



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 daisy 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 Saksena



## Miles to go for this star kid

**PAL PAL DIL KE PAAS**  
**\*ing: Karan Deol, Sahher Bamba, Aaksha 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 emote 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 Saksena

## 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:** NCU 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- AppurvView, 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, Romedy Now, a part of The Times Network which has 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 Romedy Now will be 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 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, Harvey 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 25th 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 Mashiah, and distributed by Yes Studios. Produced for Applause Entertainment by Sphereorigins, 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 *Namah*. 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.



## Government influencing scribes, alleges JMM



JMM General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya addresses a press conference at party office in Ranchi on Saturday. Pioneer photo

PNS ■ RANCHI

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Saturday accused the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Government in the State of bribing scribes by offering handsome monetary returns for highlighting the various development schemes of the Government. JMM's General Secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya slammed the Information and Public Relations Department's recent initiative of awarding journalists for writing developmental stories on Government's welfare schemes and called it an effort to violate media ethics.

"The Government is offering ₹15,000 to journalists for each article written on the welfare schemes. Not only is this an insult to the media ethics, but also a potential violation of the Model Code of Conduct since Jharkhand is set to go to polls soon," Bhattacharya said while addressing media persons in Ranchi on Saturday.

The Government, Bhattacharya said, has been promoting its schemes and policies since it came to power in 2014. And it is still trying to influence voters through its promotional activities, he added. "This is a serious matter. We have written to the Chairman of the Press Council of India and asked him to intervene," he said.

Bhattacharya claimed that the last date for accepting applications of journalists under the scheme has also been extended to September 26, calling it an effort to continue promotional works

even when the Model Code of Conduct is imposed. "The Election Commission of India too has set guidelines related to media coverage during elections. The Commission also monitors paid news and takes necessary actions," he said.

Bhattacharya urged media persons to write balanced reports and not get "lured" by the Government's promises. "We do not have a problem with you (media persons) writing about the Government's achievements. But you, as the fourth pillar, should also highlight its failures," he said.

He also blamed the Government for the delay in the announcement of Assembly elections in Jharkhand. On Saturday, the ECI announced elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. Announcement of Elections for Jharkhand too was expected on the same day. "Maybe the Government is not prepared for elections. And that is why it did not want the elections to be announced," said Bhattacharya.

He added that the BJP was worried after seeing the overwhelming support rendered to JMM's Badlaw Yatra recently. BJP became the first party ever to win a majority in the Jharkhand Assembly in 2014 and is aiming at more than 65 seats in the 81-member-Assembly this year. The JMM, on the other hand, is the second largest party in Jharkhand and has set a target of turning the tables this year. The BJP's winning spree, however, continued during the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections in which the party won 12 of 14 seats in Jharkhand.

## BJP to focus on welfare schemes for poll campaigning

Shah addresses party's core committee meeting through VC

PNS ■ RANCHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National president-cum-Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, on Saturday held talks with the party officials through video conferencing and gave tips about future plan.

The State BJP held State Assembly Election Core Committee meeting today in presence of the party Vice president and Co-ordinator of the election committee, Om Mathur. Shah interacted with party workers during the meeting. It was decided during the meeting that the party will spread messages about benefit of welfare programmes run by the Centre and the State Government.

Addressing the party office bearers and workers during the



State Assembly election in-charge Om Prakash Mathur, State co-in-charge Nand Kishore Yadav, General Secretary Deepak Prakash and Dharampal Singh during a BJP Core Committee meeting at party office in Ranchi on Saturday. Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

meeting Mathur appealed the party workers to manage the booths strongly and announce the victory of the party from their booth.

"There is a positive feeling in the mind of the people in the State about the

development work done by the government. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has special attention on the development of Jharkhand and he has changed the political culture of the country in last five years. Jharkhand has made its own

identity in every sector and the party workers should spread it among every households of the State so that the party can achieve its target in the upcoming State Assembly elections," said Mathur. Lauding the works done

by the Centre and the State Government Mathur said, "Double engine Government is continuously working in the interest of people of all castes and religions and every people of the society will be benefited by the ongoing development of the Government."

Addressing the gathering of the party workers during the meeting Deputy Co-ordinator of the committee, Nand Kishore Yadav said that there is immense possibility in Jharkhand. "Jharkhand is known all over the world for its mineral wealth, if it is better used, the State may stand in the top of the States in the Country in the coming years. In the last five years, Modi and the Raghubar Government have written a new story of development and told that no one can stop the State from becoming prosperous state. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to see smile on every

face of the people of the State that is why after forming the Government in 2014, he started many welfare schemes and ended the rule of middlemen by sending money directly to the beneficiary's account through Direct Benefit Transfer," he added.

While appealing to the party workers Yadav said that the workers should go door-to-door to present the achievements of the Government among the public and tell how Jharkhand has carved out a distinct identity in India in the last five years, but there are many challenges still to be faced which give us further opportunity to deal with it.

BJP State president Laxman Gilua also addressed the meeting. BJP State General Secretary, Dharampal Singh reviewed the development work done by the Government and given required instructions to the party workers.

## 'Business providing fillip to Birsa Munda airport revenue'

SAURAV ROY ■ RANCHI

Lower tax on aviation fuel and the Government's impetus to enhance Birsa Munda Airport's feasibility for industrial transportations has boosted air traffic as well as commercial revenue generated from Jharkhand's largest airport. In a tete-a-tete with The Pioneer, Airport Director Vinod Sharma gave an insight on the current situation of the airport and the plans in the pipeline. Sharma—a man who seemed visibly busy signing documents and holding impromptu discussions with his subordinates at the airport office on Friday—feels that promoting business in the airport premises will be the most effective way of adding a fillip to the commercial revenue generated here. Excerpts from the conversation:

**Since the Government came to power in 2014, it has been claiming that cargo facility at the airport will boost industries here. How is the demand for the air cargo facility?**

The air cargo facility here is finding new takers and its demand has increased at least



Birsa Munda Airport Director Vinod Sharma during an interview with The Pioneer at Birsa Munda International airport Hinoo in Ranchi on Saturday. Ratan Lal | Pioneer

by 30 per cent compared to last year. The demand is clearly visible if we talk in terms of tonnage. The cargo tonnage in year 2017-2018 was 4937 tonnes and in year 2018-2019, it has increased to 6500 tonnes. We expect it to further increase in the days to come. At present, we are only offering domestic cargo, but

international air cargo facility in Ranchi may also be a reality soon.

**What is the commercial viability of the airport and how are you planning to increase the revenue?**

I, personally, feel that the best way to generate commercial revenue is by

promoting business in the airport. You may have noticed that many new shops have opened in the airport. Also, we have a full fledged restaurant and a busy food court too. We will soon float a tender for a restaurant cum bar, which will further boost the revenue.

