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WORLD 12
ERDOGAN WARNS EU OF REFUGEE
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HAPPY SPACE:
EKTA KAPOOR
13 VIVACITY



SBI tops corporate loan waiver list

Whopping ₹2.75 lakh crore written off by all public sector banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
India's largest public sector bank, State Bank of India (SBI), leads the list of banks who have written off huge loans of big borrowers, mostly during the last three years. As per an RTI query, the SBI wrote off ₹76,600 crore of bad loans of 220 defaulters, who owed more than ₹100 crore each as on March 31, 2019. The RTI query gave the list of scheduled commercial banks with break up of loan waiver in two categories — ₹100 crore and more, and ₹500 crore and more. The total comes to a staggering ₹2.75 lakh crore. The Reserve Bank of India provided this information to CNN-News18 in response to a RTI query that also revealed that ₹37,700 crore waiver belonged to just 33 borrowers, with loans of ₹500 crore and more. The RTI response also showed that the debtors who were given loans of ₹500 crore and more defaulted on ₹67,600 crore of loans.



Ironically, while banks go to any extent to recover small loans from farmers, forcing them to even commit suicide, they have been found to be extra generous in dealing with

big time borrowers and corporates. The waiver has impacted the books of these banks and affected their lending capacity, which, in turn, impacted the credit offtake and led to liq-

uidity crisis in the system. According to the RTI response, the RBI enlisted 980 borrowers whose debt of more than ₹100 cr each was written off by the banks. The SBI

topped the list with 220 such accounts. The average write-off stood at ₹348 crore. The waiver has brought down the gross NPA from the peak of 11.5 per cent in March 2018 to 9.3 per cent in March 2019. The rate of accretion of fresh NPAs came down to 3.7 per cent in March 2019 compared with 7.4 per cent the previous fiscal. The bad debts have impacted the corporate lending and virtually led to the collapse of Yes Bank and Punjab National Banks, clearly showing that the crisis has hit both the private sector and public sector banks. The menace refused to end as was shown in the result of the Indusind Bank on Thursday for the second quarter. The shares of the bank collapsed even though year-on-year the consolidated profit was 52 per cent more. But it was the higher provisioning that spooked the market reflecting the investors sensitivity on the nature of lending.

Cloud over Kartarpur corridor opening date

But Pak assures inauguration by Guru Nanak's birth anniversary

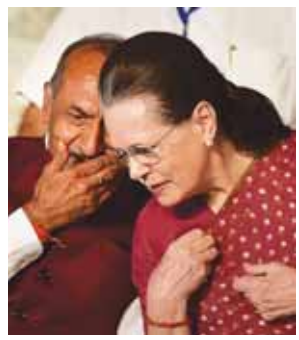
PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan on Thursday said no date has been fixed so far for the inauguration of the much-awaited Kartarpur corridor, even as it assured that it will be open "on time" on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev on November 12. The statement came nearly a month after a senior official heading the corridor project announced that Pakistan will allow Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit the holy Kartarpur Sahib from November 9. Addressing a weekly Press briefing here, Foreign Office spokesman Mohammad Faisal said, "Work on the Kartarpur corridor will be completed on time as committed by the Prime Minister (Imran Khan). It will be inaugurated on time, but I can't give any date for its opening as no date has been fixed so far." He assured that the corridor will be open on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of the Sikh spiritual leader on November 12. The proposed corridor will



connect Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and facilitate visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which was established in 1522 by Guru Nanak Dev. Pakistan is building the corridor from the Indian border to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, while the other part from Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district up to the border will be constructed by India. On September 16, during a maiden visit of Pakistani and foreign journalists to the proposed Kartarpur Corridor in Narowal, some 125 km from Lahore, the project director, Atif Majid, said 86 per cent of the work on the corridor has been completed and it will be opened to pilgrims on November 9. The Foreign Office spokesman said former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has been formally invited for the inaugural ceremony. He also said Pakistan will continue to highlight the plight of Kashmiris at world forums. Last week, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had said that Manmohan will be part of an all-party jatha through the Kartarpur Corridor, which will be opened next month, to the Darbar Sahib gurdwara in Pakistan to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak. However, the Chief Minister made it clear that neither he nor the former Prime Minister would be participating in any event organised by Pakistan to mark the formal inauguration of the corridor on November 9.

Sonia forms panel to revive fortunes in Maha, Haryana

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI
With an eye to Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Thursday constituted a Coordination Committee headed by her close aide Ahmed Patel and consisting of senior party leaders Jairam Ramesh, Anand Sharma, Madhusudan Mistry, Jyotirajita Scindia and Manik Tagore. Patel has convened its first meeting on Friday to strategise coordination of the party activities for the Maharashtra and Haryana polls. A senior AICC leader said Patel has been assigned the new responsibility considering his acceptance among all the party leaders, old and young, and also within the Opposition leaders. The Congress and the NCP are alliance partners on equal number of seats in Maharashtra and the NCP is headed by Sharad Pawar, who enjoys a good rapport with Patel. While Scindia headed the Screening Committee for Maharashtra, the onus is now on Patel to keep intact the flock till the end of elections.



The overarching Patel-ed committee has been mandated to monitor the election coordination committee, Pradesh election committee, campaign committee, publicity and publication committee, media and communications committee, transport and accommodation committee, protocol committee and discipline committee till the end of the polls in both the crucial States. The first task on Thursday what the committee did was to give green signal to the party's manifesto for Haryana which will be released on Friday. Sources said the manifesto focuses on addressing the issue being faced by the farmers, poor, women and youngsters.

Ex-Ranbaxy promoter held for ₹2,397 cr loan fraud

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
The the Economic Offence Wing of the Delhi Police on Thursday arrested former Ranbaxy and Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh and three others in an alleged fraud case of disbursement of loans and causing loss to Religare Finvest Limited (RFL) to the tune of ₹2,397 crore. Kavi Arora (48), Sunil Godhwani (58) and Anil Saxena (51) too were arrested for allegedly diverting money and investing in other companies. A lookout circular has been issued for Shivinder's brother Malvinder Singh. According to OP Mishra, Additional Commissioner of Police, EOW, "A complaint was filed by Manpreet Singh Suri of Religare Finvest Limited (RFL) against Malvinder, Shivinder, Sunil Godhwani and others alleging that loans were taken by Singh while managing that firm but the money was invested in other companies." "The complainant said the persons put RFL in poor financial condition by way of disbursing loans to companies having no financial standing and controlled by the alleged persons," said Mishra.

Kejriwal to address Denmark summit via video conferencing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
Undeterred by the denial of permission by the Centre to attend a summit on environment in Denmark, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will address C-40 summit through video conferencing. According to a statement from Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Kejriwal will address the climate summit on solutions to tackle air pollution. "He has accepted the request of the summit organisers to deliver his address through video conferencing in session titled — breathe deeply, city solutions for clean air. The CM will also address a joint Press conference through video conferencing with mayors of six major world cities," said a statement from the CMO. As per the schedule shared by the Delhi Government, Mark Watts, Executive Director of C-40, will start the summit at 8.30 am Copenhagen local time — 12 noon IST. After which there will be Press conferences of Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor of



Copenhagen, Arvind Kejriwal (on video conferencing), Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland and Jorge Muñoz Wells, Mayor of Lima. Kejriwal is likely to share his experiences on how Delhi has been successful in reducing air pollution by 25 per cent in past five years. "The CM is also likely to share the experience of how Delhi became the first city in the world to successfully implement the odd-even experiment for restricting the vehicular traffic on the roads, which led to a reduction in air pollution in Delhi," the Delhi Government said in a statement.

ED moves Delhi HC to cancel pre-arrest bail to PC, Karti in Aircel-Maxis case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate approached the Delhi High Court on Thursday seeking cancellation of anticipatory bail granted to former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti in the Aircel-Maxis case, claiming that there is likelihood of tampering with the evidence. The plea has been listed for hearing before Justice Suresh Kait on Friday. The ED has challenged the September 5 order of the special court granting relief to Chidambaram and his son. Chidambaram is lodged in jail after being arrested by the CBI on August 21 in the INX Media corruption case. The trial court had also granted anticipatory bail to the father-son duo in the Aircel Maxis case filed by CBI.

India, China pose no threat to each other, says Chinese envoy

PTI ■ MAMALLAPURAM
As India pulls out all stops to roll out a grand welcome to Chinese President Xi Jinping in this ancient seaside temple town, China has said the two countries pose no threat to each other and greater cooperation between the two Asian giants would inject positive energy in ensuring peace and stability in the region and beyond. In an exclusive interview to PTI, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong said a "new set of consensus" including "guiding principles" on the development direction of India-China ties are expected to emerge from the two-day informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and



Xi beginning Friday. The envoy said as the largest developing countries and emerging economies of the world, China and India have a responsibility to inject positive energy into a "complicated world." "We believe that the Summit will take bilateral relations to a higher level and have a major and positive impact on regional and world peace, stability and development," Sun said.

CAPSULE

BJP WORKING PRESIDENT NADDA GETS Z SECURITY
New Delhi: BJP working president JP Nadra has been accorded with "Z" category security and he will be guarded by the commands of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) round the clock, officials said on Thursday. **P5**

J&K ADMIN RELEASES 3 LEADERS FROM DETENTION
Srinagar: The Jammu & Kashmir administration on Thursday released three politicians who were under detention since August 5 when the Centre abrogated the special status granted to the Jammu & Kashmir under the Constitution, officials said. **P6**

BLINDNESS IN INDIA DOWN BY 47% SINCE 2007: GOVT
New Delhi: The prevalence of blindness in India has come down by around 47 per cent since 2007, according to a Government survey released on Thursday, indicating that the country is close to achieving the WHO's goal of reducing it to 0.3 per cent of the total population by 2020. In absolute numbers, people suffering from blindness have reduced from 12 million in 2006-07 to 4.8m in 2019. **P5**

High fare derails trip to rekindle marital romance

₹1L/couple in AC-1 and ₹90K in AC 2 draw only 2 couples, train cancelled
PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The idea was to rekindle romance in marriage on a train journey through the deserts of Rajasthan but the Indian Railways plan for a special "Karwa Chauth" train service came a cropper with only two couples signing up, sources said. The result: the Majestic Rajasthan Deluxe, which was launched to provide a "dream holiday" to couples for a five-day tour of the State, stands cancelled, officials said. They said only two couples booked tickets on the train which has 78 seats. Only married couples were allowed on the train, which came with special touches like a shower cubicle and a foot massage, although the IRCTC had made special arrangements for children, the officials said. The train, part of the IRCTC promotional offers, was to depart from the Safdarjung station in Delhi on October 14 and visit historical sites in Rajasthan like Jaisalmer Fort, Patwon ki Haveli, Gadisar Lake, Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada, Amber Fort and City Palace till October 18. "Only two couples have booked tickets on it so it is as good as cancelled. We cannot run a train like this without occupancy," an official said. In its promotional message, the IRCTC said, "This Karwa Chauth, give your wife a special gift which she will remember for ages." Officials said the low turnout could be because of the high fares — ₹1,02,960 per couple in AC-1 and ₹90,090 per couple in AC 2 Tier.

Pappu leaves MP bungalow in ruins

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI
Bungalow number 11-A on Balwant Rai Mehta Lane in Lutyens' Delhi resembles a ravaged structure. Forced to leave the official accommodation, former parliamentarian from Bihar Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappu Yadav, chose to take away the doors and windows of the house besides razing the "illegal" structure erected to house people coming to meet him from his constituency. Yadav's OSD Ajay Kumar alleged that the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) dismantled the structure, but the latter said the bungalow is still with the former MP, who has not handed over it to the Estate Department despite repeated reminders. Electrical equipment, floor tiles, lawns, paint, bathrooms, windows, brickwork, temporary structures and the walls were damaged. The office located at the entry point of the gate was also found damaged along with doors and windows. The furniture was also found in ruined condition. The bungalow was used by the people coming from his constituency Madhepura for various works in Delhi. Yadav was running "Subhash Chandra Bose Sewa Ashram" from his residence. The sewa ashram had capacity to accommodate 400 people at a time. He had put a banner carrying a slogan "Logon ka ghar sabka ghar". Yadav is currently in Bihar to help flood-hit victims in Patna. According to Yadav's OSD, bungalow will be handed over to CPWD after his arrival. On the other hand, officials of the CPWD said that they have already given a report to the Lok Sabha Secretariat about the bungalow's condition. Yadav is currently the president of Jan Adhikar Party. He had lost the Lok Sabha elections in May. His wife Ranjeeta Ranjan, who was allotted bungalow at 7 Balwant Rai Mehta Lane, too lost Lok Sabha polls. She had also been given notices to vacate her accommodation. The Estate Department under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has recently forcefully evicted three other ex-MPs while giving a 3-day notice to three others to vacate their Government accommodations. With many ex-MPs yet to vacate their accommodation, newly elected MPs were forced to stay in various State bhavans or guests houses. The Ministry has also served notices on the squatters in the process to forcefully evict the occupants from bungalow or flat number 185 at South Avenue; flat 185 at North Avenue and 11 Mahadev Road.



A view of partly-demolished section of the residence of former MP Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappu Yadav, at 11A, BR Mehta Lane, in New Delhi on Thursday. **Pioneer photo**

Continued on Page 4

City's air quality turns poor

Tagged unhealthy for breathing

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

National Capital's Air Quality Index (AQI) was put under 'orange' category and tagged as 'unhealthy' for breathing. Pollution monitoring agencies of both the Centre and the city measured the levels of harmful pollutants above the prescribed limits on Thursday.

City's Siri Fort recorded abnormally higher levels of noxious particles with value of 396 micro gram per cubic. Anand Vihar, RK Puram, Pusa Road, Chandni Chowk, Major Dhyan Chand Stadium and Karni Stadium are the areas where levels of Benzene, Particulate Matters, Nitrate Oxide, Ozone were recorded higher than the prescribed limits.

While real time ambient air quality index of US Embassy tagged seven places under 'unhealthy' category, SAFAR



(System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research) cited stubble burning incidents in Patiala (Punjab) and Karnal- Kurukshetra region in Haryana, the reasons behind the sudden rise in the pollutant values on the AQI.

Low surface wind speed and westerly winds are also factors for the low dispersion of Suspended Particulate Matters (SPMs). Forecasting air quality status in Delhi, SAFAR said that Southwest monsoon started to retreat now. The wind speed continues to be slow and variable

with predominant direction from the West. "Under these conditions, air quality is predicted to deteriorate to the higher end of moderate for tomorrow. Indications of increased fire activity during the last 48 hours are visible from satellite imagery and further deterioration of AQI is expected for the next two days. Air quality is expected to touch the poor category by 13 October,"

Importantly, calm surface winds will lead to stagnant weather conditions (e.g., low wind speeds, descending air, and

compressed boundary layer), which favor rapid fine particulate matter formation and accumulation of pollutants.

"The situation becomes bad if it is encountered with any additional internal (like firecrackers) or external (like stubble) emission source. In a landlocked city like Delhi, it may lead to rapid accumulation and may trigger high pollution events. However, if local emissions are controlled it will be a good check to observe and avoid air quality crises," SAFAR said.

Bewitched cop plants charas in car of IAS officer's hubby, held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Love struck Commandant of La Central Armed Paramilitary Force (CAPF) allegedly planted 'charas' in the car of a Rajasthan cadre woman IAS officer's husband to implicate him in a false case. Sources said the Commandant wanted to marry the IAS officer and hatched a conspiracy to get her husband arrested on the charges of narcotic substance peddling.

The IAS officer's husband who works as consultant with the Ministry of the Information and Technology, was detained after police found 550 grams of charas inside his car which was parked outside the Electronics Niketan in CGO Complex. Police have registered an FIR at Lodhi Colony police station under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and further investigation is underway.

Sources said, 45-year-old Commandment Ranjan Pratap Singh, currently posted with Ministry of External Affairs and

his childhood friend Neeraj Chauhan, a lawyer by profession allegedly hatched a conspiracy to falsely implicate the husband the IAS officer in drug related case as the commandant has developed liking for the bureaucrat at a seminar.

"A call was received by police regarding a suspicious car standing at Electronics Niketan in CGO Complex following which a police team reached the spot and found 550 grams of charas in the car. However, when the caller, who is a cart-puller, was approached by police he told police that a passerby had taken his phone to make an emergency call," said the source.

"Later the caller was narrowed down with the help of CCTV footage in the area and he was apprehended," said the source. The car was found in suspicious condition by a CISF official after the caller informed about a packet containing charas," said an official.

"Rajan first tried to mislead police but when he was countered with other technical evi-

dences, he confessed of planting drugs in the car with the help of his advocate friend. During interrogation, the accused disclosed that he had met IAS officer during a training programme and developed fondness. He wanted to falsely implicate her husband in drug peddling case," said a police official privy to investigation.

"He brought charas from his hometown in Aligarh and involved his friend Neeraj to whom he had promised smooth treatment in AIIMS through his contacts," said the police official.

"To plant the drugs inside the car and to gain access, Singh followed the car for two days and on Wednesday when the man visited a hospital in Pragati Vihar in South Delhi, the accused got open the car with the help of key maker. He brought the key maker from Lajpat Nagar market and asked him to open the car and had left the car keys inside," said the police official.

INBRIEF

DEMOLITION DRIVE BY DDA NEAR YAMUNA

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) carried out a demolition drive at flood plains of River Yamuna near DND flyover opposite to Samachar apartment and removed large number of shanties. National Green Tribunal (NGT) had issued a direction to the civic bodies, Irrigation & Flood Control Department DJB and Delhi Police, asking it to clear Yamuna flood plains from encroachments, a senior DDA official said, adding that the tribunal also directed to impose fine on the organisations who fail to remove the unauthorized occupants from flood plains.

STRESS COUNSELLING CENTRE FOR NMC STAFF

New Delhi: In order to address stress related problems of the municipal officers and employees, a stress management clinic and counseling centre inaugurated by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) on the occasion of 'Mental Health Day' at Civic Center, North Commissioner Varsha Joshi said that the facility will be available to the employees and officers working in north and South Corporation and Income Tax Department. She said that the experienced psychiatrists would be available in free stress management clinic and counseling center to provide counseling to them.

POWER SPRAY TANKERS TO KILL MOSQUITOES

New Delhi: In order to prevent growth of mosquito larvae in stagnant water, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) inducted two new power spray tankers to spray insecticide in its areas. East Delhi Mayor Anju Kamalkant said that due to floods in the Yamuna Khadar region; water accumulation is reported in some of the areas. The civic body will now be spray insecticides with power spray tankers to prevent breeding.

IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS IN DAILY LIFE EMPHASISED

New Delhi: General Manager, Northern Railway, TP Singh, inaugurated 31st 'All India Railway Protection Force Wrestling Championship-2019'. Divisional Railway Manager, Delhi SC Jain, emphasised the importance of sports in physical and mental well being in day to day life. He called upon the participants to play with the true spirit of the game.

'Rapist' trying to flee to Malaysia arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officials have apprehended a 30-year-old man, who is accused of rape, while he was trying to flee to Malaysia to evade his arrest. The man was arrested from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in Delhi.

The accused has been identified as Amit Saini. According to a senior CISF official, Amit was scheduled to board a flight to Kuala Lumpur by a Malaysia Airlines flight late on Wednesday night.

"The CISF received a tip-off that Amit Saini, involved in a rape case registered at the Nihal Vihar police station, is likely to fly abroad to evade his arrest," said the senior CISF official.

"Immediately, all the CISF personnel of IGI Airport were briefed, surveillance and intelligence team coordinated with different stakeholders and shared the accused's description," said the CISF official.

"The officials checked all the manifests available for the Malaysia-bound flights and carried out a thorough search in departure, forecourt area. At night, a passenger with the description shared by the Delhi Police was zeroed in near the check-in area of Terminal-3," said the CISF official.

"On enquiry, it was established that he was the accused Delhi Police was looking for. A team of the Delhi Police identified him. Saini was handed over to police for further legal action," said the CISF official.

DDA OK's lake view complex project

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited lake view complex or Sanjay Lake Park Complex has been approved by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). The park will be developed on 10.26 hectare of land at Trilokpuri area (near Sanjay Lake) in Delhi for a residential purpose based on mixed-use development on transit-oriented development (TOD) norms.

For this, the land-use for the site will be changed from 'commercial' to 'residential', the urban body said in a statement. The decision was taken in a meeting recently chaired by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal.

The authority also approved 'Transit-Oriented Development' (TOD) policy and regulations which are focused on development around the transit corridor, and it will also facilitate com-

plete ease of access to that transit facility, thereby inducing people to walk and use public transportation besides personal modes of transport.

"TOD consists of a variety of high-density, mixed-use, mixed-income buildings, within a short distance of a rapid public transport network, set in a public realm that encourages more people to use public transport," it said.

In order to establish institutional hub in Narela sub city, the authority also approved change of land use of 36.6 hectares at District Centre, Narela from commercial to 'public and semi public' (PSP), it said, adding that similarly, it was decided that land use of similar size PSP land in facility area (FA-20) adjacent to residential housing pocket (G-2) Narela be changed to commercial land to avoid any impact of land use change.

It further said that out of

36.6 hectares, Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) will be allotted 20 hectares of land and the remaining land is proposed for college or institutions.

The civic body also approved the proposal of changing the mode of disposal of Nazul land for allotment through auction by an amendment in the Nazul Rules 1981. "It has also been recommended to dispose Nazul land by auction to individuals, (body or persons, firms, or companies), public and private institutions, co-operative house building societies, other co-operative societies of individual or co-operative societies of industrialists for the purpose of Group Housing. It further said that the matter will be accordingly forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) for amendment in the Nazul Rules 1981.

As price soars, Centre asks Mother Dairy to sell tomato puree

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To provide relief to consumers from rising tomato prices, the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs on Thursday directed State-run Mother Dairy to sell tomato puree from Friday through its 400-odd Safal outlets in the national Capital.

Tomato prices have shot up to ₹80 per kg in retail markets in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) due to supply disruption owing to heavy rains in producing States like Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting, headed by Consumer Affairs Secretary Avinash K Srivastava, that reviewed the price and supply situation of tomato, a highly perishable vegetable. The private trade data showed tomato price ruling in the range of ₹60-80 per kg in Delhi depend-



ing on the quality and locality, while the Government data showed rates of the perishable vegetable at around ₹60 per kg.

"To mitigate the shortfall in availability of tomatoes in Delhi, Safal has agreed to provide tomato puree from all its outlets in Delhi," an official statement said.

Tomato puree will be sold at ₹25 for 200 gram pack (equivalent to 800 grams of fresh tomato) and at ₹85 for 825 gram pack (equivalent to 2.5 kilos of fresh tomato), it said. "The stocks have already been moved to all the outlets and the sales will begin from tomorrow (11th October, 2019) onwards at all booths," the statement added.

BJP fooling people by spreading lies in Haryana: Selja

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana is spreading lies in the media and making hollow claims of development on social media sites, the State's Congress unit claimed on Thursday.

Haryana Congress President Kumari Selja was speaking on Thursday during the workshop of Haryana Congress IT Cell. She attacked the BJP Government and claimed that the Manohar Lal Government did nothing on the ground.

"The BJP is fooling the people by spreading lies on social media. But now, the Congress IT cell is leaving no stone unturned to expose the BJP's claims. The Congress IT cell is exposing the Government's



false claims on social media and the propaganda of spreading fake news," she said.

During the event, she said that Congress party's victory in Haryana is clearly visible. "The

government has not worked for five years, is now on backfoot. People are not coming to listen to their meetings. Congress is emerging as a strong choice among the people," Selja said.

"Factories are closing in Panipat as almost 70 percent production is down. For the examination of four thousand posts of clerks, 15 lakh children of Haryana continued to run 250

km on the roads of the state for three days. The current BJP government is engaged in misleading the state's youth," she added.

"In Haryana, the congress party will win a maximum seat in the upcoming Haryana assembly poll. The party will decide the CM face after the completion of the elections."

However, the Congress leaders didn't answer any query related to the former state Congress president Ashok Tanwar.

"More than two hundred activists from all over the state attended the workshop of Haryana Pradesh Congress IT Cell. Congress will reach out fast on various social media platforms and will expose the BJP's fake propaganda," Rohan Gupta, head of All India Congress Committee Media Cell said.

Eco-friendly free ride to Ajmal market

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Municipal Corporation has inducted seven Golf cars to provide a free ride to visitors from Shastrri Market parking to main Ajmal Khan Market.

A senior corporation official said these cars are environment friendly as it runs on batteries and solar panels.

"Ajmal Khan Road shopping just got even better with 7 golf carts operated by the Market Association running from the Shastrri Park lot to the market area shop till you drop into an open seat in the open air mall which is #AKR!," North Corporation Commissioner Varsha Joshi



tweeted. Paramjit Singh Rana, Councillor in North Corporation inaugurated the facility. He said that these cars would be maintained by Karol

Bagh traders association in supervision of the civic body. It will be operating from 10 am to 9 pm. The civic body has provided charging points at its parking, he added.

Stop 'sex' rackets running in illegal spas: Maliwal to L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The chief of Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) Swati Maliwal on Thursday alleged that there are around 5,000 illegal spas situated across the national Capital. The DCW has also submitted detailed 87-page recommendations to Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Bajjal to stop 'sex' rackets running in illegal spas and massage parlours across the city.

According to the data shared by the DCW shows that there are around 5,000 spas in Delhi. While, as per the municipal there are total of 399 spas licensed in Delhi under the three Municipal Corporations. "As per the judicial, there are thousands of spas in Delhi, which raises a concern that thousands of spa are operating illegally in the

Capital," said DCW.

"The Commission has observed through its field inspections that full scale prostitution rackets are running in several spa centres in various locations in Delhi. The report has highlighted how the authorities have allowed the red light area to expand to hundreds of locations in the city by allowing unchecked mushrooming of spa and massage centres in Delhi. While, other cities police are such as Mumbai, Gurugram and Bengaluru is actively acting against prostitution rackets operating in Spas but Delhi Police is completely silent on the matter," said Maliwal in a statement.

DCW further claimed that after its intervention, five FIRs have been registered against spa centres in Delhi but the Police has not made any arrests so far.

Govt Railway Police website, app launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai on Thursday launched Government Railway Police (GRP) website railways.delhi-hp.com and mobile app Sahyatri-Delhi Railway Police at Delhi's NDMC Convention Centre.

Amulya Patnaik, Delhi Commissioner of Police, Arun Kumar, Director General of Railways Police Force (RPF), All Special Commissioners of Delhi Police, TP Singh, GM, Northern Railway, SN Pandey, IG/RPF and other senior police officers of Delhi Police and RPF attended the programme.

"In inter-State co-ordination meeting of chiefs of GRPs of all States and Union Territories (UTs) held at police headquarters of the Delhi Police on October 24, 2018 it was suggested to design a PAN



MoS Nityanand Rai flanked by Delhi Police Commissioner AK Patnaik and RPF DG Arun Kumar inaugurates 'Sahyatri Delhi Railway Police' App on Thursday

India database of crime and criminals operating in railways, for exchange of information on real time basis," said

Dinesh Kumar Gupta, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Railways.

The responsibility for cre-

ation of GRP website was assigned to DCP, Railways. In furtherance of this objective, the Delhi Police has designed the

website to provide a common platform for sharing of information.

"The (24) States and (01) UT GRPs heads have been assigned as super admin and a separate user IDs and password have been allocated, enabling them to access the website. They may further create accounts for their under control supervisory officers, as per their requirements," said the DCP.

"The criminal data base (compendium) of criminals involved and operating in railways jurisdiction in all over India under the crime head viz. dacoits/robbers, Snatcher, bag lifters, pick picketers, cheaters, child lifter with their involvements, latest photographs and associates are to be uploaded for better prevention and detection of crime in Railways," said the DCP adding that the details of unidentified dead body (UIDB),

missing persons, wanted criminals, absconding/proclaimed offender, other important matters, law and order related issues would also be shared amongst the GRPs of all states.

"Further the GRP Mobile app — Sahyatri — Delhi Railway Police has also been developed. The app would be functional on Android and iOS mobile phones. Its hybrid application which has been specially designed for the railways passengers to find out the jurisdiction of the concerned police station and the details of GRP Officials by Geo-tagging with the google map," said the DCP.

