

MONEY 6

'TAX CUT TO HAVE MINOR IMPACT ON FISCAL DEFICIT'

WORLD 7

WILL TURN ATTACKING COUNTRY INTO BATTLEFIELD: IRAN

SPORT 8

DEEPAK PUNIA ENTERS WORLD FINAL



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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Babul episode warrants guidelines for varsities

So great is our collective willingness to digest the indigestible that the ugly incidents in Kolkata's Jadavpur University centred on the protests against Union Minister Babul Supriyo will become less than a footnote in a few days. Campus turbulence is not new either in India or for that matter in most parts of the democratic world. Unlike an earlier era when protests used to be centred on wider issues such as the Vietnam war, recent disturbances seem to be all about free speech. Whether in Jadavpur or Delhi University, whether it involves the Right or the Left, there is an inclination to believe that those with a sharply different point of view should somehow be barred from expressing their point of view. Accusations of fascism, homophobic and racist have marred normal campus meetings and those involved include distinguished writers and scholars.

There is, quite predictably, a temptation to incorporate Thursday afternoon's fracas inside the Jadavpur University campus with the wider battle for political supremacy that is waging in West Bengal. Needless to say the incident is not entirely unrelated and the subsequent war of words and competitive complaints to the police has made it more so. The laudable role of the State's Governor in extricating the Union Minister from protesters may even add a federal dimension to the battle.

It is, however, time to look beyond mundane politics. This incident, as I have mentioned, isn't unique. Similar incidents based on the un-democratic principle of 'no platform' for the other side have troubled Indian campuses. There has also been controversies over the use of campuses by Left organisations, including underground supporters of the Maoist underground and supporters of secessionist movements, for provocative demonstrations. It is time that the university authorities and the Governments arrive at an understanding over what should be allowed and what is prohibited from the campuses.

It is not my case that all political meetings should be prohibited from the campuses. Being socially and politically aware is part of higher education and it would be a sad day if India's students are insulated from the real world. The real question is whether all points of view - except perhaps those prohibited by either law or a sense of moral propriety - should be allowed free play? Alternatively, should the university authorities exercise their discretion and should there be guidelines? This is a difficult question to answer. While it is easy to say that a Union Minister speaking on Article 370 and Kashmir is a perfectly legitimate subject, how should university authorities deal with a speaker who openly advocates the separation of Kashmir from the Indian Union? To those who tried to prevent Babul's entry into the campus, this sitting MP and member of the BJP, was inherently a 'fascist' and therefore had no place in the university. To my mind this is absolutely ridiculous and those students who assaulted the Minister and showered him with abuse were guilty of small-mindedness, at the very least. They were probably also guilty of common assault and I believe should be prosecuted as per the law. Being students should not be a ground for sanctioning irresponsible behaviour. More so since the meeting convened by the ABVP had prior permission from the university authorities.

While judgment on this issue is relatively easy, should university authorities accord permission for meetings that, say, advocate secessionist? What should be the Lakshman Rekha of free speech?... In the past, life in a campus was guided by restraint, responsibility and good sense. This understanding has clearly broken down. This is why the need for guidelines and codification arises. Let us learn a few lessons from the incidents in Jadavpur last Thursday

prosecuted as per the law. Being students should not be a ground for sanctioning irresponsible behaviour. More so since the meeting convened by the ABVP had prior permission from the university authorities.

While judgment on this issue is relatively easy, should university authorities accord permission for meetings that, say, advocate secessionist? What should be the Lakshman Rekha of free speech? This is an issue that warrants urgent attention and even some codification. Things have reached such a pass that such decisions can no longer be left to the good sense of university authorities that are very susceptible to local political pressures.

The second issue that needs some attention is that of police entry into the campus. By convention, campuses have their own security and police is denied entry. In Jadavpur, the Vice Chancellor made a huge issue of it and said that he would rather resign than let the police in. It is fortunate that no one got seriously hurt because otherwise his judgment would have been regarded as both foolish and pig-headed. Yet there was a definite case for the police to come in to the campus for the limited purpose of ensuring the safe passage of the Minister. Having the police inside would not have defiled the campus unless, of course, the police is viewed as goons in uniform. I believe that the wide discretion allowed to university authorities on this matter should be replaced by broad guidelines that are set at the national level. If there can be a FIR on a matter inside the campus, it follows that the police should have some responsibility for maintaining order if the need arises. This is a delicate matter that can easily be misconstrued and that is why the importance of guidelines. To this must be added common sense.

In the past, life in a campus was guided by restraint, responsibility and good sense. This understanding has clearly broken down. This is why the need for guidelines and codification arises. Let us learn a few lessons from the incidents in Jadavpur last Thursday.

Maha, Haryana to go to polls on Oct 21

Counting on Oct 24; EC to announce Jharkhand Assembly election dates later

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Exactly a month from now, BJP-ruled Maharashtra and Haryana will go to polls - the first election since the Lok Sabha elections and the Government's key decisions on Article 370 and triple talaq.

While the polls in the two States will be held on October 21, the counting of votes will be held on October 24. The term of the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 9 and that of the 90-member Haryana Assembly expires on November 2. The dates for Jharkhand Assembly polls will be announced later.

Faced with a string of high-profile desertions from their camps to the ruling combine in Maharashtra, the Congress and the NCP have joined hands once again after five years and have stitched up a seat-sharing deal in their bid to stop the BJP-Shiv Sena from returning to power. But then, the BJP and the Shiv Sena too have come together after 2014 to ensure they retain power. The two saffron parties are likely to announce their seat-sharing deal this week. The Congress and the NCP had been in power for three consecutive terms before they lost to the BJP-Sena combine in 2014.

In Haryana, the Congress is exploring a tie-up with the

BSP, which has announced its intentions to go it alone and is also cut up with the principal Opposition party for having engineered a defection of six of its MLAs to join its camp in Rajasthan.

In both the States, the BJP is expected to espouse the cause of nationalism among the masses by pitching its "strong" decision to abrogate the special status to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370. It would also point to its another "bold" decision of banning the triple talaq practice among Muslims to reach out to the women from the minority community.

Soon after the announcement of the poll schedule, leaders of the ruling coalition exuded confidence of winning a second consecutive term in Maharashtra with Devendra Fadnavis asserting he will be back as the Chief Minister. State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said given the response to the "Mahajanadesh Yatra" of Fadnavis, the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance is likely to get more than 220 seats.

With the BJP taking centre stage even in the Lok Sabha polls contested in 2014 and 2019, the Congress' hold in its strongholds of Vidarbha, Marathwada and Mumbai region has weakened. Similarly, the NCP is struggling to retain its pocket-borough of western

Assembly Election 2019		
	Maharashtra	Haryana
Total Constituencies	288	90
Total Electors	8,95,62,706	1,82,98,714
Photo Electoral Rolls	96.44%	100%
Elector Photo ID Cards	96.81%	100%
Polling Stations	95,473	19,425
EVMS		
Ballot Units	1.80 lakh	0.38 lakh
Control Units	1.28 lakh	0.25 lakh
VVPATs	1.39 lakh	0.27 lakh
Schedule		
Issue of Notification	Sept 27	
Last Date for Nominations	Oct 4	
Scrutiny of Nominations	Oct 5	
Last Date for Withdrawal	Oct 7	
Date of Poll	Oct 21	
Counting of Votes	Oct 24	

Source: ECI



CEC Sunil Arora flanked by Election Commissioners Ashok Lavasa and Sunil Chandra during a Press conference regarding the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections at Election Commission in New Delhi on Saturday

campaign in Maharashtra, the Congress-NCP are taking up issues of farmers' suicide, agrarian crisis and the rising graph of unemployment, highest in last 40 years, as its main attacking points against the BJP-Sena alliance in the State.

In contrast, the BJP, which has netted a number of NCP leaders, has attacked Sharad Pawar, saying his period of dominance is over. "Breaking and making parties" kind of politics practiced by the NCP chief is now catching up with his party with the passage of time, said Fadnavis in Mumbai, stepping up his campaign.

The BJP, which won 122 seats in the 2014 Assembly polls, had a vote share of 27.81 per cent, well ahead of the Congress' 17.95 per cent.

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Bypolls for 1 LS and 64 Assembly seats also on October 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Saturday announced the bypolls for 64 Assembly seats spread across 17 States and Union Territory of Puducherry, besides the Samastipur Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar. The bypolls will be held along with Assembly polls in Haryana and Maharashtra on October 21. Karnataka, where resignations of 17 rebel MLAs led to the collapse of the JD(S)-Congress Government in July, will see bypolls on 15 seats.

Detailed report on P5

CAPSULE

AMIT 1ST INDIAN TO WIN WORLD BOXING SILVER
Ekaterinburg (Russia): Indian boxer Amit Panghal's phenomenal campaign in the men's world championships ended with a silver medal after he went down to Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in an intense 52kg category final here on Saturday.

MARRIED WOMEN HAPPIER THAN THOSE IN LIVE-IN
New Delhi: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday will release findings of a survey conducted by a Sangh-linked organisation that claims married women are more happy than those in live-in relationships.

150 DIED ON YAMUNA E-WAY IN 2019: DATA
Noida: The Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh witnessed over 150 deaths in road accidents this year so far, the maximum ever since it got operational in 2012, according to official data.

UP FARMERS' MARCH TO DELHI HALTED AT BORDER
Noida/New Delhi: Hundreds of farmers from Uttar Pradesh, marching to Kisan Ghat in the national Capital for payment of sugarcane dues, loan waivers and cheap electricity, were stopped at the Delhi-UP border on Saturday while a delegation was allowed to meet officials at the Krishi Bhavan.

Largest crowd for foreign leader in US awaits Modi

After 'Howdy Modi', Trump, PM likely to ink trade deal

PTI ■ HOUSTON

Indian-Americans in Houston are all set to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the mega "Howdy, Modi" event on Sunday, to be attended by 50,000 audience, the largest gathering ever for an elected foreign leader visiting the US, other than the Pope.

The three-hour "Howdy, Modi" event in which President Donald Trump will join Prime Minister Modi is being organised at the sprawling NRG Football Stadium, with an impressive history of shows that starred Beyonce, Metallica, U2.

Indian Ambassador Harsh V Shringla previewed the event at NRG Stadium, where preparations were in full swing with



Prime Minister Narendra Modi enplanes for his visit to the US in New Delhi on Saturday

over 1,500 volunteers working round the clock to make it a memorable event.

Meanwhile, the US and India are racing to negotiate a limited trade deal that Trump Modi can sign at the UNGA in New York, people familiar with the talks said.

A car rally was organised at the NRG stadium, where more than 200 cars participated, fluttering flags of both India and the US to signify the friendship between the two countries.

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Chitrakot bypoll on October 21

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Election Commission of India has announced that the by-poll for Scheduled Tribe reserved seat of Chitrakot in the State will be held on October 21.

Chitrakot seat fell vacant after resignation of sitting Congress MLA Deepak Baij

following his election as Member of Parliament from Bastar.

As per the poll schedules announced by the ECI, the gazette notification will be issued on September 23, after which the filing of nomination will commence.

The last date for filing of nomination papers is

September 30. Date for scrutiny of nominations is October 1 while the candidates can withdraw their candidatures on October 3. The polling will be held on October 21 and the votes will be counted on October 24. All the process of election will be completed by October 27.

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In a first, ED attaches 3 chimps, 4 monkeys

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to prevent a wildlife smuggler of West Bengal from claiming ownership of three chimpanzees and four marmosets (long-tailed South American monkeys) recovered from him, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has, for the first time, attached the endangered animals under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The wild animals have been kept in Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata. ED sources said smuggler Supradip Guha will be probed under the money laundering case.

The ED said the first-of-its-kind attachment under the PMLA "enabled" zoo authorities to retain the animals as the



smuggler was trying to take them away on forged papers. An attachment by the ED renders an asset out of bounds for its owner and it can be further confiscated by the agency after the Adjudicating Authority of the PMLA, a quasi-judicial body, approves the attachment within 180 days of seizure.

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'Gully Boy' India's official entry to 92nd Academy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Zoya Akhtar's "Gully Boy", featuring Ranveer Singh as an aspiring rapper, has been selected as India's official entry in the International Feature Film category at the Oscars, the Film Federation of India (FFI) announced on Saturday.

"India's official entry for Oscars this year is 'Gully Boy'. There were 27 films in the running this year but it was an unanimous decision to select 'Gully Boy'," FFI secretary general Supran Sen told PTI.

The movie, which was released across the country on February 14, also features Alia Bhatt, Vijay Raaz, Kalki Koechlin, Siddhant Chaturvedi, and Vijay Varma. Ranveer said it is a proud moment for the entire team.

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SHOW TIME

Rambo lives on



RAMBO: LAST BLOOD
*ing: Sylvester Stallone, Paz Vega, Sergio Peris-Mencheta, Adriana Barraza, Yvette Monreal, Genie Kim, Joaquín Cosío, Oscar Jaenada
Rated: 8/10

Sly, 73. Still rippling in enough ways to nullify the effect of wrinkles and eye bags. Seemingly the last of the sizzling and iconic Rambo series, *The Last Blood* is expectedly reflective and a journey wrapper for Sly who has dominated worldwide imagination in his 50-plus years on the screen as just two characters: John Rambo and Rocky Balboa, the latter drawing more eyeballs if at all a comparison is made.

As it is reflective so it is excruciatingly violent too, perhaps to make maximum impact or maybe because it showcases a war weary warrior who knows to strike only with utmost power. So don't flinch when he yanks out a beating heart after squaring up his legendary blade on the villain; don't be surprised if the atrocities on his kin are unimaginable despite the very obvious censor cuts; don't be surprised that the

introspection often takes over the action which comes in late into the movie.

Sly is in a self-indulgent but brooding mood here and jobs like pulling out people alive from a tsunami have become routine for him.

There are relationships that get honoured, there are scars that keep getting thrown into the screen through his walking nightmares and there are plenty of one liners that are spoken by his soulful eyes.

Yes Rambo has all along been a silent type of fighter and words do not come easy to him.

Here, so engagingly ending the journey after a young and dishing John Rambo first launched Hollywood's rescue mission with a bandana, a bow and arrow and lots and lots of rippling muscles showcasing the signature vest, an aged John talks more than he has in all the four films put together over a period of more than three decades.

But you forgive the verbal intrusion for his is Sly — Old, introspective, lonely, traumatised and yet the ultimate defender.

Sweet and lots of fun moments

THE ZOYA FACTOR
*ing: Sonam K Ahuja, Dulquer Salmaan, Sanjay Kapoor, Angad Bedi, Sikander Kher
Rated: 6/10

Is it luck or hard work that gets one ahead in life? Lots of people out there will tell you that it is luck. Some may say that it is sheer luck that got them where they are today. But most would agree that it is a combination of both — hard work and luck — in this order. But what would one say if someone insisted that it was only sheer hard work that counts?

This is the backdrop of *The Zoya Factor*. Weave in a love story around cricket and one has a winner. Then there is the fact that Sonam K Ahuja plays characters that are light, fun and sweet to a T. She knows how to carry herself in any outfit and look good. Here, she plays a junior copy writer with an ad agency, thinks she is a loser, hates cricket but falls in love with the captain of the Indian team played by Dulquer Salmaan, a playback singer who predominantly works in Malayalam cinema. There is bound to be fun moments.

Director Abhishek Sharma, also the screenwriter who has *Parmaru: The Story of Pokhran* and *Tere Bin Laden*, to his credit, has done a passable job. The good part is that he doesn't drag the whole luck versus hard work debate.

Overall, *The Zoya Factor* is sweet and has lots of fun moments to keep one entertained.

— Shalini Sakseena



Miles to go for this star kid

PAL PAL DIL KE PAAS
*ing: Karan Deol, Sahher Bamba, Aakash Ahuja, Kamini Khanna
Rated: 5/10

While it is absolutely wrong to compare one actor with another, more so, if that actor happens to be a star kid, but the truth is that there is no hall pass even if you are a third generation actor. Add to that mix the fact that your grandfather has some great movies to his credit — *Sholay*, *Blackmail*, *Dharam Veer* and *Yadon Ki Baaraat* to name just a few — it comes even tougher to prove your worth in the first attempt.

Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas (PPDKP) that marks the debut of Karan Deol, Sunny Deol's son, unfortunately fails to make the ripples that one would expect from the son of an actor who made quite an impression with *Betaab* which released in 1983. The problem with *PPDKP* is not that this Deol kid can't emot and his dialogue delivery falls flat; the issue is not that he doesn't have *dhai kilo ka haath*, not that he doesn't land a few punches that need a mention here; the problem with this movie is the storyline.

Sunny Deol, who is also the director here, needed to launch his son with a storyline that was fresh like the two leads who make their entry in the industry.

Therefore, this star kid has miles to go before he can even make a ripple. Better luck next time!

— Shalini Sakseena

Plan Your Day

Oktoberfest

Venue: The Irish House, Nehru Place & Noida
Date: Till September 22, 2019
Time: 12 noon to 1 am
Cost: ₹1,400 for two

It's time to celebrate the biggest beer festival of the year, Oktoberfest. Experience the German beer fest right here in Delhi and Noida at The Irish House with curated beer offers, German inspired food, fun drinking games and a festive vibe all through.

Oktoberfest is all about beer, and to give you the right vibe of it, The Irish House has curated some crazy beer deals on domestic & imported pints, craft & draught beers. Get your favourite domestic & imported beer pints at steal prices all through the festive season. Grab your bucket of any three domestic pints at just ₹495++ with a variety of options to choose from Kingfisher, Kingfisher Ultra, Heineken, Budweiser, Bira, Simba, Carlsberg, & Tuborg. Buckets of any 3 imported pints of brands like Sol, Kronenbourg, Corona Extra, Hoegaarden, Stella Artois, Hopper, & Kati Patang are all available at ₹995++.



Standup Special by Gupta Ji

Venue: NCUI Auditorium, 3, Siri Institutional Area, Block A, Nipccd Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi
Date: September 22, 2019
Time: 8 pm onwards

Our favourite Gupta Ji is back to tickle our funny bones with his new comedy special, *Kaafi Wild Hai*. Appurv Gupta, popularly known as Gupta Ji has become a rage amongst the youth and his four back to back superhit solo shows are a testament to that. Not one to bask in the success for very long, Appurv has already moved on to his next comedy special *Kaafi Wild Hai*.

The show will feature Appurv in his signature avatar, Gupta Ji who narrates some of his favourite stories. Each story has a wild character which makes the proceedings fun and interesting. The crux of the story will revolve around this wild character, which will be portrayed by Gupta Ji but in every story, as luck would have it, he ends up telling someone else *Kaafi Wild Hai*.

Appurv, who is an engineer turned comedian has always created relatable content which strikes a chord with his audience and that has contributed immensely to his ever-growing popularity. His previous acts- AppurView, Relationship or RelationShit, Laugh with an Engineer and Best of Gupta Ji have been huge hits with the audiences and Kaafi Wild Hai promises to be another laughter riot.



Angrezi medium

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with VIVEK SRIVASTAVA about how English entertainment is changing with new content as well as remakes of classic shows



From the adaptation of Hollywood shows like *Hostages*, *24* to remakes like *The Office*, the foreign content which once didn't have many takers, now makes for an interesting watch for the audience. So much so that the producers are in no mood to stop experimenting or getting inspired from the Hollywood series even though we have been watching Indian versions of the Hollywood films for quite some time now. But, the trend of remaking shows for TV is new.

To add value to content, Romyed Now, a part of The Times Network which have channels like Movies Now, MN+, has gone through a refreshed brand identity with the introduction of originals, new shows and movie premieres. The channel unveiled its refreshed identity with its first original show *The Love Laugh Live Show*.

Vivek Srivastava, President — Strategy and Business Head, English Entertainment Cluster says that this refreshed identity of Romyed Now will the re-energised content to offer viewers an unparalleled and complete English Entertainment viewing experience. *The Love Laugh Live Show* marks our debut in originals and will explore various categories across travel, food, beauty and lifestyle, bringing two exciting shows a quarter to the viewers," he adds.

Though there are more remakes and adaptations of foreign shows, the number of original English content remains very low. Srivastava has a take on this. "The

how i met your mother



reason why makers don't risk making more original English language shows is because of the diverse Indian audience. It will be very odd to see a show in which all the characters speak English. Therefore, they prefer making shows with a pinch of Hindi in it. It is to retain the traditional element and connectivity with the audience. Also, if we are making a show for the premium households than English can be dominant in that but if we are making a show for the mass households then Hindi or regional languages have to be there," he says.

There is a reason why English channels are not bringing in the latest shows that air in the US. "We are bringing the latest shows as well but unfortunately what we remember are the evergreen shows. Also it takes a lot of time for the foreign shows to get

registered in India. But yes, at this point of time, the classic works better than the new shows," Srivastava tells you.

The market penetration for these shows at present is the Tier-I cities but this is about to change. "We are now planning to penetrate into Tier-II and III cities as well," he says.

But, will they work as good as in Tier-I cities? "If a film like *The Lion King* can do so well in the Tier-II and -III cities, then I see no reason that these shows will not do good in them. The audience is changing and is opening up for newer content. I believe they will do better," he tells you.

And this latest fad for the English entertainment content is not going to end anytime soon. "English entertainment has long way to go. We are the second largest English speaking country with about 10 per cent English speaking population, which means the language is set to grow. The choice of content has become far more global and the audience will start consuming this content at a greater rate soon.

