

**OPINION 8**  
WHAT'S A DEGREE  
WORTH?

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FORCES OF MEDDLING

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# Howdy, Modi echoes in Houston

Without naming Pak, Modi says 9/11, 26/11 terrorists were provided safe haven there

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a rousing welcome on Sunday when he arrived at the crowded NRG stadium on Sunday to address the Indian-American community with people chanting "Howdy, Modi."

Addressing over 50,000 Indian-Americans at the NRG stadium, Modi said it was honour and privilege for him to welcome Trump in this magnificent stadium and magnificent gathering.

Modi drew a parallel between the 9/11 and 26/11 terror attacks, saying time has come for a "decisive fight" against those who promote and support terrorism, in a veiled attack on Pakistan which is accused of harbouring terror groups. "Whether it is 9/11 in US or 26/11 in Mumbai, where are these people coming from?" Modi asked while addressing the record crowd in the presence of Trump.

In an apparent reference to Pakistan, Modi said the people who cannot even manage their own country are harbouring terrorism and supporting terrorism. "The entire world knows about this," he added. Modi said India has given farewell to Article 370, which allowed terrorism and separation to rear its head in



President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi walk around NRG Stadium waving to the crowd during the Howdy Modi event in Houston on Sunday AP

## DMK affidavit to EC puts CPM, CPI in tight spot

CPM affidavit doesn't mention DMK donation

J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI

The DMK's Lok Sabha election expenditure affidavit submitted to the Election Commission has put its alliance partners CPI(M) and CPI in a tight spot.

As per the affidavit submitted on September 20, the DMK has given ₹10 crore to CPI(M) and ₹15 crore to CPI which were allotted two seats each in Tamil Nadu by the major alliance partner DMK. Interestingly, this ₹10 crore donation from the DMK is not reflected in the CPI(M)'s affidavit to the Election Commission.

The CPI(M) had submitted the first expenditure affidavit on July 10 and on September 13 the party claimed that its total election expenditure across India is around ₹7.2 crore in

their last affidavit. The CPI has not yet submitted their affidavit to the Election Commission.

According to the DMK's affidavit, it had given ₹10 crore to the CPI(M) through bank transfer in three installments on April 5, 8 and 9. The DMK transferred ₹15 crore to the CPI through bank in two installments on April 5 and 16. The DMK also gave ₹15 crore to one of their regional alliance partners Kongu Nadu Democratic Party, which was allotted one seat in Lok Sabha elections from the DMK-led alliance.

It is interesting to note that the DMK's self-declared total expenditure is ₹79.26 crore including the above mentioned total ₹40 crore donations to its alliance partners. The DMK won 22 seats in Tamil Nadu. The CPI(M) in its expenditure affidavit showed around ₹82 lakh as receipts from Coimbatore and Madurai constituencies, while the DMK's affidavit claims they have given ₹10 crore. It's because of Nehru's blunder,

## Shah blames former PM Nehru for POK

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



Home Minister Amit Shah speaks during a rally on the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir and to campaign for next month's Maharashtra Assembly polls, in Mumbai on Sunday PTI

we have POK now," the BJP president said.

"Later on January 1, 1948 India approached the United Nations. Had India invoked charter 51 instead of charter 35, POK would have been part of India. But India invoked charter 35 which is meant for disputes. And the POK came to be declared as disputed territory," Shah said.

Charging that the Congress and its ally NCP were "shamelessly" opposing the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, Shah said: "I have come here to appeal to see for yourself who is in favour of the annulment of Article 370 and who is against it. There are two major political formations in the fray."

Continued on Page 4

## Centre to release buffer stock to arrest soaring onion prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prices of onion have once again gone up by around 50 per cent from ₹30-40 per kg to ₹50-80 per kg due to uneven distribution and supply in the wholesale markets across the country and floods in major supplying States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

Taking note of increasing onion prices, the NDA Government is mulling imposing stock limits on onion traders.

Onion prices are on the rise despite several measures taken by the Ministry of Food and Consumers Affairs to boost supply. The onion supply is expected to improve in November when the new crop will come in the market. The Centre has a buffer stock of 56,000 tonnes of onion, of which 16,000 tonnes have been offloaded so far. In Delhi, 200 tonnes a day is being offloaded.

The trade data showed



retail onion prices skyrocketing to ₹70-80 per kg towards the end of the last week from ₹50-60 per kg in the previous week.

At wholesale market of Lasalgao, onion prices rose to ₹45 per kg last week, when compared with less than ₹10/kg during the same period last year.

The retail onion prices in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) areas are Rs 50-80 per kg depending on the localities and quality. "Onion prices have almost doubled in the last 7 to 10 days.

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## Corporate tax cut to help India become a USD 5-tn eco: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Complimenting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for giving an invaluable gift to the corporate world ahead of Diwali, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that slashing corporate tax rate would result in more investment by corporates, higher growth, more jobs, higher productivity and higher income.

"It is a historic step taken by the Central government to strengthen Indian economy that will help the country compete at global level," Yogi Adityanath said while addressing reporters here on Sunday.

He said that at a time when the entire country is facing economic slowdown, the decision taken by the Union

Finance Ministry to cut corporate tax was historic. "The businesses facing recession will be revived. Lowering of tax rate due to trade war between China and America will benefit the country in general and Uttar Pradesh in particular. Due to this decision, better results will be witnessed in the state's revenue and gross domestic product (GDP)," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the current tax rate had reduced India's tax rate to the lowest among all countries of South East Asia and South Asia. "Prioritising market sentiments is the biggest historical decision taken in independent India. There has been an unprecedented increase in India's market cap — from Rs 138 lakh crore to Rs 145 lakh crore. This is the biggest jump of Rs 7 lakh crore," Yogi said.

He said that at a time when the entire country is facing economic slowdown, the decision taken by the Union

adding that the cut in tax rate would benefit the automobile and other sectors the most.

"We have brought investment policy for 21 sectors in Uttar Pradesh. This initiative of the Union Finance Ministry will enable India to become a \$5-trillion economy and Uttar Pradesh a 1-trillion economy. Due to the lowest tax rate in the whole of Asia, the entrepreneurs here will be able to export their goods easily," the Chief Minister said.

He said that companies now had the option to pay tax at the rate of 22 per cent instead of 30 per cent, and by including the surcharge and cess, the effective rate would be 25.17 per cent. "For new manufacturing companies, the effective rate, including all surpluses and cess, would be 17.01 per cent," he added.

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Odisha seeks help from Assam, Kerala to save tuskers from killer virus as 4 die

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With as many as four elephants having died at the Nandankanan Zoo in a span of a month after being infected by Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV), a worried Odisha Government has sought assistance of experts of Assam and Kerala to fight the virus.

"The State Government has contacted experts in Assam and Kerala, where a similar virus killed several elephants in the past," said Forest and Environment Minister Bikram Arukha on Sunday.

Efforts are on to save the remaining jumbos, Arukha said. Out of these four elephants, three are adults. The EHV mostly affects elephants below 15 years of age. Since most of the elephants were

Charging that the Congress and its ally NCP were "shamelessly" opposing the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, Shah said: "I have come here to appeal to see for yourself who is in favour of the annulment of Article 370 and who is against it. There are two major political formations in the fray."

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Aromatic plants perk up Leh-Ladakh farmers MoU signed for cultivation of high-value aromatic crops like rose, marigold & mint

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The fragrance of the high revenue-earning aromatic plants seems to have caught the fancy of the small farmers residing in the high-altitude cold arid zones of Leh-Ladakh.

Tapping in on this growing interest among farmers, Ladakh Farmers and Producers Cooperative Limited (LFPCL), Leh and Ladakh recently inked a pact with Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) Palampur-based lab, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) for cultivation of the high-value aromatic crops like rose, marigold and mint.

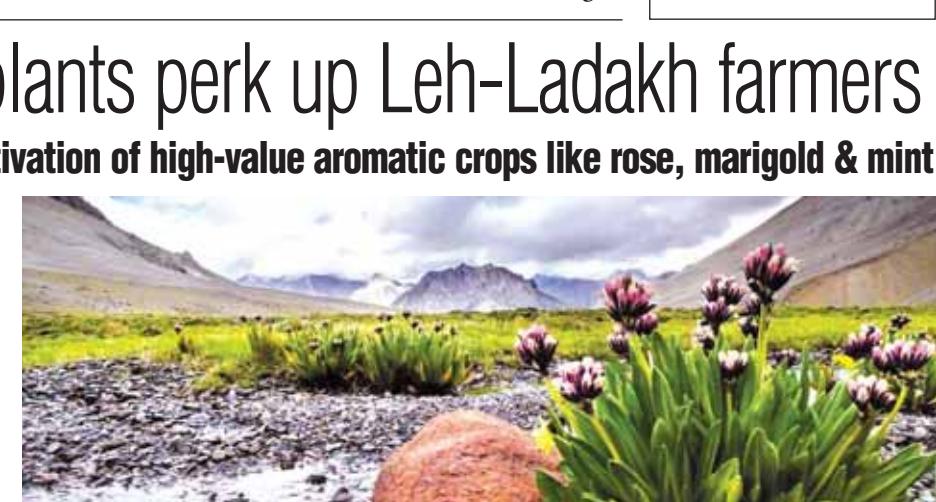
Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a processing unit to churn out essential oils from these crops at village Ranbirpura, Thiksey and Leh is being set up. Dr

Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur said processing unit is indispensable for value addition of aromatic plants and establishment of this facility in Leh will benefit the local farmers of Leh district.

As the region is deprived of natural irrigation facilities and is suitable for the cultivation of high-value aromatic crops such as damask rose,

vibration of these crops. The project is being undertaken under the CSIR's Aroma Mission programme started two years ago with an aim to promote the aromatic crops and to bring additional area of 5,500 ha under these crops for socio-economic upliftment and employment generation for farming community and rural masses.

Continued on Page 4



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# Yogi: Transparent work culture gives credibility to government

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that maintaining credibility of the state government was a very difficult task and this could be achieved only through coordination between various departments and officials by introducing a transparent work culture.

Speaking at the conclusion of Manthan, a refresher course held at Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow for ministers and state bureaucrats on Sunday, Yogi Adityanath said that such interactions should take place regularly because they developed a synergy between different departments and cleared cobweb of indecision.

"When IIM-Lucknow Director Prof Archana Shukla proposed this programme, everyone had curiosity because the person sitting in power believes that he knows everything. This is not correct. When a person starts thinking that he knows everything his downfall begins," Yogi said, adding that such refresher course helped in waking up the administration.

The Chief Minister said that the administrative machinery in the state had a vision and such training programmes would help in giving shape to the vision.

"Sometimes we know what to do. But we do not know how to do it. The training by experts will educate us how we can actually bring the projects from drawing board to the ground," he said.

Elaborating on the perfor-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath speaking at the conclusion of Manthan at IIM-Lucknow on Sunday. Also seen in the picture is IIM-L Director Prof Archana Shukla

mance of ministers in the refresher course, the Chief Minister said that this programme had proved that those who were in power could also be good students.

The leadership development programme was held in three stages on Sundays from September 8 to 22. The course was attended by almost all the Cabinet ministers, who were taught the nitty-gritty of governance by the professors of the IIM-L.

Experts in various fields were also present.

This Sunday, senior

bureaucrats including chief secretary, additional chief secretary, principal secretary and heads of departments participated in the refresher course.

The professors of IIM-L held orientation programmes in which the ministers were taught about good governance and virtue of fiscal management. Question-answer sessions were held in which ministers were asked to raise questions so that their doubts could be cleared.

The modules were designed to apprise UP policy makers of methodologies

relating to government project implementation, financial management, disposal of files and budgetary skills.

Sources say that IIM-L is also planning to prepare a booklet on the training programme, detailing the priority agenda for the government. The whole exercise is seen as an attempt by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to slowly brace up for the next Assembly elections.

The idea of IIM-L training session was mooted by Chief Minister's economic advisor KV Raju.

Paddy purchase in western UP from October 1

Lucknow (PNS): Paddy purchase under price support scheme will start from October 1 for the kharif season in a phased manner as the Agriculture department has already registered farmers who are willing to sell their produce at the paddy purchase centres being opened by the government.

Additional Commissioner, Food and Civil Supplies, Santosh Kumar, said that paddy purchase would start from October 1 in Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Agra, Aligarh, Jhansi and parts of Lucknow (Sitapur, Hardoi and Lakhimpur Kheri districts) divisions of western Uttar Pradesh.

Paddy purchase will start from November 1 in Kanpur, Lucknow (Lucknow, Unnao, Rae Bareli districts), Ayodhya, Devipatan, Basti, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh, Vindhyachal, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Chitrakoot divisions of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Kumar said that registration of farmers had started from July 25. "For selling paddy at the paddy purchase centres in this session, the farmers will have to get themselves registered on the Food and Civil Supplies department portal fcs.up.gov.in," he said. The Additional Commissioner said that keeping in view the convenience of farmers, under the new arrangements in farmer registration module, farmers will be able to enter their middle name and nick name (as entered in the bank account) also along with their first name.

Meanwhile, the government has sanctioned Rs 61.88 crore in the current financial year for construction of sewage treatment work in Balrampur district under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.

## BABRI MASJID DEMOLITION CASE

# Special CBI court issues summons to Kalyan Singh



Lucknow: A special CBI court here has issued summons to former Uttar Pradesh chief minister and BJP leader Kalyan Singh, directing him to appear before it on September 27 in connection with the Babri Masjid demolition case.

The court is conducting the trial of accused persons, including BJP leaders L K Advani, M M Joshi, Uma Bharti and others for allegedly conspiring to demolish the mosque at the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site in Ayodhya.

Taking note of the information given by the members of the Bar association that Singh's term as Rajasthan governor expired in the first week of this month, special judge SK Yadav on Saturday passed the order on a pending application that the CBI had moved on September 9.

After serving a full five-year term as governor, the 87-year-old leader, who was the Uttar Pradesh chief minister when the Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992, rejoined the BJP on September 9.

The court had taken up the application and asked the CBI to produce papers that the

term of Singh as the governor has expired. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had then sought time to produce the papers, saying it did not receive any documents from its headquarters.

On the information given by the members of bar association, the court issued the summons to Singh for appearing before it on Friday.

Moving the application, the CBI pleaded that Singh was charged in 1993. It further pleaded that the Supreme

Court had in April 2017 said Singh could not be brought in as an accused to face trial due to the constitutional immunity granted to governors under Article 361 of the Constitution.

The top court had, however, allowed the CBI to move for summoning of Singh as an accused as soon as he ceased to be the governor.

All the accused are on bail in the case, the trial of which is being conducted on a day-to-day basis, on the directions of the apex court. PTI

# Bypoll in Hamirpur today

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

## Confusion among parties over by-election to Tundla seat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The bypoll in Hamirpur Assembly constituency of Uttar Pradesh on Monday will witness a four-cornered contest, as Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party and Congress have fielded their candidates. In all, nine candidates are vying for the seat.

Polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm while counting of votes will be taken up on September 27.

The by-election, the first to be held after the 2019 Lok Sabha polls in UP, has been necessitated due to the disqualification of BJP MLA Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel following his conviction in a murder case.

Prominent among the candidates in the Hamirpur bypolls are Yuwraj Singh (BJP), Hardeepak Nishad (Congress), Manoj Kumar Prajapati (SP), Naushad Ali (BSP) and Jamal Alam Mansoori (Communist Party of India).

Chief Electoral Officer of UP, Ajay Kumar Shukla, said on Sunday that elaborate arrangements had been made for conduct and fair conduct bypoll in Hamirpur on Monday.

He said 572 electronic voting machines, 572 ballot units and 619 voter-verified paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines would be used in the bypoll.

There are 4.01 lakh voters in Hamirpur assembly constituency - 2.20 lakh males and 1.81 lakh females and 10 of third gender.

As many as 257 polling stations and 476 polling booths have been set up in the constituency and provision of web casting has been made at 52

Dhangar, Bahujan Samaj Party has named Sunil Chittor, and the Congress has nominated Snehalata Babli for Tundla bypoll.

However, the district administration of Firozabad has not received any information about bypoll to Tundla seat.

"We have provided the information to all districts on the basis of the information provided by the Election Commission. There is no information on Tundla. If we receive any information on Tundla, it will be immediately conveyed," said an official of the election commission.

As the MLA from Tundla, Baghel was given a ministerial position in the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet. However, he resigned from the seat after winning the Lok Sabha election and becoming an MP.

His Scheduled Caste certificate, submitted with his nomination papers, though has been challenged in the Supreme Court after his election.

The bypoll to his Assembly constituency has been put on hold as the matter is sub judice.

micro observers have also been deployed for free and fair and peaceful conduct of polling on Monday.

The Election Commission, for keeping vigil on the election, has deployed one general observer and one expenditure observer for the bypoll.

Besides, 36 sector magistrates, four zonal magistrates and 35

# PGV's point of view resonating with public, says Raj Babbar

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Raj Babbar on Sunday claimed that Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's point of view on various issues was now "resonating" with the public and that if Bharatiya Janata Party leaders were "afraid" of anyone, it was the Congress general secretary.

He also said that the Congress general secretary was looking towards the people at the grassroots level, and not at leaders and office-bearers of the party, which was a "good sign".

"If BJP leaders are feeling afraid of anyone, it is Priyanka Gandhi as they are unable to give an answer to points raised by her. And, they find her points and concern only confined to Twitter, while the reality is that her points have started assimilating in the hearts of the people," the UPCC chief said.

"In fact, Priyanka's points are now resonating with the public, which the BJP is unable to see or read. They are intentionally keeping their eyes closed as they are under deep influence of power," he said.

On whether the UP unit of the Congress was looking towards her, especially after the drubbing of the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Babbar said, "It is not about looking towards her. Everyone has reposed faith in her as she has taken full-fledged responsibility".

Referring to bypolls in the state, the UP Congress chief said, "If there is any party, which can honestly give a fight to the BJP, it is the Congress. Rest are feeling afraid. The Congress is fighting with full seriousness, and zameen ke log (people who have ears to the ground) have gradually started associating themselves with the Congress. This is a good sign."

Asked about issues on which the party would be contesting the upcoming bypolls in the state, Babbar said, "Our poll issues will be lies propagated by both the Centre and state government, the poor law and order situation in the state, a feeling of insecurity among women and crimes unleashed on innocent children. People are not mad, they are seeing it," he said.

Taking a jibe at UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his ministerial colleagues for participating in the Manthan-2 at Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, Babbar said, "Gaining knowledge at any age is good. However, the fate of the people in the state is hanging in balance with ardh-gyaani (semi-knowledgeable) mantrinandal (Council of Ministers)".

"They should have come out after learning (lessons) along with the certificate. Studies are not done by joining classes. The result of studies are realised by emerging merititarians in the examinations. First, they should have brought the results (of their lessons learnt), and then they should have run the state (Pehle parinaam le aate phir pradesh ko chalaate)," he said.

On Sunday last, while participating in Manthan-2 Adityanath had said, "The UP government has started a special programme of Manthan in association with IIM-Lucknow.

In the first phase, all my ministerial colleagues sat together to prepare a roadmap for good governance and development of UP.

## Akhara Parishad to decide on Chinmayanand's expulsion

Lucknow (PTI): The Akhara Parishad on Sunday said the decision over the expulsion of Swami Chinmayanand would be taken at a meeting of the body in Haridwar on October 10.

Confirming it, Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) president Narendra Giri said, "In most of the cases like this (referring to case of Swami Chinmayanand), the seer is expelled from the Akhara Parishad until he is proven innocent."

The word 'akhara' came from the word 'akhand', which means 'indivisible', he said.

In terms of strength, the Juna Akhara was the largest followed by the Niranjani and Mahanirvan Akharas, he said.

A delegation of Samajwadi Party led by leader of opposition in UP Assembly, Ram Govind Chaudhary met the Chief Electoral Officer on Sunday and demanded removal of district magistrate and district police chief of Rampur.

He said free and fair bypoll to the Rampur Assembly seat was not possible unless both the officers were shunted out

from the district.

Chaudhary said both the

officers had unleashed a reign of terror in the district and were hounding the leaders of the opposition parties.

The SP delegation comprised Ram Govind Chaudhary, Ahmed Hasan (leader of opposition in UP Legislative Council) and party's national spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary.

Bypoll in Rampur is scheduled on October 21.



hospital at the time of the incident, could not intervene and Mayawati's leadership, apparently, was not acceptable to a section of the BSP MLAs.

The BSP (which again won 67 seats) suffered its biggest split in 1997 when Mayawati pulled out of the coalition with BJP. About 20 BSP MLAs

broke away to form the Janta Bahujan Samaj Party and extended support to the then Kalyan Singh government. All of them were made

ministers.

Again in 2003, when Mayawati severed her alliance with the BJP and recommended dissolution of the state assembly, about 18 BSP MLAs crossed over to the Samajwadi Party and Mulayam Singh formed the government.

According to a former BSP leader who is now in BJP, it is Mayawati's style of functioning that has made the party susceptible to recurrent splits.

"Kanshi Ram reached out to party cadres at the lowest level and established an emotional connect with them. Mayawati never meets her MLAs and MPs on a one-to-one basis. Moreover, ever since she has started charging money for tickets, the dedicated

party workers are left out and those with monetary interests end up getting tickets. Such persons have no loyalty to ideology and can leave the party for further gains," he said.

Political analyst Pradeep Kapoor, meanwhile, said that the BSP was becoming prone to splits because of the fickle nature of its leadership.

"Making and breaking alliances without a valid reason has become a habit with Mayawati. She has forged and then broken alliances with SP, Congress and BJP on several occasions. This naturally disturbs leaders who contest elections in her party. Moreover, she never takes her people into confidence before announcing decisions," he said. IANS

Council where the BJP has only 21 members while the Samajwadi Party has 55 members. A senior BJP leader, while speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "The BSP has always been prone to splits. History proves this and we are not forcing anyone to quit the party.

If the leaders are unhappy with the leadership, it is the leadership that is to be blamed. If anyone comes to us with a clean slate, we will welcome them with open arms."

The leader, however, refused to disclose when exactly the BSP MLAs would quit to join the BJP.

However, he said, "In the case of SP MPs and MLAs we have kept our word and re-

# Murder case: Anger spills on to road

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the grisly murder of innocent street food vendor, Deepu, and attack on his worker in Sadar on Saturday night, public anger spilled on to the roads on Sunday. Hundreds of protesters assembled near Cantonment police station and blocked the main road for traffic movement after putting the body there. The irate mob also ransacked some of the dhabas and hotels to vent. They demanded the arrest of the assailants and compensation to the family of the victim.

The irate protesters shouted slogans against the Cantonment SHO and Lucknow police for failing to check crime in the state capital. "Every now and then, innocent people are getting shot by trigger-happy goons even as the police have failed to provide security to residents. The Cantonment police have invariably failed but no heads have rolled," they alleged.

They said shop-owners in the locality were being bullied not only by goons and henchmen of the mafia but also by the lower rung cops. "Several incidents have remained unreported in the past involving lower rung cops and their informers opting to muscle-flexing with street food vendors for freebies. In this case too, the men who visited Deepu's shop and introduced themselves as policemen, agreed to settle the issue only after they had taken foodstuff from him for free. However, Deepu had to lose his life despite following the dictates of the musclemen," a shop-owner alleged. He added that they were used to facing similar situations every other day.

"We cannot exceed our brief as we have to do business and a showdown at the shop may harm the prospects as customers would be wary," another shop-owner rued.

Meanwhile, as the news of the protest reached senior officials, they rushed to the scene and assured the irate mob that the accused would be arrested and a recommendation would be made for compensation to the family of the deceased. The protesters budged and agreed



Locals on road in protest against the incident on Sunday

Pioneer

## Initial findings expose police laxity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The initial findings in the Deepu murder case seem to have exposed the Cantonment police's laxity. The cops, who claimed on Saturday that it was an open-and-shut case, appeared tongue-tied on Sunday as they failed to get any clue about the assailants and also about the registration number of the car in which some persons had visited Deepu's shop on Saturday afternoon.

scooty. They opened fire on Deepu and me. The bullets hit Deepu on his left chest and waist while a bullet hit at my arm. Deepu did not lose courage and stopped the scooty, but slumped to the road. People started running helter-skelter and chaos prevailed there. I ran towards the Cantonment police station, which is close to the crime scene, and sought help from the cops. The police rushed to the scene and Deepu was taken to KGMU Trauma Centre. Later, I came to know that Deepu had died on the way to hospital," Pushpraj said.