"The app shall also have the facility for scanning and reading QR Code and make an emergency call (102,112 and 1512). It shall also contain the link to the citizen services provided by Delhi Police through the 'Tatpar and HCCM Plus Apps'," said the DCP.

DELHI'S POLLUTION DOWN BY 25%

BUT STUBBLE BURNING INCREASES POLLUTION LEVELS IN NOVEMBER

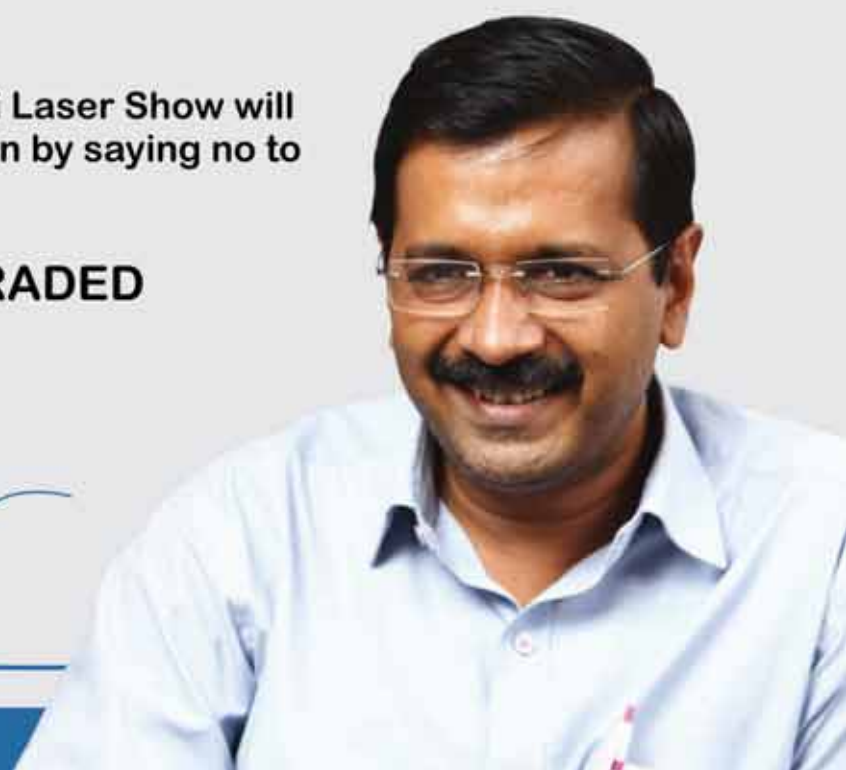


हर मुमकिन प्रयास, ताकि दिल्ली को मिले हवा साफ

Dip/shabbardh/D/0174/19-20

STEPS TO COMBAT POLLUTION FROM STUBBLE BURNING:

- 1. ODD-EVEN:**
Delhi Government will implement the Odd-Even rule from 4th-15th November, a time when pollution from stubble burning is at its peak.
- 2. FREE MASKS:**
Delhi government will distribute free masks as a precautionary measure. Please use them when pollution levels rise.
- 3. DIWALI LASER SHOW:**
Let's come together to celebrate this auspicious occasion. A grand 4-day Diwali Laser Show will be organized at Connaught Place in Delhi. Join hands with us in fighting pollution by saying no to crackers.
- 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT'S 'GRADED RESPONSE ACTION PLAN'**



India calls for cooperation between FATF, UN to combat terror financing

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, India has condemned any direct or indirect financial assistance to terrorists and terror groups by nations that enables them to pursue their activities, including in defending criminal cases against them.

Speaking at a General Assembly Sixth Committee meeting on 'measures to eliminate international terrorism', First Secretary/Legal adviser in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Yedla Umasankar on Wednesday called for increased cooperation between the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the UN to combat terror financing.

"The flow of resources meant to produce terror are required to be stopped by States for which collective inter-State efforts are required at regional and sub-regional levels. The FATF has a significant role in setting global standards for preventing and combating terrorist financing and the UN needs to increase cooperation

with such bodies," Umasankar said.

He said India "strongly" condemns "direct or indirect financial assistance given to terrorist groups or individual members thereof by States or its machineries, to pursue their activities, including in defending the criminal cases involving terrorist acts against them."

India's comments came as on Pakistan's request, Mumbai attack mastermind and banned JuD chief Hafiz Saeed was allowed by an anti-terror committee of the UN Security Council to withdraw money from his bank account for basic expenses.

Saeed, a UN designated terrorist on whom the US has placed a USD 10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17 this year in a terror financing case in Pakistan. He was listed under UN Security Council Resolution 1267 in December 2008.

According to UN provisions, all states are required to freeze the funds and other

financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals. The resolution also provides for states to sanction basic expenses of the designated individuals if there is no objection over it.

Umasankar said India strongly believes that terrorism can be countered by combined international efforts, stressing that the UN is best suited for developing this transnational effort. He lamented that current measures to combat terrorism are having little impact on the ground.

"The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) being discussed by the UN General Assembly over the last decade has resulted in little impact on the ground. The Sanctions Committees established by the UN Security Council have become selective tools due to opaque working methods and politicized decision making," he said.

In this regard, he said India reiterates its strong support to the General Assembly Resolution of December 2018 that recommends the Sixth Committee at the 74th Session to establish the 'Working Group with a view to finalising the process on the Draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism

(CCIT) will provide a strong legal basis for the fight against terrorism and will be in the interest of all Member States to have a multilateral and collective dimension of counter-terrorism effort.

"The inability to agree on a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism remains one of the great gaps in the international legislative framework that would strengthen efforts to destroy safe havens for terrorists, their financial flows and their support networks. We need to move forward in adopting the draft text of CCIT which is a balanced one and has emerged after long discussions," he said.

In this regard, he said India reiterates its strong support to the General Assembly Resolution of December 2018 that recommends the Sixth Committee at the 74th Session to establish the 'Working Group with a view to finalising the process on the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International

Terrorism'.

The General Assembly, with the voice and the moral authority of the entire international community, must guide the efforts to develop a framework of international law within which action can be taken against terrorism, he added.

Asserting that India condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and no cause whatsoever or grievance can justify terrorism, including State-sponsored cross-border terrorism, Umasankar said the international community needs to adopt and implement a policy of zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

"The menace of international terrorism with its wide roots and numerous global connections has been recognized as grave international concern by every major international gathering of recent years,"

Umasankar said, adding that the growing inter-linkages between terrorist groups, cross-border operations including terror financing networks,

propagating ideologies of hatred through exploitation of modern technologies and funding arms and weapons have certainly left no country aloof from the impact of terrorism.

He noted that it is a "self-evident truth" that democratic, secular and multicultural societies are the prime targets of terrorism and have become the most vulnerable to its attacks.

"Terrorists exploit the civil liberties, religious tolerance and cultural diversity in our countries. They seek to destroy the democratic fabric by fomenting sectarian divisions and cultural tensions and ultimately deprive us of that very freedom which they have exploited."

He voiced India's commitment to counter terrorism by exchanging information, building capacities for effective border controls, preventing misuse of modern technologies, monitoring illicit financial flows and cooperating in investigation and judicial procedures.

Pakistan arrests top 4 leaders of JuD/LeT ahead of FATF meeting

Lahore: Pakistan's law enforcement agencies on Thursday arrested the "top four leaders" of the banned LeT/JuD on charges of terrorism financing, a move that authorities say would put the "entire core leadership" of these outfits on trial.

The top four leaders of Lashkar-e-Taiba/Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) arrested on Thursday have been identified as Professor Zafar Iqbal, Yahya Aziz, Muhammad Ashraf and Abdul Salam.

The development comes ahead of the Financial Action Task Force's crucial plenary meeting scheduled to be held in Paris from October 12 to October 15.

Pakistan was placed on the grey list by the Paris-based watchdog in June last year and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019,

or face the risk of being placed on the black list with Iran and North Korea.

A spokesman for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) said that there had been an "important progress" in the National Action Plan (NAP) as the main leaders of proscribed organisation JuD/LeT have been arrested by the CTD Punjab in offences of terrorism financing.

"JuD/LeT chief Hafiz Saeed is already in prison facing trial for commission of offences of terrorism financing. Now the entire core leadership of the JuD/LeT will be on trial," the CTD said.

It further said the CTD Punjab has been investigating offences of terrorism financing wherein these accused had built assets using

Ex-CM Narayan Rane to merge his party with BJP

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

Former Chief Minister and Maharashtra Swabhimani Paksha (MSP) founder Chief Narayan Rane said on Thursday that he would merge his party with the ruling BJP on October 15.

Rane's announcement came a week after sitting Congress MLA Nitesh Rane resigned from his membership, joined the BJP and filed his nomination on a ticket given by his new party for the October 21 Assembly polls from Kankavli constituency in Sindhudurg district.

There had been speculation in the State political circles that he would join the BJP along with his two sons Nitesh and Niles. His entry to the BJP

was being resisted by its ally Shiv Sena for a very long.

He had earlier announced that he would join the BJP on October 2.

Rane made an announcement about merging the MSP with the BJP, while campaigning for his party candidate Rajan Teli. "The BJP is getting strong in Konkan region. My son Nitesh and his supporters joined the BJP earlier. I will merge my party with the BJP in the presence of chief minister Devendra Fadnis on October 15," he said.

Having been associated with the Shiv Sena since early seventies, Rane had emerged as a senior leader in the party and was made the chief minister of Maharashtra, a post he held between February 1, 1999 and

October 17, 1999 when the Sena-BJP alliance was ruling the state.

However, after he rebelled against the leadership of the party's executive president Uddhav Thackeray, Rane was expelled from the Shiv Sena on July 3, 2005.

He joined the Congress on July 30, 2005, expecting that one day he would be made a chief minister of the State — a dream that remained unfulfilled.

It may be recalled that after being in the Congress for 12-long years, Rane had quit the Sonia Gandhi party on September 21, 2017 after complaining that the party leadership had failed to fulfill its repeated promise of appointing him as the Chief Minister.

India, China pose no threat...

From Page 1

Xi will arrive in Chennai on Friday on a nearly 24-hour visit to hold talks with Modi in an informal setting amid growing unease in ties between the two countries over Kashmir, particularly after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan raised the issue during talks with the Chinese leader in Beijing on Wednesday.

"The two countries pose no threat but offer development opportunities to each other. The cooperation between China and India will not only contribute to each other's development, but also advance the process of world multi-polarisation and economic globalisation and safeguard the common interests of developing countries," Sun

said.

The Chinese envoy said the two leaders will also have in-depth discussions on the international situation and overall, long-term and strategic issues concerning the development of ties between China and India.

"A new set of consensus is expected, including a shared vision for transformation of the international system, the common responsibility and role of China and India in regional affairs, and guiding principles on the development direction of bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields," Sun said.

"We believe that the Summit will take bilateral relations to a higher level and have a major and positive impact on regional and world peace, stability and development," he

said.

The envoy said deeper cooperation between India and China will benefit the developing countries as well as to deal with global challenges like unilateralism and protectionism.

"Unilateralism, protectionism and trade bullying are on the rise. The world is moving toward multi-polarity and economic globalisation despite twists and turns. The common threats and challenges facing human society have risen. As the largest developing countries and emerging economies of the world, China and India have a responsibility to inject positive energy into a complicated world," he said.

Ties between India and China came under renewed strain over Kashmir after a

joint statement issued after talks between Xi and Khan on Wednesday said China is paying "close attention" to the situation in the Valley.

It also said that Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter.

After Xi-Khan meeting, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said India's consistent and clear position has been that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the country and China is well aware of New Delhi's position.

Talking about overall Sino-India ties, the Chinese envoy particularly talked about cooperation in investment and energy sector, saying new progress has been made in the area.

Sonia...

From Page 1

The former political secretary to Sonia Gandhi, Patel was appointed as party's treasurer by the then Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in August last year. This was Patel's second stint as a treasurer (he last held the job from 1996 to 2000) ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

Patel, a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat, has deep access among different quarters including industrialists and political leaders across party lines and could bridge the link between Congress' old and new generation as well. His role was crucial in keeping intact the alliance partners of Congress-led UPA Governments.

Meanwhile Rahul Gandhi will start his campaign for the Maharashtra Assembly elections from Mumbai on Sunday.

DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL III, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001

The under mentioned construction equipment will be sold through auction on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' and 'AS IS WHAT IS BASIS' for recovery of dues, in the matter of ICICI BANK LTD v/s Ms. Saigaon Infratech Pvt. Ltd. and ANR.

O.A No. 903/2017 & Miscellaneous Appeal No- 628/2018

- 1) A- 64, Ground Floor, Sector- 4, Noida- 201301, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) B- 135, Ground Floor, Sector- 2, Noida- 201301, Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Mr. Neeraj Tyagi, C- 13, MIG, Lohiya Nagar, Block- C, Ghaziabad, UP- 201001

1. **Description of Asset:** hypothecated assets
Model: Paver Finisher/ SF- 1700
Reg No: 10008579
Engine No: 74112694
Reserve Price- Rs. 85,00,000/-
EMD- Rs. 8,50,000/-

2. **Date and Time of Auction:** 04.11.2019, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

3. **Auction venue:** The online auction will take place on the web information agency 'Auction Tigers' (URL: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/url?k=9311253c-ce17fd8-931e5717-0cc47a30c436-7d8db8903b6d2ac8a&https://drd.auctiontiger.net/>)

4. **Inspection of Asset :** SS Warehouse and Logistics, Vehicle Parking Yard, Near Long Life Misrod opp Best Price, Hoshangabad Road, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) Pin- 462047

5. **Manager:** Krishna Bali (8853989175) and Prince Singh (9644242526)

Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are hereby notified that the secured asset will be sold with the Encumbrances, Taxes, Custom Duties and dues payable to Statutory Authority (if any) and are also requested, in their own interest, to satisfy themselves/ themselves/ self with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.

Interested bidders shall be required to deposit an Earnest Money by way of Demand Draft/ Payment order payable at Delhi and in favour of ICICI Bank Ltd, Delhi. Cheques / Cash will not be accepted for EMD payment.

Successful highest bidder shall pay initial deposit being 25% less EMD of the offer amount within 24 Hrs (or 1 working day) from auction and the balance within 15 days without giving any notice.

In case of failure to deposit the amount as mentioned above, the amount of Earnest Money deposited shall be forfeited.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact Manager Mr. Krishna Bali at: and Mr. Prince Singh

Ex-Ranbaxy promoter...

From Page 1

"These companies willfully defaulted in repayments and caused wrongful loss to RFL to the tune of Rs. 2397 crore. This was also pointed out and flagged during their independent audit by RBI and SEBI, said Dr Mishra.

"The accused Shivinder Mohan Singh was the promoter of Religare Enterprises Ltd. which is the listed company having 85 per cent share holding of RFL, while accused Sunil Godhwani, remained Chairman and Managing Director of the Religare Enterprises Limited during the relevant period, Kavi Arora and Anil Saxena also occupied important managerial positions in REL and RFL during the same time," said Dr Mishra. "The accused systematically siphoned off and diverted money of general public in a clandestine manner for their own benefits," said Dr Mishra.

It may be noted that the Enforcement Directorate had raided the premises linked to the two brothers in August this year in connection with a money-laundering case. The action was being seen in the backdrop of charges of alleged financial irregularities against the two brothers and the subsequent downfall of their businesses.

Pappu ...

From Page 1

According to the Ministry, the Estate Department has started forceful eviction from the MPs bungalow who fail to vacate it despite the several notices. It has vacated flats number 113, 108/110 and 124 and 126 at North Avenue. BJP MP Hari Manjhi was allotted flat at 124-126 at North Avenue in 2009. He was denied ticket in 2019. Similarly, flat/bungalow at 113 and 108-110 was allotted as guest accommodations and guests have not vacated it.

High...

From Page 1

Facilities included a personal digital locker, shower cubicle, foot massage and a seating area with single-seater sofas. Passengers were assured free insurance worth ₹10 lakh each.

The source said the fares of the two couples will be refunded. The festival of Karwa Chauth, in which a wife fasts through the day till moonrise for her husband's long life, falls on October 17.

Kejriwal to address Denmark summit...

From Page 1

Odd-even experiment in Delhi was an unprecedented success beyond the imagination of the Delhi government, and it was embraced by all walks of life with open arms.

C40 Cities connects more than 90 of the world's leading cities to take bold climate action and build a healthier and more sustainable future. Representing 700-million citizens and one quarter of the global economy, mayors of C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe.



HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on Thursday launched 'Dhruv', Prime Minister Innovative Learning Programme at ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru. ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan, Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, first Indian to enter space and Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, School Education Secretary Rina Ray and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) Commissioner Santosh K Mall were present on the occasion. Nishank said the programme is named after the Pole Star Dhruv and every student is a Dhruv Tara. Speaking on the occasion, Sivan said that the objective of 'Dhruv' is to allow talented students realise their full potential and contribute to society. As many as 60 talented students have been selected in the first batch

UP RERA identifies 397 NCR delayed projects, summons promoters

Noida: The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulation Authority (RERA) has summoned promoters of 22 projects in Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater

Noida on October 23 over delay in handing over possession of properties to buyers, officials said on Thursday.

ED moves Delhi HC to cancel pre-arrest bail...

From Page 1
The ED contended that the pre-arrest bail in a case of economic offence was unwarranted and urged the high court to set aside the trial court's order granting relief to Chidambaram and cancel their anticipatory bail.

It claimed that the two remained evasive during the investigation and there is a likelihood that they could tamper with the evidence and influence witnesses.

The probe agency said the trial court failed to appreciate that custodial interrogation of the accused was required and its finding was completely perverse and untenable in law.

It said the position of Chidambaram and his son that they are members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cannot be a legally tenable ground to grant them anticipatory bail.

Before Chidambaram and his son were made accused in the Aircel Maxis case, a special court had on February 2, 2017 discharged DMK leader and former telecom minister Dayanidhi Maran, his brother Kalanidhi Maran and others in the matter.

Later, both the agencies, ED and CBI, filed supplementary charge sheets naming the Chidambarams in the scam. The cases relate to alleged irregularities in grant of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) approval in the Rs 3,500-crore Aircel-Maxis deal when Chidambaram was Finance Minister. The CBI is probing how Chidambaram, being the Finance Minister in 2006, granted FIPB approval to a foreign firm, when only the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) was empowered to do it. The ED is probing a money laundering case in the Aircel-

Maxis matter, in which the Chidambarams have been questioned by the agency.

While granting anticipatory bail to the Chidambarams, the trial court had said the charges against them were not of grave magnitude as the alleged money laundered is a "paltry amount" of Rs 1.13 crore compared to the money purportedly received by accused already discharged in the cases.

It had however directed the Chidambarams to join the probe in the cases lodged by the two agencies and said that in the event of arrest, they be released on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and one surety of like amount. In the INX Media case, the CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in the FIPB clearance granted to the media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007 during Chidambaram's tenure as the Finance Minister.

Thereafter, the ED lodged a money laundering case in this regard in 2017. Chidambaram has approached the Supreme Court seeking bail in the INX Media case lodged by CBI after the Delhi High Court on September 30, denied him the relief. He had not filed the bail plea before the trial court.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, Mr. Mazid Ali S/o Mohd. Alsam Rio, 1073-A, Ward No. 1, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030 (having 75% share) & Mrs. Sandhya Sharma W/o Mr. Gaender Sarup Sharma R/o H. No.-737, Sector-28, Faridabad, Haryana-121008 (having 25% share) of Schedule Property.

Mr. Anant Ram acquired the entire property from Ministry of Rehabilitation, Govt. of India vide Certificate of Sale dated 29.05.1961 area measuring 378 sq. yds.

Unfortunately, Mr. Anant Ram Bakshi died. Leaving behind following Class I Legal heirs viz (1) Mr. Pavitra Bakshi (2) Mr. Ashwini Bakshi (3) Mr. Rajender Bakshi (4) (a) Mrs. Kulwant Bakshi, (b) Mr. Dheeraj Bakshi (both owner of 76.77 sq. yds.) and (5) Mr. Rakesh Bakshi (owner of 43.76 sq. yds.) in respect of entire property, area measuring 378 sq. yds., duly regd. at concerned Sub-Registrar-V/A, Delhi, as Doc. No.1085, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 1707, Pages 194-195, regd. on 07.03.2017 read with Rectification Deed Doc. No. 7529, Book no. 1, Vol. No. 2083, Pages No. 80-84, regd. on 15.12.2017.

Finally Mr. Majid Ali (having 75% share) and Mrs. Sandhya Sharma (having 25% share) purchase the Schedule Property from Mr. Pavitra Bakshi (having area 103 sq. yds.), Mr. Ashwini Bakshi (having area 104 sq. yds.) & Mr. Rajender Bakshi (having area 50sq.yds.), area measuring 257sq.yds. vide Sale Deed duly regd. at concerned Sub-Registrar-V/A, Delhi, as Doc. No.42, Book No.1, Vol. No. 2114, Pages 189-196, Regd. on 03.01.2018.

If any person has any objection regarding the same along with the said Property / ownership rights, please raise objection with documentary proof within 15 days of Publication at the below address.

Schedule Property
Property bearing No. 161/2 and 4, Ward No. 1, area measuring 257 sq. yds., out of Khana No. 1151/3 min, situated in the abadi of Lal Dora of Village-Mehrauli, New Delhi.

Sachin Maheshwari, Advocate
Khatant and Khatant
A-38, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048
Tel 011-49774545 Mob.-9911380328

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Delhi 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 431/19 Dt. 04-10-2019
STATE BANK OF INDIA Applicant
Versus
M/s Shilpi Pvt. Ltd. Respondent

To,
Defendant
4. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta S/o Late Hari Shankar Gupta
5. Mr. Manish Goel S/o Mukesh Kumar Gupta
6. Mr. Vishal Goel S/o Mukesh Kumar Gupta
All at: R/o B-8, Chirag Enclave Opposite Nehru Place Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs 231,76,63,128.00 (Rs Two Hundred Thirty One Crore Seventy Six Lacs Sixty Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 02-11-2019 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
by order of the Tribunal
Section Officer, DRT-II, Delhi

CANCELLATION/ REGULATION/RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS

This is notified for the information of all concerned that DMRC will undertake the work of launching of girders in connection with construction of a Foot Over Bridge at Badli Railway Station on Delhi-Ambala double line section. To execute this work, 2 nos. of power and traffic blocks will be taken for the duration of 4:00 Hrs each on intervening nights of 11/12 and 12/13 October, 2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under :-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No.	Train Name	Date of Cancellation (from originating station)
64466	Panipat-New Delhi MEMU	11.10.2019 & 12.10.2019
64463	New Delhi-Kurukshetra MEMU	12.10.2019 & 13.10.2019

REGULATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Regulation of Trains (from originating station)	
04410 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Delhi Jn. Special	Train will be Regulated for 75 minutes between Panipat-Holambi Kalan on 12.10.2019	
12414 Jammu Tawi- Ajmer Express	Train will be Regulated for 30 minutes between Panipat-Holambi Kalan on 12.10.2019	

RESCHEDULING OF TRAIN

Train No. 01709 Jabalpur-Attari Special will be rescheduled at 09.00 hrs instead of 06.00 hrs on 12.10.2019

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

3260/2019 Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

JEREMY CORBYN ON J&K

Cong meeting with Corbyn shameful: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday hit out at the Congress over its "shameful shenanigans" and demanded an explanation after British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said he discussed the human rights situation in Kashmir with "UK representatives from the Indian Congress Party".

"A very productive meeting with UK representatives from the Indian Congress Party where we discussed the human rights situation in Kashmir. There must be a de-escalation and an end to the cycle of violence and fear which has plagued the region for so long," Corbyn tweeted.

The BJP slammed the Congress, which had not offered any comment as a row erupted following Corbyn's

tweet. The Labour Party leader, whose stand on Kashmir has not gone down well with the Indian Government, also tweeted a picture of the meeting. The picture included Kamal Dhalwal, who heads the overseas Congress in the UK.

"Appalling! Congress owes it to the people of India to explain what its leaders are telling foreign leaders about India. India will give a befitting reply to Congress for these shameful shenanigans!" the BJP said in a tweet.

The saffron party's foreign affairs department in-charge Vijay Chauthaiwale said, "This is Congress seeking advice from the UK Labour Leader — they might as well go to their masters directly in Pakistan."

Congress hits back at BJP for 'malicious' statement

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday hit back accusing the BJP of making "malicious statements" to distract people from its failures, after the saffron party asked it to explain British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn's tweet that he discussed human rights situation in Kashmir with "UK representatives from the Indian Congress Party".

The UK unit of the Indian Overseas Congress claimed it had met Corbyn to condemn the Kashmir resolution passed by his party and reiterate to them that Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and no intervention will be accepted. "Our meeting with Jeremy Corbyn was held to condemn the Kashmir resolution passed by his Party and to reiterate that J&K is an internal matter and outside intervention will not be accepted. BJP's malicious statements are another attempt to distract people from their failures," the Indian Overseas Congress said in a



tweet.

The Congress also tweeted that the BJP has failed to answer questions on economic slowdown, unemployment and banking crisis and is resorting to spreading lies instead. "The BJP has failed to answer a single question on the economic slowdown, rising unemployment, banking crisis and even the irregularities in the Rafale deal. Therefore they have to resort to spreading lies to evade the truth. They can't hide behind their propaganda anymore," the Congress tweeted.

Following his meeting, Corbyn had tweeted: "A very productive meeting with UK representatives from the Indian Congress Party where we discussed the human rights situation in Kashmir. There must be a de-escalation and an end to the cycle of violence and fear which has plagued the region for so long."

The Labour Party leader, whose stand on Kashmir has not gone down well with the Indian government, also tweeted a picture of the meeting. The picture included Kamal Dhalwal, who heads the overseas Congress in the UK.

Corbyn has been under pressure from Indian diaspora groups in Britain since the Labour Party passed a resolution against the Indian Government's August 5 decision to revoke Article 370 to withdraw the special status accorded to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, perceived as anti-India with its call for international intervention in the region.

If Xi says China is watching Kashmir, then why PM doesn't say we are watching Hong Kong: Cong



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit, the Congress on Thursday asked why does Prime Minister Narendra Modi not say that India is watching the muzzling of pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong when Xi says he is watching Kashmir.

Congress slammed the Modi government for failing to stop China from targeting India's internal matters. "Xi Jinping says he is watching Kashmir. But why does not Modi government issue a statement that India too is watching pro-democracy protests muzzled in Hong Kong. The government must say we are watching human rights violations in Xinjiang and the continued oppression in Tibet as along

South China Sea," Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said.

The former Union minister also dared India to ask China about Aksai Chin which has been "illegally ceded" by Pakistan to the country, when it keeps raising the issue of PoK and talks about taking it back. Tewari asked why India does not raise the issue of human rights violations in Xinjiang the way China keeps raising the Kashmir issue.

"All are blow hards in NDA/BJP talk about taking PoK & Gilgit-Baltistan back from Pak but none of them have gumption to say that we will take Aksai Chin back from the Chinese that was illegally ceded to it by Pakistan in 1963. Will @PMOIndia raise return of Aksai Chin with Xi," the Congress leader tweeted.

INSHORT

PMK FOUNDER, HIS SON MEETS PM MODI
New Delhi: Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) founder S Ramadoss and his son and former Union Minister Ambumani Ramadoss on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. The PMK is part of the BJP-led NDA and Ambumani Ramadoss is a Rajya Sabha member. The Prime Minister's Office tweeted a picture of the two leaders presenting a shawl to Modi.

WHO URGES MEMBERS TO PREVENT SUICIDES
New Delhi: The World Mental Health Day, the World Health Organization on Thursday called upon its member countries to develop national policies and implement them to prevent suicides and promote mental health.

INCREASE HEALTHCARE SPENDING TO 8%: MIN
New Delhi: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Thursday urged the States to increase healthcare spending to a minimum 8% of budget so as to achieve the targeted public health expenditure of 2.5 per cent of the GDP by 2025. He was speaking after inaugurating the 13th Conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFV).

Intimate foreign medical students on admissions in India before August 15 of each year: SC to Centre

New Delhi: Taking serious note of the delay in communication to medical students from foreign countries as well as from the Northeast regarding admissions to government universities, he has directed the Centre to be informed about the State before August 15, every year, giving them time to join.

