

NATION 5
VERDICT ON DK'S BAIL
PLEA ON SEPT 25

MONEY 6
MOBILE PRODUCTION
TO REACH \$190 BN BY 2025

SPORT 12
DEEPAK'S DOUBLE
DELIGHT

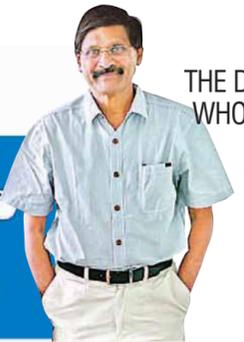
Published From
VIJAYAWADA DELHI LUCKNOW
BHOPAL RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI DEHRADUN
HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2019; PAGES 12 ₹3



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THE DOCTOR
WHO LOVES
MATH

7

NGT launches e-filing of grievances

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has introduced online filing of petitions with the launch of a new website.

The website will help users an easier access to the latest status of various court cases and court orders. It will also allow users to browse information concerning the NGT.

With the e-filing process in place, now petitions can be filed from any place at the convenience of the aggrieved parties without physically going to the Tribunal's principal or regional benches. The online process will, however, in no manner affect the conventional process of filing petitions with the registrars at various benches. The court fee in terms of Rule 12 can be paid online with Bharat Kosh and receipt of the same can be annexed with the petition.

TTD temple in Rushikonda by March

VISAKHAPATNAM: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) will aim to complete construction of Lord Venkateswara temple on a hillock on the beach road in Rushikonda by March. It is located between Gayatri Vidya Parishad and Gitam University. The temple is being constructed over 10 acres of land against an estimated cost of Rs 17 crore. The sea-facing temple on the Bheemili beach road will also get a meditation hall and a marriage hall.

P Basanth Kumar, TTD Joint Executive Officer, said that statues of the deities will be carved at the SV Institute of Traditional Sculpture and Architecture in Tirupati. There will also be two sub-temples, including Sri Padmavathi Ammavari temple and Sri Andal Ammavari temple. Meanwhile, construction of TTD temples in Seethampeta in Srikakulam district and Bhubaneswar is underway.

Car kills school kid, injures two more

VISAKHAPATNAM: After striking a parked truck, a speeding car hit three school-going students at Kokkirapalli Junction in Elamanchili town on Saturday morning. A 14-year-old school boy died on the spot and two other boys were injured in the accident.

The deceased was identified as T Om Sai, studying ninth standard at Gowri Public School in Elamanchili. Schoolmate G Tanuj Kumar (14) and Sri Chaitanya School's V Bhagawan (15) were injured in the mishap.

Naidu's house served demolition notice

Owner given seven-day deadline

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Authorities on Saturday served another demolition notice to the owner of the house in which former chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu resides here. The Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) has asked Lingamaneni Ramesh to remove the unauthorised construction within seven days, failing which APCRDA will remove the same.

An order issued by APCRDA Commissioner was pasted on the wall of the house, located in Undavalli village, as neither the TDP President nor his family members were available to receive the same.

The house owner was issued a show-cause notice on June 27. The latest order mentions that the reply submitted to the notice was not to the satisfaction of the authority. According to the order, during the inspection of the premises by the APCRDA staff, unauthorised constructions and developments were found in violation of various rules and regulations.

The order identifies unauthorised RCC residential buildings on the ground and first floor, along with a swimming pool and ground floor dressing room measuring 1.318 acres. It says the unauthorised construction is within the Maximum Flood Level (MFL) of the Krishna river.



An order issued by APCRDA Commissioner was pasted on the wall of the house, located in Undavalli village, as neither the TDP President nor his family members were available to receive the same

The earlier notice was issued immediately after the demolition of Praja Vedika, a government building adjacent to Naidu's residence.

Naidu had been living in the house on lease since he shifted here from Hyderabad in 2016. He had later got Praja Vedika,

a meeting hall, constructed adjacent to the house.

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy in June ordered demolition of Praja Vedika. He had also alleged that Naidu himself is living in an illegal house.

He had said the demolition drive would cover all illegal buildings on the banks of Krishna river at Undavalli.



Former TDP MP Sivaprasad passes away

PNS ■ AMARAVATI

Senior Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader and former MP N Sivaprasad died due to renal failure on Saturday, party sources said. He was 68. He was survived by his wife and two daughters.

Sivaprasad had been suffering from kidney ailment for some time now and was admitted to a hospital in Tirupati a few days ago.

On Thursday, he was shifted to Apollo hospitals in Chennai, where he died.

TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu visited Sivaprasad in the hospital on Friday. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chittoor (SC) constituency twice.

He had also served as a Minister for Information and Public Relations in the Chandrababu Naidu cabinet in the undivided Andhra Pradesh.

Continued on Page 3

Measures to contain flood damages soon: Jagan

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy directed the District Collector of Kurnool to provide 15 percent additional compensation to flood victims and an additional Rs 2,000 to every flood-affected home. The Chief Minister said that he had discussed with the Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao on interlinking Krishna River with Godavari River.

Earlier, he conducted an aerial survey of Nandyal constituency's flood-affected regions and held a review meeting at the Municipal office in Nandyal. He said that 17 mandals in the division were badly hit by the floods as were R&B and PR roads. The damages were to the tune of Rs 784 crore. Also, over 31,000

Jaganmohan Reddy said that 17 mandals in the division were badly hit by the floods as were R&B and PR roads. The damages were to the tune of Rs 784 crore

hectares of cropland and 2,000 hectares of horticultural crops were damaged "Permanent remedial measures will be taken to prevent flood damage in the Kundu River basin and Nandyal area," he said.

Continued on Page 3



Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy conducting an aerial survey of the rain-affected regions in Nandyal constituency on Saturday

Armed with plagiarism detection tool, AU to check every thesis

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

In view of innumerable plagiarism complaints in research works, Andhra University has decided not to approve research thesis with more than 20 percent similarities by applying plagiarism detection software.

Andhra University Vice-Chancellor Prof PVGD Prasad Reddy said that every university has its own limit as to the similarity index of the thesis.

"We have fixed it at 20%. No thesis having a similarity index above 20% can be submitted in the future in Andhra University. The UGC's anti-plagiarism tool will help single out the plagiarized work from the original content and compile a report as to the extent of similarity index. We will soon make an official announcement as to the rollout of the new system," said Prof Reddy. University Grants Commission (UGC) has made the tool mandatory for every university about two years ago. Then Andhra University invited bids from the private parties. But it retracted its bid for purchasing the software in the last minute in 2018 after the MHRD's announcement of



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extending the software to all educational institutions at free of cost. The UGC (Promotion of academic integrity and prevention of plagiarism in higher educational institutions) Regulations, 2018 stipulated specific guidelines to curb plagiarism. It provided the software to Andhra University recently. All departments in the university should constitute a departmental academic integrity panel. Later, the recommendations would be forwarded to the institutional academic integrity panel headed by Vice-Chancellor or other senior academician.



The powerful want to trample me: Harish Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Alleging that some powerful people wanted to trample him, former Uttarakhand chief minister Harish Rawat accused the CBI of being "impatient" and "under pressure" in its probe into the sting operation case.

Rawat on Friday said that he was ready for any punishment but his right to justice should be protected. "Some powerful people want to trample me under their feet," he tweeted. "Justice is free, it will punish the guilty and protect the innocent but why do the powerful today seem to mount pressure on everything. Am I a threat to the country's security? Am I a threat to law and order? Am I running away from the country," he asked.

Maharashtra, Haryana Assembly polls on Oct 21

Counting on October 24 Notifications on Sept 27

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Single-phase assembly elections will be held in Maharashtra and Haryana on October 21 and the BJP will take on the Congress-led opposition to retain power in both the states. The date for the polls in the two states was announced by the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday. The counting of votes will be taken up on October 24, Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora told a press conference.

The term of the 288-member Maharashtra assembly ends on November 9 and that of the 90-member Haryana Assembly on November 2.

Notifications for the two assembly elections will be issued on September 27 and the nomination process will begin on the same day. October 4 is the last date of filing nominations.

While scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on October 5, October 7 is the last date for candidates to withdraw from the electoral battle.

The assembly elections are the first after Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the BJP to power at the Centre for a second term in May. The government's decision to abrogate Article 370 provisions, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, is among the BJP campaign's key themes for the assembly polls.



Sunil Arora

Both parties could not agree to a seat-sharing deal even in the 2014 polls, leading to them fighting the elections separately. The BJP had won 122 seats and the Sena 63 seats. They joined hands after the polls to form government.

though talks between the two parties have been going in for some time.

The BJP wants to fight a larger share of the 288 seats in the assembly while the Sena wants it to stick to the earlier agreed formula that both will contest an equal number of constituencies.

Both parties could not agree to a seat-sharing deal even in the 2014 polls, leading to them fighting the elections separately. The BJP had won 122 seats and the Sena 63 seats. They joined hands after the polls to form government.

Chandrayaan-2 achieved 98% objectives: ISRO Chief

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K Sivan on Saturday said the Chandrayaan-2 mission has achieved 98 per cent of its objectives, even as scientists are working hard to establish contact with lander 'Vikram'.

Sivan also said Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is doing well and performing scheduled science experiments.

"Why we are saying Chandrayaan-2 achieved 98 per cent success is because of two objectives — one is science and the other technology demonstration. In case of technology demonstration, the success percentage was almost full," he told reporters at the airport here, before heading to IIT-Bhubaneswar to attend its 8th convocation ceremony.



ED 'attaches' 3 chimpanzees, 4 marmosets

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

In a first-of-its-kind action, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday said that it has attached three chimpanzees and four marmosets (small tropical American monkeys) in a money laundering case valued at Rs 81 lakh.

The ED had registered a case on a complaint of West Bengal government's Wild Life Department that one Supradip Guha of Kolkata was in illegal possession of prohibited wildlife.

The financial probe agency said the value of each of the chimpanzees is found to be in excess of Rs 25 lakh while the value of a marmoset is about Rs 1.5 lakh.



The ED in its statement said that the West Bengal Wild Life Department has filed a complaint in a local court against Guha. "The police had registered an FIR against Guha for forging documents pertaining to a permission letter allowing him to illegally transport the wild life birds," it said.

The agency said that during investigation, it was revealed

that Guha was running an organised wildlife smuggling racket. "He was a clever criminal and gave contradictory statements to the customs and wildlife authorities to evade action under customs as well as wildlife laws," it alleged.

It alleged that Guha also obtained fake certificates regarding birth of the three

Chimpanzees in India. "Based on the facts revealed during investigation, the above wildlife has been provisionally attached. The three chimpanzees and marmosets are now kept with the Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata," the ED said.

According to ED personnel, Guha was attempting to take back the animals from

The financial probe agency said the value of each of the chimpanzees is found to be in excess of Rs 25 lakh while the value of a marmoset is about Rs 1.5 lakh

the zoo authorities by claiming his right over them and by using false statements and documents. The attachment has enabled the Zoo authorities to keep the wild life animals with them. The three chimpanzees are a major point of attraction for all the visitors in the Zoo and thus a source of revenue for the Zoo," it added.

Showing middle finger to woman is outrageous, rules Delhi court

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has ruled that showing middle finger to a woman amounts to outraging her modesty. The ruling was made by a judge while hearing a case concerning an assault which took place in 2014.

The accused, who has been sentenced to jail, had gestured at a woman with his middle finger and made obscene facial expressions. The complainant, in this case, had alleged that the accused passed lewd remarks aimed at her

and even slapped her. The matter was first brought to the attention of Delhi Police in May, 2014 by a woman who claimed that her brother-in-law showed her his middle finger and assaulted her, according to a media news report. After an investigation, police booked the accused under Sections 509 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which correspond to punishment awarded for word gesture or lewd remarks meant to insult a woman's modesty.



Arrangements for Dasara fete expedited at Durga temple

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Durga temple authorities are making elaborate arrangements for Dasara celebrations, which are slated from September 29. Executive Officer Suresh Babu reviewed the status of all the works on Saturday. The celebrations will start from September 29 and conclude on October 8 on the day of Dasara.

Arrangements are being made for queue lines atop Indrakeeladri. The Executive Officer explained that "two



To avoid inconvenience to the pilgrims due to VIP visits, this time the management has planned a foot-over-bridge at Chinna Raja Gopuram

queue lines are being arranged from the canal road starting at Vinayaka temple to Durga temple. Rodham Centre, Durga Ghat, toll gate, ghat road and then it will reach the temple on the hill."

To avoid inconvenience to the pilgrims due to VIP visits, this time the management has

planned a foot-over-bridge at Chinna Raja Gopuram so that their queue will not be disturbed, the Executive Officer explained.

He informed that the temple authorities have planned 12 counters for the distribution of prasadam. For the security purpose, CCTV cameras would be installed in all important spots in and around the temple, he added.

He said "We are trying to complete the arrangements by September 26, as from September 29 onwards the floating of pilgrims will be started. We are arranging drinking water and milk for children. Free bus facility will be available for senior citizens and especially physically challenged."

Single-use plastic ban from Oct 2

G RAVI KIRAN
■ VIJAYAWADA

Retail shop owners are gearing up to shun single-use plastic carry bags forever from October 2 onwards. It seems the campaign launched by the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation and district administration is yielding good results. The Corporation teams controlled wholesale shops, which are selling these single-use plastic carry bags, but they have to prevent manufacturing.

The danger of using plastic carry bags has not reached all the people, but they are aware of ban, particularly, those who use plastic carry bags regularly.

