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BOOST RURAL DEMAND: SBI REPORT

RAIPUR, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



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PSA slapped on Farooq for detention

SC to hear Vaiko's plea against NC leader's house arrest on Sep 30; court allows Azad to visit Valley

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Jammu & Kashmir administration on Sunday invoked the stringent Public Safety Act against former State Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah to detain him, a day before the Supreme Court took up a petition against his "illegal detention".

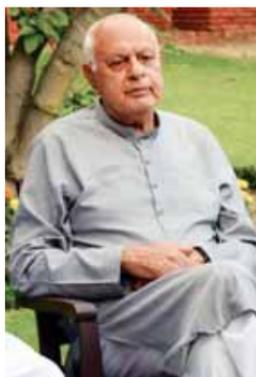
At 81, Abdullah has been charged with "disturbing public order" under the law, which means shorter detention of three months.

On Monday, the SC asked the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to respond to a plea seeking that Abdullah, allegedly under detention following the scrapping of the State's special status, be produced before the court.

Meanwhile, the SC allowed Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad to visit Kashmir but barred him from holding rallies or public meetings there.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer issued notice to the Centre and the J&K administration, and fixed Rajya Sabha MP and MDMK leader Vaiko's plea for hearing on September 30.

Vaiko, who said he has been a close friend of Abdullah for the past four decades, has contended that the National Conference leader has been deprived of constitutional rights on account of "illegal detention without any authority of law".



Father's Act hounds son

Never would Sheikh Abdullah have imagined that his son Farooq would one day be arrested under the PSA which he, as the chief minister of J&K in 1978, enacted to fight timber smugglers in the State

The National Conference said the party would take legal course to challenge the detention of its president Farooq Abdullah under the Public Safety Act in J&K

"Is he (Abdullah) under detention?" the Bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for J&K. Without going into the issue of whether Abdullah has been kept under detention, Mehta said, "I do not have a copy of the petition. I have to take instruction on this."

There was no word by the lawyers from any side during the hearing that the Jammu & Kashmir administration has slapped the Public Safety Act to detain Farooq under the stringent law. After the Bench issued notice on Vaiko's petition, Mehta questioned his locus in filing a "habeas corpus" petition — a writ requiring a person under detention or arrest to be produced before a court. "He (Vaiko) has no locus.

How can he file a habeas corpus petition? He is not his relative. His (Abdullah) relatives have approached the High Court there," Mehta said. The Bench, however, asked the Centre and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to file their responses on Vaiko's plea. In his plea, Vaiko had said authorities should allow Abdullah to attend a "peaceful and democratic" annual conference, being organised in Chennai on September 15, on the occasion of birthday of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister CN Annadurai.

"The actions of the respondents (Centre and J&K) are completely illegal and arbitrary and violative of the right to protection of life and personal liberty, right to protection



CRPF personnel stand guard near the residence of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Monday PTI

from arrest and detention and also against right to free speech and expression which is the cornerstone of a democratic nation," the plea said.

"The right to free speech and expression is considered to have paramount importance in a democracy as it allows its cit-

izens to effectively take part in the governance of the country," it said. Vaiko said he had written a letter to the authorities on August 29 to allow Abdullah to travel to Chennai to attend the conference but they have not responded.

Continued on Page 4

Restore normalcy in J&K within ambit of national interest: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

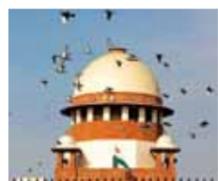
The Jammu & Kashmir administration was directed by the Supreme Court on Monday to make "all endeavours" to ensure restoration of normalcy in the valley while keeping in mind "national interest and internal security".

The apex court, which also asked the Centre to ensure restoration of services and normalcy in Kashmir "as soon as possible", said efforts should be made to ensure that people have access to medical facilities, education, public transport and communication.

"The State of Jammu & Kashmir, keeping in mind the national interest and internal security, shall make all endeavours to ensure that normal life is restored in Kashmir; people have access to healthcare facilities and schools, colleges and other educational institutions and public transport functions and operates normally," a Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said in its order.

"All forms of communication, subject to overriding consideration of national security, shall be normalised, if required on a selective basis, particularly for healthcare facilities," said the Bench, which also comprised justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer.

Attorney General KK Venugopal, representing the Centre, and Solicitor General



Tushar Mehta, appearing for Jammu & Kashmir, informed the Bench about steps taken by the authorities to restore normalcy in the State and also the Valley.

The top court, which posted the matter for hearing on September 30, asked the Centre and Jammu & Kashmir to file their affidavits indicating their responses on the plea and applications which raises the issue of shutdown of mobile and Internet services in the valley and lack of health care facilities there.

While Venugopal apprised the Bench about medical and other facilities being provided to the people, Mehta said that "not a single bullet has been fired" in the State since August 5, the day when Article 370 was abrogated. Venugopal said that since 1990 till date, 41,866 persons have lost their lives in 71,038 incidents of terrorist violence in the state which includes 14,038 civilians, 5,292 personnel of security forces and 22,536 terrorists.

Continued on Page 4

Trump to join PM at mega Howdy, Modi!

US Prez's special gesture testimony to growing bilateral bonds, says Modi

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI



US President Donald Trump will join Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the mega "Howdy, Modi!" diaspora event in Houston on Sunday to reaffirm the Indo-US strategic ties, the White House has announced, a decision hailed by the Prime Minister as a "special gesture" by the US President to underscore the special bond between the two countries.

Emphasising the new bonhomie in the India-US ties under the Trump Administration, this is for the first time in recent history that the leaders of the two largest democracies would be addressing a joint rally.

More than 50,000 Indian-Americans have registered for the September 22 "Howdy, Modi! Shared Dreams, Bright Futures" event to be held at the sprawling NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

"Howdy", short for 'How do you do?', is a friendly greeting commonly used in south-

western United States.

In a statement on Sunday, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said, "It (Modi-Trump joint rally) will be a great opportunity to emphasise the strong ties between the people of the US and India, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between the world's oldest and largest democracies, and to discuss ways to deepen their energy and trade relationship."

Soon after, Modi said he looks forward to joining the Indian origin community in welcoming President Trump at the programme. "A special gesture by @POTUS, signifying the special friendship between India and USA...Highlights the strength of the relationship and recognition of the contribution of the Indian community to American society and economy," the PM tweeted.

Continued on Page 4

Cong, NCP to fight 125 seats each in Maha polls

Keep aside 38 seats for allies to take on BJP-Sena

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/MUMBAI

After going separately in 2014, the Congress and NCP have come together to contest the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly election together. Both the parties will contest 125 seats each and keep aside 38 seats for prospective allies in an attempt to form a broad-based alliance to take on the BJP-Shiv Sena combine.

In 2014, the NCP had then ended the 15-year alliance after the two parties had been unable to reach a seat-sharing arrangement ahead of Assembly elections. The Congress had won 42 seats while the NCP had won 41 seats then. The BJP had emerged as the single-largest party in the State with 122 seats.



The finalisation of the seat-sharing pact between the Congress and the NCP comes after many high-profile leaders from both the parties deserted them to join the BJP and the Shiv Sena. Sharad Pawar had called on Sonia Gandhi in Delhi last week where the two gave final shape to the alliance.

Announcing the deal, Pawar said the seat-sharing pact between the grand old party and the NCP has been finalised and his party will give opportunity to new faces this time. Pawar also said both

the parties are yet to decide on the specific seats they will contest.

The smaller parties, which will contest the remaining 38 seats include Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana led by Raju Shetty and Bahujan Vikas Aghadi led by Prakash Amedkar.

Both the parties had contested as allies in the Lok Sabha this year where the Congress won only one seat and the NCP bagged four. In 2014 general elections, the Congress had won two seats from the State while the NCP won four. The NCP had contested on 21 seats while its partner Congress fielded candidates on 26 seats in the last Lok Sabha polls.

The Congress and the NCP have been in an alliance since 1999 except for the last Assembly elections and they have formed Government thrice. In the 2004 Assembly polls, the NCP had won more seats than the Congress, but the latter bagged the Chief Minister's post.

Continued on Page 4

Raipur local court rejects interim bail pleas of Ajit, Amit Jogi



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur local court on Monday rejected the interim bail plea of state's former chief minister Ajit Jogi and his son Amit Jogi, state president of regional outfit Janta Congress Chhattisgarh — Jogi (JCC-J) in 'Antargarh Tapes' case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Vivek Kumar Verma rejecting the bail plea strongly commented that "as both of them were the 'main link' in the alleged bribery case of Antargarh Tapes case and as the matter was pertaining to holding a free and fair polls, which is the very foundation of Indian democratic

system, they can't be compared to other accused.

The court in the judgment further opined that as prosecution had mentioned that both the accused were 'pivotal in the conspiracy', the bail could not be granted to them. "In their absence the incident might not have happened and thus their interim bail plea is rejected", it added.

Notable, the alleged bribery case led to withdrawal of nomination by Congress candidate Manturam Pawar in 2014 by-poll for Antargarh (Scheduled Tribe Reserved) constituency, paving way for almost a complete walkover in favour of BJP candidate Bhojraj Nag.

GAYATHRI MANI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to make the national Capital pollution free, the Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC), in association with the Rocky Mountain Institute, has decided to start a first-of-its-kind pilot project on the electrification of last-mile connectivity in Delhi, called Deliver Electric Delhi (DED).

Under the plan, all-out efforts will be made to promote electric vehicles as Delhi Metro feeder buses, to replace e-rickshaws, and to ply as e-commerce delivery vehicles. The Government plans to rope in online food delivery firms like Domino's Pizza, Big Basket, Zomato, Swiggy, and courier services in the project.

The Government is also expected to implement the 'EV Draft Policy' by end of the month.

The DDC submitted a new



study report to the Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Monday. The study suggests that the EV policy of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government can help make Delhi a pollution-free city.

"As Delhi looks to take ambitious steps towards inducing large number of electric buses and taking leadership in fighting air pollution, this report will become an important reference point for all our

agencies on the various reforms needed to ensure a successful transition to electric vehicles."

About 1,000 electric last-mile delivery vehicles are expected to be part of the pilot project over the next year.

The main aim behind the project is to promote the usage of electric vehicles in the city. The Transport Department has already started the process to procure electric buses in order to provide last-mile connect-

Pakistan to open Kartarpur Sahib for Indians on Nov 9



Pakistani workers give finishing touches to the shrine of Sikh spiritual leader Guru Nanak Dev, in Kartarpur, in Pakistan on Monday AP

PTI ■ LAHORE

From November 9, Pakistan will allow Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy Kartarpur Sahib, a senior official heading the much-awaited Kartarpur corridor project announced on Monday.

Project Director Atif Majid made the announcement during the maiden visit of Pakistani and foreign journal-

ists to the proposed Kartarpur corridor in Narowal, some 125 km from Lahore, amidst fresh tension between India and Pakistan after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

Majid said so far 86 per cent of the work on the corridor has been completed and it will be opened to pilgrims on November 9.

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CAPSULE

7 CHINESE WARSHIPS SEEN IN INDIAN OCEAN

New Delhi: As many as seven Chinese Navy warships are operating in and around the Indian Ocean Region, including an over 27,000 tonnes amphibious vessel, which have been tracked closely by the Indian Navy using its American-origin P-8I anti-submarine warfare spy planes.

2 AUTO DRIVERS KILLED IN DELHI ROAD ACCIDENT

New Delhi: Two auto-rickshaw drivers were killed after a speeding car collided with their autos in North Delhi's Swaroop Nagar area on Monday.

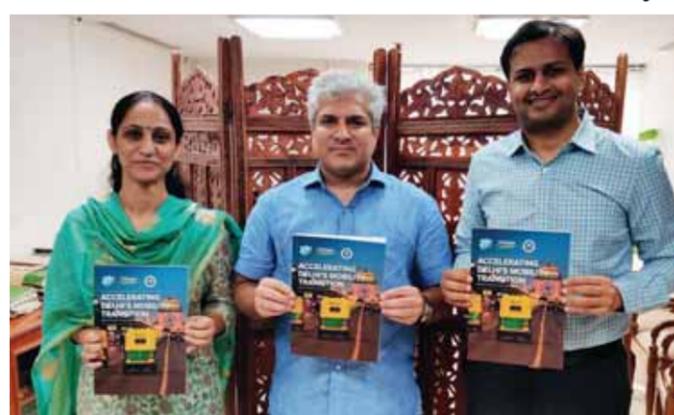
EX-AP SPEAKER'S SUICIDE SPARKS POL SLUGFEST

Amaravati: The suspected suicide of former Andhra Pradesh Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao triggered a political slugfest in the State with the TDP holding the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy Govt responsible.

NO OIL SHORTAGE DESPITE SAUDI DRAWDOWN: MIN

New Delhi: India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, will not face any supply disruption after a reduction in production at its No. 2 supplier Saudi Arabia, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

Delhi plans e-vehicles for last-mile connectivity



activity and to curb pollution. Besides, we are working with about 25 electric vehicle producing companies and solution providers to promote and cre-

ate awareness about the project. Further, besides 1000 EV, the Government will include the Zomato Swiggy and other delivery services to use electric

vehicles as these companies uses two wheelers largely for delivery services," said Jasmine Shah, vice-chairman of DDC.

Continued on Page 4

Plea against Admiral pick rejected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Armed Forces Tribunal on Monday dismissed Vice Admiral Bimal Verma's petition challenging the appointment of Karambir Singh as the Navy chief on the grounds that the former was the senior most officer for the top job. Verma had filed the petition days after the Government announced Singh as the new Chief after then chief Sunil Lanba was to retire on May 31. Singh took charge the next day.

In his petition in May, Verma, now heading the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar tri-service command, contended that the tribunal should call for his service records besides that of the then incoming chief and see if any "extraneous or irrelevant considerations" were placed before the competent authority to reject his case while the Navy Chief appointment was being made.

Verma also contended that he was the senior most officer after Lanba to be considered for the top job. He was overlooked by the Government and Singh was made the chief. Verma is set to retire in November.

The NDA Government in its 2014-2019 tenure set aside the convention of selecting the senior most officer as the chief and named Bipin Rawat as the Army Chief though he was junior to Lt General P Bakshi. Similarly, Karambir Singh was appointed the Navy chief.

Verma filed the petition in May after the Defence Ministry rejected his statutory complaint challenging Singh's



appointment.

The first plea by Verma was filed in April after the Government announced its decision about Singh.

While rejecting his plea, the Defence Ministry had then clarified that though seniority is an important criterion while appointing services chiefs but it is not the "sole" criterion and has been dispensed with the past two while appointing Navy chiefs.

"The Central Government after careful examination of the matter is of the opinion that this statutory petition dated April 10, 2019, from Vice Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma regarding his non-selection as the chief of naval staff is devoid of merit and be rejected," the Defence Ministry had said while rejecting the officer's plea.

The Defence Ministry also

- In his petition in May, Bimal Verma, now heading the strategically important Andaman and Nicobar tri-service command, contended that the tribunal should call for his service records besides that of the then incoming chief and see if any "extraneous or irrelevant considerations" were placed before the competent authority to reject his case while the Navy Chief appointment was being made
- The Central Government after careful examination of the matter is of the opinion that this statutory petition dated April 10, 2019, from Vice Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma regarding his non-selection as the chief of naval staff is devoid of merit and be rejected, the Defence Ministry had said while rejecting the officer's plea



made it clear that being the seniormost officer, Vice Admiral Verma was also considered for the appointment to the post of Navy Chief but was "found unsuitable" to the appointment of the Chief of Naval Staff.

"Upon examination, the Central Government is satisfied that the parameters for selection as evident from consistent practice were applied uniformly to all the officers in the zone of consideration and based on the assessment, Vice Admiral Bimal Kumar Verma being the senior most eligible officer was considered and found unsuitable to tenant the appointment of Chief of naval staff."

"The Central Government is also satisfied that no unsubstantiated frivolous, extraneous or irrelevant consideration has had a bearing on this said selection," the Defence Ministry had said.

In the order, the Defence Ministry also mentioned that the officer was not considered for being awarded the Param Vishisht Sewa Medal and was also not given the command of either the Eastern or the Western commands.

Wing Commander Anjali Singh first woman officer attaché posted abroad

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Wing Commander Anjali Singh has become the first woman officer to be appointed as an attaché in an Indian embassy abroad. The IAF officer has already taken charge as the Deputy Air Attaché at the Indian Embassy in Moscow. So far, the three Services used to send male officers as Defence attachés in more than 95 countries around the world.

Breaking the glass ceiling, Singh, an officer in the aeronautical engineering wing of the IAF, will represent the country in military related matters to Russia. Moreover, the IAF has taken the lead in appointing the first ever woman officer as an envoy besides having at least eight woman pilots now in various stages of training as fighter pilots. The force has more than 1,800 woman officers and many of them are flying helicopters and transport planes besides perform the role of navigators.

With this path breaking appointment, Singh has opened the doors for her women col-



Wing Commander Anjali Singh joins as the Deputy Air Attaché in Embassy of India in Russia

leagues in other forces also to become attaches thereby signifying growing role of women in the so far male dominated armed forces.

The Navy is also mulling picking women for such prestigious assignments and it was held the Service was in the process of suitable candidates for such appointments in foreign countries, sources said on Monday adding the women attaches will play a significant role in projecting India's military diplomacy.

Crackdown on wildlife online traffickers

Enforcement agencies join hands with internet firms to help stop wildlife crime based on 'click, pay and ship' policy

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With wildlife traffickers switching from physical market to virtual ones as India's internet user population reaches 500 million, enforcement agencies are joining hands, among others, with internet firms to help crack down on wildlife cybercrime based on 'click, pay and ship' policy.

Everything from turtles and tortoises to Red Sand Boa, monitor lizard, Red Sanders, body parts of elephants, tigers, leopards etc. are being traded on various websites and mobile applications, Tilotama Varma, Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) under the Union Environment Ministry rings the alarm bell.

She added, therefore, it becomes imperative to involve internet companies and find solutions with them to curb online illegal wildlife trade.

In this connection, a meeting was held recently here at the Ministry with companies providing online platform like Google India, Flipkart, IndiaMART besides representatives from business chambers such as FICCI and CII, Central Zoo Authority, National Tiger Conservation Authority, Global Tiger Forum, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), IUCN and Wildlife Trust of India among others.

The meeting organised by TRAFFIC and WCCB, in collaboration with the US Embassy here and WWF-India enabled creation of a common platform for wildlife law enforcement agencies, internet-based companies, policy makers and market leaders to highlight and discuss problems and solutions for

curbing online wildlife crime. Stressing on intensifying global efforts to end wildlife trafficking, Isabella Detwiler, acting Minister counselor for economic, environment, science and technology affairs, US Embassy, New Delhi added: "The web is the biggest marketplace for the illegal trade of wildlife. Wildlife is being trafficked from the comfort of people's homes."



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Dr Saket Badola, head of TRAFFIC's India said illegal wildlife trade is a significant threat to wildlife conservation today and in recent years has increasingly moved into cyberspace. With India's internet user population reaching nearly 500 million, cybercrime has become a mounting concern. Large numbers of wildlife species and their parts and derivatives have been found on sale online, among them skins and body parts of tiger, leopard and snow leopard; elephant ivory; rhino horn; pangolin scales; marine species; birds, reptiles. Their timely detection and subsequent enforcement action are fast becoming con-

servation priorities, he added. Ravi Singh, CEO of WWF India emphasised on exploring "the possibilities of data mining, big data analysis and artificial intelligence" while MS Negi, Addl Director General (Wildlife) called the meeting need of the hour to solve the crisis.

