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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

India looks beyond British Raj excesses

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

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

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

There was a minor flutter in 1997 when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh made a trip to Amritsar and there were some expectations of a national apology from the British head of state. It didn't happen - not that the token expression of sadness and regret was in any way responsible for that Royal visit ending up as an unmitigated disaster - and life went on as usual. India-



UK relations has its own dynamics but it is definitely not governed by the issue of either a British apology over Jallianwala Bagh or the return of the Kohinoor.

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

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

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

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

₹70k cr stimulus for realty, exports

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Exports have declined in two out of last three months despite a weaker rupee, while



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

the shock 2016 demonetisation of 86 per cent of the currency in circulation and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) had dented the real estate market.

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

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

ing dispensations.

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

Besides, a ₹1,700 crore annual dole will allow Export Credit Guarantee Corp to offer higher insurance cover to banks lending working capital for exports, she said. This will enable reduction in the overall cost of export credit, including interest rate, especially for MSMEs, she added.

Priority sector lending tag for export credit is under consideration of the Reserve Bank, which will release an additional ₹36,000 crore to ₹68,000 crore as export credit.

Other measures for

exporters included real-time electronic processing of GST refunds by the month-end, action plan to reduce time to export or turnaround time at airports and ports by December and a special FTA utilisation mission that will work with export houses to utilise concessional tariffs in each free trade agreement India has with different nations.

She also announced that a mega shopping festival, on the lines of the world-famous Dubai Shopping Festival, will be conducted at four places in India in March on themes of gems and jewellery, handicraft/yoga/tourism, textiles and leather.

The finance minister said

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

Inflation, she said, has been kept "very much" below the 4 per cent mark and there are "clear signs" of revival in the economy, as witnessed in an uptick in industrial production and fixed investment.

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

The Reserve Bank of India has since February cut the benchmark interest rate by 110 basis points but banks have lagged in transmitting the lower rates to borrowers.

The government has been pressing banks to offer external benchmark linked loans to speed up the transmission of rate cuts.

India's GDP growth decreased for the fifth consecutive quarter in April-June 2019 to 5 per cent, the lowest in six years. This was on the back of faltering domestic demand, with both private consumption and investment proving lackluster.

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

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

The growth numbers are "now very different from what we had said in the Budget. We will certainly reconcile...And take a call at what stage we are and what level we are," she added.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

grate the country and its promotion should not be at the cost of the mother tongue or a native language.

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

also use Hindi to make the dream of Bapu (Mahatma Gandhi) and Sardar (Vallabhbhai) Patel of one language come true."

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

Kejriwal ropes in 3,000 RWAs to make Delhi dengue-free

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Bolstering the Delhi Government's anti-dengue campaign, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will address a gathering of resident welfare associations on September 24, in which 3,000 RWAs across city will participate.

The AAP Government on Saturday said it has signed MoUs with RWA apex bodies - URJA and Citizens' Alliance - as part of its initiative to reach out to RWAs across Delhi in a big way.

"Dengue and pollution - both are challenges that Delhi can overcome through people's participation. I welcome RWAs to join the fight against both dengue and pollution," Kejriwal tweeted.

Pak raises white flag at LoC to retrieve 2 bodies

RAHUL DATTA/MOHIT KANDHARI ■ NEW DELHI/JAMMU

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

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

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

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



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

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

CAPSULE

TRUCK OWNER FINED STAGGERING ₹6.53L

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

RSS PLANS OUTREACH TO FOREIGN PRESS

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

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

Drones attack Saudi Aramco facility, oilfield

AP ■ DUBAI

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

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

It wasn't clear if there were any injuries in the attacks, nor what effect it would have on oil production in the kingdom. *Detailed report on P7*

Monsoon overstays, to soak Guj, MP

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

India recorded 835.2 mm rainfall as against the normal of 801 mm. According to IMD officials, the rainfall activity over most



parts of the country may start to lose intensity from September 19-20. The withdrawal commences from the western parts of Rajasthan, at times simultaneously covering Punjab, Haryana, and J&K. "There is no set pattern, date or pace of the withdrawal process. The withdrawal is usually seen in the second half of September. Before declaring

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

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

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

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

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

SHOW TIME

It's laugh-riot all through

An engaging courtroom drama

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Shalini Saksena

'Acting makes me feel alive'

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



■What is your role?

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

■What made you say yes?

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

■What do you like and dislike about your character?

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

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

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

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

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

■What was the most challenging project?

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

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

■What does acting mean to you?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KBC gets its 9th crorepati

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

"It was a moment of extreme joy. I felt like all my hard work had paid off. It was hard to believe that in just an hour I have turned into a millionaire. My success *mantra* is to have patience and take one step at a time. Leaps and bounds would take you nowhere. Not only destiny but my family played their part too. They supported me through thick and thin. They had faith in all my decisions, they knew I will make it big some day. And I am proud to have proved them right," he tells you.

TELLYTALE

SALMAN TURNS CHEF



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

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

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

MANIESH IS BACK WITH MORE FUN

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

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

Movie Masti with Maniesh Paul will see four hot Bollywood celebrities coming in each week to participate in the game show with the common man (or woman) as their partner in proving that their filmy quotient is the highest. Together, their love and passion for movies will be put to test and interrupting them every step of the way will



be this mischievous, Bollywood-crazy family of roasters and pranksters and at the helm of this quirky comical brigade is host Maniesh Paul.

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

SEEMA TURNS VO ARTIST

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

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

WILL BAALVEER FIND HIS SUCCESSOR?

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

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

In the other world, *kaal lok* is



restlesswith Baalveer's revival and Timnasa in order to fulfil her mission to destroy Baalveer, dedicates her deadliest beast, Bhoochal, to follow Baalveer on Earth and create the ultimate destruction to draw him out.

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

RAMBO: LAST BLOOD TO HIT SCREENS

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

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

DHARMENDRA GOT EMOTIONAL

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

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

No political vendetta in PDS scam probe against Raman Singh: CM

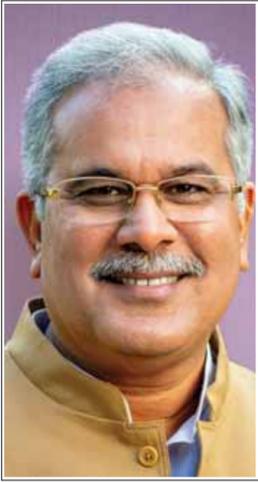
STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

On his return from New Delhi, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel challenged former Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh to prove with evidence that any action being taken by the incumbent government is politically vindictive.

Interacting with media persons, he said the government was merely continuing the probe commenced during the period of Raman Singh government.

On question of Shiv Shankar Bhatt's statement indicting Raman Singh in PDS scam, he said Bhatt was also in the close circle of former Chief Minister and was given patronage. That they (Bhatt and Singh) were hand in gloves in the scam had now been revealed. Bhatt was two appointed twice in Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited.

"Raman Singh says the offence has been registered on the basis of a statement of the accused. Was he



sleeping when crime was registered against P Chidambaram? He is now languishing in jail. He also did not



get bail. In that case also the offence was registered on the basis of a statement of an accused. How

Raman Singh suddenly got to know about it," Baghel said.

On the ration card scam as mentioned in Bhatt's statement, Chief Minister said Raman Singh was being called 'Chourwale Baba', now it has come to notice that 21 lakh fake ration cards were made and the scam is of around ₹36,000 crores. "Law will take its own course," he added.

Baghel said Sonia Gandhi, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi have been invited to campaign for the party in Dantewada by-poll. The functioning of government has been briefed to them. Discussion had been held on membership drive along with preparations regarding Gandhi Jayanti. Discussion was also held on launching agitations against central government.

Commenting on party MLAs statement against school education minister, Baghel said everyone should air their grievances at party forum only. He said they would hold further discussion on the subject.

BJP proud of Raman Singh govt's achievements: Kaushik

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Leader of Opposition LDharamlal Kaushik said BJP is proud to have introduced food security for poor in the state which was later emulated by other states in the country.

Talking to media on Saturday, he said, "Not only different agencies of UN, even Supreme Court had lauded the then BJP government for its PDS scheme. The apex court had even directed to implement 'Chhattisgarh model' in the country. This was done after more than 50 years of Congress rule in the states where utter poverty prevailed, requiring to implement basic scheme of food security."

He pointed out that the state was known for starvation deaths, gastroenteritis and diarrhea, which were achievements of the Congress government. But under the BJP government no deaths were reported that is why tribals' named Raman Singh 'Chourwale Baba'.



The Congress is afraid of Raman Singh's popularity and that is why it is trying to defame him.

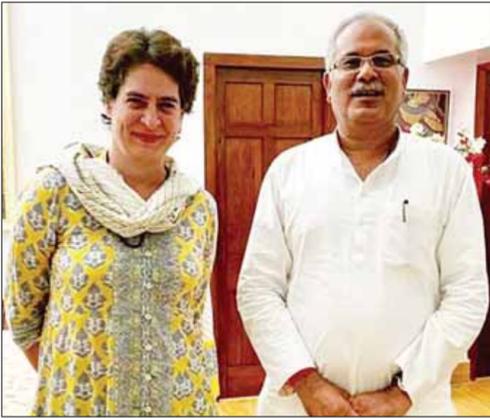
Kaushik said just for political gains even after a massive mandate the Congress government is failing due to its corruptions, that also just before polls. All developmental works have come to a standstill, reflecting true character of ruling party. Such acts have to be condemned.

On the issue of PDS scam, Kaushik said it is Raman's gov-

ernment which took initiatives to file cases against the accused. Forming of SIT on the basis of an application of another accused is nothing but vendetta politics of the Congress. Congress itself had opposed cancellation of ration cards and now it's terming those cards as fake.

Listing out the recent developments, Kaushik said, affidavits of Manturam case and now of PDS scam accused shows desperate mode to influence cases when it is already sub-judiced.

Baghel meets Priyanka Gandhi, discusses wide-range of issues



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met Congress national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Friday night.

It is said that Priyanka had called Baghel at her residence to hold discussion on different issues and seek suggestions mainly on political and administrative issues. The meeting continued for more than an hour.

Priyanka Gandhi appreciated the state government's initiative for eradication of malnutrition and anemia. She appreciated state government's policy to develop Naxal affected and tribal areas of the state.

Chief Minister point-by-point briefed the efforts being put forward by the state government in education, health, agri-

culture, and other sectors, including empowerment of women. She also sought advice on the innovative initiative of 'Suraji Gram Yojana' so that it can be implemented in other states.

Baghel sought suggestions on how to tackle the economic slow-down and economical reforms. He pointed out that even though country is facing economic crises but state of Chhattisgarh has remained untouched from it. Auto-sector registered growth, employment too increased and real estate sector too did well, he added. The land sale has also recorded historical increase.

Chief Minister extended invitation to Priyanka Gandhi to visit Chhattisgarh, which she accepted.

Dantewada by-poll: Sonia, Rahul, Priyanka Congress's star campaigners

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee released a list of its star campaigners for Dantewada by-poll. It features names of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, former PM Dr Manmohan Singh, AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, AICC in-charge Chhattisgarh P. L. Punia, CPCM president Mohan Markam, AICC secretaries for Chhattisgarh Dr Chandan Yadav and Dr Arun Uraon, Sushmita Dev, national president Women Congress, MP Raj Babbar,



former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, chairman AICC communication Randeep Singh Surjewala, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Bhakta Charan Das, Nagma Morarji, cabinet ministers T. S. Singhdeo, Tamdradwaj Sahu, Kawasi Lakhma, Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia, Ravindra Choubey, Mohammed Akbar, Umesh

Patel, Jaisingh Agrawal, Anila Bhedia, Guru Rudra Kumar, Premjai Singh, Amarjeet Singh Bhagat, and Rajya Sabha member Chaya Verma.

CPCM in-charge general secretary Girish Dewangan and general secretary and communication department chairman Shailesh Nitin Trivedi

JCC (J) to make Bailadila mining protest a poll issue

Innocent tribals still languishing in jail: Jogi

STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

Former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi said issue of Tribal protest against mining in Nandraj mountain in Bailadila will be raised before the people in the Dantewada by-election and the fight will continue as the innocent tribals are still languishing in jail.

They have to be brought out of jail, which is one of the key issues of

his party Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi), he added.

Addressing media at Jagdalpur, Jogi said the regional outfit will register victory as tribal leader from the region and now cabinet minister Kawasi Lakhma who used to raise voice for tribal languishing in jails is now doing nothing even as for last 8 months the innocent tribal are languishing behind the bars.