**The tax on aviation fuel is lower in Jharkhand compared to other states. How has this helped the Birsa Munda Airport?**

In Jharkhand, the tax on aviation fuel is only 4 per cent, so it is obvious that many airlines prefer to refill in Ranchi. The lower tax has certainly helped us a lot in getting new flights. However, new flights and their frequency depend on a lot of other factors too, especially the travelling preferences of passengers from a particular city and the destinations they frequent.

**Ranchi airport is still not connected to some of the important cities in India. What are the plans to increase connectivity?**

We already have around 30 flights and the ones to New Delhi have the highest demand. In the next three months or so, we may get around three new flights. However, two of them will be for New Delhi as the demand is higher for flights to the national capital. Many airline companies have also shown interest in flying to Chennai and other parts of South India. We are still in talks.

**Bird hits are a major**

**concern in almost every airport in India. What are you doing to prevent such accidents in Ranchi?**

The number of bird hit cases has reduced in Ranchi. Last year, there were around five cases and this year we have had two such cases. We have deployed bird chasers who chase away birds with batons. We have also installed guns to scare away birds from the runway. Reflecting ribbons and whistling noise vehicles are also being used. Besides, Birsa Agriculture University (BAU) is conducting a study on the reasons why birds flock to airports. The report will give us a better idea on how to tackle the issue.

**We have an international bay in the airport, but there are no international flights. By when should we expect international flights from Ranchi?**

The flight frequency depends on the demand. We will have to have a demand for international destinations among flyers in order to get proposals from airline companies.

It will happen gradually. Also, international flights require additional facilities such as immigration.

## IN BRIEF

### SHORT FILM RELEASED ON HEC

A three-minute corporate film was made and released by the marketing department of HEC on Saturday. The film captures the journey of HEC, its developments and contributions to the different sectors. It incorporates glimpses not only from its own premises and workshops but also covers the products in operations at its clients like steel plants and coal mines. It also shows the facilities, infrastructure, design capabilities, unique and first time achievements of HEC and primarily the human force of the corporate. The movie is available on the HEC website.

### LIONS CLUB PLANTATION DRIVE

Under the 'Save Environment' mission, Lions Club of Ranchi planted 10 fruit bearing trees at JMJ School, Doranda on Saturday. President Rinku Banerjee said that the trees planted included jamun, amla, guava, custard apple and litchi while 10 saplings were given to children who have space to plant trees around their houses. Along with the school management, former district president Sushma Trivedi, Geeta Ojha, Dr Asha Verma and Poonambala were present on the occasion.

### SBI AUCTIONS VEHICLES

State Bank of India today organised auction of seized vehicles at SBI Colony, Lalpur, where 18 vehicles were put up for auction at the reserve price of ₹42,14,038. As many as 11 vehicles were auctioned on Saturday at the cost of ₹35,36,000. SBI, Ranchi Circle DGM NK Singh, RACPC, AGM R Sharan Singh, SMEC AGM P Priyadarshi alongwith others were present on the occasion.

## Judges for resolving family disputes in humane manner

Sensitisation programme for Family Court Judges begins

PNS ■ RANCHI

In an attempt to prevent family disputes, a sensitization programme was held for judges of Family Courts by a committee consisting of judges of Supreme Court of India (SCI). The two day programme was started on Saturday. The District Judges and the Senior Sub-Judges of the State participated in the programme.

Three judges of the Apex Court visited the State Capital to sensitise the judges of family courts—Justice Indira Banerjee, Justice, NV Ramanna and Justice R Banumathi. Speaking in her inaugural address Banerjee said that unresolved conflicts may irreparably damage a marriage and even the entire family. She wished that the Family Courts should deal with the family matters with much more sensitivity, giving appropriate

priority to resolving the disputes in a humane manner.

While emphasising on family values Banerjee said, "Family harmony provides a sense of belonging and a feeling of security unlike many other types of relationships. Whether the disharmony emanates from within the family unit or from external sources, individual family member and the family as a whole can experience a range of negative emotions and consequences."

Banerjee said that it is imperative to be innovative in approach while dealing with sensitive matters of family and incidental matters like child custody.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion Ramanna said that sensitisation of all the stakeholders on Family Court matters is the needs of the hour and that holding of such training programmes will help in creating an environment where family disputes may be dealt with full sensitivity.

He advised the participants to take message from the life experiences and try to resolve the family disputes coming to



Judge, Supreme Court of India and Chairman SCLSC Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judges, Supreme Court of India Justice R Banumathi, Justice Indira Banerjee, Chief Justice Delhi High Court Justice DN Patel and acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Justice HC Mishra release books during the 1st Regional Training Programme for Sensitisation of Family Court Judges at Judicial Academy, Dhurwa in Ranchi on Saturday. Vinay Murmu | Pioneer

the Courts on negotiated settlement, and in this process to inspire the parties to choose alternative modes of dispute resolution instead of involving themselves in procedural dispute in the trial proceeding.

Ramanna also suggested that to prevent domestic violence which hamper healthy environment of family coherence and results in dispute a comprehensive Domestic Law should be formulated and enacted as in present scenario

cases of domestic violence is increasing. It is needs to be prevented to strengthen our family values, he added.

Other dignitaries were present including Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice DN Patel, Acting Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Justice HC Mishra, Judge High Court of Jharkhand, Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Judge High Court of Jharkhand, Justice S Chandrashekhar.

## Shram Shakti Abhiyan to kickstart from Sept 25

CM to launch campaign for labourers in State

PNS ■ RANCHI

The State Government is going to organise Shram Shakti Abhiyan across the State from Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary on September 25 to Gandhi Jayanti on October 2. The main objective of the campaign is to register millions of workers in the unorganised sector so that they can benefit from the Central and State schemes made for them.

Describing this as a challenging task, the Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sunil Kumar Barnwal today said, "We have to connect the labourers from villages and cities to remote inaccessible places like Sarayu in Latehar and Peshwar in Lohardaga. Emphasising the publicity for this, he said that the intention of the

government is to make every worker of the unorganised sector aware and get their rights.

For this purpose, in a meeting with all district and block coordinators in the auditorium of Ministry of Jharkhand along with labor extension officers and supervisors, they emphasized the registration of 100 per cent workers.

Chief Minister Raghubar Das will launch the campaign from Ranchi on 25th September. The workers of the unorganised sector will be able to see and hear his addresses and instructions live in all the districts and blocks. In the meeting, Barnwal instructed to make complete preparations in time.

He said that if there is any difficulty in this, then resolve it. For better coordination, he directed that all the block labour extension officers should meet with the block coordinators and prepare an action plan.

## Film fest on Gandhian way of life begins

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

"Gandhi Panorama- 2019" an international festival of films on Gandhiji and his principles kicked off in the State capital on Saturday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The three-day long film festival was inaugurated by the Governor Droupadi Murmu at Audrey House, Ranchi. The film festival will be held from September 21 to September 23.