According to IFAW's 'research into wildlife crime' last year, "the vast quantity of live animals and their body parts available for sale online and the threat this poses to the future survival of many species." The IFAW, in just six weeks in four countries had, identified advertisements for 11,772 endangered and threatened specimens worth more than \$3m.

To tackle wildlife crime, the Global Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online, convened by WWF, TRAFFIC and IFAW was launched last year, bringing together e-commerce, technology and social media companies from across the world to reduce wildlife trafficking online. The Coalition aims to collectively reduce wildlife trafficking online by 80 per cent by 2020.

INSHORT

THREE-DAY NOTICE TO EVACUATE GOVT HOUSE

New Delhi: The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has notified the 'Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Act, 2019 which has come into effect from Monday. As per the Amendment Act, the Estate officer will issue short show cause notice of three days before eviction of the unauthorised occupant from Government accommodation.

CEC TO VISIT MUMBAI FOR ASSEMBLY POLLS

New Delhi: A three-member delegation of the EC, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, will visit Mumbai for review meetings with stakeholders on Tuesday and Wednesday ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled to be held next month.

LEFT TO HOLD PROTEST AGAINST ECO POLICIES

New Delhi: The five Left parties will organise a joint protest against the economic policies of the Government. In a joint statement on Monday, leaders — Sitaram Yechury, General Secretary, CPI(M), D Raja, General Secretary, CPI, Dipankar Bhattacharya, General Secretary, CPI(ML) Liberation, Debabrata Biswas, General Secretary, AIFB and Kshiti Goswami, General Secretary, RSP said a protest will be organised to highlight growing misery on the people.

AI TO BE PART OF CLASS IX SYLLABUS

New Delhi: HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' instructed officials of his Ministry to develop syllabus on artificial intelligence introduced by the CBSE for Class IX students according to the needs of the industrial sector.

SC ALLOWS TARIGAMI TO GO BACK TO J&K

New Delhi: The SC on Monday allowed CPI (M) leader Mohd Yusuf Tarigami to go back to his home State Jammu & Kashmir. A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer said the former MLA does not need any permission to go home if doctors at AIIMS allow him.

COLLEGIUM TAKES DECISION ON KURESHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday said the Collegium has taken a decision on the elevation of Justice Akil Kureshi as the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

NAVAL EXERCISE BEGINS AT PORT BLAIR

New Delhi: A trilateral maiden naval exercise involving India, Singapore and Thailand commenced at Port Blair on Monday, the Navy said in a statement.

Is live streaming of Ayodhya case possible? SC asks its Registry

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court asked its Registry on Monday to inform it whether live streaming of the ongoing hearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri masjid land dispute case was possible.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi also asked the Registry to apprise it as to how much time it would take to do so, if possible. "Registry to inform if live streaming can be done and how much time it will take to do so," said the Bench also comprising justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for former RSS ideologue KN



Govindacharya, said the petitioners have faith in the apex court but many petitioners in this case cannot come to the court to take part in the hearing on daily basis.

Since they cannot watch proceedings here, live proceedings will help them to know about details of hearing, Singh said. After the Bench passed the order, Singh sought to know from the bench about the deadline of the report from Registry. The Bench, however, said it depends on Registry.

SC to hear Patel's plea against petition challenging his RS election

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will hear on September 23 the plea of senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel seeking stay on further proceedings in the Gujarat High Court on his 2017 election to the Rajya Sabha that has been challenged by rival BJP candidate Balwantsinh Rajput.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and justices SA Bobde and SA Nazeer agreed to

hear the plea after senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Patel, submitted that the matter is scheduled for hearing in the high court on September 27.

Singhvi, along with senior advocate Dev Dutt Kamath, said there was a need for hearing the matter in the apex court before the high court goes in for further proceedings in which the arguments are at final stage.

Patel has challenged in the

apex court the maintainability of the election petition in the High Court, the advocates said.

Till the apex court decided the maintainability of the election petition, there was a need for stay of proceedings in the high court, they said.

Patel has challenged the order of the Gujarat High Court's by which it had dismissed his plea questioning the maintainability of Rajput's election petition.

REMARK ON NORTH INDIANS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on Union Minister Santosh Gangwar for saying that recruiters complain of lack of "quality people" in north India, the Congress on Monday demanded an apology from him, while its general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked him to provide figures for jobs given to people from that region in the last five years.

The Congress general secretary also posted a video of the interaction in Bareilly, held on Saturday, during which Gangwar said recruiters complain of paucity of "quality people" in north India for the posts they wish to fill. The Minister represents Bareilly constituency in the Lok Sabha. At the Congress briefing,

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asked Union Minister Santosh Gangwar to provide figures for jobs given to people from that region in last five years

□ Priyanka also a video of the interaction in Bareilly, held on Saturday, during which Gangwar said recruiters complain of paucity of "quality people" in north India for the posts they wish to fill. The Minister added

party leader Rajiv Shukla said the Minister's remarks that "youth of north India are not employable is a very big insult to them. The Government and the Minister concerned should clarify their position. The Minister should apologise or should say that this is the policy of the Government."

Clarifying his remarks, Gangwar said his statement "had different context". "What I said had different context that there was lack of skills and

Minister represents Bareilly constituency in the Lok Sabha

□ Clarifying his remarks, Gangwar said his statement "had different context". "What I said had different context that there was lack of skills and the Government has opened Skill Development Ministry..." the Union Labour Minister added

Government has opened Skill Development Ministry..." the Union Labour Minister added.

"Mr Minister, you have said such a big thing, so please also give the figures now. How many jobs you have given in the last five years and 100 days? How many jobs you have given to north Indians in the last five years? How many jobs were given under the skill India programme?" Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi. "Do remember that figures

address the issue seriously and not be in a denial mode, as it was currently.

Shukla said, "If the country's Labour Minister himself is saying that the youth of north India is not employable, is incompetent and are not worthy of jobs, then the Government's problem is over... This is a very serious issue."

He claimed that though the Government has initiated the Skill India campaign but only 30 per cent of those enrolled have got jobs. "The Government should admit that there is a serious economic slowdown. This Government is in a denial mode," he said.

Training his guns on the Government, Shukla said, "It is only about speeches, statements and advertisements, there is nothing else."

Varsity in UP develops nano-silica particle to beat air pollution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from the super-hydrophobic (water-repelling) nature of the lotus leaves, a team of scientists from UP-based Shiv Nadar University has developed a unique environment-friendly cost effective coating by extracting the nano-silica particle of rice husk to eliminate discoloration of the surface, physical damage or corrosion on a long-term basis.

It also has the potential to offer an alternative to crop residue burning by farmers, a major cause for air pollution in the northern part of the country. "The self-cleaning coating

is a cost-effective and eco-friendly substitute for the existing toxic paints and coatings available in the market," said Dr Harpreet Singh Grewal and Dr Harpreet Arora, Associate Professors who with their research team at the School of Engineering at Shiv Nadar University had developed the coating.

The research which has been published in the scientific journal, Progress in Organic Coatings has been sponsored by the Government's Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and has been tested under extreme weather conditions including rain and storms. Results of the research

indicate that the exposure to the outdoor conditions has no impact on the coating. Another important feature of the coating is that it is non-toxic and can be applied on all household appliances, buildings, automobiles and industrial components to help elongate their life.

Highlighting the importance of this invention coming out of agricultural waste, Dr Rupamanjari Ghosh, Vice Chancellor of the University said, "Dust and corrosion have a detrimental impact on the industrial and mechanical operations especially in regions that deal with the problem of heightened air pollution. Excessive

corrosion leads to unnecessary wear-and-tear of machines and devices, reducing their efficacy and functional life."

It also has the potential to offer an alternative to crop residue burning by farmers, a major cause for air pollution in the northern part of the country

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the infrastructure, from highways, bridges, and buildings to oil and gas rigs to factories and industrial plants.

In addition to causing severe damage and being a potent threat to public safety, corrosion

disrupts operations and requires extensive repair and replacement of failed assets. Studies have indicated that global cost of corrosion is around US\$ 2.5 trillion, which is equivalent to 3.4 per cent of global GDP.

PMO defines work areas for PK Mishra, Doval and Sinha

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Days after PK Mishra and PK Sinha were appointed as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary and Principal Adviser respectively, the Prime Minister's Office has defined the work areas for the two officers, and also for National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

According to an order issued by the PMO, Principal Secretary Mishra will look into policy issues and matters relating to Ministries of Personnel, Law, Appointments Committee of Cabinet and other appointments.

He will also look into issues related to the Cabinet Secretariat, listing of items for the meeting of the Union Cabinet, anti-corruption unit, PMO's establishment and all important policy issues and matters, according to the order.

NSA Doval will look into all matters relating to national security and policy matters — except appointments. He will also oversee policy matters relating to ministries of External Affairs, Overseas Indians Affairs, Defence, Space, Atomic Energy and the country's external Intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing.

He will also be in charge of all policies and matters relating to National Security Council Secretariat and the National Authority for Chemical Weapons.

Doval has also been allocated the issue of talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) separatists. On the other hand, PM's Principal Adviser PK Sinha will oversee policy issues and matters relating to all ministries/departments/agencies/bodies except those specifically allocated to the Principal Secretary and the NSA, the order issued on September 13 said.

Mishra was the prime minister's additional principal secretary and was last week elevated as his Principal Secretary after Nripendra Misra stepped down. Sinha is a former Cabinet Secretary and was last month appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the PMO before being made Modi's Principal Adviser. Mishra and Doval hold the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Baghel turns heat on BJP in Naxal-hit Dantewada

Launches polls campaign for Dantewada by-polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

With Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel addressing two public meetings, Congress on Monday launched its campaign for Dantewada by-polls. The public meetings were held at Metapal and Nakulnar of the assembly constituency.

Baghel in his speech came down heavily on previous BJP government for its "attitude towards Bastar." The BJP government during their regime had only looted the poor tribals, the Chief Minister claimed. They constructed swimming



pools and installed lifts in collectorate office from the fund meant for development of tribals, he said.

Citing welfare works launched by the Congress government, Baghel said they have

Dantewada, he said.

In previous government only two ministers were there in the Bastar Development Authority but the present government inducted Kawasi Lakhma, Lakheshwar Baghel, Vikram Mandavi, Santram Netam and PCC Chief Mohan Markam in it to take policy decision here itself, he said.

Baghel further appealed to the voters of Dantewada to vote in favour of Congress candidate in order to ensure development of the region.

Ministers Kawasi Lakhma, Amarjeet Bhagat and Umesh Patel also accompanied Baghel in the poll campaign.

Chabilal Patel appointed EWS Commission Chairman

RAIPUR: Government of Chhattisgarh vide an order has appointed retired District and Sessions Judge of Bilaspur Chabilal Patel as Chairman of Commission for Other Backward Categories and Economically Weaker Section.

As per an order of the general administration department, the commission has been constituted to conduct survey of other backward categories and economically weaker sections of society for quantifiable data.

Keeping this in view, retired DJ Chabilal Patel has been appointed as chairman. The service conditions will be issued separately. The commission has been asked to submit the report within six months.

Manturam willing to offer voice sample to SIT

Antagarh Tapes Case

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR



Manturam Pawar, who recently leveled serious charges against former chief minister Ajit Jogi, former minister Rajesh Munat and JCC-J leader Amit Jogi in Antagarh Tapes Case by filing a sworn affidavit, has now expressed his willingness in a court to give voice sample to Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The SIT has filed a case before the court of Justice First Class Additional Sessions Judge, Raipur lower court to instruct accused in Antagarh Tapes Case namely Ajit Jogi, Amit Jogi, Punit Gupta and Manturam to give voice

samples as they were reluctant to do so.

Meanwhile, Manturam accompanied by his lawyer on Monday appeared in the court of Justice Leena Agrawal and expressed his willingness to provide voice sample to the SIT. On the other hand, another accused Amit Jogi raised legal question over the

validity of the SIT. As the matter is already in the High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur the SIT had now no relevance, he had argued.

The SIT during the hearing on Monday failed to submit a case diary and now the next hearing into the matter would be done on Tuesday.

Three suspected Naxals held in restive Sukma

STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA

Three suspected Naxals were arrested with electric detonators during a search operation carried out by security forces in the Maoist violence-hit Sukma district, police said here on Monday.

According to police, Muchki Erra (27), Madvi Deva (22), both residents of villages under Bhejji police station limits and Madvi Hidma (22), a resident of Errabore police station limits were nabbed near Kanhaiguda village.

They were arrested by a joint team of DRG and 217 battalion of CRPF who had

launched the area-domination exercise from Konta police station limits about 475 km south of state capital Raipur, police said.

"Muchki was a member of Maoist DAKMS (Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Majdur Sangh), while Madvi Deva and Madvi Hidma were members of Maoist Janmilita active in Kottecheru and Gerrapad regions of Sukma," a local police officer informed.

Along with detonators, cordex wire and pencil cells were also found in their possession. All three were presented before a local court that had sent them to judicial remand, police added.

Mobile medical teams to provide healthcare facilities in cities too

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Encouraged by the overwhelming response the mobile medical teams are getting in haat-bazaars of remote villages and forest areas of Chhattisgarh, the state government has now decided to extend the same service in urban slum areas as well.

Mobile medical teams will be available in slum areas of 13 municipal corporations of the state once a week from 8am to 2pm to provide health checkup and medical treatment, government sources said.

Mobile medical unit will also provide necessary medicines to the beneficiaries free of cost. On the occasion of

CM's Urban Slum Health Scheme to be started in 13 municipal corporations of the state on October 2

Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Yojana will be inaugurated. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has directed all the district collectors to ensure that all the arrangements for the inauguration are made in

advance. It is noteworthy that nearly one 1.71 lakh families live in slum areas of 13 municipal corporations of the state. To provide more effective healthcare services to nearly 7.80 lakh people, the state govern-

ment has decided to introduce mobile medical teams in slum areas, along with the existing healthcare schemes.

Initially, instructions have been given to form three teams for Raipur Municipal Corporation, two teams each for Bhillai and Korba and one mobile medical team each for other municipal corporations, under Chief Minister Urban Slum Health Scheme.

Chief Minister has directed officials concerned to ensure wide publicity of this scheme by ensuring participation of local public representatives, NGOs, and representatives of social-religious organizations. District collectors have been made coordinators for all the aforementioned works.

Dantewada by-poll: CEO reviews security, law and order

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh reviewed security arrangements and law-and-order situation in Maoist infested Dantewada district with State police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) senior officials on Monday, ahead of by-poll in Dantewada assembly constituency.

During the meeting, Inspector General of Police Raipur and CRPF IG pointed out that for conduct of successful, independent and peaceful polls, formidable security arrangement has been made. Officers and jawans have been deputed at every vulnerable point.

The officers said even the candidates and political party

campaigners are also being provided adequate security back up during their tour of Dantewada assembly constituency areas.

The meeting also discussed the necessary security arrangements to be made during the polling and counting days.

Chief Electoral Officer Subrat Sahoo termed the security arrangement for the by-polls as utmost crucial and there is need to remain alert round the clock.

Sahoo also urged media personnel that while covering the Dantewada assembly by-poll keeping security in mind, they should at least intimate the local police so that it can help for coverage without any hindrance.



A policeman is checking metal detectors at the entrance of Raipur Railway station following the alert sounded by Railway police in the wake of a letter purportedly sent by a Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) threatening to trigger bomb attacks in several railway stations, including the state's Durg station. Railway stations across the state are put on high alert following the threat.

11 alternative IDs allowed for Dantewada by-poll

RAIPUR: Election Commission has permitted the use of 11 different types of alternative identity card/documents during the Dantewada by-poll scheduled on September 23 from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm.

According to an order issued by Office of Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh, in case the elector do not hold the electoral photo-identity card (EPIC), on the polling day he or she can use 11 other identity revealing documents. The photograph or voter slip will not be permitted as authentic document for identity.

These documents include passport, driving license, photo-based identity cards issued by state/central government, public sector units, public limited companies to its employees, passbook with photographs issued by bank/post office, PAN card, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI) and NPR issued smart card, MGNREGA job card, health insurance card issued by labour department under its scheme, pension documents, MPs, MLAs-Council members issued government identity card and aadhar card.

The counting of votes will be done on September 27.

International Ozone Day celebrated at NTPC Sipat



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

International Ozone Day was celebrated with pledge administration and signature campaign for protection of Ozone layer at Sipat Super Thermal Power Station of power utility NTPC Limited on Monday.

In the morning Padmakumar Rajasekharan,

Chief General Manager (NTPC-Sipat) and Anil Kumar Choudhary General Manager (Operation and Maintenance) administered oath to employees at Urja Bhavan (Administrative Building).

All employees put their signature for the protection of Ozone layer, said a NTPC press release.

The theme of World

Ozone Day 2019 is '32 years and Healing'. This year's theme celebrates three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the Ozone Layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol. It also reminds the people to keep up the momentum to ensure healthy people and a healthy planet.

Three labourers electrocuted

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

Three labourers died of electrocution at a fly ash brick factory in a village in Raigarh district on Monday, the police said.

The incident occurred around noon in Aarav Fly Ash Brick factory in Bhalunara village, around 40km from Raigarh.

The deceased were identified as Jogi Ram Manjhi (22), Sujit Kumar Dhurve (28) and Raja Ratre (27), all natives of the Kharsia area of the district, a police official said.

The victims were changing an LED light fitted on the top

of a long iron pipe in the factory premises. While they were removing the iron pipe, they lost their balance and it touched an 11 KV power transmission line passing through there, he added.

The impact of the electric shock was so severe that the head of one of the labourers was severed from his body, the official said.

After being alerted about the incident, power department staffers and police personnel rushed to the spot, he said, adding the bodies were later sent for autopsy to a local hospital. A case has been registered and further probe is underway, the official added.

Anti-incumbency factor will benefit BJP: Kaushik

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

BJP leader and Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik said the anti-government sentiments against the nine-month old Congress government will benefit his party.

He was addressing a public meeting at village Bade Karli in Dantewada on Monday along with other BJP leaders, including party candidate Ojaswi Mandavi.

He said residents of Dantewada want to pay tributes to late MLA Bhima



Mandavi by voting his wife.

All have seen the work-

ing of Congress government in last nine months. It has failed in all sectors. People

are aware of BJP's developmental schemes in the state. Kaushik said people will give huge mandate to the party's candidate.

Meanwhile, former ministers Ajay Chandrakar conducted campaign in Geedham while Rajesh Munat held door-to-door campaign. BJP's election in-charge Shivratna Sharma held meeting at Kirandul while Dr Subhau Ram Kashyap and Kamal Bhanjdeo held meeting at Farsapal and conducted public contact programme.

Review meeting on Durg-Bhillai Master Plan draft 2031 held



STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

Public Works Department and home minister Tamradhwaj Sahu chaired the Durg-Bhillai Development Master Plan 2031 review meeting at conference hall of Durg Collectorate on Monday.

Presiding over the meeting, minister said master plan should be prepared keeping in mind the future needs. He laid

emphasis on gardens in residential areas, construction of roads, plantation on road sides, conservation of natural rivulets and ponds, retaining canals, water flow to ponds among others. The meeting decided that claims, objections and suggestions received in Durg-Bhillai investment area will be taken up by committee members and after discussion will be passed.

Rape survivor deposes in Shahjahanpur court against Chinmayanand

PNS/PTI ■ LUCKNOW/SHAHJAHANPUR

The law student who levelled rape charges against BJP leader and former Union Minister Swami Chinmayanand recorded her statement before a magistrate in Shahjahanpur on Monday.

The 23-year old woman was brought to the court of Judicial Magistrate Geetika Singh under heavy security cover by the special investigation team (SIT).

