to get into new conflict, but sometimes you have to," he said. "That was a very large attack, and it could be met by an attack many, many times larger."

"Certainly, it would look to most like it was Iran," Trump added.

US Secretary of Defence Mark Esper also singled out Iran as a regional destabilising force, while stopping short of directly accusing Tehran over the strike.

The US military, he said, was working with its partners to "address this unprecedented attack and defend the international rules-based order that is being undermined by Iran."

A day after the attacks, the White House had said Trump could meet his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week.

But Khamenei said any talks with the Americans would

lead to the "imposition of their demands on Iran" and mean their policy of "maximum pressure" was a success.

Speaking to students, he said that was the reason why Rouhani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and other officials "unanimously declared we won't negotiate with US bilaterally or multilaterally."

Rouhani has already rejected the possibility of direct negotiations with the US unless

it lifts all sanctions.

He has said even if the sanctions are lifted, any talks must be held in the framework of the nuclear accord.

The supreme leader reiterated this on Tuesday, saying that if the US "repents" and returns to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, then it can talk with Iran along with other parties to the deal. "Otherwise no negotiation will take place" between officials from the Islamic republic and the United States "at any level, whether in New York or anywhere else".

Yemen's Iran-aligned Huthi rebels claimed responsibility for Saturday's attacks on Abqaiq — the world's largest oil processing facility — and the Khurais oil field in eastern Saudi Arabia.

Saudi officials said the attack involved "Iranian weapons," but likewise fell short of directly accusing their regional arch-rival.

Rouhani said the attacks were an act of self-defence by the Huthis against the Saudi-led forces conducting an air campaign against them since 2015. "Yemen is the target of daily bombings... The people of Yemen have been forced to respond, they are only defending themselves," the Iranian president said in Ankara.

The UN General Assembly debate opens on September 24.

# Modi didn't ask me to return Naik: Mahathir

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday said that his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi did not request the extradition of Zakir Naik, wanted in India for money laundering and terror-related charges, and his country is looking for a place to send the radical preacher.

Naik, a 53-year-old radical television preacher, left India in 2016 and subsequently moved to the largely Muslim Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency.

Mahathir said that Modi, whom he met in Russia during an economic forum earlier this month, made no extradition request for the controversial Islamic televangelist despite official notice from New Delhi.

Briefing reporters on Prime Minister's bilateral meeting with Mahathir, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale had said that Modi raised the issue of Naik's extradition with the Malaysian premier.

"Not many countries want him. I met with Modi. He didn't ask me for this man," Mahathir told Malaysian radio station BFM 89.9 when asked about Naik's extradition.



File photo

He also said that Malaysia was looking for a place to send Zakir who has made racially sensitive comments against Hindu and Chinese Malaysians recently.

The prime minister then reaffirmed that Zakir will no longer be allowed to publicly speak in Malaysia following his racially divisive remarks.

"Well, he's not a national of this country. He has been given, I think by the previous government, permanent residence status. A permanent resident isn't supposed to make any comments on this country's

systems and politics. He has breached that. He is now not allowed to speak.

"We are trying to find some place he can go to but at the moment, no one wants to accept him (Naik)," he said.

Naik is wanted by Indian authorities since 2016 for alleged money laundering and inciting extremism through hate speeches.

He has been banned from any public activities in the multi-ethnic country after his remarks against Malaysian Hindus and Chinese on August 8.

# Israelis vote in second polls in five months

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Israelis voted on Tuesday in their country's second general election in five months, a contest that is being widely seen as a referendum on incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership.

Netanyahu, 69, called the snap election after failing to form a governing coalition with a viable majority after April's vote.

About 6.3 million eligible Israeli voters started voting Tuesday morning in the unprecedented repeat polls.

Polling booths opened at 7 AM and voters can cast their votes till 10 PM to elect the 22nd Knesset (Israeli parliament) necessitated by the inability of Netanyahu to cobble a coalition of 61 members in a house of 120 following the April 9 elections.

Voting for Israel Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers began Saturday evening at bases around the country, and Israeli diplomats abroad have also already cast their ballots.

In the short period that has passed since the April 9 elections, the number of eligible voters has grown by almost 1 per cent, the CEO of the Central Elections Committee, Orli Adas, said.

The election is being seen as the toughest political challenge for Netanyahu, something akin to a referendum on the continuity of his more than ten years of uninterrupted leadership at the helm of affairs.

The polls pit Netanyahu, the leader of the right-wing Likud party and Israel's longest-serving prime minister, against his toughest opponent in years — former military chief Benjamin "Benny" Gantz of the centrist Blue and

White party. Netanyahu voted alongside his wife in Jerusalem.

Gantz while casting his vote called on the country to reject corruption and "extremism".

"We want new hope. We are voting today for change," Gantz said.

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in a video message on Tuesday morning vowed to "do everything I can to get an elected government in Israel as soon as possible and to avoid another election campaign".

Rivlin said that if the Knesset fails to form a government, or if the proposed government is rejected, he would task someone else with the role.

"The second option is to

inform the Knesset speaker that there is no possibility of forming a government, and there is no escaping a third election campaign," Rivlin said.

In the event that both scenarios don't work, the President said he would seek tasking someone who has the support of a majority of 61 lawmakers with the role.

The final opinion polls put Likud party neck and neck with its main challenger, the centrist Blue and White party. Smaller parties could therefore have a big say in the final outcome.

Avidgor Lieberman, an ally-turned-rival of the prime minister and leader of the right-wing secular Yisrael Beiteinu party, could end up holding the balance of power.



A family votes in the settlement of Tekoa, West Bank, on Tuesday as Israelis began voting in an unprecedented repeat election that will decide whether longtime Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stays in power despite a looming indictment on corruption charges

# Hindu girl found dead in hostel room in Pakistan

PTI ■ KARACHI

A Pakistani Hindu dental college student was found dead in her hostel room in Pakistan's Sindh province with a rope tied to her neck, a media report said on Tuesday.

Namrita Chandni, a final-year student of Bibi Asifa Dental College in Larkana district, was found lying on a cot by her friends on Monday with a rope tied to her neck. Her room locked from inside, The Express Tribune reported.

Chandni belonged to Ghotki, the district which was in the news since Sunday after three cases against 218 rioters were filed for vandalising properties, including a temple.

Widespread protests erupted in Ghotki on Sunday after an FIR was filed against the principal of Sindh Public

School on the complaint of Abdul Aziz Rajput, a student's father who claimed that the teacher had committed blasphemy by his anti-Islam remarks.

Chandni's friends grew worried when she did not respond to their knocks on the door for several minutes.

"She was neither responding to the knocking at the door nor to our shouts," one of her friends told the police.

The hostel's watchman later broke open the door and found her dead, the report said.

Police is yet to ascertain whether the girl committed suicide or was murdered.

The girl's body has been shifted to the district head-quarter hospital for post-mortem, but the police awaited her parents to arrive from Karachi for their consent.

# Russia, Iran, Turkey say Syrian constitution committee ready

AP ■ ANKARA

The leaders of Iran, Russia and Turkey announced on Monday that an agreement has been finally reached on the composition of a committee tasked with rewriting Syria's constitution as part of a political solution to the country's civil war, now in its ninth year.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told journalists at the end of the meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani in the Turkish capital Ankara that differences on one last committee member has been overcome, paving the way for the committee to start working as soon as possible.