He also stated that a youth, whom Deepu slapped following a verbal spat, had visited the shop around noon. "At 3.50 pm, some men in a car (WagonR) reached the shop again and inquired us as to

"We lost the bread-winner of our family and we are being asked not to protest," they alleged.

Deepu and his worker Pushpraj were shot at from close range on Saturday evening. Deepu suffered two

ants had shot at a man near the police station," the sources said.

They said the persons who came in the car had introduced themselves as policemen and threatened Deepu with a police case for having slapped the youth in question.

"As Pushpraj failed to identify any of them, the police have a Herculean task to lay their hands on the accused," they said. The sources said the attackers might well be the henchmen of some mafia or local goons.

On his part, Cantonment CO Santosh Kumar Singh said: "We are working on the case but yet to trace the car and the youth with whom Deepu had a verbal spat." He said a case was registered on the complaint of Pushpraj and further investigations were on.

They further said Pushpraj suffered injuries on his hand and despite that, he ran towards the police station to inform the cops about the incident and to save his life.

"Again, the police had no information that the miscre-

ants had shot at a man near the police station," the sources said.

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**FIJI RAMAYANA**

# Ram a pilot, Ravana IT professional!



A scene from Ramlila staged in Lucknow on Sunday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

**L**ord Ram in the Fiji Ramayana is a pilot, Ravana an IT professional. Troupe leader Akhilesh Nirajan Prasad is a financial consultant in a UN agency. The Fijian Ramlila was staged by a group of professionals who have come together for the sake of conservation of their culture having its roots in India.

The Fijian Ramlila was staged on the concluding day of International Ramayana Mahotsav on Sunday. The programme was organised by Culture department, Tourism department and Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).

The Ramlila showcased the abduction of Sita and how

the inhabitants of Fiji were leading their lives based on the values taught by Ramayana. Another presentation was by a Cambodian troupe.

Talking to *The Pioneer*, Akhilesh Nirajan Prasad said that their presentation was unique in the sense that it was in Hindi language and their aim was the conservation of their mother tongue.

"Our ancestors belong to India and most of them came from Uttar Pradesh, and hence we are trying to preserve our culture through these presentations," he said.

He added that most of them traced their routes to Ayodhya and Bihar and on their next visit, they would try to meet people of their ancestral village.

## RAPE AND MURDER OF 6-YEAR-OLD GIRL

# Chargesheet sent to court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

**T**he Lucknow on Sunday prepared and sent the chargesheet to court against the man accused of raping and killing a 6-year-old girl in Saadatganj on September 15. The chargesheet was prepared and sent to a fast-track court within six days.

ASP (West) Vikas Tripathi said the police worked overtime and collected every minute detail and evidence related to the incident — from collecting samples of blood to getting cir-

cumstantial evidence and also the DNA profiling of the accused. On the day of incident, locals had alleged that the Saadatganj police took time in reacting to the complaint of the victim's family. The incident had invited public fury for two days as hundreds of protesters almost laid siege in Saadatganj, at KGMU Trauma Centre and also mortuary where a panel of the doctors conducted the autopsy. Police spokesman SB Shukla said SSP Kalandhi Naithani held a meeting of the monitoring cell on Friday and

directed the Saadatganj police to expedite the probe and refer it to the fast-track court. He said the police worked overtime collected very corroborating evidence against the accused, Bablu, who was detained the same night.

The girl was found critically injured at Bablu's house in Thakurganj on September 15 night. The girl was bleeding profusely through wounds in her internal organs and her throat was slit. She also was hammered by the accused in bid to kill her after rape.



Moti Mahal Lawns, the venue for book fair, waterlogged following a downpour on Sunday

Pioneer

## Aishbagh Ramlila Samiti extends invite to Naidu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

**A**ishbagh Ramlila Samiti has extended an invite to Vice-President of India Venkaiah Naidu to be the chief guest. Their Ramlila has in the past witnessed the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Ramlila will kick off on September 29 and conclude on October 10.

Secretary, Aishbagh Ramlila Samiti, Aditya Dwivedi said they had received a verbal consent from the Vice-President and were waiting for the nod in writing.

"With his presence, we will have a south Indian connect. Moreover, he is also greatly interested in literature," he said. Dwivedi pointed out that the Ramlila would also witness the presence of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governors.

"Many political stalwarts have been associated with Aishbagh Ramlila Samiti. Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma was the secretary of this organisation at one point," he recalled. Dwivedi said they were inviting children to be a part of their Ramlila this year.

## Inspections to be made at unfinished LDA projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

**T**he property department of Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) has issued directions for inspections at unfinished apartments, business complexes and other projects assigned to private developers in different places of the city to ensure there was no misuse of funds or compromise with quality. This directive was issued by LDA Vice-Chairman PN Singh at a special meeting held on Sunday.

Singh also authorised the officials of the property department to take action against the private developers, in case of any anomaly. He also directed the officials to make a physical inspection of the sealed apartment on Faizabad road, where a private developer's contract was terminated in July last for using the finished flats as guest houses and using them for other business activities.

The step was taken by the Lucknow Development

Authority administration after the Urban and Housing department authorities pulled up its top bosses last week.

LDA secretary MP Singh said stern action should be taken against builders to check unscrupulous practices.

Property officer RK Singh said a strategy would be chalked out on Monday in a meeting to be chaired by Divisional Commissioner Anil Garg, and the exercise would likely begin in 3-4 days.

## CITYBRIEFS



Bank of Maharashtra Employees and officers staging dharna demanding settlement of their long-pending problems, at bank's zonal office in Vikas Nagar on Saturday

### BRAIN-DEAD WOMAN'S GAVE CONSENT FOR MULTI-ORGAN DONATION

King George's Medical University authorities said on Sunday that consent for multi-organ donation was given by the family members of 58-year-old Bina Gupta, wife of Susheel Kumar Gupta of 38, Marutipuram on Faizabad road. Bina Gupta was admitted to a hospital in Kapoorthala

after she had brain haemorrhage due to sudden rise in blood pressure on September 18. The next day, the family members were informed by the doctors about the patient being brain-dead. It was then that the family members showed interest in multi-organ donation and contacted the KGMU authorities and the patient was shifted to KGMU hospital on September 20. The process of

organ retrieval was started around 8 pm but Bina Gupta's liver and kidney were not found suitable for transplant. Only the cornea of both her eyes were retrieved by KGMU eye bank team, the doctors said.

### UP-APICON CONCLUDES

Experts discussed osteoporosis treatment, drugs for AIDS and treatment of epilepsy on the concluding day of

UP-APICON-19 on Sunday. According to UP-APICON coordinator Dr Virendra Atam, osteoporosis is a big problem among young women and they need to take certain precautions during pregnancy. On the concluding day, participants were awarded for their innovative approach in presenting their ideas through posters.

### WINNERS AWARDED

The three-day Justice Murtaza Husain Memorial National Moot Court competition organised by Unity PG and Law College concluded on Sunday with prize distribution. Symbiosis Law School, Hyderabad won the final round of the competition while Chanakya National Law University, Patna ended as runner-up. The best mooter award went to Khushboo Kajriwal from KLE Society's Law School, Bangalore, while the award for the best researcher was given to Anshul of City Academy Law College. The award for best memorial was given to Symbiosis Law School, Pune. Certificates were also distributed to the winners and the participants. Justices DK Upadhyaya and Jaspreet Singh of the Allahabad High Court's

Lucknow Bench and college chairman Justice (Retd) Imtiyaz Murtaza were present at the valedictory ceremony.

### FOUNDATION DAY

The 36th Foundation Day of orphanage Manisha Mandir was celebrated. On this occasion, people providing free services to the orphans were honored. Dr Kanchar Ahuja, yoga teacher Meera Srivastava and Geeta Tanu Singh were honored with a shawl. Speaking on the occasion, UP Jal Nigam General Manager Vikas Gothvalal lauded Manisha Mandir for giving shelter at a large number of girls. Founder Dr Sarojini Agarwal said after her daughter



Manisha's untimely death in an accident, has had taken a pledge to help as many orphaned girls as she could.

## SCHOOLSCAN

CMS STUDENT OFFERED ADMISSION BY FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES



Kush Tyagi, a student of City Montessori School, Gomti Nagar Campus I, has been offered admission by five foreign universities. Kush has been offered admission by the Macquarie University, The University of Queensland, Monash University, The University of Adelaide and The University of Melbourne. Chief PRO of CMS Hari Om Sharma said that this year, 80 CMS students had been offered admission to top universities of USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Germany etc.

## Research on container gardening of fruit crops

**L**ucknow (PNS): Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture initiated a research on container gardening of fruit crops, with the financial assistance of Uttar Pradesh Council of Science and Technology. The results obtained are encouraging. In this technique, fruit plants especially, citrus, guava, pomegranate, karonda, have been tried in different container sizes along with different media having varied proportion of sand, soil, farm yard manure and vermicompost.

CISH director Shailendra Rajan said that after a year, the citrus lime started bearing fruits and harvested 15-35 fruits from a small plant and during the second year, 50-60 lime fruits were harvested. "The containerised plants can be placed on the rooftops of houses, balconies, near the windows or any open areas of the houses receiving good amount of sunlight. The technique is not expensive and is within reach of the common man. The gardening will not only be helpful in reducing environmental pollution and

improving nutrition but will also will open a learning avenue for amateur fruit gardeners and improve city's environment," Rajan said.

He said that in order to sensitise Lucknow residents, CISH would hold a one-day workshop. "In general, we consider vegetable-growing on rooftop a common proposition and growing fruit trees in containers is rare in Lucknow. Special fruit trees and their specific varieties can be easily grown in containers. Whether it is a cemented pot, a big drum or a big polythene bag, all can be used for starting the venture.

By following certain techniques, the plants can be made dwarf in stature while flowering and fruiting is induced at an early age. Not all plant species are suitable for this purpose but many can be easily accommodated in medium-sized pots. Growing fruits in container is science as well as art and requires certain techniques," the CISH director said. He said CISH was regularly receiving requests from citizens for training in this aspect.

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### AROMATIC PLANTS...

Dr ML Mantoo, CEO, LFPCL and former adviser to the Ministry of Rural Development said this partnership will allow them to work in collaboration with premier CSIR institute in cultivating aromatic crops in larger area of Leh and Ladakh region and to provide maximum benefit to farmers. Dr Rakesh Kumar, Principal Scientist, CSIR-IHBT said Leh and Ladakh region is suitable for cultivation of high value aromatic crops where unique aroma compound can be produced which have huge demand in the international perfumery and fragrance industries.

To promote cultivation, awareness-cum-training programme has been held in villages like Ranbirpura of district Leh where large number of farmers participated. Leh-Ladakh is located in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent with an area of about 59,146 km.

### ODISHA SEEKS...

brought from different forests of the State, blood samples would be collected to ensure that the EEHV has not spread to the wild one also, he said. Nandan Kanjan Zoo Deputy Director Jayant Das said all precautionary measures are being taken to save lives of the remaining elephants. It is not known whether the virus has also affected these elephants, he added.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### CORPORATE TAX...

The Chief Minister said the current cut in corporate tax would have a positive impact on the substitute and the unemployed. "This money will either be distributed as dividends or invested further. A large part will flow into our economy in the form of investments," he said. Yogi said that according to quality control and supply chain auditors, QIMA (Quality Inspection and management), the institutional investors are relocating their industries from China because of increased custom tariff due to the trade sanctions imposed by the US.

"As a result, 80 per cent of American supply chain companies and 67 per cent of European companies have been shifted from China. The increase in the wages of workers in China has resulted in an increase in the cost of production. We will attract them for increasing investment in India," he said. The Chief Minister said these companies would now come to India as tax rates had been lowered here. He said capital investment would take place in the form of new projects and manufacturing units would open in the entire country. "This will further generate jobs and benefit the overall economy," he added. Yogi said that the merger of 10 public sector banks and creation of four banks had reduced the number of banks to 12 which was 27 in 2017.

The Chief Minister said that the government would provide Rs 70,000 crore in advance to public sector banks to release Rs 5 lakh crore of liquidity in the market, which would benefit corporate, retail borrowers, SMEs (micro, small and medium entrepreneurs) and small traders.

Yogi said that the National Housing Bank (NHB) had increased the sum of additional cash assistance to National Housing Finance Company (NHFC) from Rs 20,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore. He said an additional Rs 36,000 crore to Rs 68,000 crore would be released for export credit under priority sector. The Chief Minister said that a special window would be created to help stalled housing projects that fall under affordable and middle class housing projects category. He said a separate fund would be created to which the government would contribute Rs 10,000 crore.

### DMK AFFIDAVIT...

Bare study of affidavits filed by parties shows that all of them are trying to tally with the maximum expenditure limit of ₹70 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency specified by the Election Commission. Major parties BJP and Congress have not yet submitted their affidavits. As per the Aam Aadmi Party's affidavit, their total expenditure is ₹1.3 crore only. However, Biju Janata Dal (BJD) which contested only in Odisha (along with Assembly election) shown ₹227.79 crore as their expenses. They also

filed an earlier affidavit (part expenditure) of ₹39.7 crore.

The NCP showed ₹72.35 crore and earlier affidavit of ₹11 crore as their expenditure during the Lok Sabha election. The BSP declared their expenditure as ₹55.39 crore and the Samajwadi Party declared its expenditure as ₹5.5 crore. The Trinamool Congress declared ₹83.6 crore and ₹10 core in two affidavits. The AIADMK declared around ₹20 crore as their entire expenditure. Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRP declared ₹86.15 crore as their expenses in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections of 2019. The JD(U) declared ₹10.71 crore as their expenditure in the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP and Congress, which contested in majority seats, are yet to declare their expenditure to the Election Commission and it is learned that their chartered accountants are busy with preparation of the expenses in co-ordination with their State units.

### SHAH BLAMES...

One political formation owes its allegiance to Bharat Mata i.e., BJP and its allies, while the other formation - Congress and NCP - believes dynastic politics. The voters have to choose between these two political formations'. Making the abrogation of Article 370 main plank in the elections, Shah said: "As a leader and president of BJP, I have come to you with an appeal. Maharashtra is a land of Chhatrapati Shivaji. It

was on this land that freedom struggle began. The fight against Moghuls started here. At the time when the elections are happening, the people of Maharashtra should decide and show the people they deserve to the political parties opposing the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution"

### CENTRE TO RELEASE...

Earlier the wholesale price of onion was ₹15 per kilogram, now it is being sold at ₹30 to ₹45," said Rajendra Sharma, a wholesaler of Delhi's biggest Azadpur wholesale vegetable market. Sharma attributed the difference in demand and supply due to floods in several states behind the hike. "Supply is less than demand. Due to rains in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, there is shortage of onions in Delhi," he said.

According to the Ministry, the retail onion prices rose to Rs 50-60 per kg in Delhi, Rs 50-70 per kg in Mumbai, Rs 45-60 per kg in Kolkata and Rs 40-50 per kg in Chennai last week. The prices were quoted at Rs 60/kg in Gurugram and Jammu during the same period. The retail onion prices were high in posh colonies across the country. Right now, stored onions are sold in most parts of the country as fresh kharif (summer) crop will hit the market from November onwards, traders said. Traders further said that there is enough supply of stored onion of the previous year's crop in the country but its transporta-

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

**PARIYOJANA BHANDAR KHAND,**

**IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, U.P.**

**VINoba NAGAR, JUHI, KANPUR-208014**

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**E-Procurement Short Notice Inviting Tender No.: 02/EE/2019-20**

Online Quotations/ rates (inclusive of all taxes/G.S.T. w.e.f. dt. 01.07.2017) of supply of O.P.C. (43 grade) Cement IS Code 812/2013 and PPC, Cement IS Code 1489/2015 as per (50 Kg. Pack) at 70 destinations/stores of U.P. are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, only from original Cement manufacturers (having production capacity not less than one lakh bag per day).

The rates/quotations must be submitted online in website "<https://etender.up.nic.in>" under "Irrigation Department (Mechanical)" during dt. 26-09-2019 (10.00 A.M.) to till 07-10-2019 (02:00 P.M.). Received online quotations shall be opened on same date 07.10.2019 (02:30 PM). All quotations may be downloaded and uploaded on relevant No.26: "ETENDER" on e-procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> during above said period ONLY. Bidders digital signature is required by nominated agency must be registered for participation for e-tender process by registering in above said e-tender website.

● Remaining detail can be had from above said "e-tender website" during stipulated period.

# Azad visits Anantnag colony, meets people

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is on a three-day visit to Kashmir following Supreme Court orders, on Sunday visited Anantnag district in south Kashmir where he met people in a Government housing colony.

Azad, who was scheduled to meet people at Dak Bungalow which has been declared a jail, had to change the venue after authorities refused him permission. Party sources said that Azad was at the housing colony from 11 am to 3 pm and several people visited the former Chief Minister of the State.

This is Azad's first visit to the State after being denied permission to deboard the plane when he was part of an all-party delegation led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi last month. He was accompanied by nine senior political leaders from different parties including Left, Trinamool, DMK, RJD.

Rahul and other were barred from leaving the airport on August 24 where local authorities had warned that their visit could stoke heightened tension in the region. When their plane arrived in Srinagar, the politicians were not allowed to leave the airport and were sent back within a few hours.

A senior Congress leader alleged while the leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha was strictly following the Supreme Court order with respect to his visit to the valley, authorities were creating hurdles. He mentioned that during Azad's stay in Srinagar on Friday, the security personnel did not allow people to meet him.

Azad reached at Srinagar on his maiden visit following the abrogation of Governor Sat Pal Malik, has remarked that political leaders had been asked not to visit Srinagar as the administration works to restore order.

A row emerged when Malik offered to arrange an aircraft for Rahul Gandhi to visit the Valley to which the former Congress chief said he will take up his invitation but requested the "freedom to travel and meet the people, mainstream leaders and our soldiers stationed there." Sooner the Governor accused Rahul of politicizing the invitation by putting conditions for visit.

He said such curtailments are also a major reason for delay in the execution and completion of the project. The CPWD also examines the estimates prepared by other department.

## CPWD requests MHA not to examine its projects estimates as it delays works

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



The Congress general secretary to visit the state. A bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, had on Monday allowed the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister to visit four districts — Srinagar, Jammu, Baramulla, Anantnag — to meet people.

In a letter to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, CPWD Director General Prabhakar Singh said that it has been observed that proposals or estimates submitted by the Central Public Works Department are examined at various levels in the MHA or Central Para Military Forces.

Singh said that estimates are made with "sound engineering practices" by competent technical professionals and should not require further scrutiny.

The CPWD is also the principal construction agency of MHA for creation of all types of built assets of Central Para Military Forces and for border infrastructure, he said.

"Often curtailments in estimates are done which cause misconception in the mind of field units as they are unable to understand the nature, quantum and reason of curtailments," the CPWD DG said in his two-page letter.

He said such curtailments are also a major reason for delay in the execution and completion of the project. The CPWD also examines the estimates prepared by other department.

Therefore in the interest of the work, there is no need for checking of CPWD estimates as it entails duplication," Singh said.

He said some of the CAPMFs are also insisting on detailed estimates instead of preliminary estimates.

"Detailed estimates require detailed planning such as soil testing, detailed survey, structural design, architectural detailing etc, which is a time intensive exercise and causes substantial delay," Singh also said.

"I, therefore, request your good self to kindly look into the above issues and advise the concerned organisations under your administrative control for appropriate needful," the director general said in the letter.

The CPWD is the central Government's largest construction agency and it carries out several development and border projects.

The agency also carries out projects in foreign countries which have friendship programmes with India.

# EC announces bypolls to 2 more seats in Gujarat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Mid criticism by the Opposition Congress for not conducting polls for all the vacant seats, the Election Commission (EC) on Sunday announced two more Assembly bypolls — Radhanpur and Bayad seats in Gujarat taking the total number of seats going for by-election across India to 66. The bypolls to Radhanpur and Bayad Assembly seats, announced on Sunday, were necessitated after siting MLAs Alpesh Thakor and Dhavalish Zala of Congress resigned and joined the ruling BJP.

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Therefore in the interest of the work, there is no need for checking of CPWD estimates as it entails duplication," Singh said.

He said some of the CAPMFs are also insisting on detailed estimates instead of preliminary estimates.

"Detailed estimates require detailed planning such as soil testing, detailed survey, structural design, architectural detailing etc, which is a time intensive exercise and causes substantial delay," Singh also said.

"I, therefore, request your good self to kindly look into the above issues and advise the concerned organisations under your administrative control for appropriate needful," the director general said in the letter.

The CPWD is the central Government's largest construction agency and it carries out several development and border projects.

The agency also carries out projects in foreign countries which have friendship programmes with India.

qualified following invalidation of his caste certificate.

The main opposition Congress on Saturday criticised the EC for announcing by-elections to only four Assembly seats in Gujarat and leaving out three other vacant seats. "The commission was acting under the BJP's pressure", it alleged.

Meanwhile, Thakor and Zala have staked claims for their respective constituencies, Radhanpur and Bayad. Both the leaders belonged to the Thakor community.

"My decision to join the BJP was for the sake of the Thakor community and farmers of Bayad constituency. A former MLA has also demanded ticket from the seat. But people know me. I have helped resolve even small, personal problems of people in my area. If given ticket, I will help the

party win," said Zala.

Thakor said (abrogation of provisions of) Article 370 will remain the main issue in polls. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has provided a capable leadership to the country. The way the Congress campaigned against Article 370 has disillusioned people," he said. Thakor added that people are also appreciating the work of the state government.

"The decision on likely candidate from Radhanpur will be decided by the parliamentary board of the BJP. However, senior BJP leaders have indicated that I will contest. I am very much interested..." he added. The EC has announced on Saturday that bypolls to 64 assembly seats and one Lok Sabha constituency, spread across 18 states, will be held on October 21, and the counting of votes will be on October 24.

# BSY seeks ₹2K-cr flood relief from Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



A day after the Election Commission (EC) announced bypolls in the seats represented by the rebel lawmakers who were disqualified by speaker KR Ramesh Kumar under the tenth schedule, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa rushed to Delhi on Sunday and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and sought ₹2,000 crore as urgent relief for the flood-affected State.

Speaking to reporters, he said the Centre has assured that a decision on providing assistance from the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF) will be taken after a central team, which is assessing the extent of damage in the state, submits its report in the next two-three days.

"We have demanded ₹2,000 crore central assistance for flood relief. We have resource constraint. Despite all, the state government has released about ₹1,000 crore so far. Release of central funds will ease the burden on us," Yeddyurappa told reporters.

Most likely a decision on this matter will be taken after the prime minister returns to India, he added. Shah has assured that flood relief and other emergency works will not be affected in the state as they have been exempted from the purview of the poll code,

according to Yeddyurappa. Bypolls in the state will be held on October 21.

Karnataka deputy chief ministers Ashwath Narayan and Laxman Savadi and home minister Basavaraj Bommai were also present in the meeting.

The 2019 floods in Karnataka are touted to have caused losses to the tune of ₹38451 crore and around 103 talukas in 22 districts have been badly hit with over 6.9 lakh hectares of crop loss. Around 75,317 houses have been damaged due to the rains. Last month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Yeddyurappa had undertaken an aerial survey of flood-affected areas. The Chief Minister had briefed Shah about the rescue and relief operations that were underway in the state.



Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu lights a lamp to inaugurate a free medical camp organised by KIMS Hospitals and Swarna Bharat Trust, in Hyderabad on Sunday. Telangana Governor Dr Tamiisai Soundararajan and other dignitaries are also seen

PIB

and the state government has been exempted from the purview of the poll code,

according to Yeddyurappa. Maximum numbers of students are enrolled in B.A. and B.Com. Programmes. At Undergraduate level the highest number (35.9 pc) of students are enrolled in arts, humanities or social sciences courses followed by science (16.5pc), engineering and technology (13.5 pc) and commerce (14.1 pc)," the report said.

There are 34.8 per cent colleges, which run only single programme, out of which 83.1 per cent are privately managed. "Among these privately managed colleges, 38.1 per cent colleges run B.Ed courses only. 77.8 per cent colleges are privately managed, 64.3 pc private-unaided and 13.5 pc private-aided. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have about 88 per cent private-unaided colleges and Tamil Nadu has 87 per cent private-unaided colleges, whereas, Assam has 16 per cent."

"Around 16.3 per cent of colleges are having enrolment less than 100 and only 4 per cent colleges have enrolment more than 3,000," the report said.