The higher court noted that the last admission date in the first year of courses is August 31, while (MEA) has intimidated students from Iran, Bhutan and Nepal on their admissions on the eleventh hour, on August 30, which resulted in the denial of seats for them.

A bench of justices L Nageshwar Rao and Hemant Gupta, which allowed the students from foreign countries and the north-eastern states to take admission in the MBBS courses, said that a similar situation arose even last year and the court had to come to the rescue of students.

"In a similar situation that arose last year, we had to come to the rescue of the stu-

dents who were intimidated about their admission in the medical colleges at the eleventh hour. To avoid inconvenience being caused to the students who are sponsored by other countries & the State Governments and the Union Territories in whose favour seats are allocated, we direct the Government of India to intimate the concerned authorities of the State Governments, the Union Territories and other countries about the approval of admissions to candidates whose names are sponsored, at least 15 days before the last date of admission," the bench said.

The bench was hearing a plea of students including those from foreign countries and north-eastern states, who were granted admission from the central pool in the Government colleges but due to delayed communication by the MEA, the last date of admission had already passed as they reported to the colleges on September 1 & 2. PTI

SC seeks DMRC's reply on lack of parking at metro stations

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has sought response from DMRC on a report by Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) which has flagged the issue of "last mile connectivity" and lack of adequate parking for taxis, auto-rickshaws and cycle-rickshaws at metro stations.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta has issued notice to DMRC on EPCA's report which also said that lack of demarcated parking for taxis, three-wheelers and cycle-rickshaws at places like metro stations and inter state bus terminals.

The report, which was filed in the top court, said that last mile connectivity is a "critical agenda" for Delhi as connectivity, particularly from metro stations and other multi-transport points, would greatly reduce the need for private transport in city. PTI

Nadda gets Z category security

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP working president JP Nadda has been brought under 'Z' category security and he will be guarded by the commandos of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) round the clock, officials said on Thursday. BJP president Amit Shah who is also union home minister is already under 'Z' plus security cover with as many as 50 security SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams positioning around his new residence 6A, Krishna Menon Marg, where late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee earlier lived.

The decision to extend 'Z' category security to Nadda has been taken by the Union Home Ministry after reviewing the increased threat perception to him following his appointment as BJP working president.

The BJP working president has been accorded with the 'Z' category security in an all India basis, a home ministry official said.

A total of 35 commandos of the CRPF will guard Nadda on a rotational basis and at any given time, eight to nine commandos will give him proximate security. Nadda will be given the 'Z' category protection wherever he travels within the country.

In addition to the proximate security, CRPF personnel will also be posted to guard Nadda's residence here, another official said.

Note sheets on president's medals to police officers not a privileged communication: CIC

New Delhi: Records of note sheets on awarding president's medals to police officers are not a privileged communication between the prime minister and the president having immunity from disclosure under Article 74(2) of the Constitution, the Central Information Commission has told the home ministry.

The Commission, the highest adjudicating body in RTI matters, was hearing a petition of activist Nutan Thakur, who had sought copies of records, including the note sheet and the communications in cases — when President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service were awarded and when they were rejected in spite of clearance from state governments.

The Union home ministry had denied the note sheet stating that the same cannot be provided because it contains exchanges of advice and opinion between the prime minister and the president, which are privileged under Article 74(2) of the Constitution.

Thakur strongly refuted the claims, saying no provision under the 2005 RTI Act restricts a public authority from disclosure of communication between the prime minister and the president under Article 74(2).

She said denial of information under the RTI Act can take place only under its provisions.

Citing the Supreme Court

THE UNION HOME MINISTRY HAD DENIED THE NOTE SHEET STATING THAT THE SAME CANNOT BE PROVIDED BECAUSE IT CONTAINS EXCHANGES OF ADVICE AND OPINION BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT, WHICH ARE PRIVILEGED UNDER ARTICLE 74(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION

judgments in S P Gupta and S R Bommai cases which had examined and interpreted Article 74(2). Chief Information Commissioner Sudhir Bhargava noted that the disclosure of the note sheet is not barred by Article 74(2). The Commission observes that the information sought for, namely a copy of the note sheet and communications of various offices of the Ministry of Home Affairs related to cases in which PPMDS were granted/not granted by MHA for the period since January 01, 2010 till date is not barred by Article 74(2) of the Constitution of India," he said.

Bhargava directed the home ministry to decide on disclosure or withholding of information on the basis of applicability of exemption clauses of Section 8(1) of the RTI Act. PTI

Mob lynching a reality, new normal says CPI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hinting out at RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat for his comments that the word "lynching" was "alien" to the Indian tradition, the CPI on Thursday said mob lynching is a reality and has become a "new normal".

"RSS, instead of condemning the mob lynching, gives a spin saying that lynching is alien concept and a conspiracy to tarnish Hindu culture. Mob lynching is a reality and has become a new normal. The country knows who are the lynchers," said CPI general secretary D Raja in a statement.

The Left party leader was reacting to the RSS Chief's comments that the word "lynching" was "alien" to the Indian tradition. In his Dussehra address in Nagpur, Bhagwat had said isolated incidents of social violence should not be labelled with foreign words, like lynching, to defame the country.

Touching on various aspects of Bhagwat's speech, Raja accused RSS-BJP "trampled" upon every right of the people won through relentless struggles. The Left party appealed to all the left, democratic, secular forces to "strike together, while marching separately" and raise their voices against the shutdown in Jammu & Kashmir. PTI

Indian mission in Kuwait working to facilitate return of woman trapped by agents: Jaishankar



New Delhi: The Indian mission in Kuwait is working to facilitate the return of an Indian woman "trapped" there because of placement agents and has safely accommodated her at a female shelter home.

This assurance was given by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in response to a call for help on Twitter.

@DrSJaishankar Hon'ble sir, look into the matter of RAJI John Stephen female trapped in Kuwait, she belongs to Gurdaspur (Punjab) because of agents, she (was) molested there. Her family approached me. Hope and wish for action to bring her back home," the Twitter user said.

Raji John has been safely accommodated in the female shelter by the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, Jaishankar said.

"We are working with the local authorities to facilitate her return home," he said.

In another call for help, a person requested Jaishankar to facilitate the return of the mortal remains of Indian woman killed in an accident in Phuket. PTI

Blindness in India drops by 47%: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The prevalence of blindness in India has come down by around 47 per cent since 2007, according to the National Blindness and Visually Impaired Survey (2019) released on Thursday, indicating that the country is close to achieving the WHO's goal of reducing it to 0.3 per cent of the total population by 2020.

However, the data reflects that reduction rate has surpassed the target of 25 set by the WHO. The WHO Global Action Plan for Universal Eye Health (2014-19) aims to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25 per cent by 2019 from the baseline levels of 2010.

In absolute numbers, people suffering from blindness have reduced from 12 million in 2006-07 to 4.8 million in 2019. However, cataract still remains to be the most common cause of blindness (66.2 per cent) followed by corneal blindness (7.4 per cent). Besides this, the proportion of blindness due to complications of cataract surgery (7.2 per cent) has also increased, said the survey which was released by Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan.

"The prevalence of blindness in India has come down by around 47 per cent since the last survey conducted in 2006-2007 and the findings of the current survey are for blindness as defined to be vision of less than 3/60 in the better eye," Vardhan said adding the country is close to achieving the WHO's goal of reducing it to 0.3 per cent by 2020.

The current survey was conducted over a period between 2015 and 2018 by Dr Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences of the AIIMS in collaboration with the Union Health ministry, covering 93,000 people aged 50 years using Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) method in 31 districts of 24 states and Union Territories. The aim of the survey was to know the exact number of people who suffer from blindness and causes that lead to the condition.

India changed its over four-decade-old definition of blindness in 2017, bringing it in line with the WHO criteria.

According to the new definition, a person who is unable to count fingers from a dis-

tance of three metres would be considered "blind" as against the earlier stipulation of six metres, which was adopted in 1976.

The aim of revising the definition is also to be able to generate data which can be compared with global estimates and achieve the WHO goal of reducing the blindness prevalence in India to 0.3 per cent of the total population by 2020.

The previous survey was done in 2006-07, and showed blindness prevalence of about 1 per cent in country's population.

"Even though the definition of blindness was changed recently and we made use of the new definition to calculate the numbers, there is still a significant improvement in the numbers. If you look at the 50 plus population, 3.6 per cent people were found to be blind during the earlier survey and now the number has come down to 1.99 per cent," said principal investigator of survey, Dr Parveen Vashist, professor, RP Centre, AIIMS.

Diabetes leading to blindness: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fast growing diabetes is leading to blindness and visual impairment due to poor blood sugar control among patients. According to the diabetes and diabetic retinopathy survey by the AIIMS conducted between 2015 to 2019, one in eight persons above 50 years in India is a diabetic.

One in every 46 diabetics is blind and one in seven diabetics has some form of impairment in their vision due to high blood sugar levels

Of 56, 771 persons over 50 years of age assessed in 21 districts, up to 11.8 per cent (6,717) were found to be diabetic. Of these, 144 persons were blind and 923 persons were visually impaired.

"Prevalence of blindness among diabetics was 2.1 per cent and visual impairment was 13.7 per cent," states the report.

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Government of Art Culture & Languages

Shri Arvind Kejriwal
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Delhi

Sindhi Academy, Delhi
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SINDHI DRAMA FESTIVAL

11-13 October, 2019, 6:00 p.m. daily

Chief Guest : Sh. Manish Sisodia, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi
Guest of Honour : Dr. Pratap Pinjani, Director, National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language
Presided by : Smt. Mohini Hingorani, Vice-Chairperson, Sindhi Academy

Venue : Shriram Centre for Art and Culture, 4 Safdar Hashmi Marg, Mandi House, New Delhi - 110001

<p>11 October 2019</p> <p>Raktbeej</p> <p>Writer : Shankar Shesh Translated and Directed by : Shankar Mulwani</p>	<p>12 October 2019</p> <p>Chakra Kaal Jo</p> <p>Writer : Jayawant Dalwi Translated by : Asha Bhatia Directed by : Prakash Bhatia</p>	<p>13 October 2019</p> <p>Chandu Chandwani</p> <p>Writer : Ramesh Janjani Directed by : Niranjana Asrani</p>
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Bengal triple murder takes political colour

Governor slams State machinery

PTI ■ MURSHIDABAD (WB)

The gruesome murder of a school teacher, his wife and minor son in Murshidabad acquired political overtones on Thursday with the BJP and West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar hitting out at the Mamata Banerjee Government over the killings, and the RSS claiming the teacher was its supporter.



Reacting sharply to the governor's statement, senior TMC leader Tapas Roy accused Dhankhar of "speaking selectively" on incidents of violence in the State.

"When a TMC worker is killed in Paskura in East Midnapore, he doesn't make a statement. He assumed office recently and has already started speaking selectively. This doesn't behave a governor, he said.

The governor told PTI he has also sought a report from the State government "on an urgent basis" on the incident that has sent shock waves across the country.

The State's ruling Trinamool Congress hit back, accusing Dhankhar of "speaking selectively" and acting in a manner that does not "behave a governor".

"The incident puts humanity to shame. A teacher, his pregnant wife, and son are killed in a barbaric manner. No response from the state machinery. This cannot be countenanced," the governor said.

Bandhu Prakash Pal, the 35-year-old teacher, his pregnant wife Beauty and 8-year-old son Angan were found lying in pools of blood in their house at Jiaganj in Murshidabad district on Tuesday when Durga Puja festivities were on.

The three were killed by unidentified miscreants, police had said on Wednesday. According to police, it has come across a page of a diary which suggested "likely strained relations" between the victim couple.

"The investigation is on. We are looking into all the angles. But we have no clue whether he is a member or supporter of any organisation or political outfit," a senior police official told PTI, adding three people have been detained for questioning.

NCW writes to CM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Taking cognizance of the murder of an alleged RSS worker and his wife and son at Jiaganj in Murshidabad district the National Commission for Women has reportedly written to the State Government seeking report on the matter.

An annoyed NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma earlier said that she was writing letters to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and State Director General of Police regarding the "horrible crime" as "nothing has been done by authorities to stop such incidents."

A 35-year-old school teacher Bondhu Paul, his wife Beauty and an eight-year-old son Arya were found dead on Vijaya Dushmi Day inside their house at Jiaganj in Murshidabad some 250 km north of Kolkata.

Soon the RSS claimed that Paul was one of their workers who had joined the organisation about a year ago.

All the three victims were repeatedly stabbed, sources said. Soon after the murder was discovered State BJP leaders said "this is the way how the ruling party

Trinamool Congress has been trying to stop our political advance. But they will not be able to stop us."

Though the police had not been able to arrest anyone in connection with the murder inside sources said they were "looking into all the angles," including cross-border planning. An official also said that they were also "analysing the family angle" because "there was sometension between the couple."

"The district police had recovered a diary from the house which contained some jaw-dropping clues, sources said. "We are weighing every angle and will soon be able to catch the culprits," an official said.

Meanwhile senior BJP leader Sambit Patra questioned the law and order situation of Bengal and tweeted "this (incident) has shaken my conscience..a RSS worker Bandhu Prakash Pal, his eight months pregnant wife and his kid were brutally slaughtered in West Bengal's

Murshidabad Not a word by the liberals. Not a letter by 59 liberals to Mamata Nauseating Selectivism."

After Puja, it is carnival time in Kolkata

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After the Pujas it is carnival time in the City of Joy. Come Friday, Kolkata will celebrate yet another Durga Carnival a la Rio. A brain child of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee the festivities will take place at historic Red Road with an Independence Day like procession of about 80 idols from top Durga Puja pandals and along with a miniature of the Themes upon which they were organised.

The two giant stands shaped and designed after terracotta work of ancient Bishnupur temples has been erected on two sides of the broad street to accommodate about 15,000 spectators including 1,500 foreign dignitaries



and media personnel, sources said.

Organised by the State Information and Culture Department, the event is being held for the fourth consecutive year and will highlight Bengal's

traditional folk culture.

Though sitting arrangements for 15,000 people has been made a number of giant LED screens have been erected to accommodate about one lakh visitors who are likely to

The two giant stands shaped and designed after terracotta work of ancient Bishnupur temples has been erected on two sides of the broad street to accommodate about 15,000 spectators including 1,500 foreign dignitaries and media personnel, sources said

come to witness the grand festivities.

The Puja committees will carry tableaux of their respective Themes to Red Road showcasing Bengal's creativity to the whole world. The Chief Minister has already gone on record saying "going by the crowd it draws Durga Puja is the biggest carnival on earth," drawing several crore people in a matter of 3-4 days.

WB CM to decide on fate of Tallah Bridge

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to take a call on whether the arterial Tallah Bridge in the city would be demolished or strengthened for the time being following recommendations of a team of experts to rebuild the structure, a senior official said.

The report submitted to State chief secretary Rajiva Sinha by the Mumbai-based team on Wednesday recommended demolition and reconstruction of the 57-year-old bridge, reaffirming an earlier report submitted by consultancy firm RITES.

"The Mumbai-based firm has submitted its report and recommendations on the Tallah bridge and the Chief Minister will hold discussions on the fate of the bridge on October 12. She will take a call on the best possible option," the officer said.

Secretariat sources said that discussions were held by the chief secretary with other senior officials and police officers about the options of building a new bridge or strengthening the existing one. PTI

Bengal BJP seeks Puja outreach report

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The BJP leadership in West Bengal has sought reports from its district units and State level leaders on the party's mass outreach programme especially on the contentious issues of the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill during the Durga Puja festival.

According to State BJP sources, the party had asked its leaders and cadres to enhance outreach for spreading the party's ideology and policies by using the platform of the festival.

The saffron party this time had set up more than 10,000 stalls outside

puja pandals to display books on its ideology and making people aware of the NRC and the CAB.

"We have sought detailed reports from all the districts and state level leaders about how the festival was utilised to increase the party's mass connect. We are hopeful of getting a full report by early next week," BJP state general secretary Pratap Banerjee told PTI.

A senior BJP leader on condition of anonymity said, the inputs on issues such as the NRC and the CAB were necessary as the proposed implementation of the NRC in West Bengal has created panic among the masses.

Three politicians released in Srinagar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu & Kashmir administration on Thursday reportedly released three politicians who were under detention since August 5.

According to media reports, Shoib Lone, former MLA and Congress leader, Yawar Mir, former PDP MLA and Noor Mohammad of National Conference were released by the State administration.

According to official sources, the State administration has started an elaborate exercise to review detention of politicians in the State and after reviewing individual cases they are expected to release more leaders in the days to come.

In another related development,

Meanwhile, situation remained peaceful in different parts of Kashmir Valley on Thursday. The degree colleges thrown open by the State authorities on Wednesday remained open with scanty student population

omment, J&K Home Department late Wednesday evening issued a fresh order inviting tourists to visit the State as it has withdrawn its previous order, restricting stay of pilgrims/tourists, issued on August 2.

The order issued by the Principal Secretary, Home Shaleen Kabra stated, "the Security Advisory requesting tourists visiting J&k to curtail their stay in the Kashmir valley, issued on Aug 2nd, is hereby withdrawn. The

tourists desirous of undertaking visit to the State shall be provided all necessary assistance and logistical support."

Meanwhile, situation remained peaceful in different parts of Kashmir valley on Thursday. The degree colleges thrown open by the State authorities on Wednesday remained open with scanty student population.

Local hoteliers, transporters, tour operators and all others dependent on tourism industry are all looking forward to welcome fresh arrival of tourists in Kashmir valley in the coming days.

The biggest concern, however, remained absence of communication services and continued shut down during peak business hours in Kashmir valley.

2 injured in Pak firing in Poonch

PNS ■ JAMMU

At least two civilians received injuries in heavy mortar shelling by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control in Poonch late Thursday evening.

In response, the Indian Army is retaliating strongly and effectively. The line of control had earlier witnessed heavy exchange of mortar shelling late Wednesday evening in which the Pakistan Army may have suffered fatal injuries.

According to ground reports, "the Pakistan Army violated ceasefire agreement on Thursday by resorting to heavy mortar shelling on the



civilian areas of Kari Karmara, Shahpur, Qasba and Kerni in Poonch. Large number of local residents, could not step out of their houses due to heavy shelling in the forward area.

In the heavy exchange, two civilians identified as 75 year old Noor Husaain of Karmara and 35 year old Shamim Akhta of Shahpur received injuries.

1,382 in fray for J&K's BDC polls

PNS ■ JAMMU

As many as 1,382 candidates have filed their nominations for the Block Development Council polls, beginning October 24, in Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief Electoral Officer, Shailendra Kumar said, "a total number of 1382 candidates have filed their nomination papers in 22 districts of the State for 310 BDCs for which the elections will be held on October 24".

He said elaborate security arrangements have been made to ensure peaceful conduct of the polls.

Out of 1382 candidates, 751 filed nomination papers in Jammu, 515 in Kashmir and 116 in Ladakh.

According to official sources, "the frontier district of Kupwara in North Kashmir topped the list with maximum

number of candidates coming forward to contest the BDC polls.

A total number of 131 candidates filed their nomination papers in Kupwara followed by Baramulla where poll authorities received 110 nominations."

In Jammu division, the highest number of nominations were received in Jammu district where 105 candidates are in the fray.

In Ladakh division too, Kargil district outnumbered Leh in terms of total nominations. Official sources said, 68 candidates joined the electoral contest in Kargil district, while 48 candidates filed their papers in Leh.

Meanwhile, a day after the State Unit of the congress party decided to boycott the BDC polls, the State BJP Chief, Ravinder Raina, Thursday alleged that Congress party is

carrying forward nothing but the agenda of Pakistan through its BDC poll boycott call.

Raina, also said that registration of Congress party be cancelled with immediate effect for its repeated acts to weaken the institutions of democracy.

Ravinder Raina, alleged that Congress party does everything here, which is required as per the destructive foreign policy of rogue state of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan wants the election to be boycotted here, which is being implemented by Congress party along with NC and PDP in India.

He said that the Congress party has carried forward the agenda put forth by Hurriyat, separatists, and the enemies of the Nation, through its actions and hence proved itself to be a traitor by bringing bad name to the Nation.

Rahul Gandhi pleads not guilty in defamation case

PTI ■ SURAT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who had been abroad for few days, on Thursday appeared before a magisterial court here and pleaded not guilty in a criminal defamation case filed against him for his "why do all thieves share Modi surname" remarks.

Gandhi appeared before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate BH Kapadia and

pleaded not guilty when asked by the court whether he accepts the charges, levelled against him by BJP legislator from Surat-West, Purnesh Modi.

After Gandhi's plea was recorded, his lawyers moved an application seeking permanent exemption from personal appearance. When Modi's lawyers raised objection to the exemption plea, the court said it will decide on the plea on December 10.



Empty shikaras and houseboats inside the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar on Thursday. The Government has withdrawn its advisory, issued on 2 August 2019, asking tourists in the Valley to leave

Expedite crop loss assessment in Rajasthan: BJP to Cong Government

PTI ■ JAIPUR

BJP State president Satish Poonia on Thursday demanded that the Congress Government should expedite assessment of crop loss damage due to heavy rainfall in Rajasthan "Crops were damaged due to heavy rainfall in several districts of the state. I visited many districts where crops have been damaged and farmers are in distress and the Government should expedite

the assessment work so that farmers can get compensation," Poonia told reporters here. He also called for Governor Kalraj Mishra's intervention in the matter. "Our delegation is meeting the governor today to demand his intervention. The Government had asked the officials to prepare the girdawari (harvest inspection) report by October 15 but the assessment work is going on very slow," he said.

Congress ends up with separatists after J&K poll boycott

IANS ■ JAMMU/SRINAGAR

With its decision to boycott the Block Development Council (BDC) elections in Jammu & Kashmir, the Congress party has placed itself in an unenviable position of being on the right side of the separatists.

For over 30 years since the ongoing separatists violence started in the State, the separatists have been asking people and the political parties to boycott what they call "the Indian electoral process".

Ironically, the Congress party that fought for the country's independence and anchored itself firmly for over 65 years through the length and breadth of India is now seen to shift its political track.

"Since its establishment the Congress has been seen as the only political party that had roots and support from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

"As fate would have it, the party now decides to boycott election in J&K," said Ali Muhammad, 75, who is still called 'Ali Congressi' in his native village in North Kashmir.

G.A. Mir, President of the state Congress has said that the party cannot fight the BDC election as its leaders belonging to the valley are still under detention.

'Nathuram Raj' in Uttar Pradesh: Akhilesh

PTI ■ JHANSI (UP)

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav slammed the ruling BJP in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday, saying there is not "Ram Raj" but "Nathuram Raj" in the state, a day after he visited the family of a youth killed in a police encounter over alleged illegal sand mining.

"Besides mob lynching, now there is also police lynching which can be seen here," the SP chief told newspapers.

Police said Pushpendra Yadav was killed in an encounter on Sunday after he opened fire on a patrol team. But his family members have alleged that he was killed in a staged gunfight after he refused to pay bribe to the police station in-charge and threatened to expose him.

The initial statements of Jhansi SSP and the SHO on the encounter were inconsistent.



The SP chief visited Pushpendra Yadav's family on Wednesday and assured them help.

On Thursday, he said, "There are many loopholes in the police story."

Akhilesh Yadav said he has "no trust" in the police and the administration. "Which Ram Raj is going on in UP? This is not Ram Raj but Nathuram Raj. With mob lynching, police lynching have also started in

the state," he said at a press conference.

Jhansi Senior Superintendent of Police O P Singh had told reporters on the night of the encounter that the SHO was returning alone in his private vehicle from vacation when the exchange of fire took place, but the Station House Officer involved said he was on patrol duty with two constables.

Police have also claimed Pushpendra Yadav, who ran a sand mining business, was shot dead after he opened fire on the police officer who had seized his truck a few days earlier.

Pushpendra Yadav's family alleged that the area police officer in-charge, Dharmendra Chauhan, was demanding Rs 1.5- lakh bribe to release his truck.

"I want justice. My husband...He had given money earlier but was asked for more. When he did not give it my husband was shot dead. I want jus-

ice," his wife Shivangi said, sobbing before visiting mediapersons.

They had married just three months ago.

"We demand a probe by a sitting high court judge. It's not an encounter but a murder," Akhilesh Yadav said.

"Not much should be expected from the police force of a State where the Chief Minister openly asks them to 'thok dalo' (shoot) those taking law in their own hands," he said.

"The BJP Government of the State is equally responsible for the killing along with the local administration. The Government has forgotten that it is the image of the administration which creates the right image of the Government," Akhilesh Yadav said, adding

the deceased's brother, a CISF jawan in Delhi, has also been made an accused in the case and was on duty that night.

TSRTC strike continues for sixth day in Telangana

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The indefinite strike by unions of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) continued for the sixth day on Thursday with the agitating employees staging protests across the State.

With nearly 48,000 employees boycotting their duties and state-run buses staying off roads, the RTC said alternative arrangements were made to run bus services from its own fleet.

Around 11,000 vehicles including buses were being operated.

In a related development, the vacation bench of the Telangana High Court posted to October 15 the hearing on a petition that

sought to declare the strike as "illegal."

The Government also submitted before the court a report informing it about the alternative arrangements taken.

However, the court asked the government and TSRTC to file a detailed report before it by October 15.

On Sunday, the court had directed the Government to submit a report by today, on the alternative arrangements made in view of the ongoing strike, besides ordering issuance of notices to two unions of RTC.

The RTC unions through their counsels submitted that as per law they had given strike notices to the Government.

BJP, Sena will register striking victory: Fadnavis

PTI ■ PUNE

Asserting that the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance will return to power in Maharashtra with an "unprecedented" mandate, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said his Government worked for the weaker sections of the society and tried to transform their lives.

He also criticised the opposition Congress and NCP for "not doing anything" except giving "false and misleading" promises during the 15 years of their rule before the BJP-Sena Government came to power in 2014.

As part of the election campaign, Fadnavis addressed public rallies at different places in Solapur district on Thursday.

While addressing a rally at Mangalwedha, he said, "Congress and NCP did not



do anything for 15 years except giving false and misleading promises.

But after our Government came to power five years back, we worked for the poor, down-trodden, tribals, minorities, farmers, OBCs and women, and tried to bring about a transformation (in their lives)."

The BJP-Shiv Sena Government stood behind the farmers in the last five years and gave the biggest farm loan waiver, which benefited 50 lakh farmers.

Rahul to campaign in Dharavi on Sunday

Mumbai: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will campaign in the city on Sunday for the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

It will be his first campaign event in the State ahead of the October 21 elections.

Mumbai Congress chief Eknath Gaikwad said Gandhi will address a rally at Dharavi

here on Sunday evening. Gaikwad's daughter and Congress secretary Varsha Gaikwad is seeking re-election for a fourth term from Dharavi.

During Rahul Gandhi's tenure as party chief, Varsha Gaikwad was AICC secretary for Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls. PTI

Shah, Uddhav to address rallies in Amravati today

Amravati: Electioneering for the eight Assembly seats in Maharashtra's Amravati will gain momentum from Friday when BJP president Amit Shah and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray will address separate rallies in the district located in Vidarbha region. Shah will address a public gathering in Melghat constituency, a tribal belt where the BJP has fielded Ramesh Mavaskar, a fresh recruit, in place of sitting MLA Prabhudas Bhilavekar. PTI

BJP expels 4 who are in fray against official nominees

Mumbai: The BJP on Thursday expelled four rebels who are contesting against the official nominees of the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance in the October 21 assembly elections.

A BJP release said Charan Waghmare (Tumsar-Bhandara district), Geeta Jain (Mira-Bhayandar, Thane district), Balasaheb Ohwal (Pimpri-Chinchwad) and Dilip Deshmukh (Ahmedpur-Latur district) have been expelled from the party. PTI

BATTLEGROUND MAHARASHTRA

BJP, Sena face challenges from rebels

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Large-scale rebellion is brewing in Maharashtra during the elections. With the possibility of the saffron alliance returning to power in the State being strong, the ruling BJP and Shiv Sena are facing the maximum brunt of rebels in the State Assembly polls, scheduled for October 11.