Revenue and Land Reforms, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister of Jharkhand Amar Kumar Bauri,

Department Secretary Rahul Sharma, Principal Secretary to Governor Satendra Singh and IIMC Chairman Devendra Khandelwal were the other dignitaries present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor said "It is matter of great pride for Ranchi that such a big film festival is being organised on the 150th birth anniversary of the great Mahatma Gandhi. The country and its people will always be indebted to him for his immense contribution. All through his life he gave a message of ahimsa, satya, tyag and dharma. During

the freedom movement he visited Ranchi and various other places in Jharkhand including Jamshepur, Chaibasa, Deoghar and influenced the people of the State. In Ranchi he stayed at Audrey House which should be renamed to Gandhi Smriti Bhavan."

"This film festival will teach the youth about his values and principles and will play a vital role in making them better human beings. Apart from teaching them about satya, ahimsa and dharma it will also teach them desh prem. During his visits, Babu was deeply loved and respected by the people of



Governor Droupadi Murmu, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Amar Kumar Bauri, Department Secretary Rahul Sharma, Principal secretary to the governor Satendra Singh and IIMC Chairman Devendra Khandelwal during inaugural ceremony of the three-day long film festival at Audrey House in Ranchi on Saturday. Ratan Lal | Pioneer

Jharkhand and following his principles will lead to the development of the State," added the Governor. Murmu also inaugurated a photo exhibition displaying the journey of the Mahatma's life through pictures at the venue.

Speaking on the occasion Bauri said that it is a great opportunity for Gandhiji's followers in Ranchi as they will get to witness his life through films right here in the city. "Mahatma Gandhi is a big name not just in India but all over the world. His life was dedicated to truth, human values and for the betterment of the people. When

there were no phones and emails, he still had the whole country with him and his freedom movement. No leader from any part of the world can be like him.

I urge the people especially the youth of Jharkhand to be a part of this programme and imbibe his values and principles. Just like they know of Harry Potter and Shaktimaan, they should know of Mahatma Gandhi too," said Bauri.

Devendra Khandelwal renowned producer and director and Chairman of India Infotainment Media Corporation (IIMC) organising

the film festival was also present on the occasion. "Initially I was against Gandhi and his principles but an interaction with the then Prime Minister Morarji Desai changed my opinion about the great man. I then started making film on Gandhi and his life. While involved in making films I thought of starting this film festival for which I received movies and documentaries on Gandhi from across the globe. This film festival is conducted at various places every year keeping in mind the interest of the people and the local language," said Khandelwal.

**कार्यपालक अभियान का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद**

**शब्दि पत्र**

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दैनिक समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं-0-RCD/DHANBAD/1475/2019-20 (1<sup>st</sup> Call) का जिसका पीओआर नं० 217412(Road) 19-20-D में योजना का नाम "योजना मद अन्तर्गत बुईफोर मोड़ धनबाद से बिनोद बिहारी चौक बलियापुर पथ के कि०मी० 0.00 से 13.20 कि०मी० तक मजबूतीकरण कार्य (वर्ष 2019-20)" को संशोधित करते हुए "योजना मद अन्तर्गत बुईफोर मोड़ धनबाद से बिनोद बिहारी चौक बलियापुर पथ के कि०मी० 0.00 से 13.20 कि०मी० तक (I.R.Q.P) मजबूतीकरण कार्य (वर्ष 2019-20)" पड़ा जाए। विशेष जानकारी हेतु पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद से सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियान  
PR 217649 Road (19-20)\_D पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

**Govt. of Jharkhand Energy Department**  
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) 3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002. Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

**e-Procurement Notice**  
Tender Reference No.: 13/JREDA/WS/19-20 Date: 19.09.2019

1	Name of the work	Engagement of Training/Consultancy Firms towards conducting training to solar technicians of Single Village Piped Water Supply Scheme.
2	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs 30,00,000/-
3	Period of Engagement	12 (Twelve) Months
4	Date of publication of NIT on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	19.09.2019 (Thursday)
5	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	09.10.2019 (Wednesday) up to 5:00 PM
6	Submission of original copies of Bid fee & EMD (Offline)	09.10.2019 & 10.10.2019 up to 5:00 PM
7	Technical Bid Opening Date	11.10.2019 (Friday) at 3:00 PM
8	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA), 3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand)
9	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/61
10	Helpline no. of e procurement	0651-2491163/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूट को तरसेंगे  
PR 217619 (Energy)19-20#D Sd/- Director, JREDA, Ranchi

FORM NO. 22 (See Regulation 37(1))

**SALE PROCLAMATION**

**OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JHARKHAND AT RANCHI**

RECOVERY PROCEEDING No. 725 of 2016 IN CASE NO. O.A. Case No. 244 of 2016

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 38, 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 1993

UCO Bank, Bermo Branch, Phusro, Bokaro Vs. Sri Fazalur Rahman To,

1. Sri Fazalur Rahman, S/o Sri Abdul Rahman, R/o Patel Nagar, Dhori, P.O. & P.S. Phusro Bazar, Bermo-829144, District-Bokaro

Whereas you have failed to pay the sum of Rs. 28,85,317.00 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lacs Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventeen Only) payable by you in respect of Recovery Certificate in O.A. Case No. 244 of 2016 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Ranchi along with the interest and costs payable, as per the certificate.

2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of the attached property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said certificate.

3. And whereas as on the 08.08.2019 there will be due there under a sum of Rs. 28,85,317.00 (Rupees Twenty Eight Lacs Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventeen Only) along with pendentale and future interest 10% per annum simple from 14.04.2016 till full and final realization of the claim besides cost of Rs. 31,000/-, as per the certificate.

4. Notice is hereby given that, in the absence of any order of postponement, the said property shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through Online Electronic Bidding through the website <https://ucobank.auctiontiger.net> on 24.10.2019 between 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon with extension of 5 minutes duration after 12 noon if required.

For further detail contact: Office of the Recovery Officer - II, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Ranchi. Contact No. 0651-2214021 and Branch Manager, Uco Bank, Bermo Branch, Bermo, Contact No- 8527466557.

4.1 The sale will be of the property of the certificate debtors above named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot.

4.2 The property will be put up for the sale in the lots specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale also be stopped if, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the Officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

4.3 No Officer of other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions.

4.4 The particulars specified, in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.

5. (a) The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is as per details

Details of Immovable Properties	Reserve Price	EMD
Raiyati land bearing Plot no. 1567 having Total Area : 3.25 Decimal recorded under Khaityan no. 130 on Mouza : Dhori, Thana no. 68, Bermo in the Town of Bermo, Sub Registry Office Tenughat, District : Bokaro, bearing Sale Deed No. 3186 dated 07.07.1989 and which is butted and bounded as under: North: Land of Md. Salimuddin & Jamaluddin, South: Ismael Mistri, East: 7 <sup>th</sup> width Road, West: Self and said homestead landed property in the name of Sri Fazalur Rahman S/o Abdul Rahman	Rs. 15,00,000/-	Rs. 1,50,000/-

6. The interested bidders are required to deposit EMD not below the Reserve Price along with documents PAN Card, Identity Proof, Address Proof etc. and in the case of company, copy of resolution passes by the Board Members of the Company or any other documents claiming representation/ attorney of the company also, latest by 4:00 by 22.10.2019 before 4:00 PM in the office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Ranchi and thereafter they shall be eligible to participate in the e-auction to be held from 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on 24.10.2019. In case, bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.

7. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be Rs. 1,00,000/- in the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.

8. The unsuccessful bidder shall take EMD directly from the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Ranchi/CH Bank i.e. UCO Bank, Bermo Branch, Bermo immediately on closure of the e-auction sale proceeds.

9. The successful/highest bidder shall have to prepare Demand Draft/ Pay Order for 25% of the bid/sale amount after adjusting the EMD, favouring Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Ranchi, in R.P. No. 725/2016 in A/C No. 02471030080018. IFSC Code : UCBA000247, UCO Bank, Bermo Branch, Bermo by next bank working day i.e. by 04:00 PM with this Tribunal failing which the EMD shall be forfeited.

10. The successful/highest bidder shall deposit through Demand Draft/ Pay Order favouring Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Ranchi in R.P. No. 725/2016 in A/C No. 02471030080018. IFSC Code : UCBA000247, UCO Bank, Bermo Branch, Bermo the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer-II, DRT, Ranchi on or before 15th day from the date of auction of the property, exclusive of such day or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day along with poundage @ 2% upto Rs. 1,00,000/- and @1% on the excess of such Gross amount over Rs. 1,00,000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT, Ranchi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post, the same should reach the Recovery Officer as above).

11. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be re-sold, after the issue of fresh Proclamation of Sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeited all claims to the property of to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

12. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided that further that the amount bid by him is not less than the Reserve Price. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline/acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.

13. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".

14. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at anytime without assigning any reason. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Ranchi on this 08th day of August, 2019.

(KANHAIYA KUMAR)  
RECOVERY OFFICER

# Essential Interventions for Reducing Malnutrition



**Dr Sujeet Ranjan**

rehydration salts (ORS) including routine use of zinc supplements at a dosage of 20mg per day for children older than 6 months or 10mg per day in those younger than 6 months for 10-14 days (WHO)

2. Timely and quality therapeutic feeding and care for all children with severe acute malnutrition: Every child with severe acute malnutrition (very low weight for height) should be provided with therapeutic foods and care in a timely manner, for life-saving rapid recovery and appropriate weight gain. Care for children with severe acute malnutrition requires early case detection (before the development of medical complications), access to therapeutic foods, optimal therapeutic feeding and care protocols.

Opportunities to scale these essential interventions through existing programmes

and schemes

There are specific opportunities for taking these eight essential interventions to State/national scale so as to reach every child, everywhere, to achieve an unprecedented impact on reducing child malnutrition and associated waste of human capital, poor health, growth and development. This will also have the impact on reducing poverty and fostering economic growth. The most important opportunities identified are listed below:

- ◆ Promote an evidence-based approach to the design and revision of key nutrition programs, considering replication of proven interventions and programmes from within Jharkhand and outside of state.
- ◆ Focus on evidence-based, low-cost, high-impact

interventions and deliver them from state level to GP level for maximum impact in reducing the burden of malnutrition.

- ◆ Strengthen advocacy and focus on 1) deworming for children 1-5 years of age, and provision of immunisation and vitamin A supplementation, 2) provision of iron and folic acid supplementation, twice yearly deworming and 3) standard, state-of-the-art feeding and care for children with severe acute malnutrition, including the indigenous production and provision of therapeutic foods.
- ◆ Improve the performance of service providers and counsellors (institutional as well as home visit) through focused training, communications materials, job aids, motivation, and supportive supervision

for improved results. Harmonise nutrition communication guidelines and core messages across ministries and programmes.

- ◆ Initiate denominator-based planning and monitoring to expand coverage, starting with community-based micro-plans, anchored in good mapping of pregnant mothers and children 0-23 months old in the community.
- ◆ Promote monthly coordination and convergence meetings between ICDS, Health, Water & Sanitation development partners, and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as appropriate, especially at district and block level.
- ◆ Support and expand Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSND) to deliver these essential

nutrition interventions. Jharkhand's leadership in many fields is recognised nationally & globally. The questions now are: Can we show its strength and leadership in improving the nutrition and wellbeing of its children? Can India uphold the national and international commitments it has made to the basic rights of children to nutrition and life? The evidence and expert opinion indicate that implementing these ten 'Essential Interventions' could halve the rates of child malnutrition in India over the next five years. Now is the time to combine the existing technical knowledge and political will to end the "curse" of malnutrition in Jharkhand.

The writer is Executive Director, The Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security, New Delhi.

## Training on Scientific Poultry Farming by ICAR-IIAB held



PNS ■ RANCHI

ICAR-Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology (IIAB), Ranchi, organised a hands-on training on "Scientific Poultry Farming" on September 20, 2019, for skill development of the stakeholder farmers of Soparnam and Somersoth villages under Balumath block of Latehar district.

The programme was organised under Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) scheme of Government of India. More than a hundred farmers were oriented on different aspects of poultry farming, namely feeding, management, health care, etc. with a focus on entrepreneurship development. One thousand numbers of six-weeks-old vaccinated improved strains of chicks and ducklings, suitable for backyard farming in the region, were provided to the farmer stakeholders.

Thirty quintals of balanced poultry feed were also provided to the farmers for supplementation purpose to ensure optimum growth and better acclimatisation of the poultry under field condition. The improved strain of birds gives on an average 150 eggs in a year under field conditions, which is double the

performance of local birds and attain mature body-weight of 2-2.5 kg. It is expected to enhance farmers' income and contribute to their nutritional and livelihood security.

On this occasion, 450 bags of urea and 200 bags of Muriate of Potash (MOP) were also provided to about 350 farmers who earlier received quality seeds of paddy, maize and okra.

The programme was chaired by Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, the Director of ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi. The programme was jointly coordinated by Dr. Soumen Naskar (Sr. Scientist), Dr. Binay Kr. Singh (Sr. Scientist), and Dr. Avinash Pandey (Scientist and Nodal Officer of SCSP). Dr. Sudhir Kumar (Scientist) and Dr. Madan Kumar (Scientist) participated actively in the programme. Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma assured the farmers of continued support in future.