Congress govern-

ment's real face has been unmasked, he claimed.

He said in South Bastar, considering the prevailing tough situations, the paddy procurement price should be Rs 3000 per quintal while tendu leaves should be procured at Rs 5000 per standard sack. He added that if his party wins in the by-poll, then it would make MSP for paddy and tendu leaves another key issue of the party.

Naxals kill villager

DANTEWADA: A man was hacked to death by Naxals in the Maoist violence-hit Dantewada district after accusing him of being a police informer, an official said on Saturday.

Mirya Manjal's body was found on Saturday morning near a private firm's beneficentation plant under Kirandul police station limits, he said.

Manjal was a resident of Pullum village, he said.

"A Maoist pamphlet has been recovered from the spot. It accuses Manjal of being a police informer. The pamphlet further claims Manjal was killed after a so-called Jan Adalat (Naxal kangaroo court) was held," he said, adding that Manjal was not a police informer.

He said no eye-witnesses had come forward so far to help the police in the case.

Three Naxals killed in separate encounters in Bijapur, Dantewada

STAFF REPORTER ■ BIJAPUR/DANTEWADA

Three hard-core Naxals were killed in separate encounters between Maoists and security personnel in restive Bijapur and Dantewada districts, police said on Saturday.

The first incident occurred around 8:30 am in a forest near Punnur village, around six km from Awapalli police station, in Bijapur district when a team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out

During a search, the body of a male Naxal was found. A .315 bore rifle was recovered from the spot," the DIG said.

The deceased was identified as Karm Mangu who was Janmilitia Commander. He carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head, the DIG mentioned.

On late Friday night, two Naxals were gunned down in an encounter in Kirandul area of neighbouring Dantewada district. They were killed in the gun battle that happened in a hilly terrain between Kutrem



on a counter-insurgency operation, Deputy Inspector General (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraj P said.

The operation was launched from Awapalli, around 450 km from Raipur, on a specific input about the movement of Maoists divisional commander Nagesh, he said.

"After a brief exchange, ultras escaped from the spot.

and Samalwar.

The deceased were identified as Podiyu Uike and Lacchu Midiyami. They were members of Maoist area committee active in Malangir region. The duo carried a reward of ₹5 lakh each on their heads.

According to police, in encounters between security personnel and Maoists in 2019 so far, 62 Naxals had been killed.

C'garh to host National Tribal Dance Festival in December



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday directed officials to start preparation for holding National Tribal Dance Festival at Raipur to promote tribal and folk dance forms.

At a meeting with officials at his official residence he said a 'sports festival' will also be organised in the state

to bring out the sporting talents from rural areas of Chhattisgarh.

As per details, National Tribal Dance Festival is scheduled to be held on December 28 and 29 at Science College Ground, in Raipur while Sports Festival will be held in different grounds of the capital city. The concluding programme will be held on January 12, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Swami

Vivekananda.

Chief Minister said the state is tribal dominated where the culture and art has its own unique identity. The panthi, karma, suwa, raut nacha and other folk forms have its own identity. To provide a national platform to such dance forms, the event will be held.

He said not only state artists but folk artists from other tribal-dominated states will also participate.

Chief Ministers of those states will also be invited to attend the festival. The festival will be shown live on TV channels and social media, so that winners can be selected through public voting by SMS and nationally renowned judges.

CM said culture and tourism department will take care of travel, food and lodging. The folk artists will also tour tourist spots of the state.

Rouge tusker tramples two men

STAFF REPORTER ■ KORBA

Two elderly men were trampled to death by a wild elephant in Korba district, a forest official said Saturday.

The incident took place on Friday evening near a dam under Bango police station area when the victims identified as Sahasram Binjahwar (65) and Sadhram Dhanuwar (64) had gone to catch fish

there, said DD Sant, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Katghora forest division.

As per preliminary information, the duo had gone along with three other villagers to catch fish in the submergence area of Bango dam, he said.

Suddenly, a tusker appeared there and attacked them. While three villagers managed to escape, the jumbo caught hold of two elderly men

and smashed them on the ground with its trunks before trampling them to death, he said.

On getting information of the incident on Saturday morning, forest and police personnel rush to the spot and sent bodies for post mortem, he said.

The kin of the deceased have been provided an instant relief amount of ₹25,000 each and remaining compensation

of ₹5.75 lakh each will be provided to them after completing the necessary formalities, the official said.

Forest personnel have been directed to keep a tab on the tuskers' movement to prevent any untoward incident further, he said.

The region has witnessed several killings of tribals and widespread damage to houses and crops by rogue elephants.

Universal PDS System to be launched on Oct 2

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection Minister Amarjeet Bhagat said that on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, Universal PDS System will be implemented across the state and thereby people of all the sections of the society will be provided foodgrains on cheaper rates.

The minister was addressing a ration card distribution programme organised at Mata Rajmohini Devi Bhavan, Ambikapur

on Friday. Bhagat said that collection of applications for ration cards has been started. Till now, ration cards have been issued to 58.54 lakh beneficiaries in the state. For eradication of malnutrition, jaggery is being distributed in tribal areas.

He said that public representatives and officials-employees concerned should fulfill their responsibilities in getting ration cards issued to beneficiaries.

He also stated that arrangements for film shooting will be made in Mainpat along with development of tourism there. Tea gardens in Mainpat will be expanded to boost income of farmers. Tea gardens will also be associated with tourism.

State government will provide subsidy to the agencies that choose to do film shooting in Chhattisgarh, he said. He also sanctioned Rs 5 lakh for organising Dussehra in Ambikapur.

AAP ropes in RWAs for its anti-mosquito drive

CM to interact with 3K RWAs at Talkatora Stadium

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To make the ongoing Dengue awareness campaign — 10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute — more effective on ground, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Delhi is joining hands with Resident Welfare Association (RWAs) on Saturday.

In this context, Delhi Dialogue Commission (DDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RWA apex bodies URJA and Citizens' Alliance.

While signing the MoU, Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will address 3,000 RWAs at Talkatora stadium for taking forward the Dengue and Chikungunya awareness programme. "Anti-Dengue campaign of the Delhi Government is getting support from people across the spectrum. The participation of RWAs is very important for us as they can ensure that this truly becomes a mass campaign," Jain said.

While thanking URJA and Citizens Alliance for their support, Jasmine Shah, Vice-Chairman DDC said, "Within



a short span of 4 years, the number of Dengue cases in Delhi has drastically come down by 80 per cent due to continuous efforts made by the Delhi Government. We will reach out to all RWAs across the capital and ensure each and every resident of Delhi joins this campaign."

The RWAs who pledge their support will be urged to participate in the campaign by carrying out checking in their respective areas, especially the common areas like parking, terrace. The RWAs will also encourage houses under them to maintain a Dengue free atmosphere and provide them with information materials like pamphlets and stickers on Dengue.

Ashutosh Dikshit from URJA said, "We welcome the

initiative of the Delhi government to eradicate Dengue from the city. From URJA we will inform as well as exhort all RWAs to come forward and actively participate in this drive. We will advise RWAs and their members to inspect their respective locality and households regularly so that clear water does not pool in the area.

Suchita Meena, the General Secretary of Citizens' Alliance who also pledged support said, "This is the first of its kind experiment in India to eradicate Dengue from the city. We are very honoured to be a part of such a Government initiative. "We all have witnessed the devastating effects of Dengue illness but from this time we will be a part of the drive to eradicate Dengue," Meena said.

"Without the active participation of the citizens with Government, goals cannot be achieved. Therefore, we will mobilise citizens and make them aware of this campaign. With the help of the Delhi Government, we will ensure from our side that the inspection of water deposition happens every day at our localities and we will make Delhi Dengue-free, she added.

Tiwari opposes odd-even, writes to CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Day after the announcement of Odd-Even car rationing scheme, the Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urging him to reconsider the move to implement the odd-even scheme again as it would cause problems to the people. This is merely a gimmick to divert the attention of Delhiites from core issues as the AAP Government has substantially failed to deliver and wants to use taxpayers' money on advertisements for its own publicity, Tiwari alleged in the letter to the Delhi Chief Minister.

"I am writing to you with great anguish over your Government's decision to introduce odd-even policy in Delhi once again in the month of November. The decision has been taken without a proper thought.



This had created so many problems for Delhiites the last time it was done," he said.

Kejriwal on Friday announced implementation of the odd-even scheme in Delhi from November 4 to 15, saying it will be one of the seven measures against high level of pollution in the city due to crop stubble burning in Haryana and Punjab during the period.

Tiwari said the AAP Government's decision to stick to the odd-even scheme speaks

volumes of its "inability" to come up with any scientific and reasonable measure to fight air pollution. "In the interest of the people of Delhi, I urge you to rethink over this decision of implementing odd-even scheme and kindly spare Delhiites unnecessary hassles they would be subjected to with this move," Tiwari said in his letter.

Tiwari alleged the move was an "insult" to the law abiding citizens who get their vehicles regularly checked for pollution as they will face problems in commuting and dropping their children to schools.

The AAP Government has targeted private vehicles although there is no scientific study to support that they are the biggest source of air pollution in Delhi, he said.

As a matter of fact, the air pollution in Delhi has reduced by 25 per cent with the opening of the Eastern and Western

Peripheral Expressways in Delhi, thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Tiwari said.

"The two expressways keep out nearly 60,000 heavy commercial vehicles from Delhi roads, considerably reducing traffic congestion as well as pollution level," he said.

Under the scheme vehicles ply on odd and even dates as per their registration numbers. The scheme was previously introduced in Delhi by the AAP government in January and April 2016.

The opinion of experts as well as the people is divided over the efficacy of odd-even formula in combating air pollution.

Announcing its implementation, Kejriwal had said studies showed odd-even scheme reduced air pollution level by 10-13 per cent.

Critics of the move point to lack of adequate number of public transport buses in the city, and role of dust in bringing down air quality.

Tiwari, in his letter, said that instead of bringing new buses to boost public transport, the government was targeting massive publicity campaign in the name of the odd-even scheme.

"While its efficacy has always remained doubtful, it gives you another avenue to get publicity and use the tax payers money towards a torrent of advertisements," he blamed.

He claimed that a robust public transport system in the city needed 20,000 buses, but the AAP Government has been able to procure just 25 buses so far despite being in power for over four years.

Tiwari demanded that the Chief Minister declare the amount to be spent on advertisements of odd-even scheme.

SDMC begins cashless toll collection through RFID

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has started cashless collection of 'Environment Compensation Charge' (ECC) and toll at all of its 13 toll entry points in the national Capital through newly-installed state-of-the-art radio frequency identity

(RFID) system.

A senior SDMC official said till date, only 14,654 vehicle owners or drivers have recharged their tags and only 3,226 commercial vehicles have made payments through RFID tags while entering Delhi through these 13 toll entry points. "Around 2,625 commercial vehicles have been penalised and twice the

amount of toll and ECC was recovered from them for entering Delhi without RFID tag or insufficient recharge amount in their tags from midnight of Friday," he said.

Further, it has also been noticed that some commercial vehicles had entered Delhi through free lanes at these 13 entry points to avoid penalty. Registration number plate of these commercial Vehicles have been captured through cameras installed at these free lanes, he said.

The official said that it was also directed by EPCA to collect twice the ECC and toll charges from commercial vehicle owners or drivers entering Delhi without RFID tags or without sufficient recharge in their RFID tags.

Delhi Govt school tops ranking of day schools in country

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

National Capital school has topped the rankings for Government day schools in the country, while two others have made it to the first 10 in the rankings released by an education portal, a statement from the Delhi Government said on Saturday.

The Government-run Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalaya (RPVV), Sector 10, Dwarka, has been ranked no. 1 in the India School Ranking 2019 released by Education World (EW), a portal for educators, teachers and parents which comes out with rankings for schools every year, the statement said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal congratulated teachers and principals of these schools for their efforts. "A Delhi Govt school in Dwarka has been named the best Govt school in the country. Two more are in the Top 10. Congrats to all teachers, principals and officials. It is your effort that has made Delhi

26-yr-old shot dead by unidentified assailants

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In yet another suspected gangwar, a 26-year-old man was allegedly shot dead by two unidentified assailants in northeast Delhi's Bhajanpura area. The incident occurred on Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Najim, a resident of Subhash Mohalla in Vijay Park. According to a senior police official, a police control room (PCR) call, regarding the incident, was received on Friday night following which a police team rushed to the spot.