"We portrayed a constructive and flexible attitude to determine constitutional committee members and rules of

procedure. We made an effort for the political process to move forward. In short, hitches regarding the establishment of the committee were eliminated by our mutual efforts," Erdogan said.

The leaders did not provide a timeframe for the committee — set to be made up of Syrian government and opposition figures — to begin its proceedings. The procedural rules still have to be worked out, Putin told reporters.

"The proceedings must begin rapidly," Putin said.

"Extremist groups may try and destroy this process because they do not want a final agreement since they gain money from war."

Russia and Iran are key allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad while Turkey backs Syrian rebels seeking to oust him.

Rouhani said he hoped for elections to take place in Syria in 2020 or 2021.

The leaders also agreed to de-escalate the volatile situation in Idlib — the last remaining rebel stronghold in Syria — while combatting extremists and protecting civilians. A cease-fire that went into effect at the end of August has been holding despite some violations.

Idlib is dominated by the al-Qaida-linked group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.

Syrian forces, backed by Russia, targeted the armed group in a four-month ground and air offensive but civilians have been widely affected.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians, some already displaced from other parts of the war-torn country, have moved toward Turkey's border.

# Taliban kill 48 ahead of Afghan polls

PTI ■ KABUL

Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 48 people and wounded dozens more in two blasts on Tuesday — one at a campaign rally for the president and the other in Kabul — with the insurgents warning of more violence ahead of elections.

The first attack saw a motorcyclist detonate a suicide bomb at a checkpoint leading to a rally where President Ashraf Ghani was addressing supporters in central Parwan province, just north of the capital, killing 26 and wounding 42.

Just over an hour later another blast also claimed by the Taliban rocked central Kabul near the US embassy. Authorities initially did not give casualty figures, but later said 22 people had been killed

and a further 38 wounded. The explosions came after US President Donald Trump abruptly ended talks with the Taliban earlier this month over a deal that would have allowed the US to begin withdrawing troops from its longest war.

In a statement sent to media claiming responsibility for both blasts, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the attack near Ghani's rally was deliberately aimed at disrupting the September 28 elections.

"We already warned people not to attend election rallies, if they suffer any losses that is their own responsibility," the statement said.

An AFP image from the scene near Ghani's rally, roughly an hour's drive north of Kabul, showed the remains of a burnt motorcycle, with a

body on top, covered by a blanket and next to a badly damaged police car.

Women and children were among the casualties, Parwan hospital director Abdul Qasim Sangin told AFP.

The president, who was speaking to his supporters at the time of the blast, was unhurt but later condemned the attack, saying the incident proved the Taliban had no real interest in reconciliation.

"As the Taliban continue their crimes, they once again prove that they are not interested in peace and stability in Afghanistan," said Ghani in a statement.

Sixty kilometres (40 miles) away in Kabul, a shopkeeper, Rahimullah, said he had been sitting inside his shop when the second blast came.

"The wave broke all the

windows," he told AFP.

This is the second time in less than a month that a blast has broken our windows. I just fixed them a week ago." The UN's mission in Afghanistan also slammed the Taliban, accusing them of showing "despicable disregard for civilian life & fundamental human right to participate in democratic process".

The elections will see Ghani face off against his own Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, and more than a dozen other candidates, including former warlords, ex-spies, and onetime members of the country's former communist regime.

For weeks, the election had been sidelined by the US-Taliban talks, with many Afghans and observers expecting the vote to be cancelled if a deal was agreed. Even candi-

dates did little in the way of campaigning.

But with the deal off, Ghani and his rivals have begun the race. Ghani is seeking a clear mandate they can use to negotiate with the insurgents on a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Trump's declaration that the US-Taliban talks were "dead" spurred the insurgents to declare last week that the only other option was more fighting.

"We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations," Mujahid told AFP last week. "If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it." Observers had warned the Taliban, who hope to weaken the future president, will do anything they can to upend the election.

# 'Parched India will see water refugees in future'

PTI ■ STOCKHOLM

More than 70 per cent of India's aquifers have dried up, signifying a crisis so grave it may lead people to seek refuge in water-rich countries, says Magsaysay award-winning conservationist and environmentalist Rajendra Singh.

Stressing that corrective steps must be taken immediately, Singh noted that people from parched areas of central Asian and African countries are already migrating to water-rich European countries, in a way disturbing the harmony of the world.

"In India, such migration is taking place from villages to cities. However, the current water crises may lead to such climatic migration in future to other countries," Singh, known

as Waterman of India, told PTI on the sidelines of the recently concluded World Water Week organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) here.

According to the World Resources Institute's (WRI) updated global water risk atlas, India faces "extremely high" water stress, close to what is known as "Day Zero" conditions when taps run dry.

"India will face considerable and varied climate change impacts in the coming decades. The country has a large population with high poverty and low adaptive capacity, heavy dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, and is likely to face negative climate change impacts. These factors make adaptation critical," a March 2019 report by WRI said.

Singh, who won the Magsaysay award in 2001 for his pioneering work in water management, said 72 per cent of India's underground aquifers have dried up.

In such a situation, it is going to be difficult to save the country from an imminent "water catastrophe". This year, 365 districts in 17 states of the country were under drought and over 190 districts under floods, Singh noted.

"This deadly combination of floods and droughts cannot be tackled by providing piped water but only through community driven water management," said the conservationist who belongs to Alwar in India's desert state Rajasthan.

The 60-year-old, who won the Stockholm Water Prize in 2015, reiterated the need to

develop a community-driven decentralised water management programme to address India's water crisis.

"The responsibility of providing water to everyone can only be fulfilled if the government collaborates with people at the ground level rather than handing over the work to contractors, whose only interest is to earn benefits or profits," said Singh.

"The government and people have to come together to tackle the crisis. To achieve this, the government should formulate a policy that it won't outsource water management to contractors and instead involve public-driven initiatives. This is the only way to make the society water-efficient from water deficient," he added. A NITI Aayog report in

June estimated that 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by 2020 — a bleak scenario for a country where 75 per cent of the domestic water sectors and 80 per cent of agriculture irrigation are reliant on groundwater.

Answering a question in the Parliament on the NITI Aayog report, Minister of State for Drinking Water and Sanitation Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi informed the Lok Sabha that 60 crore people in India face high to extreme water crisis and its demand is projected to be twice the availability supply by 2030, adding that there was an imminent need to deepen understanding of water resources and their usage. A lot of time has been

lost, but it's still possible to overcome the crisis, Singh said.

"The water utilised for agricultural purposes could easily be halved by stopping the use of mechanised herbicides and pesticides which have caused water deficiency in aquifers, leading to both floods and droughts which are both connected to water aquifer management," he said.

Singh also stressed on the need to develop water harvesting systems and protecting water reservoirs from evaporation by the heat of the sun. "We have to see how to do that. We are blessed with huge aquifers so we have to recharge them to fill our reservoirs."

By doing so, the country will still have a "reserve bank

of water" which we can use in emergencies, even in the case of deficient rainfall.

Unfortunately, however, no such policy has been put in place by the government till now, he said.

"I spoke to the Jal Shakti Minister (Gajendra Singh Shekhawat) here and he assured me that such policy will be adopted," he said. "We are running out of time. In fact we have lost all the time to act. A country whose 70 per cent aquifers are dry has no time left," he said.

A classic example, he said, is Bengaluru which once had several lakes but is now water deficient because the water bodies have dried up over the years. "We can understand the

water crisis in Delhi-NCR due to overpopulation, but water deficiency in Bengaluru and Shimla clearly speaks of water mismanagement on part of government as well as people," Singh said.