**The programme was chaired by Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, the Director of ICAR-IIAB, Ranchi**

**कार्यालय जिला परिषद, चतरा**

- सूचना -

चतरा जिला अन्तर्गत ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में निर्मित होने वाले भवनों का नक्शा तैयार करने हेतु Architect, Civil Engineer and Draft Man का निबंधन कराया जाना है। निबंधन URL 103.13.97.2 Or BPAMS है।

अतः इच्छुक एवं योग्य Architect, Civil Engineer and Draft Man अपना निबंधन हेतु Online आवेदन दिनांक 30.09.2019 तक कर सकते हैं।

कार्यालय पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, चतरा

बूट - बूट नहीं बरतेंगे तो बूट को तरसेंगे

PR 217584 District(19-20)D

**"WALK-IN-INTERVIEW" FOR ENGAGEMENT OF PHYSICIAN**

Notice No.: SER/P-RNC/Contractual/Gaz/103 Date: 17.09.2019

Employment Notice No.: 02/19 (Med)/2019 Date: 17.09.2019

South Eastern Railway, Ranchi Division, Ministry of Railway shall conduct a "Walk-in-Interview" for engagement of 01 (one) full time Physician (Specialist in Medicine) on contractual basis with remuneration of Rs. 95,000/- per month (for 1st year) and Rs. 1,05,000/- per month (for 2nd year onwards), subject to the condition that for Retired Govt. Doctors (Railway/Central/State) the Contractual Remuneration + Pension drawn by retired doctor should not exceed the Last Pay Drawn at the time of retirement. The "Walk-in-Interview" for above engagement shall be held on 24.10.2019 from 11.00 hrs. in the office of the Chief Medical Superintendent, South Eastern Railway, Hatia, Ranchi-834003 (Jharkhand). Desirous candidates may visit our website [www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in) (go to Division > Ranchi > Department > Personnel > Notification) for details. Moreover, Corrigendum or Addendum or Cancellation, if any, shall be published on the above website only. Please follow our website periodically. Willing candidates may appear for "Walk-in-Interview" at the above time and venue.

(PR-775) Divisional Railway Manager(P)/Ranchi South Eastern Railway We serve with a smile

## Hemant's rally delayed in Daltonganj

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

The Badlao Yatra meeting of JMM's working president Hemant Soren here in Daltonganj's Shivjee Maidan on Saturday started one and a half hour late waiting for the crowd to swell as the meeting, which was said to start at 12.30 had hundreds of chairs empty by then.

Audiences began to be seated by 1.30 pm and Soren arrived at the venue around 2 pm in the day and by then, the venue was all filled with people with traditional music. Leaders joined the meeting with their supporters carrying full length JMM party flags which covered every inch of the ground. The gathering was of around 4,000

people said JMM workers themselves.

Soren in his speech lambasted Raghuraj Das Government and at the same time he spoke about his party's plan to do if it comes to power. He took minutes to tell the gathering about the meaning, motive and purpose of his Badlao Yatra which entered its 5th leg here today.

Soren picked up the issue of the free hold of Khas Mahal land here, which Das Government has most recently announced with a slab of 30 per cent 'salami' for the commercial purposes and 15 per cent 'salami' for the residential purposes and some overzealous BJP leaders here blew this announcement out of all

proportions regardless of its delicacies thus gave a weapon to opposition parties to hit Das government over this free hold of Khas Mahal land.

A BJP leader said our own party men here in Daltonganj sitting in AC room created an euphoria over Khas Mahal land free hold decision of the Das Government without any understanding of its complexity and now it is politically boomeranging upon the party.

Soren said, "This Government is doing like a don over the issue of Khas Mahal putting people in further distress but did not utter a word what his party's stand will be for it if it comes to power. Soren in a direct hit on

journalists said Das government is giving them cash to write good things about his Government. "Batches of journalists are being sent by Das government to districts to give pompous picture of his Government," reiterated Soren.

He said the state treasury has gone empty and this Government has no money to pay salary and wages to its employees as a result men and women like Anganwadi sewikas and para teachers are on strike.

Soren urged people to have a change of guard in the State and promised his party if voted to power will take care of farmers, students, jobless youths, women and go for all out development.

## SER to run special train between Shalimar and Jaipur via Tatanagar

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

In order to meet festive rush, the South Eastern Railway (SER) has decided to run special train between Shalimar and Jaipur that will run via Tatanagar.

Officials at the South Eastern Railway headquarters at Garden Reach in Kolkata said that the train would run weekly.

The Shalimar-Jaipur Puja Special Express train will leave Shalimar on every Monday between October 6 and October 28 while the return train will leave Jaipur every Wednesday between October 9 and October 30.

The Shalimar-Jaipur Puja Special (08061) will leave Shalimar every Monday at 8.20 pm and will reach Jaipur at 6.35 am on Wednesday. The train will reach Tatanagar railway station around midnight every Monday.



In the opposite direction, the train (08062) will leave Jaipur every Wednesday at 12:50 pm and will arrive Shalimar at 11.20 pm, the next day (Thursday).

The return train will come to Tatanagar every Thursday at 7 pm.

The special train will have four AC-2 Tier, five AC 3 Tier and four sleeper class coaches and will have stoppages at Santragachi, Kharagpur, Tatanagar, Chakradharpur, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Raigarh, Champa, Bilaspur, Pendra Road, Anupur, Shadol, Katni Murwara, Damoh, Sagur, Bina Malkhed, Guna, R u t h i y a i, Kota, Sawai Madhopur, Bansthali Niwai and Durgapura stations between the two destinations - Shalimar and Jaipur.

## Hardcore Maoist arrested in Giridih

PNS ■ GIRIDIH

A hardcore Maoist wanted in SIS vehicle blast in Pirtard police station limits, where two persons were killed, was arrested by Giridih police here on Friday from Checharia forest area. The arrested rebel has been identified as Dhuma Soren son of Jhonen Soren, belonging to Dubedih village near Giridih-Bokaro border area, said Giridih ASP Deepak Kumar.

SDPO Niraj Kumar said that the arrested naxal has admitted his involvement in SIS vehicle blast case and others related to naxal activities in and around Giridih and Dhanbad. Police claimed that it was a major breakthrough for the district police. The naxal was evading arrest from Giridih and Dhanbad police for last few years. Police also recovered explosive and other material from him. Kumar said that Dhuma Soren gradually became a dreaded name in the district and surrounding area and his influence was gradually growing. His name was enough to run shivers down the spine for businessmen in the area and was involved and wanted in around dozen big cases including he had blown up a SIS van killing two people under Pirtard police station.



Women with their babies during a programme at mega trade fair 'Expo Utsav 2019' organised by Junior Chamber International (JCI) at Morahadi ground in Ranchi on Saturday

## 4 bikes with 80 bags of coal seized

PNS ■ BERMO

Bokaro thermal police on Saturday morning seized four motorbikes 80 bags of illegal coal and also arrested two persons involved in the illegal trade under the Bokaro thermal police station here. Officer-in-Charge UK Thakur said that the coal was about 2 tonnes, which cost worth more than ₹20,000.

He said the motorbikes ferrying illegal caught by a police team at Boronala area in Bermo block in Saturday morning. The coal was loaded on the bikes in abandoned mines in Govindpur and was being transported to other destination. However 6 to eight

coal smugglers managed to escape, police sources said. This is the second routine recovery of illegal coals in span of past two week. Meanwhile police recently seized 11 motorcycles with illegal coals conducting drive in different part of the block. Bokaro SP P Murugan said that they instructed all police stations to stop illegal mining and transportation in the district or otherwise be ready to face the music.