She remained in the court for around four hours and told PTI that the magistrate recorded her statement in 10 to 12 pages. She said, "I have told the magistrate about the rape complaint I gave in New Delhi, my missing spectacles and a chip



from the hostel room. I also informed about the bedding and liquor bottles, which were removed from the Chinmayanand's room."

The victim's friends who were assured included the one who was with her when she was located in Rajasthan after having gone missing last month. The SIT had also examined principals of the two colleges where the girl studied.

4 MONTHS AFTER FANI Dhauli light-and-sound show still defunct

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even four months after very severe cyclonic storm Fani that devastated coastal Odisha, the light-and-sound show at Shanti Stupa atop the Dhauli Hill is lying defunct here on outskirts of the State capital.

No initiative has been taken so far to resume the show, which was showing epic scenes from Dhauli's eventful past, disappointing the tourists in a big manner.

However, the authorities assured to resume the show at the earliest. "The light and sound show system at Dhauli was completely destroyed in the cyclone Fani. While the total loss was estimated at ₹2.31 crore, allocation amount has



been approved for repair of the system. The ITDC has won the tender and repair work which will begin within a week," informed a Tourist Officer.

With completion of the repair work, the light and sound show will once again leave the tourists jaw-dropped.

The light and sound show was launched at Shanti Stupa, which stands firm atop historical Dhauli hill, on August 15, 2015. The initiative had fetched much appreciation from the

visitors.

In the 35-minute show presented in three languages (English, Hindi and Odia), the audience witness great story glorifying the Kalinga empire, feuds within the Mauryan empire, King Ashoka's rise to power and his epic transformation from Chandashoka (cruel Ashoka) to Dharmashoka (Ashoka on path of religion).

It also shows the gruesome Kalinga War and its morbid aftermath as well as King Ashoka's remorse at the massive bloodbath.

It ends with Ashoka renouncing violence, embracing Buddhism and propagating the religion from Kalinga to the rest of the world.

Punjab to fill 19,000 vacancies, seeks department-wise lists

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Easing the recruitment rules to plug certain long-pending vacancies, Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday ordered immediate steps to fill up a whopping 19,000 vacancies in various departments.

The vacancies to be filled up on priority include 5,000 in the Police department, 5,300 in electricity department (PSPCL), 2,500 teachers, 5,000 paramedic and specialized staff, including doctors and specialists, in Health Department and 1,300 in Revenue department, said the spokesperson.

The Chief Minister has also asked the other departments to submit their lists of vacancies without delay so that the process of filling them up could also be initiated immediately.

Bringing more efficiency into concerned departments, the move will also generate additional employment in the State.

The directions by the Chief Minister came even as the Cabinet decided to ease the recruitment rules for qualified civil services personnel in the State through amendments to various relevant legislations, thus paving way for filling posts that remain vacant due to non-availability of suitable candidates.

The decision would help resolve the issues related to allocation of services on the basis of Punjab State Civil Services Combined Examination.

The Cabinet also authorized the Chief Minister to approve the final draft of the rules, said the spokesperson.

Under the existing rules,

different categories of vacant posts, such as those reserved SCs, Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh and general category sportsmen and ex-servicemen, were being treated differently.

There was ambiguity on whether the unfilled posts of ex-servicemen and sports quota from Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh category were to be filled from General Pool of Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh or from General pool of all SC Candidates.

Such situations led to prolonged litigations regarding filling up of these posts. In view of these circumstances, the personnel department had proposed that the rules and instructions may be modified to make these clear, logical and consistent across all categories of posts, and ensure that the interests of SCs and BCs are duly protected.

Restore normalcy in J&K within ambit of national interest: SC

From Page 1

Referring to the around three months shutdown of internet services in the valley in 2016 due to violent protest after encounter of terrorist Burhan Wani, Venugopal said when Wani was eliminated, the "whole Kashmir went into boil" and 46 persons had lost their lives at that time.

Countering the claims of petitioners about lack of medical facilities, he said that 10.52 lakh patients attended the out-

patient department (OPD) in Kashmir hospitals till September 15.

He said that 67,196 patients have visited indoor patient department in various government run health care institutions and doctors have successfully performed 10,699 major surgeries including caesarean sections and 53,297 minor surgeries in various hospitals in the valley.

Mehta told the bench that restrictions have been removed

in 93 out of 105 police stations of the Kashmir division, which comes at 88.57 per cent while in Jammu and Ladakh division, 100 per cent restrictions have been removed.

Mehta said there was sufficient stock of essential drugs and other medical requirements across the hospitals in Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh and three months stock of essential commodities like food grains, LPG cylinders, petrol, diesel has been ensured there.

He said 8,98,050 LPG cylinders have been home delivered to consumers in the last one month across the valley while 6.46 lakh quintals of ration were distributed there.

"The picture presented before the court is wrong," he said. After the bench said that both the Centre and state should ensure restoration of normalcy in Kashmir, Mehta said, "This direction can be misused elsewhere, not inside the country but outside."

To this, the bench observed, "We are not issuing any direction. We have said that restoration will be on a selective basis keeping in mind the national interest."

When the top court was told about the alleged "shutdown" of mobile and Internet services in Kashmir Valley, the bench said these issues could be dealt with by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

"Is it the same situation today? We are saying that if it

is some local issue then it would be better if the high court dealt with it. It is simpler for the high court to know what is happening in the state in terms of the shutdown of mobile and Internet services," the bench said.

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for petitioner and Executive Editor of Kashmir Times Anuradha Bhasin, told the bench that mobile, Internet services and public transport are not working in the Kashmir Valley

and it would be difficult for them to approach the high court.

While Bhasin has sought removal of restrictions imposed on working of journalists in the state after scrapping of provisions of Article 370, some other petitioners have raised the issue of shutdown of public transport and lack of medical facilities in Kashmir.

Venugopal, however, said that issues raised by the petitioner "do not appear to be genuine" as Kashmir-based news-

papers are being published and the government has been offering all kinds of assistance to them. "It is not about just one or two newspapers. They are saying that there is general communication shutdown. We would like to know whether it is a breakdown or shutdown or for what reasons," the bench observed, adding, "In the meantime, we trust you (government) that you will try to restore the services and normalcy."

PSA slapped on Farooq for detention

From Page 1

He has said he had spoken to Abdullah over phone on August 4 and had invited him to attend the conference on September 15.

He claimed Abdullah had "verbally communicated" that he would be glad to attend the conference but on August 5, Abdullah, along with other political leaders of Jammu & Kashmir, were placed under "wrongful detention".

Reacting to the development, Congress Rajya Sabha MP and Leader of Opposition in the House Ghulam Nabi Azad

said, "I strongly condemn it. It is most unfortunate that a (former) Chief Minister of one of the oldest political parties in Kashmir (has been detained)."

"Each Chief Minister, and each political party be it Congress, National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party in Jammu & Kashmir have tried their level best to fight militancy. If there is no militancy today, it is because of these political parties and not the BJP," he told reporters.

Azad was on Monday allowed by the SC to visit four districts in Jammu & Kashmir

for assessing the impact on life of daily wagers due to the present situation prevailing after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions. The top court noted Azad's submission that he will not indulge in any political rally or political activity during his visit.

The Bench allowed Azad to visit Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla and Jammu districts of the State subject to any restrictions, if any. "We permit the petitioner to go to Srinagar and visit the following districts, subject to restrictions, if any - (i) Srinagar, (ii) Anantnag, (iii) Baramulla and (iv) Jammu.

"The petitioner has undertaken before the court on his own volition that he will not indulge in any political rally or political activity during his visit," the Bench said. "The visit will solely be concerned with making an assessment of the impact of the present situation on the life of the daily wage earners, if any," it said.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the former CM said he is present a Member of Parliament from the State and needs to meet the people.

CPI(M) leader Mohammed

Salim accused Shah of lying on the floor of Parliament over the issue of Abdullah's detention in the wake of abrogation of Article 370. In a tweet, the Left leader attacked a video grab of Shah in Parliament last month, in which the Home Minister said Abdullah was neither detained nor arrested.

"Shah lied on the floor of Parliament claiming that Abdullah didn't come to Lok Sabha on his own will but today we all know that Abdullah had been under detention since 4 August, under the draconian PSA. Does India's Home

Minister has any credibility today?", Salim tweeted.

Shah on Monday reviewed the security situation in Jammu & Kashmir amidst reports of around 230 terrorists waiting at terror launch pads in Pakistan occupied Kashmir to enter the country. The two-hour long meeting was attended by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba. Meanwhile J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the morning and briefed about the security situation in the State.

Pakistan...

From Page 1

The corridor will connect Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and facilitate visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which was established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev.

Pakistan is building the corridor from the Indian border to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur while the other part from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district up to the border will be constructed by India.

Both countries have agreed that Pakistan would allow 5,000 Sikh visitors per day into the country through the corridor, which will also be the first visa-free corridor between the two neighbours since their independence in 1947.

Majid said some 76 immigration counters have been set up to cater to 5,000 Sikh pilgrims from India every day. And for 10,000 pilgrims visiting here daily, 152 immigration counters will be set up. He said that initially 5,000 Sikhs from India will come daily and later the number will rise to 10,000.

Tension between India and Pakistan has escalated after New Delhi revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status. Reacting to India's move on Kashmir, Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner.

Pakistan, however, repeatedly said that the opening of the Kartarpur corridor will not be hit by the current ten-

sion with India.

The visiting Indian Sikhs will have to bring their passports with them and they will be issued corridor pass. On return, they will receive their passports from immigration counter after returning the pass.

Airport-like facilities will be provided to the pilgrims who will come here by bus, he said. "Finger prints will be taken of every Indian and Pakistani Sikhs entering the Kartarpur Sahib," he said.

The journalists were told that the visiting Sikh pilgrims will be provided free food and medicines by the Pakistan Gurdwara Sikh Parbandhik Committee.

The security of the corridor will be provided by provincial paramilitary forces Punjab Rangers.

During the last round of talks on the Kartarpur corridor held last week, Pakistan showed inflexibility and gave unfavourable responses on issues of charging a service fee, the number of pilgrims to be allowed on special occasions and allowing protocol officials to accompany them.

There were three issues on which the Indian side had asked Pakistan to show some flexibility -- their insistence on charging USD 20 per pilgrim, allowing 10,000 pilgrims on special occasions and Indian protocol officer to accompany the delegation that visits Kartarpur everyday.

"We had hoped that all pending issues will be resolved. However we realised that Pakistan was quite inflexible during the talks," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar had said.

Cong, NCP to fight 125 seats each in Maha polls

From Page 1

Meanwhile, The Election Commission will visit Mumbai on Tuesday and interact with various stakeholders in the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections as part of its review of the state's poll preparedness, sources said on Monday.

Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora will reach Mumbai on Tuesday evening with Election Commissioners Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra and hold meetings with civil administration and police officials besides various parties' leaders there to take stock of the state's poll readiness.

The meetings would be spread over two days between Tuesday and Wednesday. The poll panel will be back to Delhi on Wednesday evening. The term of the 288-member Maharashtra assembly ends on November 9 and a new assembly has to be constituted before that.

Trump to join PM at mega Howdy, Modi!

From Page 1

This would also be the first time that an American president would be addressing thousands of Indian-Americans at one place in the US. It comes ahead of the 2020 presidential elections in the US in which the influential Indian-American community members are expected to play a greater role. President Trump, a Republican, has already announced his candidature.

India's Ambassador to the US, Harsh Vardhan Shringla called Trump's participation in the "Howdy, Modi!" event "historic" and "unprecedented".

"It is reflective of the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that has developed between India and the US," Shringla told PTI.

He said it was also reflective of the people-to-people contact that provides the "organic" linkage between the two countries.

The ambassador said the

two leaders addressing the event sets a bold precedent, which is unconventional and unique.

"It would be quite a historic meeting with Prime Minister Modi and President Trump jointly addressing over 50,000 Indian-Americans, mainly US citizens," Shringla said.

White House officials told PTI that a request for the joint address was made by Prime Minister Modi to President Trump when the two met in France last month on the sidelines of the G7 summit.

While India is not part of the G7 countries, Modi was invited as a special guest by French President Emmanuel Macron for the summit.

Trump, who enjoys a great chemistry and friendship with Modi, "immediately accepted" the invitation to join him in Houston and directed his officials and secret service to make arrangements, officials said.

This would be the third meeting between the two leaders this year. The previous two were on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in June in Japan and in France in July on the sidelines of the G7 Summit.

In October 2016, Trump,

then as Republican presidential nominee, addressed a strong crowd of some 5,000 Indian-Americans in New Jersey, a few weeks away from his historic win in the November 2016 elections.

So far, Trump is the only presidential candidate to address the Indian-Americans solely during an election year.

In his address, Trump had said that if elected, he would be the best friend of India in the White House.

The Houston event will be Modi's third major address to the Indian-American community after he became the prime minister in 2014 and the first after his re-election in May.

The previous two were at the Madison Square Garden in New York in 2014 and the Silicon Valley in 2016. Both the events were attended by more than 20,000 people.

The "Howdy, Modi!" event is being organised by non-profit Texas India Forum (TIF), a recently-formed representative body of hundreds of Indian-American organisations in Texas and other parts of the US.

The Texas India Forum, in a statement, said it was excit-

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NOTICE

1. Approval under regulation 86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations 1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations 2019 for i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2014-19 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block for Petition-1 125 MVA Bus Reactor at 400/220 kV Raigarh Substation alongwith associated bays at Raigarh Substation in WR. Petition-2 400/220 kV, 1X315 MVA Autotransformer (ICT-III) at 400/220 kV substation at Vapi under installation of 1X315 MVA 400/220 kV Transformer at Vapi (POWERGRID) substation in WR.

2. The beneficiaries of the above mentioned Transmission system are: (a) Madhya Pradesh Power Management Corporation Ltd. (b) Electricity Department, Administration of Daman & Diu, Daman, (c) Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd., Vadodara, (d) Electricity Department, Government of Goa, Panaji, (e) Electricity Department, Administration of Dadra Nagar Haveli, Silvassa, (f) Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd., Mumbai, (g) Chattisgarh State Electricity Board, Raipur, (h) Madhya Pradesh Auydyogik Kamdra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd., Indore

3. Tariff details:

Petition	True up Transmission Tariff for 2014-19			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Petition-1	171.79	172.79	176.63	177.48
Petition-2	402.48	398.11	392.40	386.39

a) 2019-24 Block

Petition	DOCO	Line Length (km)	No of Bays	Cost admitted by CERC - 20	Tariff for 2019-24 block			
					2019	2020	2021	2022
Petition-1	01.06.2012	-	1 no. 400kV bay	691.67	134.25	120.03	127.15	125.32
Petition-2	01.03.2013	-	1 no. 400kV bay 1 no. 220kV bay	1750.36	423.19	421.19	419.24	417.74

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergridindia.com.

5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 3 & 4th floor, Chandrakol Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office "Saudamin", Plot No. 2, Sector-29, Gurgaon-122 001, Haryana within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Sd./
 Date: 12.09.2019
 Dy. General Manager (Commercial)

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POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers / guarantors calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The under mentioned Borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 .

S. N.	Branch Name / Ph.No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date, Amount & Symbolic / Physical Possession Date
01	Arang Branch, Arang 9752410791	M/s. Maa Banjari Tractors, Prop.- Mrs. Mohini Bhide	Equitable Mortgage of property consisting of land bearing Khasra No. - 2334/7, area 6075 Sq ft (Diverted area 5772 sq ft) Rani Durgawati ward no. - 15, at NH 06, PC NO. - 42/54, RIC - Arang, within the registered District - Raipur in the joint name of Mrs. Mohini Bhide, Mr. Mahendra Kumar Bhide and Mr. Mohit Bhide.	01.07.2019 Rs. 55,87,471.15 + interest + other Charges 12.09.2019 Symbolic Possession

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the above mentioned property and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for above mentioned amount interest and other charges thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 16.09.2019, Place: Raipur (C.G.)
 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda

Not Hindi hain hum

Amit Shah's proposal to make Hindi the unifying language is unworkable and threatens our federal plurality



Perhaps nobody could have articulated the difference between a transactional language and the tongue you are born with than the great Nelson Mandela himself, who was as rooted as global. "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his mother language that goes to his heart," he said. Our Constitutional fathers understood this and despite their attempt at breaking the colonial shadow with a pan-India language — something which could be argued better during a

pure nationalist surge after Independence — couldn't make either Hindi or Sanskrit the preferred alternative. More than the political opposition that came from regional leaders, our predecessors, in their infinite wisdom, understood that language was more about culture, identity and one of the many concrete embodiments of "unity in diversity" than it was about a tool of communication. As a result, Hindi and all other languages were accorded official language status, a peerage of sorts. And may we say that this policy has neither affected inclusive development, nor changed the national narrative so far. So while English continued to be a link language of economic mobility and global engagement, each State, as is the nature of federal polity, conducted business in it as well as their own familiar words. Besides, language wars or the North versus South debates are well past their expiry date as even the UN has certified that mother languages are intrinsic to human development. These help establish our personalities and relationships with our families, society and the larger world outside, defining the way we express ourselves and establish our confidence. So Home Minister Amit Shah's bold claim that Hindi should be made the national unifier language and a voice to the world is not only ludicrously revisionist but defeats the civilisational idea of India, which functions as a beehive of plurality rather than as a smartcard monolith of "one India, one language." Of course, in the current swell of jingoism, nobody would want to listen to reason. Imagine if a Tamil-speaking farmer had to avail a Government scheme in the back of the beyond and is expected to not only read Hindi but understand the fine print and sign off, then it is all about unfair imposition, cultural dwarfism and centrist exclusivity over an empathetic embrace. The poor farmer will have no option but to rely on interlocutors and unnecessary bureaucratic inefficiencies. Similarly, howsoever much we may want to disown English, it has become our common connector, an asset for global empowerment, a social aspiration and the reason that the offshore business processing industry was one of the first to take off in India. How would one talk the language of science without peppering it with English? How would one change academic discipline in higher institutions where English is the accepted and entrenched medium of instruction? How would one score in the professional space of multinational companies where English is common currency? And rarely have Hindi-speaking people not chosen to pursue English.

By the same logic, the government machinery would be bound to use a single language as a working medium and that privilege would automatically be discriminatory to those officers whose mother tongue isn't Hindi. According to Article 343 of the Constitution of India, "the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script and (2) Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), for a period of 15 years from the commencement of this Constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all official purposes of the Union for which it was being used immediately before such commencement." Schedule 8 allows reviewing the progressive use of Hindi but doesn't run down English or takes away the State legislature's right to opt for the language of use. Besides, it clarifies that all authoritative texts must be done in English as well. If anybody thinks that enforcing a language code would foster national integration, then one just needs to look back at how language riots in southern India have at one time threatened it instead. In the words of CN Annadurai, "if we had to accept the principle of numerical superiority while selecting our national bird, the choice would have fallen not on the peacock but on the common crow." Bollywood, often cited as a mass catalyst of the Hindi-speaking market, has only 43 per cent of our total box office revenue. The rest of the pie belongs to regional films. Let's not tinker with the avoidable. Homogeneity isn't always an asset.

War clouds

A drone and missile attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility should send alarm bells ringing across the world



The shock of the drone and missile attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility should worry everyone. Not only did it take offline half of Saudi Arabian oil production, the development highlights how critical infrastructure facilities can be targeted by drones from an "unknown" entity. Of course, now the spectre of another conflagration in the Persian Gulf looms large, especially after US President Donald Trump said his nation is "locked and loaded" and attributed the explosions to Iran's nefarious designs on American

interests. If this escalates, oil prices might rise dramatically even though the cooling global economy will possibly temper that. Although Saudi firms have affirmed that there would not be any shortage of supply, repairing reservoirs might take time and India would have to look for an alternative then. Early estimates show that around six per cent of global supplies could be hit. We have imported 19 per cent crude and disruptions could impact our volatile economy.