The ASHE report pointed out that about 79.8 pc of students are enrolled in under-

## IAF felicitates trust funded by MIAF Arjan Singh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



In a gesture to honour the late Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh, the force on Sunday felicitated a trust founded by him and his wife, with Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanra applauding the noble work done by it towards welfare of serving and retired air warriors. The felicitation ceremony was held at Akash Air Force officers' mess here on the establishment day of the trust.

In his speech, Dhanra expressed his gratitude to the founders of the trust and applauded the noble work done by the trust towards welfare of the serving and retired air warriors including their widows

and dependents. The Marshal and his wife Teji Singh had contributed their personal funds of Rs 2.25 cr to establish this trust on September 22 in 2004, IAF officials said.

Marshal Arjan Singh, a Padma Vibhushan awardee, had played a crucial role in

graduate level programme.

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"Around 16.3 per cent of

## Broad gauge Metro time saving option, says Nitin Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has advocated the deployment of broad gauge Metro as an affordable, efficient and time-saving option for inter-city travel which will reduce stress on large cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Speaking at the curtain raiser event of the India Manufacturing Show (IMS) 2020 in the national Capital last week, Gadkari said: "We are deploying broad gauge metro in my constituency Nagpur. It will connect Nagpur with Wardha, Bhandara, Road, Ramtek and Narkhed. Running metro on the broad gauge should be considered as it makes travel between cities and its satellite towns affordable. For instance, people can stay in Meerut or Panipat and easily travel to Delhi to work every day. So, it's a win-win for the city as well as the commuter."

Cabinet Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines Prahlad Joshi and Union Minister of State for Railways

Surest Angadi were also present on the occasion. Gadkari said current metro rail construction costs around ₹320 crore per km, while the broad gauge metro costs around Rs three crore. Stressing on the need to develop indigenous technologies focused on urban infrastructure, Gadkari said it will help generate jobs besides ensuring better organizational efficiencies.

Gadkari also said he has cleared for the consideration of the Union Cabinet the policy for the scrapping of old cars, buses, and two-wheelers. Finance Ministry has already cleared the proposal and the Government will very soon clear it. Scrapping policy for old vehicles will help reduce vehicular congestion in cities like Delhi and Mumbai, which have a large number of vehicles that are older than 10-15 years.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said the petitioner did not live up to the "expectations of integrity, behaviour and probity" and no leniency can be shown to him. Hence, we find no merit in the appeal, which is accordingly dismissed," it said.

The petitioner was appointed as a judicial magis-

## SC: Judges should possess sterling quality of integrity

New Delhi: The judiciary is an institution founded on honesty and integrity, the Supreme Court has said, reasserting that it is necessary judicial officers possess the "sterling quality of integrity" to be able to serve the public.

It made the observation while refusing to show any leniency to a Maharashtra-based judicial magistrate, who had challenged his 2004 dismissal from service following allegation he passed orders in favour of the clients of a woman lawyer he had a "proximate relationship".

Impeccable integrity should be reflected both in the public and personal life of a judge, the top court said, and added judicial officers must always remember they hold high office and serve the public.

A bench of justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said the petitioner did not live up to the "expectations of integrity, behaviour and probity" and no leniency can be shown to him. Hence, we find no merit in the appeal, which is accordingly dismissed," it said.

The petitioner was appointed as a judicial magis-

trate in March 1985. In February 2001, he was put under suspension and dismissed in January 2004.

He challenged his dismissal in the Bombay High Court but his plea was rejected. He then moved the apex court, which issued a notice on his plea limited to the question of the quantum of punishment.

In this case, the officer decided the cases because of his proximate relationship with a lady lawyer and not because the law required him to do so. This is also gratification - of a different kind," the bench said, explaining that gratification can be of various types. It can be gratification of money, gratification of power, gratification of lust etc. it said.

The bench said the first and foremost quality required in a judge is integrity. Being a public servant, judicial officers should always remember they are there to serve the public. "The need for integrity in the judiciary is much higher than in other institutions. It is, therefore, necessary that judicial officers should possess the sterling quality of integrity," it said. PII

## Pak fake social media handles using KBC to trap people: Def Ministry

New Delhi: Security agencies have discovered that Pakistani-based operatives are attempting to use the popularity of the Amitabh Bachchan-anchored show Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) to trap individuals and propagate misinformation through fake social media handles.

"It has been reported by

cyber cell, Ministry of Defence that adversaries are taking advantage of the popularity of TV show "Kaun Banega Crorepati" by making individuals join WhatsApp groups and sending fake KBC messages to trap individuals," a security advisory issued by the Defence Ministry said.

The advisory listed two

Pakistan-based numbers found to be the administrators of WhatsApp groups, which were trying to trap individuals. The Defence Ministry's cyber cell advised people who are part of these groups to "immediately exit such groups if one has already been added."

"The cyber cell also advised people to configure their WhatsApp settings in a manner that only one person whose contacts details are saved in your phone can add you without an invitation. After the abrogation of article 370, Pakistani spy agencies have become very aggressive in spreading misinformation about India and have been targeting the defence forces in

## UNABLE TO BEAR EXPENSES

# Parents drown 20-day-old twin daughters



**Muzaffarnagar:** Two newborn girls were drowned in a pond by their parents in an Uttar Pradesh village, with the father claiming that they killed the 20-day-old twins as they could not bear their expenses.

Waseem, a daily wager, and his wife Nazma were arrested on Sunday for killing Afrin and Afya at Bhikki village here, Station House Officer (SHO) Ajay Kumar said.

"Our financial condition is very weak. We could not have borne the expenses for our two daughters," Waseem, who has a seven-year-old son, told police.

The couple had an argument on Saturday night following which the newborns were thrown by them in the pond near their house, the SHO said, adding that the twins drowned.

The father lodged a miss-

ing complaint on Sunday morning, but during investigation it was found that the twins had been killed, Kumar said.

Waseem, in the complaint, said when he woke up this morning, he found his daughters missing, the officer said.

The parents have been booked under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender), Kumar said.

Residents of the village said Waseem was angry over the birth of two girls and frequently fought with his wife over it.

PTI

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The father lodged a miss-

## PM deserves respect when he represents India abroad: Tharoor

**Pune:** Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, who is a strong critic of the Modi-led government, on Sunday said the prime minister deserves respect when he visits foreign countries as India's representative, but when he is in the country, people have the right to question him.

On the row over a common language for India, the Lok Sabha MP from Kerala said he was in favour of a three-language formula (promoting multilingual communicative abilities).

He was speaking at a session organised by the All India Professional Congress in Pune district of Maharashtra.

"The prime minister deserves respect in foreign countries as (there) he is a representative of our nation. But when he is in India, we have the right to ask him questions," Tharoor said.

On the issue of one common language in the country, he said the BJP's ideology of promoting Hindi, Hinduism and Hindustan is "dangerous" for our country.

"We need to carry on the three-language formula," he said.

Amid a heated debate over his remark that Hindi should be a common language, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on

Wednesday said he has never asked for imposition of Hindi over native languages in the country but advocated its use as the second language.

He criticised the ruling BJP over incidents of mob lynching, saying they are an "insult to Hinduism and Lord Ram".

"There is no difference among people (of different communities) living in Kerala. Then why is it happening in Maharashtra?" he said.

Even Maratha warrior king Shivaji Maharaj had people from different communities under his rule. But he instructed everyone to respect each other, he said.

PTI

## Police attach properties of absconding RJD MLA Arun Yadav

**Ara:** Police in Bihar's Bhojpur district on Sunday attached the properties of RJD MLA Arun Yadav, who is absconding in connection with a case of sexual abuse of a minor girl, a senior police officer said.

The process of attaching the Sandesh RJD MLA's property at his native village Lasarhi began this morning amid tight security, the officer said.

"The properties belonged to MLA Arun Yadav located at his native village Lasarhi were attached today," Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Nitin Kumar said.

(Operations) Nitin Kumar said.

PTI

The move comes days after District and Sessions Judge R K Singh, who holds the charge of special POCSO court, issued the NBW against Yadav following an application filed by the district police.

The POCSO court had on September 13 issued a non-bailable warrant against the sitting RJD MLA in the sexual abuse case. The ASP said that the MLA has been absconding ever since an NBW was issued against him in the case besides a notice for attachment of properties was pasted on his house on the court's directive.

PTI



A view of illuminated Mysore Palace in Mysore on Sunday

PTI

## Shore temple to light up for Modi-Xi summit

PTI ■ MAMALLAPURAM

The historic shore temple and five rathas here are all set to get enlivened with world class lighting and a dash of fresh green with pruned trees and trimmed landscape for the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month. The historic locations, with a proposed add-on feature of top class illumination, is expected to provide a perfect setting for a memorable photo opportunity to the top leaders, official sources told PTI.

The illumination fixtures are likely to be temporary. A team of officials, including those from Archeological Survey of India and consultants visited the site days ago to draw up a plan of tasks to be completed like providing illumination, installing new stone flooring wherever required and sprucing up the location. They also discussed a tentative itinerary for the visit of the leaders to the ancient monuments.

According to the itinerary, the two leaders are expected to circumambulate the shore temple, do a "prakardshana" and walk up to an adjoining spot for a photo-opportunity. Similarly, they may choose to walk on the sands abutting the



five rathas, a group of monuments resembling processional chariots of a temple.

The leaders may sit on a bench, to be put up overlooking the rathas. The leaders are like-

ly to visit other monuments like Krishna's butter ball and Arjuna's penance. Krishna's butter ball is a massive round boulder perched on a steep rock slope in this town. This precarious

ly balanced boulder is said to be a hunk of stolen butter dropped by the gods. The Shore temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, according to the ASI, is the earliest representation of structural temple at Mamallapuram dating to the Pallava Rajashima (Narashimma II) period (700-728 AD). The five rathas are hewn out of solid rock to form five free standing monolithic temples and are from the reign of Pallava King Narashimavarman-I. The historic location, home to Pallava era monuments with world heritage status, and dating to the seventh century AD, is getting spruced up with boundary gates getting a fresh coat of paint in sync with the colour of the monuments. Stone pavements are being laid in locations, including the entrance to the shore temple and similar work is to be taken up at places like the nearby Durga temple. Portions of the shore temple complex are being filled with beach sand to avoid water stagnation.

Officials, both State and Central government and police are on their toes to make sure that no stone is left unturned for the summit's success. Plainclothesmen and armed police guards have already been deployed in the ancient, quaint town and the premises housing the ancient monuments are under a security blanket.

## Serial killer 'cyanide' Mohan convicted in 16th murder case

**Mangaluru:** "Cyanide" Mohan, a serial killer who has murdered several women using the deadly chemical after befriending and raping them, has been convicted of killing another woman — a music teacher — in Karnataka, taking the total number of his convictions to 16.

Mohan, who has previously been convicted of killing women in public toilets by giving them cyanide capsules, murdered the 33-year-old woman after raping her at a lodge in Bengaluru in May 2007, the prosecution told the Mangaluru district and sessions court.

The woman hailed from Uppala in Kasaragod district of Kerala.

The serial killer had introduced himself to her as Sudhakar Acharya, an employee of the forest department. He

gave her a poisonous capsule, telling her it was a contraceptive.

He has used the same modus operandi in all the 20 cases against him, the prosecution submitted to the court.

Judge Sayeedunnisa pronounced Mohan guilty on Friday under various sections of the Indian Penal Code relating to murder, robbery and punishment for cheating and others, after examining 38 witnesses and 49 exhibits.

The quantum of punishment would be pronounced on September 25.

This was the 16th case in which Mohan has been convicted. He had been accused of killing a number of women between 2003 and 2009 and had been sentenced to death in three cases and to life imprisonment in others.

PTI

## Depression off Guj coast likely to turn into cyclonic storm: IMD

**Ahmedabad:** A depression formed over east-central and north-east Arabian Sea was now around 170 kilometres west-southwest off Veraval in Gujarat, the India Meteorological Department said on Sunday.

It is likely to intensify into a deep depression and subsequently convert into a cyclonic storm in 24 hours and move west-northwest towards Oman coast over the next 72 hours, the IMD added.

The cyclonic storm will cause light to moderate rains in several places in the Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat, and heavy rainfall in isolated places in the coastal districts during



the next 24 hours, the IMD informed.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the east-central and adjoining north-east Arabian Sea along and off Gujarat coast during next 48 hours as the condition of the sea would be very rough with winds with speeds of 45-55 kmph to 65 kmph, the IMD informed.

The depression over east-central and adjoining north-east Arabian Sea off Gujarat moved west-northwest with a speed of 15 kilometres per hour and lay centred, at 11:30 am on Sunday, around 170 km west-southwest of Veraval in Gujarat, 570 km south-southeast of Karachi in Pakistan, and 1170 km east-southeast of Muscat in Oman during next 72 hours, it said.

It is very likely to intensify further into a deep depression during next 12 hours and into a cyclonic storm during subsequent 24 hours. It is very likely to move west-northwestwards towards Oman coast during next 72 hours," it said.

PTI

## INTER-STATE WATER ISSUES

### Kerala, TN CMs to hold talks on Sept 24

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will meet his Tamil Nadu counterpart K Palaniswami here on September 25 to discuss various inter-State water issues, including the Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP).

Palaniswami will lead a delegation on a day's visit to Kerala and during it both the states will discuss various current and proposed river water sharing agreements between the two neighbouring states, Water Resources Minister K Krishnankutty told PTI here on Sunday.

The discussion will include Parambikulam project, Anamalai, Pandiyar-Punnappuzha, Pamba Achankovil diversion and many



more. We will discuss the water-sharing agreements between the states," Krishnankutty said.

This would be first meeting between the chief ministers of the two states in 15 years, he said.

In 2004, the then Chief Ministers Jayalalithaa and Oommen Chandy had met in Chennai.

assembly Deputy Speaker V Jayaraman, Chief Secretary K Shanmugam, secretaries and chief engineers.

Kerala has been expressing concern over Tamil Nadu's approach to the river-water sharing agreement, signed by the two states in 1970, with retrospective effect from 1958.

The state has also been demanding Tamil Nadu to honour the provisions of the PAP, and its rightful share of water.

Tamil Nadu might take up its demand for the diversion of Anamalaiyar river water, which is linked to the Idamalayar project.

Krishnankutty has recently held discussions with senior officers of his department here as part of the preparations.

**Police seize 450 cartons of liquor in Bihar**

**Ara:** Police on Sunday seized 450 cartons of India Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) worth in Bihar's Bhojpur district, a senior police officer said. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped a truck near Ramdhara pul in Barja village under Bihari police station and recovered 450 cartons of liquor during the search of the truck. Additional Superintendent of Police (Operations) Nitin Kumar said adding that smugglers fled from the spot. The liquor consignment was brought to Bihar from Arunachal Pradesh, the ASP said. Sale, consumption, manufacturing, transportation, storage of liquor had been completely banned in Bihar by the Nitish Kumar Government in April 2016. PTI

## JU row: Students union files complaint against Supriyo

**Kolkata:** The Arts Faculty Students Union (AFSU) of Jadavpur University has filed a police complaint against Union Minister Babul Supriyo, accusing him of misconduct during the ruckus at the varsity on Thursday.

The Left-leaning AFSU also lodged a complaint against five members of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) for assaulting students, including women, and vandalising university property.

"Various incidents had taken place after the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Babul Supriyo) came to the JU campus in an event organised by ABVP, prompted by ABVP members," the AFSU said in its complaint on Saturday.

The complaint named Supriyo as the "prime accused" and also identified five other ABVP members.

An officer of Jadavpur Police station confirmed the receipt of the complaint.

Alleging that the minister and his bodyguards had misbehaved with students on Thursday, it read, "A file of loaded magazine was found on the site of the event, which created unnecessary panic among the students, disrupting the campus life."

Supriyo could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

The AFSU complaint also said that ABVP members "created a ruckus, burnt and

destroyed campus property, threw acid bulbs, burnt tyres and pelted stones at the students and beat them up with sticks".

The student union was referring to the incident when agitated ABVP supporters assembled outside one of the main gates of the varsity on Thursday evening, after Supriyo was confined in the campus for over five hours.

The ABVP members then barged into the campus and allegedly went on a rampage in the union room and arts building. Babul Supriyo being the prime accused, some other ABVP members recognised by us until now are..." the complaint said.

Asked to comment on the

action of AFSU, BJP leader Mukul Roy told PTI, "This is the present scenario in West Bengal, where a union minister, who has been assaulted by students and beat them up with sticks".

The student union was referring to the incident when agitated ABVP supporters assembled outside one of the main gates of the varsity on Thursday evening, after Supriyo was confined in the campus for over five hours.

We will take appropriate legal action," Roy said.

BJP leader Agnimitra Paul on Friday had filed a complaint at Jadavpur police station against some students, but did not name anyone. PTI

## Was left with no other option but to visit JU: Bengal Gov

**Kolkata:** West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said he was left with no other option but to rush to Jadavpur University for rescuing Union Minister Babul Supriyo, who was heckled and held up by a section of students at the varsity.

After being held up at the university campus by protesters from leftist students unions for nearly five hours, Supriyo was taken out by the Governor late on Thursday evening.

Dhanchar, who is also the

PTI

## PUF insulated shelters, better infra for CRPF in Kashmir

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

A head of winters, the Centre has sanctioned setting up of over 40 pre-fabricated huts for paramilitary forces in the Kashmir valley, besides improving infrastructure in existing private houses and hotels to keep its troops comfortable during the snow period, officials said here.

The move, which is indicative of a longer haul for paramilitary forces in the Valley, is likely to be implemented in the next few weeks as the winter season is expected to settle by the end of next month in Kashmir. The prefabricated shelters would be insulated with Poly Urethane Foam (PUF) and priority would be given to those troops who are stationed in areas that get more snow, the officials said.

Many CRPF companies were pushed into the Valley ahead of the Centre's decision of August 5 to withdraw special status to Jammu and Kashmir and also bifurcate it into two Union territories — Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The Union territories will come into being from October 31. Apprehending a backlash following the move, the Centre had withdrawn paramilitary forces, especially the Central

### Vendors set up stalls at flea market in Srinagar

Srinagar (PTI): A large number of vendors set up stalls at the weekly flea market here on Sunday while main markets and other business establishments remained shut for the 49th consecutive day in Kashmir over the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370. Public transport was off the roads in most parts of the valley but private cars and some passenger cabs on inter-district routes could be seen plying, officials said.

The efforts of the state government to open schools so far have not borne any fruit. While landline telephony services have been restored

across the valley, mobile telephone services in most parts of Kashmir and all Internet services continue to remain suspended since 5 August. Most of the top level and second rung separatist politicians have been taken into preventive custody while mainstream leaders including two former chief ministers — Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti — have been either detained or placed under house arrest. Another former chief minister and sitting Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah has been arrested under the controversial Public Safety Act.

mattresses which will be used by the jawans of the paramilitary force deployed in the Valley.

Earlier the personnel were sanctioned a 'darri' (thin mat) to sleep on during deployment. But, keeping in mind the harsh weather condition, the Ministry of Home Affairs accorded sanction to the CRPF's request for purchasing over two lakh coir mattresses for its jawans, the officials said.

## Gorkhas not to visit Foreigner's Tribunal: Body

**Guwahati:** The Gorkhas, whose names have been excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, will not visit Foreigners' Tribunals to prove their Indian citizenship, a community body said on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here, Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) national president Sukman Moktan said that Gorkhas being tried in the Foreigners' Tribunals (FT) will be an 'insult to us for being Indians,' he said.

"We can file defamation suit against the system for challenging the citizenship of Gorkhas and Nepali speaking population being taken to FT," Moktan, who heads the only registered national organisation, representing 10.5 million Indian Gorkhas in 22 state units and five zones, said.

The BGP had organised a week-long tour across Assam to meet the victims of the Gorkha community who were not included in the NRC and directed to appeal against it at Foreigners' Tribunals.

During the visit to 18 districts that ended on Sunday, Moktan said they found that names of many Gorkhas had been left out from the final NRC list.

"We met NRC victims and arbitrarily marked D Voters and their descendants whose citizenship is challenged and are being directed to go to FT as per NRC guidelines while a recent Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification exempts the Gorkhas."

"This is an attempt of a few vested interests within the system to disrespect Indian

Gorkhas who are actually original inhabitants as is proved by our historically and mythologically recorded presence since centuries," Moktan said.

Nirmal Kumar Pun, BGP secretary general said, "No Indian Gorkhas should be left out of the NRC. As a vigilant civil society organisation, the BGP will play a vital role as it is a judiciary monitored process".

On being asked whether the BGP is planning to take the state government to High Court for the delay in filing fresh writ petition to uphold the MHA notification, Nityananda Upadhyay, president, Assam State Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangha (BGP) said, "BGP is a party to the NRC case in the Supreme Court of India.

"If the Government of Assam does not do its duty as directed by the Union of India, the BGP will take a policy decision to take the matter to the Supreme Court and make the State Government party to it and contest the case to ensure that Gorkhas are not taken to Foreigners' Tribunals."

On Saturday a BGP delegation had urged Chief Secretary Alok Kumar to implement the MHA notification.

The chief secretary was urged to form an Empowered Committee to address the woes of the Gorkha community regarding exclusion of many of their names from the NRC, BGP national secretary Nanda Kirati Dewan had said. More than 19 lakh of the 3.29 crore applicants have been excluded from the final NRC, released in Assam last month. PTI



## Exclusion of Hindu Bengalis from Assam NRC changing political narrative in Bengal

**Kolkata:** The spectre of NRC implementation is fast turning Bengal into a political battleground, with the TMC appearing to have an advantage over the BJP after the omission of a large number of Hindu Bengalis from the register in saffron party-ruled Assam.

The demand for the NRC exercise to weed out infiltrators has been gaining momentum since last year in the state, which shares over 2000-km-long border with Bangladesh.

However, the publication of the final NRC list in Assam, which left out over 19.6 lakh people - of which around 12 lakh are Hindus and Bengali Hindus - has changed the political narrative in the state to a great extent.

The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has been on the offensive by milking the issue of updating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as an "anti-Bengali" move on the part of the saffron party.

"What does the omission of 12 lakh Bengalis and Hindus from Assam NRC show? It shows that it is a tool to target Bengalis. The BJP which claims to be the champion of Hindus and its rights should first answer how come Hindus and Bengalis were omitted from the list," Bandopadhyay said.

The ripple effect of NRC in Assam has already been felt in Bengal, especially in districts bordering the neighbouring state, with panicked people lining up at government offices to get documents in place.

Two recent deaths in the state have been attributed to the panic swirling around the citizenship register.

The TMC leadership has

blamed the BJP for creating anxiety over NRC in Bengal.

Banerjee, however, iterated that the exercise will not be allowed in the state and the BJP would have to get past her if they tried to touch anyone.

The promise of NRC implementation, which has been a major poll plank of the BJP in the last Lok Sabha polls, is considered by its leaders as a plausible factor that led to the rise of the party in Bengal, having bagged 18 parliamentary seats earlier this year.

Nevertheless, the exclusion of around 12 lakh Hindus from the final NRC list in Assam has put the saffron party in a precarious situation.

The party has now said that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill would be implemented first, which would provide Hindu refugees Indian nationality, and then the process to oust "Muslim infiltrators" would be carried out.

"The illegal Bangladeshi Muslims pose security threat to the inhabitants of the state and the country," state BJP chief Dilip Ghosh told PTI.

During the 1971 Liberation War in Bangladesh, millions of people had fled the country and moved to India, particularly in Bengal and the north-east region.

"In Bengal, we would first implement citizenship bill and then the NRC. The TMC is just trying to create a panic to reap political dividends," Ghosh added. PTI

## Four held in Kerala for honey trapping NRI bizman

**Kochi:** Four people including a woman were arrested for allegedly honey trapping a Gulf-based NRI businessman to extort money from him, police said on Sunday.

While three of the accused hail from Kannur district, the woman belongs to Kochi.

An investigation was launched based on a complaint that the Qatar-based businessman was lured into the trap allegedly by the woman, who was in that country, by establishing friendship through Facebook, they said.

The businessman was invited to her room in Qatar by the woman. One of the accused, in connivance with the woman, had allegedly set up a secret camera inside the room and took their naked photos. PTI

## Dalit man beaten to death for 'stealing water pump' in Rajasthan's Jhalawar

**Kota (Raj):** A 40-year-old Dalit man was beaten to death for allegedly stealing a water pump in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Ghatoli area on Saturday morning, when a 60-year-old man, his two sons, and some other unidentified people thrashed Dhulichand Meena of Mewakhera village, alleging that he stole a water pump from their fields, Station House Officer (SHO) Nainuram Meena said. When Dhulichand was on his way to a nearby village, Purilal Tanwar, his sons, Devi Singh (23) and Mohan (20) and the other men confronted him, the SHO said.

