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INAAYA HAS
CHANGED MY
LIFE: SOHA
14 VIVACITY

Ahead of 'Howdy', India for GSP

Modi, Trump may discuss reinstatement of duty-free entry of Indian goods to US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's week-long visit to the United States starting September 21, India on Thursday said it meets the criteria for the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status and Washington should take a call on reinstating it.

The US recently removed India from the GSP list of beneficiaries which allowed duty-free entry of Indian goods to that country. The contentious issue is likely to come up during Modi's talks with President Donald Trump.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale said there will be two meetings between Modi and Trump and India is clear that despite the international focus on Kashmir, it will not be on the Prime Minister's agenda and any offer of mediation is not on the table.

Gokhale said, "Article 370 is an internal issue. Terrorism is one among many issues. The focus will be on India's role at global stage, the Prime Minister will present his vision in this regard."

Modi's packed schedule includes addressing the annual UNGA session, meeting Trump and 20 other global leaders in bilateral meetings besides addressing the mega 'Howdy Modi' event. On September 24, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be observed at the UN and Modi will be joined by his counterparts from



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Bangladesh, Singapore, Jamaica and New Zealand besides the Korean President and the UN Secretary General.

On the GSP status, Gokhale said India meets the criteria for trade concessions that the United States ended in June. "GSP is a unilateral decision, given by countries to other countries based on certain criteria. We are a developing country, we meet those criteria," he said.

"I do not recall our ever stating that we are not interested in GSP," Gokhale said at the news conference.

Stressing on the importance of trade concessions for India, the Foreign Secretary said the US "unilaterally withdrew that concession; we believe that GSP is something which is important for our industry but ultimately it is a matter for the US to take a call on."

Indian exports are worth

over 6.3 billion dollars under the GSP and India was the largest beneficiary of the scheme. After the US decision in June, India reciprocated by increasing the tariffs on 28 products imported from the US, including high-value products like almonds and fresh apples. The US has protested against it at the WTO.

In fact, tension over trade ties between the two countries was simmering for the last two years with the US last year increasing tariffs on its steel and aluminium imports.

It adversely impacted Indian exports and prompted it to approach the WTO dispute settlement body.

The US raised issues with



India's moves to slash the maximum retail prices of essential medical devices and demands that dairy product exporters certify their produce.

Modi is scheduled to

arrive in Houston on Saturday. A day later, he will be joined by Trump at the mega 'Howdy Modi' rally, to be attended by the members of the Indian-American community. The Prime Minister will address the UN General Assembly session on the morning of September 27, Gokhale said.

As the world commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, Modi will also host a special event 'Leadership Matters: Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World' on September 24. He will be joined by a few countries at this event.

Modi's packed schedule also includes a meeting with American CEOs of energy giants on the evening of September 21 in Houston, Texas. A day after the Houston event on September 22, Modi will take part in a climate summit in New York. The bilateral meeting with Trump is on September 24 and an investment roundtable with 40 major companies the next day.

On the morning of September 27, local time, Modi will address the UN General Assembly, after which he will leave for Delhi. Incidentally, his address will be followed by his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

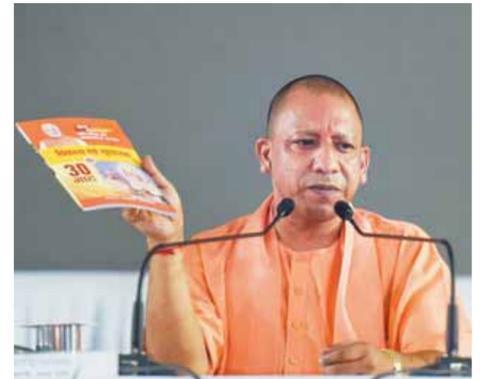
Claiming that the Bharatiya Janata Party government had changed the face of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that everyone knew the problem the state was facing when the BJP came to power and the challenges were transformed into opportunities.

"We touched new heights of development in every field under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. We also achieved the number one slot in various development sectors. Due to these, we have created a new identity of the state that is based on good governance, development and trust," Yogi told media persons on the occasion of the BJP government's completion of 30 months in office on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said that when the BJP came to power, projects were only on paper. "There was an atmosphere of chaos and corruption and law and order was in a bad shape. There were frequent riots and every section of society was affected by this," he said.

Yogi said that investments of over ₹ 2 lakh crore were received and 20 lakh additional jobs were generated.

"Similarly, in the MSME sector and One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme, over 30 lakh jobs were generated. Besides, UP has increased its



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addresses a press conference on completing 30 months in his office, in Lucknow on Thursday PTI

export potential, which is 28.8 per cent more than the previous year," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the state government changed the perception of law and order among the masses due to which Lok Sabha elections were conducted peacefully in 2019.

"Successful completion of projects like Prayagraj Kumbh, 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, Investors' Summit-2018 and groundbreaking ceremony only added feathers to our cap," he said.

Yogi said the state government was using technology to benefit the people through various public welfare schemes. "E-POS machines are

being used for effective distribution of ration to the poor at reasonable rates in a transparent manner," he said.

Talking about construction of expressways in the state, Yogi said that Purvanchal Expressway would be open for vehicles by the end of 2020 and in the next two months, the foundation stone of Bundelkhand Expressway would be laid.

"We are also completing all processes to construct Ganga Expressway connecting Meerut with Prayagraj," he said.

Highlighting the success of the Government of India's flagship Ujjwala Scheme, the Chief Minister said that 1.35 crore

Continued on Page 7

Didi meets Shah, flags NRC flaws



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee meets Home Minister Amit Shah at his office, at North Block in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

Says 19L genuine people left out

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flagging the issue of exclusions in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam in her meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday pointed out many genuine Indians have been left out of the register, which has excluded 19 lakh people who now face an uncertain fate.

Mamata, who handed an official letter in this regard to Shah, however, said the issue of NRC in West Bengal was not discussed but reiterated her stance that it was not needed in the State. Shah had on Wednesday announced yet again the Government's intention of carrying out the exercise in the entire country.

While the TMC supremo maintained that her meetings with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister were not political, it has led to speculation that the once-ardent critic of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah is softening her stand. Mamata had called on the PM a day earlier.

"I met the Home Minister to discuss about the NRC in Assam and told him that many genuine Indians were excluded from the list. I have requested him to do the needful so that they can be included in the NRC as they are in distress," she told reporters after the meeting

with Shah.

Mamata reportedly conveyed the Home Minister that genuine Indians belonging to Bengali, Bihari, Gorkha and Assamese communities were excluded from the NRC in Assam and sought his intervention to alleviate their miseries. This was her first meeting with Shah, who assumed the office about three months ago following a Lok Sabha election campaign that saw the two sides launch a no-holds-barred attack on each other.

"I have requested him to examine their cases and resolve the issues. The Home Minister has assured that he would look into it," said the TMC chief. The final NRC, a list of Assam's residents and published on August 31, excluded the names of 19 lakh people. The BJP is on the back foot on the NRC as the exclusions have been far less in areas believed to have the maximum illegal migrants.

"Even Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said that the NRC was not required in his State," she said.

BJP general secretary party affairs in-charge in West Bengal Kailash Vijayvargiya tweeted, "Ab aya oont pahar ke niche" (now she has realised where she stands.) A couple of days ago, Vijayvargiya had said that Mamata was meeting Modi as a "last-ditch bid" to save Kolkata former police chief Rajeev Kumar, who has gone traceless and the CBI has launched a manhunt to nab him.

Continued on Page 7

Babul heckled at Jadavpur varsity, Guv rushes with cops to save him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Union Minister Babul Supriyo was on Thursday shown black flags and heckled by a section of students at Jadavpur University, who also stopped him from leaving the campus prompting West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to rush to JU along with a large police force.

The Governor, who is the chancellor of the university, too faced demonstrations by the students belonging to SFI, Left leaning AFSU and FETSU and AISA, a Naxalite students wing, university sources said.

They blocked the Union Minister's way and thumped the bonnet of his vehicle as the policemen kept requesting them to withdraw while the West Bengal Governor was seen helping Babul Supriyo to the vehicle. Dhankhar and Babul Supriyo finally left the campus late in the evening after university teachers stepped in and persuaded the agitating students to lift their blockade, a spokesman of Jadavpur University Teachers Association (JUTA) said.

Detailed report on P7

Remand of Nirav Modi extended

London (PTI): Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India in connection with the nearly USD 2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud and money laundering case, was on Thursday further remanded to judicial custody until October 17.

Nirav, 48, appeared before the Westminster Magistrates' Court via video link from his London prison for a routine "call-over" remand hearing.

His trial is expected for May 11-15, 2020.

Nirav has been lodged at Wandsworth prison in south-west London, one of England's most overcrowded jails, since his arrest in March on an extradition warrant executed by Scotland Yard on charges brought by the Indian government.

Hug each Kashmiri, make J&K new paradise: Modi

Efforts on to bring out people from violence, terrorism, separatism, corruption, says PM

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said he is aghast to see that at a time when the people of Jammu & Kashmir are embracing the "new possibilities" in the wake of the abrogation of Article 370 and the entire country is standing with the Government, the Opposition parties are looking for "political benefits".

Castigating the Opposition parties, particularly the Congress and the NCP, for their "questionable" stand on the abrogation of Article 370, Modi said, "I am not getting to see senior Congress and NCP leaders cooperate with us and conduct themselves in a manner as they ought to be doing at this juncture."

Making no bones about the BJP's intention that it would go whole hog Kashmir issue in the new context as a major issue in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the Vijay Sankalp Rally in Nashik on Thursday PTI

the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the PM unveiled a new vision of making Kashmir a "paradise" once again.

Modi called for "hugging each Kashmiri and creating a 'new paradise' in the Valley.

"Kal tak kahte the Kashmiri humaara hai, abhi har Hindustani kahega hume naya Kashmir banana hain, wahan phir se ek swarag banana hain (We used to say till recently Kashmir is part of India. Now

every Indian will say we will create a new Kashmir and we will build a paradise once again there). Har Kashmiri ko gale lagana hain (We should embrace every Kashmiri)," Modi said.

Speaking at a huge rally marking the conclusion of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' 4,000-km long "Mahajanadesh Yatra" at Nashik, Modi singled out the Congress and the NCP for a

vicious attack and said, "The Government has taken such a big decision (on Article 370). This decision was taken to bring out people of J&K and Ladakh from violence, terrorism, separatism and corruption. We are trying to implement the decision with minimum inconvenience to people."

"The entire country of 130 crore people is standing as one with the Government. Unfortunately, senior leaders of

the Congress and NCP who ought to have been cooperating with the Government and conducting in a circumspect manner, but, I do not get to see such a thing happening," said the PM.

The Prime Minister said that the Opposition was free to criticise the Government, him personally and even Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Maharashtra. "It is their right to criticise us. They should not be saying certain things in national interests. But their statements are being used by the forces supporting the terrorists to indulge in false propaganda against India."

Hitting out at Congress' former president Rahul Gandhi whose statement was used by the Pakistani Foreign Minister in making a representation before the United Nations, Modi said, "It is rather unfortunate that the statements of our Opposition leaders on Kashmir are being used to attack India in international forums.

First Defence Minister in Tejas cockpit



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday flew in the Tejas fighter aircraft from the HAL airport in Bengaluru, becoming the first Defence Minister to fly in the indigenously-built light combat aircraft. (Detailed report on P5) IN PICS:

- 1) Rajnath Singh waves from atop Tejas at HAL airport in Bengaluru
- 2) Rajnath Singh waves as he sits inside the cockpit of Tejas

PTI

CAPSULE

SENSEX TANKS 470 PTS
Mumbai: Market benchmark BSE Sensex plunged 470 points on Thursday, dragged by a heavy sell-off in banking and energy stocks amid incessant foreign fund outflows.

CHIDAMBARAM'S CUSTODY EXTENDED TILL OCT 3
New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday extended till October 3 the judicial custody of former finance minister P Chidambaram in connection with the INX Media corruption case. Special judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar also allowed medical examination of Chidambaram.

RKS BHADOURIA TO BE NEXT IAF CHIEF
New Delhi: Air Marshal RKS Bhadouria will be the next Chief of Air Staff after the superannuation of incumbent B S Dhanoa, the Government announced on Thursday.

Akhilesh slams Yogi govt claims on dev RLD, Left flay Yogi govt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav slammed the Yogi Adityanath government on its claims about development in the state during its 30-month rule.

"During the BJP regime, development has taken place at snail's pace and the present government has taken the credit of schemes launched by the previous SP government. At present, governance is marked by corruption and slackness as the Yogi government has sacked several ministers and shuffled bureaucrats intermittently," the former chief minister said.

Akhilesh also challenged the Yogi government to name one project that had been introduced by the present dispensation.

"They took the credit of Lucknow Metro, expressway and other projects that were the brainchild of the previous SP government," he said.

Addressing media persons soon after Yogi Adityanath held a function to celebrate the BJP government's 30 months in office on Thursday, Akhilesh did not spare the Narendra Modi government either, alleging that everyone was talking about a 5-trillion dollar economy of India and a one-trillion dollar economy of UP, but no one knows or can explain how it will be achieved.

"The double engine government of UP and Centre is



now moving at the pace of a bullock cart and the economy is in tatters," he said.

The SP chief also targeted the Union government stand on trouble on the Indo-Pakistan border, asking how Pakistan refused to allow the Indian prime minister's aircraft to fly over its air zone.

"Modi claims that he is a Pathan and Pakistan PM Imran Khan is also a Pathan. I fear that one day we will lose our lives in the fight between two Pathans," he said.

Replying to a question on investments for the much-hyped defence industrial corridor in UP, the SP chief said, "When the government is purchasing all aircraft and other defence equipment from foreign countries, what will be produced here (in the defence corridor)?"

Poo-hooing the Chief Minister's claim on improvement in law and order and decrease in crime rate in the state, Akhilesh said, "Everyone knows about the police

response on crimes against women. The recent incident of rape of a girl by a BJP leader in Shahjahanpur is a glaring example."

The SP chief also raked up the issue of lodging of cases against party MP Mohammad Azam Khan in Rampur, and said, "It is surprising that in Rampur, the police are very active in registering cases against an opposition MP but the same police are protecting a rapist leader of the ruling

party."

Akhilesh said that the crime figures offered by the Chief Minister at the press conference on Thursday did not match with the Home department's figures as UP had been served the most notices by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the number of custodial deaths were also the highest in the country.

Hitting out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh said that the people should ask the chief minister why a Yogi, whose duty was to take away pain of the people, was giving pain himself like the recent hike in power tariff.

When asked about the ongoing case on Ayodhya issue in Supreme Court, Akhilesh said that his party as well as founder Mulayam Singh Yadav always advocated for an amicable solution or a decision by the court.

The SP chief also blamed the Centre for the disturbing situation in Kashmir where people were facing severe problems.

"The abrogation of Article 370 in such immature manner is the reason for the problem," he said.

Concluding his interface with the media, Akhilesh announced that his party would hold a massive statewide demonstration against power tariff hike and other anti-people acts of the Yogi government on October 1.

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Termining the 30-month rule of Yogi Adityanath government in UP as an utter failure, Rashtriya Lok Dal state chief Masood Ahmad said that UP witnessed a spurt in crime by 9.05 per cent, including 13.85 per cent increase in dacoity, 20.46 per cent in loot, 44.44 per cent in kidnapping, 40.83 per cent in rape and 13.35 per cent in murders.

Masood pointed out that a company blacklisted by the former Samajwadi Party government in UP was given the contract to provide nurses, ward boys, pharmacists and safai workers in primary and community health centres in 44 districts of UP in the BJP rule.

"The company has not paid salaries to the staff for the last six months," he said.

The RLD leader said that the Yogi rule would be better remembered for murder of an inspector in Kasganj, murder attempt on Naaqo rape survivor and her family and murderer of her two aunts, Hapur mob lynching case, Apple executive Vivek Tiwari's murder in Lucknow, death of an elderly man at a police station in Bhadohi, Sonbhadra massacre and the torching of an Agra girl alive.

"The government is spreading lies and hindering development and employment in UP. The BJP government spent crores of rupees on organising Investors' Summit but failed to create a single job. Despite this, the BJP government is eulogising itself by claiming that it had wiped out corruption in UP," the RLD state chief said.

Ahmad said that about 25,000 homeguards were on the verge of losing jobs and this was evident that the BJP government was not creating jobs and was taking away jobs.

He also criticised the BJP government for hike in power tariff.

Meanwhile, Communist Party of India state secretary Girish said that the BJP was propagating barbarism in the name of Hindutva in UP. He expressed surprise on the registration of criminal cases against Samajwadi Party leader Mohammad Azam Khan and said that the police registered as many as 83 cases against Khan but were yet to arrest

Swami Chinmayanand, who is accused of rape by a girl student.

"The BJP workers and RSS men are taking law into their hands and spewing venom while the BJP is criticising the opposition for their criticism of governance and terming them as hostile. We will continue to fight for the people and their problems," he said.

CPI (Marxists) state secretary Heera Lal Yadav said that

the BJP was on way to aristocracy by abolishing democracy in the country. "Opposition leaders seeking permission from officials to meet the Governor and raise public problems are being arrested," he alleged.

Yadav said that CPI (M) leader Satyabhan Singh was put on watch after he sought permission from Faizabad district administration to meet the Governor.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, GOVT. OF INDIA)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(National Competitive Bidding through e-tendering mode only)

The Regional Office-UP (West), Lucknow, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) hereby invites bid through e-tendering from experienced firms/organizations whose corporate office / branch office is located either in Lucknow or in Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra, Bareilly, Meerut, Bagpat, Moradabad and Jhansi for the following work:

No.	Description of work	Estimated Cost for Two Years	Bid Security
(1)	Facility Services in NHAI's Regional Office and its Project Implementation Units at Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Agra, Bareilly, Meerut, Bagpat, Moradabad and Jhansi. (Providing manpower viz. stenographers, Accountants, Computer Operators/Office Assistants, Site Engineers) (Person Check/Security Guards, Sweepers) for two years.	Rs. 10,52,64,000/- (Rupees Ten Crores Fifty Two Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Only)	Rs. 21,05,28,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Five Thousand Eighty Only)

Note: - The last date for submission of the Bid is 30.10.2019 upto 15:30 Hrs. For details please refer - <http://tenders.nhai.org> or www.nhai.org. Regional Office-UP West, Lucknow, National Highways Authority of India, 3/248 Vishal Khand, Gomti, Nagar Lucknow-226010. Phone No. 0522-4960291, 4950680, E-mail: rowestup@nhai.org

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Form No : 5
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL AT LUCKNOW
600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007
(Area of Jurisdiction : Part of U.P.)

Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication
(Summons to defendant under Section 19(4), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993)

Original Application No. 1126/2019 Date : 18.09.2019
HDFC BANK LTD. Applicant

M/s. Agnihotri Deshi Ghee Bhandar and Others Defendants

To,

- M/s. Agnihotri Deshi Ghee Bhandar, Sankata Devi, Lakhimpur - Kheri - 262701 (U.P.) through its proprietor Sri Uma Shankar Agnihotri.
- Sri Uma Shankar Agnihotri son of Sri Bhola Nath Agnihotri, resident of House No. 278, Sankata Devi Mandir, Lakhimpur - Kheri - 262701 (U.P.).
- Sri Sanjay Agnihotri son of Sri Uma Shankar Agnihotri, resident of House No. 278, Sankata Devi Mandir, Lakhimpur - Kheri - 262701 (U.P.).

In the above noted application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the applicant or his counsel/ duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 04.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

No. 47/1/2019-Admn.I
Government of India
Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

Applications are invited for filling up the post of Scientists 'G' (02 Posts, Level 14), on deputation basis, in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. Full details of the vacancy circular are available on Ministry of New and Renewable website www.mnre.gov.in.

The last day for receipt of applications in prescribed format at the following address is 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

Sd/
(Arvind Pokhriyal)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Block No. 14, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003
Tel. No.: 011 - 24362621
Email Address: arvind_p@nic.in

Davp 28101/11/0006/1920

Yogi govt shielding Chinmayanand, say Cong and SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress and Samajwadi Party once again launched a frontal attack on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, alleging that his government was out to save former Union minister and rape accused Swami Chinmayanand.

Both parties accused the government of misusing machinery to save members of saffron brigade from all criminal charges while booking opposition party leaders on fake charges.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party, alleging that after the Unnao rape case, now the government and police were again being negligent in the Shahjahanpur rape case.

Referring to a news report, Priyanka said that in Shahjahanpur, the alleged involvement of Swami Chinmayanand in the rape was being shielded by the government.

She said even after the victim's statement was recorded in court where she mentioned Chinmayanand's name along with others, the rape charge was yet to be added in the case by the police.

The Congress leader alleged that due to the negligence of police and government, the Unnao rape victim had to face difficulties and now the same was happening

30-mth rule a 'total failure': Lallu

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Congress Legislature Party leader Ajay Kumar 'Lallu' hit out at the Yogi Adityanath government on its completion of 30 months in office, saying that the period would be remembered as one of unemployment, harassment of farmers, inaction against sexual abuse of women and patronage to criminals of saffron leaning.

Termining the 30 months of Yogi government as a total failure, Lallu said that while taking over reins, the Bharatiya Janata Party had assured the people of providing employment to lakhs of youths but official statistics pointed towards the worst-ever situation in employment in the last 45 years.

"Not a single recruitment drive was held in the Yogi rule in which the examination papers were not leaked. Instead of providing employment, the government has been sending youths to jail if anyone dared to take to the streets and highlighted its failure," he said.

Attacking the government for the deteriorating law and order situation across the state, the Congress leader said that in this regime, maximum number of cops lost their lives, maximum number of custodial deaths were reported, law-makers were involved in sexual offences in Unnao and now in Shahjahanpur, but the Yogi government rallied behind them to try and get them absolved of charges.

Lallu pointed out that due to Supreme Court's intervention, rape victims would get justice otherwise the 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' slogan of the BJP was a farce as Yogi Adityanath had left them to commit suicide.

The Congress leader pointed out how in Sonbhadra, 10 innocent villagers lost their lives after a land mafia gunned them down to grab gram

"Not a single recruitment drive was held in the Yogi rule in which the examination papers were not leaked. Instead of providing employment, the government has been sending youths to jail if anyone dared to take to the streets and highlighted its failure"

land. Lallu also attacked the government for rising atrocities and attacks on Dalits, poor and minorities and also lynching of innocents on the suspicion of being child-lifters.

Citing an incident at Agra, he said that several establishments of a particular community were razed last Tuesday night.

"Despite such incidents being reported on a weekly basis, Yogi Adityanath makes false claims of improvement in law and order and claims no violence took place in his 30-month rule," he said.

The CLP leader also asked Yogi Adityanath to tell the people how much investment had come to the state after a huge sum of public money was spent on holding Investors' Summit in Lucknow in 2018.

and insecurity while the authorities were still going slow or waiting for reasons

known best to them.

She said that no action against the rape accused clear-

ly indicated that the ruling BJP was standing by Chinmayanand and was not inclined to provide justice to the victim.

The Congress also questioned the 'silence' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior women BJP leaders on no action being taken against Swami Chinmayanand.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, while targeting the Yogi government, screened a video recording of a prominent Hindi news channel about how Swami Chinmayanand was being protected by UP Police in the rape case while the victim and her family were being harassed.

The channel wondered how would Swami Chinmayanand be punished when members of Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the crime were rallying behind the accused due to his proximity to power in the present dispensation in UP and at the Centre.

The opposition targeted the Yogi government a day after the student, who levelled rape charges against Chinmayanand, threatened to set herself on fire if the BJP leader was not arrested immediately.

The student also asked whether the government was waiting for her to die even after her statement was recorded before a magistrate.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

In Jai Bhalla admission form unique ID 6983666 mother's name is wrongly written as Ritu Singh Bhalla where as correct name is Ritu Bhalla.

NOTICE

This is declares that my son Jaskaran Singh date of birth 21.02.2002 is wrongly mention in class 10th ICSE Board His correct date of birth is 21.02.2003. Jaskaran Singh S/o Mohan Singh, R/o 480/17, Bagh Shahji, Daliganj, Lucknow.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that I have changed the name of my son Master Sparsh now he should be known & identified as Sparsh Kumar Sharma everywhere. Prashant S/o Late Shri Chandra Mohan, R/o F-12, New Municipality Building, Victoria Street, Chowk, Lucknow.

Maya condemns damage to Valmiki statue at KGMU

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Thursday condemned the Centre as well as Uttar Pradesh governments over damage to Maharishi Valmiki temple on King George's Medical University campus and demanded immediate action against the culprits.

In a tweet on Thursday afternoon, Mayawati claimed that first an old Sant Ravidas temple was damaged in New Delhi, then a Dalit BJP MP was not allowed to enter a temple due to his caste and now an ancient temple of Valmiki was damaged in KGMU in Lucknow on Wednesday.

She said that these were very shameful and condemnable acts and both the Central and UP governments should take cognisance of them and take stern action against the culprits.

In another tweet, Mayawati hit out at Yogi Adityanath,

claiming that the BJP government's record in the state so far had been disappointing. "This government has failed badly, particularly on law and order front and in controlling crime," she tweeted in Hindi.

Besides Mayawati, Congress Legislature Party leader, Ajay Kumar 'Lallu' also targeted the BJP government over damage to the statue of Valmiki, saying that the ruling party was intentionally targeting places of worship or statues of icons of Dalit community.

On Wednesday, an old temple of Maharishi Valmiki was damaged near Dental faculty on the KGMU campus after which a strong protest was staged. The statue was damaged while the KGMU administration was trying to remove encroachment.

The situation could be brought under control after ADM (City) Ajay Rai reached the spot and assured the protesters that a new statue would be installed.

NHRC notice to CS, DGP on rape victim's suicide

Lucknow (PNS): Yet another notice was served on the Uttar Pradesh government by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) over suicide by a rape victim in Bareilly.

An NHRC communiqué released on Thursday said the Commission took suo motu cognisance of media reports that a victim of sexual assault committed suicide in Bareilly as the police allegedly delayed proceedings on her complaint.

Subsequently, SSP of Bareilly suspended a sub-inspector probing the complaint and attached a ministerial staff, who dismissed the application of the victim. An FIR has now been registered and orders have been issued for a thorough probe.

The NHRC, in its notice, observed that the contents of news report, if true, raised serious issues of violation of human rights. Accordingly, it has sent notices to Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Uttar Pradesh, calling for a detailed report within four weeks. The NHRC wanted to know about the present status of the probe into the case and whether any relief was provided to the next of kin of the deceased.

The NHRC further observed that it was unfortunate that public servants, instead of taking timely action on the victim's complaint, tried to delay proceedings forcing the woman into frustration and mental agony, due to which she took the extreme step of ending her life by hanging herself.

If timely action had been taken by the police authorities to arrest the accused, a precious human life could have been saved, the NHRC felt. As per media reports, the FIR on the complaint of the victim was reportedly registered only after she met senior officers. Still, the sub-inspector investigating the matter did not ask her to go for medical examination and get her statement recorded. Now, two people, accused of rape attempt have been arrested and two others have been nabbed for passing certain comments at the victim.

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5 held for attacking beer shop salesman

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the arrest of five persons on Thursday, the Lucknow police claimed to have solved the Gudamba incident in which a salesman of a beer shop, Jitendra Jaiswal, was shot at on Ring Road and Rs 10,000 was looted from him on Monday night.

Jaiswal sustained bullet injuries in the chest and is undergoing treatment.

Police had initially doubted the claim of the victim even though X-ray at the hospital the same day showed a bullet-like object embedded in his chest.

