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LUCKNOW, SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2020; PAGES 12+4 ₹3



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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Disorientation of anti-CAA lobby is understandable

There is little doubt that in her zeal to be wilfully outrageous, the 19-year-old Amulya Leona Noronha seriously embarrassed most of the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act fraternity when she chanted 'Pakistan zindabad' from podium at a protest rally in Bengaluru. Certainly, the alacrity with which the stalwarts of the protest, including AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, snatched the mike from her indicated the panic.

The disorientation of the anti-CAA lobby is understandable. Since December 13 last year when the protests began, the Muslim community — which has been in the forefront of the anti-Narendra Modi stir — has been at pains to demonstrate that their opposition to the changes in the Citizenship Act is grounded in their status as patriotic Indians. The national flag, the Constitution and photographs of both Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar have been generously used in the rallies and extended dharnas. The national anthem too has been lustily sung on innumerable occasions. Under the circumstances, the teenager's invocation of Pakistan — whatever may have been its convoluted underlying logic — was clearly outside a set narrative.

Amulya's zindabad to Pakistan also came within a day of AIMIM national spokesperson Waris Pathan's boast that 15 crore of Muslims have the ability to make 100 crore others tremble — a threat that most people will undeniably view as both menacing and sinister. Add to this earlier utterances by different protesters espousing either a form of sectarian separatism or praising Mohammed Ali Jinnah and it is possible to understand why many people detect a hidden agenda behind the anti-CAA protests.

Arguably, such a conclusion may be unfair. The stalwarts of the anti-CAA have been at pains to link their protests to an exalted 'idea of India'. Someone like Owaisi has sought to reinvent himself and detach his organisation from the inheritance of the Razakars who fought against Hyderabad's integration into India in 1947-48. **Turn to Page 4**

CRACKDOWN ON CORRUPTION

Unnao DM suspended

13 other DMs shifted

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In pursuance of the 'zero tolerance' policy against corruption, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday ordered the suspension of Unnao District Magistrate Devendra Kumar Pandey for alleged financial irregularities in utilisation of the composite school grants of the Basic Education department. Pandey is an IAS officer promoted to the Central service from state civil service.

The probe by the Divisional Commissioner of Lucknow found Pandey prima facie guilty. Acting on the inquiry report in which the Commissioner had recommended penal action against the DM, the Chief Minister ordered the suspension of the IAS officer as per Rule 8 of the All India services (discipline and appeal) Rules, 1969.

In the last 30 months, the Yogi Adityanath government has ordered forcible retirement of over 250 officers and employees of different departments. Besides, over 500 offi-

cers and employees have been penalised either in the form of suspension or demotion.

Recently, the Chief Minister had ordered forcible retirement of seven officers of the Provincial Police Service while the Deputy Superintendent of Police posted at Police Training School in Meerut, who had been placed under suspension, was dismissed from service.

So far, the Yogi government has taken action against 169 officers, including 51 of Home department, 37 of Transport department, 36 of Revenue department, 26 of Basic Education department, 25 of Panchayat department, 18 of Public Works department, 16 of Labour department, 16 of Institutional Finance department, 16 of Commercial Tax department, 15 of Rural Development department, and 11 of Forest department.

Recently, the executive engineer of PWD posted in Basti district was dismissed from service for misappropriation of Rs 44 crore. District **Turn to Page 4**

Uncertainty about Modi joining Trump's Taj trip

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just a couple of days before US President Donald Trump's visit to India, confusion prevails over whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi will accompany the Trumps during their visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra on Monday. Contrary versions emerged from the Indian and American sides on Saturday with sources in New Delhi saying Modi accompanying the Trump family to Agra is unlikely and reports attributing US officials stating otherwise.

The Government sources said Modi will not accompany the US President and First Lady Melania Trump to see the Taj Mahal in Agra.

The US President, his wife, daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner along with a large US delegation, are coming to India on a two-day visit on Monday.

The Indian side's reaction came after a senior US administration official, during a conference call with journalists, said, "The President will arrive in India, in Ahmedabad... The **Turn to Page 4**

Shaheen Bagh blows hot & cold, one road opened

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A stretch of Shaheen Bagh Road Number 9, from Abul Fazal Enclave to Kalindi Kunj Junction, was opened by a section of the anti-CAA protesters on Saturday. It was one of the roads closed since December 15 when the anti-CAA protest began.

"A section of the protesters opened the stretch that joins Abul Fazal Enclave to Kalindi Kunj Junction but after a few minutes, it was closed again by another group. Subsequently,



A stretch of the road opens after two months in Shaheen Bagh on Saturday PTI

the stretch was opened again by the protesters and it remains open," Deputy Commissioner

of Police (South East) RP Meena said. **Turn to Page 4**

Modi is versatile genius, says Justice Arun Mishra

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice Arun Mishra on Saturday was all praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and termed him as an "internationally acclaimed visionary" and a "versatile genius, who thinks globally and acts locally".

Complimenting the PM and Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad for doing away with 1,500 obsolete laws, Justice Mishra said India is a responsible and most friendly mem-



ber of the international community under the "stewardship" of Modi.

Delivering the vote of thanks at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference 2020 — "Judiciary and the Changing World" at the SC, he said "We thank the versatile genius, who thinks globally and acts locally, Shri Narendra Modi, for his inspiring speech which would act as a catalyst in initiating the deliberations and setting the agenda for the conference." **Turn to Page 4**

CAPSULE

'MENTAL' RELIEF PLEA OF NIRBHAYA RAPIST JUNKED
New Delhi: A Delhi court dismissed a plea by one of the four death-row convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case claiming he has mental illness and needs treatment.

BHARAT MATA KI JAI BEING MISUSED: MANMOHAN
New Delhi: Nationalism and the slogan of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" are being misused to construct a "militant and purely emotional" idea of India, Manmohan Singh said.

NO DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN SONBHADRA: GSI
Sonbhadra: The GSI said there has been no discovery of gold deposits estimated to be around 3,000 tonnes in Sonbhadra.

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Hindi has connected large parts of country: Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that Hindi language has been able to connect large parts of the country. "Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, understood the importance of Hindi language and advocated its promotion in the world. Hindi has now become a big medium of employment. Also, years ago, the sages of India connected Sanskrit to employment. If people studying Sanskrit use their intellect properly, they will never die of hunger," he said.

The Chief Minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of 'Bhasha Mahotsav -2020' held at Lucknow University on Saturday.

"Literature has a long story to tell. Indians have taught the lessons of literature to the world. World's oldest religious book 'Rigveda' has also been given by India," he said. Terms like religion, work and salvation are mentioned in the Mahabharata. Through Ramcharitmanas, Tulsidas gave a lot to Awadhi. It is also composed in Hindi, Sanskrit, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada. Though the Indian Constitution has not recognised Awadhi, people of India read the lessons of Ramcharitmanas daily. This is the real strength of India and we have to recognise it," the Chief Minister said.

Yogi said that hundred years ago when Mahatma Gandhi attended the inauguration ceremony of Kashi



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurating the 'Bhasha Mahotsav -2020' at Lucknow University on Sunday

Hindu University, he also visited Kashi Vishwanath temple there. "During the visit, he was surprised to see the dirt there. Today, the government has started the work of beautifying Kashi Vishwanath temple by formulating an action plan. According to

the action plan, 300 houses were purchased, of which 67 are temples and now these are protected by the state government. The route to Kashi Vishwanath temple has also been widened by 50 feet. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision will be fulfilled within 1.5 years. Not only the residents of Kashi but the entire world will get a 'Dham' as per his vision," he added.

The Chief Minister said that today, they have to set up a 'Bhasha University' for Indian languages. "The

universities have to prepare courses and supply chains according to the demand. With the help of Sanskrit and practical knowledge of Hindi and English, we can generate employment opportunities for many people. There are many universities inside or outside the country where qualified teachers are required to teach Sanskrit and Hindi. The need for teachers worldwide can be fulfilled only when the universities start teaching the language, he added.

The Chief Minister said that this festival will become a powerful medium to express our feelings towards the Indian languages. "Language is the medium of communication for everyone and expression is not possible without this. Instead of considering languages as a burden, make them the basis of economic progress and self-reliance, which will pave the way for development," the Chief Minister said.

Yogi said that the state government has launched an internship scheme for youths. The internship plan will provide a platform to the youth for the country and world, he said.

"Today, PM Modi addresses people in Hindi on global platforms. He emotionally connects the entire world to India. People from different countries of the world come to India and are learning Hindi for communication. Earlier, it was mandatory to communicate with them in English, but this is a new beginning," he added.

Akhilesh reiterates resolve to oppose CAA, NRC, NPR

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has reiterated his resolve to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Act saying his party is against the divisive law as well as National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

"The members of the Samajwadi Party will not fall for NPR forms. We want to talk only about work," he said.

"Instead of NPR and NRC, the government should go for caste-based census to ascertain the share of each caste in the total population of India. Caste-based census is the last remaining solution to the social conflict based on caste and religion," he said.

Yadav also confirmed that his party will not form any political alliance with the Congress or any other political party for the 2022 UP Assembly elections.

"We will form the government in 2022 on the basis of our own strength. We may consider some political adjustments to reach the magic figure of majority on the floor of the assembly," he added.

He claimed that the SP will form the next government on the strength of the development work done during the previous regime (2012-17).

Slamming the Congress for putting posters of 'missing MP' in his Lok Sabha constituency (Azamgarh), the former Chief Minister said: "Congress is an old hand in conducting smear campaign against its rivals and it was their handiwork. People of Azamgarh are firmly behind me and my party and I will soon visit the constituency."

"I wish to congratulate the people of Delhi who rejected

the provocative statements of BJP leaders like 'Goli maar' and voting for a party that had performed and delivered to the people as per promises made in the run-up to the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections," the SP chief said while speaking at a programme in Lucknow on Saturday.

"What was witnessed in Delhi Assembly elections this February will be repeated in Uttar Pradesh in 2022. The Samajwadi Party's 'cycle' will take along all sections of the society and will not resort to gimmicks like seeking the blessings of deities. We have confidence in our performance and in people, and we will have enough people's support to form the government in 2022," the SP chief claimed.

"We will go to the polls and place the record of our performance before the people. The BJP has nothing concrete to showcase as their achievement so they always resort to their traditional politics of dividing people on the lines of caste and religion," Akhilesh said, adding: "Anybody who has travelled on Lucknow-Agra Expressway will certainly vote for the Samajwadi Party."

Dismissing the claims of development works done by the Yogi Adityanath government, the former Chief Minister said: "The investor summit held in February 2018 was a damp squib with no benefit to the people of UP. The government claims to have signed MoUs worth over Rs 4.5 lakh crore but not a single penny has been seen on the ground."

He said the maximum number of MoUs was signed for setting up renewable energy or solar plants, and not a single plant has been set up so far.

CBI announces cash reward for information on whereabouts of Atiq's son

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Failing to trap Umar Ahmed, son of mafia-turned-politician Ateeq Ahmed, sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probing the kidnapping and extortion case has announced a cash reward of Rs 2 lakh for those giving inputs of Umar's whereabouts. Atiq is already lodged in jail in connection with the case.

Sources in the CBI confirmed that after making all efforts to trap Umar, the central investigating agency finally decided to declare a cash reward so that people should come forward and give inputs leading to the arrest of the accused.

Earlier, the CBI had booked former MP Ateeq Ahmed and 10 others, including his son Umar, for allegedly orchestrating the abduction of a Lucknow-based businessman from Deoria jail for

extorting money from him and taking over his business. The CBI registered the case on the charges of criminal conspiracy, extortion, cheating, forgery, robbery and criminal intimidation.

Real estate dealer Mohit Jaiswal was allegedly abducted from Lucknow and taken to Deoria jail, where he was assaulted by Ahmad and his aides, who were lodged there, and forced to transfer his business to them, the officials said.

Ahmad was a Samajwadi Party member in the 14th Lok Sabha from Phulpur in Uttar Pradesh from 2004 to 2009.

Jaiswal, who has a real estate business in the posh Gomti Nagar area in Lucknow, had alleged that Ahmad was threatening him for extortion for the last two years.

The businessman had said that he had made some payments to Ahmad, after which the demands for money had stopped for a while, but the

politician again started asking for money from him in 2018. He had alleged that Ahmad's goons had forcibly taken over his business by obtaining his and his sister's digital signatures.

Even after such pressure, Jaiswal had claimed that he had not transferred any shares to them. He had alleged that on December 26, 2018, he was taken in his own sports utility vehicle (SUV) by one of Ahmad's goons to Deoria jail, where the former MP was lodged.

Umar and 10-12 other gang members were also present in the jail and they beat him up, causing serious injuries to him, Jaiswal had alleged.

Four of his companies, including MJ Infra Housing Private Limited, were transferred in the name of Farooq and Zaki Ahmad, both accomplices of Ahmad, who had been threatening him, he had alleged. The combined assets of

the firms were worth Rs 45 crore, the FIR said. They had also taken his signatures on his company letterhead in the jail, Jaiswal had claimed.

The businessman had also alleged that Ahmad was threatened him, saying he could not be killed inside the jail and hence he was being allowed to go. But the politician had forcibly kept his SUV in the jail, Jaiswal had alleged.

The matter was handed over to the CBI by the Supreme Court, which had also ordered Ahmad's transfer to a jail in Gujarat. Ahmad was a five-time MLA and one-time MP. He has been in jail since February 11, 2017. In the past, he was also associated with Apna Dal (Sonelal).

During the hearing in the Supreme Court, the Uttar Pradesh government had confirmed the incident and said the CCTV cameras in the jail complex were tampered with at the time. In a report submitted

through senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, appointed as amicus curiae (friend of court), the state government had said departmental action against five jail officials was initiated. Hansaria, assisted by advocate Sneha Kalita, had told the bench that jail norms were relaxed with respect to visitors meeting the former parliamentarian.

In his submission, the senior advocate had said there were 109 cases registered against Ahmad from 1979 to 2019, including 17 murder cases, 12 cases under the UP Gangster Act, eight under the Arms Act and four under the UP Goondas Act.

Hansaria had also said eight cases pending investigation were registered against Ahmad between 2015 and 2019, of which two were murder cases.

The report had said the state government had constituted two committees, which

prima facie found the names of two persons, including that of Jaiswal, in the visitors' register at Deoria Jail for meeting Ahmad. It had added that the committees had found the jail superintendent and other prison officials guilty for the assault on the businessman, departmental proceedings were initiated against five officials and the state government had suspended three persons in this regard.

"During interrogation, the jail staff and the prisoners denied the incidence of assault in jail but the joint team found in its inquiry that some CCTV cameras set up in the jail had been tampered with and the persons meeting Ateeq Ahmad had been granted relaxation against the rule. The joint team prima facie found that the jail superintendent and the officers/employees of the jail administration to be guilty for this incident," the report had said.

CLASSIFIEDS

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I want to change my son's name from Anamay Mishra to Anamay Mishra in the school record. Sanjay kumar Mishra house no. 628M | 101A Manas Vihar colony, Shakti nagar, Indira nagar, Lucknow.

NOTICE
I, No. IC-65811Y Rank Lt. Col. Name Rakesh Singh S/o Shri Shivram Singh, Unit H.O. MUPSA, Lucknow hereby declared that in my Army Service record my name wrongly mentioned as Rakesh Singh whereas my correct name is Rakesh S. Tomar for all future purposes.

नीलामी सूचना
03.03.2020, 11:00 बजे कार्यालय आयुक्त, सीमाशुल्क (निवारक), पंचम एवं एकादश तल, केन्द्रीय भवन, अलीगंज, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य अम्बेसडर कार :- यू०पी० 32-ए०ए०-0072 नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु० 5,000/- नगद/आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स

नीलामी सूचना
02.03.2020, 11:00 बजे भारतीय सर्वेक्षण विभाग, "मानचित्र भवन", लखनऊ, गोमतीनगर, लखनऊ निष्प्रयोज्य महिन्द्रा बुलेरो :- यू०पी० 32-ए०टी०-0849 नीलामी, सिक्योरिटी रु० 10,000/- नगद/बैंकड्राफ्ट "D.D.O., EUPGDC, LUCKNOW" नामित, जमा 09:00 बजे - 10:00 बजे। आई०पी० सिंह एण्ड सन्स

Date for laying foundation stone to be decided next month

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

After decade-long wait, the date for laying foundation stone of Ram temple at Ayodhya will be announced in the first week of March, Ram Janambhoomi Terth Khetra Trust member and Mahant of Nirmohi Akhara Dinendra Das said in Ayodhya on Saturday.

Das, who returned from Delhi after attending the first meeting of the Trust, said the date for foundation laying will be announced in the next meeting of the Trust, to be held in Ayodhya in the first week of

RAM TEMPLE IN AYODHYA



March. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited by the Trust members to lay the foundation stone and it would possibly be done during Navratri. The PM is reported to have accepted the invitation of the saints to lay the temple's foundation stone.

Meanwhile, the saints have claimed that as the 'shilanyas' of the Ram temple had already been done in the past, now the foundation stone would be laid by the PM. However, some saints say that the foundation stone should not be laid during

Navratri or on Ram Navamvi as it could disturb the pilgrims, who come in large numbers to Ayodhya.

Meanwhile, the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board will be meeting in Lucknow on February 24 to take a decision on whether to accept the five acres land given by the authorities on the outskirts of Ayodhya for a new mosque.

The Board will also decide how to use the land as there were several proposals for setting up an educational institution or a hospital along with the mosque on the spot.

School principal, manager booked after girl student commits suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Jhansi police registered a case against principal and manager of a college after their alleged negligence forced an intermediate student to commit suicide. The girl took the extreme step as she failed to appear in her board exams.

Sanjay Jain, a resident of Karguwa area of Nawabad in Jhansi, claimed that his daughter Khushi Jain was a student of Class XII in Hansraj College on Shivpuri Road in Sipri Bazar area of Jhansi. He said that she lost her identity card so she applied for a duplicate card as under the new rules of the UP Board for Secondary Education, the students are not allowed to enter the examination centres if they don't carry the admit cards as well as school identity cards.

Jain claimed that as the school authority did not provide her the ID card, she failed to appear for the exams which started on Tuesday. Depressed over it, she hanged herself. Her body was found hanging from the ceiling of her room on Saturday morning. Jain and other resi-

dents, along with some other parents, staged demonstration keeping the body in front of college on Saturday morning.

The protest ended only after the local police registered a case and promised action against those found guilty. The body of the girl was also sent for the post-mortem examination.

Meanwhile, another girl committed suicide in Ferozabad after efforts were made to outrage her modesty during a marriage ceremony.

Reports said that the victim went to attend a marriage function in Shikohabad area where a youth, who came with the groom's side from Phatham area of the district, tried to rape her after pulling her into a secluded room two days back. Luckily, the girl raised an alarm and some guests rescued her.

However, the girl slipped into depression after the incident and consumed some poisonous some time on Friday night. She was found dead on Saturday morning. A case was registered and body sent for autopsy.

Jilted lover stabs girl to death, hangs self

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

A jilted lover hacked a girl to death and later committed suicide in Kaushambhi. The sensational incident was reported on Saturday morning. Reports said that Chhotu (25), hailing from Fatehpur district, used to visit his relative's house at Syed Sarai hamlet of Charwa in Kaushambhi. During his stay, he fell in love with one Jyoti, who was also his distant relative and living in the same house. He tried to lure her and proposed to her for marriage. However, on Friday evening, when he reached his relative's home, he was shocked to learn that the marriage of Jyoti was fixed somewhere else by her family members.

Annoyed over it, Chhotu stabbed the girl to death in the wee hours of Saturday and later hanged himself. A case has been registered and bodies were sent for the post-mortem examination.

Meanwhile, in another sensational case in Meerut, a man was killed while cash and other valuables were looted by unidentified miscreants.

Reports said that 65-year-old Jai Prakash, who retired from clerk's post in Kisan Sewa Sahkari Samiti, was living with his family in Khandawali area of Kharkhauda in Meerut.

On Friday night, when Prakash was all alone in the house, some unknown miscreants barged inside and strangled him to death.

According to Prakash's son Satendra, the miscreants, after killing his father, also looted Rs 5 lakh in cash and other valuables.

The news spread like wildfire and several of Samajwadi Party workers and leaders staged protest demanding the arrest of the accused. Local police later used force to disperse them and also arrested an SP leader, identified as Om Pal.

King George's Medical University U.P. Chowk, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, INDIA - 226003
Notice No.: 245/G.A. Re-E-Tender Notice Dated : 22-02-2020
Online Re-E-Tenders are invited under two Bid system (Technical & Financial) for selection of Hemodialysis, CRRT and Sled Unit Service Provider (DU-SP) for Implementation of Dialysis Project in Nephrology Department, King George's Medical University U.P. Lucknow from the reputed agencies/firm on the terms & condition as per tender document. The details of the Tender will be available on e-portal website <http://etender.up.nic.in> Registrar

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No.: 11/2020
Important Notice for the Rail Passengers
It is notified for information of the general public that to provide extra facility to passengers, on the eve of forthcoming Holi two pairs of special trains will run on the following dates, timings and stoppages given below:-

(1) 05015/05016 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar-Gorakhpur Special train
05015 Ex. Gorakhpur Date 06-03-2020 & 11-03-2020 = 02 Trips
05016 Ex. Anand Vihar Date 07-03-2020 & 12-03-2020 = 02 Trips

05015		Station	05016	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
-	15:00	Gorakhpur	23:40	-
15:35	15:37	Khalilabad	22:35	22:40
16:05	16:08	Basti	22:05	22:08
17:35	17:40	Gonda	20:40	20:45
PASS	19:20	Barabanki	PASS	19:15
20:25	20:40	Lucknow (NR)	18:15	18:25
00:28	00:30	Bareilly	13:28	13:20
02:15	02:20	Moradabad	11:35	11:45
06:00	-	Anand Vihar	-	08:00

Composition:- SGSLRD-02, SGS-06, SGSCN-08, SGACCN-03, SGACCW-01 = 20 Coaches.

(2) 05101/05102 Chhapra-Delhi-Chhapra Weekly Special train
05101 Ex. Chhapra Dated 08-03-2020 & 15-03-2020 = 02 Trips
05102 Ex. Delhi Dated 09-03-2020 & 16-03-2020 = 02 Trips

05101		Station	05102	
Arr.	Dep.		Arr.	Dep.
-	16:00	Chhapra	10:55	-
17:00	17:05	Ballia	08:55	09:00
18:10	18:15	Mau	07:35	07:40
18:38	18:40	Muhammabad	07:08	07:10
19:00	19:05	Azamgarh	06:45	06:50
19:56	19:58	Khorasan Road	06:08	06:10
20:45	21:15	Shahganj	05:25	05:45
02:25	02:35	Lucknow (NR)	23:55	00:05
07:05	07:07	Bareilly	18:24	18:26
09:00	09:15	Moradabad	16:50	16:57
12:40	-	Delhi	-	14:00

Composition:- General Class-06, Sleeper Class-10, AC-2 Tier-01, AC-3 Tier-04, SLR/D-2 = 23 Coaches.
CPRD-77 Chief Pass. Trans. Managar, Gorakhpur
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

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Police clueless 3 days after murder and loot

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Three days after the daring robbery at the office of a firm dealing in sale of pampasala in Rakabganj, the tech-savvy police teams are scratching their heads to get a clue about the miscreants who threw a gauntlet before them.

While top police officials overseeing the investigation remained tightlipped due to lack of clues, sources said the heist was the handiwork of some gang of sharp-shooters.

"The images of the miscreants involved in the incident (which the Lucknow police secured after scanning of hundreds of CCTV footages) matched to some of the robbers in Tanda in Ambedkar Nagar dacoity case. Besides, the image of some of shooters in the infamous Shah Nawaz murder case also matched with one of the miscreants involved in the Rakabganj incident," the sources said. They said Shah Nawaz, a railway employee and a resident of Wazirganj, was gunned down in full public view at AP Sen Road in 2019. "The killer had shot Shah Nawaz five times. In one of the footages, he was seen coming back and opening fire on Shah Nawaz, who was seen standing up probably in the hope that he had been spared,"

the sources said.

The incident exposed the police bandobast in the city. The Lucknow police have put barricades in a zig-zag way at different places to limit the speed of vehicles and also to impede easy escape of miscreants. "The miscreants involved in the Rakabganj case proved to be smarter than the police. They chose Thursday, the day on which usually the business activity in the locality is very low as the day is weekly closure of shops. They knew that the businessmen do accounts-related work on the day and they have huge cash at their establishments. They were hiding their faces with helmets and hankies and they shot the employee of the firm, Subhash Gupta, after he put a brave front," the sources said.

They said the modus operandi showed that they were rigorously trained and intended to kill anybody at the slightest of provocations. "The involvement of shooters surfaced in several cases of crime in the past. But the police did not take them seriously, as a result of which several cases remain unsolved," they said. On February 20, the miscreants had shot dead Subhash Gupta at the firm's office near Nehru crossing under Chowk police

station and had looted two bags full of cash. A spokesman said the owner of the firm had not given any complaint as yet and the amount of money looted was yet to be ascertained.

ARRESTED

Another accused involved in the murder of a 20-year-old engineering dropout, Prashant Singh of Varanasi, was arrested on Saturday. Prashant was stabbed to death in broad daylight in Gomti Nagar Extension on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Abhishek Pandey (20), a law student of a private university, was arrested from his residence in Vikasnagar on Saturday. Prashant was goaded with knives more than 10 times at Alaknanda apartment while the driver of the SUV, in which Prashant reached the apartment, remained rooted to his position in fear. He had come to invite some of his friends to attend the birthday party of his friend Alok.