"Apart from the English channels which have been promoting the English content aggressively from the past few years, there are some digital mediums too that are coming up with English content and is changing their entire offering on the basis of some of the English shows. This in itself is an indicator that English content is here to stay," he tells you.

The Love Laugh Live Show airs every Saturday at 9 pm.

TELLYTALE

SUITS SERIES FINALE



With Katrina losing her job too after Samantha's wrongful termination, Harvey and Louis will go to any extent for Faye to leave their firm alone even if it means going up against Mike himself in court. Unaware of their intentions, Mike is certain to go all out in the next court hearing after having received a subpoena from Harvey himself. It remains to be seen how many metaphorical casualties it will take for Faye to finally be shown the door. At this point, we are not even sure if she will hold up her end of the bargain.

The series finale also teases not one but two weddings. While Louis and Sheila are finally united, Darvey fans might just have got what they've been eagerly awaiting as Harvey discovers his mother's unsent letter containing his grandmother's ring and a hint that Donna has always been his girl.

Will the dream team be able to join forces or will it all come crashing down? Catch the *Suits* Series Finale exclusively in India on Colors Infinity on 26th September 2019 at 12pm.

NEW SHOW

Close on the heels of successful drama series like *Criminal Justice*, *City of Dreams* and *Hostages*, Applause Entertainment announced the completion of their latest drama-thriller, *Your Honor*. The original Israeli series was created by Ron Ninio and Shlomo Mashiach, and distributed by Yes Studios. Produced for Applause Entertainment by Spherorigns, the series is headlined in India by Jimmy Sheirgill.

Dark, gripping and morally complex, *Your Honor* is set in Ludhiana, Punjab. It tells the story of Bishan Khosla (Jimmy Sheirgill), a respected circuit court judge, known for his uncompromising honesty, and on the cusp of a big promotion. After his troubled teenage son Abeer Khosla (Pulkit Makol) is involved in a hit-and-run accident, Bishan is about to turn Abeer in to the police, when he learns who the accident victim is. What happens next is a disturbing downward spiral of events, as Bishan, in his



attempt to protect his son, uncharacteristically obstructs justice to cover up the truth.

Speaking about his role, Jimmy Sheirgill says: "My role in *Your Honor* takes a chance with his own reality, the substance of the story is what convinced me to take up the part. The length an individual can go, burning all the bridges and principles for the ones he loves, is truly compelling. I'm glad that I am a part of this show with Applause Entertainment."

WITNESS REAL DEEWANE GROOVING

The three dapper men on *Dance Deewane* will take over the stage with their wooing act. Shashank Khaitan, Arjun Bijlani and Tushar Kalia will be seen doing something that will set new standards for the reality shows. The young, talented and sporting men will set the stage on fire with their stunning and breath-taking moves, while performing around a pole on the Bollywood dance number *Saaki Saaki*.

It so happened that one of the contestants Kalpita's breathtaking



performance couldn't keep Arjun from making the contemporary King Tushar add his oomph to the moment. He asked Tushar to try some moves on the pole but as seconds passed, Arjun Bijlani and Shashank Khaitan too excitedly joined him seamlessly sliding their way around the pole making it a visual treat.

SONU LENDS HIS VOICE FOR 8D TRACK

Star Plus is all set to take audiences on a trip of the never heard tale of friendship of two unique entities and divinities, the two gods from Hindu mythology — Shiva and Vishnu. This is the first time ever in the history of television where a show will narrate the tales of friendship between the two Gods and thereby maintain nature's balance.

With this unique proposition, Star Plus sets new notes of devotion with beautiful 8D renditions of three two beautiful tracks dedicated to Shiva & Vishnu. Known to give mythology a refreshing angle, the channel has associated with Sonu Nigam to lend his voice for the track. The song has been crafted beautifully with soulful lyrics and who better than Sonu Nigam to sing for Lord Vishnu. The track has been composed by Puneet Dixit who has created multiple songs for various television shows. This is also the first time, Sonu Nigam has recorded a 8D audio track. 8D audio is essentially an effect applied to a stereo track where songs have been edited with special

reverb and mixing to make it seem like the audio is moving in a circle around you. This experience can only be achieved by wearing headphones and creates the illusion of a 360-degree space. The makers have chosen this special audio technology to heighten the delight factor amongst audiences all over as they delve into the unseen story cape of the two Hindu deities.

After enjoying access to Star shows before TV at 6AM, for the first-time Hotstar VIP users can catch an exclusive preview of the much-awaited show *Namaah*. The first episode of the mythological magnum opus is now streaming on Hotstar VIP, days before its TV premiere. The star-studded magnum opus features Vikas Manaktala, Savi Thakur, Chhavi Pandey and Yukti Kapoor; and promises to be a visual treat for viewers.

OFFERS FOR SANGEETA'S PET
Actress Sangeeta Kapure who is recently being seen in the popular television show, *Yeh Rishtey Hain Pyaar Ke* essaying the role of Nidhi Rajvansh is being loved by the audience. Besides her love for her work, Sangeeta is also deeply in love with someone else. Well, before you guess, let us tell you, it is her pet dog Sarrow. Sangeeta's pet Sarrow is with her since it was less than a month. The actress has shared a picture of her dog on social media which was adored by the netizens and also her friends from the industry. Sarrow got noticed by the production house and got connected with Sangeeta to cast her Dog in an upcoming serial. Where Sarrow would be playing the best friend of the lead. The overall concept of the television show was based on the friendship between a guy and his pet. However, Sangeeta loved the concept, but at the same time she was very worried about her Doggy because of the set lights, the lights are so powerful that it can affect the eyes of animals and it would be very tiring as Sangeeta's pet is 8 years old now, because of this problem she said no to the production house.



Election campaigning for Dantewada by-poll ends

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

Election campaigning for the by-poll in Scheduled Tribe reserved Dantewada assembly seat has come to end on Saturday at 3.00 pm. The polling is scheduled on September 23 from 7.00 am to 3.00 pm.

District Electoral Officer and District Collector had directed all the candidates, political party workers, star campaigners and public that during next 48 hours, no public meeting or rally will be organized nor the people will register their participation in it. Even there will be no campaign



through television, visual aids or any other medium related to election will be broadcasted or transmitted.

Additional to it musical programme, play or other source of entertainment for the public is also

banned during the period.

District electoral officer in the order states that as per Representation of the People Act, 1951 Article 3- section 126 sub section (1) provisions violation will attract imprisonment up to two

years or fine or both.

People who are not electors of the assembly constituency had come to the constituency for election campaigning from different parts of the state or outside were also asked to move out.

ECI permits shifting of 28 highly sensitive polling centres

Election Commission of India for the Dantewada (ST) by-poll has permitted the shifting of 28 highly-sensitive polling booths, existing in remote areas of the constituency.

The district administrative officials have been directed to ensure maximum publicity in the villages regarding the shifting of all these polling booths.

The administration has been also given instruction to make the electors aware of the decision through wall writings in villages and verbal announcements on regular basis through kotwars.

Dantewada wrapped in security blanket for by-polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in Dantewada to ensure safe conduct of the assembly by-polls in Naxal-affected Dantewada seat in Bastar region on September 23, a senior police official said on Saturday.

The election for the ST constituency was necessitated following the death of BJP legislator Bhima Mandavi in a Naxal attack in April this year.

"Elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure peaceful polling in Dantewada assembly seat. All necessary measures had been taken to thwart attempts by Maoists to disrupt the poll process," Deputy Inspector General (anti-Naxal operations) Sundarraj P said.

Around 18,000 to 20,000 security personnel, including paramilitary forces, have been deployed for safety of polling booths and carrying out search operations in the forest, he said.

While the Centre has sent about 7000 personnel of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), around 11,000 jawans, including those from paramilitary and state forces engaged in anti-Maoist operations, have also been roped in, he added.

"Patrolling has been intensified in the area and drones are being used to track the movement of Naxals in the vicinity of security camps and sensitive polling booths," he said.

He said the security forces have been directed to take extra caution as Maoists have been observing their annual

"foundation week" from September 21 to 27 during which they try to create disturbances.

According to a poll official, as many as 1,88,263 voters, including 89,747 men and 98,876 women, will be able to exercise their franchise in the constituency for which 273 polling stations have been established.

Polling will be held between 7 am and 3 pm, he added.

Notably, nine candidates are in the fray for the by-election wherein ruling Congress has fielded Devti Karma, wife of Congress leader Mahendra Karma who was killed in the Jhiram valley Naxal attack in 2013. While from BJP Ojaswi Mandavi, wife of slain Bhima Mandavi is running against Devti Karma.

Greek entrepreneurs show interest in dragon fruits, Saudis' in 'sitafal'

STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

Foreign entrepreneurs who came to participate in International Buyer-Seller Meet conducted field visit on Saturday at Dhaurabhata of Dhamda block, where 18 varieties of fruits are cultivated on a 450-acre of organic orchard.

The farm grows Balanagar strain of custard apple (sitafal) of large variant in 150 acres of land. The team from Saudi Arabia showed keenness to procure the fruit and assured to send a technical team to study the future prospects. The variety has 80 percent pulp. The team also visited the processing plant.

Entrepreneurs from Greece held detailed discussion on dragon fruits



and assured to send a technical team. The farm house's director and JS Group MD Anil Sharma said it has 150 Gir species of cow and their dung is used for organic farming.

The whole farming is done on Israel-model where water and organic fertilizers is decided by machine as per

requirement.

The entrepreneurs from North-East also showed interest in custard apple farming. Sharma said Kanker has emerged as biggest producer of custard apple. The benefit for the processing plant is that in minus 200C the pulp can remain safe for a year.

Govt invites claims- objections for new district

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

RAIPUR: After publication of formation of a new district with its boundaries vide a state Gazette, state government has now invited claims and objections in written form within next 60 days.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel had recently made the announcement for formation of new district keeping in mind the long pending demand of people of the region.

As per the gazette notification issued on Friday, new district has been formed by merger of existing three tehsils of Bilaspur district and named as Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi, retaining existing boundaries of tehsils. On the proposal, the claims and objections in written form will be accepted for next 60 days, from the day of publication.

Sky-walk panel inspects site

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur Rural MLA Satyanarayan Sharma-led Suggestion Committee for sky-walk construction on Saturday inspected the construction site for an on-the-spot assessment of the total distance of the project from Dr Bheemrao Ambedkar Hospital to Shastrri Chowk.

The senior engineers briefed about the technical aspects of the construction in details to members of the committee.

Panel chairman Sharma chaired the second committee meeting at New Circuit House, capital city. Few of the experts made presentation on its utility and alternative use which was then taken up for extensive discussion and sug-



gestions were sought.

Public representatives mainly, panel members Raipur city MLAs Kuldeep Juneja and Vikas Upadhyay, Raipur Mayor Pramod Dubey, architects, Raipur Collector Dr S Bharatidasan, RMC Commissioner Shiv Anant Tayal and others expressed their views.

Committee chairman Satyanarayan Sharma said that sky-walk construction related technical data be provided to all the members, so that more in-depth study can be conducted to find a solution.

The officials intimated the total cost of project is ₹75 crores and till date around ₹50 crore has been spent.

State government had constituted the 22-member general suggestion committee led by senior MLA Satyanarayan Sharma to look into the different aspects of sky-walk, including its utility or alternative use. Similarly, under chief secretary Sunil Kujur another 25-member technical suggestion committee has been constituted.



Raipur police had a busy day on Saturday as two massive rallies were held on the day. In one of the rallies, (Left) people protested holding placards and shouted slogans against love-jihad. In another, (Right) sanitation workers marched in rows to draw the attention of government over their nine-point demands. Both rallies were taken out from Budha Talab and culminated near Sapre school ground.



Sanitation workers marched in rows to draw the attention of government over their nine-point demands. Both rallies were taken out from Budha Talab and culminated near Sapre school ground. Photo Santosh Sahu

BJP dares CM to cancel 'Nandraj agreement'

STAFF REPORTER ■ DANTEWADA

BJP MLA and the party's in-charge of Dantewada assembly constituency Shivratna Sharma on Saturday dared Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to cancel the controversial "Nandraj agreement" for iron ore mining.

Addressing the media, Sharma said the Chief Minister should stop politics over the Nandraj mountain in Bailadila of Dantewada district.

He alleged that the mining contracts given in the nine months tenure of the present government exceeded the number contracts given to Adani group by the BJP government in its 15-year rule.

Sharma said the permission to cut down the trees in Nandraj was given overnight and the arrangements were made so.

"If the Congress is with the local people in true sense over the protection of Nandraj mountain, then was the government sleeping over the issue for last nine months and why the agreement has not yet been cancelled. Instead of deriving political benefit, the government should annul the agreement," he said.

Leader of Opposition Dharamlal Kaushik said the women power (matrushakti) will once again ensure victory of the BJP as its candidate Ojaswi Mandavi will further strengthen it by raising their voice in the assembly.

BJP state president Vikram Usendi said the party's moral is high and victory will be for those who stand on the ground. He said workers in all sectors have stayed together even as administrative pressure was exerted to scuttle party's prospects.

Builders asked to submit progress report of projects with geo-tagged pictures

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) on Saturday asked builders to submit the progress report of their projects with geo-tagged photos every three months.

The direction came during a meeting of RERA chaired by its Chairman Vivek Dhand here with a representative of various colonizers. Dhand asked colonizers to mandatorily submit all information related to their RERA specified accounts by September 30. Also, he told them to submit detailed information of property sold to 'Book my Show' in specified format.

The colonizers were asked to submit three copies of their project-brochures with RERA and Raipur Municipal Corporation.

In case a colonizer changes its CA, Engineer or architect then RERA should be immediately informed about the change.

"Every project should have a RERA specified and RERA regular account. Seventy percent of money received from allottees should be submitted with RERA specified account while remaining 30 per cent should go into RERA regular account," he said while adding for every project there should be RERA specified account.

According to Dhand, against the receipts of RERA specified account no loan should have been taken against them. If the promoter fails in complying with rule and regulations of RERA then money withdrawal from project account can be stopped.

Dharmendra Pradhan reviews NMDC's performance

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan visited the head office of the NMDC Limited in Hyderabad on Saturday and reviewed the performance of the company.

Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy was also present on the occasion.

Pradhan also met CMD, directors and employees of the NMDC.

He said the NMDC being one of the largest mining companies in India should focus on increasing iron ore production. This will have the benefit of keeping prices in check and ensuring equitable supply of raw material to all steel producers.



Iron and Steel Plant (NISP) should be monitored regularly so that it can be completed on priority.

Pradhan also reviewed the Slurry Pipeline Project of the NMDC.

Earlier CMD, NMDC N. Bajendra Kumar, IAS, welcomed the minister and stated that this is the first visit of Pradhan to the NMDC head office. He apprised the minister about NMDC's performance.

He also informed about progress of ongoing projects and assured that best efforts are put for maximizing productivity and profitability of the company. Binoy Kumar, IAS, Secretary

(Steel), Rasika Chaube, IDAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Steel, functional directors of NMDC, senior officials of Ministry of Steel and NMDC were also present during the meeting.

NRC phobia grips Bengal, 4 dead

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee allayed fears of National Register for Citizens (NRC) being enforced in Bengal a mass phobia of losing citizenship claimed at least four lives in as many days, sources said, adding while one person in North Bengal committed suicide having failed to trace his land deeds and other documents three persons died of heart attack at the same reasons.

The mass fear of NRC coincided with a Government drive to rectify voters' ID cards and digital ration cards. Mistaking the Government move to rectify the cards for a lead-up to the invoking of the NRC dreaded for its track record in Assam, lakhs of people crowded in front of panchayat and BDO offices to get their particulars entered or rectified in their respective documents.

"One Annada Roy died committed suicide at Moynaguri in Jalpaiguri district after he failed to find out his

□ The mass fear of NRC coincided with a Government drive to rectify voters' ID cards and digital ration cards

□ Mistaking the Government move to rectify the cards for a lead-up to the invoking of the NRC dreaded for its track record in Assam, lakhs of people crowded in front of panchayat and BDO offices to get their particulars entered or rectified in their respective documents

land deeds — probably washed away in floods" — considered important for NRC, sources said. Mantu Sarkar at Balurghat died of heart attack as he too failed to trace his supportive documents and repeated visit to Government offices yielded no result.

Similarly Sahida Biwi of Hingalganj and Mantu Mandal of Matia in North 24 Parganas succumbed to heart attacks as they failed to get their ration cards done despite standing in long queues for the past sever-

al days, sources said.

Meanwhile, even as the Government opened special camps to handle overflowing crowd in all parts of the State the Chief Minister iterated in a tweet that recent rectification of voters' cards or ration cards were just a routine procedure and had nothing to do with the NRC.

Banerjee who had repeatedly criticised the way NRC was invoked in Assam throwing out lakhs of Bengalis from the list said, "I can assure you that NRC will not happen in Bengal. We will not allow it come to this place. Bihar and other States have already rejected it and so have we."

Accusing the BJP of using the NRC as a political tool to polarise the electorate she said, "It is only that the voter list is being renewed and ration cards are being digitised and corrected, so I would just ask to get these done and not panic for the NRC as we will not allow that to come in Bengal."

She said, "For invoking NRC in Bengal they (BJP) will have to first kill me."

MoS Babul forgives JU student who pulled him by hair

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a humane gesture Union Minister Babul Supriyo on Saturday pardoned the student who had pulled him by his hair at Jadavpur University on Thursday evening when hundreds of Left wing students gheraoed him for more than five hours requiring Governor Jagdeep Dhankar to personally move into the campus to secure his release.

The singer-turned-minister forgave came the accused after his ailing mother begged pardon over social media. Bengal BJP president and another senior leader Sayantan Bose

had earlier threatened to have located the boy's and address and threatened him and his comrades with a payback. "Those who have done it will not be spared and their hands will be broken," Ghosh said.

Soon after the student's mother begged for the boy's life and career in the social media prompting Supriyo to write "maasima (auntie) I have already forgiven your son. Neither have I complained to the police nor have I allowed any other person to do that. So don't worry nothing will happen to him. Just take care of your health and ask your son to learn from his mistakes. Take my pranam!"

Cong appoints Supriya Shrinete as spokesperson

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday appointed former television journalist Supriya Shrinete, who was the party's candidate from Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha polls, as a spokesperson.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has approved the appointment of Supriya Shrinete as spokesperson of All India Congress Committee, a statement issued by the party's communication department chief Randeep Surjewala said.

Until a few months ago, Shrinete was a TV journalist. She is the daughter of former Congress MP Harsh Vardhan.

She lost to BJP's Pankaj Chaudhary in the Lok Sabha polls from Maharashtra. Her father Harsh Vardhan was a two-time MP from the seat.

The Congress had recently also appointed Sharmistha Mukherjee, the daughter of former Congress veteran and President Pranab Mukherjee, and Anshul Kumar, the son of former Speaker Meira Kumar, as its spokespersons.

Court rejects pre-arrest bail plea of Rajeev

PNS ■ KOLKATA

In yet another setback to top West Bengal police officer Rajeev Kumar, the Alipore District and Sessions court on Saturday rejected his anticipatory bail plea after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said he was breaking the law by evading its summons in the Saradha chitfund case.

Meanwhile, having failed to trace "absconding" IPS officer, the CBI on Saturday summoned five staff employed in his bungalow and his personal assistant for interrogation, sources said.

"Mr Kumar's staffs were asked questions on whether he had been visiting the residences of other IPS officers. His driver was also asked as to which address he used to frequent these days. Others were asked to report on whether his wife (a senior IRS officer herself) had been in touch with Kumar," CBI sources said.

Pak targets forward posts in Poonch

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Pakistan Army on Saturday targeted forward Indian posts in two different sectors of Poonch with heavy mortar shelling.

According to ground reports, first incident of ceasefire violation was reported in Shahpur and Kerni sectors around 9.45 am and after a brief gap Pak army targeted forward posts and civilian areas in Balakote area of Mendhar around 4.15 pm. Ground reports claimed, intense shelling was reported in the area late Friday night as well.

Defence spokesman in Jammu, Lt-Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan army initiated 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the line of control in Shahpur and Kerni sectors of Poonch around 9.45 am."

Several civilian areas were also targeted by the Pakistan army during intense shelling in the forward area. Defence PRO also said, "The Pakistani Army initiated ceasefire violation by firing of small arms & shelling with Mortars in Balakote area of Mendhar. Indian Army retaliated befittingly."

At least 19 animals including 12 Buffalo's and 7 goats per-

ished in Pakistan firing along the line of control in Balakote area of Mendhar sector late Friday night.

Defence PRO in Jammu said, "Pakistan army had initiated firing late Friday night in Balakote area around 11.45 pm."

He said Indian army retaliated strongly and effectively. The firing in the area continued till 2.00 am. Official sources claimed, a total number of 19 animals including 12 buffalo's and 7 goats were killed in Pakistani firing.

We'll return to power in Maha: Fadnavis

PN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid speculation about the differences between the ruling saffron alliance partners over the sharing of Assembly polls, Maharashtra Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday expressed confidence that the BJP and Shiv Sena would soon ink the seat-sharing deal between them and return to power in the State Assembly polls.

