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TALIBAN KILL 48 AHEAD
OF AFGHAN POLLS

OPINION 6
MESSAGE FOR A
VIOLENT WORLD

MONEY 10
NO SLOWDOWN IN
AUTOMOBILE SECTOR: CAIT

RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



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Investors lose ₹2.72L cr in 2 days

Hit by oil crisis, Sensex tanks 642 points

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

All sectoral indices ended in the red, with BSE auto, realty, metal, banks, finance, oil and gas, energy, technology and IT indices falling up to 3.80 per cent. On the Sensex chart, losses were driven by Hero MotoCorp, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Tata Steel, Maruti and SBI — falling by 6.19 per cent.

Only, Hindustan Uniliver, Asian Paints and Infosys ended in mild green. Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices followed benchmarks, cracking up to 1.84 per cent.



Index	Top Gainers	Top Losers
BSE	Hero Motor +6.19, Asian Paints +5.59, Infosys +0.44	Tata Motors -5.13, Axis Bank -4.62, Tata Steel -4.62
NSE	Hero Motor +6.25, Titan +0.98, Tata Motors +4.98	Axis Bank -4.93, Asian Paints -0.70, Axis Bank -4.65

The rise in crude prices could give nightmare to the Government, which recently announced a slew of measures to boost up the economy. Each dollar rise in crude prices lead to a burden of ₹10,000 crore on India's oil import bill. Even if oil prices were to settle at a level which is 5-6 dollar more from average of the last year, India will stare at a very tough situation.

While RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das warned on Monday that India's current account and fiscal deficits could worsen if oil prices remain at the elevated level, many experts felt that higher oil prices were likely to severely hit economic conditions in India, which imports more than 70 per cent of its oil needs.

"Selling intensified as surge in oil prices and weakening rupee reduced the scope of economic turnaround in the near term. Banks were impacted the most while investors are in a pessimistic mood as stimulus packages from the Government are not adding any resurgence in sentiment. On the global front, announcement of FED policy on Wednesday will be keenly watched and consensus is showing 25bps rate cut to counter low inflation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services told news agency PTI.

Tracking movement in oil prices, the rupee further depreciated by 18 paise to 71.78 per

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

Bhagirath Palace in Delhi wears deserted look

CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Traders claimed 70 to 80 per cent drop in sales. It has affected the job prospects.

A trader said shopkeepers used to employ four to five



A view of Bhagirath Palace electrical market

Pioneer photo

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

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

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

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

All 6 Raj BSP MLAs defect to Congress

Maya hits out at Congress, says it is untrustworthy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



Maya Deviawatia

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

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

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

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

CAPSULE

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

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

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

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

Mahathir says Modi didn't ask for Zakir's extradition

Jaishankar rejects Malaysian PM's claim, says Modi did request him in Vladivostok meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A major controversy has erupted over India's claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi requested his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad to facilitate extradition of controversial preacher Zakir Naik facing charges of terror related cases. This was after Mahathir said that Modi, whom he met in Russia during an economic forum earlier this month, made no such extradition request.

Reacting to Mahathir's statement, External Affairs



Minister S Jaishankar said Naik's extradition issue had indeed come up during Modi's meeting with his Malaysian counterpart in Vladivostok. Jaishankar said India placed in January a request with Malaysia for Naik's extradition.

Naik, a 53-year-old radical television preacher, left India in 2016 when his name cropped

up in the Dhaka blasts, and subsequently moved to Malaysia, where he was granted permanent residency.

Briefing reporters on the Prime Minister's bilateral meeting with Mahathir on September 5, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale had said Modi raised the issue of Naik's extradition with the Malaysian PM.

"Not many countries want him. I met Modi. He didn't ask me for this man," Mahathir told Malaysian radio station BFM 89.9 when asked about Naik's extradition. He also said Malaysia was looking for a place to send Naik, who has made racially sensitive comments against Hindu and Chinese Malaysians recently. Mahathir then reaffirmed that Naik will no longer be allowed to publicly speak in Malaysia following his racially divisive remarks.

Lot of progress made in easing India-Pakistan tensions: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said that he will soon meet the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, even as he insisted that a "lot of progress" has been made in reducing tension between the countries.

While Trump along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address over 50,000 Indian-Americans at the "Howdy, Modi!" mega event in Houston on September 22, the American President did not say when or where will he be meeting Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"I'll see Prime Minister Modi and I will — we'll — be meeting with (PMs of) India and Pakistan," Trump told reporters in response to a question at the White House on Monday.



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

United Left clean sweeps JNUSU polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

KSK Mahanadi power plant 'locks down'

STAFF REPORTER ■ JANJIGIR CHAMPA

One of the biggest private owned power plants of Chhattisgarh the KSK Mahanadi Power Company Ltd closed down its Nariyara-based unit on Tuesday.

The plant was reportedly closed down due to repeated violent clashes between two sections of labourers inside the plant.

As per the information, when the employees reached the plant on Tuesday, they found a 'lock out' notice on its gates.

The 3,600 MW total capacity plant has current operational capacity of 1,800 MW. This decision is going to affect about 4,000 officers and employees working in the plant.

"There are two factions of labourers who clash with each other. Several incidents of violence have been reported in past one week. A group of labourers which belongs to those displaced by plant had reportedly thrashed the plant officials," SP Janjgir Parul Mathur said.

According to police four FIRs have been registered in these incidents, however, no arrest has been made.

Meanwhile, State labour department has slapped a notice to KSK management demanding the reasons for closing down the plant. The company has been provided one-week time to file their reply. Labour department has also asked the management to end the lock down immediately and start the production.

Harsha-era Govisana Mound gets national tag

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



Top inside view of ancient Govisana fort in Kashipur

Mound as a national heritage. Govisana, during the time of Kashipur was known as Harshavardhana (606-647 AD).

The ruins of the large settlement of those days can be still seen near the city.

The division bench of acting Chief Justice Rajiv Sharma and justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari of the High Court directed the premier archaeological agency to take over the maintenance of the Drona Sagar Chaiti and Moteshwar Mahadev temples in Kashipur.

According to reports, the ancient mound at Kashipur was identified by Major General Sir Alexander Cunningham, a British Army engineer. He had traced remains of a large structure at Bhim-Gaja, the highest place at the site. The ASI conducted excavations here in 1939-40, 1965-66 and 1970-01 in order to reveal the details of the

structure traced by Cunningham.

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

Since the excavation was aimed to obtain the detail plan of the temple, no attempt was made to reveal the complete cultural sequence of the site; however pottery collected from the site revealed that site remained under occupation from Painted Grey Ware peri-

od to the early medieval time. The thick brick debris accumulated against the wall of the temple contained copper coins, copper and glass bangles, copper rings, terracotta and, stone beads, nails and chisels of different periods, according to ASI reports.

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

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

Job losses, MVA penalties to top Cong poll agenda

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INS Khanderi submarine to be inducted on Sep 28

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

He said with the launch of these three projects, the Navy will further enhance its reach and combat sustenance.

INS Khanderi was launched into waters in January 2017 and was undergoing extensive sea trials before commissioning. When asked about the delays in inducting the submarine, Kumar said certain amount of delays and learning happen

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

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

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

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

Answering questions on the Naval Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), which made its first short arrested landing in Goa last week, Kumar said the Navy is fully in support of LCA project and always made payments on time. He also said the arrested landing is a great achievement and will lead to twin engine advanced medium combat aircraft which the Navy will induct.

After extensive arrested landings on shore, the pilots will graduate to landing on aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. Landing and take-off from a moving aircraft carrier with restriction of space in terms of the landing strip demands exceptional pilot skills and sophisticated aircraft.

The Navy will finally induct a squadron (18-20 jets) indigenously designed and developed LCA on the aircraft carrier. At present, the service is operating MIG-29s from the carrier. Incidentally, the defence minister will spend a day at sea on board INS Vikramaditya after presiding over the three functions in Mumbai.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The bench said he may take the break, but the other counsel from Muslim side can advance submissions on Friday.

"I do not want to break my argument," Dhavan said, adding that they have a schedule and they are conscious of the speed of the arguments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tence," the bench said in its order.

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

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

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

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

Indo-US relations on upward trajectory, says S Jaishankar

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

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

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

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

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

India-china faceoff at Ladakh not a skirmish: Min

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

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

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

He said the Indo-US relations are in very good health. "There is no facet of the relationship today which has not gone upward over the period of 20 years," he said. PTI

ED attaches Delhi farmhouse in Moin Qureshi case

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

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

Tarigami slams centre for Abdullah's detention

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Onion prices to remain high for next 15 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Several events are being

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

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

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

INSHORT

SIBAL SLAMS GOVT FOR ABDULLAH'S DETENTION

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

CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED ON WORLD ENGINEERS DAY

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

SJM URGES GOVT TO CAP UBER, OLA PRICING

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

ISRO INKS MOUS WITH DRDO FOR GAGANYAAN

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

Inherited state in dire condition after BJP's 15-year misrule: Baghel

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday lambasted his predecessor Raman Singh for leaving behind the state in an adverse condition.

Talking to media persons here at Raipur Helipad, Baghel alleged that the state is lagging behind in all the development parameters, including education, health and employment. "I have inherited the state where more than 40% of the state populace is living below poverty level, number of people residing in slums in the state is highest in the country and state of affairs of education is in a dilapidated condition," he said.

If BJP had ensured good governance then why 39% women are suffering from anaemia and 33% children are facing malnutrition, he



added.

Talking about his Dantewada campaign, Baghel further said his party candidate is certainly going to win the seat as BJP has nothing to show as their achievement of past 15 years.

The election in-charge of BJP in the constituency Shivratna Sharma had paved the way for allotment of controversial iron ore block no 13 in Dantewada to Adani group while another in-charge and former Dantewada Collector and now bureaucrat turned politician O.P. Choudhary during his tenure as a district collector only provided benefits to the contractors, he said.

He also refuted the BJP's charges that his government is indulging in politics of vengeance and said what is the harm in conducting probe by investigating agencies into allegations of wrong doings.

Witch-hunt against Raman launched eyeing at Dantewada by-polls: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

BJP has asked Congress government to come clean on its political vindictiveness as has become apparent in the affidavit filed by Chintamani Chandrakar, an accused in the Chhattisgarh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited scam.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, BJP's state spokesperson Shrichand Sunderani said it can be proved that under pressure from the state government, Manturam Pawar, accused in Antagarh by-poll scandal and the PDS scam accused Shiv Shankar Bhatt have filed affidavits before courts turning approver.



He said the statement recorded before magistrate under section 164 was deliberately circulated to media. He questioned as to how

can immediately the copies of the affidavits were availed when court process takes time. Sunderani said the vulgar language used by the officials

to pressurise Chintamani as stated in his affidavit proves how the state government has been trying to malign the image of former Chief

Minister Raman Singh to get benefit in Dantewada by-polls.

BJP's each party worker backs Raman Singh as during his tenure several pro-people decisions were taken which had directly benefitted them. Congress is using all means to defame his family by selective targeting, he said.

BJP leader said even after the apex court's directive, Chintamani was detained by EOW for long period without serving any notice.

He said those who had opposing the cancellation of ration card are now terming them fake though it was Raman's government which unearthed the different scam and began investigation by filing cases.

Singhdeo lays emphasis on quality construction works



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Panchayat and rural development minister T. S. Singhdeo laid special emphasis on quality construction works during the review of departmental works on Tuesday at Jagdalpur.

There will be no compromise on quality and it should be done within the time-frame, he said. He also directed the officials for effective implementation of the government schemes.

Minister also reviewed

the Narva, Garva, Ghurva aur Baari (NGGB) stating that it is dream project of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. "It is a scheme which provides strong base for rural economy. If implemented with dedication and honesty, it can become a model for the country," he said.

He expressed satisfaction over works undertaken in Bastar district.

Minister suggested to grow Napier grass for green fodder in 'Gauthans', which takes three months to grow. He said till then the

adequate stock of fodder has to be ensured.

Panchayat minister directed officials that all eligible families should get forest rights certificate while these families can be linked with MGNREGA for employment. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission the women self help groups has to be linked with economic activities. The construction works, Anganbadi centres and Chief Minister Road scheme sanctioned works were also reviewed.

Reservation of seats for mayor, chairperson of urban bodies today

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Process for reservation of seats of mayor and chairman of urban bodies for the Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Class in the state will be done at Shahid Smarak Building on Wednesday.

Sources in Urban Administration Department informed that the reservation would be done for more than 160 urban bodies across the state.

The process of reservation of posts of mayors would start at 12 noon and would be completed by 12.45 p.m. Similarly, the reservations of seats of chairpersons of municipal councils will start at 1.00 p.m. and would be completed by 2.00 p.m., the sources informed.

The reservation for chairpersons of Nagar Panchayats will start at 2.15 p.m., they added.

Case registered against placement agency for charging higher liquor price

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

On instructions of Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Excise Department conducted intensive inspection of liquor shops across the state.

Excise officials informed that state-level flying squad conducted raided at the liquor shops in Maana, Abhanpur, Malviya Road, Tikrapara, Lakhenagar, Purani Basti and Tatibandh. Flying squad filed three cases of liquor being sold on higher rates and suspended the employees found guilty.

Raipur division flying squad excise team found during the inspection of country and foreign liquor shops that liquor was being sold at higher rate at a shop in Mandhar. Cases against two employees have been registered in this connection.