Retail sellers are going to ask the customers to bring their own bags to carry the goods, which they procure at the shop. Otherwise, the customer has to purchase a jute bag, or an equivalent cover by paying money. Already, retail domestic sellers have been raided by VMC teams and fined several times. Keeping this in view, they have decided not to use single-use plastic covers.

M Peraiah, a shop owner, said "We came to know that from October 2 onwards, nobody can use these plastic covers. We will also stop using them. Already, we stopped purchasing them and even



Collector MD Imtiyaz, along with others, displaying jute bags in Vijayawada on Saturday, as ban on single-use plastic carry bags will come into effect from October 2 onwards

they are not available now at wholesale shops. We will ask the customers to get their own bags, otherwise, we would get jute bags and plastic covers, which will be of higher microns than the banned one."

Already, in shopping malls, the single-use plastic carry bags usage was stopped. Notably, the use of carry bags is prevalent not only in provision shops, roadside food outlets, but also in restaurants and outlets. They foot vendors

S. Ganesh, a vendor, said "We are using single-use plastic carry bags for parcels. But, officials fined us several times. After October 2, we want to use paper plates, or banana leaves instead of them"

serve idli, dosa, noodles, Chinese fast food and others by laying a plastic paper on the plate. Even they will give

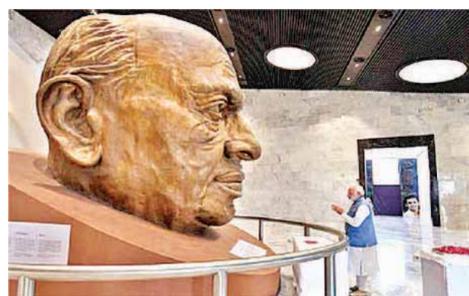
parcels in those single-use plastic carry bags only. These vendors also witnessed raids of VMC teams

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Retail shop, food outlets and restaurants gearing up for the ban

and paid the fine. They are also preparing to avoid single-use plastic covers. S. Ganesh, a vendor, said "We are using single-use plastic carry bags for parcels. But, officials fined us several times. After October 2, we want to use paper plates, or banana leaves instead of them." If retail shop owners and roadside vendors shun single-use plastic covers, then the ban on single-use plastic carry bags may become successful.



MHA announces Sardar Patel Award for national integration

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Friday announced the Sardar Patel National Unity Award, a new honour on the pattern of Padma awards for individuals or institutions for notable contributions towards the cause of national unity and integrity.

A portrait of Sardar Patel shall be embossed upon a circular shaped gold medal with diameter of two centimetres and on the reverse shall be embossed the State emblem and motto in Hindi, it said. "The emblem, the lotus and the petals shall be of fine silver plated with gold and the inscription shall be of frosted gold."

As per the notification, a sealed pattern of the decoration shall be deposited and kept. "The decoration shall be worn by men on the left breast, suspended from a plain lotus tri-colour ribbon one and four centimetres in width and by women the same colour and width fashioned

into a bow."

The decoration shall be awarded for notable and inspiring contributions to promote the cause of nationality and integrity and to reinforce the value of a strong and united India, it said.

It noted that any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex shall be eligible for the award.

The decoration may be awarded posthumously in very rare and only in highly deserving cases, the notification said. The names of the persons, upon whom the decoration is conferred, shall be published in the Gazette of India and a register of all such recipients shall be maintained under the direction of the President.

The President may cancel and annul the award of the decoration to any person or organisation or institution and thereupon his name shall be erased from the register and he shall be required to surrender the decoration and the 'Sanad', it said.

Chinese game that reduces depression

AGENCIES ■ BEIJING

When it comes to reducing depression risk among middle-aged and older adults in China, playing a game of Mahjong may be the answer, according to new research. A study published in the journal Social Science & Medicine says that regularly playing the popular tile-based strategy game Mahjong was one of several types of social participation linked to reduced rates of depression among middle-aged and older adults in China.

"Global economic and epidemiologic trends have led to significant increase in the burden of mental health among older adults, especially in the low and middle income countries," said study co-author Adam Chen, associate professor at University of Georgia.

Poor mental health is a major issue in China, which accounts for 17 per cent of the global disease burden of mental disorders. For the study, the research team analysed survey data from nearly 11,000 residents aged 45 years and older from the nationally representative China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study. They looked at symptoms of depression and compared it to the type and frequency of social participation, including visiting with friends, playing



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Mahjong, participating in a sport or social club, and volunteering in the community.

They found that, on the whole, participating in a wide variety of activities more frequently was associated with better mental health. Specifically, urban residents, who played Mahjong, a popu-

lar strategy game, were less likely to feel depressed. "What is more surprising is that Mahjong playing does not associate with better mental health among rural elderly respondents. One hypothesis is that Mahjong playing tends to be more competitive and at times become a means of gambling in rural China," Chen added.



Students performing flash mob during the cultural festival (file photo)

Sri Vidya Niketan to organise 3-day techno cultural fest

PNS ■ TIRUPATI

Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Institutions organising Mohana Mantra 2k19 on September 27, 28 and 29, the most awaited national-level techno cultural festival of the year.

Mohana Mantra is a national-level techno cultural festival launched in 2012 with the idea of bringing out the inherent abilities of young technocrats and upcoming entrepreneurs helping them attaining precision through various technical events, cultural extravaganza and live-performance contests. It is devised to

encourage meticulous and healthy competition among the students across the country.

Sree Vidyanikethan witnesses over 30,000 students' footprints in the techno-cultural fest to experience the amazing extravaganza for three days. The compilation of a great range of creative and energizing events in Mohana Mantra assures joyous expeditions. "We conduct workshops for engineering, pharmacy, nursing and MBA streams and a lot of games, along with band and DJ nite, this year 'Theory Band' from Hyderabad will perform on September 27.

AP NGO's Association supports plastic ban

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

AP NGOs' Association, Vijayawada unit, has taken initiative to participate in the campaign of the ban on single-use plastic covers. They have distributed jute bags in the Swaraj Maidan Rythu Bazaar on Saturday.

Collector Imtiyaz Ahmed was the chief guest. He stated plastic causes serious environmental pollution, affecting the basic life support system such as soil, water and air. It also resulted in health ailments such as eye irritation, vision failure, difficulty in breathing, liver dysfunction and cancer.

AP NGO Association District President A Vidya Sagar said one needs to check the stormwater drains in the town to see the hazardous impact of plastic on the environment. Taking the example of Mumbai, he said "Whenever there are heavy floods due to rain, people in Mumbai used to blame the choked stormwater drains. But, the presence of plastic items in the drains was identified as one of the major causes for flooding in Mumbai," he said.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY

ENC undertakes coastal clean-up drive at Vizag beach

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The International Coastal Clean-up Day was observed by the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) for the eighth consecutive year on Saturday.

On the occasion, a record number of over 3,000 naval personnel, Defence Civilians, their families, KV schoolchildren NCC and SCC cadets undertook massive coastal clean-up drive at major waterfronts of Visakhapatnam. The clean-up drive was formally inaugurated by Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, ENC at RK Beach.

All the participants were divided into 14 groups and cleaned various areas under Ramakrishna Beach, Tenneti Park, Yerada Beach, Jalaripeta, Jodugulla Palem and Kalinga Beach in addition to other areas under the jurisdiction of Indian Navy.

A special skit was also played to demonstrate the ill effects of sea pollution and the need to preserve the environment. The event aimed at creating awareness among the people to keep beaches clean and to support the noble efforts of GVMC in mak-



ing 'The City of Destiny - Vizag' a clean city and safeguarding our environment.

Coast Guard cleans-up Rushikonda Beach

Coast Guard has been coordinating coastal clean-up since 2006 as the service is committed towards cleaner and safer seas. On the east coast of India, Coast Guard conducted International coastal clean-up (ICC) in West Bengal, Odisha, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. On the coast Andhra, Coast Guard, along with other agencies of the State, has conducted ICC-2019 in Kakinada, Krishanapatnam and



Visakhapatnam. In all, 1,800 volunteers from Indian Coast Guard, CISE, NCC, Andhra University and students from various schools and colleges

participated in the clean-up drive and collected approximately 3,250 kgs of garbage mainly consisting of plastic, glass bottles, cigarette butts,



People advised to stop use of single-use plastic items and make it a habit of carrying their own water bottles and glasses while travelling and use of jute/cloth bags for daily use to reduce use of plastic

food wrappers, beverage bottles, bottle caps and grocery bags.

Inspector General AK Harbola, TM, Chief of Staff (CoS), Headquarters Coast Guard, Eastern Seaboard and Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University PVGD Prasad Reddy graced the occasion as the chief guest. Speaking on the occa-

sion, the chief guests advised the gathering on adverse effects of single-use plastic items and requested volunteers to make it a habit of carrying their own water bottles and glasses while travelling and use of jute/cloth bags for daily use to reduce use of plastic, thereby contributing to cleaner environment.

VMC intensifies measures to combat viral fevers in city

Vijayawada: The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has intensified the measures to control viral fevers, which are spreading in the city. On Saturday, In-charge Commissioner Sakuntala has convened a meeting at the Corporation Council Hall and instructed officials and staff to work together and combat viral fevers.

She has instructed the malaria department staff to conduct house-to-house survey in the city and identify the cases of viral fevers. She directed officials to explain people to drain out water from unused empty vessels as they would become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. She further stated that dengue clinics were set up in the city.

Town Planning Department officials toured the city on Saturday and identified vacant lands and put up banners stating that land owners should take measures to drain out water logging immediately, otherwise they will impose fines on them. Schoolchildren of Bhavanipuram, Vidyadharapuram and other areas took a rally to create awareness to curb viral fevers by taking necessary measures.

Patients deprived of medicines at ESI Hospital

G RAVI KIRAN
■ VIJAYAWADA

In the name of inquiry on procurement of medicines in ESIC Hospital, the supply of medicines was stopped. Patients, who have to get medicines for long-term diseases and post-operated patients, are suffering as they have been deprived of medicines. They were forced to spend thousands of rupees to procure medicines in the market. Without showing any solution, officials are just dragging the time.

Scams busted in the ESI dispensaries over procurement of medicines in Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh has made an impact on the distribution of medicines to patients.

Generally, patients, who are suffering from long-term diseases, or lifetime diseases, have to take medicines, while patients of post-surgeries and others have to take medicines regularly for years together. The ESI has been providing them these medicines as per the rules and regulations. At many places, many times, we will get the answer from the dispensary that medicines are not available they have to procure, an ESI cardholder stated.

Patients at Vijayawada ESI Hospital are not getting required medicines. Employees at ESI Hospitals are saying that there is no budget and there is no sup-



G Kalyani, an ESI cardholder, said "we have a kidney transplant patient at our residence. Regularly, we have to give medicines. But from the past three months, ESI officials are not providing medicines, saying that no procurement, no budget. We are forced to purchase them outside costing thousands of rupees"

ply of medicines. Only general medicines a la paracetamol are available at dispensaries. There is no scope for other medicines, which have to be procured from the outside agencies, as

the process was stopped due to the irregularities found by officials.

Without providing an alternative arrangement, officials stopped the procurement and subsequently

Scams busted in the ESI dispensaries over procurement of medicines in Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh has made an impact on the distribution of medicines to the patients

One of the employees of ESI said "Procurement will be done at higher level only. Patients are coming and lashing out at us for not providing medicines. What can we do? We are helpless. But, we can understand the problem of cardholders, who are spending thousands of rupees to purchase medicines"

patients are not getting medicines. G Kalyani, an ESI cardholder, said "we have a kidney transplant patient at our residence. Regularly, we have to give medicines. But from the past three months, ESI officials are not providing medicines, saying that no procurement, no budget. We are forced to purchase them outside costing thousands of rupees."

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C Bhaskar Reddy Prasanthi Reddy

TTD Board members sworn in

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Three members in the newly formed TTD Trust Board were sworn in Tirumala temple on Saturday.

Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Chief and Chief Whip of Government C Bhaskar Reddy was sworn in as an ex-officio member of TTD Trust Board in the sanctum sanctorum of Srivari temple.

Later, Krishnamoorthy Vaidyanathan took oath at 10.50 am, while Prasanthi Reddy by 11 am inside the temple. JEO P Basant Kumar administered the oath with all members.

After Vedasirvachanam, C Bhaskar Reddy said with the benign blessings of Sri Venkateswara Swamy he got an opportunity to serve the board for the third time.

While Krishnamoorthy also thanked the Almighty for the opportunity to serve the pilgrims.

Prasanthi Reddy said she will make use of this opportunity to offer better services to pilgrims. CVSO Gopinath Jatti, temple deputy executive officer Harindranath and others were also present.

Vasireddy Padma assures security for girls, women

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The government will provide protection to girls studying in women educational institutions, assured State Women's Commission Chairperson Vasireddy Padma. She visited Grace College of Nursing at Machilipatnam here on Saturday when she came to know that college correspondent Ramesh Samayam Ramesh Babu was harassing and abusing girls. On the occasion, she interacted with girls and asked about their problems and tried to instil confidence in them.

She enquired officials of the administration department and the hostel warden about the behaviour of the correspondent. Later, addressing the media, Padma stated that the correspondent threatened parents of the victims for lodging a complaint against him.

She lamented that correspondent Ramesh asked the final year student for sexual favours for internal marks, which is unethical. She said that the government will not spare anybody if they try to exploit women and girls.