The police have so far arrested two persons — conspirator Aman Bahadur and Abhishek Pandey — and detained several others. The police said that Pandey was accompanying prime accused Arpan Shukla and other suspects on the fateful day.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Governor Anandiben Patel and others holding a giant-sized pumpkin at the 'Flower and the Vegetable Show' at Raj Bhawan in Lucknow on Saturday

Horticultural crops can help farmers in doubling their income: Adityanath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Horticultural crops can play an important role in doubling of the income of farmers till 2022, which is the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. These crops can get a better income for farmers in comparison to the traditional crops.

These views were expressed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at the inaugural function of the 'Flower and Vegetable Show' at Raj Bhawan on Saturday. Also present on the occasion was Governor Anandiben Patel

The Chief Minister said that with the help of polyhouse techniques, these crops can be grown throughout the year. He said that the farmers can use modern technique in growing these horticultural crops and get the maximum benefit out of it. "The exhibition is a good dialogue between the nature and the man. If a man is close to nature, he would be away from stress and depression," he philosophised.

Yogi said that the exhibition was being organised at Raj Bhawan for a long time. The Chief Minister said that with the Governor taking a keen

interest in the exhibition and inviting a number of organisation, there has been a marked change in the exhibition in the last few years. He said that it creates a healthy competition amongst the participants and it can be beneficial for those who belong to this sector.

The exhibition has a total of 2160 participants with 5,304 entries. The Horticulture department has also set up an information centre through which information about the various activities going on at the show is also being provided. The exhibition is witness-

ing the participation of Raj Bhawan, CM's residence, High Court, CIMAP, UP Awasthi Vikas, Railways, Jail, Nagar Nigam, Ansal API and Tata Motors. The exhibition also showcased popular slogans of the Central government such as 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' and 'Swachh Bharat'.

Flowers in vertical gardening format and exotic flowers were also showcased at the exhibition. Amongst the myriad flowers showcased were rose, lily, zerbera, carnations, pansy, petunia and phlox which attracted the visitors.

5-yr-old girl crushed to death by truck

Lucknow (PNS): In a tragic incident, a 5-year-old girl, who was riding pillion on a bike being driven by her uncle, fell down and came under the wheels of a truck in Gomti Nagar on Saturday afternoon. Police detained the driver of the truck, which is said to be owned by LMC.

As per reports, the victim, identified as Vaishnavi Singh of Vastu Khand in Gomti Nagar, left for an outing along with her uncle Sooryoday Singh around 3 pm. When they reached near a house in Vinit Khand, another bike came from an opposite

direction.

Sooryoday lost control of his bike as a result of which Vaishnavi fell down. In the meantime, a truck came from behind and she was crushed to death. Commuters flocked to the scene and rushed the victim to hospital where she was declared brought dead. Some of the commuters chased the truck driver and caught hold of him. He was later handed over to the police.

The truck driver was identified as Ajay Kumar of Ambedkar Nagar. The Gomti Nagar SHO said the police

were interrogating the truck driver. "The aggrieved family is yet to give a complaint in this regard," he said. He added that the police were collecting other details related to the incident.

Residents blamed it on the police for failing to curb reckless driving by heavy vehicles in residential colonies. "There is no checking of heavy vehicles and the speed limit inside the colonies where trucks are used to unload building material or collect garbage," they said. The family said Vaishnavi insisted for a ride and her uncle could not refuse.

Missing girl recovered after three months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

The Lucknow police on Saturday recovered a girl, who was reported missing from her Jankipuram house three months back. The police sent the girl for a medical test to ascertain sexual assault, if any. The police also detained five youths, including those who helped her in getting an accommodation, and were interrogating them.

The 16-year-old girl, who is the daughter of a government employee, was reported missing on November 24 after which her father lodged a case. The police sat on the case even as the family tried to trace the girl on their own. On Friday night, a youth of the locality, where the girl's parents live, spotted the girl in a room and alerted her parents. Her parents went to the room, located about a kilometer away from their house, and brought her back. Later, the news reached the police and a team went to the house. It surfaced that one Sakendra had arranged the room for the girl who was living all alone. It also surfaced that four other youths financially assisted the girl to meet her daily expenses. According to the police, the girl denied any assault and said she was staying in the room alone on her own.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed by the name of APNA DAL (Kamerawadi). The office of the party is located at 126/17-B, 1st Floor, B.N. Road, Lal Bagh, Lucknow - 226001 Uttar Pradesh. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its Registration as Political party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Name / address of the office-bearers of the party are as follows:
President: Smt. Krishna Patel, C-3/1 Aman Patel Complex, 3/15 Vishnupuri Post Nawabganj, Kanpur (U.P.)
Secretary: Sri Chheda Lal Verma, Trivediganj, Barabanki-227131 U.P.
Treasurer: Shri Sanjay Bhanuauri, Karchhanna, Prayagraj
 If any one has any objection to the registration of APNA DAL (Kamerawadi) They may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

OUR SPEAKERS

NITIN GADKARI Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways	PIYUSH GOEL Union Minister of Railways and Commerce	PRAHLAD S PATEL Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture

BHARAT BALA Filmmaker and Storyteller	RITU BERI Indian heritage and luxury entrepreneur, fashion designer	AMAN NATH Co-chairman, Neemrana group, architectural restorer	ROCKY AND MAYUR Highway travellers, writers, TV show hosts	ZORAWAR KALRA Restaurateur and progressive cuisine specialist

ASHWANI LOHANI Ex-CMD, Air India	PRONAB SARKAR IATO President	ANIL CHADHA COO, ITC Hotels	MANDIP SINGH SOIN Founder, Ibex Expeditions and Founder President, Responsible Tourism Society of India	SUMITRA SENAPATY Founder, Women on Wanderlust	SUMANT BATRA Boutique museum hotelier	SHILPA SHARMA Curated travel expert

SUBHASH GOYAL Tourism policy specialist	ANUP KUTTU Co-founder, Ziro Festival of Music	ABU SUFYAN Founder, Purani Dilli Walo Ki Baatein	RAVEE SINGH AHLUWALIA Chief Functionary, Patiala Foundation	HARKIRAT AHLUWALIA Founder, Citrus County Farmstays	SAMIL MALHOTRA Tirun Travel Marketing

February 26, 2020
Hotel Shangri-La, New Delhi

Avoid non-essential travel to Singapore: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India and China indulged in blame game on an IAF plane not getting permission to evacuate Indians from the coronavirus-hit regions there, New Delhi on Saturday issued a fresh advisory asking flyers to avoid non-essential travel to Singapore. It also said screening at airports is now being planned for flight passengers coming to India from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia from Monday.

India's assertion that China was "deliberately delaying" permission to the IAF plane was refuted by the Chinese embassy. Official sources said Japan, Ukraine and France have been allowed to operate flights between February 16 and 20 but India's request has

not been approved.

An IAF transport plane C-17 is yet to fly to China to bring back Indians and carry relief material for people affected by coronavirus there. However, a Chinese embassy spokesperson said the current epidemic situation in Hubei province is complicated, and the prevention and control of Covid-19 has entered into a critical stage. "There is no such thing as China deliberately delaying granting flight permission," spokesperson Ji Rong said.

India was to send its military transport aircraft to Wuhan, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak, on February 20 but the plane could not take off as permission was not granted.

Sources said, Indian nationals stuck in Wuhan are

waiting to be brought back home and the uncertainty over evacuation is causing them mental stress and anxiety. The aircraft was to carry a large consignment of medical supplies to China and bring back more Indians from Wuhan.

Sources said, while the Chinese side continues to maintain that there was no delay in granting permission for the flight to go, the clearance has 'inexplicably' not been given.

In a letter to President Xi Jinping earlier this month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed India's solidarity to the people and Government of China in meeting the challenge of the coronavirus outbreak and offered to provide assistance to the country.

India then put together relief supplies in pursuance of

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Modi's commitment as a token of India's solidarity, particularly in the 70th year of the anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"These supplies have been offered even as India faces

tremendous shortage itself, given our ethos of helping others in their hour of need," said a source aware of the issue. The relief items include gloves, surgical masks, feeding pumps and defibrillators based on the requirements as indicated by

the Chinese side.

"The Chinese side always attaches great importance to the health and safety of Indian nationals in China, and provided assistance and convenience for the return of Indian citizens," Ji further said in reply to the query.

"We are carefully assessing the ground situation, as prevention work requires. Competent departments of the two countries are keeping communication and coordination in this regard," she said.

India's national carrier Air India has already evacuated around 640 Indians from Wuhan in two separate flights. According to estimates, over

100 Indians are still living in Wuhan.

Indian nationals in Wuhan continue their long wait for the flight. The delay is causing them and their family members in India tremendous mental anguish, said the sources.

They said relief and evacuation flights from other countries including by France are allowed to operate by China but the permission has not come through in India's case.

"Are they not interested in Indian aid provided as our token of support? Why are they creating roadblock in evacuating our nationals from Wuhan and putting them under hardship and mental agony?" said a person aware of the issue.

On February 17, India had announced that it will send C-17 Globemaster, with medical supplies to Wuhan, and bring

back its nationals as well as citizens from all neighbouring countries.

As regards the travel advisory, currently, passengers from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Singapore and Japan are screened at 21 designated airports in the country for a possible exposure to the novel coronavirus. Universal screening at airports is now being planned for flights from Kathmandu, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia from Monday, the health ministry said. The decision was taken during a review meeting chaired by the Cabinet Secretary to take a stock of the status, actions taken and preparedness of states and Union Territories regarding management of novel coronavirus here on Saturday, the Ministry said.

Keep aside identities, think as one nation: BJP to Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday hit out at the Congress over its scepticism about US President Donald Trump's visit to India asking the Opposition party, why it is unhappy when the country's stature is being raised globally. The BJP said there are times when political parties should keep aside their identities and "think as one nation".

The BJP's counter came a day after the Congress said Trump's visit should not become an extension of the US presidential election campaign but yield concrete results for India. The visit should not be reduced to a photo opportunity or a PR exercise that would devalue the importance of Indo-US partnership, the Congress had said.

Addressing a Press conference at the BJP headquarters

here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in the Indo-US relationship and advised the Congress to "start taking pride in the nation's achievements". "This is a meeting of the world's largest and oldest democracies and it should be celebrated," he said adding, "There are times when political parties should keep aside their identities and think as one nation".

Underlining that Trump himself has said multiple times that India is a hard bargainer, Patra said the Congress should not be worried about India's interests.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's hardwork, India's relations with other countries have further strengthened from Sochi to Mallapuram, he said. "Taking a dig at the Congress, Patra asked if 10

Janpath (residence of party president Sonia Gandhi) had allowed former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to develop Prime Minister Narendra Modi-like rapport with international leaders.

Trump's visit will be a landmark moment in Indo-US relations and the Congress should "start taking pride in the nation's achievements", he added.

Responding to the Congress' questions about what the country will gain from this visit, Patra said the latest defense equipment and the deals that the US was offering to India were never offered during the UPA regime.

Patra said close cooperation with the White House has ensured that India remains at the front and centre of Trump's strategic blueprint.

Priyanka raises question on funding of panel formed to oversee US Prez visit

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday raised questions over the funding of the committee formed to oversee various programmes during US President Donald Trump's Ahmedabad visit on February 24. She wondered what the Government is "hiding under the guise" of the committee.

"₹100 crore is being spent on the visit of President Trump. But this money is being spent through a committee. The members of the committee do not know that they are its members. Does the country not have the right to know which Ministry gave how much money to the committee? What is the Government hiding under the guise of the committee?" the Congress general secretary tweeted.

The Congress also took a swipe at the 'Donald Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti' with a parody advertisement on its official Twitter handle. The poster read 'hiring now' for job of "waving at US President Donald

Trump". It also said that the vacancies were 69 lakh and remuneration would be "acheche din".

The committee headed by Ahmedabad mayor Bijal Patel held its first meeting at the Circuit House in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The formation of the committee, first announced as Donald Trump Nagrik Abhinandan Samiti by Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar, had drawn flak from the Congress.

Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala had asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain who all are in this Samiti.

"Why is Gujarat Government spending ₹120 Crore for a 3 hour event organised by an unknown Pvt entity? India values its visiting dignitaries but pl note- Diplomacy is serious Government business & not a series of photo-ops & event management tactics," Surjewala asked.

The Congress had said the Trump visit should not become an extension of the US presidential election campaign but yield concrete results for India.

Bharat Ratna demanded for freedom fighter Savarkar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 'Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan' has demanded 'Bharat Ratna' for freedom fighter Veer Savarkar. The organisation announced a two-day All India Conference starting February 26 on Savarkar's life, thoughts, ideas and philosophy titled— 'Akhil Bharatiya Swatantrayir Savarkar Sahitya Sammelan' where the demand for Bharat Ratna will be made in the presence of several Union Ministers including Home Minister Amit Shah.

The objective of the conference is to highlight the relevance of Savarkar's thoughts in present context. "His persona and deeds are incomparable in the history of modern India. His commitment to the cause of freedom struggle and ideological perspective has made him a great person. He was source of inspiration for millions of freedom fighters of India," said Ravindra Sathe, Secretary,

Savarkar Darshan Pratishthan in the presence of former governor of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and president organising committee, OP Kohli.

BJP President JP Nadra will be the Chief Guest at the Inaugural session on February 26 and the session will be presided over by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel will be Guest of Honour in the programme and valedictory address will be given by Home Minister Amit Shah on the concluding day on February 27.

"Now, it is the time to understand and propagate ideas, thoughts and contribution of Veer Savarkar. This national convention will certainly help not only to understand him better but his philosophy as well," said Dr Sanjeev Tiwari, Joint Secretary, Organising Committee. He said the organization will demand for a Bharat Ratna for Savarkar.

Manmohan: 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' misused to construct militant India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an apparent attack on the ruling BJP at the Centre, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Saturday said that nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a "militant and purely emotional" idea of India that excludes millions of residents and citizens.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of a book on Jawaharlal Nehru's works and speeches, Singh said that if India is recognised in the comity of nations as a vibrant democracy and, if it is considered as one of the important world powers, it was the first Prime Minister, who should be recognised as its main architect.

Nehru had led this country in its volatile and formative days when it adopted a democratic way of life, accommodating divergent social and political views, Singh said. India's first Prime Minister, who was very proud of Indian heritage, assimilated it, and harmonised them into the needs of a new modern India, he said.

"With an inimitable style, and a

multi-linguist, Nehru laid the foundation of the universities, academies and cultural institutions of Modern India. But for Nehru's leadership, independent India would not have become what it is today," Singh said.

"But unfortunately, a section of people who either do not have the patience to read history or would like to be deliberately guided by their prejudices, try their best to picture Nehru in a false light. But I am sure, history has a capacity to reject fake and false insinuations and put everything in proper perspective," he said.

The book 'Who is Bharat Mata' contains selections from Nehru's classic books Autobiography, Glimpses of World History and the Discovery of India; his speeches, essays and letters from pre and post independence years; and some of his most revealing interviews. It was first brought out in English and now its Kannada translation has been released.

"It is a book of particular relevance at a time when Nationalism and the slogan of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' are being misused to construct a militant and purely emotional idea of India that

excludes millions of residents and citizens," he said.

Singh also extensively quoted Nehru, saying he had asked, "Who is this Bharat Mata?, whose victory you wish?"

"The mountains and rivers, forests and fields are of course dear to everyone, but what counted ultimately is the people of India... Spread out all over vast land," Singh quoted Nehru as saying.

Nehru makes a very significant and time relevant remark on the dangers of leadership falling into a trap and getting removed far away from the common people whom they are supposed to serve, Singh said. "Conceit, like fat on the human body, grows imperceptibly, layer upon layer and the person whom it affects is unconscious of the daily accretion.

Fortunately, the hard knocks of a mad world tone it down or even squash it completely, and there has been no lack of these hard knocks for us in India. The school of life has been difficult one, and suffering is a hard task master," he quoted Nehru as saying.

Manipur varsity V-C dismissed over irregularities

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has dismissed Manipur University Vice Chancellor Adya Prasad Pandey following complaints of financial and administrative irregularities. The Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on Friday dismissed Pandey after an inquiry report he was found indulging in "financial and administrative irregularities, including misconduct, dereliction of duties, abuse of power and lack of commitment, causing great harm to the academic environment and bringing the varsity into disrepute". Pandey was placed under suspension in 2018 after violent protests erupted on the varsity's campus which led to prolonged shutdown of the institute.

"The President of India, on consideration of facts and materials available on record and reply submitted by Adya Prasad Pandey... In exercise of the power conferred upon him in terms of sections 13 of Manipur University Act, 2005, has been pleased to dismiss him from his post with immediate effect," the HRD Ministry order stated.

Thackeray requires briefing on citizenship rules: Tewari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and gave a thumbs up to the amended citizenship legislation, Congress leader and former Union Minister Manish Tewari on Saturday said Thackeray requires a briefing on Citizenship Amendment Rules — 2003. Thackeray had also called on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi where the controversial CAA was discussed.

"CM Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray requires a briefing on CAA — 2003 to understand how NPR is basis of NRC. Once you do NPR, you cannot stop NRC. On Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), he needs to be reacquainted with design of Indian Constitution that religion cannot be basis of Citizenship," he said.

Thackeray's stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act



(CAA) and National Population Register (NPR) has become a bone of contention among the allies in Maharashtra, as the Congress and the NCP are opposed to the measures.

Tewari's remarks came a day after Thackeray met Modi and said that nobody should feel threatened by the CAA or NPR as these measures are not meant to drive away anyone from the country.

Thackeray made the remarks at a Press conference held after his meeting with Prime Minister on Friday, the first after he took over as the Chief Minister. "We discussed CAA and NPR," Thackeray said, adding he has come to

understand the role of the Centre in the NRC.

Accompanied by his son and a Minister in his Cabinet, Uddhav met Sonia and held discussions on the current political situation and CAA-NPR-NRC. This was the first meeting of Thackeray with Sonia Gandhi after the formation of the coalition government in Maharashtra. AICC general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Mallikarjun Kharge and Shiv Sena leaders Aadiya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut were also present during the meeting.

The meeting came soon after Thackeray asserted that one does not have to fear the CAA and no one will throw out of the country due to NPR, soon after meeting Modi. He said an atmosphere is also being created in the country that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) is dangerous people have to queue up to prove their citizenship.

Indians hailed critical verdicts despite apprehensions: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said 1.3 billion Indians have disregarded apprehensions and "wholeheartedly" accepted recent critical judicial verdicts which were subjects of global discussion.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference 2020 - 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court, Modi spoke about recent crucial judgements, in an apparent reference to path-breaking verdicts including in the politically-sensitive Ayodhya case.

The Prime Minister said no country or society in the world can claim to achieve holistic development without gender justice and referred to laws on transgenders, 'triple talaq' and on the rights of 'Divyang' (persons with disabilities). He said the government has also taken steps to give rights to women in military service and in providing paid maternity leave for 26 weeks. He also hailed the Indian judiciary for redefining environmental jurisprudence to strike a balance between development and ecological protection.

Modi, while emphasising on the use of technology and the internet, said it would help in procedural management of courts and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad, Chief Justice of India Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde and other dignitaries at the International Judicial Conference 2020, in New Delhi on Saturday

would benefit the justice delivery system to a large extent.

He also referred to synchronisation of artificial intelligence with human wisdom and said it would bring "speed to delivery of justice".

"In addition, in the changing times, issues like data protection, cyber crimes pose new challenges for the judiciary," he said in his inaugural address.

"In recent times, there have been some critical judicial judgements and decisions which have been the subject of global discus-

sion. Before these judgements were delivered, several apprehensions were being expressed about the consequences. But look what happened! 1.3 billion Indians wholeheartedly accepted the judicial verdicts," Modi said.

He said it is going to be a decade of remarkable changes across the world which will impact all frontiers, be it society, economy, or technology, and these changes need to be rational as well as just and fair. Talking about the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi, the

Prime Minister said, "Gandhi's life was dedicated to the cause of truth and service, which are the foundational tenets for any system of justice and as you all know, he was himself a barrister and belonged to the fraternity of lawyers".

Hailing a vibrant judiciary, legislature and executive, the PM said, "Respecting each other's jurisdiction and dignity, these three pillars of the Constitution have resolved various challenges faced by the country on several occasions.

"We are proud of having developed such a rich tradition in India. In the last five years, various institutions of India have further strengthened this tradition".

He also referred to the Centre's endeavour in repealing 1,500 archaic laws and said, "Speed has been demonstrated not only in doing away with irrelevant laws but also in enacting new legislations aimed at strengthening the social fabric".

The Indian Constitution guarantees gender justice under the provisions of the right to equality, Modi said, adding that India is "among few nations which has ensured the right to vote for women since independence". PTI

ASCI upheld complaints against 248 ads out of 408

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Several advertisements featuring celebrities like cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Bollywood star Ajay Devgan, actress Shilpa Shetty have been found to making misleading and false claims.

Bollywood star Ajay Devgan's ad for Dabur Babool Ayurvedic Paste and Hindustan Unilever's (HUL) campaign for Rexona Whitening were among the marketing efforts found as "misleading". Similarly, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni's ad for Orient Electric found misleading by Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

According to ASCI, the Dabur campaign on television and Youtube had a message in Hindi which alleges that ordinary white toothpastes are cheating consumers and the cheating will stop by using its toothpaste. "The advertisement featuring celebrity Ajay Devgan was considered misleading. The advertisement also denigrated the entire category of "calcium containing white" toothpastes while implying superiority of their ayurvedic toothpaste," it said.

In the case of HUL, an ad for Rexona Whitening Roll-On in

Bengali claimed the product can help get rid of dark underarms in five days was "inadequately substantiated and misleading", the ASCI statement said. Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare campaign for 'Moov Advance Diclofenac Gel' with claims of being '#1 Doctor recommended active for acute pain relief' was also considered misleading, it said.

Orient Electric's advertisement having legendary cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni was found to be "misleading by implication". "It was observed that while the advertisement claims to have 'flicker control technology', it visually depicts 'no flicker' or absence of any flicker," ASCI said on Orient ad. The advertisement's claim "Lifvast Inverter and batteries have 25% faster charging and provides 25% extra backup" featuring cricketer Dhoni was also inadequately substantiated.

Taking a strong note of misleading advertisements on Television, Print, Youtube and other social media platforms, the ASCI has probed complaints against 408 and upheld complaints against 248 while 137 were promptly withdrawn by the advertisers.

A television ad shows a policeman riding the Platina with a barber riding pillion and shaving the policeman. The entire act was put up to showcase the ride comfort of the vehicle with the narrative of a 'Makhhan Jaisi Ride' concept. "It was observed that the protagonist - a policeman in uniform who himself should be abiding by traffic rules, shown performing such stunts was inappropriate. The TVC shows dangerous practices, stunts in normal traffic conditions which manifests a disregard for safety," it said.

A complaint against a drama serial promo indicating the protagonist doing self-harm by stifling her neck with a cloth (dupatta) was also upheld. "The drama serial's promo contains a specific visual of the female protagonist stifling her neck with a cloth (dupatta) and then turning her body in upside down position. Such visuals shows a dangerous act (indicative of self-harm) with a disregard for safety and it is likely to encourage minors to emulate such an act which could cause harm or injury," ASCI added. VLCC Health Care's print and television ad claim 'Add figure to your shape in just one session' was not substantiated with treatment efficacy data, it said.

137 ads promptly withdrawn by the advertisers

Terrorists, corrupt have no right to privacy: Law min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Terrorists and corrupt people have "no right to privacy" and these people should not be allowed to abuse the internet, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday.

Speaking at the inauguration of the International Judicial Conference 2020 - 'Judiciary and the Changing World', Prasad said it needs to be acknowledged that people who abuse the finest creations of humankind, one of which is the internet, pose the biggest threats.

He said the right to privacy has been held to be a fundamental right and the government appreciates that but "terrorists and the corrupt have no right to privacy because right to privacy has acquired critical proportion in the wake of dig-

ital landscape expanding globally".

"This is the age of information and information is power. This is the age of communication and communication is power," he explained.

The minister said the right to privacy verdict of the Supreme Court has become a beacon globally as it held that the right to privacy flows from Article 21 — right to life and right to live with dignity.

Prasad also warned about the "sinister trend" of some people "unleashing all forces of criticism" if courts do not deliver judgments in line with their expectations.

"In a democracy, we welcome dissent, we welcome populism. But we have a problem when populism impinges upon the well-settled constitutional principles. And populism also becomes the problem when

those rejected in the popular mandate becomes the biggest flag-bearers of populism," he said.

According to the Constitution, Prasad said, it is clear that governance must be left to those elected to govern and they need to be accountable to Parliament, in many ways to judicial decisions, and to people in elections.

"But what is challenging is that populism is seeking to have a greater accountability as to what kind of judgments there should be. I am a great supporter of social media freedom. I know it is empowering but this (populism) is a dangerous trend. Judges must be left completely independent to give judgments... in accordance with the rule of law," he said.

Prasad said the "sinister trend (of populism) is developing globally" and also in India,

where people have started campaigning for the kind of judgment they expect.

"If a judgment is not in accordance with them, they unleash all forces of criticism," he said, adding that the criticism of a judgment can be acceptable but criticising the judiciary is not appropriate.

Talking about gender justice, he said India is "very proud" that the Indian women are doing so well.

"You can see so many women judges sitting here of high courts and the Supreme Court, including chief justices. Our prime minister has taken a lead in empowering women in India by 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. Educate the girl child, develop the girl child," he said.

Prasad, who also holds the portfolio of the Information and Technology Ministry, said half of the four million people

working in the sector are women.