Those arrested were identified as Rohit Verma of Muzaffarpur in Bihar, Vikrant Kumar, Anuj Gupta and Amir Khan, all of Gudamba.

Rohit works at a gas plant in Gudamba while Vikrant was a volleyball player of Sports College and was expelled for his bad conduct. Anuj runs a grocery shop and Amir is a BCom student at a private college. One of their accomplice,



identified as Harsh, was nabbed later.

The police recovered two pistols, seven live cartridges and a motorcycle from the

possession of those arrested on Thursday.

SSP of Lucknow, Kalanidhi Naithani, said the police got a specific lead about the gang

which used to commit loot at beer shops and other small business establishments in the area.

"We worked on the inputs

and came to know that one member of the gang had sustained injuries. He was later identified as Harsh. Thereafter, we zeroed in on Rohit, who is the kingpin of the gang, and then nabbed other gang members," he said.

The district police chief said while Rohit, Vikrant and Harsh attacked and looted Jaiswal, Amir and Anuj gave them cover while standing at some distance from the beer shop.

"The miscreants owned up their crime during interrogation and that Harsh sustained firearm injuries when they were firing at Jitendra," the SSP said.

On the fateful day, 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 and opened fire on him. Jitendra claimed that the miscreants had looted Rs 10,000 from the cash box before leaving the shop.

The police did not confirm

Power employees threaten 72-hour work boycott

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Power Employees Joint Action Committee would protest against privatisation of power sector and press for their demands by going for a 72-hour work boycott from November 6.

The strike has been called on the initiative of National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers (NCCOEEE) and engineers and other power employees would participate in it.

The decision was taken at a meeting of state coordination committee in Lucknow on Thursday. In the meeting, it was also decided that the state power employees and members would join the nation-wide work boycott on November 6, 7 and 8.

UP Rajya Vidhyut Parishad

Abhiyanta Sangh general secretary Rajeev Kumar Singh said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Thursday that engineers and employees would not tolerate the privatisation of power sector.

"Everywhere private companies have failed in the power sector but still the government is going ahead with its plan of handing over the operations to private companies," Singh said.

The Abhiyanta Sangh office-bearer said that in Odisha, a private company was given the contract of power distribution in 2015 but it failed and the contract was cancelled.

The other demands of power employees are pension to all employees appointed after 2000, recruitment of employees against vacant posts and free power supply to the employees in the state.

Slight change in Tejas timing

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The time of departure of Tejas Express between New Delhi and Lucknow was changed on Thursday.

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) which will issue the tickets of the train, will announce the start booking most likely on Saturday. The fare is expected to be close to the fare of Shatabdi Express.

Chief Regional Manager Ashwin Srivastava said the Tejas Express would depart from New Delhi at 15:35 and arrive at Lucknow at 22:05.

"The time slot was changed to accommodate the Rajdhani Express. Earlier the Tejas was scheduled to depart from New Delhi at 16:30. However, the Tejas' departure from Lucknow Junction (NER) will remain at 6:10 am and this timing has not been changed," he said.

He said the booking for the Tejas will be made public on Saturday.



"The fare for the train will be announced at the time of opening of ticket booking only," he said.

As per sources the fare of Tejas will be nearly same as that of Shatabdi Express.

Traffic rules will be enforced for safety of people: SP (Traffic)

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A stakeholders' consultation on strengthening road safety in Uttar Pradesh vis-à-vis the amended Motor Vehicles Act of 2019 was held.

SP (Traffic) Purnendra Singh was the chief guest at the workshop organised by Consumer Guild Lucknow and Consumer VOICE, New Delhi. The SP (Traffic) said that they would enforce the traffic rules to ensure safety of people on roads. He said that there should be separate courts to hear Motor Vehicles Act cases.

Regional Transport Officer (Enforcement) Vidisha Singh said that the Transport department was working on road safety in UP and they had a Road Safety Cell to make roads safe and the UP government was also working on road safety.

Abhishek Srivastava from the Consumers Guild said that the objective of the workshop was to strengthen road safety aspects of MV Act, 2019.

"The recent amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act aim to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to monitor the country's transport system. The consultation mainly focused on six vital pillars of road safety which are seen as the best global practice to reduce road casualties," he said.

Srivastava said the amended MV Act would in the long run help the people.

Ashim Sanyal from Consumer VOICE said

"The recent amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act aim to make Indian roads safer, reduce corruption and use technology to monitor the country's transport system. The consultation mainly focused on six vital pillars of road safety which are seen as the best global practice to reduce road casualties"

the most effective way to reduce road accident deaths was by strengthening road safety laws.

"We appreciate and congratulate the government for giving green signal to the most awaited Motor Vehicles Act, 2019," he added.

Other speakers included retired additional district judge Deepak Kumar Nigam and representatives from various NGOs.

Abhishek Srivastava, who is chairman of Consumer Guild, said that they were working on road safety for the past many years and would work to raise awareness on the MV Act, 2019.

Yesha fascinated by Lucknow's chikankari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Actress Yesha Rughani said here on Thursday that she had specially come to Lucknow to purchase chikankari embroidery clothes. The actress was in the city for the promotion of 'Muskaan' which has completed 400 episodes. On the occasion she wore an imitation chikankari garment.

Addressing the media at a press conference, Yesha said that she had always admired handicrafts from different states and she loved the chikankari garments of Lucknow and would purchase them also for the other members of her family.

"I have been a fashion stylist once and interned for the fashion stylist of Bollywood actresses Aliya Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra. I never knew that one day I would have fashion stylists for myself who would carry my garments to my vanity van," he added.

Talking about the show, the actress said that it chronicles the journey and struggles of a timid, yet strong-minded young woman.



"Muskaan' shows that struggles are a part of life and how they can be overcome with positivity," she said.

"The show is a shining example of women empowerment and illustrates the necessity of educating young girls. Aside from having a strong social message, the show is also a saga which showcases the growing love between the pro-

tagonists. It is a fine example of the kind of love and understanding required to make the relationship between a husband and wife work," she said.

The talented Yesha is confident of portraying and embodying her character in the show.

"I was motivated by the concept of the show as it tells us that one can come up in life no matter what the background and struggles are. My character in Muskaan shows a lot of growth and evolution. It gave me a chance to be a versatile actor. I am grateful to be a part of Muskaan's journey and participate in it," the lead artist said.

"In addition to this, it is also extremely rewarding to be a part of such a successful show and work with a talented cast and crew. I am learning and growing every day and this keeps me motivated. I have faced many challenges but I have grown tremendously as an actor," she added.

When asked if it was monotonous playing the part for continuous 400 episodes, Yesha said that there was daily something new to do and hence it was not boring for her.

संस्कृति एवं पर्यटन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश के सहयोग से
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद, नई दिल्ली
द्वारा आयोजित

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ॥ रामायण महोत्सव ॥

20-22 सितम्बर, 2019

का
उद्घाटन

मुख्य अतिथि
योगी आदित्यनाथ
मा0 मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश
के कर-कमलों द्वारा

गरिमामयी उपस्थिति
डॉ० नीलकंठ तिवारी
मा0 राज्यमंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार), संस्कृति, पर्यटन
प्रोटोकॉल एवं धर्मार्थ कार्य, उत्तर प्रदेश

दिनांक: 20 सितम्बर, 2019, सायं 6.30 बजे
स्थान: संत गाडगे जी महाराज प्रेक्षागृह, उज्ज्वल संगीत नाटक अकादमी,
गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

रामलीला-प्रस्तुतियाँ

बनडितपातानशिल्पा संस्थान के तहत
नाटकीय कला महाविद्यालय, थाईलैंड
चन्दना विक्रमसिंघे और नृत्य गिल्ड
श्रीलंका
दिनांक: 20 सितम्बर, 2019, सायं 6.30 बजे

रामलीला-प्रस्तुतियाँ

शिल्पकला अकादमी, बांग्लादेश
नोद्रे डेम काली माँ मंदिर एसोसिएशन
मॉरीशस
रामलीला मंडली (रामलीला दुप),
त्रिनिडाड एवं टोबैगो
दिनांक: 21 सितम्बर, 2019, सायं 6.30 बजे

रामलीला-प्रस्तुतियाँ

कलाकार मंडली (आर्टिस्ट दुप)
कम्बोडिया
श्री सत्यंग रामायण मंडली
फिजी
दिनांक: 22 सितम्बर, 2019, सायं 6.30 बजे

स्थान: संत गाडगे जी महाराज प्रेक्षागृह, उज्ज्वल संगीत नाटक अकादमी, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ

चार पहिया वाहन चलाते समय सीट बेल्ट अवश्य लगायें

MAHINDRA RURAL HOUSING FINANCE LTD.
Corporate Office: Sadhana House, 2nd Floor, 570, P.B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai 400 018, India
Tel: 22 66523500, Fax: +91 22 24972741, CIN: U6592MH2007PLC169791
Regional Office address: LDA Colony, B2/B70 Kanpur Road, Near Phoenix Mall, Lucknow-226005

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd, under the securitization and reconstruction of financial assets an enforcement of security interest act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the security interest (enforcement) rules 2002 issued demand notices to the Borrower/s as detailed hereunder, calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices with all costs, charges and expenses till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of the same. The said Borrowers/Co-Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described hereunder in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act r/w rule 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned along-with. The borrowers in particular and public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd., for the amount specified therein with future interest, costs and charges from the respective dates. Details of the Borrowers, Co-borrowers, And Guarantors, scheduled property, outstanding dues, demand notices sent under section 13(2) and amounts claimed there under, date of possession is given herein below:

S. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower, Co-Borrower, Loan Account No. Loan Amount	Details of the Immovable Property	1. Date of Possession 2. Demand Notice Date 3. Amount Due in Rs.
1	XSEMCLK00302053 MANOJ SUBEDAR DIXIT VINEETA MANOJ DIXIT	All the piece and parcel of the land along with construction thereon house bearing grampanchayat property Arazi Khasra No. 401 assessment register Plot part of khasra no.401min, situated gram-Daud Nagar, Ward-Faizullahganj, Distt: Lucknow, Admeasuring 1300.0 Sq. Ft., Which is bounded by :- To the East - Part of khasra no.401, To the West - 18'wide road , To the North - Property of lala, To the South - Property of vidhya singh.	1.13-9-2017 2.28-02-2017 3. Rs. 6,59,598.09/-
2	XSEMCLK00326483 MUSARAT KHAN SAMIM BEGUM YAGYANARAYAN SHARMA	All the piece and parcel of the land along with construction thereon house bearing grampanchayat property no.271/16, 19 assessment register HOUSE NO. 271/16, 16, 19, CHAKMAFI DUGAWAN WARD-RAJENDRA NAGAR,LUCKNOW, Admeasuring 445.5 Sq Fts. (i.e. 41.403 Sq mt.), Which is bounded by :- To the East - Sarkari Gali 4 ft. wide, To the West - House of Jai Pal, To the North - Half part of House of Bhanwar Lal, To the South - House of Advocate Sabeeh.	1.14-9-2017 2.28-02-2017 3. Rs. 1862770/-

Place: Lucknow Date : 20.09.2019 (FAHAD KHAN) Authorised Officer, For Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Ltd.

SHUBHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CO. LTD.
Corporate Office : 425, Udyog Vihar Phase IV, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana)
Ph : 0124- 4212530/31/32, E-Mail: customercare@shubham.co website : www.shubham.co

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited (hereinafter called Shubham) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice calling upon borrowers to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herebelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited for an amount detailed below and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details are as below:

S. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Amount	Date of Demand Notice	Secured Asset	Date of Affixation
1.	Sangan Lal Pandey, Deepak Pandey, Gaytri	Rs. 6,40,500/-	15-06-2018	Arazi No. 44 MI, Plot No. 125, Mauza Chak Nauriya, Pargana Arali, Tehsil Karchhana, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211008	13.09.2019
2.	Manda Sonker, Ajay Kumar Sonkar	Rs.15,10,425/-	15-06-2018	House No. - 1010-A, Daryyabad, Parg. & Tehsil-Sadar, Distt. Allahabad 211003.	13.09.2019
3.	Kishan Kumar Sen, Rekha Sain	Rs. 3,41,834/-	15-06-2018	Mayur Vihar Colony, Arazi No. 95 MI & Part of Plot No. 97, Mauza-Jhalwa, Parg. & Tehsil-Sadar, Distt. Allahabad-211011	13.09.2019
4.	Akhilesh Kumar Soni, Shakuntla	Rs. 4,01,330/-	05-11-2018	H. No. 1477/7F, Mohalla Kajipur Naini, Pargana Arali, Tehsil Karchhana, District Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh 211008	13.09.2019
5.	Mohammad Ashraf, Nazneen Khatoun	Rs. 3,23,217/-	27-11-2018	House No. 22C/8R Built On Arazi No.83 Mohalla Kareli Mauza Anudepur Kareli Pargana, Tehsil Sadar, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh-211016	13.09.2019
6.	Mohammad Rashid, Sarvari	Rs. 5,30,466.23	07-06-2019	House at Arazi No. 274, Dvghat Pargana, Tehsil Sadar, Allahabad Uttar Pradesh - 211012	13.09.2019

Place : Gurgaon Date : 19-09-2019 Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Ltd. Authorized Officer,

Rajnath becomes 1st Def Min to fly Tejas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

Rajnath Singh on Thursday became the first Defence Minister to fly in the indigenously designed and built Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. A "thrilled" Singh described the 30-minute experience as "one of the most memorable events my life." He even controlled and flew the aircraft for full two minutes in the two-seater jet which undertook the sortie at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport in Bengaluru.



Incidentally, his predecessors George Fernandes and Nirmala Sitharaman had flown in MIG-21 and SU-30 respectively. But no Defence Minister so far had flown in the Tejas which is now in the process of induction in the IAF with a batch of 40 jets. The induction will boost the air defence capabilities of the force.

After the sortie, Singh said he chose the aircraft because it was built indigenously and described the flying experience as thrilling. "Flight very smooth, comfortable, I was thrilled. It was one of the most memorable events of my life," said the 68-year-old Singh after alighting from the aircraft.

"This is an indigenous plane. So, it came naturally to me to fly in Tejas and experience the flying. It was also to check under what conditions do our fighter pilots fly these

orders. "But those two minutes were memorable," he said. In a tweet, Singh said: "The 'G-Suit' and 'Tejas': It was a memorable experience. Thank you @IAF_MCC @HALHQBLR & @DRDO_India for this proud moment."

"Special thanks to AVM, N Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency) for the sortie," he said. Air Vice Marshal Tiwari, who is also the Project Director, National Flight Test Centre, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Bengaluru, flew the aircraft.

Talking about his experience of flying with the Defence Minister, Tiwari said, "Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) was flying the aircraft in the air (for 2 minutes), and he liked it. We went all the way up to 2 to 2.5g. But I was showing him more avionics and sophisticated systems that we have on board like laser designation pod, using which you can pick up targets even from 20-25 km away."

When a person is standing still on earth, the amount of force exerted by earth's gravitational field is 'one g'. Fighter pilots have to bear higher number of g's as they fly at high speed and altitude.

Tiwari said the Minister was very happy with the flying quality, "the smoothness, the controls, and the way the aircraft was flying".

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RKS Bhadauria to be next Air Force Chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ending the suspense over the appointment of the new IAF Chief days before incumbent BS Dhanoa retires on September 30, the Government on Thursday announced that present Vice Chief Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria will be the next Air Force Chief. He is the senior most officer after Dhanoa. However, he was set to retire the same day as Dhanoa after attaining the age of 60. Bhadauria will now head the IAF for two years.

An experienced fighter pilot, Bhadauria had led the negotiations with France regarding the Rafale fighter jet deal. It is a Government to government contract for buying 36 jets worth over ₹ 60,000 crores. The first plane will be handed over to IAF in France on October 8 and the entire fleet of jets will be inducted by 2022.

As the Deputy Chief of IAF, Air Marshal Bhadauria played an important role during the contract negotiations for 36 Rafale jets. Due to his role in the negotiations, the first Rafale built by Dassault Aviation for the IAF, a two-seater variant, which made its maiden flight last year in France is designated with his name as RB-008. The RB-008 is an instrumented aircraft and will be used to incorporate, test and validate the 13 Indian Specific Modifications (ISE). It will also be the 36th aircraft to be delivered to the in 2022, 67 months



after the contract was signed. Bhadauria was commissioned into the fighter stream of IAF in June 1980, and has held various Command, Staff and Instructional appointments at various levels including the present one as Vice Chief of Air Staff.

He has over 4,250 hours of experience on twenty six types of fighters and transport aircraft with the unique distinction of being an Experimental Test Pilot, a Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and a Pilot Attack Instructor.

During his nearly four-decade career, Bhadauria commanded a Jaguar squadron and a premier Air Force Station. He was also the Chief Test Pilot and Project Director of the National Flight Test Centre on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project. He was extensively involved in the initial prototype flight tests on the LCA.

Present IAF Chief and Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CCSC) Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa will pass on the CCSC baton to Army Chief General Bipin Rawat who would then be the senior most Service Chief. General Rawat retires in December.

Digvijay's rape remark, brother Lakshman asking RaGa to apologise put Cong in spot

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Singh brothers, Digvijay and Lakshman, on Thursday put the Congress in a spot with their statements. While Digvijay alleged that "people donning saffron robes were committing rapes", a remark from which the Congress distanced itself, his brother Lakshman asked former party chief Rahul Gandhi to apologise to the farmers as the promised loan waiver to them has not materialised so far.

However, the Congress was more embarrassed due to the remark of Lakshman, a party MLA. "Farm loans were not waived even after eight months, let alone ten days," Lakshman Singh said.

Rahul Gandhi, speaking at a farmers' rally at Mandasaur in June 2018, had promised loan waiver within 10 days of the Congress coming to power in the then BJP-ruled state. In November 2018 assembly elections, the Congress ousted the BJP from power and formed government after 15 years.

"Farmers are going to banks with waiver certificates issued by the state government. But the banks are refusing to waive the loans, saying they haven't received money from the government. Rahul Gandhi should return to the same platform where he had promised to implement loan waiver within ten days if elected to power, and apologise to the people," said Lakshman, a five-time MP and currently MLA from Chanchoda.

"This (apology) would make his (Rahul's)

stature taller. He should also clarify how long it will take to waive all farm loans, as promised," added Lakshman. The Kamal Nath government in the state needs to arrange Rs 45,000 crore to fulfill the promise of loan waiver and it may take up to two years, he claimed.

His elder brother, Digvijay kicked up a row by saying that people donning "saffron robes" are committing rapes which are taking place in "temples", and thus defaming the Sanatan Dharma (ancient religion). Some anonymous posters have also come up in Bhopal against him, demanding a ban on his entry to Hindu religious places. He said that such acts are "unforgivable".

Though Singh did not take names, his comments come close on the heels of a Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing allegations of rape levelled against BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand by a law student in Uttar Pradesh.

The Congress said a criminal should be penalised on the basis of the crime committed and should not be judged by the clothes worn or the religion followed.

"We heard about the comment. I don't know in what context it was made. But, the party thinks that criminals do not get affected by the robes they don. Criminals are independent of what they wear, what their beliefs are." "A criminal is a criminal and should be seen by the crime committed and not by the clothes worn or religion one belongs to," Congress Secretary Pranav Jha told the reporters.

Agriculture Ministry hopes for Parliament nod to 2 pending Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Agriculture Ministry hopes to get the Parliament's nod to two long-pending Bills on pesticide management and seeds in the next session. The Pesticide Management Bill that will replace the Insecticides Act, 1968 seeks to regulate the

pesticide sector by fixing prices and setting up of a regulatory authority while the Seeds Bill, which will replace the Seeds Act 1966, seeks to regulate the production, distribution and sale of seeds. The Bill was put on hold in 2015 after it drew flak on enabling provision for genetically modified crops.

Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala on Thursday said that the government is pursuing them very seriously. I hope they will be passed in the next session of Parliament. The government is concerned about sale of spurious seeds and pesticides. These Bills aim to address this issue

as well, he said at an event.

On the draft of the Pesticide Management Bill, officials in the agriculture ministry said, the government would constitute an authority which shall fix the price at which notified pesticides are to be sold. Currently, there is no mechanism to regulate the pricing and farmers

are at the mercy of companies. The new law will be in line with the international norms being practised by global leaders.

As per the proposed law, pesticide companies will have to pay a huge penalty of Rs 25,000 to Rs 50 lakh - up to a whopping 70 times than the existing provision of Rs 500-

Article 370: BJP plans to hold 10 meetings in J&K

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In its bid to create awareness across the country on the "positive impact" of stripping Jammu & Kashmir of its autonomy accorded to it by Article 370, the BJP has planned 10 meetings of its senior leaders and Union Ministers in the State, including a large gathering in Srinagar, the State Capital.

The Modi-Government has done away with Article 370 and Article 35-A, pertaining to the exclusive residency rights of the Kashmiri natives, by a vote of Parliament on August 05. The 'Jan-Jagran Abhiyan'

(public awareness campaign) launched for the purpose would take National party leaders, MPs, MLAs and Ministers to different parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir.

Under the programme, the party has decided to organise 370 small indoor meetings and 35 big meetings, signifying Article 350 and Article 35 A, across the country, including six in Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP President Amit Shah would lead party campaign in Mumbai on September 22. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other Union Ministers will take part in the

party's rally on the eve of Maharaja Hari Singh's 125th birthday on Sunday at Jammu.

Besides the general public, these meetings will target opinion-makers and influential personalities from different walks of life. Two meetings have been held in Udhampur and Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir and going by the response, it has been decided to organise four more such meetings, party leaders said. Union Minister Jitendra Singh had addressed the meetings in Kathua and Udhampur, the source said, adding that three more meetings are scheduled for this month.

INSHORT

PRESIDENT CLEARS E-CIGARETTES BAN

New Delhi: President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday gave his assent for promulgation of the ordinance to ban e-cigarettes. The ordinance was approved by the Union Cabinet yesterday, which bans production, import, distribution and sale of electronic cigarettes.

₹25K CR IN FIVE YEARS FOR FISHERIES SECTOR

New Delhi: The Modi Government plans an investment of ₹ 25,000 crore in the next five years to revamp the fisheries infrastructure sector in the country. Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Minister Giriraj Singh on Thursday released the 13th edition of 'The Handbook on Fisheries Statistics - 2018'. As per latest data, the country's fish production was 12.59 million tonnes during 2017-18 fiscal, with a contribution of 8.90 million tonnes from inland sector and 3.69 metric tonnes from marine sector.

MUSLIM PARTIES ADVOCATE LOSES COOL

New Delhi: Losing his cool, a senior advocate for Muslim parties in the Ram Jannbhoomi-Babri masjid land dispute case in the Supreme Court, told a curious judge Thursday that he was seeing "some kind of aggression" in his tone. A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, which was hearing the decades-old politically sensitive case on 27th day, did not re-assemble after the lunch break and a source said that the CJ was not feeling well.

SC SLAMS UP FOR ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday pulled up the Uttar Pradesh Government and said it was "sleeping" for the past 26 years on the illegal settlement of claims in favour of industries and third parties in the reserved forest areas of Mirzapur district.

2 MORE COURTROOMS FOR HEARING CASES: SC

New Delhi: With the Centre clearing the names of four new judges recommended by the Supreme Court collegium, the top court Thursday said that it has created two additional courtrooms for hearing of cases.

No financial crisis in country: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday claimed there is no financial crisis in India and the Government has taken all necessary steps and fundamentals of economy are strong.

"To make the economy stronger, the Government has taken all measures and I want to say that the fundamentals of the country's economy are strong. We are not in any crisis. Some reactions from non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are there. But we are addressing all issues," he told a press conference at his residence here.

As to the Congress's attack on the Government for having the upcoming event 'Howdy Modi' in Houston, USA despite an economic slowdown, Javadekar said the Congress would never get such an opportunity like Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The stadium is already houseful for the 'Howdy Modi' event. Congress has never got this much popularity and will never get. I can only say that grapes are sour," said Javadekar, who is the minister of infor-



mation and broadcasting and environment and climate change.

The Minister also took a swipe at former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh for his "saffron-clad rapists" remark, saying even the Congress does not take him seriously.

"Even Congress does not give importance to him. Why should we react? We have seen his mentality after the Mumbai terror attacks. Since then he has been making such statements," he said.

Singh on Tuesday made a controversial remark at an event in Bhopal that people in saffron clothes were committing rapes, even in temples. A case has reportedly been lodged against the Congress leader for making such an allegation.

SC summons UP Home Secretary for failure to respond to minor's plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday summoned the Home Secretary of Uttar Pradesh after taking a serious view of the State Government's failure to respond to a plea by a "minor" Muslim girl, who has challenged the Allahabad High Court order by which her marriage was found to be void.

The 16-year-old girl has challenged the high court order, saying that as per the Mohammedan Law, once a female attains the age of puberty, that is 15 years, she is independent to take decisions for her life and is competent to marry any one of her own choice.

When the matter came up for hearing before a bench of Justices NV Ramana and Ajay Rastogi, the counsel appearing for the State, sought time to file a response on the petition.

"Let the chief secretary appear (in court). Then he will understand the seriousness of the matter," the bench said in an oral observation.

Later, the bench summoned the home secretary

WHEN THE MATTER CAME UP FOR HEARING BEFORE A BENCH OF JUSTICES NV RAMANA AND AJAY RASTOGI, THE COUNSEL APPEARING FOR THE STATE, SOUGHT TIME TO FILE A RESPONSE ON THE PETITION

of Uttar Pradesh and directed him to personally appear before it on September 23.

The top court noted in its order that despite granting time to the state's counsel for filing reply on the plea, the lawyer has not received proper instruction from the department concerned.

"We are forced to compel the appearance of Secretary Home (of Uttar Pradesh) to appear personally before us on Monday (September 23)," the bench said. PTI

SC refuses to keep in abeyance NBW issued against jail superintendent

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to keep in abeyance the non-bailable warrant (NBW) issued against the superintendent of district jail of Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh for releasing an accused from prison despite the apex court order cancelling his bail.

The matter was mentioned

before a bench comprising Justices NV Ramana and Ajay Rastogi and the counsel appearing for the jail superintendent said the officer would appear before the court on September 23 as directed by the top court, but the NBW should be kept in abeyance till then.

"Let him come (before the court)," the bench said.

The lawyer, while saying that the superintendent had committed a mistake, again urged that the NBW be kept in abeyance.

"No. Let him appear. Nothing will happen till then. You are admitting that you have violated the order. I am not going to change my order," Justice Ramana said. PTI



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee comes out after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah at North Block in New Delhi on Tuesday

Over 260 troops killed or hurt in Naxal IED blasts: Official

Forces launch ops

New Delhi: Security forces deployed in the anti-Naxal combat grid have launched a massive operation to find out and defuse IEDs as over 260 troops have either been killed or injured in these blasts in the last about three years, officials said Thursday.

They said the decision has been taken after it was seen that Maoists were increasingly relying on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to target security force personnel deployed in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) combat grid.

As per the latest data accessed by PTI, over 73 security personnel have been killed in IED blasts in various states over the last three years time while more than 179 have been injured.

The data pertains to the

period between 2017 and August this year.

The maximum such fatal and non-fatal casualties have taken place in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh that is stated to be the worst-Naxal violence-affected state by security forces, owing to the high casualty rate of forces.

"A massive operation is being conducted to seek and destroy IEDs in various LWE affected states. The CRPF, other central armed police forces (CAPFs) and state police forces have been sensitized about the threat posed by these concealed bombs," a senior security official based here said.