There are major lessons that India should take from all this. The first relates to protecting critical defence and infrastructural sites from drone attacks. As we learnt when the Gatwick Airport in London was shut down for almost a week, thanks to drones overflying the runways, precision strikes do not need to be fiery and violent to damage the economy. Nations will need to figure out how they will be able to combat drones which can do disproportionate economic damage. Analysing the images from Saudi Arabia, repairs will cost millions of dollars while the attack may have taken just a few thousand dollars to execute. It is also extremely puzzling why Saudi Arabia allowed one of its most critical infrastructure sites to be so poorly guarded and vulnerable. However, just as the Saudis will learn from this lapse, so should India. We must also be prepared for the worst possible outcome in the Middle-East, a war. The clinical nature of the attack makes it impossible to have been conducted by a "non-state" actor (to use Pakistan's favourite term). Any conflict in the region will send oil prices soaring, something the Indian economy, mismanaged to the point of disaster, does not need right now. However, citizens should be made aware of the consequences of such a possibility. This attack should also speed up development of alternative fuels and energy sources, which may not be a bad thing indeed. This is by far the worst shock to global supplies than when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990 and the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979.

Perils of GM farming

Global agricultural firms have been spreading the myth that GMOs are needed to feed India when actually, the country needs agro-ecological systems to preserve its biodiversity



SANDHYA JAIN

Seventeen scientists, who consistently advocated Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India, are anxious to revive GMs despite the Centre's growing emphasis on organic farming and native cattle breeds to boost nutritional standards nationwide. The Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and the Rashtriya Gokul Mission are gaining popularity among farmers. Alarmed at the scale of soil degradation in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence day address, urged the farmers to reduce consumption of chemical fertilisers by at least 25 per cent.

Almost parallel to this plea, in *Current Science* (Vol 117, No 3, August 10, 2019), the scientists suggest that GM food crops, ie, Bt-Brinjal that was placed under a moratorium by the then Union Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh and GM-Mustard that was almost cleared for field trials when activists scuttled the attempt, be cleared for commercial cultivation. This activism seeks to reverse Dr MS Swaminathan's admission that green revolution technologies had harmed the environment and that Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) and Ht (herbicide tolerant) crops are highly unsustainable (*Current Science*, Vol 115, No 10, November 25, 2018). The article created outrage in pro-GM circles.

Claiming that Bt-cotton made India a cotton exporting country, the proponents say the virtual ban on Bt-brinjal and GM-mustard is hurting India's food and nutrition security that is challenged by population growth, availability of land, water and human resources. They point out that major Western science academies insist there are no genotoxic effects in Bt and Ht crops. In 2016, the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine published a 420-page report on GM crops and observed, "Bt in maize and cotton from 1996 to 2015 contributed to a reduction in the gap between actual yield and potential yield under circumstances in which targeted pests caused substantial damage to non-GE varieties and synthetic chemicals could not provide practical control."

This report, the GM champions assert, states that Bt crop actually increased insect biodiversity on farms compared to non-Bt crop farms on which insecticide was sprayed. The report said the emergence of secondary pests and resistant pink bollworm in India is due to the non-implementation of the refuge strategy. A 2010 report of the European Commission noted, "biotechnology, in particular Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), are not *per se* more risky than conventional plant breeding technologies."

GM backers claim that 147 original studies based on primary data from farm surveys anywhere in the world, reporting impact of GM soybean, maize or cotton on crop yields, pesticide use and farm profits



showed that on an average, GM technology reduced pesticide use by 37 per cent, increased crop yields by 22 per cent and increased farmer profits by 68 per cent. Regarding livestock, data from publicly available sources from 1997 to 2011, covering over 100 billion animals, did not reflect negative trends in livestock health and productivity from GM crop-feeds.

Pro-GM scientists doubt the finding of the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer that glyphosate is linked to cancer. The fact, however, is that Austria has already banned glyphosate and Germany has decided to ban it by the end of 2023 as part of an insect (bees, butterflies) conservation programme. Nearly 20 French mayors banned it from their municipalities in August 2019 in defiance of the national Government. Pro-GM scientists recommend GM technology in grains (golden rice) and vegetables, along with the risky gene editing technology. Ironically, they have been blocking the release of Bt-cotton hybrids/varieties developed by scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (which have safer toxic limits than Monsanto) in

the past three years and are trying to influence Government policy for Monsanto/Bayer profits. The scientists deliberately ignore the fact that the department-related parliamentary standing committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests (August 25, 2017) had categorically asserted that no GM crop should be introduced in India until the bio-safety and long-term effects are evaluated by an independent and transparent process. The standing committee discovered that not a single Government agency had ever conducted studies to assess the impact of Bt-cotton on the environment, bio-diversity, bio-safety, ecosystem (soil), human and animal health.

A former Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology admitted that his department had no independent research on the impact of GM crops and most research was from the seed and insecticide companies, which cannot be relied upon. The department of health research also admitted that it had not examined the impact of GM crops on human health. Environmentalist Vandana Shiva points out that the green revolution, based on chemicals and hybrid crops, devastated India in myriad ways — from loss of agro-biodiversity to degraded soils to water emergency. In 2002, the Government legalised the illegal planting of Bt-cotton. Despite energetic marketing, hard official data proves that Bt-cotton has failed, trapped farmers in debt and is implicated in farmer suicides. Worse, Monsanto's HT Roundup Cotton, which has been planted illegally for over a decade, might be legalised.

Illegal planting of Bt-brinjal in many States is extremely dangerous as India has the world's greatest genetic diversity in brinjal (over 2,500 varieties, including wild varieties), which could suffer irreversible contamination. The motive is to gain access to our incredible germplasm. Global agricultural corporations are keen to control our agriculture with their seeds, chemicals and monoculture farming and are spreading the myth that GMOs are needed to feed India. At a seminar, Beyond Corporate Driven Industrial Agriculture to Climate Resilient Agroecology (September 6, 2019), experts said India does not need genetic engineering as traditional plant breeding and

newer methods "outperform GE hands down." The world needs agro-ecology to overcome climate change and the vicious cycles of hunger, farming stress and poverty. Recent global scientific review (February 2019) warns that the steep decline in insect populations (40 per cent of insects could become extinct in the next few decades) could trigger the collapse of ecosystems worldwide. The main culprit is industrial scale, intensive agriculture with pesticides and fertilisers. Only agro-ecological systems preserve forests and sequester carbon by naturally removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, locking it in plants and, thus, mitigate climate change.

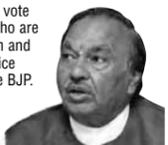
Way back in 1940, Albert Howard (*An Agricultural Testament*) noted that Indian peasants led the world in agro-ecology. India must recover its native wisdom by preserving its biodiversity and seed sovereignty so that future generations are free of hunger and in harmony with humanity and nature.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; the views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Nationalist Muslims vote for BJP but those who are in favour of Pakistan and are traitors think twice before voting for the BJP.

Karnataka Minister —KS Eshwarappa



Everybody's always gonna comment about whatever seems intriguing and he's (Bradley Cooper) one of my best friends in the world.

Actor —Laura Dern



When two nuclear-armed nations fight a conventional war, there is every possibility that it could escalate into a nuclear war and impact the world.

Pakistan Prime Minister —Imran Khan



Why does a former J&K CM (GN Azad) need to seek permission from SC to travel to J&K? It shows that there is no normalcy in Kashmir.

AIMM leader —Asaduddin Owaisi



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Statements that divide

Sir — I love Hindi but imposing it as a national language and creating an unequal advantage for naturalised Hindi speakers is gross discrimination and cannot be a unifier. The Government, having no reform or development measures to boast of, is targeting people's sentiments. But this time, it has scored a self-goal that may cost it electorally in the future. The Congress' history in this regard should be instructive.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Raking controversy

Sir — The idea of "one nation, one language" mooted by Union Home Minister Amit Shah has expectedly been met with resistance, especially from the southern States. Parties from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have been more vocal against the proposal and have accused Shah of running a "divisive agenda" and foisting the "RSS agenda on the country."

While a large number of people in the south do not under-

Accommodation is the key, not imposition

What can be achieved through persuasion should not be imposed through force. Hindi and south India have a peculiar relationship. It is a fact that people in this part of the country are increasingly becoming conversant with this language through Bollywood films and interactions with Hindi-speaking people. Nevertheless, most of us still suffer from the "typical southern slang." Early in June, the Modi Government was caught in the middle of a language storm. The draft National Education Policy had created a perception that Hindi was being made compulsory in all non-Hindi-speaking States. Such was the intensity of the backlash that it was forced to tweak the draft to allay fears. This time, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has test-fired a "one-language" mission, projecting Hindi as the singular choice that can unite the country. Shah should remember that the Constitution does not declare any single language as "national." Hindi is one of the 22 scheduled languages in the country and one of its two official languages at the national level, the other being English.

Many States are more comfortable with English as a link language. The Government should endeavour to ensure that people get quality education and access to speaking skills instead of raising non-issues

standing Hindi, it is gradually penetrating this region due to a number of factors like migration. Yet another reason for the spread of Hindi culture is Bollywood, which is becoming far more popular over there.

Even without any imposition, by far, Hindi as a language has made its presence far and wide. In 1971, 36.9 per cent of Indians spoke Hindi as a first language. In 2011, this increased to 43.6 per cent. In the long run, Hindi may

occupy primacy if the Centre does not force the language on the people. As of now, the English language is more acceptable, especially in the south than Hindi. The status of English as a medium of communication to non-



like linking language to pride and culture. Using one's native language is no greater marker of tradition or culture, it is a choice. In this globalising world, English opens many doors to students and workers. In countries in the region, there is a thriving industry imparting spoken English to those trying to secure jobs abroad. In India, people prefer a sub-standard English medium school to a vernacular one.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Hindi States has remained unchallenged until now. The idea of imposing Hindi on non-Hindi speaking people must be buried until people come forward to accept Hindi as the language of communication in lieu of English.

KV Seetharamiah
Hassan

Diverting attention

Sir — At a time when the country is faced with an economic crisis, it is unfortunate that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has raked up the issue of nationalising the Hindi language. Maybe this is a tactic to divert people's attention from some of the most pressing concerns pertaining to the economy.

Undoubtedly, the call for unity is noble but to think that it can come only out of uniformity is flawed. The BJP's landslide victory must not make it lose its head and cause it to become arrogant, autocratic and non-amenable to reasoning.

Ravi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The magic of 370 SUVs

I wonder whether the tax department is taking note of the huge amounts being spent by the candidates for the Assembly polls



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

The cavalcade seemed unending and 10 am on a Sunday morning is an unusual time to be stuck in a traffic jam. The reason, it turns out, is the huge number of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) blocking the road. Each vehicle is adorned with big posters informing us that this is a rally for one of the prospective candidates for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections due by the end of the year. The rally is to go to Rohtak to impress the party leader who has his own roadshow there. Young lumps wearing saffron T-shirts with the prospective candidate's photograph on it are energetically hanging out of the SUVs, a la Bollywood heroes. Going by the chaos and noise that is already being generated, I shudder to imagine what we are in for over the next few weeks.

I shouldn't have been surprised though. For the last couple of months, the whole of Delhi has been humming with election-related activity. The number of ticket seekers for the ruling party's nomination, since that seems a no-brainer, has been growing every day. And each of these prospects is outdoing the other by showering the electorate with incentives as well as plastering the whole city with their hoardings. T-shirts, clocks, badges, caps and saffron scarves are all the rage it seems. Each of these items helpfully has the benevolent donor's photograph along with of course our leader's picture — as if it was not enough to have his face ubiquitously staring at us from billboards publicising the Ujala Scheme, Ayushman Bharat and other sundry welfare programmes. It is the same story with hoardings — there is hardly an electricity pole, or a tree or even a fence left which does not carry multiple posters.

A novelty in this election is the use of the social media. Almost all of them have bought advertising space from Google and Facebook. Open a search page and there you have the smiling mug shot of one or more of these candidates promising to turn the dusty and dirty city into a paradise. Fortunately no one is promising to make the pot-holed roads as smooth as the cheeks of a baby as yet!

Incentives, hoardings and social media are not the only outlets being used to publicise and woo voters. Some candidates have found innovative methods of luring the electorate. Organising religious sermons and body-building contests seem passé—the latest one is religious tourism. One candidate organised an all-expenses paid trip to Vaishno Devi. Every day, for about a month, several air-conditioned Volvo busses would take people to the shrine. Their food, lodging and, of course, travel all taken care of. The buses carried huge banners with the suitably saffron-attired candidate's photograph. It remains to be seen whether those who earned some religious merit due to his benevolence would reciprocate on election day.

Then there is another candidate who is going about all this with a precision which would make a management guru proud. This gentleman started his campaign early—hoardings with his mustachioed face, suitably air-brushed to soften the obviously macho image have been all over the city for more than two months. The gentleman in question is the scion of an immensely wealthy family—his father, who incidentally has also unsuccessfully contested many elections, owns large swathes of property in and around the city.

The candidate has obviously hired an image consultant as well as a political strategist to appeal to different segments. Thus, for instance, a musical evening is organised with a popular singer to attract teenagers, while a programme honouring ex-servicemen with several mustachioed generals is held to buttress his patriotic credentials. Since one of the largest communities now in the city is from Poorvanchal, a gala extravaganza was organised recently with performances by all the leading lights of Bhojpuri cinema. This event was meticulously planned with camera cranes and mega sized projection screens to showcase the candidate while the audience of migrant Poorvanchalis waited patiently for their favourite stars to make an appearance. These and other events are then also advertised through ads in leading English dailies.

Needless to say, all this costs a large amount of money. Of course, the elections have not been announced and so the model code of conduct is not in force. But I wonder whether the sleuths of the tax department are taking note of tens of crores which are being so obviously spent by the candidates? The next time I get an Income Tax notice to explain an income of a few thousand, I shall be recalling the ubiquitous mustachioed face! I am pondering all this while sitting in the traffic jam while the SUV cavalcade inches along. I notice that the cars are all numbered sequentially and there is another number too on each of them—370. It turns out that the candidate was so enamoured by the recent heroic acts of the present dispensation that he decided to take a caravan of 370 SUVs to welcome the leader. I thanked our founding fathers for restricting the number of Articles in the Constitution to 448 only.

(The writer is a Professor, Department of Physics & Astrophysics, Delhi University)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

I WANT TO APPEAL TO PEOPLE TO PROMOTE THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGES BUT ALSO USE HINDI TO MAKE THE DREAM OF BAPU AND PATEL COME TRUE.

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH



IT'S PART OF THE SANGH PARIVAR'S PLAN TO LAUNCH A NEW BATTLEFIELD IN THE NAME OF LANGUAGE.

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Recovery will take time

The pace of economic reforms indicates that the FM has grasped the problem and we should see a fiscal revival but it may have an impact only from the third quarter



KARAN BHASIN

PRACHI JHAMB

There has been a lot of talk on the economic slowdown ever since we saw the first quarter growth results. The fact remains that the Finance Ministry has been working round-the-clock to address some of the critical concerns on the economic front both in the short and the long-term.

However, as is the case, most such measures are likely to have an impact only from the third quarter onwards. But the pace of reforms indicates that the Government has understood the different contours of the problem — and this should be a positive sign for economic revival.

As far as the second quarter is concerned, now is the time to look at the high frequency indicators and sit down to forecast economic growth. As with any forecasting exercise, it's important to keep in mind that most such exercises are subject to statistical errors and conditional on whatever information is made available at the time of the forecast. In all likelihood, we will update our forecast in the first week of October.

One of the authors had a forecast of 5.0-5.4 per cent of growth for the first quarter while another predicted 5.2-5.6 for the second quarter. Since then we've seen further weakening of consumption data, combined with less than encouraging automobile sales.

The automobiles industry makes up around seven per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but it has been in the news for slowing down tremendously, leading to loss of jobs and further impacting the slowdown in consumption. The data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on sale of all vehicles in India shows that the growth in sales fell the most post-2018. The data on private vehicles shows the same trend.

However, the data on commercial vehicles shows that growth was the slowest in 2016 and even though it recovered in 2017, growing at about 29 per cent, since then it has slowed down. The growth in sales of two-wheelers and three-wheelers has been falling since the first quarter of 2018. The fact that the automobiles sector is facing a slowdown shouldn't come as a surprise, given that it had a significantly higher growth in the preceding year. So, part of the slowdown is because of the high growth last year while the rest is explained by the Non-Banking Financial Companies' (NBFC) crisis, the shift to BS-VI emission norms and, of course, to the use of Ola/Ubers.

Consequently, there is a need to re-imagine the automobile business and many leaders of the industry have expressed this sentiment over the last couple of weeks. Further, the low consumption growth is well reflected in the monthly Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection numbers which have only witnessed a modest growth on a year-over-year basis. Therefore, in all probability, growth in the second quarter is likely to be muted— but, from the third quarter onwards, we may see a swift recovery aided by several measures by the Finance Ministry.

Our forecast for the second quarter has modified since then as recent data show that growth in the second quarter may well continue to be low. Consequently, given that the first quarter



“ WHILE GROWTH MAY BE LOW FOR THE SECOND QUARTER, ECONOMIC RECOVERY MAY START FROM THE THIRD QUARTER AND WE MAY BE BACK ON THE SEVEN PER CENT PLUS GROWTH TRACK BY THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR. IN FACT, IF WE CONTINUE WITH THE SAME TRAJECTORY, THEN VERY SOON WE MAY JUST MANAGE TO PUSH OUR POTENTIAL GROWTH TO 8.5 AND SUSTAIN AN EIGHT PLUS GROWTH RATE FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD ”

figures were more towards the lower bounds of the forecast, based on recent data, our forecast stands at 4.9-5.3 per cent of growth for the second quarter.

The silver lining is that the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has shown a very healthy growth and while it covers only a very narrow scope of economic activity, it is a definite signal of revival. Consequently, it is very likely that the forecast is reversed upwards and growth may well be towards the upper limit of the forecast in contrast with the first quarter. What this essentially means is that there are early signs of economic recovery, which are indeed encouraging, given that we had bottomed out at five per cent.

For the third quarter, growth may well be between 5.8 to 6.2, but this is just a preliminary forecast as we wait to see the impact of the current announcements that have been made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Some of these announcements have already been implemented and will have a definite positive impact on the economy. One of them relates to GST refunds for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which have been a concern since their introduction. The Government has recognised that there is a need to have a system for time-bound refunds and it has ordered that all existing ones be cleared within 30 days. Going forward, all refunds should be cleared within 60

days. This will have an immediate impact on addressing the working capital constraints in the MSME space which, in turn, will ensure that the system is infused with fresh liquidity. It is likely that this will have an impact as far as growth in this and the next quarter is concerned.

Similarly, the Government has tried to address concerns of the automobile industry by removing the ban on replacing current vehicles, which will try to absorb some of the accumulated inventories over the last couple of months. What is important is to also consider that the Government has committed to the expenditure as stated in the Union Budget and to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. This suggests that expenditure will continue as per plan and any revenue shortfall may be met through increased disinvestments. Both are again a positive sign for the economy — although one needs to further evaluate whether there's any difference between a 3.3-3.5 per cent deficit, especially during a time when growth has been slow.

Similarly, consolidation of banks, combined with several governance reforms and aggressive moves on the relaxation of external commercial borrowings for NBFCs and now even for affordable housing projects, are both progressive decisions that reflect India's demand for foreign capital.