She also said that they will organise district-level conferences for the security of girls and women in women's educational institutions. Additional SP Moka Satti Babu, DSP Mahaboob Basha and others were present.

Additional SP Moka Satti



Correspondent of Grace Nursing College of Machilipatnam, Samayam Ramesh Babu was arrested for abusing the fourth year B Sc nursing student hailing from Bhimavaram town

Additional SP Moka Satti Babu said that they registered a case under various Sections and SC/ST atrocity case based on a complaint lodged by the victim and produced the accused in the court for judicial remand

Babu said that they arrested correspondent of Grace Nursing College of Machilipatnam, Samayam Ramesh Babu for abusing the fourth year B Sc nursing student hailing from Bhimavaram town. He said that they registered a case under various Sections and SC/ST atrocity case based on a complaint lodged by the victim and produced the accused in the court for judicial remand.

Police rescues boy within 48 hours after kidnap

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada police solved a kidnap case of an eight-month-old boy from Athkur of Gannavaram. They succeeded in rescuing the boy within 48 hours by travelling to Jaipur immediately based on a complaint lodged by the boy's parents. DCP Harshavardhan Raju explained measures taken up by police and the details of the case.

According to the DCP, Poolu Bhai (20) and Sonu (20) had come to Vijayawada from Rajasthan to eke out their livelihood, along with their son Ankees (eight-month-old). They are staying at Krishnalanka and selling pans, lanterns at Pottipadu toll



DCP Harshavardhan Raju addressing a press conference in Vijayawada on Saturday

Fifteen days ago, Poolu Bhai had taken Rs 36,000 hand loan from Sk Chand, but failed to repay it as per the promise. Hence, one week ago, they had a heated argument over payment of the money

gate. Sk. Chand (28) and Sk Shahnaz alias Maya (25), a couple came also from Rajasthan and are working at the same place. Both these couples became close, as they belong to the same State.

Fifteen days ago, Poolu Bhai had taken Rs 36,000 hand

loan from Sk Chand, but failed to repay it as per the promise. Hence, one week ago, they had a heated argument over payment of the money.

On September 16, the victim couple handed over the boy to the accused couple to take care for two hours and



Poolu Bhai and Sonu, along with their son, who was rescued from kidnapers from Jaipur of Rajasthan

gone for work. But, after coming back, the accused couple and boy disappeared. After with the boy on September 19, and brought them to Vijayawada.

searching all the areas, the couple approached the police and lodged a complaint against them. The accused sent a message to the parents of the boy directing them to bring Rs 36,000 to Jaipur and take their boy.

Tracking the mobile of the accused, police came to know that they travelled in Munnar Express towards Jaipur. Immediately, higher police personnel sent ASI Rama Rao and constable Sampat went to Jaipur on September 18 on flight from Hyderabad. By coordinating with local police, they traced the accused, along

'Reverse tendering will be implemented in more tenders'

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

The State government has saved Rs 58 crore through reverse tendering, pointed out Minister for Water Resources Anil Kumar Yadav said. He was speaking at a press conference at Tadepalli in Guntur district on Saturday.

Kumar said that reverse tendering, the initiative of Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy for the Polavaram left canal construction works saved 20.33 per cent more money compared to previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, which had allocated Rs 290 crore for the purpose.

The minister added that reverse tendering would be implemented in more tenders related to irrigation projects.

He reminded that former Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu handed over the same works to Max Infra Company during his tenure and now the same company has tendered 15.7 per cent less in the present YSRCP dispensation.

The YSRCP leader said that judicial review was brought in to make the projects more transparent, and tenders will be completed by November this year.

Taking a dig at the TDP Chief, Kumar criticised the



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The YSRCP leader said that judicial review was brought in to make the projects more transparent

previous TDP government saying it only paid attention to commissions and did not bother about the welfare of the people.

He questioned Naidu over TDP's unfulfilled promise of constructing 20,000 houses to the displaced of Polavaram project.

The leader slammed

Chandrababu Naidu and alleged that he is making false propaganda saying that YSRCP has given tenders only to followers of the party, adding that during the previous regime of the TDP government, it did not provide a single job, and is now blaming the YSRCP government which is pro-people.

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Measures to contain flood damages soon: Jagan

Continued from Page 1

He directed all officials to act with a humane touch while gathering information on crops and other losses. He assured to take necessary measures to extend the width of River Kundhu and prevent loss during floods near Nandyala's Kundhu river region.

According to CWC records, water flow has decreased to 600 TMC from 1,200 TMC.

Jagan instructed the District Collector Veera Pandyan to give additional Rs 2,000 for every home apart from the basic financial help provided by the government and asked them to establish a separate cell for the same.

"Houses will be constructed for flood victims. In charge minister Botsa Satyanarayana will stay here and look over the works," said the Chief Minister.

Botsa Satyanarayana, Agriculture Minister Kannababu, Labour Minister G Jayaram, whip Gangula Prabhakar Reddy, MP Pochu Bramhananda Reddy, and many others were present at the meeting.



TTD Chairman YV Subba Reddy, along with EO Anil Kumar Singhal and JEO Dharma Reddy, inviting Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy for Brahmothsavams at the latter residence in Tadepalli on Saturday

CM invited for Brahmothsavams

PNS ■ TIRUMALA

Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy has been invited for annual Srivari Brahmothsavams at Tirumala by TTD Trust Board Chairman YV Subba Reddy, TTD Executive Officer Anil Kumar Singhal and Special Officer AV Dharma Reddy.

The team of officials from TTD has formally met the Chief Minister at his residence in Tadepalli on Saturday. They invited him for the mega religious fete, which

As per tradition, the Chief Minister will present silk attire to the Lord on behalf of the government

will commence from September 30 and conclude on October 8.

As a tradition, the Chief Minister will present silks to the Lord on behalf of the government on the first day of Brahmothsavams on Sept 30.

Govt committed to devt of Urdu Schools

PNS ■ VIJAYAWADA

Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu said the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Urdu Students and Teachers Welfare Society (MVCUS&TWS) is striving for the welfare and development of students studying in VMC Urdu Medium Schools.

He said the society has been distributing notebooks, school bags, uniforms and bus passes to students and helping them to promote education for the past 23 years. He was the chief guest at the 23rd annual function of Students and Teachers Welfare Society organised at the APJ Abdul Kalam Municipal Corporation High School in Arundelpet.

Society president Khadar Sharief Baig presided over the function. District minority welfare department officer R Sultana, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation official M Nagalingeswara Rao, VMC School teachers, students and parents attended the event, which was held on a grand manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Malladi Vishnu said he is ready to help VMC Schools and asked teachers and society leaders to meet him for assistance. He said



Vijayawada Central MLA Malladi Vishnu addressing the gathering in Vijayawada on Saturday

VMC Urdu Students and Teachers Welfare Society has been distributing notebooks, school bags, uniforms and bus passes to students and helping them to promote education for the past 23 years

such functions will reduce dropouts from government schools and informed the schemes being implemented by the government to promote education.

Society president Khadar Sharief Baig narrated activities of

the society and thanked donors, who are helping the children since two decades. He said there has been a lot of change in recent years in the municipal schools and schools are achieving good results and teachers are also working with

more dedication. Sultana explained the schemes being implemented by the minority welfare department and complimented the society for rendering service for the promotion of education.

Society secretary, members Sk Riazuddin Basha, Mohammed Hussain, Naseema Parvin Begum, treasurer Sk Karimulla, APJ Abdul Kalam High School head master Abdul Wajid, SNMC High School HM Nasreen Jahan and teachers attended the event. Later, cultural programmes were organised.

Former TDP MP Sivaprasad passes away

Continued from Page 1

Sivaprasad became well-known as the MP who donned fancy dresses, enacting a unique character every day, during protests outside Parliament opposing the bifurcation of Andhra (2013-14) and later demanding special category status to the State (2018-19). A medical practitioner, Sivaprasad had a love for acting and began as a stage artist. He acted in several Telugu movies alongside top stars like Chiranjeevi. He received the Nandi award as the best villain. "I lost my close friend. Sivaprasad fought relentlessly for the rights of Andhra Pradesh. His death is loss not only to Chittoor district but also the entire State," Chandrababu Naidu said in huiis condolences.

It was said that the TDP lost two senior leaders within a week, he said, referring to the death of former Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao.

Naidu said that Sivaprasad had fought for Special Category Status vigorously and staged protests in front of the Parliament in an innovative manner exposing the Union Government's discrimination towards Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, Governor Viswa Bhusan Harichandan in a message conveyed his grief and said that the services of Shiva Prasad as an MP will always be remembered.

Chief Minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy and other leaders expressed grief over the former MPs death.

Jagan expressed grief over the death of Sivaprasad and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

70 students fall ill after eating hostel food

Visakhapatnam: Around 70 students at Sri Chaitanya Girls College in Kondapur area fell ill allegedly after consuming food in the hostel mess. Soon after consuming food in the hostel mess, the students complained of vomiting and uneasiness late Friday evening.

Following this, students were rushed to the hospital for medical aid and were diagnosed with food poisoning. Later, school authorities asked parents to collect their wards from the hospital. Showing resentment against school administration, the parents staged a protest and accused the administration of not providing proper drinking water and food to students even after charging lakh of rupees for hostel and tuition fee. The agitated parents alleged that the college management has shown irresponsible behaviour regarding students' health.

VCMA celebrates platinum jubilee

Visakhapatnam: The Vizagapatam Cloth Merchant's Association, established in 1944, celebrated platinum jubilee here on Saturday.

The Association was registered in the year in 1944, with around 125 members since Easter years. Now, the association one of the oldest association in the country has celebrated its Platinum Jubilee of completing 75 years on this occasion.

The renovated office building of the association at Suryabagh was inaugurated by VMRDA Chairman Dronamraju Srinivasa Rao.

The Association will start new membership enrollment shortly, and indulge in social service activities including giving scholarships to meritorious students, free book distribution to the students, blood donation camps and enrolling itself with other social service activities announced by the concerned authorities of the state and central.

The present Board headed by President Kankatala Mallik and Secretary Hameed Khan and Treasurer Prakash Satwani has decided to modernise its functional activities. The new infrastructure has increased the sittings capacity of its conference hall from 75 to 150 members comfortably.

Flood shoots up price of popular Pulasa fish

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Flood in Godavari river has resulted in low catch of the popular variety fish Pulasa (Hilsa), making it costlier in Vizag fish market.

The Pulasa fish is available in between August and October. Godavari received heavy flood waters this year and hence the fish didn't swim into Godavari River from sea.

Traders have started selling the fish anything between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000.

Hilsa fish enters the Godavari River from sea for breeding from July to October. The Hilsa fish is available in parts of West Bengal and Odisha but the Godavari pulasa is tastier. Catching the craze for the Godavari Pulasa fish, some traders have been procuring the Hilsa fish from Odisha and West Bengal and are selling the Hilsa by branding as



Traders have started selling the fish anything between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000. Hilsa fish enters the Godavari River from sea for breeding from July to October

Godavari Pulasa said R Ashok a trader in Vizag.

"I had to shell off Rs 1,900 for 1.1 kg Hilsa fish," says Srinivas S.

The fishermen say the prices of the fish will further increase due to low availability and high demand so that fish, he added.

Fish traders say that nor-

mally Pulasa fish appear near Yanam, Ravulapalem, Kottipalle, Dowleswaram barrage in few other areas in East Godavari district.

The Pulasa fish is sold out like hotcakes with in few minutes after the catch come out from the river at the ghats where the fishing boats are anchored in East Godavari and there is now chances of

getting the Pulasa fish in Vizag, they added.

337 kgs of litter picked up off Lawson's Bay

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Over 100 citizens, including volunteers, came together and collected 337 kilos of litter from Lawson's Bay beach here to commemorate World Coastal Cleanup Day.

The cleanup drive organized by WWF-India saw children and adults turn up in large numbers to pick up the trash at the beach. In all, they managed to lift over 237 kgs of plastic, 30 kgs of glass and 27 kgs of footwear along with other waste.

Plastic pollution is a major threat not only to marine ecosystem but also to terrestrial wildlife. Single use plastics have the hardest impact on the environment because they do not degenerate in the environment and tend to accumulate rapidly. This often threatens biodiversity, with high loss of wildlife due to ingestion and entanglement in plastic litter.

In all, they managed to lift over 237 kgs of plastic, 30 kgs of glass and 27 kgs of footwear along with other waste

Speaking at the event, Chief Conservator of Forests (Vizag Circle) Rahul Pandey said, "All of us need to make a conscious effort to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics. Our department has been trying to find an alternative to single-use plastics, even in instances such as the plant wrapping used in our nurseries."

The litter collected during the cleanup was weighed and segregated before being sent to Green Waves, a city-based NGO which recycles plastic and other waste. The NGO also collects domestic waste for recycling from households in the city.

Ex-Tiger Triumph Exercise held at Vizag

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Final Planning Conference (FPC) for India-US Tri-Services Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise code-named Ex Tiger Triumph concluded at the headquarters of Eastern Naval Command here.

The FPC, which commenced on September 16, was attended by delegates from US Navy and the US Marine Corps and representatives from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

Ex TIGER TRIUMPH, organised under the aegis of the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), is next scheduled at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in November.

During the FPC, participants held discussions on the planning of the exercise as well as had professional interactions on issues related to the conduct of the exercise. Teams from US and India visited the campsite at Kakinada during the course of FPC.