The number of IED blast incidents has also been more-or-less the same over the last three years' time period, he said.

The data shows that while a total of 43 such incidents took place in 2017, they rose to 79



last year and over 51 have been recorded till August this year.

Similarly, 6 civilians were killed in these Naxal triggered blasts in 2017, 8 last year and three have lost their lives this year.

"The Naxals are now not getting into one-to-one battle with forces as their combat strength has depleted along

with their weaponry and ammunition. The sustained operations by the CRPF and other forces have surely taken a huge toll on them.

"They are hence looking to hit the security forces through IEDs which ensures that they do not have to face the forces," CRPF Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Moses Dhinakaran said.

Centre considers to give insurance cover to J&K panch, sarpanch

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre is considering providing insurance cover of ₹ 4 lakh each to over 40,000 panch and sarpanch in Jammu & Kashmir due to their vulnerability to terror threats. The Union Home Ministry is also planning to educate the leaders of the lowest level of the elected bodies on the central laws and other facilities to be applicable and available in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

"We are examining the proposal to provide insurance cover of ₹ 4 lakh to all Panch and Sarpanch in Jammu & Kashmir," a senior Home

Ministry official said.

The move comes after a delegation of panch and sarpanch of Jammu & Kashmir met Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently and requested him for the insurance cover due to the terror threats to them.

The delegation had sought an insurance cover of Rs 2 lakh each to the Panch and Sarpanch, but the central government is planning to give them the cover of Rs 4 lakh each, the officials said. The panchayat elections in Jammu & Kashmir were held last year in which over 40,000 Panch and Sarpanch were elected to these local bodies.

Bulletproof jackets made in India sent to 100 countries: Modi

Nashik: Accusing the UPA Government of not being serious on national security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Congress-led regime had in 2009 ignored the demand of 1.86 lakh bullet proof jackets for security personnel. In the BJP-led regime, not only have the requirements of our forces been met but bulletproof jackets made in India are now being exported to 100 countries, Modi said.

Addressing a public rally here, Modi said, "Today, we are manufacturing our own bullet-proof jackets and these jackets made in India are now being exported to over 100 countries." "Two mighty helicopters have recently been inducted. Very soon the Rafale fighter jets will join the IAF. We have taken the long pending decision to have a chief of defence staff for better co-ordination between the three forces," he said.

Modi's anonymous attack on Sena over Ram Mandir

Says loudmouths must have faith in judicial system

Nashik: In a jibe without naming ally Shiv Sena, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the Supreme Court is hearing the Ram Mandir case and asked 'some loudmouths' to refrain from making statements on the issue. "I am amazed at the 'bayan bahadurs and badbole' (loudmouths) on the Ram Mandir issue. Every one in the country respects the Supreme Court. The apex court is hearing the case. I want to tell these people with folded hands to have faith in the judicial system," Modi said at a rally here.

Shiv Sena has been demanding construction of the Ram temple and asking the Modi Government to take steps in that direction like it did on Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday demanded that the Centre take a "courageous decision" to bring in a law to build a Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

"It has been our demand from last year that a special law must be brought in and Ram



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and BJP Maharashtra president Chandrakant Patil being garlanded by supporters during the Vijay Sankalp Rally in Nashik on Thursday

Mandir should be built... The issue has been going on since 1992. How many years should we wait? We are hearing that the issue is in the final stages in the court. We appeal to the courts to give it decision on the issue.

"However, beyond that we expect that Centre should not wait for court order and use its powers. The Centre took a courageous step in abrogating Article 370. It is out request that the Centre would do the same for Ram Mandir issue," the Sena chief had told reporters here.

Modi said the first 100-day tenure in his second innings as the PM focussed on promise, performance and delivery. "There is a push for develop-

ment, a message of India's global power, welfare of people and efforts for employment opportunities," he said.

"₹20,000 crore were put in farmers' accounts so far out of which ₹1,500 crore was in accounts of farmers in Maharashtra," he said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis thanked Modi for the trust reposed in him in 2014 when he was made the CM.

On the Mahajanadesh Yatra undertaken by him to reach out to masses ahead of the Assembly polls, Fadnis said, "In the yatra, I have put forward my report card to the people. There is no corruption allegation (against me) in the last five years. PTI

PM attacks Pawar over Pak remarks, lauds Fadnavis for stable Government

Nashik: Donning headgear presented by a descendant of Shivaji Maharaj, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday targeted NCP chief Sharad Pawar over the latter's remarks on Pakistan.

Launching the BJP's campaign for next month's Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Modi also said the State suffered due to political instability in the past and lauded Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for providing a "stable Government" in the last five years, despite BJP not having a complete majority on its own.

On the decision of revoking provisions of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, Modi said this was the wish of 130 crore Indians.

"The decision has been taken to save the Kashmiris from the cycle of violence, terror and separatism. They suffered for 40 years due to Delhi's (previous Congress-led Governments) wrong policies and 42,000 people were killed," he said.

Instead of supporting the Government on the decision taken in national interest, Opposition leaders are making comments for their selfish political interests, Modi said.

"When the country is united over the decision on

Kashmir, Congress and NCP leaders have not cooperated," he said.

Without naming Rahul Gandhi, Modi said the Congress leaders are making comments which are being used by other countries and terror outfits against India.

"I can understand the confusion of the Congress. But Sharad Pawar? I feel bad when an experienced leader like him

makes wrong statements for votes. He said he likes the neighbouring country. But every one knows where the terror factory is," Modi said.

Addressing a rally here as part of the conclusion of the 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' undertaken by Fadnavis to reach out to masses ahead of the Assembly polls, Modi said Maharashtra had not progressed as it should have. PTI

Modi twisted Pawar's comments, showed PM can lie, says NCP

Mumbai: Prime Minister Narendra Modi distorted NCP chief Sharad Pawar's comments about Pakistan, the party said on Thursday.

Modi should either prove that Pawar praised the rulers of the neighbouring country or apologise, Nationalist Congress Party spokesperson Nawab Malik said here.

Hours before, Modi, addressing a rally in Nashik in Maharashtra, targeted Pawar.

Alleging that Congress leaders' comments were being used by other countries and terror outfits against India, Modi said, "I can understand the confusion of the Congress. But Sharad Pawar? I feel bad

when an experienced leader like him makes wrong statements for votes.

"He said he likes the neighbouring country. But everyone knows where the terror factory is," the PM said.

Hitting back, Malik said that Modi twisted Pawar's remark.

"Modi has shown that the country's Prime Minister can be a liar. He said Pawar likes the rulers of Pakistan. But Pawar had clearly said in his speech that the rulers, army officers in Pakistan are anti-India, but the people there are not anti-India," Malik told reporters. PTI

Government of India (Min. Of Railways)
RESEARCH DESIGNS AND STANDARDS ORGANISATION
 Manak Nagar, Lucknow-226011

Open E-Tender Notice No. EDRDS051702201902
 E-Tender No. EDRDS051702201902 is invited by Director, Engine Development Directorate, RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow for and on behalf of President of India for following Works:

Description of Work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	EMD Money (Rs.)
"Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of Gas Leakage Detector system Installed in Emission Test Car (ETC) NR 8025 for 03 years"	Rs. 334669.00	Rs. 6700.00
	Tender Document Cost: Rs. 1000.00	

- Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.
- The tenderer must have Class-III Digital Signature certificate & must have registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer can participate in e-tendering.
- Last Date and time of submission 23.10.2019 up to 14:30 Hrs.
- Tender Opening Date and Time 23.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs.
- The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
- Amendments / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Director / Engine Development
 RDSO, Manak Nagar, Lucknow

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DCM/NR/LKO acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 14.10.2019 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards 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.

NIT No.	Work
Va-VI/DDSIS/LKO Div/19/SVG DL 18.09.2019	Commercial advertising rights through Dual Display Infotainment System at UTS & PRS counters at "A-1" category stations of Lucknow division for a period of five (5) years.
Reserve Price (for first year)	Rs.4,48,320/- (Rs. Four Lac Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty only)
Earnest Money	Rs.47,700/- (Rs. Forty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred only)
Completion Period	05 years
Bidding Start Date	18.09.2019
Tender Closing Date and Time	14.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs.
Tender Opening Date and Time	14.10.2019 at 15:30 hrs.
Website	www.ireps.gov.in
Cost of Tender document form	Rs. 3,540/- (Rs. Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty only) inclusive of GST @ 18%
Eligibility criteria	As detailed in Tender Document

Note: - No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of offers. Even suo-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void.

Serving Customers With A Smile 3017/19

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project/Northern Railway/Lucknow acting for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tenders in Two packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

Sl. No.	Name of work with its location	Approximate cost of the work	Earnest Money	Closing date & time of Tender	Tender document exhibited From date & Time	Tender document exhibited upto date & Time	Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen
1	Provision of Indoor and Outdoor Signalling gears with Electronic Interlocking alongwith Construction & Electrification of S & T service building in connection with Up gradation of Signalling from Std I to Std IIR at Piparpur, Bishnathganj, Siwaith, Kohandour & Mauaima stns of SLN-PBH-PFM section of LKO Division. Tender No. : Sig/P/5E/SLN-PFM/LKO/07-2019	Rs. 21,36,65,687.00 (Rs. Twenty One Crore Thirty Six Lac Sixty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven Only)	Rs. 12,18,300/- (Rs. Twelve Lac Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred only)	11:00 Hrs. on 14.10.2019	23.09.2019 : 11:00 Hrs.	14.10.2019 : 11:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in Notice Board of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Project Northern Railway, Moradabad.
2	Provision of Indoor and Outdoor Signalling gears with Electronic Interlocking alongwith Construction & Electrification of S & T service building in connection with Up gradation of Signalling from Std I to Std IIR at Masodha, Bharatkund, Khajurahat & Kurebhar stns of SLN-FD section & Mariahu stn of ZBD-JNH section on LKO Division. Tender No. : Sig/P/5E/SLN-FD/LKO/08-2019	Rs. 21,35,80,416.00/- (Rs. Twenty One Crore Thirty Five Lac Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Only)	Rs. 12,17,900/- (Rs. Twelve Lac Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred only)	11:00 hrs. on 14.10.2019	23.09.2019 : 11:00 hrs.	14.09.2019 : 11:00 hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in Notice Board of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Project Northern Railway, Moradabad

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E - Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. Sig/P/5E/SLN-PFM/LKO/07-2019 DATED : 18.09.2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3005/2019

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

No. SIG/P/5E/SLN-FD/LKO/08-2019 Dated: 18.09.2019
 Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Project/Northern Railway, Lucknow, for & on behalf of President of India invites E-tender in Two Packet System from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria for the under noted work:

Sl. No.	Name of work with its Location	Approx. Cost of the Work	Earnest Money	Closing date & Time of Tender	Tender Document exhibited from date & Time	Tender document exhibited upto date & Time	Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen
1	"Provision of Indoor & Outdoor signalling gears with Electronic Interlocking alongwith Construction & Electrification of S & T service building in connection with Up gradation of Signalling from Std I to Std IIR at Masodha, Bharatkund, Khajurahat & Kurebhar stns of SLN-FD section & Mariahu stn of ZBD-JNH section on LKO Division." Tender No.: Sig/P/5E/SLN-FD/LKO/08-2019	Rs. 21,35,80,416.00/- (Rs. Twenty One Crore Thirty Five Lac Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Sixteen Only)	Rs. 12,17,900/- (Rs. Twelve lac Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred only)	11:00 hrs. on 14.10.2019	23.09.2019 : 11:00 hrs.	14.09.2019 : 11:00 hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in Notice Board of Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Project Northern Railway, Moradabad

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Normal life remains disrupted in Kashmir

Reports of shopkeepers being threatened

Srinagar: Incidents of miscreants threatening shopkeepers and vandalising private vehicles have been reported from many places in Kashmir Valley where normal life remained disrupted for the 46th day on Thursday following abrogation of Article 370, officials said.

They said private cars have come under stone-pelting at many places as the miscreants want to enforce shutdown.

Authorities have taken note of these incidents and follow up action has been taken, the officials added.

Markets remained closed in the Valley and public transport off the roads, they said. They said some of the shops



open for few hours early in the morning and late in the evening, but remain shut during the day.

Public transport was off the roads, but private cars were plying in many areas of the city and elsewhere in the valley, they said.

Few autorickshaws and inter-district cabs were also seen plying in some areas in civil lines

of the city, they added. The officials said Internet services remained suspended across all platforms.

While landlines across the valley were functional, voice calls on mobile devices were working only in Kupwara and Handwara police districts of north Kashmir, they added. The efforts of the state gov-

ernment to open schools have not borne any fruit as parents continued to keep children at home due to apprehensions about their safety. Most areas of the valley were restrictions-free, but the deployment of security forces continued on the ground to maintain law and order, the officials said.

Restrictions were first imposed across Kashmir on August 5 when the Centre announced its decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the state into two Union territories. The restrictions were lifted in phases from many parts of the valley as the situation improved with the passage of time.

Authorities have been imposing restrictions in vulnerable areas of the valley every Friday, apprehending that vested interests might exploit the large gatherings at big mosques and shrines to fuel protests. PTI

Pak targets workers to halt BSF project

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Several kilometre long 'wall of Sdefence' (protective sand bundh) being constructed by the Border Security Force (BSF) between forward villages of Samba and Kathua, to plug the 'active' infiltration routes along the International border across Jammu frontier, is giving sleepless nights to Pakistani rangers on the other side of the border.

As the work on the ambitious project was gathering momentum and taking shape, perturbed Pakistani rangers decided to target the workers engaged in the construction work on the Indian side of the border fence.

So far, no loss of life and property has been reported from any where in the region.

To instil confidence among the local residents in the area, Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, Dr Raghav Langer on Thursday

visited Manyari village along with the team of senior Government officials and took stock of the ground realities.

He directed the executing agencies, engaged in the task of bunker construction, to expedite work on 'war footing' and install motors to clear the water logging from inside completed bunkers.

Senior BSF officials of Jammu frontier also visited the forward border outposts in the area to review the ground situation. Deputy Commissioner directed the police officers to station bullet proof mobile bunkers in the area to safely evacuate local residents in case of any exigency. Local villagers also appeared to the senior officers to ensure safety and security of border residents in case of fresh escalation in the coming days. Deputy Commissioner assured them that the entire district administration has been sanitised and activated to respond to

the emerging situation in the border areas. Senior BSF officers on their part claimed repeated attempts were being made, for last three days, by the Pakistani rangers to escalate the tensions along the International border as well in the run up to the United National General Assembly Session. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Imran Khan are scheduled to address the world leaders on September 27. Apparently, the recent incidents of 'unprovoked ceasefire violations' by the Pakistani rangers in Hiranagar sector is also seen as a direct fall out of the progress made to execute the project on ground zero.

According to BSF authorities, the area which is being covered under the 'protective bundh' is often used by the infiltrators in the past to sneak inside the Indian territory

preferably via water bodies and rivulets in the area.

The same route, according to NIA report submitted to the Union Home Minister in October 2018, was exploited by the over ground workers of the Pakistani based terror outfits to smuggle arms and ammunition along with small batches of infiltrators via road link to Kashmir valley. A local villager who attended the meeting with the senior officers said, "the protective bundh is being constructed inside the Indian territory, well short of barbed wire fencing close to the International border, even then the Pakistani rangers are trying to provoke BSF authorities to retaliate strongly and not allowing them to live peacefully in the area". The villagers claimed they were living under constant fear of fresh escalation in the area and demanded safety of their life stock and homes and hearths.

Hope PM respects SC ruling on Ram temple, says NCP

Mumbai: Latching onto Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that "some loudmouths" should have faith in the Supreme Court over the Ram temple issue, the NCP on Thursday hoped he will stick to his words and respect verdict the court will deliver on the sensitive matter.

NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said his party has always been of the view that the apex court's verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute matter should be respected and accepted by all.

Addressing a rally in Nashik, around 200km from here, on Thursday, Modi, without naming BJP's ally, the Shiv Sena, said the court is hearing the temple case and asked



"some loudmouths" to refrain from making statements on the issue.

"I am amazed at the 'bayan bahadurs and badbole' (loudmouths) on the Ram Mandir issue. Everyone in the country respects the Supreme Court. The apex court is hearing the case. I want to tell these people with folded hands to have faith in the judicial system," the prime minister said.

Reacting to the PM's remarks, Malik said, "We are also saying that the SC's decision should be respected and accepted. Hope the prime minister will stick to his words and implement and respect the decision the Supreme Court will give."

Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday demanded that the Centre take a "courageous decision" to bring in a law to build a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

The SC on Wednesday said parties to the Ayodhya land dispute case can amicably resolve the matter through mediation if they want to and added it wants day-to-day hearings in the case to be concluded by October 18. PTI

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110 608
EXAMINATION SECTION
 Advertisement No. 35/2019

Ref. No. F.AIIMS/Examsec./adv/4-11/SRSDJAN/2019 Dated : 20.09.2019

Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents / Senior Demonstrators for the January 2020 session at AIIMS, New Delhi

Online applications are invited from Indian Citizen as per Govt of India Residency Scheme for the Tenure posts of Senior Residents/Senior Demonstrators for a maximum period upto 3 years. These posts include existing vacant posts, backlog vacancies of SC, ST, OBC and the posts which are likely to fall vacant (Stage-I) between 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2020. Details of posts can be seen on website. The Examination will be conducted in online (CBT) mode only followed by Interview Stage-II) of eligible candidate.

Online Registration for application

Opens on	Closes on
25 September, 2019/ (Wednesday)	15 October, 2019 at 5:00 pm (Tuesday)

Date of Entrance examination

Date of Exam	Duration of Exam.	Exam City
24 November, 2019 (Sunday)	10:00 AM to 11:30 AM	4 Metro cities in India (Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai)

Admit cards of eligible candidates will only be uploaded on the website. If the status or Registration form or Admit Card is not available on website, applicant should immediately write an email through Registered email to the Assistant Controller (Examinations). AIIMS New Delhi-110608 on aiims.exms@gmail.com along with mention candidate name, exam/test, subject applied, candidate ID and specific query/clarification.

Important : For Prospectus, number of post, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc please visit the website www.aiims.exms.org All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded in the website only.

davp 17112/11/0048/1920 ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)

Supriyo heckled, taken hostage

Guv rushes to Jadavpur campus along with cops, rescues him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA



Union Minister of State Babul Supriyo heckled by Left-wing students at Jadavpur University in Kolkata on Thursday

In a major security lapse, Union Minister Babul Supriyo was on Thursday heckled, pushed and clawed by students of Left wing parties protesting against his attending of a seminar organised by the right wing students' groups including the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad at Jadavpur University. While Vice-Chancellor Suranjana Das refused to call in police, a helpless police force stood as mute spectators for the want of "instructions from above" leaving Supriyo to his fate and protective hands of a few CRPF personnel who had a trying time to shield him from an aggressive crowd of several hundred slogan-shouting students.

The V-C showing his inability to call police on moral grounds and offered to resign instead took shelter in the hospital bed along with his pro-Vice Chancellor PK Ghosh.

Even as the melee continued for more than five hours, Governor Jagdeep Dhankar had

to intervene by rushing into the university campus where he too was blocked for a good one hour even as he tried to rescue the Minister.

And it took some instant tact of DCP Praveen Tripathi who managed to hoodwink the students and get the Governor and the Minister out of the mess. Just as the drama threatened to continue overnight the convoy of the Governor who had by that time pulled Supriyo inside his car turned back and sped away taking advantage of an un-blocked rear.

This even as a large number of ABVP and Durga Vahini supporters armed with rods and bamboos raided — JU premises ranked amongst one of the five best universities of the country, academically — and

smashed the students' union, ransacked the interiors and torched things including computers, bicycles, posters, and almirahs.

While the Left students gheraoed the Minister some of them pulling by his hair and even slapping him, demanded apology from Supriyo for abusing them and threatening them with dire consequences for shouting "go back slogan" and showing black flags the singer-turned politician shouted "if you will not achieve anything by this undemocratic show."

If you want to be a decent politician then follow your leader. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee."

He later alleged "they beat me, kicked me, scratched me... but for that I won't say scream."

Rather I will demand these students to be criminally booked or and rusticated."

Even as a furious Governor personally called up Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Chief Secretary Maloy Dey communicating his concern for Supriyo, a Press release issued by the Raj Bhavan, faulted the State for falling law and order situation.

If that alleged unlawful detention and assault on the Union Minister was a serious reflection of the law and order of the State and on the conduct of the law enforcing agencies.

The drama that continued for more than five hours started earlier on Thursday noon when Supriyo, accompanied by designer-turned-BJP leader Agnimitra Paul entered the University campus to address a seminar.

While swarms of Left students shouted "go back" slogans he entered into heated arguments with them provoking the students to reply back in equal measure. One of them complained "he not only abused us but also threatened us with dire consequences saying 'I can teach you all lessons within two days. There was no need for him to react to such slogans and simply gone ahead with his programme because such slogans are a regular affair Jadavpur.'"

Former Kolkata CP hiding like Dawood, CBI tells court

Claims State Govt not sharing any information regarding him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday compared senior IPS officer and former Kolkata police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar with international terrorist Dawood Ibrahim in the Alipore

Court saying Kumar, the present Additional Director General of CID, was hiding from the Agency like the Pakistan-based don.

The CBI lawyers were arguing in the court to seek a non-bailable warrant against Kumar.

When the Court asked as to why they were seeking warrant when they had enough power to arrest him the CBI counsels said "he is fleeing like Dawood Ibrahim and the State Government is not sharing any information about him with the CBI."

Even as the Court reserved its order for a subsequent day in a daylong Hindi film-like drama the CBI sleuths ran from one place to another in search of the former Kolkata top cop — himself one of the best cyber crime investigators in the country.

The CBI vainly searched him in the IPS quarters, the IPS officers' mess and even inside the kitchen of a renowned South Kolkata hotel entering most of these premises from backdoors.

Finally the Agency sleuths sent yet another notice to the

top officer's official address asking him to report for interrogation on Friday.

Kumar has been evading the investigation since Friday when the Calcutta High Court withdrew protection from arrest granted to him in the case.

CBI wants to quiz Kumar regarding his role as the chief of the Special Investigation Team in the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case in 2013 before the Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI upon allegations of wayward investigation.

Crack in Opp unity surfaces in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

As party chief MK Stalin called off the proposed agitation against 'imposition of Hindi' late Wednesday following an assurance from Governor Banwarilal Purohit that there won't be any such move from the Centre, the facade of unity in the Opposition front has come under strain.

Stalin, who had a meeting with the Governor, told journalists that Purohit told him that Home Minister Amit Shah's speech has been misquoted and misunderstood. "Since the Governor told us that the Home Minister's speech had been misquoted, we thought it better not to go ahead with the agitation," said Stalin. As per the earlier plan, the DMK and allies were to hold Statewide demonstrations all over Tamil Nadu on Friday against the move by the Centre to impose Hindi. The Congress, a trusted ally of the DMK, went one step ahead and declared that the party cadre would show black flags against Amit Shah when he visits the State next time. But VCK, another alliance partner of the DMK, expressed the party's reservations over the move by Stalin to call off the agitation. "We stand by our decision to agitate against

the communal Government at the Centre," said Thol Thirumavalavan, MP and founder of the party. This round of agitation has fizzled out as the DMK has understood the folly behind wasting time and resources over such issues, said Govindarajan Satyamurthy, political commentator based in Coimbatore. "All parties except the AIADMK and the DMK are non-entities in the State," he said.

A senior Congress leader had told *The Pioneer* on Wednesday itself that agitation against Hindi would be matter of past in a few days time. "Do you think the Congress would dare to show black flags at Amit Shah if the DMK is not around to help them," asked the leader who did not want the name to be quoted.

Abdullah has 'tremendous potential' to create public disorder: PSA order

Srinagar: Statements mobilising people against the state and the "tremendous potential" to create public disorder in the Valley are among the charges listed against former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, who has been booked under the Public Safety Act.

The 81-year-old Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, under detention since August 5 when the Centre revoked the state's special status, has also been accused of making speeches glorifying terrorists and separatists.

The PSA order against Abdullah, accessed by PTI, cites seven instances from 2016 onwards when he spoke in favour of the separatist Hurriyat Conference and terror

groups. Abdullah, the first chief minister to be booked under the stringent PSA, was arrested on Monday under the PSA and his Gupkar Road residence declared a jail.

The National Conference chairman and three-term Chief Minister has been booked under the 'public order' provision of the PSA under which a person can be kept in jail from three to six months without a trial, officials said. On repealing of Article 370 and 35-A of the Constitution, which provided special status for people of the state on jobs and residency, the PSA order accuses Abdullah of issuing statements aimed at mobilising people against the State.

It says he could have debated the issue rather than threaten the integrity of the country and glorify militancy.

The order also accuses him of propagating 'secessionist ideology' besides posing a threat to life and liberty of the people. Abdullah, the order states, "has tremendous potential for creating an environment of public disorder within the district (Srinagar) and other parts of the Valley". It accuses him of being a person seen as fanning the emotions of general masses against the country.

The order, which states that Abdullah's residence "G-40 Gupkar Road" has been declared a subsidiary jail, has also been accused by the state administration of issuing state-

ments in conflict with law that were aimed disturbing public order. The PSA has two sections -- 'public order' and 'threat to security of the state'. The former allows detention without trial for three to six months and the latter for two years. The PSA is applicable only in Jammu & Kashmir. Elsewhere in the country, the equivalent law is the National Security Act (NSA).

Separatists and Abdullah's political opponents in the Valley have termed him a vehement supporter of state's accession with India.

He was also criticised last year for raising the slogan, 'Bharat Mata Ji Jai', during a condolence meeting for former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. **PTI**

39 mob lynchings in two and a half months in Bihar

Patna: Despite its best efforts, the police has not been able to curb mob lynching incidents in the state.

According to data provided by the police headquarters, 14 people have been beaten to death, while 45 people have been injured in mob lynching incidents during the last two and a half months. During this time 39 incidents of mob lynching were registered in the state.

Bihar police headquarters is conducting awareness campaigns regarding such incidents in sensitive areas. Senior

police officials have acknowledged that there have been no incidents of child abduction but people take to mob lynching due to rumours. However, the police are sensitising people about such incidents along with giving a stern warning to those involved in the lynchings.

Rumours about child abduction have increased so much that parents are now in a panic.

Locals in Madipur Chitragupta Nagar in Muzaffarpur thrashed two women on suspicion of child

abduction. By the time police reached the spot and saved them from the crowd, they had both suffered severe injuries.

A similar incident took place in Samastipur district, where a mentally disabled woman was beaten up on similar suspicion by a crowd. Some people from the crowd itself saved her from the mob.

Such cases have been reported from Patna as well as other areas of the state.

A man, identified as Shatrughan Sinha, a resident of Sitamarhi, was beaten to death on September 9 in West

Champaran district.

On September 8, a 22-year-old man was beaten to death following rumours of child lynchings.

Police has registered FIRs against 348 named accused and 4,000 unidentified persons.

"Police is taking strict action against those involved in mob lynching incidents. We identify the accused from the video footage of the incidents and take action against them," said Additional Director General (police headquarters) Jitendra Kumar. **IANS**

BJP govt has changed the face of UP: Yogi

From Page 1 poor families of UP were benefited by it. "In the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban and Rural), UP holds the first position by constructing more than 25 lakh houses.

Similarly, the UP government topped the chart by paying a record cane price of Rs 73,000 crore. The government also secured first position in the country by providing toilets to 2.61 crore families in rural

areas," the Chief Minister said. "Another achievement is the success of Saubhagya Yojana under which 1.09 crore power connections have been given. Besides, steps have been taken to control communicable diseases like encephalitis, black fever and malaria," he said.