He said a heated exchange between Dhulichand and the group of men over the stolen hand pump soon turned violent and he was beaten up badly. Dhulichand's father reached the spot and took his injured son home. Later, Dhulichand's condition deteriorated and he was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, the SHO said.

He said preliminary investigation revealed that Tanwar and his sons had on Friday complained about the theft to Dhulichand's father, who reprimanded his son and asked Tanwar to lodge a police complaint against him.

A case under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been registered against Tanwar, his sons and seven unidentified men, the SHO said. PTI

## Meghalaya may add more teeth to MRSS Act to check illegal immigration: Dy CM

**Shillong:** Following the publication of NRC in Assam, Meghalaya government is contemplating to add more teeth to a law, enacted in 2016, to check illegal immigration into the state, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said on Sunday.

The state government will soon hold a consultative meeting with all political parties as well as legislators for their views and suggestions in this regard," the deputy chief minister told PTI.

Once the consultation process is completed, Prestone said the Government would place the proposed amendments before the state cabinet for its approval. He also informed that the proposed amendment may be passed in the form of an ordinance. PTI

be passed in the form of an ordinance, he said.

"We will soon hold consultations with all political parties as well as legislators for their views and suggestions in this regard," the deputy chief minister told PTI.

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The TMC leadership has

A view of houses partially submerged under flood waters of River Ganga at Chhota Boghra area in Prayagraj on Sunday

## Three-fourths of J&K supported Art 370 abrogation: Rajnath

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**T**he BJP is raising the issue of abrogation of Article 370 provisions in the run up to the Jharkhand Assembly polls as a "ploy" to divert people's attention from "monumental failures" of the Raghubar Das government, JMM working president Hemant Soren alleged on Sunday. The former Jharkhand Chief Minister's sharp attack comes days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah referred to Article 370 abrogation while listing the achievements of the NDA government 2.0 in their public addresses in the poll-bound state.

Soren said the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) will raise people's issues in the campaign and promised that if voted to power, his government will ensure 75 per cent reservation for the youth of Jharkhand in private jobs.

In an interview to PTI, he said if JMM forms the government, it will ensure five lakh jobs within one year, unemployment allowance to those who are jobless, reserve government tender up to Rs 25 crore for people from the state, implement 50 per cent reservation for women in jobs and 27 per cent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Asked about the BJP aggressively raising the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and the nationalistic fervour around it, Soren said a government which fails to address economic and social crises and key issues that affect

everyday lives of citizens, resorts to "creating sharp polarisation in the society".

"Lightning doesn't strike a place twice and similarly the BJP cannot fool the people all the time. Raising the issue of Article 370 during the state assembly polls campaign is nothing but the BJP's ploy to divert people's attention from its monumental failures in governance in Jharkhand," the Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Assembly said. Modi might have been successful in securing an NDA victory based on the post-Pulwama and Balakot attacks, the party's sole aim is to free Jharkhand's 3.5 crore people from the "insensitive" BJP government. "For this purpose, we are willing to coordinate with all like minded parties to collectively fight the BJP and vice-versa for state polls, Soren said.

Last week, Union Home

Minister Shah, while addressing a public meeting in Jharkhand, had said Prime Minister Modi showed Pakistan its place by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, and established that J&K is an integral part of India.

Addressing a "Jan Jagran Sabha" (public awareness meet) organized by the BJP here, where leaders spoke on the Narendra Modi government's move to strip J&K of the special status, Singh said the party has lived up to its promises.

"As a nationalist party, the BJP never softened its stand on the issue. Article 370 was like a canker (nasoor) which left J&K bleeding. We have now demonstrated that we are an honest and credible party which fulfills its promises," Singh said evoking applause from the crowd.

He blamed Article 370, and Article 35A which arose out of it, for the state being in the throes of terrorism. And it must also keep in mind instrumental in the fight to achieve Jharkhand as a separate state, and if necessary, will again engage in the struggle to ensure Jharkhand shines bright on the nation's map," he said.

"The entire Opposition has already had a meeting and once I get over with the ongoing 'Badlav Yatra', I will sit again with all party leaders," the 44-year-old son of JMM chief Shibu Soren said. JMM, Congress, Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) and Rashtriya Janata Dal had contested the Lok Sabha polls in alliance earlier this year, but managed to win just two out of the 14 seats. Referring to the understanding of JMM fighting the general elections under the Congress leadership and vice-versa for state polls, Soren said the contours of the alliance for

both Lok Sabha and the upcoming Assembly elections were mutually decided by the senior most leadership of both parties. "So, the Congress leadership including its state leadership in Jharkhand should be cognizant about this commitment especially when they make public statements or remarks to the media. I do expect a lot more responsibility from them in this regard," he said.

"We have always been true to our commitments and would reiterate again that we are ready to fight the BJP together," he said. Asked if the delay in forming up a grand alliance was giving BJP the upper hand, Soren asserted that it was the saffron party that was on the backfoot in Jharkhand. The BJP looks to seal an alliance with whoever they can when faced with pre-

carious circumstances, he claimed. "Their alliances in Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra in Lok Sabha are recent examples. They know that without that it's difficult to steer through," Soren said.

He said conversations are ongoing to firm up the opposition alliance and there was still time to finalise its shape. Soren, who has been touring the state as part of his 'Badlav Yatra' and connecting with the masses, claimed there was a lot of anger among the people of the state at the Raghubar Das government had failed to meet their aspirations. "Farmers and farm labourers have committed suicide, families have been destroyed, anganwadi workers are on an indefinite fast, para teachers were on a statewide strike and the police brutally

lathi charged them as if they were deadly criminals, youth not getting jobs are ending their lives and the state government is giving government jobs to people from outside Jharkhand," he alleged.

"A people's alliance is ready to teach them (BJP) a lesson. JMM is just trying to give shape and voice to this collective anger of people against the BJP," he said. He also said "hunger deaths" and "mob lynchings" had also got a bad name to the state in the last five years. Elections were announced on Saturday for Maharashtra and Haryana assemblies, which means polls in Jharkhand will be held later. The term for the Jharkhand Assembly will end on January 5 and polls are expected to take place by end of this year.

He rubbish the "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" theory often used by the neighbouring country to justify militancy in the northern state.

"Let us see how many terrorists they can send (to India). None of them will go back," he added. Among others who addressed the gathering here were Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Nitayanand Rai and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi. PTI

"We do not need to do anything against Pakistan. It will get dismantled because of the very path it has chosen. The country will be devoured by flagrant violation of human rights and flourishing terrorism on its soil," Singh remarked grimly, without elaborating further.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), however, emerged as the lone dissenting voice from within the alliance as it staged a walkout in both the Houses of the Parliament after expressing his disapproval over the Narendra Modi government's move.

The defence minister also warned Pakistan against "repeating mistakes of 1965 and 1971", referring to the two wars fought and won against the neighbouring country, and

## A dose of adrenaline

The Indian economy needed a booster shot. Was Nirmala Sitharaman's corporate tax cut the way to do it?



**O**n the face of it, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement to cut the corporate tax rates in India from 30 to 25 per cent, making for an effective slab of 25.17 per cent for all companies in India that do not use incentives, is a smart move, both for the corporate sector and the optics of politics. This avoids any potential conflict with sector-specific reductions in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates, which would have led to a showdown in the GST Council. By cutting a Central tax, a decision solely of the Central

Government, days of headache have been avoided. Of course, Opposition politicians will make a fuss about these rates but the smarter among them will understand that not only did something need to be done but that the private sector was essential for creating employment and the challenges thereof might potentially be reduced. Now, how the tax cuts will be utilised could determine how they benefit the economy. Companies could use the extra cash to fund expansion, pare debt or even not reduce their workforces in what has been a difficult year. That said, the reduction in corporate tax rates would also be extremely beneficial for potential foreign investors who might have shied away from India due to higher rates and could, therefore, give a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative. This shows that the Government is not just taking half-hearted selective measures to revive the economy but is actually taking matters seriously.

The prime disappointment though has been felt by middle-class income tax payers, who were also hoping for some adjustments in personal income tax rates that remain relatively high. While the after-effect of demonetisation and the GST rollout, both of which brought in a lot of the informal economy into the formal scheme, was an increase in the overall tax base, there have been no commensurate rate reductions. The investing classes are still peeved about long-term capital gains tax on money market investments and any reduction in these will excite the markets once again. The problem is that while this might have given the bourses a booster shot, it could take several quarters for the effects to really start taking hold of the economy. In the short-term, consumer sentiment might take a while to recover. And that is worrisome. With companies already stressed, some feel that the rate cut will be absorbed in the near-term by firms balancing their books. While there could be some concerns and some cribs, there should be no doubt that the measures taken by the Government are on the whole an extremely positive given the overall state of the economy, and could even improve collections in the long-run once investments increase. If companies pare their debts, it could encourage the banks to start lending more. Increased investments could spur job creation as well. Yes, the Government has huge social responsibilities but the best way to help people is to create jobs and India's challenge on that front is unparalleled. This will help. However, this looks more like a distress management module rather than embodying a vision of either long-term goals, structural or big bang reforms that will take us to the next level irrespective of market trends and crisis. If only, this gives credence to the idea that no Government really changes the status quo unless it is forced to by the scale of an economic crisis. This is a repeat of the scenario in 1991 when the then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh liberalised the economy in the face of an unprecedented crisis. India's economy cannot afford to be reactive anymore, it has to be proactive.

## Role model

Greta Thunberg's call is reverberating in India where school kids in metros are missing classes for a climate strike



**Y**outh leadership is certainly changing the world. And the greatest impact among activist leaders has been achieved by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden, who has taken upon herself the task of awakening the consciousness of the world community to the only issue that will matter to us — climate change. From launching a protest outside her country's Parliament on August 2018, till a little more than a year now, the teenager has indeed caught the attention of not just the intended audience, the law-

makers across the world, but gathered traction among the youth. Her message has been plain and simple: Stop talking, start acting. And she is leading by example, taking the road and sailing the waters in solar-powered rides while strictly not flying. Now her call for "climate strikes" till the end of the month has ensured the largest student demonstration on planet earth till now. Millions of youth, predominantly school-going, are giving their classrooms a miss to take part in peaceful street protests demanding world leaders to take concrete actions and avert environmental catastrophes. Her echoes have been heard here, too, as millennials in Delhi launched a march from the city centre that snaked past Lodhi Garden and ended at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The students even submitted a memorandum to the powers that be. In the spirit of the freedom movement, and a display of our vibrant culture, brightly dressed students held up placards that read, "The show must go on" and "if the weather can change, so can you." Young people in other metro cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata followed suit, setting aside their weekday pursuits.

Ahead of the 2019 Climate Action Summit, while speaking to the members of Congress in the House Ways and Means Committee last week, Greta said, "This is the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced, you cannot solve a crisis without treating it as one. Stop telling people that everything will be fine. As it looks now, everything won't be fine." Bluntly, she told the US lawmakers, "Listen to the scientists, unite behind the science, then take real action." Echoing her words, even the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres could not afford to remain a mute spectator and asked member nations to bring a plan and not plain speeches to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Greta's success and freshness have been that as a disruptor, she is being heard more and as a representative of a generation we will be bequeathing the earth to, stirring up enough guilt within us. Besides, her passionate campaigns and demonstrable actions of how to reorient modern living in a sustainable manner have given everybody an individual goal that is easier to meet than effecting a policy change. Climate scientists had for long warned that the world is running out of time to avert the worst effects of global heating. They had alerted about the consequences — food scarcity, water stress, deaths due to high temperatures, forest fires, and mass displacements — all of which have become a reality. Youth leaders are more aware in a knowledge society, more user-oriented and practical. It's time we go by their blueprint. For a child is indeed the father of man.

# What's a degree worth?

As graduates and class VIII dropouts are forced into the same career stream, India's joblessness is leading to desperate choices

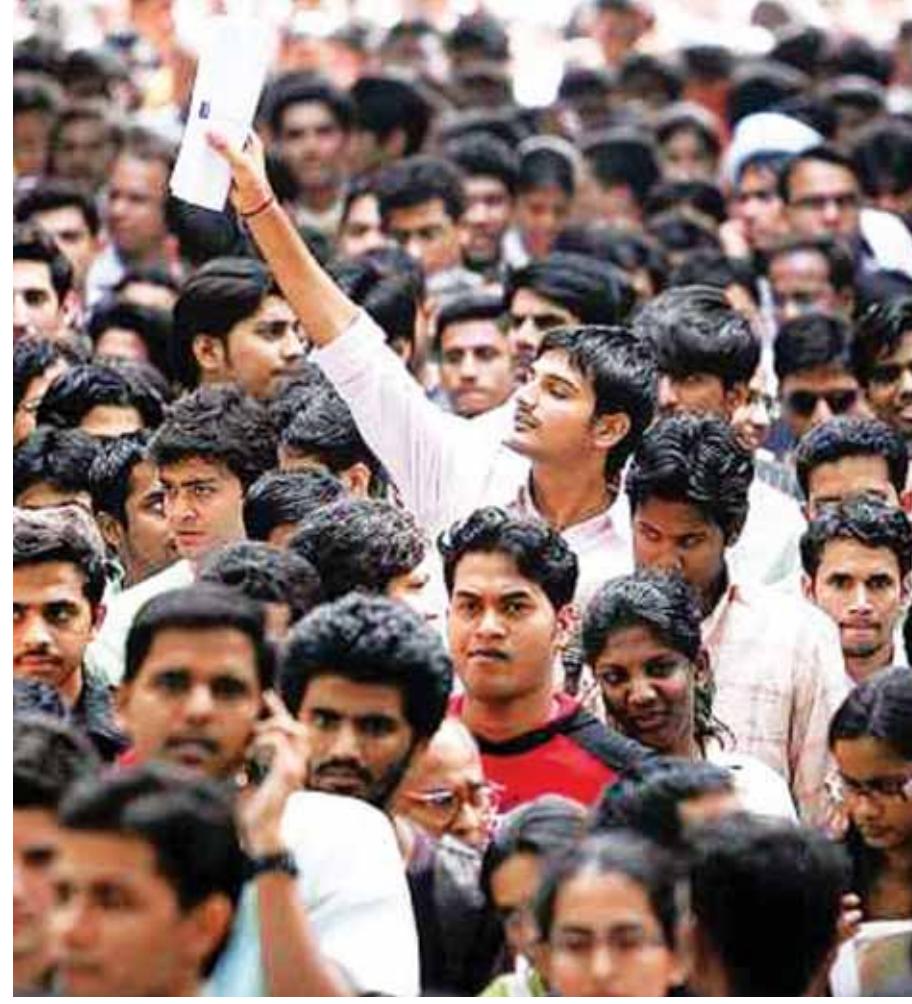


RINKU GHOSH

**T**hey say the story of India is found in its people, its complexity unravelling in everyday life. And so it is that I chanced upon Ankit, who is an owner-driver of a Hyundai Xcent with taxi aggregator Uber and makes anything about ₹40,000-50,000 a month. That's not new or surprising. But Ankit was a verification officer at Barclay's bank, who found himself jobless at a time when he was expecting his first child and his family deep in a financial trough for other reasons. Maternity meant his wife, too, was hived off from her firm that justified job cuts in the name of smart-sizing. Another job with his qualifications was difficult to come by and the offers that came guaranteed him nothing more than ₹35,000 a month. With mounting debts, he invested his severance package in a car and drove around the city; 17 hours on normal days, 22 hours over the weekend, so that he could earn the high points and incentives that Uber guarantees. Despite the inhumanity of sleep deprivation that such trips entail, Ankit's biodata on the company's app flashes the only thing that has become his calling card: that he is healthy and ever-ready to run. Now a father of a one-and-a-half month daughter, a fan of Adele whose songs motivate him on each ride, he has invested in a second car which he uses for inter-city tours. Some day, he hopes to grow his tourist car business, may be even set up his own agency. But a job he is not going back to, even if it means devaluing his education or explaining to neighbours in the Ghaziabad condominium he lives in why he scours the city at night. "Whatever gives me money, there is no shame. My education isn't working anymore."

Many like Ankit, young graduates and with middling incomes that are on freeze in a sputtering economy, are signing up with taxi aggregators to make ends meet across the country. A very infrequent user, over the last couple of months I have chanced upon at least six graduates who believe in dignity of labour provided it ensures the right price. There was Sandeep, who was a junior sales executive at a company and a people's person but once retrenched, chose the graveyard shift to rush people to their destinations. There was Vikas, who juked a job of ₹25,000 simply because it involved gruellingly long hours and he realised he could make more money in the same time period. "Now I can pace out my work on my own terms, be my boss and take home everything," he had told me. "What social embarrassment, I am my own company and I can vary my workflow depending on my needs. Which job will give me this flexibility? This is my choice." There was a young woman too, Suman, who is funding her vocational course by driving around women professionals in a WagonR owned by the family. "I drive select hours, am on GPS, so safety isn't an issue. This is good supplementary income for me."

The fact that I found all these drivers in



Noida's one-time booming SEZ area also presents a sordid tale of a slowdown and shutdown that's forcing our young people to find their own means of survival. With taxi aggregators like Uber and Ola finding the third largest ride-sharing market in India after the US and China, a driving partnership has now become a viable self-entrepreneurial option. Yet others are signing up with food and other service aggregators. Some are even relooking at their passions and acquired skills as there is a shop for every kind of service, utilitarian and entertainment, online.

If a report released by the Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment is to be believed, then people with a graduate degree are more than twice as likely to be unemployed than the national average.

The same study also found that women are more likely to fall by the wayside. Not only that. Even if graduates decide to take up low-skill work, they have to face intense competition from those who apply to such categories normally. This trend was echoed by a Kotak Institutional Equities report too, which cited data from the Government's periodic labour force survey (PLFS). The unemployment rate among male job seekers with secondary

level education far exceeds joblessness among illiterates in both rural and urban areas: "The unemployment rate is highest among youth with education until diploma (37 per cent), graduate (36 per cent) and post-graduate and above (36 per cent), suggesting the lack of opportunities for a higher skilled workforce." The crisis was found to be more acute in urban areas (7.8 per cent) than in rural (5.3 per cent). A report by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) had also found that qualified youth — those with bachelor's degrees and above — faced the highest unemployment.

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Government salary is now ₹18,000 per month, higher than what 70 per cent employed people make in this country in desolate times. No data encapsulates this better than the Hindi film *Dream Girl*, where Ayushmann Khurrana plays an educated young man from Mathura, who has pursued the conventional path of BA, MA and MPhil but finds himself without a job. Out of sheer desperation, he signs up for a phone-sex call centre simply because it promises an income that his degrees cannot give him.

Undoubtedly, this trend is setting off a socio-economic transformation. At one level, it is offering recourse to students who are not academically brilliant and won't make the cut in higher institutions, just plain regulars who, however, make up the bulk of our educated workforce. At another level, it also means we are diluting their core competence, productivity and belief that education and knowledge are tools for an elevated life. We are teaching them the art of compromise, building values numerically rather than holistically. In fact, if basic skills like driving and cooking can earn people the moolah, then our young may just give up the idea of "becoming a graduate," still an aspiration that

parents sacrifice their earnings for across the vast hinterland of India. If that benchmark is seen as a redundancy, then it is another challenge in a country where literacy is often mistaken to be good enough as an education, compromising the overarching process of evolution of the mind. Let's not forget the last Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) which found that one out of every four Class VII students in rural India is unable to read even a Class II text and over one in two Class VIII students cannot solve a problem that involves basic division.

In the end, there is the socio-psychological impact of levelling out to a bare median, of a graduate and a class VIII dropout being forced into the same bloodstream. Is a compromise ever happy when you are told that excellence should be your only pursuit? Besides crushed expectations can have ramifications in the form of increased manifestation of disturbing and deviant behaviour among the youth.

How then can we customise higher education for a segmented job market rather than dumping a one-size-fits-all formula on sectors that can hire but need specific domain knowledge? How can we make our graduates job-ready? As a recent skill research has shown, employers found 80 per cent of Indian engineering graduates failing to meet minimum requirements for a hire. Many such firms say prospective candidates lack sufficient industry experience because our courses are too theoretical and not application-oriented. There must be an industry-aided skill requirement map so that the problem of over-qualification, as evidenced by the latest job rush queues in Maharashtra, does not dash hopes. Besides, there must be a provision for career-long skill upgradation given that the economic paradigm can change due to technological breakthroughs and fluidity of the economy. There should be enough start-up incentives for engineers to set up small units that are viable. Yes, use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may kill some traditional jobs but as seen with the IT revolution, they also encourage an allied layer of human services and talent. That spinoff is often overlooked in umbrella decisions. The jobs crisis is severely threatening our demographic dividend, given that half our population is below the age of 25. But a potential asset could become our biggest liability if we don't look at the bigger picture now.

(The writer is Associate Editor, *The Pioneer*)

## SOUND BITE

The Government has initiated a major exercise to formulate a National Education Policy that will aim to fulfil the aspiration of the youth.

HRD Minister  
—Ramesh Pokhrayan

I cried the day Article 377 was abolished in India. The next step is gay marriages are allowed in our country. I hope that happens very soon.

Filmaker  
—Karan Johar

India is an important actor in climate action. Obviously, part of the dialogue was also related to our own efforts and the need to green the UN.

UN chief  
—Antonio Guterres

The people of the country have been divided into black and white and there is no shade in between which is called tolerance.

Congress leader  
—Shashi Tharoor

## A wake-up call

**S**ir — The world's largest oil facilities in Saudi Arabia have faced massive damages in the recent drone attacks. Various conspiracy theories have been doing the rounds regarding the culprits and the US President, Donald Trump, has as usual pointed a finger at Iran. But it must be remembered that Saudi Arabia has for long been threatened by internal conflicts by fringe elements and other radical groups. Further, the dependence of the world on Saudi Arabia for fuel makes it crucial for any strife there to be solved at once. This incident goes on to show how such attacks can impact world economics and politics.

P Senthil  
Via email

## Boosting the economy

**S**ir — This refers to the report, "Corporate tax slashed to 25% to rev up economy" (September 21). In a bold move to revive the economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an eight percentage points cut in

the corporate tax rate. This means that the effective tax rate for firms who do not avail exemptions will fall from 34.94 per cent presently to 25.17 per cent. However, for new domestic manufacturing companies, incorporated after October 1, the tax rate

## Apathy towards a football player

**S**tories about celebrities falling on bad times are not rare. Managing whatever fortune they amassed during their heydays, many are known to have had pitiable existence thereafter, passing the rest of their lives in near anonymity. But some sagas are known to have their own share of shocks and surprises. The story of ace footballer Uday Konar from Mumbai is a case in point. Harassed by local goons, backed by influential people who are on the lookout to evict him from his hawkings space at the Colaba Causeway, Konar is at the risk of losing his only means of livelihood. Apart from the space from where his father used to run a newspaper stall since the 1960s, the land mafia is intent on grabbing control of all spots allotted to his family in the close vicinity. One can very well understand his desperation.

The very fact that Konar has not been able to elicit any response from Government officials speaks volumes about a powerful nexus with powerful lobbies. His situation is that of a typical ordeal of a street vendor who gets targeted by powerful lobbies who use force and bullying tactics to evict them. But how can the administration be silent to the plight of the star player who has brought many laurels to the State?

will be as low as 15 per cent. Due to high corporate tax rates, investments had remained at the lowest ebb. The present move will encourage private investment. It may also give a boost to foreign investments given that global value chains

stand disrupted due to the tariff war between China and the US. While the present rate cut bodes well for the overall economy, largely, the corporate sector must not falter now.

Pachu Menon  
Margao

## Timely action

**S**ir — This refers to the editorial, "Missing woods for trees" (September 20). With more than 100 million adult smokers, India has a huge market for both electronic and conventional cigarettes. Although few Indians vape at present, the Indian ban cuts off a vast potential market of 1.3 billion consumers for makers of e-cigarettes. In particular, the e-cigarette market is acquiring 'epidemic' proportions among the youth and children. Given their attractive appearances and the availability in a number of flavours, teenagers are likely to be more prone to such devices.

In this backdrop, the Government's comprehensive ban on these battery-operated devices is welcome. The perception that e-cigarettes are a less-harmful alternative to cigarettes is entirely wrong. In fact, youngsters who use ENDS are more likely to start smoking conventional cigarettes.