Case against a placement agency appointed in the district

Excise officials informed that state-level flying squad conducted raided at the liquor shops in Maana, Abhanpur, Malviya Road, Tikrapara, Lakhenagar, Purani Basti and Tatibandh. Flying squad filed three cases of liquor being sold on higher rates and suspended the employees found guilty

has also been filed and CSMCL has imposed a penalty of ₹2 lakh on the agency.

Divisional flying squad excise, Bilaspur team inspected liquor shops in Seepat, Raikishore Nagar, Sarkanda, Ashok Nagar and Vasundhara Nagar. These shops were found selling liquor at the right prices. Likewise, divisional flying squad excise Bastar team conducted

raid in 15 liquor shops and found that liquor in these shops were being sold at the given price. Excise Commissioner has made a four-member committee to control the liquor related crimes in the state.

Committee has been directed to make proposal for making stricter rules-regulations and necessary amendments to control liquor-related crimes in the state.



A massive procession was taken out on Tuesday on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti. Lord Vishwakarma is referred as divine engineer of universe in Rig Veda. The festival is mainly observed in factories and industries as well as by mechanics, craftsman among others. It is customary for craftsmen and workers to worship their tools on this day. Photo Santosh Sahu

Amit Jogi's bail plea rejected, to remain in jail till Sept 30

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Amit Jogi's bail plea was turned down by Gaurela court on Tuesday. Amit Jogi who is also the state president of Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (Jogi) will now have to stay behind bar till September 30, officials said.

Notably, Amit Jogi has been arrested for presenting fake records while filing the nomination papers in 2013 state assembly elections.

Amit Jogi was later admitted in a hospital at Raipur following serious health complaints after he was lodged in a sub-jail at

Gaurela on September 3 last. Amit Jogi had then moved a bail application with Gaurela court on health grounds, which was rejected on Tuesday. The court however stated that Amit Jogi should get required medical attention, officials informed.

He will be kept in sub-jail Gorakhpur at Gaurela till September 30. Meanwhile, JCC spokesperson Iqbal Ahmad Rizwi raised the point stated by Amit Jogi and stated that in nomination papers only the date of birth is asked, then why is the place of birth being inquired today.

BJP seeks ECI's intervention against Dantewada administration

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Senior BJP leaders on Tuesday approached Election Commission and handed over a memorandum to Chief Election Commissioner alleging that the Dantewada local administration was biased and was working under pressure of ruling Congress.

The delegation, comprising senior BJP leader and former minister Brijmohan Agrawal and Member of Parliament, Raipur, Sunil Soni, later informed media persons that the local administration of Dantewada had failed to create conducive atmosphere for transparent polls. The returning officers are favouring the ruling Congress and were doing partiality against the BJP leaders during campaigning.



Even the BJP candidate, Ojaswi Mandavi, who has been given 'Z plus' security was not provided proper accommodation in Kirandul during her campaign, the BJP leaders claimed. Only one room was allotted to her and how could she stay there without the security

arrangements, they questioned.

They also raised objection over not providing permission citing security reason to the BJP's star campaigner former Chief Minister Raman Singh to hold public meeting in three out of six places, the party had sought for campaigning.

Last date for submission of APL ration card application form extended

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Food Minister Amarjeet Bhagat has given instructions to extend the last date of submission for APL ration card application forms from September 17 to September 23.

Minister Bhagat said that for people who could not submit applications for BPL ration cards, or if the ration card that has been issued/renewed has errors, ration would be allotted on old ration card. People with such issues will be given another opportunity to submit application form for BPL ration card. People, who have not yet received their renewed BPL ration card, will be provided ration on old cards.

Mayor Raipur Municipal Corporation Pramod Dubey, MLAs Kuldeep Juneja and Vikas Upadhyay

along with many public representatives met Bhagat and requested him to extend the last date of submission of application forms for APL ration card. They also handed over a memorandum to him in this regard.

On instructions of Bhagat, Commissioner of Food Civil Supply and Consumer Protection Department Dr Kamalpreet Singh has written letter to all the district collectors, directing them to ensure necessary action.

Commissioner stated in the letter that the time limit for issuance of new APL ration cards has been revised. Under PDS, last date of submission of application forms for APL ration cards was declared to be September 17, but now it has been extended to September 23, as per the decision of State Government.

Security beefed up at Hryly stations following JeM threat letter

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Police on Tuesday said it has tightened security arrangements at all railway stations in the State following a threat letter purportedly sent by Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM).

The letter, signed by one Masood Ahmed, was received by the railway police in Rohtak and stated that the Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) would avenge the killings of its militants by blowing up railway stations across the country including Haryana's Rohtak, Rewari and Hisar on October 8.

"Intensive checking is being carried out in all trains passing through the railway stations in the State. Elaborate manpower has been deputed to ensure proper monitoring in and around the railway stations,"

Additional Director General of Police, Law & Order, Navdeep Singh Virk said here on Tuesday.

He said that as a precautionary measure, regular checks are being made and vehicles parked outside the railway stations were also being checked.

Police force is taking extra precautions in view of the threat, he said in a statement. The Government Railway Police (GRP) and Railway Protection Force (RPF) are conducting joint operations to keep any eye on any suspicious elements within the premises of railway stations.

In addition, Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) are conducting a joint drive at the railway stations to instill sense of security among passengers, Virk said.

Babita keen to wrestle in Haryana poll ring

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

International wrestler Babita Phogat, who became a household name in the country after Amir Khan's Dangal, on Tuesday said she always wanted to take a plunge in politics.

The 29-year old wrestler, daughter of noted wrestling coach Mahavir Singh Phogat on whose story to train her and her sister Geeta Phogat, was showcased in the hit movie Dangal, said the decision to enter politics is my own.

"My family has been connected with politics, my mother has been a village sarpanch twice and my uncle too has served as a village head twice. So these things acted as a motivation for me since childhood," Babita said.

She and her father Mahavir Phogat had joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) last month. Talking to reporters during the launch of her father's



My family has been connected with politics, my mother has been a village sarpanch twice and my uncle too has served as a village head twice. So these things acted as a motivation for me since childhood

biography, "Akhara" (wrestling ring), the Arjuna awardee exuded confidence that like sports, she will make a mark in politics too and motivate many women to take the political plunge.

"The way I motivated women in the field of wrestling, in politics too I will motivate women. I will be there to help them. Even if they need my help in the middle of the night, I will be there for them," she said.

Asked whether the BJP will give her a ticket from Badhra or Dadri in Charkhi Dadri district for the upcoming Haryana Assembly polls, Babita said the party will take a call on that. "I have been a fighter and as fighters we are taught to be ready for everything. Whatever responsibility my party entrusts me with, I will try to live up to its expectations," she said.

Asked which Assembly constituency she would like to contest from, she said, "Badhra, Dadri or anywhere

else, whichever seat my party decides on, I am ready." The Assembly polls in Haryana are slated to be held in October.

Explaining her decision to join the BJP, Babita said she was impressed by the party's ideology and the bold decisions taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government.

"I wanted to connect with a nationalist party. For a sports person, country is above all. Now that I have joined politics, here too I will give the country above everything else," she said.

Mahavir Phogat said he has no desire to contest elections and will be happy if Babita gets a ticket. Though he has joined politics, he said "akhara" is his life and he continues to coach wrestlers.

NDMC issues letters to regularise 18 sanitation workers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Mayor Avtar Singh on Tuesday handed over letters to 18 sanitation workers to regularise their employment, coinciding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, officials said.

Out of the 18 'safai karmacharis', 16 are from Rohini Zone and two from Keshavpuram Zone, they said. The mayor handed over the letters to them at his office to mark the 69th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the NDMC said in a statement.

Singh said once he had an opportunity to meet Modi, who had told him that the objective should be "to work for the poor and needy people"

Air quality recorded in moderate level, tagged as satisfactory

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's pollution history that normally registered a spike in the pollution level post October, has shown a different trend this year as the air quality has been recorded in 'moderate' air category in mid-September, which was tagged as 'satisfactory' in terms of air quality in the corresponding period.

The pollution forecast and measuring agencies such as Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPPC), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), a unit of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), have observed air quality levels at moderate values on Tuesday, this further means that values of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs) recorded marginally higher than its prescribed standards.

Importantly, the sudden change in values of Sox, Nox, Ozone, Benzene - secondary pollutants and Particulate Matter (PM) 10, 2.5 from satisfactory level to moderate have been opinions of Delhi residents of pleasant month tag for September and early days of October.

Meanwhile, on SAFAR



index, the value of PM 10 was recorded at 119 µgm-3 in opposition to its prescribed limit which is 100 µgm-3 of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and 70µgm-3 of World Health Organization (WHO) and PM 2.5 was recorded at 63µgm-3 against its limit 60 (IMD) and 20 (WHO).

Citing weather reasons, SAFAR mentioned that low surface wind speed, unfavorable westerly winds, and high Relative Humidity (RH) and moderate local temperature were the reasons.

In its Air Quality bulletin for Delhi - NCR, CPCB also said that air quality remained moderate till Wednesday and slight improvement is expected.

Meanwhile, as per the previous years' data of September months, the prominent pollutants - PM 10 and PM 2.5 were always recorded between 20 - 100 Micro gram per cubic.

Govt extends ex-gratia to kin of slain cops

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday directed its officials to immediately go ahead with the ex-gratia payment of ₹1 crore each to the families of eight personnel of the Delhi Police, who laid down their lives on the line of duty.

A group of ministers, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, held its meeting on Tuesday which was attended by several Government officials.

According to the statement issued by Delhi Government, the families which will get ex-gratia as per the Delhi Government's existing scheme are of sub-inspector Khajan Singh, assistant sub-inspectors Vijay Singh, Jeetender, Mahavir Singh and Dharambir Singh, and head constables Guljhari Lal and Raj Pal Singh Kasana, and constable Amarpal.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Vijay Singh was per-



forming duties of Personal Security Officer (PSO) of Bhubender Singh on the orders of the Delhi High Court. On April 30, a few bike-borne assailants opened fire at the duo and later, Vijay Singh succumbed to injuries.

ASI Jeetender Singh was on traffic duty on November 13, 2018 when he signalled a tempo driver to stop for violating traffic rules. Instead of stopping the vehicle, the driver tried to run

picket duty at Dwarka underpass on January 7, 2019 when a speeding car came and hit the barricades and ran away from the spot.

The barricade swung in the air and hit Guljhari Lal who was later rushed to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead by doctors.

Head constable Rajpal Singh Kasan was chasing an illegal army supplier January 14, 2019 when a car hit his motorcycle and he succumbed to injuries during treatment.

Sub-Inspector Khajan Singh was in Jhajjar in search of missing children on October 20 2017, where he died in a road accident.

Dharambir Singh died on October 20, 2017 in a road accident while he was collecting information about some gang members, the statement said.

Amarpal too died in a road accident on December 21, 2017 while he was investigating a case. Later, he succumbed to injuries at a hospital.

Govt to provide coaching to IAS aspirants in Urdu

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday asked the Urdu Academy of Delhi Government to coach IAS aspirants in Urdu, a step towards making the language a means to develop careers. The announcement came after Sisodia, also the Minister for Art, Culture and Languages, interacted with toppers of the Urdu subject hailing from various universities from Delhi.

During the event, he spoke about the vitality of Urdu as a subject and its career prospects in various domains.

The government, in a statement, said there was a general concern around students not preferring Urdu as their medium due to the lack of study material provided in the language, in their respective col-

leges. Another concern around Urdu not being a favoured stream of study amongst students and scholars alike was the collective perception that it's not a job-oriented stream.

Also, a number of aspirants of Urdu subject commented on the diminishing importance of the subject in the career domain. "Urdu Academy should start providing coaching to interested students," said Sisodia. He said the academy should coach IAS aspirants in Urdu subjects.

"Study material in Urdu will soon be made available to students who want to write their papers in the medium. In the way English and Hindi are treated as the standard language of teaching and study, Urdu language will also be treated at par with them," Sisodia said.

Implement 7-point plan to clean winter air: Delhi CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday directed all his Cabinet Ministers to begin immediate implementation of seven-point action plan to combat high-level air pollution during winters, sources said.

He directed Health Minister Satyendar Jain to take immediate steps to begin the process of procuring 'best quality' N-95 anti-pollution masks, they said.

The odd-even road rationing scheme will come into effect in the national cap-

ital from November 4 to 15. Kejriwal had announced this last week among a slew of other measures to combat high-level of air pollution caused due to stubble burning in neighbouring states during winters.

"There should be no compromise in the procurement of 'best quality' N-95 anti-pollution masks. Health of Delhiites during the critical season will be given priority," the sources quoted Kejriwal as saying in directive to Jain.

On September 13, the chief minister had said his government would make large-scale procurement of around 50-60

lakh N-95 anti-pollution masks which would be distributed among the people in October before the spike in air pollution in next month due to parali burning.

The seven-point action plan also includes mass mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads, tree plantation, and special plans for 12 pollution hotspots in Delhi.

The Delhi Government would hold a mega laser show on the eve of Diwali and appeal to the people to follow the ban on bursting of crackers on the festival, Kejriwal had said.

Will protest if land for temple not provided: Singh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will hold a nationwide agitation if the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) fails to provide land for constructing the temple, said party Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh.

The party has urged the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Vice-Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to provide land in this regard. Accusing the BJP of being anti-Dalit, the AAP leaders slammed it for the demolition of the temple in con-nivance of Delhi Development Authority (DDA).