The Chief Minister said that in Gorakhpur, the state government, aided by the Union government, would install biofuel plants and they

would be connected to cow shelters. "Alternative fuel will be generated with the help of organic waste. Likewise, under Chief Minister Tourism Development Scheme, a destination will be developed in every Assembly constituency," Yogi said.

On environment conservation, the Chief Minister said that to expand green cover in the state, the state government planted 22.59 crore saplings, a

feat recognised at the global level. To mark the completion of 30 months of his government, the Chief Minister released a booklet, 'Jan Connect', on the achievements of his government.

Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma, BJP state chief Swatantra Dev Singh and Acting Chief Secretary RK Tiwari were also present on the occasion.

PAK VIOLATES CEASEFIRE

Jammu (PNS): Pakistan Army on Thursday night initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in Shahpur and Kerni sectors of Poonch. Defence PRO in Jammu said, "at around 8.00 pm Pakistan Army initiated fresh ceasefire violation by firing of small arms & shelling with Mortars in Shahpur & Kerni sectors, of district Poonch". Indian Army is retaliating befittingly, he added.

Your stolen car may be parked on OLYX for sale

Man held for selling over dozen expensive cars on site

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

If your car is stolen, do check if it is being sold on OLYX app. The Delhi Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a man involved in selling more than a dozen luxury cars stolen from various localities in the national Capital. Police said an FIR will be registered against the OLYX management.

Active since 2014, the accused had succeeded in selling high-end cars by posting their advertisements on OLYX app. However, he ran out of his

luck a few days ago. Suspecting something fishy after the accused asked for a nominal price of an expensive car, a buyer informed police which swung into action.

East Delhi Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Jasmeet Singh said complainant Ravi Saxena approached us on July 8 stating that he saw an advertisement related to sale of Volkswagen Polo at a very nominal price, to which he responded and purchased the car for ₹1,70,000 from one

Ankit Pruthi, the accused. "Ankit provided the complainant with photocopies of registration certificate (RC) and insurance and assured him to deliver the original after transfer of the registration in the name of the complainant. But despite repeated requests from the complainant, Ankit did not provide him with the original documents. "Suspecting something was amiss, Saxena approached the State Transport Authority (STA) and he was befuddled to know that the said car registration number belonged to another car model 'Skoda Laura'," said the DCP.

"Having realised that he had bought a stolen car, Saxena asked Ankit to return his money and take the car but Ankit tried to convince the complainant that it was genuine. After a few months, the accused switched off his phone," said the DCP. "Acting on the complaint an FIR was registered. During the course of investigation, it was revealed that there is a gang operating in Delhi and Rajasthan involved in entrapping unsuspecting buyers of stolen luxury cars on very cheap price on OLYX platform," said the DCP. "A police team was tasked to collect tip-off about the gang-members which led to the hideout of kingpin Ankit.

On September 14, a trap was laid and Ankit was arrested in Jaipur. He had changed his name from Ankit Pruthi to Ankit Arora to hide his identity. Originally from Delhi, he had acquired a Jaipur address," said the DCP.

"Ankit confessed that he used to change his mobile number after every successful sale. We have recovered three cars and trying to locate other cars. Ankit confessed to have sold over a dozen luxury cars using OLYX app. Police recovered Volkswagen Vento and 'KUV-100' from Sikar in Rajasthan. These cars were stolen from Delhi's Hauz Khas and Mehrauli area," said the DCP.

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE			
DRM/Engineering acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tenders closing date 14.10.2019 on 15:00 hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards 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.			
1. N.I.T. No.	07602019 dated 18.09.2019		
S. No. 01	Balance work of Track maintenance in connection with commissioning of Prayag Ghat terminals and other locations under ADEN-PRG.		
S. No. 02	Repair of Damaged Platform Surface & Platform wall along with construction of retaining wall, platform fencing of BDIN and improvement of station building and circulating area including upgradation in Passenger Amenities at Nihalgarh station under SR DEN-IV/LKO.		
S.No. 03	Balance Civil works and Repair of deficiencies at Prayag Ghat Terminal in the section of SSE-W-PRG under ADEN-PRG.		
3. Approximate Cost	S.No. 01. ₹ 17009093.74	S.No. 02. ₹ 39511214.01	
4. Earnest Money	S.No. 01. ₹ 235100.00	S.No. 02. ₹ 347600.00	
	S.No. 03. ₹ 253600.00		
5. Completion Period	S.No. 01 to 03 Twelve months from the date of issue of LOA		
6. Bidding Start Date	30.09.2019		
7. Tender Closing Date and Time	14.10.2019 at 15:00 hrs.		
8. Website	www.ireps.gov.in		
Note :- 1. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offers. Even sub-moto post letters of the tenders shall be treated as NULL & Void." (Authority N.Rly/HQ letter No 74-W/O/PL/XXV/WAL/Loose Dated 07.04.2015). 3007/19			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD							
Tender Notice No.: 5820192020		E-Tendering Tender Notice		Date: 16.09.2019			
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following work up to 13:30 hrs on 10.10.2019. The details of the tenders are as under:							
Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form	Completion Period	Similar work for Eligibility Criteria
1	165	Housekeeping and operation of Existing Officer's Rest House at Kanpur under ADEN/HQ/CNB for One year	₹ 3387841.77	₹ 67800/-	₹ 3000/-	12 Months	Nil
2	166	Rendering annual services of maintenance of Railway Service buildings and Railway colonies in Kanpur-Rurah section	₹ 10907400.00	₹ 204500/-	₹ 5000/-	12 Months	Any Civil Engineering work
3	167	Track works in Connection with Doubling Between NCC to Kanpur Central and Provision of Crossover at Kanpur Central Station for Simultaneous movement of 3rd & 4th line	₹ 6709840.17	₹ 134200/-	₹ 5000/-	05 Months	P.Way work
Date of opening of Tender: 10.10.2019 Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs. on the due date of tender opening i.e 10.10.2019 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with digital signature certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall only be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendor shall be straight way ignored and shall not be considered. 4. The tenderers shall submit a notarified affidavit on a non judicial stamp paper of 100/- as given in tender document in standard format without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 5. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time 6. Documents being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 7. This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 8. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 9. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 10. Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 10.10.2019 1349/19(I)							

E-Tendering Tender Notice					
Tender Notice No.: 5920192020		Date: 16.09.2019			
Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Allahabad, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender by Two Packet System on prescribed form for the following work up to 13:30 hrs on 16.10.2019. The details of the Tender are as under:					
Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cost of work	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Form	Completion period
168	Extension/Raising of low/medium level platform to high level platform in Tundla-Ghaziabad	₹ 14.22 Crore	₹ 861100/-	₹ 10000/-	12 months
Date of Opening of tender: 16.10.2019 Eligibility Criteria For similar work: Any Civil Engineering Work. Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tender by Two Packet System is available on website on www.ireps.gov.in upto 13:30 hrs on the due date of tender opening i.e. 16.10.2019. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. The tenderers shall submit a notarified affidavit on a non judicial stamp paper of ₹ 100/- as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. 4. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1352/19(I)					
North central railways		www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in		@CPRONCR	

कार्यालय-मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी, फतेहपुर

पत्रांक-मुचिआओ/पीएमएएमवीआई/नियोजन/2019-20/1822 दिनांक-18/19.09.2019

NOTICE

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is being implemented by Govt. of India in all the states to provide financial support to Pregnant Women to resolve their health and nutrition problems. SIFPSA has been designed as the Nodal agency to implement PMMVY Scheme, funded by Govt. of India in the State of UP.

Hence, under PMMVY, District Magistrate invites applications from experienced personnel having outstanding professional competence to effectively implement the same through the following positions at District Level on contractual basis.

District Programme Coordinator 01 : (Consolidated Salary Rs. 45000/- PM, Age below 45 year) Post Graduate degree in Social Science / Life Science / Nutrition / Medicine / Health Management / Social Work / Rural, Management from a reputed educational institution having at least 03 years experience in planning, Implementation and monitoring of child & women nutrition programmes. High Level of proficiency in verbal and Written Hindi & English. having good Computer skills (MS Word, Excel and Power Point is essential). Candidates having experience of working with govt. / non govt. organizations, knowledge of project management techniques and key nutrition issues & nutrition programme would be given preference.

District Programme Assistant - 1 : (Consolidated Salary Rs. 25000/- PM, Age below 40 year) Graduate degree in Social Science / Social Work / Rural Management / Statistics from a reputed educational institution having at least 02 years experience in planning, Implementation and monitoring of High Level of proficiency in verbal & written Hindi & English. having good computer skills (MS Word, Excel and Power Point and proficiency in data entry and analysis is essential). Candidates having experience of working with govt. / non govt. organizations, knowledge of project management techniques and Hindi and English typing would be given preference.

For details of prescribed format, educational qualification, experience, Job description, preferred age etc relating to above posts, please visit fatehpur.nic.in (url link-https://fatehpur.nic.in/notice/application-for-the-appointment-of-programme-coordinator-and-programme-assistant-under-pmmvy/?preview=true) All applications should be sent to Chief Medical Officer, Fatehpur through e-mail only on cmopmmvyp@gmail.com before 15.10.2019 at 4.00 PM. Applications not received in prescribed format or after the last date shall not be considered.

Minimum cut of marks (point) would be 30 out of 50 (60%) for shortlisting of candidates, maximum in the ratio of 1:10 as per the merit rank, would be called for interview and Computer Test. Minimum cut of marks (point) would be 50% for both Computer Test and interview. Shortlisted candidates will call for interview through Registered Post.

Candidates who have passed Graduation or Post Graduation through regular course only from reputed institutions will be considered. However, any specialization / certificate course done through correspondence /on-line would also be considered.

District Magistrate / Chairman, has the full right to cancel any Post without giving any reason.

मुख्य चिकित्साधिकारी फतेहपुर

Missing woods for trees

Banning electronic cigarettes might send a message but will only drive usage underground



Decades of action by advocacy groups and the anti-tobacco lobby had finally made smoking uncool, to a degree at least, among younger people. This was a big change considering smoking was, for almost a century, one of the ultimate hallmarks of confidence for teenagers and a sign of having arrived. Films, brands and advertisements had reinforced that image till the time research didn't link life-threatening diseases to a costly indulgence. Sustained campaigning might not have got many smokers to kick the butt but they looked for alternatives. And then vaping came along as an option. Born through the burgeoning marijuana industry in the US, it involves taking a liquid concentrate and "vapourising" it by heating it to extreme temperatures thanks to an electric arc. It is a cleaner way of inhaling active ingredients and the US tobacco industry, wary of losing customers to the burgeoning competition, quickly adopted vaping or electronic cigarettes as a method of consumption. But much like hookahs in India, where "flavoured" mixes made the habit popular among a younger audience, flavoured vapes became a hot-seller. For kids, smoking bubblegum flavoured e-cigarette concentrates and exchanging their capsules became the "new cool." But then many experts claimed that vaping innocuous flavoured mixes could be a gateway to ultimate nicotine addiction. Vaping was also claimed to tax our lungs in much the same way. So banning e-cigarettes was, some argued, the need of the hour. Of course, nobody is considering that the stricture could also push more smokers to conventional tobacco. Besides, is the Government being truly altruistic, considering that it appears to be playing into the hands of the tobacco lobby? Banning e-cigarettes definitely makes it look more interested in protecting cigarette companies and raises questions if there is a vested interest involved. The ghoulish advisories in multiplexes and on cigarette packets look hypocritical too.

As for the target audience, the ban will have little impact. Rebellious teenagers will continue to smoke e-cigarettes. Going by past experiences, banning substances has no impact on usage. Psychotropic drugs are a strict no-no but go to any party with college students and you will find a plethora of substances, including LSD, being bandied about. The fact is that the Government has succumbed to the tobacco lobby again, which was fearful of losing its high-end customers who bought expensive cigarettes. After all, vaping is not something for those with limited purchasing power; only the rich can afford it. These are not the individuals who will be hurt by this ban which, therefore, will end up being pointless. Instead, the curbs will drive the market for concentrates and e-cigarettes underground, which will be dangerous. Therefore, regulation and taxation are the need of the hour. Most citizens are actually not interested in breaking the law and would have been happy to pay the taxes and smoke lower concentrations of nicotine in their liquids. This is also another example of India becoming a "nanny state" and "maximum Government, minimum governance." Trotting out the Finance Minister to announce the ban when the economy is in the doldrums is just another sign that the Government is not taking up real matters seriously. Ingenuous Indians will find a way to work around it and others will make a living breaking it, much like the joke that prohibition was in Gujarat until it was relaxed.

Howdy NRIs

UN report lists Indian diaspora to be the largest at 17.5 million, a number we should harvest as a strategic asset



There's no doubt that Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have been assets to host countries. But now they can be the nation's valued spokespersons, lobbyists and ambassadors and project our face to the world as the UN's International Migrant Stock report has declared the Indian diaspora to be the biggest with a total strength of 17.5 million. Though we have been topping the diaspora chart in recent times, what is commendable is that we have been able to maintain our spot despite stringent visa norms by some nations.

This pool represents a little over six per cent of the total global migrant population. The latest report comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Howdy" event in Houston where he is expected to address a 50,000-strong congregation of NRIs, a constituency that even US President Donald Trump cannot ignore as he hopes to cultivate numbers for his re-election campaign. With the US imposing strict migration norms, the number of Indians migrating to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) outnumbered those of the US, clearly pointing out that you cannot put down an enterprising Indian. This despite a 21 per cent decline in the number of emigration clearances to the UAE.

For some time now, Asian nations have sought to tap into their diaspora to present their case to the Western majors, convince them of their growth potential, procure funding and improve technical knowhow. It is the intense engagement with the diaspora that has helped us score many points in both international and soft diplomacy, strengthened our brand and reshaped perceptions. India is among the largest remittance-receiving countries in the world with NRIs ploughing back \$80 billion back home. These have had a multiplier effect on our economy, particularly in the social sectors that encompass a slew of educational and healthcare projects. They have also been instrumental in bringing back international domain expertise, the reason why Bengaluru, Gurugram and Hyderabad have today become technological hubs with the existence of multinational companies like Google, Amazon, IKEA and Facebook among others. The Government could immediately formalise a rotation exchange programme at all levels for top NRI scientists, engineers, doctors, managers and professionals to serve in their home country for a brief period. The Indian diaspora consists of some accomplished individuals, who have made the country proud. Many of them are visible in electoral politics and even hold key positions within administrations in other nations. With their increasing prominence, the Government, too, has been reaching out to them to keep them invested in the cause of furthering India's interests. Besides, with countries like Canada and Australia relaxing rules for work permits based on competence and even Germany encouraging flow of skilled workers and service professionals, there's an exodus of middle classes. We need to keep them connected. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has emerged as a solid cross-flow platform while the Government has been walking the extra mile to rescue Indians from crisis situations, be it in Iraq, Syria or Libya. Yet much more needs to be done to ensure big-ticket investments and NRI inclusion in the domestic discourse. The Government needs to work on a policy outreach consistently as NRIs clearly are our "strategic asset."

DEEPAK SINHA

It's almost been two months since Prime Minister Narendra Modi upset the Pakistani appeacart by amending Article 370 of the Constitution and dividing the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories. To suggest that the Pakistani leadership has gone ballistic, as it finds itself scrambling to come up with a coherent policy to counter Modi's initiative, would be an understatement. Of course, within the Valley, stringent security measures that have been in place since August 5, have not just prevented any display of collective anger but have also made it extremely difficult to assess how the average Kashmiri will respond once restrictions are lifted.

There is little doubt that the biggest impediment to the integration of the State into the Indian Union has been Article 370, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, when the Constituent Assembly approved and promulgated the Constitution. In effect, the Article kept the question of J&K joining the Union of India ambivalent. This despite the fact that the Maharaja of J&K had signed the Document of Accession unconditionally and had willingly accepted the State's integration into the Indian Union, as was his right to do. This ambivalence, along with the manner in which the Central and State Governments have acted over the years, has confused and strained the loyalties of Kashmiris towards the country.

The irony is that while Pakistan is now objecting to the abrogation of Article 370 and calling it illegal, its position on this issue was diametrically opposite in 1951. This can be inferred from the Pakistan Government's letters No S/2119 and S/2145, addressed to the president of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which though not available in the public domain, implies just that. The statement of the then UNSC President to the Security Council made at that time read: "Members of the Security Council, at its 548th meeting held on May 29, 1951, have heard with satisfaction the assurances of the representative of India that any Constituent Assembly that may be established in Srinagar is not intended to prejudice the issues before the Security Council or come in its way. On the other hand, the two communications to me, as President of the Council, from the representatives of Pakistan, set forth in documents S/2119 and S/2145, contain reports which, if they are correct, indicate that steps are being taken by the Yuwaraja of J&K to convoke a Constituent Assembly, one function of which, according to Sheikh Abdullah, would be a decision on the further shape and affiliation of Kashmir. It is the sense of the Security Council that these reports, if correct, would involve procedures which are in conflict with the commitments of the parties to determine the future accession of the State by a fair and impartial plebiscite conducted under United Nations auspices."

If the contents of the letters do confirm what is suggested, then Pakistan must certainly be asked to justify the change in its stance. What this will prove is that Pakistan's actions are lacking in consistency and are hypocritical, to say the least. Not that the issue of hypocrisy is in doubt given its blatant disregard for UN resolutions. One may recall that both India and Pakistan had accepted the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) No 80 of March 14, 1950, that called for plebiscite. This was conditional as the first step in that process was the withdrawal of Pakistani forces within five months. That Pakistan refused to withdraw from the territories it had illegally occupied and continues to subjugate till date is not disputed.

Moreover, it went further in this regard by taking unilateral steps to cede territories to China, separated Gilgit and Baltistan administratively from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir and carried out extensive and widespread demographic changes in this region, thus reducing the Kashmiri population to a minority. In these circumstances, the validity of the resolution is in question.

Not surprisingly, Pakistan is not the only one left tongue-tied and confused by recent events. Opposition parties back home, both at the national and State level, such as the Congress and its allies along with the Left, the National Conference, and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), too, found themselves in a similar predicament. Of course, one can sympathise with the

Pakistan's hypocrisy

Our neighbour can keep raging over the revocation of Article 370 but J&K will undergo a massive transformation if even half of what has been promised is implemented



confusion within the Kashmiri parties given the fact that their first-rung leadership remains in detention or "protective custody", whichever way one may like to term it. Yet, their confusion appears to have been born out of a sense of apathy, tunnel vision and a refusal to undertake any change in status quo, despite being fully aware that substantive political steps needed to be taken if the cycle of violence was to be broken and insurgency stamped out. Their inaction clearly showed that not only did they accrue benefits from the "business of insurgency" but were also apathetic to the consequences of their actions on the local population, the Army, the CRPF and local police, who continued to pay in blood.

The parties also ignored the fact that the BJP had included the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in its election manifesto and that these issues were finding increasing prominence in the public discourse. Given the Prime Minister's track record in such matters during his first tenure, they cannot be fully blamed for being lulled into a sense of complacency. Opposition parties have subsequently also had to deal with the overwhelming support this action received within the country, leaving aside some elements in the Kashmir Valley, who in any case will never be pleased with whatever the Central Government does.

"Mainlanders", as Indians from outside the Valley are

referred to by the locals, are mostly at a loss to understand the angst of the average Kashmiri. The air of entitlement and superiority that pervades the Valley is utterly incomprehensible, given the fact that it is the taxpayers' money that has been utilised over the decades to feed their egos and lifestyles.

Facts will speak for themselves: With just one per cent of India's population, the State received 10 per cent of all Central grants between 2000 and 2016. In comparison, Uttar Pradesh, that accommodates 13 per cent of the population, received just 8.5 per cent of these grants within the same period. Not that this infusion of funds has done anything for the average Kashmiri, especially when one sees that the net per capita State GDP increased from approximately ₹40,000 to only around ₹60,000 during 2012-17.

In comparison, in a hill State of similar size, Himachal Pradesh, the per capita net GDP grew from ₹80,000 to ₹1,20,000 within the same period. Therefore, the average taxpayer is certainly entitled to ask where has all the money gone? Who is to be held accountable and why wasn't this step taken three decades ago, if not earlier? Many have expressed doubts that the abrogation of Article 370 has played into the hands of the separatists. By destroying the credibility of the leadership of the mainline political parties within the State, it will be the militants who will fill the

vacuum left behind. That support would be contingent on the belief that the Central Government will usher in demographic changes that will impinge on their culture, language and the way of life.

This need not be so if the region is given a special status under Article 471, as has been done for other States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some in the North-East. However, what is undeniable is that every Kashmiri, whether he/she admits it or not, is fully cognisant that status quo over these past decades has only held them hostage to unending violence and a scramble to eke out a living. They also know that over the years, the only ones to have benefitted were the politicians, the separatists and those running the administration as they were all complicit in ensuring that required checks and balances could be avoided.

Well, if Prime Minister Modi can implement even half of what he has promised, there is little doubt that J&K will undergo a massive transformation for the better. Therefore, the choice before the people is crystal clear. The only thing one can no longer do is sit astride both boats and blame the consequences on circumstance or fate.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a consultant with the Observer Research Foundation and a Senior Visiting Fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai)

SOUNDBITE

If anyone from Pakistan goes to India to fight jihad...he will be the first to do injustice to Kashmiris, he will be the enemy of Kashmiris.



Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan

They say men don't cry. Crying doesn't mean being strong or weak. It's a release of an emotion. Why stop it?



Actor —Sunny Deol

Human rights must be fully respected in the territory and dialogue between India and Pakistan is an essential element for a solution to the problem.



UN chief —Antonio Guterres

Earlier the slogan was Kashmir Humara Hai (Kashmir is ours). Now we must work towards a new one, Naya Kashmir banana hai (We must make a new Kashmir).



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Discriminatory provision

Sir — Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath deserves commendation for doing away with the four-decade-old illogical practice of paying income tax of Ministers from the public exchequer. One wonders why and how the anti-public policy was adopted and why it is still prevalent in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These States must also abolish the practice.

At the very least, the Prime Minister can advise the BJP-ruled States to do so and hope that the remaining would follow out of a sense of shame. Salaries, perks, privileges and post-retirement benefits, including pension to all those in the legislature, should be taken up by the Centre, rather than leaving them at the discretion of State Governments.

SC Agrawal
Delhi

Progressive step

Sir — India has done well to ban the sale of electronic cigarettes.

Do what's right for the Valley

This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). The turn of events in Jammu & Kashmir has been disconcerting. Former Chief Minister and National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah did not deserve to be booked under the Public Safety Act and arrested and jailed in his own house. Like many of his compatriots, he has only exercised his right to an opinion. Booking a leader, who has served as a "bridge" between the Valley and mainland India for several decades, is a clear indication of the trust deficit between those in power in New Delhi and the Kashmiri leaders.

The treatment now being meted out to the three-time Chief Minister is blatant ingratitude because he has openly advocated the Valley's continued existence as an integral part of India. The worst part is that the country's top court has not come to his rescue and objected to his detention in lieu of his Constitutionally guaranteed rights. Moves like the detention of leaders like Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti do not help dispel the concerns about attitude regard-

ing the Valley's integration with the rest of India. The world's largest democracy that it is, India must ease restrictions, allow freedom and dissent and enable the people to breathe easy.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

With 106 million adult smokers, the country ranks second only to China in the world, making it a lucrative market for companies making vaping products such as US-based Juul and Philip Morris, who manufacture the heat-not-burn tobacco device.

Essentially, the ban can cut off a huge future market from e-cigarette makers at a time when the

number of people smoking worldwide is seeing a decline.

As expected, the Association of Vapers India, which represents e-cigarette users, attacked the Government's decision, saying it would deprive millions of smokers of a safer solution to cut back on smoking. They say vaping is far less harmful than smoking tobacco. But many tobacco-control

activists are of the view that the usage of such devices could lead to nicotine addiction and push the people towards the consumption of tobacco. With this ban, much more holistic work is needed to bring down the overall tobacco use in India. Clearly much more needs to be done for a smoke-free nation.

J Akshay
Bengaluru

Creating unrest

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Farooq, now a threat" (September 18). It is unfortunate that former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was arrested and his home turned into jail under the draconian Public Safety Act, which entails detention of up to two years for "posing a threat to State security and territorial integrity." His arrest speaks more about the Government than about a man who, until now, was the face of the moderate Kashmiri.

He and his son, Omar Abdullah, may have much answering to do about their record of governance in Jammu & Kashmir but none can question their fealty to the Constitution. It is known that this 82-year-old man is no threat to Indian territorial integrity or State security. It is astonishing that the court has accepted it without even questioning the Centre for using a draconian Act against a key political leader.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The Modi-Trump bromance show

India and the US will have to draw a roadmap of engagements and discussions to serve as each other's natural strategic allies



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Leaders of two of the world's oldest and largest democracies will jointly face one of the biggest national minority influencer/voter groups in Houston, in what could be one of the "greatest shows around the globe" highlighting close cultural and economic ties between India and the US. The venue for this show has been carefully chosen, with attention to detail, beginning with the theme "Howdy Modi," a play on the popular Texan greeting. The state of Texas, also referred to as the "Lone Star", to signify its former status as an independent republic post its freedom struggle against Mexico and subsequent accession to the US, has been carefully chosen at an opportune time when Pakistan-led forces are trying to draw international attention to Kashmir. Widely used images of the Wild West, a fearless, trigger happy cowboy, riding a horse and ready to protect his cattle, fit in well with the "tough men" image of both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump.

But there is more. With the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) slightly short of the \$2-trillion mark, Texas is America's second-largest economy. In fact, if it were still a sovereign state it would have been the world's tenth-largest economy. Houston, the largest metropolis in Texas, is India's fourth-largest trading partner with bilateral trade in excess of \$7 billion in 2018. This state is high on energy with crude oil productions and oil refineries fuelling many economies around the globe. Clearly India, with a \$2.7 trillion economy racing towards the \$5 trillion mark, needs vast energy sources to arrive early!

Those heady numbers apart, the foundation of a long-term relationship lies in creating long-term "optical frameworks" for a strategically chosen target audience. Texas is home to nearly 2.5 lakh Indian-Americans, historically conservative in their political beliefs and wealthier than other such national groups. This fits in well with both the Modi and Trump brand of politics, given their emphasis on projecting "strong men" images, saviours of culture and the clarion call to make the homeland "Great Again," in front of a large audience.

Statistically, this would be the largest Indian diaspora (50,000-strong) both Modi and Trump will be facing in the US for the first time. This would be Trump's brush with Indian-style election campaigning, with song, dance and promises. Promises to be made and kept, to put India-US bilateral trade talks back on the track. The world's largest democracies hit a rough patch in the last one year with trade and tariff restrictions souring traditional relationships more than impacting the actual trade. India and the US will be eager to announce trade deals, keeping in mind domestic constituencies. The event will also see participation from American leadership cutting across party lines. Apart from Republican and Democratic Congressmen and Senators, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, the second-ranking member of the Democratic leadership, is also going to address the 'Howdy Modi' event. This reflects the strong bipartisan support for India-US relations.

Not surprisingly, US and Indian trade ministers have been busy in preparatory talks in the run-up to the show, with as many as ten phone calls between them. India is saddled with a not-so-official slowing economy and Trump needs a big trade victory ahead of 2020. The restrictions on benefits under generalised trade preferences may be first on the agenda from the Indian perspective, while higher tariffs on high-end medical devices and tech products will be the go-to agenda from the US side. There may be a softening of stance by either economies and a turn of phrase or a change in verbiage may ease "ready to roll" big ticket investment and partnership announcements.