Bal Govind  
Noida

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## Unsung hero of the downtrodden

Though Bhola Paswan Shastri worked tirelessly for the benefit of the underprivileged, he was never credited for his socio-political work



RAJ PARASHAR

The name, Bhola Paswan Shastri, might have a different meaning for different sections of society, but his contributions and accomplishments in the social and political arena speak for themselves. It is unfortunate that Shastri's endeavours have not been accommodated in the political history of India. Though he worked tirelessly for the benefit of the underprivileged and the oppressed, and for the freedom of the country from colonial rule, Shastri has never been duly credited for his socio-political work.

Simple living and high thinking was a way of life for the three-time Chief Minister of Bihar, who not just dedicated his whole life for the uplift of the marginalised sections of society but also followed a righteous path in the murky world of politics.

Not one to believe in politics of opportunism, nepotism, favouritism, glorification and cashing in on his following by bargaining for political posts, Shastri charted his own course in life and was always guided by political ethics and constitutional morality.

Born in 1914 in Bairagchhi, Purnea district, Bihar, in a family that belonged to the Pasi community (considered untouchables) Bhola Paswan, as he was known at that time, faced intense discrimination and atrocities. However, rising above that, he charted his way forward and was a brilliant student. He gained a respectable position in society by studying from the renowned Kashi University and the title of Shastri was conferred on him due to his keen intellect. Using his education as a means to fight for the emancipation of his people, Shastri began raising his voice against the caste system and the atrocities inflicted on members of the Dalit community. He participated in many of the struggles launched for the betterment of Dalits and later on joined active politics to make their voice heard as their representative.

Being a follower of Gandhi, he strongly advocated the Mahatma's ideas during the days of freedom struggle and reiterated that political independence could not be achieved unless one was socially equal and liberated. Realising the important role education had played in his life, Shastri always stressed on the need for learning and urged Dalits to pursue higher education for an overall and holistic development. His keen understanding of socio-political dynamics allowed Shastri to ignite the minds of the oppressed and encourage them to break the shackles of poverty and social stigma attached to the caste-system.

Later Shastri, who also had a nationalistic bent of mind, was to jump into the struggle for India's independence as a revolutionary and play a significant role in it. Shastri's dynamic personality and love for the country, politics and social issues resulted in him becoming the first Dalit Chief Minister of Bihar in 1968. He was to occupy that post twice more. Shastri was also a member of the Rajya Sabha and a vocal advocate for his community and the progressive plans he had for them.

Shastri's unmatched wit and intellect came through in an interview he gave in 1978 in his capacity as the Chairman of the then newly-founded Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. When asked about caste-based discrimination in the country, he said, "With more people from different communities becoming educated, the discrimination against Harijans is slowly becoming less. But then, you also have rigid Hindus, like the ones who washed with Ganga water a statue that Jagirvan Ram had unveiled at Varanasi, in order to 'purify' it."

He mobilised the Harijan community to enter the national mainstream and join hands with other landless peasants to change their lives for the better. Shastri supported affirmative action and termed it as a way to rectify the history of injustice dating back thousands of years. A proponent of the reservation policy, Shastri often pointed out that Harijans have a double impediment, poverty and social discrimination, to overcome and quota would help them beat this.

Shastri was one of the unsung leaders and visionaries of yesterday who contributed a lot to the nation but never took advantage of their capacity and position. He always gave priority to society over his family and was against amalgamation of wealth, which is why Shastri was left with just a few clothes, a pair of shoes and a meagre bank account at the time of his death. Socialism and egalitarianism were the inalienable attributes of Shastri's personality which is evident from the journey of his life.

It will be an injustice to let his name be erased from the annals of history, especially whenever we remember frontline social reformers and Dalit ideologues. In an era where politics of vendetta and nepotism is being used as a means to further personal agendas or decimate rivals, his simple lifestyle and brand of selfless politics can prove to be the guiding light for modern-day politicians and inspire many budding leaders.

(The writer is a Research Scholar at Patna University.)

# analysis

09

## POINT COUNTERPOINT

**BJP SHOULD STAGE A SIT-IN AT DELHI FOR RELEASE OF FLOOD RELIEF FUNDS INSTEAD OF INDULGING IN TONGUE WAGGING AGAINST MY GOVERNMENT.**

—MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER

KAMAL NATH



**KAMAL NATH SHOULD GO TO DELHI HIMSELF AND ASK FOR HELP. HAVE I EVER TOLD THE OPPPOSITION TO GET HELP FROM DELHI WHEN I WAS CM?**

—FORMER MP CHIEF MINISTER AND BJP LEADER

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARI



## Beating desertification

At the COP14 held in India, 196 countries and the EU adopted voluntary land degradation neutrality targets that include their restoration by 2030



VK BAHUGUNA

At the just-concluded Conference of Parties (COP) 14 hosted by India under the aegis of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 196 participating countries and the European Union adopted the 'New Delhi Declaration' wherein they agreed that land degradation is a major economic, social and environmental problem, and welcomed strengthening of the adoption of voluntary "land degradation neutrality" targets that include restoration of degraded land by 2030.

The UNCCD, one of the three environmental conventions running after the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in 1992, (the other two being The United Framework Convention Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity) was established in 1994 as a legally-binding international agreement within the parameters of the UN and connects the environment and development with sustainable land management. The conventions deal with most vulnerable ecosystems in arid, semi-arid and dry lands areas. The basic aim of the convention is to work for improving the livelihoods of the people in these ecosystems through restoration of soil and land and combat drought conditions.

Under the UNCCD, the developed countries are supposed to transfer technologies to the developing countries for sustainable land development.

The UNCCD had adopted a strategic framework for the period 2018-2030, which among other things, primarily focusses on improving the condition of affected ecosystems; combat desertification, land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. It also aims to mitigate, adapt to and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; mobilise resources for implementation of the convention and improve the living conditions of the people residing in dry land ecosystems. By far this is the most important convention and the success of two other conventions' objectives depends upon the success of the UNCCD. The secretariat of the convention had taken lot of programmes to achieve its mandate and some excellent work has already been achieved by India though almost one-third of country's landmass remains degraded and prone to desertification.

All countries recognised that desertification undermines health, development and prosperity in all regions and were deeply concerned that the impacts would be felt most keenly by vulnerable people. They were also convinced that participation from civil society organisations, local governments and the private sector would be crucial to achieving the objectives of UNCCD.

The document laid special emphasis on community-driven transformative projects that are gender-sensitive at local, national and regional levels to drive implementation.

While the declaration is a statement of consensus, the 35 decisions are legally binding on each of the 197 signatories. Activities carried out over the next two years would be monitored by India.

The resolutions adopted in the New Delhi Declaration are vital for India and the world, which is grappling with the ever-increasing effects of climate change and faces a major desertification threat.

China, which became the president of the convention in 2017, passed on the baton to India at the programme held in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar, now has the mammoth task of steering the mandate of the convention for the next two years. The four issues discussed during COP14 were land and drought; land and human security; land and climate change and land and sustainable development goals.

Signatories to the New Delhi Declaration endorsed 35 decisions, including commitments to combat land degradation, desertification and drought. In the resolutions, the conference agreed to make the Sustainable Development Goal target of achieving "land degradation neutrality" (LDN), a national target for action. Besides the LDN agreement, whereby countries have pledged to halt the degradation of land to the point where ecosystems and land use can no longer be supported, there was a landmark decision to boost



global efforts to mitigate and manage the risks of crippling drought.

Countries will now be expected to address insecurity of land tenure, including gender inequality; promote land restoration to reduce carbon emissions and mobilise innovative sources of finance from public and private sources to support the implementation of these decisions at a national level.

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In the light of these findings, the COP14 is vital for the entire world and its recommendations need to be implemented in all seriousness. The people and the institutions of governance must focus on physical structure of land and quality of soil; improve the availability of water; control landslides, floods and movement of soil and conserve

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the bio-diversity and use of land for sustainable development of the people living in these areas.

India must gear up its diplomatic channels to ensure creation of fund and technology for tackling the threat by all countries. As for India, an action plan must be prepared to deal with deforestation, water conservation and land degradation for forest and non-forest lands. The degraded forests below 40 per cent crown density have increased from 24 million hectares in 1985 to 30 million hectares in 2017 and regeneration of natural forests needs to be backed up.

The recent proposal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to bring private investments in forest areas of less than 10 per cent crown density should be started on pilot basis after taking the local people into confidence. If it succeeds, it will give a big fillip to forest conservation and enhancement of land productivity. The land vested with tribals under Forest Right Act should also be taken up for investment for productive use and livelihoods.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who addressed the ministerial segment of the convention, outlined the success achieved by India in implementation of the objectives of the convention in checking desertification and land degradation as well as help in saving the livelihoods of the people residing in dry areas. Modi asserted that India was looking forward to making an effective contribution at the global level as it took over the chairmanship for the next two years.

He called for concerted attempts as two-third of the countries are affected by desertification and are in the grip of severe water crisis. He exhorted the delegates to create a Global Water Action Agenda and offered Indian expertise to other countries in land degradation and raised the target of its land restoration from 21 million hectares to 26 million hectares by 2030.

Pointing out that India was on course to achieve its Paris climate change targets, Modi announced setting up of a Centre of Excellence at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education to facilitate scientific and technological collaboration between South-South Cooperation and with those who wish to access knowledge and training of manpower so that land degradation is addressed effectively.

(The writer is a retired civil servant)

## The rise of conspiracy theories and fantasies

Complex political, economic, demographic shifts and the mushrooming of social media sites have all contributed in making fantastical explanations, that were once relegated to the lunatic fringe, migrate to the mainstream



NAHEED PARACHA

In 2005, an independent filmmaker, Dylan Avery, made a documentary called *Loose Change*. The film explores the many conspiracy theories which began to emerge after the 9/11 attacks in New York.

The documentary does not discuss the theories as much as it actually promulgates them in a rather dramatic manner. The film claims that it has enough evidence to prove the conspiratorial notion that the 9/11 attacks were an "inside job," meaning they were organised by the US Government.

In 2006, Avery and the film's producers released a second edition of the film, claiming that this one included some new evidence. But,

actually, this one left out certain claims made in the first edition of the film after they were debunked.

A year later in 2007, a third version of the documentary emerged called *Loose Change: Final Cut*. This edition almost entirely edited out the many speculative claims of the previous editions. This left the film looking more like a compilation of reports on the attacks because, by then, *Loose Change* had been systematically debunked through a series of articles in various newspapers in the US and the UK.

Ironically, the American business tycoon, Mark Cuban, who had bought the rights to distribute the last edition of the film — which, unlike the first two editions, was not released online for free — was quoted as saying that he entirely disagreed with the contents of the film. One of the film's producers, Mathew Brown, echoed the sentiment but added that he had financed the film because he believed in freedom of speech.

The first edition was a sloppy and amateur attempt to cynically draw traction from online fans of conspir-

acy theories. However, it became a huge online hit, encouraging the makers of the film to turn it into a lucrative franchise of sorts.

The first edition cost just \$2,000, the second \$6,000 and the third \$20,000, after the rights of the film were sold to a major DVD distribution company. Translated versions of the film were also screened on TV channels in various countries, including Pakistan.

Geo TV ran it with an Urdu commentary, even though, by then, the film had been significantly discredited. Influenced by the successful manner in which it had managed to draw a large audience, another local TV channel, Indus TV, began to run a series of translated documentaries funded by the wealthy Turkish Islamic creationist and cult figure Harun Yahya. These films explained Darwinism, secularism, democracy, Western modernity and so on, as the core reasons behind the misery in the Muslim world and on Earth in general.

In 2009, ARY News jumped on the bandwagon by adapting another

Yahya-funded documentary *End of Time*. Commentary in the Urdu version was provided by a talk-show host, who faithfully replicated the film's sombre tone, pointing out the signs' foretold by the holy scriptures of the coming apocalypse.

As I mentioned in a previous column two in-depth studies, conducted in 2018 and published in the *Journal of Individual Differences*, identified 'schizotypy' as a prominent reason behind the growth in the acceptance of fantastical claims and conspiracy theories in recent years. People with schizotypy have an elevated need to feel unique, but at the same time take refuge in a community of like-minded individuals. Such an individual or community are more likely to judge nonsensical statements as profound.

They often believe in things for which there is no empirical evidence. The higher this schizotypy is in a person, the more likely he or she is to believe in conspiracy theories.

There is also the fact that the complex political, economic, climatic and demographic shifts and

changes occurring in the post-9/11 world and the mushrooming of social media sites, all contributed in making fantastical explanations — that were once relegated to the lunatic fringe — migrate to the mainstream.

Confusion and polarisation in this context allows people to latch on to theoretical concoctions connecting disparate dots to complete an (often diabolical) explanatory whole. Nothing new about this, as in 1902 a tome appeared in Russia titled *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

The book reports how a group of powerful Jews got together to plan a sinister takeover of the world's economic, political and media institutions. The book is also a hotchpotch of segments plagiarised from certain 19th-century anti-Semitic literature.

Russian scholar and professor Cesare De Michelis writes in his book *The Non-Existent Manuscript* that *The Protocols* was an anti-Semitic satire on a seminar organised by Russian Zionists. Anti-Semitism was peaking in Russia at the time, and this is why this satire was then published more

widely, but this time as fact, according to Michelis.

After doing the rounds in Russia, *The Protocols* reached the US in 1917. In 1921, US car manufacturer Henry Ford financed the publishing of 50,000 copies of the tome. He also published a series of articles inspired by the book in a newspaper that he owned. The articles all appeared under the title *The International Jew*. Everything from the communist revolution in Russia to the creation of trade unions and inter-racial marriages in the West was blamed on the Jews. In 1922, the book and the articles were translated into German and became popular in Germany. It would go on to influence the ideology of Nazism in that country. It didn't matter that the British daily *The Times* had already thoroughly exposed the book as a hoax and a forgery. At the end of World War II, when facts about the Holocaust began to emerge, the book lost mainstream traction and readership in Europe and the US, and was relegated to the Right-wing fringe.

Uploaded by Neo-Nazi and white supremacist groups and by various Islamist outfits, *The Protocols* once again managed to migrate from the fringes to the mainstream. Its readers again outnumber those who are more interested in reading the many exposés that completely debunked the book as a vicious fraud.

(Courtesy, *The Dawn*)

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>NAV</b>	<b>1Yr%</b>	Tata Large Cap Fund(G)	217.18	2.50	Edelweiss Multi-Cap Fund-Reg(G)	14.28	0.04	Fund(G)	L&T Equity Fund-Reg(G)	79.25	-3.17	Fund(G)							
DSP World Gold Fund-Reg(G)	14.29	35.51	Mirae Asset Great Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	34.79	2.46	DSP Global Allocation Fund-Reg(G)	12.74	0.03	DSP US Flexible Equity Fund-Reg(G)	25.97	-3.27	IDFC Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	PGIM India Euro Equity Fund(G) 13.63	-7.97						
Kotak World Gold Fund(G)	10.35	30.83	DSP India T.I.G.E.R Fund-Reg(G)	89.14	2.38	ICICI Pru Nifty Low Vol 30 ETF Fund-Reg(G)	89.75	-0.01	Invesco India Contra Fund(G)	46.06	-3.32	SBI Contra Fund-Reg(G)	100.77	-8.01						
BNP Paribas India Consumption Fund-Reg(G)	11.85	18.66	Parag Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	25.39	2.23	UTI Mastershare-Reg(G)	120.46	-0.06	ICICI Pru Value Fund-10(G)	11.06	-3.32	Principal Nifty 100 Equal Weight Fund(G)	68.35	-8.03						
Sundaram Fin Serv Opp Fund(G)	42.97	13.83	Tata Parikh Long Term Equity Fund-Reg(G)	28.29	2.02	Motilal Oswal Multicap 35 Fund-Reg(G)	25.84	-0.09	UTI Dividend Yield Fund-Reg(G)	63.94	-3.33	Sundaram Mid Cap Fund(G)	440.33	-8.03						
Tata Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	19.32	12.81	Aditya Birla SL Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	65.11	1.96	SBI LT Advantage Fund-IV-Reg(G)	12.95	-0.19	Aditya Birla SL MNC Fund(G)	742.05	-3.34	DSP Equal Nifty 50 Fund-Reg(G)	9.41	-8.04						
Baroda Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	23.35	11.14	Reliance Consumption Fund(G)	135.17	1.95	Invesco India Largecap Fund(G)	27.86	-0.21	SBI Magnum TaxGain'93-Reg(G)	136.24	-3.46	Sundaram Emerging Small Cap-Sr-IV-Reg(G)	8.91	-8.21						
Edelweiss ETF - Nifty Bank Services Fund-Reg(G)	2952.4910.75	ICICI Pru Value Fund-11(G)	12.15	1.84	Tata Value Fund-Sr-2-Reg(G)	9.52	-0.24	Kotak India Growth	9.19	-3.53	L&T Emerging Opp Fund-I-Reg(D)	9.09	-8.31							
SBI Banking & Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	17.98	10.26	DSP Equity Opportunities Fund-Reg(G)	219.43	1.83	Edelweiss Large Cap Fund(G)	35.41	-0.34	HDFC Focused 30 Fund(G)	74.39	-3.39	L&T Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	126.01	-8.32						
Axis Bluechip Fund(G)	30.10	10.01	DSP Top 100 Equity Fund-Reg(G)	205.84	1.81	UTI Banking and Financial Services Fund-Reg(G)	94.45	-0.37	SBI Magnum Technology Fund(G)	59.40	-3.52	HDFC Capital Builder	273.93	-8.34						
Axis Multicap Fund-Reg(G)	12.03	9.46	Axis Nifty ETF	1160.23	1.74	SBI LT Advantage Fund-II-Reg(G)	13.37	-0.42	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-V(G)	9.15	-3.88	Value Fund(G)	8.91	-8.21						
SBI Tax Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	25.36	9.08	Axis Focused 25 Fund(G)	28.43	1.68	SBI LT Advantage Fund-III-Reg(G)	12.98	-0.48	UTI Focussed Equity Fund-VI(G)	9.57	-3.94	Aditya Birla SL Resurgent India Fund-2-Reg(G)	11.53	-8.42						
BNP Paribas Large Cap Fund(G)	91.25	9.06	Canara Rob Equity Tax Saver Fund-Reg(G)	63.76	1.64	ICICI Pru Infrastructure Fund(G)	49.25	-0.51	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	138.88	-8.60	ICICI Pru Value Discovery Fund(G)	138.88	-8.60						
Invesco India Financial Services Fund(G)	56.53	8.92	Baroda Large Cap Fund(G)	14.31	1.63	PGIM India LT Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.99	-0.57	SBI PSU Fund-Reg(G)	9.77	-4.08	Aditya Birla SL Mfg. Equity Fund-Reg(G)	12.63	-8.68						
DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 2-Reg(G)	10.48	8.60	IDFC Nifty ETF	116.50	1.62	Axis Emerging Opp Fund-1-Reg(G)	12.16	-0.57	Sundaram LT Tax Adv Fund-Sr II-Reg(G)	14.08	-4.12	Reliance Capital Builder	7.49	-8.71						
Tata Large & Mid Cap Fund(G)	205.43	7.76	IDFC Equity	10.08	1.61	ICICI Pru Bluechip Fund(G)	41.62	-0.62	UTI India Consumer Fund-Reg(G)	25.56	-4.21	Edelweiss Eur Dynamic Equity Fund-IV-B(G)	11.02	-8.77						
DSP 3Y Close Ended Equity Fund-Reg(G)	15.69	7.41	Opportunity-6-Reg(G)	34.35	1.59	DSP Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	53.54	-0.69	ICICI Pru Multicap Fund(G)	283.75	-3.96	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	28.79	-8.98						
Canara Rob Consumer Trends Fund-Reg(G)	39.73	7.41	Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund(G)	14.13	1.56	Motilal Oswal Midcap Fund-Reg(G)	25.40	-0.69	Reliance Focused Equity Fund-Reg(G)	44.27	-4.05	Opportunity-5-Reg(G)	9.49	-8.93						
ICICI Pru Value Fund-18(G)	11.40	7.34	Cap Series-III-Reg(G)	32.44	1.54	30 Fund-Reg(G)	19.39	-0.82	Aditya Birla SL CEF-Global Fund-Reg(G)	24.95	-4.23	ICICI Pru Focused Equity Fund(G)	28.79	-8.98						
DSP A.C.E. Fund-Sr 1-Reg(G)	10.44	7.32	Franklin India Feeder - Scheme(G)	9.85	1.54	Kotak Infra & Eco Reform Fund(G)	19.39	-0.82	Agri-Reg(G)	24.10	-4.26	Fund(G)	12.63	-8.68						
ICICI Pru Banking & Fin Serv Fund(G)	63.22	7.28	Franklin U.S. Opportunities Fund(G)	165.67	1.53	PGIM India Diversified Equity Fund-Reg(G)	13.01	-0.84	Invesco India Feeder - Invesco Global Equity Income Fund(G)	12.99	-4.27	Aditya Birla SL Midcap Fund(G)	267.79	-9.13						
BNP Paribas Long Term Equity Fund(G)	38.60	7.17	Sundaram Select Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	14.15	1.51	DSP World Mining Fund-Reg(G)	8.38	-0.91	Invesco India Midcap Fund(G)	46.60	-4.31	Sundaram Value Fund-IX-Reg(G)	8.72	-9.21						
JM Tax Gain Fund(G)	17.49	7.12	Series-IV-Reg(G)	73.91	1.44	Tata Value Fund-Sr-1-Reg(G)	9.76	-0.95	Tata Resources & Energy Fund-Reg(G)	13.95	-4.34	Aditya Birla SL Infrastructure Fund(G)	29.38	-9.24						
Aditya Birla SL Global Real Estate Fund(G)	20.58	6.78	IDFC Nifty Fund-Reg(G)	23.39	1.38	JM Value Fund(G)	31.52	-0.95	IDFC Core Equity Fund-Reg(G)	43.52	-4.35	Aditya Birla SL Dividend Yield Fund(G)	152.98	-9.28						
Reliance US Equity Opp Fund(G)	16.25	6.77	Sundaram Select Small Cap Fund-Reg(G)	9.85	1.35	Aditya Birla SL Frontline Equity Fund(G)	218.93	-0.99	Franklin India Opportunities Fund(G)	70.61	-4.37	Sundaram Value Fund(X-Reg(G))	10.30	-9.47						
DSP Equity Fund-Reg(G)	40.09	6.63	Sundaram Emerging Small Fund-Reg(G)	10.15	1.30	Aditya Birla SL Sensex ETF	355.34	-1.06	ICICI Pru Bharat Consumption Fund-2-(G)	9.59	-4.39	Reliance Power & Infra Fund(G)	93.87	-4.45						
ICICI Pru Growth Fund-1(DP)	11.13	6.61	Cap-Sr-VI-Reg(G)	282.09	1.29	PGIM India Large Cap Fund-Reg(G)	12.19	-1.07	Franklin India Equity Advantage Fund(G)	77.12	-4.44	Sundaram Value Fund-X-Reg(G)	8.67	-9.91						
SBI Magnum Equity ESG Fund-Reg(G)	106.07	6.15	Quality 30	1481.04	1.24	Invesco India Infrastructure Fund-Reg(G)	16.38	-1.27	Reliance Vision Fund(G)	130.65	-5.41	Principal Global Opportunities Fund(G)	29.02	-10.03						
Aditya Birla SL India GenNext Fund(G)	84.54	6.13	2469.36	2018-19	531.49	Import of CHOCOLATE AND OTHER FOOD PREPARATIONS CONTAINING COCOA (in ₹ crore)	2019-20 APR-JUN (P)	125.51	Source: Ministry of Commerce PTI GRAPHICS	ICICI Pru Midcap Fund(G)	91.54	-4.49	Sundaram Diversified Equity(G)	96.89	-4.49					
ICICI Pru US Bluechip Equity Fund(G)	29.18	5.57	2017-18	457.29	2016-17	438.65	2015-16	491.50	2014-15	550.44	2013-14	461.64	2012-13	382.57	2011-12	313.13	2010-11	200.47	2009-10	123.24

# No plans to revise fiscal deficit target: Nirmala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said there are no plans to revise the fiscal deficit target for the current fiscal at the moment and a decision in this regard will be taken before the annual Budget.

Experts are of the view that India's fiscal deficit will widen as a result of the corporate tax reduction.

When asked if the government will consider revising the fiscal deficit target, Sitharaman said these are "decisions taken near the Budget".

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the Government on Friday slashed corporate tax by almost 10 percentage points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth and a 45-year high unemployment rate by reviving private investments with a ₹1.45-lakh crore tax break.