"BJP had played a role in demolition of temple but AAP is determined to re-build the temple. BJP though is chanting slogans to construct a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya however, when it comes to re-construct Sant Ravidas temple they start making excuses. Even in Supreme Court on Monday, the centre ruled BJP did not clarify its stand on re-construction of Sant Ravidas Temple in Delhi's Tughlaqabad area," Singh said.

"Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam had earlier written a letter to

DEMOLITION OF RAVIDAS TEMPLE

the Prime Minister to direct the DDA to allot land for the construction of the temple.

The Chief Minister also wrote a letter to Union Urban Ministry Hardeep Puri on 11 September and till date there is no response on the letter, he said, adding that I am again writing a letter on behalf of the three members of Rajya Sabha and I will also ask minister for an appointment with him.

Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam alleged that the BJP does not want to rebuild the Ravidas temple.

"There should be no politics on this. Nearly 96 people who protested against the demolition of the temple are still in jail. They have not been granted bail. Police should investigate based on records and punish the people who have done wrong," Gautam said.

There was no immediate reaction from the BJP Union Minister Puri had earlier said the Centre is determined to find a solution and possibly identify an alternative site to "relocate" the temple.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had, on August 10, demolished the



centuries-old Guru Ravidas temple in Delhi's Tughlaqabad under a Supreme Court order. The DDA in a statement issued earlier said the "structure was removed as per the orders of the Supreme Court".

"The standing semi-permanent structure was dismantled peacefully without any resistance or use of force in the presence of Guru Ravi Das Jayanti Samaroh Samiti members," the DDA had said in the statement. The DDA had said the Apex court in a case titled "Guru Ravi Das Jayanti Samaroh Samiti vs Union of India", had on August 9 observed that "serious breach" has been committed by the Samiti by not vacating the forest area as earlier ordered by the court.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना
Portal: <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट में पंजीकृत करत क्र. 01 हेतु निविदा 26.09.2019 सरल क्र. 02 से 05 दिनांक 01.10.2019 हेतु एवं सरल क्र. 06 से 11 दिनांक 09.10.2019 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	नि.आ.सू. क्र./दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत (लाख में)
1.	146	करहो, खैरा, सेतमंगा, जहागांव, पथरिया, चंद्रखुरी में पटवारी कार्यालय सह आवास भवन का निर्माण कार्य। मुंगेली संभाग, मुंगेली। नृतीय आमंत्रण।	30.35
2.	147	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग सारंगढ़ के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मांगों में मजदूरीकरण एवं चौकीकरण एवं पुल पुलियों का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। रायचड़ संभाग रायचड़। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	20.00
3.	148	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग सारंगढ़ के अंतर्गत विभिन्न शासकीय आवासों एवं नैर आवासीय भवनों में विशेष मरम्मत एवं साधारण मरम्मत कार्य। रायचड़ संभाग रायचड़। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	20.00
4.	149	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग भरतनगर के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मांगों में विशेष/साधारण मरम्मत, मजदूरीकरण एवं चौकीकरण एवं पुल पुलियों का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। रायचड़ संभाग रायचड़। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	19.98
5.	150	अवधारण न्यायालय लोरीमी में महिला बंदी कक्ष, शासकीय जे.पी.मिश्रा कॉलेज मुंगेली, शासकीय एस.एन.जी. कॉलेज मुंगेली, शासकीय वीरगंगा अंतर्गत लोही पथरिया में शौचालय निर्माण कार्य तथा शासकीय आवासगृह जी-1 में ट्यूबवेल खनन एवं बाह्य जल आपूर्ति कार्य। मुंगेली संभाग मुंगेली। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	19.08
6.	151	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग क्र. 01 बिलासपुर के अंतर्गत आवासीय एवं गैर आवासीय भवनों हेतु कलेक्टर, सी.ई. ऑफिस कंपस, 27 खोली एवं अन्य भवनों के ए.आ., एस.आ. एवं एम.ओ.डब्ल्यू कार्य। संभाग क्र. 01 बिलासपुर। प्रथम आमंत्रण	35.00
7.	152	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग क्र. 01 कच्छोरा के अंतर्गत मांगों का विशेष मरम्मत, मजदूरीकरण एवं चौकीकरण तथा पुल पुलियों का विशेष मरम्मत कार्य। कोरवा संभाग कोरवा। द्वितीय आमंत्रण।	30.00
8.	153	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग रायचड़ के अंतर्गत विभिन्न मांगों एवं पुल पुलियों का विशेष एवं साधारण मरम्मत कार्य। रायचड़ संभाग रायचड़। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	40.00
9.	154	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग पेण्डुरा के अंतर्गत मांगों डब्ल्यू.एम.एम. एवं बी.टी. पंच रिपेयर का कार्य। पेण्डुरा संभाग पेण्डुरा। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	60.00
10.	155	लो.नि.वि. उपसंभाग मरवाही के अंतर्गत मांगों डब्ल्यू.एम.एम. एवं बी.टी. पंच रिपेयर का कार्य। पेण्डुरा संभाग पेण्डुरा। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	65.00
11.	156	कैबचौकी अचानकमार्ग मार्ग के कि.मी. 57 से 98 = 42.00 कि.मी. में डब्ल्यू.एम.एम. बी.टी. पंच रिपेयर का कार्य। पेण्डुरा संभाग पेण्डुरा। प्रथम आमंत्रण।	60.00

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाइट में देखें जा सकते हैं।
अधीक्षण अभियंता
लो.नि.वि., बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर
G- 73361/5 Ryp/Did/17.9.19

Delhi zoo: CZA recommends capacity-building programme for 'demotivated' animal keepers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has recommended starting a capacity-development programme for Delhi zoo's 'very demotivated' animal keepers and roping in more interns and volunteers for assistance, a senior official said on Tuesday.

The CZA has also recommended sending the animal keepers to other zoos to learn best practices.

"A lot is happening in the zoo and the situation doesn't inspire confidence. The animal keepers are feeling very demotivated. There's an urgent need to organise a capacity-development programme for them every three months. Instructions have been issued in this regard.

The programme will feature the best practices of zoos across the country," CZA Member-Secretary S P Yadav said.

He said the CZA has also recommended sending Delhi zoo's animal keepers to other zoos, which will rejuvenate them and help them acquire new skills. The CZA has asked the zoo administration to rope in more volunteers and interns for help. "Anyone who loves and cares for wildlife can apply to become a volunteer.

For internship, applicants should be students of veterinary colleges and have some background knowledge," Yadav said.

"It will be an unpaid internship programme, but the zoo will provide accommodation to the interns," Yadav said.

Corrigendum to the FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PROSPECTIVE RESOLUTION APPLICANTS OF CITY MALL VIKASH PVT. LTD.
Corrigendum is being issued in partial modification of the FORM-G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST published on 16.09.2019 in this newspaper in which following dates may be read as under:

RELEVANT PARTICULARS			
S.No.	Particulars	PUBLISHED WRONG ON 16.09.2019	READ AS (CORRECTED)
7.	Date of invitation of expression of interest-2-Extended	16.09.2019	18.09.2019
10.	Last date of receipt of expression of interest	01.10.2019	23.09.2019
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	03.10.2019	25.09.2019
12.	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	08.10.2019	30.09.2019
13.	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	10.10.2019	03.10.2019
14.	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	05.10.2019	28.09.2019
16.	Last date for submission of resolution plans	04.11.2019	28.10.2019

Other information as stated in the FORM-G - INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST published on 16.09.2019 will remain unchanged and read the above referred Notice along with this corrigendum.

Amresh Shukla
Resolution Professional
IBBI/PA-001/IP-P00120/2017-18/10255
F-05, Jaideep Complex, 112, Zone-II,
M.P. Nagar, Bhopal-462011 (M.P.) India.
For City Mall Vikash Private Limited

Place : Bhopal
Date : 18.09.2019

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) CIN: L65110TN2014PLC09792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022.

(Notice Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act, 2002)

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited). The Loans of the below mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of the respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loans were classified as NPA as per the RBI Guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

SR No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers	Outstanding as per 13(2) notice	Notice date	Details of secured asset
1.	16289831	Home Loan	1. Leena Shinde 2. S.B.Shinde 3. Sharda Shinde	Rs. 1037228.83/-	04.09.2019	Plot No 214 & 215 KH No 501/29, Ph No 12, Bhilai-3, Mouja - Somani, Teh Patan, Dist Durg, Chattisgarh - 491001.

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts due to IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings U/s 13(4) and Sec.14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC First Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Limited) Further you are prohibited U/s 13(13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured asset either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC First Bank Ltd
Formerly Known as IDFC Bank Ltd

Date : 18.09.2019
Place : Raipur

Taliban kill 48 ahead of Afghan polls

PTI ■ KABUL

Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 48 people and wounded dozens more in two blasts on Tuesday — one at a campaign rally for the president and the other in Kabul — with the insurgents warning of more violence ahead of elections.

The first attack saw a motorcyclist detonate a suicide bomb at a checkpoint leading to a rally where President Ashraf Ghani was addressing supporters in central Parwan province, just north of the capital, killing 26 and wounding 42.

Just over an hour later another blast also claimed by the Taliban rocked central Kabul near the US embassy. Authorities initially did not give casualty figures, but later said 22 people had been killed and a further 38 wounded.

The explosions came after US President Donald Trump abruptly ended talks with the Taliban earlier this month over a deal that would have allowed the US to begin withdrawing troops from its longest war.

In a statement sent to media claiming responsibility for both blasts, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the attack near Ghani's rally was deliberately aimed at disrupting the September 28 elections.

"We already warned people not to attend election rallies, if they suffer any losses that is their own responsibility," the statement said.



Afghan police inspect the site of a suicide attack, in Parwan province of Afghanistan on Tuesday. PTI

An AFP image from the scene near Ghani's rally, roughly an hour's drive north of Kabul, showed the remains of a burnt motorcycle, with a body on top, covered by a blanket and next to a badly damaged police car.

Women and children were among the casualties, Parwan hospital director Abdul Qasim Sangin told AFP.

The president, who was speaking to his supporters at the time of the blast, was unhurt but later condemned the attack, saying the incident proved the Taliban had no real

interest in reconciliation. "As the Taliban continue their crimes, they once again prove that they are not interested in peace and stability in Afghanistan," said Ghani in a statement.

Sixty kilometres (40 miles) away in Kabul, a shopkeeper, Rahimullah, said he had been sitting inside his shop when the second blast came. "The wave broke all the windows," he told AFP.

"I rushed outside and saw several bodies just across the street. This is the second time in less than a month that a blast has broken our windows. I just fixed them a week ago." The

UN's mission in Afghanistan also slammed the Taliban, accusing them of showing "despicable disregard for civilian life & fundamental human right to participate in democratic process."

The elections will see Ghani face off against his own Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, and more than a dozen other candidates, including former warlords, ex-spies, and onetime members of the country's former communist regime.

For weeks, the election had been sidelined by the US-Taliban talks, with many Afghans and observers expecting the vote to be cancelled if a deal was agreed. Even candi-

dates did little in the way of campaigning.

But with the deal off, Ghani and his rivals have begun the race. Ghani is seeking a clear mandate they can use to negotiate with the insurgents on a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Trump's declaration that the US-Taliban talks were "dead" spurred the insurgents to declare last week that the only other option was more fighting.

"We had two ways to end occupation in Afghanistan, one was jihad and fighting, the other was talks and negotiations," Mujahid told AFP last week.

"If Trump wants to stop talks, we will take the first way and they will soon regret it." Observers had warned the Taliban, who hope to weaken the future president, will do anything they can to upend the election.

On the first day of campaigning in July, suicide attackers and gunmen targeted the Kabul office of Ghani's running mate, Amrullah Saleh. At least 20 people died in those attacks.

Turnout in the elections is set to be low, with experts citing fear of violence and a loss of hope among voters following widespread fraud allegations during the 2014 election.

A BBC investigation released on Monday claimed that 74 people were killed every day on average in August, with 611 incidents resulting in 2,307 deaths.

Russia, Iran, Turkey say Syrian constitution committee ready

AP ■ ANKARA

The leaders of Iran, Russia and Turkey announced on Monday that an agreement has been finally reached on the composition of a committee tasked with rewriting Syria's constitution as part of a political solution to the country's civil war, now in its ninth year.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told journalists at the end of the meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin and Iran's Hassan Rouhani in the Turkish capital Ankara that differences on one last committee member has been overcome, paving the way for the committee to start working as soon as possible.

"We portrayed a constructive and flexible attitude to determine constitutional committee members and rules of procedure. We made an effort for the political process to move forward. In short, hitches regarding the establishment of the committee were eliminated by our mutual efforts," Erdogan said.

The leaders did not provide a timeframe for the committee — set to be made up of Syrian government and opposition figures — to begin its proceedings. The procedural rules still have to be worked out, Putin told reporters.

"The proceedings must begin rapidly," Putin said.



From left, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands during their meeting in Ankara, Turkey on Monday. AP

"Extremist groups may try and destroy this process because they do not want a final agreement since they gain money from war."

Russia and Iran are key allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad while Turkey backs Syrian rebels seeking to oust him.

Rouhani said he hoped for elections to take place in Syria in 2020 or 2021. The leaders also agreed to de-escalate the volatile situation in Idlib — the last remaining rebel stronghold in Syria — while combatting extremists and protecting civilians. A cease-fire that went into effect at the end of August has been holding despite some violations.

Idlib is dominated by the al-Qaida-linked group Hayat

Tahrir al-Sham. Syrian forces, backed by Russia, targeted the armed group in a four-month ground and air offensive but civilians have been widely affected.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians, some already displaced from other parts of the war-torn country, have moved toward Turkey's border.