Two days ahead of the withdrawal of nominations, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had last week sent out stern message to message to rebels to opt out of the fray and said that there would be no place for rebels in the BJP-led "Maha-Yuti" (grand alliance). On his party, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray — at his annual Dussehra rally — subsequently apologised to those party workers who have been denied tickets, in an effort to defuse rebellion within the party ranks over the distribution of tickets.

Both Fadnavis and Uddhav have not succeeded in reining in the rebels. There are an estimated 45 to 50 BJP-Sena rebels



leader Sanjay Deshmukh is taking on Sena minister Sanjay Minister in Digras constituency. Sena's former minister Ashok Shinde is contesting as a rebel against BJP's sitting MLA Samir Kurniwar. In Ramtek, Shiv Sena's former MLA

Ashish Jaiswal is making matters difficult for the BJP's BJP's sitting MLA Malinkarjun Reddy.

In north Maharashtra, Shiv Sena's rebel Vilas Shinde is taking Seema Hire in Nashik (west) constituency, while Sena's Jalgaon district president Chandrakant Patil is contesting as a rebel against senior BJP leader Eknath Khadse's daughter Rohini Khadse in Muktainagar constituency. In the neighbouring Jalgaon (rural) constituency, Sena's minister of state Gulabrao Patil is facing a BJP rebel Gulabrao Patil. There are two BJP rebels in Sakri and Shirpur in Dhule district.

There are rebels in Vasmat, Aurangabad (west), Nanded (south), Osmabad and a

few other constituencies in Marthwada.

In Mumbai, Shiv Sena's Rajul Patel has rebelled against BJP's official candidate Bharati Lavake in Versova constituency, while Shiv Sena's sitting MLA Trupti Sawant has rebelled against Sena's official nominee and Mumbai Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar in Bandra (east). In Andheri (east), BJP man Murji Patel has rebelled against Shiv Sena's official candidate Ramesh Latke.

In Konkan region, the Shiv Sena is contesting officially against BJP's Nitesh Rane, son of former chief minister Narayan Rane. BJP's sitting MLA Manda Mhatre, is taking on a rebel in Shiv Sena city chief Vijay Mane, in Bela constituency. BJP's Ganpat Gaikwad is facing serious threat to his candidature from Sena leader Dhananjay Bodare in Kalyan (east). JP legislator from Chinchwad Laxman Jagtap is fighting out against Sena rebel Rahul Kalate. In Sawantwadi, BJP's Rajan Teli has turned a rebel.

Mahabalipuram gears up for Modi-Xi meet

PTI ■ CHENNAI

From traditional welcome to glimpses of South Indian art forms and decorative arches, Chinese President Xi Jinping will be treated to a grand reception as he lands here on Friday for the second informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the nearby ancient coastal town of Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram).

The seaside town near here is swarming with police and Special Protection Group personnel and the official machinery is fully equipped for the summit. Bulletproof makeshift structures have been put near the shore temple for the two leaders to hold talks.

Top police and

Government officials completed assessing the security preparedness and fine tuned arrangements related to amenities for the leaders both here and at Mamallapuram.

Chief Minister K Palaniswami inspected the arrangements at the coastal town this evening.

Entry to the group of ancient monuments have been blocked and barricades have come up around them.

A grand ornamental arch to welcome the two leaders has been prominently put up at the entrance to Mamallapuram from the East Coast Road.

Traditional arches made of banana trees and sugarcane have been put in front of the ITC Grand Chola Hotel where Xi Jinping is scheduled to stay.

On his arrival, Xi will be welcomed by traditional performances including 'tappu' folk drum art display at the airport by about 500 artistes.

Also, a string of other cultural events have been lined up including Bharatanatyam and Kathakali performances.

Apart from the cultural programmes on schedule at the Shore temple on Friday evening, makeshift platforms have come up in several locations including here and Mamallapuram for brief, cultural shows. According to the tentative schedule made available to the media, the foreign guest is scheduled to arrive at 2.10 pm and he is set to exit the airport through the fifth VVIP gate and proceed to the nearby hotel.

I will quit JD(U) if party desires, says Ajay Alok

PTI ■ PATNA

Disgruntled JD(U) leader Ajay Alok on Thursday said he was prepared to resign from the primary membership of the party, if it so desired.

His reaction comes a day after a party communication informed media outlets that Alok had ceased to be a party spokesman and his utterances must be taken as his "personal opinion" and not the "official line" of the party.

Several media outlets had been airing Alok's views, which were causing embarrassment to the JD(U). Alok has of late been adopting a stance in line with BJP hardliners.

The party communication was issued by JD(U) spokesman Rajiv Ranjan Prasad on Wednesday shortly after Alok had come out with a tweet in which he ended up berating the JD(U) while stressing the need for the NDA remaining intact.

"For the BJP it is not of

great consequence to remain in power in Bihar. But, this alliance must remain intact in the interests of Bihar and in view of the JD(U) proclaiming to be the big brother in the coalition, the onus is on us," Alok had tweeted.

He was reacting to the recent acrimony witnessed between the coalition partners which was followed by leaders of the saffron party skipping the Dussehra festivities organized at the Gandhi Maidan where the Chief Minister shared the dais with opposition leaders like state Congress president Madan Mohan Jha.

Once considered to be a favourite of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar because of the combativeness he brought on the table at on-screen debates, Alok seems to have fallen out of favour with Kumar, who also heads the JD(U).

However, stung by the release issued by Rajiv Ranjan Prasad, Alok again took to the micro-blogging site to state that he has felt slighted.

Infiltrators will be thrown out of India: Shah

PTI ■ TULJAPUR

Infiltrators will be made to leave the country and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) will be implemented for the purpose, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday.

The BJP chief made the announcement at a campaign rally here for the October 21 Maharashtra Assembly elections.

"Before we come to ask for votes in 2024 (General elections), let me assure you that the BJP Government will make sure every infiltrator is thrown out of the country," Shah said.

"We will throw out everyone residing illegally in our country. Congress and NCP have opposed NRC as such residents form a vote bank for these opposition parties," Shah said.

Pawar has no supporters behind him, says Fadnavis

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after he ridiculed Rahul Gandhi "for having gone on a holiday to Bangkok fearing the Congress' defeat in the State Assembly polls, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis likened NCP chief Sharad Pawar to Asrani's character as a jailer in film "Sholay" and said the latter in reality was left with no supporters behind him.

Addressing an election rally at Phalton in Satara district of western Maharashtra, Fadnavis took a dig at Pawar by saying: "Sharad Pawar's condition is like that of Jailer in film 'Sholay'. Aadhe ider jaon,

Aade Uder jao, baki mere peche aao. Like in the film, there is no one behind Pawar."

Alluding to veteran Congress leader Sushil Kumar Shinde's comment that "we (Congress and NCP) are tired. Both the parties need to merge", Fadnavis said: "Shinde understands as to what is in store for the Congress-NCP in the elections.

The two parties will find themselves such a pitiable situation after the Assembly polls that both the parties will not have enough numbers to stake claim for the post of the Opposition leader in the State Assembly."

PARTIAL CANCELLATION / REGULATION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO TRACK RENEWAL WORK

In order to further strengthen the existing infrastructure and smooth train operations, Northern Railway will undertake the Track Renewal related work between Muzaffarnagar-Nagal station on Muzaffarnagar-Tapri section of Delhi Division. To execute this work, Northern Railway will take 10 Nos. of power and traffic blocks for the duration of 4 hrs. each from 11.45 hrs. to 15.45 hrs. on 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29.10.2019 & 01.11.2019. Consequently, the following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Train Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date from originating station
54472 Rishikesh - Delhi Passenger	At Saharanpur	Saharanpur - Delhi	11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29.10.2019 & 01.11.2019
64562 Ambala - Delhi MEMU	At Saharanpur	Saharanpur - Delhi	11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29.10.2019 & 01.11.2019
64561 Delhi - Ambala MEMU	From Saharanpur	Delhi - Saharanpur	11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29.10.2019 & 01.11.2019

REGULATION OF TRAINS

Train No. & Train Name	Time/Period of Regulation
14317 Indore-Dehradun Express	Train will be regulated for 120 minutes between Ghaziabad - Muzaffarnagar stations on 11.10.2019
14309 Ujjain-Dehradun Express	Trains will be regulated for 120 minutes between Ghaziabad - Muzaffarnagar stations on 21.10.2019

RESCHEDULING OF TRAIN

54304 Kalka - Delhi Passenger will depart from Kalka at 09.40 hrs. instead of 07.40 hrs. on 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22, 25, 28, 29.10.2019 & 01.11.2019.

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in.

Security Helpline No. 182 and Passengers Complaint Helpline No. 138

Please join us on **NORTHERN RAILWAY** visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice (through E-Tendering)

Name of Work with its Location	App. Cost of the Work (₹)	Tender Document Fee (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Address of the Office	Date & Time for Upload the tender/ closing of tender	Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
Work required in Annual GM/ Inspection of ABO-RE Section in SPR Section of Delhi Division.	₹ 20,36,517.19/- only	₹ 3,540/- only	₹ 40,700/- only	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-I, DRM Office, New Delhi - 110055	Tender Uploading/ Closing date & time 01.11.2019 upto 15:00 hrs.	See the N.Rly. website www.reps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055.

No. 558-Sig-16-M-Tender-1315 Date : 10.10.2019 3255/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida 201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com and https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Sr. No.	Job Number	Name of Work	Amount (in Rs)
A1	37/GM(R)/SM (NTC)/2018-19	P/L Thermoplastic paint on Expressway Sector-14A to Mahamaya flyover, Noida	Rs. 26.86 Lacs
2	02/GM(R)/SM (NTC)/2018-19	P/F Retro-Reflective Plot Indicator board in Sector-40 Noida	Rs. 28.12 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 21.10.2019 upto 5.00 pm. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 22.10.2019 at 11.00 am. General Manager (R), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No 1266/18 Date : 05.10.2019
STATE BANK OF INDIA Versus APPLICANT
SMT. ANITA MOGHGA & ORS. RESPONDENT
To, Defendant

3. M/s Idea Builders Pvt. Ltd., Group of Company of M/s Manju Exports, 2C, DDA Flats, Nirman Vihar, New Delhi-92 Also At : C-294, 1st Floor, Vivek Vihar, Delhi-95 Also At : C-10, Ramprastha, Ghaziabad, UP-201010

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 27,19,991/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety One Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance on the Tribunal on 13.12.2019 at 10.30 A.M. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, SECTION OFFICER, DRT-II, DELHI.

राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय
National School of Drama
Final Year Students Present
Fassbinder's
Katzelmacher
(In Hindi)

Hindi Translation
Amitabh Srivastava
Directed by
Dr. Jacqueline Roussety
11 to 14 October 2019 6.30 PM
Additional shows
12 & 13 October 3.30PM
BAHUMUKH
NSD Campus, Bahawalpur House
Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110001

The play is meant for adults over eighteen years of age Limited Seats, Please collect your entry card for the performance which will be available two hour before the show on first come first served basis at the NSD Reception.

NSD , Bahawalpur House , Bhagwandas Road , New Delhi - 110001 Enquiries : 011-23389402 / 7916/ 2821 Website : www.nsd.gov.in

Davp-09130/11/033/1920

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

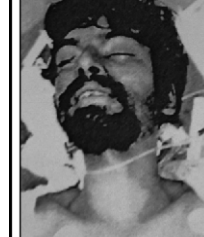
General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Khushbu, D/o Sh. Sita Ram, R/o H.No. D-1/39, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Ph-II, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Golden colour suit and Salwar and Black Sandel in foot has been missing since 15.09.2019 from the area of PS Budh Vihar.

In this regard a FIR No. 239/19 dated 14.09.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbl.gov.in SHO
Website: http://cbl.nic.in P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-27052772, 27052773
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/3341/RD/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

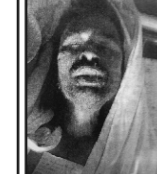


General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male name Anish, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: Approx 28 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'7", Face: Oval, Hair: Curly Small Black. During treatment declared dead on 02.10.2019 in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 22A, dated 02.10.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi
Ph.: 011-24106345, 24106346
DP/7105/SW/19

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, was found on 26.09.2019 at 10:38 pm on Road No. 43, near Shakurbasti Railway Station road, Rani Bagh, Delhi. He was admitted in Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital in unconscious condition. He was later referred to Safdarjung Hospital. He died during treatment on 28.09.2019. In this regard FIR No. 446/19 u/s 279/337 IPC has been lodged at Police Station, Rani Bagh, New Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: Approx 35 Years, Height: 168 cm, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White Baniyan and Black Lungi.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
SHO
Police Station, Rani Bagh, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27015329, 8750870225
DP/2771/OD/19

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (M)-/KPZ
KESHAV PURAM: DELHI-110035
E-Mail ID: eem1kpz@gmail.com
NIT No. E.E.(M-I)/KPZ/TC/2019-20/24 DATED: 7.10.19

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Start date of sale/download of tender document : 07.10.19 upto 5:00 P.M.
Last date tender Document online Submission : 22.10.19 upto 11:00 A.M.
Opening of financial Bid : 22.10.19 upto 11:15 A.M.

The Executive Engineer (M)-/Keshav Puram invites on behalf of the Commissioner, North DMC selected percentage/item rate tenders from the approved and eligible contractors. The tenders will be opened on the website www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER by Executive Engineer (M)-/Keshav Puram. The rates hold good for 6 months.

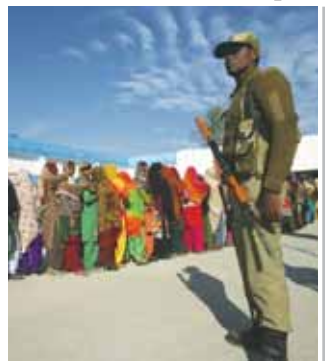
SN: 1, Name of Work: Stg. of existing Multi Purpose Hall and Imp. Dev. of M.C. Pky. School, D-Block, Saraswati Vihar in Ward No. C-65/ KPZ., Head of A/c : XL-VII-Edu., FTC No.19/XL-VII-Edu., Tender amount (Rs.): 6038021, Estimated cost (Rs.): 7481100, Earnest Money (Rs.): 120800, Tender cost (Rs.): 1000/-, Time of completion: 06 months

Tender document can be downloaded online on website www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDMCETENDER for bidding by approved/ eligible contractors. The detailed NIT can be seen on website.

Sd/-
R.O. No. 117/North/DMC/2019-20 Ex. Engineer (M)-/KPZ

Polls to what end?

The block elections in J&K are nothing but farcical in the absence of political parties except the BJP



The Government's rush to restore normalcy in the Valley, be it by opening it to tourists or conducting the Block Development Council (BDC) elections, is now so horribly distant from the ground reality that it stands the risk of being counter-productive. Clearly, the concertina wires are now beginning to hurt the Government's own plans and looking like an elaborate scheme of self-deception. The almost 60 days of lockdown, the imprisonment of top political leaders and notables to stifle any dissent on the changed status of Jammu & Kashmir and the intimidation of civilians by an enhanced security presence have only bred anger and prejudice. One can understand the Government's strategic imperative. Though it has managed to convince the world at large of its sovereign right to change the status of Kashmir, it has to dispel any doubts as to the rationale of that integration and restore democratic rights immediately. The international concern over the rights situation in the Valley, be it of civilians or their elected representatives, keeps mounting and uncomfortable questions are being asked. Normalcy comes in fits and starts with internet and cellphones still down, free movement restricted to numbers, schools, colleges and hospitals just about sputtering to life and the economy ground to a halt. And the absence of a backlash doesn't mean there is acceptance. According to an internal document of security forces, about 100 personnel have been injured in stone-pelting protests since the scrapping of Article 370. A unilateral move was expected to result in sound and fury but silencing the sound by force doesn't mean the fury can be bottled up for long either. Erratic services mean some commercial establishments are imposing self-imposed curfews as a mark of protest, a sort of civil rebellion that can be far more crippling than violence. Of course, some semblance of normalcy may be the consequence of official prodding or simply a desire to get on with life as usual but cannot be interpreted as calm. If anything, it could be the proverbial lull before the storm. In such a scenario, no tourist is willing to risk a vacation or being profiled. A shutdown to snuff out local resistance may actually have an adverse effect with tourists becoming soft targets. Although the authorities are now releasing political leaders with a caveat of "maintaining good behaviour", it is a euphemism for a conditional release. It means that any public discussion with their voters on the revocation of Article 370 or a free dialogue would still be considered incendiary.

There is no denying that local politicians have profited from both the Indian and Pakistan sides in the State's terror economy but it is also true that mainline parties, like the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), had respected electoral processes and been invested in the united India narrative. Besides, no matter whom New Delhi cultivated or not, the fact is political parties have fobbed off militants as an intermediary. Now the filter is being projected as the new enemy, completely eroding a system of popular representation. With the top brass of mainline parties still in detention, all parties, except the BJP, have decided to boycott the BDC elections on October 24. With most leaders in captivity, it is difficult to get their organisational machinery to work at the grassroots level in such a short time window. In the BDC polls, panches and sarpanches have to cast their vote to elect the Chairman but local parties argue that the process won't be credible as over 64 per cent of panch and 45 per cent of sarpanch posts are vacant. About 90 per cent panchayat seats in Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam districts are vacant, which means there will be no polls. Besides, by allowing the BDC elections to be held on a party basis and empowering the administration rather than the local electoral authority to conduct them, the Government has clearly moved away from the ideas of devolving power or strengthening local self-governance, something it could have used fairly to reap political dividends later. It is incumbent upon us to keep Panchayati Raj institutions as community-oriented and not politicise them. It is precisely because the elections are seen as a context of staging a political takeover that the Congress, too, decided to boycott them at the 11th hour. The BJP could have turned the elections into an opportunity for strengthening its case ground up. Its undue haste reeks of nothing but self-aggrandisement.

Churlish move

By stopping Kejriwal from attending climate meet, the govt stokes hostilities with the Opposition



There can be no politics about climate change simply because it is a shared concern and all stakeholders gain by exchanging notes and learning from each other. There must be joint ownership of responsibility on matters related to environment instead of exclusive authorship of ideas. Because what matters in climate politics is an implementable solution for everybody and that alone is the grand prize, not the face behind it. Therefore, it has been rather a messy and churlish move of the Centre, which anyway is a key global

player and initiator in sustainable development, to deny a certain citizen visa for attending the C-40 Climate Summit in Denmark and share his learnings. Did the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) refuse clearance to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal simply because he represents the Opposition and, therefore, not entitled to detail his experiences of managing the most toxic city in the world? Does it mean that other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi, nobody has the right to address global fora on matters Indian? Or does it mean that the Government doesn't want acknowledgement for Opposition leaders who did good, simply because they are rivals at home? Of course, the current regime has made it known that it is intolerant of federalism but to stretch it this far, arguing that Kejriwal was too senior to attend the meeting, really makes it look insecure and not worth the confidence a landslide electoral victory gives. Besides, in a digital age, its intransigence only falls flat as Kejriwal will now address C-40 through a video conference. Unlike the official claim of protocol issues, C-40 is actually open to leaders of all shades, innovators and policy-makers. It is a group of the world's largest cities that is committed to tackling climate change and Kejriwal was to present his set of initiatives that led to a 25 per cent reduction in air pollution.

Apparently the mandarins have either had collective amnesia or are ill-informed. In 2007, the then Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had attended the C-40 summit. This is not the first time that the Centre has denied permission to the leader of a rival political party to go abroad and showcase the work done by his/her Government. Recently, Kejriwal's deputy Manish Sisodia could barely make it to speak on educational reforms in Russia. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also had run-ins with the MEA over her visits to China and Chicago. Clearly, the ruling BJP is scared that the C-40 could be used to highlight Kejriwal's performance before the Assembly elections. No doubt his Government has the electoral edge, courtesy its track record on school education, mohalla clinics and air pollution. So by allowing a controversy to brew, only the BJP stands to lose.

China's impunity complex

Xi's visit should be used by New Delhi to convey to Beijing in clearer terms that it should decouple its India policy from its sympathies for Islamabad



VIVEK MISHRA

It is not uncommon to notice the death of irony in international diplomacy. Most countries, which are in a position to influence international or regional orders, have skeletons in their own cupboards but they desist from peeping into their own closet. Instead, they look at those of others. The US' intolerance over human rights elsewhere is noticeable, except when it comes to its role in the larger West Asian region.

Last month, when a US drone strike reportedly killed numerous farmers in the Khogyani district of Nangarhar province in Afghanistan, it hardly grabbed international attention. This international impunity complex — a default appendage of being a major power — is fast catching up with China, too. India's international position as a benign and reluctant regional major power and its grey ground between a middle and major power provide apposite grounds to whet its impunity complex for China. What fuels the Chinese state behaviour with India is its sense of military superiority, emanating from its historical upper hand in the 1962 war, its giant leap in technology, manufacturing-led exports and defence sector. The resultant asymmetry in bilateral relations between the two is structural in nature, which calls for India to strengthen its key areas like trade, defence and most importantly (as recent events have shown), international diplomacy.

As China consolidates its seat on the global high table, irony is being strangled even tighter each day, particularly on issues of human rights, sovereignty and territorial control. Most prominent examples are China's repression of the Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, its dominance in the South China Sea, sensitivity over Tibet and the most recent unrest in Hong Kong. Further, its attempt to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations (UN) and the open support it provides to Pakistan on issues like cross-border terrorism, Nuclear Suppliers Group, UN expansion, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and listing of terrorists in the UN do not augur well for bilateral relations with India.

On October 4, Chinese Ambassador to Islamabad, Yao Jing, raked up the Kashmir issue again and said, "We are also working for the Kashmiris to help them get their fundamental rights and justice. There should be a justified solution to the issue of Kashmir and China will stand by Pakistan for regional peace and stability." This statement is overridden with impunity complex for, if one were to replace "Kashmiris" with "Uighurs", it would be reflective of China's own domestic situation, which is only worse.

Yao's statement, coming just before the Chinese Premier's visit to Mamallapuram in South India, cannot be read without context. This is part of the broader Chinese strate-



gy that precedes most State visits to India and is carried out in advance to strengthen grounds of negotiations during the visit.

The delay in confirming Xi's informal visit to India was a subtle pressure tactic that finds resemblance in the last informal visit by Xi to India in 2018, which, too, was confirmed only in the last five days. Another common streak that precedes China's State-level visits to India is the latter's outward yet shy nature of being directly hostile. In 2014, Chinese soldiers intruded into Indian territory in Chumar area of Ladakh while President Xi was in the country on a three-day visit. The incursion by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) happened even as Modi and Xi met in New Delhi.

Recent satellite images have confirmed claims of road construction by China at Bishing village in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh, days before the scheduled visit.

Additionally, Chinese "civilian" protests in the Demchok sector on the occasion of the Dalai Lama's birthday, Chinese Foreign Minister China Wang Yi's mention of the Kashmir issue at the UN and the scuffle between Indian and Chinese soldiers on the bank of the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh in September, all send out wrong signals to New Delhi for a resolution to outstanding disputes

on border and for the larger goal of establishing bonhomie in bilateral relations.

Furthermore, Xi's meeting with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on October 8 and his reiteration of Beijing's strong support to Islamabad on the issue of Kashmir — splashed across Chinese media — belies any semblance of change of heart on the part of China in dealing with India. This was very well sensed from Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang's recent statement where he tacitly said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved bilaterally. When compared with China's earlier actions where it raised the Kashmir issue in the UN and also called a closed-door UNSC meet, Geng's statement looks facile and does contradict China's intentions.

India has rightly drawn the line with an official statement stating, "It is not for other countries to comment on the internal affairs of India." A diplomatically careful and nuanced nation would not have allowed such media coverage, even if such assurances were given to Pakistan in a bilateral conversation. The intent behind letting out such hostile news coverage on the eve of a supposed "reset" is as much a direct communication for New Delhi as it is reflective of Beijing's stand on an internal matter of India.

As opposed to what Beijing claims *vis-à-vis* its stand on Kashmir, there is a lack of consistency in China's Kashmir stand. India, on the other hand, has done well to be consistent in its stand on internal matters of other states, irrespective of the issue, avoiding any impunity complex. As recent Chinese behaviour has shown, larger international role and responsibility necessitates revisionist attitudes in state behaviour. This may not be a bad cue for India to take from Beijing to strengthen its pursuit of playing a larger global role.

Nevertheless, Xi's visit to India provides an opportunity for both countries to strengthen mechanisms to prevent opposition from turning into open hostility between the two. As such, the visit would be as much an opportunity as a challenge. China would be aware that its shedding of reluctance in opposing India in international fora and its outright support to Pakistan are bound to meet with India's new-found realism in conducting inter-state relations. While Chinese State behaviour is known for idealism within and calculated realism outside, India has moved recently to address some of the lack of realistic assessments in dealing with China. The Chinese would be cognisant that their own diplomatic transition from latent to blatant *vis-à-vis* India has had

the latter take a few reciprocal steps in the recent past, primarily in strengthening defence and preparedness near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The ongoing war exercise by the Indian Army, 'Him Vijay', in Arunachal Pradesh at an altitude of 14,000 and 100 km from the LAC, its Integrated Battle Groups and raising the Quad group to Ministerial level recently in New York are concrete steps that can strengthen grounds and provide strong counter-optics to China.

The unique thing about Indian diplomacy is that despite infusing incremental realism in its engagement with China, there is a good deal of idealism that persists from the past to instill a sense of balance. Informal summits are frameworks on the idealist line. If the Wuhan informal summit in 2018 between the two countries was successful in cooling tempers post-Doklam and fostering engagement, the Mamallapuram summit provides another opportunity to bring a balance to both sides' realistic scores above the other.

Xi's visit should be used by India to convey to China in clear terms that it should decouple its India policy from its sympathies for Islamabad.

(The writer is Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs)

SOUNDBITE

Even Indiraji was challenged in the party over leadership. Rajivji and Soniaji were challenged, too. But there was never a challenge to Rahul Gandhi's leadership.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister — Bhupesh Baghel

With each generation, there's a change that needs to happen. And today, we are talking about how fashion can be combined with comfort and still rock a cool look.



Actor — Disha Patani

Hey EU, wake up. I say it again: If you try to frame our operation as an invasion, our task is simple: We will open the doors and send 3.6 million migrants to you.



Turkish President — Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Why does Prime Minister Modi not say that India is watching muzzling of pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong when Xi says he is watching Kashmir?



Congress leader — Manish Tewari

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Niggling issues

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Modi-Xi expectations" (October 10). Though a bit delayed, the informal summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is finally on. The atmosphere, however, is not so ideal as both nations remain far apart on core issues. If India is grappling with terrorism and economic crisis, China has sovereignty and trade issues to contend with. Xi may also not be as assertive as he was during the first informal summit at Wuhan, given China's debilitating trade war with the US and its dilemma over Hong Kong's future.

For India, however, the bugbear has been Pakistan and its surreptitious behaviour. Beijing's unstinted support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue has stressed relations between New Delhi and Beijing. Clearly, it cannot have it both ways — supporting Pakistan despite it being a state sponsor of terrorism and at the same time trying to explore India's vast markets. It has to take a call.

Srishti Mathur
Ujjain

Selective amnesia on lynching

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's call for action against perpetrators of "social violence" is welcome. However, his stance could have been tougher, given the number and sheer brutality of the mob attacks and the general perception that self-styled Hindutva storm-troopers have the tacit support of the state. He claimed that the term "lynching" was a Western construct, which is being used to defame India as well as Hindus. He also attempted to dissociate the Sangh from any kind of mob violence and denied charges of Islamophobia against the Right-wing outfit. Unfortunately, Bhagwat only ended up displaying selective amnesia. In most cases of lynchings in recent years, the role of cow vigilantes or religious fanatics has come to light. Hate-mongers like BJP MPs Pragna Thakur and Sakshi Maharaj have been allowed to spew venom.

The sincerity or otherwise of Bhagwat's message of maintaining harmony and upholding the rule of law will be demonstrated by how vigorously the Modi



Government pursues action against perpetrators of mob violence. Exemplary penalties alone will banish the ugly spectre of Right-wing radicalism and assure the citizens of the current dispensation's healthy respect for human rights and civil liberties.

JS Acharya
Hyderabad

Improve fighter strength

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Welcoming the Rafale" (October 9). With the advent of technology, there has been a paradigm shift in the way wars are fought. It is, therefore, essential that India, too, remains prepared for any eventuality. With nations rising to the occasion to equip themselves with the latest technology, India, too, must procure state-of-the-art arms and ammunition to ensure decisive results in the battlefield.