On the platter also would be the great divide between India and US on definition and movement of data across boundaries. India is in the middle of framing rules and guidelines around personal and non-personal data usage, storage, monetisation and accessibility. The US and many "countries of origin of big data-using companies" are watching this space with keenness as any restrictions imposed here may lead to huge consequences for the future of investment flows. Even though data may not feature prominently in Indo-US trade talks on September 22, somewhere, the two sides ought to make it a bilateral dialogue as it will be beneficial for both countries in the long run. For now, besides a compelling three-hour broadcast on Sunday, keenly watched by many across the globe, with many more searches being generated for Houston on Google, India and the US will have to draw a roadmap of engagements and discussions to arrive at a balance for constituencies and economy on bilateral trade issues as well as serve as each other's natural strategic allies.

(The writer is a policy analyst)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

IT IS A MISPLACED FACT THAT PEOPLE IN PAKISTAN ARE UNHAPPY. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SPREADING LIES FOR POLITICAL BENEFITS.

—NCP LEADER SHARAD PAWAR



I FEEL BAD WHEN A LEADER LIKE PAWAR MAKES WRONG STATEMENTS FOR VOTES. EVERYONE KNOWS WHERE THE TERROR FACTORY IS.

— PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

Focus on making history

There is a lesson to be learnt from the coverage of the Chandrayaan-2 mission and that is there is a difference between witnessing an epic feat unfold and achieving it



VV SUNDAR

There is a performance zone in which we all thrive. When handling critical projects, teams not only require resources but also need to work in an environment free from distractions and disturbances so that they can achieve their objectives. It is always the last lap, "minutes of terror" rather, that defines the difference between success and failure.

A calm, sedate environment and resolute attention to micro-details are not only required but also expected. After investing so much effort in planning, if things go wrong, the team has to take all the negative consequences in their stride. Particularly when it is something as critical as a space mission that is on the global radar, apart from being a matter of immense national pride.

Something similar happened recently with the Chandrayaan-2 mission at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), an institution the country takes immense pride in. After the space agency lost communication with the Vikram lander ahead of the touchdown, the visuals on television sets were of bewildered and disappointed faces in the mission control room, which was crowded with clunky cameras and peering eyes.

A frustrated look here, a distracted countenance there, the devastation and tension was palpable and writ large on the faces of the staff, desperately trying to make contact with the Vikram during the final act. In their hearts, they were probably also praying to be left alone to do their jobs since a complication had arisen. It was not as if they didn't know failures, the success of their launches has come through them. And perhaps, they are best equipped to handle their lows but not at the expense of being panned by the world.

The price of encroaching upon mental and physical spaces — no matter how slightly or reverently — comes at the cost of the team's optimal functioning. It can handicap its focus on the crucial work at hand.

The sanctity of the operation control room cannot be violated. No external gadgetry or personnel should ever make way into the sanctum sanctorum. What if a short circuit happened due to faulty equipment brought in? There's always the possibility of a camera battery catching fire or some such mishap. Where would that lead us? It was surprising to see such a risky act playing out freely in front of our eyes in the mission control room itself. The operation control centre is kept out of bounds to non-essential staff, personnel and gadgets. In the entire scheme of things, mission control rooms occupy a highly sanitised, secure, safe and secluded space, be it airports, ports or railway networks. And here we are talking about a space mission! Second, the world can wait. There is a difference between witnessing history and history being "made." The witnessing part can wait. Let's first focus on making the history. Let's get the job done first. Successful execution should be the only priority, as compared to the rituals of receiving visitors and posing for the cameras.

There should be a provision for deferred live broadcast of such major events once the mission has been accomplished. It is not a soccer match for the public to enjoy; it is a highly



LET US HOPE RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS DO NOT FALL PREY TO OR ARE SMITTEN BY MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH DELIVERING FEATS THAT OPEN UP THE NEXT FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE WHICH CHANDRAYAAN-2 WAS DESTINED TO DO. LET US LEAVE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ALONE, THEY KNOW THEIR JOB AND THEY CAN DELIVER WITHOUT FALLING INTO THE TRAP OF MAKING EVERYTHING INTO A TELEVISED SPECTACLE



nerve-racking scientific operation being played out at the far end of the galaxy. What is the point of adding to the pressure in an already highly-charged environment while our scientists are still remotely choreographing and delicately manoeuvring a space mission in the vast expanses of outer space?

The media circus surrounding the coverage of the event was as usual clichéd. But what came as a new low was some media personnel haranguing the scientists to bring none other than the ISRO chief to face their queries during a press conference. That was when the mission was still under way and operational issues were still being sorted! It also clearly shows how the space organisation has been left wanting in handling their communications protocols.

Barring a few exceptions, science journalism died long ago in the country. No wonder television channels thought it fit to send "political reporters" in droves to cover this specific event. The media's wall-to-wall coverage was as usual clichéd. The core competencies of our television anchors to take on character-acting and dramatisation with ease comes quite naturally to them, just like a fish takes to the water.

It would have saved the day if the media and invitees were only allowed after the operations were definitively complete and a recorded minute-by-minute account was relayed to them, sans nail biting suspense, which only

a handful of staff should be privileged to access and witness first, in a studied controlled environment setting. It would also have saved the technicians and scientists a lot of unwanted attention and pressure.

Also, in the light of the partial failure of the mission and the subsequent emotional breakdown of the chief, it would have saved ISRO a lot of embarrassment and heartbreak too.

The presence of top bosses, be it political or executive, might lift up the team's spirit but it can also add undue pressure and divert attention and time. When there is a delicate and expensive mission waiting to be executed, a few milliseconds are all that it takes to make a difference between success and failure. Had India successfully landed the craft, it would have been the fourth nation in the world to land a vessel on the Moon's surface, and only the third to operate a robotic rover there. The Chandrayaan-2 mission, which cost roughly \$140 million, was intended to study the permanently shadowed moon craters, thought to contain water deposits, confirmed by the Chandrayaan-1 mission 11 years ago. However, that was not to be.

Whatever the loss, national pride or monetary, let us not patronise scientists by thumping their backs or wiping their tears. They need none of that. Perhaps none other than the scientific community knows it better and is accustomed to accepting failures with grace and humility before they hit

upon success. That this is so was very evident from the encouraging and gracious responses of space scientists from countries, who have been part of failures and successes of missions like this. It is part and parcel of their daily routine and high stakes space missions. We just need to maintain a measured, respectful and dispassionate distance from those who are executing their work. It is their sole and primary responsibility to the nation to perform and maintain the integrity of the process without fixating on results. Nothing should come in their way. We should leave them to their devices and let their work speak eloquently.

Lastly, with such high stakes, it is also unseemly to see a lack of well-trained professional communication apparatus to handle such events. ISRO could have handled the media in a more nuanced manner. It is time that communications become a key component for the organisation in all its future endeavours.

Let us hope research organisations do not fall prey to or are smitten by media coverage but are only concerned with delivering feats that open up the next frontiers of science which Chandrayaan-2 was destined to do. Let us leave the scientific community alone; they know their job and they can deliver without falling into the trap of making everything into a televised spectacle.

(The writer is a seasoned communications professional and management consultant based in New Delhi)

A time of reckoning for babus at last

To change the growing perception that there is a lack of accountability regarding performance and misdeeds of civil servants, the Modi Government has brought in reforms that are expected to foster professionalism and competence, says Devesh Chaturvedi

The civil services have contributed immensely to nation-building since India's Independence, yet they are criticised for resisting changes, stifling innovation and being oblivious to external realities. There is also a growing perception that there's a lack of performance accountability and that misdeeds of civil servants often go unpunished. To address these challenges, the Government, in the last five years, has initiated a series of reforms that have impacted almost all sections of the bureaucracy. Keeping the sanctity of the recruitment process in the civil services is a must to ensure that freshers do not develop a cynical attitude. The Government realised that personality tests or interviews did not add any value to the recruitment process at the lower levels of bureaucracy. Instead, they only created a subjectivity which often led to corruption and nepotism. Hence, it decided to discontinue with the interviews in the recruit-

ments for Group C and Group B non-gazetted posts. Many State Governments also followed suit. The results have been quite encouraging as the candidates have been pleasantly surprised for having been selected on merit without resorting to payment of bribes or using undue influence. The Fundamental Rule 56-J and All-India Death-Cum-Retirement Benefit rules provide that the Government can prematurely retire any civil servant after giving three months' notice. However, for years, these provisions for screening of deadwood were not being implemented. These rules are now being implemented and a thorough screening of service records of officials by a committee is helping identify non-performers. This exercise has sent a message that there is a premium attached to both performance and probity. It was also noticed that the cadre-allotment policies were weakening the all-India character of the services and were detrimental to the

spirit of cooperative federalism. The officers were being allotted cadres based on choice. This resulted in officers landing either in their home or adjoining cadre, thus fostering inertia and a hesitation to serve on central deputation in the Government. In fact, the services were slowly being converted into glorified State services. The Government brought a reformed cadre allotment policy in 2017, based on a roster for five regions in which all the cadres were clubbed, thus ensuring that the all-India character of the services was restored. It also encouraged officers who have served in cadres other than their domicile, to opt for central deputation. It was also noticed that freshly-recruited IAS officers got important field-level posts like that of District Magistrate, Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishads and Municipal Corporations for the first 10 to 12 years of their service. However, they often lacked the national perspective while serving

at the grassroots and this hampered their effectiveness. To address this issue, since 2015, freshly-recruited IAS officers are being deputed as Assistant Secretaries in the Government of India for three months immediately after their academy training and just before they go back to their respective State cadres for field postings. Experience has shown that this innovation helped young officers imbibe a national perspective that helped them address local issues holistically and with confidence. Further, the performance of civil servants was measured primarily through the elaborate system of Performance Appraisal Reports (PARs). It was realised that due to the complete disclosure of PARs to the officers assessed, there was widespread grade inflation. Officers were being over-assessed and rated outstanding, notwithstanding their performance. PAR had become a public relations exercise with supervisory officers reluctant to give lower rating for fear of strained rela-

tions at the workplace. This had an adverse impact on the empanelment of officers at the Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary and Secretary or equivalent levels. It became difficult to distinguish high performers from others. The Government, therefore, implemented the process of Multi Source Feedback (MSF) or 360 degree appraisal, which is used along with the PARs to assess the suitability of officers for higher positions in the Government. This was also recommended by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, as well as the Surendranath Committee on Performance Appraisal Reforms. This intervention created ripples in bureaucratic circles as the feedback about officers was obtained from peers, subordinates and seniors on various personality attributes. The success of this intervention will, however, be judged by the resulting inclusion of errors in the reformed empanelment process, since the exclusion errors can be corrected by subsequent reviews.

There was also a demand for lateral infusion of talent from outside to enrich Government policy processes. The high echelons of policy-making are primarily manned by officers from three sources. The Indian Administrative Services (IAS), other participating All India and Central services and the Central Secretariat Services (CSS). The Government decided to bring in talent from outside through lateral recruitment at the Joint Secretary Level. Ten such positions were thrown open and recruitment were done through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). It will be interesting to watch their contributions and amalgamation in the working of the Government. This reform is likely to generate a healthy competition among peers, fostering professionalism, efficiency and competencies in the policy-making process. While these reforms were aimed at bringing in accountability in performance and conduct, the Government also addressed rising

concerns related to the policy paralysis resulting from risk averseness among the civil services. Significantly, the risk awareness was brought on by multiple investigations by anti-corruption agencies in various cases. The amendments in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 passed in 2018 has provisions that are aimed at protecting honest and well-meaning civil servants. The provision of prior approval for initiating any investigation and deletion of Section 13 (1) (d)(iii) of the Act were a result of the Government's resolve to send a message that bonafide commercial decision will be defended and civil servants may go ahead with bold decision making in public interest. These reforms are expected to bring in the desired accountability, professionalism and competencies in the civil services to meet modern day challenges. (The writer is Principal Secretary, Medical, Health & Family Welfare Department, in Uttar Pradesh Govt.)

Sensex crashes 470 points on weak macro data, global cues

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks resumed their downward march on Thursday as tepid tax collection numbers fanned fears of a prolonged slowdown, prompting investors to unwind risky bets.

Hawkish commentary from the US Federal Reserve and incessant foreign fund outflows further weighed on sentiment, traders said.

After gyrating 626 points, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 470.41 points, or 1.29 per cent, lower at 36,093.47.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty plunged 135.85 points, or 1.25 per cent, to settle at 10,704.80. The previous closing low for Nifty was 10,604.35 on February 19, 2019.

The Centre's direct tax mop-up is said to have grown just 4.7 per cent till September 17, compared to a target of 17.5 per cent budgeted for the full year, which analysts said reflects deepening slump in demand and overall growth.

Yes Bank was the biggest loser in the Sensex pack, plunging 15.52 per cent, after a Moody's report said Altico default may be credit negative for banks given their significant exposure to the real estate sector.

Among the banks Moody's rates, Yes Bank and IndusInd Bank have the largest direct exposure to commercial real estate and will be susceptible to asset quality difficulties if the sector continues to slow, the agency said.

IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank too fell up to 3.59 per cent. Other losers included Tata Steel, Maruti, SBI, RIL, Tech Mahindra, ONGC, Vedanta, Bajaj Finance, Hero MotoCorp and TCS, falling up to 3.66 per cent.

Tata Motors, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel and Asian Paints were the only gainers, rising up to 1.97 per cent.

"Lower tax collection figures spooked markets today as FIs continued selling in key pivots, dragging down indices. Exposure of many Private Sector Banks towards commercial real estate further accentuated selling towards afternoon trade across these counters. Investors are getting jittery on PSU names as they keep losing market capitalisation rapidly," said S Ranganathan, head of research at LKP Securities.

Sectorally, BSE energy, oil and gas, bank, metal, realty, auto, healthcare, tech and IT indices cracked up to 2 per cent. Telecom was the sole gainer,

inching up 0.17 per cent. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices ended up to 1.48 per cent lower.

Investor wealth dropped by ₹1.65 lakh crore on Thursday as equities witnessed a heavy sell-off. Led by the weak trend in the broader market, the market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies plunged ₹1,65,437.91 crore to ₹1,38,54,439.41 crore.

"Continuous selling by FIs and uncertainty over future trajectory of Fed rate cut dampened investors sentiment. Slowdown in direct tax collection and rise in oil prices will limit government's space for stimulus measures which will continue to act as a downside risk to the market," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services Ltd said.

From the 30-share pack, 26 companies closed the day with losses, led by Yes Bank which tumbled 15.52 per cent.

At the BSE, 1,828 scrips declined, while 686 advanced and 114 remained unchanged.

As many as 116 stocks dropped to their one-year low level on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve slashed the policy rate by 25 basis points on Wednesday but dimmed hopes for further rate cuts as it took

a cautious approach to further reductions in borrowing costs. Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Nikkei and Kospi ended on a positive note, while Hang Seng settled in the red.

Stock exchanges in Europe were trading in the green in their respective early sessions.

Foreign portfolio investor sold shares worth a net of ₹959.09 crore on Wednesday, while domestic institutional investors bought equities worth ₹780.45 crore, provisional data showed.

Brent crude futures gained 1.98 per cent to USD 64.81 per barrel (intra-day).

The rupee dropped 10 paise to close at 71.34 against the US dollar on Thursday.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened on a strong note at 71.36 and shuttled between a high of 71.06 and a low of 71.37. It finally finished at 71.34, lower by 10 paise over its previous close of 71.24.

"Since the morning, rupee has been tracking the move in crude. Overnight drop in oil led rupee to appreciate. However, the escalating tensions in Middle East limited the gains in rupee," said Rahul Gupta, currency research head, Emkay Global Financial Services Limited.

Mukesh Ambani's shareholding has not increased in company: Reliance

New Delhi (PTI): Reliance Industries on Thursday clarified that promoter and chairman Mukesh Ambani has not acquired any new shares in the company and that his stake has not increased.

This statement comes after the company had on September 17 through a 'Disclosure under Reg/29(2) of Sebi (SAST) Regulations, 2011' said that Reliance Services and Holdings Ltd (controlled by Petroleum Trust, a part of promoter/promoter group), has acquired 17.18 crore or 2.71 per cent stake in the company "pursuant to a scheme of arrangement not directly involving the target company (Reliance)".

"The aggregate shareholding/voting rights of the Promote and Promote Group now stands at 309.8 crore shares — 48.87 per cent," it had said.

The company's filing to stock exchanges for the shareholding pattern for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, showed promoter group holding at 47.29 per cent. The company in an emailed statement said: "There has been no transaction of purchase of shares". It said: "41.28 crore treasury shares of Reliance Industries were held as follows by (a) by Petroleum Trust 24.09 crore shares; and (b) by subsidiaries of RIL 17.19 crore shares.

Govt reworking its strategy to enhance direct tax mop-up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is reworking its strategy to boost revenue collection from direct taxes which has been lagging behind so far, a senior CBDT official said on Thursday.

The government has set a direct tax collection target of ₹13.35 lakh crore for the current fiscal, which includes ₹7.66 lakh crore from corporate tax and ₹5.69 lakh crore as income tax.

"Growth in direct tax collection has been less than expected. The Central Board of Direct Taxes will look into this and rework its strategy," Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Member Akhilesh Ranjan said on the sidelines of an

Assocham event.

Ranjan, who is also the convenor of the task force on Direct Tax Code, said taxpayers in the country should not see paying income tax as a burden.

Asked about lowering corporate tax, he said the government was seized of the matter and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had also reiterated recently that there was some need for corporate tax reduction.

"That has been reiterated by the finance minister recently also that we are moving towards lower rate and I am sure that will happen sooner or later. Government has already said that there is some need for some corporate tax rate reduction," Ranjan said.

Talking about tax compli-

ance, he said government was trying to further simplify the taxation system as it will lead to better revenue realisation.

On the Direct Tax Code (DTC) report, which has been submitted to the government, Ranjan said, "The report has not been made public, so I won't be able to give any details on that. But the broad trends are that we have obviously focussed on compliance."

Compliance is the cornerstone of any tax policy and it has different aspects. It is not just about tax rates but also about ease of filing, about modernising tax system, improving litigation system management as well as things like making tax law more comprehensible and organised, he added.

Tata Motors revs up for EV space, launches new powertrain

Mumbai (PTI): Tata Motors, which is a leader in the electric vehicles in the domestic market, on Thursday announced a new EV powertrain that will power a range of its upcoming models, including a new model scheduled for the fourth quarter. Ziptiron, the soon to be introduced EV powertrain, will help it drive economies of scale on one hand and make new EVs more affordable for consumers on the other, the largest domestic auto maker told reporters here.

Ziptiron offers efficient high voltage system,

better performance, long range and fast charging, and a battery warranty of eight years, and adherence to the IP67 standard.

Announcing the launch, the managing director and chief executive Guenter Butschek, said, "Ziptiron is designed in-house utilising our global engineering network. At the heart of our future EV line-up, this technology has been tested across 1 million km proving its reliability. With this, we hope to usher in a new wave of e-mobility and accelerate faster adoption of EVs."

NIFTY 50

Table with columns: SCRP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty stocks including Tata Motors, CoalIndia, HDFC Bank, etc.

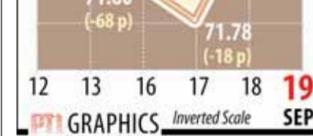
BSE 500

Table with columns: Script, Open, High, Low, LTP. Lists 500 BSE stocks including UnionBank, PVR, HCLTECH, etc.

Table with columns: SCRP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists top 50 Nifty Next 50 stocks including Idea, ICICI Prulife, Indigo, etc.

NIFTY NEXT 50

Table with columns: SCRP, OPEN, High, LOW, LTP, CHANGE. Lists 50 Nifty Next 50 stocks including Idea, ICICI Prulife, Indigo, etc.



PTI GRAPHICS Inverted Scale

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Modi, Trump to meet twice in US next week: Ambassador Shringla

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump are scheduled to meet twice in less than a week this month, India's top envoy to America has said, asserting that the India-US strategic relationship has the potential to become the "defining partnership" within this century.

Since his re-election in May this year, Prime Minister Modi has met President Trump twice. The previous two meetings of the two leaders were on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Japan and G-7 Summit in France this summer.

And later this week when Modi arrives in the US, they "are scheduled to meet twice more", India's ambassador to the US Harsh Vardhan Shringla told a Washington audience on Wednesday.

So, they would have "four meetings in the span of a few months", Shringla said during the "India on the Hill: Charting a Future for Indo-US Relations" event jointly organised by two think tanks The Heritage Foundation from the US and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) from India.

Modi is scheduled to arrive

in Houston on Saturday. A day later, Trump would join him in addressing the mega "Howdy Modi" rally to be attended by more than 50,000 Indian-Americans.

The two leaders are again scheduled to meet later in the week in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly sessions.

"They will meet on 22nd September. The US President is joining the Prime Minister in addressing a huge Indian diaspora event in Houston and they will also meet on the margins of the UNGA in New York", Shringla said. Modi and Trump's predecessor Barack Obama have the record of maximum number of meetings between the leaders of the two countries, but this is the first time that the Indian prime minister and the American president would be meeting four times within a span of four months. "It's really reflective of the nature of the (India-US) relationship," Shringla said while participating in a panel discussion during the first-of-its-kind two-day event.

"India-US strategic partnership has emerged as one of the key bilateral relationships from the start of this century

and has the potential to become the defining partnership within this century," he said.

The ambassador said the building blocks of this strategic partnership was the security cooperation which has emerged now in place.

Shringla said it was important to note how far the two countries have come in a short span of a decade since the Civil Nuclear Agreement.

India and the United States have signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (LEMOA). Several other agreements are at different stages of discussion, he said.

The two countries now conduct more bilateral exercises with each other than they do with any other country.

Bilateral exercises held annually include Malabar (naval exercise that also includes Japan), Cope-India (Air Force), Yudh Abhyas (Army) and Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), Shringla said.

India also participates in the annual RIMPAC exercises as well as in Red Flag exercises which are US-led multina-

tional exercises. Indian defense procurements from the US have also seen a tremendous growth, he said.

"We have also instituted the 2+2 Dialogue - a joint meeting between the Foreign and Defense Ministers of the two countries," the Indian diplomat said.

The two countries also engage through Trilateral Summit level meetings between India, the US and Japan as well as Quadrilateral DG-level meetings between India, the US, Japan and Australia.

"It is worth mentioning that we also have a bilateral maritime security dialogue and several other defense cooperation dialogue mechanisms," Shringla said.

"A key area that has seen close bilateral cooperation is counter-terrorism. We have a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism (JWGCT) and a Designations Dialogue. This cooperation also spills over into multilateral fora.

"The listing of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) leader Masood Azhar by the UN Security Council in May 2019, in the wake of the Pulwama terrorist attack, is one such instance," he said.

Trump hints at some announcement at 'Howdy Modi!' event in Houston

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has hinted that there "could be" some announcement by him at the mega "Howdy Modi!" event in Houston on Sunday, where he would join Prime Minister Narendra Modi in addressing the 50,000-strong Indian diaspora. The White House on Monday announced that Trump would join Modi at the mega Houston rally on September 22 as a "special gesture" by the US President to underscore the special bond between the two countries.

It is for the first time that Trump and Modi would share a stage together. The event is the third meeting between the two leaders in three months, after the G-20 summit in Japan in June and the G-7 summit in France last month.

"Could be. I have a very good relationship with Prime Minister Modi," Trump told reporters on Wednesday aboard Air Force One on his way back from California to Washington DC. He did not elaborate.

He was responding to a question if there would be any announcement when he goes



to Houston for the rally with the Indian leader.

According to media reports, officials of the two countries are trying to finalise a trade deal before Prime Minister Modi and Trump meet in Houston.

Trade tensions between India and the US have been rising with Trump complaining that tariffs imposed by New Delhi on American products

were "no longer acceptable".

The US in June terminated India's designation as beneficiary developing country under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.

India imposed retaliatory tariffs on 28 US products including almonds and apples from June 5, after the Trump administration revoked its preferential trade privileges.

Reacting to a record number of 50,000 Indian-Americans registering for the event, Trump said the crowd for the event has now become bigger after it was announced that he would be going there.

"He (Modi) has got a big crowd coming and I guess the crowd just got a lot bigger because they just announced - he asked, would I go, and I will go," Trump said.

After the Houston event, Trump would travel to Ohio for an event with the visiting Australian Prime Minister.

"Then we're stopping in Ohio on the way back and then I guess we do the United Nations the following week," the US President said.

Trump also said that he has a great relationship with both India and Pakistan.

Modi will be visiting the US from September 21-27 for the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). It is his first US trip after winning a second term as prime minister in May.

The two leaders are again scheduled to meet later in the week in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

Netanyahu rival Gantz seeks PM post in unity government

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Benjamin Netanyahu's main challenger Benny Gantz on Thursday presented himself as the next prime minister, hours after the embattled Israeli premier urged the Blue and White leader to join him in forming a unity government to avoid a third election.

With nearly 97 per cent of the votes counted on Thursday, Gantz's Blue and White party won 33 seats while Netanyahu's Likud secured 31 seats in Israel's 120-member Parliament.

Gantz, 60, said he intends to form and lead a "broad, liberal, unity government."

"After an election that was forced on Israel, (people) voted and made a clear choice. The people voted for unity and Kahol Lavan won the election. It's the biggest party," he added.

He said the Israeli people wanted a unity government after the last election too and vowed to form a "broad, liberal unity government."

"In order to form a unity government, one can't come with political blocs and spins,"

Gantz said, referring to the right-wing religious bloc's move to recommend Netanyahu as the next prime minister after no clear winner emerged in the unprecedented repeat polls.

"You come with responsibility and seriousness. I attend to act accordingly," Gantz was quoted as saying by the Haaretz.

Gantz said he will not accept any dictates. "There will be no shortcuts."

His comments came after 69-year-old Netanyahu said he wanted to form a right-wing government, but the results showed it was not possible. He called on Gantz to meet him "at any hour today" in order to hold discussions for a unity government.

"Benny, it's on us to establish a wide unity government today. The nation expects us, the both of us, to work together. Let's meet today. At any time, at any moment. In order to begin this process that is demanded of us at this time," he said.

"We cannot and have no reason to go to a third election.

I oppose it. The call of the hour is to form a broad unity government today," he said.

"There is no choice but to establish a wide unity government as wide as possible that's made up of all the officials that Israel called on," The Jerusalem Post quoted Netanyahu as saying.

Netanyahu recalled the unity government between Shimon Peres and his Likud rival Yitzhak Shamir that was created in the 1980s when the election results were similarly deadlocked.

"When there was no clear outcome from the Knesset elections, Shimon chose national unity. He and Yitzhak Shamir agreed to cooperate - to navigate Israel's path to safety," the Likud leader said.

He called on Gantz to follow in Peres' footsteps, so that together they could similarly navigate Israel to safety, the paper said.

His statement about the Peres-Shamir cooperation was seen as a reference to a possible rotation in the Prime Minister's Office. Peres and Shamir rotated as prime min-

isters from 1984 to 1988, the paper added.

Blue and White, however, rejected the offer as "spin."

Earlier, the leaders of all the parties in the right-wing religious bloc on Thursday signed a document to recommend Netanyahu as the next prime minister and vowed to enter a coalition only as a single unit.