A major conflict in Idlib has raised the possibility of a mass refugee flow to Turkey, which already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees.

"We cannot stand by and watch a new tragedy that would affect 4 million people right next to our border," Erdogan said, adding: "Such a calamitous development would not only affect our country but also all of Europe."

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-249006
(Telephones: 0135-2763806, & Fax: 0135- 2763506
CIN No. U49101UR2001SGC225866

"e" Procurement Corrigendum Notice-1

In pursuant to clause 7 of, Instructions to Bidders (Section II), amendments against Tender Specification No. 01/EE(E&M-II)/VP/2019-20 - Annual Operation & Maintenance Contract for 33/11 KV substation & DG Set have been uploaded on the e-procurement portal.

All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer (E&M-II),
Vyasji Project, Lakshwar Bhawan, Dekapathar
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

File No. CID/SLR/Tender/2019
(Through IREPS portal)

NIT for leasing of SLR/SLRD parcel space published in various English & Hindi newspapers scheduled to be opened on 19.09.2019 through IREPS portal i.e. www.ireps.gov.in NITs following tenders are withdrawn due to technical reason.

- F-1 compartment of train no. 12826 ex. Anand Vihar Terminal to Ranchi (Tender No. SLR-FI-12826-Aug 19) is withdrawn.
- F-2 compartment of train no. 12826 ex. Anand Vihar Terminal to Ranchi (Tender No. SLR-FII-12826-Aug 19) is withdrawn.
- R-1 compartment of train no. 12826 ex. Anand Vihar Terminal to Ranchi (Tender No. SLR-RI-12826-Aug 19) is withdrawn.

Other Information of NITs shall remain unchanged. 2987/19

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.: 221-SI4/2/SO-29STNDLI-Divn/ML/IV/2019-20

Name of work and its location: "ISO 14001:2015 Certification of 29 Listed Stations over Delhi Division, Northern Railway, for three years as per scope of work"

Approx Cost of work: Rs. 28,09,500/- (Twenty Eight lakh Nine Thousand Five hundred only) plus GST as applicable

Earnest Money: Rs. 56,200/-

Completion period of work: Three years i.e. 36 months from the date of issue of ISO Certificate

Cost of tender document on cash/by post: Rs. 3540/- with GST@18%

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs on 09.10.2019 Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in

Dated: 16.09.2019 2985/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.: 06/19-20 dated 16.09.2019. (1) Name of work with its location: Repair to Administrative offices of NRCH2 store department office, medicine officers, mail room linen & T&P office, Telephone exchange, Cabin No. 7, 8 Biomedical waste and repair other officers chambers and improvement to walls finish by CNC CUT ACP screen behind Room No. 29 to 58 and Improvement to area ahead canteen at NRCH under XEN/NRCH. (2) Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 99,38,873.9. (3) Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 1,98,800.00. (4) Completion period of Work: 8 Months. (5) Cost of tender on cash/by post: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Rs. 5,900.00. (6) Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 15.10.2019. Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 15.10.2019. (7) Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. No.: 128-W/269/OET/19-20/NRCH/NIT 06 Dated: 16.09.2019. 2980/2019

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-31-T-2019-20-E3 Electrical sub estimate in c/w extension of existing building for additional accommodation (14 rooms GF+FF) in running room PNP. Approx cost of the works in: Rs. 14.73 lacs Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer-General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 29500.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 10.10.2019, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 10.10.2019, 15:15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer-General, New Delhi. 2973/19

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-33-T-2019-20-E3. Electrical work in connection with i) Repair & widening by providing VDC to main exit road of circulating area of Ajmeri Gate NDLs and repair to old TTE rest house Paharganj side. ii) Replacement of ART & AMRE for extension of washing line no. at SZM end in Delhi yard. iii) Construction of new conference room at Rail Bhawan New Delhi.

Approx cost of the works: Rs. 33.92 lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer-General, New Delhi. Earnest Money: Rs. 67,900/-

Date & time of submission of tender: 10.10.2019, 15:00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 10.10.2019, 15:15 Hrs. Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer-General, New Delhi. 2974/2019

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Israelis vote in snap polls in five months



Israeli PM Benjamin and his wife Sarah casts their votes in Jerusalem on Tuesday. PTI

Jerusalem: Israelis voted on Tuesday in their country's second general election in five months, a contest that is being widely seen as a referendum on incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership.

Netanyahu, 69, called the snap election after failing to form a governing coalition with a viable majority after April's vote. About 6.3 million eligible Israeli voters started voting Tuesday morning in the unprecedented repeat polls.

Polling booths opened at 7 AM and voters can cast their votes till 10 PM to elect the 22nd Knesset (Israeli parliament) necessitated by the inability of Netanyahu to cobble a coalition of 61 members in a house of 120 following the April 9 elections.

Voter turnout in Israeli elections hit 26.8 per cent mark at noon time, a tad higher than on April 9 at the same hour, with the larger parties, ruling Likud and main rivals Blue and White, resorting to traditional mobilisation tools to create panic among their sympathisers to bring them out to vote.

"The turnout at noon time was 2 per cent higher than 24.8 per cent recorded at the same time during the last polls," Director of Central elections Committee, Orli Adas, said calling it "an impressive trend".

Voting for Israel Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers began Saturday evening at bases around the country, and Israeli diplomats abroad have also already cast their ballots. PTI

UN experts urge probe of Rohingya killings in B'desh

AFP ■ DHAKA

UN human rights experts have raised new concerns about the treatment of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh following a deadly backlash over the killing of a ruling party official.

The experts called for an "impartial" investigation into the deaths of at least six Rohingya men in gunfights with police after they were named as suspects in the killing of Omar Faruk, a youth wing official of the ruling Awami League.

Following the murder, local people vandalised refugee shops and staged protests in one of multiple camps now home to a total of more than 900,000 Muslim Rohingya who have fled oppression in neighbouring Myanmar.

In a statement released late Monday in Geneva, the six specially appointed UN experts on rights issues backed Bangladesh's probe into the murder of Faruk.

But they added, "it is equally necessary to ensure that the presumption of innocence is upheld and that reactionary, summary and ad hoc justice is not doled out solely to placate the legitimate concerns of the host community."

"We urge the Bangladeshi government to carry out an

independent, impartial and effective investigation into all deaths that have occurred with regards to this case," they said.

Police inspector Ali Arshad told AFP at least 40 Rohingya have been killed in Bangladesh since July last year. Of those, at least 33 were killed by Bangladeshi security forces in gunfights and another seven were killed in shootouts among Rohingya groups, he said.

Rights groups have accused Bangladesh police of staging many of these gunfights as a cover for the extrajudicial killings of Rohingya, mainly suspects in drug smuggling. The UN experts also expressed "serious concerns" over "tight new restrictions" and a communication clampdown in all refugee camps, where there is an effective internet blackout.

The clampdown follows the failure of a new attempt to repatriate some of the refugees and an August 25 rally in which some 200,000 Rohingya marked two years since the exodus.

The UN experts said that since the rally, a number of organisers have been questioned and subjected to "intimidation".

"We are alarmed by the sudden crackdown of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association," they said.

Ayatollah Khamenei rules out talks with US 'at any level'

AFP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader on Tuesday ruled out negotiations with the US "at any level", as tensions mounted between the arch-foes after Washington blamed Tehran for attacks on Saudi oil installations.

Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Khamenei said the US adopted a policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran because it believes it cannot bring the Islamic republic to its knees through other means.

The leader was speaking after devastating drone attacks at the weekend that halved oil output of Iran's regional arch-rival Saudi Arabia — the world's top crude exporter.

"The policy of 'maximum pressure' against the Iranian nation is worthless and all Islamic Republic of Iran officials unanimously believe there will be no negotiations with the US at any level," he said in an address.

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

Iran responded by scaling back its commitments under the landmark accord, which gave it the promise of sanctions relief in return for limiting the scope of its nuclear programme. Trump said the US was



NATO chief 'extremely concerned' after attacks on Saudi

Baghdad: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Monday he was "extremely concerned" about escalating tensions following strikes on Saudi oil facilities at the weekend, accusing Iran of destabilising the region. Speaking to AFP in Baghdad, Stoltenberg's comments were his first on the strikes on two major Saudi oil facilities, which were claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels but which both Washington and Riyadh have blamed on Tehran. "We call on all parties to prevent any such attacks occurring again because that can have negative consequences for the whole region, and we are also extremely concerned about a risk of escalation," the Secretary General said. AFP

ready to help Saudi Arabia after the attacks that halted about six percent of the world's oil supply and triggered a record leap in crude prices.

Facebook suspends Bib's chatbot for sharing polling information

Jerusalem: Social media giant, Facebook, on Tuesday suspended Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Facebook chatbot for the second time in less than a week, this time for "violating local laws".

Facebook suspended Netanyahu's chatbot for the remainder of election day after it illegally shared polling information, the Times of Israel reported.

"We're working with elections officials around the world to help ensure the integrity of the elections. Our policy explicitly states that developers are required to obey all laws applicable in the country where their application is accessible," a spokesperson for Facebook was quoted by the news portal as saying.

"Therefore we've suspended the (Netanyahu) bot's activity, in light of the violation of local law, until the close of the polls at 10 PM on Tuesday," he added.

The social media giant had suspended a chatbot operated by Netanyahu's official page for violating "hate speech policies" last Thursday after a message spread by his campaign warned that Arab Israeli politicians want to annihilate us all. PTI

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"TENDER NOTICE"

Sr. No	Name of the Department	Name of Work/ Notice/Tender	Opening Date	Closing Date	Amount (Approx. in lac.)	E.Money (in lac.)	Website of the Department
The Panipat Coop. Sugar Mills Ltd. Panipat							
Purchase item for Sugar Mill							
1		Nylon Rubber Belt (M-24) for RBC			2.00		
2		Bagasse			80.00	00.50	
3		Rate Contract for Oxygen & D.A. Cylinder			2.00		
4		Pumps & Pumps Spares			10.00		
Purchase for Distillery Unit							
5		Pet Bottle			400.00		
6		Wooden Chips			250.00		
7		P/P Seals			52.75		
Job Works for Sugar Mills							
8		Filling & Packing of small P.P. Bag (10 kgs. & 20 kgs.)			2.00		
9		Removal Binding Material from Cane			5.00		
10		AMC of Instrument (Season 2019-20)			2.00		
Job Works for Distillery Unit							
11		Removal & Shifting of Sludge from Spent Wash Lagoon			5.00		
12		Transportation of Country Liquor			40.00		
13		AMC & Operation of Ethanol Plant			9.00		
14		AMC & Operation of MEE Plant			20.00		
15		Contract for Operation of various station of sugar mill during season 2019-20			80.00	1.60	
16		Contract for engaging out source agency to provide man power against various technical post of sugar mill during season 2019-20 & Distillery Unit from 01-10-2019 to 30-09-2020			72.00	1.60	

The detailed tender have already been uploaded on the website <https://tenders.hry.nic.in> The tender should be filled on the above website on or before **24-09-2019 up to 12:30 PM**. The **"TECHNICAL BID"** will be opened on **24-09-2019 at 01:00 PM**. If a tenderer qualifies in **"TECHNICAL BID"** then only **"FINANCIAL BIDE"** will be opened. The Negotiation, if necessary will be held in the presence of lowest tenderer or his representative who may be present at that time on **25-09-2019 at 11:00 AM**.

Managing Director

Farooq, now a threat

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



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

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

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

Unsafe cities

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



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

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

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

Message for a violent world

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



RK PACHAURI

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

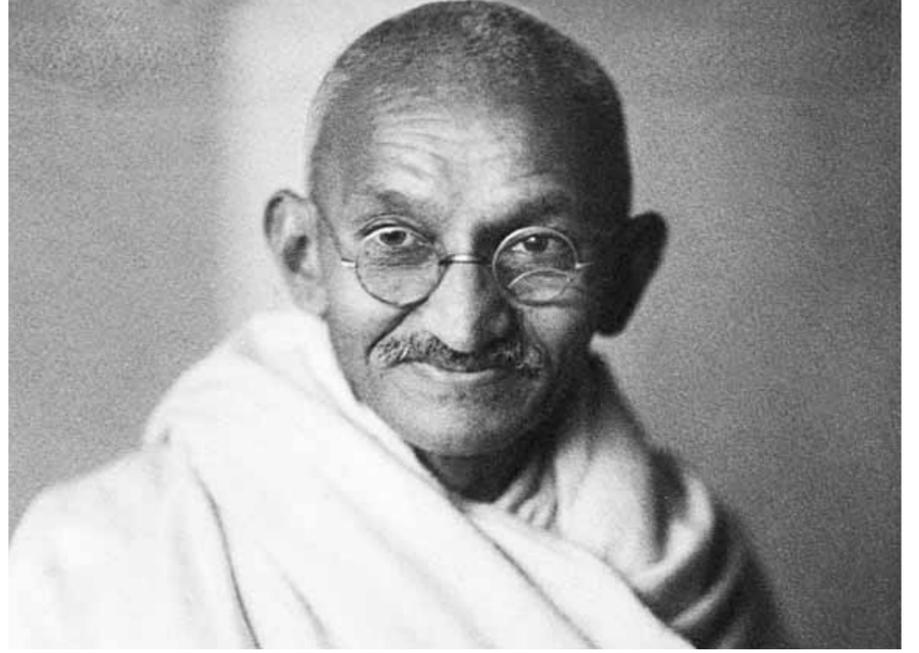
Gandhian philosophy represents a perfect integration of non-violence, non-exploitation of one community by another and respect for all human beings and other species with whom we share the planet earth. His views on these subjects are best explained by the following quotation: "Public opinion alone can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

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

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

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

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



under water but also extensively on large areas of land.