"Najim was taken to the Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) hospital where he was declared brought dead by the doctors. Body has been sent for autopsy. He sustained four bullets, one in head and three in chest and abdomen," said the police official.

Hindu Sena blackens Babar Road signage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Right-wing outfit Hindu Sena on Saturday blackened the signage for Babar Road in Bengali market here demanding that it be renamed after a "great Indian personality". "We demand that the Government rename the road, which is after a foreign invader, to some great Indian personality. "Hence, we have blackened the road signage erected by the NDMC," said Hindu Sena president Vishnu Gupta.

Officials of NDMC, which is responsible for the upkeep of the road, were not immediately

available for comment on the issue.

ishment for murder) of Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Bhajanpura police station. Further teams are looking for CCTV cameras in the area to identify the assailants and to know the crime sequence," said the senior police official adding that further police is investigating the case with all angles.

According to sources, Najim was close to gangster Naseer and he had also got few cases registered against him. "Few days back, Najim had a quarrel with someone over a briyani at a restaurant in the area. Najim had filed a police complaint against that person," said the sources.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. BASTAR CIRCLE JAGDALPUR (C.G.)

e-Procurement Tender Notice

<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
Tender are invited for the Following Works.
Last Date of Tender Downloading :- 27/09/2019

S. No.	NIT No./NIT Date	Sytem Tender No.	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in Lacs.)
01	02	03	04	05
1	82/09-09-2019	56029 (1st-Call)	Construction of Sub Health Center of 'Ioynar Block Darbha	23.01
2	83/09-09-2019	56030 (1st-Call)	Construction of High School Building at Bastanar (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalay) Block-Bastanar.	48.51

For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Bastar Circle Jagdalpur
G- 73307/2 Ryp/Dtd 13.9.19

Public Works Department OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. BILASPUR CIRCLE BILASPUR (C.G.)

REOUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

No. 145/G Bilaspur, Dated 12.09.2019
Public Works Department (PWD) invites proposal for Planning, development, estimation and Structural design, detailed engineering and related services for the work

Construction of 1500 prisoners (seater capacity) jail at Bilaspur (C.G.)

Probable cost of project - 9710.00 Lac
Minimum eligibility for participants shall be as below:-

S.N.	Building project cost	The applicant firms, firms forming joint venture/consortium shall be	Earnest money (In shape as per Annexure-1 Favor of Executive Engineer, PWD Division No. 1 Bilaspur	No. Of Call
1	For project cost exceeding Rs. 50 crore	Empanelled as architect in class "A calss" in C.G. PWD	Rs. 20,000=00	1st call

General condition :- All the documents & Information as per para 7.4, shall be submitted through speed post/Registered post. so as to reach the office of under signed on or before dated 03.10.2019 by 17.30 hour. Any documents received after the last date and time will not be entertained.

The detailed RFP is available on the website www.cgstate.gov.in from where it can be downloaded for submission. C.G.PWD reserves the right to reject all or any of the application without assigning any reason.

Superintending Engineer Public Works Department Bilaspur Circle, Bilaspur
G- 73280/6 Ryp/Dtd 13.9.19

Over 1L footfall expected in Amit Shah's rally: BJP

PNS ■ RANCHI

Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) National President and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will flag off Chief Minister Raghubar Das' Jan Ashirwad Yatra from Jamtara on September 18 in a grand rally, which is expected to see the presence of at least one lakh BJP workers and supporters, BJP's State Spokesperson Praveen Prabhakar said on Saturday.

"Earlier, Chief Minister's Jan Ashirwad Yatra was scheduled to begin on September 15, but now, it will be flagged off by Amit Shah ji on September 18. The BJP aims to win at least 15 seats in Santhal Pargana this time," said Prabhakar.

The BJP has been strengthening its hold in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM) stronghold, Santhal Pargana, since

coming to power in 2014. The party has held a series of events in the region and Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated a Multi-Modal Terminal in Sahibganj with the objective to boost employment and development in the otherwise backward area.

Politically, too, the BJP has been laying emphasis on winning the support of voters in the tribal-dominated region. The preparations for Shah's visit are in full swing, BJP said on Saturday. Senior leaders of the party, including Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth and State General Secretary Dharampal, have met legislators and workers in the region and apprised them about the party's target in the upcoming elections.

The BJP launched its 'Ghar Ghar Raghubar' campaign on September 9, under which party workers and leaders are



going door to door and spreading awareness about the Government's achievements, said Prabhakar. The party has set a target of winning at least 65 seats in the 81 member Assembly in the upcoming Assembly polls here. In 2014, BJP became the first ever party to form a majority Government

in Jharkhand since the State's formation in 2000. Meanwhile, BJP's Godda MP Nishikant Dubey and Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth were appointed as members of the 31-member Information Technology Committee of the Lok Sabha, to be headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

Kapil Dev appointed Chancellor of Haryana Sports University

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Cricket legend Kapil Dev will be the first Chancellor of the Haryana Sports University at Rai in Sonapat district.

"Kapil Dev will be the first Chancellor of Haryana Sports University at Rai, Sonapat," Haryana Sports Minister Anil Vij said in a tweet on Saturday.

The Sports University of Haryana will be the third sports university established by a state government in the country after Swarnim Gujarat Sports University (Gandhinagar) and Tamil Nadu Physical Education and Sports University (Chennai).

Vij had earlier announced that the Sports School, Rai (Sonapat), will be upgraded to a Sports University. The State Cabinet had recently approved the proposal.

Vij had said that the uni-



versity will conduct academic and training programmes in physical education and sports sciences, including sports technology and sports medicine.

Courses will include training for sports management, sports infrastructure engineering, sports psychology, sports nutrition, sports journalism and sports marketing.

No unity in Chautala family now, Khap leaders call off efforts

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Chautala clan is likely to go to the polls with their separate political parties as unity efforts by the Khap Panchayats has failed.

The Khaps, trying for unity, on Saturday announced to call off their efforts to reunite the Chautala clan, after being perturbed over Jannayak Janata Party leader Dushyant Chautala's "trap" remarks.

Khap or caste council leader Ramesh Dalal also gave an ultimatum of two days to Dushyant for seeking an apology for his reported remarks. "We have decided to end our efforts to reunite the Chautala family from today," Dalal said on Saturday.

The decision to end their efforts of reuniting family was taken by 20 Khap Panchayats, he said. Khap Panchayats had been making efforts to reunite



Chautala family for the past several days. They had held meetings with former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, former Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal and Abhay Chautala.

While Abhay had said that he would abide by whatever decision was taken by Khap Panchayats, JJP leader Dushyant

Chautala had left it to his father Ajay Chautala after a meeting between Badal and O P Chautala on reuniting as family.

Dalal said that Khap Panchayats were upset with JJP leader Dushyant's remarks over the efforts of caste councils towards reuniting the Chautala family. "Dushyant made accusa-

tions of trapping him. He does not trust Panchayats, he insulted Khap Panchayats and he thinks that he is above Khap Panchayats," alleged Dalal adding that Dushyant's accusations are "baseless".

Dalal of Haryana Swabhiman Andolan said that he had sought apology from Dushyant for his remarks with-

in two days. In a letter to Khap Panchayats wanted to make him leader by reuniting Chautala clan but he made false allegations against him.

Notably, on Thursday in Sirsa, Dushyant had said, "Do they (Khap) want to trap me and make me the target. I am shocked to hear Ramesh Dalal's statement which he gave in village Chautala (in Sirsa) saying I am siding with the BJP. If there is any one party in Haryana which has fought BJP in the state it is the JJP. We have been raising people's issue."

The party has decided to contest on all 90 assembly seats in Haryana. On Thursday, Dushyant had also said that Khap Panchayats should work towards bringing together entire clan of late Chaudhary Devi Lal before working for unity in Chautala clan.

Meanwhile, INLD leader Abhay Chautala said that he would go by whatever decision was taken by Khap Panchayats. "Besides, I will also abide by what Ajay Chautala decides. If Ajay Chautala says I should leave politics, I would have also agreed to it," said Abhay.

Even Punjab CM Parkash Singh Badal had recently appealed for unity in the Chautala clan. Notably, the family feud in the Chautala family has continued to play out in public despite the INLD's split.

The Indian National Lok Dal, a party founded by former deputy prime minister Devi Lal, had split in 2018 after a family feud. Former Haryana MP Dushyant Chautala, grandson of Om Prakash Chautala and son of Ajay Chautala, had launched the Jannayak Janata Party last year.

RSS chief to interact with foreign media

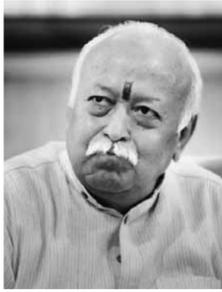
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

ED raids Income Tax Commissioner in Rose Valley chit fund case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

(PMLA).

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

After the earlier announcements of stimulus package, the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Steps to be evolved to check veg prices: Jagan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The dues to farmers of the previous government which

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

accumulated up to Rs 1,830 crores will be cleared by month end. Rythu Bharosa and input subsidies will come a long way in helping farmers in the days

to come, he said. The cultivation of pulses should be encouraged in dry and arid lands, he said. (Spot)

Focus on malnutrition among urban poor: Centre to States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

It further said asked the



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

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

It has also asked states and districts to promote urban

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

primary health centres and

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

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

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

Telangana is growing in IT investments: Min

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

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

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

He said despite repeated

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

any interest and land in the area with help".

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

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



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

BJP appoints Sanjay Jaiswal as Bihar unit Chief

SATISH PUNIA AS RAJASTHAN UNIT CHIEF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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



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

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

Besides these two key appointments, BJP President

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

India to offer 1,000 PhD fellowships to ASEAN students

AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

India Inc hails ₹70,000 cr package to boost economy

New Delhi: Hailing the Government's ₹70,000 crore package for stressed exporters and real estate, India Inc on Saturday said the measures are decisive as well as comprehensive, and will provide a boost to the economy in near-term.

It also said that the announcements are in line with the industry expectations. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced about ₹70,000 crore package for exports and real estate sectors on Saturday.

The package includes stressed asset fund of ₹20,000 crore for housing projects, a

new scheme for reimbursement of taxes paid on exports worth ₹50,000 crore and ₹1,700 crore dole for offering higher insurance cover to exporters.

"The Finance Minister's announcements are comprehensive and would give a boost to the economy in the near term. She has addressed issues in the two critical sectors that are facing distress — exports and housing — and the announcement are in line with industry recommendations," said CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee in a statement.

In housing, relaxation of ECB guidelines and a fund for

last mile funding for completion of housing projects are in line with industry demands, the statement noted.

"Urgent measures were needed to support exports, which have been declining in the current year. The new scheme to compensate exporters for all duties is going to help considerably. Additional measures such as provision of higher insurance cover, monitoring of export finance and turnaround times at ports and airports will go a long way in improving competitiveness of Indian exporters," Banerjee said. **PTI**

Knitwear exporters hail Sitharaman's announcement

Coimbatore: Tirupur Exporters Association on Saturday thanked Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for announcing new measures to boost exports and for considering the continuation of MEIS (Merchandise Export from India Scheme) at four per cent till December end.

TEA President Raja M Shanmugham in a release also thanked her for announcing revised priority sector lending norms for exporters, which will release an additional funding of ₹36,000 crore to them.

He welcomed the announcement that leverage of technology would be used to reduce Time to Export or Turnaround Time, which would give a cushion to export units and help meet delivery schedules and also reduce logistics costs.

The measures would give confidence to the struggling Tirupur knitwear export sector, he said and hoped that the pending amount would be reimbursed expeditiously. **PTI**

GST: Aadhaar to be mandatory for new dealers from Jan 2020

Bengaluru: In order to check malpractices in GST, the GST Network on Saturday decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 2020.

"Aadhaar authentication of new dealers will be mandatory. Earlier it was optional. But we have noticed in two years that there's good number of fly-by-night operators. They

make fake invoices," Bihar deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, who heads the Group of Ministers of GST Network told reporters after a meeting here.

Those who don't want Aadhaar authentication, physical verification will be carried out, which will be completed in three days, he added.

As refunding is a big issue, the GSTN decided on com-

plete online refunding from September 24 this year from a single source, either by the Central GST or State GST, Modi said.

The GSTN also decided the much simplified new return system may be launched on January 1, 2020, the Bihar Deputy Chief Minister said.