For the first time, there's a pragmatic realisation that India is a capital-deficit country and the only way to

meet our need for investment would be to seek foreign capital. Luckily, low and negative yields elsewhere make India a no-brainer as far as movement of capital is concerned. Harsh Gupta — a hedge fund manager and a financial columnist — has worked extensively on this area as he's documented the need to be progressive in our outlook towards foreign finance.

It is important to have a progressive and pragmatic outlook towards addressing the current crisis. We need to simultaneously focus on reevaluating some of our previous policy choices and think hard on whether they've helped us meet our growth aspirations. The Finance Minister is doing the same with a strong commitment towards reviving economic growth and towards deep structural reforms. The three press conferences have given us a signal that Sitharaman means business and this fact itself makes us extremely optimistic about India's economic prospects over the near term.

While growth may be low for the second quarter, economic recovery may start from the third quarter and we may be back on the seven per cent plus growth track by the next financial year. In fact, if we continue with the same trajectory, then very soon we may just manage to push our potential growth to 8.5 and sustain an eight plus growth rate for a prolonged period.

(Karan Bhasin is a New Delhi-based policy researcher and Prachi Jhamb is a research associate with the Reserve Bank of India)

Right to live happy in the sunset years

With a gradual slowdown in India's population growth, it's imperative to cultivate 'social prescribing' for the elderly to better address their medical and emotional needs. Promoting healthy ageing can help reduce burden on healthcare services



KEWAL KAPOOR

For all the political discourse about a "population explosion," the truth is that India is witnessing a slowdown in its population growth and is expected to start reversing its numbers over the next two to three decades. With the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) down to 2.3 per woman, we are inching closer to achieving replacement levels of population growth. A slowing population automatically implies a higher number of the elderly as against the young. According to the Economic Survey 2019, the country as a whole will continue to enjoy the "demographic dividend" for a few more decades but some States will start transitioning to an ageing society as early as the 2030s. With declining fertility, reduction

in mortality and increasing survival at older ages, the shift in age structure from young to the old is expected to give rise to a major public healthcare burden. Unfortunately, we do not seem prepared to meet the requirements of this shift with little emphasis on improving our elderly care structure, health structure or building a social support system to address this.

The need is not limited to improving healthcare infrastructure and availability of caregivers for the aged but also to create innovative social solutions to enable the elderly population live better, happier and more productive lives. "Social prescribing" is a strategy that ageing countries are now incorporating in their policy to address the physical and mental health needs of senior citizens and finding a way to address the problem of loneliness.

In 2018, the British Government initiated a new strategy to address the growing problem of loneliness among the country's elderly. As part of this strategy that is expected to be fully in



place by 2023, physicians will be allowed and encouraged to refer people to partake in social activities and social groups to combat loneliness. The strategy is aimed at reducing the burden on the British health service and improving patients' quality of life. This approach will be supplemented by investing in community projects such as creating cafes, art spaces or gardens that can become the focal point of the

social prescriptions for the elderly.

This approach originates from the realisation that additional and the medical needs of the elderly mean we give them a good quality of life, happiness and greater social involvement. Currently, society treats the elderly with a peculiar redundancy. However, changing this approach could help convert a large experienced and wise population into valuable social capital, rather than just a healthcare burden.

Promoting healthy ageing can help delay the onset of disease and allow us to have a more productive population in its sunset years. Healthy ageing is essentially a process through which the elderly are enabled to optimise their physical and mental health and are able to take an active part in society. Community referrals are a mechanism to create and utilise social support structures for the elderly. For example, an elderly couple living alone in a city away from their children can enjoy a much better quality of life if they are a regular part

of a community exercise that allows them to pursue their passions and hobbies. This community referral system must also become an intrinsic part of the healthcare structure so doctors are able to refer their elderly patients to the communities held suitable for them.

There is scientific evidence to believe that staying socially active and relevant not only helps fight depression but also improves cognitive function and helps slow down decline in health. Joining communities and interest groups helps the elderly indulge in fruitful discussions, volunteer for social work and gives them hope and passion to live. Community groups can also be effectively leveraged to educate people to adopt healthy lifestyles that can enable them stay healthier longer.

This strategy cannot be achieved singularly by the Government. Rather, it needs active participation of innovative start-ups, social groups and volunteers to create a medical-social network requisite for social prescribing. Efforts are needed on multiple fronts to make this happen by creating community groups and social support networks to work in cohesion with doc-

tors and hospitals. Next come integrated awareness and training programmes, to prepare a workforce that can act as a vital link between doctors and community groups and can play the role of counselors for the elderly. Guidelines would have to be framed to help doctors recommend and refer patients to social networks apart from laying grounds for coordinated and community-referral system at the levels of villages, towns and cities. Last but not the least, we would need to engage the local population, students and volunteers to spread the activities of community groups. According to a 2017 report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), around 12.5 per cent of India's population will be 60 years and older by 2030; by 2050 this will increase to one-fifth of the population. Integrating social prescription with the healthcare structure will not only result in a healthier ageing population but also have the potential to reduce the financial burden on healthcare services.

(The writer is director and creative strategist of an advertising and consulting agency)



FOREIGN EYE



CAMERON COST THE NATION DEAR

By the standards of everyday life, ex-British Prime Minister David Cameron seems an unremarkably decent man; by the standards of some of his colleagues, a kind and thoughtful one. But politicians should not be judged by the standards of everyday life. They should be held to higher ones, because it is in their power to make much more damaging mistakes than most people can.

(The Guardian editorial)

HC stays Yogi's move to shift 17 OBCs to SC list

Lucknow: In a major setback to the Yogi Adityanath Government, the Allahabad High Court on Monday stayed its decision to include 17 Other Backward Castes (OBC) in the Scheduled Castes (SC) list.

The court's decision came on a petition filed by social activist Gorakh Prasad.

On June 24, the state government had directed District Magistrates and Commissioners to issue Scheduled Caste certificates to 17 OBCs - Kashyap, Rajbhar, Dhivar, Bind, Kumhar, Kahar, Kewat, Nishad, Bhar, Mallah, Prajapati, Dhimar, Batham, Turha, Godia, Manjhi and Machua.

The Government's move was apparently aimed at wooing these communities ahead of by-elections to 12 Assembly seats.

The decision, incidentally, had been criticised even by the BJP-led Central Government, with Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot telling the Rajya Sabha on July 2 that the move was not in accordance with the Constitution.

Gehlot had said that if the UP Government wanted to go ahead with its proposal, it should follow procedure and send a proposal to the Centre.

BSP chief Mayawati had



also slammed the move as "unconstitutional" and called it "politically motivated".

"No Government can include or remove any caste from the Scheduled Caste list. Article 341 prevents a Government from doing so. Only the President and Parliament have the powers to do so," she had said.

Part 1 of Article 341 clearly states that the President can specify any group to the SC list through a public notification on the Governor's advice. Part 2 says that if a notification is released under part 1 of Article 341, it can only be changed by Parliament. Part 2 also states that Parliament can specify, include or exclude any group from the SC list.

She pointed out that the notification cannot be undone by any other notification.

"These castes will no longer get the benefits of quota under

UP honour killing: Dalit burnt alive

Hardoi (UP): A 20-year-old Dalit man was allegedly burnt alive over his relationship with a woman from another caste, a killing that his relatives said also led to his mother's death.



According to the police, the suspected case of honour killing occurred at Bhadaya area of Hardoi district on Saturday.

Abhishek alias Monu was beaten up, kept hostage in a house and set ablaze, Superintendent of Police Alok Priyadarshi said. Locals who rushed to the spot on hearing his cries and took him to a local hospital. He was referred to a Lucknow hospital but succumbed to injuries on the way on Sunday, the SP said.

A relative said Monu's mother died of shock after hearing the news. According to the SP, locals said Monu was in a relationship with a girl and had gone to meet her when the incident took place.

Monu was returning after arranging Rs 25,000 for the treatment of his ailing mother, Ram Beti (60), his uncle Raju said. Monu was stopped and taken to a house by some people with whom the family had an enmity. They also snatched the money and set him ablaze, according to Raju.

An FIR has been filed against five people, including two family members and two neighbours of the girl, the SP said, adding that an investigation is on. **PTI**

Shah's Hindi remark: DMK to stage protests on Sept 20

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Upping the ante against "Hindi imposition," a high-level DMK meet on Monday announced protest demonstrations across Tamil Nadu on September 20 to condemn Home Minister Amit Shah's Hindi pitch.

The agitation was to nip in the bud the "adverse effects" of "Hindi imposition on 'mother Tamil' and the mother tongues of people of other (non-Hindi speaking) states," a resolution adopted at the meet said.

Briefing reporters, DMK chief MK Stalin said the agitation was the first phase of protest on Hindi issue and the further



course of action will be decided on the basis of Central Government's response and consultations with like-minded parties. **PTI**

No 'Shah or Sultan' can alter India's diversity, says Haasan

Chennai: Taking a dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the Hindi language issue, Tamil actor-politician Kamal Haasan on Monday said no "Shah, Sultan or Saamraat" should renege on the promise of unity in diversity that was made when India became a republic.

Two days after major political parties in Tamil Nadu reacted strongly to Shah's comments in connection with the celebration of Hindi Diwas, MNM party founder Kamal Haasan joined the tribe through a video message and a tweet.

"The unity in diversity is a promise we made when we made India into a Republic. Now no 'Shah, Sultan or Saamraat' should renege on that promise. We respect all languages. But our mother language will always be Tamizh," he said.

Continuing further he added: "Jalikkattu was just a protest. The battle for our language will be exponentially bigger than that. India or Tamil Nadu does not need or deserve such a battle."

"Most of the nation happily sings the national anthem in Bengali with pride and will continue to do so. The reason is the poet who wrote the national anthem gave due respect to all languages and cultures within the anthem," he said. **IANS**

No love for Hindi as rashtra bhasha is no love for India, says Tripura CM

Agartala: Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Monday claimed that those who are opposing Hindi as the 'rashtra bhasha' (national language) do not love the country.

He, however, made it clear that he was not against English or was not trying to impose Hindi.

"The people who are opposing Hindi as the national language are those who have no love for the country... I am supporting Hindi as the national language as most of the people of our country speak Hindi," the chief minister said.

Had the Britishers not ruled India for 200 years, there would have been no use of English in official works in the country, he said.

According to the Official Languages Act, 1963, Hindi and English are the official

languages for the Union government and Parliament.

A total of 22 languages of the country are recognised under the Eight Schedule of the Constitution.

Supporting Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion on Saturday that Hindi as a language can unite the whole country, Deb said, "Due to loyalty to the colonial rule, English became a status symbol for many people."

"It is not that only English speaking nations progress. Had it been the case, countries such as Germany, China, Japan, Russia and Israel would have not developed," the chief minister said.

He also urged government officers to help people in official works, who does not understand English and can speak only regional languages. **PTI**

2 injured in mob attack on family

AMU students protest, demand arrest

PTI ■ ALIGARH

At least two members of a family were injured in an alleged mob attack at a railway station here, triggering protests by Aligarh Muslim University students who said it was an attempt to lynch them.

The attack took place following an altercation Sunday as the family of Afsana Begum was getting off a train while some other passengers were trying to get into the same compartment, according to a complaint lodged with the railway police.

A little later, about 30 peo-

ple reached there and attacked Afsana Begum's family members, their complaint said. Police said two family members, Shafiq and Fahim, were admitted at AMU's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College. Afsana Begum told reporters that four others suffered minor injuries.

Before the complaint could be lodged with the railway police, the assailants had fled. AMU students said they were outsiders. As the news spread, several Aligarh Muslim University students gathered at the station, demanding the arrest of the unidentified assailants.

Afsana Begum's family had come from Kannauj for the medical treatment of her son Shafiq. The situation was defused after GRP inspector Yashpal Singh assured them that the culprits would be booked.

Ex-Andhra Speaker commits suicide

SEELAM AROZIE ■ VIJAYWADA/HYDERABAD



Former Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Assembly and six-time TDP MLA from Narasaraopet, Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao, allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Hyderabad on Monday.

Over the last few months, the former Speaker was in the midst of a major controversy as he was accused of diverting the Assembly furniture to his residence and his son's showroom, inviting sharp criticism from his own party as also the YSRC Government.

However, mystery shrouds his death as authorities of the Basavatarakam Hospital, where he was shifted by his family members, said he died due to a massive heart attack. The exact reason that forced the ex-Speaker, who was also a qualified MBBS doctor, to take the drastic step is being ascertained

by the police, sources said. He is survived by wife Sasikala, daughter Vijayalakshmi and son Sivaramakrishna — both doctors. His family members said he was under tremendous stress and strain due to the allegations against him.

A case had been filed against him last month after he admitted to shifting Assembly furniture and computers from the premises to his residence in Guntur. Charges were filed under sections relating to criminal breach of trust by a public servant and dishonestly receiving stolen property at the Thullur police station in Guntur district. Assembly section officer Easwara Rao filed a complaint against the TDP leader.

The former Assembly Speaker had admitted to shifting the property. As Speaker, he claimed, he was the custodian of Assembly property so he kept the furniture in his 'safe custody' after it was 'retrieved' from the old Assembly in Hyderabad while the Capital was being shifted to Amaravati.

After his admission, officials from the Assembly had searched a showroom owned by Rao's family, last month and reportedly identified 32 chairs, four sofas, three tables, one teapoy and other items that belonged to the Assembly. Kodela justified moving the property saying if the furniture was left at the Speaker's chambers in Hyderabad, its maintenance would have been a problem.

The ruling YSR Congress, including its chief Jagannathan Reddy, pounced on Kodela and the TDP, accusing the former Speaker of 'stealing' the legislative property. Sattenapalli MLA

Ambati Rambabu said that only because Rao was 'exposed', he was willing to return the property. But even his own party workers lodged several criminal cases against him and his family members. Last month, a section of TDP workers protested at the party's State office in Guntur, demanding Rao's removal as in-charge of the Sattenapalli constituency. Sivaprasad moved the HC seeking directions to the Assembly to take back the furniture.

After speaking to the agitating leaders and workers, party president and former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu told reporters that the party won't hesitate to take action against top leaders. "We have already prepared a list of leaders who were involved in corrupt practices in the past five years when TDP was in power," he had said. On Monday, Naidu said he was "unable to digest" Sivaprasad's death.

Eminent personalities in West Bengal oppose Hindi imposition

Kolkata: Over 50 eminent Bengali personalities from different walks of life have called upon the people of West Bengal to give "due respect to all languages" and "resist attempt to impose just one".

Taking to Facebook, they issued a statement on Monday, urging people to register a strong protest against any bid to edge out Bengali language from their lives.

Among the signatories are poet Subodh Sarkar, poet-columnist Binyak Bandyopadhyay, elocutionists Urmimala Basu and Jagannath Basu and independent filmmaker Pradipta Bhattacharya.

The social media statement was issued two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah pitched for a common

language in the country and said it was Hindi which is spoken the most and can unite the country.

Apprehending that "a day may come in foreseeable future when our own language, our mother tongue, our dearest Bengali language will become threatened", it said that "intimidatory tactics" from certain quarters to impose one language should be resisted.

Sarkar, in a separate statement, said, "I respect Hindi language. But I equally respect Malayali, Marathi, Konkani and all other languages spoken in this country."

No language can be greater or smaller, no language can be superior or inferior to another, he insisted. **PTI**

Unhappy with Maha CID's Pansare murder probe report: Bombay HC

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Monday said it was "unhappy" with the probe report submitted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Maharashtra CID on the killing of CPI leader Govind Pansare.

A bench of justices SC Dharmadhikari and GS Patel noted that the SIT report did not contain any "independent steps" it had taken during the course of its probe and said "things are not moving".

It was hearing petitions filed by the kin of Pansare and rationalist Narendra Dabholkar seeking a court-monitored probe in their killings.

The court said the only reason it was refraining from passing a more critical order was that it realised the officer concerned had failed to make any significant progress in the past few weeks due to floods in Kolhapur.



"The investigating officer has failed to list any independent steps in this report. Whatever you (SIT) have stated here is all resting on the probe in other cases (the probe into killings of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar and journalist Gauri Lankesh)," the bench said.

"We must convey our unhappiness. Things are not moving. We are refraining from passing critical order against the officer only in light of prevailing

conditions of continuous rains in the area. But we hope the SIT will submit a better and comprehensive report next time," the bench said.

Earlier, during the hearing, the CBI, which is investigating the Dabholkar case, also submitted a progress report on its probe.

CBI counsel, Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, told the court the agency was working on tracing the weapons used in the case and the exercise would take another four weeks.

The HC accepted the CBI's submissions and adjourned the hearing to next month. Dabholkar was shot dead on August 20, 2013 in Pune while on his morning walk. Pansare was shot at on February 16, 2015 in Kolhapur and succumbed to his injuries a few days later on February 20. **PTI**

Dengue vaccination in India from next year, says ICMR

Kolkata: Dengue vaccination will be introduced in India early next year on a demonstration basis in areas where the prevalence is high, a senior official of the Indian Council of Medical Research said here on Monday.

A serosurvey (a test of blood serum from a group of individuals) in this connection has been done recently in more than 15 states including West Bengal, and the report was published in the medical journal, Lancet Global Health, the official said. "As soon as we get the approval (from the government), as soon as all permissions and documentations are done properly, we will launch the dengue vaccine in India, ICMR Director General Prof (Dr) Balram Bhargava said. "We are looking at the use of demonstration projects for the dengue vaccine for the future in areas of high prevalence," Bhargava said. **PTI**

MUZAFFARPUR GANGRAPE

Woman's medical report shows no injury: Police

NHRC seeks report, NCW team to visit Bihar

Bettiah/Patna: Efforts were on to nab the accused named by an 18-year-old former inmate of a Muzaffarpur shelter home who has alleged that she was gangraped inside a moving vehicle, the Bihar police said on Monday and noted it was "not ruling out anything" after a medical examination showed "no external or internal injury" to her.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar, seeking a detailed report

in four weeks in the matter while the National Commission for Women said it has formed a committee headed by chairperson Rekha Sharma which would travel to the state on September 19-20 to meet the victim.

The woman was admitted to a government medical college on Saturday evening and a medical examination was conducted by a team of doctors on Sunday.

Superintendent of Police, Bettiah, Jayantkant, said that injuries invariably found on the person of a victim of coerced sexual intercourse were absent in the medical tests reports of the complainant, who had alleged that she was sexually

assaulted by four men on Friday night.

"We are not ruling out anything at this point of time, though. The girl has named all the accused in her FIR who were, admittedly, known to her since before. We are on the look out for the accused persons as we need to examine as to whether any type of deception was involved," the SP told PTI over phone.

Asked about an audio clip that has surfaced in social media with the claim that it has voices of the four accused, besides the person driving the vehicle, while the girl was sexually assaulted close to her house, the SP said it sheds no fresh light on the case. **PTI**

Maharashtra to deploy drones for emergency medical supplies

TR RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In first of its kind partnership, the Maharashtra Government has tied up with a private operator Zipline to use its logistics network of drones for delivery of blood products and emergency medicines to people in remote areas in collaboration with Serum Institute of India (SII).

Being touted as world's first and only national-scale drone delivery service, the Maharashtra's Medical Drone Delivery Service (MMDDS) will be launched in early 2020.

The MMDDS, which is being undertaken as part of the Maharashtra Government's vision to use drone delivery, seeks to establish a universal seven-days-a-week access to life-saving and critical medicines for each of its 120 million citizens over the coming years.

Zipline drones will make on-demand and emergency deliveries of blood products, vaccines and life-saving medications. Under the tie-up, Zipline will establish a total of 10 distribution centres across Maharashtra in phases in the coming years.

"The State Government's goal is to put almost all of its 120 million citizens within minutes of a lifesaving medical delivery by drone. In the first phase of operations, two distribution centres located near Pune and Nandurbar will be established to service public health facilities in those regions beginning in early 2020," an official spokesperson said.