"Our prime minister was bold enough to permit that women Indian Air Force pilot will also fly fighter planes and this was complimented by the recent judgment of the Supreme Court where Indian women Army officials were given the right to command. I think these are great initiatives of gender empowerment," he said.

The Union minister, however, accepted that there exists the challenges of victimisation of women and young girls but said the government has responded to address the issue by making rape laws tougher and establishing more than 1,000 fast-track courts.

"Surely this is a work in progress. We have to ensure that while we celebrate Indian women scientists joining the

space programme for Mars, they should also get justice," he said.

He also talked about the money saved due to Aadhaar, opening of bank accounts and the use of technology by the government.

"Obviously, it has given rise to a lot of data and data is important. We need to keep a right balance and the balance is that we accord constitutional sanction to privacy but at the same time, we should not kill innovation. We should not kill application of new technology. Our courts have recognised that exception. India today has become the third biggest start-up ecosystem in the world," he said. The minister said there should be a balance between rights and duties and everyone should work in a manner that the identity of India continues to remain strong and resilient.

CJI: Rule of law most fundamental feature of modern constitutions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The rule of law is probably the "most fundamental feature" of modern constitutions and its success depends on how judiciaries across the world respond to emerging challenges, Chief Justice S A Bobde said on Saturday. The CJI, while speaking at the International Judges' Conference on the subject of 'Judiciary and the Changing World' at the Supreme Court here, also stressed on the need for citizens to perform their legal duties. "Probably the most fundamental feature of most modern constitutions is the idea of the rule of law," he said, adding, "Undoubtedly, the success of the rule of law in our countries depends on how the judiciaries respond to such challenges and how they emerge."

Referring to Constitutional provisions, Justice Bobde said it was often implicit in law that "legal rights have correlatives of legal duties."

"A feature often neglected is a chapter on fundamental duties imposing on every citizen the duties to abide by the constitution, the whole of it and respect its ideals and institution," he said. The CJI said more than 50 countries have specific provisions on fundamental duties in their constitutions. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Justice Bobde said the exercise of rights depends on one's sense of duty and "real rights are a result of performance of duty."

The CJI also referred to "incredible technological advancement" and said now the entire world was interconnected and a small change in one corner of the world can result in changes in different parts of the world.

"Judiciaries all over the world are dealing with this kind of change, what might be called a rights revolution, a technological revolution and a demographic revolution.

Our decisions no longer impact only those who live in our jurisdiction but also those who live in other jurisdictions, some far away," he said.

Wishing success to the first such conference organised by the Indian Supreme Court in which judges from over 20 countries are taking part, he said this would offer opportunities to judges "to exchange ideas and gain knowledge from each other on many aspects of gender justice, right to privacy, populism, environment and sustainable development."

He said the Constitution has created a "strong and independent judiciary" which was separated from the executive and the legislature. "We have



strived at every turn, not just as a judicial institution but also as a citizenry to keep these basic ideals intact," he said. The CJI then delved into the 2,000-year-old history of Indian jurisprudence and said, "India had a well-established system of courts. The rules were all contained in the scriptures which prescribed a mandatory open hearing in courts in the presence of officers of the court."

He also referred to 'Vyasa Smriti' and said it provided "various stages of a valid decision" and they were the "plaint, written statement, issues, evidence, its analysis, argument of the lawyer, provisions of law and that the decision" which contained a royal seal on it.

Referring to the ancient practice of imparting justice by village panchayats in the north-eastern parts of India, he said, "For instance the chicken liver test - in the absence of any direct evidence, the priest selects a small chick, cuts its neck, removes its liver, examines it and hands it over to the other members of the panchayat for examination.

"The panel then decides collectively on whether the accused is guilty post the examination of the liver." He said there was also a practice of taking oath holding the tooth of a tiger and there was fascinating diversity in India.

Termining India as "a melting pot of myriad cultures and traditions", the CJI said, "We have assimilated legal cultures of all the civilisations that have come to our shores - the Mughals, the Portuguese, the French, the Dutch and finally the English."

Attorney General KK Venugopal also spoke at the gathering. He raised the issue of poverty and referred to the steps and welfare projects undertaken by successive governments to eradicate it.

"Now, one should realise that India is a vast country and when we got freedom and the Constitution was adopted in 1950, the census showed that 70 per cent of the people were living below the poverty line," the top most law officer said.

NIRBHAYA CASE

Court rejects convict's plea claiming he suffers from mental illness

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday dismissed a plea by one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case claiming he has mental illness and needs treatment. Additional Session Judge Dharmender Rana rejected the plea by Vinay Kumar Sharma.

The plea had claimed that Sharma had sustained grievous head injury and fracture in his right arm, and was suffering from "insanity", "mental illness" and "schizophrenia".

Tihar jail authorities had termed his claims as a "bundle of distorted facts" and told the court that CCTV footage established that the convict had inflicted "superficial" injuries on himself and was not suffering from any psychological disorder. The psychologist, who appeared on behalf of the jail, said medical checkups of all four convicts were done on a daily basis and they are all fine.

Tihar jail authorities Saturday termed as a "bundle of distorted facts" the claim by one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder that he is suffering from mental illness.

The authorities told Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana that CCTV footage established that the convict, Vinay Kumar Sharma, had inflicted "superficial" injuries on himself and was not

suffering from any psychological disorder.

The court has reserved its order on Sharma's plea seeking relief on grounds of mental illness and is likely to pronounce it shortly. "These (convict's claims) are all a bundle of distorted facts. Doctor attended to him and found there was an injury. They gave him medicine. All injuries are self-inflicted and superficial in nature," the public prosecutor representing jail authorities said.

"The medical records say he is not suffering from any such mental illness and his checkup in any hospital is not required. He is under regular check by the jail doctor," he said. The psychologist, who appeared on behalf of the jail, said regular medical checkups of all four convicts were done on a daily basis and they are all fine. "He talked to his mother and lawyer. So it's wrong to say that he is not able to recognise them," the prosecutor said.

The defence counsel said the convict has plaster on his hand that shows he has fractures and not superficial injuries. "Why did the jail conceal the fact about his injuries from the court? Why are documents not being filed?" advocate A P Singh, appearing for the convict, asked.

However, the Tihar authorities said "it's wrong to say he had a plastered arm. It wasn't a fracture. It was only a

slab around his hand."

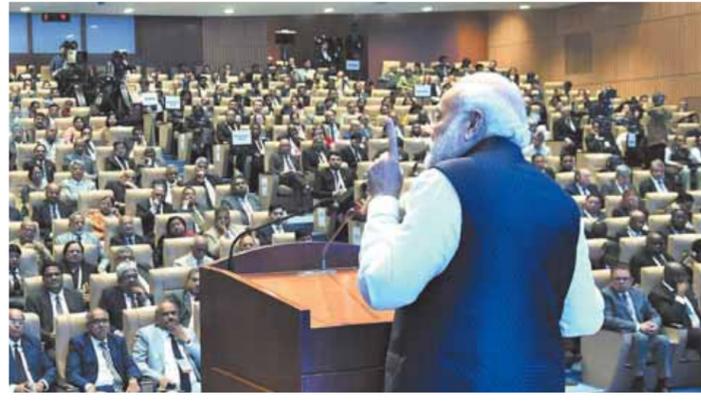
In his plea, Vinay has sought better treatment for his alleged mental illness, schizophrenia and head and arm injuries. According to prison officials, Sharma injured himself by banging his head on his prison cell's wall in Tihar jail. The incident happened in jail number 3 on Sunday afternoon, they said, adding that he got some minor injuries and was treated at the prison premises.

The plea claimed that when Sharma's counsel visited him in prison on the request of his family members, he found that he had sustained a grievous head injury, fracture in his right arm with plaster and was suffering from "insanity", "mental illness" and "schizophrenia". Sharma could not identify his counsel and his mother in jail, it said.

The petition further claimed that he had "decreased sleep" for a long time and was referred to a senior psychiatrist in view of drug dependence.

The court had on February 17 issued fresh death warrants for execution on March 3 at 6 am against the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case.

It had issued fresh warrants against death row convicts — Mukesh Kumar Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay (26) and Akshay Kumar (31). This is the third time that death warrants have been issued against them.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the International Judicial Conference 2020, in New Delhi on Saturday

PTI

Judiciary needs to respond to problems like terrorism, cyber crime: Justice NV Ramana

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Terrorism, cyber crime, environmental degradation and health problems are the major issues plaguing the world including the Indian subcontinent and the judiciary needs to appropriately respond to them by evolving innovative principles while keeping in mind the rule of law, a senior Supreme Court judge said on Saturday.

Justice NV Ramana, the seniormost judge in the apex court, said terrorism is one of the main issues which has affected every part of the world and has no end in sight. "Presently our globalised world is closer than it seems. Issues are common and solutions need to be unanimous. Major issues which are plaguing the world, including the Indian subcontinent, are terrorism, cyber crimes, environmental degradation and health. For example, terrorism is one of the main issues which has affected every part of the world and has no end in sight," he said.

Speaking at the inaugural function of the International Judicial Conference here on the theme 'Judiciary and the Changing World', Justice Ramana said the judiciary needs to appropriately respond to this problem by "evolving innovative principles and jurisprudence so that terrorism is kept at bay, while, at the same time upholding the rule of law."

He said globalisation demands the rule of law and with increase in cross-border dealings, movement of citizens, goods and investment, there is a requirement of

stronger trust between nations.

"This trust can be built by creating institutions with strong emphasis on the rule of law which creates a secure environment," Justice Ramana said. The judge said India has contributed to the evolution of jurisprudence in many areas and "our judgments have been cited with acceptance overwhelmingly by other jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Singapore, Bangladesh and other countries in the Asian continent."

"A special mention needs to be made of Justice Michael Kirby, who had studied Indian jurisprudence and has cited our judgments in umpteen number of Australian High Court judgments," he said.

US Prez likely to be offered 'Trump platter'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A "Trump platter", comprising signature dishes from ITC Maurya's restaurant Bukhara with a little customisation, is likely to be laid out for US President Donald Trump during his maiden visit to India, sources said. The Bukhara restaurant, which has hosted several heads of states, including former US presidents, and has not altered its menu for the last 41 years.

Like his predecessors, Trump is likely to dine at the iconic restaurant where a "Trump platter" is likely to be laid

out for him. It will be customised according to his taste, the sources said.

The hotel, however, has not revealed anything about the arrangements made for Trump, including the food. Barack Obama had visited India twice in 2010 and 2015 as the president and he was served the 'Obama platter'. Since then, the dish has become a part of the menu and is also very popular among the guests.

The Obama platter consists of tandoori jhinga, machhli tikka, murg boti Bukhara and kebabs. When Bill Clinton had

visited Bukhara as the president, the hotel had introduced "Clinton platter" and "Chelsea platter".

Bukhara's dishes are mainly tandoor based and has an assortment of kebabs, the signature 'Dal Bukhara' and breads like 'Khasta Roti', 'Bharwan Kulcha'. Trump is also likely to be gifted an apron with a painting of MF Husain.

Legend has it that Husain was so impressed with Bukhara that he painted his trademark horse on his canvas while having food at the restaurant. This trademark horse has been repli-

cated on the aprons that are given as mementos to the guests. These aprons will also be presented to the Trumps, the sources said.

When Obama had stayed at the ITC Maurya in 2015, he was served food from the hotel's roof top European restaurant WestView where he dined with top CEOs from India and US on January 26. The dinner was hosted at the Grand Presidential Floor.

First Lady Michelle Obama chose to experience the famed Bukhara cuisine and had a private dinner with select members.

'Bihar has Modi's blessings': Nadda's reach out message for BJP workers

PTI ■ PATNA

Exhorting party workers in Bihar to spread the message that "BJP is synonymous with development", its national president JP Nadda on Saturday asked them to work towards ensuring the NDA's return to power in the assembly elections due later this year. Nadda inaugurated, through video conferencing, 11 new district offices of the BJP

across the state. Speaking at the function, he called upon party workers to make use of technology at their disposal and explain to the people that "Bihar has the blessings of Narendra Modi, who has provided assistance worth billions to the state and these have been effectively utilised on the ground through Chief Minister Nitish Kumar."

Nadda also asked workers to dispel "misinforma-

tion" about the Modi government's measures such as abrogation of Article 370 provisions and making triple talaq a punishable offence. He said they should explain to the people that these "decisive steps" had brought "happiness" to residents of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir who were previously deprived of many rights and women who were aggrieved by the practice of instant divorce.

Apparently mindful of the dissidence that comes to the fore ahead of the elections with many aspirants not being considered for tickets, Nadda said, "Always do remember, politics is a serious full-time job where there is an entry point but no exit." "Do not get swayed by concerns of individual benefits. Do remember that if the party thrives, the benefits will reach all," he added.

Domicile law for J-K Soon: Jitendra Singh

PTI ■ JAMMU

In a bid to address the concerns of the local populace after the revoking of Jammu and Kashmir's special status last year, Union minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday assured the people of the Union Territory that the domicile law is coming "very soon" which would be followed by the Land Act.

He also announced that more than the promised jobs will be provided to the youth after the notification of the rules is worked out. "The domicile act is coming very soon, which will be immediately followed by the Land Act," the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office said. Many parties have been demanding enactment of a domicile law for Jammu and Kashmir to protect the interests of landowners and the unemployed youth after the erstwhile state lost its special status following nullification of Article 370 by the Centre.

Singh was addressing a function after signing of a major scientific collaboration agreement between CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, and IndusScan, a Canadian pharmaceutical company, here. Describing the signing of the MoU as a "historic moment", the minister said Jammu and Kashmir's journey to become a part of India's five trillion global economy has started from the four walls of IIIM.

"...Prime Minister Narendra Modi is saying again and again that we would have the same kind of focus on Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as we did for North-East which saw major transformation over the last five years. Those who have doubts about it would see all this happening in a short while of time," he said.

The minister said this is possible because the "earlier embargoes have been removed" and the Union Territory is

directly reporting to the Centre. "Many of the politicians have become unemployed...heard yesterday one of them raising the issue of jobs to the local youth. I want to tell that more than the promised jobs will be advertised but as per the rules and in an impartial manner. We are waiting for a notification of the rules to come out," he said.

Alleging brazen disregard for the concerns of the educated unemployed and underemployed youth by the incumbent government, National Panthers Party Chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh had said not a single post, out of the promised 50,000 jobs, had been advertised for filling up in the new UT after the abrogation of Article 370 provisions.

"Everything will be done. It will not be like when your government was in power and ruined the future of the youths by backdoor appointments and corrupt practices. The youth

who were provided jobs have turned 35 years but are still waiting for their regularisation," the Union minister said.

He said the jobs will be provided under rules which will be in the best interest of the youth and those who have been deprived of it. Asserting that India is going through "one of the best phases under the leadership of Modi", he said a lot of development had taken place over the last five years and the country is looking forward to become a part of the global economy.

"On the one hand India is eyeing five trillion economy, don't you want that Jammu and Kashmir should also be part of that. It is possible only when our youth reaches such a stage to live up to the parameters which are followed globally and therefore, even if some of us have any doubts, confusion and skepticism or still unconvinced, ask yourselves that don't you want your children to be part of five trillion economy."



Barhatriya Janata Party (BJP) national President JP Nadda being welcomed with a 'makhana' garland along with the party leaders, during inauguration of newly-built party offices in 11 districts, through video links, in Patna, Saturday

PTI

Pak must crack down on terror for successful talks with India: WH

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump is encouraging a reduction in tensions between India and Pakistan, the White House said on Friday, emphasising that any successful dialogue between the two neighbours would be possible only if Pakistan cracks down on terrorists and extremists on its territory.

Tensions between India and Pakistan spiked after New Delhi ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 last year. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan, which downgraded its diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian envoy.

"I think what you'll hear from the President is very much encouraging a reduction in tensions between India and Pakistan, encouraging the two countries to engage in bilateral dialogue with each other to resolve their differences," a senior administration official

said, when asked whether Trump would offer to mediate on the Kashmir issue again during his upcoming maiden visit to India. Trump had last month again offered to "help" resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan, saying that the US was watching the developments between the two countries over Kashmir "very closely".

Although Trump offered to mediate on the Kashmir issue in the past, New Delhi has told Washington that it is a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan and there is no scope for any third-party mediation.

"We continue to believe a core foundation of any successful dialogue between the two (Indian and Pakistan) is based on continued momentum in Pakistan's efforts to crack down on terrorists and extremists on its territory. So we continue to look for that," the official said.

The White House official's comments came after the

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) retained Pakistan for four more months on the 'Grey List' with a stern warning from the global anti-terror financing watchdog to complete the 27-point action plan it has been given by June 2020 or face being put on the 'Black List'. "But I think the president will urge both countries to seek to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Control (LoC) and refrain from actions or statements that could increase tensions in the region," said the official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity.

India has defended its move on Kashmir in August, saying the special status provisions only gave rise to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan has been trying to internationalise the Kashmir issue but India has asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 was its "internal matter". New Delhi has also asked Islamabad to accept the reality and stop its

anti-India rhetoric.

Responding to a question on the Afghanistan peace process, the official said the US would just encourage India, as it does with regional countries, to do whatever it can to support this peace process so that it can be successful and can potentially end 19 years of military, diplomatic, economic engagement. "You know, that we can end the military engagement. We will be continuing our diplomatic and economic engagement, which has been there over the last 19 years. But we certainly would look to India to support this peace process — an important country in the region, important to the overall stability of the region. So I think if the issue comes up, that is what would be the request from the president," the official said.

Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will lead a 12-member American delegation to Ahmedabad, Agra and New Delhi on February 24 and 25.

Virus spreads in South Korean city as thousands are screened

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea on Saturday reported an eight-fold jump in viral infections in four days to 433, most of them linked to a church and a hospital in and around the country's fourth-largest city, where health workers scrambled to screen more than 9,000 worshippers.

There's concern that the death toll, currently at two, could grow. Virus patients with signs of pneumonia or other serious conditions at the Cheongdo hospital were transferred to other facilities, 17 of them in critical condition, Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip told reporters.

He said that the outbreak had entered a serious new phase, but still expressed cautious optimism that it can be contained to the region surrounding Daegu, where the first case was reported on Tuesday. In some positive news, China said Saturday the daily count of new virus cases there fell significantly to 397, though

another 109 people died of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new virus. Most of the new cases and all but three of the deaths were in Hubei province, where the outbreak started. The new figures, along with an upward revision of Hubei's earlier count, brought the total number of cases in mainland China to 76,288 with 2,345 deaths. China has severely restricted travel and imposed strict quarantine measures to stop the virus from spreading.

Of the 229 new cases in South Korea, 200 are from Daegu and nearby regions, which have emerged as the latest front in the widening global fight against the virus.

By Saturday morning, the city of 2.5 million and nearby areas counted 352 cases, including the two fatalities in the Cheongdo hospital.

The central government has declared the area as a "special management zone" and is channeling support to ease a shortage in hospital beds, medical personnel and equipment.

"Although we are beginning to see some more cases nationwide, infections are still sporadic outside of the special management zone of Daegu and North Gyeongsang Province," Kim said during a briefing. He called for maintaining strong border controls to prevent infections from China and elsewhere from entering South Korea.

Nationwide, the numbers told of a ballooning problem. There were 20 new cases reported Wednesday, 53 on Thursday and 100 on Friday.

Around 230 of those have been directly linked to a single house of worship, a Daegu branch of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, where a woman in her 60s attended two services before testing positive for the virus.

Officials are also investigating a possible link between churchgoers and the spike in infections at the Cheongdo hospital, where more than 110 people have been infected so far, mostly patients at a men-

tal illness ward. Health officials were screening some 9,300 church followers, and said that 1,261 of them have exhibited cough and other symptoms.

Among them, four had traveled abroad in recent months including one to China, although that trip came in early January and was away from Hubei.

All 74 sites operated by the Shincheonji Church have been closed and worshippers have been told to instead watch services online for a sect whose leader claims to be an angel of Christ, but who is dismissed by many outsiders as a cult leader. Its teachings revolve largely around the Book of Revelation, a chapter of the New Testament known mostly for its apocalyptic foreshadowing.

Health and city officials say the woman who first tested positive had contact with some 1,160 people, both at the church, a restaurant and a hospital where she was treated for injuries from a car accident.

Five dead out of 28 infected with coronavirus in Iran

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iranian health authorities on Saturday reported a fifth death from the new virus that emerged in China, and said the fatality was from among 10 new confirmed cases of the virus in Iran. So far, 28 cases have been confirmed in Iran, including the five who died.

People are being treated for the virus in at least four different cities, including the capital, Tehran, where some pharmacies had already run out of masks and hand sanitizer. Other cities are Qom, Arak and Rasht. The virus loomed over a nationwide parliamentary election in Iran on Friday. Many voters went to the polls wearing face masks.

Health ministry spokesman Kianoush

Jahanpour made Saturday's announcement for the latest figures on state TV, but did not specify when the fifth death occurred. Two people had died earlier Friday from COVID-19, the illness caused by virus. Authorities reported two deaths previously this week.

Jahanpour said that of the 10 newly detected cases, two were in the capital of Tehran and eight were in the city of Qom. That's where the first two elderly patients died on Wednesday. He said the two patients in the capital had visited Qom or had links with the city. Minoo Mohraz, an Iranian health ministry official, had said Friday that the virus "possibly came from Chinese workers who work in Qom and travelled to China." She did not elaborate. A Chinese company

has been building a solar power plant in Qom. World Health Organisation officials have said that China's crackdown on parts of the country bought time for the rest of the world to prepare for the new virus. But as hot spots emerge around the globe, including in South Korea and Iran, there has been trouble finding the first patient who sparked each new cluster.

Qom is a popular religious destination and a center of learning and religious studies for Shiite Muslims from inside Iran, as well as Iraq, Pakistan and Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. Elsewhere in the region, Saudi Arabia announced that citizens and residents of the kingdom are not permitted to travel to Iran following the spread of the virus there.

China's coronavirus death toll crosses 2,300, WHO team to visit Wuhan

PTI ■ BEIJING

The death toll in China's novel coronavirus climbed to 2,345 with 109 more deaths reported, while the confirmed cases rose to 76,288 as a team of WHO experts, currently in the country to investigate the COVID-19 outbreak, is expected to visit the worst-affected Wuhan city on Saturday, Chinese health officials said.

A total of 397 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported on Friday, while 109 deaths were reported from 31 provincial-level regions, Chinese health authority said on Saturday. By the end of Friday, a total of 2,345 people died of the disease and 76,288 confirmed cases of novel

coronavirus infection had been reported from all over the country, a daily report from the National Health Commission (NHC) said on Saturday.

Among the deaths, 106 were from the Hubei Province, the epicentre of the virus, one each from Hebei province, Shanghai and Xinjiang, it said. Hubei Province reported 366 new confirmed cases and 106 new deaths on Friday, the provincial health commission said Saturday. The latest report brought the total confirmed cases in the hard-hit province to 63,454, it said.

All over China, 20,659 patients infected with the virus have been discharged from hospital after recovery by the end of Friday, NHC said.

Second coronavirus death sparks fears, lockdown in Italian towns

AFP ■ CODOGNO (ITALY)

Streets were deserted and residents warned to keep out of an emergency room on Saturday in an Italian town placed under lockdown as a second death from coronavirus sparked fears throughout the region. "No entry" read the sign on the emergency room in the small town of Codogno with a population of 15,000 where three people have already tested positive for the virus, including one 38-year old man now on life support.

On Saturday, Italian news agency ANSA reported a second death from the virus in the Lombardy region, where Codogno is located. It came one day after the death of a 78-year-old retired bricklayer from the Padua area in the nearby Veneto region, who was the first local person in Europe to die from the coronavirus.

ANSA reported that the new victim was a woman. No further information was immediately available. Italy's health minister said that the man who died on Friday, Adriano Trevisan, had been admitted to hospital 10 days earlier for an unrelated health issue. He was one of two people in the Veneto region with the virus, where another confirmed case overnight in a 53-year old man brought that number to three, president of the Veneto region, Luca Zaia told Rai24 news. In Lombardy, 16 other people were discovered to have caught the virus and the region took immediate measures to isolate affected areas. It was not immediately clear whether the victim on Saturday was part of that group, or a new case.

In Rome, three people are being treated in isolation for the virus.

At Codogno's centre, only a bakery and a pharmacy were open, while other shops posted signs saying they were closed due to a local ordinance. At the civic hospital, there was very little movement early Saturday other than nurses and other workers finishing their night shifts.

Those who have tested positive for the virus in Codogno include the 38-year-old man's wife, who is eight months pregnant, and another man.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notification No.: 07/2020			
Important Notice for the Rail Passengers			
It is notified for information of general public that the timings of 12533 Lucknow Jn.-CSMT Puspak Superfast Daily express will be revised w.e.f. 25-06-2020 as under:-			
Station	Existing Time	Revised Time	
Lucknow	Dep. 19:45	Dep. 19:20	
Unnao	20:42 - 20:44	20:31 - 20:33	
Kanpur Central	21:20 - 21:30	21:05 - 21:10	
Bhimsen	Passing 21:57	Passing 21:45	
Orai	22:56 - 22:58	22:43 - 22:45	
Jhansi	01:30 - 01:40		
Lalitpur	02:34 - 02:36	No Change	
Bina	Passing 04:15		
CSMT	Arr. 19:50		
Note:- Timings of remaining stations will be same. CPRO/T-78 Chief Pass. Trans. Manager, Gorakhpur			
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 08794845955			
Never travel on roof and foot boards.			