The GST Council meeting is scheduled in Goa on September 20, he added. **PTI**

IN BRIEF

US PLEDGES TO BOOST TRADE WITH BRAZIL
Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo promised his Brazilian counterpart that exchanges of goods and services between the two countries will increase but made no mention of a possible bilateral free-trade deal. "All of Brazil's efforts give the United States great confidence to cooperate in new ways. We're going to grow our trade relationship that already accounts for more than \$100 billion annually," Pompeo said at a joint press conference with Ernesto Araujo at the State Department on Friday. Efe news reported. The US's top diplomat hailed the strong partnership between President Donald Trump's administration and the Government of rightist Brazilian head of State Jair Bolsonaro in terms of the economy and regional security.

QATAR GIVES \$2.9 MN TO FEED NEEDY YEMENIS
Rome: Qatar has donated \$2.9 million to help the United Nations World Food Programme provide vital food assistance to over 160,000 vulnerable people in war-torn Yemen over a two-month period, WFP said in a statement. The Qatari funds enabled the WFP to distribute food vouchers to families in four governorates in western and southern Yemen — Al Jawf, Lahj, Dhahar and Taiz, said the statement. "WFP is working tirelessly in Yemen to provide millions with vital food assistance," said WFP Representative and Country Director in Yemen, Laurent Bukera.

Traders body wants Amazon, Flipkart's festival sales banned

New Delhi: Just a couple of days after Flipkart announced the dates of its "The Big Billion Days" sale, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has written to the government seeking a "blanket ban" on festive season sales conducted by the e-commerce giant as well as its rival Amazon and other such platforms.

While Flipkart announced

that its annual six-day sale ahead of Diwali and Dussehra would take place starting September 29, Amazon is yet to announce the dates for its annual bumper sale.

During these periods, the e-commerce platforms offer heavy discounts to lure customers as Indians tend to make major purchases during the festive season.

"By offering deep discounts ranging from 10 per cent to 80 per cent on their e-commerce portals, these companies are clearly influencing the prices and create an uneven level playing field which is in direct contravention of the policy," the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said in a letter to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. **IANS**

GOVT SHOULD TAKE CMS' VIEWS BEFORE CHANGING FINANCE COMMISSION'S TERMS OF REFERENCE, SAYS MANMOHAN SINGH

New Delhi: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said the Government should have taken Chief Ministers' views before changing the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission, adding that unilateralism is not good for federal policy and cooperative federalism. Earlier in July, the Centre changed the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission and mandated the panel to suggest ways for allocation of non-lapsable funds for defence and internal security. Speaking at an event here, Singh said any change in the panel's terms of reference at the end of its term should have been done in consultation with the States. "The best course would have been for the Central government that if it wants to tailor the terms of reference, it should be backed by Chief Ministers' Conference, which is now under the auspices of NITI Aayog, otherwise there would be strong feeling that the (Central) Government is trying to rob the states of due resource allotment. **PTI**

Merged entity of UBI, PNB, OBC to become operational from April 1 next year

Kolkata: The amalgamated entity of United Bank of India (UBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) will come into effect from April 1 next year, a top official said on Saturday.

The merged unit, likely to have a new name, will be the second largest bank in the country after State Bank of India (SBI) with a total business volume of ₹18 lakh crore.

"The amalgamation process will take some time and the new entity will start functioning from April 1, 2020," MD and CEO of UBI, Ashok Kumar Pradhan, said.

The three banks held a customer meet here, which was attended by Chander Khurana, GM of Punjab National Bank and Binay Kumar Gupta, GM of Oriental Bank of Commerce. The lenders said that there will be no retrenchment of staff in the merged entity, and also ruled out the possibility of bringing in Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). Pradhan later told reporters that the combined staff strength post the amalgamation will be 1 lakh with 11,400 branches. **PTI**

SBI wants to be lead-bank for Ladakh, opens 14th branch

Diskit (Ladakh): The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has expressed desire to become the lead-bank for the newly carved-out Union Territory of Ladakh.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar Saturday inaugurated a new branch in this remote town of Diskit in the Nubra Valley, making it the 14th facility of the bank in the Ladakh region and 22,024th branch for the bank.

Every state or region has a lead-bank, which takes the mantle of ensuring adequate banking services as the convenor of the state-level banking committee.

At present, J&K Bank is the lead-bank for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. On August 5, the government had

announced that the entire region will cease to be a single state but would become two Union territories of J&K and Ladakh, wherein J&K will have a state Assembly under lieutenant governor, while Ladakh will have no legislature.

The announcement was part of the government decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution which gave special status to J&K.

Speaking to reporters here Saturday, the chairman said if other banks have a problem to be the SLBC convenor, SBI is willing to take up that mantle.

He said the branch in Diskit was planned over three months ago, much before the Centre decided to bifurcate the state into two UTs. **PTI**

WESTERN RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT
e-AUCTION SALE DURING OCT. 2019 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP
SPECIAL ATTENTION: ALL STEEL PURCHASERS & RE-ROLLERS

Public e-auction for disposal of P. way scrap, rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in OCT, 2019 as per program given below:

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	Depot	Depot Officer in Charge	Contact No.
04.10.2019	14.10.2019	22.10.2019	Mumbai Central	Sr.Divl. Material Manager - Mumbai Central	022-23094142, 09004499003
04.10.2019	14.10.2019	22.10.2019	ADI	Sr.Divl. Material Manager - Ahmedabad	0792205888, 09724093750
04.10.2019	14.10.2019	22.10.2019	SBI	Dy CMM - SBI	0792750030, 09724093770
07.10.2019	16.10.2019	24.10.2019	MX	Dy CMM - MX	022-24920571, 09004495750
07.10.2019	16.10.2019	24.10.2019	PRTN	Dy CMM - Dahod	026-73241295, 09724090455
07.10.2019	16.10.2019	24.10.2019	BRC	Sr.Divl. Material Manager - Baroda	022-22641592, 09724091750
07.10.2019	17.10.2019	25.10.2019	BVP	Sr.Divl. Material Manager - BVP	022-22444360, 09724097750
09.10.2019	17.10.2019	25.10.2019	RJT	Sr.Divl. Material Manager - RJT	022-22476943, 09724094770
09.10.2019	17.10.2019	25.10.2019	RTM	Sr.Divl. Material Manager - Ratlam	022-22230080, 09752492750
11.10.2019	21.10.2019	30.10.2019	Dahod	Dy CMM - Dahod	026-73241295, 09724090455

For detailed information please contact the concerned Depot Officers. Note: (1) Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. (2) e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. (3) e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal. (4) In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned depot Officer. (5) All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway. (No. SIII/Auction Programme/2019-20) Dated - 12/09/2019

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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Raigad Fort Special Cell), Road Project Division, Mahad, Dist. Raigad.
Email:- rpdmahad.ee@mahapwd.com Ph. No. 02145 222243
e-Tender Notice No. 03 for 2019-20

Online tenders in B-1 Form are invited by the Executive Engineer, (Raigad Fort Special Cell) Road Project Division, Mahad, for the following works Department of Maharashtra State. The name of work, estimated cost, earnest money, security deposit, time limit for completion etc. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> as under.

e-Tender No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rupees)	Bid Security (E.M.D.) (Rupees) via Online	Cost of Tender Form (Rupees) via Online	Period of completion of work (Calendar Months) (including monsoon)	Class of Contractor
1.	Improvement of Damaged Pathway From Shirikai Devi Mandir to mahadarwaja at Raigad Fort Taluka Mahad	5,57,84,156.00	2,80,000.00	3360.00	24 (Twenty Four)	Class IV & Above

Details Tender Notice Schedules, Corrigendum's, Terms & Conditions of Contract can be viewed and download online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> as under.

Schedule

Sr. No.	Stage	Start		Expiry	
		Date	Time	Date	Time
1.	Period of Downloading & Online Submission of bid documents.	13/09/2019	10.00	07/10/2019	18.00
2.	Prebid Meeting at Chief Engineer Office, P.W. Region, Kokan	27/09/2019	11.00		
3.	Online opening of Technical bid & Price bid (If possible) in Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Project Division Mahad District Raigad.	10/10/2019	11.00		

Sd/-
(V. R. Satpute)
Executive Engineer
(Raigad Fort Special Cell)
Road Project Division, Mahad

No. R.F.Sp.Cell/RPD/Mahad/AB/TC/567
Date : 09.09.2019.
DGIPR/2019/2020/2892

Business Corner

MOS RLY FLAGS OFF NEWLY-NAMED DARSHAN EXP
New Delhi: Suresh C Angadi, Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways participates in the thanks giving ceremony of naming 12493/12494 H Nizamuddin-Pune-H Nizamuddin Express as "Darshan Express".

Hon'ble Minister of State of Railways Suresh C Angadi flagged off the newly-named 12494 H.Nizamuddin-Pune Express as "Darshan Express" from H.Nizamuddin station yesterday night on 13.09.2019.

On this occasion, several dignitaries, General Manager Northern Railway TP Singh & other senior railway officials from Railway Board & Northern Railway were also present.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KATRA
EXTENSION OF DATES

Subject:- Extension of dates.
Reference:- This office e-NIT Nos.

1) 36 of 2019-20 dated 02-09-2019 communicated under endorsement No. 3827-47 dated 02-09-2019 13 of 2019-20 dated 17-06-2019 communicated vide endorsement No. 1293-1313 dated 17-06-2019.

2) 37 of 2019-20 dated 02-09-2019 communicated under endorsement No. 3854-74 dated 02-09-2019.

3) 38 of 2019-20 dated 02-09-2019 communicated under endorsement No. 3900-3919 dated 02-09-2019.

4) 39 of 2019-20 dated 03-09-2019 communicated under endorsement No. 3952-72 dated 03-09-2019.

Due to poor response, the date for uploading the bids for above noted tenders is hereby extended as under:-

S. No. 1, Particulars :- Date of downloading / submission of bids in electronic format.
Please read , From :- 04-09-2019 , Upto :- 16-09-2019 upto 4.00 PM
Instead of , From :- 04-09-2019 , Upto :- 11-09-2019 upto 4.00 PM

S. No. 2, Particulars :- Date of opening of Technical/ Financial bid.
Please read , From :- 17-09-2019 , Upto :- (12.00 Noon)
Instead of , From :- 12-09-2019 , Upto :- (12.00 Noon)

Note:- All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division Katra

No. DI/PJ-2638-P/19
Dated:- 13.09.2019

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Shamshad S/o Zamil Ahmad R/o C-195, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under **FIR No. 06/19 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Shamshad** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Shamshad** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Shamshad of FIR No. FIR No. 06/19 U/s 356/379/411/34 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.10.2019**.

By order
Ms. Ekta Gauba
Chief M. M (North-West) Court No. 101,
1st Floor, Rohini Court Delhi

DP/9367/NW/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Vishal @ Bhuri, S/o Dullar Singh, r/o A-375, 3rd Floor, Shastri Nagar, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 128/19 u/s 356/379/511/34 IPC, PS Bharat Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Vishal @ Bhuri** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Vishal @ Bhuri** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vishal @ Bhuri of FIR No. 128/19 u/s 356/379/511/34 IPC, PS Bharat Nagar, Delhi** are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.10.2019**.

By order
Ms. Ekta Gauba,
Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West),
Court No. 101, 1st Floor,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/9368/NW/19(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely **Harion Kumar S/o Sh. Jiya Lal R/o H.No.13/161, Trilokpuri, Delhi Aged-19** Years has been reported missing since 09.08.2019 vide **DD No. 44A Dated 17.08.2019** registered at Police Station Kalyanpuri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Black coloured T-Shirt and Blue coloured Jeans Pant.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Kalyanpuri, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
SHO, Kalyanpuri, Delhi
Tel.: 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No.: 011-24368639
DP/7013/ED/19

SHO, Kalyanpuri, Delhi
Tel.: 011-22772287, 22772251
Mob.: 8750871830

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: Approx 50 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Hair: Black & White, Wearing:** without clothes, was found in unconscious condition on 01.09.19 from PS Naraina Area & admitted in DDU Hospital, during the treatment Doctors declared him dead on 06.09.19. The dead body of deceased is kept in DDU hospital Mortuary for identification. In this regard a **DD No.11-A** dated **06.09.2019** has been lodged at P.S. Naraina, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Naraina, Delhi
Ph.No.: 011-25891181, 25892010
Mob.: 8750871122

DP/8414/WD/19

Drone attacks strike Saudi Aramco facility, oilfield

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GLOBE TROTTER

TIANANMEN SQUARE LENS MAN DIES

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

AF GOVT SAYS POLLS FIRST, PEACE DEAL AFTER

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

LANKA PREZ SACKS FIVE LEGISLATORS

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

Hamza bin Laden killed in US operation: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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



Hamza bin Laden

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

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

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

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

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

ship skills and the symbolic connection to his father, but undermines important operational activities of the group," Trump said. "Hamza bin Laden was responsible for planning and dealing with various terrorist groups," he added. Hamza's last known public statement was released by al-Qaeda's media arm in 2018. In that message he had threatened Saudi Arabia and called on the people of the Arabian peninsula to revolt. Saudi Arabia stripped him of his citizenship in March this year. Reports about the death of

Mall brawls, street fights as Hong Kong polarisation deepens



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

AFP ■ HONG KONG

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

tional hub has been convulsed by weeks of huge, sometimes violent rallies calling for greater democratic freedoms and police accountability.