**The coal was loaded on the bikes in abandoned mines in Govindpur and was being transported to other destination**

## 'Swachhat a hi Seva' campaign continues

PNS ■ BOKARO

With the mission to save the earth and check growing pollution, DPS Bokaro continued 'Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign' wherein hundreds of students took the pledge on 'Plastic Waste Management', 'Sanitation and Cleanliness Drive' besides campaigning against the 'Single Use of Plastic'.

On this occasion the students presented short duration plays, participated in various activities and displayed posters and placards with various slogans on discouraging the use of polybags and making alternative arrangements to carry goods in a way to support the nationwide campaign to keep our earth green and eco-friendly.

The teachers advised the students to play a vital role and carry mass awareness programme in saving our environment, planting trees, saving water and continuous cleanliness drive to keep our mother earth safe and pollution-free.

Speaking on the occasion DPS Bokaro Principal A. S. Gangwar said that the school inculcates the habit of continuous cleanliness drive throughout the year. Understating the importance of a clean mind, clean body and clean surrounding the school inculcates and instill values to help children understand and respect mother earth. He added that DPS Bokaro is committed to the cause of 'Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign'.

"Let's believe that nature and environment are manifestations of God and we should as a legacy hand over a Green Earth to our progeny," urged Gangwar.

**"Let's believe that nature and environment are manifestations of God and we should as a legacy hand over a Green Earth to our progeny," urged Gangwar**

# 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 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 indulged 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 cash 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).

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.

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In Kerala, Stakes are high

# 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 percent 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 percent.

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 festival 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 by-poll 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 Aurangzeb 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 'Vindhyaagiri'.

"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. The commissioning of '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 interacted and engaged 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 organisation 'Drishtee 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 in direct tax collections will go up with growth," he said.

Kumar said another area for his optimism is the government focus on divestment 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

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.

# 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 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 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.

Phillips 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.



# 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 and 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.

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

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.

# 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 auto industry was very hopeful of GST reduction. It is clear that there is no

reduction of GST rate on vehicles from 28 per cent to 18 per cent," Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) President Rajan Wadhwa said in a statement.

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

# 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. CSTE, 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 tenderer/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.  
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Telephones : 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax : 0135- 2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
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 Power 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  
Last 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](mailto: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, Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara- 390007.  
Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra- Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.  
Branch Office: ICICI Bank 2nd Floor, Videocon 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/NCR  
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](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://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 Assy. 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](http://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-TKU 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](http://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 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/CTKU 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-TKU 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 क्रय हेतु चौआरौ संख्या-06531 (Health) 2019-20 के प्रकाशित निविदा में आशिक रूप से निम्न शर्तों को जोड़ा जाता है । पूर्व का शेष शर्त यथावत रहेगा ।  
1. निविदा कम्प्यूटर प्रिंट ही होना चाहिए ।  
2. मशीन उपकरण का दर अनुमोदन होने के पश्चात ही कम्पनी का फोन नम्बर, सर्विस सेन्टर तथा दक्ष अभियन्ता का माँग की जायेगी ।  
3. एक लाख से पाँच लाख मूल्य के मशीन का वारंट अथवा तीन वर्षों की होगी ।  
4. जेनरल आईटम के क्रमांक-16 को विलुप्त किया जाता है ।  
5. मशीन उपकरण के निर्माणकर्ता का निर्माण लाईसेंस एवं गुणवत्ता प्रमाण पत्र (ISO/CE Certificate) तकनीकी निविदा के साथ संलग्न करना होगा ।  
6. निविदा सूचि में जितने भी संबंधित सामान ज्ञान के अंतर्गत आते हैं उस ज्ञान सामान के निर्माणकर्ता का लाईसेंस एवं गुणवत्ता संबंधित कागजात तकनीकी निविदा में संलग्न करना होगा ।  
7. शुद्धि पत्र प्रथम प्रकाशित होने की तिथि से दस(10) दिनों के लिए समयावधि बढाई जाती है ।  
विरुद्ध जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट [www.prdbihar.gov.in](http://www.prdbihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है ।  
(डा0 राज रंजन प्रसाद)  
अधीक्षक,  
दरभंगा मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल,  
लहेरियासराय  
PR.008176 (Health) 2019-20  
बेटा-बेटी एक समान। दहेज-प्रथा करे सबका 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.

"We've stood tall for the past 40 years and if the enemy makes a mistake, it will cer-

tainly receive a crushing response," Brigadier General Amirali Hajizadeh said.

The United States upped the ante on Friday by announcing new sanctions against Iran's central bank, with President Donald Trump calling the measures the toughest America has ever imposed on another country.

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".

## 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.

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

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.

## 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 "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 chairman 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 unto-

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.

"Knowing all of this, is anybody dumb enough to believe that I would say something inappropriate with a foreign leader while on such a potentially 'heavily populated' call," he said.

"I would only do what is right anyway, and only do good for the USA!"

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Friday, Trump described the story as a "political hack job" and said former vice president Joe Biden is the one who should be investigated.

"It was a totally appropriate conversation," he said of the telephone call.

"It was actually a beautiful conversation."

Trump claimed he didn't know the identity of the whistleblower but said he was a "partisan person." Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, also took to Twitter to defend Trump.

"A President telling a President of a well known corrupt country he better investigate corruption that affects US is doing his job," he tweeted. **AFP**

# 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." **AP**



French riot police walk through a tear gas cloud on the Champs Elysees during a yellow vest demonstration in Paris on Saturday

## GLOBE TROTTER

### 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.

# 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. **PTI**

## 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 protestor 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. **AFP**

# 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 Zulfikar 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. **IANS**