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

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

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

slaves."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOUNDBITE

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



CPI(M) leader —Mohd Yousuf Tarigami

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



Actor —Karan Deol

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



External Affairs Minister —S Jaishankar

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



Congress leader —Digvijaya Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Respect languages

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

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

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

India will do well to emulate Belgium

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

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



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

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Saudi crisis

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

structure.

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

are being fed by Iran for long.

Yemen is Saudi Arabia's neighbouring country and has been ravaged by civil war for long. Houthi rebels have been battling against the Yemen regime backed by Saudi Arabia and the US. So the attack on the Saudi oil facilities is only a natural extension of Houthi rebels' vendetta against Saudi Arabia. Iran has always cocked a snook at the US. Now Iran's elite revolutionary guard force has said that it is prepared for a "full-scale war" and that their missiles could hit bases in the US and ships within a range of 2,000 km. Anything may happen anytime. This could be disastrous for the entire world. The drone attack on the Saudi oil facilities made the authorities in Saudi Arabia slash the oil production by half and consequently, oil prices have been gone up. For India, the fallout will be unbearable as a spike in oil prices will upset the common man's budget.

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TK Nandanani
Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to up the game

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

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

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

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

Similarly, India invested \$10,993 million against China's \$1,396.219 million in 2017-18, followed by New Delhi's \$19.925 million against Beijing's \$304.732 million in 2018-19. Year after year, Chinese investments were more than 200 per cent of that by India which even restricted its funding during the power transition from the 'Tatmadaw' (armed forces) to a democratic set up in 2015.

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

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

On the other hand, India has fallen short in its plans for Myanmar's infrastructural development. New Delhi must realise that its inability to engage with Naypyitaw will spell doom for its Act East Policy as Myanmar is the bridge linking India with South-East Asia. Sadly, most projects have remained on paper and others are likely to miss deadlines. For instance, New Delhi had funded and implemented a project to develop the deepwater Sittoung Port in Rakhine State to handle 20,000-tonne vessels by dredging the River Kaladan from Sittoung to Paletwa (a 158-km long stretch) to improve its navigability. It also involved building an inland terminal at Paletwa and constructing a 29-km-long highway linking Paletwa to the Indian border. However, the project is running behind schedule and has faced various hurdles.

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a senior journalist)

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT



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

The need of the hour

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



HIMA BINDU KOTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

in climate are likely to worsen the existing pressure on various sectors. With a growing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission profile, India is currently the third-largest discharger of GHGs globally, after China and the USA. However, according to a 2014 World Bank report, India's per capita GHG emanations remain extremely low at 1.7 metric tonnes (MT) of carbon dioxide (CO2) per capita, as compared to China at 6.2 MT and USA at 17.6 MT.

Moreover, according to the Press Information Bureau 2009(b) report on emissions, it has been estimated that even by 2031, India's per capita GHG emissions (likely to remain 4 MT of CO2 per capita) will continue to be lower than the global per capita GHG emissions in 2005 (4.22 MT of CO2 per capita).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Amity University)

Will Modi bite the UCC bullet?

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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

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

State would bring in such a code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ram temple issue is in court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is a senior journalist)



CALIFORNIA HAS SEEN THE LIGHT

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

(The Guardian editorial)

CBI court breather to IPS Rajeev Kumar

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Mamata leaves for Delhi, to meet Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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



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

The Chief Minister would not react to the loaded remarks from the Opposition leaders who questioned her sudden decision to meet the Prime Minister at a time when the Central Bureau of Investigation probing the multi-crore Sharada chit fund case was almost on the verge of arresting one of her blue-eyed IPS officers and former Kolkata Commissioner of Police Rajiv Kumar for his alleged role in the investigation of the ponzi scam in 2013 before the Supreme Court finally handed over the case to the CBI.

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

political differences.

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

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

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

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

Mamata b'day wish to Modi, saree to wife

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

Cong unreliable, untrustworthy: Maya

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

The BSP president said, "Instead of fighting with its arch rivals, the Congress always damages the parties that have helped and supported it.

Hence, Congress is against Dalits, STs and OBCs and has been non-serious about the rights of backward."

She also accused the grand-old-party of being against the principles of Babasaheb Ambedkar, "which is why he had to resign from the post of the country's first law minister." "The Congress never let Babasaheb go to Lok Sabha and neither was he awarded the Bharat Ratna. This is very shameful and sad," she said.

On Monday night, all six BSP MLAs wrote to state Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to merge the Legislative Party with the Congress. MLAs Rajendra Singh Gudha, Jogendra Singh Awana, Wajib Ali, Lakhn Singh



Meena, Sandeep Yadav and Deepchand said they were merging their legislative party with the Congress. The development came ahead of civic body polls and bypolls to two Assembly seats.

Meanwhile, in another development, after the Allahabad High Court stayed the notification to include 17 OBC groups in the Scheduled Castes list, the BSP president on Tuesday said such government decisions were guided by total selfish political motives but affected the entire society.

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

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

PTI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

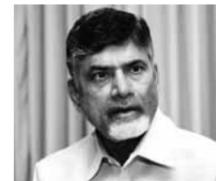
Former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has lashed out at the YSRCP stating that it has harassed former Speaker Dr Kodela Siva Prasada Rao mentally, physically and financially by slapping cases on him. Kodela's was a case of murder by the YSRCP Government, he said and demanded a CBI probe into the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

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

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

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

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



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Crocodile smuggling gang busted in Mumbai

IANIS ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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



Two baby crocodiles seized by forest officials in Thane on Tuesday

Mumbai, and what will be their ultimate fate," Muthe added. The 'Crocodylus Palustris' figures on the Red List of Threatened Species of the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2014.

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

Khuddos Latif Baig from Bidar in Karnataka.

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

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

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

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

K'aka MLA summoned by ED in Shivakumar case

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUZAFFARNAGAR

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

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

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

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

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



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

Pakistan violates ceasefire along Int'l border in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

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

He said, "Pakistani rangers used small arms firing to target the Indian posts. We retal-

ated the fire in equal measure." He said we are keeping a close watch on the activities of Pakistani rangers. IG, BSF also maintained, no incident of infiltration was reported across Jammu frontier this year.



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Lt-Gen Ranbir Singh in Ladakh

areas and non-traditional routes of infiltration to foil repeated infiltration bids by the heavily armed intruders with support from the Pakistan Army regulars.

Recent intelligence reports claimed, small groups of infiltrators have managed to sneak inside the Indian territory from dormant routes of infiltration

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

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

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

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

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

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

He also apprised the

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

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



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

Chinmayanand remains under medical observation

No rape FIR yet

PTI ■ SHAHJAHANPUR

BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand, accused of raping a student, remained under medical observation on Tuesday, a day after he complained of uneasiness.

Chinmayanand had complained of uneasiness on Monday after the alleged rape victim got her statement recorded before a magistrate.

A team of three doctors examined the former Union Minister in his ashram after he complained of weakness and fluctuating blood sugar level besides an upset stomach, Dr Gaurav Mishra of a private nursing home here told PTI after visiting the 72-year-old leader.

Chinmayanand, however, has not been shifted to any hospital, he added. Official sources, meanwhile, said the SIT continued with its probe in the matter, but no FIR has been lodged so far against the BJP leader.

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

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

The victim's friends, who were examined, included the



one who was with her when she was traced in Rajasthan after having gone missing last month.

The SIT had called them to the police lines here and recorded their statements, official sources said.

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

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

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

All accused in Bettiah gangrape case held

Medical tests show victim minor: Police

PTI ■ PATNA/BETTIAH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

said.

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

Jayantkant had also said that the medical examination reports of the girl, who claimed she was 18

years old, showed "no internal or external injury" which was unusual in a case of a sexual assault.

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

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

immaterial and falls in the category of an offence as the girl is a minor."

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

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

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

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

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

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



Hyderabad-Karnataka region renamed 'Kalyana Karnataka'

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yeddyurappa on Tuesday announced that the Hyderabad-Karnataka region has been renamed as 'Kalyana

Karnataka' and a separate secretariat would be established for its development.

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

The Chief Minister said a separate secretariat would be

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

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

Use of AI to boost tourism in India

IANS ■ KOCHI

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

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

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



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

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

People from 5 Maha villages seek merger with T

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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

The people and elected representatives of various political parties have also decided to contest the forthcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra with the merger demand, the villagers informed the Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, an official Press statement said on Tuesday.

"People, including elected representatives from villages spread over five legislative



Assembly segments from the bordering Nanded district in Maharashtra, are in an agitational mood demanding the

State Government to either implement the welfare schemes of Telangana State in their villages also or allow their villages to be merged with Telangana," the release from the Chief Minister's office said.

The leaders from Nalgao, Bhokar, Degloor, Kinwat and Hathgaon Assembly segments, who met Rao, sought his support for their agitation and informed that they were ready to contest on the TRS party tickets if allotted.

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Bhau Devi

General public is here by informed that this female (depicted in the photo) namely: **Bhau Devi W/o Sh. Dev Nath Jha R/o Jhuggi No. 101/8, CD-Park, Jhangir Puri, Delhi** is missing since 28.08.2019. In this regard a DD No. 101-A dated 28.08.2019 has been lodged at PS. Jhangir Puri, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 75 years, **Height:** 4' ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Medium, **Wearing:** Green Sharee and Red Blouse and Hawai Chappal in feet.
 Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped female may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: http://cbl.nic.in **P.S. Jahangir Puri, Delhi**
E-mail: cbc@cbl.gov.in **Ph.:** 011-27631600, 27636000
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob.:** 8750870229
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/9360/NW/19**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age : 50 years, Height : 5'3", Complexion : Fair,** wearing blue colour shirt and pant, was found unconscious on 08.09.2019 in the area of P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. He admitted in LNJP Hospital, during the treatment he died. In this regard a DD No. 16-A dated 08.09.2019 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The Deadbody has been preserved for identification in the mortuary of LNJP Hospital, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO : P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23953776

DP/425/N/19

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI

DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

O.A. No. 517 of 2019

The under mentioned Asset will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD V/s AHMEDABAD BENGAL ROADWAYS PVT. LTD. Item no. 20

21.08.2019

Present: Mr. Punit K. Bhalia along with Mr. Rakesh Singh, Ld. Counsels appears for applicant bank. Mr. Dimple Arora, Ld. counsel appears for defendant no. 1.

I.A. No. 1844/19 is filed by the applicant bank seeking direction to the garnishee for depositing the amount payable to defendant no. 1. In the circumstances urged in the application that an amount of Rs. 2,30,71,383.59 is due. At this stage, the Ld. Counsel for defendant no. 1 request time to file reply.

1. Description of Asset: hypothecated assets

Model	Reg No	Asset	Reserve Price	EMD
2013	HR55S7375	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S7382	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S7383	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7385	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7387	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7388	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S7390	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S8240	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S8241	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S9135	AL 2516	600000	60000
2013	HR55S9136	AL 2516	500000	50000
2013	HR55S9477	AL 2516	600000	60000

2. Date and Time of Auction: 23 September, 2019 Time: 2:00 PM To 3:00 PM

3. Auction Venue: ABR Yard, Behind Park Inn hotel, Binola Manesar, Haryana, NH-8, Pin Code- 122051.

5. Manager: Awanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)

Terms of Sale
 The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Amount mentioned above against the respective vehicle by way of pay order/ Demand Draft payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Successful highest bidder shall have to deposit balance amount within 5 days from the approval shared with them. In Case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited. Interested participant/s are requested to participate 23 September, 2019 for physical auction or call Bank Manager Awanish Arunakar (8826893208) and Kovid Bhatnagar (9643806761)

Presiding Officer DRT-II, Delhi

No slowdown in automobile sector: CAIT



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

The auto industry has been attributing the sales downturn to several factors like high GST (Goods and Services Tax) rates, farm distress, stagnant wages and liquidity constraints.

"There is no slowdown in the domestic automobile sector. They are saying this to get a package from the government," Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal told reporters here.

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

sector.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AFP ■ HONG KONG

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

The crisis revived fears of a conflict in the tinderbox Gulf region and raised questions about the security of crude fields in the world's top exporter as well as other producers.

It has also taken attention away from the upcoming trade talks between China and the US as well as a much-anticipated policy meeting of the Federal Reserve, which is expected to see it cut interest rates. Trump said he was ready to help Riyadh following the strikes but would await a "definitive" determination on who was responsible.

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

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

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

more than one percent.

Uncertainty and geopolitical fears hit regional equities, which had been enjoying an upbeat month thanks to easing trade war tensions and fresh easing measures by global central banks.

Hong Kong fell 0.9 percent with sometimes violent unrest adding to the financial hub's woes and dragging on the economy.

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

Taipei and Manila were also lower, though Seoul, Wellington and Jakarta rose slightly.

But while there are fears of a conflagration in the Middle East, observers said the chances of that were low.

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

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

Analysts said the Fed would probably consider the Saudi attack's possible impact

on the economy and prices when deciding on its next monetary policy move this week but tipped it to cut borrowing costs after its meeting Wednesday.

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

On foreign exchanges the aversion to riskier assets pushed the dollar up against high-yielding currencies, while the pound fought to recover from Monday's losses.