The purchase of Rafale jets will come as a shot in the arm of the Indian Air Force. But what is worrisome is the IAF's depleting squadron strength. As many as 26 fighter planes have gone down, killing 12 pilots and other crew members. As it is we have an alarming shortage of fighters. The Rafale jets could not have come at a more opportune time and are just the first step in solving the issue at hand. We must improve our fleet.

Bal Govind
Noida

cerns about secularism, one can only understand the plight of the common man, who raises his/her finger against the establishment on issues that matter. The strength of a democracy is assessed by how freely its citizens can express their views or thoughts. Healthy criticism must always be welcomed.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

All's well that ends well

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "We will speak" (October 9). It is heartening to know that the Bihar Police has ordered the closure of a seditious case filed against 49 noted personalities, who had written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, raising concern over the grow-

ing incidents of mob lynching in the country. That Chief Judicial Magistrate Surya Kant Tiwari accepted the complaint by Sudhir Kumar Ojha, a Muzaffarpur-based advocate, without having checked the veracity of the legal charges, is indeed perplexing.

In times when even noted personalities are slapped with FIRs for raising genuine con-

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letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Frequent policy swings hurt

The decision to give major incentives for electric vehicles has delivered a body blow to the already struggling automobile sector



KK PAUL

Sometimes even with the best of intentions, certain words can lead to unexpected results and wreak damage disproportionately. Ever since the beginning of the year, the automobile industry had been on a downward swing for economic as well as psychological reasons. But the Finance Minister's Budget speech in July virtually pulled the proverbial trigger for this sector to go into a free fall. The situation has continued to worsen all through July and August and despite the announcement of some positive measures recently, no respite appears in sight.

What the Finance Minister had actually said was, "The main objective of the FAME II scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of hybrid and Electric vehicles) is to encourage electric vehicles by way of offering upfront incentives on their purchase and also by establishing the necessary charging infrastructure for them. Only advanced battery and registered electric vehicles will be incentivised under the scheme with greater emphasis on providing affordable and environment-friendly public transportation options for the common man." While this was adequate to lay out the future course for the industry, some misunderstanding out of a feeling of being left out was bound to be there once the actual financial benefits on purchase of electric vehicles (EVs) became known.

With such attractive concessions in the offing, those who were in the market for buying cars or even two-wheelers might have postponed their decisions and this could be a significant contributor to the negative automobile market sentiment that we are witnessing.

Further, just a couple of years ago a decision had been taken, keeping the pollution-control measures in view, to skip the Bharat-V stage entirely and straightaway move over to Bharat-VI emission norms by 2020. It was, as such, quite natural for the automobile manufacturers and oil refiners to modernise and upgrade their technologies so as to be compliant with the newly-prescribed standards within the time limit. Incentivising EVs is definitely a swing away from the earlier decision. In our country the largest proportion of pollution is attributed to coal-based thermal power plants, followed by vehicular emissions. A few years ago, use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) was introduced in Delhi for public transport buses and three-wheelers. CNG has the obvious advantage of much cheaper import bills than oil; almost zero emissions besides the cost of the CNG conversion kit for the engine were also low. Such a measure had initially brought in a visible change but as we can see, over a period of time the CNG distribution network could not grow, resulting in vehicle owners spending hours at filling stations. This, despite the easy availability of CNG within the country and the network of GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited) pipelines.

At the same time, let us not forget that in EVs the charging of the battery pack would also be a time-consuming process (15-30 minutes for two-wheelers). Lithium for the batteries in all likelihood would have to be imported from China. A whole new grid with appropriately-located charging stations would have to be established, with the most likely source of power being coal-based thermal power plants. The net gain, however, would be that the running cost of fuel per kilometre for EVs would be much cheaper than petrol or diesel-based engines.

In the present situation, an inadequate public transport has led to a mushrooming of two-wheelers. Future policies have to take note of this inadequacy and provide for electric buses to ease the traffic flow as well as the levels of pollution. It is well known that a conventionally designed two-stroke engine, used in two and three-wheelers, produces high levels of hydrocarbons in exhaust emissions, far more than the four-stroke engines of four-wheelers. Some 94 per cent of the two and three-wheelers in India are powered by two-stroke engines and are responsible for the maximum amount of hazardous emissions. On the other hand according to the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, four-stroke engine powered motorcycles have been observed to emit just one-sixth to one-tenth of the hydrocarbons emitted by the two-stroke motorcycles. As such, the obvious target for pollution control has to be two-wheelers.

In this entire scheme, there is no mention either of ethanol-blended fuel or bio-diesel. Till such time that we move over completely to EVs, it would be very useful to enhance the usage of blended fuels for reducing the import bill as well as pollution. Following the path of least inconvenience we must first go in for electric two wheelers and public transport. According to the current estimates, the oil reserves in the world may be good only for a few decades more. With most of the lithium having already been cornered by China, it would be of utmost importance that our scientists invest in research to look for alternatives to lithium for battery packs.

(The author is a former Governor and a Senior Advisor at the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THIS (C-40) IS A MAYOR-LEVEL CONFERENCE. THERE IS A SEPARATE PROTOCOL WHEN FUNCTIONARIES LIKE CHIEF MINISTERS ARE INVITED.

—UNION MINISTER PRAKASH JAVADEKAR



HE DID NOT CHECK HIS FACTS. IN 2007 THE THEN CHIEF MINISTER SHEILA DIKSHIT HAD LED THE DELHI DELEGATION FOR THE C-40 SUMMIT.

—AAP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON RAGHAV CHADHA

They dared to dream

Meena Manch, a club for adolescent girls in UP Govt schools, is motivating students to reject child marriage, continue their education and develop leadership and life skills



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

When Reema turned 14, her mother decided to get her married. The teenager was then studying in Class VIII at the Kalli Paschim upper primary school in Lucknow district, Uttar Pradesh (UP), but her mother was confident that her dutiful daughter would honour her wishes. She was right and Reema did not reject the proposal.

If this story sounds all too familiar, it is because a majority of young girls in UP and many other States face the same fate. UP is among the 13 States where over 80 per cent of child marriages take place in rural India, according to a recent study by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and Young Lives. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) found that 21 per cent of the 8.5 crore children in UP still fall prey to child marriage.

In fact, one in every five girls in UP is a child bride and every 10th underage pregnancy is from there. Out of the 44.67 lakh teenage pregnancies reported annually from India, over four lakh cases are from UP alone (NFHS-4).

But Reema was about to script a change in her story thanks to Meena Manch, a club for adolescent girls in UP Government schools. Not only had the youngster learnt about the pitfalls of early marriage through the club, she also knew the economic reasons behind her mother's decision. So, along with a few members of the club, she persuaded her mother and her prospective in-laws to allow her to continue her studies after marriage. They also agreed not to force her into living with her husband until she turned 18.

The initial concept of using "Meena" — a nine-year-old fictional girl who overcame all obstacles to go to school and illustrate the necessity of education for girls — was developed by UNICEF. Created to change perceptions that hamper the survival, protection and development of girls, the initiative, developed as part of the International Year of the Girl Child in the 1990s, was adapted under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Government's flagship education programme.

The innovative Meena club was formed to motivate girls to continue their education and develop leadership and life skills with the help of a series of Meena story books, flip charts and activity sheets. Each club, comprising 20 girls in the age group of 11-14 years, discusses the stories. Meena Cabinets, comprising two children from Classes III, IV and V, help to resolve issues club members may have with the aid of the *Sugamkarta* — a female teacher from the school who acts as the facilitator.

At present, over 36,000 such clubs exist in upper primary schools in UP but soon, all upper primary schools in the State will have them. This was announced by the UP education department recently.

This is not surprising, considering the impact the manch is having. Thirty-year-old Anju's experience is a prime example of the change effected by members of the Meena Manch. When she stopped Rani, her 13-year-old daughter from going to school, the girl's classmates marched to her house and demanded to know why she had dropped out. "Why isn't Rani coming to school? Don't you know how happy she was there? We won't leave until you give us

“ THE INITIAL CONCEPT OF USING 'MEENA', A NINE-YEAR-OLD FICTIONAL GIRL WHO OVERCAME ALL OBSTACLES TO GO TO SCHOOL AND ILLUSTRATE THE NECESSITY OF EDUCATION FOR GIRLS, WAS DEVELOPED BY UNICEF. CREATED TO CHANGE PERCEPTIONS THAT HAMPER THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF GIRLS, THE INITIATIVE, DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE GIRL CHILD IN THE 1990S, WAS ADAPTED UNDER THE SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN THE GOVERNMENT'S FLAGSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMME



a written promise that you will send Rani to school from tomorrow."

The group of diminutive girls, all members of the club, didn't stop there. For the next two hours, they explained to Anju how important it was for Rani to continue her education.

The turning point came when one of them asked the mother whether she wanted Rani to be like her and not be able to write her own name. This is when Anju put her thumb impression on the letter the girls had brought, promising to send her daughter back to school. The girls of Meena Manch had scored again.

In fact, teachers of the upper primary school in Sarojini Nagar, Lucknow district, have no qualms in admitting that their club members were the driving force in bringing back dropouts, both girls and boys. "Ever since Meena Manch was formed, we don't have to worry about children not coming to school. The members, spring into action as soon as they learn about any missing student," says Aarti, a senior teacher and a manch facilitator.

Thirteen-year-old Shanno Sharma says elders in her village Parsauli, Kanpur Dehat district, know she is a member of the club. "Our group is well-known because we have managed to stop marriages where dowry was demanded", she says.

Shama Awasthi, another member

of the same group, reveals that after one boy of her village was almost beaten up by club members for eve-teasing, the rest of the boys fell in line.

Even *Meena Ki Duniya*, the radio programme introduced in UP in 2010, has increased the levels of awareness and knowledge among children and teachers on issues related to education of girls, child rights, adolescent health and hygiene, life skills, the perils of child marriage and gender roles.

The 15-minute programme, designed by Sesame India is broadcast through All India Radio (AIR) in schools across UP six days a week.

Students tune into radio sets provided by the Government in the afternoons, Monday through Saturday. The broadcast fee for the programme is borne by the UP Government and each episode has a story, a song and a game designed to entertain schoolchildren while encouraging them to think.

The International Day of the Girl Child, celebrated every year on October 11, has become a good platform to turn the spotlight on the manch engendering schoolchildren and teachers. Government school teachers have also been trained on how to use Meena Radio as a teaching aid.

With the education department issuing a directive to schools to enable students to listen to the radio at the prescribed time, Meena has become a pop-

ular character among school children.

One of the critical objectives of the radio programme, a partnership between UNICEF, the UP Government and AIR, is to focus on motivating children between the ages of 11 and 14 to continue their education. Studies have shown that children in this age group are prone to drop out of school. An assessment report found that in UP, the dropout rate in primary school is 20 per cent and rises by about 10 per cent in upper primary school.

This is where the club and radio programmes are making a difference, especially since more girls drop out of school than boys. Since the programme is in Hindi, the messages are easy to understand and reach the students, community and parents they are meant to target.

More importantly, with many of the girls already a part of the Meena Manch, they identify and want to be like their role model Meena, a confident and educated girl.

While Archana wants to be a police officer, Manju wants to become a doctor, Muskan aspires to be an education official, Rukmini, a social worker and Francy, a journalist. And like Meena, they are no longer afraid to be seen and heard. Ordinary girls in rural areas are daring to dream and are on the threshold of making their dreams come true.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Don't judge, just help people with disorders

Every fourth person in the world suffers from some mental or neurological illness, which leads to a poor quality of life. In India, social stigma and inadequate manpower, combined with lack of infrastructure for mental healthcare, worsen the situation



RC JILOHA

Mental health is a state of emotional, psychological and social well-being in which the individual realises his/her own abilities, copes with the stresses of life, works productively and possesses the ability to contribute to society. It is an integral part of health and not just the absence of mental illness. Mental well-being can be affected by a number of factors and every person is vulnerable to problems, irrespective of age, gender, socio-economic status and ethnic background.

Every fourth person in the world suffers from some mental or neurological disorder, which leads to a poor quality of life, decreased pro-

ductivity and lower earning potential.

Around 450 million people across the globe currently suffer from some kind of disorder, making it one of the leading causes of ill-health and disability worldwide.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 6.5 per cent of Indians suffer from some form of serious illness like schizophrenia, with an equal distribution among rural and urban populations. The National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) concludes that 10.6 per cent people in India suffer from common disorders like depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

About 56 million people in the country suffer from depression and its severe form may lead to suicide, a major cause of death in the age group of 15-39 years. Suicide deaths in India have drastically increased since 1990 and around 230,314 were recorded in 2016. Incidents of student taking their lives are also on the rise and close to 26,000 students died between 2014 and 2016.

Given the continued trend, India won't be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) of the United Nations to reduce the global suicide rate by one-third by the year 2030.

According to the NMHS, approximately 150 million Indians need professional care but only a small proportion of them is able to access mental health services. Nearly two-thirds of people with known disorders never seek professional help, resulting in a huge treatment gap.

This could be because of several reasons such as stigma associated with mental illnesses, lack of awareness, lack of resources, poor infrastructure and apathy on the part of policy makers to counter these problems.

In fact, stigma is a significant hindering factor in Indian society and prevents patients from reaching health facilities, resulting in neglect in the care of the mentally ill. It has been found that the attitude of doctors, other than psychiatrists and

other healthcare professionals, contributes to the stigma due to their limited knowledge and awareness about psychiatry and mental health problems. In many cases people are not even ready to acknowledge these problems.

Because of stigma, mental illness is often discounted and the affected person is discouraged from seeking treatment. S/he is often advised to be strong and snap out of the condition. People in need of help should be encouraged to seek expert advice and those undergoing treatment should be urged to regularly visit their psychiatrist and comply with the instructions.

The mental health workforce in India is extremely low considering the prevalence of disorders — there are 0.3 psychiatrists, 0.12 nurses, 0.07 psychologists and 0.07 social workers for 100,000 people. The available professional manpower is much less than the laid down WHO standards.

Stigma and inadequate manpower, combined with lack of adequate infrastructure for mental

healthcare, worsen the situation.

The solution lies in training other healthcare professionals in mental health and utilising their services to treat common disorders which could be easily treatable by general healthcare providers.

Integration of mental health with the general health services is the objective of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) launched in 1982.

The District Mental Health Programme, started in 1996 under the NMHP, had aimed at the integration of psychiatry services with general health services as one of its key goals.

However, it has largely remained a psychiatrist-oriented programme and the desirable transfer and integration of care from psychiatrists to general medical practitioners has not been achieved. Treatment and care are of utmost importance and ignoring or neglecting disorders can escalate the issue pretty exponentially.

There is much to be achieved

and progress needs to be made in almost all aspects of the mental health framework. Adaptation of therapeutic techniques to Indian sub-cultures, temperament and cognitive biases needs to be addressed to stay ahead of the challenges professionals are currently facing. Policy makers should promote availability of and access to cost-effective treatment of common disorders at the primary health care level.

An environment needs to be created which promotes healthy living and encourages people to adopt an active lifestyle. Mental health promotion will now receive more focus, with its inclusion in the SDGs that need to be addressed through comprehensive strategies for promotion, prevention, treatment and recovery in a whole-of-Government approach.

Introduction of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 protects the rights of and enables citizens to decide the ways they wish to be treated if they fall prey to a mental illness. The Act promises to provide men-

tal healthcare and services and to protect, promote, and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of mental healthcare and services. However, the Act remains silent on the services provided in the community.

Suicide prevention, which was the theme of this World Mental Health Day, is highly relevant in view of the fact that close to 800,000 people kill themselves every year across the globe and 17 per cent of these deaths are in India. One person commits suicide every 40 seconds and behind every death there are 20 suicide attempts.

Suicides are preventable and much can be done to prevent them at the individual, community and national level. It is time for us to spread awareness about mental disorders, their management and prevention. It is time also to reflect upon some of the challenges we face as a society in India.

(The writer is professor at the Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research)

FM faces angry PMC depositors

Will amend laws governing cooperative banks: Nirmala

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday assured the account holders of the crisis-hit PMC Bank that she would speak to the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das once again, convey their "sense of urgency and distress" and request the latter to "expedite" grant of permission for withdrawal of money deposited by them in the bank.

After scores of affected account holders of PMC Bank staged a protest in front of the State BJP headquarters in Mumbai, Sitharaman — who was in Mumbai to campaign for the State Assembly polls, delayed her interaction with the media, spoke to a delegation of protesters and assured them that she would take up their issue with the Governor.

Talking to media persons later her meeting with the TMC Bank's account holders' delegations, Sitharaman said: "I have been talking to the RBI Governor. On my return to Delhi, I shall once again talk to him (RBI/governor) this evening and convey the sense of urgency and distress that the clients of PMC have expressed before me and I shall request him to expedite the clearing of or giving permission for withdrawal of their monies which are deposited".

It may be recalled that on September 24 placed Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank Ltd under regulatory restrictions, thus barring the bank from carrying out routine and major financial



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets the customers of Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank in Mumbai on Thursday

transactions, including withdrawal of cash exceeding ₹1,000 by each of the depositors, for a period of six months. The RBI subsequently raised the cash withdrawal limit to ₹10,000 per account and has

now scaled up the withdrawal limit to ₹25,000 per account.

The RBI had said that the directions imposing major restrictions on the PMC Bank had been "necessitated" because of account of "major financial

irregularities, failure of internal control and systems of the bank and wrong/under-reporting of its exposures under various Off-site Surveillance reports to RBI that came to the Reserve Bank's notice recently".

Sitharaman, who was greeted by angry protesters on her arrival at the BJP headquarters, explained that the Finance ministry had nothing to do with the RBI's decision to impose regulatory instructions on the PMC Bank.

"Multi state cooperative banks like the PMC Bank are regulated by RBI. But rural cooperative banks' registration is done by the rural development ministry but they are regulated by the RBI. Similarly the urban cooperative banks are registered by the urban development ministry but are regulated by RBI," she said.

'Govt giving sector-specific solutions to fight slowdown'

Mumbai: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government is giving sector-specific solutions to fight the slowdown in economic growth.

She, however, parried a specific question on whether the government accepts if the country is in the midst of an economic slowdown.

India's GDP expansion has slowed to a six-year low of five per cent for the June quarter. This has led to a rash of down-

ward revisions in expectations, including from the RBI which now expects GDP growth to come down to 6.1 per cent in FY20.

The Government has taken a slew of measures, including a massive cut in corporate taxes to revive economic growth, even at the cost of sacrificing revenues.

Hinting at other measures like steps to improve exports, easing credit, making more money available by early repay-

ments to vendors and front-loading of banks recapitalisation, Sitharaman said the government has been working on sector-specific measures.

"We are giving relief to all sectors who need help," Sitharaman said.

Her comments came hours after global ratings agency Moody's Investors Service sharply cut its FY20 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.8

Moody's cuts India GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY'20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday slashed its 2019-20 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.8 per cent from 6.2 per cent earlier, saying the economy was experiencing a pronounced slowdown which is partly related to long-lasting factors.

The projection is lower than 6.1 per cent that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had forecast just last week.

Moody's attributed the deceleration to an investment-led slowdown that has broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation.

"The drivers of the deceleration are multiple, mainly domestic and in part long-lasting," Moody's said in a report.

It expected the growth to pick up to 6.6 per cent in 2020-21 and to around 7 per cent over the medium term.

"Although we expect a moderate pick-up in real GDP growth and inflation in the next two years, we have revised down our projections for both. Compared with two years ago, the probability of sustained real GDP growth at or above 8 per cent has significantly diminished," it said.

Last month, the Asian Development Bank and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development lowered 2019-20 growth forecast for India by 50 basis points and 1.3 percentage points to 6.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent, respectively.

Last week, the RBI also slashed its growth projection for the economy to 6.1 per cent from an earlier estimate of 6.9 per cent.

Rating agency Standard & Poor's has also lowered its India growth forecast to 6.3 per cent from 7.1 per cent.

In June, Fitch cut India's growth forecast for the current

fiscal for a second time in a row to 6.6 per cent. It had earlier in March lowered the growth estimate for 2019-20 to 6.8 per cent, from 7 per cent projected earlier, on weak momentum of the economy.

Moody's said the drivers of the deceleration are multiple, mainly domestic and in part long-lasting.

"What was an investment-led slowdown has broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation," it said adding a credit crunch among non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), major providers of retail loans in recent years, has compounded the problem.

"While we expect a moderate pick-up in real GDP growth and inflation over the next two years supported by monetary and fiscal stimulus, we have revised down our projections for both. We forecast real GDP

India Inc's quarter 2 revenue may dip to 14-quarter low: Crisil

PIANS ■ NEW DELHI

A sharp drop in demand across consumption segments pulled down corporate revenue, excluding that of banking, financial services, insurance and oil companies, by 3 per cent in the second quarter of FY20, according to a Crisil Research estimate.

It's first time in 14 quarters that revenues have declined. In the previous four quarters, between Q2FY19 and Q1FY20, aggregate revenue had grown 11-12 per cent on average.

The estimate is based on an analysis of 430 companies, which account for 65 per cent of the market capitalisation, excluding financial services and oil firms, of the National Stock Exchange.

Says Prasad Koparkar, Senior Director, Crisil Research, "Automobiles, one of

Govt constitutes panel to suggest measures to augment GST revenue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections dropping sharply to a 19-month low in September, the government has constituted a committee of officers to suggest measures to augment collections, expand the tax base and check evasion.

The panel comprising of state-level GST commissioners and centre government officials has been asked to suggest urgent measures to arrest the fall in tax revenues and suggest steps to be taken to improve revenue collection.

"The committee should consider a wide range of reforms so that a comprehensive list of suggestions may emerge," an official order said.

It has been asked to consider a wide range of reforms so that a comprehensive list of suggestions may emerge. The panel has been asked to look into "systemic changes in GST including checks and balances to prevent misuse." Also, it has been tasked to suggest measures to improve voluntary compliance as well as policy measures and changes in law needed.

Its key mandate is to suggest "measures for expansion of tax base" and make recommendations on "improved compliance monitoring and anti-evasion measures using better data analytics," the order

said.

GST collections dropped sharply to a 19-month low of Rs 91,916 crore in September, mirroring a widening slowdown in the economy triggered by shrinking consumer demand. This was the second straight month of decline in GST collections, which from July 1, 2017, amalgamated 17 different central and state levies, including excise duty, service tax and VAT.

The fall in tax collections is seen as a reflection of economic activity and a decline in collections indicated a downturn.

India's GDP growth slowed to more than six-year low of 5 per cent in April-June, prompting the government to take an array of steps to boost the economy, including the steepest cut in corporate tax rate which would cost Rs 1.45 lakh crore.

The panel constituted on Thursday comprises state GST commissioners of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Punjab besides central government officials including Principal Commissioner of GST and Joint Secretary (Revenue).

States have been asked to give suggestions in writing as well as join the panel.

"The Committee may co-opt or seek assistance from such officers from Centre/State as may be deemed necessary," the order said.

BUSINESS CORNER

MoU SIGNED BETWEEN DDA, HDFC BANK

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) operates Sports Complexes in all the zones of Delhi. The first Sports Complex was opened at Siri Fort Sports Complex in 1989 and thereafter fourteen other complexes and two golf courses have been developed. For Commonwealth Games 2010, DDA developed stadia at Siri Fort for Squash and Badminton and at Yamuna Sports Complex for Archery and Table Tennis. These stadia are being utilised for holding regional, national and international level tournaments and are also available for utilisation by the public. Though these Sports Complexes are membership oriented having playing rights only, non-members of the public can also utilise the facilities on payment of the prescribed charges. Special concessions are available for students, senior citizens, schools, sports federations and associations. To enable cashless transactions, MoU has been signed between DDA and HDFC Bank in the presence of Shri Tarun Kapoor, Vice Chairman, DDA and other senior officers of DDA and HDFC Bank for providing online booking facilities, online payment and cashless transactions for utilization of facilities at DDA sports complexes and golf courses.



'SPORTS GIVES ENDURING EFFECTS ON HUMAN LIFE'

New Delhi: Sports gives enduring effects on human life. The effects continue all along your life, said Zafar Iqbal, celebrated Hockey player of this country. He was speaking as a chief guest at the inaugural function of the 16th Annual Sports Meet-2019 of the IP University here today. It is mention worthy that Zafar Iqbal was the part of the Indian Hockey Team that had won the Gold medal at Moscow Olympic in 1980. Speaking as a guest of honour on the occasion celebrated Cricketer of this country Yashpal Sharma said that passion is must to excel in any sports. This passion and drive will take you to the next level and to the desired goal. Yashpal Sharma was part of the Indian Cricket team that had won the World Cup in 1983. Presiding over the function, the Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Mahesh Verma said on the occasion that education cannot be completed without sports. Both should go hand in hand for all round development of a person.



Moody's cuts India GDP growth forecast to 5.8% for FY'20

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday slashed its 2019-20 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.8 per cent from 6.2 per cent earlier, saying the economy was experiencing a pronounced slowdown which is partly related to long-lasting factors.

The projection is lower than 6.1 per cent that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had forecast just last week.

Moody's attributed the deceleration to an investment-led slowdown that has broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation.

"The drivers of the deceleration are multiple, mainly domestic and in part long-lasting," Moody's said in a report.

It expected the growth to pick up to 6.6 per cent in 2020-21 and to around 7 per cent over the medium term.

"Although we expect a moderate pick-up in real GDP growth and inflation in the next two years, we have revised down our projections for both. Compared with two years ago, the probability of sustained real GDP growth at or above 8 per cent has significantly diminished," it said.

Last month, the Asian Development Bank and the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development lowered 2019-20 growth forecast for India by 50 basis points and 1.3 percentage points to 6.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent, respectively.

Last week, the RBI also slashed its growth projection for the economy to 6.1 per cent from an earlier estimate of 6.9 per cent.

Rating agency Standard & Poor's has also lowered its India growth forecast to 6.3 per cent from 7.1 per cent.

In June, Fitch cut India's growth forecast for the current

fiscal for a second time in a row to 6.6 per cent. It had earlier in March lowered the growth estimate for 2019-20 to 6.8 per cent, from 7 per cent projected earlier, on weak momentum of the economy.

Moody's said the drivers of the deceleration are multiple, mainly domestic and in part long-lasting.

"What was an investment-led slowdown has broadened into consumption, driven by financial stress among rural households and weak job creation," it said adding a credit crunch among non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), major providers of retail loans in recent years, has compounded the problem.

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Airtel, Vodafone shares rise after Jio's move on call connect charges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of telecom companies on Thursday rose up to 6 per cent in the wake of Reliance Jio deciding to levy call connect charges on customers, a move that is likely to be followed by rivals.

Bharti Airtel shares jumped 7.19 per cent to touch a 52-week high of ₹385 apiece on the NSE. It closed 4.35 per cent up at ₹375.05. Similar trends were witnessed on the BSE too. During the day, the scrip rallied 6.65 per cent to hit a 52-week high of Rs 384.85 apiece. After shedding some gains, the stock settled 5.05 per cent higher at ₹377.40.

Vodafone Idea closed 5.82 per cent higher at ₹6.18 on the BSE and 5.13 per cent up at ₹6.15 on the NSE.

Unlisted Reliance Jio Infocomm is part of Reliance Industries, whose shares gained 2.76 per cent to settle at

₹1,362.40 on the BSE. On the NSE, the scrip went up 2.67 per cent to close at ₹1,360.15.

According to a Kotak Institutional Equities research report, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea can take this as an opportunity to become more competitive. The report noted that Jio's move would dilute the pricing architecture, one of the most critical changes Jio brought to the industry.

"If Jio gets ₹15 ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) uplift, we believe Airtel and Vodafone Idea could see a Rs 8-odd and ₹6-odd ARPU uplift, respectively, as well," the report said.

In a research note, UBS said it remains to be seen whether Bharti and Vodafone Idea would follow Jio in introducing similar charges for off net calls, "although we see high chance that they follow Jio".