Conservatives ahead as Iran election results trickle in



AFP ■ TEHRAN

Conservatives appeared to be in the lead as the first results of Iran's parliamentary election came in Saturday, amid expectations of a low turnout after the disqualification of many candidates. Friday's election came after months of steeply escalating tensions between Iran and its decades-old arch foe the United States. Voters had been widely expected to stay away in droves, disillusioned over unfulfilled promises and struggling to cope in a country whose economy has buckled under harsh US sanctions. By mid-morning on Saturday, 1,063,860 votes had been counted in 41 constituencies across Iran, according to figures released by the National Elections Committee and reported by semi-official news agency ISNA.

There were still 167 other constituencies to tally, said a spokesman for the committee, including bigger provinces such as Tehran and Fars.

"We will try to publish the final figures tonight, and if that task takes too long, tomorrow," spokesman Esmail Mousavi told state television. With official figures still coming in, news agencies close to conservatives and ultra-conservatives have predicted a landslide victory for their candidates.

An unofficial tally published by Fars news agency said the fate of 183 of parliament's

290 seats had already been decided, with 135 conservative candidates winning office.

It put the total number of reformists to claim seats at 20 and independents at 28.

The 11th parliamentary election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution comes after a surge in tensions between Tehran and Washington, and Iran's accidental downing of a Ukrainian airliner that sparked anti-government protests.

Turnout was estimated at around 40 percent nationwide and 30 percent in Tehran at the scheduled close of polls at 1430 GMT on Friday, according to Fars. But authorities extended polling for another six hours to allow as many people as possible to vote.

Fars said the official turnout figure would be released on Saturday, while official results are not expected to be announced until Sunday. Authorities said schools would be closed on Saturday in dozens of urban centres while the count went ahead. Iran fell into a deep recession after US President Donald Trump reimposed sanctions following Washington's unilateral withdrawal from a landmark nuclear deal in 2018. Around half of the 16,033 hopefuls in the election were barred by the Guardian Council, a conservative-dominated vetting body, most of them moderates and reformists.

'Cheap, small arms becoming weapon of choice of many terror groups'

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

The UN counter-terrorism chief has said that cheap and easily accessible small arms are increasingly becoming the "weapon of choice" for many terror groups around the world posing a serious threat to international peace and security.

"Insufficient international response in countering the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, the challenges that Member States face to detect and seize them, as well as porous borders, allow terrorists and criminals to move illicit weapons from one country or region to another," UN Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov said.

"Small arms and light weapons are increasingly

becoming the weapon of choice of many terrorist groups around the world as they are cheap and easy to access, transfer, hide and use," he said.

It is widely acknowledged that the connection between terrorism and organised crime, including illicit small arms and light weapons trafficking, is a serious threat to international peace and security. It is also an obstacle to sustainable development and a menace to the rule of law. To illustrate the challenges, Voronkov, who is also Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCT), of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), revealed estimates indicating that the African continent alone has one hundred million uncontrolled small arms and light weapons concentrated in crises zones and security-chal-

lenged environments. "With an estimated population of 1.2 billion in Africa, this is an unfortunate and significant ratio of one to 12," he said.

Without a strong international response, terrorists and criminals would easily be able to move illicit weapons from one country or region to another. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underlines the connection between terrorism and the illicit small arms trafficking, conventional ammunitions and explosives, and calls on Member States to strengthen coordination and cooperation to address this challenge. The UNOCT chief illustrated this through the example that "illicit weapons originating from Libya were finding their way into the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel."

Afghans mark start of week-long partial truce amid isolated attacks

AFP ■ KABUL

A week-long, partial truce came into effect across Afghanistan on Saturday, with jubilant civilians celebrating in the streets to mark a potentially historic turning point in the war, even as isolated attacks threatened to undermine the process. The Taliban, US and Afghan forces have all agreed to a so-called "reduction in violence" which, if it holds, will be only the second lull in fighting since 2001. "It is the first morning that I got out without the fear of being killed by a bomb or suicide bomber. I hope it continues forever," Kabul taxi driver Habib Ullah said, while in other parts of the country people danced in the streets.

However in Balkh province in the north, Taliban fighters attacked a district headquarters near the provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, killing two Afghan soldiers, a local official told AFP. The attack came after midnight, when the partial truce had already kicked in.

There were also reports of a separate incident in central Uruzgan province. General Scott Miller, who leads US and NATO forces in Afghanistan, stressed that Western forces would continue to monitor the "reduction in violence".

"The objective here is that we reduce violence for Afghanistan and that it doesn't spike," Miller told reporters, adding that he was confident of the Taliban's overall commitment to the process. The partial truce is expected to set the conditions for Washington and the insurgents to sign a deal that could, ultimately, pull US troops out after more than 18 years and launch war-weary Afghanistan into an uncertain future. A successful week would show the Taliban can control their forces and demonstrate good faith ahead of any signing, which both the US and the insurgents have said could be done on February 29 in Doha. It also gives a much-needed respite to civilians, who have long borne the brunt of

the bloody war.

The UN's Afghanistan mission said Saturday that more than 10,000 people had been killed or wounded in the war in 2019 alone. In Kandahar in the south, considered the Taliban heartland, and the eastern province of Jalalabad, dozens of Afghans could be seen dancing the attan — a traditional Pashtun dance — in the streets in celebration overnight.

Jalalabad residents also celebrated by holding an impromptu bicycle race around the city. In Kabul, which for years now has been one of the deadliest places in the country for civilians, those who spoke to AFP were more wary.

"A temporary break in war is good but we want a permanent ceasefire," said government worker Fazul Rahman, adding he also wants peace talks between the Taliban and Kabul to begin "as soon as possible." Shopkeeper Emamuddin, who like many Afghans goes by one name, said Afghans want peace "whatever it takes".

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा अधिकारी, उन्नाव।

पत्रांक : - मा0स्वा0का0 / नोटिफिकेशन / 2019-20 / 7717 दिनांक- 22-2-2020

STATE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY UTTAR PRADESH

Notification

No: 626/SMHA/2020

Lucknow : Dated 07 February, 2020

In exercise of the powers under section 73 & 74 of the Mental Health Care Act, 2017, hereby with the permission of Hon'ble Chief Justice, Uttar Pradesh and State Government vide letter no. 56/Five-7-2020 dated 06 February, 2020, The Hon'ble District Judge of all respective 75 districts are nominated as Chairman of Mental Health Review Board.

In chairmanship of Hon'ble District Judge, following will also be the members of Mental Health Review Board in every district of Uttar Pradesh:

- Representative of the District Collector or District Magistrate or Deputy Commissioner of the districts in which the Board is to be constituted;
- Two members of whom one shall be a psychiatrist and the other shall be a medical practitioner.
- Two members who shall be persons with mental illness or care-givers or persons representing organizations of persons with mental illness or caregivers or non-governmental organizations working in the field of mental health.

By Order,
President
State Mental Health Authority, U.P.

SHOW TIME

Delightfully cute love story



SHUBH MANGAL ZYADA SAAVDHAN
*ing: Ayushmann Khurrana, Jitendra Kumar, Gajraj Rao, Neena Gupta
Rated: 7.5/10

A movie on gay relationships? Most people would balk at even thinking about going to a film that talks about LGBTQI community let alone watch two men kiss each other not once but twice. Even though the Government has decriminalised homosexuality by declaring Section 377 IPC as unconstitutional, the society has yet to come to terms with the love same sex. In their mind, it is not normal love.

But like Ayushmann Khurrana, who plays Kartik, in the movie rightly said: What is normal? We have grown up on a diet to love stories that talk about love between a man and a woman. We have grown up rote learning Jack and Jill poem. Why did the poem not talk about Jack and Johnny? This is the question that we should all be asking ourselves. Fifty years back, nobody would have thought that there would be a device

that allowed wireless communication. But here we are, totally dependent on our smartphones. This is our normal today. People love their cat/dog. They leave properties to them. We call them crazy but do we shun them? Why can't love between same sex people be normal and why can't families accept it?

Like Khurrana's character rightly says: *Roz hume ladaayi ladni padti hai zindagi mein par jo ladaayi parivaar ke saath hoti hai woh saari ladaayi sabse badi aur khatarnaak hoti hai.*

Shubh Mangal... touches a cord that plus a cord like no other because it is one of the best love stories that Bollywood has made in the recent past, the last being *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* back in 2013. If only the director, Hitesh Kewalya, had released this film on Valentine's Day because the movie is less about homosexuality and homophobia and more about how two people who are in love should stay together rather be caught in a loveless marriage.

The banter and funny dialogues between Gajraj Rao (Shankar Tripathi) and

Neena Gupta, his onscreen wife – Sunaina, among the family members, between Rao and Kartik is what makes *Shubh Mangal...* such a delight. What is even cuter and sweeter are the detailing that has gone into Khurrana's character. It is absolutely impossible to miss the nose ring, the pink *dupatta* and the cape he wears while proclaiming from the roof top that Shankar Tripathi is a homophobic.

Then there are the brilliant performances by the actors. Khurrana has once again proved that is a great actor. His demeanor and expressions are bang on and such a delight to watch. He is the life and soul of this movie. Then there is Jitendra Kumar who plays Aman Tripathi, Kartik's partner who compliments Khurrana. A special mention here for Rao, Gupta, Manurishi Chaddha and even Maanvi Gagroo. While Khurrana helms the movie, the rest of the starcast do their best and make this such a delightfully cute love story.

However, if you are a homophobic, stay away!

— Shalini Sakseena

This is a sinking ship

BHOOT PART ONE: THE HAUNTED SHIP
*ing: Vicky Kaushal, Bhumi Pednekar, Ashutosh Rana
Rated: 3/10

There are a few genres on which Bollywood should never attempt to make movies. First, of course is comedy. Vir Das has rightly said: Indians have not learnt the art of laughing at themselves. Second, and *Bhoot: The Haunted Ship*, falls under this category is horror. There was a time when Bollywood had some incredible horror movies to its name like *Mahal* and *Bees Saal Baad*. Then came the era of Ramsay Brothers. While these movies had the bhoot, it lacked the scare factor. Not the spine-chilling expression of teenage Damien in *Omen*.

One has to understand that everything that goes bump at night and strange clanking noise doesn't constitute horror. That is what ails this latest ghost movie. Bhanu Pratap Singh

may have used a ghost ship to tell his story that already has a history of haunting and the entire crew mysteriously committing suicide, the creepy looking ghost or the victim it has possessed and kept with it for more than 10 years is more on the lines that the bhoot needs psychiatric treatment rather than be exorcised.

While Vicky Kaushal may be the only saving grace of this sinking ship, the fact remains why he chose to do this film in the first place given that the storyline and the script of this film is not a patch on the kind of movies Kaushal has picked up in the recent past like *Uri* and *Manmarziyaan*. Sad that Ashutosh Rana who has been in the industry for more than two decades would say yes to this project.

There are several lose ends at the climax. If the director was looking at a *Bahubali: The Beginning* kind of end, he failed miserably.

Only see this one if you are a horror film fan.

— Shalini Sakseena



Lot of creativity in creating music of '99 Songs': AR

Music maestro AR Rahman believes music is an expression that connects deeply with the audiences.

The Oscar-winning composer, who is making foray into film production with "99 Songs" and has also created the music of the film, said a lot of creativity went into creating the tunes for the movie, that are mastered in Dolby Atmos.

"Dolby Atmos Music expands the creative palette for artists and creators. With this, people can truly experience instruments and vocals in isolation and experience music with incredible clarity. Dolby Atmos gives music more space and the freedom to unleash every detail and emotion as the artist intended.

"We've unveiled the music track of the song 'Jwalamukhi' from the film in Dolby Atmos and what you will notice is that each musical chord will strike an emotional connect with the listener. There is a lot of creativity that has gone into creating the music of '99 Songs' and I am super proud of the team," Rahman said in a statement.

Jio Studios and Sony Music has partnered with Dolby to master music tracks from the film directed by debutant Vishvesh Krishnamoorthy.

The film with 15 music tracks will release in three languages including Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.



'Need to have more real stories'

From playing Vishnu to Krishna to Akbar and now a chef, SOURABH RAJ JAIN has donned several hats. He speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about what made him take up the latest role and his favourite pastime, among other things

◆ What made you say yes to the role?

The character, the storyline of course, the concept of the show, and the backstory that my character had intrigued me the most. It was also after my meeting with the producers of the show Rajita Sharma and Vivek Budakoti who are also writers of the show, that I was thoroughly convinced to take it up.

◆ Any similarities that you share with your character?

The one similarity that I share with Neil Oberoi is being passionate about whatever I take up in my field. While Neil is a very passionate cook, I am in real life passionate about my acting and whatever I showcase on screen. So that way, my character and I are very similar when it comes to our careers.

◆ What should the audience look forward to in the show?

I am showcasing myself in a different genre after very long, so that is something the audiences should definitely look forward to. Other than that the backstory that my character has been unveiling through the course of the show has been very interesting, and something that the audiences too would like to know more about.

◆ From *Remix to Patiala Babes*, how has your journey been?

The journey has been overwhelming, amazing and one that I am extremely proud about. Through the years I have got to experiment with so many different genres, roles and concepts, and as an actor there is nothing better that I could have asked for!

◆ You have explored different genres and have done variety of roles. How did the transition happen?

Experimentation of course! Because as an actor if you don't experiment with and try out new genres and mediums, you are never going to grow or learn. And for me being diverse with my skills in such a field is extremely important.



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◆ What was the most challenging role?

I have done so many roles in the years gone by and to be honest all of them have been challenging. Every role demands a different side of me, so each of them has actually had me experience a different challenge altogether.

◆ A change that you would like to see in the industry for actors or other working professionals?

I feel that our industry needs to open doors to more real concepts and storylines, specially with the youth of today who are always looking out for new things to watch. There has to be a certain section content which caters to them, as they are our biggest critics and the bright future of tomorrow.

◆ Apart from acting what else keeps you busy?

Spending quality time at home with my family is something I always look forward to post shoot.

◆ Upcoming projects?

As of now I am very caught up with *Patiala Babes*, so that's the only thing I am working on at the moment.

TELLYTALE

HIMESH'S PREDICTION COMES TRUE



The finale of India's biggest singing reality show had to be grand and to make this celebration double the cast of the much-awaited movie *Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan* graced the stage of *Indian Idol* to boost the morale of our top 5 contestants and promote their movie. Ayushman, Jitendra Kumar, Neena Gupta and Gajraj Rao was welcomed by the Indian idol team.

Himesh Reshammiya praised Ayushman for his amazing acting and singing skills. He also remembered that when Ayushmann was hosting a show in 2009 he has predicated something about him. Himesh met him at that time when he came to promote a movie, he foreseen that at that time Ayushmann will become a superstar and this prediction of his came true. Himesh was over overwhelmed to meet Ayushmann and wished him all the luck for his movie.

PUJA TO PLAY VAISHNO DEVI

Star Bharat's mythological show *Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishno Devi* — *Kahani Mata Rani Ki* has mesmerised audiences with its amazing story and star cast. Recently, the show has completed 100 episodes. But a big twist is coming in the story of this show. Maisha Dixit, who played the younger Vaishno Devi in the show, left no stone unturned to win the audience with her spectacular performance. The show is set to take a leap and it is going to excite the audience with its more twist and turns. Puja Banerjee will enter the show after the leap where she will be playing the role of elder Vaishno Devi in the show. We will get to see elder Vaishno Devi who will be more powerful and beautiful.

Let me tell you that many popular actresses were being considered for the role of elder Vaishno Devi, for which talented and famous actresses like Diana Khan, Niyati



Fatani, Samiksha Jaiswal and Anushka Sen were approached. Finally, actress Puja Banerjee was finalised for the role. Its shooting will also start from next week. The leap will be aired on the Star Bharat channel from the first week of March.

When spoken to the actor Puja Banerjee said that: "It is a great pleasure for me to be selected for this role. Along with this, many of my old memories have also been refreshed as I had done a mytho show with this channel earlier. The previous role in mytho got me a lot of appreciation from the audience. I wish that history would be repeated again through this show. I hope the audience shower the same love."

RECREATING B-TOWN'S ICONIC JODI

Commitment and dedication are the keys to success & nobody knows it better than the budding talents of Rajshri Productions, Anagha Bhosale, and Ankit Raizada. The actors have been winning the hearts of the viewers with their performance as Shradhdha and Shlok in Star Plus' *Dadi Amma*... *Dadi Amma Maan Jao* & are pulling out all stops to get their on-screen avatars right.

Recently, the actors had to re-create the iconic and blockbuster *jodi* — Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit's chartbuster song on the show and we couldn't take our eyes off them from the few glimpses that we had a chance to see. Taking inspiration from Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit's styling to shaking their legs and imitating the signature steps, the actors did it all!

Commenting on recreating the song, Anagha shares: "It is a dream come true feeling for me. Madhuri Dixit has been my biggest inspiration. Getting to perform on her song and wearing the exact clothes had taken me to cloud nine! Moreover, we had a



very hectic schedule so I had to rehearse the song within a span of 30 minutes and it was quite challenging. I watched the video of the original song several times to gauge Madhuri's expressions and ensured I focused on getting those right while I was shooting for the song."

Adding further, Ankit Raizada shared: "It is literally a different kind of feeling for me as *Hum Apke Hai Kaun* is one of my favorite movies. Additionally, working for the same production, wearing the same clothes and shaking a leg on my biggest inspiration Salman Khan's song *Didi Tera Dewaar* was unbelievable for me. Although I know I

cannot match up to his persona and talent, from my side it's a small tribute to my style icon."

Well, we can't wait to watch the duo's outstanding performance on-screen!

AN UNMISSABLE NIGHT WITH VH1

VH1 celebrates 40 years of British brilliance at TheBRIT Awards 2020, airing on February 24, 2020 exclusively on the channel. Don't miss out on the best moments from the glitzy awards night:

Billie goes Bond: After a clean sweep at the GRAMMYS, Billie Eilish's performance was the most awaited from a stellar line-up. The starlet from Los Angeles teased audience with a live debut of the new theme song from the upcoming James Bond movie *No Time to Die* creating a frenzy at the O2. Billie signed off the night by taking home the International Female Solo Artist award.

Lewis Capaldi's tribute to his grandmother: Lewis Capaldi's second outing at the BRIT Awards turned out to be historic for him as he swept top awards at the night, winning Best New Artist and Best New Song for his single *Someone You Loved*. He credited his late grandmother for being the inspiration behind the hit single.

Dave's larger than life performance: London-based rapper Dave delivered a rare hip-hop performance as he played the piano while performing to his single *Black*. His versatility left fans speechless. Having led the nomination race with Lewis Capaldi, Dave had much to cheer on the night as his album *Psychodrama* was awarded British Album of the Year.

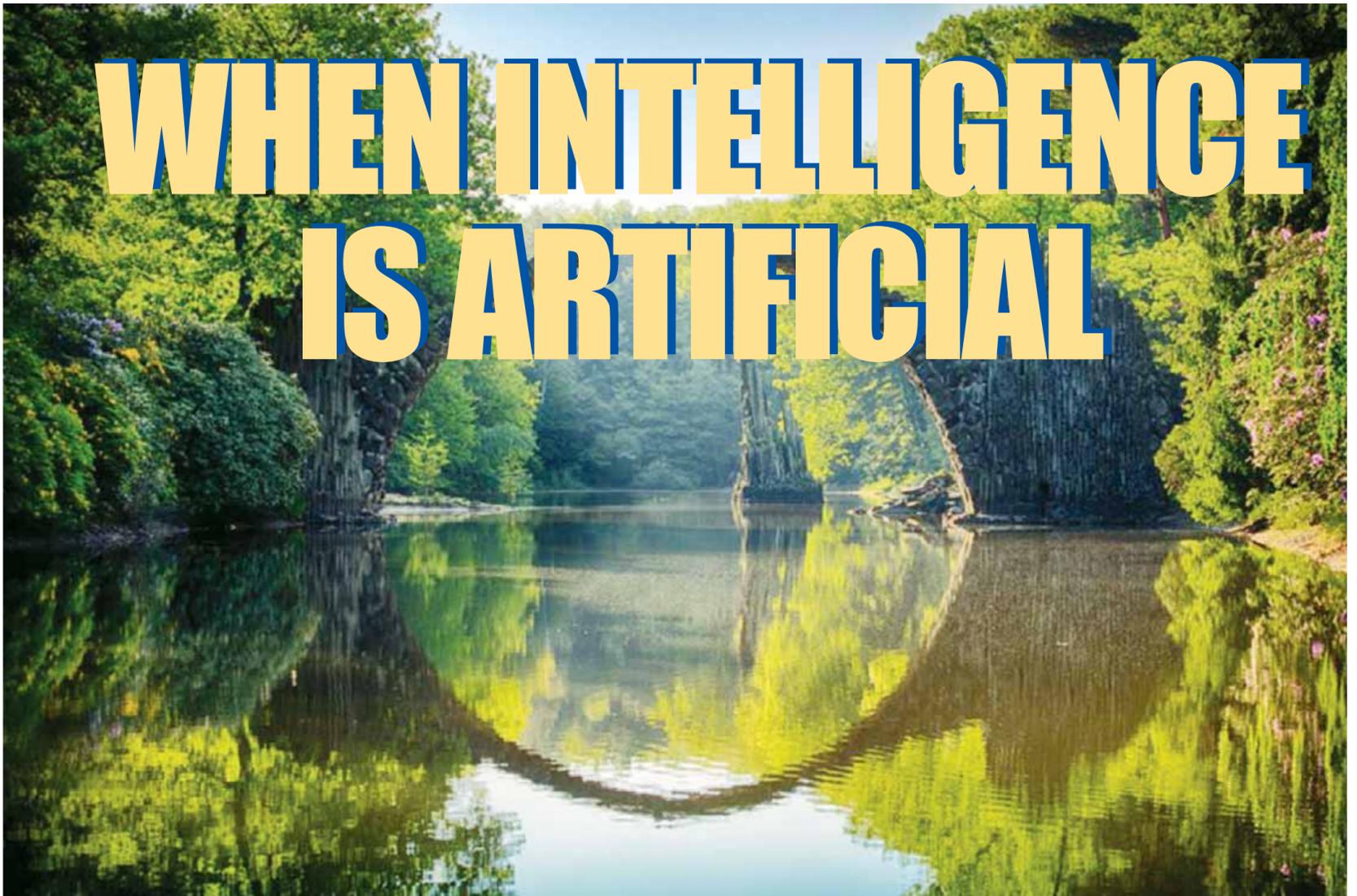
VARUN SHARES WEIGHT LOSS MANTRA

It's true when they say size does not matter, but fitness does for sure! This has been proved by none other than Television's senior actor, Varun Badola, who has been adored by the audiences for his depiction of Amber Sharma in *Sona Entertainment Television's* show, *Mere Dad Ki Dulhan*. As we all know that Varun was asked to gain 12 kgs for his character, he is also sizing down as his character shifts from a grumpy dad to an ideal partner.

As he works towards his goal of a fit middle-aged man, Varun shares his weight loss and fitness secrets! Following the path of intermittent diet, Varun Badola eats only twice a day without giving up on his favourite yet healthy food. Sharing his weight loss mantra, Varun says: "It's not easy to follow the intermittent fasting, while the rest of the world follows a particular meal time, I have my first meal of the day at 12 pm which is a mix of everything! Between 12 pm to 8 pm I can have a balanced meal and as much as I want. But from 8 pm to 12 pm I can't have anything. It works very well with my shoot schedule. I work out rigorously over the weekend. This has helped me lose a lot of weight in the past one and a half months. And right now it's the ask of the character."

Along with intermittent fasting, Varun is also working out in the gym whenever he gets the time.

In its 11th edition, TEDxGateway has hosted exceptional speakers who are slowly but surely changing the healthcare sector. **SHALINI SAKSENA** catches up with researchers who talk about how they have carved a niche for themselves



WHEN INTELLIGENCE IS ARTIFICIAL

Creating a buzz at age 13

Rishab Jain (15)
Scientist and Inventor

He is a freshman in school at Portland, Oregon, US. He does a lot of science related activities and research on pancreatic cancer in the medical field and the application of applying artificial intelligence (AI) to medical treatment of pancreatic cancer. When he is not doing research, he is busy participating in science bowl — a buzzer-based competition for those who want to increase their knowledge, especially in Biology. A big part of his free time is spent in track and field running cross-country. Meet 15-year-old Rishab Jain, a scientist and an innovator who has invented the Pancreatic Cancer Deep Learning System (PCDLS), an AI tool that improves radiation treatment in cancer. He aspires to become a surgeon and hopes to cure pancreatic cancer one day.

He tells you that despite his busy school schedule and the time spent on research for pancreatic cancer, he does manage to find time for himself to pursue what he loves — running. "I was 13 when I found out about this cancer, after passing of a family friend from pancreatic cancer. I was intrigued and found out the survival rate and got to know that this cancer is extremely deadly and survival rate is very low. This is because it takes time to pinpoint the area of the cancer," Jain says.

His system of AI that uses deep learning is a technique that offers an abstract way of looking inside and identifying patterns in the data. But he used another technique with deep learning — convolutional neural network. This network, he tells you has the ability to look at images and identify patterns inside. "What I did was the data that I had of MRI and CT scan of abdominal area. Within the thousands of different pictures of the abdomen, I had different images of the organs including pancreas. I used my tool to predict where the pancreas is positioned which is extremely hard to find for the untrained eye. My goal was to improve the accuracy for radio therapy by segmenting the



pancreas which can sometimes take a long time for a radiologist to do," Jain explains.

Another benefit of his deep learning system is its real-time application. Rather than pinpointing the pancreas from the images and then moving on for treatment, if there is an AI tool — PCDLS — can locate pancreas within a couple of seconds. "It is all about the execution of the programme running the command. When we take the CT and MRI images, it becomes fast to locate the pancreas," Jain says. He tells you that his tool is about early detection of this type of cancer.