Each of the two Zipline distribution centers in Maharashtra will cover a delivery area of more than 20,000 square km. They will collectively be capable of serving up to 20 million people. **PTI**

Using drones, AI and big data, India to draw up digital map with 10 cms resolution

Bengaluru: India has initiated a project to digitally map the country with a resolution of 10 centimetres, using drones and technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and big data, a senior Government official said on Monday.

The herculean task was taken up by the Survey of India, part of the Department of Science and Technology, a few months ago and is planned to be completed in two years, the Department's Secretary, Prof Ashutosh Sharma said.

"...Now we are equipping them (Survey of India) with the latest technologies like drones, Artificial Intelligence, big data analytics, image processing and continuously operated reference system", he told



reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

Once the project is completed, the data will be available to citizens and to Gram Panchayats and local

bodies, empowering them to use it in decision making and planning process.

MORTAR SHELLING BY PAK

7 jawans escape death

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

At least seven soldiers of the Indian Army had a close shave with death when at least two mortar shells, fired by the Pakistan Army from across the Line of Control, exploded in the close vicinity of an ambush party late Sunday night.

Considering nature of injuries, the injured soldiers were immediately airlifted to a nearby military hospital past midnight. At present, these soldiers were receiving specialised treatment to recoup at the earliest. Official sources claimed all the soldiers were stable in the military hospital.

According to ground reports, "four jawans received splinter injuries while three others had received minor 'bruise' injuries after two mortars exploded nearby".

Initially, 'unconfirmed' reports late Sunday night had claimed Border Action Team (BAT) of Pakistan army comprising Special Services Group (SSG) commandos may have targeted one of the forward posts using rocket launcher to cause maximum fatal injuries to the Indian jawans. These



reports also claimed the rocket attack was carried out from a close range to maximise the impact.

However, early Monday morning, Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand in a statement said, "Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing of small arms and intense shelling with mortars in Balakote, Mendhar sector around 10.30 p.m on Sunday evening. Indian army retaliated befittingly".

Defence PRO also denied reports of BAT attack on one of the forward Indian post in Balakote area of Mendhar. Defence PRO clarified, only four soldiers suffered minor splinter injuries during intense mortar shelling. He said, all the

soldiers are safe and under treatment in military hospital.

Meanwhile, fresh intelligence reports have also alerted the local formation commanders about regular activity of SSG commandos across some of the forward posts of Pakistan army. In the last few days, Indian agencies are observing hectic activity in areas opposite Mendhar sector.

Ground reports also indicated, several forward villages have been vacated by the Pakistan army to accommodate large number of terrorists across 'activated' launching pads in these villages. Top Indian army commanders are also keeping a close watch on the hectic activity of Pakistani army regulars in these forward areas.

CBI prepares to tighten noose as Bengal ex-top cop remains traceless

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Former Kolkata Commissioner of Police Rajiv Kumar could not be communicated as his mobile phone remained switched off. The mobile phone of his personal security officer was also traceless. The three top offices — Chief Secretary, Home Secretary and Director General of Police — of the Bengal Government had reportedly informed the Central Bureau of Investigation in response to a letter seeking his whereabouts.

The top offices, however, confirmed that the senior officer was on leave till September 25 and that the CBI's letter had been sent to his residential address. Kumar had earlier sought month's time from the CBI for appearance citing his wife's illness for which he was on leave.

The noose around the senior IPS officer and presently the Additional Director General of CID tightened further with the CBI preparing to oppose any move by him seeking anticipatory bail from a CBI

court in Kolkata.

The CBI had directed Kumar to appear before its officials on Friday within hours of his losing the judicial shield against arrest in Calcutta High Court. Kumar is being probed for his role as the chief of the Special Investigating Team former by the Mamata Banerjee Government in 2013 when the multi-crore Saradha chit fund scam became public.

According to sources certain crucial evidences including a red diary, a pen drive, lap top and several CDs and other documents referred to be other accused and witnesses had gone missing after they were reportedly seized by the SIT in 2013.

The Supreme Court handed over the case to the CBI in 2014 following mass protest against the State police for insincere investigation and tampering of evidence.

The CBI had constantly been complaining of lack of cooperation by the State Police including Kumar who had repeatedly ignored its notice to appear before the Agency.

Didi to meet Modi on Wednesday

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will fly to Delhi on Tuesday where she will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday to discuss a whole lot of administrative issues, including the unfulfilled financial and other demands of the State Government, sources at State secretariat Nabanna said.

Mamata Banerjee's sudden visit to Delhi comes against the backdrop of ongoing battle between BJP and TMC over National Register for Citizens and mounting CBI pressure on former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar who reportedly remained "incommunicado" for the third day on Monday after losing the shield against arrest in Calcutta HC. Kumar is being investigated for his role in the preliminary round of investigations in the Saradha chit fund case.

The Prime Minister is likely to meet Banerjee at 4 pm on Wednesday, sources said where after she will return to Kolkata on Thursday. Nabanna sources said adding "an appointment was sought by the chief minister's office last week for a meeting with the Prime Minister ... it will take place in New Delhi on Wednesday," sources said adding among a "whole lot of

issues State's long pending demands" could be discussed.

With the Chief Minister being Modi's staunchest of critics the two leaders are likely to meet each other after a yawning gap of about 18 months. The last time they met for a few moments was at Vishva Bharati (Shantiniketan) in 2018 where the Prime Minister had come to attend an official programme.

The Wednesday's meeting assumes significance not only against the backdrop of steadily deteriorating chemistry

between the two leaders but also against the CBI's tightening noose around senior IPS officer Rajiv Kumar who is currently functioning as the Additional Director General of CID.

On whether Banerjee would also raise the issue of NRC with the Prime Minister TMC sources said "there is nothing new in a Chief Minister of an opposition party meeting the Prime Minister. No politics should be seen in it. Didi will raise a range of issues including State's pending demands."

Mamata saving herself from CBI, mocks BJP

Kolkata: The BJP leadership Monday mocked West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for seeking an appointment to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi calling it a "classic example of opportunistic politics" and "a desperate attempt to save herself from the clutches of CBI".

The appointment for the meeting was sought by the chief minister's office last week and Banerjee is likely to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital on

Wednesday, state secretariat sources said on Monday.

She will be leaving for New Delhi on Tuesday, the sources said.

BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha said, "We all know the kind of language she (Banerjee) had used against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Lok Sabha elections and afterwards. She never had any regard for the federal structure and had even said she does not feel the need to respect Modiji as Prime Minister. PTI

Pawar terms deserters 'cowards' Guv sent Registers Bill to Prez, says Mizoram speaker

Mumbai: NCP chief Sharad Pawar has termed those who left his party to join the ruling BJP as "cowards", and said people will show the deserters their place in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections.

In a setback for the NCP, several senior party leaders recently joined the BJP and the Shiv Sena.

"They are cowards... People of Maharashtra will take care of such people in the elections," Pawar said on Sunday, a day after senior leader Udayanraje Bhosale quit the NCP and his



Lok Sabha membership from Satara and joined the BJP.

"There are some people who have lost their self-respect and switched over to the BJP. I think people will show them their place in the Assembly polls," he said.

Pawar, who founded the

NCP in 1999 after walking out of the Congress, said he worked in opposition for 27 years.

"I managed to work in the opposition at times more effectively. But I don't feel like sitting with this kind of opposition (leaders)," he said.

Besides Bhosale, some of the other prominent leaders who quit the NCP recently include former ministers Jaidutta Kshirsagar, Ganesh Naik and Sachin Ahir, and former state unit president Bhaskar Jadhav.

The NCP chief also attacked the NDA government over the

condition of the economy.

"This government has left many people jobless. This time people will give them a strong message," he said.

Pawar also took a dig at state Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ahead of his scheduled visit to Sangli and Kolhapur districts, which were the worst hit by unprecedented floods last month.

"He (Fadnavis) went there (in flood-hit areas) only once just for few hours and never visited again," he said. PTI

President. However, he was yet to officially inform it to the chief minister or the assembly speaker," Sailo said.

According to the Article 200 of the Constitution, he said, if the governor has to return a Bill, it has to be done as soon as possible after the bill was presented to him. Meanwhile, the speaker on Monday again urged President Ram Nath Kovind to appoint a regular governor for Mizoram expeditiously. PTI

Kin allege lack of ventilator in Sion Hospital killed man

Mumbai: A senior citizen died on Monday in civic-run Sion Hospital with family members alleging that he was not provided a ventilator and efforts to sustain him with an ambu pump proved futile.

Nabi Ahmed Ansari (65), a resident of Ambernath in neighbouring Thane district, had suffered brain haemorrhage last week and was shifted from a private hospital there to Sion Hospital soon after, the deceased's brother-in-law Noor Ansari said. "For two days, we could not arrange a ventilator and were using an ambu pump every two hours as instructed by authorities. We had inquired about ventilators in other civic hospitals as well but in vain," Ansari said. Sion Hospital Dean Dr Mohan Joshi said he was unaware of the number of ventilators available at the medical facility, among the biggest in Mumbai, but added that the use of ambu pumps, to mimic the work of ventilators, in such cases was common practice. PTI

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF M/S MAGIC INFO SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1. Name of Corporate Debtor	M/S Magic Info Solutions Private Limited
2. Date of incorporation of Corporate Debtor	21.05.2006
3. Authority under which Corporate Debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, (Delhi) under Companies Act, 1956/ 2013
4. Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U70100DL2006PTC149035
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	D-13, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	05.09.2019, being date of order passed by Hon'ble NCLT (Order received by IRP on 14.09.2019).
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	03.03.2020
8. Name and Registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Gaurav Katiyar IBBI/PA-001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409
9. Address and email of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the board	Add: D-32, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110065 Email: cagauravkatiyar@gmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Add: D-32, East of Kailash, New Delhi - 110065 Email: maginfo.arp@gmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	28.09.2019
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Allottee under real estate project
13. Names of insolvency professionals identified to act as authorised Representative of creditors in a class (three names for each class)	1. Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh IP Registration no. : IBBI/PA-003/IP-N00050/2017-18/10443 Address: 203, 2nd Floor, 10 Sikka Complex Community Centre, Patel Vihar, New Delhi 110092 E-mail: cma.mnsingh@gmail.com 2. Mr. Mukul Kumar IP Registration no. : IBBI/PA-001/IP-P01670/2019-2020/12642 Address: D-31/1304, The Legend, Subharti Lok Phase 3, Sector 57, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 E-mail: adv.mksingh@gmail.com 3. Mr. Shyam Arora IP Registration no. : IBBI/PA-002/IP-N00546/2017-18/11703 Address: 96, Aravali Apartment, Alaknanda, New Delhi, National Capital Territory of Delhi-110019 E-mail: arora.shyam@yahoo.com
14. (a) Relevant forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at	Website: https://ibi.gov.in/home/downloads https://ibi.gov.in/jsp-register/registered-ips The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) 7th Floor, Mayapuri, Bhawan, Shankar Market, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the M/s Magic Info Solutions Private Limited on 05.09.2019. The creditors of M/s Magic Info Solutions Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 28.09.2019 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13 to act as authorised representative of the class [Allottee under real estate project of the Corporate Debtor] in Form CA.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Date : 16 September 2019
Place : New Delhi
Name and Signature of Interim Resolution Professional : Gaurav Katiyar

Aarey metro car shed will meet Nanar refinery's fate: Uddhav

Mumbai: A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis batted for a metro rail car shed in the metropolis' Aarey area, principal ally Shiv Sena's chief Uddhav Thackeray has warned the plan could end up like the aborted Nanar refinery in the Konkan region.

Uddhav's assertion has the potential to further widen the chasm between the two saffron parties which are hassling over the number of seats to contest the assembly elections, due next month.

The car shed plan for Metro 3 (Colaba-Bandra-Seez) line is in the midst of an acrimonious debate as the work will see the felling of over 2600 trees in the Aarey area, considered among the city's prime green lungs.

Responding to a question

on the car shed, Thackeray said, "It will meet the fate of the Nanar oil refinery".

Incidentally, Thackeray's son and Yuva Sena head Aaditya Thackeray has been vocal in his opposition to the metro plan.

A proposed ₹3 lakh crore refinery in Nanar in the state's Ratnagiri district had to be scrapped after the Sena put up a stiff resistance.

In March this year, the State Government scrapped a notification issued in May 2017 to acquire 5,932 hectares of land across 14 villages in Ratnagiri district and two villages in Sindhudurg district for the refinery.

On Sunday, Fadnavis said the Supreme Court had clarified that the (Aarey) land did not come under forest or bio-diversity. PTI



Workers at the construction site of phase one of Pune Metro Ranghill Depot, Shivajinagar in Pune city on Monday PTI

JD(S) will contest elections alone, says Deve Gowda

Bengaluru: Days after indicating that his party was still open for continuing its alliance with the Congress, JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda on Monday spoke about going it alone, as he predicted mid-term polls in Karnataka.

"There are chances of mid-term polls in the State. If they come, let's contest independently without going for an alliance with anyone," Gowda was quoted as saying in a statement by his office.

"Will not still commit that mistake. Lets face all the elections independently," he said.

After engaging in a blame game over the collapse of their coalition government, Gowda on Thursday indicated his party was still open for continuing its alliance with the Congress.

He had hinted that he was open for an alliance with the Congress in 17 assembly constituencies, where bypolls have been necessitated following the disqualification of rebel MLAs, but said it all depended on the decision of the national party's interim president Sonia Gandhi.

Gowda and Congress strongman in the state

Siddaramaiah had recently blamed each other for the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy led coalition Government in July after it was rocked by dissidence.

Both Congress and JD(S) leaders have also been non-committal over the continuation of the alliance after the fall of the coalition government.

Congress leaders, including state party chief Dinesh Gundu Rao and Siddaramaiah, the Congress legislature party leader, have maintained that continuation of the alliance will be decided by the high command.

However, several top party leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity, had recently said that the entire rank and file of the party were happy to end the partnership with JD(S).

Amid speculations that several JD(S) legislators may quit the party, the former Prime Minister said he was not worried about it and knows how to organise the party. Gowda has also asked party workers to take the message of the 'good work' done by H D Kumaraswamy as Chief Minister in the previous coalition government, to every household. "Those who have grown

from the party have spoken against it. I have organized the party, believing in party workers. Let anyone quit... Will not feel disheartened," he added.

Recently former Minister G T Devegowda and S R Srinivas had openly commented against the party leadership, especially Kumaraswamy. Predicting the assembly elections in January or February, Gowda said he and Kumaraswamy would undertake a state-wide tour to strengthen the party.

"The good work done by HDK during the coalition Government will help us," he said, as he called on the party workers to strengthen the organisation, setting aside minor differences. Also repeatedly predicting mid-term polls, Siddaramaiah has said that the BJP Govt cannot survive for long as it has come to power with the help of 17 Congress-JD(S) disqualified MLAs.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac
A 1	05/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	Emergency work (Beautification of Vilopit Koodaghar at various locations in the Area of Work Circle-5), Noida	₹ 55.81
B 2	13/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2019-20	M/o Road (Micero Simulation Analysis and Improvement of Traffic Circulation near upcoming under ground car parking at Film City Sector-16A), Noida	₹ 36.39

Which can be uploaded by Date 23.09.2019 upto 5.00 PM.
Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date : 24.09.2019 at 11.00AM.

S.No	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac
C 3	05/GM(R)/SM(WC-4)/2019-20	Other Maintenance work (P/F Gril work on Central verge between Sector-62-63 at road No.-6), Noida	₹ 52.53

Which can be uploaded by Date 30.09.2019 upto 5.00 PM.
Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on Date : 01.10.2019 at 11.00AM.

General Manager (R)
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age: 40 years, Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Small and Black, Height: 5'4", was found unconscious condition in front of Shop No. F-162, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi at 12 Midnight. In this regard a DD No. 36 A, dated 06.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24671281, 26882346
DP/7073/SW/19

Rate cut alone can't arrest slump, boost rural demand: SBI report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Loose monetary policy alone cannot arrest the deepening slump, instead government must take demand-boosting measures, especially in rural areas, by front-loading expenditure primarily through the national rural employment scheme, says a report.

Economists at State Bank Research Monday also warned that any attempt to trim government spending to maintain the fiscal numbers will be severely detrimental to growth.

"The current slowdown cannot be tackled by monetary policy in isolation. The government must address demand weakness by continuing to meaningfully front-load expenditure say through Mgnrega and PM-Kisan, the report said.

The PM-Kisan portal shows the number of beneficiaries under the scheme is only 6.89 crore against the target of 14.6 crore due to slow validation in farmer data. This has to be speeded up to boost rural demand, the report said.

Data from the Mgnrega website show that against total release from the Centre of ₹45,903 crore (till September 13), total spend is around 73 percent only or ₹33,420 crore.

The budget has estimated capital expenditure of ₹3,38,085 crore but till July, it has spent only 31.8 percent of the allotted amount as against 37.1 percent a year ago. Private investment share has declined significantly from 50 percent in value terms during 2007-14 to 30 percent during 2015-19.

"In such a case, the Government should clearly state upfront that the additional fiscal spending is specifically for infra spending to boost demand and not for any unproductive purposes," the report said.

The headline fiscal deficit should stay at 3.3 percent, while the additional fiscal impulse for infra spending could over and above this.

It said the RBI could also frontload large rate cuts in the October policy and also start doing open market operations that will keep the Government bond yields in check.

The Government should go ahead with the overseas sale of sovereign bonds. It could partly hedge the borrowings and thereby decide to not bring back the dollar proceeds into the country," it said adding this will take care of the problem of RBI sterilisation and could also solve the problem of hedging.

The report also called for allowing FPIs to acquire stressed assets through the bankruptcy process instead of going through asset reconstruction companies.

Govt to cut insurance premium rates for small exporters: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry will soon approach the Cabinet for reduction in insurance premium rates to 0.6 per cent for small exporters having an outstanding limit of less than ₹80 crore, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. The commerce and industry minister said the premium rate is 0.72 per cent.

Further, premium rates for exporters having outstanding limit of over ₹80 crore will be streamlined with a view to help them.

Such exporters will be divided into categories such as non-gold, jewellery and diamond, among others. This is being done as insurance claim ratio for gold, jewellery and diamond players are high and that impacts banks' lending ability.

"For accounts with limits below ₹80 crore, the premium rates will be moderated to 0.60 per annum and for those exceeding ₹80 crore, it will be 0.72 per annum for the same enhanced cover," Goyal told reporters here.

He said that ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India) has launched a new scheme NIRVIK (Niryat Rin Vikas Yojna).

This will provide more comfort to banks to lend to exporters.

The minister said the scope of cover has been enlarged to include not only the principal outstanding but also for the unpaid interest for a maximum of two quarters or the

NPA date, whichever is earlier. The cover percentage has been enhanced to 90 per cent from the present average of 60 per cent for both principal and interest.

Goyal also said that the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) envisages simplified procedure for settlement of claim and also for provisional payment up to 50 per cent within 30 days on production of proof of end-use of the advances in default by the insured bank.

The ECIS support will be in force for a period of five-years and on conclusion, the standard ECGC covers will be available for banks with its regular features.

Goyal said that under the scheme, inspection of bank documents and records by ECGC officials will be mandatory for losses exceeding ₹10 crore as against the present ₹1 crore.

"The proposed cover will bring down the cost of credit due to capital relief, less provision requirement and liquidity due to quick settlement of claims and will ensure timely and adequate working capital to the export sector," he added.

Further, the minister said that after getting an insurance coverage of 90 per cent, small exporters will get loans at competitive rate at about 7.6 per cent.