The document was signed by Netanyahu; United Torah Judaism leader Yaakov Litzman; and Yamina MKs Ayelet Shaked, Naftali Bennett, Rafi Peretz and Bezalel Smotrich. Shas leader Aryeh Deri gave his consent via phone and said he would sign the document soon.

Netanyahu called the snap election after failing to form a governing coalition with a viable majority after April's vote.

His victory in the April 9 polls securing him a record fifth term proved temporary in the face of a logjam between potential coalition partners over a military conscription bill governing exemptions for ultra-Orthodox Jewish semi-nary students.

Imran leaves for Saudi to discuss Kashmir, bilateral issues: FO

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday left on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia to discuss bilateral and regional matters, including the Kashmir issue, with the Kingdom's leadership.

Prime Minister Khan will "discuss with the Saudi leadership the various dimensions of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, arising from India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5 2019", the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement.

Saudi Arabia is a close ally of Pakistan, providing generous financial aid to the cash-strapped country.

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.

Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue but India has asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 was its "internal matter". New

Delhi has also asked Islamabad to accept the reality and stop its anti-India rhetoric.

The FO said Prime Minister Khan has been in regular contact with the Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman on the Kashmir issue.

Since the visit to Pakistan by Crown Prince Salman in February 2019, there is a growing momentum in Pakistan-Saudi Arabia relations in all areas of cooperation, the FO said.

"During the Prime Minister's visit, the two sides will discuss ways of further strengthening the economic partnership between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia," it said.

The Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia will further reinforce the close fraternal ties between the two countries and deepen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields, the FO said.

Saudi Arabia has provided financial assistance to Pakistan of USD 6 billion as bailout package - USD 3 billion balance-of-payments support and another USD 3 billion in deferred payments on oil imports - which Riyadh had agreed in October last year.

Good offices available to India, Pak: UN chief

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Dialogue between India and Pakistan is an "absolute essential element" for resolving the Kashmir issue and his good offices are available if both sides ask for it, UN chief Antonio Guterres has said while calling for the full respect of human rights.

The Secretary General's remarks came ahead of the UN General Assembly session where Pakistan has vowed to raise the Kashmir issue after India revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Well, our capacity is related to good offices, and good offices can only be implemented when the parties accept it. And, on the other hand, it relates to advocacy, and the advocacy was expressed and will be maintained," Guterres said Wednesday during a press conference.

Guterres was asked by a

Pakistani journalist about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and what will he do to bring a solution to the Kashmir issue.

"I go on with a clear opinion that human rights must be fully respected in the territory, and I go on with the clear opinion that dialogue between India and Pakistan is an absolutely essential element for the solution of the problem," he said.

India revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5. Reacting to India's move, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

India has always maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is its integral part and ruled out any third party mediation, including either from the UN or the US, saying it is a bilateral issue with Pakistan. The Secretary General has also repeatedly asserted that his good offices are available only if both sides ask for it.

Canada's Trudeau admits to racist 'brownface' makeup

AFP ■ OTTAWA

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, a fervent advocate of the multiculturalism integral to Canadian identity, apologized Wednesday for wearing brownface makeup to a party at a school where he taught 18 years ago.

Time magazine published the photograph one week into a federal election campaign with Trudeau's Liberal Party in a tight contest against the Conservatives led by Andrew Scheer.

Trudeau, 47, whose party won a landslide victory in 2015, has already been under attack for an ethics lapse and other controversies.

The black-and-white photograph shows Trudeau, then 29, wearing a turban and robes with his face, neck and hands darkened at a gala party in 2001.

The picture appears in the 2000-2001 yearbook of West Point Grey Academy, a private school where Trudeau taught at the time, the US-based Time magazine said.

Trudeau himself confirmed it was him in the photo "at the school's annual dinner which had a costume theme of 'Arabian Nights.'" "I have worked all my life to try to create opportunities for people, fight against racism and intolerance," Trudeau told a tele-



vised news conference on his campaign aircraft.

"I can say I made a mistake when I was younger and I wish I hadn't. I wish I had known better then, but I didn't and I'm deeply sorry for it." "Now I recognize it was something racist to do," he said. "It was a dumb thing to do. I'm disappointed in myself."

Trudeau also admitted to wearing dark makeup singing Harry Belafonte's 1959 hit Day O (Banana Boat Song) at a separate high school talent contest.

Jagmeet Singh, leader of the third place New Democratic Party, reacted by calling the behavior "insulting"

"Anytime we hear examples of brown face or blackface, it's making a mockery of someone for what they live and what their lived experiences are," he said.

"What does that say about what he thinks about people who, because of who they are, because of the colour of their skin, face challenges and barriers and obstacles in their life. Racism is real." Politicians in Canada's southern neighbor the United States, with its history of slavery and segregation, have been embroiled in scandal this year over their alleged wearing of "blackface."

Virginia Governor Ralph

Northam refused to resign after first admitting he appeared in a yearbook photograph showing a person in blackface and another wearing Ku Klux Klan robes, only to deny a day later that either individual was him.

Half of Trudeau's cabinet are women, and at least six members have Asian or African heritage.

Accusations of political meddling in a bribery case against engineering giant SNC-Lavalin plunged support for Trudeau at the beginning of the year.

The scandal broke when two members of his own cabinet accused him and his aides of meddling in the prosecution of SNC-Lavalin to save jobs.

Both the ministers were women and one was Canada's first indigenous attorney general. They were expelled from the party. The episode cost Trudeau support among women, indigenous people and young people - constituents that helped propel him to victory in 2015.

Trudeau is the son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, who is considered the father of modern Canada.

The younger Trudeau's stint as a teacher belonged to a colorful past that also included working as a snowboard instructor, a bartender and a bouncer.

Another suicide bomb in southern Afghanistan, kills at least 20

AP ■ KABUL

A powerful early morning suicide truck bomb devastated a hospital in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing as many as 20 people and wounding more than 90 others, an official said.

The Taliban, who claimed responsibility for the bombing, have carried out nearly daily attacks since peace talks with the United States collapsed earlier this month.

Thursday's massive explosion destroyed part of the hospital in Qalat, the capital of southern Zabul province, and left a fleet of ambulances broken and battered.

Residents, many of whom had come to see their sick family members, used shawls and blankets to carry the wounded inside the destroyed building, while authorities scrambled to take the worst of the wounded to hospitals in nearby Kandahar.

In the hours immediately after the explosion, there were contradictory figures of the dead and wounded. The provincial governor's spokesman Gul Islam Seyal put the death toll at 12 but said authorities were on the scene sifting through the debris. At Jan Haqbayan, head of the provincial council, put the death toll at 20.

Morning prayers had just finished when worshippers were stunned by the ear-splitting blast that destroyed parts of a mosque adjacent to the hospital



Damaged cars are seen at the site of a suicide attack in Zabul (Afghanistan) on Thursday

AP

and the hospital building, said Mahboob Hakim, a resident of Qalat. Windows in his home nearly two kilometers (over one mile) away were shattered by the blast, he said.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahed, said in a tweet said the target was a nearby intelligence office, which he claimed was destroyed and "tens of intelligence operatives killed/wounded." Haqbayan said the wall of the National Security Department (NDS) building was damaged. He couldn't say whether any personnel were among the casualties.

The provincial governor, Rahmatullah Yarmal, said many

of the dead and wounded were women and children. On Twitter, an Afghan National Security Forces personnel posted a picture of a six-month-old child saying they were searching through the rubble for the parents and sought the public's help.

President Ashraf Ghani's spokesman, Sediq Sediqqi, condemned the attack in Zabul, tweeting that the Taliban "continue to target civilians while their leaders travel to Iran and Russia," a reference to the Taliban negotiators recent forays seeking support abroad.

The violence has further rattled the country as it prepares for

national elections later this month. Two separate bombings on Tuesday, including one that targeted Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's election rally, killed 48 people, mostly civilians. The Taliban took responsibility for both attacks.

Suhail Shaheen, the Taliban's spokesman for their political office in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar, said in a tweet that a cease fire had been part of a U.S.-Taliban deal before President Trump declared it "dead." He did not elaborate and earlier defended Taliban attacks prior to an agreement signing, saying both sides in the conflict had carried out attacks.

Sweeping US sanctions on Iran target leaders, oil and trade

AFP ■ PARIS

Ongoing US sanctions on Iran target Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and the Islamic republic's top brass, while also seeking to choke trade in a variety of goods from oil to carpets.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday promised details of new sanctions within 48 hours in response to a missile or drone attack on Saudi oil facilities that Riyadh has blamed on Iran.

New sanctions imposed in June built on a series of previous ones.

In addition to Khamenei, the sanctions target eight senior commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps

(IRGC).

The United States also blacklisted Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, whose US assets were frozen on August 1.

Last November, six months after Trump withdrew from the nuclear deal with Iran, the United States took aim at its oil exports and financial transactions.

Specific actions targeted Iran's banking, shipping and energy sectors, threatening penalties against companies, even those of US allies in Europe and elsewhere, that do business in them.

In May, in a bid to further choke off oil exports, Iran's top foreign exchange earner, the United States lifted exemp-

tions granted to eight countries, including Turkey and India, allowing them to purchase Iranian oil.

As a result, exports fell from two million barrels a day in early 2018 to 400,000 in July this year.

The sanctions last year brought back punitive measures that were imposed and then lifted by former president Barack Obama, who reached an international agreement under which Iran moved to end its nuclear programme.

On August 7, 2018, the first sanctions lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal came into force, banning: - The Iranian government's purchases of dollars, and the international buying and selling of significant sums

of rials, Iran's currency under pressure — Purchases of Iranian treasury bonds — Trade in gold or other precious metals, aluminium, steel, carbon or graphite — Automobile and commercial aviation trade — US imports of Iranian carpets or foodstuffs Under the sanctions, any foreign institution that does business with Iran's central bank or other banks in the country loses access to the US financial system. The risks for foreign banks are high in a globalized economy in which the dollar remains the dominant currency.

The United States has also sought to cut off Iranian access to SWIFT, the international system of interbank transfers.

Johnson faces Brexit flak from EU lawmakers and top UK court

AP ■ STRASBOURG (FRANCE)

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been accused by European Union officials of failing to negotiate seriously and branded the "father of lies" by a lawyer in the UK Supreme Court, as his plan to leave the EU in just over six weeks faced hurdles on both sides of the Channel.

In Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament said on Wednesday it would be the fault of Britain, not the bloc, if the UK crashed out of the EU without a divorce deal on the scheduled October 31 departure day.

In London, Johnson's government battled to convince the UK's top court that the prime minister's decision to

suspend Parliament for five weeks with Brexit looming was neither illegal nor improper. The government's opponents claim Johnson illegally shut down the legislature to prevent lawmakers from scrutinising his Brexit plans.

Government lawyer James Eadie told 11 Supreme Court justices that the decision to send lawmakers home until October 14 was "inherently and fundamentally political in nature," and not a matter for the judiciary. He said that if the court intervened it would violate the "fundamental constitutional principle" of the separation of powers.

But a lawyer for lawmakers challenging the shutdown accused the government of being "unworthy of our trust."

"We've got here the mother of parliaments being shut down by the father of lies," said attorney Aidan O'Neill.

He urged the judges to "stand up for truth, stand up for reason, stand up for diversity, stand up for Parliament, stand up for democracy." The judges, for their part, wondered why Johnson had refused to provide a sworn statement to the court about his reasons for the suspension.

"Isn't it odd that nobody has signed a witness statement to say: 'This is true. These are the true reasons for what was done?'" said one of the judges, Nicholas Wilson.

The developments were the latest in a rocky week for Johnson, who pulled out of a news conference with the

prime minister of Luxembourg on Monday because of noisy protesters nearby. On Wednesday he was berated by the father of a sick child over funding cuts to Britain's health service as he visited a London hospital.

Johnson took power in July with a vow that Britain will leave the EU on Oct. 31 "come what may." He promised to break a stalemate that saw the Brexit agreement struck between the EU and Johnson's predecessor Theresa May rejected three times by Britain's Parliament, prompting May to resign.

Many lawmakers believe a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilising, and have put obstacles in Johnson's path,

Khamenei approved Saudi strike: report

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei approved last weekend's attack on Saudi Arabia's oil infrastructure, CBS News reported Wednesday, citing an unnamed US official. The report came after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, flying to the kingdom, called Saturday's strikes which knocked out half of Saudi crude output an "act of war". CBS, without giving specifics about the US official or how they obtained the information, said Khamenei approved the attack only on condition that it be carried out in a way to deny Iranian involvement.

US officials quoted said the most damning evidence against Iran is unreleased satellite photos showing Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps making preparations for the attack at Iran's Ahvaz air base.

The significance of those photos only became clear later,

the report said.

"We were caught completely off guard," the network quoted a US official as saying.

Iranian state media said Tehran had written to Washington through the Swiss embassy on Monday, denying any role in the attacks and warning it would respond to any action against it.

Tehran-supported Huthi rebels in the kingdom's southern neighbor Yemen have claimed responsibility, but both Washington and Riyadh have ruled that out. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, earlier told AFP the US administration has concluded the attack involved cruise missiles from Iran, and said evidence would be presented at the UN General Assembly next week.

Vice President Mike Pence reiterated President Donald Trump's comments that "we don't want war with anybody, but the United States is prepared."

France; Yemen rebel claim lacks credibility

AFP ■ PARIS

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Thursday that a claim by Yemeni rebels that they carried out attacks on two Saudi oil facilities "lacks credibility".

"The Huthis, who are Yemeni rebels, announced that it was they who provoked this attack, which lacks credibility," Le Drian told France's CNews channel.

Tehran-backed Huthi rebels in Saudi Arabia's southern neighbour Yemen have claimed responsibility for the attacks, which knocked out half of Saudi oil production. But both Washington and Riyadh have ruled that out and pinned the blame on Saudi's arch-foe Iran.

On Wednesday, Saudi Arabia displayed what it said were fragments of 25 drones and cruise missiles, which they said proved the attack was carried out by Tehran.

But Le Drian cast doubt on the ability of the Huthis to carry

out an attack of that scale and range from Yemen.

"But given that there is an international investigation let's wait for the results," he said.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday denounced the strikes as an "act of war", comments seen as raising the risk of a wider conflict in the Gulf region.

French President Emmanuel Macron has been trying to broker a reduction in the tensions, which have intensified since the US pulled out of a deal on Iran's nuclear programme last year and reimposed crippling sanctions.

On Wednesday, France announced that it was sending experts to Saudi Arabia to help investigate the origin of the oil attacks.

Le Drian linked the timing of the strikes to next week's UN General Assembly in New York, where a meeting between US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani had been mooted.

'NASA analysing images of Chandrayaan landing site'

PTI ■ HOUSTON

NASA is analysing, validating and reviewing the images clicked by its lunar orbiter of the area on the Moon where India's Chandrayaan-2 mission made an unsuccessful attempt to soft land its Vikram module, according to a media report that quoted a project scientist of the US space agency. NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft has snapped a series of images during its flyby on September 17 of Vikram's attempted landing sight near the Moon's uncharted south pole.

LRO deputy project scientist John Keller shared a NASA statement confirming that the orbiter's camera captured the images.

"The LRO team will analyse these new images and compare them to previous images to see if the lander is visible (it may be in shadow or outside the imaged

area)," Keller was quoted as saying in the statement by cnet.com. NASA is validating, analysing and reviewing the images. It was near lunar dusk when the orbiter passed over, meaning large parts of the area were in shadow, the report said.

In the early hours of September 7, Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) plan to soft land Chandrayaan-2's Vikram module on the lunar surface did not go as per script.

The lander lost communication with ground stations during its final descent. ISRO officials said, adding that the orbiter of Chandrayaan-2 — second lunar mission — remained healthy and safe. A NASA spokesperson had earlier said that the space agency will share any before and after fly-over imagery of the area around the targeted Chandrayaan-2 Vikram Lander landing site to support analysis by ISRO.

Japan court acquits ex-TEPCO executives over N-disaster

AFP ■ TOKYO

A Japanese court on Thursday acquitted three former officials from the firm that operated the Fukushima nuclear plant, in the only criminal trial to stem from the 2011 disaster.

The three former executives from Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) had faced up to five years in prison if convicted of professional negligence resulting in death and injury.

The court is expected to explain its reasoning for the ruling shortly.

In the wake of the verdict, dozens of protesters including some from the Fukushima region, who had gathered before the session began, expressed shock.

"I cannot accept this," one woman said into a microphone, addressing the rally.

The three men are the only people to face criminal prosecution over the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

The meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi plant was triggered by a tsunami that washed into the facility after a 9.0-magnitude undersea earthquake on March 11, 2011.

No one is officially recorded as having been killed by the Fukushima meltdown, though the tsunami that triggered it left nearly 18,500 people dead or missing.

The men faced prosecution in relation to the deaths of more than 40 hospitalised patients who died after having to be evacuated following the nuclear disaster.

Prosecutors had twice declined to proceed with the case against the executives, citing a lack of evidence and a slim chance of conviction.

US lays down line with China on next Dalai Lama

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

As Tibetans start grappling with the once unthinkable prospect of the octogenarian Dalai Lama's passing, the United States is looking to lay down a red line against China handpicking his successor.

Through a warning from a senior official and legislation under consideration in Congress, the United States is hoping to make clear in advance that Beijing would face international opprobrium if it tries to take over the reincarnation process.

At 84, the 14th Dalai Lama has slowed his once incessant travel down a notch and earlier this year was hospitalized for a chest infection, although there is no indication he faces serious health issues.

Nonetheless, both Tibetan activists and Beijing are keenly aware that his death will mark a major setback in his push for more autonomy for the Himalayan region, depriving the cause of a Nobel Prize winner whose moral teach-

ings and idiosyncratic humor have made him one of the world's most popular religious leaders.

China has not held talks with the Dalai Lama's representatives for nine years and has increasingly hinted it may identify his successor — who, Beijing would presume, would back its iron-fisted rule of Tibet. A bill recently introduced in the US Congress would call for sanctions on any Chinese official who interferes with Tibetan Buddhist succession practices.

Testifying Wednesday before Congress, David Stilwell, the top State Department official for East Asia, vowed that the United States would keep pressing for "meaningful autonomy" for Tibetans.

"Disturbingly — and ironically — the party continues to assert its role in the Dalai Lama's reincarnation process, even as President Xi has urged party members to remain 'unyielding Marxist atheists,'" he said.

"We believe that Tibetans,

like all faith communities, must be able to practice their faith freely and select their leaders without interference," he said.

Tibetan monks traditionally choose the Dalai Lama through a ritualistic search that can take years, with a wandering party seeking telltale signs that a young boy is the reincarnation of the last spiritual leader. The 14th Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India since fleeing an aborted uprising in 1959, has mused of a non-traditional succession that would throw off China.

He has said he could choose a successor while he is still alive — possibly a girl — or even decide that he was the final Dalai Lama.

Matteo Mecacci, president of the International Campaign for Tibet, a Washington-based pressure group close to the Dalai Lama, said that the legislation introduced in the US Congress would send a clear message both to China and Tibetans.

"We hope that the Dalai Lama will live much longer, but

having early legislation, I think, will have an impact on Chinese thinking," he said.

"I'm not saying this is going to change the decision of the Chinese government, but they will probably have to reconsider some of the fallout and its implications," he said.

The bill, introduced in the House by Democrat Jim McGovern, would also prevent China from opening new consulates in the United States until Washington can open a mission in Tibet's capital Lhasa.

Mecacci, a former member of parliament in Italy, said the US law would have an impact on decision-makers in Europe and Asia and warned of international effects if China installs a compliant Dalai Lama.

"If you have a religious leader who is the arm of a foreign government and who has Buddhist centers around the world, this is part of a much more ambitious plan to control Buddhism," he said.

Lobsang Sangay, who was elected Tibetan prime minister-in-exile after the Dalai Lama

ceded his political role, said Beijing's goal was to "make Tibet into a Chinese territory and make Tibetans into Chinese." China has faced international criticism for treatment of its mostly Muslim Uighur minority, with the detention of up to one million people in re-education camps in the western region of Xinjiang. China says it is providing vocational training and that it has brought development to both Xinjiang and Tibet. Some observers expect a repeat of 1995 when China selected its own Panchen Lama and detained a six-year-old identified for the influential Buddhist position — who was dubbed the world's youngest political prisoner.

But Sangay, on a recent visit to Washington, doubted that any Dalai Lama tapped by China would enjoy legitimacy.

"Let's say Fidel Castro recognized a pope and tells all the Catholics, 'Hey, this is my pope, will you follow him,'" he said. "How many Catholics will follow that pope?"

Panda death in Thailand stirs suspicion in China

AFP ■ BANGKOK

Chinese experts arrived in Thailand to investigate the death of a beloved giant panda, zoo officials said Thursday, as millions of netizens in China questioned the cause of the male bear's sudden demise.

Chuang Chuang, a resident of Chiang Mai Zoo since October 2003, died Monday aged 19 after years of living in an air-conditioned enclosure with female Lin Hui.

The pair were on loan from the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu as part of Beijing's so-called "panda diplomacy" and were supposed to be returned in 2023. Pandas can live up to 30 years in captivity and Chuang Chuang's sudden death has raised questions about his care.

China "urgently dis-

patched panda experts" to investigate the cause of death, according to a statement released by Chiang Mai Zoo Thursday, and a Chinese-Thai "joint working team" will perform an autopsy.

Thailand has long obsessed over Chuang Chuang and Lin Hui, as the notoriously sex-shy pair had struggled to conceive and were shown video clips of successful panda couplings in an attempt to stir their libidos. Thanks to artificial insemination, Lin Hui in 2009 finally gave birth to Linping, spurring a widely watched live 24-hour "Panda Channel". The news has struck a chord among Chinese internet users, as trending discussions on the "suspicious circumstances" of Chuang Chuang's demise drew more than 260 million views on social media platform Weibo. Users criti-

cised the zoo for giving him mature bamboo — usually harder and used to make furniture — as food, though it remained unclear if photos shared were actually of Chuang Chuang.

"Bamboo?? Sure these aren't wooden sticks?" said a user. They also expressed concerns for his female counterpart, using a hashtag "We want Panda Lin Hui to come home". "The countries that rent giant pandas can keep them if they raise them well, or else they should send them back," said Ningbo Ni Shao, a local media outlet.

The Chinese consulate in Chiang Mai, a city in northern Thailand, released photos on their website Wednesday of Chinese and Thai officials mourning Chuang Chuang, placing flowers by a framed photo near the zoo's entrance.

Trump calls new border wall a 'world-class security system'

AP ■ SAN DIEGO

President Donald Trump signed his name Wednesday on a newly constructed section of the U.S.-Mexico border wall, calling it a "world-class security system" that will be virtually impenetrable.

Trump toured a section of the border wall in San Diego's Otay Mesa area. It was a return trip for the president, who traveled there in March 2018 to see border wall prototypes that authorities later destroyed to make way for 14 miles (22.4 kilometers) of steel, concrete-filled bollards currently under construction.

Before construction began, the border in Otay Mesa was protected with low fencing.

"It was like a sheet metal and people would just knock it over like just routinely," Trump said, standing with construction workers and top Customs, Army Corps of Engineers and

homeland security officials.

Mark Morgan, acting commissioner of US Customs and Border Protection, said that since construction has begun on the new barrier, 30 to 50 people a day are trying to cross there instead of 300 to 500. "The traffic in this sector has dropped dramatically," Morgan said.

Morgan defended the project, dismissing those who call it the "president's vanity wall." "I'm here to tell you that's false," he said, telling reporters that Trump reached out to border experts to find out what they needed. "You listened to the agents," he told Trump.

Trump highlighted features of the wall, which he said have been studied by three other countries. He said the wall absorbs heat — "You can fry an egg on that wall."

The concrete goes deep into the ground to prevent tunneling. And agents can see through it to spot possible

threats on the Mexican side of the border, he said.

"When the wall is built, it will be virtually impossible to come over illegally, and then we're able to take border control and put them at points of entry," Trump said.

He heaped praise on the Mexican government, especially for sending tens of thousands of troops to its northern and southern borders to help slow the flow of migrants headed toward the United States.

He said President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador "has been great." "We're all thrilled," Trump said.

"You know Mexico has never done anything to impede people from pouring into our country and now they're doing just the opposite. They've really been incredible."

The president reveled in details of construction, saying Border Patrol and military officials persuaded him to adopt more expensive designs. He



said he dropped a preference for solid concrete, instead opting for concrete-filled steel bollards that allow agents to see through to Mexico to spot assailants throwing rocks or other projectiles.

He agreed to go along with barriers that are 30 feet high and double-layered in heavily traveled areas.

"It's the Rolls-Royce version," Trump said. When Trump asked Army

Corps Lt Gen Todd Semonite to explain how technology embedded in the wall alerts agents to illegal activity, he was told, "Sir, there could be some merit in not discussing it." Semonite offered new details

on the pace of construction that underscored how quickly the administration plans to move.

It has built 66 miles (106 kilometers) so far, has 251 miles (403 kilometers) in various stages of construction at 17 sites and contracts for 163 miles (262 kilometers) planned in the next 90 days, the general said. Additional land on private property is expected to take more time. Crews are installing 270 panels a day, each one with eight bollards.

Trump, whose construction targets have shifted, said he expects to build up to about 550 miles (885 kilometers) of wall along the 1,954-mile (3,126-kilometre) border and said the administration will pause at about 400 miles (643 kilometres) to assess what more is needed.

Trump said cost concerns led him to put aside his preference to paint the wall black, which absorbs heat. He said the wall was "a good, strong rust

color" and could be painted later. Trump is riding a string of wins on the wall and on immigration in general. Arrests on the Mexican border arrested plunged in August, well beyond the usual summer dip, from a 13-year high reached in May.

Arrests are still relatively high, topping 50,000 in 10 of the last 11 months, compared with only eight months over the previous decade.

Last week, the Supreme Court gave Trump a green light to deny asylum to anyone who passes through another country on the way to the U.S. border with Mexico without having first sought protection in the third country.

The Pentagon recently diverted \$3.6 billion from 127 military construction projects to build 175 miles (280 kilometers) of barriers on the border. Trump had promised during the 2016 presidential campaign that Mexico would pay for the wall.



ORGANIC WHOLE

Chef MAGGIE BEER believes in putting together dishes made with ingredients from her own garden that guarantees the best of taste

Maggie Beer did not let a lack of formal training come in the way of her metamorphosing into a legendary cook and author. Whenever she makes an appearance as a guest judge on *MasterChef Australia* it tends to create a lot of excitement among the contestants as they realise that they would be mentored by one of the country's most cherished and respected chefs.

Beer's career extends over five decades and she has been a part of the much-loved show since the very beginning. She worked at a Scottish sailing school during a European trip in her early twenties where she says, "I used the entire larder for the four-month season in eight weeks because I am a very generous cook and that's the only way I know how to do it." After relocating from Sydney to the Barossa Valley, Beer, with her husband Colin, established the Farm Shop in 1979 which morphed into the Barossa Pheasant Farm Restaurant later. It became well-known for serving locally sourced pheasant as well as a *pate*.

When questioned about her journey to becoming one of the world's most famous chefs, she laughs and says, "I call myself a cook and not a chef. I grew up in a family where food and cooking were very important. I started learning about food since then. My parents cooked every-

thing from scratch. We had our own farm and that helped me a lot in understanding the ingredients." Growing up as she did, the chef always had an inclination towards food and cooking so she started with some of her farm produce which marked the beginning of her career.