Sterling dropped Monday after European officials said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had offered no new, viable ideas to break the Brexit impasse during talks with EU chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

West Texas Intermediate: DOWN 1.5 percent at \$61.96 per barrel Brent North Sea crude: DOWN 1.1 percent at \$68.21 per barrel Tokyo - Nikkei 225: DOWN 0.1 percent at 21,964.74 (break) Hong Kong - Hang Seng: DOWN 0.9 percent at 26,873.31 Shanghai - Composite: DOWN 0.8 percent at 3,005.25 Pound/dollar: DOWN at \$1.2417 from \$1.2424 at 2300 GMT Euro/pound: UP at 88.63 pence from 88.56 pence Euro/dollar: UP at \$1.1006 from \$1.1002 Dollar/yen: UP at 108.20 yen from 108.10 yen New York - Dow: DOWN 0.5 percent at 27,076.82 (close) London - FTSE 100: DOWN 0.6 percent at 7,321.41

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

He said there is no meaning for such a big infrastructure (MMTC) to carry out gold imports.

"We have started discussions. One by one we will do," he added. STC and PEC are debt-ridden firms.

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

Therefore, at present, the company has no banking limits, funded or non-funded, available with it.

The company has reported a net loss (after tax) of ₹881 crore during 2018-19 as compared to net profit (after tax) of about ₹38 crore in 2017-18.

Business Corner



Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE Ltd.), a premier establishment for building warships and carrying out engineering fabrications in the country, has come out with yet another stellar achievement. The Research and Development team of GRSE has turned the construction of a Bailey type double-lane portable steel bridge into a reality, that too in a record time



Among a host of public and private sector companies in the country, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has won the highest number (Nine) of 'National Safety Awards' for outstanding achievements in terms of the longest accident-free period and lowest accident frequency rate at its works. The awards were received by Dr. Nalin Shinghal, Chairman & Managing Director, BHEL from Sh. Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment, at a function held in New Delhi. Significantly, BHEL has been winning these prestigious national awards, instituted by the Ministry of Labour, Government of India consistently, since their inception



The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce conferred the Bank of the year award to Punjab National Bank at 15th Indo-US Economic Summit in Delhi. RK Yaduvanshi Executive Director Punjab National Bank received the award

Emerging economies like India more vulnerable to big oil price moves: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Given weak consumer demand, higher oil prices can result in stagflation in an emerging economy like India, which imports more than 70 per cent of its oil needs, says a report.

In economic parlance, stagflation means a situation in a country's economy when inflation is persistently high, demand is stagnant and unemployment rates are high.

According to the Japanese financial services major Nomura, when the rise in oil prices is driven more by supply-side factors - as is the case currently - it tends to be more damaging to large net oil importers.

This is because, "in the absence of a strong pick up in exports, higher import cost of oil could sharply worsen current account positions, compress profit margins and, to the extent that firms pass on higher production costs, raise consumer price index (CPI) inflation," it said.

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.

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.

As per the report, for a country like India, higher oil prices are equivalent to a negative terms-of-trade shock that weakens growth, pushes up inflation and deteriorates the twin deficits.

"Given weak demand, higher oil prices, even if temporary, can result in a stagflationary outcome," Nomura said. According to Nomura estimates, every USD10/bbl rise in oil price would reduce gross domestic product (GDP) growth by around 0.2 per-

centage point, widen the current account deficit by 0.4 per cent of GDP, widen the fiscal deficit by 0.1 per cent of GDP and add around 30 basis points (bp) to headline CPI inflation.

It further noted that if higher oil prices result in rupee depreciation (against the US dollar), then we estimate that, for every 5 per cent rupee depreciates against the dollar, headline inflation would increase by 20 bp.

"Given this is a temporary supply-side shock, we expect the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to look through higher oil prices, especially since CPI inflation will be at its 4 per cent target and as the negative output gap would persist," Nomura said.

The global brokerage firm expects a cumulative 40 bp of rate cuts in Q4 2019. Although sustained high oil prices would increase the likelihood of a 25 bp rate cut in October (followed by 15 bp in December), rather than a more aggressive (over 25 bp) cut in October.

Telcos reluctant to bid for 5G spectrum on concerns of high prices, low quantum: COAI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adding to the growing chorus for lowering of 4G recommended rates, industry body COAI on Tuesday said its member companies have indicated reluctance in picking up 5G spectrum in the upcoming government-organised sale of radiowaves, concerned over high prices and less-than-adequate quantum.

Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) Director-General Rajan Mathews said there could be some takers for 4G spectrum in the auctions, which the government hopes to conduct in the current financial year.

"In spectrum auctions, for sub-1GHz, it is possible that someone might want to pick up some spectrum for 4G but 5G pricing is still the main challenge. Our members have indicated that at the current prices, it does not make sense to invest this kind of money," Mathews told PTI.

On Monday, the Broadband India Forum (BIF) had claimed that radiowaves unsold in past auctions, because they were priced high, had an implication of Rs 5.4 lakh crore due to economic benefits lost, and that the government needs to ensure adequacy and "reasonable" rates for upcoming 5G auction.

BKU DEMANDS COMPLETE BAN OF E-CIGARETTES

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: To save the livelihoods of Indian Farmers from the multinational groups, Bharatiya Kisan Union has sent an appeal to Agriculture and Commerce Minister demanding complete ban of E-Cigarettes and Vaping Products in India. More than 30 countries have banned e-cigarettes and other countries are planning to ban them. Tobacco grower nations like Thailand, Nepal, Brazil, Mexico, Sri Lanka have also banned them.

AirAsia launches Varanasi to Bangkok direct flights

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: AirAsia launched direct flights between Varanasi and Bangkok. The carrier's inaugural Varanasi-Bangkok route will be open for sale on the 17 September 2019 onwards. All guests can now avail the promotional offer for ₹7399 one way. The Varanasi-Bangkok route will commence operations on the 25 November 2019 and will go on till 28 March 2020. The flights will operate on all Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Govt allows SAIL to sell 25% iron ore output in open market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The mines Ministry on Tuesday said it has allowed State-owned SAIL to offload up to 25 per cent of total iron ore produced in the previous year through open market.

However, it will be subject to clearance from the respective state governments, where the mines are located, after following due procedure. It is valid for a period of 2 years, the ministry said in a statement.

The country's largest steel maker, under the Ministry of Steel, has over 20 captive mines spread across Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and West

Bengal.

As per the provision of section 8A(6) of the MMDRA Act 1957, the lease of 31 working iron ore mines are expiring next year on March 31, 2020, and it is expected to lead to a shortfall of 60 million tonnes (MT) of iron ore in the market, the ministry said.

The mines ministry has noted that there is a need to take adequate steps to ensure availability of iron ore in the market to meet the demand of domestic steel makers.

Steel plants of the firm are designed to process defined quantity and quality of ore and the increased production from captive mines can not be consumed in their plants, it said.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Kiran D/o Vijay R/o H. No. S-3/49, Swaran Park, Mundka, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Nangloi since **13.08.2019**. In this regard FIR No. **471/19 U/s 363 IPC** dated **16.08.2019** has been registered at **PS. Nangloi Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 5'3" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Badami Colour Suit-Light Yellow Salwar and red Hawai Chappale in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.: 011-25947225, 25949470
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. 7065036127
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/2661/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) namely: **Krishna W/o Raj Singh R/o Near Vedpal Parchoon Shop Jaunti Village Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Kanjhawala since **17.07.2019**. In this regard DD No. **58-A** dated **27.07.2019** has been registered at **PS Kanjhawala, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the woman but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 55 years, **Height:** 5'4" ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue Check Kurta, White Salwar & Black Chappal in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped woman may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. No.: 011-25951486
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. 7065036125
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/3201/RD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at Near Tilak Builder, Aman Vihar, Kirari Village, Delhi on **01.09.2019** at **3.00 PM**. In this regard a **DD No. 65-B** Dated **01.09.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under:
Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 30-35 years, **Height:** 5'6" Feet, **ID Mark:** A Tatoo (rkr) in English in right hand, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Dotted Shirt & Black Colour Half Pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the information about the dead male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one is having any information about this dead male please inform the undersigned.

S.H.O
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-27581223
DP/3274/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Ajit, S/o: Chottu, R/o: Jhuggi No. G-107, CSA Colony, WPIA, Ashok Vihar, Delhi** has been missing since **03.08.2019** from the area of **PS. Ashok Vihar, Delhi**. In this regard FIR No. **354/19** dated **27.08.2019 U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing boy is as under:
Name: Ajit, **Age:** 15 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Dark Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Green T-Shirt, Blue Jeans and Sandal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing boy please inform P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station, Ashok Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011- 27636000, 276316000
DP/9358/NW/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Raju @ Mango S/o Mohan Lal, R/o D-700, Jhuggi Pani Ki Tanki Wali, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. **324/13 u/s 354A/354B/506/34 IPC** at **PS. Sultan Puri, Delhi**, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Raju @ Mango** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Raju @ Mango** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation u/s 82 CrPC is hereby made that the said **Raju @ Mango** accused of FIR No. **324/13 u/s 354A/354B/506/34 IPC** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **07.11.2019**.

DP/2681/OD/19- By Order
(Court Matter) Ms. Shilpi Jain, Metropolitan Magistrate, Mahila Court-02 (West Distt.), Room No. 18, Ground Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that a Boy namely **Sonu Kumar S/o Rajender Kumar R/o C-253, DDA Mini Market, Mangol puri Delhi**. **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'6" **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Identification:** A tattoo mark Name "Sonu" on right hand and "OM" on back side of left hand palm **Wearing:** White T-Shirt-light Blue Pant and Spark sandal in his feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of **P.S Raj Park, Delhi** since dated **12.04.2019**. In this regard a vide **DD No. 21-A** Dated **25.04.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Raj Park, Delhi** (Vide FIR No. 684/19 u/s 365 IPC Date 9.9.2019). Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Raj Park, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph.:** 011-27910070
DP/2646/OD/19 **27910071**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Rohit Nandal S/o Sh. Rishipal R/o H No. Village - Bohar, Distt. Rohtak, Haryana** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 129/12 U/s 379/411 IPC** was registered at **P.S. South-Rohini, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Rohit Nandal** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Rohit Nandal** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person **Rohit Nandal** of **FIR No. 129/12 U/s 379/411 IPC** was registered at **P.S. South-Rohini, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **24.10.2019**.

By Order
Sh. Virender Singh
DP/3176/RD/19 Metropolitan Magistrate, North Distt.
(Court Matter) Room No. 208, 2nd Floor, Rohini Court, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Sadhna, W/o Triloki, R/o Gali No. 1, Shani Bazar, I.G. Colony, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nangloi, Delhi**, has been missing since **Dated 21.08.2019**. In this regard a **D.D. No. 50-A, Dated 28.08.2019** has been lodged at **Police Station - Nihal Vihar, Delhi**. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 37 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Wearing red & black Saree and black Chappals in feet.

Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **Ph.:** 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/2671/OD/19

AFP ■ PARIS

The visit of Real Madrid to the French capital today means a glamour tie for Paris Saint-Germain to begin their Champions League campaign but a meeting with the Spanish side also brings back unhappy memories.

When the clubs last met in Europe two seasons ago, a PSG side missing an injured Neymar were dumped out in the last 16.

That was one of three consecutive exits in the first knockout round for PSG, who have failed to make their mark on the Champions League despite all the money spent by their Qatari owners.

So the inevitable question at the start of another continental campaign is can Thomas Tuchel's team this time at least reach a semi-final in Europe's elite club competition?

Last season it was Manchester United who embarrassed PSG. Since 2012 the only teams PSG have beaten in a Champions League knockout tie are Valencia, Bayer Leverkusen and Chelsea.

NEYMAR OVERSHADOWS EVERYTHING

For now, PSG will just be eager to make a statement in their opening match. But with Galatasaray and Club Brugge the other teams in Group A, it would be a monumental surprise if PSG failed to progress, even with Neymar suspended for the first two matches.

The world's most expensive player has overshadowed everything else at the club in recent months, with the saga of his hoped-for move back to Barcelona and then his return to action at the weekend, featuring a brilliant winner against Strasbourg in response to boos from angry supporters.

There is no doubt the presence of Neymar gives PSG a far greater chance of winning the biggest prize in European club football, as long as he stays fit.

As well as Neymar's suspension against Real, Kylian Mbappe is still out with a hamstring injury, but the arrival of Mauro Icardi has added another explosive element to their attack.

Clock is ticking

With Neymar staying and Icardi in, PSG hope to finally deliver in Europe



Neymar, left, celebrates his goal with PSG's teammate Mauro Icardi during the French League One match against Strasbourg at the Parc des Princes Stadium. AP

Icardi was prolific for Inter before being stripped of the club captaincy last season amid a contract dispute. He signed on loan just before the transfer deadline.

It is elsewhere that Paris really needed to strengthen, though.

Tuchel was unable to settle on a first-choice goalkeeper last season between Alphonse Areola and

Gianluigi Buffon. Both have since left and Keylor Navas has signed from Real Madrid to take over the gloves.

Abdou Diallo has provided an extra option in defence after arriving from Borussia Dortmund.

There has been major surgery in the midfield with the signings of Ander Herrera, Idrissa Gueye and Pablo Sarabia.

Whether Marco Verratti can blend with the newcomers to form a midfield as fearsome as it was in the days when he was flanked by Blaise Matuidi and the peerless Thiago Motta, remains to be seen.

Neymar is still there but, brilliant as he is, PSG know from experience that the Brazilian alone will not win them the Champions League.