"We need water security rather than water markets," he said. He cited several examples from his experience where water management work by public groups was handed over to contractors, who use unscientific methods.

"Indigenous methods of water management are best for the country. These were developed by local people rather than governments or social organisations," he said, adding interlinking of rivers is also not the solution to India's water crises.

# Progress made in reducing tension, Trump to meet Modi, Imran soon

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that he will soon meet the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, even as he insisted that a "lot of progress" has been made in reducing tension between the countries.

While Trump along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address over 50,000 Indian-Americans at the "Howdy Modi!" mega event in Houston on September 22, the American president did not say when or where will he be meeting Pakistan premier Imran Khan.

"I'll see Prime Minister Modi and I will — we'll — be meeting with (prime ministers of) India and Pakistan," Trump told reporters in response to a question at the White House on Monday.

Without mentioning Kashmir or the tenuous relationship between the two South Asian neighbors after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, Trump said, "I think a lot of progress has been made there. A lot of progress."

Prime Minister Modi, during his meeting with President Trump in France last month, had categorically rejected any scope for third party mediation on Kashmir, saying it was a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

"All the issues between India and Pakistan are of bilateral in nature, and we don't want to trouble any third country. We can discuss and resolve these issues bilaterally," Modi emphasised.

Tension between India and Pakistan escalated after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5. Reacting to India's move on Kashmir, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

Asserting that abrogation of Article 370 was its internal matter, India has strongly criticised Pakistan for making "irresponsible statements" and provocative anti-India rhetoric over issues internal to it.

Meanwhile, according to President Trump's schedule, he could meet Pakistan prime minister Khan on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly Session in New York later this month.

After addressing Indian-Americans at the "Howdy Modi!" event, Trump will travel to Ohio and then is expected to fly to New York to attend the annual UN General Assembly session.

Prime Minister Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Khan are scheduled to address the UNGA session on September 27.

## 'Trump considers Modi his friend and ally'

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump's decision to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the mega diaspora event "Howdy, Mody!" in Houston on September 22, suggests that Trump considers Modi to be his friend and ally, a former top Pakistani diplomat said Monday.

"President Trump is signalling clearly that while he may have hosted (Pakistan) Prime Minister Imran Khan, it is Prime Minister Modi that he considers his ally and friend," former Pakistani Ambassador to the US, Husain Haqqani told PTL.

Haqqani, 63, who has authored several bestselling books on Pakistan, is currently a senior fellow and director at the South and Central Asia department of think-tank Hudson Institute.

"That (Howdy, Mody! event) will certainly depress those who thought Khan's last trip to Washington represented a breakthrough in US-Pakistan relations," Haqqani said in response to a question, a day after the White House announced Trump would join Modi at the mega Houston rally, which would be attended by more than 50,000 Indian Americans.

This would be the third meeting between the two leaders this year. The previous two were on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in June in Japan and in France in July on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.

The US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), one of the organising partners of the event, hailed Trump's participation and said bilateral trade between India and the US has seen an extremely positive trajectory in the last decade.

"This unprecedented gesture by both leaders shows their commitment towards the US-India partnership and why the two countries continue to be natural allies," USISPF president Mukesh Aghi said.

# Apple slams EU over tax bill

AFF ■ LUXEMBOURG

Apple went on the offensive against Brussels in an EU court on Tuesday, fighting the European Commission's landmark order that the iPhone-maker reimburse Ireland 13 billion euros (USD 14 billion) in back taxes.

The EU's tax demand, delivered in 2016, "defies reality and common sense," Apple's lawyer Daniel Beard told the EU's lower General Court.

The commission's "conclusion... is wrong," he added.

The commission's historic decision was delivered in August 2016 by Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager, a shock decision that put Europe at the forefront of an emerging effort to rein in the power of US big tech.

Lawyers for the world's biggest company faced EU officials in the Luxembourg court, challenging a decision that CEO Tim Cook slammed at the time as "total political

crap". Ireland, which is similarly appealing against the decision, also testified at the start of two days of hearings, and lashed out at the EU's "astonishing" interpretation of tax law.

"The Commission decision simply ignores Irish laws," Ireland's representative Maurice Collins told judges.

The EU accuses Apple of parking untaxed revenue earned in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and India in Ireland, which has become a European hub for US-based big tech.

This privilege allegedly gave Apple an advantage over other companies, allowing it to avoid taxes between 2003 and 2014 of around 13 billion euros which, according to Brussels, constituted illegal "state aid" by Ireland.

The judges are not expected to hand down their decision before 2020 and any appeal would then go to the EU's highest court, the European Court of Justice, for a final ruling that

could land as late as 2021.

Apple fiercely denies the tax bill. The US government also insists the order by Brussels constitutes a major breach of international tax law.

The European Commission has tried to rewrite Apple's history in Europe, to ignore Ireland's tax laws and, in doing so, to disrupt the international tax system," Tim Cook said in an open letter in 2016.

The group insists that it is in the United States, where the company invests in research and development and thus creates wealth, that it must pay taxes on the revenue in question.

This became possible after a major tax overhaul in the US at the end of 2017 that allowed Apple to repatriate profits made abroad. Apple has promised to pay Washington a tax bill of \$37 billion, in addition to the taxes already paid in the United States.

The two days of hearings are taking place in a tense trade

context between the EU and the United States where President Donald Trump accuses Europeans of deliberately attacking American technology giants.

The EU's Competition supreme, Vestager, is in particular accused by the US president of "hating" the US. He has slammed her as the "tax lady" because of the investigations and heavy fines imposed on US groups such as Google.

Pending the conclusion of the case, Apple has blocked the funds in an escrow account: a total of 14.3 billion euros after interest.

The group, which has been present in Ireland since the 1980s, employs around 6,000 people in Cork, the country's second-largest city.

The first indications of how the Apple case may finish will come as early as September 24 when the same EU court will rule on whether the Vestager was right to demand unpaid taxes from Starbucks and a unit of Fiat Chrysler.

# Top UK court hearing challenge to Johnson's Parliament break

AP ■ LONDON

Britain's Supreme Court opened proceedings Tuesday to decide whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the law when he suspended Parliament just weeks before the UK is due to leave the European Union, in a case that pits the powers of elected lawmakers against those of the executive.

Johnson sent lawmakers home from September 9 until October 14, which is barely two weeks before the scheduled Brexit day of October 31.

The decision outraged many lawmakers, who say it's designed to prevent them from challenging his plan to take Britain out of the EU next

month, with or without a divorce deal.

The suspension sparked legal challenges, to which lower courts have given contradictory rulings. England's High Court said the suspension was a political rather than legal matter, but Scottish court judges ruled last week that Johnson acted illegally to avoid democratic scrutiny.

The UK's top court is being asked to decide who was right, in a case scheduled to last up to three days.

Johnson says the suspension is routine, and will allow his government to launch its domestic agenda with a new session of Parliament.

Government lawyers argue in a written submission that the

issue is "inherently one of high policy and politics, not law." "There are no judicial or manageable standards by reference to which the courts could assess the lawfulness of ministerial decisions," they argue.

Opponents, who include opposition lawmakers and transparency campaigner Gina Miller, accuse the government of an illegal abuse of power designed to sideline lawmakers.