Base corporate tax for existing companies was reduced to 22 per cent from the current 30 per cent; and for new manufacturing firms, incorporated after October 1,



**On raising the borrowing target for the second half of the current fiscal, the Finance Minister said, it will be decided in the next few days**

2019 and starting operations before March 31, 2023, to 15 per cent from the current 25 per cent.

On raising the borrowing target for the second half of the current fiscal, the Finance Minister said, it will be decided in the next few days.

"Not touching any of the given targets now. When the meeting for revised estimates takes place, we will look at it," Sitharaman said.

According to global rating

agency Moody's, the reduction in corporate income tax revenue — even when balanced against the windfall from the recent transfer of central bank surplus reserves, equivalent to around 0.3 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal year — further narrows fiscal room for manoeuvre.

However, it described the rate reduction as credit positive for companies because it will enable them to generate higher post-tax incomes.

# Corp tax cut makes India an investment destination, says FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has become a highly competitive investment destination post corporate tax reduction as the rates are now lower than in China and most Southeast Asian countries, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday.

India was earlier at disadvantage because of a couple of factors and on top of it was the high corporate tax rate, she said, adding that the reduction has made it attractive for foreign investors, including iPhone maker Apple, to set up units in the country.

The top consideration on which India was rejected as investment destination is now better than everybody else...

For some one who is coming up with new investment, no country is offering 15 per cent (tax rate). We are giving 15 per cent with no MAT (minimum alternate tax) and simpler taxation structure," she said.

Quoting experts, she said

India is now much better than China in terms of rate, transparency, and tax administration so companies can now look at India for setting up new units.

"Apple and its entire ecosystem's moving will have a greater impact. Everyone who comes now will straightaway get 15 per cent tax benefit. Component manufacturers of Apple in China will find India more attractive to have units at 15 per cent in India than 25 per cent there," she said.

Apple or any foreign company can come and set up business and enjoy the competitive rate of 15 per cent, she said, adding that the stipulated timeline for the product roll-out from the new unit is on or before March 31, 2023.

In the biggest reduction in 28 years, the government on Friday slashed corporate tax by almost 10 percentage points as it looked to pull the economy out of a six-year low growth and a 45-year high unemployment rate by reviving private investments with a ₹1.45-lakh crore tax break.

These companies, including oil & gas and financial services, account for nearly a third of the tax paid by India Inc.

## Top 1K listed firms may see savings of ₹37K cr post corp tax cut: CRISIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

CRISIL Research on Sunday said top 1,000 listed companies could see tax savings of ₹37,000 crore on account of the corporate tax cut.

"Over the past few days, a slew of measures have been introduced to address the slowdown in the Indian economy. Friday's announcement, however, is the most material...Our analysis indicates these 1,000 companies could see tax savings of ₹37,000 crore, or nearly a fourth of the total savings anticipated by the government," it said in a statement.

The drop in tax rate would bring India at par with most Asian economies, it added.

"CRISIL Research's analysis of nearly 1,000 companies — spread across 80+ sectors such that they cover more than 70 per cent of NSE's market capitalisation — indicates that effective tax rates had risen over the past 5 years," it said.

These companies, including oil & gas and financial services, account for nearly a third of the tax paid by India Inc.

## BUSINESS CORNER

### PRADHAN REVIEWS PERFORMANCE OF NMDC



New Delhi: Dharmendra Pradhan Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of Steel, Govt. of India visited the Head Office of NMDC Limited at Hyderabad on 21.09.2019. The Minister met CMD, Directors and employees of the company and reviewed NMDC's performance in presence of G Kishan Reddy Minister of State for Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Pradhan said, NMDC being one of the largest mining companies in India should focus on increasing iron ore production. This will have the benefit of keeping prices in check and ensuring equitable supply of raw material to all steel producers. He further asked NMDC to carry out sustainable and responsible mining using digital means. The Minister directed that the execution and commissioning of the ongoing projects especially NMDC Iron and Steel Plant (NISP) should be monitored regularly so that it can be completed on priority. Pradhan also reviewed the Slurry Pipeline Project of NMDC.

### AAI PARTICIPATES IN WORLD ROUTES 2019



New Delhi: Airports Authority of India, the sole provider of air navigation services and responsible for management of airports across the country is participating in the 25th World Route Development Forum - World Routes 2019 at Adelaide in Australia. The India Pavilion jointly representing Airports Authority of India and Mumbai International Airport at this global event was formally inaugurated today by Usha Padhee, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India in presence of IN Murthy, Member (Operations), AAI; Kaushik Bhattacharjee, Airport Director, NSCBI Airport, Kolkata; Ajay Kumar Bhardwaj, Airport Director, Pune; JB Singh, GM (CC), AAI and Ajay Kumar Verma, DGM (Operations), AAI.

### GRSE CONDUCTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



New Delhi: The 103rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) was held on Friday 20 Sep 19 at 1030 Hrs. at Bhasha Bhawan of National Library, Kolkata. Commenting on the outcome of the Annual General Meeting, Rear Admiral V K Saxena, IN(Retd.), Chairman and Managing Director, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd., stated that this AGM had a very special significance as it was GRSE's first AGM after the successful IPO of the Company, wherein the Government of India disinvested 25.50 per cent of its shareholding in the Company. The Public Issue was well received and the shares of the Company are now listed at NSE and BSE. The CMD took the opportunity to extend his gratitude to all the investors for the confidence they reposed in the Company, which was further reflected by the increased market capitalisation post listing of its shares.

### MNRE AWARDS GRANTS TO FOUR PROJECTS



The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) awarded Grants to the awardees of the second round of PACEsetter fund programme in a ceremony organised by the Ministry yesterday. Anand Kumar, Secretary, MNRE and Kenneth Ian Juster, the US Ambassador to India co-chaired the felicitation ceremony. In the second round of awards, a total of 168 Expressions of Interest were received. Out of these, four projects were selected for award of grants. The awardees include Society for Economic and Social Studies, New Delhi, Customized Energy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd., Pune, The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi and Raghavendra Suntech Systems Pvt Ltd (RSSPL), Bengaluru.

Stressing on the importance of access to energy for all, the U.S. Ambassador said that innovation in off-grid and clean energy will improve energy access. Secretary, MNRE appreciated the impact that the awarded projects would have on the common man. He also suggested that innovation realized through such projects could be replicated in other developing countries.

# We are committed to meet India's energy security needs: Saudi envoy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The envoy said Saudi Arabia will continue working with its partners and allies in stabilising the security of the region

invite UN and international experts to view the situation on ground and to participate in the investigations," the ambassador said.

"The Kingdom will take appropriate measures to ensure its security and stability. The Kingdom affirms that it has the capability and resolve to defend its land and people, and to forcefully respond to these aggressions," he said.

Yemen's Houthi terror group has taken responsibility for the biggest-ever attacks on

## Petrol price jumps ₹1.59/ltr, diesel ₹1.31/ltr after Saudi attacks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

per cent of the global supply.

Oil prices have cooled since the spike on September 16 but remain on the edge.

Attackers using low-flying drones and cruise missiles knocked out 5.7 million barrels of production, or about 60 per cent of what Saudi Arabia currently produces. It was the largest supply disruption in history. On Monday, Brent oil futures soared 15 per cent.

Analysts have warned that the style of the attacks on Saudi Aramco's Abqaiq and Khurais oil facilities may add a permanent risk premium to oil and gasoline prices.

While Saudi Arabia is saying it can quickly bring supply back online, experts say the shock to the global oil market will be felt for years.

India depends on Saudi Arabia for a fifth of its oil imports and has been in constant touch with Kingdom officials on securing its supplies.

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday spoke to

Saudi Arabia's new oil minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman to discuss the supply plan. Saudi Arabia, according to Pradhan, has assured India of meeting all its committed oil supplies.

Saudi Arabia, which is India's second-largest oil supplier, sells close to 2 million tonnes of crude every month. Of this, 1.2-1.3 million tonnes of supplies for September have already been taken and the rest has been assured.

However, Saudi has sought deferment of some LPG supplies, but they have assured to make up for all the quantities, Indian Oil Corp (IOC) Chairman Sanjiv Singh said, adding any shortfall can be bought from Qatar.

Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) has already tendered for import of LPG in October, possibly to make up for the shortfall from Saudi Arabia.

India buys around 2,00,000 tonnes of LPG every month from Saudi Arabia.

# Tax cuts to boost industry; now need to focus on spurring demand: India Inc

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Industry leaders from diverse sectors such as manufacturing and services expect the reduction in corporate tax rates to create a positive impact on the economy, leading to a speedier turnaround.

Last Friday, the government announced a massive 10-12 percentage points reduction in taxes for corporates, bringing down the effective corporate tax to 25.17 per cent inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies.

The need is now to address the demand side issues, Bhargava also opined.

Niranjan Hiranyakandan Group said the tax cuts address only the supply-side economics but we also need "to address the demand side."

Piramal Group's Ajay Piramal said the tax cut sends out a clear message that the government is listening to the issues. It is a brave step but more needs to be done to spur demand, he added.

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the government has brought corporate tax on par with the East Asian neighbours and on par with the best tax regimes across the world.

The government has put liquidity into the bottom line of the companies. Roughly, close to Rs 75,000 to Rs 80,000 crore will be flowing because of the tax cuts into the bottom line of the world.

Addressing the India Today Conclave here over the weekend, he said there is now a need to focus on improving demand.

RC Bhargava, chairman of Maruti Suzuki, said manufacturing's growth rate or share in GDP is nowhere near the required level. Manufacturing

## PetroNet to invest \$2.5 bn in Tellurian Inc for 5 m tonnes of US LNG

PTI ■ HOUSTON

India's largest LNG importer PetroNet will invest \$2.5 billion for nearly 20 per cent equity stake in US energy major Tellurian Inc's Driftwood project to negotiate the purchase of 5 million tons of gas per annum. The Houston-based Tellurian and PetroNet LNG Ltd (PLL) signed an MOU on Saturday under which the Indian company and its affiliates will import 5 million tons of LNG from America over a 40-year period.

The agreement also includes PLL making investment in the equity of \$28 billion Driftwood project in Louisiana to secure the LNG.

"On the sidelines, an MoU was signed between Tellurian, a Houston based energy major and PetroNet LNG. PetroNet will invest \$2.5 billion in Tellurian's proposed Driftwood LNG export terminal, in exchange for the rights to 5 million metric tons of LNG per year over 40 years," Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement.

This growth must be backed by the steel sector by making the industry principally and fundamentally stronger, it further said. Steel is the basic input material for a host of development activities. From a small capacity of 22 million tonne (MT) in the financial year 1991-92, the ministry added.

The PetroNet deal, the largest by an Indian company in US LNG, came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a meeting with the CEOs of top US-based oil companies.

# Experience more relevant than what you learnt 35-40 years ago, says Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shaktikanta Das has played down many jokes and spoofs about his history background soon after his surprise appointment as the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India last December after the 'protest' resignation of Urjit Patel.

Academic qualification of the head of the central bank is not relevant, but what matters is his/her grip on the economy, general awareness about the issues facing the economy and professional experience, is how Das has deflected the question from an audience who sought to know whether his non-economic academic background

influence him down as the past two governors hardly were on the same page with New Delhi on most matters.

"The chief of US Fed Jerome Powell has a political science background, the incoming chief of the European Central Bank and former IMF president Christine Lagarde has a legal background and the chief of the Bank of Japan (Haruhiko Kuroda) has a civil service background," Das has said at the India Today Conclave over the weekend here.

Both Patel and his predecessor Raghu Rajan have illustrious academic records. While Rajan is an internationally acclaimed economist, writer and sociopolitical thinker, Patel is known for his papers on monetary economics among the world's universities.

Rajan is also known for exactly predicting the 2008 global financial meltdown more than a year before it really engulfed the world at the

particular course 35 or 40 years ago, I think it is not relevant as it would appear.

"I think what matters more is your awareness, your grip on what is happening in the real economy, the kind of experience you have had in your entire professional life," Das smiles.

The governor then goes on to pointing out that the RBI has an "excellent research team" and there is "no dearth of technical inputs from them" and it is not necessary for the governor to go into each equation and take a policy decision.

"It is necessary for the RBI governor to understand what is the role of monetary policy, and the importance of financial stability, it also important for the governor to take into account all the incoming data and take the appropriate decision," he explained offering a peak into how he conducts his affairs from the 19th floor corner office.

However, the 62-year-old Das who hails from Bhubaneswar, is in all praise of his predecessors Patel and Rajan.

"Both of my immediate predecessor and the one before that have made their contributions to the RBI. The RBI and the nation are fortunate to have had a number of outstanding governors over the years," he smiled.

## HDFC Bank to hold 1,000 grameen loan melas over next 6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

HDFC Bank on Sunday said it plans to organise 1,000 grameen loan melas over the next six months in a bid to expand its retail portfolio.

These grameen loan melas (or village loan fairs) will be held across more than 300 districts and cover around 6,000 villages across India, HDFC Bank said in a statement.

Just like a traditional village fair, the grameen loan mela will be a one-stop shop for people from the surrounding five or six villages to access the entire range of the bank's products, it said. Customers can avail of tractor, auto, two-wheeler and agri loans or open current or savings accounts, it said.

Besides, self help groups (SHGs) can avail of finance through the bank's Sustainable Livelihood Initiative. The loan melas will also serve as a platform to educate the local populace about banking services.

## WTO dispute over India's tariffs on ICT goods: US seeks setting by up of dispute panel

# Iran warns foreign forces of meddling

AFP ■ TEHRAN

President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday denounced the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and said Iran will offer a peace plan, after arch-foe the United States ordered reinforcements to the tinderbox region.

"Foreign forces can cause problems and insecurity for our people and for our region," Rouhani said in a televised speech at an annual military parade.

Rouhani also said Iran would present a peace plan to the United Nations in the coming days.

"In this sensitive and important historical moment, we announce to our neighbours that we extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood to them," he said.

Tensions between Iran and the US and its allies have threatened to boil over since May last year when President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from a 2015 nuclear deal and later began reimposing sanctions in a campaign of "maximum pressure".

The tensions escalated in the wake of devastating September 14 attacks on Saudi oil installations that Washington and Riyadh have, to varying degrees, blamed on Tehran. Following the attacks, which caused global oil prices to spike, Trump initially raised

## MILITARY PARADE ON IRAN-IRAQ WAR ANNIVERSARY



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani speaks at a military parade marking 39th anniversary of outset of Iran-Iraq war, in front of the shrine of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini at Tehran, Iran on Sunday

comes from within," said the Iranian president.

Following his speech, the Iranian armed forces paraded their latest equipment, including tanks, missiles and armoured vehicles as Rouhani and top military commanders saluted them.

Rouhani is expected to travel to New York on Monday, a day before general debate kicks off at the United Nations General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is subject to US sanctions, has already arrived in New York ahead of the annual gathering.

Tensions have flared in the Gulf since May, when Iran began reducing its commitments to the nuclear deal and the US said it was sending forces to waters near the Islamic republic in response to "indications of a credible threat" from its forces.

The US deployed an aircraft carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the sensitive waterways, before sending B-52 bombers, an amphibious assault ship and Patriot missile battery.

Following the deployments, commercial ships were mysteriously attacked, drones downed and oil tankers seized in Gulf waters. Trump in June authorised a military strike after Iran shot down a US drone, only to call off the retaliation at the last moment.

the possibility of military retaliation, tweeting that the United States was "locked and loaded".

The United States later expanded its long list of sanctions against Iran by further targeting its central bank, as Trump indicated he did not plan a military response.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper announced on Friday that the US was sending reinforcements to Saudi Arabia at "the kingdom's request", while noting the

forces would be "defensive in nature" and focused on air and missile defence.

In his speech delivered before a massive military parade on Sunday, Rouhani called on the foreign powers in the Gulf region to "stay away".

"If they're sincere, then they should not make our region the site of an arms race," he said.

"Your presence has always brought pain and misery for

the region. The farther you keep yourselves from our region and our nations, the more security there will be for our region."

"We are even ready to ignore their past mistakes... Since today the situation is such that the enemies of Islam and the region, meaning America and Zionism, want to abuse the rift between us.

"Our logic is the logic of a Persian Gulf whose security

**Israeli Prez says 'stable' Govt should include Likud, Blue and White**

**Jerusalem:** Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said Sunday the country's next Government should include both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and Benny Gantz's Blue and White alliance to form a "stable" coalition.

Rivlin made the comments during meetings with representatives from political parties to hear their recommendations on who should be prime minister following last week's deadlocked elections. Blue and White won the most seats in Tuesday's poll, with 33 out of parliament's 120, while Likud finished second with 31.

Neither has an obvious path to a majority coalition, raising the possibility of a third election in a year's time after April polls also ended inconclusively. Rivlin had so far met representatives from Blue and White and Likud as part of his consultations.

## Trump, Biden spar over Ukraine after whistleblower complaint

AFP ■ WASHINGTON



Joe Biden accused Donald Trump Saturday of "an overwhelming abuse of power" and called for an investigation into accusations the US leader pressured his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate the presidential candidate's son.

Biden's allegations prompted a swift rebuke from Trump, who himself accuses the Democratic frontrunner of wrongdoing in Ukraine during his time as vice president under former president Barack Obama.

The back-and-forth recriminations stem from a Washington Post report stating a whistleblower complaint had been filed over Trump's communications with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and a "promise" allegedly made by the US leader.

Trump allegedly pressured Zelensky to investigate possible corruption involving Biden and his son Hunter, who had worked with a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father was vice president.

Trump has urged media to "look into" Biden's comments in early 2016 when the then US vice president said the Obama administration would freeze \$1 billion in US loan guarantees unless Kiev fire its top prosecutor, who was looking into the gas company.

"This appears to be an overwhelming abuse of power, to get on the phone with a for-

eign leader who is looking for help from the United States and ask about me," Biden told reporters on the campaign trail in the state of Iowa.

"I know what I'm up against, a serial abuser. That's what this guy is," Biden continued. "If he sees any threat to his staying in power, he'll do whatever he has to do. But this crosses the line."

Biden had on Friday demanded Trump immediately release the transcript of a July 25 call with Zelensky while saying reports that the president sought to coerce his Ukrainian counterpart, if true, amounted to "clear-cut corruption."

Trump allegedly pressured Zelensky to investigate possible corruption involving Biden and his son Hunter, who had worked with a Ukrainian natural gas company while his father was vice president.

He also accused news outlets of fabricating "a story about me and a perfectly fine and routine conversation I had with the new President of the Ukraine. Nothing was said that was in any way wrong, but Biden's demand, on the other hand, was a complete and total disaster."

## Trump to boast to UN about US success, but troubles mounting

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

US President Donald Trump will stand before the United Nations on Tuesday to declare his country top of the world. But with diplomatic troubles building, his annual boast may ring hollow.

Trump's political brand is as well known inside the United Nations as his businessman version is to the rest of New York: brash, unabashedly self-promoting, and all about claiming the win.

At this year's UN General Assembly, the former real estate tycoon won't disappoint.

"We'll say the United States is the greatest country in the world. It's never been stronger and it's never been better," he said in a mini-review of his speech.

Oh -- and that Americans "certainly have one of the great presidents in our history."

Trump's declaration last year that he had "accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country" triggered laughter in the cavernous UN hall.

Headlines like "The Whole World Laughed at Trump" followed, to which Trump insisted that diplomats were chuckling with, not at him.

A year later, with Trump beset by setbacks from North Korea to Iran and Venezuela to China, will his Big Apple bragadocio get a better reception?

A senior administration official told reporters ahead of the assembly that Trump would work to "affirm America's leadership role in the rules-based international system."

But the US president prefers to go it alone, preferring bilateral deals to coalitions, negotiating with enemies and clashing with friends.

On Monday, he'll skip a big climate change summit organised by the UN secretary general. Trump, who promotes fossil fuels and derides the need for renewable energy, also missed climate change talks at the recent G7 summit in France.

While at the UN, he'll meet separately with around a dozen leaders.

But of them, the only European representative currently on the list is Boris Johnson, the prime minister running the chaotic Brexit process of trying to pull Britain out of the EU.

There will be intense scrutiny of a meeting on Wednesday with Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump is alleged to have attempted to persuade the Ukrainian to investigate one of his 2020 presidential challengers, Joe Biden.

A larger-than-life figure, Trump believes that his personality enables him to succeed where conventional diplomacy fails.

## UN welcomes Houthi offer to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia

AFP ■ UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations envoy for Yemen welcomed Saturday an offer from the country's Houthi rebels to halt all attacks on Saudi Arabia, saying it could bring an end to years of bloody conflict.

Implementation of the initiative by the Huthis "in good faith could send a powerful message of the will to end the war," Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths said.

The Iran-backed Huthis, which control the capital Sanaa and other parts of Yemen, have been fighting against a Saudi-led coalition which supports the country's internationally recognised government in a devastating five-year war.

Griffiths hailed "the desire for a political solution to end the conflict" in a statement issued from the UN headquarters in New York. On Friday, the Huthis proposed halting attacks on Saudi Arabia as part of a peace initiative. Saudi Arabia gave a cautious response, with minister of state for foreign affairs Adel al-Jubeir saying on Saturday, "We judge other parties by their deeds, actions and not by their words, so we will see whether they actually do this or not."

Griffiths stressed "the importance of taking advantage of this opportunity and moving forward with all necessary steps to reduce violence, military escalation and unhelpful rhetoric."

## Demonstrators clash with Egyptian security forces in rare anti-Sisi protests

AFP ■ CAIRO

forces) fired tear gas, rubber and live bullets and there were injuries' a man who took part in the demonstration but declined to be named told AFP.

Another resident, who also preferred to remain anonymous, said the tear gas was so thick it had reached her apartment block a few kilometres away from the turbulent downtown area.

"My nose started burning up. The smell was seeping through the balcony. I also saw some youth run and hide in our street," the woman said.

On late Friday, hundreds of Egyptians poured through the streets of Cairo, chanting slogans including "Leave, Sisi" and demanding the "fall of the regime".

At least 74 people were arrested after clashes between the crowds and police in the capital, a security source told AFP. The protests came after Mohamed Aly, an exiled businessman and opponent of Sisi posted calls online for demonstrations against Sisi.

He upped the pressure on Saturday in an expletive-filled video, imploring Egyptians to join a "million-man march" next Friday and to fill all "major squares" of the country.

"This is a people's revolution... We have to link up together as one... And organise going down to the major squares," he said in a Facebook appeal to his followers.

## Study: Melting Antarctic glaciers to slip faster towards ocean

PTI ■ LONDON

The water from melting Antarctic glaciers, flowing through the ice and beneath them, is rapidly accelerating further thawing of the continent's ice sheets towards the sea, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, is the first time researchers have found that melting on the surface impacts the flow of glaciers in Antarctica.

Researchers, including those from the University of Sheffield in the UK, used imagery and data from satellites along with regional climate modelling and found that meltwater is causing some glaciers to move 100 per cent faster — by up to 400 metres per year.

According to the researchers, gravity causes glaciers to move downhill with the internal deformation of ice, and by sliding over the ground beneath them — a process lubricated by liquid water called basal sliding.

The study shows that the movement of glaciers in the

## Gandhi's 150th birthday to be celebrated in Netherlands

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

A number of public awareness events, including a Gandhi March for non-violence, will be held next week in the Netherlands to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The events — which also includes a cycling rally, an exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, a commemoration meeting, events surrounding the four Gandhi statues in the country and a school outreach programme — are being organised by the Indian Embassy here in cooperation with the Gandhi Non-Violence Foundation and other groups.

The celebrations will commence with the cycling rally on September 29 to spread awareness about the Gandhian philosophy of simplicity and sustainability, India's Embassy here said in a statement.

The rally in the city of The Hague will begin at the Embassy of India and pass through the iconic Peace Palace, the Parliament (Binnenhof), and the most popular seaside resort Scheveningen and return to the Embassy of India.

From October 1 to October

and Message of Gandhi" will be displayed in the Atrium of the City Hall of The Hague.

The exhibition in Dutch will show the viewers the important phases of Mahatma Gandhi's life.

From September 24 to October 3, volunteers will fan out schools and universities of the Netherlands in a "Follow the Mahatma" campaign and talk about Gandhi's message of non-violence and its relevance in today's world.

This school project aspires to reach over 25 schools and over 1,600 children.

The aim of the programme is to bring together volunteers who in turn can reach out to several thousand students aimed at disseminating the message of non-violence.