Speaking during an interview at *India Today* conclave, Fadnavis said, "We will have an alliance with the Shiv Sena for sure. The talks on seat sharing are going on. We don't dictate terms to Shiv Sena. We are friends. We do take decisions in a united manner. There are several aspirants in both the parties and both of them will definitely try to please them till the last moment"

Queried about the possibility of Shiv Sena youth president Aditya Thackeray becoming the deputy chief minister in the event of the saffron alliance returning to power in the state, Fadnavis said: "It is good to see Aadiya Thackeray taking active part in politics. His father or grandfather stayed

away from electoral politics. It does not mean he also should follow them. He understands the political situation well. After all, he has to take the reins of Shiv Sena one day."

Congress-NCP will recapture power in Maha: MPCC chief

Mumbai: Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) chief Balasaheb Thorat said on Saturday the Congress-NCP alliance would recapture power in the State.

In a statement issued after the declaration of schedule for the State Assembly polls, Thorat said, "During the last five year, the BJP-Sena Government has reversed the process of development in the state. There is a lot of resentment among people against BJP-Sena Government. People want a change. Voters will bring the Congress-NCP and their allies back to power with a thumping majority."

Thorat said during the last five years, the State has recorded highest number of farmer suicides. PNS

Pak national apprehended close to IB

Jammu: A Pakistani national was apprehended in one of the forward villages of RS Pura, close to the International Border, on Saturday evening by local residents and later handed over to the police.

The identity of the Pak national has been established as Basharat Ali S/O Mohd Rafiq, R/O Village Al Jattan, Sialkot. Joint teams of interrogators are currently questioning him to ascertain the motive behind sneaking inside the Indian territory.

So far police has not ruled out the possibility that the apprehended Pak national may have been acting as a local guide to help small group of infiltrators sneak inside the Indian territory. Meanwhile, alert was sounded in the area while interrogation of Pak national was still going on.

Official sources claimed, Basharat Ali, roaming in RS Pira area had taken lift from a local resident and he dropped him near village Chandu Chak ahead of village Abdullian. After some time, a local woman in the area raised an alarm after she detected presence of an unknown person in the courtyard of her home. PNS

Maha, Haryana go to polls on Oct 21

From Page 1

In Haryana, disarray in the Opposition and internal fighting within State Congress may give the BJP a headstart in the campaign. The Congress high command's capitulation to former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and replacing his arch rival Ashok Tanwar, a Rahul Gandhi appointee, as PCC president with Kumari Selja, has already weakened the Congress challenge in the State. Hooda had threatened to float a separate regional party if Tanwar was not removed as PCC chief.

As against this, the BJP has shored up its campaign by highlighting Prime Minister's leadership and like in Maharashtra roped in many rival leaders including those from Congress and INLD in the State. The caste combination could also play favourably vis-à-vis the Congress which is presently seen as a divided house.

The non-Jat Manohar Lal Khattar's BJP Government could sway Dalits, mainly 'Jatavs', towards the BJP in the light of traditional fear they have from the dominant 'Jats' in the State.

Khattar on Saturday said the Opposition is "divided" in the State and claimed that the BJP will win over 75 of the total 90 seats in the next month's Assembly polls. He said that BJP's relation with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) is cordial in Haryana and the Central leadership will take a call on the fixing of number of seats for the SAD. He said tickets would be finalised before the start of nomination of papers.

In the 2014 Haryana Assembly elections, the Congress won only 15 seats with the BJP scoring a majority at 47 making 33 per cent of the vote share. The INLD emerged second ahead of Congress with 19 seats.

Shah discusses economic issues with CMs of BJP-ruled States

New Delhi: BJP president Amit Shah on Saturday discussed economic issues with Chief Ministers of party-ruled States and laid out his party's extensive plans to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations in a video-conference address to party MPs, including Union Ministers, and state organisational leaders.

Speaking from the BJP headquarters here, Shah, sources said, asserted that the measures, especially a major cut in corporate tax rate, will give a big boost to economy.

The Opposition has used the economic slowdown issue to target the Union government, and Shah's decision to speak to the chief ministers underscores the BJP's determination to counter the rivals as it gears up for assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana next month.

He was joined by BJP working president JP Nadda and other senior leaders during his address. Shah, who is also Union Home Minister, asked party MPs to start campaigns in their constituencies to propagate Gandhi's ideals, including on cleanliness, khadi and environment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already asked the party MPs to undertake a 150 km 'padayatra' (foot march) between October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, and October 31, the birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.

Party leaders were asked to touch every village in the campaign. The sources said they were also told to clean statues of all icons 'irrespective of the ideology they came from' during the exercise. The MPs joined the conference from capital of their respective State. PNS

Vaishno Devi shrine gets gold-plated entrance gate

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After Golden temple in Amritsar, the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, is all set to welcome pilgrims with a magnificent view of gold-plated entrance of the 96 feet long traditional cave on the occasion of Navratri festival beginning September 29.

In addition, shrine board authorities have decided to decorate the bhawan shrine with imported flowers and fruits to create 'festive' look and provide 'spiritually' stimulating atmosphere to the pilgrims during their stay.

This year, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities have also decided to illuminate 13 km long serpentine track connecting Katra base camp with colorful lights during the Navratri festival to attract rush of pilgrims.

The nine day long Navratri festival is being organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and District Administration, Reasi in collaboration with Tourism department and active participation of local community/ 'Tourism and Trade Industry of Katra, NGOs'.

Community Kitchen services (langar) will be extended to the pilgrims along the yatra track where they will be served freshly cooked food for those observing 'fast' as well.

To ensure safety of pilgrims, elaborate security arrangements have been made by the security grid in and around Katra town, base camp of yatra.

State police and para military forces have been deployed in adequate numbers to secure the yatra route and important installations. The entire Katra town, bhawan area, and yatra track has been covered with CCTV cameras to monitor the activities of pilgrims and any other suspicious movement. X-Ray scanner machines and other



Gold plated entrance of Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine

pilgrims visited the cave shrine during the Navratri festival. He said, "to attract rush of pilgrims we are going to decorate the bhawan area, from Manokamana Bhawan to the main temple, with imported flowers and fruits."

He said, "we are importing the rich quality exotic flowers from Thailand, Holland, Malaysia, Singapore, Ooty, Palampur and Uttar Pradesh."

Sharing details of the 'golden gate' project which was in the pipe line for a long time, CEO Simrandeep Singh said, "work on the ambitious project was sanctioned under the new 'donation' policy adopted by the Shrine board."

He said for a long time devotees were raising the issue of installing 'golden gates' replacing 'marble gates' outside the cave shrine.

The Chief executive Officer of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Simrandeep Singh said that during this festival, various events will be organised which will attract audience from the length and breadth of the state and country. He said the Navratri festival will be inaugurated by the Governor Satya Pal Maikil on September 29 in Katra. A cultural procession showcasing rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir will be taken out from main roads of Katra every day. Devotional song competition, Hasya Vyang kavi sammelan, wrestling competition, special play on Mata Ki Kahani will be organised during the festival days.

This year, wrestlers from Pakistan have not been invited to participate in the wrestling competition. Owing to sour relations between the two neighboring countries, the organisers of the event have not been inviting them to participate in the competition during Navratri festival in Katra since 2013.

Govt accepts resignation of Madras HC Chief Justice VK Tahilramani

New Delhi: The resignation of Madras High Court Chief Justice VK Tahilramani has been accepted, according to a Government notification.

Her resignation has been accepted with effect from September 6, it said. She had resigned after the Supreme Court collegium declined her request for reconsideration of transfer to the Meghalaya High Court. Justice V Kohari has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Madras High Court, another notification said.

The transfer of Justice Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to the Meghalaya High Court had snowballed into a major controversy with lawyers in Chennai as well as in her home state of

Maharashtra coming out in protest against the Supreme Court collegium's decision in this regard.

Later on September 12, the apex court had come out with a statement, saying that each of the recommendations for transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of various high courts was based on "cogent reasons".

Without naming Justice Tahilramani, the statement issued by the office of apex court's Secretary General Sanjeev S Kalgaonkar had said the reasons of transfer of judges were not disclosed in the interest of the institution but the apex court collegium would not hesitate to disclose them in the circumstance it becomes necessary. PTI

Chitrakot bypoll...

From Page 1
Office of Chief Electoral Officer, Chhattisgarh intimated that the electoral roll for the assembly constituency has been published. The EVMs and VVPATs will be used for holding the poll.

With the announcement, the model code of conduct has come into force with immediate effect in the districts in which the whole or any part of the assembly constituency going for the election is included. It was clarified that as per the earlier decision the voter's identification shall be mandatory in the poll. The Electoral Photo Identity cards (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification of a voter. Separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters at the time of poll, CEO office said.

In a first, ED attaches...

From Page 1
The ED said the State police had booked Guha for "forgery and using forged documents as genuine as he was found using a forged permission letter to illegally transport the wildlife birds purportedly issued by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife and Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal."

The ED took over the case under PMLA based on this police FIR.

The agency said its probe found Guha was "running an organised wildlife smuggling racket".

Chandrayaan-2's orbiter doing stellar work: Sivan

Gaganyaan next priority, says ISRO chairman

SUMEET SHARMA/PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR/CHEENNAI

The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's ensemble of eight scientific instruments is performing very well and is expected to continue its stellar work for about seven and a half years, ISRO Chairman K Sivan said on Saturday.

As the prospects of re-establishing contact with "Vikram" lander have virtually ended after the conclusion of 14 Earth days, ISRO said it will take up a study to ascertain

what exactly happened to it. Sivan said after Chandrayaan, ISRO's next priority is Gaganyaan mission.

"We have set a target of achieving it by December 2020; and the second unmanned mission is targeted in July 2021. By December 2021, an Indian will first be carried by our own rocket to space," Sivan said.



Public Notice

As per the authorization and on behalf of Corporation Bank Main Branch this is for the information to general public that Gauhar Ali S/o Late Khare & others by registered Sale deed, Sale deed registered in the office of sub registrar Office Dist.-Raipur (C.G.). Vide book No.- A-1, Granth No.- 1284, Page No.- 72 to 78, Serial No. 291 On 02.03.1954 and it is in possession of Smt Sevani Bai Ballewar is under taken by her. She is in possession of area 5328 sq.ft. out of which she is selling 1000 sq.ft to Gauhar Ali and she has not used the original sale deed dated 02.03.1954, same has not been kept to obtain any type of mortgage and the original of the sale deed is in her possession. I hereby invite objection from any person, Banks, Municipal offices, Tax department, Govt Development society etc. upon the above declaration of the above said possession with Smt Sevani Bai Ballewar of the original sale deed dated 02.03.1954. This notice may be noted that any objection thereafter to the above declaration in respect of the above referred property will not be bonafide and shall not be binding on the Corporation Bank Main Branch and disbursement of loan amount by Corporation Bank Main Branch will remain unaffected. Place: Raipur PRAFULLA AGRAWAL Dated: 20.09.2019 Advocate.

BJP-Sena in Maha aims to trounce Cong-NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Fresh from its spectacular performance in the recent Lok Sabha polls, a resurgent ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance goes to the Maharashtra Assembly polls scheduled for October 21, 2019, with a distinct advantage, as it takes on a weakened, weary and somewhat dispirited Opposition Congress-NCP alliance.

Ahead of the first crucial electoral battle being after the Lok Sabha polls in which it walked away with staggering 42 out of the 48 seats in Maharashtra, the BJP-Shiv Sena combine has already outsmarted the Opposition Congress-NCP alliance psychologically by poaching nearly 30 of its leaders and functionaries, including 17 sitting MLAs, and depleting its cadres markedly in the run-up months to the polls.

The two saffron allies — which unlike the Opposition Congress and NCP that have already wrapped up the seat pact between them — may be struggling to arrive at an understanding over the sharing of seats between them. But, the BJP and Shiv Sena are a formidable lot both on paper and on ground — in terms of both resources and reach.

If the percentages of votes polled in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls by the two political formations are any indication, the BJP and Shiv Sena — which decimated the Opposition — are miles ahead of the Congress and NCP. Together, the BJP (27.59 per cent) and Shiv Sena (23.29 per cent) polled 50.88 per cent of total votes, as against the total 31.79 per cent of votes polled by the Congress (16.27 per cent) and NCP (15.52 per cent).

The Congress and NCP are contesting 125 seats each after leaving the remaining 32 seats

to their allies. The ruling BJP and Shiv Sena are expected to ink their seat-sharing deal for the polls in the next two days.

In the 2014 polls which the saffron alliance partners had contested on their respective strengths, the BJP had won an all-time high of 122 seats as against 260 out of the total 288 seats it had contested. The Shiv Sena had walked away with 63 seats out of 282 seats it had contested. On the other hand, the Congress bagged 42 seats out of 287 seats it had contested, while the NCP emerged fourth by winning 41 out of 278 it had contested.

The Prakash Ambedkar-led Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi, which suffered a setback last week after the exit of the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, is contesting the 2019 Assembly polls as a third front. The Raj Thackeray-led MNS, which had not contested the Lok Sabha polls but supported the Opposition parties, is yet to take a final call whether or not to contest the Assembly polls. The Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM, Samajwadi Party and BSP will contest the polls in some pockets of their influence.

On his part, chief minister Devendra Fadnis — who is leading the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance into the Assembly polls — is sitting pretty after having criss-crossed the state as part of his 4000 km-long campaign tour 'Mahajanadesh Yatra'. Youth Shiv Sena leader Aditya Thackeray, who is tipped to be deputy chief minister in the event of the saffron alliance returning to power in the State, has toured several parts of the state.

On the Opposition side, NCP founder-president Sharad Pawar is currently touring western Maharashtra and Marathwada. The State

Congress and NCP are contesting 125 seats each after leaving the remaining 32 seats to their allies. The ruling BJP and Shiv Sena are expected to ink their seat-sharing deal for the polls in the next two days

Congress leaders have been quietly touring the state, but not in as comprehensive manner as Fadnis has done.

Upbeat as it is after indulging in massive poaching from the Opposition ranks in recent months, the BJP will in likelihood whip up patriotic fervour in by giving national integration spin to the Centre's recent decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, inking of which has already been given both by BJP national president Amit Shah and Prime Minister during their recent public meetings in Maharashtra.

Similarly, the BJP — which thinks that it will encash on the "pro-incumbency" mood prevailing in the State — will go to town with its planks like making Maharashtra a drought-free state by 2024, connecting rivers in coastal Konkan region with those in western Maharashtra, creating water grid in Marathwada region to address the drinking water problems, initiatives like loan waiver and crop insurances taken by the state government to address farmers' distress and the development push it has given in urban areas, including Mumbai, Nagpur, Thane and Pune, through various infra projects including the Metro and expressways.

64 State, 1 LS seats to see bypoll on Oct 21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Saturday announced the bypolls to 64 Assembly seats spread across 17 States and Union Territory of Puducherry besides the Samastipur Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar. The bye-elections will be held on October 21 and the counting of votes will be on October 24, the same dates as those for Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections.

The Samastipur Lok Sabha by-election was necessitated due to the death of sitting LJP MP Ram Chandra Paswan in July. However, the bypoll for Satara Lok Sabha seat will not be held along with the Maharashtra assembly elections on October 21. Satara MP from NCP Udayanraje Bhosale had recently joined the BJP after resigning from the Lok Sabha.

There was no word on when Jammu and Kashmir would head for elections to elect its legislative body. The state, which will become a Union Territory (UT) on October 31, has been under President's Rule for over a year. Due to J&K's bifurcation into two UTs — Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh — a delimitation exercise is expected to be undertaken there.

In Karnataka, where resignations of 17 rebel MLAs led to the collapse of the HD Kumaraswamy-Congress coalition government in July, bypolls will be held in 15 seats and in Uttar Pradesh, 11 constituencies will go to the polls. The 11 UP assembly seats mostly belong to MLAs who had won the Lok Sabha elections and had resigned as members of the state assembly.

According to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, the bypolls in Karnataka will be held on seats, including where sitting MLAs were disqualified recently. Asked why elections to the Jharkhand Assembly were not announced on Saturday when the country was discussing



simultaneous polls, Arora said that the issue was not yet settled and added that term of the state Assembly there ends on 9 January. "If the Leader of the House there wants to dissolve the assembly and advance the elections, then it is a separate matter. But why should the commission want to advance it," he said.

Byelections will also be held in five seats in Kerala and 4 in Punjab among others. The other states are Assam (4), Bihar (5), Gujarat (4), Himachal Pradesh (2), Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu (two each) and Sikkim (3). States where assembly bypolls will be held are Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha and Puducherry (one seat each).

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These are the first state polls after the BJP's stunning victory in the national election earlier this year, clearing the way for a second term of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This will also be the first time that elections will be held in Assam after the release of final citizens' list last month. By-elections will be held in four assembly constituencies in the state.

The Samastipur (Bihar) Lok Sabha by-election was necessitated following the death of sitting MP Ram Chandra Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party in July. One Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra is currently vacant but CEC Arora said it won't go to polls along with the state assembly elections on October 21.

Assembly bypolls in West Bengal are not being held now as the state government had cited the Durga Puja festivities to postpone the exercise. They will also not be held in Uttarakhand now as panchayat elections are already underway and the state machinery is occupied with the exercise, CEC Arora said. In some other seats, by-elections are not being held as respective high courts are hearing election petitions and the matters are sub judice, he added.

In Kerala, Stakes are high

for the three major political formations — the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF), Opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) and the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance or NDA.

The gazette notification for these polls will be issued on September 23, last date of nominations is September 30, date for scrutiny of nominations will be done on October 1. Candidatures can be withdrawn up to October 3. The CEC said that the notification for the polls will be made on September 27. The last date of filing nominations is October 4. The scrutiny of nominations will take place on October 5 and the last date for withdrawal of nominations is October 7.

The EC has decided to use EVMs and VVPATs in all the polling stations and for this adequate numbers of EVMs and VVPATs have been kept ready. As is the practice, voters will need to carry valid identity cards. Electoral Photo Identity cards (EPIC) shall be the main document of identification. However, separate instructions will be issued to allow additional documents for identification of voters.

Over 10 cr to vote in Haryana, Maharashtra Assembly polls

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Over 10-crore electorate will be eligible to cast their vote in the coming Assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana for a total of 378 seats.

As per Election Commission (EC) data, there are 1,82,98,714 voters in Haryana. Of this, 1,81,91,228 are general electors and 1,07,486 are service voters who will vote for the 90 assembly seats in the state. In Maharashtra, there are 8,95,62,706 voters, of which 8,94,46,211 are general electors and 1,16,495 are service voters who will vote for the 288 Assembly seats in the state.

According to Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, a total of 19,425 polling booths will be set up for people to cast their vote in Haryana. There has been an increase of 19.58 per cent of polling stations, the number of station was 16,244 back in 2014. Up from 90,403 in 2014, the number of poll booths where people can cast their vote in Maharashtra has gone up to 95,473, reflecting an increase of 5.61 per cent.

In Maharashtra, 54 seats are reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe while 17 are reserved in Haryana for them. According to the CEC Arora, the upper limit for expenditure on the election campaign is Rs 28 lakh for each candidate.

Over 1.66 lakh VVPAT (voter-verified paper audit trail) machines will be used in the assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana. Referring to the use of paper trail machines, Arora said that on the lines of the Lok Sabha polls, the commission has mandated that VVPAT slips count of five randomly selected polling stations in each assembly constituency of Haryana and Maharashtra will be done for verification of the result obtained from the electronic voting machines (EVMs).

The polling stations where the count is taken up are selected by a draw of lots after the election and before counting. The commission also reiterated that while some EVMs fail to function due to "mechanical, structural or physical defect" including faulty switches, broken button, faulty connection, these

never record a "wrong vote". CEC Arora also said that special security arrangements have been made for the LWE affected areas in Gadchiroli and Gondia in Maharashtra.

Besides announcing the assembly election dates, CEC Arora also spoke about the environmental concern that the election campaigns bring with them. Regarding the same Arora said, "Election campaigns impose an environmental cost upon us. We appeal to political parties to avoid the use of plastic and use only environment-friendly material in their campaigns." Arora also mentioned that the EC has brought down more than 5,000 polling booths on the ground floor from the first or second-floor level on the request of several political parties from Maharashtra.

According to the CEC, both Haryana and Maharashtra are sound-fitting in terms of poll preparation. "All types are arrangements are being made for the voters. Candidates will require to fill all the columns in their poll form. The Election Commission is privileged to play a role in democracy."

Announcement for bypolls adds zing to TN's festive season

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The festive season in Tamil Nadu got peppered on Saturday with the Election Commission of India announcing that the bypolls from the Assembly constituencies of Vikravandi in Villupuram district and Nanguneri in Kanyakumari district would be held on October 21.

The by-election in Vikravandi was necessitated by the death of the sitting DMK lawmaker K Rathamani of the DMK in June 2019. Nanguneri constituency fell vacant following the resignation of Vasanth Kumar of the Indian National Congress who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Kanyakumari in the May 2019 General election.

The point being debated in Tamil Nadu is whether the DMK-led UPA would be able to continue its dream run. Though the final results in the by-polls would not create any threat to the Edappadi Palaniswami-led AIADMK government, it will be a morale booster to the Opposition parties as the State is gearing up for elections to local bodies which

were due in 2016 itself.