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. **IANS**

# 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. **PTI**

# HK protesters, police face off in renewed clashes



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. **AFP**

Name of Borrower/Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Demand Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)
1. Mrs 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-2473, Sector - 63, Noida U.P. - 201309	The Residential Flat No - 3A/044 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 163.68 Sq. Mtr.) in "GC Grand" situated at Plot No 2 - C, Vaibhav Khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad	02-Feb-2019	17-Sep-2019	Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
2. Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Registered Office at - 17, Ardhaman Tower, Preet Vihar, Commercial Complex, Delhi - 110092. Also At: - Assotech Electronics Private Limited, Plot No - 43, Sector - 63, Phase- III Noida - 201301	Registered Office at - 17, Ardhaman Tower, Preet Vihar, Commercial Complex, Delhi - 110092. Also At: - K & K Health Care Private Limited (Group Company of Assotech Electronics Private Limited) At - 372/12, Site IV Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP - 201010	02-Feb-2019	17-Sep-2019	Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
3. Mr. Dinesh Kapoor, C-10, Preet Vihar - East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092. Also At: - Mr. Dinesh Kapoor, C/170, Block C Preet Vihar East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	North- As per the sale Deed East- As per the sale Deed South- As per the sale Deed West- As per the sale Deed	02-Feb-2019	17-Sep-2019	Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
4. Mr. Saru Kapoor C-10, 2nd Floor Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	North- As per the sale Deed East- As per the sale Deed South- As per the sale Deed West- As per the sale Deed	02-Feb-2019	17-Sep-2019	Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
5. Mrs. Seema Kapoor, (Guarantor), W/o - Mr. Balraj Kapoor C-10, Block C, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	North- As per the sale Deed East- As per the sale Deed South- As per the sale Deed West- As per the sale Deed	02-Feb-2019	17-Sep-2019	Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)
6. Mr. Balraj Kapoor, (Guarantor), S/o - Somnath Kapoor, C-10, Block C, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, New Delhi - 110092	North- As per the sale Deed East- As per the sale Deed South- As per the sale Deed West- As per the sale Deed	02-Feb-2019	17-Sep-2019	Rs. 15,09,260/- (Rupee Fifteen lakh nine thousand two hundred sixty only)

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, also 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.

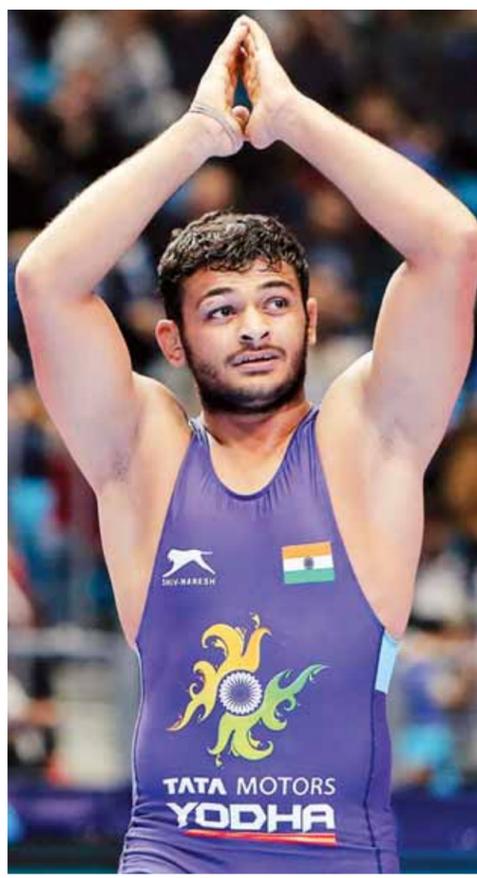
# Phenomenal Panghal: From late-comer to world-beater

**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 late. 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 *chutti* (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 *bachhu* (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 *adjustment 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

**PTI ■ NUR-SULTAN**  
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 medalist Sushil Kumar who is till 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.  
Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang 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 quarterfinals). 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.  
Jitender began with an easy 7-2 win over Molodova's Gheorghii Pascalov.  
In the pre-quarterfinals, he was up against Turkey's Muhammet Nuri Kotanoglu, the European Championship bronze medallist and again his immense upper body strength helped him to a 7-2 win.  
However, he could not find a way to break the solid defence of Slovakia's Taimuraz Salkazanov and lost 0-4.  
In 97kg, Mausam Khatri was no match to his American opponent. The Indian lost by technical superiority.

# Another series win on focus

**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 Kagiso Rabada-led pace attack with optimism, the size of the ground only aiding stroke-makers like the two openers.  
The terrific Indian trio could again be a thorn in the Proteas' flesh, with Rohit especially looking to make up after failing to translate his start into a big knock in Mohali.  
While Pant will be hoping for a reversal in his fortunes, India has 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.

## सिंगल यूज प्लास्टिक को कहें... ना

प्लास्टिक पदार्थ

दर्माकोल

प्लास्टिक बैली

### आज ही इनका प्रयोग बंद करें

दोना

जूट का बैला

कागज का बिकोपा

## झारखण्ड में सभी तरह के प्लास्टिक कैरी बैग प्रतिबंधित हैं

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झारखण्ड राज्य प्रदूषण नियंत्रण पर्यटन, वन, पर्यावरण एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

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”.



ASOKE MUKERJI

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

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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

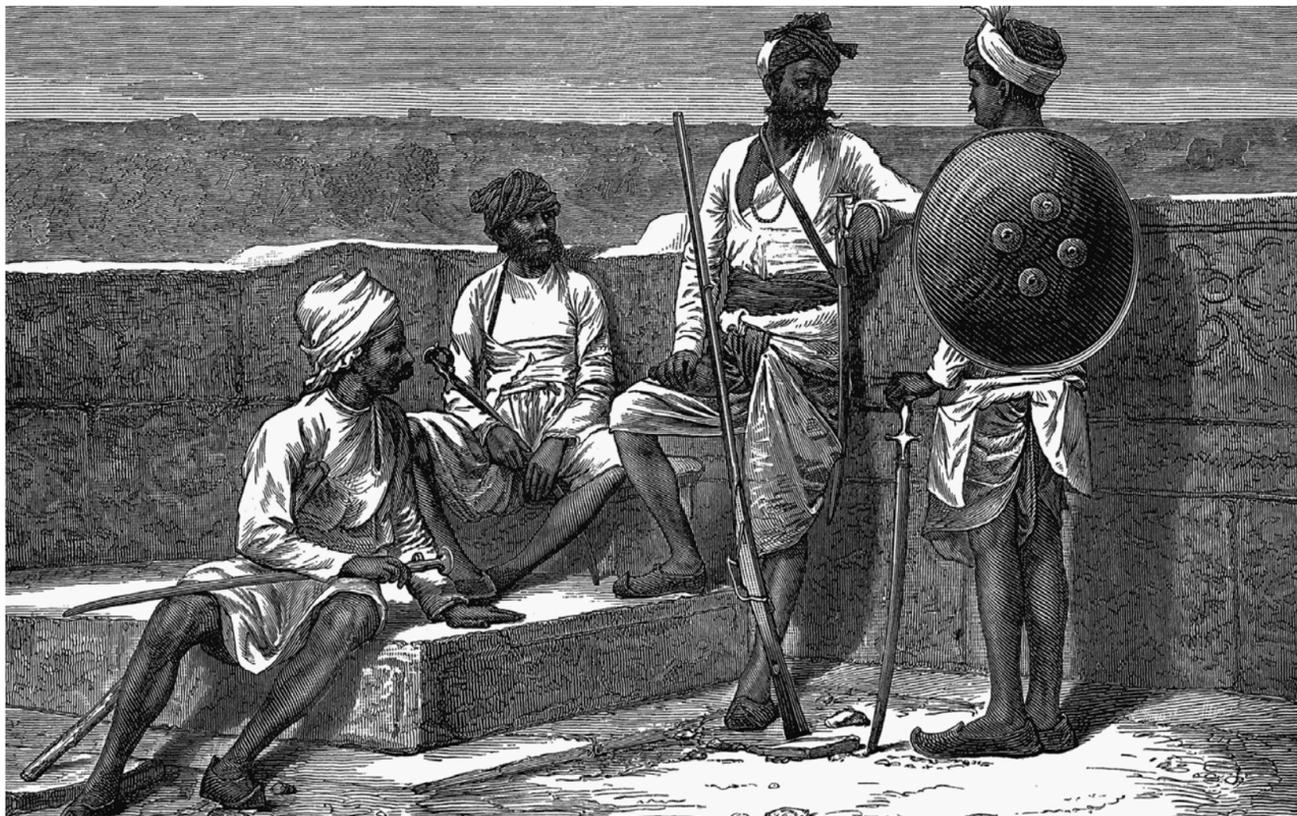
A 131 page book packed with shocking but well researched facts, data and information. That's how "Caste As Social Capital", authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan can be described. The data painstakingly collected by Prof Vaidyanathan and presented in an articulate manner points at a big reservation fraud. 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 caste 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.