Along the way she has developed her own food philosophy. "I see myself as a country cook and a produce-driven cook, I cannot waste any product or ingredients. My philosophy is to make every dish in such a way that the ingredients are used properly and efficiently," she says. Talking about her experience at *MasterChef* she says, "The most beautiful thing about the show is the excited young people who have a dream that they are following. It is good to see how dedicated they are in pursuing their passion. They give a part of themselves to the show. They come with an eagerness and ability to learn and do it very quickly too. So I love their openness to learning."

The chef has not visited India for a long time. She says, "When I was 21, I stopped in New Delhi for some time on my way to Europe. And considering that I will turn 75 in January, that was a long time ago."

As for Indian food, she is in love with the spices and legumes. "I love things like dough, vintages and tamarinds. I love



the *Dosa* too because it is a tremendous blend of so many flavours and at the same time it's so crisp," added she. "I don't cook all these as I stick to Mediterranean," she laughs and adds, "But I have tried and tasted all of them when others cook them for me."

Like any other chef, Beer too has her favourites when putting together a meal. "There are some ingredients that I cannot do or live without, extra virgin olive oil being one. But my routine is that we have a big vegetable garden and it's about following the seasons, going to the pantries, looking at the organic produce, getting the right seeds... and more. And my routine is thinking at the last moment what am I going to have for dinner? So I look at the garden and I see all the beautiful and amazing things. It's a very relaxed routine even though I work very long hours. In that routine, I grab and feel a lot of new experiences everyday. So my routine is just to be seduced by whatever looks the most beautiful and make it into a dish," she says with a laugh.

Despite being a much-renowned chef, she believes that cooking is not looked upon as a celebrated career even now. There are people still struggling with their passion "My advice is to understand that hard work can lead you to dizzying heights. And your dream is only likely to be fulfilled if you're truly passionate about it. You want to learn and keep evolving. You should be ready to absorb everything that's been put in front of you. If you have a real interest in cooking, it is one of the most rewarding things to do," she says.

Despite cooking for so many years and having gathered a plethora of experiences, there are some dreams which continue to be achieved. "My one dream is that I make beautiful ice creams, which are really very special, super premium. We make them commercially and export to China. So my one dream is to be able to export them to India as well. I have always wanted to explore the country and by exporting our ice creams, I'll get its people to taste our produce as well," she says.

However, Beer has not let herself be confined to just cooking but is extending her domain by way of her foundation. "In Australia, food health is not as important and sometimes neglected. So we have a lot of age care homes that need to get much more beautiful food. It can be institutionalised. And I kind of accept that. So I am trying to change the food to give it a whole new flavour and also a pleasure to the residents in age care homes who are no longer able to cook by themselves. So that actually keeps me busy."

(The season 11 of the show airs on Star World.)



Got a haul of apples?

There are many great things one can do with the fruit that don't include making a pie. Here are some ideas that you might not have thought of

It's that time of year again, when fresh apples are piled high at farmer's markets. If you are lucky enough to live near an orchard, you can take the day and pick your own bushel of apples. But whether you are picking them at the market or off a tree, there are many great things to do with apples that don't include making a pie. Besides apple pie, some ideas you might not have thought of:

- Cut apples into matchstick-size strips and add them to your favorite kale salad for a tart and crunchy addition.
- Sauté chunks of peeled apples in butter, season them with a touch of sugar and a pinch of salt, and serve them with any egg dish to brighten up breakfast. In the South, these are sometimes "fried" with bacon fat and called "fried apples," but I prefer butter. Sautéed apples are also great in pancakes. Let them cool, and add to your favorite pancake batter. If you are a fan of cinnamon like I am, add a pinch and they'll taste like apple pie.
- Make an apple upside-down cake, and add cranberries for a festive touch. Use your favorite pineapple upside-down cake recipe but substitute apples.
- Make a gourmet open-faced tartine, aka sandwich with brie cheese and apples. Brush the bread with your favorite jam — think fig, apricot, raspberry, etc. and top with apples, brie and walnuts. Melt under a broiler and enjoy!
- Make a faux sauerkraut for fall sausages by cooking down grated apples, sliced onions and fennel. Finish with a pinch of caraway seeds and a couple of tablespoons of butter for richness.
- Cook apples slowly until they melt into homemade applesauce. Begin by peeling and coring the apples, and add the juice of a large lemon, and a little sugar and cinnamon. Put the lid on the pot and slowly cook on the stovetop. When they have cooked down to the texture of chunky applesauce, taste and season as you like.
- If you have a juicer, make your own apple juice and serve it cold or hot.



● Make your own apple butter. Cook about 5 pounds of apples with ½ cup of apple cider until they are deep brown and have a creamy, "buttery" consistency. Season with your favorite autumn spices. No sugar necessary. You can do this easily in a slow cooker or a pressure cooker. The slow cooker is the slow, all day method and the pressure cooker is the fast method.

Reminder: If you get a bunch of apples, keep them in a cool place. I have had success keeping them for months in the crisper drawer of my refrigerator. If you picked your own and went a little crazy, and have too many to fit in your refrigerator, wrap each apple individually in paper — unprinted newsprint paper works well — and store in the garage or basement where it is cool. Be careful of any rotting apples, because the old saying "One bad apple spoils the bunch" is true.

My favorite thing to make with extra apples is my Grandmother Odom's Apple Cake. The recipe doesn't call for any liquid because the fresh apples give up their juice as the cake bakes, and that creates liquid in the batter. It's a simple cake to make and is positively addicting. In fact, anytime I have a prickly relationship with someone, I make them my grandmother's cake and it changes our relationship! I call it The Power of Grandmother Odom's Apple Cake. —AP

gorge us

Varq, the modern Indian restaurant at the Taj Mahal Hotel, is all set to celebrate its 11th anniversary. To mark this milestone, culinary legends like chef Naren Thimmaiah from Karavalli restaurant will curate the first ever Karavalli experience in the city. He will curate special dishes like *Crab milagu fry*, *Sea crab ghee roast*, *Malvani surmai tava fry*, *Tiger prawns roast*, vegetarian dishes and many more.

Date: September 21 to 28 **Time:** 12:30 pm to 2:45 pm (lunch); 7 pm to 11:45 pm (dinner) **Price:** ₹5,000 **Venue:** Varq, The Taj Mahal Hotel.

The chefs at SET'Z, MKT and Cha Shi introduce a special thali curation of three different cuisines — Oriental, Coastal and North Indian. In the North Indian menu, there is *Anar raita*, *Kuttu puri*, *Sabudana papad* and *Kheer*. The Oriental delicacies have *Cantonese tong sui soup*, *Crispy fried lotus stem*, *Tossed asian greens*, *Lemon grass rice*. The Coastal journey includes *Kadala manga sala*, *Samak pulao*, *Paneer moilee*, *Kuttu masala dosa* and *Pappali halwa*. **Date:** September 29 to October 7 **Time:** 11 am to 11 pm **Venue:** SET'Z @DLF Emporio and MKT.



Swad is serving food in a *desi* way. It offers a range of delicacies from *Mushroom chettinad phulka tacos* to *Chimichanga rolls with tamatar gur salsa*, *Roast soya boti* with mini appam, *Garlic soy paneer tartlet*, *Kurkure kebabs* and many more. **Date:** Till September **Time:** 12 noon to 11:30 pm **Price:** ₹800 (plus taxes) **Venue:** SS Plaza, Vikas marg, Gurugram.



Tea Lounge offers a variety of *Kulle ki chaat* to fill your between-the-meal time with different flavours. The menu offers *Papri chaat*, *Tikki chaat*, *Shakarkandi ki chaat*, *Samosa chaat* and various fruit *chaats* along with traditional condiments. **Date:** Till September 30 **Time:** 11 am to 8 pm **Price:** ₹500 (plus taxes) **Venue:** Tea Lounge, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place.



Mellow Garden offers favourite drinks at MRP. One can get pegs of *Martini Bianco*, *Martini Rosso*, *Kahula*, *Triple Sec*, *Glenfiddich* (12 Yrs), *Talisker* (10 Yrs), *Jim Beam*, *Jameson*, *Jack Daniel's* and a lot more at reasonable prices. **Date:** Till September 30 **Time:** 12 am to 12 pm **Price:** ₹165 Onwards (plus taxes) **Venue:** The Mellow Garden, Rajouri Garden.



COCONUT CRUSTED FISH CAKES

RECIPES



COCONUT CRUSTED FISH CAKES

WHAT YOU NEED

- Fresh coconut (grated)
- Indian salmon fillet: 500 gm
- Cilantro: 2 tbsp
- Cloves of garlic: 2
- Ginger: 20 gm
- Lime juice: 10 ml
- Chopped pineapple: 50 gm
- Red onion: 25 gm
- Coconut water: 1/2 cup
- Sriracha sauce: 10 gm
- Red pepper: 20 gm
- Tomatoes: 20 gm
- Sea salt: 1 pinch
- Coconut oil: 10 ml
- Chopped coriander: 10 gm

METHOD

- Marinate fillets with salt

and lime juice for 15 minutes.

- Grill the fillets well in coconut oil.
- Cool and mince the fillets or flake with hands and mix chopped onion, coriander, sriracha sauce, grated fresh coconut, chopped ginger and chopped garlic.
- Shape them into gallettes, coat with fresh grated coconut and grill in coconut oil.
- Prepare the salsa by mixing chopped pineapple, tomatoes, cilantro, mint leaves, red pepper and coconut water and oil.
- Serve the coconut fish cakes, with the salsa.

Courtesy: Executive chef Gautam Mehrishi at Vivanta New Delhi, Dwarka

KANDHARI LAMB SHANK

WHAT YOU NEED

For marination:

- Sea salt: 1 tsp
- Garlic: 5-7 cloves
- Ginger: 1 medium bulb
- Garam masala: 1 tsp
- Curd: 2 tsp

For sauce:

- Mustard oil
- Black cardamom: 2
- Green cardamom: 4
- Mace: 2
- Bay leaf: 1

- Black pepper (crushed): 8
- Cloves: 5
- Ginger: 1 medium bulb
- Garlic: 10 cloves
- Onion (chopped): 3
- Dry red chilli
- Turmeric powder
- Salt to taste
- Coriander powder
- Curd: 1 cup
- Cream: 2 tbsp
- Mutton Stock: 5 cups

METHOD

- Wash and pat dry the lamb shanks. Marinate them with



sea salt, ginger-garlic paste and rub it with a mixture of *garam masala* and curd. Refrigerate for about 45 minutes to an hour.

- Prepare mutton stock. You can simmer mutton cracked

bones in water for an hour and half or buy mutton stock cubes.

- Once the meat is marinated, heat mustard oil in a deep pot over medium fire till it begins to smoke. Add black and green cardamom, mace, bay leaf, crushed black pepper, cloves and stir till the aroma of the spices is extracted.

- Add the marinated shank to the pot and stir till the meat is evenly seared. Lower the heat and continue cooking for about 15 to 20 minutes, stir occasionally.

- Continue cooking till the water evaporates. Add garlic and ginger paste and stir till the paste is evenly mixed.
- Add the chopped onion and cook for another 20 to 25 minutes. Cover the pot with a lid, stir occasionally.
- Sprinkle mutton stock if the pot becomes too dry and continue cooking on low heat till the onions appear brown and mashed. Then remove the lid and get rid of the extra water.
- Add *degchi mirch* powder, haldi powder, coriander

powder and mix well.

- Stir and cook for 2-3 minutes. Check, the mutton should be cooked by now.
- Add curd and mix well. Add the mutton stock, depending upon how thick you want the gravy, add a little extra to compensate for evaporation and then add salt and cook.
- Remove the shanks and place them on the plate, pour the *Kandhari* gravy over it.
- Serve hot. Best enjoyed with *Khameeri roti* or *Taftan*

Courtesy: Corporate chef Sidharth Sharma at Saints N Sinners

Trend Blazer

'My parents were proud of me'

Actor **RAJKUMMAR RAO** got really emotional talking about his deceased parents at the trailer launch of his forthcoming film *Made in China*.

He said that his parents were really proud of him after he became an actor and it gave them joy.

Rajkumar said, "It's an irreparable loss for me. A few years ago, I lost my mother and that time I was shooting for *Newton* and I went back to shoot the next day."

The actor said he had shown the trailer of *Made in China* to his father in his last moments. "I am so glad that the trailer was ready just in time, when my father was in the hospital. I feel his blessings are always there with me," added he.



'As an actor, it is important for me to be part of a good story and *The Zoya Factor*

is one such opportunity. Having said that, working with family members is always a good idea. Although we spend time when we have a family get-together, but during the shooting of film I got a chance to spend quality time with **Sonam (Kapoor).**'
—Sanjay Kapoor

Actor and author **SOHA ALI KHAN** has lent support for a new health awareness campaign and says that since the birth of her daughter Inaaya, a lot of change has happened in her daily life, and she is trying to set a good example for her daughter with her own lifestyle.



"Parenthood brought a certain change of habits in my daily days. Since I do not want Inaaya to watch TV or stick around the mobile phone, I have stopped watching TV when she is around. Children always tend to imitate everything that we are doing in front of them," says she.

Kylie shuts split rumours

A day after doubts were raised about their relationship, reality TV personality **KYLIE JENNER** has shared a loved-up family photograph with rapper **Travis Scott** to shut down splitting rumours.

The 22-year-old make-up mogul took to social media to share the sweet picture with her 146 million followers after fans questioned whether they had parted ways.

The photograph shows Scott and one-year-old daughter Stormi having a wonderful time with Kylie at a zoo in Los Angeles.

She captioned the picture — 'Happy Wednesday'.



We have been watching the father-son duo Sunny and Karan Deol for a while. At the press conference that preceded the interviews, they made sure to answer each question, some humorously and others, a little seriously. When a reporter asked Sunny to deliver one of his famous dialogues, he pushed his son forward and said, *abhi bachchon ki baat karte hain* (We must talk about the kids now). Even when all those who were assembled requested him again, he stood his ground before asking Karan to sing a song from his forthcoming film. As often happens, even when it concerns parents who are nowhere near the arc lights, Sunny too placed his offspring in focus. So despite performances from his past films having made a strong impression on people's hearts, the actor-turned-director does not seem to be hankering for more attention.

When questioned about taking a backseat for his son's debut, Sunny said, "I am not bothered about such things because I am not insecure. Even when I started my career I was beyond all this. I want to tell youngsters to be confident and proud of who they are. Success and failure are a part of life because every one cannot have the same pace. You should enjoy every moment because life happens but once. There is no point creating more stress for no rhyme and reason?"

Karan is making his debut with *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas*. It is a love story set in snowy regions of Himachal Pradesh. Directed by Sunny, the film revolves around the journey of two youngsters who are in love and ready to face any hurdles to be together.

Working with a family member and that too a son is special for anyone. But in such cases it is important to maintain a balance between the personal and the professional. "It was a great experience. *Jaisi humari family hai, humlog beta baap door-door hi rehte hai, dost nahi hote*. (The kind of family that we have, my son and I usually stay apart. We are not friends). It took three years to prepare for this film. During this journey both of us spent a lot of time with each other. I will always cherish these years," said Sunny. While talking about his son, the slight smile that consistently hovered on his lips revealed his love.

But a father launching his son naturally gives rise to the loud whispers about nepotism especially in Bollywood with two opposing camps arguing for and against it. When asked about the same, Sunny answered really promptly as if he was anticipating the question. "Had people not favoured nepotism, they would have asked some questions from the heroine too during the press conference. But they did not. Every question was directed at either me or my son. This itself explains the mindset of the people. I believe, every child's journey is based on his/her capabilities. It has nothing to do with what their parents have done," said he.

Of course when your father is the director, it is inevitable that most people would allege that Karan would get a stronger role. But Karan disagrees, "It's a perception. When you see the film, you will realise that both the characters are equally strong. They are supporting each other."

Sunny explained that he had not planned that Karan should debut in a film directed by him and would have preferred some other director. But that didn't materialise. For lack of options, he decided to take on the mantle on himself.

From an actor Sunny who has displayed his charismatic personality, to a director, he believes that there is no such thing as "challenge" in life. Acting and directing are professions that he has taken up and both need preparation. He said, "There are people who speak out their problems loudly but one

FILIAL BOND

Actor-turned-director **SUNNY DEOL** prefers to put the spotlight firmly on his son **KARAN** for *Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas*, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

'SHOOTING IN HILLY REGIONS IS TOUGH BECAUSE IT'S A DIFFERENT LIFESTYLE ALTOGETHER. IT TOOK TIME TO ADJUST TO THAT PLACE. I HAD TO WAKE UP EARLY AND TREK IN THE COLD WEATHER. IT WAS VERY TAXING PHYSICALLY. POST TREK I HAD TO RAPPEL AND DO ROCK CLIMBING. I USED TO CRASH AS SOON AS I HIT THE BED'



should not. I have understood that *mushkile sabke paas hai, mai koi alag thodi hu*. (Everyone has some problems, I am no different). If you don't have problems, you will remain in your comfort zone and not move forward. I would encourage the youth not to fall prey to that."

The first hurdle was the kind of film that Sunny wanted to make. The senior Deol had decided that he wanted to make a film but was not sure about the storyline. "I hired Jassi and Ravi (writers) and we did a lot of brainstorming before coming up with an idea. As the germ of an idea made its presence felt, I realised that this was something I always wanted to do. I wanted to understand today's generation and bring forth their perspective. We often try to put the youth in a pre-determined mould rather than understanding what they want to do. There was a time when we followed traditional practices, but we cannot enforce the same on our kids. Today's youth is very different," said Sunny. However, one thing which made the film different was that he had not put any restrictions before the shoot began as Sunny wanted the story to find its own path.

The film has been shot in villages near Manali where survival is tough. The actors had to go through physically and mentally challenging hurdles which were in addition to the fact that both of them are young and naive. Karan has played the role of a Himachali boy which was not easy for a boy who grew up in urban Mumbai. So, prior to the shoot he spent three to four months analysing and understanding how people live in that region. He said, "It was tough because it's a different lifestyle altogether. It took time to adjust to that place. I had to wake up early and trek in the cold weather. It was very taxing physically. Post trek I had to rappel and do rock climbing. I used to crash as soon as I hit the bed. Dad took us to a place where there was hardly any civilisation. It was very tough to bring out emotions as the high altitude presented another set of challenges." But the actor is glad that he went through the grueling experience as he now has a sense of accomplishment. He added that he has found a new love and affection for his city.

While Karan was balancing the role of an actor, his father had to look at all the aspects of the film rather being focussed on just acting. Sunny said that he was looking for the best singer because music plays a vital role. "My music is very new and story-driven. I believe that a song should always go with the flow of the story

rather than putting it just for the sake of it. I am fond of doing new and interesting things as remakes are boring," he said.

But looking back at his chequered career, even people who hadn't been born when *Ghayal* was released in 1990, are well versed with his famous dialogue, "Jab yeh dhai kilo ka haath kisi pe padta hai na, toh aadmi uthta nahi utth jata hai?" The *Gadar* actor is known for his strong roles. Irrespective of whether it is a comic or a serious role, it was his powerful personality that made an impact. He said, "No matter what the role was, the way I portrayed it made it different. I tried to infuse all my roles with a personal touch so that it looked natural." Recalling an incident from his film *Ziddi* he said, "There is a scene where people tell me, 'tumhari behen ko usne chedh diya.' I believe that if someone does this in reality *main haath ukhad dunga*. Because I wanted the scene to look natural I said that those were the dialogues I wanted to mouth. When people heard this, they started laughing wondering how could someone do this. But I did that scene. That's my belief, as an actor. When I take up something I do it with honesty."

There is another role that Sunny has taken upon himself, that of a member of Parliament from Gurdaspur. On foraying into the field of politics, he said that it is one more profession he wanted to do justice to. "People know that if I take up anything in life I take it to a high point where it should have been," said he.

During the whole session Karan seemed quite nervous. When asked about the same, before we could even complete the sentence Sunny defended him. He said (pointing towards the lead actors of the film) "They have come to a point where what happens on a Friday will dictate their tomorrow. They are unaware whether it will be smooth, hard or filled with opportunities."

When asked about the plethora of emotions that Karan was going through, he said, "I feel nervous and excited. I am eagerly waiting for the response to my film." As he answered the questions his face began to turn red clearly revealing how frightened he was. He added that his anxiety won't let him sleep until the film releases. Pointing towards Sunny he said, "I can understand now what he must be going through with every release." The thought that first impression is the last has Karan worried.

Right from the black and white era when Dharmendra became a part of the industry, to Sunny and Bobby, the Deols have made a mark in Bollywood. Naturally, with such a family background, the baggage is heavier. Karan said, "People are keenly looking out for your negatives to put you down. They don't see that it's my first experience as an actor. I can't be perfect from the word go just because I come from a particular family. With time and experience, I will polish myself and grow as an actor. I want to push my family name forward and hopefully with this film, I will be able to do that."

The film has a plethora of emotions ranging from excitement, sadness and romance, it was not easy for Karan to portray one and switch to another instantly. For an experienced actor that would be easy but tough for a beginner. He shared that during an emotional scene Sunny made sure that the atmosphere of the set facilitated it.

Crediting all his learnings to his father, Karan said, "No other director would have pushed me the way dad did. When I went home after shoot, he taught me how to get into the mood for a scene instantly. As he knows my personality he was aware how to bring out a particular emotion. It is important for a director to know a person, especially a newcomer so that s/he can be moulded in a desired way. Because he is an actor himself he understands all the facets better. And it was my dad, so yes it was a really emotional journey."

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

I I F A G A L A



Deepika Padukone in a lilac lace gown



Alia Bhatt showed up in a flowy off-shoulder gown



Sara Ali Khan showed up in a pristine white ball gown



Madhuri Dixit in a red-hot gown



Ranveer Singh wore a quirky pant suit

A hundred battles

Actor **BRAD PITT** talks about his new film *Ad Astra*, his struggle with alcoholism and the MeToo movement

Actor Brad Pitt opened up about his struggles with alcoholism and the efforts he made in order to face his problems. He said, "Initially, I didn't know how to deal with my painful feelings. But I don't even want to run from anything, instead want to sit and feel it. I want to get through the rough night. And I found, in doing so, you just come out of it with a more profound understanding of yourself and gratefulness for those in your life."

In an interview with Christiane Amanpour, chief anchor for CNN, he discussed his new film *Ad Astra*, his battle with alcoholism and the Me Too movement. Space epic *Ad Astra* tackles a range of topics. Pitt talked about the film's focus on loneliness, father-and-son relationships, masculinity and vulnerability. He said that there his love for the sci-fi genre made him sign this film. "I didn't want to do it until I figured we could do something that would add to a successful genre. And I think James Gray had a really interesting take that we hadn't seen before. It just seemed the subject matter of, I guess, finding self at this age in my life, it seemed interesting," said Pitt and went on to add, "When you get older, you just get tired of everything. And we wanted to get on with this film in that way. We all carry great pains and major regrets. We have all experienced loss and loneliness. And we're good at packing that away, not dealing with it, some are really good at getting through it and coming out the other side in a more well-rounded and confident manner. So we just wanted to like get it out there."

The two went on to discuss the summer hit *Once Upon a Time in*

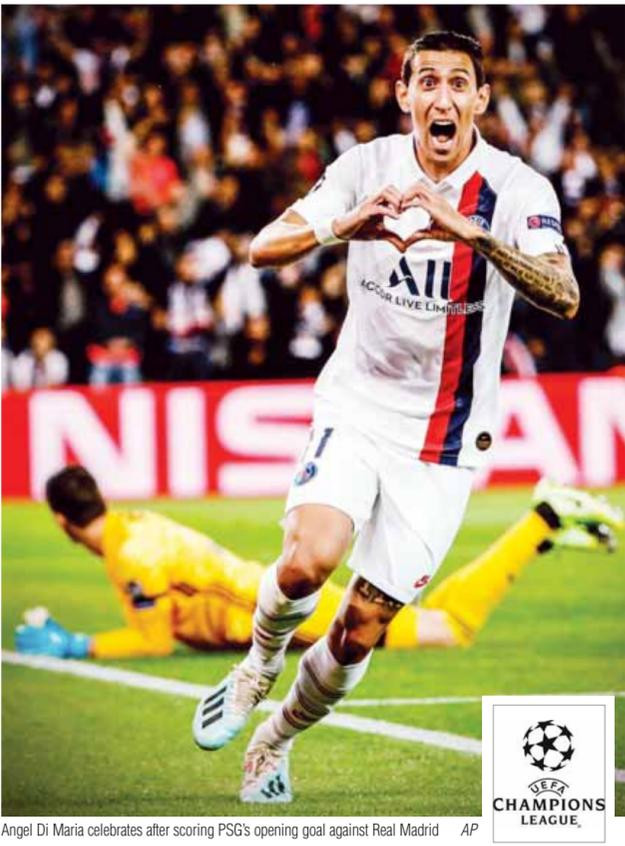


Hollywood and Pitt's breakout role in *Thelma and Louise*.

Amanpour spoke to Pitt about the Me-Toe movement and his early part in calling out Harvey Weinstein in the 1990s. When then girlfriend Gwyneth Paltrow was propositioned by Weinstein, Pitt confronted the media mogul. Asked about the incident, Pitt downplayed his own role in the movement but gave credit to its importance. He said, "At that moment, I was a boy from the Ozarks on the playground and that's how we confronted with things. And I wanted to make sure nothing happened further because Paltrow was going to do two films. I think that the interesting thing is that we, Hollywood specifically, but the work place, men and women's dynamic is being recalibrated in a very good way, and it's long overdue. And I do think that's an important story to tell."

Evening in Paris

Angel's brace helps PSG thrash Real 3-0; Herrera snatches late point against Juve



Angel Di Maria celebrates after scoring PSG's opening goal against Real Madrid AP

FIGURATIVELY

- 1 Paris-Real Madrid is the first game in the history of the UCL where both teams have more players of the nationality of the opposing team than of their own in their starting 11 (3 in Real, 1 in Paris — 2 in Real).
- 0 Real Madrid failed to have a single shot on target against PSG tonight, the first time they have failed to do so in the UCL since 2003-04 (in 167 games).
- 3 Angel Di Maria is only the 3rd player to score at least 2 goals in a match against Real Madrid and Barcelona in the history of the CL after Mario Jardel and Andriy Shevchenko.
- 4 Angel Di Maria has been involved in 4 of Paris' last 6 goals in the CL (1 goal, 3 assists).
- 7 Kieran Trippier created seven chances for Atlético Madrid against Juventus, the most by any player on MD1 of this season's tournament.
- 2 Atlético de Madrid has conceded two or more goals in three straight matches in all competitions for the second time in the Simeone era, the first was in February 2014.
- 4 Juan Cuadrado has scored each of his four CL goals in away games.
- 1 The 2019-20 CL season is the first campaign to see two different players score a hat-trick on their debut (Mislav Orsic and Erling Haaland).
- 16 The Bayern Munich wins for the 16th time in a row his opening match in the CL and thus expands the record in this competition.
- 2011 It's the first time since Barca and Man Utd in 2011 when both CL winners and runners up did not win their first game in the following season.
- 82 Rodrigo completed all 82 passes that he attempted in Manchester City's win against Shakhtar; the most passes with a 100% success rate in USL since Oct 2017 (Barzagli for Juventus v Sporting CP — 96/96).



AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain launched their latest quest for Champions League success with a statement win over Real Madrid on Wednesday, while a late Atletico Madrid comeback foiled Juventus as Manchester City eased to victory in Ukraine.

French giants PSG have failed to make their mark in Europe, crashing out of the Champions League in the last 16 each of the past three years despite the huge sums of money spent by their Qatari owners.