In the 234-member strong Tamil Nadu Assembly, the AIADMK has 122 members while the DMK-led Opposition has 109 members. M K Stalin, president, DMK, told journalists on Saturday that his party would contest Vikravandi bypoll leaving Nanguneri to alliance partner Congress. The DMK-Congress front is hoping to retain both the seats taking advantage of recent events like the arrest of P Chidambaram, former union finance minister in money laundering case and the accidental death of Subasri, a young techie who lost her life when a larger than life size hoarding installed by a former AIADMK municipal corporation councillor in connection with the marriage of the latter's son's marriage.

Though it is more than a week, the police had failed to arrest the culprit who is on the run. This has added to the woes of the government.

The DMK-led alliance had swept the Lok Sabha election from the State winning 38 out of the 39 seats which were at stake.

BJP, TRS slug it out to wrest Huzurnagar seat from Cong

PV KONDAL RAO ■ HUZURNAGAR

October 21 is likely to become a turning point in the history of Telangana politics with the Election Commission announcing dates for the bypoll in the constituency.

Though, the ruling TRS is trying to clinch the seat from the Congress and spring a surprise, the national ruling party, BJP is leaving no stone unturned to grab the seat, the bastion of grand old party. The TRS has already announced Saidi Reddy as the candidate for the seat, while a war of words between the senior leaders of Congress is reflect-

ing that party's mood in the wake of by-elections.

During December 2018 general elections, the PCC chief N Uttam Kumar Reddy has retained the seat by defeating TRS' Saidi Reddy. But subsequently, the PCC chief contested the Lok Sabha election as the nominee of Congress from Nalgonda parliament seat and emerged victorious.

It prompted Uttam Kumar Reddy to tender his resignation as Huzurnagar MLA. Uttam's spouse Padmavathi Reddy, who was an MLA from Kodad segment of the erstwhile Nalgonda district, lost the general elections to the TRS' Bollam Mallaiah Yadav.

Navy Chief embarks on 4-day B'desh visit to boost maritime ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Aiming to further consolidate maritime cooperation between the two countries, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Saturday began a four-day-long visit to Bangladesh.

During the visit, Admiral Singh will hold extensive talks with his Bangladeshi counterpart Admiral Arangzeb Chowdhury, besides meeting the other service chiefs and senior military officials, the Indian Navy said.

Sources said the two navy chiefs are expected to deliberate on regional security scenario including China's growing forays into the Indian Ocean region and its military assertiveness in the South China Sea.

"The visit is intended to consolidate and enhance the bilateral maritime relations between India and Bangladesh,"

a Navy statement said.

Admiral Singh will visit several key military establishments including the Khulna Shipyard Limited, Bangladesh's naval bases in Chattogram and Khulna and address cadets at the Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA). In addition, he will participate in the first anniversary celebration of Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development (BIMRAD), the Navy said.

The Bangladesh Navy is an active member of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), a forum for maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

There has been increasing cooperation between Indian and Bangladeshi navies and they regularly engage through staff talks, annual defence dialogue and other operational interactions.

Navy to name 7th frigate in P17A series as Mahendragiri

New Delhi: The Navy has planned to name the seventh ship in the P17A frigate series as 'Mahendragiri', senior officials said.

The first of the seven frigates, christened 'Nilgiri', is slated to be launched in Mumbai on September 28 in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The first ship under P17A borrows its name from an old frigate of the Navy, INS Nilgiri that was named after Nilgiri Hills.

Five more ships of the Nilgiri-class, an upgrade of Leander-class, were also named after other hill ranges of India. The six ships were built a few decades ago and have been decommissioned.

These six ships were called — 'Nilgiri', 'Himgiri', 'Udaygiri', 'Dunagiri', 'Taragiri' and 'Vindhaygiri'.

"The first P17A frigate 'Nilgiri' will be launched on September 28. Since, it is named after the previous

frigate which was part of a series of six ships, so the remaining names will also follow till the sixth ship," said Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar, the vice chief of the Navy.

"For the seventh frigate, we have identified one more in the series — 'Mahendragiri'," he said.

He said this recently during an interactive session held here ahead of the commissioning of Navy's second Scorpene-class submarine INS Khanderi, launch of 'Nilgiri' and inauguration of an aircraft carrier drydock are all scheduled to take place on September 28 in Mumbai.

The first Scorpene in a series of six, 'Kalvari' is named after the first Kalvari of the Navy. The first Kalvari, commissioned on December 8, 1967, was also the first submarine of the Indian Navy. It was decommissioned on May 31, 1996 after nearly three decades of service.

The Kalvari-class submarines in the past were a variant of Foxtrot-class submarines, four of which had served in the Navy from late 1960s onwards — 'Kalvari', 'Khanderi', 'Karanj' and 'Kursura'.

"Names have a historical background, and many ships have been follow-on of some other ships in the past. So, the name is being repeated," Kumar said.

A contract with French company Naval Group (earlier called DCNS) was signed in 2005 for the supply of six submarines.

The six submarines, designed by the French naval defence and energy company, are being built by Mazagon Dock Ltd in Mumbai as part of Project-75 of the Indian Navy.

The state-of-the-art features of this Kalvari-class Scorpene submarine include superior stealth and the ability to launch attacks on the enemy using precision guided weapon. **PTI**

Centre, States debate reforms in NEP draft

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre and the States on Saturday held detailed discussions and debated various reforms proposed in the new National Education Policy (NEP) draft that has been much delayed and much awaited.

The meeting of the HRD Ministry's Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) and Education ministers from states was chaired by Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'. The heads of autonomous organisations, vice chancellors of universities, HRD secretaries for higher education and school education R Subrahmanyam and Rina Ray, along with senior officials of the central and state governments also attended.

Further, Nishank's deputy Sanjay Dhotre, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel and Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju also attended the meeting.

"The house had detailed deliberations on several recommendations and reforms proposed in the NEP draft. There were valuable suggestions given by the education ministers of states, who are equal partners in policy formulation and felt that their inputs are critical so that the proposed NEP can be a catalyst to achieve the goals of equitable access to quality education while ensuring affordability of education and instilling greater



accountability," a senior HRD official said.

Nishank said in the spirit of "cooperative federalism" both the central and state governments interact and engage in a healthy and enriching dialogue to bring out a robust policy that will empower our youth to meet the challenges of the 21st century," the minister added.

Nishank also released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19 according to which the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education has increased from 25.8 in 2017-18 to 26.3 in 2018-19 while in absolute terms the enrolment increased from 3.66 crore to 3.74 crore students.

"GER for SCs has also shown a growth from 21.8 to 23.0 and STs from 15.9 to 17.2. In terms of increase in the number of universities, they have grown from 903 (2017-18) to 993 (2018-19) and total higher Education institutions from 49,964 to 51,649 in the same corresponding period. The number of faculty increased from 13.88 lakhs to 14.16 lakhs," the survey report said.

The meeting today was convened to discuss the draft so

Married women happier than those in live-in relationships: RSS survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which, in a way, celebrates bachelorhood as most of its 'pracharaks' keep off conjugal lives, has conducted a survey that claims that married women are "happier" than those in live-in relationships. Its findings will be released on Tuesday.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will release the survey, conducted by a Sangh-linked organization 'Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra' (DSAPK) based in Pune, Maharashtra.

The findings of the survey were discussed at the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's coordination meeting in Pushkar earlier this month, sources in the



RSS said. The Supreme Court has

ruled that any couple living together for a long term will be presumed as legally married unless proved otherwise. It has also allowed physical relationship between two grown-ups as legal. It was earlier used to be categorized as adultery.

As per the survey, married women have a very high level of happiness, whereas the level of happiness was lowest in

women in live-in relationships.

The findings of the survey will be released after Bhagwat's interaction with the foreign media.

RSS publicity in-charge Arun Kumar in an official statement released on Saturday said Bhagwat's interaction with the foreign media is a routine exercise.

'Tax cut to have minor impact on fiscal deficit'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The ₹1.45-lakh crore tax giveaway is unlikely to widen fiscal deficit much as the shortfall will be met through increased tax collections due to higher growth which the massive tax cuts are expected to achieve, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said here on Saturday. On Friday, the Government had announced tax cuts for corporates by 10-12 percentage points, bringing down the effective corporate tax to 25.17 per cent inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies. The new tax rate will be applicable from April 1, involving a revenue loss of ₹1.45 lakh crore this fiscal.



I don't think tax cuts will leave a gaping hole in the fiscal numbers. There will be some, which will be minor, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar said at an 'India Today' event

"I don't think tax cuts will leave a gaping hole in the fiscal numbers. There will be some, which will be minor," Kumar said at an 'India Today' event.

Budget had estimated fiscal deficit at 3.3 per cent of the GDP for the current fiscal but many analysts have pegged it overshooting by at least 70 bps to 4.1 per cent as the quantum of the giveaways is worth 0.7 per cent of the GDP. Significantly, it can be noted that neither the finance minister or her senior cabinet colleagues who talked to the media after the announcement

took questions on the shape of fiscal deficit numbers post the tax cuts.

Even, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das had lapped it up as growth boosting just a day before warning the government that it has no leeway to undertake any fiscally expansionary measures.

It can be noted that while the GST collection has been ebbing below the desired ₹1 lakh crore mark all through the year expect one month, the direct tax mop-up for the first

half lagged way behind the target. It grew a paltry 4.7 per cent in H1 of this fiscal at ₹5.5 lakh crore against a budgeted target of 17.5 per cent growth in collections for the full year.

Kumar said direct and indirect tax revenues are expected to go up with growth picking up after these tax cuts. "There is buoyancy in growth. In the past, our tax buoyancy has been very good. Therefore, both direct and indirect tax collections will go up with growth," he said.

Kumar said another area for his optimism is the government focus on investment which he budgeted at ₹1.05 lakh crore.

"Asset sales will yield an additional ₹52,000 crore over the budget estimate. Then you have got another ₹50,000 crore from the RBI which was not included in the Budget," he said. The higher revenue from tax and non-tax fronts will help the government finance the fiscal deficit, he added.

Kumar said the 5 per cent GDP growth is not yet a crisis and the first quarter number marks the bottoming out of the cycle.

"We will achieve a nearly 6.5 per cent growth this year and we will be on track for doubling up our per capita income in the next five years," he added.

Corporate tax giveaways positive but growth faces headwinds, says Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Saturday said the cut in corporate tax increases the Government's fiscal risks while headwinds from cyclical factors such as rural stress, weak corporate sentiment and slow credit pose threat to near-term growth.

On Friday, the Centre announced a reduction in the base corporation tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent as part of stimulus measures to revive slowing economic growth.

The rating agency said it does not expect the corporate tax rate cut to revive growth to the extent that stronger tax buoyancy compensates for the loss of revenue.

"While the reduction

brings India's corporate tax rate closer to peers throughout Asia and will support the business environment and competitiveness, a host of cyclical factors, including rural financial stress, weak corporate sentiment, and a slow flow of credit in the financial sector, remain headwinds to near-term growth," it said.

Moody's said the cut in corporate tax is credit positive for companies because it will enable them to generate higher post-tax incomes.

"However, it is credit negative for the sovereign, as it aggravates mounting risks for the government in meeting its fiscal deficit target."

Commodity and information technology (IT) services companies will benefit most from the tax rate cut.

US corporate sector hails India's move to slash tax rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Washington: The US' corporate sector has lauded the Indian government for substantially slashing the income tax rate to 25.17 per cent, saying the move will reverse the economic slowdown and allow global companies a "good option" for growing their manufacturing base in the country.

The government on Friday slashed the income tax rate for companies by almost 10 percentage points to 25.17 per cent and offered a lower rate to 17.01 per cent for new manufacturing firms to boost economic growth rate from a six-year low by incentivising investments to help create jobs.

Finance Minister said the reduction in tax rates was done by promulgating an ordinance to an amendment to the Income Tax Act. PTI

BUSINESS CORNER

SCOPE WELCOMES FISCAL MEASURES BY GOVT

New Delhi: SCOPE welcomes the announcement by Finance Minister to boost the Indian economy through various measures including reduction of Corporate tax rate and expanding list of CSR activities. Recent past has seen a series of progressive measures by government to ring positivity in the economy. SCOPE, the apex body of public sector enterprises, believes that the measure announced by the Government in terms of reduction in corporate tax rate is also likely to encourage investments in Make in India particularly in the manufacturing sector. This would lead to increased economic activity thereby creating employment opportunities. Further, SCOPE appreciates the significant move of the Government to expand list of CSR activities to include incubation centres funded by various agencies/ governments including Public Sector Undertaking and also include contributions to public funded educational institutions like IITs, Universities etc. This is in line with the thrust of the Government towards innovation, research and development.



Hotel industry welcomes GST cuts on hotel room tariffs

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The hotel industry has welcomed the reduction in GST on hotel room tariffs, saying that it will provide a major fillip to the hospitality and tourism sector and is a step in the right direction.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced nil tax for hotels room tariffs of up to ₹1,000 per night. Hotels charging ₹1,001 to ₹7,500 per night would be levied with 12 per cent tax as against the existing 18 per cent.

Similarly, the tax on room tariff of above ₹7,500 has been slashed to 18 per cent from the existing 28 per cent. Also, tax on outdoor catering has been reduced to 5 per cent from existing 18 per cent with input tax credit, Sitharaman had said.

"The amendments in corporate tax rates and rationalisation of GST are all steps in the right direction," Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) MD and CEO Puneet Chhatwal said in a statement.

There has been a positive development from the GST panel meet as it has recommended that 18 per cent GST rate is now applicable for hotel tariff up to ₹7,500 per night starting October 1, 2019, he added.

"This gives the hospitality sector a much needed boost and we expect it to propel tourist inflows which will positively impact our bookings," Chhatwal said.



Fillips like this also help create new jobs so as to boost economy, make companies globally competitive and align to vision of the Government with boosting tourism, making hospitality increasingly viable as an investment opportunity for India, he added.

"We believe this would catalyze further growth for not just IHCL but the hospitality sector as a whole," Chhatwal said.

In similar vein, Shangri-La Group, Middle East, India and Indian Ocean Executive Vice President John Northen said: "We welcome this progressive initiative by the Government. A lower GST rate for the luxury hotel sector will boost revenues and spur demand further among travellers."

This in turn will cement India's positioning as a hot spot tourist destination. The move will also increase the sector's contribution to the country's GDP and foreign exchange, he added.

Auto industry has to find its own balance to enhance demand: SIAM

New Delhi: Industry body SIAM on Saturday said the auto industry would have to "find its own balance" to boost demand, with the GST Council declining to cut rates for the sector.

The industry has to find its own balance to enhance demand, he added.

The GST Council, which met in Goa on Friday, did not cut tax rates on automobiles. The industry had been demanding a GST rate cut from the current 28 per cent to 18 per cent in order to revive sales which have been facing a prolonged slowdown. PTI

Yes Bank promoter entities sell 2.75% stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Promoter group companies of Yes Bank along with co-founder Rana Kapoor have sold a combined 2.75 per cent stake in the lender through the open market.

Yes Capital (India) Pvt Ltd, Morgan Credits Pvt Ltd and Rana Kapoor have sold a combined 2.75 per cent in Yes Bank through open market process, Morgan Credits said in a regulatory filing on Saturday.

The combined entities held 9.64 per cent holding in the bank which now stands at 6.89 per cent.

The release of shares took place between September 18 to 20, 2019, the filing said.

Indian Overseas Bank mobilises ₹500 crore

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Public sector Indian Overseas Bank on Saturday said it has raised ₹500 crore through BASEL III Tier-II bonds issue to meet growth and regulatory requirements.

The city-headquartered bank, in a statement, said it mobilised ₹500 crore through the Tier-II bonds.

"The base size of the issue was ₹500 crore aggregating ₹800 crore. The bank received bids for ₹855 crore with various coupon rates.

However, the bank has decided to accept the bids for base issue of ₹500 crore," the bank said.

The funds raised would be used to meet the 'growth' requirements of the bank apart from regulatory requirements. PTI

Zomato extends Gold programme to food delivery; NRAI slams the move

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online food ordering platform Zomato on Saturday said users of its Gold programme will now be able to use membership privileges on food deliveries, a move that has been lashed out by industry body National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI).

Earlier, Zomato Gold privileges were only available for dining out, the company said in a statement. While Zomato Gold for dining out and delivery is now operational in 16 cities, the programme will expand to 25 more cities by next week, it added.

Today, Gold drives 25-30 per cent business for its restaurant partners and more and more Gold users are exploring new restaurants because of the programme. PTI

Travel giant Thomas Cook fails to find private funds to avert collapse: Source

AFP ■ LONDON

Iconic British travel firm Thomas Cook has failed to find further private investment to stave off collapse and is now relying on an unlikely government bailout, a source close to the matter told AFP on Saturday.

The operator said Friday that it needed 200 million pound (\$250 million, 227 million euros) — in addition to the

900-million pound rescue deal secured last month — or else face administration, which could potentially trigger Britain's largest repatriation since World War II.

A source close to the negotiations told AFP the company had failed to find the 200 million pound from private investors and would collapse unless the Government intervened.

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride
PROVISION OF AFTC
Dy. CST, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 24.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Name of Work : Provision of AFTC from Dum Dum-Noapara, Tollygunge carshed and Kavi Subhash carshed of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Tender Value : Rs. 88,47,728.68.
Earnest Money : Rs. 1,77,000/- Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 5,000/-
Completion Period : 9 Months. The tender can be viewed at website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>
The tender/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.
Open Tender Notice No. : S&T/Work-2Rtender/12-2019 Dated : 20.09.2019
FASTER • SAFER • SMOOTHER • CLEANER

UJVN LTD. (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O.: 'UJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones : 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2019SGC025886
Time Extension Notice
Due to unavoidable circumstances, dates are hereby extended as follows for NIT No - 02/EE (Test)/MB-II/19-20 of Office of the Executive Engineer (Test), Dharasu Paver House, Chinyalisore.
Last date of downloading the tender: 27-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
Last date of submitting the tender: 28-09-2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
Due date for opening the tender: 01-10-2019, at 11:00 Hrs
For eligibility criteria and full & further details kindly visit our website www.uttarakhandjalvidyut.com. Bidders are advised to regularly visit our website for further details, subsequent addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation etc.
Letter No. 553 Dated 21.09.2019 Executive Engineer (Test)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DELHI FIRE SERVICE
HEAD QUARTERS, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention: All owners / occupiers of public building / premises providing sleeping accommodations (Hotels/ Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals)

In a recent fire in a hotel in Karol Bagh, Delhi, 17 precious lives were lost and it was observed that great difficulty was faced by the occupants and staff of the hotel during evacuation and fire fighting in the initial stage of fire.

Ant it would be in public interest that all the occupants and employees of building occupancy having sleeping risk e.g. Hotels / Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals should undergo basic fire safety training to keep themselves acquainted with evacuation and firefighting procedures.

It is proposed to conduct three days basic firefighting training programme at Fire Safety management Academy, Delhi Fire Service, Rohini, Delhi. The training will be imparted in different batches of 40 persons (maximum), depending on the number of nominations received from different organizations, on first come first serve basis, against the prescribed fee as per Delhi Fire Service Rules 2010.

Therefore, the owners / occupiers of all public buildings that provide sleeping accommodation namely Hotels / Guest Houses / Nursing Homes / Hospitals are hereby advised to nominate their staff / officials, either directly or through their respective associations, for the basic firefighting training. The nominations may be sent to Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Delhi Fire Service, Fire Safety management Academy, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 (Telephone No. 011-27552155, Mob. No. 9811032931 and e-mail: sstdfs@gmail.com).