"At present, pancreatic cancer treatment involves generic cancer treatment. Radiation therapy is a treatment that uses high doses of targeted energy to kill cancer cells and shrink the tumours. The problem in treating pancreatic cancer lies in its late detection — last stage. At this point, all one can do is shrink the tumour and if the patient is lucky, they can successfully remove the tumour," Jain says.

Not only this, Jain is also named as

America's Top Young Scientist for his path breaking innovation to improve radiotherapy. A competition he entered when he was 13. "After I came up with the solution using AI for pancreatic cancer that began after a lot of reading and doing a lot of research I realised that it was something that can be used in the future and have a big impact after I got some success, I entered a competition — 3M Young Scientists Challenge. The great thing about this that they pick out the top ideas from the US that are presented and provide support like mentorship. The primary reason to enter the competition was if I was selected it would allow me to better my tool and I could look for a bigger expansion. After I was selected, I spent that summer improving on the accuracy of the tool. I got more data, I fine tuned it. It was then that my idea became a reality," Jain says.

When he speaks at platforms like TedxGateway, the reaction of the people is centered more on his age. "When people see a young person talking while it can be a source of big inspiration, people may doubt it at first. I believe no matter what the age, anybody can make a difference. It just needs one idea that a person has to be passionate about and have the goal to complete it. With the right mindset and opportunity, it is possible to achieve that goal," Jain says.

According to him the best overall invention has been the Internet that provided the biggest platform for everything. Just the creation of connecting multiple computers has made so many things possible today.

"In the medical world, I would say the CT technology that has had ginormous impact. When it was invented by Sir Godfrey Hounsfield invented back in 1967, it opened a lot of doors and possibilities for all kinds of treatments not just cancer," Jain says.

His future is set. He would like to continue to work on his research. His latest project today involves working on whether they can improve on the treatment of the cancer — to solve the gap that exists today.

CAD gets a brand new voice

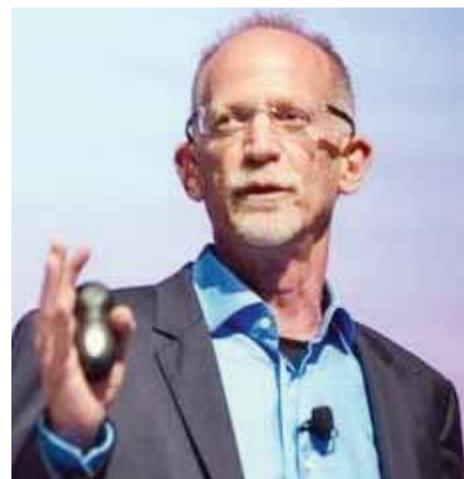
Yuval Mor (54)
AI Technologist and Disruptor

What if someone were to tell you that your voice is enough to detect several diseases including coronary artery diseases (CAD)? Most people would not believe it or would term it as fake news. However, the truth is that Beyond Verbal is doing just this.

Yuval Mor, CEO of Beyond Verbal, tells you that what his company uses the tone of voice of the people in order to be able to identify different health conditions. "It comes under what we call vocal biomarker — the area of voice to detect various diseases," Mor says.

The journey began with the analysis of emotions from the voice. "We all know that we can understand what people are feeling just by listening to them. As part of this analysis, our scientists did an experiment. He found that group of people he was evaluating had reading dyslexia. Because of this, their analysis of their emotions was incorrect. The scientist came up with an idea that maybe there is something in the voice of the people that gives their health condition. This led to our research in many different areas like mental health, heart conditions, lung and breathing conditions and many more," Mor explains.

The good part is that order to get the voice, there is no need for any complicated device to record the voice. All one needs to do is record the voice on your smartphone. Yes, you read that right. One can record the voice on any regular mobile that



allows voice recording and one is good to go. All one has to do is record your voice; there are not set words needed, nor does one have to speak in a particular tone or pitch. All one has to do is record the voice — like the tone one uses while talking to another person over the phone.

"After the call is recorded, one can send it as a central control analysis where experts use machine learning and AI in order to find specific indications in the voice that could indicate health conditions," Mor explains.

"Since we are speaking over the mobile all the time, we can see a pattern when there are deviations. We use regular voice recorded over a regular mobile. The success rate when it comes to detection of coronary artery disease using a single voice analysis stands at 86-87 per

cent level of accuracy. The idea is not to scare people to rush to the hospital, it is a tool to let them know that there is something wrong and that needs to be addressed in the near future. And to also increase the person's awareness level when the information is sent to their doctor who can then decide to go for further testing; the tool is not for emergency care; it is a monitoring device," Mor tells you.

The advantage, he tells you are amazing. Just imagine, we are using the voice all the time and mobiles. This way one's mobile or smart home device can be a personal bodyguard when it comes to health. The device that has been collecting voice recording over time gives information if there is a significant deviation in the voice. All this is becoming part of tele-medicine or

The success rate of detecting coronary artery disease using a single voice analysis stands at 86-87%. All one would have to do is send a recorded voice to central control analysis where experts use machine learning and AI to find specific indications in the voice that could indicate health conditions

remote healthcare. The idea is that one doesn't really have to go physically to a hospital but a lot of interaction can happen remotely using sensory, in this case voice sensory.

Mor tells you that the future will be about using all kind of devices that people will have in their homes or at their disposal. Some of these will be connected to the smartphones like we are already seeing in terms of wearables that are available in the market today to check our BO and even heart rate. "Some devices would be more dedicated and connect to a software that would be running of the mobile to collect the vitals but using the voice to say monitor oxygen saturations. It is no longer the future, the future is here, we are living it and using it when we buy a smart watch," Mor says.

Back to Nature innovations by a reluctant Master of science

Oded Shoseyov (63)
Nano biotechnologist

He was born to a family in the vineyard business for more than 130 years. Twenty years back, he established the Estate Boutique winery near Jerusalem in one of the oldest grape growing regions in the world from the time of King Solomon. In High School, he was a terrible student. Nevertheless, his parents always told him that he had potential and so he never gave up.

"After three-and-a-half years of service in the Israel Defence Force, I decided that I would like to go to university and study Agriculture so that I could go back to the vineyard and help my father. I had to struggle a lot to get accepted to the university because I had very low grades from High School. My appli-

cation to the Faculty of Agriculture of Hebrew University was rejected. Thanks to the intuition of the Dean of Chemistry Professor Lena Ben-Dor, I was accepted on condition to do an undergraduate course in Chemistry at The Hebrew University where I really shined. I met Professor Ben Ami Bravdo who invited me to join his laboratory. The day I entered his lab, I knew that this is my destiny," Oded Shoseyov tells you.

His research in plant molecular biology, protein engineering and nano biotechnology is creating super-performing materials that could change the way we build our future products.

Over the years, Oded has established 14 companies and asking him to talk about a particular one doesn't come easy. "You are asking me to pick my favourite child. But I will do

my best. CollPlant is a company that produces human collagen from tobacco plants. Collagen is a special protein that builds up tissues and organs in our body. Medical implants like bone substitutes and heart valve leaflets are made of collagen extracted from pigs, cows and human cadavers which are not safe because they harbour viruses. At the Hebrew University, my laboratory cloned all the five genes from humans that are responsible for making collagen in our body, and by genetic engineering introduced all the five human genes into a tobacco plant," Oded explains.

He says that tobacco plants produce human collagen through their leaves. "We grow the tobacco plants in greenhouses, harvest the leaves, extract and purify the human collagen. This collagen is safer because plants do not harbour



human pathogens. From this, we make different medical implants for wound healing and tendon repair that are already used in clinics in Europe and Israel.

"Our latest achievement and source of pride is the new version of collagen that can be 3D-printed. We are now engaged with United Therapeutics, a US Pharma company and 3D Systems, a US 3D printing company in an ambitious project to print for the first time a fully functional living human lung. This is only the first in printing of future organs," Oded tells you.

Another company is Biobetter Ltd whose mission is to make biologic drugs affordable. He tells you that antibodies are large and complex proteins which are central in our immune system.

"They help our body to overcome infection and cancer. In the

last decade, biologic drugs and specifically humanised antibodies became extremely effective drugs for Rheumatoid Arthritis, cancer and more. One major problem remain. Biologic drugs are produced by mammalian cell culture which is very expensive.

"We cloned the genes of Adalimumab (drug for rheumatoid Arthritis) and by genetic engineering introduced it into tobacco plant. We introduced several more genes into the plant to modify the sugar content of the Adalimumab to make it more human. We can produce the biologic drug in a greenhouse at a cost of lettuce. Our goal is to make it affordable — bring down the cost to less than \$1 a day as opposed to \$100 a day at present," he adds.

His breakthrough was finding genes that are at the heart of a mechanism in plants that accelerates its

growth. This discovery was later translated to transgenic eucalyptus trees that grow faster in the forest and enable production of timber and pulp for paper in a significantly shorter period of time.

According to him, over billions of years of evolution, Nature made amazing materials and systems. "I will mention only a few: Resilin which enables cat fleas to jump 100-200 times their height and the amazing computational powers of our brain. Overabundance of these super performers around us are encoded by their DNA," says Oded who is in India as a TEDxGateway speaker.

When he is not busy in his laboratory, he and his children are busy skiing and looking for new resorts to explore all over the world. He also enjoys mountain biking, running and music.



Talktime

HARSHVARDHAN RANE

Having done all kinds of jobs for about 15 years before stepping into B-town, Rane is proud to have gone through that phase which made him what he is today. He speaks with Musba Hashmi about his debut, fondest memory and upcoming projects

Your father is a doctor, how did you end up becoming an actor?

It's a long story. I had run away from home when I was 16. I came to Delhi in 2001 and did a lot of odd jobs to earn a living. I worked at an STD booth. I worked as a logsheet maintainer in a cyber cafe where I was paid ₹10 a day. Then I joined another cyber cafe where I was paid double the money. I also worked as a delivery boy. I have done all kinds of jobs but the one thing I had in mind was to become an actor. Back then, I didn't know that this could be a profession because not many people would choose this line. In my subconscious I knew that this is what I wanted to do. Gradually, I carved a path in the South industry and finally became an actor.

What lesson did you learn during your struggle days?

I don't see it as a struggle; it was rather fun for me. In order to reach somewhere you have to carve a path and all these jobs served that purpose. There were many lessons that I learnt dur-

ing the period. In fact, I learnt some of the best ones. Discipline is one of them. Second, value of relationships. Third, honesty. If you are not honest with yourself and your job, you can't reach the heights you want.

You made your Bollywood debut with Sanam Teri Kasam. How did you come on board for that?

My debut movie was *Satra Ko Shaadi Hai* produced by John Abraham. But it never got released. For *Sanam Teri Kasam*, there's a different story. It was in 2015 when I was shooting for a couple of Telugu films and got a call for the film. I asked them if they could wait as I was shooting. It took me two-three months to complete the pending shoots and then I went to Mumbai. I reached the team's office and was told that I was too late. They had already cast someone else and he was preparing to begin the shoot. I tried convincing Radhika Rao ma'am and Vinay Sapru sir (writer-director) to cast me as I was in love with the script and the role. I was able to relate to Inder Lal Parihar a lot. After a lot of efforts, they asked me to perform a scene and I did. They asked

THE BEST MOMENT WAS WHEN MY FIRST FILM IN HINDI AND TELUGU RELEASED AND I SAW MYSELF ON THE BIG SCREEN. WHEN I WALKED INTO THE THEATRE, I DIDN'T GET A SEAT. I STOOD IN THE CORNER LOOKING AT THE 70 MM VERSION OF MYSELF

me to do it once more. I did and they were in tears. They loved the conviction with which I played Inder. That's how I got the role.

What is the difference between

South and the Hindi film industry?

The South film industry has taught me a lot of discipline and also how to make your producer comfortable. A person who is investing money should feel comfortable. For Bollywood, undoubtedly it is every actor's dream. It has a wider reach.

Is there a role that you would like to experiment with?

I want to play a warrior. Whenever I see such movies, there is a certain energy that I feel. I believe that I have some connection with a warrior. May be I was a warrior in my past life. (laughs)

What things are outside your comfort zone?

Doing intimate scenes. I try to avoid such scenes but if the script demands it then I don't have a choice. But yes, I want to avoid it as much as possible because by all means I want to guard my co-actor. It is my responsibility to not do anything that would harm women co-actors in any way.

What has been your fondest memory?

When my first film got released — both in Hindi and Telugu and I saw

myself on the big screen; it is a moment I can never forget. I remember when I walked into the theatre, I didn't get a seat. I was just standing in the corner and seeing such huge version of me on the 70 mm screen.

What are your upcoming projects?

I have my hands full. *Haseen Dillruba* and *Taish* will be releasing this year. Both of them are amazing movies. For *Taish*, I have done more homework than what I did for *Sanam Teri Kasam*. It's a revenge-drama and people will see me in a different avatar.

Can you share a few memories from your life?

When I was struggling, I was very fond of river rafting. Back in 2011, all my friends made a plan to go to Rishikesh. I had no money back then. One of my friend knew a resort owner who was about to get married. I requested my friend to ask him if I could be the photographer and that he had to let me stay at his resort for three days — all free. He agreed. And now after so many years, I am playing a river rafter in *Haseen Dillruba*. Life definitely makes you take a full circle.

Those wheels of yore

The 9th edition of 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally and Concours d'Elegance was flagged off from India Gate last week. SHALINI SAKSENA tells you what makes this 4000 km royal expedition special

In 2011 when the first edition of the 21 Gun Salute Heritage Cultural Trust in association with the Ministry of Tourism was flagged off, nobody would have thought that nine years down the line it would only grow from strength to strength and attract international participation, be covered by 20 international magazines and would bring 100s of rarest of rare vintage cars on to its platform. The ninth edition, was more than just display of rich automotive heritage that paid tribute to the golden era of the automotive industry; it was also about celebrating the country's rich heritage. The 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally & Concours d'Elegance has grown to become one of the most anticipated and talked-about automobile events of Asia.

This salute to the spirit of motoring will showcase rare vintage cars in the world like the 1938 Rolls-Royce 25/30, Maserati 3500GT Vignale Syder, 1939 Buick Roadmaster Convertible, 1959 Jaguar XK 150 S, 1951 Bentley MK VI Freestone and 1959 Alfa 2000 to name just a few. The rally will cover 17 cities, 4000 km in 23 days that will be a tribute to the motoring and historic Indian culture. The rally, after 17 check-in stops, will end in the City of Lakes — Udaipur — on March 10, 2020 with the participants enjoying the Festival of Colours — Holi.

Madan Mohan, chairman and managing trustee of 21 Gun Salute Heritage & Cultural Trust tells you that India's culture and heritage motoring are the two strong pillars of the competition. "Both aspects highlight that the show is of special importance and attract both participants and visitors. For the past eight years, the event has grown in all aspects to become a magnificent show that attracts tourists and motoring buffs from around the world," Mohan says.

He tells you that the idea is the rally is not to just show the rarest of rare vintage cars that compete but it is a step in generating interest in global tourists to experience the grandeur of India. "Along with international participation from 15 motoring enthusiasts from around the globe, the rally



Madan Mohan with his one of the many vintage cars that were showcased in the Capital — Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

THE IDEA IS TO SHOW PEOPLE CARS FROM DIFFERENT ERA AND HOW THE SPEED AND CYLINDERS CHANGED OVER TIME. THERE ARE CARS WITH A SPEED OF 40 KM AN HOUR WHICH IS PHENOMENAL FOR EARLY 90s
— MADAN MOHAN

will be a biennial effort to promote India as a global motoring tourism destination on a global platform. It will also bring enormous tourist footprint to our country," Mohan tells you who got the support of the Ministry of Tourism for the rally back in 2014.

The motoring enthusiasts along with their masterpieces will travel to



unique destinations — which changes each year — stay at palaces of erstwhile maharajas, dine with royal families and visit the forts to build lifelong bonds. And then there is the fact that while the entries this year is over a 100, each vintage car that will be on the road have never been showcased in the show before.

"The idea is to show people cars from different era and how the speed and cylinders changed over time. There are cars with a speed of 40 km an hour. Given that those were still times of horse-drawn carriages, this speed back in the early 1930s would have been phenomenal," he says. In order to judge these cars, there

is a gathering of an international jury panel comprising 37 motoring experts and renowned classic car experts, Fédération International des Véhicules Anciens (FIVA) officials, restoration experts, FIVA scrutineers, F-1 racers and other celebrated individuals from all over the world. The handpicked cars are given points on the basis of authenticity of cars, their style, design, rarity, the stitch on the upholstery, how authentic the colour is, how authentic the upholstery is and the entire car has been upgraded.

Mohan, who has 328 vintage cars, 43 jeeps and 106 bikes along with clocks, typewriters, and other antiques, has been a collector since he purchased his first-ever vintage car Dodge Victory 6, 1928, back in 2000, that was previously owned by Raja Saheb of Khetri.

"All these antiques have been painstakingly restored to their original glory. I scout palaces and garages to look for abandoned vintage cars, buys them and then spends years in upgrading them. It is time consuming and an expensive hobby. One has to look for original parts or order them from the companies that are in the business of making these parts. Then comes the cost of shipment. It is very rare that one will find a part here in India. It has to be imported.

"At each and every stage, there is a cost not to forget that the first six-months are spent in doing research on the car; its history and what made it special. Once that is done, the work on the car itself starts. Sometimes it takes months before we get a part or a specific upholstery. A lot of patience is required when you work on doing up a vintage car. But the satisfaction that comes from looking at the end result is worth all the hassle," Mohan says.

Interestingly, Mohan is the face of the show and looks after the front management and it is his brother who spends hours toiling and restoring the cars. "My brother went for a course in vehicle restoration in the US when he was 46. He likes to stay in the background. While I do the marketing and am the face of the what we do," Mohan says.

'Indian music has an awe factor'



SHILPA RAO recently released a single in collaboration with six-time Grammy Award nominated sitarist-composer-producer Anoushka Shankar and Ayanna Witter, a British singer-composer and cellist. She speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about her journey and cross-culture collaboration

How did the collaboration happen?

Anoushka (Shankar) and I had met many years back and then we met again recently when I was in London for a holiday. We had talked about our music and things related to it. We also talked about a collaboration. Then we came together in Mumbai on a music that she had composed. It was such simple and minimalistic that I wanted to be a part of and couldn't refuse.

What is the song about?

The song, *Those Words*, is about a journey of a woman who is all by herself now. She is out a relationship now. In the song she talks about the times when she was in one and the moments she lived in that relationship. It is a not a sad or a depressing song. More of a song that is based on internal thoughts. Something that we all do when we sitting by ourselves.

Was there a reason why you chose this theme?

When I heard the song, there weren't any lyrics to it. But the music was so beautiful and moving and we wanted to do something on those lines. We discussed and we wanted to do a song that internalised feelings. Shirin then wrote the lyrics. And the whole thing fit perfectly and the song is so beautiful.

How much fun did the three of you have doing this collaboration?

The whole thing started on a simple note — a thought — which was very simple. The whole process was not complicated. It was just that she had a thought and shared it with me and I shared it with Shirin. The best part is that all this happened face-to-face and not over the mail. It was the first time that I was recording in London at the Guildhall School; it is one of the top schools for music in the world. It was my first international collaboration. We spent an entire day together to make this song. It was little things that mattered while we made this song. It was not about what the song became later on but the whole journey that made it possible.

How important is it to have more such collaborations to experience global music?

Indian music has always had a certain awe factor for those who live abroad. It is not a new concept for people outside of India to listen to our music. Indian music is one of the most progressive music's in the world; it has been there for centuries. The best of this song is — Ayanna didn't know anything about the words, Shirin had written them; we came from different backgrounds, we learnt a lot about each other since human emotions are the same. This is what you learn from such collaborations.

Where is Bollywood music heading?

Music keeps changing every month. When people ask me where I will be a year down the line, it is difficult to answer it. I live in the moment and committed to it. I love the unpredictability that is associated with the music and the business. It makes you want to learn more and keep evolving.

How did your musical journey begin?

It was an everyday life for us while I was growing up because of my father. We were surrounded with music. I didn't always want to be a musician as a child. I learnt and listen to music because I loved it; it was till I was older that I wanted to sing. My musical journey was simple.

What is waiting for you?

There are a few Bollywood projects and a couple of more single releases coming up in the near future.

Music for the soul

Swaraag, the Sufi rock fusion band from Jaipur, was in the Capital recently for a show. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with the founder on what makes them sought after and how they were part of the reality show *Rising Star 3*

band — sufi, Rajasthani, instrumental and Bollywood music. This became our USP," Pratap Singh, the co-founder and manager of the band explains.

But after being in the market for six years, they realised that they needed to add fusion in order to connect Indian classical and the youth. The fusion was done in a manner that it doesn't sound odd. "We ensure that our fusion is such that it acts like salt in a dish. We don't want to sound totally western. We have saxophone, drum and acoustic guitar. We don't use digital instrument. This way the audience can enjoy the music of the instruments," Singh shares. He says that the name of the band is derived from the Sanskrit word — *swar* and *raag* we all know — the music. The idea was to let people know that they are there to promote music.

He tells you that the reason why Rajasthan music is not famous even though it is a popular tourist place because the State is seen as land of royals. But when it comes to entertainment industry, people see only two



three things — food, palaces and royals. "Ask them if they would want to make a Rajasthani film and they want to know who will watch it. Another problem is that the dialect in the region changes every 100 km," Singh opines.

The band was also part of *Rising Star 3*. While reality shows are good, it is not always the right place to showcase one's talent. "It is not always correct. When I was there, I saw young

people, who were there to showcase their talent but are nowhere today. One has to ask where they are today. Even if one wins a show, there are no guarantees that they will shine. One needs a combination of talent, marketing strategy and luck. While reality shows give you the much-needed jump, there is need to market it well. Talent alone will not take you far," Singh says. However, he is quick to point out that for an artist, it is a big thing to be viewed on TV. Reality shows give you a face, a recognition.

Interestingly, he tells you that their music is not always appreciated. There have been two instances where they were caught on the wrong foot. One was when the band had to perform in Haryana. The people were looking to dance, our music is not on those lines. "The second was while we were performing in Vishakhapatnam. We wondered where we had landed. Finally, we played Amitabh Bachchan song. Three people came in front to dance. After 45 minutes we understood what they were looking for. The good is that we have people in our band with multiple talent," he tells you.

Ishant sizzles, Williamson dazzles as Kiwis hold slight edge

PTI ■ WELLINGTON

Ishant Sharma's lion-hearted bowling effort met its match in Kane Williamson's elegance as New Zealand ended an attritional second day of the opening Test against India with a slight upper-hand, here on Saturday.

After another lower-order collapse that saw get India bundled out for 165, Ishant, coming straight back from an ankle injury, took three for 31 in 15 overs despite Williamson's effortless 89 in New Zealand's day-end score of 216 for 5.

New Zealand now lead by 51 runs.

Mohammed Shami (1/61 in 17 overs), during his final spell of the day, removed Williamson, who couldn't check an uppish drive. Henry Nicholls' (17 off 62 balls) struggle seemed to have hampered Williamson's rhythm.

During the final hour, Ravichandran Ashwin (1/60 in 21 overs), who also bowled beautifully throughout the day, relieved Nicholls of his agony with a delivery that had drift and a hint of turn as India skipper Virat Kohli snapped the low catch at second slip.

Williamson looked good as he hit some delightful strokes square off the wicket. The square drive on the rise off Jasprit Bumrah (0/62 in 18.1 overs), followed by a cover drive, showed his class.

In all, the New Zealand skipper hit 11 boundaries off 153 balls.

Bumrah, in particular, was punished by Williamson, who also back-cut him for a boundary and Taylor then punished another half volley through the covers.



New Zealand's Kane Williamson bats against India during the first cricket Test between India and New Zealand at the Basin Reserve in Wellington on Saturday

Either Bumrah bowled too full and drivable length deliveries or too short that even Rishabh Pant failed to gather the ball over his head.

This was where Ishant came into the picture. While he was lucky to get opener Tom Latham out with a delivery drifting on leg-stump, the other opener Tom Blundell (30) had a typical Ishant dismissal written all over it.

The ball was full on the off-stump channel and jagged back enough to find the gap between his bat and pad.

"Actually, the wicket became slow. It had tennis ball bounce at the start but when we bowled, there was no seam movement available," Ishant said after the end of the day's play.

Williamson and Taylor then had a partnership of 93 runs during which New Zealand also got the lead before Ishant, coming back for his third spell, bowled one that reared up from good length and proved to be an easy catch for Cheteshwar Pujara at short-leg.

"I was just not holding the ball on seam as kookaburra goes soft after 40 overs. When the seam really gets soft, you need to come hard and hit the length very hard and bowl cross seam," said the seasoned pacer.

Looking good for his 22nd Test hundred, Williamson, in his bid to get another boundary, couldn't check a cover drive and the low catch was taken by substitute fielder Ravindra Jadeja.

Earlier, New Zealand's debutant Kyle Jamieson (4/49)

and veteran Tim Southee (4/49) took four wickets apiece as Indian innings folded in 68.1 overs. The duo took four of the five wickets that fell on the second morning with India adding only 43 runs to their overnight score of 122/5.

Rishabh Pant (19) started with a six but then a horrible mix-up with senior partner Ajinkya Rahane (46) resulted in a run-out and the little chance of recovery was gone for good.

Southee then got rid of Rahane when he tried to shoulder-arm a delivery that made a

Pant's run-out was turning point of India's innings: Southee

WELLINGTON: New Zealand pacer Tim Southee believes that Rishabh Pant's freak run-out went a long way in changing the course of the Indian innings that eventually folded up for 165 in the first Test here on Saturday.