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

Cameron says he is 'truly sorry' for Brexit divisions

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Taliban visits Moscow days after Trump says talks 'dead'

AP ■ MOSCOW

A negotiating team from the Taliban arrived on Friday in Russia, a representative told *The Associated Press*, just days after US President Donald Trump declared dead a deal with the insurgent group in Afghanistan. Russian state news agency Tass cited the Taliban's

Qatar-based spokesman Suhail Shaheen as saying the delegation had held consultations with Zamir Kabulov, President Vladimir Putin's envoy for Afghanistan. The visit was confirmed to the AP by a Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

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

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

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

Iran inks deal to develop gas field in tense Gulf

AFP ■ TEHRAN

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

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

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

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

African leaders laud Mugabe at state funeral in divided Zimbabwe

AFP ■ HARARE

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

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

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

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

Solid gold toilet stolen from English stately home

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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



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

this has caused significant damage and flooding.

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

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

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

Spanish PM visits flood-hit areas as death toll rises to 6

AFP ■ MADRID

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Saturday visited the country's flood-stricken southeastern regions as the death toll rose to six and train and air services were disrupted for a third day.

Since Wednesday, areas

here suffered some of the heaviest daily rainfall on record, causing chaos on the roads, cutting public transport and prompting rivers to burst their banks.

Flash floods swept away cars and swamped homes in the regions of Valencia, Murcia and eastern Andalusia.

SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED				
CIN : L74900DL1994PLC062222				
Regd. Off: Commercial unit no 355 on Third floor in building Aggarwal Kondli Plaza at Plot No. 8, LSC-1, Kondli Gharoli, Mixed Housing Sector, Mayur Vihar-III New Delhi - 110 096				
Email ID:sparklingindia@gmail.com; Website: www.sparklingfinshares.com; Ph. No. +91-9822178451				
Extract of Statement of Standalone Un-audited Financial Results for the quarter ended on June 30, 2019 (Rs. In Lakhs)				
Sl No.	Particulars	Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended
		6/30/2019	3/31/2019	6/30/2018
		Un-audited	Audited	Un-audited
1	Total Income from operations	1.24	3.04	1.40
2	Net (Loss) for the period (Before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-6.03	-23.1	-7.72
3	Net (Loss) for the period Before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	-6.03	-23.1	-7.72
4	Net (Loss) for the period After Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(6.01)	(22.97)	(7.68)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising (Loss) for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(6.02)	(22.76)	(7.65)
6	Equity Share Capital	400.05	400.05	400.05
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet as shown in the previous year	₹ -	(39.16)	-
8	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)			
(a)	Basic and Diluted EPS (before Extra-ordinary items) (in Rs.)	(0.15)	(0.57)	(0.19)
(b)	Basic and Diluted EPS (after Extra-ordinary items) (in Rs.)	(0.15)	(0.57)	(0.19)

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Results are available on the Stock Exchange Website (www.cse-india.com and www.bseindia.com) and Company's website www.sparklingfinshares.com.

FOR SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED
Sd/-
(CHERUKU SAGARIKA)
Director
Date: 14.09.2019
DIN: 07167996

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Head Office : Parivahan Marg, Chomu House, Jaipur
NIT FOR ENTERPRISE Re-House Planning (ERP) on SaaS basis
Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC), Jaipur invite bids from eligible bidders who have necessary qualifications and experience to carry out the work of Enterprise Rehouse Planning (ERP) on SaaS basis in a time bound manner. Details of this tender notifications and eligibility criteria can be seen in the NIT exhibited on website <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> OR our website transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc_sppp.rajasthan.gov.in from 05th Sep 2019, the bidders who are interested in bidding can download the RFP from aforesaid website from 05th Sep 2019 onward.
Raj. Samwad/C/2530/2019-2020 वि.सं. 90/2019-20 Dy. General Manager (IT)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Resident Commission
5, Pithiviraj Road, New Delhi - 110011
Telephones: 011-24611108, 24611210, Fax Nos: 24601277, 24627047
E-mail: jkhsdelhi@gmail.com

NOTICE
In continuance to the Tender Notice issued vide No. KRC/MTO/47/4483/19 dated 28.08.2019 and published on 31.08.2019, all the concerned are informed that the tenders for supply of cars on hire charge basis, could not be opened due to some exigency. The date and time for opening of these tenders will be notified separately.
No: KBI/AdvT/1846/47/2019 Chief Pay & Accounts Officer
Dated: 13.09.2019 Resident Commission
No: KRC/MTO/47/4861A-B-C/19
Dated: 12.09.2019

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

No. F-8(1) RMSC/EP/M-1/19-20/NIB/s/2496 Dated : 09.09.2019
NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB-439,441,442)
Three (3) bid as detailed below are invited for procurement of equipment & instruments for rate contract period of 24 months:-

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

Details of the bids may be seen at the office of the M.D. RMSC or State Public Procurement Portal website "sppp.raj.nic.in" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" or website "www.rmssc.nic.in". The bidding document may be downloaded from either of the above websites and uploaded duly filled in with payment of Rs. 2360/- (Rs. 1180.00 for SSI Unit of Rajasthan) through challan/banker's cheque/demand draft in favour of M.D., RMSC, payable at Jaipur for each individual bid.
Executive Director (EPM)
Raj. Samwad/C/2536/2019-2020
RMSC, Jaipur

India eye perfect start

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

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

ment intend to look ahead like the selection committee does?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Joe Denly plays a shot during the fifth match at Oval

ICC/Twitter

Aussies hopes fade as Eng dominate

AFP ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rohit can help India chase down targets: Bangar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Smith unfazed by burden of Australia run-scoring



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

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

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

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

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



Indian Skipper Virat Kohli speaks during a press conference

AP

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

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

"Look, experience is always

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

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

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

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

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

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

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

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



Navdeep Saini bowls during net session

BCCI/Twitter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LONDON ■ (AFP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESSURES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miller in support of De Kock's captaincy

PTI ■ DHARAMSALA

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

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

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

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

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

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



David Miller steps over a boundary net

AP

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

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

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

the pioneer agenda

I don't know whether it's audiences or filmmakers who want characters to be likable today, but I don't think actors are afraid of their characters being unlikable
— Dakota Fanning



FROM THE INSIDE

Heal self for a better world
The best way to inspire change in others is by changing ourselves. Meditate to relieve stress and heal

2



4

Watch over your karma
The driving spirit of the laws of karma is to put you through lessons of life as would help you evolve



THE BARE NECESSITIES

SIMPLE IDEAS THAT MATTER

Using a circular economy methodology, which promotes the use of products that do not end up in landfill and can be reused in a variety of ways without harming the environment, is the only sustainable option. Small changes in your daily life is all it would take to bring about that big change

What is waste? It is a poignant question that is often answered the same way in waste education workshops conducted by the Bangalore-based social business, Bare Necessities (that promotes adoption of zero waste practices, circular economy methodology and sustainability to consumers and businesses throughout India and further abroad through designing zero waste products, running educational workshops and providing sustainability consulting) as 'waste is plastic', 'chip packets', 'chocolate wrappers', 'food scraps', 'drink bottles', 'juice boxes'...



TIM DE RIDDER



TIPS FOR A SUSTAINABLE LIFE

FOR YOUR CLOSET: Pick ethical and slow fashion (Khadi, natural fibre, support local businesses); Support 'hand me downs'/swap clothes; Donate unworn clothes; Mending is loving your clothes even more; Leave the shoe box at the store; Carry a reusable bag for shopping; Avoid compulsive buying

HOME CARE: Dry clothes on a line, instead of a hanger; But detergent in bulk; Plan laundry days to save energy; Bring in houseplants to clean air; Use alternative house cleaning tools such as, wooden brush for light scrubbing, metal scour for stains, compostable brush for hard to reach places, reusable cloth wipes for mopping and cleaning, coconut husk for dishes; Use natural cleaning alternatives such as: coconut soap for floor and sink, baking

soda for scrubbing jobs, vinegar for mildew and laundry rinsing agent

GIFTING: Donate money to your friend's favourite charity; Opt for potted plants and homemade treats in a jar for giveaways; Buy local gifts that support local businesses; Give seeds or flower bouquets with no plastic attached; Get crafty, make handmade gifts; Wrap without plastic tape. Use newspaper, paper or cloth bag as alternative packaging; Gift an experience: go hiking, scuba diving, kayaking with friends and family

KITCHEN: Use a water-filter; Say no to plastic bottles; Steel/Copper vessels instead of non-stick; Use pressure cooker to half cooking time; Buy package free food from farmer's market; Use steel boxes for storage; Buy local bread; Make compost out of kitchen waste

These are all correct answers and there are many more of those fantastic responses that are received from school children as young as five or six years to well educated adults with tertiary degrees and many other people between. The feedback is exceptionally specific, which has its benefits, yet, for our discussion here, let's look at it on a broader note — Waste, as we would all agree, is humanity's excess.

Humanity is overproducing and over consuming (or not consuming at all if we take a look at landfills), research shows that the "average person buys 60% more items of clothing than they did 15 years ago", and, "an estimated one-third of all food produced — equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around \$1 trillion — ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling due to poor transportation and harvesting practices". These are two of several examples that could be used to illustrate this point. However, instead of finding more cases, let's think about why these situations occur? It has been noted that within the textile industry, within India, the one major reason why there is so much waste is because of a lack of awareness and education about how fashion can fit within a circular economy. Textile industry is the third largest producer of waste in most Indian states behind plastic and paper.

Notably too, research has shown that the current food system "exerts a considerable impact on the environment. It drives deforestation and biodiversity loss, contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for 70% of water withdrawals". This is a problem that affects every individual on the planet no matter where one is standing, but has the potential to disproportionately affect locations with larger societal inequalities — "almost 2 billion people go hungry or

undernourished" across the globe. Thus, part of the reason why this is occurring is because of a lack of awareness. But, that is only a part of the problem.

For, if we were to look at similar types of excess in other areas of life, such as energy use (large cars, technologies such as smartphones) or in the areas of lifestyle and personal care products, we are forced to rethink if it is only about awareness. At an individual level, the focus should be to divert waste from landfill by using innovative design that fits within a circular economy.

A growing number of Sustainability businesses, such as Bare Necessities, aim to raise the level of awareness about the amount of excess that humanity is producing through their talks and workshops while providing alternatives and brainstorming ideas with consumers in order to assess whether there is a need for a product and then designing it for a market that desires innovation that reduces excess. These businesses target a

specific and growing market of conscious consumers.

Within the Indian market, the growth in conscious consumers has been led by leaders both individually and in business. Sharing of facts and figures is one important way to raise awareness. For instance, not many are aware that there is "estimated as many as 8.3 billion plastic straws (that) pollute the world's beaches". Or, that for dental care items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, "the package is not noticed during purchase, transport, and use of the product. In fact, it is not noticed until the minute the product is consumed and the package has fulfilled its function and turns into waste". Similarly for soap, "though one wrapper of soap or one bottle of shampoo might not seem to matter, it can definitely make a difference when multiplied by over a billion people, who live in India and who comprise one-seventh of the world's population". Individuals, businesses and groups, by

becoming more aware and implementing action plans (through design, reduction in use of products and other areas) are steadily able to do more to limit waste and humanity's excess.

This brings us to our next question — why is it such a struggle to change? There are a growing amount of facts about these areas of excess that illustrate the detrimental effects of a linear life cycle — the take, make, dispose system that sees many of our products resources being extracted from a limited resource (the planet) before being used and then disposed back into the environment.