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0687/19-20
DIRECTOR

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY DELHI FIRE SERVICE

CORRIGENDUM
ICICI Bank
ICICI Bank Limited
Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Chakki Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videcon Tower, Jhandewalan Ext, New Delhi- 110055
The physical possession notice under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act was published in The Pioneer (English) dated 4th Aug'19, for Loan Account No. LBGUR00002370762 and Name of the Borrower is Pankaj Sharma and Co-borrower is Monica Sharma.
Dated: 21-09-2019
Place : Delhi/INCR
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Pradhan asks NMDC to focus on increasing output of iron ore
New Delhi: Steel Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday asked state-owned NMDC to focus on augmenting the output of iron ore as it would have the benefit of keeping prices of the raw material used in steel making in check. Pradhan, who visited the corporate office of NMDC Ltd at Hyderabad today, reviewed the performance of the PSU during his interaction with the top management. PTI

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN e-TENDER
No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date:19/09/2019. The following e-Tender can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (₹); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): [1]; 37191036; Grill Assly. for WAG-9/WAP-7/WAP-5 Loco; 200 Set; 20570; 23/10/2019 at 11:00 am.
Principal Chief Materials Manager ABC-182 CLW/Chittaranjan Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Dy Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No 451-C-ACS-HK-TKJ Closing Date/Time 15.10.2019 up to 11.30 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on web site www.ireps.gov.in on internet & can be seen/download. The tenderers/bidders will have to make payment towards Earnest Money against this tender through online payment modes like Net Banking, debit/Credit Cards etc. available on IREPS Portal. Manual/offline mode of payment through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Cash Deposit receipts etc. are not permitted.
Name of Work : House Keeping of Officer's Rest Houses at Lothian Bridge, Delhi. House keeping of Officer's Rest House at Rohtak & up keeping/cleaning of Office complex at Rohtak and Housekeeping of Sr. Rest house & up keeping/cleaning of Office complex of Dy. CE/C/TKJ for a period of 24 months.
Tender Type : Open Bidding System Two Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time : 15.10.2019 11:30 hrs Date of Uploading Tender : 23.09.2019
Pre-Bid Conference (Yes/No) : No Pre-Bid Conference Date Time : Not Applicable
Advertised Value (Rs.) : 12590985.60 Tendering Section : Engineering
Bidding Style : Single Rate for Each Schedule Item Bidding Unit : Rs.
Earnest Money (Rs.) : 2,13,000.00 Validity of Offer (Days) : 60 days
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.) : Nil Period of Completion : 24 Months
Bidding start date : 01.10.2019 Contract Type : Service
1. Two packet systems shall be adopted in this tender. 2. In case of any difficulty helpdesk and learning centre available on the website IREPS may be approached.
3. Tenderer(s) are advised to read tender document carefully before participating in the tender. Tender Notice No.: 451-C-ACS-HK-TKJ Dated: 23.09.2019 3060/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

बिहार सरकार
अधीक्षक का कार्यालय
दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय ।

शुद्धि पत्र

दरभंगा चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय अस्पताल, लहेरियासराय, दरभंगा के विभिन्न विभागों के लिए वित्तीय वर्ष 2019-20 में 5,00,000.00 (पाँच लाख) से कम मूल्य के मशीन उपकरण के कय हेतु पीओआर संख्या-06531 (Health) 2019-20 के प्रकाशित निविदा में आर्थिक रूप से निम्न शर्तों को जोड़ा जाता है । पूर्व का शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगा ।

- निविदा कम्प्यूटर प्रिंट ही होना चाहिए ।
- मशीन उपकरण का दर अनुमोदन होने के पश्चात ही कम्पनी का फोन नम्बर, सर्विस सेन्टर तथा दक्ष अभियन्ता का माँग की जायेगी ।
- एक लाख से पाँच लाख मूल्य के मशीन का वारंटी अवधि तीन वर्षों की होगी ।
- जेनरल आईटम के क्रमांक-16 को विलुप्त किया जाता है ।
- मशीन उपकरण के निर्माणकर्ता का निर्माण लाईसेंस एवं गुणवत्ता प्रमाण पत्र (ISO/CE Certificate) तकनीकी निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना होगा ।
- निविदा सूची में जितने भी संबंधित सामान ड्रग के अंतर्गत आते है उस ड्रग सामान के निर्माणकर्ता का लाईसेंस एवं गुणवत्ता संबंधित कागजात तकनीकी निविदा में संलग्न करना होगा ।
- शुद्धि पत्र प्रथम प्रकाशित होने की तिथि से दस(10) दिनों के लिए समयावधि बढ़ाई जाती है । विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट www.prdbihar.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है ।

(डा० राज रंजन प्रसाद)
अधीक्षक,
दरभंगा मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल,
लहेरियासराय

PR.008176 (Health) 2019-20
वेटा-वेटी एक समान। दहेज-प्रथा करे सवका अपमान।।

POST US TROOP DEPLOYMENT

Will turn attacking country into battlefield: Iran

Tehran: Any country that attacks Iran will become the "main battlefield", the Revolutionary Guards warned Saturday after Washington ordered reinforcements to the Gulf following attacks on Saudi oil installations it blames on Tehran.



Chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Gen Hossein Salami speaks in a ceremony displaying pieces of the American drone shot down by the Guard in the Strait of Hormuz in June, in Tehran on Saturday

Tensions escalated between arch-foes Iran and the United States after last weekend's attacks on Saudi energy giant Aramco's Abqaiq processing plant and Khurais oilfield halved the kingdom's oil output.

Yemen's Huthi rebels have claimed responsibility for the strikes but the US says it has concluded the attacks involved cruise missiles from Iran and amounted to "an act of war".

Washington approved the deployment of troops to Saudi Arabia at "the kingdom's request," Defence Secretary Mark Esper said, noting the forces would be "defensive in nature" and focused on air and missile defence.

But Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps commander Major General Hossein Salami said Iran was "ready for any type of scenario".

"Whoever wants their land

to become the main battlefield, go ahead," he told a news conference in Tehran.

"We will never allow any war to encroach upon Iran's territory. We hope that they don't make a strategic mistake," he said, listing past US military "adventures" against Iran.

Salami was speaking at Tehran's Islamic Revolution and Holy Defence museum during the unveiling of an exhibition of what Iran says are US and other drones captured in its territory.

It featured a badly damaged drone with US military markings said to be an RQ-4 Global Hawk that Iran downed in June, as well as an RQ-170 Sentinel captured in 2011 and still intact.

The Guards also displayed the domestically manufactured Khordad 3 air defence battery they say was used to shoot down the Global Hawk.

"What are your drones doing in our airspace? We will shoot them down, shoot anything that encroaches on our airspace," said Salami, noting Iran

had defeated "America's technological dominance" in air defence and drone manufacture.

His remarks came only days after strikes on Saudi oil facilities claimed by Yemen's Huthis, but the US says it has concluded the attack involved cruise missiles from Iran and amounted to "an act of war".

Saudi Arabia, which has been bogged down in a five-year war across its southern border in Yemen, has said Iran "unquestionably sponsored" the attacks. The kingdom says the weapons used in the attacks were Iranian-made, but it stopped short of directly blaming its regional rival.

"Sometimes they talk of military options," Salami said, apparently referring to the Americans.

Yet he warned that "a limited aggression will not remain limited" as Iran was determined to respond and would "not rest until the aggressor's collapse".

The Guards' aerospace commander said the US ought to learn from its past failures and abandon its hostile rhetoric.

Washington has imposed a series of sanctions against Tehran since unilaterally pulling out of a landmark 2015 nuclear deal in May last year. It already maintains sweeping sanctions on Iran's central bank, but the US Treasury said Friday's designation was over the regulator's work in funding "terrorism".

NetBlocks, an organisation that tracks internet outages, tweeted early Saturday that "network data show intermittent disruptions to internet connectivity in #Iran".

Iran denies successful cyber attacks on oil sector

Tehran: Iran denied on Saturday its oil infrastructure had been successfully attacked by a cyber operation, after reports of disruptions to the sector online.

"Contrary to Western media claims, investigations done today show no successful cyber attack was made on the country's oil installations and other crucial infrastructure," the government's cyber security office said.

The statement did not specify which reports it was addressing.

But it said the cause was unclear and impact limited, affecting "online industrial and government platforms" and specific providers.

"Data are consistent with a cyber attack or unplanned technical incident on affected networks as opposed to a purposeful withdrawal or shutdown incident," it added.

China is threat to world: Trump

Washington: Expressing concern over China's growing military might, US President Donald Trump has said the Communist nation is a threat to the world and blamed his predecessors for not stopping it from stealing America's intellectual property to bolster its defence capabilities.

China has hiked its military spending by seven per cent to \$152 billion as Beijing aims at countering America's push into the disputed South China Sea.

"Obviously China is a threat to the world in a sense because they are building a military faster than anybody and frankly they are using US money," Trump, who was accompanied by visiting Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, told reporters here on Friday.

Trump said the US Presidents before him allowed China to take out \$500 billion a year and more than that.

"They have allowed China to steal our intellectual property and property rights and I'm not doing that," he said.

According to the president, the two countries were very close to having a trade deal.

"We work very closely, had intellectual property, all of the tough things work negotiated and then at the last moment, they said we cannot agree to this," he alleged, referring to the abrupt collapse of the trade deal with China early this year.

"I said that's all right we are charging you 25 per cent tariffs and then it's going up and it will continue to go up. Frankly we are making so many hundreds of the numbers that we are taking in to our treasury...Look at the great reports that came out two days ago on retailing, on consumers, on numbers that nobody believes," he added.

The world's two largest economies are locked in a trade war since Trump in March last year imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on \$250 billion of Chinese goods. In response, China, the world's second largest economy after the US, imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on \$110 billion of American goods.

The two countries have resumed their trade negotiations.

Trump has said that he will enter into a trade deal with Beijing only if he is confident that it is good for the US.

TRUMP SLAMS WHISTLEBLOWER STORY AS 'PARTISAN HACK JOB'

Whistleblower and Trump phone call: What we know

Washington: A mysterious whistleblower, a telephone call between President Donald Trump and a foreign leader, and military aid to Ukraine.

Here's what we know about the latest political firestorm swirling around Washington:

On August 12, an unknown whistleblower in the US intelligence community filed a complaint with Michael Atkinson, the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community (ICIG), regarding a matter of "urgent concern." The identity of the whistleblower and the nature of the complaint have not been publicly revealed.

After reviewing the complaint, Atkinson determined it was "credible" and forwarded it on August 26 to the acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire, a Trump appointee.

The Democratic-led House Intelligence Committee is demanding that the whistleblower's complaint be turned over but Maguire has declined to share it.

According to The Washington Post, the complaint concerned a "promise" Trump made in a recent phone call with a foreign leader.

The phone call in question, according to US media reports, was a July 25 conversation between Trump and Ukraine's newly elected President Volodymyr Zelensky.

According to The Wall Street Journal, Trump repeatedly pressured Zelensky in the call to investigate Hunter Biden, the son of Joe Biden, Trump's main potential 2020 reelection rival.

Hunter Biden in 2014 joined the board of Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian gas firm accused of corrupt practices, but he has not been personally accused of any wrongdoing.

The Journal said Trump urged Zelensky "about eight times" during the call to work with Rudy Giuliani, his personal



attorney, on a probe into Hunter Biden.

At the time of the conversation, the United States was holding up \$250 million in military aid for Ukraine, but the Journal said Trump did not mention the assistance during the conversation.

Three committees in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives have demanded that the White House turn over a transcript of the call.

The committees claim it may include evidence of Trump and Giuliani's efforts to "improperly pressure" Ukraine to help his reelection bid.

They accused Trump and Giuliani of trying to coerce Ukraine, in exchange for military assistance, into conducting a "politically motivated" investigation into Hunter Biden.

"If the President is trying to pressure Ukraine into choosing between defending itself from Russian aggression without US assistance or leveraging its judicial system to serve the ends of the Trump campaign, this would represent a staggering abuse of power," the Democratic committee chairmen said.

The US military aid package for Ukraine, which is battling pro-Russian separatists, was finally approved by the White House last week.

Trump for his part has insisted there was nothing onto-

ward about the telephone call. "Virtually anytime I speak on the phone to a foreign leader, I understand that there may be many people listening from various US agencies, not to mention those from the other country itself," he tweeted on Thursday.

Corbyn has tried to put a lid on the row by proposing that Labour carry out a review of the role, currently held by lawmaker Tom Watson, who has clashed with the leader on a number of issues, notably Brexit.

The proposal to get rid of the deputy's role had been scheduled to be put to a vote Saturday of Labour's governing

UK's Labour Party in turmoil as vote to oust deputy ditched

London: A vote to oust the deputy leader of Britain's main Opposition Labour Party was ditched Saturday after a big backlash to the proposal prompted Jeremy Corbyn, the party's leader, to intervene.

The surprise attempt to abolish the role of deputy leader by one of Corbyn's close allies caused uproar among many Labour members and has overshadowed the start of the party's annual conference in the southern England city of Brighton.

Corbyn has tried to put a lid on the row by proposing that Labour carry out a review of the role, currently held by lawmaker Tom Watson, who has clashed with the leader on a number of issues, notably Brexit.

The proposal to get rid of the deputy's role had been scheduled to be put to a vote Saturday of Labour's governing

body, the National Executive Committee.

The move against Watson has laid bare the divisions in the party — Watson has espoused a number of viewpoints that have offended many of Corbyn's left-wing supporters but have appealed to the moderate wing of the party.

Heading into the conference on Saturday, Corbyn tried to put a brave face on the row and said he enjoyed working with Watson.

"The NEC agreed this morning that we are going to consult on the future of diversifying the deputy leadership position to reflect the diversity of our society," Corbyn said.

Questioned by assembled reporters, Corbyn refused to say when he first knew about the attempt to oust Watson, nor whether he had full confidence in his deputy.

Watson told BBC radio before the proposal was ditched that the attempt to oust him was akin to "a straight sectarian attack on a broad-church party" and that he believes his position on Brexit was behind the move.

He said the move against him came as a shock and that he was in a Chinese restaurant in Manchester Friday evening when he found out about it.

The row exploded Friday when Jon Lansman, the founder of the pro-Corbyn grassroots Momentum group, proposed a motion for Watson's job to be scrapped.

Lansman said in a tweet he welcomed Corbyn's proposal to review the role of deputy leader and added that the party needs "to make sure the deputy leader role is properly accountable to the membership while also unifying the party at conference."

Rainfall in Indonesia's islands linked to global climate, says study

Washington: The rainfall in some of Indonesia's islands such as Sumatra, Java, and Borneo affects the climate of regions that are even thousands of miles away, according to a new study.

Sumatra, Java, Borneo, and Papua New Guinea, along with a clutch of smaller islands are part of what is known as the "Maritime Continent," which, according to the researchers, experiences significant rainfall including "periodic monsoonal rain, and flash flooding."

In the study, published in the Journal of Atmospheric Sciences, researchers revealed details of the connection between a larger atmospheric phenomenon called the Madden-Julian Oscillation

(MJO), and the daily patterns of rainfall in the Maritime Continent.

The MJO, the study noted, circles the globe around the tropics and can affect weather on weekly to monthly time scales, bringing cloudy and sunny periods alternatively.

The researchers, led by atmospheric scientist Giuseppe Torri at the University of Hawaii (UH), found that the impact of the MJO on the daily rainfall patterns of Sumatra was quite significant.

When the MJO was active near the Maritime Continent, there was more water vapour, and therefore greater possibility of rain, according to the researchers.

Over 100 held in Paris 'yellow vest' protests

Paris: Over a hundred demonstrators were arrested at yellow vest protests in Paris on Saturday as about 7,500 police were deployed to quell any violence by the movement and its radical, anarchist "black blocs".

There were also fears that the demonstrators could try to infiltrate a march against climate change in the French capital.

The yellow vest movement erupted 10 months ago and blindsided President Emmanuel Macron, whom protesters accused of being out of touch with the needs of ordinary French people.

"What are we doing? We are assembling just to say that we can't make ends meet. (The protest) is not only against the president, it's against the system," said a woman protester who did not give her name.

The weekly demonstrations — Saturday was the 45th — prompted Macron to loosen the state's purse strings to the tune of nearly 17 billion euros (18.8 billion) in wage boosts and tax cuts for low earners, but tapered off over the summer.

Kashmir in focus as Imran Khan leaves for UNGA

Islamabad: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday left for New York on a week-long visit to attend the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session during which he is to make Kashmir the focus of his address and interactions.

He will share Pakistan's perspective and position on the Jammu & Kashmir issue and on its current human rights and related dimensions, a Foreign Office statement said.

Imran Khan is being accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Advisor on Finance Hafeez Shaikh and Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari.

Imran Khan will hold several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various nations and participate in high-level UN summits on climate change, sustainable development, universal health coverage and financing for development.



He will also attend and speak at high-level side events co-hosted by Pakistan and Turkey on countering hate speech and on environmental protection and poverty alleviation, co-hosted by Malaysia and Pakistan. A trilateral summit meeting of Pakistan, Malaysia and Turkey will be held on the General Assembly sidelines.

He will interact with a cross-section of international media outlets and hold meetings with editorial boards, the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

He will also avail the opportunity to articulate Pakistan's perspective on some key contemporary issues, especially the centrality of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute.



Police face a burning barricade during protests in Hong Kong on Saturday

Hong Kong: Protesters in Hong Kong threw gasoline bombs and police fired tear gas Saturday in renewed clashes over anti-government grievances.

Reporters saw at least one person arrested after violence erupted following an afternoon march by several thousand people in Tuen Mun, a district in the northwest of the Chinese territory. Hong Kong is in the fourth month of sometimes violent protests that occur every weekend. They started with opposition to a proposed extradition law and have expanded to include demands for greater democracy.

Most protesters in Tuen Mun were peaceful but some

threw gasoline bombs and bricks toward police who faced them down the street.

They appeared to fall short of the police and there was no indication anyone was hit.

Police with anti-riot helmets and shields responded by firing tear gas. In the evening, protesters gathered at a shopping mall in another district, Yuen Long.

Some threw gasoline bombs in the street but there was no indication anyone was injured. Elsewhere, scuffles were reported as government supporters heeded a call by a pro-Beijing member of the Hong Kong legislature to tear down protest posters at subway stations.

GLOBE TROTTING

INDIAN GIRL DIAGNOSED WITH RARE DISEASE IN UAE
Dubai: A 20-year-old Indian girl in the UAE has been diagnosed with a rare disease, leaving her on ventilator support for the last six months, according to a media report. Neethu Shaji Panikker, who was visiting her husband in Sharjah, was diagnosed with autoimmune encephalitis in March.

MINIBUS EXPLOSION IN IRAQ: 12 DEAD, 5 INJURED
Baghdad, Sep 21 (AP) A bomb exploded on a minibus packed with passengers outside the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing 12 people and wounding five others, Iraqi security officials and the state news agency said. This was one of the biggest attacks targeting civilians since the extremist Islamic State group was declared defeated inside Iraq in 2017.

Name of Borrower/Co-borrower	Description of Property	Date of Demand Notice
1. M/s K & K Health Care Private Limited R/o - C-10, 1st Floor, Preet Vihar Delhi Also At: - M/s K & K Health Care Private Limited, At - D - 24/73, Sector - 63, Noida U.P. - 201309	The Residential Flat No - 3A/04 in Tower - 3, Block - A, on 4th Floor, Super Area 2205 Sq.Ft. (i.e 204.85 Sq. Mtr) and Covered Area 1764 Sq.Ft. (i.e 163.88 Sq.Mtr) in "GC Grand" situated at Plot No 2-C, Vathav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. and same is Bounded as under -	1. 02-Feb-2019 2. 17-Sep-2019 3. Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
2. Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Registered Office at - 17, Mardham Tower, Preet Vihar, Commercial Complex, Delhi - 110092. Also At: - Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Plot No - 43, Sector - 63, Phase - III Noida - 201301	North-As per the sale Deed East-As per the sale Deed South-As per the sale Deed West-As per the sale Deed	
3. Mr. Dinesh Kapoor, C-10, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092		
4. Mr. Saru Kapoor C-10, 2nd Floor, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092		
5. Mrs. Seema Kapoor, (Guarantor), W/o - Mr. Balraj Kapoor C-10, Block C, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092		
6. Mr. Balraj Kapoor, (Guarantor), S/o - Somnath Kapoor, C-10, Block C, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092		
Also At: - Mr. Balraj Kapoor, (Guarantor), S/o - Somnath Kapoor, Residential Flat No - 3A/04 in Tower - 3, Block - A, on 4th Floor, "GC Grand" situated at Plot No 2-C, Vathav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad U.P. - 201014		

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 22-09-2019, Place: Delhi

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.,

Silver worth its weight in Gold

Panghal ends 2nd at world c'ships

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

Indian boxer Amit Panghal's phenomenal campaign in the men's world championships ended with a Silver medal after he went down to Olympic champion Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in an intense 52kg category final here on Saturday.

Panghal lost 0-5 but the scoreline was hardly a reflection of the fight he put on against the more fancied Zoirov.

In the course of his stupendous run, the second-seeded Indian became the first male boxer from the country to



Amit Panghal poses with Silver medal after suffering defeat in the final BFI/Twitter

finish second in the world event. The nation achieved its best-ever medal haul of two. Commonwealth Games Silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (63kg) had signed off with a Bronze after losing in the semi-finals earlier.

Once again up against a taller and more muscular opponent, Panghal gave it his all but fell short when it came to connecting accurately. The Asian Games and Asian Championships Gold-medallist nonetheless achieved a historic feat.

In a bout that was mostly about counter-attack, both Panghal and Zoirov were wary of each other in the opening three minutes.

The action picked up a bit in the second round and Panghal tried hard to capitalize on his rival's low guard.

However, in Zoirov, Panghal met his match in pace and the Uzbek had no trouble dodging Panghal's lunging efforts.

The final round was when the two boxers decided to attack each other more intensely and even though Panghal was more aggressive, it was Zoirov who managed to land more scoring blows.

The Silver here marks a new high for the boxer from Rohtak, who has been simply unstoppable since breaking into the national scene with a Bronze in the 2017 Asian Championships.

Zoirov, despite being unseeded here, was always going to be a tough challenge as he also has to his credit Silver medals in the Asian Games and the Asian Championships.

Before this year, India had never won more than one Bronze medal at a single edition of the world championship.

This time, India was among nine countries, out of a total of 78, which had their boxers in the finals. Uzbekistan topped the finalists count with four boxers.

"This is a reward for the effort that BFI (Boxing Federation of India) has put into re-modelling the entire structure of the sport so that our boxers get the best of training and can confidently perform on the world stage," BFI President Ajay Singh said.

"With less than a year to go for the 2020 Olympics, these performances are a major boost. BFI will ensure and encourage them in every possible way so that they can carry this form into Tokyo to bring back medals for the country," he added.



Amit Panghal in action during his quarterfinal match at World Championship PTI

Phenomenal Panghal: From late-comer to world-beater

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

He is the first to a historic milestone in Indian boxing but there was a time when Amit Panghal would come in last. The last to knock on the training halls, the last to report back from camp leaves.