The International Day of

Non-Violence on October 2 will be marked by a "Gandhi March for Non-Violence" through the city of The Hague to highlight the importance of the message of non-violence.

Around 300 school children and 150 adults will take part in the march which will begin from the Gandhi statue at Hobbeleinplein and conclude at the iconic Peace Palace.

The rally will be addressed by India's Ambassador Venu Rajamony and other dignitaries in the courtyard of the Peace Palace.

This will be followed by planting of a tree in the Peace Palace. A plaque with a message of Mahatma Gandhi will be placed by the tree.

Other celebrations on October 2 include garlanding of Gandhi statues in The

Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer, with the public paying tributes by placing flowers at the feet of the statues as a mark of respect amidst speeches, singing of favourite songs of Gandhi, cultural programmes and a memorial meeting by Stichting Standbeeld Mahatma Gandhi in the Peace Palace.

A social media campaign will also be conducted inviting people to post messages reiterating their commitment to the principle of non-violence.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. He led India to independence from the British rule through peaceful and non-violent resistance. In 2007, the United Nations declared his birthday October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence and called upon countries and people across the world to celebrate and observe this day by disseminating the message of non-violence.

Other celebrations on October 2 include garlanding of Gandhi statues, including through education and public awareness.

The International Day of

## 26 people killed as bus rams into mountain in Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Chilas and some of them were in critical condition.

The passenger bus, belonging to a private company, departed from Skardu on Saturday for Rawalpindi. On Sunday morning, the driver lost control of the bus while taking a turn and it collided against a mountain. It is not clear yet how the driver lost control of the vehicle, according to Diamer police spokesman Mohammad Wakeel.

Police said that rescue and police teams had been dispatched to the site of the accident. Additionally, a helicopter has been requested from the GB government so as to transport the bodies to Skardu following identification, Dawn News reported.

The Babusar Pass road, frequently used by tourists, remains open from the end of June to October every year. It is then closed following heavy snowfall at Babusar Top.

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The Babusar Pass



# THE WAY WE WERE

One of the best-known figures from Madhubani, GAURI MISHRA questioned and challenged the orthodoxies and worked relentlessly for women's empowerment, says SUJATA PRASAD

**E**xhuming the legacy of someone as extraordinary as Gauri Mishra is not easy. Her demise on August 17 has been entirely overlooked. It is not easy to explain this amnesia or indifference. One of the best-known figures in Madhubani, Bihar, she had a fearless and an indomitable approach towards supporting impoverished women. She took upon herself to question orthodoxies of every kind and was the go-to person for every woman battered by violence.

One of the strongest voices against regressive gender politics of the '80s and the '90s, she was part of an upswell of activism against gender violence and sexism. Her freedom of thought and invincible spirit was infectious. Posted in Bihar during that time as the head of women's empowerment programme, Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCR), I found myself visiting her *karmabhoomi*, Madhubani, repeatedly for a quick dose of inspiration.

Born in 1933, Gauri married Dr Bhavanath Mishra of the Darbhanga Medical Hospital when she was a teenager and studied for a few years in England. She started her work life as an academic interested in gender issues. In 1974, the Committee on Status of Women presented its watershed report *Towards Equality*, that confirmed the worst fear of sceptics. The report combined with nationwide protests on the custodial Mathura rape case and an avalanche of dowry deaths, resulted in the emergence of several tightly-knit women's organisations.

Gauri's direct involvement in women's issues started in the '70s, when she began assisting German anthropologist and folklorist Erika Moser and American Fulbright Scholar Raymond Lee Owens in their research on the Mithila art. She began working on the historiography of the art, exploring its social dimensions and tracing the antiquity of some of the artforms to the Brahma Purana.

By 1977, women artists from the area became her prime focus. She founded the Master Craftsmen's Association of Mithila



in partnership with Owens to put an end to the exploitation of impoverished, struggling artists by middle-men. The association provided a platform to eminent women artists like Jagdamba Devi, Sita Devi, Ganga Devi, Maha Sundari Devi, Bauwa Devi, Yamuna Devi, Shanti

Devi, Chano Devi, Lalita Devi, Shashikala Devi, Leela Devi, sikkhi artist Bindeshwari Devi, paper-mache artist Chandrakala Devi and sujani artist Kapoori Devi. It encouraged them to combat the patriarchal gaze with their artwork. Young artists like Rani Jha were encouraged to

introduce avant garde feminist themes in their pictorial vocabulary.

By the '80s, she teamed up with activist Viji Srinivasan to give a new visibility, potency and legitimacy to women's struggle. Patterned on Ela Bhatt's SEWA, the SEWA Mithila was launched in 1983.

Gauri also founded the Nirbhaya Ashram, a shelter for widows and homeless women. She helped them to deal with their heartbreaks by involving them in her crusade for social justice and change, a crusade that was much bigger than their own personal stories. She was deeply

influenced by the Bodhgaya land struggle, where women's quest for independent rights in land had received traction. Viji was with the Ford Foundation from 1980-86, and then with Oxfam America before founding her own organisation in Bihar. She supported Gauri in setting up economically viable craft and animal husbandry projects. The NGOisation of women's issues may have resulted in certain serious concerns, but no one could doubt that Viji and Gauri were leading genuine movements for gender rights and justice in Bihar.

Our work with grassroots women brought us together. We fought for women's right to livelihood and their independent rights in land and water assets. We created radical new templates and toolboxes. Giving up hope was not an option. I joined their protest marches and listened to their fiery oratory against dowry and female foeticide at the Saurashtra Sabha (where Maithil Brahmins traditionally assembled to negotiate marriage) and other forums. I can't but be nostalgic about our collective joy when a government owned pond was leased to a woman's group in Raiyam. I am equally nostalgic about our schmaltzy moments together, when at the end of a day spent travelling through villages, we would eat our rice and fish meal in the moonlight on a charpoy, surrounded by radiant women from Gauri's ashram, our night sound tracked by romantic songs of the celebrated Vaishnava poet Vidyapati. I began to see myself less as a civil servant and more as an activist.

Viji's death in 2005 affected Gauri Mishra deeply. For some time, she leaned on her son Samarendra who joined SEWA as a project coordinator. His death in 2011 devastated her completely. She failed to take charge of her life, abandoned whatever was left of her work and retreated to her family home in Darbhanga. Her work needs to be recognised, especially at a time when India has one of the lowest female labour force participation rate in the world and is nearly at the bottom of the Gender Development Index and Gender Inequality Index.

(The writer is a former civil servant and an art columnist.)



## Wise beyond her years

For POOJA PASI, a young fierce advocate of girls' rights, it was incomprehensible that only boys were entitled to privileges. By URVASHI SARKAR

Nineteen-year-old Pooja Pasi along with other children in the neighbourhood began a programme run by Committed Communities Development Trust (CCDT), a non-governmental organisation. She is a member of Child Protection Committee.

Her knowledge about civic concerns and challenges that the residents of the slum face are beyond her age. Being a girl, she is passionate about the rights of women. "There is only one playground in our area. Earlier only boys played there. They would drink and smoke and even the lighting was poor. Parents did not allow their daughters to go near the ground as they were concerned about their safety. The girls themselves did not wish to go there as they did not feel safe," the teenager says.

To Pooja, a young fierce advocate of girls' rights, it was incomprehensible that only boys should have the access to the only playground in the vicinity of the area. She tried to resolve and address the issue. And as a member of the Child Protection Committee, she took it as her responsibility to write to the municipal corporation requesting for installation of lights so that at least the ground would be well-lit. "We also met the police and requested them to patrol the area. They understood our problems and

now there is a police van stationed near the ground every day," she says. Hema Pasi, Pooja's mother, was initially apprehensive of her daughter's involvement with the activities concerning girls' rights. But then, Pooja's actions began to bear fruit. Now, Hema is a staunch supporter of her daughter.

"Initially, my mother was opposed to the initiatives but when I explained to her that girls too have the right to access public spaces just like the boys, she understood the cause for which I was

concerned with children's rights, especially those of girls; she is critical and questions, "Boys are always better treated than girls, which is why it seems that the two have different rights. But in reality, they have the same ones. Then, why should girls not be treated at par with boys?"

She has her future charted out. "I want to be in a position of responsibility and help people to the best of my ability. I want to be a bank manager" says Pooja who is a Bachelor of Commerce student.

—Charkha Features

**Your time is limited. Don't waste it living someone else's life.**

—Steve Jobs

### WOMEN QUICKER TO PREPARE FOR DISASTERS

Women are quicker to take cover or prepare to evacuate during an emergency but often have trouble convincing the men in their life to do so, a new study suggests.

"We also found that there are many barriers that disadvantage women in the event of a disaster, leaving them behind when it comes to decision-making and potentially slowing down their recovery," said lead author Melissa Villarreal from the University of Colorado Boulder in the US.

For the study, the researchers analysed in-depth interviews with 33 women and 10 men across two Texas towns. Some were from Granbury, which in 2013 was hit by an EF-4 tornado that killed six people and cut a mile-wide swath of destruction, damaging 600 homes. Others were from West, where an explosion at a fertilizer company that same year killed 15 people and destroyed 100 homes.

Residents were asked about their experiences in the midst of and the year after the disaster. While the circumstances surrounding the events were very different, common gender-influenced patterns emerged.

### KINDNESS IS PRIORITY IN RELATIONSHIP

One of the top qualities that people look for in a long-term relationship is kindness, a new research suggests.

For the study published in the Journal of Personality, the research team picked over 2,700 college students from across the globe and asked them to build themselves an ideal lifelong partner by using a fixed budget to 'buy' characteristics.

While traits like physical attractiveness and financial prospects were important, the one that was given the highest priority was kindness, said the researchers.

"Looking at very different culture groups allows us to test the idea that some behaviours are human universals. If men and women act in a similar way across the globe, then this adds weight to the idea that some behaviours develop in spite of culture rather than because of it," said study principle researcher Andrew G. Thomas from Swansea University in Britain.



### HEARTFULNESS MEDITATION CULTIVATES GRATITUDE

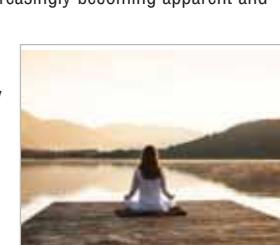
Heartfulness meditation can contribute to cultivating gratitude among practitioners, a study said.

The study published in the International Journal of Recent Scientific Research has confirmed that Heartfulness meditation, the popular meditation practice around the world, helped to create a sense of gratitude among its practitioners.

World Gratitude Day is celebrated on September 21 annually. The celebration started in 1965 in Hawaii to formally express gratitude and appreciation for all the wonderful things in life.

The awareness of the benefits of gratitude on the general well-being of a person is increasingly becoming apparent and numerous studies have supported the same, Heartfulness Institute said.

The study is authored by Raja Amarnath G, Prabhakar Akurathi, Chitra Rajan, Aiswarya Ravichandran, Ravinder Deshpande, Varalakshmi A, Ved Prakash Vyas and Rani Vijayan.



### FOOD DOESN'T APPEAL TO NON-SMOKERS

Smokers who quit do not generally turn their gaze towards mouth-watering food as normally thought.

According to researchers from University at Buffalo, smoking abstinence

doesn't greatly affect the motivation for food.

"We found that the motivations for cigarettes, food and water do not interact very much," said Stephen Tiffany from the university's department of psychology. "The results suggest that smoking abstinence does not affect the motivation for food and water."

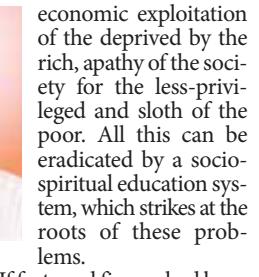
The study, published in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence, used cues and money to learn how much smokers might spend for cigarettes, food and water during abstinence. The insights tell how different systems control motivation and reward. Food doesn't appeal during those times when a smoker is in a smoke-free environment. "If you can't smoke on an airplane, you're not likely to be spending more money than usual on snacks," said Tiffany.

### PERSONALITY AFFECTS EXERCISE SCHEDULE

If you have not been able to meet your gym goals despite persistent efforts to wake up early or hitting that running session on a hot summer afternoon, blame it on your personality.

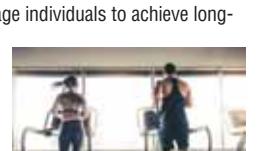
According to researchers from University of Oregon, some people seem to be able to more consistently meet their goals than others, but it remained unclear if personality traits encourage individuals to achieve long-term goals in their day-to-day lives.

Conscientiousness has been tied with healthy behaviours. Narrowing their focus to "planfulness" — lead researcher Rita M Ludwig and colleagues Sanjay Srivastava and Elliot T Berkman, they zeroed in on psychological processes — such as mental flexibility, and a person's ability to make short-term sacrifices in pursuit of future success that contribute directly to achieving long-term goals. "There appears to be a certain way of thinking about goals that correlates with long-term progress," said Ludwig.



economic exploitation of the deprived by the rich, apathy of the society for the less-privileged and sloth of the poor. All this can be eradicated by a socio-spiritual education system, which strikes at the roots of these problems.

If facts and figures had been published to give people the awareness that the ancient technique of yoga gives hundred-and-one benefits simultaneously and is better and cheaper than any other mode of service, importance of social work done by institutions teaching meditation would never be underrated. On the other hand, their work will be considered as social service par excellence.



## Trend Blazer

### Hrithik vs Tiger in War promotions

Actors HIRITHIK ROSHAN and TIGER SHROFF will not share the same stage during the promotions of their film *War*.

Director Siddharth Anand confirms this news saying, "We want to hold the magic of seeing them going after each other and increase the anticipation for the film. We wanted to translate this on-screen rivalry into an off-screen conversation point. The team is designing events and moments that pitch them against each other at every given opportunity. You have to wait and watch for this plan to unfold."

The film has been shot in seven different countries and is set to release on October 2.



**There's so much madness and unpredictable situations on sets that become an adventure and my recreational habits of climbing trees and swimming in the ocean have proved useful for some of my work. Travelling is just a normal organic part of my life. If I have a weekend off, I like to go somewhere and if there's a chance to explore I take it.**

**—Kalki Koechlin**



Singer-rapper YO YO HONEY SINGH strikes big as he wins best music direction award at the IIFA awards.

He received the award for his music direction and songs like *Dil Chori for Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety*.

Taking the award he said, "I tried to keep this song quite *desi*, for which I also used *dholak* and I am very happy that the audience liked my song. I am very thankful to my parents and friends."

### Britney makes red carpet appearance

Singer BRITNEY SPEARS recently made a rare red carpet appearance to support her beau Sam Asghari.

The singer has mostly stayed out of the spotlight in last few months amid personal and legal turmoil involving her and her family. Recently, a hearing was held to discuss the status of her conservatorship. Her 67-year-old father,

Jamie Spears, had mostly controlled her financial and medical affairs since her 2007 public meltdown. The case remains pending.

Earlier this month, her ex-husband Kevin Federline filed a criminal complaint and obtained a restraining order against Jamie, which bans him from contact with the former couple's two sons, after accusing him of getting physical with one of them.

## Excerpts from literature

Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival engages the literary world directly with content creators for film, television and digital. This will give the filmmakers an opportunity to discover the untapped reservoir of Indian classics that can become the next hit.

By TEAM VIVA

What do films like *Gone With The Wind*, *Fault in Our Stars*, *Harry Potter* series or *Kai Po Che* and *3 Idiots* have in common? Yes, all of them have been inspired by books and were discovered by a content creator who then crafted them into films.

Now imagine another scenario. What if Yash Raj Films or Sanjay Leela Bhansali decide their next film by interacting with the authors and publishing houses directly? The mind boggles at the exchange of ideas and the great content that films would have access to. The audience would also get to know about books which might be embedded with a great idea but have ended up in the back shelves of the publishing houses.

Therefore, it is very important to have a platform where the literary world engages directly with content creators for film, television and digital. This word to screen market gives filmmakers an opportunity to discover the untapped reservoir of Indian literature that can become the next hit of Indian cinema.

It is this idea that Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival has decided to put it into practice. In the fourth edition of the 'Word to Screen Market' it takes a big formal leap that will enable the authors and content creators to have more face time with each other.

Focussing on what is different in this edition, Smriti Kiran, artistic director, MAMI says, "In the earlier editions we would ask authors and publishers to pitch their work to us. And

then we curated some of their works and created a list. But we have upgraded our system this year because it is important to consistently learn from what is happening in the market and adapt to it."

This year the festival has asked the publishers to bring forth the backlog of books that people are not aware about and pitch it directly to the content creators. This will showcase the hidden gems that have been lying neglected with publishers and open up avenues for both the directors and the writers.

The platform will witness 550 titles ranging across 30 genres — thrillers, romance, spy drama, paranormal, biographies, historical fiction, mythological fiction, sports drama, sci-fi, corporate drama, politics, social satires and several non-fiction best-sellers on subjects ranging from history, society, culture and politics to environment and spirituality.

Some of the renowned publishers such as — Harper Collins, Penguin Random House, Juggernaut Books,

DC Books, Westland Publications and Rajkamal Prakashan will take part in the festival. There will also be 40 buyers and 24 authors including New York-based award-winning author Manreet Sodhi Somesha of *The Taj Conspiracy* fame, Amazon bestseller Sundari Venkatraman, Jagran-Nielsen bestselling authors, Satya Vyas, Nikhil Sacchan, Nilotpala Mrinal, Divya Prakash Dubey and Shashank Bharatiya, as well as several other new voices from the literary world.

The stories will be presented to 40 content creation companies — Jio Studio, Netflix, Aamir Khan Productions (AKP), Disney India, Amazon Prime Video, Dharma Productions, Yash Raj Films (YRF), Sony Pictures Entertainment and many others.

Swati adds that this will help the authors, publishing houses and content curators to interact closely and build relationships and explore the stories which can be portrayed on the silver screen.

However, the transformation of a

book to a film is not easy. The director has to plot deviations, condense plot points and jettison set pieces that could be showcased on screen. It is almost like retelling the story, this time visually.

Such festivals play a vital role in this scenario especially because the avenues for storytelling have gone up. The web space has paved way for more people to showcase their talent and bring more content forward. Anu Singh Choudhary, consultant and an expert in the publishing industry says, "This is the best time for a storyteller. There is an unquenchable thirst for riveting stories across mediums and we are constantly going back to our bookshelves and bookshops in search of magic that narratives deeply rooted in Indian sensibilities hold."

Swati adds that the people who will be benefiting from this shared space will be the end target consumer — readers, viewers and audience. A rise in such platforms is important because they push the boundaries of Indian content by celebrating literature as a potent muse.

able to pack all the necessary components into phones.

Similar all-in-one 5G phones should be fairly common by next year, experts say. In fact, T-Mobile CEO John Legere suggested the company is holding back on 5G network expansions until compatible phones come out later this year. T-Mobile's current 5G phones only work with parts of its planned 5G network.

Sprint, which T-Mobile is in the process of acquiring, said first-generation phones are intended to show off 5G benefits to those who live or spend a lot of time in the company's nine 5G markets.

Veroniz didn't return messages. AT&T isn't offering 5G to consumers yet, although it has rebranded some existing 4G service as "5G E."

**TO WAIT OR NOT**

If you can squeeze another year or two out of your current phone, there will be plenty of 5G phones to choose from by the time you're ready to upgrade. But it's ok to buy a new pre-5G phone now if you can't wait. You can always trade that in for a 5G model later.

—AP

## Battle of 5G

Here is why you don't need the technology in your phone just yet



won't support 5G.

### THE PRICE OF 5G

The speedy wireless technology can add a few hundred dollars to phone price tags. For instance, Samsung's standard Galaxy S10 phone costs \$900; the 5G model costs \$1,300, though Samsung said it also showcases the company's best features,

including a larger screen and a better camera. For Motorola, 5G comes as a \$350 option for the existing Moto Z series phones.

"This territory is reserved for the leading-edge type of consumer, those willing to sacrifice money to be first," said Wayne Lam, an analyst at IHS Markit. The price gap is expected to narrow and eventually disappear as 5G becomes a standard feature, Geoff Blaber of CCS Insight said.

### NETWORK LIMITATIONS

5G coverage is limited to certain neighbourhoods in a handful of cities. While 5G phones can still connect over existing 4G LTE networks, "are you willing to spend extra for something you might not see consistently until 2021?" IHS Markit analyst Josh Builta asks.

Wireless networks have a history of Balkanisation, although it tends to sort itself out. Verizon and Sprint have been using a wireless technology called CDMA, while AT&T and T-Mobile use an incompatible version called GSM. Early on, phone makers produced separate CDMA and GSM models. But as technology advanced, they were



### GOLIATH SEASON 3

The unexpected death of an old friend leads Billy McBride to take a case in the drought-stricken Central Valley where he comes face-to-face with a new Goliath: a billionaire farmer and his sister and their scheme to steal California's most valuable resource — water. As Billy and his team pursue truth, old enemies and personal demons resurface forcing him to confront his own mortality.

Starring Billy Bob Thornton, Dennis Quaid, the drama releases on October 4 on Amazon Prime Video.



### IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON

A Philadelphia detective slowly unravels as he nurses a lifelong obsession with an enigmatic female serial killer whose crimes defied explanation.

Starring Boyd Holbrook, Michael C Hall, Cleopatra Coleman, the film releases on September 27 on Netflix.

### WEBBED

#### MO GILLIGAN: MOMENTUM

Comedian Mo Gilligan blends smooth moves and sharp humour as he riffs on humble beginnings, family dynamics and the complex art of dancing in the club.

The comedy film releases on September 30 on Netflix.



# Rahul clinches bronze

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Rahul Aware won the biggest medal of his career by bagging a Bronze while an injured Deepak Punia settled for a Silver after pulling out of the final as India celebrated its best-ever performance at the World Wrestling Championship here on Sunday.

Aware outclassed Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan-American champion, 11-4 in the 61kg bronze play-off to take India's tally to five medals.

The reigning junior world champion did not take mat against Iranian great Hasan Yazdani due to an ankle injury, sustained during the semifinal.

The other medal winners in this edition are Bajrang Punia, Ravi Dahiya and Vinesh Phogat.

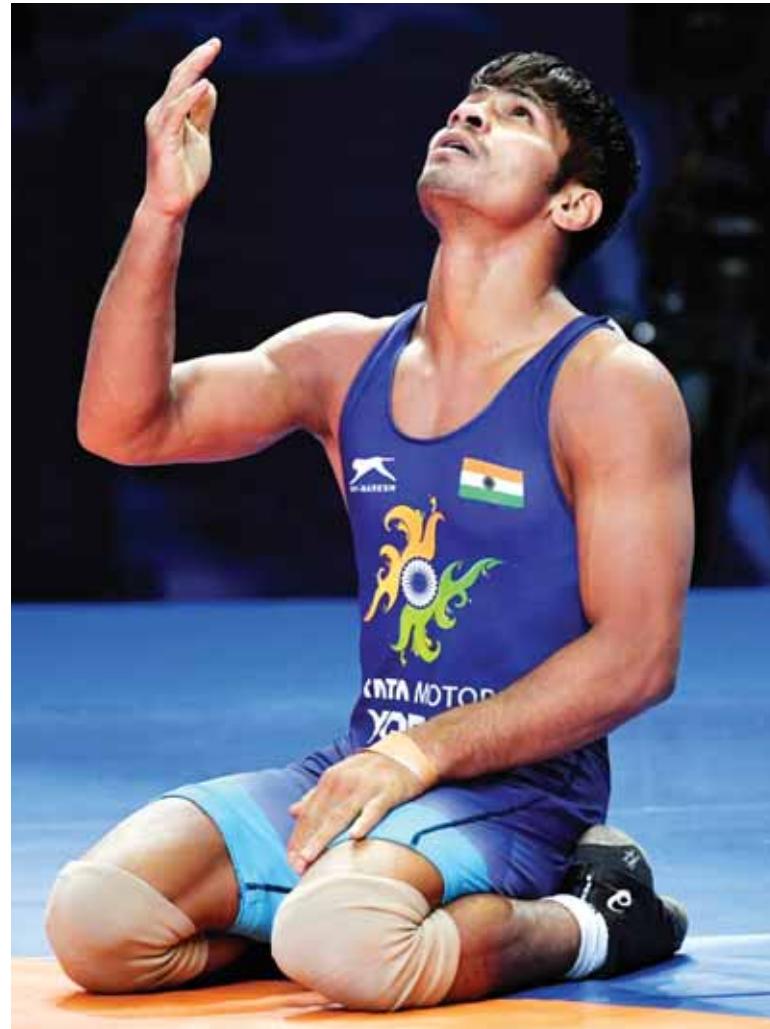
India's previous best show was at the 2013 edition, when the country had won three medals through Amit Dahiya (Silver), Bajrang Punia (Bronze) and Sandeep Tulsji Yadav (Bronze in Greco-Roman).