Pant, who started the day with a six in the first over suffered because of Ajinkya Rahane's poor call and India lost five wickets for 33 runs from that point. Rahane himself fell to Southee as he inside edged to the keeper trying to shoulder arms and late inward movement became his undoing.

Asked if there was any strategy to dismiss Rahane, Southee replied: "No, the run-out of Pant was a big this morning. With him (Pant) being such a dangerous player and leading into that second new-ball, he could have scored quickly along with Jinks (Rahane's nickname)."

Southee knew that Rahane had no option but to attack once Pant was dismissed.

"We knew though if we could open one end up with the bowlers, then Jinks was looking to play a little bit more aggressively, which



brings us into play a little more.

"The way we bowled this morning was pretty good. To come off and finish the Indian batting line-up like that with two dangerous players in this morning," said Southee, who picked four wickets.

Southee has never been an out and out fast bowler and at this stage of his career, he relies on his ability to move the ball both in the air and off the pitch.

"Well, I probably gave up worrying about speed a while ago, so I guess you've got to rely on other skills, and I guess swing, there was a little bit of swing there today.

"Not been as windy as it was yesterday, so us as a bowling unit, we try to expose that swing when we get it, and there was a little bit there today," said Southee.

On the day, Southee reckoned that one wicket less had been a better effort. New Zealand were 216 for five at stumps on day two, leading India by 51 runs.

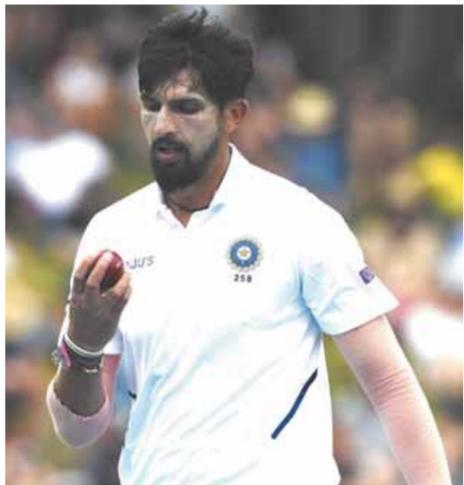
"You always want to be one wicket less than what you are. But saying that, if we can carry on tomorrow morning, get a couple of partnerships together and try and build that lead, then going into the second innings it will be nice."

There was some turn on offer for Ashwin and that surprised Southee, who hasn't seen pitches at the Basin Reserve offer turn on day two.

"There is a little bit of spin. You don't usually see that on Day 2 at the Basin. That's why the first innings becomes important. If we can build those partnerships and eke out as big a lead as we possibly can then I guess that makes that second innings a little bit easier. I'm not sure how the wicket's going to play over the next few days."

BRIEF SCORES:
India 1st Innings: 165 allout in 68.1 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 46; Kyle Jamieson 4/39).
New Zealand 1st Innings: 216 for 5 in 71.1 overs (Kane Williamson 89; Ishant Sharma 3/31).

Now Ishant comes to Bumrah's defence



PTI ■ WELLINGTON

India's seniormost player Ishant Sharma finds it "funny" that people are questioning Jasprit Bumrah's "ability" just after a few matches, ignoring his performances over the past two years.

The veteran of 97 Test matches joined his pace partner Mohammed Shami in responding to those who have been critical of Bumrah's barren run that started during the ODI leg of the New Zealand tour.

"It's funny that perceptions changed after one innings. For two years, we have always taken 20 wickets, myself, Boom (Bumrah's nickname in Indian dressing room) and Shami along with Ash or Jaddu (at home). How can people question on the basis of one innings (Test)?" Ishant asked while defending his colleague.

"I don't think anyone doubts Boom's ability. Since his debut, what he has achieved for India, I don't think anyone should raise any questions," said Ishant.

He finished the second day of the opening Test between India and New Zealand with figures of 3 for 31.

Shami also spoke in the same vein after Bumrah went wicketless in the three ODs. "I can understand we are discussing on a topic (after a certain length of time) not just after 2-4 games. Just because he hasn't performed in two games, you can't just ignore his ability to win matches," Shami had said last week.

Ishant slept barely four hours in the past two days but kept India in the fight with three New Zealand wickets in the first Test even as he struggled hard to deal with a "jet-

lag". Three weeks back, the veteran of 96 Tests was all but out of New Zealand series after suffering multiple ligament tears in his right ankle during a Ranji Trophy game but travelled for 24 hours and arrived here 72 hours before the start of the first Test.

I am not happy because I have not slept for two days and I was struggling a lot today (with my body). The way I would have liked to bowl, it did not happen. They asked me to play and I played. Anything, for the team," said India's seniormost player.

His uneasiness was lack of sound sleep that made him struggle on a track that is getting slower and a kookaburra ball whose seam can go soft after 40 overs.

"Not that I wasn't happy with my bowling. I wasn't happy with my body as I could only sleep for 40 minutes last night and day before the Test match, I slept for three hours," said Ishant, narrating his struggles with jet lag.

"The more you can recover (from jet lag), the better effort you can put in on the ground. There's no better recovery than sound sleep. The sounder your sleep is, the better your body will respond on ground," the lanky fast bowler said.

According to Ishant, he didn't even think about playing the Test match, when he had sustained a freak injury.

"All credit goes to NCA support staff as they worked really hard with me. We never really thought I have to play a Test because my MRI shows I had a complete ligament tear, not one but two tears. People said 'he is out for six weeks,'" he recalled.

Win against Australia will give India huge confidence: Mithali

PTI ■ SYDNEY

India's demolition of a formidable Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup opener will give them a huge boost going forward, said star batswoman Mithali Raj, who also lauded leggie Poonam Yadav for her magical performance.

Poonam took four for 19 to help India complete a 17-run victory against defending champions Australia on Friday.

"Everyone has been talking about how much batting depth Australia have, yet they couldn't chase 132," Raj, a former India Test and ODI captain, said in an ICC release.

"India will take so much confidence from that victory, but this World Cup

is still very open. The match between Australia and India proved how competitive the tournament will be. It proves it does not matter where you stand in the ICC rankings.

"We will be seeing more of the same drama yet. This victory proves every team has a chance," said Raj, who has retired from T20 cricket.

The 37-year-old veteran batswoman said "the opening match definitely lived up to the hype of the tournament."

"It was a whirlwind. There were so many ups and downs. It was a great start to the tournament not only because India beat the defending champions on home soil, but also because of how the game progressed altogether.

"At no point could you say it was

going in one side's favour. First we saw our early wickets fall, then we recovered and Australia had to chase 132 before their middle-order collapsed.

India and Australia both took the game their own way at different points which made it fascinating for spectators to watch."

Raj said Poonam's spell was the turning point.

"She's been one of the main spinners for India for quite some time now, and her style worked again. Getting their (Australia's) middle-order out really titled the match towards India, she was brilliant.

"Although we recovered our innings through Deepti Sharma and her partnership with Jemimah Rodrigues, it was Poonam's flurry of wickets against

Australia's megastars, which completely changed the game," Raj said.

Raj also praised 16-year-old Shafali Verma for scoring 29 off 15 on her World Cup debut.

"Shafali Verma impressed me too on her debut. She gave India's middle order the cushioning they needed to regain momentum. Verma has stuck with stroke play that she demonstrated in the tri-series," she said.

"I think she should be given that free range in the first six overs because when you're playing a top team, the runs in the first six overs are so important. It was great to be 40 up after just a few overs thanks to her contribution — Australia couldn't replicate that."

Agar takes hat-trick as Australia rout South Africa by 107 runs

AFP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Left-arm spinner Ashton Agar took a hat-trick as Australia crushed South Africa by 107 runs in the first Twenty20 international at the Wanderers Stadium.

Steve Smith, back in South Africa for the first time since the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, hit a top score of 45 for Australia, who made 196 for six after being sent in.

South Africa made a bad start against the pace of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins before Agar's triple strike sent them hurtling to their all-time lowest T20 total of 89. It was also the host country's biggest defeat in the format.

Man of the match Agar finished with career-best figures of five for 24.

"It was really exciting, a highlight of my cricketing life," he said.

But he gave praise to the fast bowling attack of Mitchell Starc, Kane Richardson and Pat Cummins who started South Africa's collapse.

Starc made a crucial breakthrough when he bowled South African captain and batting star Quinton de Kock for two with a fast, swinging delivery in the first over of the home side's reply.

South Africa were reeling at 40 for four when Agar came on to bowl.

He had Faf du Plessis caught at deep cover with his fourth delivery, trapped Andile Phehlukwayo leg before next ball and Dale Steyn superbly caught at slip by captain Aaron Finch to complete the hat-trick.

Smith and Finch (42) set up Australia's big total with an aggressive second wicket stand of 80 off 52 balls, benefitting from some loose South African



bowling.

"I'm not quite sure what happened," said De Kock.

"Their energy was there but the skills weren't good enough." By contrast Australia's bowlers were on target immediately.

"The way we attacked the crease and bowled a really good, aggressive length was crucial," said Finch.

"We pride ourselves on not giving away width with the new ball and making the batsmen hit good shots off good balls."

It was a successful return to South Africa for Smith, who was stripped of the captaincy and banned for a year after the "Sandpaper-gate" scandal in 2018.

David Warner, who was also banned for a year for his part in the affair, hit a four off the first ball of the match but was caught at fine leg off the next delivery from Steyn, ending a sequence in which he had scored 267 runs and only been dismissed once in his previous six T20 internationals.

The win extended Australia's unbeaten run in the format to nine matches, with eight wins and one no-result. Their last defeat was in November 2018.

The second match of the series is at Port Elizabeth on Sunday with the third and final game in Cape Town on Wednesday.

'JADEJA IS MY FAVOURITE CRICKETER'

Australia's hat-trick hero Ashton Agar has described "rockstar" Ravindra Jadeja as his favourite player and said a chat with the India spin-bowler all-rounder has helped him to turn things around.

The 26-year-old Agar has revealed how a chat with Jadeja during Australia's ODI tour of India last month inspired him ahead of his match-winning performance against South Africa at the Wanderers.

Agar registered a hat-trick in a five-wicket haul to guide Australia to a massive 107-run victory over South Africa in the first T20 International on Friday.

"I had a wonderful chat with Ravindra Jadeja after the India series. And just talking to him about spin bowling, (he said) to keep trying to spin the ball. So I was pretty inspired by talking to him," Agar said.

The Australian said he would love to play like Jadeja.

"He's my favourite player in the world - I want to play cricket like he does. He's an absolute rockstar. He smacks them, gun fielder and spins the ball. But it's just his presence when he's out there, watching him filled me with confidence," he was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"When (he's) batting, he has a really positive attitude and he takes that attitude into the field as well."

Record-breaking Devine continues brilliance

PTI ■ PERTH

Sophie Devine once again proved unstoppable as her sixth consecutive 50-plus score steered New Zealand to victory in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup opener against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

Chamari Atapattu (41) and Hasini Perera's 60-run first wicket - Sri Lanka's best opening partnership in T20Is - gave them a bright start but Hayley Jensen's career-best bowling sent middle-order wickets tumbling at the WACA.

It took time for New Zealand to get the 128-run chase going but captain Devine led by example, becoming the only player, male or female, to register more than five consecutive 50-plus scores in the format, en route to the seven-wicket victory.

The Sri Lanka openers put on an impressive 60 for the first wicket, with Devine, Leigh Kasperet, and Lea Tahuhu all unable to find a Powerplay breakthrough.

up stepped teenager Amelia Kerr to cause problems on the fast track, the 19-year-old claiming the first wicket of the evening when she bowled Perera for 20 in the eighth over.

Perera didn't fall without her fine moments though, her scoop over wicket-keeper Rachel Priest giving the Sri Lankan contingent at the WACA plenty of reason to cheer.

Atapattu's 41, which included five fours and two sixes, built a solid base but the Sri Lanka captain was caught and bowled by the pacy Tahuhu.

The White Ferns were able to put the brakes on thereafter, Jensen claiming two wickets in an over when Anushka Sanjeevani's attempt over the top was caught by Bates run-



ning back before Devine caught Shashikala Siriwardena at short mid-wicket.

Nilakshi de Silva was the next to fall as the middle-order crumbled, Kerr taking the catch at backward point for Devine's first wicket before the spinner got a second breakthrough of her own.

Harshitha Madavi kept fighting with an unbeaten 27 off 26 balls but Sri Lanka finished at 127 for seven as Jensen bagged her third.

The White Ferns chase started slowly, openers Devine and Priest failing to take advantage of the powerplay before the latter was run out by Madavi for six.

Held at 25 for one after six overs, New Zealand were lagging a fair way behind Sri Lanka who were 51 without loss at the same stage, with Devine not at her fluent best.

But the skipper ground it out in Perth, joining up with Bates for a 40-run second-wicket stand to steady the ship.

Bates perished at the hands of Kavisha Dilhari but Maddy Green came in at four and guided the chase superbly, taking the pressure off her skipper with a career-best 29 off 20.

With less than a run-a-ball required, Devine finally freed her arms - two sixes finishing off the chase with two overs to spare as the White Ferns tasted early success in Group A.

Lewandowski double edges Bayern past bottom side Paderborn

AP ■ BERLIN

Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich squeezed past bottom side Paderborn 3-2 as Robert Lewandowski netted twice to spare goalkeeper Manuel Neuer's blushes in their final game before facing Chelsea in the Champions League.

Lewandowski now has a league-leading tally of 26 goals in the top flight, illustrating its importance to the team ahead of Tuesday's last 16, first-leg tie in London.

Bayern twice surrendered the lead in Munich before securing the win which leaves them four points clear.

With Bayern leading 1-0 thanks to Serge Gnabry's early goal, Neuer mistimed a clearance outside his area, allowing Paderborn midfielder Dennis Srbeny to fire into an empty net just before half-time.

"I was worried about knocking into him, because that would have been a red card," Neuer explained.

"I had the feeling he would get to the ball before me. That's why it looks that way. It's part of my game and it happens."

However, Lewandowski then struck in the 70th minute to make it 2-1, only for Paderborn to draw level again after pool defending allowed Sven Michel a simple tap in 15 minutes from time.

However, there was still time for Lewandowski to fire home the winner, thanks to Gnabry's superb cross.

In the build-up, Bayern coach Hansi Flick warned his team had to focus on strugglers Paderborn, but the Bavarian giants seemed to have one eye on Chelsea.

"Paderborn absolutely challenged us to the very last," admitted Flick.

Paderborn had the ball in Bayern's net after four minutes when their striker Strelci Mamba slid the ball under Neuer, but the effort was flagged offside.

As expected, Bayern took an early at the Allianz Arena when Gnabry celebrated his 100th Bundesliga appearance by turning and hitting into the bottom corner on 26 minutes.

Paderborn drew level after Neuer mistimed a clearance outside the box.

The Germany captain had twice previously cleared the danger by dealing with long-distance chances intended for Paderborn's forwards.

Dahiya wins gold Bajrang settles for silver

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ravi Dahiya impressed with a gold-winning effort at the Asian Wrestling Championship but India's biggest Olympic medal hope Bajrang Punia looked good until he ran into Japanese Takuto Otoguro in his final here on Saturday.

In a strong show by the home wrestlers, four of them reached the finals but only Ravi stood on top of the podium, with a scintillating show in the 57kg.

Ravi had shown at the 2019 World Championship in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, that he is one for the future, and he proved it again at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium.

His agility, tactic and a strong will all came together and resulted in a tremendous performance.

Apart from Bajrang (65kg), Gourav Baliyan (79kg) and Satyawart Kadiyan (97kg) also had to be content with silver medals.

World number two Bajrang entered the event as defending champion and conceded only two points on his way to the final but could not avenge his defeat to Otoguro in the 2018 World Championship title clash.

At that time his leg defence was a huge issue but on Saturday he lost in a different manner. In the fast-paced bout, Bajrang's leg defence was not a problem but he lost points on smart counter-attacks by Otoguro.

Much to the shock of home fans, Bajrang suffered a comprehensive 1-10 defeat against the world number nine.

Bajrang could score just one point on push-out even as Otoguro kept strengthening his lead with tremendous tactical acumen and power.

An upset Bajrang said he could not fight the way he wanted.



"It was important to fight with all these wrestlers because I will wrestle with them at the Olympics. I have taken my lessons from this. I could not fight as I wanted. It was a very different fight. His counter-attacks were good and this is an area I need to work on to," he said.

Bajrang's coach Shako Bentinidis admitted that Otoguro emerged stronger.

"Bajrang was slow, Otoguro was stronger. But I am happy with silver. It's difficult to maintain intensity and a high level of performance for two years. We still have five months and he remains a contender at Olympics," Bentinidis said.

"If you see all top wrestlers even in Europe have slowed down a bit. It's happening now and not two weeks before the Olympics, so it's okay. Wrestling is tough, it's not like football or basketball. In 65kg all wrestlers are almost at the same level," he said.

Poor leg defence and conceding a big lead in the first period troubled Bajrang for some time but none of them cropped up on Saturday as he remained strong from the beginning.

He won all his bouts by technical superiority, beating Tajikistan's Dzhamshed Shafirov, Uzbekistan's Abbas Rakhmonov and Iran's

Amirhossein Azim Maghsoudi.

In 57kg, Ravi, who is fast emerging a strong contender for the Tokyo Games, too, put up a strong show, beating 2017 World champion from Japan Yuki Takahashi (14-5) before pinning Mongolia's Tugs Batjargal in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinal, Uzbekistan's Nurislam Sanayev too could not challenge Ravi much.

In the final against Tajikistan's Hikmatullo Vohidov, the world championship bronze winner from India claimed the gold with ease, registering a victory by technical superiority.

"I am doing well and hopefully we will come up with a good performance at the Olympics too. The key for me is to stay injury-free as of now," said Ravi. Satyawart was outplayed by Iran's Mojtaba Mohammadshafie in the final on technical superiority, but Gourav fought his heart out before losing to Arslan Budazhapov of Kyrgyzstan.

Of the five Indians in action, it was only Naveen who missed out on a final appearance, in the 70kg category.

He lost his semifinal to Iran's Amirhossein Ali Hosseini 2-3. Later, he lost his bronze medal play-off to Kazakhstan's Meirzhan Ashirov.

Vidit loses play-off to finish second in Prague

PTI ■ PRAGUE

Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost his play-off game to finish second in the Prague Chess Festival here.

After an exciting final round, five players, including Gujrathi, finished in tied top place with five points from nine rounds.

With five players ending up with five points, the two best players with tie-break scores faced off in a blitz to decide the champion. The 16-year old Alireza Firouzja of Iran showed his abilities, winning both the games to capture the title.

The ninth and final round saw some interesting clashes with Gujrathi, who needed a win to have a chance of winning the title outright, slipping to a defeat at the hands of top-seed Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland. Gujrathi could not recover from a loss in round eight and went down on the final day to Duda on Friday.

The other key game to decide the title was between David Anton Guijjarro and Alireza Firouzja of Iran and a win for either player would have been enough to secure first place outright. Anton missed his chances during time trouble and Firouzja got the upper hand in the endgame as the game ended in a draw. P Harikrishna, the other Indian in the field, broke his sequence of draws by beating David Navara of Czech Republic to finish with 4.5 points and in seventh place.

AKASH WINS OPEN EVENT

India's G Akash won the Open event at the Prague Chess Festival here on Saturday.

With 7.5 points in his kitty, Akash remained unbeaten in nine rounds. He finished equal on 7.5 points with Jergus Pechac of Slovakia and Johan Sebastian Christiansen (Norway) but emerged victorious on tie-break.

The Tamil Nadu player (Elo rating 2449) drew his

final round game against Tom Kantons of Latvia in 51 moves to clinch the title. In the eighth round, the Indian International Master had beaten GM Arman Mikaelyan.

Akash, who started the event as the 20th seed, secured a GM norm and also qualified for the Challengers event of the tournament next year. Akash, a former national champion, posted six wins and scored three draws to end with 7.5 points. His victories included those against Grand Masters Christiansen (Elo 2600), Kantons, Mikaelyan and Croatian Ante Saric (Elo 2531).

BHARATH POSTS WIN MOSCOW

Bharath Subramaniam registered a creditable win while SP Sethuraman was held to a draw as the Indian duo shared the joint second spot with two others after three rounds in the 'A' group of Aeroflot Open chess tournament here.

Azerbaijan's Rauf Mamedov led the field with three points after three rounds, following a win over Shant Sargsyan in 51 moves.

Grandmaster Sethuraman split points with Chinese GM Jiancho Zhou while International Master Subramaniam (Elo rating 2402) posted a creditable win over higher-rated Armenian Gabriel Sargissian (Elo 2689).

Highly-rated Russian Grandmaster Vladislav Artemiev (Elo rating 2728), the top-seed, was held to a draw in 50 moves by Emilio Cordova of India. Among other Indians, B Adhiban, the sixth seed, settled for a draw against compatriot Abhimanyu Puranik. He is in tied third place with a bunch of players including compatriots Karthikeyan Murali, R Pragnanandhaa, N R Visakh, Vaibhav Suri and 13-year old M Pranesh, with two points each. A bunch of 25 Indians, including 14 Grandmasters, were participating in the 'A' group.

Lanka clinch ODI thriller

AFP ■ COLOMBO

A late cameo by Wanindu Hasaranga helped Sri Lanka pull off a thrilling chase to edge out West Indies by one wicket in the first one-day international on Saturday.

Hasaranga, known for his leg-spin bowling, hit an unbeaten 42 after coming in to bat at number eight as Sri Lanka chased down their target of 290 with five balls to spare and led the three-match series 1-0.

Hasaranga held his nerve after Sri Lanka slipped to 253 for seven following the departure of Thisara Perera for 32 to register his highest ODI score.

He built crucial partnerships including a 38-run stand with Perera and then put on 27 runs with Lakshan Sandakan for the ninth wicket.

With one to get off the last six ball Sandakan was run out but Keemo Paul bowled a no ball. "Of course, winning is the ultimate thing but we made couple of mistakes that we have to learn from," skipper Dimuth Karunaratne, who top-scored with 52, said after the victory. "Both me and Avishka Fernando could have converted our fifties into bigger scores but we will look to correct that in future."

Karunaratne and Fernando, who made 50, put on 111 runs for the opening wicket to lay the platform for what turned out to be the highest successful chase at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

For the West Indies, Alzarri Joseph claimed three wickets after Shai Hope made 115 in his team's 289 for seven.

In response, Sri Lanka lost their way after their strong start despite wicketkeeper-batsman Kusal Perera hitting 42 coming in at number three.

Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh and Paul took two wickets each to regularly dent Sri Lanka along with Joseph but Hasaranga stood firm. The effort trumped Hope's ninth ODI hundred after Sri Lanka invited West Indies to bat first.

Ervine ton keeps Zimbabwe on par with Bangladesh



DHAKA: Skipper Craig Ervine scored a dogged century as Zimbabwe shared the honours with Bangladesh on the opening day of the one-off Test here on Saturday.

Ervine hit 107 off 227 balls — his third century in Tests — as the visitors reached 228-6 at stumps after opting to bat first in what is the 100th international match between two teams.

Off-spinner Nayeem Hasan bowled Ervine, who struck 13 fours, shortly before the stumps before finishing with 4-68, the best return for the home side on the opening day. Nayeem helped Bangladesh restore balance in the contest with two wickets each in the final two sessions after Zimbabwe made a cautious start.

Pace bowler Abu Jayed struck early to remove opener Kevin Kasuza for two as Nayeem took a catch at gully after first run from the bat in Zimbabwe's innings came in the seventh over.

But other opener Prince Masvaure — who made 64 off 152 balls with nine fours — shared a 111-run with Ervine for the second wicket to put Zimbabwe in control.

Nayeem removed Masvaure with a sharp return catch shortly after the batsman

was dropped by Najmul Hossain at slip on 59 runs.

Brendan Taylor, who scored a century in both innings in his previous Test in Mirpur in 2018, soon followed Masvaure as Nayeem bowled him for 10.

The experienced right-hander attempted a reverse sweep but could only connect the ball with his gloves before it smashed onto his stumps.

Ervine and Sikandar Raza added 40 runs for the fourth wicket, before Nayeem removed Raza in the final session of the day.

Jayed trapped Timcyen Maruma leg before for seven for his second wicket after the batsman was reprieved by a TV umpire on one off Tajjul Islam.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Regis Chakabva was batting on nine alongside Donald Tiripano, not out zero, when stumps were drawn at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Mushfiqur Rahim returned to the Bangladesh lineup after missing out on their previous Test against Pakistan.

Zimbabwe handed Charlton Tshuma his Test debut. Bangladesh have lost their last six Test matches — five of them by an innings or more — but they have also beaten Zimbabwe five times in their last six encounters.

WAR AGAINST MAFIA



CRACKDOWN ON FOOD ADULTERATION, SPURIOUS GOODS & MATERIALS AND DRUG MAFIA

A Historic Movement in Madhya Pradesh



Kamal Nath
Chief Minister
Madhya Pradesh

Chief Minister Kamal Nath leads from front as citizens join charge to free the state from the clutches of malafide profiteering at cost of human health and life.

New Sand Policy of MP comes down on illicit sand mining

Besides destroying the organized mining racket, the policy earned a five-fold increase in mining allocation revenues for the state exchequer. Sand Mining Revenue touches Rs. 1234 crore from the previous Rs. 200 crores. Altering characteristics of the River and Riverbed, illegal mining causes irreparable damage to the ecosystem.