The pint-sized dynamo from Rohtak became the first Indian male boxer to claim a Silver medal at the World Championships, which concluded in Ekaterinburg on Saturday.

Speaking about it, Panghal (52kg), an Asian Games and Asian Championships Gold-medallist, recalled with hearty laughter the times he "frustrated" coaches with his approach, which meant carefree to him but reckless to them.

"It's true, I used to leave the camp on weekends (off days), I just didn't have the patience. The coaches used to be furious at me but then that was me at that time. We just didn't have enough *chhutti* (holidays) and I was always tempted to make the most of whatever I could manage," the 23-year-old Indian Armyman said.

"Oh, we used to be so frustrated with him. He wouldn't come back from leave on time, wouldn't show up for training on time. But then he had this amazing eye-catching game, we just couldn't have given up on him despite the indiscipline," recalled national coach C A Kuttappa.

The time they speak of was 2016, and a year later Panghal made quite a statement with a Bronze medal on debut in the Asian Championships.

"I am so grateful to the coaches who didn't give up on me. Because of their patience, I began taking my game more seriously and there came a time when I went home just once a month, that too after the coaches would tell me to take a break," Panghal said.

But old habits die hard and

Kuttappa, who fondly calls Panghal *bacchu* (child), revealed that even at the just-concluded world championship Panghal showed up late once for a training session.

"I told him to pay 1000 bucks and only then we would let him in," he said with a chuckle.

Panghal couldn't help laughing about it either but he also pointed out a major change in his approach.

"Now I am the last to leave the training hall. Everyone leaves but I keep at it, I force them (the coaches) to be with me even on off days for training. They tell me '*bas kar yaar, hum jaa rahe hain ab*'. My attitude to training has changed quite a lot but even now I am harassing coaches," he quipped.

"Earlier, I would leave (the training hall) without even cooling off but I am more patient now. I wait for my body to adapt before signing off. I adhere to the procedure with sincerity now," he added.

Speaking of adapting, Panghal has had to make major adjustments to excel in the 52kg category after a stellar run in the 49kg division. During the transition, he candidly confessed that he was unsure about how the change would pan out for him.

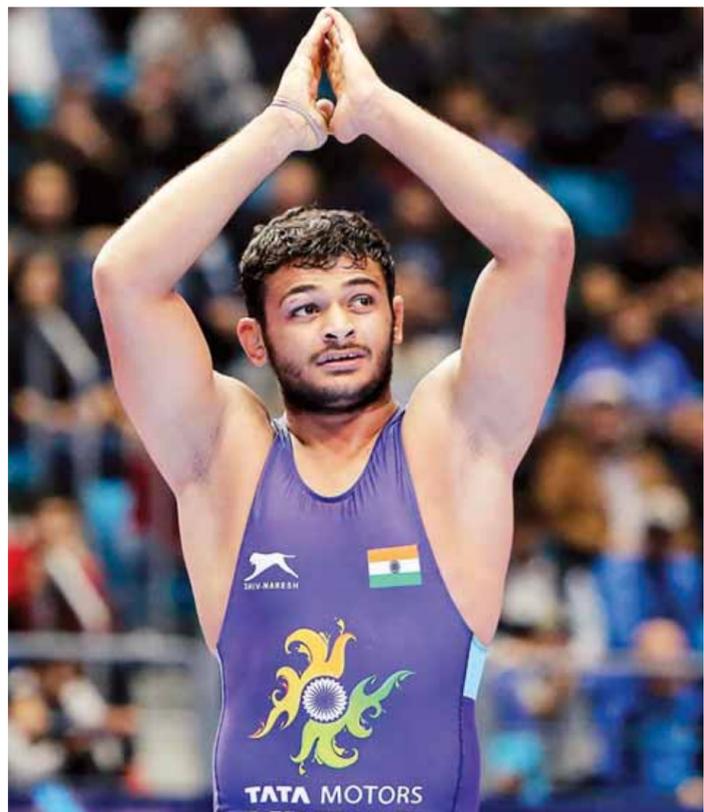
"It hasn't been as difficult as I first thought. But it has taken time for me to fit in," he said.

"*Abhi bhi kahaan itna adjusted huwa hai* (I haven't adjusted completely). I am only 65 to 70 per cent there in realising my full potential. I have managed to add power in my punches to negate the height disadvantage. It's crucial because I am mostly up against taller guys. But I am still a work in progress," he added.

Panghal prefers to be humble about his achievements and prefers to describe his phenomenal rise since 2017 a combination of some luck and loads of hard work.

Deepak's double delight

Punia to fight for Gold at Worlds today after booking Olympics quota



Deepak Punia (86kg) acknowledges his supporters after defeating Stefan Reichmuth in the semifinals of World C'ship PTI

PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN

R reigning junior world champion Deepak Punia placed himself in line for the senior world title by reaching the 86kg final apart from booking his Tokyo Olympics quota, here on Saturday.

Competing in his maiden senior world championship, Deepak moved to the final with a commanding 8-2 win over Switzerland's Stefan Reichmuth.

He will fight for the title against 2016 Rio Olympics 74kg Gold medallist Hassan Yazdaniharati of Iran today. Yazdaniharati had also won 2018 Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games 86kg Gold.

It has been a steady progress for Deepak, who won the World Cadet title in 2016 and became junior world champion only last month in Estonia. He can now emulate double Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar who is still now the only Indian to have won a World Championships title in 2010.

The 20-year old Deepak also ensured that India will return from the World Championship with its best ever performance as the country is now assured of four medals.

Wrestling World C'ship
Live from 3:00pm IST
SONY TEN 3 & ESPN

Punia and Ravi Dahiya have already won a Bronze medal each. All of them qualified for the Tokyo Olympics as well.

Rahul Aware can make it even better if he wins today's Bronze medal bout in the 61kg non-Olympic category. He lost his semifinal bout 6-10 to Beka Lomtadze of Georgia.

India had returned with three medals in 2013.

Deepak's all-round ability — defence, attack, stamina and awareness on the mat — played a key role in his memorable performance.

"I had genuinely hoped for a medal and Olympic quota. So, it is a double delight for me. My seniors like Sushil Kumar and Bajrang Punia inspire me," Deepak said.

"I felt a bit under pressure when I fought with the Kazakh wrestler (in quarter-finals). He had beaten me in Italy early this year and I was a bit apprehensive about fighting the home wrestler because of the Bajrang bout (controversy)," he added.

There was no action in the first period of the semifinal

with Deepak gaining a 1-0 lead on activity clock.

In the second period, Deepak pushed out Reichmuth and took the Swiss down for a 4-0 lead. He lost two points but another takedown and expose move clinched it for Deepak.

The 20-year-old Deepak, who trains at Chhatrasal stadium in Delhi, had booked the quota after prevailing 7-6 in a tense semifinal against Colombia's Carlos Arturo Mendez.

With one minute to go, he was trailing 3-6 but pulled off a takedown and then an expose move to take 7-6 lead in the dying moments of the tense bout.

Also doing a commendable job was Aware who reached the Bronze medal round in the 61kg non-Olympic category after reaching the semifinals.

Both Deepak and Rahul overcame rough Kazakh wrestlers en route the semifinals.

Aware lost a pacy semifinal 6-10 to Beka Lomtadze of Georgia, the European championship Silver medallist.

Meanwhile, Jitender lost his 79kg quarterfinal while Mausam Khatri lost his first round in 97kg to reigning Olympic champion Kyle Frederick Snyder to go out of the championship since their opponents failed to reach the finals.

Leclerc on pole at Singapore

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc secured pole position for the Singapore Grand Prix on Saturday as he looks to claim a stunning hat-trick of wins after triumphs in Belgium and Italy.

The 21-year-old will be joined on the front row by championship leader Lewis Hamilton in a Mercedes, with Leclerc's teammate Sebastian Vettel rounding out the top three, ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Valtteri Bottas.

Despite winning the last two races on power-friendly tracks, Ferrari had been given little chance of competing under the floodlights at the demanding 23-turn layout in Singapore.

But Leclerc and Vettel tore up the script to gatecrash what was expected to be a Mercedes and Red Bull party.

"I'm extremely happy about today. It was a good lap but I lost it a few times," Leclerc said after completing a 1:36.217 second final lap.

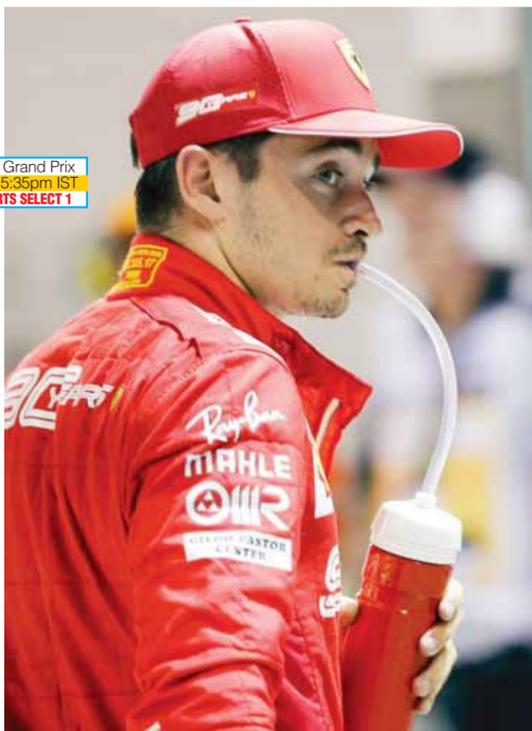
"I have to thank the team. We brought some new bits that worked properly. I worked hard after a bad Friday and today it paid off," added Leclerc, who recorded his fifth pole position of the season.

Hamilton holds a 63-point lead over Bottas of Mercedes in the title race with seven rounds remaining.

The Briton said he would adopt an aggressive approach to today's race in search of a ninth victory of the season, as he seeks a sixth world championship.

"I don't know where Ferrari picked up their pace but they did a great job," said Hamilton, who lapped in 1:36.408.

"I'm really happy to be on the front row with them. Tomorrow we



Charles Leclerc takes a drink after taking pole position in the qualifying session AP

can be aggressive."

Vettel has suffered an erratic season while his rookie teammate has shone for the Italian team. The German was quickest in the first half of the final part of qualifying until Leclerc and Hamilton edged past him.

"The final attempt should have been better but I was able to improve run by run. Maybe I peaked too early," Vettel said.

Red Bull's Alex Albon will start sixth on the grid, ahead of Carlos Sainz, Daniel Ricciardo, Nico Hulkenberg and Lando Norris.

Another series win on focus

India look to maintain clean slate against Proteas before Tests

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Virat Kohli's familiar exuberance and pep talks drowned the chatter around Rishabh Pant as India prepared to play South Africa in the third T20 International here today, seeking a 2-0 series verdict.

The comprehensive seven-wicket victory in the second game, which was built on the back of a fine comeback by the bowlers and a Kohli masterclass, is history now and the team is looking for another commanding performance before the Test series gets underway.

Against a fairly new-look South African side that seems to lack the resources required to counter the home team's firepower, India will surely fancy their chances of an encore, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Embattled wicketkeeper-batsman Pant could not deliver in the last match and as he continues to struggle with the bat, he remains under scrutiny.

Pant has divided opinions — many questioned his temperament, shot-selection and the resultant slump in form — while others refused to be harsh on him considering the talent that he possesses.

The South Africans had no answer to Kohli's batting at Mohali in the second T20I, and with the next game being hosted at a ground where he is too familiar with, the Indian captain will be eyeing another good outing.

But before Kohli, his deputy Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan will be standing up to the



Rohit Sharma, Khaleel Ahmad, Shikhar Dhawan and coach Ravi Shastri during a practice session ahead of the 3rd T20 match PTI

India vs South Africa
Live from 7:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack with optimism, the size of the ground only aiding stroke-makers like the two openers.

India also have the likes of the extremely talented Shreyas Iyer in their middle-order, followed by Hardik Pandya and Ravindra

Jadeja.

The Indian team management may have taken heart from the fact that pacers such as Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini put their hands up in the absence of regulars Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

They may not have years of international experience behind them but the likes of Washington Sundar, Chahar and Saini showed that they can challenge the South

Africans.

New captain Quinton de Kock will again have to shoulder the bulk of responsibility with the bat and he will hope for support from the likes of David Miller and Reeza Hendricks.

De Kock might have to change the manner in which he handled his bowlers in the second match, introducing his spinners late in the innings despite the Indians easily tackling his fast bowlers.

Listening to an
underserved population
is how you begin to
understand them and
serve them better
— Constance Wu



FROM THE INSIDE

Caste as Social Capital
A book that talks about how the caste system in India has been distorted by the self-styled liberals

2



4

Focus on mind for success
Empower yourself by improving your focus, sharpening intelligence and optimising indwelling potential



PRIORITISING STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



The Vladivostok Summit held earlier this month consolidates two decades of calibrated decisions by India and Russia to give a forward-looking agenda to their bilateral partnership in three core areas — economic, energy and defence cooperation

The 20th India-Russia Summit at Vladivostok on September 4-5, 2019 marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to the Russian Far East. It placed the port city and its surrounding region in the eye of a bold joint initiative to energise “strong, multifaceted trade and economic cooperation as the foundation for further expanding the range of India-Russia relations”.



Speaking at the Joint Press Conference with President Putin, India's Prime Minister emphasised that the partnership between India and Russia was based on “trust”. The basis for this “trust” is rooted in the first India-Russia Summit held in New Delhi in October 2000, when the two countries signed a Declaration on Strategic Partnership. At that time, Russia was emerging from a decade of political and economic downturn following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. India was emerging from the first phase of her momentous economic reforms. The overall objective of the India-Russia partnership was designed to create strategic autonomy for both countries.

The first summit took place after India's nuclear weapons tests of May 11-13, 1998, and newly elected President Putin's pledge on May 7, 2000 to make Russia “a country that its citizens are proud of and is respected internationally”. The decision taken by former Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Putin to institutionalise the India-Russia Summit mechanism annually has withstood the test of time. At Vladivostok, India and Russia asserted that in “successfully coping with the turbulent realities of the contemporary world” they have “never been and will not be susceptible to outside influence”.

Rejecting “unilateral coercive measures not based on international law”, the Summit called for “strengthening” multilateralism and underlined the “primacy of international law”. Prime Minister Modi said that “both countries understand that we need a multipolar world to achieve peace and stability”. Russia reiterated its support for India's permanent membership of the UN Security Council. At their joint press conference, both leaders underlined the bonds that link India and Russia together, with President Putin highlighting the deep mutual interest in “each other's culture, history and moral values”.

The Summit consolidated two decades of calibrated decisions by India and Russia to give a forward-looking

agenda to their bilateral partnership in three core areas — economic, energy and defence cooperation. In each area, the two countries prioritised the role of investments, manufacturing, employment and technology as catalysts for their burgeoning partnership. They agreed to integrate innovation in high technology products in telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnologies into this framework.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The potential of economic cooperation to strengthen the “special and privileged strategic partnership” between India and Russia has remained largely untapped, despite several initiatives taken over the past 20 years. Bilateral trade has gradually increased from \$1.5 billion in 2000 to its current annual level of about \$11 billion, well short of the declared target of \$30 billion by 2025.

The Vladivostok Summit resulted in a joint initiative to utilise the “immense energy of the private industry”, in Prime Minister Modi's words, to turn this situation around. In addition to energy and defence cooperation, the economic partnership would target the pharmaceuticals, agriculture, civil aviation, railways, ship building, space, education and tourism sectors. The new strategy unveiled at Vladivostok integrates four supportive measures to increase Russian business participation in the Make in India programme, along with an increased Indian business participation in investment projects in Russia.

First, a bilateral inter-governmental agreement on the promotion and protection of mutual investments is to be negotiated to anchor this initiative. Second, steps would be taken to address non-tariff barriers to bilateral trade, including through broader discussions on a Trade Agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union. Third, coordinating support would be rendered by the investment offices of Russia in India and India in Russia. Fourth, the India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue mechanism set up after the 2018 New Delhi Summit would be geared to promote “cohesive and mutually beneficial cooperation in core sectors”.

Building on the initial attempts made in 2001 to bring the states of India and provinces of Russia into the framework of economic cooperation, the Summit envisaged interaction between Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Goa with the 11 provinces of Russia's Far East to provide depth to this process. Prime Minister Modi mentioned the “coal industry, the diamond industry, the lumber industry, as well as agriculture and tourism” as the specific focus of this interaction, which could impact on “exploring cooperation on temporary

“AT VLADIVOSTOK, INDIA AND RUSSIA ASSERTED THAT IN ‘SUCCESSFULLY COPING WITH THE TURBULENT REALITIES OF THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD’ THEY HAVE ‘NEVER BEEN AND WILL NOT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCE’.

REJECTING ‘UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES NOT BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW,’ THE SUMMIT CALLED FOR ‘STRENGTHENING’ MULTILATERALISM AND UNDERLINED THE ‘PRIMACY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW’

”

placement of skilled manpower from India” in Russia's Far East.

The broad vision behind India's historic economic engagement at the highest level with Russia's Far East was brought out by Prime Minister Modi at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum at Vladivostok on September 5, 2019. He said: “India will provide a \$1 billion line of credit to further contribute to the development of the Far East. This is the first time that we are giving a line of credit to a particular region of a country. My Government's Act East Policy has actively engaged with East Asia. Today's announcement will prove to be the take-off point of the Act Far East policy and it is my firm belief that this step adds a new dimension to our economic diplomacy. We will be active participants in the development of the regions of our friendly countries according to their priorities.”

ENERGY COOPERATION

The primary objective of India-Russia energy cooperation has been India's quest for energy security, and Russia's interest in exporting its huge energy reserves on a long-term predictable basis to India, one of the biggest importers of energy in the world. The Vladivostok Summit discussed partnership in nuclear, oil and gas sectors within this framework, integrating it with the new thrust on economic cooperation.

Both leaders stressed civil nuclear cooperation as an “important component of strategic partnership”. Prime Minister Modi emphasised the significance of “localisation of nuclear power plants” with reference to the new reactors being constructed by Russia at Kudankulam, which will strengthen India's nuclear reactor construction capabilities, including in manufacturing and in expanding her pool of skilled manpower. President Putin highlighted bilateral cooperation in Kudankulam as a “flagship joint project” and anticipated that “at least 12 Russian-designed nuclear power plants will be built within the next 20 years” in India. This would provide the basis for an increase in nuclear trade and technological cooperation between Russia and India, including in “joint manufacturing of equipment and fuel.” The Summit welcomed the success of India-Russia cooperation in constructing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Bangladesh, which motivated them to look at similar joint cooperation projects for nuclear power in third world countries.

It is significant that during the past 20 years India and Russia have been able to outline such a forward-looking nuclear energy partnership, which is in consonance with their international legal obligations on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Russia reiterated its strong support to India's membership of

the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

India's investments in the oil and gas sector of Russia have crossed \$15 billion, including her stake of \$2.7 billion in the Sakhalin-1 project in Russia's Far East from 2001. Russia's Rosneft-led consortium, which acquired India's Essar Oil (since renamed as Nayara Energy) for \$13 billion in 2017, is expected to expand the capacity of India's second largest oil refinery at Vadinar in Gujarat, which currently refines 20 million tonnes of oil annually.

An agreement on Hydrocarbons cooperation for 2019-2024 was announced during the Summit, which welcomed the implementation of mutually beneficial long-term partnerships between India's Consortium of Oil and Gas Public Sector Undertakings and Russia's Rosneft, and between Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Russia's giant Gazprom. The projects being implemented included Vankorneft and Taas-Yuryakh in eastern Siberia, the location of one of Russia's largest oil and gas reserves, and a contract for long-term supply of Russian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to India.

This approach is designed to create a strategic alignment for the supply and processing of Russian energy to India. A long-term predictable arrangement will mitigate the current volatility in supply and prices in global energy supplies to India. The impact of this emerging alignment will be felt in emerging partnerships in the inland and maritime transportation, port modernisation and energy processing sectors.

DEFENCE COOPERATION

President Putin accompanied Prime Minister Modi on a tour of the Zvezda ship-building complex near Vladivostok, which enabled the two leaders to spend two hours together in the informal discussions. This continued a practice initiated with their meeting in Sochi in May 2018. The Russian leader's public references to the “many Russian made ships” in the Indian Navy including the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya and leased nuclear powered submarine Chakra were significant markers for the Summit agreement on preparing “a framework for cooperation on reciprocal logistics support”.

At the Summit's joint press conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the “steps that are giving our defence cooperation a solid foundation of co-manufacturing” a boost to Indian industry. President Putin emphasised the important role of “joint projects in India” to illustrate that “Russia does more than supply weapons to India.”

A significant takeaway from the Vladivostok Summit for future defence cooperation was the agreement for manufacturing spares of Russian/Soviet-origin equipment in India. This agreement

represents a sustainable solution to a long-standing problem that has festered for almost two decades on the ground. By upgrading India-Russia defence cooperation, opening the doors for joint development and production of military equipment, components, and spare parts, as well as after-sales service activities, a visible economic dimension has been added to defence cooperation. At the heart of this new activity will be Russian participation through investments in joint ventures and technology in the Make in India programme, with its “spin-off” benefits for employment and technology diffusion.