"If borrowers' track record will be good, they will get easy loans at affordable rates. And on this, there would not be any interest subvention," he said.

5% Q1 growth surprise; economy will look up with measures taken: Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday termed the low GDP growth of 5 per cent as a "surprise" but expressed confidence that the economy will look up with a host of measures taken by the government.

He further said that the RBI has been cutting rates to give a boost to the economy as slowdown was visible for past few months.

The RBI slashed benchmark interest rate four times consecutively since January 2019. The central bank reduced the repo (short term lending) rate by 1.10 percentage points during the year.

"I think with right measures taken, things should improve. It's a positive trend that the Government is responding very fast and I don't think we have heard the last from the Government with regard to dealing with the current economic situation... My expectation is that it will be a continuous process and they would definitely be dealing with other challenges," he told news channels.

The Government announced a slew of measures in three dosages which include a special window for real estate, export incentives, bank consolidation and sops

for MSMEs and the automobile sector.

With regard to structural reforms, he said the RBI has already pointed out in its annual report.

"I think one major thing would be agriculture marketing. Definitely, I would expect some action from the government with regard to reforms in agricultural marketing," he said.

Expressing concern over the first quarter GDP numbers, the RBI Governor said the numbers definitely looked much worse because the RBI had projected 5.8 per cent.

"I think almost everybody had projected not below 5.5 per cent or so, but the number 5 per cent is a surprise," he said.

He also said the second quarter growth of all advanced economies was lower than the first quarter so there is a deceleration.

"But again I am not trying to justify our slowdown through the prism of the global slowdown although global slowdown does impact growth and results in slowdown we have domestic issues also," he said.

Asked when will the economy see revival, Das said it is difficult to make an estimate as there are many things which are still playing out.

Business Corner



NMDC received "Rajbhasha Kirti Awards" Second Prize amongst Undertakings in "C" region. The award was given by Honorable Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah on the occasion of "Hindi Day" in presence of Ministers of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai and G. Kishan Reddy and other distinguished guests. Sumit Deb, Director (Per) received the award on behalf of NMDC.



M Ravi Kanth, CMD HUDCO inaugurated the Hindi Pakhwada being observed by HUDCO from 13th - 27th September, 2019. He emphasised the need to use Hindi in official work with full dedication and commitment. Several competitions including recitation, public speaking, kavissammelan and essay writing, will be organised during the fortnight to promote Hindi language.



As per the direction received from Railway Board, Swachhata Pakhwara is being organised at various locations in CLW premises from 16th to 30th Sept., 2019. Praveen Kumar Mishra, General Manager read out the 'Swachhata Pledge' to the Sr. Officers, Supervisors, Staff and Safai Karmacharis in the Administrative Office premises on 16-9-2019. The 'Swachhata Pledge' were also organised on Monday in Steel Foundry, Works office, ELAAU/Dankuni and Kolkata office premises by reading the Swachhata pledge by Sr. Officers, Supervisors, Staff and Safai Karmacharis.



In a major women empowerment initiative, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in association with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched 'Network of Champions'. Atul Sobti, Director General SCOPE along with Dagmar Walter, Director-India, ILO awarded Certificates to twelve Champions from various sectors of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) thereby entrusting them with the responsibility of being 'change agents' to encourage gender diversity and address gender issues in their respective organisations.

Jet Airways lenders make presentation to Synergy Group

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The lenders to the bankrupt Jet Airways Monday made a presentation to the South American conglomerate Synergy Group, which has reportedly emerged as sole potential buyer of the airline, according to a source.

After the August 10 deadline, Synergy Group Corp, which owns majority stake in Colombian carrier Avianca Holdings, had reportedly evinced interest in the airline, which had already received expressions of interest (EoIs) (which were subsequently withdrawn) from energy baron Anil Agarwal's family trust-backed Volcan Investments, Russian Fund Treasury RA Partners and the Panama-based Avantulo Group.

No Deal: Auto workers strike against GM in contract dispute

AP ■ DETROIT

More than 49,000 members of the United Auto Workers walked off General Motors factory floors or set up picket lines early Monday as contract talks with the company deteriorated into a strike.

Workers shut down 33 manufacturing plants in nine states across the U.S., as well as 22 parts distribution warehouses. It wasn't clear how long the walkout would last, with the union saying GM has budgeted little in months of talks while GM said it made substantial offers including higher wages and factory investments.

It's the first national strike by the union since a two-day walkout in 2007 that had little impact on the company.

China's economy strains under disappointing data

AFP ■ BEIJING

China's economy showed more signs of strain Monday as the country published weak data for industrial output, investment and retail sales, amid a lingering trade war with the United States.

Industrial output grew by 4.4 per cent year-on-year throughout August, falling to its lowest level in 17 years and down from 4.8 per cent in July. The figure was well below analyst expectations, with a Bloomberg survey of analysts predicting heartier growth of 5.2 per cent.

"We must be aware that international instabilities and uncertainties are increasing significantly, and that at home economic structural issues are still prominent and the down-

ward pressures on (the) economy are mounting," said Fu Linghui, a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, which released the data.

Retail sales also slipped to post growth of 7.5 per cent — 0.1 per cent down on the previous month and a knock to Beijing's aims to boost domestic consumption.

Investment in fixed assets saw year-on-year growth of 5.5 percent in the first eight months of the year, 0.2 per cent less than the first seven months, including a slight dip in crucial real estate investment.

All three sets of data fell short of analyst expectations, with Bloomberg predicting 7.9 per cent growth in retail sales and 5.7 per cent growth in investments.

₹ tumbles 68 paise against US dollar on crude oil woes

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Logging its first fall in eight sessions, the Indian rupee on Monday plunged by 68 paise to 71.60 against the US dollar amid concerns over soaring crude prices following drone attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities.

Surging crude oil prices have emerged as major fears for India — the world's third largest oil importer — in form of fiscal slippage and inflationary pressure.

The drone attacks on Saturday targeted Abqaiq, the site of the largest oil processing plant run by the Saudi state oil company, Aramco, and the Khurais oilfield.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened lower at 71.54, then fell to a low of 71.63 during the day. The rupee finally closed at 71.60, down 68 paise over its previous close.

The Indian currency had settled at 70.92 against the US dollar on Friday. Crude oil benchmark,

Brent Futures, surged by almost 20 per cent to \$71.95 per barrel (intra-day) on Monday after twin drone attacks on Saturday wiped out more than half of Saudi Arabia's crude supply. It was also the biggest gain in Brent in dollar terms since futures started trading in 1988.

However, Brent Futures saw some moderation and was trading at \$66.63 per barrel, still up 10.59 per cent over the previous close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.13 per cent to 98.38.

"The INR and other emerging currencies that rely on huge Crude imports have been spooked by this turn of events as the ripple effects on currency are two-fold: 1) an increase in imported inflation



i.e. Rising CPI and 2) a hit on the trade deficit," said Rajesh Cheruvu, Chief Investment Officer, Validus Wealth.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday unveiled over ₹70,000 crore of measures for exporters and the real estate sector, including about ₹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.

"Nirmala Sitharaman announced new measures for boosting economy on Saturday but positive impact on rupee was negated by the negative development of spike in Brent

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Chavani Lal**, S/o: Bhangheru, R/o: footpath, Harijan Basti, Masoodpur Village, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, died during treatment on 04.09.2019 at 11:33 AM in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard proceeding DD No. 12A dated 04.09.2019 has been lodged at Police Station Vasant Kunj North, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Chavani Lal, Age: 57 Years, Height: 57" Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Blue Colour Lower and White Shirt.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO

Police Station Vasant Kunj North, Delhi.

DP/7072/SW/19

Ph.: 011-26892530, 7065036224

Govt proposes to significantly reduce fees for IPRs for MSMEs, startups

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has proposed to reduce fees for various intellectual property rights like patents and designs for micro, small and medium enterprises and startups to promote innovation, Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Monday. An individual, group or industry has to pay fees at different levels of intellectual property rights (IPR) application filings.

As per the proposal, fees for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups for filing of patent applica-

tions will be reduced to ₹1,600 or ₹1,750 from ₹4,000 or ₹4,400.

For expedited examination, it will be reduced to ₹8,000 from ₹25,000 currently. Similarly, for renewal of patents, the fees will be reduced. For design applications filing, fees for MSMEs and startups will be reduced to ₹1,000 from ₹2,000, the ministry said.

For Geographical Indications (GI), fees was proposed to cut to nil for filing of application, issuance of certificate and renewal of GI from the current ₹500, ₹100 and ₹1,000, respectively.

IL&FS puts 494 acre land parcels on block

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Debt-ridden IL&FS Group has put on block nearly 494 acres of land parcels across three states including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, held by its subsidiary Hill County Properties (HCPL).

IL&FS, through its group firms IL&FS Township and Urban Assets and IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company holds a total of 80 per cent equity stake in HCPL.

While IL&FS holds nine per cent, the other two firms hold 40 per cent and 31 per cent stake, respectively in HCPL.

The company has appointed Jones Lang LaSalle Property Consultants to assist the potential transaction.

Hill County Properties houses various land parcels and development rights for properties aggregating to 494 acres spread across six sites including three in Hyderabad (437 acres) and one each in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam and Meerut.

The company has invited expressions of interest from interested parties for a potential equity stake divestment.

The Group's fund-based outstanding debt was ₹94,216 crore as of October 8, 2018.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh W/o Sh. Dev Mann R/o H. No. 97, Street No. 5, Krishna Nagar, S J Enclave, New Delhi & H. No. 352, IITC Munirka Village, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 41/18 u/s 376 IPC & 4 & 6 Pocco Act, P.S. S J Enclave, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ms. Bobby Biswas @ Isha Singh of FIR No. 41/18 u/s 376 IPC & 4 & 6 Pocco Act, P.S. S J Enclave, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.10.2019.

By Order,
Dr. Saurabh Kulshreshtha
Additional Sessions Judge-01 (South), Court No. 302,
DP/7074/SW/19 - (Court Matter) Saket Courts, New Delhi

WANTED/SUSPECTED



General public is hereby informed that these suspected persons **Age**: About 25-30 years, **Complexion**: Wheatish, **Face**: Oval, wearing one person white colour shirt and 2nd person checkdar shirt and wearing helmet. Both are sitting on two wheeler. They are suspected to have stolen two cars batteries and one mobile phone nearby H.No. 689, Gali No. 20, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi on 21.08.2019. They are suspected/wanted in case e-FIR No. CD-DBG-000478/19 dated 21.08.2019 u/s 379 IPC, P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi has been registered.

SUSPECTED

Any person having any information or clue about these suspected persons kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO : P.S. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi
DP/16567/CD/19 Ph.: 011-23537374, 23613252

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Shivam Chola S/o Kamal Chola R/o RZA-7, Nihal Vihar, Delhi**, has been missing from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi since 20.07.2019. In this regard, a case DD No. 36A dated 21.07.2019 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing boy is as under.



Age: 23 Years, **Complexion**: Shallow, **Height**: 5'4", **Face**: Round, **Wearing**: Black & white dotted shirt blue Jeans and red shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing boy then please inform P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
DP/2662/OD/19 Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER/ METERING
C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala, Punjab-147001
Tel. No. 0175-2218871, Fax: 0175-2200284,
e-mail: se-hq-metering@pspcil.in
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Registration Number: 33813
Website: www.pspcl.in
E-tendering Portal: <https://pspcil.abcpocure.com>

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Enquiry No.	MQP-152/2019-20(PQM)
Short Description	Procurement of 70,000 No. "ISI" marked, DLMS compliant LT AC 3 -Phase, 4-wire, Whole Current Static Intelligent Energy Meters (Category -C2) with Optical Port & RS-232 port of rating 10 -60 Amps, 50 Hz, 415 volts (3x240 volts) of accuracy class -1
Last date and time for downloading of tender documents	04-11-2019 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Last date and time for Bid submission	05-11-2019 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Date and time of opening of tender	05-11-2019 up to 11:30 Hrs.

Tender specification can only be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <https://pspcil.abcpocure.com>
Note: Contingendum, if any after the publication of this tender enquiry shall only be uploaded on website <https://pspcil.abcpocure.com> and will not be published in newspapers.

C-367/19 DPR/16SEP19/C7135 Dt. 16-09-2019
By CE/HMC
PSPCL, Patiala

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU (CHINA)

World champion P V Sindhu will look to reassert her supremacy when she spearheads the Indian campaign at the USD 1,000,000 China Open World Tour Super 1000 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

The World No.5 Sindhu ended India's long wait for a world championship gold at Basel, Switzerland last month. She achieved the historic feat after her third successive final appearance. The performance also turned around her erratic season during which she had reached the finals at the Indonesia Open Super 1000 event.

Life after that historic gold has been all about felicitations and the Indian will now have to quickly turn her focus back on badminton as she remains the country's best bet at the China Open, a title she had won in 2016.

The 24-year-old from Hyderabad will begin her campaign against China's Li Xuerui, a former Olympic gold medalist and World No.1.

Interestingly, Sindhu had announced her arrival on the international scene when she had stunned the then Olympic champion Li at the China Masters in 2012.

Since then, Sindhu has reached the highest echelons of international badminton, while Li has been dealing with a career-threatening knee injury that she suffered at the Rio Olympics.

The Chinese is currently ranked 20th but has a 3-3 record against Sindhu.

Sindhu had beaten Li at the Indonesia Masters earlier this year and if she can cross the opening hurdle, she is likely to face Canadian Michelle Li, who hasn't beaten the Indian since 2014.

If everything goes well, then she might be up against China's third seed and All England

Sindhu eyes China Open



PV Sindhu reacts after getting a point

File photo/Twitter

champion Chen Yufei in the quarter-final.

World No.8 Saina Nehwal, who had won the Indonesia Masters this year, will also look to put up a good show following her recovery from injuries which bogged her down this season.

The former World No.1 looked good at the world championships before a few controversial umpiring decisions ended her run when she lost to Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark in second

THE 24-YEAR-OLD FROM HYDERABAD WILL BEGIN HER CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHINA'S LI XUERUI, A FORMER OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST AND WORLD NO.1 SINDHU HAD ANNOUNCED HER ARRIVAL ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE WHEN SHE HAD STUNNED THE THEN OLYMPIC CHAMPION LI AT THE CHINA MASTERS IN 2012

round. Saina will face Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan in the opening round and is expected to clash with former world no.1 and her nemesis Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the quarterfinals.

China Open, the last Super 1000 event of the World Tour season, will also see the return of two superstars -- Olympic champion and three-time world champion Carolina Marin and 2017 World Champion Viktor

Axelsen. Both the bigwigs will be back after recovering from their respective injuries.

The Indian campaign lost a bit of sheen with the withdrawal of Kidambi Srikanth and H S Prannoy.

While Srikanth's knee injury flared up during the world championships, Prannoy is down with dengue.

All eyes will be on B Sai Pranee, who ended India's 36-year wait to become the first Indian male shuttler to claim a medal at the World Championships.

The talented shuttler will open against Thailand's Suppanyu Avihingsanon and is likely to face China's third seed Shi Yu Qi in the second round. Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap too will be in the fray, taking on France's Brice Leverdez in the first round.

Returning to action after an injury lay-off will be the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who became the first men's pair from the country to win a super 500 event at Thailand Open last month.

The duo, who had broken into the top 10, will open against Canadian combination of Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura.

In mixed doubles, Satwik will pair up with Ashwini Ponnappa and meet Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti, the Indonesian sixth seeds.

The other men's pair of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy will square off against the second-seeded Indonesian pair of Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan.

Ashwini and N Sikki Reddy, the Commonwealth Game bronze-medallists, will fight it out against the Taiwanese combination of Cheng Chi Ya and Lee Chih Chen in women's doubles, while Sikki and Pranaav Jerry Chopra will lock horns with Germany's Mark Lamsfuss and Isabel Herttrich.

My hunger, passion hasn't diminished at all: Pankaj

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

As a cueist Pankaj Advani, who just registered his 22nd world title, insists he is not done yet and is motivated enough to win more titles and bring laurels to the country in the future.

"To be honest, I feel as hungry and motivated to win as I was when I won my first world title. The hunger and passion hasn't diminished at all. It feels special to be able to maintain that position consistently and win title after title over the last one and half decade. I am glad that it's happening more often than not," Pankaj told IANS.

On Sunday, Pankaj won a fourth straight final in the 150-up format at the IBSF World Billiards Championship. In a repeat of last year's final against local favourite Nay Thway Oo, he re-enacted the one-sided match with the same eventual outcome as well as identical scorelines of 6-2.

In the short format of billiards, this was Pankaj's fifth title in the last six years. "This 150-format, which is a shorter format in billiards, is very unpredictable. To maintain consistency in this format especially is an incredible feeling and winning the title for four years in a row," he said while talking about the challenge he faced throughout the tournament.

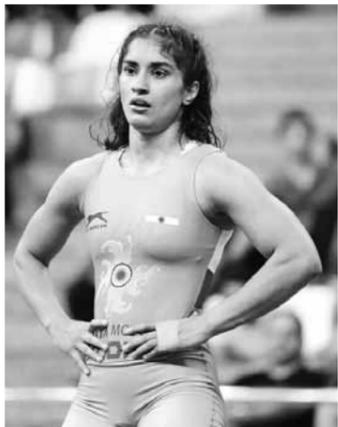
The 34-year-old

has brought home a world trophy every year ever since returning from a professional stint in the UK in 2014. The ace Indian cueist has been awarded with both Padma Bhushan (2018) and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (2005-06) and has proven to be the most consistent Indian athlete, prevailing in world championships since 2003.

He has won more world titles in cue sports than anyone in the world making him the greatest cueist of all time.

"I think this sport is very psychological in nature and it really helped that I started winning at an early age. That instilled tremendous amount of self belief in me because when you start winning early in your life, it just gives you the confidence to go forward from strength to strength," said Pankaj.

The ace cueist is expecting tough challenge in the years to come and acknowledges that it will remain a huge task for him to maintain the position at the top spot. "That excites me a lot and I am looking forward to the upcoming challenges."



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

In her quest for World title, Vinesh gets toughest possible draw

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Tension was palpable in the Indian camp after the country's biggest medal hope Vinesh Phogat was pitted against Olympic bronze medallist Sofia Mattsson in the "toughest possible" draw for the World Championships here on Monday.

Vinesh had recently beaten Sofia, a six-time World Championship medal winner, on way to the Poland Open title-win last month, but facing the formidable Swede in the very first round is a different proposition.

The 29-year-old Sofia won the last of her fourth European Championship gold medal in 2016 and the seasoned campaigner will surely be a threat to India's hopes.

She is ranked five in the world in 55kg, which is a non-Olympic category. If Vinesh, who is ranked sixth in 53kg, manages to get past Sofia, she will likely have to lock horns with world number two (in 55kg) and reigning world champion, Mayu Mukaída.

If that hurdle is crossed, world number one and last edition's silver medallist Sarah Ann Hildebrandt will await the Indian in the quarterfinals.

That she is a bit worried could be felt as Vinesh walked into the training area grim-faced. The coaches around her did their best to keep her cheerful.

"If you want to be World Champion, you will have to beat the best in business. Why fear?" said Vinesh's personal coach Woller Akos.

India's national coach Kuldeep Malik, too, looked a bit tense but remained hopeful.

"Whenever she has got a tough draw, she has ended up winning a medal. Lets see," he said.

India's foreign coach Andrew Cook was of the view that facing tough opponents early would enhance Vinesh's prospects to reach the medal round.

"One of those girls will surely be in final," said the American.

In the other Olympic category, Seema Bisla, the world number three, will clash straight in the 50kg pre-quarterfinals.