Apple pulls Hong Kong app used by protesters after China warning

AFP ■ HONG KONG

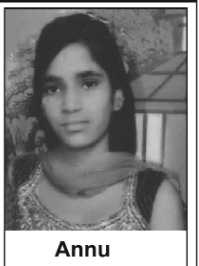
Apple on Thursday removed an app criticised by China for allowing protestors in Hong Kong to track police, as Beijing steps up pressure on foreign companies deemed to be providing support to the pro-democracy movement.

The tech giant's pulling of HKmap.Live was blasted as bowing to China and comes as high-profile brands, including the NBA and its Houston Rockets franchise, come under pressure from communist authorities over perceived support for democracy demonstrations in the financial hub.

Chinese state media this week tore into the app, which collates information on police locations submitted by users, charging that it was helping "rioters".

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl **Annu, D/o Chinta Singh R/o H.No. 33-A, Swaran Park, Mundka, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 27.07.2019 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 61-A dated 30.07.2019 P.S. has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:



Annu

Name: Annu, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 18 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Identification Mark:** Old scar mark on forehead, **Wearing:** Blue suit-salwar and lady chappal in feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/ kidnapped girl, kindly inform SHO/ Nangloi, Delhi. E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Nangloi, Delhi Fax : 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011- 25947225, 25947224 DP/2743/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



Shiva

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Shiva, S/o Shri Dinesh Verma, R/o H.No. 114, Pana-Mampurpur, Narela, Delhi, Age 24 years, Height 5'4"** Complexion Fair, Round Face, Wearing Black colour shirt, black colour jeans pant and red colour shoes in feet has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Narela, Delhi since 18.09.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 53-A dated 21.09.19 has been lodged at PS Narela, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following. E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO PS : Narela, Delhi Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 27282350, 27285839 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 27282350, 27285839 DP/677/ON/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



Ajay

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Ajay, S/o Shri Chandu, R/o H.No. B-22, Gali No. 9, Kumahar Colony, Delhi, Age 21 years, Height 5'5"**, Complexion Wheatish, Long Face, Wearing Blue colour shirt & pant has been missing / kidnapped from the area of PS Ranhola, Delhi since 15.06.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 49-A dated 04.08.19 has been lodged at PS Ranhola, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped boy may kindly inform to the following. E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Ranhola, Delhi Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 28363001, 28363002, 28363003 DP/2755/OD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

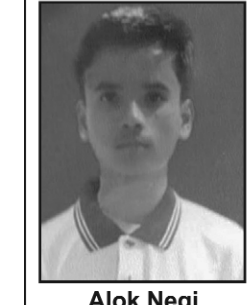
See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Rohit Dixit, S/o Raj Kumar Dixit, R/o D-1/100, Madangir Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 715/17 U/s 408 IPC, P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Rohit Dixit** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Rohit Dixit** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Rohit Dixit of FIR No. 715/17 U/s 408 IPC, P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **15.11.2019**.

By Order **Sh. Vaibhav Mehta, Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 210, IInd Floor, Saket Courts, New Delhi** DP/5752/SD/19(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Alok Negi

General Public is hereby informed that a Boy namely **Alok Negi S/o Virender Singh R/o H.No. 17B, G-3, Sai Enclave, Mohan Garden Delhi. Age- 17 years 6 Months Height-5'8"** Face Round Complexion-Sallow, Wearing: Blue T-Shirt-Black Trousers and Black hawai chappal in his feet has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S Ranhola Delhi since dated 14.09.2019. In this regard a vide **FIR No. 585/19 u/s 363 IPC** Dated 15.09.2019 has been lodged at **P.S. Ranhola Delhi** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this boy please inform undersigned.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-28363001 28363002,28363003 DP/2731/OD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Khushbu Shahu

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Khushbu Shahu, D/o Sh. Tara Chand, R/o H. No. B-1/2, Pink Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi, has been missing since Dated 15.09.2019.** In this regard a FIR No. 240/19, Dated 16.09.2019 has been registered at Police Station - Prashant Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Age: 17 years 6 months, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'0", **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Wearing brown colour Suit, Salwar and black Slippers in feet. Any person is having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform undersigned. Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368639 P.S. Prashant Vihar, Delhi Ph.No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 011-27557184, 27550522 DP/3343/RD/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL



Wasima

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Wasima, D/o Mohd, Ikrar, R/o H.No. 8884, Naya Mohalla, Azad Market, Delhi, Age 19 years, Height 5'2"** Complexion Wheatish, Oval Face, Thin Built, Wearing Red colour suit & salwar has been missing from her house since 15.09.19. In this regard a DD No. 23-A dated 19.09.19 has been lodged at PS Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi

Any person having any information or clue about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following. SHO E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in PS : Bara Hindu Rao Delhi Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph.: 23529707 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 23529707 DP/471/IN/19

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



ANJANA

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anjana, D/o: Rajesh Kumar, R/o: Plot No. 334-A, Near Sai Baba Mandir, Shiv Vihar, Vikas Nagar, Delhi, Age: 18 years, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: White Shirt-Blue Jeans and Chappal in feet has been missing/ Kidnapped since 06.08.2019 from the area of P.S. Ranhola. In this regard **DD No. 47-A dated 08.08.2019** has been lodged at **P.S. Ranhola, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/ kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl, please inform the undersigned.**

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368639 P.S. Ranhola, Delhi DP/2745/OD/19 Ph.: 011-28363001, 28363002 & 28363003

Sensex plunges 297 pts

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark BSE Sensex plunged 297 points on Thursday, dragged by heavy losses in banking, auto and metal stocks amid muted earnings outlook.

After sinking 375 points during the day, the 30-share Sensex ended 297.55 points, or 0.78 per cent, lower at 37,880.40. It hit an intra-day low of 37,802.93 and a high of 38,130.23.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty fell 78.75 points, or 0.70 per cent, to close at 11,234.55.

Top laggards in the Sensex pack included IndusInd Bank, Yes Bank, Tata Motors, Vedanta, ICICI Bank, SBI, HDFC Bank and Tata Steel, falling up to 6.15 per cent.

On the other hand, Bharti Airtel, RIL, HUL, HCL Tech, PowerGrid, Sun Pharma, Asian Paints and Bajaj Auto rose up to 5.05 per cent.

Weak earnings outlook weighed on domestic investor sentiment, traders said.

Kicking off the earnings season, IndusInd Bank's Q2 consolidated net profit jumped 52.2 per cent, but gross non-performing assets rose to 2.19 per cent of gross advances as on September 30, 2019, from 1.09 per cent in the same period a year ago.

Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service on Thursday slashed its 2019-20 GDP growth forecast for India to 5.8 per cent from 6.2 per cent ear-

Gold prices unchanged; silver marginally down

NEW DELHI (PTI): Gold prices remained almost unchanged at the bullion market here on Thursday amid muted spot demand.

The yellow metal was trading marginally higher by Rs 3 at Rs 39,375 per 10 gram. On Wednesday, gold had closed at Rs 39,372 per 10 gram, according to data from HDFC Securities.

Silver, however, was trading marginally lower by Rs 24 at Rs 47,120 per kilogram as compared with Rs 47,144 per kilogram, its previous closing level.

"The two day trade talks between the US and Chinese negotiators will start from today. Market will eye any comments or tweets regarding any development in the next two days," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

International gold prices on Thursday held firm on trade talk worries and economic growth concerns after reports that China has scheduled back the meeting to single day from two days earlier, he said. "Gold prices traded steady on Thursday with COMEX International spot gold prices gaining to USD 1,510 amid US-China trade talk uncertainty," Patel added.

Gold prices are expected to trade higher in the near term with uncertainty over US-China trade talks, Brexit concerns and weak economic data, with COMEX gold finding support at USD 1,490 and resistance at USD 1,520, he said.

lier, saying the economy was experiencing a pronounced slowdown which is partly related to long-lasting factors.

According to a Motilal Oswal report, the second quarter earnings season will be tepid and uneven. Underlying demand slowdown in the domestic economy and weak global commodities prices are expected to take a toll on earnings.

Echoing the outlook, Sunil Tirumalai, Head of Research and Strategist, Emkay Global Financial Services, expects growth trends to weaken fur-

ther from Q1 levels, with the decline led by auto, telecom, power, IT services and pharma sectors.

Elsewhere in Asia, Shanghai Composite Index, Hang Seng and Nikkei settled on a positive note, while Kospi closed in the green.

Equities in Europe were trading higher in early sessions.

Meanwhile, the Indian rupee appreciated marginally to 71.04 against the US dollar intra-day. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, declined 0.74 per cent to USD 57.89 per barrel.

Gold ETFs catch investors' eye in Sept

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold exchange-traded funds garnered Rs 44 crore in September, making it the second straight month of inflows, as trade conflicts, signs of a global slowdown and decline in equities made investors bet big on the safe-heaven asset.

This comes on the back of a net inflow of Rs 145 crore in gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in August. It was the first inflow since November last year, when Rs 10 crore was infused in such instruments.

Prior to this, gold ETFs had seen a net inflow of Rs 20 crore in October 2016 and before

that, an inflow of Rs 5 crore was witnessed in such funds in May 2013.

According to the latest data available with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), Rs 44 crore was pumped in gold-linked ETFs last month as compared to an outflow of Rs 34 crore in September 2018.

"Sudden rally in gold prices mainly due to uneasy trade negotiation between the US and China, and lower than expected global GDP growth are the key reasons for the inflows in gold ETFs in recent times," said Omkeshwar Singh, head of mutual fund distribu-

tion business at Samco.

Himanshu Srivastava, senior analyst manager research, Morningstar Investment Adviser India said, "Like in the month of August, gold ETFs continued to witness net inflow in the month of September as well, although the quantum of net inflow was lower than the previous month. The slowdown in flows could be attributed to profit booking given the surge in gold prices in the recent times."

The fears of a slowdown in global market has helped gold find its safe-haven appeal back which has triggered a sharp rally in its prices this year, thus,

catching investor's fancy, he said.

"Gold also adds a different layer of diversification in an investor's portfolio, which has come in full play this year with gold witnessing one of its best years after 2011," Srivastava added.

Assets under management (AUM) of gold funds stood at Rs 5,613 crore in September-end as compared to Rs 5,799 crore at the end of August.

Over the last few years, retail investors have been putting in more money into equities as compared to gold ETFs, mainly on account of strong returns.

Gold ETFs have witnessed an inflow in just five months in last six years.

Investors pulled out Rs 571 crore from gold ETFs in 2018, making it the sixth consecutive year of outflow from such products. In comparison, they pulled out Rs 730 crore in 2017. Gold ETFs had seen an outflow of Rs 942 crore, Rs 891 crore, Rs 1,651 crore and Rs 1,815 crore in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

In 2012, they saw an inflow of Rs 1,826 crore.

Gold ETFs are passive investment instruments that are based on price movements and investments in the metal.

Rafale engine manufacturer reviews tax system request for India

PTI ■ PARIS

French multinational Safran, the manufacturer of the M88 state-of-the-art engines fitted in the Rafale fighter jets acquired by India, says it asked the Indian government not to "penalise" the company on tax and customs matters.

During Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's tour of the engine assembly plant near Paris on Wednesday, company CEO Olivier Andries spoke of Safran's major investment plans for India but expressed a wish for the Indian tax system not to be "terrorising".

However, in what appears to be a case of lost in translation, the company later stressed that there had been a "misunderstanding" as the CEO was speaking out against a penalising tax and customs regime which was allegedly mis-heard as terrorising.

"For us it is obvious that we should have a maintenance repair and overhaul shop in India to serve our Indian airlines customers.

But for that, we need to make sure that the tax system and custom system is not penalising us," noted the company statement, quoting the CEO.

"We would like to discuss this with the government to make sure that it makes sense for us, versus an MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) shop that would be outside of India. Frankly speaking, we would like to develop this shop in India," the statement added.

At the conclusion of his three-day visit to France on Wednesday, Rajnath Singh had taken specific note of any tax concerns that foreign investors may have and told a gathering of top CEOs of defence manufacturing industries that the Indian government was open to any further rationalisation that may be required to facili-

tate the Make in India programme.

"For Make in India in defence if there is need for further tax rationalisation, it may be considered suitably," he said, as he extended an invitation for French companies to participate in the DefExpo 2020 being held in Lucknow next year.

Singh on Thursday left France at the end of a three-day visit, which he said had been extremely productive and would further strengthen bilateral defence ties.

The minister, who took formal charge and flew a sortie of the first of 36 Rafale combat jets to be inducted into the

Indian Air Force (IAF) during the tour, left with a message for French companies to make India their base for production of defence equipment.

"Thank you France! Merci! This visit has been extremely productive," he said in a farewell message on Twitter.

"The outcomes of this visit will further strengthen the defence cooperation between India and France. My gratitude to President Emmanuel Macron, (Armed Forces) Minister Florence Parly and the government of France for their hospitality," he said.

NIFTY 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY 50	11280.50	11293.35	11268.55	11234.55	-78.75
BHARTIARTL	362.90	385.00	362.00	375.05	15.65
GRASIM	680.00	726.85	680.00	695.00	24.60
RELIANCE	1325.00	1369.00	1321.00	1360.15	35.40
INDUSINLVR	1948.00	1982.50	1935.60	1980.00	32.00
HCLTECH	1051.05	1066.10	1041.40	1064.00	12.90
POWERGRID	197.90	199.60	196.50	199.20	1.50
TITAN	1231.20	1242.45	1220.00	1238.00	7.70
SUNPHARMA	385.00	389.00	378.00	386.05	2.10
INFRATEL	257.40	265.60	255.55	257.25	1.40
WIPRO	237.75	239.60	233.80	238.50	0.75
BAJAJ-AUTO	2881.00	2932.00	2865.00	2898.00	6.15
ASIANPAINT	1765.00	1793.00	1756.50	1776.25	6.25
ADANIPOORTS	397.80	401.60	395.60	400.80	0.35
JSWSTEEL	211.30	214.90	209.10	212.95	0.15
UPL	578.00	588.80	574.70	582.00	0.30
LT	1423.00	1432.00	1407.05	1426.00	-0.25
NTPC	117.20	117.50	116.35	117.20	-0.05
IOC	148.20	149.65	146.60	148.10	-0.10
ONGC	125.85	127.10	125.10	125.75	-0.10
CIPLA	423.10	427.30	418.55	422.95	-0.40
INFY	785.40	794.70	776.60	782.50	-1.15
NESTLEIND	1385.70	1385.70	1386.00	1386.00	-22.30
HEROMOTOCO	2604.35	2635.00	2581.15	2599.40	-4.95
TECHM	708.05	718.85	705.50	709.10	-1.95
COALINDIA	185.00	185.90	183.70	184.70	-0.65
ZEELE	245.55	248.15	242.40	244.95	-1.00
DREDDY	262.15	266.90	261.25	264.00	-15.40
BPCL	490.00	494.00	484.10	489.50	-3.35
BRITANNIA	306.10	306.10	300.10	303.80	-20.70
HDFC	2000.00	2000.00	1971.00	1987.20	-14.80
TCS	2028.00	2039.05	1997.10	2002.80	-17.30
ECHERMOT	18195.00	18195.00	17851.75	18082.00	-157.35
BAJAJFINSV	8280.00	8345.00	8175.00	8202.00	-116.25
MARUTI	6700.00	6742.10	6588.25	6624.00	-95.50
KOTAKBANK	1599.90	1607.35	1567.00	1588.15	-24.25
ITC	247.00	247.65	242.65	243.10	-4.00
ULTRACEMCO	4047.50	4080.00	3947.05	3977.00	-66.55
AXISBANK	680.00	684.30	665.35	674.90	-11.40
M&M	576.00	576.00	559.25	566.55	-10.00
BAIFINANCE	4013.65	4015.00	3911.00	3952.00	-71.90
HINDALCO	184.45	185.95	183.80	182.55	-3.50
HDFCBANK	1221.80	1225.95	1197.20	1203.00	-25.15
TATASTEEL	332.90	334.55	328.00	329.45	-7.00
SBIN	258.00	258.00	252.60	254.15	-6.80
ICICIBANK	430.00	431.50	420.50	424.50	-12.20
VEDL	143.90	145.50	140.50	141.00	-4.70
TATAMOTORS	119.30	119.70	116.20	116.80	-4.10
GAIL	131.40	132.10	126.40	127.30	-4.80
YESBANK	41.70	42.70	40.15	40.90	-2.35
INDUSINDBK	1310.00	1321.00	1220.00	1229.55	-79.10

NIFTY NEXT 50

SCRIP	OPEN	High	LOW	LTP	CHANGE
NIFTY NEXT 50	2675.80	2684.00	2641.20	2649.85	-167.45
BANDHANBNK	482.00	511.00	477.00	509.00	28.45
IDEA	6.40	6.90	5.75	6.15	0.30
BERGEPANT	4150.90	4745.45	447.05	466.90	17.00
ICICI	1165.90	1200.00	1165.90	1198.65	32.75
BIOCON	233.00	243.20	233.00	239.80	6.40
PIDILITIND	136.00	136.95	132.00	135.80	21.35
LUPIN	680.00	698.80	678.65	690.55	8.45
DIVISLAB	1645.00	1680.00	1641.00	1669.80	19.20
GODREJCP	672.00	682.60	671.65	680.00	7.00
HDFPCAMC	2712.90	2760.90	2710.00	2729.25	20.90
BOSCHLTD	13280.00	13398.00	13201.00	13355.00	85.10
MARICO	382.00	388.35	380.90	385.75	2.15
PETRONET	257.20	260.00	257.00	258.90	1.35
HDFCLIFE	577.50	589.00	575.00	583.35	2.85
COLPAL	1494.95	1503.65	1483.55	1500.00	1.30
DMART	1818.95	1838.40	1813.15	1821.00	-0.85
OFSS	3088.80	3140.00	3054.00	3095.00	46.00
UBL	1278.00	1304.75	1270.00	1279.45	-2.10
ASHOKLEY	68.50	70.75	67.55	68.90	-0.15
NHPC	22.60	22.70	21.95	22.55	-0.10
INDIGO	1790.00	1814.30	1780.30	1787.15	-9.30
PAGEIND	21494.85	21494.85	20990.00	21351.50	-143.35
SHERCEEM	18350.00	18549.65	18116.00	18350.00	-132.75
NMDC	95.90	97.80	94.15	95.80	-0.70
CONCOR	561.55	571.35	561.15	566.00	-5.00
ICICIPRULI	449.80	454.25	443.55	445.45	-3.45
BAJAJHLNG	3623.00	3623.00	3580.00	3580.55	-35.45
DABUR	443.40	443.45	436.45	439.30	-4.20
HINDZINC	206.85	208.00	204.00	204.50	-2.40
PGHH	11275.00	11242.00	11224.95	11230.00	-133.00
MOTHERSUMI	97.15	97.85	94.50	96.00	-1.15
MCDOWELL-N	632.20	631.55	611.75	614.15	-7.35
SBLIFE	825.30	848.00	805.70	827.00	-10.05
SIEMENS	1586.00	1598.70	1554.20	1566.90	-21.30
HINDPETRO	314.00	316.55	307.60	310.30	-4.20
HAVELLS	669.00	669.80	652.65	660.10	-11.35
CADILAC	235.40	236.70	231.50	232.25	-4.30
AMBUJACEM	191.30	191.70	186.85	188.75	-3.60
GICRE	213.90	213.90	206.80	210.20	-4.35
PPC	94.45	95.65	92.10	92.30	-2.30
L&T	82.95	82.95	80.15	81.30	-2.15
AUROPHARMA	474.00	474.00	456.65	461.80	-12.60
ACC	1459.80	1462.80	1418.10	1424.45	-42.65
PEL	1361.00	1368.75	1316.00	1352.00	-43.00
PNB	58.05	58.20	56.20	56.55	-1.90
DLF	146.50	146.90	139.50	142.40	-5.35
BANKBARODA	89.90	89.90	87.75	87.75	-3.30
SRTANSFEN	1116.00	1116.00	1073.75	1075.85	-45.70
NIACL	102.25	102.80	97.00	97.25	-4.90
IBULHSGFN	229.00	240.75	185.30	193.60	-46.20

Erdogan warns EU of refugee influx if rapped for Syria op

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned the EU on Thursday that Ankara would allow millions of refugees to head to Europe if the bloc criticised Turkey's military offensive in Syria.

again: if you try to frame our operation there as an invasion, our task is simple: we will open the doors and send 3.6 million migrants to you," Erdogan said in a speech to his party.

ing Kurdish militants tied to insurgents in its own territory. Erdogan said 109 "terrorists" had been killed so far in the operation, which would soon cover ground from Manbij in northern Syria to the Iraqi border some 350 kilometres (220 miles) east.

these snakes' heads quickly," he said. "What we are trying to do is prevent the establishment of a terrorist State on our southern border. This cannot happen," Turkey currently hosts 3.6 million refugees from the eight-year conflict in Syria -- the highest number in the world.

Under a 2016 agreement with the EU, Turkey agreed to prevent refugees from leaving towards Europe in exchange for six billion euros and visa-free travel for its citizens, but has frequently criticised the lack of assistance from Brussels.

the EU. "Now they say they will withhold three billion euros from us. Have you ever kept any promise you gave us so far? No."

repatriated, after the long-term presence of refugees became an increasingly political liability. "For those who want to return to their country but don't have a home left anymore, we plan to build settlements for one million people, with international financing," Erdogan said.

Erdogan: 109 'terrorists killed' in Syria push

Beirut: Turkey's president says that there have been 109 "terrorists killed" — a reference to Syrian Kurdish fighters — since Ankara launched an offensive into Syria the previous day.

Russia will push for 'talk' on Kurds: Lavrov

Moscow: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday that Ankara and Damascus should discuss the issue of Kurdish forces in northeastern Syria directly, calling Turkey's cross-border assault a product of US policies.

aid. "We have warned for many years about the danger of the experiment that the Americans were staging there in an effort to pit the Kurds against Arab tribes," Lavrov told journalists.

US senators propose tough sanctions on Turkey unless it exits Syria

A bipartisan group of US senators said on Wednesday they have agreed on far-reaching sanctions to be slapped on NATO ally Turkey if its forces do not withdraw from neighbouring Syria.

tions on entities that do business with Turkey's military, or with oil and gas companies that service its armed forces.

port" for the measure, Graham said on Twitter. Sanctions would be levied immediately upon enactment of the bill, which requires a presidential signature.

Hope Turkey will 'act rationally' in terms of op in north Syria: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said that he hoped Turkey would "act rationally" as the country launched an operation to invade the Kurdish-controlled North Syria.

2 ISIS 'Beatles' from Syrian Kurds in US custody

Washington: Two notorious Islamic State jihadists dubbed "The Beatles" who were held by Syrian Kurds are now in US custody and have been moved out of the country, President Donald Trump said on early Thursday.

WH aides avoid media amid impeachment talk

AP ■ WASHINGTON They've skipped the high-profile Sunday TV shows and avoided driveway chat sessions with reporters. Few who are typically eager to defend the president have appeared at all on television this month.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified to all the general public on behalf of my client smt. Suresh Devi who Sh. Ajab Singh & Sh. Ajab Singh s/o Late Sh. Raghubir Singh R/o D-130A, Main Gopal Nagar, Gali No. 4, Najafgarh New Delhi-43, have severed all their relations with their own son Mr. Amit Kumar Dahiya & Daughter-in-Law Smt. Komal, due to their misbehaviour & bad activities & debared / disposes them from all their movable & immovable properties & including native Village. Anybody dealing with them. It is own risk & consequences. My client shall not be responsible for their any acts.

Search for missing person

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Amar, S/o Shri Kalicharan, R/o H.No. B-18/416, Kalyanpuri, Delhi, Age 40 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Shirt & pant is missing from the area of PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi since 13.09.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 105-A dated 16.09.19 has been lodged at PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi.

Ukraine's Zelensky denies Trump tried to 'blackmail' him

AFP ■ KIEV Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denied on Thursday that Donald Trump tried to blackmail him by withholding military aid to Kiev in a phone call between the two leaders.

N Korea threatens to resume long-range missile, nuke tests

Seoul: North Korea threatened again on Thursday to resume nuclear and long-range missile tests, accusing the US of having instigated some members of the UN Security Council to condemn its weapons tests.

Biden for first time calls for Trump's impeachment

PTI ■ WASHINGTON For the first time, former vice president and Democratic presidential front-runner Joe Biden has called for President Donald Trump's impeachment, saying the White House occupant is a "threat to American democracy" and has "violated" his oath of office.

The Executive Engineer, Agartala Division No. 1, PWD (R&B), Netaji Chowmuhani, Agartala, West Tripura - 799001 invites Expression of Interest in online through website https://tripuratenders.gov.in against EoI NO : 01/CE/PWD(R&B)/ACE(P)/RDQP/2019- 2020 Dated 30th September, 2019 for "Consultancy services for Preliminary and Detailed Engineering including preparation of Detailed Project for Construction of 17(Seventeen) nos. of permanent bridges at different location on the State Road Network."

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON Amar General public is hereby informed that one person namely Amar, S/o Shri Kalicharan, R/o H.No. B-18/416, Kalyanpuri, Delhi, Age 40 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Shallow, Round Face, Wearing Shirt & pant is missing from the area of PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi since 13.09.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 105-A dated 16.09.19 has been lodged at PS Kalyanpuri, Delhi.

Biden for first time calls for Trump's impeachment PTI ■ WASHINGTON For the first time, former vice president and Democratic presidential front-runner Joe Biden has called for President Donald Trump's impeachment, saying the White House occupant is a "threat to American democracy" and has "violated" his oath of office.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY (A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006) (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India) NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulimohar Park, New Delhi-110016 Phone No. 011 - 26542159, 011-26542170

Metro Railway, Kolkata Kolkata's Pride E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO.:14/19-20 Date : 09.10.2019 Principal CMM, Metro Railway, Kolkata, 33/1, J.L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071 on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for following items already uploaded in website www.ireps.gov.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE M/S SHALIMAR TOWN PLANNERS PVT. LTD. OT-15, 3rd Floor, Next Door, Parklands, Sector-76 Faridabad Haryana 121004 Phone No.: +91-11-4957-2787, Website: www.btppt.com

DESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004 E-Tender Notice Date: 09.10.2019 E-tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India. E-tender for supply of following items. Only e-offer will be acceptable for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS.

Ukraine's Zelensky denies Trump tried to 'blackmail' him AFP ■ KIEV Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky denied on Thursday that Donald Trump tried to blackmail him by withholding military aid to Kiev in a phone call between the two leaders. "There was no blackmail," the comedian-turned-politician told a news conference.



NEPAL PREPARES TO WELCOME CHINA'S XI Kathmandu: Preparations are in full swing in Kathmandu to welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping who arrives here on Saturday on a two-day state visit to Nepal.

GRETA THUNBERG LEADS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LIST Oslo: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, Brazilian indigenous leader Raoni Metuktire and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed have dominated the Nobel Peace Prize lists, the awards for which will be announced here on Friday.

US, CHINA RESUME TRADE TALKS AMID UNCERTAINTY Washington: Top Chinese trade envoy Liu He was greeted on Thursday by senior US officials as they resumed efforts to resolve their nations' escalating trade war.

ROMANIA GOVT COLLAPSES IN NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE Bucharest: Romania's beleaguered left-wing Government collapsed in a no-confidence vote on Thursday, paving the way for the president to appoint a new Prime Minister.

PROTESTERS TRY TO 'OCCUPY' LONDON AIRPORT London: London police dragged away dozens of climate protesters on Thursday who tried to "occupy" an international airport serving the British capital's global financial hub.

\$14.02 BN FOR GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, TB Lyon: Governments, businesses and philanthropists pledged just over USD 14 billion on Thursday to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, exceeding the target set for a replenishment meeting in Lyon, France.

Public Notice It is hereby notified to all the general public on behalf of my client smt. Suresh Devi who Sh. Ajab Singh & Sh. Ajab Singh s/o Late Sh. Raghubir Singh R/o D-130A, Main Gopal Nagar, Gali No. 4, Najafgarh New Delhi-43, have severed all their relations with their own son Mr. Amit Kumar Dahiya & Daughter-in-Law Smt. Komal, due to their misbehaviour & bad activities & debared / disposes them from all their movable & immovable properties & including native Village. Anybody dealing with them. It is own risk & consequences. My client shall not be responsible for their any acts.