THE GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSION

The objective of prioritising economic cooperation to boost the India-Russia partnership will be require a supportive geo-political framework, especially for connectivity between India and Russia's Far East.

The reference to an “open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region” in Prime Minister Modi's address to the Eastern Economic Forum was accompanied by the announcement of a new maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok to “increase connectivity between the regions”, which would traverse the South China Sea. Despite Russia's reported hesitations on officially using the term “Indo-Pacific”, the Summit declaration's reference to consultations on “integration and development initiatives in the greater Eurasian space and in the regions of the Indian and Pacific Oceans” denotes an emerging strategic convergence between India and Russia on an “inclusive” Indo-Pacific regional strategy. This would incorporate not only maritime connectivity in the Pacific, but also critical maritime connectivity routes in the western Indo-Pacific such as the straits of Hormuz and the Red Sea, as well as connectivity projects such as Chabahar in Iran and emerging maritime routes using the Arctic.

The Summit declaration identified cooperation in the Arctic and cyber security as emerging areas for India-Russia partnership. Russia's long experience in deep sea fishing and deep-sea mining could provide the building blocks for the concept of the Blue Economy of the Indo-Pacific, as part of India's SAGAR Indian Ocean strategy articulated by Prime Minister Modi in March 2015. Incorporating these areas into the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia could catalyse the emergence of India as a maritime power.

The author was India's Ambassador to the United Nations (2013-2015) and India's Deputy Ambassador to the Russian Federation (2001-2005). He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi



JRR TOLKIEN WORKED FOR TWO YEARS AT THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY. HE RESEARCHED AND EXPLAINED THE ETYMOLOGY OF WORDS STARTING WITH W

The book is a well-argued account of how the caste system in India has been distorted by the self-styled liberals who take the gullible for a ride under the pretext of a casteless society, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

The complexities of caste system

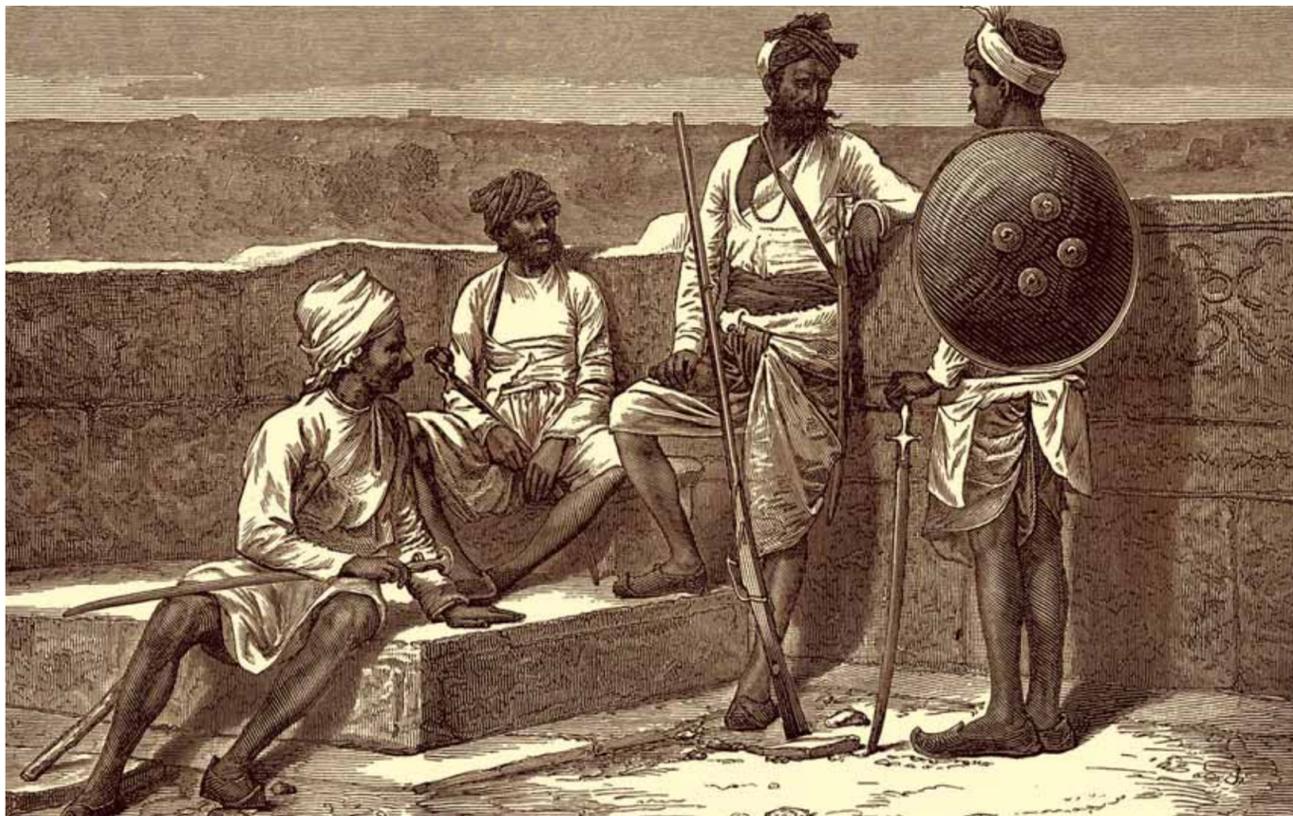
A 131 page book packed with shocking but well researched facts, data and information. That's how "Caste As Social Capital", authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan can be described. The data painstakingly collected by Prof Vaidyanathan and presented in an articulate manner points at a big reservation fraud. The book is an account of how the caste system in Indian has been distorted, mutilated and misinterpreted by the self styled liberals who have taken the gullible for a ride under the pretext of salvation and casteless society.

The modern English education introduced in the subcontinent by Thomas Babington Macaulay during the colonial rule of British has succeeded in creating generations of Indian youth suffering from serious inferiority complex. They have not read Sanskrit or *Kalidasa* or *Megha Sandesham* and hence are ignorant about the rich Indian heritage. For them, what matters is the manufactured and distorted history inculcated in the Indian psyche by the Macaulay designed education. "Our English schools are flourishing wonderfully... The effect of this education on the Hindoos is prodigious. No Hindoo, who has received an English education, ever remains sincerely attached to his religion... It is my firm belief that, if our plans of education are followed up, there will not be a single idolater among the respectable classes in Bengal thirty years hence..." Macaulay wrote to his father in 1836. Needles to say, the modern day Indians have done Macaulay proud by living a life as scripted by him way back in the 1830s.

While the colonial masters aided by evangelists and proselytisers had a free run all over the country, the great truth about the rich cultural heritage of this nation lies buried thousand fathoms deep. Prof Vaidyanathan, through his book is trying to bring the real picture out in the public domain.

What "Caste As Social Capital" tries to tell the readers is that despite the protests by the Left and Liberals against the Indian caste system, it has more advantages than disadvantages. And the most shocking disclosure made by Prof Vaidyanathan is that the Reservation System practiced in India is a big fraud perpetrated on the Hindus of India by forces which want the annihilation of the *Sanatana Dharma*.

The Mandal Commission recommendations were implemented in early 1990s by politicians with selfish motives.



Though there were widespread agitations against the recommendations that "robbed" a major chunk of seats in educational institutions and government jobs from the merit category and placed them at the disposal of communities categorised as Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Communities and Most Backward Communities, the mainstream media sought to downplay the same to suit their business interests.

How many among us remember the martyrdom of Rajiv Goswami, the New Delhi youth who tried self immolation to protest against the then VP Singh government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission Recommendations. India was not the same after the implementation of those recommendations. Prof Vaidyanathan says that the recommendations were erred and out of sync with reality. The quota and per cent of

reservation announced by the Mandal Commission were based on flawed numbers, facts and figures. The last census in India was held in 1931 and the recommendations of the Commission were based on the data collected in that census. For more than six decades, there were no caste census of any kind in India and setting apart 27 per cent quota for OBC against the findings of the 1931 census was against all norms, says the professor.

The government brought in reservation as an act of atonement for the kind of discrimination the SC, ST and the Backwards had to allegedly suffer in the hands of the upper caste and Brahmins, so goes the argument. But a research by renowned Gandhian, Dharampal, has proved that there was no discrimination of any kind against the SC, ST and the OBCs at any time of the history.

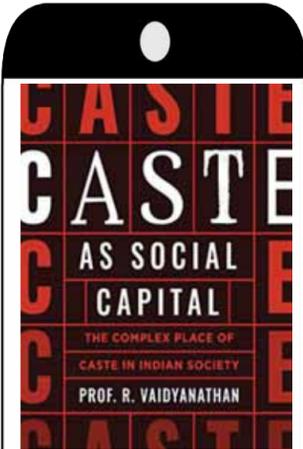
"Dharampal discovered that a fairly detailed survey of school and college education has been undertaken by the British administration in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Area. According to the survey conducted between 1822 and 1825 in the Madras Presidency (that is, the whole of the Indian States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Odisha, Kerala, Karnataka, and the union territory of Lakshadweep), 11,575 schools and 1094 colleges were then in existence in the Presidency and the number of students in them were 157, 195 and 5431 respectively," writes Prof Vaidyanathan. Shudras (backward castes) constituted 70 to 80 per cent of the students in Tamil speaking areas, while the per cent of backward caste students in Oriya speaking areas was 62 per cent!

Interestingly, share of the Brahmins in Tamil-speaking areas of the Madras

Presidency were a mere 13 per cent in South Arcot and 23 per cent in Madras. That much for the leaders who demand still more reservation for the backward, SC and ST sections of the population!

Another report by J Dent Secretary, Fort George, dated February 21, 1825 states that out of 1,88, 680 scholars in all the collectorates of Madras Presidency, Brahmins made up 23 per cent while Shudras constituted 45 per cent.

The author has successfully demolished all the arguments put forward by the political leadership justifying the need for continuation of reservation, and that too the most unscientific and crude form of reservation. "The assumption made by the Mandal Commission based on the 1931 Census and other parameters that more than 50 per cent of the population belongs to OBC may not be true any longer. The National Sample



CASTE AS SOCIAL CAPITAL
Prof R Vaidyanathan,
Westland Books, ₹299

Survey 2003 suggests that the OBCs may only constitute around 36 per cent of the population and not 50 per cent as was assumed earlier. If one excludes Muslim OBCs, then the figure falls to 32 per cent, according to the NSS. The National Family Health Statistics conducted in 1998 suggests that the population of OBCs is around 32 per cent which is fairly close to the NSS figures," (Page 10-11, *Caste As Social Capital*).

While demolishing and exposing the flaws in the claims by the powerful pro-reservation lobby, Prof Vaidyanathan has argued that the caste system in India is not that bad and has done a lot for the economic and social upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. The days of Marx and Engels who argued that religion is the opium for the masses are long gone. The religions are alive and kicking. Caste and religions are the ultra modern social networking institutions, more progressive and advanced than the five-star clubs we see in metropolitan cities, membership of which is a coveted honour for social upward mobility.

"Caste As Social Capital" is a must read for all those who shun castes and religion as well as for those who find solace in them.

NEW ARRIVALS

FLAWED: THE RISE AND FALL OF INDIA'S DIAMOND MOGUL NIRAV MODI
Pawan C. Lall
Hachette, ₹399

Based on personal encounters, incisive interviews and meticulous research, *Flawed* exposes the incredible twists and turns of the Nirav Modi story — of a third-generation diamondaire who moved from Belgium to India to apprentice with his uncle, Mehul Choksi, an established diamond merchant with extensive connections; of an astute businessman whose firm grip over an intercontinental supply chain saw his branded jewellery stores across the world; and of a reclusive, inscrutable man with a penchant for the high life that possibly led him to fly too close to the sun.

THE LAST DANCE
Anmol Arora
Speaking Tiger, ₹499

Anmol Arora's debut novel, *The Last Dance*, tells the story of young Ayla, a refugee in Delhi, who aspires to become a Bharatanatyam dancer. Chronicling her journey (the ups and downs), *The Last Dance*, explores themes of identity, love and ambition in a compelling way that carries the reader along with it till the end.

THE PARROT GREEN SAREE
Nabaneeta Dev Sen;
Niyogi Books, ₹350

Translated from Bengali by Tun Tun Mukherjee, *The Parrot Green Saree* is the story of two women, two generations and two worlds moulded out of memory, expectations, and desires. Set primarily in the United States, this is also the story of displacement and loss, of a remembered homeland, of political and personal battles, of individual freedom. And it is about rebirth (in Bengali, the novel was titled *Phoenix*).

A few well-meaning folk who visit me hold my hand, weep some, and say they're sorry for me. I don't know what to do, so I pat them gently on the thigh (ladies only) and say, "Don't worry, it'll all be okay. They look at me strangely and mumble that I'm strong."

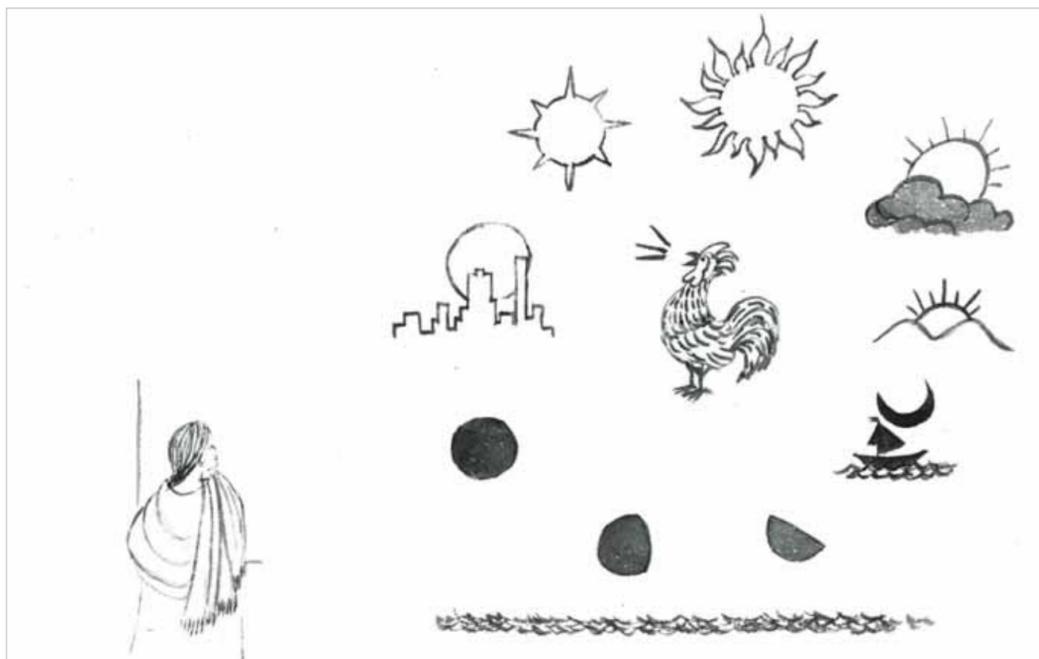
I've always been strong-hearted and proud of it. So am I not sad? When I was first diagnosed with Stage One of an aggressive type of breast cancer, I was stunned and disappointed in myself but quickly found my resolve. I chose to fight cheerfully, selecting the best doctors, eating healthy, praying hard, sending out affirmations to the universe, with a deep belief and faith that I'd be okay.

Then I learnt hope was a bad thing.

A year later, I was told my breast cancer had grown back and metastasised (metastasis is when your cancer has spread from its primary site to the rest of your body; it is also called advanced cancer, and the jury is out on its cure.) I googled it on my phone and to be doubly sure, on my laptop. It said the same thing. Now I became unimaginably sad. But I bit my lip and kept my chin up in front of the traitors (doctors) and the caretakers (family). Like every bad Bollywood film ever, I gulped and told the husband that something had gone into my eye. And then came the waterworks. I cried into the pillow, at the mirror, into the curtain, in the shower and to a few friends who caught me offguard. The rest I avoided. As much as it's important to cry your share, I also believe there's a time to grieve and a time to snap back. Self-pity is a bottomless pit. So now I've crawled out, and walk noisily around the house with a shawl draped around my shoulders like Rajesh Khanna in *Anand*, scolding the husband and teaching him for the two-hundredth

Dukh, Dard and a Season of Hope

ANANYA MUKHERJEE lost the fight to cancer on November 18, 2018, but her book is one of hope and courage, not only for those living with cancer, and their caregivers and loved ones, but for anyone determined to live life on their own terms despite adversity. Excerpt:



time how to fold a towel correctly, with the right side up. I'm past my Dukh.

Do I have Dard?
Oh yes, of all kinds that come with an illness like this one. But heartbreak and bikini wax still top my list in the 'most painful' charts.

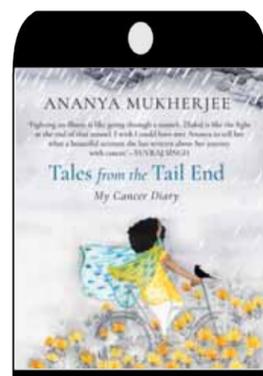
Do I have Hope?
Difficult to say. It's a long answer. The husband says, "Try

starting from the conclusion.' I pretend I haven't heard.

I stay on the nineteenth floor of an apartment in Thane now and though Ka the crow doesn't visit here (quite a long flight from Bandra, with all the planes coming in the way), there's a Crazy Cock down in the slum nearby that crows shrilly all day. For decency's sake, let's call it the Crazy

Rooster. I hear his vociferous crowing first at the crack of dawn, then he calls boisterously to the neighbourhood at 10.39 a.m., next I record his loud-speaker-like pitch at 1.21 p.m., then he yells his lungs out at 3 p.m. and so on, all bloody day. Clearly his body clock is screwed. Then I suddenly remember it's spring, my favourite season, a season for

craziness and hope. My *sukhdh ki saathin*, Neha Khullar, is visiting me. We stand at my bedroom window and look out at the dull blue water of the Thane creek. I tell her that its stillness unnerves me. She listens carefully, then cracks a joke like friends do to distract; I throw my head back and laugh. The sun sets between the brown-green hills and a silver moon rises above



TALES FROM THE TAIL END — MY CANCER DIARY
Ananya Mukherjee
Speaking Tiger, ₹399

the water, just like a watercolour in motion. We stuff our faces with food, giggle into the night and look at the highway traffic till 2 a.m., till Crazy Rooster goes off again.

To be able to breathe, walk noisily, listen to a rooster crowing, scold a husband, laugh with a friend and look at something so beautiful, is in itself a miracle. This time I'm not banking on the hope of a better tomorrow. I'm just glad to have had a beautiful spring day. A day of life is still life!

Tales from the Tail End — My Cancer Diary, written by Ananya Mukherjee is published by Speaking Tiger

Arif Khan vs secular politics frozen in 1986

Arif Mohammad Khan, who rose to fame by quitting the Congress in protest against the then Rajiv Gandhi Government's stand on the Shah Bano case, was once again in spotlight recently due to two momentous events in the Indian polity.

First, because of his vociferous support to the passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019 (hereby 2019 Act), by the Narendra Modi Government, which abolished the practice of instant triple talaq among Hanafi Sunni Muslim population. The 2019 Act is both a personal and political victory for Arif Khan's relentless struggle against attacks and vilification by the conservative and fundamentalist Sunni Muslim religious bodies over four decades. The second reason for his grabbing the headlines is Arif Khan's appointment as the Governor of Kerala, ending his political oblivion, particularly from the Government office. The critics, mostly from secular and Muslim intelligentsia and political spectrum, have seen the gubernatorial appointment as a reward for his support to the 2019 Act and accused him of being an opportunist. Such criticism is perfectly understandable as Arif Khan has long defied the "secular framing" of a politician with Muslim identity as primarily representative of Muslim community and understanding of Indian politics in terms of secularism vs communalism.

Beyond these two immediate contexts, a more serious reason for public attention lies in his constant refusal to play the role of "Muslim politics" in accordance with the rule book of "secular politics" and of so-called "secular" political parties. In this political tradition, both "secular politics" and "Muslim politics" complement each other; wherein "secular politics" tends to demonstrate its sensitivity towards accommodating the religious demands of Muslim community to affirm its secular identity in exchange for Muslim electoral support but without allowing the Muslim political agency to wear the mantle of Indian nationhood. One consequence of this interplay of secular politics and Muslim politics is that Muslims have become "other"



of Indian nationhood more due to internal dynamics of "politics of Muslim identity" and less due to larger external Indian political process.

None other than Arif Khan in contemporary times signifies the dilemma of a Muslim politician to appropriate his Indian national identity while either performing the constitutional duty as elected/nominated member of Parliament to represent Indian people or even in participating in public debates as an ordinary (Muslim) citizen. Throughout his political career and scholarly engagement spanning more than four decades, Arif Khan asserted his Indian identity in public role while being proud of his Islamic/Muslim heritage, and forcefully intervened in the matters of national importance, including the issues connected with Muslim community from the vantage of Indian citizen and national unity. His scholarly work *Text and Context: Quran and Contemporary Challenges* (2010) reveals this approach. Rooted in Indian ethos, he did not shy away from reflecting critically on the role

of State administration in the 2002 Gujarat riots and Goa speech (April 2002) of the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

It is this sense of belonging to the "idea of India" mediated through his inclusive understanding of Islam and India's plural ethos that Arif Khan forcefully opposed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 (hereby 1986 Act), brought by the then Rajiv Gandhi Government (of which he himself was a part), at the cost of his political career, and he also took initiative in convincing the Modi Government to enact the 2019 Act.