Research demonstrates that using a circular economy methodology, which promotes the use of products that do not end up in landfill — instead the products can be reused in a variety of ways without harming the environment — is the only sustainable option. The circular economy is hugely beneficial in ensuring that humanity no longer produces and consumes products with a take-make-dispose methodology, and thereby helps to sustain both us and the environment we live in.

When you think about it on a day to day basis, there are numerous systems around you that call for your attention — where you buy your food is one example and how often you wear your clothes is another. All systems have set processes that are, more or less, controlled by majority stakeholders, who have the greatest say of how a system functions, in terms of production and consumption. This is not, however, doom and gloom, the thing to remember with systems is that until there is enough consumer demand, change often will not occur. Currently, slowly but surely, large companies are becoming aware of the growing consumer demand.

There is a growing focus on designing new solutions that must be valued by

all for long term reduction in the contamination of water, land and air — our environment. Examples of this can be seen as far afield as Mexico where a company is transforming avocado pits into disposable bioplastic straws and cutlery, and in Indonesia where the root vegetable cassava is used to create biodegradable bags. By designing new products, along with minimising single use items, correctly disposing of used products in correct categories and limiting the amount of non-organic material, cleaning agents for example, used on a day to day basis, creating a zero waste environment for our all important planet can be achieved.

Consumer demand, and a willingness to accept responsibility as an individual, is at the heart of production and consumption. Fortunately there is a growing number of consumers, especially in the larger urban centres of India, who are currently wanting change and already taking responsibility. Businesses too are making their stand, for instance, Bare Necessities provides sustainable options to toothbrushes, cosmetics, detergents, soap, and even the humble tote bag among other products. These are all simple ideas that matter.

What, then, is waste? The answers heard at the beginning of a talk or workshop are largely those pointing to excess, yet, if we were to look at it in a different light, perhaps it is simply that it is a resource that we have yet to use, because everything matters when taking positive steps toward sustainability on a planet with finite resources. Therefore, we must endeavour to value every item, whether that is a piece of fruit, an item of clothing or any of the specific answers to the waste question touched on at the outset, we need to take the responsibility right down to the most bare necessities.

The writer is a Sustainability Consultant and Education Officer

CONSUMER DEMAND, AND A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AS AN INDIVIDUAL, IS AT THE HEART OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION. FORTUNATELY THERE IS A GROWING NUMBER OF CONSUMERS, ESPECIALLY IN THE LARGER URBAN CENTRES OF INDIA, WHO ARE CURRENTLY WANTING CHANGE AND ALREADY TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND, BUT LET YOUR HEART SOAR AS HIGH AS IT WILL. REFUSE TO BE AVERAGE OR TO SURRENDER TO THE CHILL OF YOUR SPIRITUAL ENVIRONMENT — ARTHUR HELPS



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Market needs stimulation



Democracies thrive on economy and economy thrives on confidence of the people in the system. India has for long carried forward the legacy of the Raj when the purpose of the then government was exploitation of the colony and filling the coffers of the British Government at the cost of India. The *babudom* that continued to hold the reins of governance after independence could not shake off its imperialist mind set and India went on to remain a country of subjects rather than citizens. But there are limitations to the rule by magistracy and collectorate and the signs are gradually showing. It is for this reason that in our TDS (Trust Deficient Society) driven economy business cycles hover between frequent troughs and occasional peaks. In the process, the confidence of the market continues to remain shaky as a result of societal paranoia. To cope with the situation the interventionist stimulations are tried time and again to boost the economy. The tricky part is that it works for short durations and goes back to the original bearish stance sooner than later. What is to be understood is that internal stimulation is required to keep the system ticking and kicking on its own. The only way this can be done is by boosting the confidence of the market which comprises not only the investors but also the consumers. In fact, it is the consumers that stimulate both the market and the investors. More so in a market economy which draws sustenance from a myriad of factors. It is against this backdrop that the recent opinion of the Chief Economic Advisor has to be viewed. In order to rejuvenate the markets stimulus packages are announced to bail out certain industries. But such steps are against the spirit of the market economy. Indian experience with the market economy is around three decades old, time enough to realise that market economy is governed by market forces. Naturally, there are sectors that reach the decline phase. How far can state sponsored stimulation help. Slowdowns are market phenomena that depend significantly on consumer sentiments, rather than only investor perception. Using tax payers' money to intervene every time there are slowdowns in certain sectors is fraught with moral hazards. If some sectors are assumed too big to fail than ensuring that they don't fail through interventions from the state tantamount to creating a situation where profits are private and losses are of the society. Systemic incentives are better options than fiscal stimuli. System needs to be strengthened rather than some sections. The measures announced recently by the government may seem to be prudent. But there is need to examine whether the slowdown bogey is a careful design by some smart operators rather than purely market driven. Markets depend more on psychological rather than economic factors. In order to keep an economy ticking the morale of the industry must be boosted. But government must not only appear to be industry friendly but also prove consumer friendly. Policy consistency is what gives stability to the economy. Knee jerk responses do not go far enough. It is pertinent therefore to give that confidence to the investors, consumers and financial institutions that things will not be allowed to drift.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

CHECK STRESS TO HEAL THE BODY

We may not be able to control the contraction of certain diseases which are genetic or which spread through the air, but we can control over our personal stress. There are ways to reduce and even eliminate stress in our lives. When we talk of eliminating stress, we do not mean eliminating problems. Problems will always be there. But we can eliminate our unhealthy physical response to the problems.

By learning the art of meditation, we will have a defense system against stress. The key is to have another kind of response to problems that will not stimulate these physical reactions in the body. If we can learn to meditate, then we can confront problems in a way that does not upset our physiological systems. Meditation provides a way for us to learn to control our reactions.

HEALING THE MIND

When we talk about healing our mind, we are referring to its reaction to problems we face that affect our thinking and our emotions. Each day we are bombarded by sensory stimuli from all directions. Each message coming in through our five senses is conveyed to the brain. Some messages require a physical response, but many of them require intellectual or mental responses. We have to think through problems, make decisions, plan, analyse, synthesise, create, and then communicate our thoughts to others.

Often times, the mental stimuli can bring about reactions of fear, anxiety, tension, confusion, indecision, and a host of emotional responses. Mental tension and emotional pain take their toll on our body and physical health. It also affects our ability to be productive and effective in the world.

MEDITATION FOR A HEALTHY MIND

We can avoid much of the stress, anxiety, and tension by meditation. Meditation is a way to relieve stress at the mental level and help us to have a healthy mind. A healthy mind means that we can deal with the challenges of life in a calm, composed way without it causing us to feel upset, depressed, anxious, fearful, or threatened.

A healthy mind means we deal with life's problems without it affecting our emotional make-up. We take things as they come, deal with them effectively, try to find the best solution, and move on. We do not need to be overwhelmed, overpowered, and upset over the daily situations we face. By sitting in meditation, we develop the calmness to approach problems and situations. The more we sit in meditation, the more we are able to return to that state of peace and harmony at any time during the day.

The writer is a spiritual leader

HEAL SELF FOR A BETTER WORLD

If we wish to heal our planet, we must begin by healing ourselves. The best way to inspire change in others is by changing ourselves, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



Our world is in need of healing, and there are many who have dedicated their lives to this cause. There is a way for each one of us to contribute to a better future, and it all begins in silence.

If we wish to heal our planet, we must begin by healing ourselves. We may not be able to change another person over the course of weeks, years, or even a lifetime, but we can change ourselves immediately. If each person worked on healing themselves, the effect would be monumental. If each person healed themselves, the benefits they experience may inspire others to do the same. Like a wave, the effect would spread, bathing the whole world in healing waters. So let us begin with looking at ways in which we can heal ourselves.

HEALING OURSELVES

When we speak about healing ourselves, we are not talking medically. The word "healing" involves making us whole in all aspects of our life. We are referring to healing our body, mind, and soul. Healing involves eliminating disease. What is disease but "dis-ease," not being at ease. We may find that we are not at ease physically because of different medical conditions. We may find that we are not at ease mentally due to problems we face at our job, in our homes, in our community, or at the

emotional and psychological level.

We may find that we are not at ease spiritually because there are questions relating to our soul and the Creator, and our purpose in life, that we have not yet found answers to that cause restlessness in our soul. Thus, to heal ourselves, we need to employ techniques to remove the "dis-ease," and put us at ease at every level.

HEALING OUR BODY

Advances in science and medicine have taught us a great deal about how to keep our bodies healthy and to ensure optimum performance of the body that we have been given. We know or have access to information about nutrition and personal health and hygiene. We know what precautions to take to prevent certain diseases. If we are to heal our body, we should lead healthy lifestyles: keep physically fit, strike a healthy balance between work, rest, and exercise, eat foods that are nutritionally good for us, eliminate habits and substances that are harmful to us, such as smoking, drinking and taking drugs, and safeguard against conditions that spread disease. The key is to observe these laws of nature so that we do not inadvertently and carelessly injure our body.

STRESS AND DISEASE

Doctors and medical researchers have discovered that stress has a role

IF EACH PERSON WORKED ON HEALING THEMSELVES, THE EFFECT WOULD BE MONUMENTAL. IF EACH PERSON HEALED THEMSELVES, THE BENEFITS THEY EXPERIENCE MAY INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. LIKE A WAVE, THE EFFECT WOULD SPREAD

to play in our health. They have learned that stress can cause a breakdown of our immune system and be a cause of ailments. Stress interferes with the healthy functioning of some of our bodily systems required to resist disease. It activates the "fight or flight" response causing certain biochemical reactions in our body. When we are in a state of stress, our heart beats faster. Certain hormones are released to get us ready to protect ourselves. Once released, they cannot be recalled.

A ready-alert system that was originally intended to help us escape physical harm becomes activated even in the presence of day-to-day situations that do not pose any threat to our life. Thus, we carry within us a state of stress, or a state in which our body is responding to fear and threat even in situations that are only problems for our mind. Because we are not fighting or fleeing, our body has no way to dissipate the bottled up stress and we carry it around with us throughout the day. Ultimately, it begins to cause problems for us internally, and different organs begin reacting to that stress. Thus, stress that is unchecked and not dissipated can affect our heart, our lungs, our circulatory system, our digestive system, our skin, and our nervous system. We may suffer from stress-related headaches, stomachaches, breathing problems, and nervousness.

Positivity reigns supreme

Positive affirmation is the key to success. Hard work and positive visualisation leads to positive behaviour and weeds out negativity, says SARITA MATHUR



Being in the present moment is the gift of the moment. Only when you live in the present time awareness do you enjoy the moment. There is no guilt or regret from the past. There is no fear of the unknown either. Imagine, when heart-based awareness rules, anger and resentment are no longer a part of your life. Just a peaceful state of acceptance and embracing of the present moment. A sense of adventure and positivity reigns supreme.

Being who you are and speaking up for yourself is a sure shot way of enjoying your life. Often, we do not say what we mean. Consequently, we keep thinking about it — about what we should have said, or not. We are plagued by negativity. By constantly pleasing other people, we put ourselves last. This does not lead to happiness. It actually makes us resentful and unhappy.

By being people pleasers, we do not make anyone happy. People do not realise that we are not doing what we want to. They take us for granted. We earn respect only when we are true to ourselves. We must

speak up when someone is rude to us or says something that we do not agree with. Otherwise, it is too late. The moment is lost and then regret creeps in. By being true to ourselves and honest with our feelings, we feel powerful. Other people's opinion should not make us feel small. They are speaking their own truth. We can accept it if we want to, but not feel bad when they voice it.

The importance of visualisation cannot be overestimated. When we are young, it is called day dreaming. "Do not day dream!" we are often told. However, we can day dream ourselves into a glorious future. If we want a four-bedroom house and keep visualising ourselves living in one, chances are our dream will come true. The Universe answers our prayers. Positive affirmation is the key to success. Hard work and positive visualisation at all times leads to positive behaviour and weeds out negativity. When we dream big and work towards it, our dream is achieved. Positive and constant affirmation are the key to success. Breathing techniques are important.