With Neymar suspended and Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani sidelined by injury, Angel Di Maria stepped up in their absence by grabbing two first-half goals from the Parc des Princes.

Thomas Meunier added the third late on as Madrid, who beat PSG on the way to lifting the trophy in 2016

and 2018, were soundly beaten in their Group A opener with Eden Hazard kept quiet on his full debut.

"There's no message sent, but we dominated this game very well," PSG captain Thiago Silva told RMC Sport.

"We have to play like this all the time, in the league as well, with character and hunger."

Real, the 13-time European champions, are still favourites to advance from a section that includes Club Brugge and Galatasaray, who drew 0-0 in Belgium, but the nature of the loss underscored the work that lies ahead for coach Zinedine Zidane.

Diego Simeone's Atletico clawed their way back from two goals down in the final 20 minutes to rescue a 2-2 draw at home to Juventus in Group D.

The anticipated clash between Cristiano Ronaldo and Joao Felix, the teenager



Atletico Madrid's Hector Herrera scores his side's second goal during Group D match against Juventus AP

touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, took a backseat to a Atletico rousing comeback after second-half goals from Juan Cuadrado and Blaise Matuidi put Juve in control.

Stefan Savic nodded home from point-blank range to give Atletico hope

and substitute Hector Herrera headed in a corner in the final minute to snatch a point.

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands," said Juventus boss Maurizio Sarri.

STRONG RESPONSE

Both sides trail Lokomotiv Moscow following the Russians' 2-1 win at Bayer Leverkusen. Grzegorz Krychowiak and Dmitri Barinov scored for Lokomotiv either side of an own goal by former Germany defender Benedikt

"We can't be too surprised because he (Di Maria) has been showing for more than a year now that he is capable of performances like that. He was exceptional tonight. He is always dangerous."

—THOMAS TUCHEL (PSG coach)

"PSG are a good team and created lots of chances but what worries me is that my team played without any intensity. We didn't really ever get going. We usually create lots of chances and today, well we scored two goals but both were disallowed. Apart from that there was nothing."

—ZINEDINE ZIDANE (Real Madrid coach)

"I'm happy to have made my first appearance and to have helped the team. This side is known for how it always fights to the end. A draw against a team like Juventus isn't bad at all. We wanted to win the match but a draw is a good result given the quality of the opposition."

—HECTOR HERRERA (Atlético de Madrid midfielder)

"I think we played well but we have a bitter taste in our mouth now because we felt we had the game in our hands. We need more attention and focus on set-pieces. We will work on that."

—MAURIZIO SARRI (Juventus manager)

"We put ourselves in a great position. But conceding a goal before half-time changed the momentum."

—HARRY KANE (Tottenham Hotspur striker)

"I believe we can be very satisfied, the team concentrated very hard on the job at hand. We scored three goals, that's standard for us."

—NIKO KOVAC (Bayern Munich manager)

"Three points away are so important. Now it's in our hands. If we can close the games at home then we will be in the last 16."

—PEP GUARDIOLA (Manchester City boss)

Hoewedes.

Premier League champions City bounced back from defeat by Norwich at the weekend with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Shakhtar Donetsk in Kharkiv.

Riyad Mahrez slammed home a rebound after Ilkay Gundogan hit the post, and the German international smacked in a second before Gabriel Jesus sealed the points on 76 minutes.

"When you win the manager makes the right decisions, when you lose the wrong decisions. We lost one game in eight months and we will not doubt who these players are. It is a joy to be their manager," coach Pep Guardiola told BT Sport.

City are second to Dinamo Zagreb in Group C after the Croatian champions made it a night to forget for competition debutants Atalanta with a 4-0 rout.

Dinamo failed to score a single goal as they lost all six matches on their last group stage appearance in 2016-17.

However, Marin Leovac gave them a 10th-minute lead and Mislav Orsic bagged a hat-trick as Dinamo got off to a dream start ahead of a trip to City on October 2.

Bayern Munich needed late goals from Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller to make sure of victory against Red Star Belgrade in Group D.

Kingsley Coman's bullet header gave Bayern a first-half lead but the German champions were forced to wait until the 80th minute before Lewandowski ended Red Star's threat.

Substitute Mueller volleyed in a third in stoppage time.

Last year's finalists Tottenham blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Olympiakos.

Harry Kane's penalty and a fine Lucas Moura strike put Spurs 2-0 up after 30 minutes in Greece, but Daniel Podence cut the deficit shortly before the break and Mathieu Valbuena levelled from the spot in the second half.

SINGLES

DANANJAYA BANNED FOR ILLEGAL ACTION

DUBAI: Sri Lanka off-spinner Akila Dananjaya was on Thursday handed a 12 month ban by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for illegal bowling action. The decision was taken after an independent assessment of his action. The 25-year-old was assessed after the legality of his bowling action came under question during the first Test against New Zealand in Galle from August 14th to 18th. He subsequently underwent the independent assessment in Chennai on August 29, which revealed that he employed an illegal bowling action.

INDIA SLIPS IN FIFA RANKING

ZURICH: The Indian football team on Thursday slipped a place to 104th position in the latest FIFA rankings. The Indian team, coached by Igor Stimac, have been regularly playing since the 2019 Intercontinental Cup in July. Earlier this month, India had held Asian champions Qatar to a goalless draw in Doha to gain their first point in the 2022 World Cup Qualifiers. Qatar held on to their ranking of 62nd position, despite not being able to beat India. Oman, however, gained three places to 84th spot, following their 2-1 win over India. Belgium managed to hold on to the top position, while France have surpassed Brazil to reach the second spot.

MARKRAM, MULDER LED FIGHTBACK

MYSURU: Skipper Aiden Markram and allrounder Wiaan Mulder hit superb hundreds as South Africa 'A' fought their way to 400 all out against India 'A' on day three of the second unofficial Test on Thursday. Markram geared up for the three-Test series against India with a superb 161, while Mulder produced an unbeaten 131 — as the visitors came within 17 runs of India A's first innings of 417. The duo added 155 runs for the sixth wicket stand to resurrect the South Africa A's innings after they were struggling at 142 for 5 at one stage. The home team were 14 for no loss in six overs before bad light resulted in play being called off with over 25 overs still to be bowled.

DIBABA OUT OF WORLDS WITH INJURY

PARIS: Genzebe Dibaba, the 2015 champion and world record holder in the women's 1,500 metres, will miss the World Championships due to a foot injury, the Ethiopian said on Instagram. Dibaba, 28, who won the world title in Beijing in 2015 and set the global best of 3min 50.07sec over the distance the same year, is suffering from a partial rupture to a ligament in her right heel which she suffered during the Zurich Diamond League meeting last month. "Unfortunately I am not able to be at Doha World Championship. I am already working to come back stronger!" she posted alongside a photo.

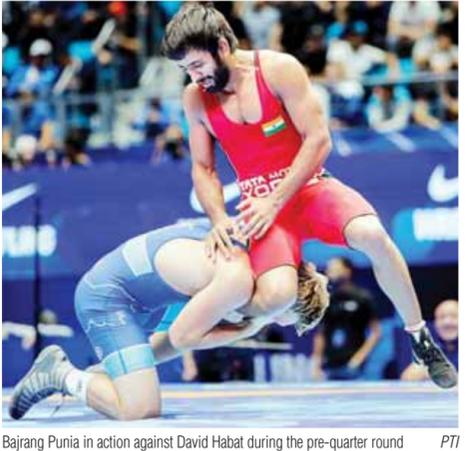
TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR ASIAN SHOOTING

NEW DELHI: A 41-member strong Indian shooting squad will look to secure the maximum possible Olympic quotas in the 14th Asian Championship, which begins in Doha on November 3. Thirty-eight Olympic quota places will be up for grabs in the continental tournament in the Qatari capital. The selection committee of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), announced the team consisting of shooters across the 15 Olympic events, including six entries only for the non-competition Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) section. A notable selection was the fielding of seasoned rifle shooter Sanjeev Rajput in the MQS section of the men's 10m Air Rifle event. There are also some new faces who will be seen for the first time in senior India colours in the Olympic events.

BENGAL BEAT HARYANA STEELERS IN PKL

PUNE: Maninder Singh was the star for Bengal Warriors as they beat Haryana Steelers 48-36 in their Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) match here on Thursday. The victory helped Bengal Warriors consolidate their stay in the second place of the points table. Bengal Warriors dominated the first half of the match with their raiding trio of Maninder Singh, K Prapanjan and Mohammad Nabibaksh picking points with ease against a Haryana defence that evidently lacked leadership. Bengal's dominance wasn't limited to their raids though as their aggressive approach in defence paid rich dividends.

Bajrang loses in semis after qualifying for 2020 Olympics



Bajrang Punia in action against David Habat during the pre-quarter round PTI

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

Bajrang Punia lost his semi-final bout against home wrestler Daulet Niyazbekov under controversial circumstances after sealing his Tokyo Olympics quota along with Ravi Dahiya, who made his presence felt in a star-studded field at the World Wrestling Championships, here on Thursday.

Bajrang's frustrated coach Shako Benitidis kicked the coach's block in anger after the 65kg bout ended 9-9 following a nerve-wracking six minutes.

Since Niyazbekov was given a bigger throw of four points in the bout, he was

declared the winner.

In the fiercely-fought bout, the referee gave ample time to tiring Niyazbekov to catch his breath and he was not given caution at least thrice.

Instead Niyazbekov was awarded four points when it was Bajrang who effected a throw at the edge of the circle.

"I challenged it and they should have given at least two points to Bajrang for that hold," said coach Benitidis.

Several times, Bajrang raised his hands in frustration but to no avail.

The last edition Silver medalist Indian will now fight for the Bronze today.

"It was clear that the mat chairman favoured the home

Kamal-Sathiyan storm into quarters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian men's doubles pair of G Sathiyan and Achanta Sharath Kamal sailed into the quarterfinals of the 24th ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with easy win over Mahfooth Sayed Muradha and Rashed Rashed of Bahrain at Yogyakarta, Indonesia on Thursday.

The Indian duo beat Muradha and Rashed 11-8, 11-6, 11-3 in a lop-sided affair.

In the quarterfinals, Sathiyan and Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun and Lin Gaoyuan.

Earlier in the day after receiving first-round bye, the Indians got the better of Jordan's Abo Yaman Zaid and Aldmaizy Zeyad 11-4, 11-7, 11-7 in the round of 32.

But the other Indian pair of Harmeet Desai and Anthony Amalraj, after enjoying a bye in the round of 64, lost to Chinese Taipei's Liu Hsing-Yin and Peng Wang Wei.

Harmeet and Amalraj fought hard before losing 11-5, 7-11, 11-3, 8-11, 6-11 against their accomplished Chinese rivals.

It was curtains for India in the women's doubles as the pair of Manika Batra and Archana Kamath and Madhurika Patkar and Sutirtha Mukherjee bowed out the tournament.

The pair of Manika and Archana had an easy round of 64 outing, beating the Kazak duo of Lavnova Anastasiya and Khuseinova Gulchekhra 3-0 but lost in the next round to Korean combination of Yang Haeun and

In the quarters, Sathiyan & Sharath Kamal will be up against Chinese pair of Liang Jingkun & Lin Gaoyuan

Jeon Hjee 6-11, 9-11, 7-11.

Madhurika and Sutirtha followed suit as they lost to Doo Hoi Kem and Lee Ho Ching of Hong Kong 9-11, 5-11, 11-13 after clearing the round of 64 hurdle against Macau's Tao Chong and Lei Wai Mei 3-0.

In the mixed event, the pairs of Sharath Kamal-Manika and Sathiyan-Archana lost in the round of 32.

While Korean pair of Lee Sangsu and Jeo Jhiee accounted for Sharath and Manika 11-9, 11-8, 11-7, China's Wang Chuqin and Sun Yingsha beat Sathiyan and Archana 11-7, 11-9, 13-11.

In men singles, Sharath Kamal, Sathiyan, Amalraj, Harmeet and Manav Thakkar had all received first-round byes and registered 3-0 wins over their respective rivals in the round of 128.

Only Harmeet dropped a game against Panagitun Yanapang of Thailand before overcoming his rival 11-9, 6-11, 11-5, 11-5.

All the Indian men's singles paddlers will play their round of 64 matches later in the day.

In women singles, Archana enjoyed the random bye in the round of 128 while others had to play their first round matches to enter the round of 64.

Panghal, Manish aim for history

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

India would be aiming to better their best ever show when Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) step inside the ring against tough opponents in pursuit of summit berths in the World Men's Boxing Championship here today.

India have never had two semifinalists at the marquee event for amateur boxers and in that respect, the two Haryana boxers have already scripted history.

But if both or either of them manages to make the finals, it would be a gigantic step forward for the sport in the country.

The task, however, is easier said than done.

Panghal has in his way Kazakhstan's Saken Bibossinov, who stunned Armenia's European Gold-medallist and sixth seed Artur Hovhannissyan in the quarterfinals.

Kaushik, on the other hand, faces the most accomplished boxer in his weight category — Cuban top seed Andy Gomez Cruz, who out-punched Russia's eighth-seeded Ilya Popov in the last-eight stage.

"Now begins the tough job. We have already delivered on bettering the medal count and now we aim to better their colour," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

"I am happy but I won't be completely happy till the time both of them reach the finals and they surely can, both of them," added the country's chief coach C A Kuttappa.

They are up against tough challengers but that in no way



makes them automatic underdogs.

Panghal, the pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak, is the reigning Asian Games and Championships Gold-medallist and has back-to-back gold medals at one of Europe's oldest tournament — the Strandja Memorial.

Kaushik, the shy man hailing from the cradle of Indian boxing Bhiwani, is a Commonwealth Games Gold-medallist and is a two-time national medal winner.

Both are employed with the Indian Army and both have shown a soldier's grit in some draining bouts so far.

QUALIFIERS SEALED

Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) have also made the Indian boxing squad for next year's Olympic Qualifiers owing to their medal-winning show.

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) had made it clear that boxers who win medals at the world championships will be automatic picks for the Olympic qualifiers scheduled in February in China.

"Yes, Amit and Manish will be going to the qualifiers. There will not be any trials in their weight categories now," Indian Boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva said.

The rest of the squad will be picked on the basis of camp performance, points accumulated at international events and in some cases, trials.

FROM START TO STOP

Deepak fond of bowling at death despite success in the starting overs

PTI ■ MOHALI

Most bowlers find it tough to contain batsmen in death overs but young India pacer Deepak Chahar relishes the challenge in the Twenty20 format.

With India giving youngsters opportunities ahead of the T20 World Cup next year, 27-year-old Chahar has impressed in the three games he has got since making his debut in July last year, taking six wickets at 11.50.

Used to opening the bowling for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, Chahar has shown he can be equally effective in the death overs.

"I don't know how I developed it (bowling at the top) but you have to do it when you are playing for India. It is challenging with only two fielders outside the circle. But I have started thinking sub-consciously that I will need to bowl three overs with two fielders outside the circle," said Chahar, who was India's standout bowler in their seven-wicket win over South Africa on Wednesday.

In his opening spell of three overs, Chahar swung the ball and picked up the wicket of Reeza Hendricks before returning in the 18th over to remove a set Temba Bavuma with a well disguised slower ball.

"Earlier I used to bowl more in the death overs and find it easier because in Powerplay you have only two fielders outside the circle and after that you have the protection of five fielders. You can use variation also in death overs," he said.

Chahar said he focuses on out-guessing the batsman.

"How I bowl depends on the batsmen. In the death overs, the batsman is expecting yorkers or a slower ball but if you can also bowl a bouncer or knuckle ball, it can surprise him. You to have to keep guessing the batsman,"



Deepak Chahar, left, looks on as Quinton de Kock completes a run during the second T20 match in Mohali on Wednesday

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said the Rajasthan pacer.

He feels bowling on flat wickets in Chennai during the IPL has made him a better bowler.

"There is no off the wicket help when you are playing in Chennai. But when we were playing in Pune last to last year, there was help both off the wicket and in the air. But in Chennai, the swing is there for maximum one over as there is no grass. So, I got confidence that if I could do well there, I could do well elsewhere too," he said.

Chahar has grabbed his chances so far but knows he is far from cementing his place in the side ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia.

"There is one whole year left for that. I play each match as if it is my last for India. At this time Indian cricket is at the top. If you want to play you have to do well in almost every game. There is a lot of competition and may be that is why Indian cricket is at the top."

"There is no guarantee that you will get your place back even if you are returning from an injury."

Talking about Virat Kohli's match-winning knock of 72 not out, Chahar was all praise.

"He is just next level and all class," he said.



Temba Bavuma plays a shot during the second T20 international match

We were not outplayed by beatable India: Bavuma

PTI ■ MOHALI

Test specialist Temba Bavuma, who had a decent outing in his debut in the short-format.

South Africa looked set for 180 when skipper Quinton de Kock (52) and Bavuma (49) were in the middle before the southpaw's dismissal put the brakes on the scoring rate, limiting the total to 149 for five.

"The first 10-12 overs we played really well. I think we could not really get going after a good start and lost the game between 12th to the 15th over," Bavuma, who has played 36 Tests, said after the seven-wicket loss to India.

"When David came in the 13th over, we were in a strong position, 180 seemed very much gettable at the halfway stage. I was not really able to get that momentum and others as well. I don't think we were completely outplayed," said Bavuma who missed out on a well-deserved fifty by one run in his attempt to accelerate.

The 29-year-old from Cape Town said India are formidable

but not unbeatable as the Proteas aim to level the series in Bengaluru on Sunday.

"They are formidable but not unbeatable. It was just one phase with the bat where we let ourselves down and a quality side like India made us pay."

"There will always be moments in the game which we can win and it is about being aware of those moments and making sure we are in the right mental space to win those moments," said Bavuma.

Playing his first limited-overs game for South Africa in almost two years, Bavuma made it count.

"It was good to be out there. Facing the white ball again. It has been a while. It was a pleasing effort but did not do much to the result of the game. Last (domestic) season was a big season for me in white ball cricket. There were not many Tests and that allowed me to play white ball cricket."

"I got the opportunity to come back to the national fold. It helped me understand what my gameplan is in white ball cricket," he explained.

SL to go ahead with Pak tour despite terror fears

AFP ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's cricket board on Thursday said it will go ahead with its tour of Pakistan despite fears that players could be the targets of terror attacks during the six-match visit.

Sri Lanka Cricket secretary Mohan de Silva said they received the all-clear from the defence ministry to leave for Pakistan on Tuesday after establishing that there was no threat to the national team.

Sri Lanka Cricket added in a statement that the governing body was assured the Pakistan army would coordinate security set at a level usually reserved for a head of state.

"Sri Lanka Cricket wishes to announce that the forthcoming tour of Pakistan will go ahead as planned, following assurances given by the government of Pakistan that it will provide maximum security," the statement said.

De Silva added that he and "our office bearers will also be accompanying the team."

Reports last week of a possible terror attack were referred to the defence ministry for investigation.

The six-match tour, due to start on September 27, was put on hold last week after the Sri Lanka prime minister's office warned the board it had unspecified information about a possible attack against its players.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said it was not aware of any information relating to the safety of the Sri Lankan team, but reiterated its commitment to providing security.

Paine sees 'very exciting era' for Aus

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Captain Tim Paine has predicted a "very exciting era" for Australian cricket after the team retained the Ashes against England, while revealing he broke his thumb in the final Test.

The series was drawn 2-2, with Australia keeping the urn as the Ashes holders despite losing the last Test at the Oval by 135 runs.

"I'm looking forward to Australia seeing how far we've come this summer," Paine said in a column for The Australian newspaper, referring to upcoming home Tests against Pakistan and New Zealand.

"Last year we were a bit lost and were finding our way," he added after the side struggled in the wake of the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa.

"I know we have found it now and I am confident this group is the beginning of a very exciting era in Australian cricket. We've got the best bowling attack in the world and the basis for a great batting line-up." Australia retaining the Ashes was built on the back of an

incredible series by former skipper Steve Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, and an impressive bowling attack led by Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood.

Paine called Smith "a freak" while also praising Marnus Labuschagne as having "a huge future" after he too enjoyed a stellar tour with the bat. But he revealed the last Test was a struggle for himself and fast bowler Peter Siddle.



Australia's Steve Smith, second left, celebrates catching England's Chris Woakes during the third day of the fifth Ashes

"My thumb was broken towards the end of that Test but it is not displaced, so I should be right to get back into training early," said Paine, while praising workhorse Siddle who was battling a hip injury.

"He has copped a bit of criticism for not bowling as well as... We know he can, but the team knows just how heroic he was."

"A lot of other people wouldn't have bowled again in the match, but he pushed on

because he didn't want to leave Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins to do extra work."

Coming off a long overseas tour and with five home Tests starting from November 21, Paine said he needs to rest and will not play the domestic Big Bash League Twenty20 competition this season.

"Being captain is draining and I think I should take every chance to recharge my batteries," he said.

Virat Kohli's record as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper might have been below-par but the team's newly-appointed Director of Cricket Mike Hesson ruled out any change in leadership for the under-performing franchise in the next IPL edition.

Despite stars like Kohli, AB de Villiers and Chris Gayle (for better part), RCB has not won the IPL since the event's inception. Kohli has led the team in seven of those seasons. Hesson nipped questions on Kohli controlling the team and change in captaincy in the bud.

"We don't have that perception that Virat controls things. But maybe he has had his learnings from the past (mistakes) while moving forward," Hesson said on Thursday.

Hesson said Kohli has been on the same page as him and chief coach Simon Katich. "There has been no question mark over Virat's captaincy during last couple of weeks (of dis-

No question of replacing Virat as captain: Hesson

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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Virat Kohli in a file picture

ussions)," Hesson clarified

"We have been very much aligned and he has been more than happy to take our advice from our experience," the former New Zealand coach added.

RCB's questionable recruitment has come in for a lot of criticism but Hesson assured that this time they are looking at specific players and not hundreds of options.

"There will be big focus on recruitment. Once auction gets

completed, the work starts then, not a week before the tournament starts. We would have clarity in roles that players need to perform," he said.

On recruitment of domestic players, Hesson said there are specific players they would be looking at and not just statistical highlights during the Mushtaq Ali or Vijay Hazare Trophy.

"During Vijay Hazare and Mushtaq Ali Trophy, we would like to see players we want to fit in. It's more about finding out how players build context around performance, conditions and pressure situations," he said.

Hesson also agreed that the team needs to consider consistent performances and not one odd innings before selecting players.

"Form is a factor but we need to be more holistic in terms of how we talent scout. We look at four-year period as then they are ready to deliver when put under the pump. It doesn't happen after one good season," he said.

PTI ■ SURAT

Eves take on SA

Rookie teenager Shafali Verma, who has been picked in India's T20 squad, would be the cynosure of all eyes when the Board President's XI takes on the South Africa women in a warm-up match here today.

The 15-year-old Shafali was named in the Indian women's team for the T20 series against South Africa following her good performance in the

Women's T20 challenge earlier and at the age-group level this year.

The diminutive Haryana-girl would like to make optimum use of the warm-up game and get runs under her belt if she is given an opportunity in the playing XI.

The first warm-up game will be held on Friday at the Lalbhai Contractor stadium here

followed by the second match on Sunday.

Apart from Shafali, pacers Mansi Joshi and Pooja Vastrakar have also been named in the T20 squad and a good outing on Friday would also boost their morale before the main tournament begins here on Tuesday.

On the other hand, the South Africa women will also be aiming to start

their Indian tour on a winning note. They would be keen to use these games to assess the conditions and get acclimatized to the hot and humid weather. All the T20s will be played in Surat while the ODIs will be played in Vadodara.

BPXI: Sushma Verma (captain & wicket-keeper), Devika Vaidya (vice-captain), Vanitha VR, Shafali Verma, Priya Punia, Jasia Aktar, MD Thiruskumini, Madhuri

Mehta, Tarannum Pathan, Sushree Dibyardarshini, Tanuja Kanwar, Bharti Fulmali, Mansi Joshi, Renuka Singh, Pooja Vastrakar.

SA women: Sune Luus (Captain), Anneke Bosch, Tasmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafra, Ayabonga Klerk, Lara Goodall, Lizelle Lee, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Tumi Sekhukhune, Nondumiso Shangase, Mignon du Preez and Lara Wolvaardt.

India-Bangla U-23 match shifts to reserve day

Saurabh replaces Soni in India U-23 squad



PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Rain forced the first One-Day International between India Under-23 and Bangladesh Under-23 to be shifted on reserve day i.e. Friday.

Interestingly, it was because of heavy rains the venue has been shifted to Lucknow from Raipur by the BCCI.

Meanwhile, left-arm medium pacer Saurabh Dubey was named as replacement for Dhruvansh Soni in Indian squad.

Soni, who was originally named in the squad, has been ruled out of the tournament due to a medical illness, a BCCI media

release said. "The All-India Junior Selection Committee has named Saurabh Dubey as replacement for Dhruvansh Soni in the India U-23 squad that is set to play a five-match one-day series against Bangladesh," it added.

Updated Indian U-23 squad: Priyam Garg (Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Madhav Kaushik, B R Sharath (wicket-keeper), Samarth Vyas, Aryan Juyal (wicket-keeper), Ritwik Roy Choudhary, Kumar Suraj, Atit Seth, Shubhang Hegde, Hrithik Shokeen, Saurabh Dubey, Arshdeep Singh, Ananta Saha, Harpreet Brar.

Praneeth keeps hope alive

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

Reigning world champion PV Sindhu made an early exit from the China Open but B Sai Praneeth kept the Indian flag fluttering with a hard-fought straight-game win to reach the men's singles quarterfinals here on Thursday.

Sindhu, an Olympic Silver medallist, squandered a first-game advantage to go down 12-21, 21-13, 21-19 to Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in a women's singles pre-quarterfinals that lasted 58 minutes here.

Praneeth, who had claimed a Bronze medal at Basel, edged out China's Lu Guang Zu 21-19, 21-19 to set up a meeting against Indonesian seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting.

Ginting beat India's Parupalli Kashyap 23-21, 15-21, 21-12 in a thrilling contest. Doubles specialist Satwiksairaj



B Sai Praneeth in action during World Championship

Rankireddy also had a dismal day as he suffered twin defeats, losing both the men's doubles and mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.

In men's doubles, Satwik and Chirag Shetty, ranked 15th in the world, ran out of steam after a decent start against fourth-seeded Japanese pair of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda and went down 19-21, 8-21 in the second-round match that lasted 33 minutes.

This is the second time Satwik and Chirag have lost to the combination of Kamura and Sonoda this year. They had lost to the world No 4 pair at the Japan Open in July.

Satwik then paired up with his mixed doubles partner Ashwini Ponanappa but the duo couldn't get past Yuki Kaneko and Misaki Matsutomo, losing 11-21, 21-16,

12-21 to the Japanese pair.

Ashwini also tasted defeat in women's doubles after she and her partner N Sikki Reddy lost 12-21, 17-21 to second seeded Japanese pair of Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi.

Sindhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 head-to-head lead against Pornpawee, dominated the first game as she lead 7-1 early on but the Thai shuttler reduced the deficit to 10-11 at the break.

However, Sindhu reeled off eight straight points after the interval to jump to 19-10 and eventually sealed the first game comfortably.

The decider started on an even note as both the shuttlers fought hard, moving together till 6-6 when Sindhu surged ahead to enjoy a 11-7 cushion at the break.

However, Pornpawee kept breathing down Sindhu's neck and slowly moved to 15-19. From there, the Thai shuttler blasted six straight points to leave the Indian shocked.