Neymar's ban cut to 2 games

AFP ■ PARIS

Neymar's Champions League ban for insulting match officials on social media has been reduced from three games to two following an appeal, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled on Tuesday.

The world's most expensive player following his move from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros in 2017 will miss the fixtures against Real Madrid on today and Galatasaray in two weeks' time due to the original ban from UEFA.

However, he will now be free to face Belgian side Bruges on October 22.

"The Sole Arbitrator partially upheld the appeal and reduced the suspension imposed by UEFA on Neymar Jr to two (2) UEFA competition matches for which he would otherwise be eligible," CAS said in a statement.

The Brazilian criticised the referee and his assistants after PSG's last-16 collapse against Manchester United in March which he watched from the stands due to injury.

United were awarded a penalty deep into injury time after a protracted VAR decision, which Marcus Rashford scored to knock the French side out in the last 16 of the Champions League.

"It's a disgrace. They get four guys who don't understand football to watch a slow motion replay in front of the TV," Neymar posted on his Instagram account after the 3-1 defeat.



Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring against Napoli. Juve/Twitter

Felix leads charge for revenge

AFP ■ MADRID

Atletico vs Juventus
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Young gun Joao Felix will lead the charge today as his Atletico Madrid seek revenge on Juventus and their old enemy Cristiano Ronaldo in a potentially fiery Champions League opener.

Felix, touted as the heir to Ronaldo's throne, will make his debut in Europe's top competition when the when the Portuguese pair meet at the Wanda Metropolitano, with the La Liga outfit keen to shoot down the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.

Juventus dumped Atletico out of the competition last year as Ronaldo scored a sensational hat-trick that overturned a 2-0 first-leg deficit and put the Italian champions in the quarter finals.

The former Real Madrid man rounded off the evening by celebrating provocatively in front of the away fans at Juve's Allianz Stadium.

Now Felix is charged with bringing the old master down a peg or two.

The 19-year-old has been hailed as the new 'CR7' after his breakout season at Benfica last year, scoring 20 times as the two-time European champions won the Primeira Liga and reached the Europa League quarter finals.

Ronaldo's former manager at Madrid Jose Mourinho is convinced that Atletico bagged a "an incredible player" for a club record fee of 126 million euros (\$142 million).

The noise surrounding Felix was amplified after a sublime pre-season that included a brace in a 2-1 win over Juve, but Felix has shied away from the comparisons. A poor display in Saturday's 2-0 La Liga loss at Real Sociedad showed that. Despite the obvious promise, it is still too early to speak of Felix and Ronaldo in the same breath.

Ronaldo, meanwhile, is in a rich vein of form, with six goals in five matches this season for club and country, as he hunts a sixth Champions League title and aims to extend his record total of 126 goals in the competition.

Today, Felix has a chance to redeem himself and add to the one goal he has scored so far in Atletico colours, even if Ronaldo's achievements seem a long way off.

"I am here to write my own story," Felix said. "Cristiano is Cristiano and I want to be myself."



Pep Guardiola hugs Kun Aguero & Gabriel Jesus. ManC

GUARDIOLA'S CHASE

AFP ■ LONDON

After a series of painful failures, Pep Guardiola is on a mission to seal his Manchester City legacy by finally getting his hands on the trophy again.

City start their latest bid to win the club's first European Cup with a trip to

Shakhtar Donetsk in the Group C opener.

The long flight to the Ukraine will give Guardiola plenty of time to ponder his curious streak of Champions League flops in recent years.

Guardiola has conquered English football spectacularly after winning the last two Premier League titles, the

Shakhtar vs Man City
Live from 12:30am IST
SONY SIX NETWORK

first in record-breaking fashion and the second as part of an unprecedented domestic treble last season.

Yet the Champions League has proved impossible for Guardiola to master since

he arrived at the Etihad Stadium.

In fact, Europe's elite club competition has been a cruel mistress for Guardiola for most of the last decade, with a series of frustrating exits during his spells in charge of Barcelona, Bayern Munich and City.

Guardiola first won the

Champions League as a manager in 2009 with Barcelona.

But he has failed to reach the semi-finals in any of his three seasons as City boss, extending his long wait to win the tournament for the third time — his second triumph coming with Barca in 2011.

City's best Champions League run was under Guardiola's predecessor Manuel Pellegrini, who made the semi-finals in the last season before the Spaniard took over.

SINGLES

XAVI'S AL SADD STORM INTO ACL SEMIS

DOHA: Top Qatar club Al Sadd bounced back from their first leg loss to win 3-1 on Monday and oust Saudi giants Al Nassr in an AFC Champions League quarter-final. Coach Xavi punched the air in delight as the 2011 continental champions put on a commanding home performance to secure a 4-3 aggregate victory and another shot at continental glory. "We never lost hope after the first leg defeat and I had drilled into the players the importance of staying upbeat," Xavi said after the match. "They lived up to their promise and now we are one step away from the final."

ANKOLEKAR IN MUMBAI HAZARE SQUAD

MUMBAI: The hero of India's U19 Asia Cup triumph, Atharva Ankolekar has been named in the 17-member Mumbai squad for the upcoming Vijay Hazare ODI tournament. The Mumbai Cricket Association announced the squad on their website on Tuesday. Ankolekar, a left arm spinner, had taken a match winning five wicket haul for India U19 against Bangladesh in a low scoring thriller and his fier had helped the team retain the Asia Cup title. Among other notable inclusions in the squad, to be led by India player Shreyas Iyer, are batsman Sarfaraz Khan and talented batsman & young prodigy Yashasvi Jaiswal. Other regulars like Aditya Tare, Suryakumar Yadav, Siddhesh Lad, pacers Sharad Thakur, Dhawal Kulkarni, Tushar Deshpande, Ekmath Kerkar and spinner Shams Mulani have retained their spots.

DHAWAN, PANT AVAILABLE FOR HAZARE

DELHI: Delhi's India internationals Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant and Navdeep Saini will be available for the state team's Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign, which starts against Vidarbha on September 24. India's three-match T20 International series against South Africa ends on September 18 in Bengaluru but Delhi's star players have confirmed their availability for the national one dayers, said Delhi and District Cricket Associations (DDCA) president Rajat Sharma. However, Pant is part of the Indian Test squad and may not be available after the first few games while Dhawan is expected to play all matches. "It's really heartening to see that Rishabh, Shikhar and Navdeep opted to play for Delhi at the first available opportunity," DDCA president Sharma said. He is hopeful that Ishant Sharma and Virat Kohli would also take the field whenever they get time from their international commitments.

GILL TAKES INDIA A TO 233/3 AT STUMPS

MYSRUR: Shubman Gill shone again with a fine 92 as India A reached 233 for three by the end of first day's play in the second unofficial Test against South Africa A here on Tuesday. Opener Gill struck 12 fours and a six before getting out eight runs short of a century. This is the second time he has missed out on the three-figure mark, having scored 90 in the first match at Thiruvananthapuram. The out-of-favour Karun Nair was batting on 78 and skipper Wriddhiman Shah was on 36 at stumps, which was called after 74 overs due to bad light. Philander bowled steadily but couldn't pick up a wicket while Ngidi (1/41), Mulder (1/19) and Sipamla (1/54) got a scalp each. AGENCIES

4 Indians march into quarters Dipa is down but not out



Amit Panghal (52kg) in action during a bout against Batuhan Citici. PTI

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

The Indian juggernaut seemed unstoppable as four boxers, including Asian champion Amit Panghal (52kg), advanced to the quarterfinals with impressive victories to round off an all-win outing at the World Men's Championships here on Tuesday.

Asian Games Gold-medallist and second seed Panghal was joined by Asian Silver-winner and fifth seed Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) and the debutant duo of Commonwealth Games Silver-winner Manish Kaushik (63kg) and Sanjeet (91kg).

Panghal defeated Turkey's Batuhan Citici, while Kaushik stunned fourth-seeded Mongolian Chinzorig Baatarsukh, who is an Asian Games Silver-medallist and also a two-time medal-winner at the Asian Championships. Both the Indians claimed 5-0 victories.

Sanjeet (91kg) then caused another massive upset by defeating second-seeded Uzbek Sanjar Tursunov 4-1. Tursunov is a Bronze-medallist from the previous World Championship besides

being an Asian Silver-winner.

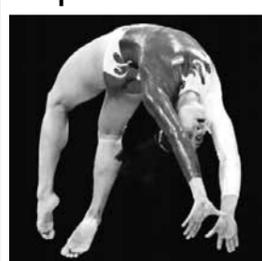
In the evening session, Bisht defeated Finland's Arslan Khataev 3-2 to claim a second successive quarterfinal spot at the marquee tournament.

Second-seeded Panghal, the reigning Asian champion, will next be up against Filipino Carlo Paalam, who had lost to Panghal in the semifinals of the Asian Games in Jakarta last year. Paalam defeated Korea's Jo Sehyeong in a unanimous verdict in his pre-quarterfinal bout.

Kaushik, on the other hand, will square off against Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira. Oliveira defeated Japan's Saisuke Narimatsu in his last-16 stage bout.

Sanjeet will be up against seventh-seeded Julio Cesa Castillo Torres of Ecuador. Torres got the better of Hungary's Adam Hamori.

Awaiting Bisht in the last-eight stage is fourth-seeded Englishman Peter McGrail, a former Gold-medallist at the European Championships and reigning Commonwealth Games champion.



Dipa Karmakar performs during 2018 Asiad. PTI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star India gymnast Dipa Karmakar has just not yet given up on her dreams of qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, insists long-time coach Bishweshwar Nandi, after his ward failed to recover in time for next month's World Artistic Gymnastics Championship.

Dipa's Tokyo dreams suffered a severe setback, when she failed to recover from a nagging right knee injury to make it to the World Championships, an Olympic qualifier, to be held at Stuttgart, Germany from October 4 to 13.

Long-time coach Nandi admitted that the road to Olympics would be extremely tough considering Dipa will need at least two months to get back to training.

"Dipa was upset after missing the World Championship but she is mentally strong and I know that she will make a successful comeback to international gymnastics," Nandi said.

"She is still undergoing rehab. I will start her training only after getting a clearance from the doctor and the physio. As her coach, I need to think about (her) life beyond gymnastics as well. Hopefully by November end, we'll get the go ahead and after that another two months of training and she should be back."

Asked about the Olympics qualification, Nandi said: "There are three World cups starting about three months after the world championship but it would be much tougher to qualify now."

"She will need to win Gold or Silver in all the three World Cups next year to qualify. But she is taking it up as a challenge. We are not yet giving up hope."

"If she unfortunately misses the Tokyo, there is 2024 Paris Olympics," Nandi put up a brave front.

Mirabai eyes Olympic berth

PTI ■ PATTAYA

Former champion Mirabai Chanu will look to repeat her 2017 Gold-medal winning feat and seal an Olympic spot when she spearheads the Indian challenge at the World Weightlifting Championships, starting here today.

The ace Indian weightlifter, who had won the Gold in the 48kg category at the 2017 World Weightlifting Championships, remains India's brightest medal prospect but she needs to significantly step up her game to salvage hopes of a podium finish here.

The 25-year-old, who jumped from 48kg to 49kg following the International Weightlifting Federation's (IWF) decision to rejig weight categories, has logged personal bests at two of the three events that she has competed this year.

In the last edition, Thai weightlifter Chayuttra Pramongkol, who is currently embroiled in a dope scandal, had broken the World record in the women's 49kg category by lifting 209kgs (89+120) to take home the Gold, while the Silver and Bronze went for 208kg and 206kg, respectively.

This year Mirabai will be competing alongside 2018's Silver and Bronze medal winners



Mirabai Chanu in a file picture. Mirabai/Twitter

China's Hou Zhihui, who is also the current world record holder in the 49kg category, and Jiang Huihua respectively.

The two Chinese weightlifters have logged an entry weight of 210kg, a whopping 10 kgs more than Mirabai's 200kg. Ri Song-gum of North Korea and Dominican Republic's Beatriz Piron have also set it at 200kg.

The diminutive Manipuri is aware of the competition posed by the Chinese and is working towards reaching the 210kg mark.

"I have lifted 203kg in training. My aim is 210kg but it has to be done slowly, hopefully till Tokyo I will be able to achieve it," Mirabai said.

Satwik-Ashwini notch up stunning win

PTI ■ CHANGZHOU

India's mixed doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Ashwini Ponnappa stunned Indonesia's world No 7 combination of Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti in the opening round of the China Open badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Rankireddy then paired with Chirag Shetty to beat the Canadian duo of Jason Anthony Ho-Shue and Nyl Yakura 21-7, 21-18 in a 30-minute match to enter the men's doubles second round. The Indian pair now face the fourth seeded Japanese duo of Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda.

World No 26 Satwik and Ashwini showed their grit as they recovered from a mid-game slump to outwit the sixth seeded Indonesian pair 22-20, 17-21, 21-17 in a 50-minute match to enter the second round of the \$1,000,000 World Tour super 1000 tournament.

Jordan and Melati have so far reached five finals, including the 2018 India Open, but they wilted under the



Ashwini Ponnappa & Satwik in a file picture.

relentless pressure created by the Indian pair.

The Indian pair had fallen back 4-7 early on but they reeled off five straight points to turn the tables and then held a slender 11-10 advantage at the break.

Jordan and Melati, however, build up a huge lead of 18-12 after the interval but the Indian duo slowly erased the deficit and caught up at 20-20 and then sealed the opening game.