In a written submission to court, Miller's lawyers argue that Johnson had "sought to frustrate" Parliament. "The evidence shows that the prime minister, at best, improperly regards Parliament as an irrelevance," and at worst a handi-

cap to his plans, they said. The Supreme Court must decide two questions: Is this a matter for the courts; and, if so, did the government break the law? The court is due to hear Tuesday from lawyers for Miller and the government.

There will be submissions later from the governments of Scotland and Wales and former Prime Minister John Major — all supporting the challenges to the government — and from a Northern Ireland campaigner who argues a no-deal Brexit would endanger the peace process there.

Johnson hasn't said what he will do if the judges rule the suspension illegal. He told the BBC he would "wait and see what they say."

# Almost entire population of Ecuador has data leaked

AFF ■ QUITO (ECUADOR)

Almost the entire population of Ecuador had their personal data leaked online in a major security breach, officials and security experts said.

Data on an estimated 20 million people, including almost seven million minors as well as deceased citizens, was exposed by the breach, the state attorney general's office said on Monday. The data was hosted on an unsecured server run by an Ecuadorian marketing and analytics firm.

"The information that I can share with you at this moment is that this is a very delicate issue, it is a major concern for the whole of the government and the state," said Interior Minister Maria Paula Romo.

The South American nation has a population of 17 million, according to the UN Population Fund.

Ecuadorian authorities said the data was allegedly from a server based in the United States.

The security company vpnMentor uncovered the breach on the server run by the firm Novaestrat, which included citizens' full names, dates and places of birth, education levels, phone numbers and national identity card numbers.

ZDNet, the cybersecurity website that first reported the breach, said there was even data on the country's president and on Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder who applied for asylum in Ecuador and spent years holed up in the country's London embassy before being arrested this year by British police.

# Indonesia battles forest fires

AP ■ JAKARTA

Indonesia's president travelled to the area hardest hit by forest fires, as neighbouring countries urged his government to do more to tackle the blazes that have spread a thick, noxious haze around Southeast Asia.

President Joko Widodo flew to Riau province, where nearly 50,000 hectares (123,500 acres) have burned, to encourage authorities to get the haze under control.

Widodo told reporters Tuesday in the provincial capital, Pekanbaru, that about 5,600 additional military personnel have been deployed to help the 9,000 people currently fighting the fires, which have razed more than 328,700 hectares (812,000 acres) of land nationwide.

He said at least 52 helicopters have dropped more than 263 million liters (69.5 million gallons) of water and 164 tons of salt for cloud seeding as part of the firefighting efforts in six provinces that have declared states of emergency.

"All efforts have been made, with more personnel on the ground to battle the fires," Widodo said, "But the most important measure is prevention before fires occur."

Widodo regretted that local authorities have been slow in detecting and responding to fires before they start to grow.

"We have all the resources, but all of them were not activated properly," he said. He urged people to refrain from setting fires on peatlands or in forests that could trigger wildfires,

and ordered authorities take firm action against arsonists, both company employees and villagers.

Nearly every year, Indonesian forest fires spread health-damaging haze across the country and into neighboring Malaysia and Singapore. The fires are often started by smallholders and plantation owners who set land on fire as a cheap way of clearing it for new planting.

Many areas of Indonesia are prone to rapid burning because of the draining of swampy peatland forests for pulp wood and palm oil plantations.

Poor visibility caused by smoke caused flight delays at several airports in Indonesia and Malaysia, and prompted authorities to shut schools in some parts of both countries.

The Indonesian Disaster Mitigation Agency detected 2,153 hotspots across the country on Monday, mostly in the six provinces of Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, South Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan.

It said 99% of the hotspots were caused by deliberately set fires.

Indonesia's annual dry season fires were particularly disastrous in 2015, burning 2.6 million hectares (10,000 square miles) of land and spreading haze across Indonesia, Singapore, southern Thailand and Malaysia.

The World Bank estimated the fires cost Indonesia \$16 billion, and a Harvard and Columbia study estimated the haze hastened 100,000 deaths in the region.

# Maryam Sharif gets relief from Pak poll panel, to continue as party vice-prez

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

In a relief to Maryam Nawaz, Pakistan's top election body on Tuesday rejected a plea to remove her from the post of vice president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party.

The 45-year-old daughter of jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who founded the party, was appointed on the post by the party in May. Sharif's brother Shehbaz is currently the president of the party.

The appointment was challenged in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) by the lawmakers of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) on the grounds that she was convicted by an accountability court in Avenfield corruption case in 2018. Maryam was sentenced to seven years in jail in July 2018 in connection with the case that pertains to the ownership of the Sharif family's posh apartments at Avenfield House, London. The sentence was, however, suspended by the Islamabad High Court.

A three-member ECP bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) retired Justice Sardar Mohammad Raza Khan dismissed the petition without granting relief to the petitioners.

However, the bench ruled that Maryam cannot be appointed as the acting president of the party and she should not accept any functional position in the party.

# China, US clash over 'belt and road' in Afghan resolution

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

China and Russia clashed with the US and other Security Council members Monday over China's insistence on including a reference to Beijing's USD 1 trillion "belt and road" global infrastructure program in a resolution on the UN political mission in Afghanistan.

The mission's six-month mandate expires Tuesday and council members met behind closed doors for over 2 1/2 hours Monday, unable to agree on a text because of China's demand.

Russian Ambassador Vasily Nebenzia, the current council president, told reporters afterward that diplomats were working on a new text and "we're in the process of reaching a compromise."

He said the council would meet again late Tuesday morning

in hopes of reaching unanimous agreement.

This is the second time in six months that the resolution to keep the UN political mission in Afghanistan operating has become embroiled in controversy over "belt and road" language.

Resolutions extending the mandate of the Afghan mission for a year in 2016, 2017 and 2018 had language welcoming and urging further efforts to strengthen regional economic cooperation involving Afghanistan, including through the huge "belt and road" initiative to link China to other parts of Asia as well as Europe and Africa.

But in March, when the mandate renewal came up, US deputy ambassador Jonathan Cohen objected, saying Beijing was insisting on making the resolution "about Chinese national

political priorities rather than the people of Afghanistan."

He said the Trump administration opposed China's demand "that the resolution highlight its belt and road initiative, despite its tenuous ties to Afghanistan and known problems with corruption, debt distress, environmental damage, and lack of transparency."

China's deputy ambassador, Wu Haitao, countered at the time that one council member — almost certainly referring to the US — "poisoned the atmosphere."

He said the "belt and road" initiative was "conducive to Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development," saying that since it was launched six years ago 123 countries and 29 international organisations had signed agreements with China on joint development programs.

# Earth to warm more quickly, new climate models show

AFF ■ PARIS

Greenhouse gases thrust into the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels are warming Earth's surface more quickly than previously understood, according to new climate models set to replace those used in current UN projections, scientists said Tuesday.

By 2100, average temperatures could rise 6.5 to 7.0 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels if carbon emissions continue unabated, separate models from two leading research centres in France showed.

That is up to two degrees higher than the equivalent scenario in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change's

(IPCC) 2014 benchmark 5th Assessment Report.

The new calculations also suggest the Paris Agreement goals of capping global warming at "well below" two degrees, and 1.5C if possible, will be harder to reach, the scientists said.

"With our two models, we see that the scenario known as SSP1 2.6 — which normally allows us to stay under 2C — doesn't quite get us there," Joeri Rogelj, an associate professor at Imperial College London and an IPCC lead author, told AFP.