Action Against Spurious Farm Supplies

State-wide crackdown on those involved in the trade of spurious or adulterated fertilizers, seeds and pesticides. District level inspection teams collected and tested nearly 7000 samples. 1313 fertilizer shops and godowns inspected as part of campaign. Action initiated against 110 errant traders.

Anti-Drugs Campaign

- ❖ Massive awareness campaign reaches Schools, Colleges, Hostels.
- ❖ Over five lakh youths contacted as part of campaign in 2019.
- ❖ In a concerted drive against drug peddlers, 3270 cases resulted in the arrest of 4051 accused.
- ❖ 11.71 kg brown sugar seized from 426 accused.
- ❖ 171 kg opium seized from 134 accused.
- ❖ 9310 kg cannabis confiscated from 2903 accused.
- ❖ 6 kg hashish found in possession of 24 accused.
- ❖ 34875 kg poppy shell powder found with 339 accused.
- ❖ 1,13,448 units of chemical drugs seized with 121 accused.

SHUDDH KE LIYE YUDDH

Utilising powers conferred by the Constitution of India, Chief Minister Kamal Nath has taken up the fight against food adulteration as a top priority for his government. The constitution of India describes improvement of public health as one of the primary responsibilities of the State. Adulterated foods cause havoc on Public Health. While victims suffer

ailments ranging from bouts of food poisoning to heart ailments, continuing intake of contaminated edibles also leads to diseases like Cancer and a host of Renal complications. Besides destruction of citizen health, the adulterated food industry stresses public health and welfare budgets as most victims belong to socially and economically weaker sections.

Fight Against Food Adulteration



Highlights

- ❖ Formation of Division-level Flying Squads.
- ❖ Strengthening picketing at interstate borders.
- ❖ Consultations with citizens and traders in every district to create awareness for anti-adulteration campaign.
- ❖ 12089 samples of milk products, edibles and Pan Masala collected.
- ❖ 117 FIRs lodged against errant manufacturers.
- ❖ 42 offenders booked under stringent National Security Act (NSA).
- ❖ Rs. 24 Crore worth spurious goods confiscated.
- ❖ Rs. 25 Lakhs worth adulterated edibles destroyed.
- ❖ 835 cases filed.
- ❖ Rs. 4.56 Crore Penalty levied.

Umeenden Rang Layi, Tarakkie Muskurai

The most important lesson I've learned in this business is how to say no. I have said no to a lot of temptations, and I am glad I did
— Penelope Cruz



Mughal prince with a heart

Avik Chanda's book offers a view on the life and times of Dara Shukoh, the designated heir of Shah Jahan

2



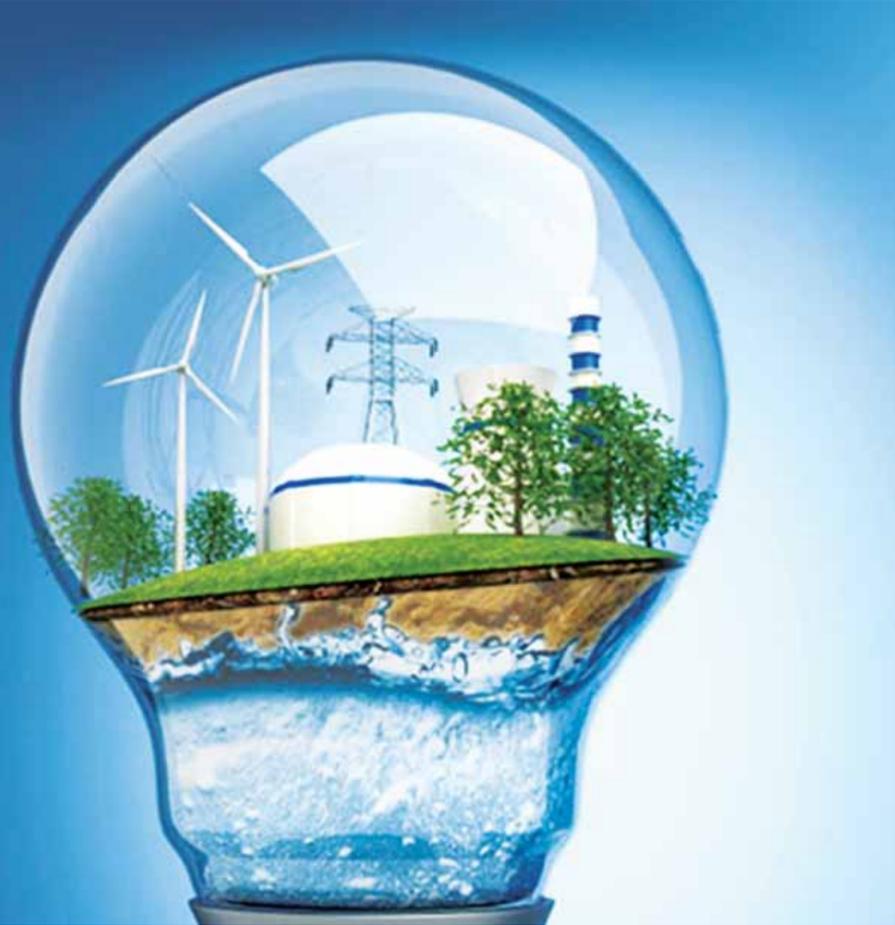
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Shiva: Existence personified

The concepts underlying Shiva can be seen in different perspectives — as Adi Guru, Nataraja and metaphysical being

Over the past two decades, India's approach takes into account the political, economic, social and environmental issues under which the energy security policy is being pursued today, writes DR ASHOK SHARMA

INDIA'S QUEST FOR ENERGY SECURITY



Energy security has been significant to the economic transformation, global prosperity and well-being of the human kind. Energy security will continue to be detrimental to the existing life and much more crucial to the developing countries than the developed world. The world's demand for energy grew by 95% in the last 40 years and the future demand, estimated to be more than 90%, to be because of huge growth in demand from India and China. These resources are finite, and the direct links between energy supply and economic growth have pushed the issue of energy security at the core of the policy debate with a considerable impact on the geopolitics.

India, one of the fastest growing major economies, is also the fastest growing energy consumer in the world. And set to become the most populous nation, it is not well endowed with energy reserves. India has mammoth task of meeting its economic and social developmental goals, and lift its millions of people out of poverty. The country has no option but to strive for sustained growth rate of 8-10% to achieve this. India's economy in all likely will continue to supersede the growth rate of all other major economies in the world in the foreseeable future. The demand for energy in the coming years will accelerate further as India embarks on manufacturing through Modi Government's much vaulted 'Make in India' programme, developmental projects and access to electricity to all. Consequently, energy security has emerged as one of the salient policy issues over the past decade and a half, and the successive Indian governments have emphasised on addressing the impending energy crisis challenges.

In the past, India's energy security has been narrow in its approach, mainly aimed at managing supply. But over the past two decades, India's energy security policy has evolved and approach is much more inclusive which takes into account the political, economic, social and environmental issues and concerns under which the energy security policy is being pursued today internationally. India's quest for energy security could be seen under the framework of four 'A's: availability, accessibility, affordability and acceptability, which is to make energy accessible to all the sections and sectors at an affordable price in a socially and politically acceptable carbon-controlled environment.

India's more than 50% of energy needs is derived from domestic stocks of coal, mainly for the electricity. Coal shall remain India's most important energy source and critical to its growth for the decades ahead. However, the percentage of coal in India's energy mix

will decline in the future. India, with 17% of the world's population, has just 0.8% of the world's known oil and natural gas resources. Today, oil accounts for 36% of the country's primary energy use. This figure is set to rise both in absolute and in percentage terms. India's domestic production is not sufficient to meet its demand. As a result, India already imports 80% of its crude oil needs. Without new and substantial domestic discoveries, imports will continue to increase. By contrast, natural gas currently provides only 8% of India's primary energy supply, and most of that gas comes from domestic sources, onshore and offshore. But the position is likely to change drastically as India plans towards the world average for the use of natural gas.

To promote oil and gas production at domestic level, the Indian Government has been taking several steps which range from encouraging the Indian companies to increase their domestic activities and widening its engagement with multinational companies, broadening opportunities for them to participate in oil and gas exploration in India. Also, to stimulate the investments and development in the exploration of hydrocarbon sources of energy, some of the steps have focussed on regulatory changes, a transparent gas pricing policy and redevelopment of uneconomical assets. The domestic efforts have also seen a concerted focus on exploring various alternative sources of energy which are infinite, renewable and environment-friendly. The government has given a massive push in this regard in the energy production through solar energy, wind power, hydroelectricity power, and biomass, and nuclear energy.

At the domestic level, the challenges are puzzling and often at odds such as increasing energy access, building a smart system for drawing investment in energy infrastructure and pricing of energy to facilitate the economic and environmental competence. Unlike the past policy of self-reliance, India's energy policy has shifted to position itself to address its new dependence on international markets, diversify its sources of energy abroad, look for alternative sources of energy, and increase its domestic production which continues to be in line with its earlier commitment to self-sufficiency. India's domestic exploration and production push is not very promising. As a result, India continues to rely on the foreign sources for its energy needs especially for petroleum.

Since increased domestic production alone will not be sufficient to meet the projected needs for either oil, gas or coal, India is also expanding its efforts abroad. Eventually, this has made energy security one of the top foreign policy

priorities. Despite the Indian government's emphasis on domestic production of coal and efforts to diversify the sources of energy, the demand for imported coal is likely to continue. India's energy demand, both for consumer and industry, cannot be done in the near future without the help of imported coal. There is no substantial proof that India can address its energy demand without the use of imported coal to supplement its domestic supply. For example, the energy security has been an important aspect of India-Australia relationship in which import of Australian high calorific value coal remains crucial.

Subsequently, energy security has emerged as one of the top foreign policy priorities of the Modi Government. This becomes significant as Modi Government embarks to make India a manufacturing hub through its much vaulted 'Make in India' initiatives. Energy security's primacy in Modi government's foreign policy is reflected in his record number of high-profile foreign visits during which he has been cutting energy deals with energy rich countries.

India's energy security pursuit becomes more challenging with the growing concerns of global climate change and political instability in the energy rich regions of the world. India has been relying mainly on coal and petroleum for its energy sources. India's move towards renewable energy sources will not be sufficient for its mounting energy demand. India has to look towards an energy sources with less carbon emission and provide base load power. In this context, gas and nuclear energy figure significant. Gas is less carbon emitting source of energy. India's gas utilisation is far below the world average. Modi government has also given priority to enhance the gas utilisation and move towards gas based economy. India is planning to set up gas pipelines for import of gas from its neighbouring nations. A number of gas pipelines are proposed and are in the construction phase. Majority of them involve intense geopolitics as some of the proposed gas pipelines will pass through Pakistan and China.

Since the two-thirds of India's oil imports come from one single region, that is, the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, India is following in the footsteps of other major oil-importing economies and making significant efforts to obtain supplies from sources outside the Gulf. In addition, the possibility of disruption from unseen political instability, religious extremism, terrorism, and threats to supply lines have pushed India to look for new hydrocarbon destinations abroad.

India has taken steps to diversify its hydrocarbon exploration in the regions

of Latin America, Africa, Caspian Basin, Russia and in the waters of Indo-Pacific region.

Problems of diversification of energy sources for India arises from the political volatility, geopolitics of these regions and above all it puts India in the direct competition with China particularly in the Non-Middle Eastern and Non-Gulf region as the new destination of energy source which further sparks a geopolitical competition and adds more complexities to an existing competitive and often conflicting India-China relationship.

Nuclear energy has the potential to become an important source of India's energy mix given its economic affordability in the long run and environment friendly. Currently, nuclear energy makes up around 3% of India's energy mix and has the potential to become 20 to 25% of India's energy mix by 2050. The lack of enriched uranium, light water reactors, and advanced technology hampered India's nuclear energy capability. But after the conclusion of India-US nuclear agreement, India's nuclear apartheid ended and unchained India from the technology denial regimes of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Act of 1978 which came in the wake of India's first atomic test in 1974. The nuclear deal was aimed to help India to meet its looming energy crisis by enabling it to access to safeguarded nuclear fuel, advanced light water reactors and civilian nuclear technology.

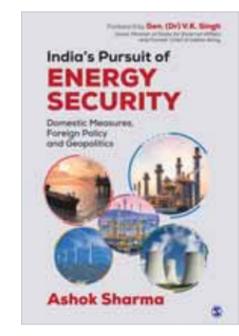
The India-US nuclear deal pushed the energy security to the core of India's foreign policy. After the India-US civilian nuclear deal, India has sealed the civilian nuclear agreements with a number of countries including France, Russia, Canada, Australia, Japan and the UK. Given India's non-signatory status of Nuclear-Non-Proliferation Treaty, for any country dealing with India in nuclear energy and technology trade becomes an issue of a mutual trust and confidence which required delicate diplomacy from India. Though aimed to address India's energy security, the US-India nuclear deal was viewed by China as part of the United States' grand strategy to contain the growing power and influence of China in Asia. As a result, the Chinese and Pakistani lobbying along with 'Nuclear Ayatollahs' put a concerted lobbying effort to block the nuclear deal at Capitol Hill, though failed. The India-China energy geopolitics resurfaced during India's bid to membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) recently. China used its clout and prerogatives to block India's case for the inclusion in the NSG. The nuclear energy is significant for India's efforts to shift to an environmentally friendly energy sources and alternate sources of energy sources.

India's push towards renewable energy has been remarkable which is reflected in Modi Government's schemes to give a boost to renewable energy sources. But even the renewable energy sources are not free from the competitive geopolitical environment. India-China energy geo-politics is also reflected in renewable energy space. Renewable energy's geographic and technical characteristics are fundamentally different from those of coal, oil and natural gas. Though still in the formative stage, international norms are being built towards the renewable energy, and India-China energy geopolitics will enter this new energy space as both are striving to influence the renewable energy space. The inevitability of renewable energy is undeniable and countries are gearing up for an increased share in their energy mix. Those that dominate the markets in these new technologies will likely have the most influence over the development patterns of the future. As other major powers find themselves in climate denial, China and India both are moving to use and exploit the global renewable energy space, though China is ahead.

India is emerging as a new normative player in the renewable energy regime. Prime Minister Modi has pursued unwavering commitment to energy security by constructing 175 GW of renewable capacity by 2022 and India is committed to its unflinching commitment to combat global warming irrespective of what happens in the rest of the world. Prime Minister Modi being awarded the "Champion of Earth" by the UN Secretary General in 2018 is additional power to India's growing normative leadership in this new energy source regime that translates into geopolitics as it helps India to enhance its image internationally.

India's energy policy is being pursued in a much more inclusive manner in its domestic and international settings to address its fast-growing energy demand in a competitive geo-political environment. India energy exploration abroad in the new regions is putting in direct competition with China. Unlike the US-Soviet Union energy geopolitics, the India-China energy competition has been mostly confined to the commercial and diplomatic level tussles, though both remain vulnerable to conflicts which may get aggravated due to their competitive and conflicting relations and the emerging strategic geometry in the Indo-Pacific region.

— Dr Ashok Sharma is a Visiting Fellow at the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy and the author of the book 'India's Pursuit of Energy Security: Domestic Measures, Foreign Policy and Geopolitics' (Sage Publications, 2019)



ENERGY SECURITY HAS EMERGED AS ONE OF THE TOP FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES OF THE MODI GOVERNMENT. THIS BECOMES SIGNIFICANT AS MODI GOVERNMENT EMBARKS TO MAKE INDIA A MANUFACTURING HUB THROUGH ITS MUCH VAULTED 'MAKE IN INDIA' INITIATIVES. ENERGY SECURITY'S PRIMACY IN MODI GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY IS REFLECTED IN HIS RECORD NUMBER OF HIGH-PROFILE FOREIGN VISITS DURING WHICH HE HAS BEEN CUTTING ENERGY DEALS WITH ENERGY RICH COUNTRIES





THE CHIEF REASON FOR GOING TO SCHOOL IS TO GET THE IMPRESSION FIXED FOR LIFE THAT THERE IS A BOOK SIDE FOR EVERYTHING — ROBERT FROST

Avik Chanda's book, *Dara Shukoh: The Man Who would be King*, is an ideal read, not only for aspiring historians but also for those interested in Indian history, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Mughal prince with a heart

A frequently heard complaint from a section of Indian historians is that vested interests have played havoc with the sub-continent's history, traditions and culture. If one goes through the history books taught in the Indian schools and universities, it will be found that those lamenting over the tampering of India's history are not exaggerating. Some sections of the country's valuable history have been suppressed from the new generation, especially from those who were born after 1950.

How many among those who were born after 1950 are familiar with the great Maratha ruler Shivaji, the valiant fighter Tantia Tope, the great social reformer Mahatma Phule, the all time great of the 19th century South India by name Chattampi Swamikal and his colleague Sree Narayana Guru?

We cannot put the entire blame for distorting history upon previous regimes alone. It is a strategy deployed since time immemorial to misinterpret historical facts by groups with vested interests. "History is written by victors," Sir Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister who is known for his erudition and knowledge had said. In modern times, it was proved by the British colonialists. The best example is Louis Mountbatten's decision to destroy even the last vestiges of victory symbols of the Japanese army from Singapore and Malaysia.

"After re-taking Singapore, Mountbatten's (who was the Supreme Commander, South East Asia during Second World War) first act was to order the demolition of the war memorial honouring slain heroes of the Indian National Army. The INA War Memorial at Singapore to commemorate the "Unknown Warrior" was started on July 8, 1945 at Esplanade Park. It was razed to the ground by Mountbatten's allied troops when they reoccupied the city. Demolishing memorials, war memorials and other revered symbols of defeated people is habitual Christian triumphalism as is desecrating the tombs of the rulers of conquered people," writes Radha Rajan, one of the highly respected thinkers of our times.

Most Indians are not really serious about learning history. They are not even bothered about recent history as can be seen by the attitude of the new generation towards the dark days of



emergency declared by the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1975.

I was shocked to see the larger than life flex boards with pictures of Fidel Castro and Che Guevara greeting the delegates of Indian Science Congress during the 2009 Indian Science Congress held at Thiruvananthapuram. There were no pictures of Sir C V Raman, Prof J C Bose, S N Bose and the likes who took Indian science to new heights. But for ISRO, which co-sponsored the event, there would not have been a single picture of that prince of Indian Space Science, Vikram Sarabhai.

This is not the case with science alone. How many among our new historians are familiar with the works of the great Acharya Ramesh Chandra Majumdar, whose seminal work of

eleven-volume *History and Culture of Indian People* preserve and protect the great history of this great nation from getting tampered by the evil designs of people following imported and outdated ideologies?

Dara Shukoh, son of Shah Jahan, was the unsung hero of the Mughal Dynasty. Dara, the eldest son of Shah Jahan lived only up to the age of 44 years but left indelible marks in the history of the sub continent.

What makes him dear to the people in Mughal empire was his tolerance towards other religions and humane nature, unlike his younger brother Aurangzeb, who went on to become the Mughal ruler presiding over the kingdom till the ripe age of 89!

Aurangzeb was known for his hatred

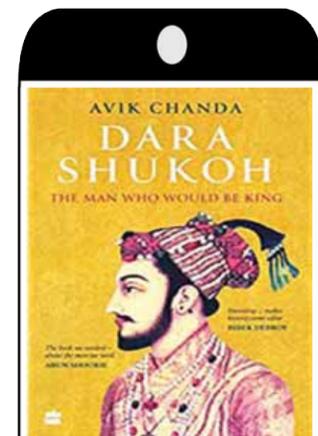
towards Hindus and went on demolishing and destroying the Sanatana Dharma and its symbols like temples, ashrams and monasteries. Though the secularists tried to portray him as a philanthropist by hiring the services of Audrey Truschke to come out with a volume by name *Aurangzeb: The Man and Myth*, it fell all flat as she could not counter the eye witness accounts of Francois Bernier (a European physician and traveller in Shah Jahan's court) and Niccolao Manucci (a military strategist for Dara, who continued to work with Aurangzeb after the fall of the former).

Dara in his brief tenure as prince had got the Vedas and Upanishads translated into Persian and French and this itself speak volumes about his compassion for anything that originated in the

sub continent. Who in India would have heard about Bernier and Manucci if it had not been for S L Bhyrappa who in his famous work *Aavaran* told the readers about the official eye witness accounts of these two Europeans?

Avik Chanda, a business advisor with degrees from Delhi School of Economics, has taken from where Bhyrappa left.

Chanda's book "*Dara Shukoh: The Man Who Would Be King*" is a refreshing experience. Chanda gives the readers a bird's eye view on the life and time of Shukoh, the designated heir of Shah Jahan. Even as a young prince, Shukoh wanted the common man to know more about the Islamic saints and for that he opted words instead of swords unlike Aurangzeb and Tipu Sultan. "What Dara



DARA SHUKOH: THE MAN WHO WOULD BE KING
Avik Chanda
HarperCollins, ₹699

was striving for was not linguistic and literary brilliance but a tone of simplicity, an idiom that would induce faith in the reader who was a common man," writes Chanda (Page 51). Thus was born *Safinat-ul-Aulia*, an account of the lives of over 400 saints!

The account of Dara Shukoh once again underlines the fact that the Muslim invaders who occupied the thrones in New Delhi and elsewhere in the subcontinent chose this land only to loot and proselytise. The Sufi saints were Islamic evangelists who went ahead with their mission by singing about love and preaching the message of anarchy. Despite the fact that he belonged to the Mughal dynasty, Dara had some civility in his heart unlike his forefather Babar or sibling Aurangzeb. Those who are out to paint Aurangzeb with divinity may need more self styled historians like Audrey Truschke because we have writers like Avik Chanda for digging out the truth.

Dara Shukoh: The Man Who would be King is an ideal work not only for aspiring historians but for general readers interested in Indian history.

NEW ARRIVALS

MISSING IN ACTION: THE PRISONERS WHO NEVER CAME BACK

Chander Suta Dogra
HarperCollins India, ₹699

The story of India's soldiers missing in action is one that remains unfinished, a spillover of the wars with Pakistan. These are men who went missing in enemy territory while on daring missions during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars. The nation has forgotten them, though successive governments continue to make token acknowledgements about their missing status. Over the last five decades, there have been scattered reports offering information piecemeal, but this is the first time the saga has been fully told. The result of years of research, the book unearths startling revelations that shed new light on the subject.

SO ALL IS PEACE
Vandana Singh-Lal
Penguin, ₹499

A richly atmospheric, deeply claustrophobic story with a stunning denouement, of two women confronting the everyday realities of their city and country. *So All is Peace* provides an unflinching insight into love, lust, fear, grief, and the decisions we make, through a cast of sharply drawn characters brought together by an unspoken wrong.

BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD & BEYOND
Arthy Muthanna Singh, Mamta Nainy, and Kaustubh Srikanth
Red Panda, ₹299

An easy handbook on bird-watching for children and the uninitiated - take the journey with Binee into the magical world of birds. Colourful illustrations and information, interesting nuggets of information, practical things you should know and much more!

Raghupati Raghav on the Banjo

'There is no such thing as a wrong note as long as you can sing it,' Pete Seeger said, his gentle tone immediately endearing him to an audience that had spilled, recalls SHANTANU DATTA in his book. Excerpt:

They all sang along. With Pete Seeger it is difficult not to. Embellishing his selection with high-note harmonies by grandson Tao Rodriguez, Pete strummed his banjo and guitar to strike up the ever-popular *If I had a hammer* question, reminisce Jose Marti's *Guantanamo*, count 1,2,3 on the *Vietnam Song* and run through the *Midnight Special*. In between there were stories, lots of laughter, more stories and a knee-slapping, foot-stomping jingle that had the 77-year-old bringing the house down with thunderous applause.

And they all sang along. The money tune came next.

It was zesty, what with Tao's freewheeling harmonies aided by the snappy guitar rhythm: *...Money can still be handy too (but) let's not allow 'king money' to rule.*

The audience, essentially 30-plus, was loving it.

'How does he do it?' 'What energy, it's amazing...' were all that the chattering classes could manage.

But it was truly magical. How could one man, 77 years old, and helped only by a guitar and a grandson, captivate his listeners thus? And that too when there are none of the now-generation psychedelic pyrotechnics, no multi-coloured lights and no fancy bass-boosting sound system.

The truth is Pete doesn't need all that. He never did. For having spent over five decades

directing music towards social change for peace, equality and decency, his philosophy was always about heart-and-soul, and about the power of simplicity. No wonder they always sing along.

During the early '60s, after he was able to reorganise the Newport Folk Festival to use profits to help folk performers, he privately published *How to Play the Five-String Banjo* but refused to copyright the book because the 'banjo belongs to everyone'. Pete's humanity was so unusual it seemed threatening. Always a popular target of the US witch-hunt-he was sentenced to prison and blacklisted during the McCarthy era-particularly suspicious was his custom of learning songs from every country where he gave concerts.

Back at Siri Fort, Tao held on to this tradition as he rendered an Argentinian song about god, war and the future. Pete was on harmony this time as the grandson's soul-stirring high-pitched singing had the audience fall head over heels. A standing ovation was the young man's reward.

A slow and soft tune on Pete's recorder helped the ever-cooperating audience hum one note for effect, which was then followed by what the Guru had picked up from an Indian student, *Ram Dhun*. Tao dwelled on the high notes once again as Pete celebrated his comeback.

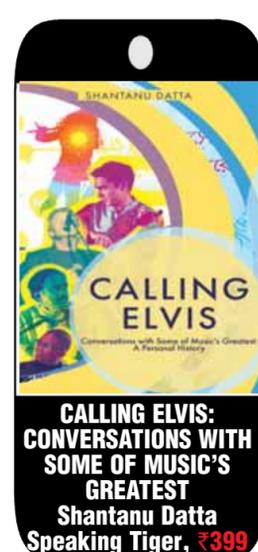
Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram/Patita Pavan Sita Ram... And they all sang along.