In both instances, Arif Khan primarily acted from the point of view of constitutional and Islamic values and ethics. For him, the 1986 Act constricts the constitutional right to life of divorced Muslim women and thus violates the constitutional and Islamic notion of justice; while the Act of 2019 expands constitutional right of equality to Muslim married woman, at least to an extent that the law protects Muslim married woman from arbitrary exercise of pro-

nouncement of instant triple talaq and its immediate effect on dissolution of marriage. This explains his vociferous opposition to the former and support to the latter.

Interestingly, in both circumstances, Arif Khan emerged as "anti-Muslim" figure in the Muslim collective imagination, primarily shaped through pan Indian network of Muslim religious clergy and its control over Muslim religious institutions including mosque, *dargah*, *khanqah*, *madrassa*, and *maktab*. With his "anti-Muslim" tag, Arif Khan quickly lost his relevance for the "secular" political parties, which are accustomed to express secularism primarily through deference to Muslim/Islamic identity. Almost all secular political parties, whether national or regional, save for a brief moment with Jan Morcha and BSP, shunned Arif Khan in post-1986 phase for his refusal to play "Muslim politics".

Arif Khan as "anti-Muslim" figure in the collective Muslim imagination rests on the ground that he legitimises the interference of (non-

Muslim) Government in the domain of Muslim personal law/Islamic jurisprudence, which today mostly flows from closed, narrow, insular, hierarchal, modern legalistic vision of Islam. Herein lies the dilemma of "Muslim politics": should it be guided to use Indian Constitution, democracy and secularism only for the purpose of expansion and consolidation of Islamic religiosity and identity at the cost of Indian national identity?; or should it be envisioned as an integral part of larger Indian political process to strengthen the constitutional opportunity structure to empower themselves as well as to democratise its internal structure by injecting the State mandated reform? Unfortunately, it is the former that has dominated Muslim lives and as a consequence a vast section of Muslims has failed to utilise the latter.

Arif Khan has always preferred the latter course of Muslim public action without subscribing to the identity-centred discourse of Muslim politics. However his "reformist politics" collapsed in 1986 Act with the complete abdication of the modern state in upholding the decision of Supreme Court and injecting democratic reform among the Muslim community. One consequence of the political exit and later political marginalisation of Arif Khan is the weakening of reformist voices within the community on the one hand and increasing assertion of conservative Islamic religious groups in the political domain of the country on the other. The increasing Islamisation of Muslim spaces, strengthening of Muslim religious boundary and lack of reformist process within the community — all combined — have significantly contributed to the "process of otherisation" of the community and produced "siege mentality", incapacitating a large section of Muslim youths from participating in the developmental process.

The test of a liberal-secular-democratic state lies in the protection of well-being of the minority community and ensuring a representation in the power structure of the country. It does not lie in its reluctance to carry out the mean-

ingful reform in the domain of personal laws belonging to minority community on the ground that it must come from the community first. By pursuing this line of argument for decades, the Indian state contributed to the strengthening of conservative religious voices among the Muslim community and indirectly kept a large number of Muslims away from the politics of development. A liberal state has constitutional mandate and duty to undertake those measures that enable the people to become more equal and capable to exercise the freedom of choices. From this point of view, the 2019 Act, irrespective of political intention of the Modi Government, is a welcome move.

Interestingly, while a good section of "secular jamaat" had openly come out in support of Arif Khan in 1986 for his fight against the capitulation of Congress Government before Muslim fundamentalist bodies, particularly the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), today the same secular jamaat is circumspect in extending their support to Arif Khan for 2019 Bill. It is partly because of the fact that in 1986 the "secular jamaat" had found in Arif Khan a struggling liberal Muslim politician. With the Modi Government, Arif Khan ceases to be a liberal Muslim figure and hence not worthy of support of "secular Jamaat" irrespective of the merit of legislation.

In the context of the 2019 Act, a section of media personalities from "secular jamaat" deliberately framed Arif Khan as "Muslim leader of a Muslim community" despite his well established track record of conducting himself as one of Indian national leader, and then tried hard, though unsuccessfully, to squeeze him for implications of the Modi rule for the well-being of Muslim community! Given such secular obsession with politics of Muslim identity, it is not difficult to agree with Arif Khan's observation that Indian secular politics has remained frozen in 1986.

(The writer is Senior Fellow, Policy Perspectives Foundation, New Delhi. Views expressed in the text belong solely to the writer)

It is his sense of belonging to the idea of plural India, mediated through his inclusive understanding of Islam, which made Arif Mohammad Khan a crusader for Muslim women's rights, opposing the 1986 Act that superseded the Supreme Court's Shah Bano judgment. However, the increasing Islamisation of Muslim spaces, strengthening of Muslim religious boundary and lack of reformist process within the community have significantly contributed to the "process of otherisation" of the community and produced "siege mentality", incapacitating a large section of Muslim youths from participating in the developmental process



ANWAR ALAM

PERSPECTIVE

Brexit widening UK-Northern Ireland chasm

What haunts Northern Ireland at the moment is none other than Brexit, which is gradually opening up the old wounds of the historic Good Friday Agreement. The very idea of Brexit has destabilised politics by forcing people to take sides between Britain and Ireland



MAKHAN SAINIK

The exit of Britain from the EU would weaken the bloc. The UK being one of the wealthiest and influential nations, its departure might impair the cohesiveness and effectiveness of the EU. Further, it may trigger more such exit demands from some other members, delivering a potential threat to the survival of the EU. International Monetary Fund (IMF) has already warned about the economic impact of Brexit — reducing trade, investment and economic growth — on the entire the EU region. It would make the mega investors nervous and could spark a sharp drop in the stock markets and volatile swings in the currency exchange rates across the continent.

Since June 23, 2016, when the final Brexit vote took place and the majority of the Britishers took a hard decision to leave the EU, the sign of elation has already died down in the polity, economy and society of Britain. Since then two Prime Ministers — David Cameron and Theresa May — had to resign for not being able to manage either the post-Brexit political crisis or the complex negotiations with the EU. Today Britain is at a crossroads and the EU is divided.

What makes the Brexit process more complicated is Britain's relationship with Northern Ireland. Currently, the UK is a part of the EU's customs union and the single market. The problem is that if Brexit at all happens, it will have to leave both the market and the bloc. Once this happens, the status of the UK-Northern Ireland border will turn into a customs border, coming along with traditional checks and controls. This will entail entirely a new system, full of restrictions and creating



Border communities protest Brexit on the northern side of the Irish border between Newry and Dundalk

AP/File

new problems for both the traders and the common people. In addition to practical and business hurdles, what concerns the people of Northern Ireland most is the new psychological and political situation that might emerge out of the Brexit. In December 2017, in a European Council meeting, the UK and the EU adopted a joint report, wherein the former pledged to avoid a hard border. But the most unfortunate part of this process is that

Cameron and May could not map out a plan to resolve the Northern Ireland border issue. As the Brexit confusion mounted, the EU insisted on adding a "backstop" provision to the withdrawal agreement. This simply means that if the UK can't offer any alternative arrangements, then this backstop idea indicates that Northern Ireland will continue to remain in the EU customs union and full regulatory alignment with the single market,

mainly for goods. This essentially eliminates all the upcoming checks and controls heralded by a new post-Brexit scenario.

The British Government's stated claims, such as leaving the EU's customs union, single market, preventing a hard border with Northern Ireland and ensuring a countrywide approach to Brexit, seem completely unimaginable by the new administration of Boris Johnson. He is running out of

time, ideas and political commitment in this high stakes stand-off.

Brexit has potential to affect the historic Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement signed on April 10, 1998, between the UK and the Irish Government and most of the political parties in Northern Ireland on how Northern Ireland should be governed. It made it clear to the international community that Northern Ireland will remain

part of the UK unless there is consent of the majority of the people in this part of the island. Thereafter, the creation of an assembly with a power-sharing executive largely ensured the representation of both the warring communities — the Protestants and the Catholics — in policy making. Again the EU membership of both Ireland and the UK made this fragile peace more viable by enabling quick communications and by reducing physical,

psychological and most importantly, economic barriers for the benefit of this small island. However, the sad part of the Belfast Agreement is that it has not been able to bring forth a durable solution to the most intractable constitutional questions looming large over the Northern Irelanders.

What haunts Northern Ireland at the moment is none other than Brexit, which is gradually opening up the old wounds of the historic Good Friday Agreement. The very idea of Brexit has destabilised politics by forcing people to take sides between Britain and Ireland. At least for more than two decades of the Agreement, people who fought for establishing their religious identities were able to take a break from their identity politics of the past: the Unionists remained part of the UK and felt reassured that the province's future could only be changed through an open poll whereas the Nationalists Irish had a greater say in local affairs. But today, the inconclusive and the most confusing Brexit process has reignited the old passions and caused polarisation along the Orange (Unionists) and the Green (Nationalists).

Finally, what brings home utter chaos is all but the policy decisions and political uncertainty of the Johnson Government. It is making peace more fragile in Northern Ireland. At the core of the famously unwritten Constitution of the UK is the principle that the PM is there in office as long as he enjoys the confidence of the House of Commons. It's not clear at all whether Johnson has that crucial support. And this is wreaking havoc for Northern Ireland.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



TWO OUT OF EVERY FIVE PEOPLE IN AMERICA ARE INTO TAROT READING AND VISIT A PSYCHIC READER FOR AN AVERAGE OF THREE TIMES EVERY YEAR



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

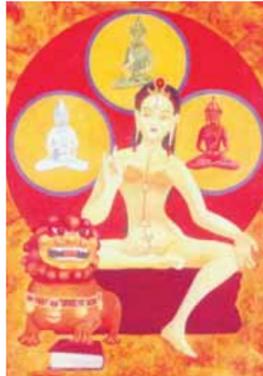
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You will experience harmony in body, mind and soul. For those with an ongoing health issue that hasn't been resolved, you may benefit greatly by alternative therapy and nutrition counselling. A spiritual teacher may appear in your life who will prove to be an excellent mentor and will help you have a new lease of life. On the career front, you may need a counsellor to sharpen your skills. Being a part of a short course or workshop may help you with your goals. Get involved in group work as you will learn from others. You will be lucky in relationships as people around you respect and value your ideas. You are likely to make an impression on your partner with your positive approach. You will feel the warmth and affection of near and dear ones.

Lucky number 23
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your efforts to stay healthy will pay off. This week you will be full of energy, creativity and versatility. You are likely to re-orient and figure your purpose in life. You will engage in activities like yoga, pranayam and other healing practices to stay fit and rejuvenated. Those facing health issues would feel at ease. On the career front, you need to take a break. If required, seek advice from a senior to clear your vision. Someone's guidelines will help you boost your career and attain control over your domain. Indulging in a group task or discussions will prove beneficial. In love, tension is indicated. You may face rejection or break-up. Singles will take time to find their love partner. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding, be it in love or marriage.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Some health challenges are indicated this week. You may face problems like indigestion, gastric issues, BP, etc. that would make you restless. This will affect your emotions and make you impatient in behaviour. Take time out to relax and find your comfort zone. In professional life, things are likely to go your way. Those in the private sector may expect a raise in income or a promotion. Chances for an overseas job/education seem bright this week. Stay focused. A senior official will be helpful in making your work easy. Relationship wise, this week is satisfactory. You need to talk to your partner to sort out a confusion that appears to have cropped up between you. Pamper your partner with gifts or drive down to an exotic place. This will certainly boost your love life.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

The week starts with never-ending activities and you will be busy with meetings, travel and attending guests. This will exhaust you and give you no time for yourself. There are chances you might get hurt. Stay safe and use all safety methods to avoid any unpleasant situation. All legends were not geniuses, but they had strong will and determination to get things done. You too possess the spirit and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those awaiting judgment in a legal matter can expect a ruling in their favour. Relationship wise, you are demanding and strict. This attitude would not work in the favour of married couples. A mother figure may interfere in your relationship. Figure out where your boundaries lie with this and let her know.

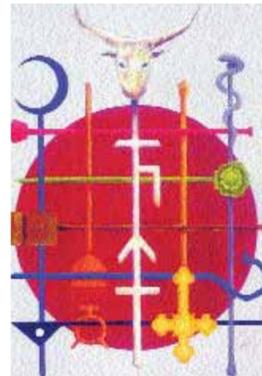
Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You will overcome all health challenges. You will be appreciated for accomplishing quality work. Blessings from elders will add shine to your personality. After dealing with a problematic situation, you will experience positive energy and inner satisfaction. Your career looks good this week. Some of you will be promoted or assigned an important task which will boost your career. A seminar or a training session is indicated that will enhance your skill. Luck is in your favour and you will enjoy the results of your hard work. Be cautious in love, as you might be tagged as incompatible. Your newly developed relationship might get affected due to backbiting. Married couples may lack harmony in their relationship and seek space to avoid conflict or tension.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You will regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity within. Try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. A basic health regime like exercise, proper diet, enough sleep can be applied now with great success. Don't hesitate to take on a new healer. On the career front, transfer or relocation is indicated. Since this will be your desired posting, you will be filled with hopes and aspiration. You are likely to prove your potential with new avenues of progress. Some of you are expected to travel overseas on a professional trip. This week love is not happening. Due to your busy schedule, your existing relation might suffer. Try to stay in touch through the internet or messages. Those with marriage proposals might face rejection.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Great stamina enables you to stay confident and be in the best of your health. If facing health issues, do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to deal with it. You will be sensible about your day to day matters. At work, things will be better. You will get support from a powerful person. This is the right time to seek increment or change in job that pays you better. You may owe some money to your close ones. Those who are considering applying for a fund or a bank loan for a venture can go ahead. You will experience success. In the context of love, it's important to give your partner some space. You also need to choose the right person with whom you feel a strong emotional connect. Singles, this is not the right time to mingle.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You are confused about the direction that your life is taking. Your fluctuating health conditions will affect quality of life. You may need guidelines to reap the results of your past behaviour. Observe your belief system. Take time out to reflect positively. On the career front, you will face challenges and tough situations, but you will emerge a winner due to your determination. Legal issues might get sorted this week. On the love front, you will glow and blush as this week your life will be focussed around love. This could be either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You are likely to share your joy with those around you who need it. Married couples will experience true bonding and feel the attachment. Life will be blissful.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you will be creative and optimistic. Everything will appear to turn in your favour. You will be generous and ready to share. You have learned to accept your flaws and to adjust with others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Overall, health will be good. In professional life, you need to give your time and attention to your work. Be honest about your work. A disciplined approach like working within the norms and traditions of your organisation will be appreciated. Avoid conflicts with people at work. In love, stop fantasising about the person who doesn't feel the same about you. When love is true, you don't have to struggle to make it work. Expand your horizons and try hard to think positively.

Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you will experience positive energy and will feel as fresh as a teenager. Channelise this energy into doing something creative. Enjoy this phase and watch your creativity enrich your life. On the career front, your potential will be duly recognised. Your financial position will also improve. A gift from your ancestral side may come your way. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. Money gain through property or a plan to invest in a property at a prime location is indicated. This week you may not be lucky in love. If you like someone, go and express yourself to him/her. Avoid loose talk as it might spoil your relations. If you feel stagnated in your relation, then it's time to close the chapter.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Avoid anger and aggression this week. Listen to your inner voice and act accordingly. Seek the advice of an elderly in the family. Home-made remedies will provide relief in health issues. You need nurturing and caring that will sort out half of your problems. On the career front, you will feel at ease as things are working in your favour. Great things come in a small packages. A business in the field of agriculture, horticulture or land will yield profit. Those in a job are likely to get promoted. New opportunities in the career are indicated. Those seeking employment will get a job in their desired field. In love, you are unclear about your future spouse. Those in a relationship, it is likely that your partner will make you juggle between some challenging situations.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You need to come out of your past suffering in order to move forward. Holding on to the past may affect your health. Look within yourself carefully and make note of the areas where you are fearful. Spend time to learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. At workplace, you will experience a feel-good factor. You are likely to find support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be suggested for a promotion. Your professional skills will be at their best. Make the best use of this time. In terms of love, you will find success and will enjoy this week. You are likely to become the centre of attraction at an event and draw your partner's attention. Married couples will enjoy the togetherness and intimacy.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Thursday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



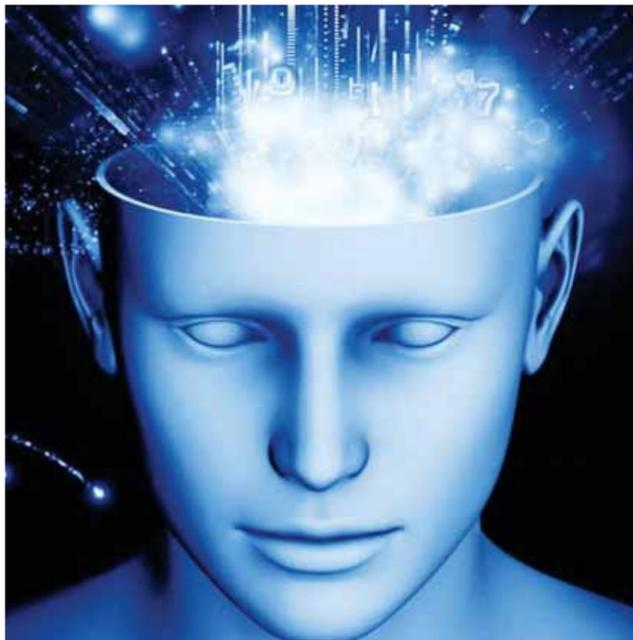
ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Empower your mind for success

A young graduate, having failed to taste success at many qualifying examinations for different jobs, came asking the other day in a state of desperation: "Sir, what is in store of my destiny? Any luck to get a job in near future? I have tried to put in best during the last three years, but with no luck. Suggest me some puja that may help a poor man like me secure my future." Young man, destiny is not blind, as it doesn't necessarily play out by default in course of usual run of life. Remember, destiny indicators — the reflection of Karmic imprints carried over from the past — are stored in our memory as seed-thoughts. And a seed, though carrying potential to bloom out into a plant, remains inert till it gets a congenial ground, and is then duly nurtured with water and nutrients (chemical or natural fertiliser). Similarly, seed-thought-seeds may offer you with an opportunity when time is ripe for it. Success, however, may still elude, if you are not well geared up to encash the opportunity available. In so far as remedial measure is concerned, belief driven puja mediated by pundits can't help much. The pundit can neither strike upon your inner realms of

mind to checkmate its vagaries and optimise your potential, nor manipulate the mindset of the unknown recruiters. The only viable method is to look within yourself, identify, acknowledge and then address the fault lines. Also, improve your focus, sharpen intelligence, and optimise indwelling potential. Empowered thus, you may be able to perform well at the examinations and interviews. That carries better probability of success. You may be putting in long hours towards your studies, which gives a feel that you have endeavoured enough. But bear in mind; physical efforts alone would not suffice. Quality efforts are needed. Should you lack focus, which your astrological chart clearly indicates, you may fail to absorb the subject matters attended. Obviously then, you may not be able to answer well, the questions asked. So, instead of exploring your destiny indicators, and seeking extra-terrestrial support through belief driven pujas, better figure out your own shortcomings through self-reflection, and address them. Often, a disoriented mind is not able to dispassionately identify the inherent fault lines. Let me help you through a look at your astrological pointers.



Lagna lord Venus, and 11th lord Sun identified with fulfillment of desires, occupy the career signifying 10th house. The 10th lord Moon in the 6th house implies success in efforts and against competitors. Moon also beautifully aligned to fiery Mars, makes out an ambitious person bounding with energy. All put together strongly promise a good job. Even government job is not ruled out as would presence of the Sun in the 10th imply. On top of that even benevolent Jupiter occupies the 11th house. Despite such strong indicators, what then stands in the way of its fruition? Mind signifying Moon occupies a dual sign Pisces, which means you have a vacillating mind. You may be continuously breeding thoughts and randomly flirting from one to the other. Also, you are subject to mood swings. Such a distracted mind doesn't let you remain focused to your priority preferences. Moon being trine to the Sun is indicative of a comfort loving person, not keen to take pains. That doesn't let you take timely initiative. How can you expect gain without pain? Here again, Moon locks horns with Uranus, which accounts for his mercurial temperament and erratic conduct. Also, Moon is ill-disposed off to mischievous Neptune. This, in the first place makes

you stick to delusional perceptions and beliefs, distanced from ground realities. Second, habitually an escapist who keeps pushing off initiatives to tomorrow. You may not acknowledge truth on its first appearance. Instead, you may prefer continuing with your own line of thinking on hope against hope till pushed to the wall. Saturn's opposition to Mercury speaks of a fixated one-track mind. If all that would not be enough, Mars placed adverse to Jupiter signals an inflated ego, which binds you to self-defined dos and don'ts. Your narrowed vision doesn't let you look beyond even for reality check. So, better get over your habit tendencies, cultivate push, sharpen your intelligence, and improve your focus by following the process suggested. The good thing is that he acknowledged his fault lines and expressed his willingness to reform. Should you sincerely follow the process suggested, I am sure, you may secure a job sooner than later, as already promised in your chart. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025 Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com Website: www.bharatastro.com