These include increased supercomputing power and sharper representations of weather systems, natural and man-made particles, and how clouds evolve in a warming world.

"We have better models now," said Boucher. "They have better resolution, and they represent current climate trends more accurately."

A core finding of the new models is that increased levels of CO2 in the atmosphere will warm Earth's surface more easily than earlier calculations had suggested.

If confirmed, this higher "equilibrium climate sensitivity," or ECS, means humanity's carbon budget — our total emissions allowance — is likely to shrink.

The French models are among the first to be released, but others developed independently have come to the same unsettling conclusion, Boucher confirmed.

"The most respected ones — from the United States, and Britain's Met Office — also show a higher ECS" than the previous generation of models, he said.

This is bad news for fight against global warming, which continues to face strong political headwinds and institutional inertia despite a rapid crescendo of public awareness and concern.

"A higher ECS means a greater likelihood of reaching higher levels of global warming, even with deeper emissions cuts," Boucher and two British scientists — Stephen Belcher from the UK Met Office and Rowan Sutton from the UK National Centre for Atmospheric Science —

wrote in a blog earlier this year, tiptoeing around the implications of the new models.

"Higher warming would allow less time to adapt and mean a greater likelihood of passing climate 'tipping points' such as thawing of permafrost, which would further accelerate warming." A third to 99 percent of top-layer permafrost could melt by 2100 if carbon pollution is not abated, releasing billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases into the air, according to a draft IPCC special report on oceans and Earth's frozen zones obtained by AFP.

"Unfortunately, our global failure to implement meaningful action on climate

change over recent decades has put us in a situation where what we need to do to keep warming to safe levels is extremely simple," said Rogelj.

"Global greenhouse gas emissions need to decline today rather than tomorrow, and global CO2 emissions should be brought to net zero." The 2014 basket of climate models show Earth warming on current trends an additional 3C by 2100, and at least 2C even if national carbon cutting pledges are all met.

The two French climate models, including one from France's National Centre for Meteorological Research (CNRM), were to be unveiled at a press conference in Paris.

AFP ■ PARIS

The visit of Real Madrid to the French capital today means a glamour tie for Paris Saint-Germain to begin their Champions League campaign but a meeting with the Spanish side also brings back unhappy memories.

When the clubs last met in Europe two seasons ago, a PSG side missing an injured Neymar were dumped out in the last 16.

That was one of three consecutive exits in the first knockout round for PSG, who have failed to make their mark on the Champions League despite all the money spent by their Qatari owners.

So the inevitable question at the start of another continental campaign is can Thomas Tuchel's team this time at least reach a semi-final in Europe's elite club competition?

Last season it was Manchester United who embarrassed PSG. Since 2012 the only teams PSG have beaten in a Champions League knockout tie are Valencia, Bayer Leverkusen and Chelsea.

**NEYMAR OVERSHADOWS EVERYTHING**

For now, PSG will just be eager to make a statement in their opening match. But with Galatasaray and Club Brugge the other teams in Group A, it would be a monumental surprise if PSG failed to progress, even with Neymar suspended for the first two matches.

The world's most expensive player has overshadowed everything else at the club in recent months, with the saga of his hoped-for move back to Barcelona and then his return to action at the weekend, featuring a brilliant winner against Strasbourg in response to boos from angry supporters.

There is no doubt the presence of Neymar gives PSG a far greater chance of winning the biggest prize in European club football, as long as he stays fit.

As well as Neymar's suspension against Real, Kylian Mbappe is still out with a hamstring injury, but the arrival of Mauro Icardi has added another explosive element to their attack.

# Clock is ticking

With Neymar staying and Icardi in, PSG hope to finally deliver in Europe



Neymar, left, celebrates his goal with PSG's teammate Mauro Icardi during the French League One match against Strasbourg at the Parc des Princes Stadium. AP

PSG vs Real Madrid  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 1 NETWORK

## Neymar's ban cut to 2 games

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar's Champions League ban for insulting match officials on social media has been reduced from three games to two following an appeal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled on Tuesday.

The world's most expensive player following his move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros in 2017 will miss the fixtures against Real Madrid on today and Galatasaray in two weeks' time due to the original ban from UEFA.

However, he will now be free to face Belgian side Bruges on October 22.

"The Sole Arbitrator partially upheld the appeal and reduced the suspension imposed by UEFA on Neymar Jr to two (2) UEFA competition matches for which he would otherwise be eligible," CAS said in a statement.

The Brazilian criticised the referee and his assistants after PSG's last-16 collapse against Manchester United in March which he watched from the stands due to injury.

United were awarded a penalty deep into injury time after a protracted VAR decision, which Marcus Rashford scored to knock the French side out in the last 16 of the Champions League.

"It's a disgrace. They get four guys who don't understand football to watch a slow motion replay in front of the TV," Neymar posted on his Instagram account after the 3-1 defeat.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Napoli. Juve/Twitter

## Felix leads charge for revenge

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico vs Juventus  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Young gun Joao Felix will lead the charge today as his Atletico Madrid seek revenge on Juventus and their old enemy Cristiano Ronaldo in a potentially fiery Champions League opener.

Felix, touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, will make his debut in Europe's top competition when the when the Portuguese pair meet at the Wanda Metropolitano, with the La Liga outfit keen to shoot down the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Juventus dumped Atletico out of the competition last year as Ronaldo scored a sensational hat-trick that overturned a 2-0 first-leg deficit and put the Italian champions in the quarter finals.

The former Real Madrid man rounded off the evening by celebrating provocatively in front of the away fans at Juve's Allianz Stadium.

Now Felix is charged with bringing the old master down a peg or two.

The 19-year-old has been hailed as the new 'CR7' after his breakout season at Benfica last year, scoring 20 times as the two-time European champions won the Primeira Liga and reached the Europa League quarter finals.

Ronaldo's former manager at Madrid Jose Mourinho is convinced that Atletico bagged a "an incredible player" for a club record fee of 126 million euros (\$142 million).

The noise surrounding Felix was amplified after a sublime pre-season that included a brace in a 2-1 win over Juve, but Felix has shied away from the comparisons. A poor display in Saturday's 2-0 La Liga loss at Real Sociedad showed that. Despite the obvious promise, it is still too early to speak of Felix and Ronaldo in the same breath.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, is in a rich vein of form, with six goals in five matches this season for club and country, as he hunts a sixth Champions League title and aims to extend his record total of 126 goals in the competition.

Today, Felix has a chance to redeem himself and add to the one goal he has scored so far in Atletico colours, even if Ronaldo's achievements seem a long way off.

"I am here to write my own story," Felix said. "Cristiano is Cristiano and I want to be myself."

## SINGLES

**PADDLERS REMAIN IN CHAMPIONS DIV**

Yogyakarta: The Indian men's team beat Singapore 3-0 in the 5-8 classification match in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships to remain in the champions division of the continental event here on Tuesday. India lost to Japan 1-3 in the quarterfinal on Monday but ensured that it will finish in the top six of the tournament with the win over Singapore on Tuesday. India will thus gain direct entry in the next championships in 2021. India will play Hong Kong on Wednesday in the match for fifth position. "This is an achievement in itself," said Sharath Kamal, who played an important role in India's 3-0 win over Singapore. Sathiyar beat Poh Shao Feng Ethan in straight games (11-5, 11-5, 13-11). But Sharath needed to dig deep into his vast experience to beat Pang Yew En Koen 7-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-3 and put India 2-0 ahead.