Winning Gold medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games was 27-year-old Aware's best performance before.

"I could have won a Gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Beka Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period," Aware told PTI.

Aware had shown early promise when he won Bronze medals at the Asian Championships in 2009 and 2011 but suddenly vanished from the scene after that.

"The injuries pegged me back. I was ready in 2014 but then there were no trials for the CWG or the Asian Games. So



**I could have won a Gold. It was within my reach. I could have won that semi-final (against Beka Lomtadze). I botched it up in the first period**

I did not get a chance to prove my worth," he argued.

"I feared for losing this chance. After a long time, something good was waiting for me and I was really scared to lose. I am glad I pulled it off," Aware heaved a sigh of relief.

Wrestling of late has been a sport dominated by grapplers from Haryana and Aware is first from Maharashtra to win a senior World medal.

"But Marathi sports history will remember me for winning this medal. I am first from that region to do this," he said adding that he would dedicate his medal to his first coach, late Harichander Brajdar.

For the record, the greatest ever Maharashtrian wrestler undoubtedly is late KD Jadhav, who won independent India's first individual medal, a bronze in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

Aware, now trains under Kaka Pawar in Pune, said he was under a lot of self-imposed pressure going into the bout. The American surprised Aware with a double leg attack, the moment the bout started and earned two points with a takedown.

However, he became alert and twice

wriggled out of Graff's right leg attacks. He also scored consecutive takedown points to lead 4-2 at the break.

In the second period too, Graff got hold of Aware's right leg but the Indian got himself out of trouble in an impressive manner.

He then pulled the bout away from the American with a flurry of moves - the takedowns and expose-taking a commanding 10-2 lead. It consolidated further when the American lost a challenge. Eventually he won 11-4.

The morning of the final day of the championships brought with it the news that Deepak will not be able to compete in Sunday's final.

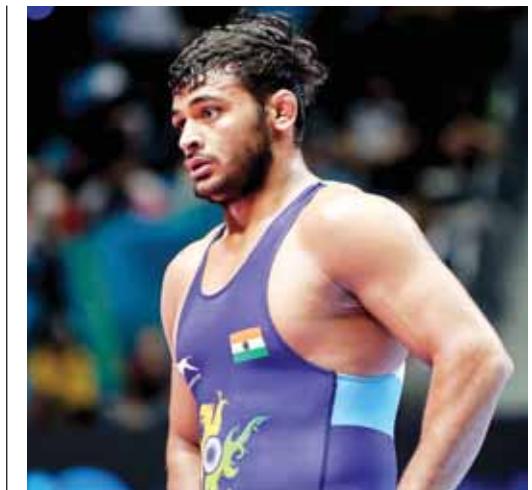
"The left foot is not taking the load. It's difficult to fight in this condition and could have aggravated the injury. I know it was a big chance to fight against Yazdani but I can't help it," Deepak told PTI.

Deepak had come out of the mat limping and a swollen right eye after his semifinal against Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth.

It was a good draw for Deepak and he exploited it to get the biggest medal of his career.

In a dream run, Deepak reached the final with wins over Reichmuth, Colombia's Carlos Arturo Mendez and Kazakhstan's Adilet Davlumbayev. He became only the fifth Indian ever to reach the World Championship final after Bishamber Singh (1967) Sushil Kumar (2010), Amit Dahiya (2013) and Bajrang Punia (2018). Only last year he had won the junior world championship.

Sushil Kumar remains India's only World Champion. He had won a Gold in 2010 in Moscow



## Lure of job brought Deepak to wrestling

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Wrestling was just a route which Deepak Punia hoped would find him a good job to help sustain his family.

He wanted a job and was even offered the post of a sepoy in the Indian Army back in 2016.

But he was told to dream big and not settle for little things in life by none other than Sushil Kumar.

"Keep wrestling as your priority, jobs will chase you later," Sushil, India's most successful wrestler with two Olympic medals and a world title, had told him, besides arranging for a sponsorship.

He became a World Cadet champion in 2016 and only last month won the junior World title, only the fourth Indian ever to do so and first in 18 years.

Within one month of that feat in Estonia, he found himself face-to-face with his idol and Iranian great Hasan Yazdani for a clash, the winner of which would be crowned the senior world champion.

It is a pity that the bout did not happen because of the ankle injury he sustained during the semifinal against Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth and he settled for a silver.

He missed out on a great opportunity to wrestle with one of the best the sport has seen in its history.

But the last three years in Deepak Punia's life still sounds like a dream.

So, what is it that makes Deepak India's best in heavyweight category in recent times. The results have come thick and fast.

"It's a combination of a lot of things. Everything has to come together," said India's former foreign coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili, who has played a key role in Deepak's progress as a world-class grappler.

"You need four things — brain, power, luck and flexibility on the mat. Deepak has all. He is a disciplined wrestler and that he gets from his father.

"Boys usually get bored with the repetition process when they are told to learn a new technique but Deepak would do it for two, three, four days unless he gets it. It comes from family."

It's true.

His father Subash has been coming to his training centre every morning to deliver milk and fruits to him since 2015 despite the fact their Chhara village in Haryana district is at a distance of 60km.

That Deepak has immense appetite for milk was known from his childhood when he was a four-year-old kid and even it has a role in him getting the moniker 'Ketti pehalwan'.

The Sarpanch of his village once offered him milk which was kept in a 'ketti' (kettle). He drank it in one gulp. He was offered a second, a third and a fourth and he finished all.

From then onwards, people started calling him 'ketti pehalwan'. Deepak said staying disciplined has been a big reason for his success.

"I like hanging out with friends, going to malls and doing some shopping. But we are not allowed to go out of the training centre. I like buying shoes, shirts and jeans, though I don't get to wear them because I am always in a tracksuit," he said.

"Whenever I get a chance, like after the tournaments, I go out and eat even junk food. But once the break is over, I don't think about anything else. Wrestling and training is life then."

The sponsorship he got from OGQ took away a bit of worry and he began to concentrate on honing his skills.

## Barcelona suffer 2-0 shocking defeat against Granada

AFP ■ MADRID

Barcelona threw on their stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save them from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

Messi was still not deemed fit enough to start at Los Carmenes while Fati, the 16-year-old who has lit up La Liga in recent weeks, also began the game on the bench on Saturday.

But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored again, Alvaro Vadillo converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a handball.

Barcelona have now won only two of their opening five league games and none away from Camp Nou, thus their second loss already, just one fewer than the three they suffered during the entirety of last season.

With seven points on the board, this is their worst start to a season since 1994.

"Obviously I am worried," said coach Ernesto Valverde.

"Because we are not getting good results and when that happens in two or three games, it means we are not playing well."



Instead, Granada go top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before.

They will stay there until Sunday, when Sevilla, Real Madrid or Athletic Bilbao could overtake them.

Barcelona are sixth, grasping onto the consolation of Messi's second substitute appearance in five days that now suggests he has finally recovered from the niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August.

Their problems though are unlikely to be solved simply by their captain's return. Junior Firpo's error two minutes into his first start for the club gifted Granada their opening goal and set the tone for a chaotic night in defence.

And up front, Antoine Griezmann was quiet again,

with little in any of the combinations to suggest Ernesto Valverde has yet worked out who will form his best attacking trio and in what positions.

"In the end, the coach is responsible and I feel responsible," Valverde said.

"I always think you can win or lose but at least you have to deserve to win when you lose, and today it hasn't been like that."

### MESSI IMPACT LIMITED

With Firpo on the floor, Gerard Pique scrambled across but Puertas' shot only looped up off the defender to the back post where Azeez headed in.

Granada seemed hungrier than Barca and their dominance persuaded Valverde to make two changes at half-time, Messi and Fati replacing Carles Perez and Firpo.

Messi won a free-kick 30 yards out but hit it straight at the wall while Marc Andre ter Stegen fumbled a cross and had to react quickly to claw it back off his own line.

Any hopes of a Barca comeback were dashed in the 66th minute as Vidal handballed at the end of a scramble in the box and Vadillo made no mistake with the spot-kick.

Antonio Conte's Inter were looking for a boost after their dismal 1-1 draw in their Champions League draw against Czech outsiders Slavia Prague.

And they hit back in a fiery Milan derby with Belgian striker Lukaku heading in his third goal in four games with 12 minutes remaining after Brozovic's 49th-minute opener.

"At 26 years old, I needed and wanted a coach like this, one who motivates me every day," said Lukaku of Conte.

"My relationship with Conte is very strong, he's a really good coach because he's someone who helps players to develop a lot."

"I'm really happy to be here and to be wearing this shirt."

Milan could thank Gianluigi Donnarumma for keeping the match goalless in the first half after

Perez and Firpo.

"We came from a performance in the Champions League that left us with a bitter taste, but gave us more impetus to face the derby in the best way," said Conte.

"It is a deserved victory, I am happy for our fans, because the derby is always the derby."

Lukaku sealed the win and a perfect 12 points from four games when he guided Nicolo Barella's cross home with a glancing header, as AC Milan slip to ninth place with six points.

"We denied Lautaro Martinez, Lukaku and Danilo D'Ambrosio. Lautaro had a goal ruled out after 35 minutes for being marginally offside.

But the breakthrough came four minutes after the break when Stefano Sensi set up Brozovic, whose deflected shot beat Donnarumma and was confirmed after consultation with VAR.

Lukaku sealed the win and a perfect 12 points from four games when he guided Nicolo Barella's cross home with a glancing header, as AC Milan slip to ninth place with six points.

"I like hanging out with friends, going to malls and doing some shopping. But we are not allowed to go out of the training centre. I like buying shoes, shirts and jeans, though I don't get to wear them because I am always in a tracksuit," he said.

"Whenever I get a chance, like after the tournaments, I go out and eat even junk food. But once the break is over, I don't think about anything else. Wrestling and training is life then."

The sponsorship he got from OGQ took away a bit of worry and he began to concentrate on honing his skills.

## Ole's veering off road

AFP ■ LONDON

West Ham inflicted more away-day pain on a poor Manchester United side on Sunday, lifting themselves to fourth in the Premier League with a comfortable 2-0 win at the London Stadium.

Andriy Yarmolenko's goal shortly before half-time and a wonderful late Aaron Cresswell free-kick extended United's barren run on the road.

United, who started the season by thumping Chelsea 4-0, have lost twice already in their opening six league games and lie seventh, without an away win in any competition since March.

Injury-hit United were without midfielder Paul Pogba and forward Anthony Martial and huffed and puffed but failed to break down their dogged opponents.

West Ham are riding high under Manuel Pellegrini, unbeaten since a 5-0 drubbing in the first match of the season and this victory followed a home win last season against United at the London Stadium.

But it was a chastening day for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men, just a day after champions Manchester City came close to matching United's Premier League record for margin of victory -- 9-0 against Ipswich in 1995.

Solskjaer played the same side that triumphed against Leicester last week while Pablo Fornals came in for the injured Manuel Lanzini for the home side. Both sides were cagey at the start of the match, with neither side able to create clear-cut chances.

West Ham looked the more inventive team when they broke forward



while United looked ponderous in attack and lacking in ideas, with Marcus Rashford up front.

The match was drifting towards the interval before Felipe Anderson and Yarmolenko combined to sap United's confidence with a goal in the 44th minute.

United went close to an equaliser early in the second half as the rain came down in London, with Juan Mata missing from close range after an Andreas Pereira cross.

Already short of options up front and missing creators in midfield, they lost Rashford just before the hour mark, replaced by the out-of-form Jesse Lingard. West Ham went close to doubling their lead shortly afterwards but David de Gea got down low to keep out an Anderson shot from a tight angle.

United upped the pressure and West Ham had goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski to thank for keeping out a Harry Maguire strike from close range.

But West Ham continued to look more dangerous on the break and made United pay when Ashley Young brought down Mark Noble on the edge of the penalty area.

## Sock, Kyrgios keep World in touch

AFP ■ GENEVA

Jack Sock and Nick Kyrgios paired up to defeat Rafael Nadal and Stefanos Tsitsipas as Team World cut Europe's lead to 7-5 heading into the final day of the Laver Cup in Geneva.

Sock and Kyrgios won Saturday's doubles 6-4, 3-6, 10-6 after Nadal defeated Milos Raonic in his first match since his US Open triumph in the singles.

"There was a lot on the line there," said Sock. "We obviously wanted to keep the overall weekend close. Being down 9-3 is different than 7-5."

The 35th-ranked Collins rallied back from 3-5 down in the opening set, winning a whopping nine games in a row to go up 7-5.

Williams, a wildcard at Wuhan this year, finally stopped the bleeding, holding the serve to interrupt her opponent's momentum.

It was the start of a surprising five-game



run from Williams, who saved two match points along the way as

# INDIA MISS, PROTEAS HIT

**de kock leads the chase as South Africa beat India by 9 wickets to level series 1-1**

PTI ■ BENGALURU

India captain Virat Kohli's bold move to bat first boomeranged on his team as Quinton de Kock (79) spearheaded South Africa's chase for a series-levelling nine-wicket win in the third T20 International here on Sunday.

To everyone's surprise, Kohli opted to bat after the coin landed in his favour on one of the smallest grounds, always known to favour teams chasing in the shortest format.

Initially though, the decision seemed to have worked as India raced to 54 for one in six overs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The departure of Shikhar Dhawan gave the South Africans an opening, and they grabbed it with both hands, snuffing out eight Indian wickets for 71 runs.

In their chase, South African captain de Kock looked in complete control and struck six fours and five sixes in his unbeaten 52-ball unbeaten 79.

He added 76 runs for the first wicket with Reeza Hendricks in 10 overs and then put on another 64 with Temba Bavuma. After moving to 19 in four overs, De Kock cut loose by hitting Navdeep Saini for two sixes, and there was no look-



ing back.

Earlier, India were stopped at 134 for nine by a disciplined South African attack.

Top-scorer Dhawan blazed

away to a 25-ball 36 and got India off to a brisk start that yielded them 54 runs in the first six overs.

Kagiso Rabada was expensive

but picked up three wickets, while

there were two apiece for Bjorn Fortuin (2/19 in 3 overs) and Beuran Hendricks (2/14).

Playing in his first game of the

series, Beuran Hendricks was the

team's best bowler without a doubt as he choked run-flow in the middle overs along with left-arm spinner Fortuin.

Rohit Sharma got out early but

he did put pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada under pressure straightaway, striking him for two boundaries in his first over - one over cover and the other through extra

cover.

That brought crowd favourite Kohli in the middle but Dhawan, who began the innings with a boundary, was in charge and welcomed leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi with back-to-back sixes.

The first six was smashed over long-on and for the second maximum, Dhawan sashayed down the ground, played against the turn, before striking the ball towards long-off.

Going for one too many, Dhawan mistimed Shamsi, who had his revenge after Tembi Bavuma completed a neat catch. Kohli, too, followed suit as Andile Phehlukwayo pulled off a fine running catch in the deep, much to Rabada, the bowler on the occasion, and his team's relief.

Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who improvised to scoop Dwaine Pretorius over the fine leg boundary, threw away their wickets within two balls, leaving India in trouble at 92 for five in the 13th over.

After Pant fell prey to Fortuin's smart piece of bowling, Iyer stepped out only to be stumped off a wide ball.

It was yet another failure for Pant and once again to a left-arm spinner. After Santner accounted him in the World Cup, Fortuin has now got him twice in two games.

At the toss, Kohli's contention was that he doesn't want the team to slip into a comfort zone. Batting first or second, he wants his team to be a master of all situations with little more than a year left for the T20 World Cup.

However, it did not prove to be a successful move as South Africa staged a strong comeback to level the three-match series 1-1 after the first game was washed out.

## MARIN RETURNS WITH CHINA TITLE

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Triple world champion Carolina Marin retained her China Open title on Sunday, eight months after suffering a career-threatening injury.

The Spaniard recovered from a game down to defeat Taiwan's second-seeded Tai Tzu-ying 14-21, 21-17, 21-18 in Changzhou.

A tearful Marin collapsed to the court floor and buried her head in her hands after powering to victory in 65 minutes.

"It's unbelievable," said the 26-year-old, who injured her anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee in January.

"I couldn't imagine during my rehabilitation that I could win in my second tournament back."

"But I did and I feel so happy with myself," added the reigning Olympic champion.

Japan's world champion Kento



Momota cemented his place as the top men's player with a 19-21, 21-17, 21-19 win over Indonesia's seventh seed Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in their final.

APP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel ended his year-long drought without a win at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday, mastering a hazy circuit to claim a record fifth triumph in the city-state.

The German was chased home by teammate Charles Leclerc, who started on pole but lost the lead to the four-time world champion after making his pit stop, and Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who finished third.

"It was a very late call on the pit stop and I just gave it everything on the out lap. I was surprised to come out ahead and it was difficult to manage the tyres but we controlled it to the end," Vettel told reporters.

Championship leader Lewis Hamilton finished fourth but extended his advantage over fellow Mercedes driver Valterti Bottas to 65 points, with six races remaining, after the Finn finished in fifth.

The race got off to a clean start with the top six retaining

## Vettel wins Singapore GP



turn to come in.

But Vettel, Leclerc and Verstappen were lapping much quicker than Hamilton and when the Briton finally stopped seven laps after his rivals, he emerged in a distant fourth place.

Hamilton's only hope of victory was to capitalise on his rivals' degraded tyres late in the race.

But three safety car periods — when both George Russell and Sergio Perez stopped on the track, and when Daniil Kvyat collided with Kimi Raikkonen -- allowed the front three plenty of time to cool their rubber.

Ferrari will be delighted to have recorded a one-two finish at a circuit they were not expected to muster a podium finish.

Leclerc, however, was dismayed to leave the pits behind Vettel. Hamilton stayed out on track in the lead to set about forging a big enough gap to retake the lead when it was his

their grid positions despite Vettel putting immense pressure on second-placed Hamilton in the opening lap.

While a few drivers were shifting position further down the field, the frontrunners were maintaining a one-second gap between each other as Leclerc set a slow pace to make his soft tyres last as long as possible.

Ferrari and Red Bull were

the first of the big teams to bring their cars in for pit stops as Vettel and Verstappen were fitted with the more durable hard tyres on lap 20, with Leclerc following suit on the next lap.

Leclerc, however, was dismayed to leave the pits behind Vettel. Hamilton stayed out on track in the lead to set about forging a big enough gap to retake the lead when it was his

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## Mumba win against Gujarat

PTI ■ JAIPUR



U Mumba produced an all-round show to beat Gujarat FortuneGiants 31-25 in a VIVO Pro Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Abhishek Singh secured a Super 10 (11 raid points) for U Mumba, who were also miserly in their defence, with Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar picking up vital points.

The victory meant the Mumbai side jumped to the fourth place in the points table to consolidate their chances of making to the play-off stages.

The match was a closely-fought affair with two of the best defences in the league going head to head.

But Abhishek's raiding backed up by some incredible defence by Sandeep Narwal and Surinder Singh opened up

a lead for U Mumba as they inflicted an all-out on Gujarat to move to a five points lead with eight minutes still left for half time.

Rohit Gulia found chinks in the U Mumbai armour after the all-out and his eight-point half helped the Gujarat team claw their way back with an all-out with under two minutes to play. The first half ended with both the sides locked at 16-16.

The second half continued

to be the same with both defences trading blows.

Unfortunately for Gujarat, Sunil Kumar picked up an injury which disrupted the team's structure.

With Arjun Deshwal out for U Mumba with an injury, the raiding responsibilities for the Mumbai side were solely on the shoulders of Abhishek.

The raider produced a two-point raid in the 13th minute after which the Mumbai defence successfully tackled Gujarat's Sachin to give U Mumbai a three-point lead after a long time.

The raider picked his game up and helped U Mumba secure an all-out with less than three minutes left in the match to move to a six-point lead.

The defence held firm in the final minutes to clinch an important victory for the Mumbai side.

The second half continued

## Dutee Chand hopes to run personal best at Worlds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



India's fastest woman Dutee Chand has set herself a target of reaching the finals of the women's 100m dash in the World Championships starting in Doha on September 27 with a personal best timing.

Dutee, who these days has been training at night similar to her competition schedule in Doha, said she is determined to make amends of her disappointing performance in the last edition of the event in 2017 London.

"I hope to run my best in Doha, that is my target. I could not reach the semifinals last time but I am hoping to reach the finals this time. It will not be easy but I will be really happy if I do that," Dutee told PTI.

In the 2017 London World Championships, Dutee ran a disappointing 12.07 second in the heats and failed to reach the semifinals.

Dutee could not touch the Doha World Championships qualification mark of 11.24 seconds but her personal best effort of 11.26 seconds, which is also the national record, during the Asian Championships in Doha in April, ensured that she was among the maximum target number of competitors for the event.

"I am training at night these days around 7pm to 8pm to adjust to my race timings in Doha and my preparations are going well. Let us see what happens in Doha," said the 23-year-old Odisha athlete, who became the first top Indian athlete to have confessed to same sex relations.

Dutee, who became the first Indian to win a 100m gold in a global event during the World University Games in July, has been

training with her coach N Ramesh at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

In Doha, she will run in the women's 100m heats on September 28 at 4:30pm local time and 7pm Indian time.

She, however, is not hoping to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics from the World Championships - for which the qualification standard is a tough 11.15 seconds.

"It is the end of the season and I have run a lot of races this year. So, I have to see how far I can push my body to run faster. It will be dif-

## SA women beat BPXI

PTI ■ SURAT

South Africa women started their India tour on a positive note as they defeated Board President's XI (BPXI) by 83 runs in the second T20 warm-up match here on Sunday.

The first warm-up game was abandoned due to inclement weather.

South Africa women first posted a decent 174 for 5 after opting to bat and later bundled out the hosts for paltry 91 to kick off their campaign on a high.

Luuus, a leg-break bowler, returned with best figures of 3-17 for South Africa women as she ran through the BPXI's middle-order.

Wicket-keeper Lizelle Lee stoked her way to 65 off just 48 balls for South Africa women, Tazmin Brits made 20 off 19 as they duo shared 61 runs for the opening stand to lay the founda-

tion for the score.

Lee was in her elements as he took on the opposition bowlers, hammering 10 fours and a six.

BPXI bowlers then removed Brits and one-down Laura Wolvaardt (7) in quick succession, but that did not deter Lee from playing her natural game.

For the visitors, a late onslaught by Mignon du Preez (40 off 18 balls) coupled with Nandine du Clerk's 29 helped them go past the 170-run mark. Preez stuck six boundaries and cleared the fence once during her entertaining knock.

For the hosts, off-break bowler Tarannum Pathan grabbed two wickets conceding 23 runs, while pacers Pooja Vaastarakar, part of the main squad, had forgettable figures of 1 for 32.

Chasing the target, BPXI were tottering at 4 for 6 after their first four batters walked back to the pavilion in no time.

## No MS till Nov

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni will not be available for selection until November this year, according to the Mumbai Mirror.

The former India captain had previously missed the West Indies tour after taking a break of two months which also meant that he missed the ongoing home series against South Africa. The extension of the break means that he will miss out on the Vijay Hazare Trophy and the home T20 series against Bangladesh as well.

This means that Dhoni would be available to play for India only in December when the West Indies tour the country for three T20Is and as many ODIs. The series is scheduled to start on December 6.

Dhoni had last played for India on July 10 when the Men in Blue lost to New Zealand in the semifinal of the ODI World Cup in England. His break would effectively be nearly six months long.

This comes at a time when there has been speculation over the 37-year-old's future in the team, especially with the team management grooming 21-year-old Rishabh Pant as his replacement behind the stumps ahead of next year's World T20.

Recently, rumours about Dhoni announcing his retirement were doing the rounds after captain Virat Kohli tweeted a pic of him and Dhoni during a match with the caption: "A game I can never forget. Special night. This man, made me run like in a fitness test."

When Kohli was asked about it in a press conference ahead of India's first T20I against South Africa in Dharamsala, the skipper said that he had nothing on his mind when he posted the tweet.

"I was sitting at home and I normally put out a photograph and it became a news item. I think it was a lesson for me, that the way I think, the whole world does not think that way. There was nothing in the farthest stretch of my imagination (that it could be taken as retirement tribute) while putting that picture out on social media," he said.