Get mobile experience of GRE® Program from today

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

Students aspiring to study in the United States can get glimpses of life in the country by making to Hyderabad on Sunday when the GRE® Program road show gets underway. Students can learn about the culture and lifestyles prevalent in New York, California and Texas by way of a brand-new immersive experience. It will be a mobile experience and Hyderabad will host this for a week, including at Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) on Tuesday.

"This interactive experience is designed to give Indian students a feel for life in major American locales," said Alberto Acereda, Executive Director of the GRE Program.

Based on the most popular locations for GRE test takers in India, students can expect to get a firsthand taste and feel of the American way of life with some of its unmistakable symbols. The experience will also feature testimonials from students who have taken the GRE General Test and received a business degree

abroad. "Indian students are the second-largest foreign nationality studying in the U.S., making India an important market for the GRE Program," added Acereda.

The GRE General Test is accepted at thousands of graduate schools, including more than 1,300 business schools for MBA, specialized master's and other graduate business programs. Further information on the GRE General Test can be had on www.ets.org/gre.



GODAVARI BOAT TRAGEDY

Grieving parents await bodies of two daughters

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

The bodies of two siblings, T Geetha Vaishnavi (3) and T Ananya (18 months) are yet to be traced after they drowned in Sunday's tragic boat capsizing.

Parents and family members of the girls are anxiously waiting to receive the dead bodies of the two children.

"I am the most unlucky person in the world as I lost my two daughters in boat Godavari boat mishap. I am doubtful over to see my daughters' face one last time", said Bhaya Lakshmi, mother of the two drowned girls.

The siblings from Vizag among others had gone missing after the Royal Vasishta Boat capsized in River Godavari on Sunday last in of East Godavari district.

Parents of the siblings, T Appala Raju and T Bhagya Lakshmi told that they lost hopes on the safe return of their children and are also



gradually losing hopes on the receive the bodies of the two girls.

Appala Raju and Bhagya Lakshmi were seen in deep grief at their residence, ASR Nagar of Arilova. The couple has been waiting for communication on the whereabouts of their children with moist

Parents of the siblings, T Appala Raju and T Bhagya Lakshmi told that they lost hopes on the safe return of their children and are also gradually losing hopes on the receive the bodies of the two girls

eyes. Vaishnavi and Ananya along with her grandmother T Appalanarsamma went for the Papikondalu trip and the trio died in the tragedy. Rescue teams retrieved the body of Appalanarsamma but they failed to locate the sisters.

District Revenue Officer, Vizag, M Sridevi said that out of 17 persons who have gone missing (deed) from Vizag, the bodies of 12 people were traced so far and the search is on for trace the remaining five children, including the siblings.

On the other end, uncertainty continues over the number of tourists on the Royal Vasishta boat.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vakul Jindal said that 77 tourists were travelling in the boat that capsized in Godavari. Of the 77 persons, 26 survived, rescue teams has retrieved 35 bodies and 16 were still missing.

Teacher-student vibes' impact performance: Study

PNS ■ VISAKHAPATNAM

A recent global study establishes that positive teacher-student relationships significantly impact the performance of students.

A recent study commissioned by University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, has indicated that students' relationships with teachers have a major impact on their engagement in schooling and that the good relationships outweigh the bad.

Researchers from the University surveyed 2,079 high school students first and again 12 months later. The respondents were from across English, mathematics, science, history, and geography.

Professor Andrew Martin and Dr Rebecca Collie assessed the quality of students' relationships with teachers, including the former's academic engagement, class participation and enjoyment of school.

"Every additional positive relationship with a teacher



The researchers say there are two ways in which this research can be applied to benefit student engagement

was associated with greater engagement. That is, students participated more in class, they had more enjoyment in their learning, and their aspirations grew," Prof Martin points out.

The researchers also dis-

covered that if students had more negative student-teacher relationships, their engagement level decreased. In other words, positive teacher-student relationships impacted students' engagement more than did negative teacher-student relationships.

The researchers say there are two ways in which this research can be applied to benefit student engagement.

"Schools can build in training and professional learning plans to ensure that teachers are finding positive ways to connect and engage with their students," says Prof Martin.

YOUNG DESIGNERS DAZZLE



Models flaunt self-designed fabrics made by students for INSD's Design connect ramp walk at VMRDA Childrens Arena in Visakhapatnam on Saturday. Photo: Tirupatirao G

World's biggest coastal cleanup at Puri beach

PNS ■ PURI

A mega cleanliness drive under the banner of 'Mo Beach' cleaning initiative was organised at Odisha's Puri beach to mark the International Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday.

The Puri administration claimed that it is the world's largest coastal clean-up drive that aims to sensitise people about the importance of clean beaches. More than ten thousand volunteers participated in the drive at several places along the district coast. Forest and Environment Minister Bikram

Keshari Arukh, Bollywood actor Vidhut Jammwal and internationally acclaimed artist and writer Nandita Das were spotted at the drive while supporting the initiative. "Puri is the pride of our country and I am happy to be a part of world's mega clean-up drive here at the sea beach," said Jammwal.

"It is a great day for us as thousands came forward to clean up the beach at Puri," said internationally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik.

The volunteers took an oath to protect the oceans and beaches by the simple mantra of Reduce,



Reuse and Recycle of waste, especially plastic waste. Another

intriguing activity at the beach was a life-size human chain for-

The Puri administration claimed that it is the world's largest coastal clean-up drive that aims to sensitise people about the importance of clean beaches

mation of Mo Beach Puri typography. Students and volunteers were found joining in large numbers to clean beaches near

Ramachandi Temple, Konark and Astarang area along the coastline across the district. They joined volunteers from self-help groups, fishermen community, beachside vendors, hotel owners, photographers, lifeguards, tourist guides, Sebayat community of Jagannath Temple, government officials and employees to name a few.

It was a heart-warming picture to see the voluntary participation of hundreds of people who have been motivated to stop unnecessary littering and also extended help towards the cleaning drive.



Occupants swiftly vacating the complex premises in Kakinada on Saturday

13-YEAR-OLD STRUCTURE DECAYS

Residents demand compensation

PNS ■ KAKINADA

The residents of Bhaskar Towers apartment besides Devi multiplex in Vallabhai Street are demanding compensation from the builder and alternative accommodation as the 40-flat complex has developed cracks within 13 years of its construction.

Authorities have declared it as unfit to live.

The complex developed cracks, besides which five pillars have been badly damaged. These were noticed by the residents on Thursday.

Officials of the municipal corporation, JNTU -K civil engineering experts, police, fire, and disaster management and revenue officials including district collector D Muralidhar Reddy visited the spot for taking stock of the problem.

CPM Kakinada city unit team, led by Ch Ajay Kumar, visited the place and found several defects in the construction, including use of sub-standard material because of which the structure developed cracks.

When contacted, AG



Authorities have declared it as unfit to live

Chinnikrishna, RDO and sub-divisional magistrate, Kakinada, said that municipal corporation authorities issued orders to the builders for dismantling the structure.

SHORT READS



CBI teams continue operations to locate Rajeev Kumar

KOLKATA: CBI sleuths kept up their efforts Saturday to locate top West Bengal police officer Rajeev Kumar who has been skipping summons of the probe agency in connection with the multi-crore Saradha deposit default scam. Teams of the special crime branch of CBI visited the office of the CID at Bhabani Bhavan as well as various parts of the city to ascertain the whereabouts of Kumar. Kumar is the additional director general of CID, West Bengal. Sources said the CBI sleuths reached a private hospital in South 24 Parganas district to trace the former Kolkata police commissioner. Kumar is alleged to have suppressed evidence crucial for the investigation into the scam. The team of CBI officials had on Friday gone to the official residence of Kumar on Park Street and another to a resort in South 24 Parganas to trace him. Last week, the DG of West Bengal police apprised CBI that Kumar was on leave from September 9 to 25. The Saradha group of companies allegedly duped lakhs of people of Rs 2500 crore promising higher rates of return on their investments.

Saying poor roads will affect Goa tourism, GFP seeks CBI probe

PANAJI: Goa Forward Party (GFP) president Vijai Sardesai on Saturday demanded a "CBI inquiry" into the poor condition of roads in the tourist state alleging the BJP-led government is delaying the repair works under various "excuses". He also condemned PWD Minister Dipak Pauskar's statement that the pothole-ridden roads will be repaired by May next year. "The government has been giving the excuse of torrential rains for the delay in road works, as if it has never rained in Goa in the past. The poor road conditions can even affect tourism," said the former deputy chief minister. He also alleged the state government has failed to fulfill its promise to repair the roads before Ganesh festival, held earlier this month, causing grave inconvenience to the people.

Madhya Pradesh: Student among 2 held for highway robbery

JABALPUR: A 23-year-old student of physiotherapy was found to be a part of a gang of highway robbers operating on the national highway (NH) 7 in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Saturday. While the accused, identified as Shubham Khatik (23) and Pawan Burman (21), have been arrested, their accomplice Anshuk Burman is on the run. Khatik, a resident of Bahoriband district in Katni, is studying physiotherapy in Jabalpur while Burman works in a sweet shop. The trio used to rob cash and other valuables from villagers riding cycles and two-wheelers on the highway, said superintendent of police Amit Singh. "Police received a tip-off about two people travelling on a motorcycle without a registration number on the highway near Sagda village," he said, adding that the duo have confessed to their involvement in at least six cases.

BJP-Sena will contest jointly; I will return as CM: Fadnavis

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday said the BJP and the Shiv Sena will contest the next month's Assembly polls together. The CM also exuded confidence that he will retain the post after elections. He dismissed media reports that the BJP will contest 162 out of total 288 seats and the Sena 126. Fadnavis' remarks come a day after Sena president Uddhav Thackeray asserted that both the parties will contest the elections in alliance, and that an announcement on the seat sharing formula will be made in a couple of days.

Maharashtra will go for a single-phase election on October 21. Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24. "I am saying with no uncertainty that we will contest the Assembly polls along with Shiv Sena. The seat-sharing talks are still on, do not trust the reports," Fadnavis said, while speaking at the "India Today Conclave 2019" being held here.

Referring to the Sena pitching for equal sharing of the 288 seats, the chief minister said all details about the seat-sharing arrangements will be formally announced at a press briefing.

To a question, Fadnavis said the BJP did not dictate terms to the Sena and that decisions between them are taken "amicably".

On the Sena's criticism of his government through party



mouthpiece "Saamana", Fadnavis quipped, "I don't read Saamana".

He said all the decisions taken by his Cabinet were "unanimous" with the support

of Shiv Sena ministers.

"No Shiv Sena minister had second thought about any of the decisions in the last five years (since BJP-led government came to power). So, we are not con-

cerned about what happens outside," he said in an oblique reference to 'Saamana'.

Responding to a query on whether he will get another term as the chief minister, the CM retorted: "Do you have any doubt?"

He also said the decision to appoint Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray as deputy chief minister, in the event of the NDA government returning to power, will be taken by the Sena.

Fadnavis said he looked at "positively" Aaditya becoming active in politics.

"He is fanning out parts of the state, trying to understand issues pertaining to Maharashtra. I welcome his decision to join active politics, I take it positively. He has to lead Shiv Sena one day. He is going through the process," Fadnavis said.

Sena, BJP confident of winning over 220 seats

Leaders of the Shiv Sena and the BJP on Saturday exuded confidence of winning a second consecutive term in Maharashtra, hours after the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the poll schedule. Maharashtra will go for a single-phase election on October 21. Counting of votes will be taken up on October 24. State BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said given the overwhelming response to the 'Mahajanadesh Yatra' of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP alliance is likely to get more than 220 seats. The 'Yuti' (alliance) will burst crackers a day before Diwali (due later in October). Our preparations are complete," Sena spokesman Sanjay Raut told reporters here. Senior BJP leader Vinod Tawde said a BJP-led alliance government under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will emerge victorious once again. "In the next one month, we will ensure the report card of our development work of the last five years reaches the people as against the erstwhile 15-year rule of the Congress-NCP combine. That's what we intend to do in the next five years," said the School Education Minister. Meanwhile, when asked about the ECI not announcing the date for the by-election to Satara Lok Sabha constituency represented by NCP's Udayanraje Bhosale before he joined the BJP last week, Chandrakant Patil said Bhosale will work to ensure victory of BJP-Sena candidates. Bhosale had reportedly wanted the bypoll announcement to be made with the schedule of the state assembly polls.

Verdict on Shivakumar's bail plea on September 25

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader D K Shivakumar may influence witnesses in the money laundering case in which he has been arrested, the Enforcement Directorate on Saturday told a Delhi court, which said it will pass an order on his bail application on September 25.

Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj, appearing for the ED, opposed the bail application before Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar, saying that Shivakumar cannot turn his tainted property into untainted one just by paying tax on it. Senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Shivakumar, opposed the ASG's submission and said that he was innocent and that the ED was desperate to keep him in jail. Rohatgi said if people like P Chidambaram, arrested by ED in another case, are flight risk then everyone in the country is a flight risk. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court reserved its order.

During the hearing, the ED, also represented by special public prosecutors Amit Mahajan, N K Matta and Nitesh Rana, said, "More than Shivakumar having deep roots in the society, I say, the case has deep rooted conspiracy. There is possibility of tampering with evidence."

"In the I-T proceedings, statements were made by certain people which were later retracted. This shows he can influence the witnesses in the case. Being



The ED accused Shivakumar of committing 'serious economic offence' and said it's a threat to national economy

an influential and powerful person, he may hamper the investigation," Rana said. The ED accused Shivakumar of committing "serious economic offence" and said it's a threat to national economy.