**XAVI'S AL SADD STORM INTO ACL SEMIS**

Doha: Top Qatar club Al Sadd bounced back from their first leg loss to win 3-1 on Monday and oust Saudi giants Al Nassr in an AFC Champions League quarter-final. Coach Xavi punched the air in delight as the 2011 continental champions put on a commanding home performance to secure a 4-3 aggregate victory and another shot at continental glory. "We never lost hope after the first leg defeat and I had drilled into the players the importance of staying upbeat," Xavi said after the match. "They lived up to their promise and now we are one step away from the final."

**ANKOLEKAR IN MUMBAI HAZARE SQUAD**

Mumbai: The hero of India's U19 Asia Cup triumph, Atharva Ankoekar has been named in the 17-member Mumbai squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare ODI tournament. The Mumbai Cricket Association announced the squad on their website on Tuesday. Ankoekar, a left arm spinner, had taken a match winning five wicket haul for India U19 against Bangladesh in a low scoring thriller and his fierer had helped the team retain the Asia Cup title. Among other notable inclusions in the squad, to be led by India player Shreyas Iyer, are batsman Sarfaraz Khan and talented batsman & young prodigy Yashasvi Jaiswal. Other regulars like Aditya Tare, Suryakumar Yadav, Siddhesh Lad, pacers Shardul Thakur, Dhawal Kulkarni, Tushar Deshpande, Ekmath Kerkar and spinner Shams Mulani have retained their spots.

**DHAWAN, PANT AVAILABLE FOR HAZARE**

Delhi: Delhi's India internationals Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant and Navdeep Saini will be available for the state team's Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign, which starts against Vidarbha on September 24. India's three-match T20 International series against South Africa ends on September 18 in Bengaluru but Delhi's star players have confirmed their availability for the national one dayers, said Delhi and District Cricket Associations (DDCA) president Rajat Sharma. However, Pant is part of the Indian Test squad and may not be available after the first few games while Dhawan is expected to play all matches. "It's really heartening to see that Rishabh, Shikhar and Navdeep opted to play for Delhi at the first available opportunity," DDCA president Sharma said. He is hopeful that Ishant Sharma and Virat Kohli would also take the field whenever they get time from their international commitments.

**GILL TAKES INDIA A TO 233/3 AT STUMPS**

Mysuru: Shubman Gill shone again with a fine 92 as India A reached 233 for three by the end of first day's play in the second unofficial Test against South Africa A here on Tuesday. Opener Gill struck 12 fours and a six before getting out eight runs short of a century. This is the second time he has missed out on the three-figure mark, having scored 90 in the first match at Thiruvananthapuram. The out-of-favour Karun Nair was batting on 78 and skipper Wriddhiman Shah was on 36 at stumps, which was called after 74 overs due to bad light. Philander bowled steadily but couldn't pick up a wicket while Ngidi (1/41), Mulder (1/19) and Sipamla (1/54) got a scalp each. AGENCIES

## GUARDIOLA'S CHASE

AFP ■ LONDON

After a series of painful failures, Pep Guardiola is on a mission to seal his Manchester City legacy by finally getting his hands on the trophy again.

City start their latest bid to win the club's first European Cup with a trip to Shakhtar Donetsk in the Group C opener.

The long flight to the Ukraine will give Guardiola plenty of time to ponder his curious streak of Champions League flops in recent years.

Guardiola has conquered English football spectacularly after winning the last two Premier League titles, the first in record-breaking fashion and

the second as part of an unprecedented domestic treble last season.

Yet the Champions League has proved impossible for Guardiola to master since he arrived at the Etihad Stadium.

In fact, Europe's elite club competition has been a cruel mistress for Guardiola for most of the last decade, with a series of frustrating exits dur-

Shaktar vs Man City  
Live from 12:30am IST  
SONY SIX NETWORK

## 4 Indians march into quarters



Amil Panghal (52kg) in action during a bout against Batuhan Citici. PTI

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

The Indian juggernaut seemed unstoppable as four boxers, including Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg), advanced to the quarterfinals with impressive victories to round off an all-win outing at the World Men's Championships here on Tuesday.

Asian Games Gold-medallist and second seed Panghal was joined by Asian Silver-winner and fifth seed Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and the debutant duo of Commonwealth Games Silver-winner Manish Kaushik (63kg) and Sanjeet (91kg).

Panghal defeated Turkey's Batuhan Citici, while Kaushik stunned fourth-seeded Mongolian Chinzorig Baatarsukh, who is an Asian Games Silver-medallist and also a two-time medal-winner at the Asian Championships. Both the Indians claimed 5-0 victories.

Sanjeet (91kg) then caused another massive upset by defeating second-seeded Uzbek Sanjar Tursunov 4-1. Tursunov is a Bronze-medallist from the previous World Championship besides

being an Asian Silver-winner.

In the evening session, Bisht defeated Finland's Arslan Khataev 3-2 to claim a second successive quarterfinal spot at the marquee tournament.

Second-seeded Panghal, the reigning Asian champion, will next be up against Filipino Carlo Paalam, who had lost to Panghal in the semifinals of the Asian Games in Jakarta last year. Paalam defeated Korea's Jo Sehyeong in a unanimous verdict in his pre-quarterfinal bout.

Kaushik, on the other hand, will square off against Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira. Oliveira defeated Japan's Saisuke Narimatsu in his last-16 stage bout.

Sanjeet will be up against seventh-seeded Julio Cesa Castillo Torres of Ecuador. Torres got the better of Hungary's Adam Hamori.

Awaiting Bisht in the last-eight stage is fourth-seeded Englishman Peter McGrail, a former Gold-medallist at the European Championships and reigning Commonwealth Games champion.

## Dipa is down but not out



Dipa Karmakar performs during 2018 Asiad. PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star India gymnast Dipa Karmakar has just not yet given up on her dreams of qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, insists long-time coach Bishweshwar Nandi, after his ward failed to recover in time for next month's World Artistic Gymnastics Championship.

Dipa's Tokyo dreams suffered a severe setback, when she failed to recover from a nagging right knee injury to make it to the World Championships, an Olympic qualifier, to be held at Stuttgart, Germany from October 4 to 13.

Long-time coach Nandi admitted that the road to Olympics would be extremely tough considering Dipa will need at least two months to get back to training.

"Dipa was upset after missing the World Championship but she is mentally strong and I know that she will make a successful comeback to international gymnastics," Nandi said.

"She is still undergoing rehab. I will start her training only after getting a clearance from the doctor and the physio. As her coach, I need to think about (her) life beyond gymnastics as well. Hopefully by November end, we'll get the go ahead and after that another two months of training and she should be back."

Asked about the Olympics qualification, Nandi said: "There are three World cups starting about three months after the world championship but it would be much tougher to qualify now."

"She will need to win Gold or Silver in all the three World Cups next year to qualify. But she is taking it up as a challenge. We are not yet giving up hope."

"If she unfortunately misses the Tokyo, there is 2024 Paris Olympics," Nandi put up a brave front.

## Mirabai eyes Olympic berth

PTI ■ PATTAYA

Former champion Mirabai Chanu will look to repeat her 2017 Gold-medal winning feat and seal an Olympic spot when she spearheads the Indian challenge at the World Weightlifting Championship, starting here today.

The ace Indian weightlifter, who had won the Gold in the 48kg category at the 2017 World Weightlifting Championships, remains India's brightest medal prospect but she needs to significantly step up her game to salvage hopes of a podium finish here.