NOTICE I Anju Chopra, D/o Shri C.M. bhasin, R/o G-166, Hari Nagar, New Delhi hereby declare that we have lost our property documents in respect of flat No. 384 second floor pocket-V Mayur Park Phase-I, Delhi-110091. The Original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Possession Slip And Electricity And Water Noc Issued By Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi, in The Name of The Original Allottee Parveen Arora W/o S.N. Arora and S.N. Arora S/o Ganga Ram, and conveyance Deed Regn. No. 13720, with S.R.VIII inA Delhi on dated 14-09-2005, and G.o.p.a. s.p.a., will deed, Agreement to Sell, and other necessary documents which is Executed By Parveen Arora W/o S.N. Arora and S.N. Arora S/o Ganga Ram in favour of Kiran Tyagi W/o P.K. Tyagi and Anju Chopra W/o Suresh Chopra, GFA Regn. No. 8965, Spa Regn. No. 8966, W/ Delhi Regn. No. 5700, agreement to sell Regn. No. 5547 All Regd. with S.R.VIII inA Delhi on dated 15-04-2009, including Property Payment Receipts Till 2019-2020. LR.No:1672012/2019

PUBLIC NOTICE Regd.No 1384(GH) dt. 20.01.1994 SARV PRIYA MAHAJAN CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LTD. Off: 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Site:Plot No. 14/1, Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

Institution For The Blind Panchsukla Road, New Delhi-110001 Public Notice Since the tenure of the present Managing committee headed by Mr. B.P. Mandal as a President is going to be completed on 03.11.2019. Thus a General Body Meeting of the Institution For The Blind, Panchsukla Road, New Delhi is called on 31st October (Thursday) 2019. At Head office Panchsukla Road, New Delhi-110001 at 11 AM to approve/nominate the new Managing committee for the period of 3 years by Mr. Bansil Lal Sharma (Convener/Founder) as per the Annual General Body meeting dated 19.1.2003.

Trend Blazer

'Like to work with ensemble cast'

Filmmaker **ZOYA AKHTAR** prefers ensemble cast in her projects and likes to work with realistic characters that have some sort of back stories.

"If you have an actor that comes into your film and is a part of that story, he should have some heft. It's not just information but there needs to be a story behind their stories. Otherwise, it becomes boring and dull," said Zoya.

Her next is the Netflix project *Ghost Stories*, an ensemble of four short films directed by four directors. Apart from Zoya, Anurag Kashyap, Dibakar Banerjee and Karan Johar are associated with the project.



'People usually ask me about settling down in life. I don't understand how much should I achieve more to feel settled down. It's considered that women have to find someone to sort themselves out. I have been told often that 'you will have to get married to find personal happiness'. But I am in a happy space as happiness cannot be decided by other people.'

—Ekta Kapoor

ONCE UPON A TIME

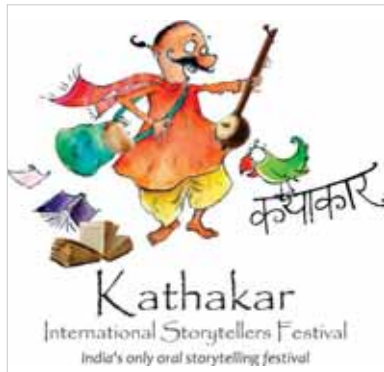
As the Kathakar Storytelling Festival reaches its 12th edition, co-director **SHAGUNA GAHILOTE** tells **CHAHAK MITTAL** that this year's novelty comprises music and Buddhist chanting

Certainly, the joy of reading is a deeply personalised experience, depending on the associative imagery and perception it creates in the mind. But storytelling connects you to others, the sound and rhythm of words helping you construct a picture that you can share with others and even take something from them.

Author Shaguna Gahilote, co-director of the Kathakar Storytelling Festival, looks at it this way — it is one thing to be reading a story and another to visualise the same story and experience it along with personal references and anecdotes told live. "If you read something and hear the same story in an open space, you'd feel about it so differently. This festival is all about that and so unique. You will understand what the magic of storytelling is," she says, adding that listening to the story in that particular ambience and absorbing that vibe makes it worthwhile. "This is also a reason why we have chosen an old venue this time" — Sunder Nursery, a 16th-century heritage park complex adjacent to Humayun's Tomb.

The festival's 12th edition this year has some new elements. She says, "We have added an element of music to storytelling this time, a throwback to the tradition of the bard. Of course, the idea has originated from Mohit Chauhan, our patron. We have invited a few storytellers who tell stories through music. They have flown from Australia, Sweden and Poland. Then there are enchanting Buddhist monks and a disciple of Taufiq Qureshi."

A bunch of professional and passionate raconteurs from all over the world will also be present. With 17 sessions in total post-sunset, the festival will also feature morning segments in a string of Delhi schools. "The morning sessions facilitate the participation of children from Delhi's municipal,



government, private, community and civil society school. The sessions are divided in primary and secondary level where children from the age group of eight years onwards listen to stories," says she.

There will be a focus on India's rare art forms and native folktales, who will rub shoulders with those from Romania, Mongolia, Lithuania and the United Kingdom. So how did she and Prathana, sister and co-director, first conceptualise this festival? She started it in 2010 when the Right to Education was introduced and in every annexure mentioned that all schools should have a library with books and newspapers. "As part of UNESCO, we had been building libraries in schools for underprivileged children but not many of them would pick up the books or read them fondly. Someone had to read out the books to them to help them understand it better and find it interesting. This realisation hit us.

We brainstormed and came to another realisation that there was a time when no written text was there for people to experience stories. They only heard them. And they travelled from one person to another and across generations. Even we have only heard so



many stories that were really ancient," says she. The sisters thought that such a festival would not just revive ancient folklores but also preserve them. The festival was hence launched under the aegis of UNESCO as part of *Ghumakkad Narain*, a travelling literature festival in memory of Thakur Vishva Narain Singh, the first Braille editor in India.

Well, little did they know that starting out from a handful of people, about 250 of them, they would host a footfall of more than 10,000 people per day during the three-day event.

This generation's growing dependence on technology and the easy availability of things in the comfort of one's home have changed the idea of storytelling greatly. With digital media and online content, there has been a decline in people's physical movement or live experiences. However, Shaguna believes, "We don't do this festival everyday or every month. Even though you can listen to or watch or read stories sitting in

the comfort of your homes, such things are worth experiencing once in a long time. It's different. There, you live the story."

Over the years, the festival has drawn celebrities too, like spiritual speaker Sadhguru, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali and a few Dastangos. While Imtiaz will be hosting the closing show, *Kissey, Kahani aur Cinema*, telling his stories of filmmaking, this is the first time the festival will see Buddhist chanting by Grammy awardee monks from the Sherabling Monastery, Himachal Pradesh. There are other first-timers too — performance of two Polish storytellers, one of whom, Emilia Raiter, is a renowned harpist and sings Polish ballads. Uncle Larry Walsh, an Australian aborigine storyteller, will be travelling with Ron Murray, a didgeridoo player, to tell tales of the indigenous people. "This will be the first time that an indigenous storyteller will perform in India," says Shaguna when we ask her about how the team has chosen the sto-

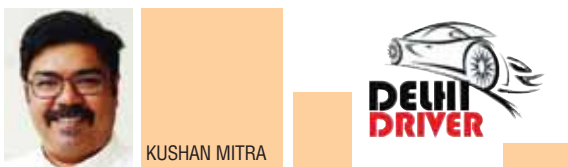
ries, which can also be targeted to inspire the youth and develop their social awareness. She adds, "Every storyteller has a long list of stories to tell and they're usually with a moral, something that relates to the audience."

UK-based Emily Hennessey will perform Indian folktales of *Kali* and the *Mahabharata*. "Even though she could have told the tales of English epics or culture, we have specifically asked her to narrate Indian folklore. She has performed a lot on some aspects and episodes of *Mahabharata* even in the UK," says Shaguna.

Kerala's traditional Tholpavakoothu puppeteers will enchant the audience with their famed shadow theatre based on the theme of Tamil epic *Kamba Ramayana*. Theatre artist Danish Hussain will be presenting "a self-directed adaptation" of *Qissebazi: A Multilingual Storytelling Orbit*.

"We also have actor Manoj Bajpayee performing as a storyteller along with Mohit," she adds.

The Maruti-Suzuki S Presso is not the prettiest car launched in the recent past. But will this ugly duckling become a swan when it comes to sales?



Decaffeinated

Aesthetics is a deeply individualistic thing, but even then there are certain things, cars, buildings, watches and gadgets that fit into the pretty or ugly categories. You can debate endlessly about Adrian van Hooydonk's new massive snouted BMW 4-series coupe, but the Maruti-Suzuki S.Presso is one of those cars that fails the test. Particularly, the rear-end, with its articulated shock-absorber, and tyres that seem awfully small and looks horrible. But history has taught us that when people find a car which has a lot of value attached to it, they do not care about its looks. The success of the original Hyundai Santro being a case in point. This is particularly true at the entry-level of the market. It is not as if there cannot be attractive small hatchbacks, the Daewoo Matiz was a smart looking car but its Korean rival smashed it in the sales charts, even Maruti's A-star, which was an attractive design flopped.

Looks therefore, one can safely assume, is not the most important thing for entry-level car buyers. Practicality is and, frankly, on that front Maruti delivers. The S.Presso is based on Suzuki's Heartect-K platform, the 'K' standing for Japan's small 'Kei' cars, which got tax benefits. It has been modified to make it slightly longer and wider, but much like the old WagonR. This is a narrow albeit tall car. And as a result of that, Maruti's designers (for this is a vehicle like the Vitara Brezza that was designed with Indian designers and engineers at the heart of the programme) have effectively made a proper successor to the old WagonR, since the new third-generation WagonR is bigger and wider than ever before. So one can say that the new WagonR is actually a Swift in an ugly suit. And like the old WagonR, the S.Presso has oodles of space. Maruti's designers have made a spacious cabin with lots of storage cubbyholes and a large boot given the car's size. The tall-boy stance also makes ingress and egress very easy although while Maruti claims this to be a five seater but two large guys will take up all the space at the back. The steering column is not adjustable and the central-mounted instrument cluster takes a bit of getting used to, but the overall layout is pretty good. The steering mounted controls are a huge plus, although the shiny plastic trim on the top variants reflects off the windscreen and if you find yourself driving with the setting sun

behind you, like I did, this is extremely irritating. How does this drive? Well, Maruti's K10B petrol engine that does service on several of Maruti's other small cars finds its way onto this one as well, and as far as small, naturally-aspirated engines go, it is the best in the business. I am not sold on the Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) on this car, or any other for that matter, but with the manual gearbox this one is peppy off the line and can go plenty fast, all the while returning great fuel economy.

Now, that 'tall' stance makes one assume that the shock-absorbers have a lot of travel, which means ride over bad roads and rough surfaces is pretty good. After all, Maruti is marketing this as a 'mini-SUV' and it even has a front grille inspired by the Brezza. But, great ride is compromised by poor handling, particularly at speed. The S.Presso, as we have stated time and again, rides very high, and after two decades of evaluating cars, one can look at a car and immediately determine that taking a corner hard on a vehicle is a dangerous proposition. I'm not staying it takes corners really badly as there are several other cars that are as bad but I would brake and take a corner at a reasonable speed with the S.Presso. Modern Marutis have been a hoot to drive for the Baleno and the Swift are immense fun around corners and you can really push them through sweeping turns. But at city speeds and on India's fairly straight highways, you would not notice a thing.

This is in essence an urban car, spacious and economical, perfect for a young couple as long as they don't have to look at it and when you are inside the car you really do not have to look at it. That said, the 'special edition' variants where the cars have a bit more plastic cladding and contrasting colours, particularly the 'Energetic', make it look much smarter and considering that most dealer kits make cars look worse, this was a pleasant surprise. It is a very practical car and while it may not give you the caffeine shot that the name promises, it might just do that to Maruti-Suzuki's moribund sales of late.



Starry night and deep ocean

Designers **SAMANT CHAUHAN** and **RIMZIM DADU** take inspiration from different forms of nature. While the former brought forth a galaxy, the idea of movement and fluidity inspired the latter, says **SAKSHI SHARMA**

Can you recall your childhood days when you would stare at the sky, lying down silently in the lawn, imagining different shapes of the clouds or trying to count the stars? Well, little did we know that this would become a muse for a designer someday. With climate change having come into focus, nature has become an inspiration for designers too, as it triggers ideas for some of the most beautiful forms of art. So is the case with designers Samant Chauhan and Rimzim Dadu, who showcased their collection at FDCI's Lotus Make-up India Fashion Week day 1. While the former drew inspiration from the Milky Way galaxy, the idea of movement and fluidity of the ocean inspired the latter.

Samant said that his recent trip to Spiti Valley reminded him of *The Starry Night*, Dutch post-impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh's masterpiece. His vision was to translate the famous artwork into his designs, which is clearly evident from his all-black collection adorned with silver patches. He said, "When Van Gogh made the painting, perhaps he predicted that it would be difficult to see the stars in the coming years. We would have to travel 60 km for two days for such a view. It is going to be rare."

Light music, images of dark midnight blue and purple and the sparkling stars, decorating the sky, on the screen at the back, gave the audience the tranquil vibe of sitting under a starry sky. The designer, known for his obsession with monochromes, usually plays with white but this is the second time he has tried his hands on black. He said, "In the first one, I showcased how I view black from the prism of nostalgia. And this collection shows how I see and perceive black now." It was important for him to showcase his current definition of black as he said, "a trip to the picturesque valley in Himachal Pradesh has changed my definition of black."

In this cut-throat competition, every designer wants to come out with the best. They want to lead the market, be it with their distinctive colours or designs. But Chauhan is not bothered about this competition. He said, "We don't follow a trend or the forecast. We focus on bringing newness and freshness in our collection."

The collection which had 37 looks, ranged from bell sleeved silk embroidered gown with a trail, peplum with embroidered trousers, corset with denim and embroidered organza cape, embroidered balloon sleeve jacket style gown and many more. The fabric "ranged from sheer silk, cotton linen, organza to sheer," said Chauhan. He added that the embroidery, which was a combination of handmade



and machine, was not woven on the typical tussar silk but into his staple Bhagalpuri.

It was constant in almost all his collections, and was too heavy to make way for jewellery. The embroidery gave a glimpse of nature as it had leaves, flowers, uncarved branches and silver patches all around resembling the stars. The models had similar hairstyles — a neat bun tied with a Victorian-style bow.

Another show was of Rimzim, who is known for presenting her styles in a unique manner. Her shows always have an element of surprise, be it using virtual reality on the ramp or creating a life-size maze in the show. Even this time, she did not miss on the surprise element.

We have often seen the ramps decorated with trees, flowers, wooden and silver artworks or a play of light and shadows for sure. But have you ever seen sculpted steel sculptures hanging in mid air? This naturally ignited the curiosity among the audience.

The spirals and movements on the screen throughout, clearly indicated towards her commitment to her experimentation. She said, "I am inspired by all kinds of movements, be it frozen in time or sculpted in a material. They have a sense of fluidity and this attracts me the most."

Rimzim used her signature materials like steel wires and metallic cords to create structured yet fluid garments. Though the clothes appeared rigid from

far because of the wires but were actually malleable and soft to wear.

The collection depicted sculpted fluidity in the form of silhouettes. It ranged from white floral shirts with black foil trousers and black belt bag to powder blue Nehru jacket with diamond shirt and white laptop bag to wave skirt paired with wave off-shoulder blouse and emerald bag. The collection was colourful as it was intended to give a festive touch. There were jewel tones of gold, bronze, emerald and teal.

Even the footwear of the models were made of steel wires which totally matched with their outfits. They had straight and simple hairstyles with glitter all over it to give it a shine.

The designer also launched her first ever menswear collection with metal bomber jackets, textured Nehru and *sherwani* jackets aiming to fill a gap in the progressive menswear fashion genre.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar



THAI WAY OR MY WAY

Throughout South-East Asia, the food cooked at home is different from that served in restaurants. AYUSHI SHARMA digs in at The Spice Route, The Imperial and comes back satisfied



It was while walking through the corridors of The Imperial hotel that I came across a small, dark and an almost secret entrance that teleported me to Chiang Mai with its Thai sculptures. For it was The Spice Route restaurant, designed to reflect the journey of spices from the Malabar Coast in Kerala through Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia to Thailand and Vietnam, where I was dining. The place is an overwhelming visual depiction of the art and culture that also travelled with the spices through these regions.

Coming to the reason that I was here, the restaurant was celebrating the first-ever Asian Market with the aim to explore the best of South-East Asian cuisine. This is essentially the food that is found not in the restaurants but in the houses of the locals. Chef de Cuisine Veena Arora has carefully crafted the menu to delve into the expanse of South-East Asian cuisine.

No sooner had I sat down that the very first dish was brought to the table. *Khao Tang Naa Tang*, a crispy rice cake, was served with a creamy and savoury dip, made with coconut milk and sprinkled with corns too. It reminded me of the good old *sabudana papad* (sago papadum) as it was super crispy. The dried crackers are usually paired with shrimp sauce but here, the creamy dip was an exceptional alternative for vegetarians like me. The dish was accompanied by their signature drink — *Green Velvet*. I took a sip, smacked my lips and uttered, "Sprite," for that was the taste that seeped through. Though it seemed to be awash in the colour of the bottle that the drink is packaged in. It was dark green. I could easily make out the ingredients — mint, khush syrup, lemonade and Sprite, of course.

Local food culture not only inspires us in our daily lives but helps us stay connected with our roots, believes the chef who was born and brought up in Thailand. Her biggest dream has always

been to expose the Indian palate to the traditions of her place of birth. With Asian Market, she is delighted to bring forth the local exotic dishes which have not been explored earlier or been a part of the restaurant's menu, ever.

Chef Veena elaborated, "People in South-East Asia, just like Indians, do not segregate their meals into appetisers or a main course. Everything is eaten together. Because Thai food is spicy, we need a soup along with it to balance the flavours as well as snacks to go with the meal."

Next up was Malaysian assorted vegetables with curry where the gravy had a hint of sweetness and was filled with corns, mushrooms and broccoli. It was served with jasmine rice and *Phak Bunk Man-Korn*, which is wok fried morning glory with garlic and chillies flavoured with Thai soya bean paste. The stem of morning glory is thick but hollow inside. This combined a crunchy texture and juiciness at the same time.



And flavouring it with Thai soya bean paste elevated the taste to the next level while making it super convenient for anyone to cook them.

Chef Veena apprised us, "Morning glory is something that is found in India as well but people are not really aware of it. You can cook it in Thai or Indian style. And it hides a secret, that it is full

of iron. People in India think that only some leafy veggies such as spinach, lettuce and fenugreek contain it. Morning glory can be cooked in the exact same manner just like all of the above. One can make *pakorras* with it too."

Amidst the endlessly appetising fare, laughter and conversations, chef Veena also did a live cookout for her special — the noodle soup, where she added a range of spices — fennel, cinnamon, cardamom, star anise and ginger — in the boiling water which made it seem just right for the approaching winter. Noodles, roasted garlic, brown shallot, coriander, bean sprouts, soy sauce, crushed peanuts and chilli flakes sprinkled on the top further enhanced the taste and made it look appetising.

The expanse of flavours and textures that different regions in South-East Asia have to offer are immense and this is what the Asian Market attempted to showcase — the diversity in indigenous cuisine.



Stop fiddling with food

Here are a few common kitchen mistakes and the ways to correct them

WE ALL LOVE GETTING KITCHEN TIPS as those little tricks help us become better cooks. But sometimes we need to introspect and stop doing certain things. It's time we unlearn and learn.

NOT READING THE RECIPE ALL THE WAY THROUGH

Before you start cooking, make sure you have all the ingredients, you think through the timing of the steps and look up for directions that might be confusing. This way, you don't find yourself staring at the recipe in dismay when the words marinate overnight or chill for at least four hours pop up.

SEASONING THE DISH ONLY ONCE

Don't just salt the onions you are sauteing for the sauce and call it a day. Conversely, don't make the whole sauce recipe and add salt at the end. Add a bit of salt, and adjust other seasonings as you build the dish, tasting as you go, if possible.

CUTTING MEAT BEFORE IT HAD A CHANCE TO REST

Allowing meat and poultry to sit for a while after it is removed from the stove, grill or oven not only lets it finish cooking but ensures that the juices stay inside, where they belong. When meat cooks, its protein fibers contract, and if you cut into it right away they won't have had a chance to relax and reabsorb the juices. This is why you might cut into a steak right off the grill and see it perfectly cooked to a beautiful rare or medium rare, and then a few minutes later it seems to have lost its rosy hue, and all its juices are on the cutting board. Let thick steaks rest 8 to 10 minutes before cutting. Big roasts or whole birds should rest between 20 and 30 minutes before carving. This may seem like a long time, but rest assured the meat will still be warm.

FORGETTING TO SALT THE COOKING WATER

Add salt to the water — whether for pasta, vegetables, poaching shrimp or chicken — until it actually tastes salty. Your food won't absorb all this salt by a long shot, but it will become seasoned and more flavorful. For pasta, grains or some vegetables like potatoes, this really makes a difference, as the starch is absorbing the salted water as it cooks.

USING TOO SMALL A TOOL

Have you ever tried blending dough in a small bowl or transferring a casserole into a too-tight baking dish or chopping a pound of spinach on a tiny cutting board or using a paring knife to dismantle a squash? Well, bigger is better when it comes to kitchen preparation. It means less mess, less overflow in the oven and, often, more safety.

GETTING DISTRACTED

Dana Cowin, editor in chief of Food and Wine Magazine for over 20 years, and author of "Mastering My Mistakes in the Kitchen," says that after working with numerous chefs and experts, "Here's what I learned NOT to do: Don't get distracted. Don't answer your email, help your kid with homework or catch up on the news. When

SKIMPING ON THE TIME IT TAKES TO FULLY PREHEAT YOUR OVEN

The beep indicating your oven has reached the desired temperature is probably a bit premature, says Dorie Greenspan, author of the cookbook "Everyday Dorie: The Way I Cook." Says Greenspan: "An oven repair person once told me that when the light on my oven indicated that it had reached temperature, I should wait another 15 minutes before putting in whatever I was baking. The oven needs that time to be truly at temperature, and to be able to hold its temperature when you open the door. This is particularly important with cookies because they bake for such a short time." She advises keeping a thermometer in your oven.

WORKING WITH A DULL KNIFE

Sharp knives are safer than dull ones that slip and slide. If you don't have a knife-sharpening tool, "There are lots of stores and services that can help you out," says Alison Cayne, founder of Haven's Kitchen cooking school in New York City. "You are not expected to know how to sharpen yourself." Many kitchen stores, like Williams-Sonoma or Sur La Table, will sharpen knives, and you can look for other places online. You might even be able to get your knives picked up and dropped off.

OVERCOOKING

Remember to account for "carry-over cooking" — the fact

gorge us

Farzi Cafe has come up with delicacies from around the world. It offers international signature dishes like *Udupi paneer popcorn* and *Madras pepper prawns* from its branches of London and Kuwait. It also offers specials like *Halloumi samosa*, *Riyadh special kunafa nest with saffron chenna*, *Classic chutney chicken biryani*, *raita spheres* and *Pork belly tikka* from CP's Farzi Cafe. **Date:** Till October **Time:** 12 noon to 11.45 pm **Price:** ₹ 1,500 plus taxes **Venue:** DLF Cyber City, Gurugram.

As October generally has a festive mood, Smaaash has come up with its Oktoberfest. It offers a month-long fiesta with a deal of 1+1 pint beer. They are also giving an offer on beers. Pay for one and the next is free. **Date:** Till October 20 **Venue:** Smaaash, all outlets.

Punjab Grill hosts a 20-day food festival — *Tales of Purani Dilli* — reminiscing the celebrated flavours of Old Delhi. The culinary journey starts with fruit *kulji chaat*, *tawa aaloo chaat*, *dahi wale gol gappe* and fried chicken *tikki* with *hari chutney*. There are specials such as *Galouti kebab*, a delicious minced meat patty served with *ulta tawa parantha*; *Chole bhature* and *Bedmi puri* with *Kachaloo sabji*. **Date:** Till October 28 **Price:** ₹ 1,400 **Venue:** Punjab Grill outlets at Select City Walk and Janpath.



Gravity Spacebar has come up with Oktoberfest offers. It is a treat for the beer lovers as they offer 3+1 on beer mugs and 2 beer pitchers for ₹799. On the purchase of two towers, they are also providing the third one free. You can also guzzle down unlimited beer for 90 minutes and have starters at ₹599 **Date:** Till October **Time:** 12 pm to 12 am **Venue:** Gravity Spacebar, Sector 29, Gurugram.



Go vegan with L'Opéra's new vegan range and eggless products. The range includes *Chocolate caramel verrine*, *Vanilla and raspberry verrine*, *Almond tart*, *Chocolate tart* and *Macarons* with variants of raspberry, chocolate and pistachio. **Venue:** L'Opéra, all outlets.



RECIPES

MUCHO NACHO

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Corn chips yellow: 16
 - Corn chips blue: 16
 - Bean chilli: 50
 - Shredded mozzarella cheese: 1/3 cup
 - Salsa: 60 gm
 - Jalapenos: 12
 - Chopped cilantro: 10 gm
 - Sour cream: 30 gm
- METHOD**
- Deep fry corn chips and sprinkle salt and crushed peppercorn on them.
 - Keep 20 mixed nachos on plate and spread half bean chillies on all the nachos.
 - Spread 45 gm cheddar cheese, mozzarella cheese and jalapenos on top.
 - Repeat the steps from layering of 20 nachos on top of the first setup.
 - Place the loaded nachos



inside the top oven for 2.5 minutes.

- Cook until the cheese melts and is bubbly.
- Remove the cooked nachos from the oven and put them on a warm plate.
- Sprinkle salsa and chopped cilantro on top.
- Place a dollop of sour cream at the centre of the plate on top of the cooked nachos and serve immediately.

Courtesy: Shireesh Singh, Corporate Chef, UNO Chicago Bar and Grill, Noida.

INDIAN STYLE POACHED EGGS WITH SPICY AVOCADO AND WALNUTS

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Avocados: 3
 - Onion: 1
 - Tomato: 1
 - Green chillies: 2
 - Coriander leaves: 2 tbsp (chopped)
 - Salt and pepper: To taste
 - Virgin olive oil: 2 tbsp
 - Lemon juice: 2 tbsp
 - Egg: 1
 - California walnuts (crushed) : 20 gm



METHOD

- Scoop out the avocado flesh in a bowl.
- Add chopped onion, tomato, green chillies, coriander, olive oil, crushed walnuts, lemon juice and salt and

pepper.

- Mix with a fork or a whisk. Keep in the fridge to chill.
- In a pot, add water and simmer.
- Meanwhile, crack an egg in a small steel bowl greased with a little butter. Season it with salt and pepper and put the bowl in the water.
- Cover it with a lid and let it cool for three minutes.
- For plating, put a large scoop of avocado-walnut mixture on the toast. Gently, place the egg over it and season with red chilli if you wish to.

Courtesy: Chef Anahita Dhondy

GULAAB PAAN KI KHEER

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Milk full cream: 1 ltr
 - Basmati rice: 100 gm
 - Green cardamom: 10 gm
 - Cashewnut broken: 20 gm
 - Almond: 10 gm
 - Chironji: 10 gm
 - Pista: 10 gm
 - Beetle leaf: 5
 - Rose petal: as per requirement
 - Gulkand: 50 gm
 - Sugar: 100 gm
 - Paan leaves: 2



METHOD

- Boil milk and keep stirring. Then add cardamom.
- Soak rice for half an hour and add rice in the boiled milk.
- Keep stirring till rice is cooked and has thickened.
- Add cashewnut, *kishmish*, *chironji*, sugar and then stir. Keep aside to cool.
- Add puree of *gulkand* and shredded *paan patta*.
- Garnish with rose petals and *paan* leaves.
- Serve chilled.

Courtesy: Chef Shivanda Kain from Jaypee Green Golf and Spa Resort.

MAYANK'S HIGH

Agarwal becomes 1st Indian opener since Sehwag to score back to back hundreds as opener in Tests

PTI ■ PUNE

Opener Mayank Agarwal stamped his authority on a struggling South African attack with a second successive hundred as India cruised to 273 for three on the opening day of the second Test here.