"It may imbalance the national economy and pose a threat to national security. It has to be dealt this an iron hand," Rana said, adding that Shivakumar remained non-cooperative and evasive during investigation.

Apart from agricultural land, there are many non-agricultural land and properties which are required to be probed further and the investigation is at a crucial stage, the agency said.

"Shivakumar's brother had about 27 properties and agri-

cultural land out of which 10 properties were purchased in cash or acquired by his father, but how it was acquired, we don't know," it said. Opposing ED's plea, Singhvi said, "What is the meaning of presumption of innocence if this approach is taken? I object to going into merits at this stage. The approach is trying to influence the court by throwing huge figures. The amount of money is increasing every day."

"There are only 20 active accounts then where is the figure of 317 accounts coming from? Show me the 21st account and I would sit down," he said. Rohatgi said the case was related to one income tax raid and the material recovered from it.



KATHUA CASE

2 overground workers of JeM module held

PNS ■ JAMMU

Police conducted raids at several places in south Kashmir's Pulwama district and apprehended two overground workers of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) on the basis of leads provided by three arrested terrorists of the outfit in Kathua earlier, officials said on Saturday. The arrested OGWs include the owner of the intercepted truck, which was ferrying terrorists and AK-type rifles to Kashmir from Punjab, in Kathua district Thursday last, they said.

"We have arrested two supporters of JeM terrorists from Pulwama. They include truck owner Suhil Ahmed Latoo of Gulshanabad, Pulwama, and Bashir Amhed Lone of Rajpura, Pulwama," a senior police officer said.

The duo has been taken on remand. They are being interrogated to know about the JeM module and its activities, he said. The officer said more arrests are likely to take place in the case. Last Thursday, the truck loaded with cardboard material was intercepted during checking on the Jammu-Pathankot highway. Three ter-

rorists, who were travelling on the truck, were arrested and arms and ammunition, including four AK-56 rifles, two AK-47 rifles, six magazines and 180 rounds of ammunition, besides Rs 11,000 in cash, was seized, officials had said. The police had intercepted the truck (registration number JK13E-2000) acting on specific inputs at Lakhanpur in Kathua, when it was on its way from Punjab to the Kashmir Valley. All the terrorists belonged to the Valley, they had said, adding that the truck was owned by Latoo, and was being driven by Javaid Ahmed Dar. The three terrorists were identified as — Ubaid-ul-Islam and Sabeel Ahmad Baba, residents of Aghlar Kandi in Pulwama's Rajpura, and Jehangir Ahmad Parry, a resident of Pakherpora Charar-e-Sharif in Budgam. They were illegally transporting arms and ammunition from Punjab to Kashmir to "disrupt peace in the Valley", the officials had said. "Bashir was to receive the consignment of weapons," the officer said.

So far, six people have been arrested in the case, he said.

Collegium modifies decision on Justice Kureshi's elevation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court collegium has recommended the alleviation of Justice Akil Kureshi as the chief justice of the Tripura High Court, modifying its earlier decision of sending his name for the post of the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The resolution of the collegium uploaded on the apex court's official website late Friday evening said the modification to recommend Justice Kureshi to the Tripura High Court was taken in the collegium's meeting held on September 5. Earlier, the apex court had recommended Justice Kureshi to be elevated as the chief justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court but the Centre had expressed certain reservations. Later, the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association (GHCAA) had filed a petition claiming that Justice Kureshi's name has not been notified by the Centre even after the collegium recommended his name on May 10. During the



hearing on September 16, the apex court said that the collegium has taken a decision on the elevation of Justice Kureshi and it will shortly be uploaded. The latest resolution stated: "This Collegium vide Minutes dated 10th May, 2019 recommended that Mr. Justice A.A. Kureshi, senior-most Judge from Gujarat High Court be appointed as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court."

"The said recommendation sent to the Government has been referred back to the Chief Justice of India vide two

The Collegium resolves to reiterate its earlier recommendation dated 10th May, 2019 with the modification that Mr. Justice A.A. Kureshi be appointed as Chief Justice of the Tripura High Court

communications dated 23rd August, 2019 and 27th August, 2019 received along with accompanying material. These communications and material received from the Department of Justice have been placed before this Collegium."

It added, "On reconsideration and after taking into account the aforesaid two communications dated 23rd August, 2019 and 27th August, 2019 and the accompanying material, the Collegium resolves to reiterate its earlier recommendation dated 10th May, 2019 with the modification that Mr. Justice A.A. Kureshi be appointed as Chief Justice of the Tripura High

Court." The apex court had on August 28 said it had received a communication from the Ministry of Law and Justice on the collegium's recommendation to elevate Justice Kureshi.

On August 16, the Centre had told the apex court that it would take a call within a week on the collegium's May 10 recommendation on the elevation of the judge.

Before that, on August 2, the top court had asked the Centre to take a decision in the matter by August 14 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had informed the bench that the collegium's proposal was under consideration.

Woman dies in roof collapse; husband, son injured

PNS ■ PHAGWARA

A 23-year-old woman was killed while her husband and son were injured after the roof of their rented accommodation collapsed early Saturday morning in Bhagatpura locality here when they were asleep, police said.

Rekha Devi Tiwari died on the spot. Her husband Brijesh Kumar Tiwari (30) and son Shobhit Tiwari (7) suffered serious injuries and were admitted to the Civil Hospital here, they said. The incident took place at 4:30 am.

The rented accommodation, a room, was dilapidated and rains had further weakened the structure, sources said. Brijesh, who fractured a leg, was later referred to the Jalandhar hospital as his condition was critical. This was confirmed by Senior Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Kamal Kishore. Phagwara DSP Surinder Chand said the family hailed from Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh.

Govt accepts resignation of Madras HC Chief Justice V K Tahilramani

PNS ■ RAIPUR

The resignation of Madras High Court Chief Justice V K Tahilramani has been accepted, according to a government notification. Her resignation has been accepted with effect from September 6, it said. She had resigned after the Supreme Court collegium

declined her request for reconsideration of transfer to the Meghalaya High Court. Justice V Kothari has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Madras High Court, another notification said. The transfer of Justice Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to the Meghalaya High Court had snowballed into a

major controversy with lawyers in Chennai as well as in her home state of Maharashtra coming out in protest against the Supreme Court collegium's decision in this regard. Later on September 12, the apex court had come out with a statement, saying that each of the recommendations for transfer of Chief Justices and Judges of various high courts was based on "cogent reasons".



DANTEWADA BYPOLL

Around 18,000 security personnel on duty

PNS ■ RAIPUR

Around 18,000 security personnel will ensure a safe conduct of the assembly bypoll in naxal-affected Dantewada seat in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on September 23, a senior police official said on Saturday.

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

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

tions) Sundarraj P said. Around 18,000 security personnel, including from paramilitary forces, have been deployed for safety of polling booths and carrying out search operations in the forest, he said. While the Centre has sent about 7000 personnel of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF), around 11,000 jawans, including those from paramilitary and state forces engaged in anti-Maoist operations, have also been roped in, he added.

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

Guv visits ailing JU VC, says will work for nation building

PNS ■ KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday visited ailing Jadavpur University VC Suranjana Das at a private hospital here, and said he will work together with the senior varsity official to create the "best suitable" environment for students. Dhankhar arrived at the hospital in the southern part of the city's Dhakuria area around 10 am to meet Das and pro-VC P K Ghosh, who were admitted on Thursday, following the incident of heckling of Union minister Babul Supriyo by a section of students at the varsity.



back to school, he will have an interactive session with the students," Dhankhar said. "I'm glad to say that we are on the same page. We have to work together to create a best suitable environment to explore the character of students and contribute in nation building,"

said. Dhankhar, who is also the chancellor of the university, however, had earlier taken serious note of the fact that Das left the campus on Thursday evening, even as Supriyo remained gheraoed by the students. The Governor pointed to "the issue of serious lapses by

The VC is in good shape and willing to return home. Das also said that once he is back to work, he will have an interactive session with the students

— JAGDEEP DHANKHAR, West Bengal Governor

the University VC, including virtual abandonment of his obligations", a statement issued by Raj Bhavan had said.

Dhankhar on Saturday said doctors at the hospital indicated that none of the two were injured in the incident. "I have spent considerable time with the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice chancellor, and was fully updated about their health condition by the doctors," he said.

"I am very much concerned about their health. I would also like to reach out to the daughter of the VC and his wife, who is a professor at Calcutta University," the Governor said.

Das and pro-VC P K Ghosh had to be hospitalised on Thursday evening after they complained of "headache, vertigo, palpitation and nausea", a medical bulletin issued by the hospital said.

Both were taken ill while

Supriyo was being heckled and gheraoed by the students at the university, where he had gone to attend a programme by Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP).

After being held up at the university campus by protestors from leftist students unions and some from TMC, nearly five hours, Supriyo was taken out by the governor late Thursday evening.

"I was personally constantly keeping a note of the VC and the pro-VC's health. In fact, I wanted to see them first before going to the university, when I heard that they were injured. But, when I called him (the VC), he told me that he was not injured but suffering from hypertension," Dhankhar added.

CAPSULE



Emulate US best-practices to grow faster: Gadkari

MUMBAI: Union minister Nitin Gadkari Friday said the country needs to apply the best practices of its trade partners like the US to become one of the most powerful economies in the world. "We are aspiring to become one of the most powerful economies. We have the potential and we are one of the fastest growing economies. Over the years, we've understood that innovation, entrepreneurship, science, technology and skills are the knowledge areas that need to be converted into wealth," he said at an Indo-American Chamber event. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to the US tonight and I am confident that our ties will become stronger with the visit," Gadkari added. Speaking at the event, US consul general David J Ranz said both the countries should focus on key areas of priorities like clean energy, e-commerce, smart cities and defence to achieve USD 500-billion bilateral trade target.



Maruti to drive in new model S-Presso later this month

NEW DELHI: Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) on Saturday said it will launch mini SUV S-Presso later this month, coinciding with the start of the festive season. The company said the indigenously conceived, designed and developed vehicle is made for India as well as the world. "Our internal research suggests that the criteria of buying a car for the youth, apart from affordability, acquisition cost and maintenance, now also include design and aesthetics," MSI Executive Director (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said in a statement. With S-Presso, the company will offer a premium, feature-rich car that will disrupt the entry car segment in the country, he added.



Tax cuts: SBI pegs cos saving Rs 50K cr

NEW DELHI: The government unexpected move to massively slash corporate taxes by over 10 percentage points will result in savings of over Rs 50,000 crore to India Inc, according to an analysis by economists at State Bank. The benefit coming in from the Rs 1.45 lakh crore tax giveaways will also help companies to cut prices by up to 5 percent to boost consumer demand, which has been sagging and is one of the prime reasons for the deepening slowdown. The economy has grown the slowest pace in six years at 5 percent for the June quarter, which has resulted in a rash of measures from the government, including the massive tax cut for corporates which varies from 10 to 12 percentage points.

Goyal bats for PSUs, says privatisation no panacea

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Union minister Piyush Goyal Friday batted for continued government ownership in banks and other key industrial areas saying privatisation is not the panacea for all the ills facing the economy as the private sector is plagued with more scandals than their state-run peers. Chairing a panel discussion at an India Today event here this evening, he said, "there are more

scandals in private banks today than we have in public sector banks. There are more scandals coming out of private sector companies and private sector-run non-banking finance companies and housing finance companies. "Our government is trying to clean up the mess. So I don't think privatisation is the panacea for all the problems we face," he said. Lauding the role that public sector banks have played in overall economic and social



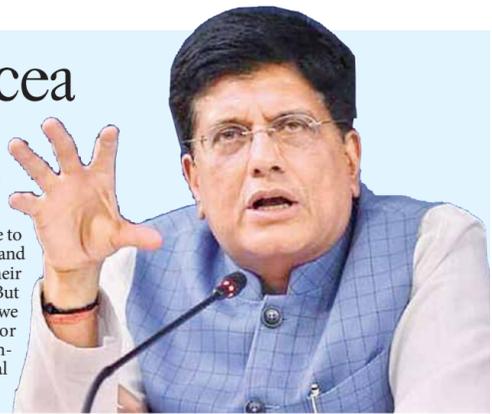
Our government is trying to clean up the mess. So I don't think privatisation is the panacea for all the problems we face

PIYUSH GOYAL, Union minister

development, the minister said they are the reason behind the development we see today. "They are the reason behind the national infrastructure we have across the country be it power plants or others. No private banks has given money to

young entrepreneurs to start businesses but government banks that stood by them," Goyal said. Taking a dig at the "cozy banking" that private sector lenders are comfortable with, he said, "public sector banks have done huge work for the country, while their

private sector counterparts are looking at cozy lending to very, very safe borrowers and not to the poor farmers. "We must and continue to support the public sector and it's time to recognise their role in nation building. But this does not mean that we should not privatise or disinvest support disinvestment as well, Goyal concluded.



'Corporate tax cut positive, but growth faces headwinds'

PNS ■ 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 high-



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

er 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.

"But the degree of strengthening in corporate credit profiles will depend on whether companies reinvest surplus earnings into their businesses, or use them to reduce debt or to boost shareholder returns," it said.

In aggregate, rated non-financial companies in India

reported a total pre-tax net income of about USD 35 billion for the fiscal year ended March 2019.

Assuming the earnings of these companies remain unchanged for current fiscal, they will save about USD 3 billion from the tax rate reduction.