The 25-year-old, who jumped from 48kg to 49kg following the International Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) decision to rejig weight categories, has logged personal bests at two of the three events that she has competed this year.

In the last edition, Thai weightlifter Chayuttra Pramongkol, who is currently embroiled in a dope scandal, had broken the World record in the women's 49kg category by lifting 209kgs (89+120) to take home the Gold, while the Silver and Bronze went for 208kg and 206kg, respectively.

This year Mirabai will be competing alongside 2018's Silver and Bronze medal winners



Mirabai Chanu in a file picture. Mirabai/Twitter

China's Hou Zhihui, who is also the current world record holder in the 49kg category, and Jiang Huihua respectively.

The two Chinese weightlifters have logged an entry weight of 210kg, a whopping 10 kgs more than Mirabai's 200kg. Ri Song-gum of North Korea and Dominican Republic's Beatriz Piron have also set it at 200kg.

The diminutive Manipuri is aware of the competition posed by the Chinese and is working towards reaching the 210kg mark.

"I have lifted 203kg in training. My aim is 210kg but it has to be done slowly, hopefully till Tokyo I will be able to achieve it," Mirabai said.

## Satwik-Ashwini notch up stunning win

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

India's mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa stunned Indonesia's world No 7 combination of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti in the opening round of the China Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Rankireddy then paired with Chirag Shetty to beat the Canadian duo of Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-18 in a 30-minute match to enter the men's doubles second round. The Indian pair now face the fourth seeded Japanese duo of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda.

World No 26 Satwik and Ashwini showed their grit as they recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit the sixth seeded Indonesian pair 22-20, 17-21, 21-17 in a 50-minute match to enter the second round of the \$1,000,000 World Tour super 1000 tournament.

Jordan and Melati have so far reached five finals, including the 2018 India Open, but they wilted under the



Ashwini Ponnappa & Satwik in a file picture

relentless pressure created by the Indian pair.

The Indian pair had fallen back 4-7 early on but they reeled off five straight points to turn the tables and then held a slender 11-10 advantage at the break.

Jordan and Melati, however, build up a huge lead of 18-12 after the interval but the Indian duo slowly erased the deficit and caught up at 20-20 and then sealed the opening game.

In the second game, the Indonesian pair moved ahead from 4-4 to enter the breather with a 11-8 cushion. Jordan and Melati continued to march ahead to eventually roar back into the contest.

In the decider, Satwik and Ashwin changed their tactics and jumped to a 4-2 lead initially. The Indian duo kept things under control, entering the break with a 11-6 lead.

Jordan and Melati tried to make a comeback but the Indian pair kept their nose ahead to shut the doors on their fancied rivals.

# India look to draw first blood

After Dharamshala washout, Men in Blue search first home T20 win against Proteas



Ravindra Jadeja bowls during India's nets session ahead of 2nd T20 at PCA Stadium in Mohali on Tuesday

## PERFORMANCE IN TWENTY-20 CRICKET

Team (Rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (4th)	118	73	41	1	3	63.55
South Africa (3rd)	113	67	44	1	1	60.17
Ind v SA	13	8	5	-	-	61.53

## HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	203-5 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	219-4 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

## LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	92 in 17.2 overs at Cuttack	05-10-2015
South Africa	116-9 in 20 overs at Durban	20-09-2007

## HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India	106 Rohit Sharma at Dharamshala	02-10-2015
South Africa	78 Colin Ingram at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

## BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES

India	5-24 Bhuvneshwar at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	3-12 Albie Morkel at Cuttack	05-10-2015

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Rishabh Pant's form would be an important subplot when India look to seize the advantage against South Africa in the second T20 International here on Wednesday after a washout in Dharamshala effectively made the series a two-match affair.

The T20 World Cup is more than 12 months away but India captain Virat Kohli has already detailed his plans and expectations from the youngsters in the side.

The skipper did not expect to get a bagful of opportunities when he arrived on the international scene and believes the current crop of youngsters also need to make it count in the limited time they are going to get.

One of them is 21-year-old Rishabh Pant, who can't be bracketed as a "youngster" anymore having made his

debut back in February 2017.

Not a single ball was bowled in the series-opener but there was enough happening on the sidelines and most of it was focussed on Pant.

In a chat with the host broadcaster, the message for Pant from the team management was loud and clear: he can't repeatedly throw his wicket away and if he does "there will be a rap on the knuckles".

"We'll let him be but at times when you see a shot, like the first ball dismissal in Trinidad (during the tour of West Indies), if he repeats that, then he will be told. There will be a rap on the knuckles, talent or no talent," said head coach Ravi Shastri ahead of the series-opener.

With Kohli still very much open to having Mahendra Singh Dhoni back on board, pressure is mounting on Pant to do justice to his rich talent.

Considering the circum-

stances, it was not a surprise that Pant had a hit in the nets right after the team flew here from Dharamshala on Monday.

Pressure will also be on leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and off-spinner Washington Sundar, both of whom have been picked ahead of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal for the second straight series.

With 20-odd games to go before the World Cup, the Indian team wants to boost its batting which will require number 8, 9 and 10 to score runs on a regular basis, something which has never been India's strength.

Will a deep batting line-up compromise India's ability to wake wickets in the middle overs? Only time will tell.

It is also an important series for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who have been brought back into the side to solidify the middle order.

The game will also be an opportunity for Shikhar Dhawan to play a substantial knock, having endured a lean tour of the West Indies by his standards.

It a ground he is fond of, having scored a memorable 187 on his Test debut and more recently a 143 in the ODI against Australia in March this year, albeit in a losing cause.

On the other hand, it will be an uphill task for South Africa to beat this Indian side, which has been on a roll for most part.

Time in the middle for a team in transition would have been valuable but rain robbed the Proteas of that opportunity in Dharamshala.

The Kagiso Rabada-led attack would have to bowl really well to contain the Indian batsmen especially skipper Kohli, who played one of his best knocks against Australia in March 2016, the last T20 played here, to take India to the World T20 semi-finals.



Vikram Rathour speaks during press conference ahead of 2nd T20

## Fine line between fearless and careless cricket: Rathour

PTI ■ MOHALI

The youngsters in the Indian team have got a clear message from the management — to understand that there is a fine line between "fearless cricket and careless cricket", new batting coach Vikram Rathour said on Tuesday.

The message conveyed was directed mainly at the likes of youngsters like Pant, who have been often criticised for his reckless choice of shots.

"At times, we over-emphasise on technique. It is more about the mindset at this level, getting your gameplan right. As far as Rishabh is concerned, he is a phenomenal player, he just needs to sort out his gameplan, needs to bring in a little bit of discipline in his cricket," said Rathour on

"All the young players need to understand that there is a fine line between fearless cricket and careless cricket. What the team management is asking from them is fearless cricket, having clear gameplans and playing with intent but at the same time, you can't be careless. I am sure they are smart enough to understand that."

The former selector was reacting to comments from skipper Virat Kohli, who recently said that a youngster should not expect more than five opportunities at the highest level.

"They (Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri) have said five

matches but it is not going to be a specific number. What they meant was that you need to grab your opportunities when you get them. They (youngsters) have played so much of cricket. They have come though after doing so well. I don't think it is a massive issue. The team will be backing them fully."

Elaborating more on the expectations from Pant, Rathour said "We want him to play all his shots. That is what makes him special, he is an impact player but at the same time you can't be careless."

Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey have made a comeback in the middle-order and Rathour is expecting them to seize their opportunities. But could they solve India's middle-order middle? "Those two are very fine cricketers who have done really well in domestic cricket. Shreyas has got a good start (in ODIs against the West Indies). Manish has done well in the past and made a comeback after performing consistently in domestic cricket. I am confident they will come good, they just need to be more consistent."

India have begun their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia next year and there is a significant shift in the way they will approach their batting in the shortest format.

Kohli wants the team to bat deep, increasing the expectations from spin all-rounders Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar.

## Senior players inspire & motivate us to get better

The experience of playing with the Haryana Steelers has been marvellous. This is my first Pro Kabaddi League and I couldn't have asked for a better team to start my PKL career with. The management is fantastic. Everyone is supportive and motivates one another to perform to the best of their abilities. All players are aware of their responsibilities and each of them execute their plans, therefore there's not much of pressure on the players.

I was a bit nervous at the start of the league and therefore I hesitated to carry out my game freely on a few occasions, but, as I kept playing matches, I kept getting better and better. I kept honing my skills with each match and now I feel very confident every time I step on the mat. I have realised that if I follow whatever the coach and captain tell me to do, I will always perform for my team.

Vikash Kandola and I discuss before every match about the skills I should work on. We talk about where I should attack to pick up points for the team. Vikash tells me just before I start my raid on the mat — when I should attack and when I should carry out an empty raid. Haryana Steelers' coach Rakesh Kumar has taught me a very important skill this season. He has told me that an immediate reaction is imperative for success in kabaddi. The coach has largely focused on immediate reaction and escape skills this season. Rakesh is very shrewd when it comes to tactics and I have been very lucky to train under him in PKL-7. Being a young player, I wasn't sure that I would get a chance to play. But I knew that if I get a chance then I would definitely make the most of it. I am very pleased with the fact that I have been able to grab my opportunities and be one of the best raiders of Haryana Steelers this season.

I really enjoy playing with established players like Vikash Kandola, Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Prashanth Kumar Rai. Dharmaraj has a fantastic knowledge of match situations. His experience has been invaluable for the team. He knows how the team should react to every situation and keep improving. If Haryana is behind in the scoreline in a certain match, then Dharmaraj knows how the side can make a comeback in the match. The senior players make the strategy for the team, but now I am starting to understand how a team should work out plans before a match.

The Pro Kabaddi League is a great platform for youngsters to showcase their skills. The players can test their skills against the best players from around the world. The level of competition is very high and therefore if a youngster performs in this competition then he can certainly gain a lot of confidence for the rest of his kabaddi career. At the moment, I am looking to maintain my fitness and practice regularly. And going forward, I want to represent the Indian kabaddi team. Playing and achieving great heights for my country is the ultimate dream for me.

(The writer (VINAY) plays for Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League season 7)



# Double-edged sword

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly-appointed South African T20 captain Quinton de Kock on Tuesday said the additional responsibility could be a double-edged sword but he is not thinking too much about it.

De Kock is one of the senior players in this new-look team and has been handed captaincy in the absence of Faf du Plessis as the management is looking to groom him ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

"Not too concerned to be honest. It is a new stepping stone in my career, gives me extra responsibility. Not sure if it would affect me negatively or positively" said the wicket-keeper batsman ahead of the second T20 against India here on Wednesday.

Asked if he is prepared to play the mentor's role in the team, like du Plessis and Ab de Villiers played when he burst on to the scene, de Kock said: "I think they (Faf and ABD) gave me lots of room to play the way I wanted to. I don't see it



Quinton De Kock and Kagiso Rabada during practice session

why that would change without them being here.

"Even they in their career have had to do the same thing we are doing. So we will take it as it comes. In the leadership group in the team we have had a chat (on grooming the youngsters). It is under control so far but we are still learning as part of a young leadership group."

De Kock said some youngsters could get a longer rope while some may not.

"I not going to put a number on it. For some it could be one, for some it could be 10, so can't really say."

It has effectively become a two-match series with the series opener in Dharamshala being washed out.

"It is a bit of a negative," said de Kock.

"We would like to have played three games against the Indian team. Leading into the World Cup, to lose out on a game in different conditions, it is not ideal but it is what it is."



Rohit Sharma in a file picture

## Too good to ignore

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly appointed India batting coach Vikram Rathour feels Rohit Sharma is "too good a player" to not be playing in all three formats and backed him to do well as a Test opener in all conditions.

Rohit is one of the greats of white-ball cricket but has had a start-stop Test career. He has been given another opportunity in the five-day format, this time as an opener in the upcoming series against South Africa.

"He is too good a player to not be playing in any game. That is what is everyone is thinking. He has done so well in white-ball cricket as an opener so there is no reason why he can't succeed as a Test opener provided he gets enough opportunities," Rathour said ahead of the second T20 against South Africa here on Monday adding that, "If he comes good, he will be a huge asset for the team."

Rohit will be getting the opportunity to open in Tests at home but Rathour said the stylish batsman has it in him to succeed overseas also.

"At the moment, I am not too sure what the playing eleven for the first Test will be but if Rohit does well and is opening, why not," he said, when asked about the possibility of him opening on overseas tours.

# Vinesh to fight for Bronze



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Vinesh Phogat was pushed out of the title race by reigning champion Mayu Mukaida of Japan but one of India's biggest hopes remained in bronze medal hunt in the 53kg category at

the World Wrestling Championship here on Tuesday.

Mukaida later reached the final to help Vinesh stay in the medal hunt as well as Tokyo Olympics qualification. Two victories will ensure her place in Tokyo Olympics.

She will now have to beat three wrestlers in the repechage- Yuliia Khavaldzhy Blahinya from Ukraine, world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt and then Maria Prevolaraki from Greece to win her first Worlds medal. It was second consecu-

tive defeat for Vinesh against the Japanese this season after losing to the two-time world champion at the Asian Championship in China.

Vinesh has CWG and Asian Games titles but is yet to win a medal at the Worlds.

"Japan is a wrestling powerhouse. It takes some time to attack these girls. It's about one technique, one move one point that changes the bout. I tried, it did not happen and she succeeded," Vinesh told PTI after her bout.

Vinesh said Mukaida was no different from the Asian Championship though she and her coach Woller Akos had plotted the fall of the formidable Japanese.

"It happens. But Mukaida is not the only target for me. We focus on all wrestlers. Everyone is tough in 53kg. It's not over yet," said Vinesh,

In another Olympic category, Seema Bisla (50kg) lost her pre-quarterfinal 2-9 to three-time Olympic medallist Mariya Stadnik.

Like Vinesh, she too remained in hunt for bronze and Olympic qualification as Stadnik reached the final.

"It's not that Mariya was more powerful than me. She is more experienced than me. I have just competed in 5-6 competitions in 50kg. I am learning and will get better," said Seema.

In the non-Olympic categories, Komal Gole was too defensive against Turkey's Beste Altug and lost her 72kg Qualification bout 1-4 while Lalita was outplayed 3-10 by Mongolia's Bolortuya Bat Ochir in 55kg.

Both Lalita and Komal are now out of the championship since Bolortuya and Altug later lost their quarter-finals.



India Under-23 players during a practice session at BRABV Ekana International Stadium on Tuesday. India will take on Bangladesh U-23 in the first ODI of the five-match series on Thursday