Focusing on the breath is what people do to control negative thoughts. Breathe in and out slowly while counting each breath. This technique helps the mind to focus on one thing at a time. Most people cannot even count up to ten without thoughts crowding their mind. However, with practice it becomes easier. Each thought is received with detachment. The focus is on breathing. Once should not get attached to one's thoughts. Let the thoughts come and go and focus on the breath. Thought protection or mantras is sound healing. Keep chanting positive thoughts (a word or a sentence) and the vibration will flow through your mind and body. More importantly, there will be space for no other thought. When there is no space for negativity, positivity reigns supreme. The sound of a bell chiming (church or temple bell) sends sound vibrations through the metaphysical centre of the body creating peace and wellness. This is energy vibration. These rituals are profound in nature. They have deep meaning and natural healing.

Additionally, when you believe in a higher energy, and focus on it, peace comes to you. Your world may be out of control, but your faith in that higher energy will be there to help and guide you. God will give you whatever you desire, keep you safe and ensure you remain healthy. That, for most people helps them leave negativity and move towards positive thought.

Hands on and distant healing techniques help the mind calm down and the body to heal. These energy techniques are considered alternative, but more people are following and practicing them. Reiki, Chi Gung and Taichi are a few healing modalities. They bring the body and mind into balance and all negative thoughts get dissipated. As I like to say: life is full of joy. Visualise it, believe in it and work towards it.

Mathur is the author of *Once Again Love: Reconnecting with the Heart*

Correct your self-image

Appearance of self has a large bearing on how we perceive ourselves. To be happy, we must have this image right, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Before I get into this important aspect of our lives, let us be clear about what self-image is all about. Defined as the opinion or idea that you have of yourself, especially of your appearance or abilities, self-image is very different from self-respect, which is the feeling of pride in yourself in terms of what you do, or say, being correct and good. Ego, which is defined as your sense of your own value and importance, is a lot closer to one's self-image.

Image is the impression that a person gives to the public. These are of two types — naturally occurring (the result of many years) and contrived. The latter generally has a sinister motive. Those in the business of cheating the public contrive to give a false impression of self. Fake *babas* come to the mind in this connection. Then, there are people who run ponzi schemes.

Self-image begins to form from childhood itself. This process goes on throughout one's life. One tries to enhance it rather than correct it. There are many factors, which go into image making and its evolution. Humans have been blessed with intelligence. Mature intelligence or wisdom comes after a very long time, sometimes many lives. Still, this fact does not prevent people from pretending to be highly intelligent. That explains why we make so many mistakes. A human is not above erring, but a false assessment of self-intelligence makes it worse.

Appearance of self has also a large bearing on how we perceive ourselves. Good looking people feel more confident about themselves because the appearance is the first thing one notices in a person. However, this factor is not absolute. Other factors like abilities have a large bearing on how we assess our personalities overall. Personal values,



sanskars and morals, are also very important. They emit a feeling of superiority like no other. Our ambitions also decide how we assess ourselves. Persons with high ambitions think highly of themselves and try to project selves in a positive way. They are more focused than an average person. In short, how we desire our future to be is very important in this connection.

Personal nature also determines the image one will have of oneself. And our nature is the sum total of our habits. For example, continued success in life gives the image of being a go-getter. Our past has a lot of bearing on how we will perceive ourselves or others will. After all, are we not a sum total of what we have been, the acts we have done earlier.

The society we live in also influences how we assess ourselves, or like to be. We wish to be one of it and somewhat better. Health also plays a part. Healthy people are more likely to exude confidence. Circumstances and age force changes. In older age, one accepts that one is not so physically capable.

This fact brings out the necessity of correcting the self-image; we cannot be attached to any one version of it. Generally, the self-image is always superior to what we actually are. This puts a lot of pressure on one to rise to that standard. Some will say that it is a motivating factor for self-improvement. Yes, it is true as long as the gap is manageable, otherwise it results in stressful existence. It is very important that we have the right image of ourselves.

Trying to stick to some image is not wise, because the self-image must be attuned to the present realities, otherwise pressure builds up. Most of us are unable to fight it and suffer. This becomes a bondage, which is quite harmful. Ideally, we should focus on doing our duties and the image takes care of itself. And the gap between the reality and what we project ourselves to be should always be manageable; only then, our lives will be better.

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Afghan peace process at the crossroads

Peace in Afghanistan, devastated by four decades of war, never seemed so imminent. However, the latest round of peace talks between the US and the Taliban leadership indicates the negotiation process may take longer than expected. This week, when US President Donald Trump announced that he was withdrawing an invitation to the Taliban delegation and the Afghan Government for a meeting at Camp David, it created utter confusion around the world. Does it signal a complete withdrawal of the US from the Afghan peace talks? Or is it leading to another Trump-style chaos without providing any solution?

How America behaves would matter the most for bringing an enduring peace to Afghanistan. In fact, Trump's announcement to halt the negotiation with the Taliban may provide a much needed opportunity for a complete reset of talks so that some of the critical previous mistakes can be rectified without fail. Trump's Afghan envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, himself an Afghan émigré, was said to have reached a tentative agreement with the Taliban leadership. As per that agreement, the US troops would have been withdrawn from Afghanistan within a period of sixteen months in return for hard-to-enforce commitments from the Taliban, like a break from the clutches of Al-Qaeda, denial of their territory for global jihad, de-escalation of violence and starting of negotiations with the dispensation at Kabul.

However such an approach is replete with possibility of losing the US ally and helping the Taliban at the cost of the Kabul Government. And for all these unwanted possibilities, many of Trump's allies and close confidants, including then National Security Adviser John Bolton, are critical of the draft accord.

Rather than immediate troops drawdown, the Trump Administration must utilise all channels to end the war in Afghanistan. It simply implies that Washington has to work closely with the Ashraf Ghani



Afghan Presidential Spokesman Sediq Seddqi gives a press conference in Kabul on Saturday. Seddqi said that the priority for his Government is to hold national elections later this month, rather than reach a peace deal with insurgents AP

Government. Ignoring or excluding the Ghani establishment will in no way help deserting or countering the Taliban monsters. History records that without involving the local allies, peace deal are unlikely to last long. For example, the Paris Peace Accord between the Nixon Administration and the North Vietnam witnessed the fall of Saigon two years after its conclusion in 1973.

Some experts are of the opinion that a competent third party must facilitate the ongoing talks between the US and the Taliban. Also the US can follow the example of what happened in Havana between

the Colombian Government and the FARC rebels (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) from 2012 to 2016. Further the discouraging part of the whole negotiation process is that Khalilzad is directly dealing with the Taliban. This clearly indicates that the Taliban does not need to bother about the popularly elected Government of Ghani and only America alone can decide the future course of action for this war theatre, even particularly excluding the womenfolk of the country.

Another negative aspect of the current peace deal is that the US has not demanded a ceasefire even as the price of

their own forces' drawdown. Again signals are coming out of the already completed draft deal is that it has simply asked for reduction of the Taliban attack, not for bringing the attacks to a complete halt. The peace deal also does not hold the Taliban responsible for the attacks constantly launched by jihadist forces such as the newly formed Afghan branch of Islamic State or Iraq and Syria (ISIS)-Khorasan Province and the Haqqani Network based in Pakistan. It must be understood by the US strategists that Taliban should not be trusted anymore and brokering deal with them without involving the Ghani establishment

might prove fatal anytime.

Finally, when Trump is pushing for a final withdrawal of troops, he must rethink. Maintaining a small non-combat force around 9,000 will surely cost him lesser. But then total departure for the US from the most unpredictable war theatre of the world without providing a sustainable solution might undermine these aspects: the US hegemony, credibility of the democratically elected Government in Kabul, and lastly, safety net for the Afghan civilian population.

Trump must revisit what happened when former President Barack Obama withdrew the US troops from Iraq

in 2011. The power vacuum in Iraq gave birth to the notorious ISIS and once again necessitated the return of the US forces to Iraq.

A deal between the US and the Taliban for the US forces to withdraw from their longest-ever war in the Afghan soil could probably push some radical fighters to work under the wings of ISIS that is raising its tentacles in Afghanistan. It is a golden opportunity for the ISIS to recruit some of the hardcore members of the Taliban. Interestingly, the ISIS, who battles the Afghan Government and the Taliban, is not a part of the ongoing peace process. Many will join

the ISIS despite it losing grounds in Iraq and Syria. Simply put, for some Taliban, they will be able to continue their jihad mission against those whom they perceive as infidels and enemies. For many others, who fear retribution from civil society once they return to normal life, it could be a refuge.

History is witness to futility of military intervention in intersecine war in Afghanistan. Therefore, for the US and its allies it's difficult to find a way out in Afghanistan. Typically, the traditional Afghan warlords may not to follow the terms and conditions of an imposed peace process by the western powers led by the US.

According to many security experts, after the withdrawal of US forces, the Afghanistan Government may encounter the same problems it witnessed during the Najibullah regime after the withdrawal of Soviet forces. What can be a solace for Afghanistan is that Trump has already promised to leave behind "a very strong intelligence" presence in Afghanistan which he calls as "the Harvard of Terrorists". However, if the US strategy is to achieve immediate and long-term security goals, it must cautiously address this problem: many terror groups conform to US foreign policy in order to survive.

Afghanistan remains a hotbed for the growth of jihadist outfits. And the country has gradually become a conflict zone for both regional as well as global hegemony. In the process, non-state actors like the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, the ISIS, the Al-Qaeda and many other local terror outfits would be used for playing the proxies of the great power mongers.

Certainly, what is coming up is slow death of democracy and civil society in this beleaguered nation. And more precisely, millions of ordinary Afghans who have been forced to live their lives under constant shadow of war will be at the receiving end.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

As US-Taliban talks are underway, there is a need for Ashraf Ghani Government's role in brokering the peace deal. Without the Kabul dispensation's involvement in the comprehensive negotiation process, the peace can't be sustained



MAKHAN SALKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Permanent Record of Snowden's story

The memoir, 'Permanent Record,' scheduled for release on September 17, offers the most expansive and personal account of how Snowden came to reveal secret details about the US Government's mass collection of Americans' emails, phone calls and Internet activity in the name of national security

Former US National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden has written a memoir, telling his life story in detail for the first time and explaining why he chose to risk his freedom to become perhaps the most famous whistleblower of all time.

Snowden, who now lives in Russia to avoid prosecution in the US, says his seven years working for the NSA and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) led him to conclude the US intelligence community "hacked the Constitution" and put everyone's liberty at risk and that he had no choice but to turn to journalists to reveal it to the world.

"I realised that I was crazy to have imagined that the Supreme Court, or Congress, or President Obama, seeking to distance his administration from President George W Bush's, would ever hold the intelligence contractor legally responsible — for anything," he writes.

The book, "Permanent Record," is scheduled to be released on September 17. It offers by far the most expansive and personal account of how Snowden came to reveal secret details about the Government's mass collection of Americans' emails, phone calls and Internet activity in the name of national security.

His decision to turn from obscure intelligence contractor work to whistleblower in 2013 set off a national debate about the extent of Government surveillance by intelligence agen-

cies desperate to avoid a repeat of the September 11 attacks. Intelligence officials who conduct annual classified assessments of damage from Snowden's disclosures say the documents will continue trickling out into the public domain for years to come.

Though the book comes six years after the disclosures, Snowden, who fled first to Hong Kong and then Russia, attempts in his memoir to place his concerns in a contemporary context. He sounds the alarm about what he sees as Government efforts worldwide to delegitimise journalism, suppress human rights and support authoritarian movements.

"What is real is being purposefully conflated with what is fake, through technologies that are capable of scaling that conflation into unprecedented global confusion," he says.

The story traces Snowden's evolution from childhood, from growing up in the 1980s in North Carolina and suburban Washington, where his mother worked as a clerk at the NSA and his father served in the Coast Guard.

He came of age as the Internet evolved from an obscure Government computer network and describes how a youthful fascination with technology — as a child, he took apart and reassembled a Nintendo console and, as a teenager, hacked the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory network — eventually led him to a career as an NSA contractor,



In this February 14, 2015, file photo, Edward Snowden appears on a live video feed broadcast from Moscow at an event sponsored by ACLU Hawaii in Honolulu AP

where he observed high-tech spy powers with increasing revulsion.

Analysts used the Government's collection powers to read the emails of current and former lovers and stalk them online, he writes.

One particular programme the NSA called XKEYSCORE allowed the Government to scour the recent Internet history of average Americans. He says he learned through that programme that nearly everyone who's been online has at

least two things in common: They've all watched pornography at one time or another, and they've all stored videos and pictures of their family.

"This was true," he writes, "for virtually everyone of every gender, ethnicity, race, and age — from the meanest terrorist to the nicest senior citizen, who might be the meanest terrorist's grandparent, or parent, or cousin."