"The central government deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP in fiscal 2019 already assumes faster economic growth and higher tax buoyancy than we expect," it said.

The July budget projected total corporate tax revenue of Rs 7.7 lakh crore (around 4 per cent of GDP), and the finance minister estimated that the decrease in the corporate tax rate will reduce revenue by around Rs 1.45 lakh crore in the current fiscal year.

"As such, the reduction in corporate income tax revenue - even when balanced against the windfall from the recent transfer of central bank surplus reserves, equivalent to around 0.3 per cent of GDP in the current fiscal year - further narrows fiscal room for manoeuvre," it said.

Moody's said this assumes that the government does not cut expenditure to offset the revenue loss.

US corporate sector hails India's tax cut for companies

PTI ■ 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 slow-down 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 Nirmala Sitharaman said the reduction in tax rates was done by promulgating an ordinance to an amendment to the Income Tax Act.

"We laud the Government for addressing our longstanding demand for lowering the corporate tax rates. The move will make Indian companies globally competitive and allow global companies a good option for growing their manufacturing base in country," Mukesh Aghi, president of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) told PTI.

"This is a welcome step to reverse the economic slow-



USISPF continues to be at the forefront in partnering with the Government of India towards initiatives like these which enhance the ease of doing business in India

—MUKESH AGHI, President of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF)

down," he said.

Aghi said additional announcements pertaining to lowering of MAT rate to 15 per cent, non-applicability of buy-back tax on select listed companies and limiting the applicability of higher surcharge by making it non-applicable on capital gains on sale of security, including derivatives held by FPIs, will help in re-assuring investors from global economies including the United States.

"USISPF continues to be at the forefront in partnering

with the Government of India towards initiatives like these which enhance the ease of doing business in India," he said.

Aghi exuded confidence that the trade disputes between India and the US will be resolved by the time Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump meet in New York for the second time in three days' time on September 24.

"Absolutely," he said when asked if some of the trade issues would be resolved.

Mobile production to reach US \$ 190 bn by 2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mobile phone production in the country is expected to reach USD 190 billion by 2025 on the back of enabling policy environment and lower corporate tax rate, according to industry body ICEA.

Smartphone market leader Xiaomi said corporate tax cut will enhance job generation capability in the industry, invest more in product development and encourage more component suppliers to set up their factories in India.

"Total handsets produced in India clocked 290 million units valued at Rs 1,81,000 crore (nearly USD 25 billion) during 2018-19," ICEA said.

Electronic component makers body ELCINA said the rate cut in corporate tax from 30 to 22 per cent and a minimum alternate tax (MAT) from 18 to 15 per cent is historic and a boost to the slumbering economy and "it will wake up the sleeping giant".

"With such enabling policy environment in place, it would not be impossible to reach the mobile handset manufacturing target of USD 190 billion by



Total handsets produced in India clocked 290 million units valued at Rs 1,81,000 crore (nearly USD 25 billion) during 2018-19

2025 which is about 50 per cent of the total electronics manufacturing target with a total export target of USD 110 billion," ICEA Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said in a statement.

He said mobile handset manufacturing has already witnessed a significant growth trajectory during the past 4-5 years leading to significant export take-off.

Yes Bank promoter entities sell 2.75 pc stake

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

Yes Capital (India) Pvt Ltd, Morgan Credits Pvt Ltd and Rana Kapoor have sold a combined 2.75 per cent in Yes Bank through open market process, Morgan Credits said in a regulatory filing on Saturday. The combined entities held 9.64 per cent holding in the bank which now stands at 6.89 per cent.

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

The stake sale comes in the wake of news reports that Kapoor and the promoter group companies are looking to exit Yes Bank.

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

PTI ■ 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 Wadhra 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



Wadhra expressed hope that the festive season would help in ushering in positive consumer sentiments

from the current 28 per cent to 18 per cent in order to revive sales which have been facing a prolonged slowdown.

The auto components industry too had demanded a uniform GST of 18 per cent. At present, 60 per cent of auto components are taxed at 18 per cent, while the rest are in the 28 per cent slab.

Wadhra expressed hope that the festive season would help in ushering in positive consumer sentiments.

He said the reduction of GST compensation cess for the sub-segment of 10-13 seaters with length less than 4 metres is positive step as the industry had been demanding it for a long time.

HPL plant shut down after fire

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The management of Haldia Petrochemicals Limited (HPL) on Saturday shut down its plant following the fire incident at its naphtha cracker unit (NCU).

Sources said that the man-

agement has formed an advisory committee comprising internal and external experts which would determine the cause of the fire and the extent of damage caused by it.

The fire broke out at the company's Haldia plant in West Bengal on Friday, leav-

ing at least 15 people injured.

"The management will decide on when the plant could be made operational after the assessment of the committee," the sources said.

Out of 15 employees injured, two of them have been discharged after treat-

ment and "three of them are in critical condition", sources said.

The company said that doctor's at the plant referred the injured patients to hospitals having specialised treatment facilities for burn injuries in Kolkata.

'No need to have trade deal with China before 2020 elections'

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he does not feel the need to strike a trade agreement with China before the next year's presidential elections, emphasizing that he is looking for a complete and not a "partial deal" with Beijing.

The world's two largest economies have been locked in a bruising trade war since Trump in March last year imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on USD 250 billion of Chinese goods.

In response, China, the world's second largest economy after the US, imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on USD 110 billion of American goods.

"No, I don't think I need it before the election," Trump told reporters on Friday at a joint news conference with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison when asked if he feels the need for a trade deal with China before the 2020 presidential elections.

Trump insisted that he was looking for a complete trade deal. "We are looking for a complete deal. I am not looking for a partial deal," he said.

"China has been starting to buy our agricultural product. If you noticed over the last week and actually some very big purchases but that is not what I am looking for. We are looking for the big deal. We have taken it to this level," Trump said.

The trade dispute between the US and China widened in August, with each side imposing retaliatory tariffs on the other. But there have been signs of deescalation in recent days,

and Trump has increasingly expressed optimism of reaching a deal with China. US and Chinese counterparts have resumed trade talks this month.

On September 19 and 20, deputy-level negotiators from the United States and China

met here to continue discussions aimed at improving the trade relationship between the two countries, the United States Trade Representative said in a statement.

These discussions were productive, and the United States looks forward to welcoming a delegation from China for principal-level meetings in October, it said.

President Trump

said the US was taking in billions and billions of dollars of tariffs from China as a result of his policies. China has devalued their currency and they are putting in lot of money into their economy and they have a very bad economy right now, he said.

"I don't want them to have a bad economy, but it is the worst they say 57 years," he said. Trump said two weeks ago the Chinese economy was the worst in 22 years, but now it is 57 years and is only going to get worse.

"Their supply chain is being broken up very badly and companies are leaving because they can't pay the 25, soon to go to 30 per cent tariff and we have 30 per cent very shortly on USD 250 billion," he said.

"We have another tariff and a slightly smaller number on about USD 300 billion worth of goods and products so they would like to do something as you know we are talking a little bit this week talking about lot next week and then top people are going to be speaking the week following," Trump said.

"We can do a very big deal with China and it could go very quickly as you know but it wouldn't be the appropriate deal. We have to do it right and that's a very complicated deal with intellectual property protection we have to do that and other things. I could leave lots out and have a deal very quickly but we want to do it right," Trump said.

behaviour to the delivery restaurant base, he added.

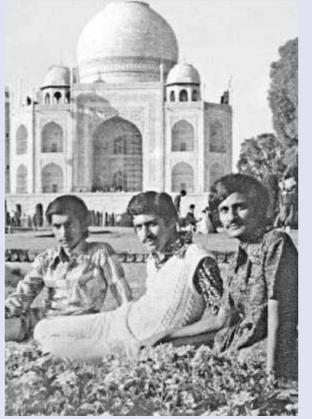
"With over 13,000 establishments across 41 cities, Zomato Gold for Delivery brings a wide choice of great restaurants to Zomato Gold members. It is also expected to drive a significant increase in business for restaurants which have signed up on Gold," Zomato Delivery CEO Mohit Gupta said.

On the other hand lashing at the move by the company, the NRAI said that extension of Zomato Gold programme to the delivery vertical is a desperate attempt by Zomato to shore up the sinking fortunes of their flagship programme.

China has been starting to buy our agricultural product. If you noticed over the last week and actually some very big purchases but that is not what I am looking for. We are looking for the big deal. We have taken it to this level

— DONALD TRUMP, US President





THE DOCTOR WHO LOVES MATH

From maths to medicine

If I have a chance to go back, I wouldn't choose medicine. I have always loved Physics and Math. I secured State 3rd rank in Higher Secondary board examination and had a chance to either become an engineer or a doctor. I chose the latter, but now feel that I should have done otherwise.

White coat superiority in family played highly on my mind...

It is not surprising that peer pressure makes teenagers take up paths far from what their heart warns them against. For me, at the age of 17, it was a journey away from math and it led to medicine. As four members of my family were in the medical arena, white coat superiority played highly on my mind at the time of decision-making.

My father, Ankamma Choudary, was born a couple of months after his father's death, into a family practicing farming. His main drive for going to school was to avoid working in the fields under the hot sun. He realised very early that farming would not be financially beneficial and so he sold what little he had to educate himself. In spite of his academic excellence, he was initially refused admission to a medical college due to his farming background. He then enrolled into the army. After two years of service, he was given admission to Stanley Medical College — the same institute which had initially refused his application. He became an excellent clinician who practised from a nursing home in Chilakaluripet.

Dr B.V.L. Narayana, my maternal uncle, was "the people's doctor" who practiced in Ongole. Serving more than 100 patients a day at nominal consultation fees of Rs 1, he never refused treatment to people, including operations, even when they did not have any money. His popularity saw him elected as an MLA twice in the Ongole constituency as an independent candidate.

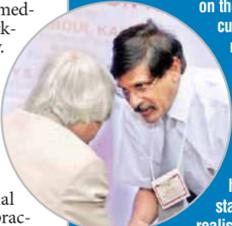
A costly mistake and recovery...

We planned a two-year field trial of the callipers. Six months ahead of this deadline, Dr



WORKING WITH APJ ABDUL KALAM

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam wanted to develop modular, light-weight callipers for polio patients. As the lead of the NIMS Orthopaedic Workshop, I had an opportunity to work on the project, but I believed in custom-built callipers; hence, I refused to associate myself with the idea. The head of our department, Dr B.N.Prasad, did however initiate the research project. When he resigned and I took over as HOD, I had to continue what was started. As work progressed, I realised that it was possible to realise Dr Kalam's dream. What was initially useful only to 10 per cent of polio victims, following a modified design, extended project time, and support from colleagues from DRDO and Dr. Kalam resulted in developing a light-weight variant of callipers that was suitable to many.



children. He even brought sweets packed for each child from Delhi on his flight. He asked me, "What you want to do next?" We went on to fit more than 30,000 patients with these callipers in different parts of the country and only stopped when we had difficulties from the manufacturing end.

Supported by wife...

I am supported by my wife who is a well-loved and successful doctor Dr Anuradha. She has the distinction of delivering the first test tube baby of combined state of Andhra Pradesh and her establishment is one of the first few in the country. I did not take dowry for my marriage and the wedding ceremony was a simple one held at Tirupathi with a few guests. I have two daughters, both of whom are practising gynaecologists.

Kalam felt that India's Golden Jubilee celebrations in Bengaluru would serve as the perfect stage to announce its launch. I disagreed with him and refused to have anything to do with the launch as the field trial was incomplete. I was worried that it would become unpopular if any issues were reported after this launch. He looked at me and said, "I hope you won't regret this decision at a later date". Six months later, when we completed the field trial, there was nobody to launch it in the community. The scientific work was confined to scientific journals and the callipers were confined to workshop.

When Dr Kalam became the President of India and visited NIMS for its convocation, I bluntly told him that the callipers were confined to store-rooms and nobody was using it, because nobody was aware of it. I was requested to discuss the issue with him further in Delhi. In Delhi, he gently reminded me of my costly mistake and sought remedial measures. I had a new plan which I then discussed with him. A community lunch of the product involving social organizations, Government agencies and medical community together by conducting camps which would be a win-win situation for everyone involved. We went on to conduct successful camps initially in various towns in and around Belgaum. Other camps followed and in one such camp, Dr Kalam came and spent more than two hours with the

It is not often that one hears about a doctor fighting it out with the Government in court much before achieving eminence as a thoroughbred. Dr Narendranath, former director of Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), Hyderabad, did just that. He challenged the Government of undivided Andhra Pradesh in the early 1970s when they chose to conduct a separate entrance examination for medicine, while for other streams, candidates were chosen from among those who qualified in a common examination taken by all students. Although he scored well and got admission in medicine stream, he stood his ground and took the matter to the Supreme Court. From being called a fool for not taking up engineering to initially refusing to participate in former President APJ Abdul Kalam's pet project to develop light-weight callipers for polio patients, Dr Narendranath has done it all. Dr Narendranath shares more insights from his life with

K RAMYA SREE



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam wanted to develop modular, light-weight callipers for polio patients. As the lead of the NIMS Orthopaedic Workshop, I had an opportunity to work on the project, but I believed in custom-built callipers; hence, I refused to associate myself with the idea initially.



My father, Ankamma Choudary, was born a couple of months after his father's death, into a family practicing farming. His main drive for going to school was to avoid working in the fields under the hot sun. He realised very early that farming would not be financially beneficial and so he sold what little he had to educate himself. In spite of his academic excellence, he was initially refused admission to a medical college due to his farming background.