In the second game, the Indonesian pair moved ahead from 4-4 to enter the breather with a 11-8 cushion. Jordan and Melati continued to march ahead to eventually roar back into the contest.

In the decider, Satwik and Ashwin changed their tactics and jumped to a 4-2 lead initially. The Indian duo kept things under control, entering the break with a 11-6 lead.

Jordan and Melati tried to make a comeback but the Indian pair kept their nose ahead to shut the doors on their fancied rivals.

India look to draw first blood

After Dharamshala washout, Men in Blue search first home T20 win against Proteas



Ravindra Jadeja bowls during India's nets session ahead of 2nd T20 at PCA Stadium in Mohali on Tuesday

PERFORMANCE IN TWENTY-20 CRICKET

Team (Rankings)	P	W	L	T	N/R	Success%
India (4th)	118	73	41	1	3	63.55
South Africa (3rd)	113	67	44	1	1	60.17
Ind v SA	13	8	5	-	-	61.53

HIGHEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	203-5 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	219-4 in 20 overs at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS

India	92 in 17.2 overs at Cuttack	05-10-2015
South Africa	116-9 in 20 overs at Durban	20-09-2007

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES

India	106 Rohit Sharma at Dharamshala	02-10-2015
South Africa	78 Colin Ingram at Johannesburg	30-03-2012

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES

India	5-24 Bhuvneshwar at Johannesburg	18-02-2018
South Africa	3-12 Albie Morkel at Cuttack	05-10-2015

FAISEL FEATURES

PTI ■ MOHALI

Rishabh Pant's form would be an important subplot when India look to seize the advantage against South Africa in the second T20 International here on Wednesday after a washout in Dharamshala effectively made the series a two-match affair. The T20 World Cup is more than 12 months away but India captain Virat Kohli has already detailed his plans and expectations from the youngsters in the side. The skipper did not expect to get a bagful of opportunities when he arrived on the international scene and believes the current crop of youngsters also need to make it count in the limited time they are going to get. One of them is 21-year-old Rishabh Pant, who can't be bracketed as a "youngster" anymore having made his

debut back in February 2017. Not a single ball was bowled in the series-opener but there was enough happening on the sidelines and most of it was focussed on Pant. In a chat with the host broadcaster, the message for Pant from the team management was loud and clear: he can't repeatedly throw his wicket away and if he does "there will be a rap on the knuckles". "We'll let him be but at times when you see a shot, like the first ball dismissal in Trinidad (during the tour of West Indies), if he repeats that, then he will be told. There will be a rap on the knuckles, talent or no talent," said head coach Ravi Shastri ahead of the series-opener. With Kohli still very much open to having Mahendra Singh Dhoni back on board, pressure is mounting on Pant to do justice to his rich talent. Considering the circum-

stances, it was not a surprise that Pant had a hit in the nets right after the team flew here from Dharamshala on Monday. Pressure will also be on leg-spinner Rahul Chahar and off-spinner Washington Sundar, both of whom have been picked ahead of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal for the second straight series. With 20-odd games to go before the World Cup, the Indian team wants to boost its batting which will require number 8, 9 and 10 to score runs on a regular basis, something which has never been India's strength.

Will a deep batting line-up compromise India's ability to wake wickets in the middle overs? Only time will tell. It is also an important series for Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey, who have been brought back into the side to solidify the middle order. The game will also be an opportunity for Shikhar Dhawan to play a substantial knock, having endured a lean tour of the West Indies by his standards. It is a ground he is fond of, having scored a memorable 187 on his Test debut and more recently a 143 in the ODI against Australia in March this year, albeit in a losing cause. On the other hand, it will be an uphill task for South Africa to beat this Indian side, which has been on a roll for most part. Time in the middle for a team in transition would have been valuable but rain robbed the Proteas of that opportunity in Dharamshala. The Kagiso Rabada-led attack would have to bowl really well to contain the Indian batsmen especially skipper Kohli, who played one of his best knocks against Australia in March 2016, the last T20 played here, to take India to the World T20 semi-finals.



Vikram Rathour speaks during press conference ahead of 2nd T20

Fine line between fearless and careless cricket: Rathour

PTI ■ MOHALI

The youngsters in the Indian team have got a clear message from the management — to understand that there is a fine line between "fearless cricket and careless cricket", new batting coach Vikram Rathour said on Tuesday.

The message conveyed was directed mainly at the likes of youngsters like Pant, who have been often criticised for his reckless choice of shots. "At times, we over emphasise on technique. It is more about the mindset at this level, getting your gameplan right. As far as Rishabh is concerned, he is a phenomenal player, he just needs to sort out his gameplan, needs to bring in a little bit of discipline in his cricket," said Rathour on

"All the young players need to understand that there is a fine line between fearless cricket and careless cricket. What the team management is asking from them is fearless cricket, having clear gameplans and playing with intent but at the same time, you can't be careless. I am sure they are smart enough to understand that."

The former selector was reacting to comments from skipper Virat Kohli, who recently said that a youngster should not expect more than five opportunities at the highest level.

"They (Kohli and head coach Ravi Shastri) have said five

matches but it is not going to be a specific number. What they meant was that you need to grab your opportunities when you get them. They (youngsters) have played so much of cricket. They have come though after doing so well. I don't think it is a massive issue. The team will be backing them fully."

Elaborating more on the expectations from Pant, Rathour said "We want him to play all his shots. That is what makes him special, he is an impact player but at the same time you can't be careless."

Shreyas Iyer and Manish Pandey have made a comeback in the middle-order and Rathour is expecting them to seize their opportunities. But could they solve India's middle-order muddle?

"Those two are very fine cricketers who have done really well in domestic cricket. Shreyas has got a good start (in ODIs against the West Indies). Manish has done well in the past and made a comeback after performing consistently in domestic cricket. I am confident they will come good, they just need to be more consistent."

India have begun their preparations for the T20 World Cup in Australia next year and there is a significant shift in the way they will approach their batting in the shortest format.

Kohli wants the team to bat deep, increasing the expectations from spin all-rounders Krunal Pandya and Washington Sundar.

Senior players inspire & motivate us to get better

The experience of playing with the Haryana Steelers has been marvellous. This is my first Pro Kabaddi League and I couldn't have asked for a better team to start my PKL career with. The management is fantastic. Everyone is supportive and motivates one another to perform to the best of their abilities. All players are aware of their responsibilities and each of them execute their plans, therefore there's not much of pressure on the players.

I was a bit nervous at the start of the league and therefore I hesitated to carry out my game freely on a few occasions, but, as I kept playing matches, I kept getting better and better. I kept honing my skills with each match and now I feel very confident every time I step on the mat. I have realised that if I follow whatever the coach and captain tell me to do, I will always perform for my team.

Vikash Kandola and I discuss before every match about the skills I should work on. We talk about where I should attack to pick up points for the team. Vikash tells me just before I start my raid on the mat — when I should attack and when I should carry out an empty raid. Haryana Steelers' coach Rakesh Kumar has taught me a very important skill this season. He has told me that an immediate reaction is imperative for success in kabaddi. The coach has largely focused on immediate reaction and escape skills this season. Rakesh is very shrewd when it comes to tactics and I have been very lucky to train under him in PKL-7. Being a young player, I wasn't sure that I would get a chance to play. But I knew that if I get a chance then I would definitely make the most of it. I am very pleased with the fact that I have been able to grab my opportunities and be one of the best raiders of Haryana Steelers this season.

I really enjoy playing with established players like Vikash Kandola, Dharmaraj Cheralathan and Prashanth Kumar Rai. Dharmaraj has a fantastic knowledge of match situations. His experience has been invaluable for the team. He knows how the team should react to every situation and keep improving. If Haryana is behind in the scoreline in a certain match, then Dharmaraj knows how the side can make a comeback in the match. The senior players make the strategy for the team, but now I am starting to understand how a team should work out plans before a match. The Pro Kabaddi League is a great platform for youngsters to showcase their skills. The players can test their skills against the best players from around the world. The level of competition is very high and therefore if a youngster performs in this competition then he can certainly gain a lot of confidence for the rest of his kabaddi career. At the moment, I am looking to maintain my fitness and practice regularly. And going forward, I want to represent the Indian kabaddi team. Playing and achieving great heights for my country is the ultimate dream for me.

(The writer (VINAY) plays for Haryana Steelers in Pro Kabaddi League season 7)



Double-edged sword

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly-appointed South African T20 captain Quinton de Kock on Tuesday said the additional responsibility could be a double-edged sword but he is not thinking too much about it.

De Kock is one of the senior players in this new-look team and has been handed captaincy in the absence of Faf du Plessis as the management is looking to groom him ahead of the T20 World Cup next year.

"Not too concerned to be honest. It is a new stepping stone in my career, gives me extra responsibility. Not sure if it would affect me negatively or positively" said the wicket-keeper batsman ahead of the second T20 against India here on Wednesday.

Asked if he is prepared to play the mentor's role in the team, like du Plessis and Ab de Villiers played when he burst on to the scene, de Kock said: "I think they (Faf and ABD) gave me lots of room to play the way I wanted to. I don't see it



Quinton De Kock and Kagiso Rabada during practice session

why that would change without them being here.

"Even they in their career have had to do the same thing we are doing. So we will take it as it comes. In the leadership group in the team we have had a chat (on grooming the youngsters). It is under control so far but we are still learning as part of a young leadership group."

De Kock said some youngsters could get a longer rope while some may not.

"I not going to put a number on it. For some it could be one, for some it could be 10, so can't really say."

It has effectively become a two-match series with the series opener in Dharamshala being washed out.

"It is a bit of a negative," said de Kock.

"We would like to have played three games against the Indian team. Leading into the World Cup, to lose out on a game in different conditions, it is not ideal but it is what it is."

Vinesh to fight for Bronze



Vinesh Phogat in a file picture

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Vinesh Phogat was pushed out of the title race by reigning champion Mayu Mukaida of Japan but one of India's biggest hopes remained in bronze medal hunt in the 53kg category at

the World Wrestling Championship here on Tuesday.

Mukaida later reached the final to help Vinesh stay in the medal hunt as well as Tokyo Olympics qualification. Two victories will ensure her place in Tokyo Olympics.

She will now have to beat three wrestlers in the repechage - Yuliia Khavaldzhy Blahinya from Ukraine, world number one Sarah Ann Hildebrandt from Greece to win her first Worlds medal.

It was second consecutive defeat for Vinesh against the Japanese this season after losing to the two-time world champion at the Asian Championship in China. Vinesh has CWG and Asian Games titles but is yet to win a medal at the Worlds. "Japan is a wrestling powerhouse. It takes some time to attack these girls. It's about one technique, one move one point that changes the bout. I tried, it did not happen and she succeeded," Vinesh told PTI after her bout.

Vinesh said Mukaida was no different from the Asian Championship though she and her coach Woller Akos had plotted the fall of the formidable Japanese.

"It happens. But Mukaida is not the only target for me. We focus on all wrestlers. Everyone is tough in 53kg. It's not over yet," said Vinesh.

In another Olympic category, Seema Bisla (50kg) lost her pre-quarterfinal 2-9 to three-time Olympic medalist Mariya Stadnik. Like Vinesh, she too remained in hunt for bronze and Olympic qualification as Stadnik reached the final. "It's not that Mariya was more powerful than me. She is more experienced than me. I have just competed in 5-6 competitions in 50kg. I am learning and will get better," said Seema.

In the non-Olympic categories, Komal Gole was too defensive against Turkey's Beste Altug and lost her 72kg Qualification bout 1-4 while Lalita was outplayed 3-10 by Mongolia's Bolortuya Bat Ochir in 55kg.

Both Lalita and Komal are now out of the championships since Bolortuya and Altug later lost their quarter-finals.



Rohit Sharma in a file picture

Too good to ignore

PTI ■ MOHALI

Newly appointed India batting coach Vikram Rathour feels Rohit Sharma is "too good a player" to not be playing in all three formats and backed him to do well as a Test opener in all conditions.

Rohit is one of the greats of white-ball cricket but has had a start-stop Test career. He has been given another opportunity in the five-day format, this time as an opener in the upcoming series against South Africa.

"He is too good a player to not be playing in any game. That is what is everyone is thinking. He has done so well in white-ball cricket as an opener so there is no reason why he can't succeed as a Test opener provided he gets enough opportunities," Rathour said ahead of the second T20 against South Africa here on Monday adding that, "If he comes good, he will be a huge asset for the team."

Rohit will be getting the opportunity to open in Tests at home but Rathour said the stylish batsman has it in him to succeed overseas also.

"At the moment, I am not too sure what the playing eleven for the first Test will be but if Rohit does well and is opening, why not," he said, when asked about the possibility of him opening on overseas tours.

Paddlers remain in champions division

PTI ■ YOGYAKARTA (INDONESIA)

The Indian men's team beat Singapore 3-0 in the 5-8 classification match in the ITTF Asian Table Tennis Championships to remain in the champions division of the continental event here on Tuesday.

India lost to Japan 1-3 in the quarterfinal on Monday but ensured that it will finish in the top six of the tournament with the win over Singapore on Tuesday. India will thus gain direct entry in

the next championships in 2021. India will play Hong Kong on Wednesday in the match for fifth position.

"This is an achievement in itself," said Sharath Kamal, who played an important role in India's 3-0 win over Singapore.

Sathyan beat Poh Shao Feng Ethan in straight games (11-5, 11-5, 13-11). But Sharath needed to dig deep into his vast experience to beat Pang Yew En Koen 7-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-3 and put India 2-0 ahead.