He struggled to share his concerns with his girlfriend, who joined him in Russia and

is now his wife.

"I couldn't tell her that my former co-workers at the NSA could target her for surveillance and read the love poems she texted me. I couldn't tell her that they could access all the photos she took — not just the public photos, but the intimate ones," he writes. "I couldn't tell her that her information was being collected, that everyone's information was being collected, which was tantamount to a Government threat: If you ever get out of line, we'll

use your private life against you."

Before summoning a small group of journalists to Hong Kong to disclose classified secrets, knowing that a return to the US was impossible, he says he prepared like a man about to die. He emptied his bank accounts, put cash into a steel ammo box for his girlfriend and erased and encrypted his old computers.

These days, the 36-year-old Snowden lives in Moscow, where he remains outside the

reach of a US. Justice Department that brought Espionage Act charges just weeks after the disclosures. He spends many of his days behind a computer and participating in virtual meetings with fellow board members at the Freedom of the Press Foundation. "I beam myself onto stages around the world" to discuss civil liberties, he writes.

When he does go out, he tries to shake up his appearance, sometimes wearing different glasses. He keeps his head down when he walks past buildings equipped with closed-circuit television. Once, he says, he was recognised in a Moscow museum and consented to a selfie request from a teenage girl speaking German-accented English.

It's unclear when or even if Snowden will return to a country where his family has deep roots. He traces his lineage back to the Mayflower and ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War.

He was shaken by the September 11 attacks, but describes his "reflexive, unquestioning support" for the wars that followed as the greatest regret of his life.

"It was as if whatever institutional politics I'd developed had crashed — the anti-institutional hacker ethos instilled in me online, and the apolitical patriotism I'd inherited from my parents, both wiped from my system — and I'd been rebooted as a willing vehicle of vengeance." AP



THE TRUE TAROT IS SYMBOLISM; IT SPEAKS NO OTHER LANGUAGE AND OFFERS NO OTHER SIGNS — A E WAITE

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

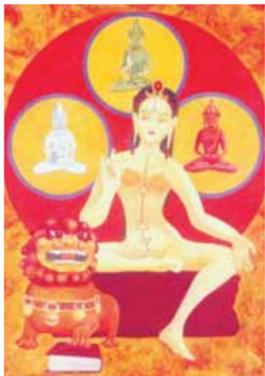
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You are very worried about the future. This will cause you tension and give you sleepless nights. Health issues like headache, insomnia, or BP may trouble you. You should not allow negative emotions like fear, frustration and uncertainty to immobilise you. Focus on your present. On the career front, stay away from flatterers as you may be deceived by inaccurate information. You may face frequent mood swings and insecurity. Hidden forces at play may unravel your success. The best part is that you are positive, know how to control the situation and come out as a winner. In your love life, you will feel strong and established. You are balanced and caring towards your partner. Love relations may turn into a marriage.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Turquoise
Lucky day Thursday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You need to find a positive environment where you can relax. You are likely to encounter a mental conflict and nervousness may cause the blood pressure to fluctuate. Focus on balancing your untamed energy. A disciplined lifestyle, balanced diet, regular medical checkup and exercise are unavoidable. Stay away from arguments and aggression. In your career, you will prove yourself trustworthy. It is likely to have genuine affection for someone in the work area. Those who have their own business will enjoy financial gains. Those in the job, the favour of a senior will boost your confidence. Your amicable behaviour and communication will work in your favour. In the matters of love, you will feel blessed. People will like you for your affectionate and romantic nature.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

For good health, you need to derive positive energy from the five elements: earth, water, air, fire and the sky. You need to adopt a balanced approach to life. Any irregularity in diet and lifestyle will have a bad impact on your health. Control your cravings and keep your anger in check. At work, you are meticulous and hard-working. You are willing to learn new skills. Your dedication and focus will work in your favour. Financially, there is a need to bring change in your lifestyle to increase overall gratification. The best part is that you are committed to getting those changes done. This week you will be lucky in love matters and have a high level of emotional contentment. You will see perfection all around you. Joy and happiness are within your reach.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will enjoy good health, good vigour and good stamina. You will not only be able to care for yourself but for your family as well. You will take a rock-solid resolution for a healthy family, and will leave no stone unturned to achieve your goal. On your career front, you may need to take some important decisions with regard to your career/business. Maintain a practical approach. There are chances of you being emotionally blackmailed. A female counterpart may play a significant role in enhancing your career. You will witness a one-sided love, therefore, you need to have lots of patience and strength. Those in a committed relationship may have to stay apart on account of responsibilities. Married couples will have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Navy Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Health-wise, this week is good. You will feel abundant energy and creativity. A female influence, either your mother or spouse, will help you meet your health needs and be a motivating factor to maintain a balance between physical and mental levels. You may slow down on your career front because you are under the constant scrutiny of competitors and rivals. You will feel restricted in life. Your addiction like alcohol, overspending or unhealthy relationship may become a hurdle in the path of success. Shield yourself from all these negativities. In the area of love, you need to accept and surrender to your present circumstances. It is advisable to leave instant temptation of gratification for the higher cause. Singles need to wait for some more time before committing to a relationship.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will do anything to achieve good health. You should decide whether you want to follow your mind or your heart. The first approach would be to scrutinise your innermost needs and expectations. Your career may be at a standstill and you will feel stagnated. You need to make cordial relations with your senior authorities. Your positive outlook towards life will keep you motivated and open doors for new opportunities. In terms of wealth, the result will be discouraging. Hard earned money will be spent on expenses and you will be left with no money in hand. Relationship wise, you are trustworthy and reliable. Singles will get the good message of love. Romance with your desired partner is on the card. Your commitment and loyalty will strengthen your relationship.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

In the matters of health, the change is for good. Positive outlook will bring improvement. The mental tension and fatigue due to the fast moving life will go away. Physical exercise and being with nature will work best for you. In your career, you are likely to find new job opportunities with better prospects. Those who have appeared for competitive exams, success is assured. You are likely to be called for an interview. Expect a good news in terms of promotion or salary hike. Your hard working and goal oriented attitude will pay you well. Friendship with juniors will bring you benefits. In your love life, your orthodox nature will lead to separation and leave you disheartened. You need to adopt a modern outlook towards your partner.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

It is important that you look after your health this week. Though you have been avoiding it, a visit to a doctor is a must. Be open and discuss all matters because appropriate medical advice and treatment is the need of the hour. Your spiritualism and faith in God is good and will help you to have a peaceful personality. You have good news waiting on your career front. This can either be a promotion or a salary hike. Due to a sudden change, you may get transferred to the desired place. Your perseverance and hard work will pay you well. In love, you may be deceived or feel disheartened. You are forced to sacrifice or surrender to be with your partner. This is not the right time to start a relationship or have high expectations from an existing relationship.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are full of creativity and positive energy. You need to utilise this energy in constructive pursuits. Make sure you maintain balance within yourself. On the career front, you will prove to be a genuine leader and people will listen to you. You will emerge as an efficient participant in meetings, collaborations and contacts. Support from opposite sex will help you achieve desired success. Those appearing for an interview or competitive exams, success is assured. In matters of love, you have to be a little careful. You should respect and understand the feelings of your partner. You can achieve success in a relationship by showing generosity. Presenting a gift, to your partner may create the magic and strengthen your love.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You will enjoy good health, vigour and vitality. Yoga, exercise, and nutritious diet will be very important for you. You are capable of regularising your routine, discipline your senses. Your career card holds good fortune this week and you will experience a sudden financial gain. The change is positive, the business will grow and those with jobs can expect promotions, increment or the desired transfer. Some of you may travel abroad for project work. Relationship wise, some of you may receive a message of love or a marriage proposal. Singles, chances of finding someone special is indicated. Married couples may go on a pleasure trip and their bonding will become stronger.

Lucky number 39
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will be moody and irritable. This may cause concern for your physical health. You might face health issues like headache, nausea and BP etc. You need to control your wild imagination and trust your instincts. Walk the path of enlightenment and stay focused. In career, you need to take action towards your greater good. You will be able to confront any unfinished business in your life, clear up any misunderstanding. Extra hard work is needed for good results. You may face a lots of challenges at work. Give your best, the rewards are assured. In relationship, abundance of happiness is in store. You will find balance and stability in love. Unmarried may get marriage proposals. You will leave no stone unturned to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 29
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you are filled with positive energy. Recovery from illness is indicated. An emotional issue concerning the care or treatment of someone close will be discussed. Follow a healthy routine like physical exercise and a balanced diet to stay fit and healthy. Career-wise, this is the best week. You will get an opportunity to change your destiny. You need to be positive and spontaneous. You will win the trust of your senior authorities and may be featured at the top in your Boss' list. Promotion is likely. A new beginning such as a new job, or a new residence, is indicated. In love life, a manifestation of desire, good fortune, and contentment are on the cards. Some of you might plan for a date or a romantic trip. Married couples may have a mutual understanding.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Pastel Green
Lucky day Friday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Watch over your karma

Having followed last two issues of this column, another regular reader came up with an interesting question: "Sir, you have beautifully explained how our karma sets the term for what we become due for — reward or punishment. But in our life, we do both good and bad karma. Would not the credits earned for all the good done, balance out our bad karma and relieve us from its future implications? You have also suggested that the choice option enjoins upon us with the capacity to filter off the undesirable. To what extent can we modify negative implications of our karmic accruals and what are the remedial measures necessary?"

In divine scheme of things, there is no provision of reward or punishment. Your good karma lets you realise your indwelling potential. That keeps you motivated to for well-intended karma. Your bad karma, in the first place, may stand in way or your potential blooming out in full. Also, it lets you go through similar experiences as would have been met out to others. Purposely so as to put you through such lessons as would make you realise your wrong doings and evolve. It doesn't work like business eco-

nomics where profit balances out the loss. The driving spirit of the laws of karma is to put you through lessons of life as would help you evolve. So, both good and bad karma find reflection simultaneously.

In so far as remedial measure is concerned, self-help offers the best answer. Bear in mind; only such process would work as could get into the inner realms of mind for necessary corrections from the root level. *Pundits* performing belief driven transactional *pujas* can't reach out your mind frame to nullify your habit tendencies. Had it been so, no resourceful person would ever suffer in life.

It is pertinent to note here that thought seeds pertaining to the karmic carry over from the past are imprinted in the mind. They find reflection in your thought process. When you self-reflect, you may figure out different patterns in the thought process playing within mind. That may help you identify and acknowledge the fault lines, and then address them. Often, your ego may not let you dispassionately acknowledge indwelling infirmities. Here, astrology may serve as an effective diagnostic tool, which, through a look at the energy-map of heaven at the time of one's birth, reflects



upon your karmic accrual with a fair amount of precision, as energy knows no bias. The redressal process is not that easy either, as habits die hard. Better seek the guidance of a realised Guru, who is adept in overcoming the limitations of mind and psyche. The extent to which one could modify the implications of karmic carryover from the past depends on your will and resolve to change yourself through sustained efforts.

Here is the case of a person who had been doing extremely well in so far as his business was concerned. But at the same time, he and his family members were faced with a criminal case of serious dimension. Look at his astrological pointers. Towards the potential side, Jupiter, the lord of *Kendra* house occupying its own house, aspects Venus the lord of trine house, which occupies the 10th house identified with career prospects. The 10th lord Mercury occupying the 11th house identified with fulfillment of desires, is posited in the *nakshatra* owned by Venus. Association of *Kendra* and Trine houses speaks loud of his promising career. Further to that, mind signifying Moon, beautifully aligned with Mercury makes him an intelligent person armed with good communicative skill, vital to success in life.

Towards the negative, the Sun is locked in adverse formation with mischievous Neptune, which binds him to his fanciful dream perceptions, not realising that it could put him through difficult situations. Added to that is Venus, ill-disposed off to Neptune. That makes him susceptible to get into unconventional partnership, not acceptable by societal norms, thus putting his morality in question. If all that would not be enough, the Sun is in opposition to its planet of nemesis Saturn. That makes him vulnerable to come under the scanner of law enforcement agencies. As he entered his 38th year, the progressed *lagna* closed up Neptune, which was already placed adverse to Venus. Progressed Sun formed unholy alliance with natal Venus. Progressed Venus as well as Moon, locked horns with Neptune. All these negative indicators simultaneously coming into play, his extra marital relationship created a situation that put him through a very difficult situation.

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