WE SHALL OVERCOME: Pete Seeger by E.P. Unny (author's personal collection)

Over two hours had slipped by rather quickly. By then there were more songs with tabla player Ashim Chakraborty join-

ing the duo. But the audience was getting restless. Some of the favourites were yet to come. 'Turn, Turn', someone screamed



CALLING ELVIS: CONVERSATIONS WITH SOME OF MUSIC'S GREATEST
Shantanu Datta
Speaking Tiger, ₹399

from the far corner of the balcony. *Last Train to Nuremberg, Garbage*, it went on. Amidst all the shouts for encores, chief guest Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented the customary floral tributes on behalf of hosts, Indian Council for Cultural Relations. And as Pete thanked the 'wonderful singing audience,' he obliged with *The Anthem*.

We shall overcome, We shall overcome, someday Oh deep in my heart I do believe We shall overcome someday...

And they all sang along.

I learnt that song in Bangla in the '70s as a ten-year-old while living on a college campus on Beltola Road in Bhawanipore, hearing students sing it with zest, welcoming a group of families from Bangladesh who had fled the war of 1971 and had been sheltered there, courtesy my aunt, the principal of Beltola Basic Training College. Not sure if I grasped its true import then, but as the years passed I realised how my mother and I could well have been among them. Not fleeing war, but finding ourselves without a roof over our heads after life in Agartala took an unexpected turn.

That song, anthem really, would be heard on various occasions in Calcutta; at student marches protesting too few teachers in government colleges, at Left Front political rallies against the bourgeois Press or funnily enough, at residents' meetings to demand, not eight-hourly, but four-hourly, water supply from Calcutta Corporation and at a Dharamtala sit-in defence of the Bengali's inalienable right not to work and enforce a state-wide shutdown (bandh). Calcutta still loves a good protest. We had to take it in our stride. Still do.

But Delhi is way different. *Calling Elvis: Conversations with Some of Music's Greatest: A Personal History*, written by Shantanu Datta is published by Speaking Tiger

Trump's jamboree in Delhi for regional equations

The American national interest is served by US President Donald Trump's visit to New Delhi as both the nations are striving hard for a newly discovered "ally-hood" which might be a step towards a closer and a more fruitful relationship, as, an aftermath of President Trump's visit to New Delhi which can be considered as significant summitry with all its ebullient expectations.

It was President Trump only, in the run up to the National Security Strategy Document in 2017, who declared that India needs to assume novae roles in the international system going by its rising pelf, geo-economic influence and strategic might. This gels well with the avowed ordering principle of "Vishva guru" which India adheres to as a functional aspect of its foreign policy though the dictum needs much more of an elaboration in the light of the ebb and flow of the tide of International Relations. Such an American perception will be the key theme when President Trump visits New Delhi.

Perceived in the context of President Trump's visit, a few pointers need to be elucidated. The foremost being the step which is much awaited in New Delhi that the US ought to disown the arch antagonist Pakistan and a kind of a reassurance to New Delhi can be given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, though all military aid has already been curtailed to Islamabad. Secondly, New Delhi will air its concern about the outbreak of

coronavirus and also as an attendant fact, China's extended ministrations in the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) region and the Malacca straits should be another theme to be deliberated upon by the summittees.

Also, PM Modi can insist upon President Trump that in the case of other peaceful nuclear explosions (PNEs) and in the context of the Civilian Nuclear Liability Bill, more of a clearer comprehension can be reached between the twin nations in New Delhi, which falls in the criterion of the of PM Modi being a "Good Friend," as elucidated by President Trump in one of his latest statements on the soil of the United States of America. Also, the Indian negotiators can look forward to a novae appreciation of the fact that India has waged a successful war against terrorism and a more practical and reflective collaboration can be materialised between New Delhi and Washington in tougher times to come. The deliberations might include the trade differences in relation with stents, knee implants, information and communication technology products along with the cess which the United States imposes on the sale of Harley Davidson bikes in India.

Perceived in such an interesting and illuminating light, the entire world looks forward to the upcoming jaunt of President Trump to New Delhi as both he and PM Modi share special chemistry with each



other as has been evident during their various rendezvous. The Indian support to President Trump can be the order of the day on February 24, 2020, in relation to his electioneering in the American homeland. The summitry need not be dwelt upon as a promotional election event for President Trump, but, as a significant course corrective in the larger spectrum of the relationship between both the nations.

All in all and in toto, the negotiators from India and the United States are engaged fervently to reach a micro trade deal before President Trump lands in Delhi. If a well nuanced trade and investment quid pro quo is not arrived at by the twin interlocutors then a fledgling trade alliance is on

cards as a prologue to the President's jaunt to New Delhi. Such a biz takeway will be the cognizant quid pro quo in the commercial tryst with each other. Also, despite the divergences in the context of aluminum trade and the retaliatory Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), both the heads of Governments are well suited to negotiate hard for trade deal in lines with the characteristics of shared values, democratisation and attendant principles of a liberal trade ecosystem. Also, President Trump would do well to heed the concerns of PM Modi. Also, as an attendant fact the United States is expected to discuss the idiom of protectionism which the New Delhi denomination is adhering to in the light of a cyclical domestic

downturn in the Indian economy. The US-based GSP refers to through the instrumentality of the US Customs and Border Protection that, "The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) provides duty-free treatment to goods of designated beneficiary countries. The programme was authorised by the Trade Act of 1974 to promote economic growth in the developing countries and was implemented on January 1, 1976." It has been observed that a trade fight overshadows the dictum of the larger Strategic relationship in the specificities of the Trump-Modi meet in the Raisina Hill. The strategic collaborative exercise has germinated between both the nations since the last decade but this strategic partnership in the

context of the Asiatic Space and the Indian Ocean Rim nations is all set to be discomfited in the aftermath of a trade war like scenario between India and United States of America.

The US Trade representative, Robert Lighthizer is already negotiating a hard ball Indian negotiating side to ramp up the Presidential visit with a prized micro deal to serve it up for the American electorate which is also in the larger protectionist national interest of President Trump's blue collar America. The Indian concern at the Trump-Modi itinerary might be the chances of reprisals that New Delhi might have to confront if all do not go well with the larger trade talks in New Delhi. The allegation from the American industry and corporate is that India is still evading the liberal trade regime and ratcheting up the guillotine of strait-jacketed protectionism. The Foreign Policy, FP trade report, contends and informs us that President Trump is more concerned with the trade imbalance which the United States trade structure has with India and China, but that might be truer with the People's Republic of China, then, with India. As a recent U-turn, President Trump has indicated that no big trade deal will be signed between both the nations in his visit to India though his negotiators had done the spade work before the President's visit, which comes as a rude shock to the twin negotiating sides being engaged in trade negotiations. Though, the trade

deal which will be limited in context, aims to achieve waivers for the American farm products along with the homeland's dairy products, the refusal to ink trade deals points at the underlying tensions between both the nations. The US President has stated that he is looking forward to a limited trade deal while the wholesome agreement can wait for the future which might not augur well for New Delhi.

Apart from the trade optics of the Trump-Modi summitry, the diplomatic factoid of Xi Jinping ceremoniously inking trade agreements with Myanmar and establishing a deep water port in Myanmar, is a stately and crafty striving to sideline both India and the United States in the Indian Ocean Rim. It also aims at isolating India, which does not augur well for the United States, which now feels the squeeze of an overtly aggressive Chin in the contested waters of Indian Ocean. This theme, along with the threat for an Indo-US détente, might turn out to be a key part of deliberations in the President-Prime Minister summitry in New Delhi on February 25. Still, the epithet of being the "Tariff King" which the American President has utilised for India reflects the expected concessions from the side of the New Delhi fence as an aftermath of the February summitry.

The entire world looks forward to the upcoming jaunt of President Trump to New Delhi as both he and PM Modi share special chemistry with each other as has been evident during their various rendezvous



MANAN DWIVEDI

(The writer teaches at International Relations and International Organisations, IIPA, New Delhi)

PERSPECTIVE

Syrian endgame solidifies Assad's grip

Is there an alternative form of coalition, minus Assad, which can govern unstable Syria? It seems unfeasible, as the US and major powers involved in West Asia have seen the disasters that unleashed in countries such as Libya, Egypt, Yemen, and particularly in Iraq, after the departure of their longest-standing autocrats



MAKHAN SALKIA

The Syrian war is just going to complete nine years of devastation, displacement and a new power play in the restive West Asian region. The war that started in 2011 has witnessed for the first time the direct involvement of Russia at an equal pace against the US-led coalition. Though Bashar al-Assad has been threatened by anti-Government forces since the beginning, he has managed to survive till date. Now only the last rebel redoubt of Idlib is yet to be brought back to the fold of Government forces.

The biggest challenge is ending the ongoing civil war. It is one of the most serious humanitarian disasters in recent political history of the world, with the gravest refugee predicament since the World War II. More than half a million people have so far lost their lives. Almost half the population of Syria has been displaced. The number of refugees who have fled the country now exceeds five million, including more than 2.5 million children.

Turkey continues to host the largest chunk of refugees numbering nearly four million. Looking at the current scenario in Syria, a completely war-ravaged nation, the worst comes for the internally displaced and for the refugees as they all would keep fighting for their survival. Normally a refugee is a person who is forced to leave his home and his country because his life and liberty are in danger. But the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees describes a refugee as one person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country".

However, this typical definition of refugees have been broadened to include people who are forced to leave their countries because of widespread violence, war and foreign occupation that has put



In this Feb 9, 2020, file photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian Army soldiers flash the victory sign in the village of al-Eis, in Aleppo province, Syria. Syria's civil war has long provided a free-for-all battlefield for proxy fighters. But in its ninth year, the war is drawing major foreign actors into direct conflict, with the threat of all-out confrontations becoming a real possibility. Via AP

their lives at risk in their own homeland.

As of today, the Syrian refugees have crossed over to countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, North Africa, Iraq, Egypt, the US, Canada and to large parts of Europe. And out of the total refugees those who are asylum seekers are about a million. And a large number of them are in Germany and the rest of them are spread across Sweden, Canada and in the US.

The cumulative loss to gross domestic product from the starting of the war, i.e. 2011, through the early part of 2017 has been estimated by the international agencies, including the World Bank, to an amount of \$226 billion. So far there has been no definitive cost of reconstruction worked out, but the Assad regime has wishfully mentioned it as near-

ly \$400 billion. Thus, rebuilding Syria would be a daunting task both for the Syrian Government and international aid agencies.

Today the victory of the Assad regime over the rebel forces across Syria is a reality. Mainly, the rebel-held strongholds and large swaths of territories in the southern parts of Syria have been retaken by the Government forces in recent months. The main cities under the Government control are Damascus, Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Latakia, Tartus, Palmyra and Albu Kamal. And the Free Syrian Army (FSA) — a loose organisation of armed brigades — was formed in the beginning of 2011 by defectors from the Syrian Army. Also many disgruntled civilians who want to topple the Assad's family rule had also joined the FSA. But what is striking is that since

the battle of Aleppo, the FSA has been only able to retain its control over limited areas in north-western Syria. The main area that it controls is the Idlib province wherein the final battle now is between the rebels and the Government forces. On the other hand, the Kurdish forces have occupied much larger areas, than any other forces, which include Raqqa, Qamishli and Hasakah. In fact, reclaiming Raqqa from the grip of ISIS was a historic win for the Kurdish Army. After the battle of Raqqa, the ISIS has been confined to an area near Albu Kamal.

Unfortunately, these areas are surrounded by the Assad forces from the west and the Kurdish from the east. And the rest of rag-tag militias who are battling the Syrian Army for their survival are Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, Iran backed

Hizbollah and the Syrian Democratic Forces, largely dominated by the Kurdish Peoples Protection Units known as the YPG.

So far, more than five series of ceasefire agreements have been concluded between different parties, including the US, Russia, Jordan, Assad Government and the major rebel groups. It first started in 2016 by the UN known as the Geneva Syria peace talks. In fact by February 26, UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2268 that demanded all parties to comply with the terms of the agreement. As no single party had adhered to the terms of the deal violence surfaced once again. By the end of September 10, the US and Russia concluded deal bringing ceasefire between the Assad Government and an American

backed coalition of rebel groups. Both the parties and their allies violated the deal hence the war took an ugly turn.

The third peace agreement signed between Turkey and Russia in Astana led to complete ceasefire across Syria. This effort continued despite the non-participation of the ISIS, YPG and the al-Nusra Front and constant eruptions of violent clashes in different parts of Syria.

The fourth ceasefire effort came into being on May 6, 2017, among Russia, Turkey and Iran in Astana to divide Syria into four de-escalation zones. However, some rebel groups alleged that the intention behind the truce is simply to divide Syria into several sectarian zones so as to escalate the crisis. In a way, such partition would allow the Damascus to divide the anti-Government forces and pound on them separately. And by July 2017, the Trump Administration, Moscow and Amman (Jordan) made an effort to broker a peace deal in southern Syria. This agreement is valid despite continuous exchange of fire between the Government forces and various rebels.

The war in Syria is definitely going to wind down. The reason behind is that the rebels are fast losing their grounds. Among them the most powerful ISIS which is almost dying down with its leader's death and mostly breaking down to splinter groups with diverse aims and objectives.

This is accompanied by constant reinforcements from Russia with man and material towards the Government forces. And in a situation where in America is busy preparing for the next round of presidential polls, Trump is hardly sparing anytime for a definitive solution in war-torn Syria. But the Kurdish stronghold in the North of Syria is going to continue unless there is a global understanding to either recognise their homeland or to completely vanquish them, provided Washington backs such a deal. All the anti-Government groups have now consolidated in the Idlib province. The sad part is that

all of them do not have a feasible strategy to fight the Russian-backed Assad forces which might lead to a sure victory for Assad.

Finally, since the end of the Cold War, what we have seen is that ceaseless efforts lead to end of most of the wars along with warring groups laying down their arms. With other major conflicts and international hot spots rising such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen, etc, the Syrian issue has been substantially moved to the sidelines despite having serious refugee problems spanning from the West Asian region to Europe. Besides, the efforts to bring the warring groups and major powers to the negotiation table are seemed to be stalled. What is ultimately pushing Assad to near victory is the fast rising symptoms of fractured insurgency. On the other hand, the Government forces over the period of almost nine years have regained its strength despite having major debacles in the past.

Now what lies ahead for Assad? Is he going to continue in the seat of power? Minus Assad, is there an alternative form of coalition that can continue holding onto the current level of stability in Syria? Certainly, Assad would continue for now. Simply put this seems not possible as the US and major powers involved in West Asia have seen the disasters that unleashed in countries such as Libya, Egypt, Yemen, particularly in Iraq, after the departure of their long held autocrats. Keeping this in mind, Assad must continue and his immediate removal could herald total anarchy in Syria. Clearly, no plausible alternative is emerging to Assad regime as most of the splinter rebel groups do not agree to a common agenda of governance. Their only aim is to have control over their own territory and assets, and fighting the corrupt Assad regime is just an excuse. Therefore, the brutal war may come to an end sooner or later, permanent peace seems to be elusive in Syria.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)



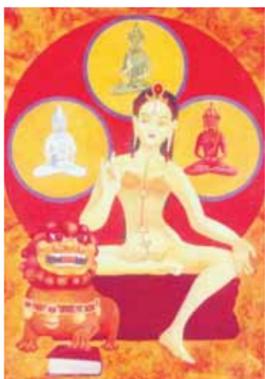
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
Bring positive changes in your lifestyle, and make efforts to improve your health situation. You need to exercise under an expert or go for nutritional education to make sure that you are eating better. Outdoor activities will draw your attention. At work, you will receive admiration from superiors and colleagues. The working environment will be friendly, cohesive and that would increase your efficiency. Promotion/hike in salary is indicated. Work on improving your knowledge and skills. On the personal front, you are strong, courageous and confident. At home, your domineering attitude could irritate others, and you may find yourself alone. This is the time to tame your tongue and bring compassion and concern for the loved one.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
Your physical strength is beyond comparison this week and you must be aware of it. Some of you may embark on an overseas trip or may get an opportunity to work, study, or live overseas for an extended period of time. You will encounter new experiences and welcoming hosts who will support you unconditionally. Overall, this is a good week. On the career front, an enhanced status, promotion or designation is on the cards. You can take important decisions related to your career as you are in a very sound and grounded position. The abundance of energy and self-confidence will give you a boost to move ahead. On the personal front, you may meet a romantic person. A good news is expected to come your way. Be open to exploring your feelings.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
You will enjoy good health and vitality this week. Those who are dealing with a serious illness, a new health modality or a healer will prove helpful. Stay positive and expect the best. It is important to share your spiritual understandings with others. Your life will improve immensely if you reach out. Career-wise, learn to delegate responsibilities, especially if you are overloaded with work. A dilemma at the workplace will demand action or decision. Analyse all available information before you arrive at a conclusion. In love, you are likely to question whether you and your long-term partner should stay together. You may choose to go your separate ways. Singles, this may be the time when you finally commit to settling down.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Saturday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
Your health will be very good. You will feel exceptionally well and upbeat about your future. You need to consider ways to maintain your good health. You will enjoy peace, joy, and prosperity this week and would be filled with positive energy. Those who have recovered from a serious ailment must follow their routine consultation. On the career front, you need to watch out for any cheating. Make sure you are doing things the right way, and then you will have nothing to worry about, even if someone is out to get you. In the matters of heart, you are not very vocal about your feelings. If you love someone, express it. Your introvert and individual personality is definitely not helping you get closer to someone you love. Trust your instincts.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
You need time and quiet to connect with your soul and energies around. Health, vitality and inner vibrancy will fill you with energy and inspiration. Creative ideas will occupy your mind. Career-wise, there could be a moment which begs you to bring about some desirable changes. Those of you who are not satisfied with the current job, switching to a new job is likely. Good news: the job you find will be better than the previous one. Transfer to a desired place or changing locations are a possibility. On the personal front, you may come across an analytical mind. Make sure not to get pulled into silly debates. Do not ignore your loved ones. Take time out for them and show your concern. Let the heart speak louder than the mind.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
Let go of the past and any wrongs that you perceive were done to you, mainly if you are dealing with chronic medical issues. Letting go of your need to be right will go a long way towards helping you to feel better. Think positively. You may find yourself exploring ideas and spiritual directions that you never thought would appeal to you. Career-wise, you may be inspired to start a new creative project, take up an art class, or even dance. You see new potential in allowing your creativity to flow. To those looking for a job, a suitable job offer matching with your profile may surprise you. For those in a committed relationship, it is best to handle situations in a traditional way. Those feeling suspicious about their partner, make a point to talk about it even if it is difficult.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
You will enjoy happiness, good health and worldly pleasures. You tend to be enthusiastic. Carefully weigh and consider what others ask of you. You might consider taking a long holiday. Some of you may travel abroad. Some may even choose to stay at home in order to rejuvenate yourself. Practicing yoga, meditation, cosmic healing or learning new interests is on the cards. Professionally, things are good. Don't take your initial success for granted. Enjoy what you have for the moment. Business is lucrative. On the relationship front, you need to analyse whether you are being realistic in love. Don't spend too much time in self-pity or wishing your life away. Put your anger in check.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
Work towards good health and vitality. Plan your routine. Those of you who like to dwell in solitude, it would be a good idea to reach out to others. At work, good news is indicated. You will get the benefits from the choices that you make. An 'out-of-the-blue' opportunity may arise. Your company may send you on a foreign assignment. This is a good time for those in the export and import business. You have the potential to crack the most difficult competitive exam and face the interview with confidence, if you have applied for a job. On the love front, those who are committed, you may find your workload or that of your partner interfering with the relationship. Make time and space for the relationship, regardless of your jobs, otherwise, things will suffer.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
You are a quiet and keen observer this week. Your perception about life will change sensing the positivity around. You will feel healthier than ever. Things will move along well, and hope will emanate — with good cause. Avoid obsession/passion this week. On the career front, you want your time and space. Take rest to emerge from those difficult times, perhaps the trauma of losing your job or financial and health worries. Stress and conflict with your colleagues will overpower you. This is not the time to make decisions, particularly when you are at your vulnerable most. In love, happiness and compassion is on the cards. The start of a new relationship, be it a friendship or a romance will bring a smile to your face.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22
This is the time for self-improvement. Be creative in your work and avoid stress. Follow a good diet and take adequate rest. Tensions of the past would ease off. Listen to your body and work accordingly. The spiritual journey proves to heal this week. Career-wise, this is a very good time to start planning long term, even if you are very young. Plan to work methodically. An intriguing business opportunity will come along this week. The investments you made in the past will fetch you good returns, and with interest. In love, confusion will prevail. Think calmly and carefully about what your deal-breakers are in a relationship. Be honest with yourself first, and then be honest with your beloved.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
With your experience and maturity, you will be able to take charge of your life. Instead of being innovative, you need to adapt to the existing set of beliefs and systems that are already in place. Any new theory or fashionable trends will not work for you this week. On the career front, a foreign assignment may come up. There's a good chance that you are working far too hard for recognition and money. This is the time to remind yourself of your real value. In relationship, messages of love and affection will come your way. You will feel pampered and wish to rejuvenate yourself this week. Those who are single, a new suitor with whom you have a lot in common, and who is also very adventuresome, may enter your life. Exciting times ahead.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
Do not run away from reality. It does not suit your personality. If dealing with a health issue, you need to look for another healthcare practitioner. Look for treatment outside your purview. Plan a vacation to natural surroundings to rejuvenate yourself. Avoid stress. On the career front, share your responsibilities as you may feel overstressed. Share your thoughts with your friends. Reflecting upon the past will help you prepare for the next phase. Review your past experiences and mark your learnings. All the pieces of the puzzle of your life are finally coming together. On the personal front, true love, balanced partnership, commitment, and all good things that most of us hope for in love and relationship, are yours to savour!

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday

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Lord Shiva: Existence personified

This Friday, Hindus celebrated Shivaratri dedicated to Lord Shiva, popularly seen as one amongst the God-trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (another contextual naming of Shiva). Hindus apart, who revere Him in highest esteem, Shiva now seems to be extending His charm even in the scientific world. He, now in his dance form (Nataraja), is prominently displayed at Perth laboratory, known for its particle accelerators engaged in exploring what they term as "God Particle." For, in their perception, Shiva's dance symbolises the play and interplay of cosmic energy streams, which progressively evolved into the manifest plural world. The concepts underlying Lord Shiva can be seen in different perspectives. For meditators, He remains the Adi Guru. In Nataraja form, he remains the guiding spirit of the classical dancers. Kashmir Shaivism carries on its metaphysical perception around Shiva. To me, He comes out as 'Existence personified'.

A look at two imageries associated with Shiva in togetherness, presents a unified picture of the world process, encompassing the whole gamut of creation, sustenance and recycling. In the

first picture Lord Shiva is seated in meditative posture on Mount Kailash. He is shown having lunar crescent over his head, almost bare bodied with just the private part covered with tiger skin. His poison fed blue neck is encircled by venomous snake. River Ganges flows down his matted hair locks. He is seen holding a trident in one arm, *Damru* (double headed hand drum) in another, rosary in the third, and the 4th palm in blessing mode. Being in meditative posture symbolises reflecting on the churning within, on the prospects of creation. As the rosary keeps circling, the life cycle keeps moving in succession. The blessing mode implies that all existences draw succour out of his inexhaustible potential.

In the second imagery, Lord Shiva, mounted on a bull, has in his entourage multitude forms of existences, some of them even weird and invisible. To name a few, divine beings, humans, devilish existences, animals, birds, goblins, and even invisible existences such as ghost etc. Symbolically, his entourage is indicative of the multipolar manifest world with all its enormity and diversity. This particular symbol stands for the dynamic world ever on the move at its own pace,



as would a bull moving at a constant pace mean. While pulling a cart, the bull moves unprovoked at a constant pace and would not stop in the way till it reaches a place designated for being fed and taking rest. After a while, the bull again takes the journey forward, and then finally reverts back to its normal place of abode after completing the voyage. The manifest world too, after being on the run for a specified time, reverts back to the primal source to acquire a restful state, when it gets recharged once again. Following which, out of the seeds of life withdrawn into primal-source, fresh creation cycle takes off.

Mount Kailasa, is one of the high peaks in the Himalayan range to which lot of perennial rivers are sourced, including the Ganges. It, thus, is closest to the cosmic world, simultaneously having all round view of life down below. Lord Shiva, with lunar crescent over the head, read together with his place of abode, the Himalayan range having in store perennial rivers, is symbolic of eternity, infinity.

The presence of lunar crescent symbolises the convergence of all nature driven forces. For, Moon's luminosity is drawn out of the light extended by the Sun, as well as all the planets and stars up above in the cosmos. But before all light

drawn thus, flows down the line, Moon does its own stamping by turning them into an amiable form. Moon, thus, symbolises convergence of all nature driven energy streams.

With the play of *Damru*, the equilibrated state of the primal source gets shaken, when the primal sound note *O*? comes into play. Now going by the scientific perception, once there is entropy (disorder), it multiplies in geometric progression. So, it happened following excitation of *O*? sound. In the process, first came into play Energy-trinity — Sata, Rajasa, and Tamasa. Trident, it may kindly be noted is symbolic of Lord Shiva's creative power — the three phalanges of the trident branching out of the base rod imply three dimensions of energies emanating from a singularity. The random mutation of the three that followed, led to multitude of differentiated energy streams. The harmony and symphony of these differentiated energy streams that followed, led to all creations, first up above in the cosmos.

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