Short takes

I ADMIRE:
Dr G.N. Rao of LV Prasad Eye Institute for his vision and commitment in offering state-of-the-art eyecare to rich and poor alike.
Dr. V. Krishna Murthy of RK Hospital, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam for being one of the most well-read persons I have encountered in addition to being a brilliant physician.
Dr D.R.K.Prasad and Dr. Padma of Challapally for their unrelenting efforts in motivating people by leading from the front with their Swachh Challapally programme.

I LOVE:
Reading books. I enjoy modern classics and my favourite authors include Somerset Maugham and Oscar Wilde. My all-time favourite books are The Razor's Edge by Maugham, The Picture of Dorian Gray by Wilde and Panchatantra in Telugu. Kalipatnam Rama Rao heads my Telugu authors' list and I love Sri Sri's poetry.

I ENJOY:
Indian and western classical instrumental music and Mangalampalli Balamuralikrishna's vocal.

I AM FASCINATED BY:
The works of Michelangelo and the paintings of Impressionists.

I WOULD LIKE TO GO BACK TO:
I love travelling and enjoy historical places and ones known for natural beauty. Luxor in Egypt, Florence and Capri in Italy and Massai Mara spread over Kenya and Tanzania top my list.

I AM:
Very outspoken. This is my strength and weakness at the same time. I am myself and don't try to please anybody, whether people like it or not.

the pioneer agenda

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

09



Focus on mind for success

Empower yourself by improving your focus, sharpening intelligence and optimising indwelling potential

11



PRIORITISING STRATEGIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

”

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

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

ENERGY COOPERATION

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

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

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

the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

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

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

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

DEFENCE COOPERATION

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

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

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

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

THE GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSION

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

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

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

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



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

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

The complexities of caste system

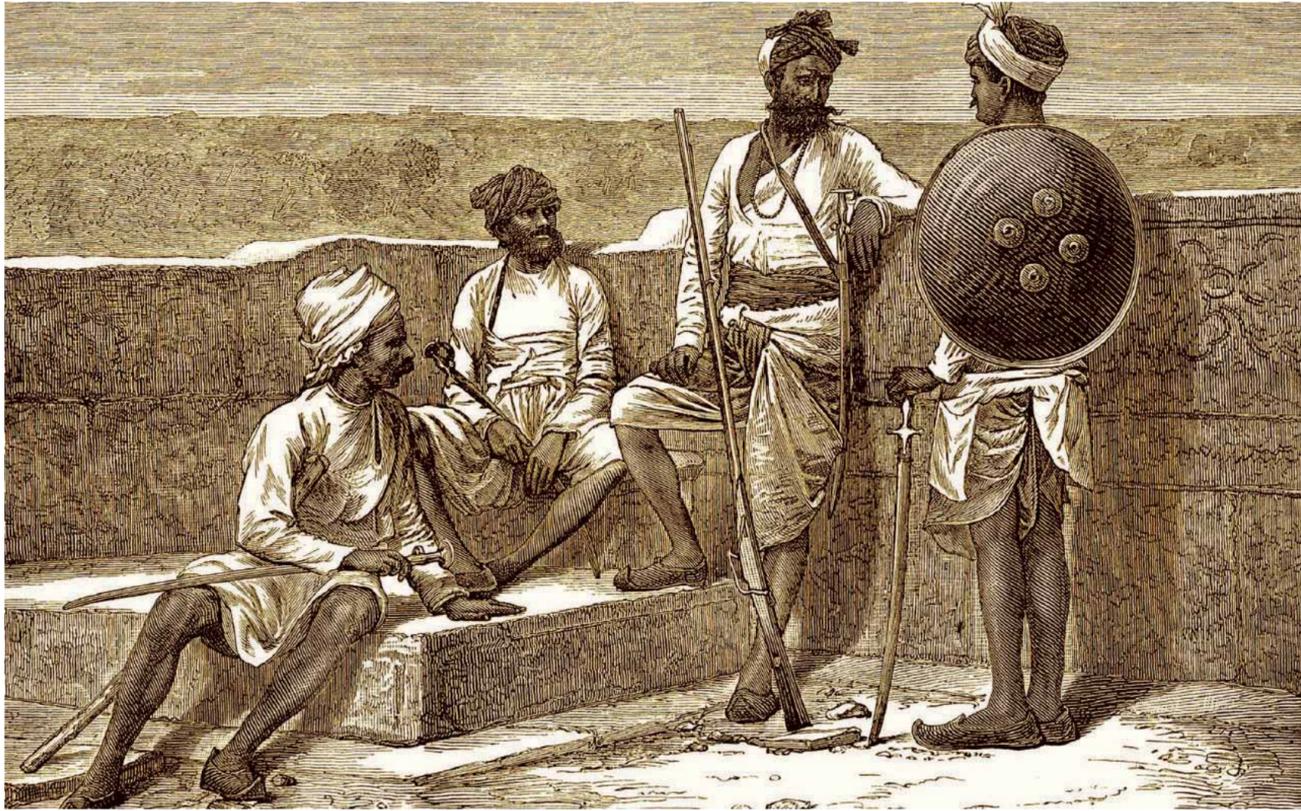
A 131 page book packed with shocking but well researched facts, data and information. That's how "Caste As Social Capital", authored by Prof R Vaidyanathan can be described. The data painstakingly collected by Prof Vaidyanathan and presented in an articulate manner points at a big reservation fraud.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

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

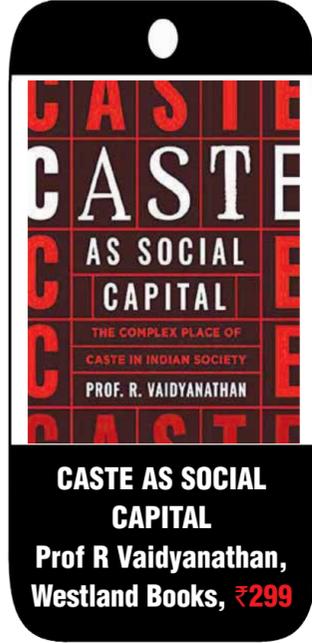
"Dharampal discovered that a fairly detailed survey of school and college education has been undertaken by the British administration in the erstwhile Madras Presidency Area. According to the survey conducted between 1822 and 1825 in the Madras Presidency (that is, the whole of the Indian States of Tamil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

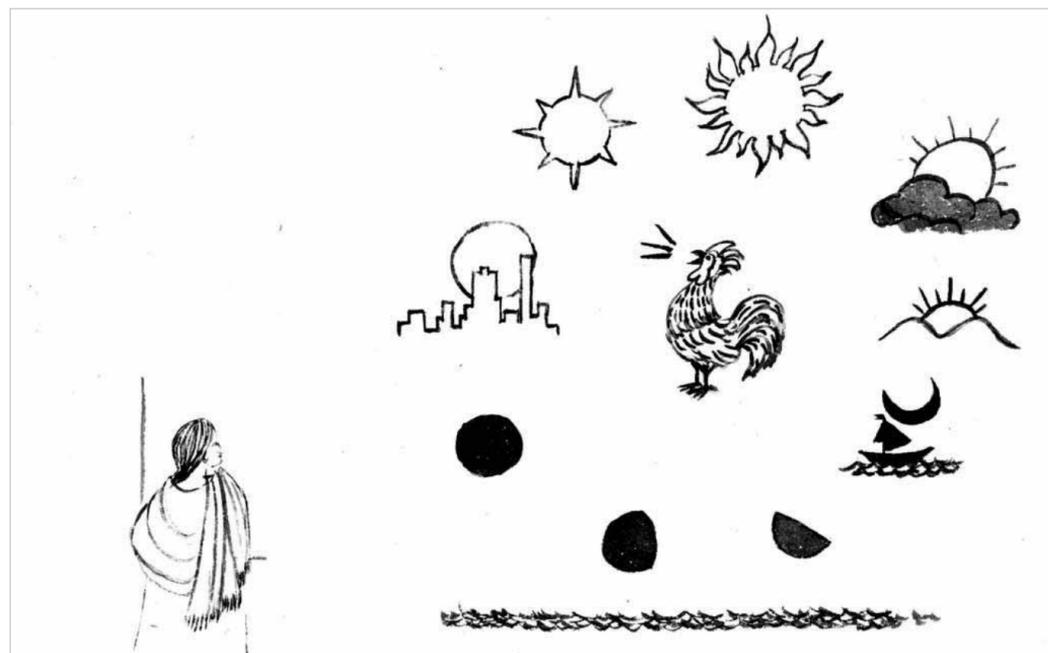
I've always been strong-hearted and proud of it. So am I not sad? When I was first diagnosed with Stage One of an aggressive type of breast cancer, I was stunned and disappointed in myself but quickly found my resolve. I chose to fight cheerfully, selecting the best doctors, eating healthy, praying hard,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



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.

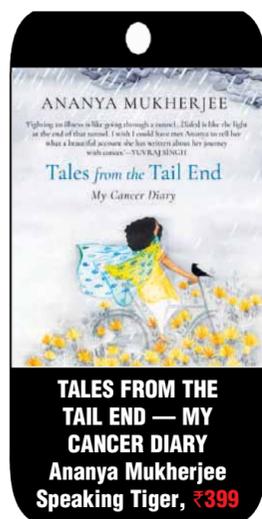
Do I have Hope?
Difficult to say. It's a long answer. The husband says, "Try

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.

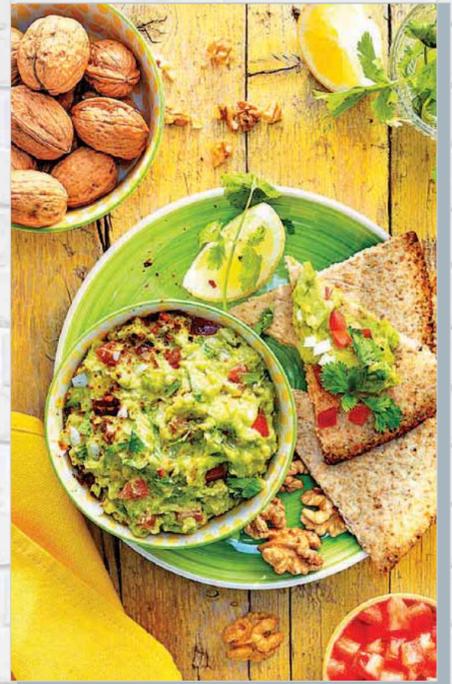
To be able to breathe, walk noisily, listen to a rooster crowing, scold a husband, laugh with a friend and look at something so beautiful, is in itself a miracle. This time I'm not banking on the hope of a better tomorrow. I'm just glad to have had a beautiful spring day. A day of life is still life!

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

Eating a wholesome diet offers numerous health benefits that keep you mentally and physically fit. When you talk about good health, nutritious food plays an extremely crucial role for the body to function optimally. While we all know that eating healthy isn't always easy, but committing to a healthy diet can be one of the smartest decisions you have ever made. So make your meal more nourishing by adding the extra goodness of California walnuts, nutritious vegetables, dry fruits such as almonds etc.,

An excellent source of omega-3, antioxidants, and fiber, California walnuts are identified as nutrient dense powerhouses. Their flavour and dynamic nature combined with high nutrition profile make them an ideal go-to-nut for any snack or meal. Mango is a low-calorie fruit that is high in fibre, and is a great source of vitamins A and C. It also contains folate, B6, iron and a little calcium, zinc and vitamin E. Mangoes are a good source of antioxidants, containing certain phytochemicals such as gallotannins and mangiferin. Try out the recipes below for a nutritious diet.

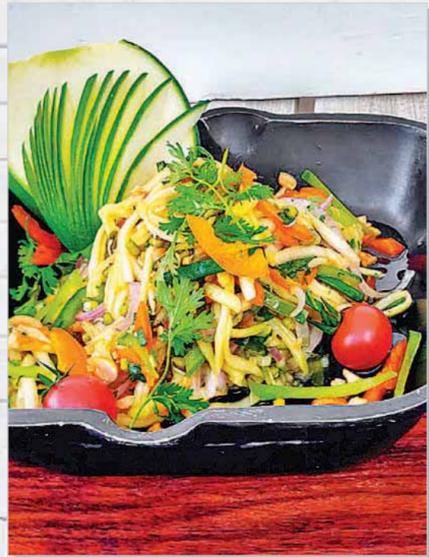
A NUTRITIOUS BOWL



5 ingredient California walnut energy bars

- INGREDIENTS**
- California walnuts (plus 16 California walnut halves for decorating) — 100 gms
 - Medjool dates — 200 gms
 - Dried cranberries — 150 gms
 - Cocoa powder — 3 tbsps
 - Beetroot powder — 1 heaped tsp

- Method:**
- Place 100 gms of California walnuts into a food processor and blend into a fine meal. Add dates, cranberries and cocoa powder and process until the mixture is smooth and sticks together to form one lump.
 - Line a small square baking tray and pour the mixture onto it. With the back of a metal spoon, flatten the mixture into a smooth even layer. Place it in the fridge to chill for at least an hour or overnight.
 - Once chilled, dust the top with the beetroot powder, cut it into 16 bars and top each one with a California walnut half and store in an air tight container.