She will face the winner of Qualification match between Nigeria's Miesinnei Mercy Genesis and Azerbaijan's Mariya Stadnik.

Jordan free-kick fires Sevilla to top in La Liga

AFP ■ MADRID

Sevilla moved to the top of the Searly La Liga table on Sunday as Joan Jordan's brilliant free-kick helped them seal a 1-0 win at Alaves.

Julen Lopetegui's side continued their excellent start to the campaign, remaining unbeaten and moving a point clear of Atletico Madrid, who lost 2-0 at Real Sociedad on Saturday, at the summit. Sevilla host Real Madrid next Sunday in a meeting of two sides yet to taste defeat.

"That means nothing (being top)," said Sevilla coach Lopetegui, whose team next face a marathon trip to Baku to play Qarabag in their Europa League opener on Thursday. "The only thing that (being top) tells me is that the team is doing things well. We have to keep improving before going to Baku, where they will make it very difficult for us."

It was a first defeat of the season for Alaves, who slipped to 11th in the standings. Lopetegui, who joined Sevilla for his first job



Joan Jordan celebrates after scoring a goal

Twitter

since being sacked in quick succession by both Spain and Real Madrid, saw one of his close-season signings produce the game's defining moment.

Midfielder Jordan, who arrived at Sevilla from Eibar for a reported 14 million euros (\$15.62 million), curled home a wonderful free-kick in the 37th minute which flew into the top corner to give him his second goal of the season.

The visitors comfortably saw out the match to claim their third league win this term, as Alaves failed to muster a shot on target.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Robert Ibanez's 81st-minute equaliser kept Osasuna unbeaten after a 1-1 draw at Valladolid, while Granada moved up to seventh with a 2-0 success at nine-man Celta Vigo and Espanyol won at Eibar.

Real Betis claimed a 1-1 draw with fellow strugglers Getafe despite also being reduced to nine men, as 38-year-old club stalwart Joaquin netted a 73rd-minute penalty at the Estadio Benito Villamarin.

India men's team enter quarterfinals of Champions Division

PTI ■ YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team booked a quarterfinal berth in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships with a 3-0 win over Thailand here on Monday.

After blanking out Kuwait and Sri Lanka with identical 3-0 wins in the group stages yesterday, India entered the knockout stage of the 1st Division.

In the knockout stage they defeated Saudi Arabia (3-1) and followed it up with a 3-0 triumph over Thailand to enter the final of the 1st Division.

In the main draw, where eight teams compete against each other, only the finalists of the 1st Division qualify for the Champions Division with top six teams drawn from the last championships held at Wuxi in 2017, directly making the grade.

In their match against Thailand, Sharath Kamal defeated Padasak Tanviriyavechakul 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-2 to put India up. It was quite a struggle for the world No. 41 as he, after going 2-1 up, made some

crucial errors which helped the Thai claw his way back. But the experienced Indian didn't yield any ground and sealed the game.

In the second tie, G Sathiyar consolidated India's position further beating Supanut Wisutmaythangkoon 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-1.

With a 2-0 cushion, it should have been easy for Harmeet Desai, but the Surat lad struggled before overcoming Yanapong Panagitgun 11-3, 9-11, 5-11, 13-11, 13-11 to put India in the final. But, most importantly, it earned India a quarterfinal berth in the Champions Division where they will run into either Japan or Chinese Taipei after the draw.

The Indian women, who did well to enter the 1st Division after winning their group stage matches yesterday against Lebanon and Jordan with 3-0 verdicts. They managed to register a 3-0 win against Uzbekistan before losing to Thailand 0-3. Now they will play Malaysia with the winner finishing at Position 9.

Nagal reaches career-best ranking



Sumit Nagal returns a shot during a match

Twitter

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing his good run, India's Sumit Nagal jumped 15 places to achieve a career-high ranking of 159 in the latest ATP rankings released on Monday.

The 22-year-old from Haryana ended runners up in the Banja Luka ATP Challenger following a first round appearance at the US Open last month.

He had leapfrogged 16 places after his first-round exit in the US Open where he took a set off Swiss maestro Roger Federer before losing the match.

Meanwhile, Prajnesh Gunneswaran continued his run in the top-100. He rose three places to be world no. 82. Ramkumar Ramanathan slipped three spots to be 179th, rounding up the top-three Indians in the men's singles.

In doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan maintained their 43rd and 49th position, while Leander Paes moved one spot to be placed 78.

In the WTA rankings, Ankita Raina continues to be India's top-ranked player at 191 and is followed by Pranjala Yadlapalli, who is placed at 338.

Atalanta, Roma back winning as Lazio fall in Serie A

AFP ■ MILAN

Duvan Zapata struck late as Atalanta warmed up for their Champions League debut with a last-gasp 2-1 victory over Genoa in Serie A as Roma got their first win this season against Sassuolo, but city rivals Lazio fell at SPAL.

Colombian international Zapata rifled in the winner on 95 minutes in Genoa on Sunday to seal all three points for Atalanta who qualified for the Champions League by finishing third last season, but lost last week to Torino.

Colombian striker Muriel's 64th-minute penalty had put the Bergamo side ahead in northern Italy but Genoa captain Domenico Criscito levelled from the spot after 91 minutes.

Zapata had the final say to give Gian Piero Gasperini's side, who are sixth, a confidence boost as they travel to Dinamo Zagreb for their first ever Champions League game next week.

AC Milan are just

behind Atalanta, also with six points, after Polish striker Krzysztof Piatek got back scoring with a 68th-minute penalty in a hard-fought 1-0 victory over 10-man Verona.

Roma are just behind in eighth after new coach Paulo Fonseca got his first win, a 4-2 defeat of Sassuolo, for the capital side.

The hosts were four goals up at the break after Bryan Cristante, Edin Dzeko, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Justin Kluivert all found the net in a 21-minute spell with Lorenzo Pellegrini providing three assists.

But Domenico Berardi's brace for Sassuolo on 53 and 72 minutes rattled the hosts who are back in the Stadio Olimpico during the week for Europa League action against Istanbul Basaksehir.

"I hope that this will be the first of a lot of victories," said Portuguese Fonseca.

"I realised that I had to



adapt to the dynamics of the Italian championship. "Today we showed our ability to press high, and while we scored four goals it could have been seven or eight."

"Defensively it was our best performance so far."

Lazio suffered their first defeat this season as they paid for their complacency following a 1-0 win against Immobile's 17th-minute penalty against SPAL, losing 2-1.

An Andrea Petagna volley just after the hour mark in Ferrara and Jasmin Kurtic's late winner sealed all three points for SPAL.

The Romans are ninth with four points from three games.

- Bologna go second - Bologna moved second after a gutsy 4-3 comeback win over promoted Brescia, inspired by coach Sinisa Mihajlovic who gave instructions from hospital as he undergoes chemotherapy.

"At the end of the first half we heard Mihajlovic's

anger on the phone and this shook us," said Bologna forward Rodrigo Palacio.

"We talked to him before the game, for us it is very important and we miss him. We play like this thanks to his mentality."

Sunday's game was the first the 50-year-old Mihajlovic has missed despite his condition.

A quick-fire Alfredo Donnarumma double saw Brescia -- playing their first home match in eight years -- lead after 19 minutes.

Mattia Bani headed Bologna back into the game on 36 minutes, with the visitors trailing 3-1 before Brescia were hit by Daniele Dessena's sending off for a second yellow card just after the break.

Bologna came back with goals from Palacio on 56 minutes, Stefano Denswil four minutes later and a Riccardo Orsolini winner 10 minutes from time.

Mihajlovic's side, who finished 10th last season, are now two points behind Inter Milan and ahead of champions Juventus on goal difference after three games.

Aussie's mission accomplished



Australia's cricket team poses for photographers with the Ashes Urn

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia captain Tim Paine said it was mission accomplished even though his team lost the fifth and final Ashes Test against England to draw the series 2-2.

The tourists came into the match at the Oval seeking their first series victory in England since 2001 but came up short, losing by 135 runs on Sunday.

But Paine said Australia, who won at Edgbaston and Old Trafford but lost agonisingly to a Ben Stokes-inspired England at Headingley, had achieved their main objective in retaining the urn.

"We're taking the urn home so that's certainly what we came to

WE CAN BE REALLY PROUD OF THE WAY WE'VE COME OVER HERE, WHICH IS A CHALLENGING PLACE FOR AUSTRALIANS TO COME AND PLAY AND WIN WE'RE TAKING THE URN HOME

do," he said.

"We're thrilled by that, a little disappointed by this game obviously, puts a bit of a dampener on it."

"We can be really proud of the way we've come over here, which is a challenging place for Australians to come and play and win," he added.

"To win two Test matches pretty convincingly, should have won a third (at Headingley) — let that slip no doubt."

Paine said winning the first Test at Edgbaston, where Australia triumphed by 251 runs, had been crucial for his side's confi-

dence.

"There was so much talk about that being a fortress and how difficult a place it was going to be for us to start the series, probably by design, so for us to come over and win that first Test, and win it, in the end, quite convincingly gave us the belief that we could do it," he said.

And the skipper said he still felt he had a role to play in taking the side forward.

"We've still got a way to go," he said. "Obviously Steve (Smith) had an unbelievably good series and won us a couple of Tests by himself so we've got some parts that we need to improve.

"But if we click them into gear while we've got Steve at the height of his powers and with the pace attack we've got, in the next few years we're going to be a very hard team to beat."

"There's plenty of improvement in this side," Paine added.

"I still feel I've got a little bit to give in that space and we're always trying to develop more leaders within our group as well."

Smith, who scored 774 runs in just seven innings, said he was exhausted after a long tour, which also included the World Cup.

The former captain, who returned to international cricket in June after a ban for ball-tampering, received a standing ovation from the crowd in south London when he was out.

"It was a nice reception as I walked off," he said.

"It would have been nice if I'd had a few more runs under my belt in this game."

"I've given it my all since I've been here for the last four-and-a-half-months in every Test match that we've played and I didn't have much left to give today."

"I'm pretty cooked to be honest, mentally and physically. I'm looking forward to a nice couple of weeks' rest now before getting into the Australian summer."



Steve Smith poses with Ashes trophy

Twitter

Smith proud after summer of Ashes redemption

LONDON ■ (AFP)

Steve Smith returned to international cricket to a chorus of boos but he walked off the pitch at the Oval to a standing ovation after a summer of Ashes redemption.

The former Australia captain enjoyed a remarkable series in England, scoring a total of 774 runs in just seven innings and played a pivotal role in his side's two victories in the drawn series.

The catch by Ben Stokes that sent Smith on his way on Sunday ended an astonishing run of scores — 144 and 142 at Edgbaston, 92 at Lords, 211 and 82 at Old Trafford, and 80 and 23 at the Oval.

The 30-year-old made his official return to international cricket in June at the World Cup after serving a year-long ban for ball-tampering and was booed by the crowd in Bristol.

Smith had a decent campaign in the 50-over showpiece but did not set the world alight as Australia reached the semi-finals, where they were beaten by eventual champions England.

But he changed gear when the Ashes started, seemingly hungry to make up for lost time as he dominated the England attack, making two centuries in Australia's comfortable win in the first Test at Edgbaston.

Asked when he felt he was back to his best, an exhausted but "proud" Smith said it was after his first innings at Edgbaston, when he rescued his side, who had stumbled to 122-8.

"That gave me a lot of confi-

dence," he said. "That was probably my favourite innings of the whole series that I played."

"The first Test match, as we know, is always incredibly important in an Ashes series and to sort of pull the team out of a bit of trouble at the time and give me that confidence straight up that I could slot back in and perform, that gave me a lot of confidence."

"It was a long 18 months out of the game and I've got a lot of people to thank, in particular my wife." Smith's series was interrupted after he was felled by a Jofra Archer bouncer in the second Test at Lord's, forcing him to miss three innings.

WINNING RETURN

But he returned at Old Trafford to make a monumental double century in another victory for Australia.

His 80 in the first innings in the final Test at the Oval was his 10th consecutive fifty in Ashes Tests.

Australia were chasing 399 to win the series in London but it was always a tall order and Smith was unable to produce a miracle, falling for 23.

His run haul is fifth on the list of highest tallies in an Ashes series.

The man at the top of that list, inevitably, is his late compatriot Donald Bradman, who scored 974 in seven innings in 1930. But the fact that Smith is even in the same conversation as the man widely regarded as the greatest batsman in history is testament to his genius.

Smith, Cummins retain top position

PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli has managed to hold on to his second position behind Australia's Steve Smith in the ICC Test Rankings for batsmen released on Monday.

Kohli, with 903 rating points, is 34 points behind Smith (937).

Besides former Australia captain Smith, compatriot Pat Cummins has also retained his one position in the ICC Test bowlers' rankings.

Both Smith and Cummins player key roles in helping Australia retain The Ashes.

The Ashes culminated with a 135-run victory for England in the fifth and final Test on Sunday. The series ended in a 2-2 draw with Australia retaining the Urn.

Smith's scores of 80 and 23 in the two innings in the final Test helped him remain at 937 rating points, an incredible effort since he



Pat Cummins and Steve Smith

started the series in fourth position with 857 points before his surge that came courtesy 774 runs in four Tests.

Cummins too is well clear of other bowlers as he enjoys a lead of 57 points over second-placed Kagiso Rabada after finishing as the top wicket-taker with 29 scalps. India's Jasprit Bumrah is in third place.

Other players from Australia to make notable gains are Matthew Wade and Mitchell Marsh.

Broad got into Warner's head, says Justin Langer

AFP ■ LONDON

Australia's cricket coach Justin Langer said David Warner allowed England paceman Stuart Broad to "get into his head" during a miserable Ashes series for the opener.

Warner ended with the unwanted record of the fewest runs scored by a Test opener across 10 innings of a series.

The 32-year-old, who registered a cumulative total of just 95, was dismissed seven times by Broad during the drawn contest and encountered jeers from home crowds following his role in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

Langer plans to persist with the experienced batsman heading into the Australian summer but expressed some doubt that he would fully recover from a dismal Ashes display.

"I've learned over a long period you never write off champion players, it doesn't matter what sport, you never write off champion players," said Langer, whose side retained the urn following the 2-2 draw.

"He had this series, it didn't go to plan, but he's seen how successful he's

I'VE LEARNED OVER A LONG PERIOD YOU NEVER WRITE OFF CHAMPION PLAYERS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SPORT, YOU NEVER WRITE OFF CHAMPION PLAYERS

been and the impact he can have on Australian cricket teams winning, so I'm confident he'll come good.

"Actually, I'm hopeful he comes good. Talking frankly, I thought he let Stuart Broad get into his head and I think he thought way too much about it."

Langer feels Warner, who was the second-highest run scorer at the World Cup, will be pleased to be returning home.

"In this instance I don't think David solved the puzzle, and he'll be the first to admit that," said.

"He'll probably be very relieved (when) he gets on the Qantas flight knowing he doesn't have to face Stuart Broad for a while, I reckon."



Aus better team in Ashes: Ponting

LONDON ■ (IANS)

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes Tim Paine's men were the better side in the recently-concluded Ashes series against England which ended in a 2-2 stalemate.

Australia retained the Ashes with a comprehensive 185-run victory in the fourth Test but let slip a golden chance to win their first Ashes series in England since 2001 as they conceded a 135-run loss in the tour finale at The Oval on Sunday.

"Australia will look at it as a series of missed opportunities," Ponting told cricket.com.au.

"I think they've clearly been the better team. They've clearly played better cricket throughout the series. They should have won at Headingley."

He also said that the 2-2 result was not a clear reflection of how the series was

played and how the visitors performed in the five-match rubber.

Australia were knocked out of the World Cup in the semi-finals by eventual champions England and retained the urn in England for the first time in 18 years.

Ponting said the efforts of Paine's side should be congratulated even though they didn't manage to win the coveted series.

"We shouldn't undersell how well Australia have played, and on the back of a pretty successful World Cup campaign," he said.

"The boys have been on the road for five months. Making a World Cup semi-final and retaining the Ashes 2-2, it's been a good few months for Australian cricket."

Australia will next face Sri Lanka in the three-match T20I series at home beginning October 27.

Sarfraz confident of good showing in World Test Championship



Pakistani batsmen walk into the ground

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan's captain Sarfraz Ahmed is confident that his team is ready to make an impact in the ICC World Test Championship after struggling for form in this format in the last two years.

"After in-and-out performances in the last two years since the retirements

of Misbah-ul-Haq and Younis Khan, I think we are now ready to challenge other teams in the World Test Championship," he said.

Pakistan's first challenge will be a tour to Australia in November where they play two Tests followed by home Test series against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Pakistan is presently placed 7th among 12 Test teams in the ICC World Rankings and Sarfraz admitted his team had neither been consistent nor convincing in the longer format for a while now.

"We have struggled after losing Misbah and Younis and we are in a rebuilding process. But now I think our batsmen are ready to fill the gaps and take responsibility," he said.

"We have Shaan Masood, Imam-ul-Haq, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Harris Sohail and Babar Azam who have now gone through the grind and can do well at the Test level. There is also lot of experience now behind Azhar and Asad."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal — the famed 'KulCha' of Indian cricket — may not be the flavour of the season anymore but experts believe it is too early to write them off in the shortest format ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

Both Kuldeep and Chahal, who had cemented their place in the two shorter formats with impressive performances over the past 24 months, have not been picked for two straight T20 series, including the ongoing home assignment against South Africa.

Ahead of the opening T20 in Dharamsala, captain Virat Kohli said the team is trying out the likes of Rahul Chahar and Washington Sundar as it is looking to bat deep and post 200 plus totals consistently.

Former India opener Aakash Chopra feels the decision to exclude Kuldeep and Chahal could be a double-edged sword.

"The idea is if you have that much depth in batting you bat a certain way. You can't bat conser-

'Too early to look beyond Kuldeep, Chahal'



Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal chats during practice session

Twitter

vatively if you have that kind of depth. That is what England did. They changed the template completely. They focused on batting deep as they wanted to score 400 (in ODIs) and they achieved it many times," Chopra told PTI.

"It looks India is wanting to take the same aggressive approach

in T20s and there is nothing wrong in that. Now, they need to start showing the intent of scoring 220 consistently."

"Batting till 8, 9 and 10 is still ambitious (as you don't need them at all in a 20 over game) but if you are trying to score 220 it is fine," he explained.

Chopra felt if the team decides to compromise on its wicket-taking ability, then it to score more.

However, he foresees Chahal making a T20 comeback very soon. Chahal, at the moment, is only part of the ODI team while Kuldeep is part of both the 50-over and Test squads though not a sure starter in the eleven.

"Chahal will be back. Rahul Chahar is more of a bowler and Washington Sundar's batting at number 8 may not be needed anyway," Chopra added.

Kuldeep and Chahal's inclusion has become a talking point just like finger spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, who where shown the door in the shorter formats following the 2017 Champions Trophy, Jadeja made a comeback but Ashwin couldn't.

Former India spinner Sunil Joshi, who is now a well-known spin coach, welcomed the move to try out youngsters before caution-

ing against the confusion the situation might create in the mind of the spinners.

"I would suggest that Kuldeep and Chahal should go back to domestic cricket when they are not on national duty. Finger spinner or wrist spinner is not the question here. It is about having the tactics to outclass the batsman besides technique and temperament," Joshi told PTI.

"Let's see how the young spinners do and ample opportunities should be given to them but at the same time if Chahal and Kuldeep are playing only one format it could disturb their rhythm. White ball cricket is all about rhythm."

"The conditions will be different in Australia for the T20 World Cup with the bigger grounds. Overspin will come in handy. All the spinners who are in the hunt should be told about their roles clearly else it might cause confusion in their minds," Joshi added.