Play was stopped in the 86th over due to fading light.

The 28-year-old's rich vein of form continued as he looked in complete command for his 108 off 195 balls, having made a sublime 215 in the series opener in Visakhapatnam last week.

The first day of the second match panned out similar to the way the first Test went as India, leading 1-0 in the series, looked to out-bat the Proteas on a good surface.

Along with Cheteshwar Pujara (58), Agarwal added 138 runs for the second wicket with minimum fuss, despite India losing Rohit Sharma's (14) wicket in the first hour itself.

In the final session, skipper Virat Kohli (63 batting off 105 balls) was in his element, hitting yet another Test half-century and adding 75 runs for the unbroken fourth wicket partnership with Ajinkya Rahane (18 batting off 70 balls). Kohli hit some flowing drives during the final hour and had 10 fours to his credit.

The highlight of the day however was Agarwal's approach against both pace and spin, both of which, he tackled with ease. His knock comprised 16 fours and two sixes.

The opener raced to his sec-



ond Test hundred hitting left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj down the ground for consecutive sixes and then played an intentional back-cut off Vernon Philander to complete the coveted milestone.

Agarwal's scoring chart would indicate that his innings was a perfect blend of caution mixed with aggression. He got 74 runs off 18 balls in boundaries and the remaining 34 runs came off 177 balls.

Among South African pacers, Kagiso Rabada (3/48 in 18.1 overs), hit better lengths during the course of the day and was easily the most potent bowler on view.

Rabada bowled a beautiful delivery that pitched on length and moved only a shade to kiss the outside edge of Rohit's bat before going into wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock's gloves.

Rabada was unlucky to miss out on a second wicket — of Pujara — when Temba Bavuma, at short leg, missed a reflex catch. The batsman was yet to get off the mark at that stage.

He finally got Pujara, caught at first slip but not before the India No.3 had scored his 22nd Test half-century.

During the first hour, Agarwal was all cautious against Philander and Rabada who bowled a probing first spell.

He was smart enough to wait for the third seamer in rookie Anrich Nortje (0/60 in 13 overs) to be introduced into the attack.

Nortje, with his pace, was

guilty of bowling fuller deliveries at a drivable length outside the off-stump.

In fact, Dale Steyn's "use that short leg" advice on Twitter, was meant for Nortje, advising him to alter the length.

In one of his overs before lunch, Agarwal hit an off-drive followed by two cover drives.

In the post lunch session, Nortje tried to hit the back of length but Agarwal had already completed his half century and was well set. The moment Nortje pitched it short, he went back and across to play a couple of pull shots.

On the other hand, Pujara began on a cautious note and it was only after left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (0/89 in 29 overs) was brought into the attack, the Saurashtra right-hander upped the ante.

In his very first over, he used his feet to come to the pitch of the ball, hitting two elegant on-drives. A third on-drive also came along the way off Rabada's bowling. Watching Pujara use his feet against Maharaj, Agarwal got the confidence in the post-lunch session in which he got around 50 runs.

Kohli becomes 2nd Indian captain to lead in 50 Tests

PTI ■ PUNE

India skipper Virat Kohli on Thursday achieved another feat when he surpassed Sourav Ganguly to become the second Indian captain after Mahendra Singh Dhoni to lead the side in 50 or more Test matches. The Indian run-machine was tied at the second spot with former skipper Ganguly (49 Tests) in the list of leading the national side before the start of the second Test against South Africa here on Thursday. Kohli, who remained unbeaten on 63 as India rode on Mayank Agarwal's 108 to post 273/3 at stumps on Day 1, became only the second Indian captain to the landmark of 50 Tests after Dhoni, who had led the national team 60 times in Tests between 2008 and 2014.

FIRST EVER CENTURY STAND AT PUNE:

RUNS	PARTNERS	VENUE	SEASON	RESULT
268	Rahul Dravid/Virender Sehwag	Chennai	2007-08	Drawn
171	Deep Dasgupta/Rahul Dravid	Port Elizabeth	2001-02	Drawn
169	Cheteshwar Pujara/Rohit Sharma	Visakhapatnam	2019-20	Won
157	Cheteshwar Pujara/Murali Vijay	Durban	2013-14	Lost
138	Cheteshwar Pujara/Mayank Agarwal	Pune	2019-20	Awaited

FAISEL FEATURES

'Rabada getting back to his best'



PTI ■ PUNE

Kagiso Rabada is slowly showing signs of getting his mojo back as indicated by his spell in the post lunch session, observed South Africa's bowling coach Vincent Barnes.

Rabada was the only Proteas bowler, who made some kind of impact with figures of 3 for 48 in India's 273 for 3 on the first day of the second Test.

"It was fantastic to see him bowl, especially, the spell after lunch. I thought he bowled well in Vizag (Visakhapatnam) as well. Today, there were a lot of signs that he is getting to the top," Barnes said at the end of the day's play.

In fact, patience is the key for fast bowlers on this track as Rabada showed by getting Cheteshwar Pujara's wicket with persistence.

"Our focus on this

tour is to bowl to our strengths. The plan was to be patient on a wicket that was going to give us assistance in the morning," Barnes said.

"We had to keep bowling in the right areas and they would make mistakes. Pujara at one stage looked set and KG (Rabada) bowled in the right area and got the wicket."

But he did admit that in the morning session with a bit of luck (Pujara was dropped on zero), South Africa's new ball bowlers could have picked up a couple of more wickets.

"When we looked at the conditions this morning, the window for the fast bowlers was a lot longer than compared to Visakhapatnam. I thought that we bowled quite well this morning. And, with a bit of luck, we could have had a few more wickets," Barnes said.

Mayank learnt art of conversion from domestic cricket: Pujara

PTI ■ PUNE

For someone who smashed 1000 first-class runs in a month's domestic cricket in 2017, it shouldn't come as a surprise that a heavy duty scorer like Mayank Agarwal knows a thing or two about the art of conversion, feels Cheteshwar Pujara.

Agarwal, a relatively new entrant to the Test arena, has scored his second Test hundred in as many games against South Africa, starting with a double hundred in the series opener in Visakhapatnam.

"He (Agarwal) is an experienced player, who has scored so many first-class runs, which has helped him a lot. And when it comes to being nervous in his 90s, he is someone who is fearless," Pujara replied, when asked about the Karnataka opener showing little sign of nerves.

Pujara has seen a lot of Agarwal in the domestic arena and believes it



is the consistent scores in domestic cricket that has made him what he is today.

"Mayank knows how to convert fifties into big scores and at the same

time, once he goes past hundred, he can score heavily as we saw in the last game," said Pujara

Pujara himself is someone with a penchant for big knocks. So did he tell

anything to Mayank while their partnership was on?

"That habit (for big scores) has come from first class cricket, so I didn't have to tell him much. To be honest, we were just communicating what their gameplan was.

"If there was an error in his batting, I would just tell him to play close to his body, when I thought his bat was going away.

Agarwal from that, he is batting really well and you don't have to guide him much."

Pujara was very happy with the kind of track on offer which has a bit for everyone and batting first, he thought was a prudent decision.

"It's a true pitch, where if a fast bowler is bowling well, he can also get a batsman out and if you are batsman, there is value for your shots. There was little bit of spin later on. If we have runs on the board, it won't be easy to bat in the fourth innings," he said.

Current crop of pacers have changed the face of Indian cricket: Kapil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The legendary Kapil Dev on Thursday heaped praise on India's current pace battery, saying the fast bowlers have changed the face of Indian cricket in the last four-five years.

Asked whether the current pace attack is the best, Kapil said, "Do I have to say that?"

"Aisa pace attack humne dekha nahi tha, socha bhi nahi tha (we have not seen such a pace attack and never thought about it). So one does not have to say anything and yes without any



doubt, in the last four-five years the fast bowlers have changed the face of Indian cricket," he said.

India currently boast of a lethal pace attack in Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Ishant

Sharma, Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini.

In the absence of Bumrah, who has been ruled out of the ongoing Test series against South Africa, Shami stood up and ran through the visiting team's batting line up in the first match in Visakhapatnam.

"No issues about that (not being in the top 10 bowlers). How effective he (Shami) has been for the team is more important. You have seen him. Great to see him doing well and that's the bottom line," Kapil said during a promotional event here.

Will pick & choose tournaments to remain fit: PV Sindhu

PTI ■ CHENNAI

World champion shuttler P V Sindhu on Thursday said she will pick and choose tournaments to stay fit ahead of next year's Tokyo Olympics.

The Olympic qualification period started on April 29 with the Badminton World Federation (BWF) considering the rankings list published on April 30, 2020, to allocate spots.

Since last year, the BWF has also made it compulsory for the world's top 15 players in the singles events and top 10 pairs in the doubles disciplines to play a minimum of

12 out of 15 tournaments of the World Tour or face a penalty.

"Since it's the Olympics year, each and every tournament is important. You need to be mentally and physically fit and maintain your fitness levels and give your 100 per cent in every tournament," Sindhu said. "Definitely, I will choose tournaments since you have to be injury-free and give 100 per cent which is very important..." she added.

The 24-year-old Hyderabad shuttler became the first Indian to be crowned world champion when she defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in August.

SINGLES

SOMETHING WRONG WITH PAK CRICKET SYSTEM : MISBAH

KARACHI: Pakistan's head coach Misbah-ul-Haq says the humiliating 0-3 hammering in a T20 series against a second-string SL has opened his eyes to the fact that there is something seriously wrong with the country's cricket system. "This series has been an eye-opener for us and everyone else. These same players have been around for a while now. More or less the same team which made us number one and has been playing together for around three to four years now," Misbah said. "The result of series is also an eye-opener for our system as well. If we can lose to a side without its main players how did we think we were number one," he added.

K'TAKA BEAT MUMBAI DESPITE DUBE'S HEROICS

BENGLURU: A blazing 100 by all-rounder Shivam Dube went in vain, as defending champions Mumbai suffered a heartbreaking nine-run defeat against Karnataka in their Elite Group A match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy on Thursday. Put into bat first at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here, Karnataka posted a healthy 312/7 on the board and then bundled Mumbai out for 303 in 48.1 overs, with pacer Abhimanyu Mithun (3-40) and spinner K Gowtham (3-51) among the wicket-takers. For Karnataka, opener Devdutt Padikkal put up the highest score with 79 runs in 85 balls, striking 10 fours and a six. Padikkal and his opening partner K L Rahul (58) conjured 137 runs for the first wicket.

PUNDUCHERY SURGE AHEAD : C'GARH REMAIN INFRAY

DEHRADUN: Arun Karthik made an unbeaten 86 as Puducherry thrashed Arunachal Pradesh by nine wickets here on Thursday to dominate the Plate Group standings of the Vijay Hazare Trophy domestic one-day cricket tournament. Arunachal Pradesh's decision to bat first in a match reduced to 43 overs because of wet outfield backfired as they were bowled out for 179 in 42.3 overs at the Abhimanyu Cricket Academy. Rahul Dalal top-scored for Arunachal Pradesh with a 47-ball 40 while wicketkeeper Uvais Ahmad made 39. Medium pacer Ashish Rajiv returned with 3/42, while veteran Vinay Kumar, Suresh Kumar and Sagar Udeshi chipped in with two wickets apiece for Puducherry.

THAI STAR CLEARED OF DOPING

BANGKOK: Former badminton world champion Ratchanok Intanon bears "no fault" after testing positive for doping, the sport's governing body said Thursday, clearing the path for the Thai star to compete in the 2020 Olympics. The Badminton World Federation (BWF) said the women's world number 5 was found to be in violation of anti-doping regulations earlier this year. But Ratchanok, known as "May" in Thailand, was able to prove that the low amount of the banned substance clenbuterol was related to meat she had eaten at a barbecue restaurant. "She was found to bear no fault or negligence for the violation, and thus no period of ineligibility has been imposed on her," the statement said.

OSAKA PICKS JAPANESE CITIZENSHIP

TOKYO: Tennis star Naomi Osaka has decided to choose Japanese over American nationality with an eye on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, public broadcaster NHK reported Thursday. Osaka, who has a Japanese mother and a Haitian father, told NHK she has completed an administrative step to obtain Japanese citizenship ahead of her birthday next week. Japanese law stipulates that a Japanese with more than one nationality must choose one before turning 22 years old. "It gives me a special feeling to try to go to the Olympics to represent Japan," the two-time Grand Slam champion told the broadcaster in an interview in Tokyo.

INDIA'S CAMPAIGN ENDS IN SINGLE EVENTS OF BWF

KAZAN: India's campaign in the singles competition at the ongoing BWF World Junior Championships came to a halt after Aditi Bhatt and Rohan Gurbani crashed out of their respective events here on Thursday. Aditi was shown the door by fourth seeded Indonesian Putri Kusuma Wardani 11-21 15-21 in a girls singles pre-quarterfinal contest that lasted exactly 30 minutes. It was the same outcome in the boys singles as Rohan lost 15-21, 13-21 against junior world number 24 Ren Cheng Ming of China. Aditi, however, still has a medal chance as she will partner Tanisha Crasto in the girls doubles. The 12th seeded India pair will play Japan's Atsumi Miyazaki and Chihiro Uchiyama in the pre-quarterfinals late on Thursday night.

HARYANA STEELERS GO DOWN FIGHTING AGAINST U MUMBAI

GREATER NOIDA: Haryana Steelers fought hard against U Mumbai before going down 33-39 in the Pro Kabaddi League here on Thursday. Kuldeep Singh and Sunil set the ball rolling for the Haryana Steelers with a couple of tackle points in the opening minutes of the match. Vinay pulled off a fantastic raid in the 4th minute to help Haryana take the lead at 4-3. However, U Mumbai picked up some crucial raid and tackle points and took a three-point lead at 9-6 in the 11th minute.

AGENCIES

PTI ■ ULAN-UDE (RUSSIA)

Six-time champion M C Mary Kom (51kg) on Thursday surpassed herself as the most successful boxer in the Women's World Championship history by securing an unprecedented eighth medal before three of her compatriots also entered the semifinals here.

The debutant duo of sixth seed Manju Rani (48kg) and Jamuna Boro (54kg) along with last edition's Bronze-medallist and third seed Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) made the medal rounds along side Mary Kom to ensure that India equalled their last edition's performance in terms of number of medals won.

The third-seeded Mary Kom defeated a spirited rival in Colombia's Valencia Victoria, fetching a unanimous 5-0 verdict to make the last-four stage.

Rani stunned top seed and last edition's Bronze-medallist Kim Hyang Mi of South Korea 4-1, while Boro, an Assam Rifles employee, got the better of

Mary confirms 8th world medal

Germany's Ursula Gottlob by a similar margin after draining showdowns.

Borgohain, on the other hand, pulled off a facile 4-1 triumph over Poland's sixth-seeded Karolina Koszewska.

"I am very happy to have secured a medal but I would be looking to make it better by reaching the finals," the 36-year-old Mary Kom said after the bout.

"It was a good bout for me and I will now try to improve on this performance in the semifinals," she added.

Awaiting Mary Kom in the semifinals on Saturday, after a rest day on Friday, is second-seeded Turk Busenaz Cakiroglu, who is the reigning European Championships and European Games gold-medallist. Cakiroglu defeated China's Cai Zongju in her quarterfinal bout.



For Rani, her next opponent is going to be Thailand's Chuthamat Raksat, who upstaged fifth seed Yuliyanova Asenova. Boro will take on top seed and former Asian

Games Bronze-medallist Huang Hsiao-Wen of Chinese Taipei.

Borgohain's opponent in the semifinals would be China's Yang Liu, who shocked top seed Chen

Nien-Chin in her quarterfinal clash.

However, two-time Bronze-medallist Kavita Chahal (+81kg) bowed out after a 0-5 loss to Belarus' Katsiaryna Kavaleva.

In a tactful performance, Mary Kom waited for her chances and defended sharply to ensure that Victoria's plan to impress the judges by throwing in more punches didn't yield results.

The Indian's huge reservoir of experience came in handy as she swung her right arm masterfully to connect well-placed hooks. Her straight punches were as effective and regularly pierced through Victoria's reasonably strong defence.

With this, Mary Kom bettered her own record as the most successful boxer in the history of the marquee tournament.

The Manipuri, in terms of

number of medals won, is in fact numero uno cutting across both the men's and women's competitions.

Cuban icon Felix Savon is the most successful in the men's event with seven medals — six gold and a silver.

Entering into this edition, Mary Kom had six Gold and a silver in her kitty but this is the first time, she has secured a world medal in the 51kg category. She had finished a quarterfinalist in this division in the past.

The latest achievement has only added to her ever-growing legend.

Besides six world titles, Mary Kom's incredible career is also studded with an Olympic bronze medal (2012), five Asian titles, gold medals at the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games, besides numerous other international top

finishes.

This year alone, she won gold medals at the India Open in Guwahati and President's Cup in Indonesia.

She is also a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Both Rani and Boro fetched hard-fought victories, engaged with strong opponents who hardly gave anything away defensively. But the two Indians were remarkably good in counter-attacks.

"My opponent was very aggressive and in the first round, I was quite confused about how to handle her but eventually I settled down and it became easier," Boro said after her bout.

Later Borgohain had little trouble going past Koszewska, whose rather awkward stance compounded her problems.

However, three-time Asian medallist Chahal didn't seem to it and produced a rather sloppy show against a more agile Kavaleva, who got the result merely by hitting straight and clean for most part of the bout.



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REMARKABLE 70 YEARS

China becomes more integrated with the world through opening-up

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Over the past 70 years, China has transferred from a closed and semi-closed economy to all-round opening-up. It has achieved a historic transformation and created a Chinese miracle that has surprised the world. Opening-up has reshaped China and made it ever more integrated into the world. After 70 years of development, an open China is standing at a new historical starting point and is ready to write a new chapter.



Assembly workshop of CRRC Sifang in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province (Xinhua)



Ships load cargo at Wenfeng Pier in China (Hebei) Pilot Free Trade Zone Photo by Xinhua



Baoshan to Tengchong highway in Yunnan. Photo by Li Wensheng

Opening-up defines height of development

In June 2019, a light-rail train specially designed for Sao Paulo, Brazil rolled off the production line at CRRC Sifang.

This tailor-made train was to operate on the first airport transport line in South America. "The train is equipped with counting sensors to make the dispatching and line operation smarter," said

Miao Xiaosha, director of CRRC Sifang.

Today, the high-speed rail and other innovative high-tech equipment developed by China have spread to all over the world.

In the 1960s, however, China could only export primary products such as rice and coal in exchange for rubber and other urgently

needed materials.

China was once a rice seller, now an exporter of high-speed trains. Statistics show that its foreign trade has grown by more than 4,000 times from 1.13 billion US dollars in 1950 to 4.6 trillion US dollars in 2018. It has achieved leap-frog development in terms of both quantity and quality.

The drastic increase in foreign trade is just an epitome of China's open development. Today, China is already a vital link in the global economic chain. "Made in China" could be seen in every country through Chinese products, equipment and technology. The country has developed itself and benefited the world through opening-up.

Opening-up improves people's well-being

In August 2019, the American fast food restaurant chain KFC began to join hands with Kwai, a Chinese picture and video sharing social app. The KFC Qianmen outlet in Beijing, which emerged on November 12th, 1987 when KFC newly came to China, became the first Kwai-themed outlet. Soon about 3,000 KFC outlets across China followed the suit.

Foreign-funded enterprises including restaurants, retail stores and cosmetics shops have sprung up in China like mushrooms. While expanding their business in China, these foreign companies have also witnessed the great changes in the lives of Chinese people.

Opening-up has brought opportunities for development and improved people's well-being as well.

There was a time when "life-saving" drugs were totally unaffordable for

Chinese patients. Today, China's zero-tariff policy for anti-cancer drugs has facilitated the approval of imported drugs and brought hope for ordinary patients.

Salmons from Norway, ham from Spanish, milk from New Zealand, cherries from Chile... These formerly inaccessible foreign foods have found their ways on the tables of ordinary Chinese people. Today, China ranks first in the world in cross-border e-commerce,

which covers most countries and regions.

Travelling abroad used to be unthinkable for Chinese people but has today become a necessity in their lives. Data show that from 1995 to 2017, the number of Chinese outbound tourists increased from 5 million to 143 million, an average annual growth of 17 percent. China has become the world's largest outbound tourism market.

Opening-up deepens China's interaction with the world

Seven decades on, China has been changing, reforming and opening up. Today, it is already an important participant and contributor in economic globalization, as well as a staunch defender and builder of the multilateral trading system.

136 countries, 30 international organizations, 195 cooperation documents, a trading network covering one-third of the world... In 2013, based on the concept of a community with a shared future for human beings, China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, which is taking roots all

over the world and bringing a strong sense of gain for people in the involved countries and regions.

China has actively participated in the WTO reform, picked up speed in building a network of high-standard free trade zones, and advanced the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the China-Japan-ROK Free Trade Area and the EU-China investment agreement negotiations, etc. China is deepening interaction with the world.

When Chinese constructors completed the Tesla plant in Lingang,

Shanghai in just eight months, the Tesla co-founder and CEO Elon Musk, a person obsessed with speed, was amazed at Lingang speed.

China has created more miracles through opening-up.

On July 30th, 2019, China introduced a shorter negative list of foreign investment admissions, further opening up the service industry, manufacturing, agriculture and other sectors.

On August 16th, the China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone began to expand to include Lingang New Area.

On August 26th, six new pilot free trade zones

were officially established in Shandong, Jiangsu, Guangxi, Hebei, Yunnan and Heilongjiang, increasing the number of pilot free trade zones to 18 in China.

In November, Shanghai is going to host the 2nd China International Import Expo, which will attract exhibitors from all over the world to share business opportunities with China.

Leaving 70 glorious years behind, China is embracing the world with open arms and forging ahead with greater confidence towards the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. (Xinhua)

Numbers

over 60 billion yuan

China's economic aggregate in the year of 1949

over 90 trillion yuan

China's economic aggregate in the year of 2018

2nd largest economy

China has become the world's second largest economy since 2010

In the past 70 years, China has grown to become the world's largest industrial country, the largest cargo trading country, the largest foreign exchange reserve country, and the second largest commodity consuming country.

In the past 70 years, China's total import and export volume of goods increased by more than 4,000 times, attracting foreign investment of more than 2.1 trillion US dollars. Its foreign investment achieved a leap from zero to 100 billion US dollars. China has become a major trading partner with more than 130 countries and regions.

Voices

In the 1970s, I visited China with Dr. Kissinger for the first time. Now I have come here again, and China's tremendous changes and great achievements are beyond my imagination!

—Robert Hormats, Vice President of the Kissinger Association and former US Deputy Secretary of State

No country in the world can provide such opportunities for world economic growth like China. China's further opening up has brought opportunities to the world.

—Christine Lagarde, President of the International Monetary Fund

XI'S REMARKS

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China remains firm in pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace. We respect the right of the people of all countries to choose their own development path. We endeavor to uphold international fairness and justice, and oppose acts that impose one's will on others or interfere in the internal affairs of others as well as the practice of the strong bullying the weak.

—Excerpt from report delivered by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the 19th National Congress of CPC on October 18, 2017

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VOICE

China-India relations bear global significance: Chinese envoy



Indian students are learning how to play Chinese Zither in Kunming No.1 middle school during a students' exchange project Photo by Huang Zhechun

As the only two developing countries with a population of more than 1 billion, China and India see their relations extend beyond bilateral scope to acquire global significance, Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said recently.

At a reception marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Sun said that China and India achieved national liberation and independence almost at the same time. "We jointly advocated the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, and have supported each other in pursuing national development and rejuvenation."

"We need to view each other as positive factors in the changing world landscape, and regard each other as partners in realizing our development dreams in a positive, open and inclusive manner."

Sun Weidong, Chinese Ambassador to India

Looking forward, the two emerging countries need to actively explore new ways and manners to better get along.

Sun said both sides should march forward under the guidance of the important consensus reached between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further unleash the positive effects of their 2018 meeting in China's Wuhan, deepen practical cooperation in all fields, expand cultural exchanges, enhance mutual understanding and trust and properly manage disputes.

"We need to properly address differences through dialogue and consultation and expand consensus," he said, noting that both sides need to focus on actively shaping bilateral relations and jointly make the cake of cooperation even bigger.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and India, Sun said, adding that the two countries should seize the opportunities and take concrete actions, march together on the path of pursuing the Chinese dream and building a "new India," and continue to strengthen their development partnership. (Chinadaily)

YUNNAN TODAY

Yunnan marks 70th anniversary of PRC founding with exhibition



An exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China opened in Yunnan on Sep.25 and will last till December 5 Photo by Yang Zheng

An exhibition which displays the outstanding achievements Yunnan has made in the past 70 years was opened to public in Kunming, capital of Yunnan province on Sep.25 to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). It will last to December 5.

With the theme "Outstanding Achievement in 70 Years, Striving for A Better Life in the New Era", the exhibition covers a displaying area of 7,500 square meters and is divided into four parts. In addition, four specialized sub-exhibitions were also open in the same place simultaneously.

The more than 90,000 Chinese characters and 3,600 photos show the great changes Yunnan

has undergone through in the past 70 years, together with 500 items including archives, life utensils of different ethnic groups, medals and honorary certificates. Advanced technologies like holography, VR, AR are applied in the exhibition to improve the experience of visitors. Mini programs are also created to realize online visits for those who can't come to the exhibition in person.

The exhibition highlights that through targeted poverty alleviation, the number of poor people in Yunnan's ethnic minority areas decreased from 4.26 million in 2012 to 865,000 at the end of 2018. (Yunnan Daily)

FRIENDSHIP

Yunnan and India are getting closer

China and India, the two cradles of oriental civilization has a long history of communication. Yunnan, a border province of China, has played an important role as a cultural interaction hub between the two civilizations due to its geographical location.

In view of the long history of mutual exchanges between Yunnan and India, people-to-people exchanges are frequent and communications are friendly. Trade between Yunnan and India can be traced back to more than 2,000 years ago. Yongchang, today's Baoshan in Yunnan was important international business town that arose because of the trade between Yunnan, Myanmar and India.

Today, the legend of the Ancient Southern Silk Road is still being written. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the

officially-recorded trade between Yunnan and India began in 1959, when the bilateral trade volume was only 132,000 US dollars. Since the beginning of the 21st century, the economic and trade relations between Yunnan and India have been developing continuously. In 2001, the bilateral trade volume between Yunnan and India was 57 million US dollars and in the first seven months of 2019, it already reached to 2.46 billion US dollars.

In recent years, India has become an important trading partner of Yunnan and the province's largest trading country in South Asia.

India organizes delegations to attend the China-South Asia Expo or the South and Southeast Asian Commodity Exhibition and Investment and Trade Fair every year.

In terms of connectivity, Yunnan and India opened



Chines students at a yoga session Photo by Chen Fei



Indian exhibitor participated in the 5th China-South Asia expo in Kunming of Yunnan province Photo by Yunnan Daily

Kunming to Delhi, Kunming to Kolkata two passengers air routes and four air cargo routes, namely, Kunming-Bombay, Kunming-Delhi, Kunming-Madras and Kunming-Bangalore, building an air bridge between Yunnan and India.

The cultural exchanges are also going forward. At the end of 2018, for the first time, 480 representatives of the Indian Association of Travel Agents have set their sights on Yunnan during their study tours in Yunnan. Li Bijian, Minister of the Chinese Embassy in India, once said that the Indian tourism community is looking east and toward China.

In 2018, two couples from the family of Sanjay Jain, general manager of Siddha group of India, held their wedding in Kunming by the Dianchi lake. The wedding ceremony, the first of its kind held in China, was

attended by near 1000 people including their families and friends. Kunming was chosen mainly for its unique climate and ethnic culture.

In China and India Yoga college of Yunnan Minzu University, a 36-year-old yoga teacher from India is trying to use his own way to pass this ancient culture to the young Chinese students. The college also set up a Tai Chi class. Young Chinese students practise the out-and-in breath day after day, to understand the dialogue between the two civilizations, grasp the philosophy of finding the direction of the self, and constantly hone their skills to breakthrough their own limits.

Deep communication between Yunnan and India along with the legend of the Ancient Southern Silk Road let both sides getting closer on either side of the Himalayas. (Yunnan Daily)