Thai raw mango salad

- INGREDIENTS**
- Green unripe mango — 1 medium size
 - Shallots/small onion — 4
 - Crushed peanuts — 3 tbsps
 - Red ripe chili (Birds eye chili) — 2
 - Ginger — 1/2 inch piece
 - Honey — 1 tbsp.
 - Soya sauce — 1 tsp
 - Coriander leaves — 2 tbsps.
 - Or fresh basil leaves
 - Kaffir lime leaf — 1/2 tsp finely chopped
 - Salt as per taste

- METHOD:**
- Wash and peel off the green skin of the mango. Using a zigzag peeler shred the mangoes into strips. I don't have one, so I sliced the mango thinly and julienne cut the mango into thin strips.
 - Do not grate it in a grater as it will make the mango soft, it won't be crunchy in the salad. Peel and chop onion.
 - Grind red chili, ginger, honey, soya sauce, coriander leaves. Add little water if needed. If you want it less spicy, slit and remove the seeds of the chili before grinding.
 - In a mixing bowl, mix all these ingredients gently and serve.

Homemade, Vegan and Gluten-Free California Walnut Nachos with Guacamole

- INGREDIENTS**
- Water — 125 ml
 - For Nachos:
 - Maize flour — 140 gms
 - Sunflower seeds — 120 gms
 - California walnuts — 20 gms
 - Extra virgin olive oil — 60 ml
 - Salt — 1 1/2 tsp
 - GUACAMOLE:**
 - Avocados — 2
 - 1 medium tomato
 - Half onion
 - Salt to taste
 - Fresh coriander leaves — 1 tbsp
 - Cayenne — 1 tsp

- METHOD: NACHOS:**
- Preheat the oven to 220°C.
 - Chop sunflower seeds and walnuts.
 - Put all the ingredients of the nachos in a big bowl and mix them with a wooden spoon. Add oil and combine it. Add water little by little, until the flour sticks together and forms a nice dough ball. If it's wet, continue mixing up until it gets dry.
 - Divide the dough in two balls and place one of them between two baking sheets. Using a rolling pin, extend the dough until it has a thickness of 2 mm and mark with a knife the lines to break or separate them.
 - Retire the baking sheet off the top of the dough and place them in an oven tray. Bake around 10 minutes or until it turns gold. Let it cool and chop. Repeat with the same with the other ball.

- GUACAMOLE:**
- Cut tomato and onion in little cubes.
 - Cut avocados, retire the filling and place it in a bowl. Using a fork or a wooden spoon, smash the avocado flesh and pour lemon juice so they do not rust.
 - Add tomato, onion, salt, cayenne and coriander into the bowl. Mix it until smooth.
 - Serve it with the walnut nachos.

Celebrity Chef Sabyasachi Gorai and Chef Varun M.B of Novotel

Cream of Almond with broccoli florets

- INGREDIENTS**
- Peeled almonds -- 100 gm
 - Potato for thickening -- 30 gm
 - Butter -- 50 gm
 - Celery chopped -- 20 gm
 - Leeks chopped -- 10 gm
 - Almond milk -- 10 ml for garnish
 - Broccoli florets -- 50 gms for garnish.
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Vegetables stock -- 400 ml

- METHOD:**
- Take sauce pan keep it on slow flame, add the butter, once it hot add chopped celery, chopped leeks, add potato.
 - Sauté till it leaves raw flavour, add stock the sauce pan, once the stock reach boiling point, keep it in simmer, and then make paste of almonds by adding stock water until it becomes fine paste.
 - Add the almond paste to the stock pot cook it till it get soup consistence.
 - Strain the soup through a strainer. Keep it aside
 - Boil the broccoli florets in salted water, pour the soup in bowls add florets to it serve hot.



A BENGALI FEAST BEYOND ROSGULLAS

Chef Dipak Adhikary is getting ready with Bengali delights for Hyderabadis for Dussera, reports V SATEESH REDDY

Bengalis celebrate 13 different festivals each year with various food items being the center of attraction, says chef Dipak Adhikary, who is curating a Bengali Food Festival at Mercure hotel in the city. Dipak and his team have prepared a menu for an authentic Bengali spread with a good mix of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. The chef says that the buffet has been crafted to suit a blend of aromatic flavours of the region. A perfect use of *panchphoron* the five essential spices of the region namely mustard, Fenugreek seed, cumin seed, aniseed and black cumin seed will take the guests through a journey of Bengal's cuisine. For the first course, Deepak will serve a new Maket Mangsho chop, vegetable chop, Dhaniya Murgh and Kadak Veg Seekh which are

bound to increase one's appetite for the rest of the meal. "The specialty of Bengali food lies in the perfect blend of sweet and spicy flavours. The lavish spread of delicacies includes traditional dishes like Luchi Kosua Mangso, Chingri Malai Curry, Radhabollobi, Chochchorietc and many others. The all-time favourite Bengali desserts such as the Rosogolla, Mishti Doi, etc. will also be a part of this extravagant food affair," says Dipak. The non-vegetarian main course will have items such as Shyam Bazar Kosha Murgi, Kochi Pathar Jhoi, Posto Machh, Dim Bhaja Curry, Murgi Biryani, lamb stew and Hunan-style fish. All items, the chef assures, will cater to all taste buds. For the vegetarians, delicacies such as Chanar Kalla, Kacha Kolar Kofta, Aloo Posto, Chorchori, Patol



Shorshe Pabda

Dolma, Laal Saag, Mussorir Dal, Pulao Rajnandini, Dal Makhani, Vegetable Thai Green Curry, Steamed Rice and Chilly Garlic Noodle will delight children and parents alike. The guests will be left satisfied and content with the final course of desserts that include Cham Cham, Pantuwa, Chena toast, Kalakand,

Sandeash burfi, Rajbhog and a fresh fruits platter. Dipak says salads will also be laid out keeping the weight watchers in mind. "We are doing this event a little early as people love to stay in homes during Navaratri. This is a perfect menu for food lovers during the Durga Puja," concludes Dipak.



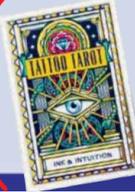
Mishti Pulao and Golbarir Kosha Mangsho



Dipak Adhikari, Executive Chef, Mercure



Radhaballavi and Aloo Dum



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



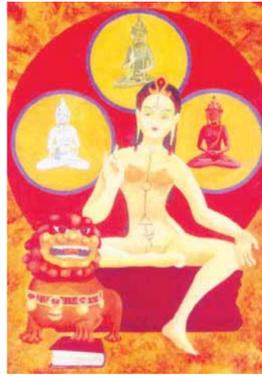
MADHU KOTIYA



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 12

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.

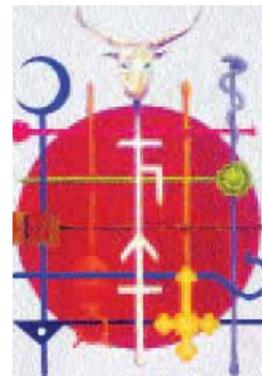
Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Thursday



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 back-biting. Married couples may lack harmony in their relationship and seek space to avoid conflict or tension.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Parrot Green
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

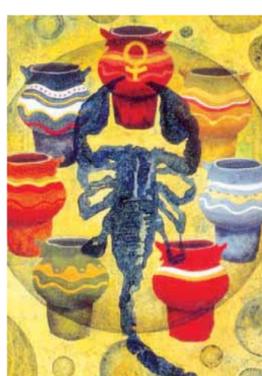
Lucky number 31
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Thursday

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



ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Empower your mind for success

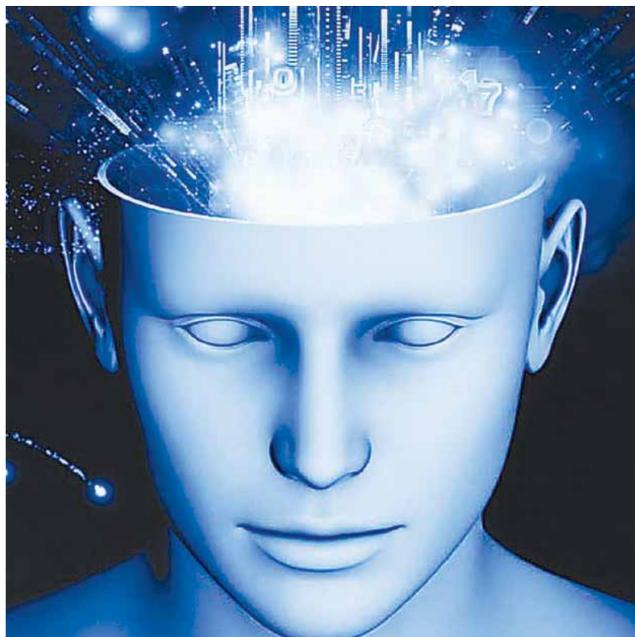
A young graduate, having failed to taste success at many qualifying examinations for different jobs, came asking the other day in a state of desperation: "Sir, what is in store of my destiny? Any luck to get a job in near future? I have tried to put in best during the last three years, but with no luck. Suggest me some puja that may help a poor man like me secure my future."

Young man, destiny is not blind, as it doesn't necessarily play out by default in course of usual run of life. Remember, destiny indicators — the reflection of Karmic imprints carried over from the past — are stored in our memory as seed-thoughts. 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 flitting 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

Silver worth its weight in gold

Panghal ends 2nd at world c'ships

PTI ■ EKATERINBURG

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Phenomenal Panghal: From late-comer to world-beater

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But old habits die hard and

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

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

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

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

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

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

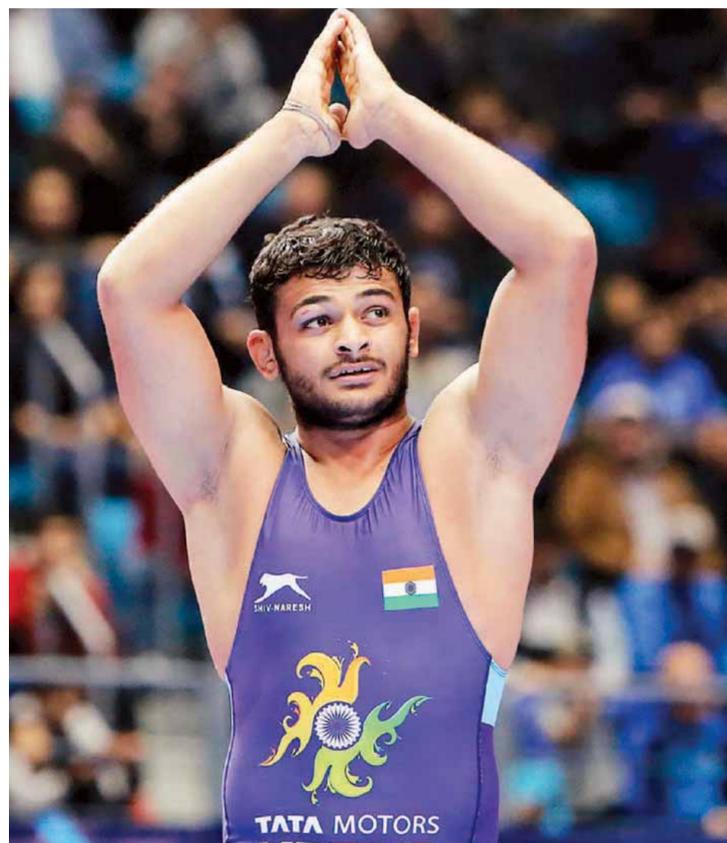
"It hasn't been as difficult as I first thought. But it has taken time for me to fit in," he said.

"*Abhi bhi kahaan itna 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



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

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 medallist 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

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

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

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

India had returned with three medals in 2013.

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

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

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

There was no action in the first period of the semifinal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leclerc on pole at Singapore

AFP ■ SINGAPORE

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

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

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

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

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

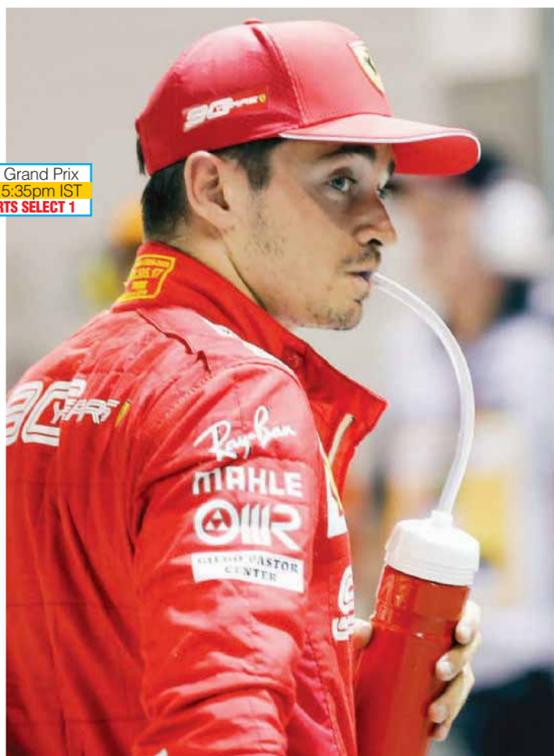
"I have to thank the team. We brought some new bits that worked properly. I worked hard after a bad Friday and today it paid off," added Leclerc, who recorded his fifth pole position of the season.

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

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

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

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



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

Singapore Grand Prix
Live from 5:35pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

can be aggressive."

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

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

Another series win on focus

India look to maintain clean slate against Proteas before Tests

PTI ■ BENGALURU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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