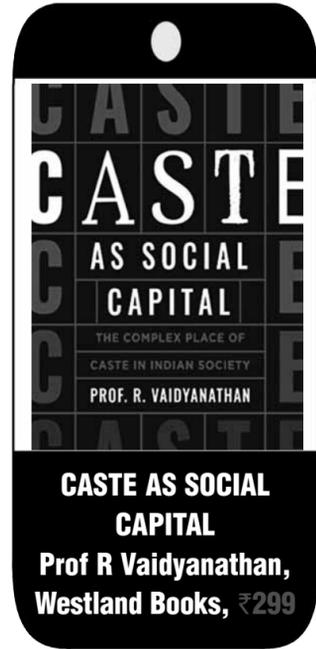
"Dharampal discovered that a fairly detailed survey of school and college education has been undertaken by the British administration in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Area. According to the survey conducted between 1822 and 1825 in the Madras Presidency (that is, the whole of the Indian States of Tamil 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



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.

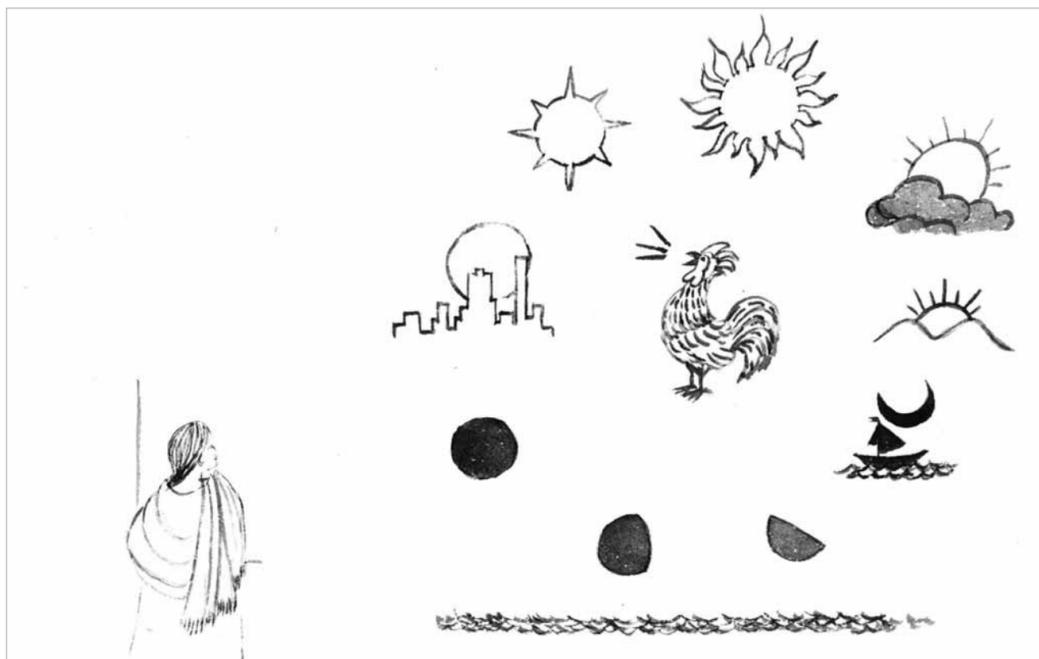
I've always been strong-hearted and proud of it. So am I not sad? When I was first diagnosed with Stage One of an aggressive type of breast cancer, I was stunned and disappointed in myself but quickly found my resolve. I chose to fight cheerfully, selecting the best doctors, eating healthy, praying hard,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

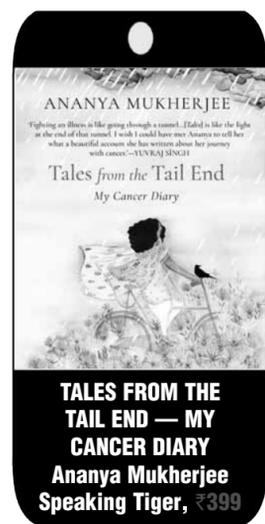
Do I have Hope?  
Difficult to say. It's a long answer. The husband says, "Try

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 *sukh-dukh 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



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 revise 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

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)



MAKHAN SAINIK



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**

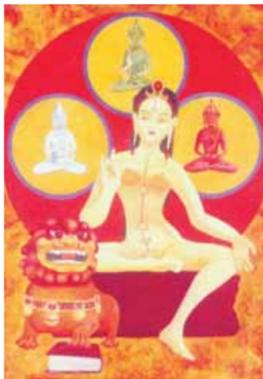
MADHU KOTIYA



**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

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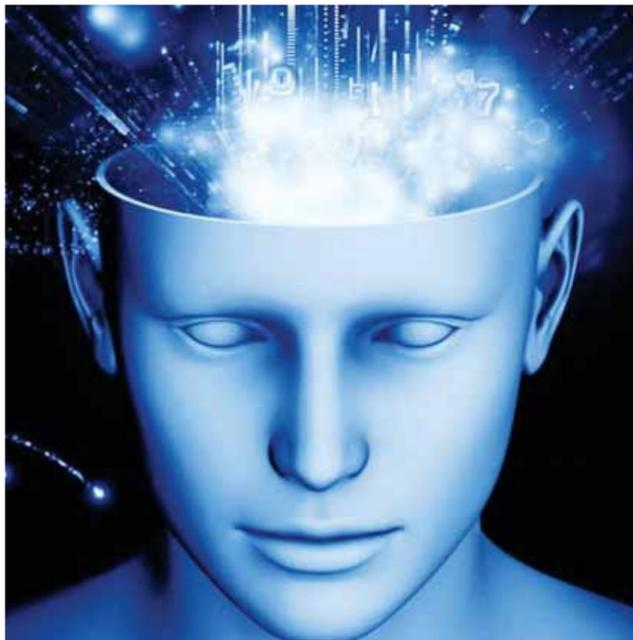
**ASTROTURF**

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